IOREK’S ARMOUR

An ear bursting roar pierced through the chilly night air. Iorek Byrnison charged through the brick building, causing it to groan under the force of the bear. Soon after, the priest’s maid hurried over the crushed door with her hen dæmon flapping after her. She was heading towards the café where the priest was having his supper. A minute or so later, he and a dozen guards came rushing out, guns at the ready.

The priest fainted in astonishment as Iorek Byrnison came bundling out through the dusty cellar window. Three guards carried the priest off the damp mossy path, while the other nine were edging round the bear in the powdery snow, bullets hurtling at him. Iorek rose up onto his hind legs, picked up one of the weaker guards and started crushing him with his bare hands.

Lyra had had her eyes glued to Iorek the whole time, but by now, she had stood up, clenched her hands in to fists and screamed at the top of her voice, “NO!” She sank back into her chair and started to tremble. Lyra knew that every pair of eyes were looking at her.

Another three bullets were fired before Lyra stood on her chair, looked directly at the man shooting the bullets and said, “Iorek Byrnison, put that guard down. And you,” she added, pointing her hand at the guard “stop firing and lower your gun.” Iorek dropped the guard letting him fall into the snow. The guard (who had been trying to shoot Iorek) loosened his grip and let his gun fall swiftly into the snow. A heavy snowstorm had left the well-mowed grass coved in a fine white powder. Lyra ordered Iorek to follow her. He followed obediently, his metal armour jangling as he strode after her. Lyra thought that Iorek looked far grander with his armour on. Even though it looked old and rusty, it certainly suited him. The guards edged back, thinking that the bear would lash out at any second. Lyra found it surprising that the bear had listened to her when she had told him to drop the guard. However, that might have been to maintain favourable relatives with the people who lived on trollusund so he would be able to leave with the gyptians.