

FAITH

"Firecracker"

by
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Based on characters created by Joss Whedon
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TEASER

FADE IN:

1

INT. BACK ROOM - CHURCH OF HESSIONISM - EVENING

1

DAWN is in a familiar position, bound and gagged. She contorts her body in a limber fashion, managing to squirm her arms from behind her back.

Now in a more comfortable position - without her arms behind her back - she bends over and slowly peels the duct tape off her mouth.

She lets out a grateful GASP, wincing as she tears the last of the tape off before tossing it away.

DAWN

Alright, now we're making progress.
Now... let's go, freaky powers.

She focuses on the ropes binding her wrists.

DAWN (O.S.) (cont'd)

Fall off.
(sterner tone)
Fall. Off.
(beat; pleading)
Please fall off?

Dawn sags, looking a trifle dejected. She sits up, steels herself, and closes her eyes, trying to will herself free. Her body slightly quivers as she concentrates.

She slowly opens one eye and looks at the ropes. Yep, still there.

Now she's frustrating. She starts futilely starts to try yanking her wrists free while ranting:

DAWN (cont'd)

Damn stupid powers not friggin'
working when you want them to!

Finally she gives up, sighing defeatedly and slumping back in the chair.

Just then, THE MAYOR, DARK AMBROSIA, and a hooded ACOLYTE enter the door. The Mayor's looking rather chipper while Ambrosia's still looking mightily bored.

THE MAYOR

Evening, Miss Summers.

(CONTINUED)

DAWN

I was already here a few hours ago.

(beat)

Jerk.

THE MAYOR

Ah, still as feisty as ever. That trademark Summers wit.

DAWN

Yeah, that's me. Following in Buffy's footsteps. Although when I blow you up, I'll make sure to stick all the dynamite up your -

THE MAYOR

(cutting her off)

Miss Summers, I'm in a bit of a jovial mood at the moment. I wouldn't suggest spoiling it for me.

DAWN

(rolls eyes)

Oh yeah? What you gonna do? Kill me? I'm obviously too important to your grand evil scheme or you'd have done it already.

The Mayor's expression falls. She's ruining his mood.

DAWN (cont'd)

Seriously, dude, I've been through this more times than I care to count. So can we skip the evil gloating this time around? It really gets old.

THE MAYOR

You know, in my day, young ones were taught to respect their elders.

DAWN

Well, in your day, you had to. Otherwise the dinosaurs would eat you.

The Mayor is speechless. The Summers wit is getting the better of him.

DAWN (cont'd)

Seriously though, I don't get you people. Why am I sitting back here waiting?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAWN (cont'd)
Wouldn't you make all the
preparations ahead of time so you
can get right to the bad stuff?

THE MAYOR
I assure you, all the necessary
work has been completed while we
awaited your arri -

He stops as he notices something on her arm.

DAWN
Yeah, okay whatever. Still it's the
same thing. Bad guy gloats and -
(boisterous and mocking)
MWAHAHAHA!
(normal tone)
My friends show up, kick your
collective ass, we go home and have
triple chocolate chunk Ben and -

She stops as the Mayor leans in for a closer look.

THE MAYOR
What's this? What do we have here?

He turns her arm around to get a better look at the TATTOO
Alex transferred to her mere hours ago.

THE MAYOR (cont'd)
(irate)
Oh, dirty son of a -

He stops himself. Almost spewed a profanity there. Whew. He
stands up, straightens his jacket, and rolls his neck.
Telltale signs of someone regaining their composure.

THE MAYOR (cont'd)
Well, that's the proverbial monkey
wrench.

Dark Ambrosia steps up to his side.

DARK AMBROSIA
Is there a problem?

THE MAYOR
It would seem Miss Salus's lineage
has passed to young Dawn here.
Unfortunately, this intrinsically
links her to the Gateway, so her
natural Key powers cannot be used
to tap into its power.
(tsks)
A shame really. Such a lovely girl.

He turns to the acolyte standing behind them.

(CONTINUED)

THE MAYOR (cont'd)
Kill her. Oh, and I'm not too
particularly concerned about how
messy it is.

The acolyte nods and pulls out a serrated KNIFE. Dawn's eyes
go wide in fear.

DAWN
Hey, wait! You can't just -

Dark Ambrosia grabs the stabbing hand with her own and SNAPS
the wrist. The acolyte barely has time to register the pain
before she SNAPS his neck!

The Mayor blinks in surprise, watching his underling slump
lifelessly to the ground.

THE MAYOR
That was just uncalled for.

DARK AMBROSIA
There are other avenues to explore
with the Key. Despite the setback,
I know of a way for our plans to
still come to fruition.

THE MAYOR
You do now? Alrighty, let's get a
nice glass of milk and discuss.
(to Dawn)
If you'll excuse us, Miss Summers.

The Mayor and Dark Ambrosia leave. Dawn blows a loose strand
of hair out of her eyes.

DAWN
It's not even Tuesday.

She looks down at the dead acolyte at her feet.

DAWN (cont'd)
You got off lucky. Least you don't
have to listen to this any more.

She sighs again, knowing she's in trouble... again.

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

2

INT. FAITH'S OFFICE - ASYLUM - EVENING

2

VI is standing by the door talking into her cell phone. JERRY is seated on the desk while FAITH is gently swapping a cut on his face with a cotton ball.

JERRY

So, just so I have this right.
Escaping from this... alternate
dimension split you in half, but
your bad self had your Slayer
powers.

FAITH

(still playing nurse)
That's the long and short of it,
yeah.

JERRY

You still beat her, though. Even
though she was stronger than you.
(beat)
That's impressive.

FAITH

(smirking)
I had a little help.

Jerry smiles at his newfound daughter, almost in awe of her calm demeanor in all this.

JERRY

I didn't do that much.

FAITH

I was talking about Vi.

JERRY

(beat; sheepish)
Oh.

FAITH

Still, though, you took that
beating like a champ. Now I know
where I got the pain tolerance
from. Sure as hell wasn't Mom.

Jerry's expression turns serious.

JERRY

Faith, I -

(CONTINUED)

FAITH

(sharp)

No.

(beat)

Not until we've stopped the Mayor,
remember?

JERRY

I know, I know, but... can I just
ask one question?

He looks up at her, and with a roll of her eyes she nods.

JERRY (cont'd)

Why did you change your name?

Faith takes a moment to consider this, still attending to
Jerry's wound.

FAITH

After you left, Mom marched us both
down to city hall and signed
everything she needed to, right on
the spot. When we walked out, we
were back to being the 'Lehane'
family.

(beat)

As for my name, well... it's off
something Mom used to keep saying.
'You just have to show a little
faith, Siobhan, we'll get out of
this soon.' 'Have faith, things'll
get better.'

(snorts)

Yeah, sure. Thanks, Mom.

JERRY

So... 'Faith' came from that?

FAITH

(nods)

Far as I'm concerned, doesn't
matter what my real name is - this
is who I am now.

(beat)

And anyway, didn't it strike you as
convenient that my last name was
the same as Mom's maiden name?

JERRY

'Lehane' is a more common surname
than you'd think. You heard of
Dennis Lehane, the mystery author?

Faith shakes her head and finishes up, letting Jerry
straighten as she moves round to face him.

(CONTINUED)

FAITH

Good as new.

She realises he's smiling at her, and frowns.

FAITH (cont'd)

What?

JERRY

I'm proud of you.

FAITH

Jerry, c'mon... not now.

JERRY

Right.

(beat)

Maybe... over coffee? Er, do you like coffee?

FAITH

Long as it's not black, I can deal.

They share a smile.

Vi hangs up her phone as PRYOR and NOA enter the room. RACHEL trails behind him, leaning in the doorway, not wanting to come in.

NOA

That's everyone. Well, everyone that was still breathing, anyway. They're all back in their cells. And, I might add, freaked out to all hell, so when we get back I'm springing for some extra shots of trangs to get 'em through the night.

Faith nods, then looks at a pensive looking Rachel still lurking in the doorway.

JERRY

(whispering)

What's with her?

FAITH

Newbie. She's not used to a high body count at work. She'll grow into it eventually, I guess.

JERRY

Um... I know I'm a bit of an outsider here, but is that a good thing?

(CONTINUED)

She doesn't answer, choosing to put away her first aid supplies.

FAITH

You're good to go. Still need to ice that bump on your head to keep the swelling down.

She turns to address everyone. Realises they're looking at her. She folds her arms - familiar territory.

FAITH (cont'd)

So, I don't think I should have to say it.

VI

We're going to the Church.

(waves her phone)

Already figured as much. I made a coupla calls.

FAITH

Cool.

NOA

Alright, let's saddle up.

(beat; blinks)

Uh... yeah, pretend I didn't say that.

VI

Um, Noa? Given the circumstances -

NOA

(interrupts)

Please don't, okay? Right now I wanna kill something. If you're going demon fighting, I'm going with.

FAITH

Noa...

NOA

Besides, only car big enough to fit all of us is mine.

JERRY

(raises hand)

I drove us all back here.

NOA

Right, Tony Robbins. And in the state you're in, you'll get a concussion if you turn too hard. I'm your girl.

(CONTINUED)

PRYOR

(sharp)

Noa!

NOA

What? I don't want to sit here and
sulk for hours while I'm wondering
if everyone else I care about is
getting killed. So I'm going. Deal.

She whips her chair around and leaves the room.

NOA (O.S.) (cont'd)

I'll be waiting in the parking
garage.

Everyone looks dumbfounded at Noa's exuberance.

JERRY

She's...

FAITH

(smirks)

Yeah, she's Noa.

Rachel shifts uncomfortably in the door frame, arms wrapped
tight around herself.

RACHEL

(hesitant)

Hey, guys? If... if it's okay, I
sorta think... I should sit this
one out.

Pryor walks up to her and puts his hand on her shoulder. She
looks up to meet his eyes.

PRYOR

Of course. Someone needs to check
all systems and make sure we're
fully up and running again.

RACHEL

Okay, I can do that.

PRYOR

(beat)

My password is 'rocketman.' It
should give you access to
everything you need.

RACHEL

(blinks)

What?

(CONTINUED)

PRYOR
(smiles weakly)
Just in case.

He pulls out a key card and hands it to her. She closes her hand around it, almost a changing of the guard. Their eyes meet again before she turns and walks away.

FAITH
Alright, so... we ready?

Jerry hops off the desk, stretching.

JERRY
Yeah, I'm good to go.

Faith lightly pushes him, almost forgetting for a second that her powers had returned. He stumbles back several feet into her chair.

FAITH
Sorry, you're not in any kind of shape for a fight.

JERRY
And you are?

FAITH
(winks)
Five by five.
(to Vi and Pryor)
Let's go. Noa's waiting.

She heads for the door. ON Pryor as she walks by him.

PRYOR
I think we need to grab a few weapons.

Faith turns to him and points to Vi and herself.

FAITH
We are the weapons.

The two Slayers share a smile and walk out. Pryor sighs and follows.

PRYOR
Alright then, I need some weapons!

Jerry watches his daughter go, still not sure what to think, and as the team march out to war once again we CUT TO:

3

INT. BACK ROOM - CHURCH OF HESSIONISM - EVENING

3

The Mayor, pep firmly back in step, comes back into the room. Dawn's in the same place, not even trying to free herself any more.

THE MAYOR

(cheery)

Alrighty, looks like we have a plan!

DAWN

Really? Great. Hang on let me put on my enthusiastic face.

She looks away, then back with a completely blank expression. The Mayor's smile twitches a bit as he tries to hold it.

THE MAYOR

Defiant to the end. An admirable trait, I have to admit.

DAWN

You're not going to start talking about how we're both meant to be Gods again, are you? Because if you are, I'd just like to request a pillow in advance.

The Mayor forcefully grabs the end of Dawn's chair, leaning down right in her face, anger in his eyes.

He looks away, regaining his composure again, then looks back at her and smiles. This time it's completely forced. He speaks in a low, even tone.

THE MAYOR

Miss Summers, though I am happy to have you here for this little thing I've got going, it hasn't escaped my attention that my Faith hasn't returned.

(beat)

Given the time, I'm fearing the worse. The fact that she won't be here to see the realization of all our hard work has me a little... perturbed.

DAWN

(fake sniffing)

That's so -

He SHAKES the chair, still fighting to keep his cool.

(CONTINUED)

THE MAYOR
(roars)
I'm talking now!

Another second to cool off.

THE MAYOR (cont'd)
Ambrosia, or whatever she's become,
has laid out an alternate solution
in light of your new... body ink.
After the headache you've caused me
this past year, I'd strongly
suggest you relish what little time
you have left.
(beat)
Because I'm certainly going to
relish knowing that time has
expired.

Dawn wisely stays quiet as the Mayor pauses this time.

THE MAYOR (cont'd)
Now. I have to head across town
because I have a very important
appointment to get to, and I'll be
gosh darned if I'm going to let a
little firecr-
(catches himself)
A little thing like you ruin my
day.

He pulls out a roll of duct tape and GAGS her again in one
smooth motion.

THE MAYOR (cont'd)
Now, it does break my old heart to
not be here for when all the
fireworks go off, but, well...
Let's just say I can't really
afford to miss this one.

She SCREAMS through the tape as he moves away and heads for
the door.

THE MAYOR (cont'd)
(not turning around)
Goodbye, Miss Summers.

Dawn's shoulders are heaving up and down. Her breathing more
labored. Anger is giving way to panic.

Faith's in the front seat, loading a small crossbow. Vi is
seated behind her, rubbing a stake back and forth between the
palms of her hands.

(CONTINUED)

NOA
What's the plan?

FAITH
Pryor, what you got?

PRYOR
We know what the Mayor intends to use Dawn for, but not how. Short of a full frontal assault, I'm not too sure yet.

FAITH
Always been a fan of full frontal.

Vi SNIGGERS, and Pryor nudges her sharply.

VI
(regains composure)
So what are you thinking, Faith?

FAITH
Get in. Get violent. Get Dawn. Get more violent. Get out.
(beat)
And get the Gateway, but that's too many syllables.

Noa looks at her friend and smiles. That swagger is back.

5 EXT. CITY STREET - EVENING 5

Pan up to the sky as Noa's car drives off into the distance. Stop on the skyline horizon and the setting sun.

DISSOLVE TO:

6 EXT. CHURCH OF HESSIONISM - NIGHT 6

Noa's car is pulled up outside the Church - which seems oddly quiet. The last of the sunlight has gone, dipped behind the tall buildings of downtown NYC.

Faith shuts her door and sticks her head in the window. Noa is still in the driver's seat.

FAITH
Keep the motor running. Hopefully, this won't take long.

NOA
(fake Indian accent)
Oh, yes, ma'am. I will be here waiting.

(CONTINUED)

Faith grins, glancing round to make sure Vi and Pryor are out of earshot before laying a hand on Noa's arm.

FAITH

You sure you're... y'know, okay?

NOA

This is about Jon, isn't it?

Faith nods, and Noa takes a breath, gathering her thoughts.

NOA (cont'd)

There'll be time to stop and think about that when we get Dawn back and stop the Mayor. Jon wouldn't want me crying on the floor until the job was done.

(beat; smirks)

He was a jackass, but he knew what he was talking about.

The best friends share a smile before Faith heads off.

Faith, Vi, and Pryor slowly enter the church, weapons (stakes for the Slayers, a sword for Pryor) at the ready.

FAITH

(curious)

Hmm.

VI

What?

FAITH

You'd think they'd at least barricade the door or something. Had to know we were coming.

PRYOR

Or at least have a welcoming party for us.

They proceed slowly, checking in all directions for a possible ambush. The area is completely deserted.

VI

O-kay... anybody else getting one of those 'bad feelings' we get so often?

The team cautiously push on as we CUT TO:

8

INT. MAIN HALL - CHURCH OF HESSIONISM - NEXT

8

A wide aerial shot of a very large gathering of VAMPIRES, other DEMONS, and ACOLYTES.

The GATEWAY, now active and glowing with power, stands prominently in the center of the room. The entrance portal is already open, a crackling VORTEX of energy swirling within the stone monument's confines.

ON THE BALCONY overlooking the scene as Faith, Vi, and Pryor peer over the ledge.

FAITH
(whispers)
Here they all are...

VI
(whispers)
There's fricken hundreds of them!

PRYOR
(whispers; sharp)
Yes, thank you, Vi, we'd noticed.

FAITH
They've got the Gateway running...
can they do that?

PRYOR
It just needs the right kind of
power. Anyone can activate a
portal, but they'd need one of the
tattoos to be able to enter and use
the Gateway fully.

VI
Which is good for us. Right?

As they watch, Dawn is dragged into the room, kicking and struggling every step of the way.

FAITH
Maybe not...

Vi and Faith visibly stiffen up. Pryor grabs both of their arms to keep them from jumping into the fray right then and there.

Dark Ambrosia enters from the other side of the room. She stops in front of the Gateway and turns to address the small group of acolytes at the forefront of the group.

ACOLYTE
Where is Mr. Wilkins?

(CONTINUED)

DARK AMBROSIA
He'll be joining us later.
(beat)
Do you all understand what you need
to do?

All of the acolytes nod.

DARK AMBROSIA (cont'd)
Make sure all of the safeties have
been unlocked. The window of
opportunity won't be very large.

ACOLYTE
Yes, ma'am.

DARK AMBROSIA
And do not call me 'ma'am.'
(beat)
Time is not our ally at the moment.
We're expecting guests.

Up on the balcony, the trio have all shifted to listen
better, being careful to stay down as they whisper:

VI
Pryor, what are they talking about?

PRYOR
I don't know. I can barely hear
them. You two are the superpowered
ones here.

FAITH
Super hearing wasn't in the
standard package. Been meaning to
upgrade to the platinum plan.

The demons and vampires grumble and mutter among themselves.

DARK AMBROSIA
Speaking of the guests, should
anyone attempt to interrupt us,
dismember them.
(beat; smiles)
Slowly.

The vamps and demons rub their hands (and claws), licking at
the chops for some action.

Dark Ambrosia smiles at each of them, then turns and enters
the entrance portal. She vanishes with a SNAP.

Up on the balcony, Faith's eyes bulge at Ambrosia's
disappearance, and she hunkers down to join the others.

(CONTINUED)

FAITH

I thought you said they couldn't
use the Gateway without Dawn?

PRYOR

We don't know how much power that
creature has. It might be able to
operate the Gateway without the aid
of one of those tattoos.

VI

Then why do they have Dawn?

PRYOR

I don't know.

Faith stands up and grabs the edge of the banister. Pryor
grabs her arm and yanks her down.

PRYOR (cont'd)

I think we need to bide our time.

FAITH

Pryor, I don't think -

Vi waves her hand in front of both of their faces, grabbing
their attention.

VI

Guys, look!

She points down to Dawn - who is slowly starting to GLOW
GREEN! She looks down at herself, YELLING frantically through
the duct tape.

ON FAITH, expression one of utter confusion as she watches
Dawn pulse with energy.

FAITH

What the -

BACK ON DAWN as she slowly MORPHS into a floating sphere of
glowing GREEN ENERGY!

VI

What's happening to her?

ON DAWN, MORPHING back into her human form. Her eyes are wide
in terror. She's hyperventilating.

She knows exactly what's happening to her.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

9

INT. MAIN HALL - CHURCH OF HESSIONISM - NIGHT

9

A quick shot of Dawn fading from sphere to human form again. She's squirming in her bounds now, desperate for any sort of reprieve.

ON FAITH with Pryor and Vi on either side of her, still watching the scene unfold.

FAITH

Okay, guys. Officially open to suggestions.

Vi pulls out her cell and checks a text message.

FAITH (cont'd)

Vi! Not a good time!

Vi's looking at the screen and nodding her head.

VI

No, this is work related. Call it insurance. Pryor already knows.

Faith looks to Pryor, who simply nods before looking back down at Dawn.

PRYOR

It's safe to assume that whatever Ambrosia's doing in the Gateway is linked to what's happening to Dawn.

FAITH

Yeah, but all those demons are just standing around waiting.

VI

Probably for the transformation to be permanent. We gotta get in there and stop her.

Faith silently counts the numbers of their opposition.

FAITH

Ten to one. Not liking those chances. I can make it to the Gateway and -

VI

No, I'll go.

Faith looks at Vi incredulously.

(CONTINUED)

FAITH

Thought you hated that thing now.

VI

It's Amber in there. We're due for
a rematch.

(looks to Faith)

You finished your business earlier.
I gotta finish mine.

Faith nods in understanding, the need to settle old disputes
isn't a concept lost on her.

FAITH

We'll need a distraction.

Pryor pulls out his cell phone and moves a few steps away.

PRYOR

Got it covered.

He dials a number and presses the phone to his ear. Faith
turns to the younger Slayer and sticks her hand out.

FAITH

Alright, Vi. This is your moment.

VI

(puzzled)

You... want to shake?

Faith quickly GRABS Vi's hand, too impatient to explain
herself.

To Vi's shock, Faith's arm starts to faintly GLOW. Her own
arm quickly follows!

VI (cont'd)

(grimacing)

Hey! That burns! What're you -

FAITH

Just hang on a sec!

Vi YANKS her hand away and looks at her forearm - to see
Faith's WARDEN TATTOO on it!

VI

What?!?

FAITH

You'll need it.

Vi didn't really catch that, still staring at her arm. Faith
gently grabs the back of her head and makes her look up.

(CONTINUED)

FAITH (cont'd)
Hey, head in the game, okay?

Vi nods her head, bewildered.

FAITH (cont'd)
The control room keeps a log of all
the activity in the Gateway. You
can call up wherever she... it
went.

VI
But... how? Do I just... I mean,
what does this thing... help?

PULL BACK as Faith continues to instruct Vi. Pryor is just
now ending his call.

10 EXT. CHURCH OF HESSIONISM - NIGHT

10

ON NOA'S CAR, the lady herself DRUMMING her fingers rapidly
on the steering wheel. She's clearly on edge, staring
anxiously towards the Church entrance.

ANGLE ON:

A pair of slender jeans covered legs approaching Noa's car
from the opposite direction. PAN ACROSS to show several more
bringing up the rear.

Noa turns away from the Church - and YELPS in fright at the
new arrivals!

11 INT. MAIN HALL - CHURCH OF HESSIONISM - NEXT

11

Faith's looking like she's raring for a scrap.

FAITH
Alright, Pryor. Where's this
distraction of yours?

PRYOR
(checks his watch)
About ten seconds away.

FAITH
What is it? Bomb? Gas? Electric
box... thing?

Pryor smiles and shakes his head.

PRYOR
Something a bit more practical.

(CONTINUED)

ON the lower floor of the main hall. A brief flash of light from the closed back doors just before Noa's car CRASHES through the rear of the room!

The Mayor's minions scramble to get out of the way, hunks of wood sent flying from the impact.

The car swerves to the side and SCREECHES to a halt in front of the Gateway.

Several vamps and demons are quick to surge towards the vehicle, weapons, fangs and claws ready:

Noa sticks her head out of the window and blows the nearest demon away with a SHOTGUN!

The car doors fly open as the headless demon hits the deck - four TEENAGE GIRLS, all armed and dangerous.

SLAYERS.

With a YELL, the girls plough into the incoming bad guys, swords and stakes flying as vamps DUST and demons HOWL in pain as they're hacked down.

Noa looks up to the balcony, where Faith's standing and looking shellshocked.

NOA
(yelling)
How's that for a distraction?

Faith smiles and shakes her head before she and Vi hop over the balcony to the ground below.

Pryor starts to step over - before he notices how far of a fall it is.

PRYOR
I'll... take the stairs.

DOWN BELOW, Faith and Vi whip out their stakes and DUST two vampires with no effort.

One demon GRABS Faith from behind. She reaches between her legs, grabs one of its legs, and YANKS it to the ground.

FAITH
(to Vi)
Get going.

Vi doesn't need to be told twice, dashing towards the Gateway.

Faith HURLS the demon by its leg into a nearby group of them. She's got a sh*t eating grin on her face, back in her element again.

CLOSE UP on a demon's back as a hole is BLASTED through it! Through said hole, Noa cocks her smoking shotgun.

NOA

That's right, keep 'em coming! I
got plenty of shells back here!

ON VI, still running, as she THROWS her stake, DUSTING a vampire a few feet in front of her. She catches the stake before it hits the ground and STAKES another vampire, never breaking stride.

She passes Dawn.

VI

(to Dawn)
Hold on!

Dawn lets out a muffled CRY of alarm, still pulsing with green light and morphing more rapidly between sphere and human.

ON NOA blowing the head off a vampire, dusting it. She pulls her gun back inside, opening it up and loading more shells.

Vi reaches her car and LEAPS over it to get to the Gateway.

NOA

Hey!

VI

Hey!

Another demon LUNGES for Vi, but one of the Slayers TACKLES it, her arms round its neck as she drags it down.

VI (cont'd)

Thanks!

Vi neatly skips round the fight, gaining speed as she approaches the Gateway portal.

Closing her eyes, she LEAPS forward, sailing through the air - and passing through the portal with a loud SNAP!

ON FAITH laying waste to everything in side. Three demons are throwing lumbering punches that she's easily dodging and countering.

FAITH

(laughing)
C'mon, boys! That the best you've
got?

(CONTINUED)

POW! One power punch socks the closest demon off its feet, and the other two realise just how powerful Faith is now.

ON PRYOR coming in through the (destroyed) rear of the hall. He narrowly ducks a SWIPE from a claw, a demon closing in.

Fumbling with his sword, Pryor quickly SLICES said claw off. The demon's HEADS quickly follows its arm.

One of the Slayers, this one carrying two swords, DECAPITATES a demon that was creeping up behind Faith.

SLAYER

Heads up!

Faith turns around and the Slayer tosses one of the swords to her.

Faith catches it. In an almost ballet like sequence of spins and twists, she CUTS DOWN several acolytes and demons.

SLAYER (cont'd)

You Faith?

Faith STAKES a vampire before turning back and nodding.

SLAYER (cont'd)

I'm Tracy.

She turns and SKEWERS an acolyte on her sword.

TRACY

Buffy says hi.

She yanks her sword free. If it were possible, Faith's smile gets bigger.

12 INT. CONTROL ROOM - GATEWAY - NEXT

12

The main control panel is still lit, soft neon strips within pulsing like a heartbeat. Ambrosia was just here.

Vi slowly steps up to the center panel, looking down over the control pool and the tubes of liquid encircling it.

She looks down at her arm - Faith's TATTOO stares back up at her.

VI

(uncertain)

Faith, you'd better be right about this...

She tentatively stretches her hands over the system of tubes.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

VI (cont'd)
(deep breath)
Here goes.

She closes her eyes and waits. Her hand slowly moves over one tube. The fluid in it starts to RISE.

Slowly, her hands pick up speed, moving over tubes like she's been doing this her whole life. Vi GRINS.

13 INT. MAIN HALL - CHURCH OF HESSIONISM - NEXT

13

Noa is pumping rounds into every demon she gets a clear shot at - until a vampire creeps up the side of the car and KNOCKS her gun out of her hands!

Noa SCREAMS as the vamp gets his hands on her and DRAGS her halfway out of the car!

He's about to bite her when he suddenly DUSTS - to reveal Faith standing behind him.

Noa pulls herself back into the car, and Faith hands her the shotgun.

NOA
Thanks.

FAITH
Don't mention it.

NOA
You having fun yet?

Faith takes time out of the conversation to kill an acolyte.

FAITH
(smirking)
Oh, yeah.

NOA
So... what do you want to do after this?

FAITH
I'm feeling a movie night.
Something laid back.

NOA
How about...
(SHOOTS demon)
... Clerks Two?

FAITH
Comedy, right?

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

She PUNCHES an acolyte twice, SHOVING him away.

FAITH (cont'd)

I'm in.

Faith LEAPS back into the fray, and as Noa follows with another SHOTGUN BLAST, we CUT TO:

14 INT. CONTROL ROOM - GATEWAY - NEXT

14

Vi's hands are a blur, her brow furrowed in concentration. Finally, they slow and come to a stop. She steps back and looks up expectantly.

For a long beat, nothing happens. Vi's smile fades.

And then, a blob of WHITE LIGHT forms out of the air before her, stretching out into a long rectangle and lowering itself down to stop just in front of her.

The light fades - revealing a DOOR, old and wooden, and ready to be opened.

VI

(relieved)

Oh, thank God.

She takes a step forward - then pauses, turns back round and pulls the HANDLE from the control panel.

With a final breath, she steps up to the door, fixes the Handle against it with a CLUNK - and PULLS.

15 INT. MAIN HALL - CHURCH OF HESSIONISM - NEXT

15

Pryor has finally made his way over to Dawn. He quickly unties her, but has to jump away as she turns into a sphere again.

He looks at it, scientific curiosity all over his face, as she transforms back.

She SCREAMS (muffled by the duct tape) and points behind Pryor.

He blinks - and has just enough time to turn and DUCK a demon swinging at him!

With a mighty swing, Pryor slices the demon's leg off! It falls to the ground and he STABS his sword into its heart.

He turns back to Dawn and removes the duct tape, Dawn CURSING as she feels the burn of the tape for the second time today.

(CONTINUED)

DAWN
 (frantic)
 Pryor! You have to help me. They're
 trying to -

Sphere form. A beat before she's back.

DAWN (cont'd)
 - Key that the monks -

Sphere form again.

PRYOR
 Vi's working on it. Just sit tight.

He turns around, standing guard.

DAWN
 (human again)
 - Wilkins to use me as a -

Sphere form yet again.

Over by the Gateway, a few acolytes are CHANTING and raising their arms, keeping clear of the carnage around them.

The right spier of the Gateway starts to LIGHT UP, dozens of bright flashing GLYPHS coming to life.

Pryor squints, trying to work out what they're doing - and then a look of horror washes over his face.

PRYOR
 The safety containments!

DAWN
 Pryor!!

Snapping out of it, Pryor hurries forward as we CUT TO:

Dark, gloomy and stripped of any creature comforts, this is an old school monastery and proud of it.

Vi slowly creeps down the stone halls, pausing to pull a flaming TORCH from its mount on the wall.

The Handle is tucked in her belt. She has her stake in hand, ready for anything.

A body suddenly CRASHES through a door in front of her, smacking against the opposite wall!

The unfortunate MONK crumbles to the ground, badly bruised and bloody as Vi rushes over.

Vi props him up against the wall and looks into the room he came flying out of.

VI'S P.O.V:

Dark Ambrosia is throwing a bunch of other monks around, GRINNING wickedly as she hurls the men round like toys!

In the centre of the room, a handful of monks trying to form a circle around it, is a GLOWING SPHERE OF ENERGY.

It's THE KEY.

The very same thing that Dawn keeps turning back and forth into. The monks are trying to protect it, but failing.

The monk starts babbling in Czech. Vi tears her eyes away and turns back to him.

VI

Huh? What? I don't... English. Do you speak English?

The monk nods, breathing heavily.

MONK

The Beast... sent her disciple for the Key.

VI

The Key? You mean Dawn? And what 'beast'?

MONK

My brothers and I... must protect the Key. We were to give it form... and hide it.

Vi's eyes go wide as she puts it all together.

VI

What year is this?

The monk coughs up a mouthful of BLOOD.

MONK

The year of our Lord, two thousand.

VI

(groans)

Oh, God...

Another CRASH and SCREAM from within the room - Ambrosia is winning.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

Vi stands, leaving the Monk as he's wracked by COUGHS, and she takes a bold step forward into:

17 INT. COVEN ROOM - MONASTERY - NEXT

17

THE DARKLING is hovering like a black cloud over its host, HOWLING with a mixture of rage and delight.

VI

Alright, Amber... time to show you
what Woodstock can do.

Vi gets a running start and FLYING KICKS Dark Ambrosia from behind!

The cloud quickly SUCKS itself back into Ambrosia as she falls face first to the ground.

Dark Ambrosia twists round and glares back at her adversary, eyes solid red.

DARK AMBROSIA

You!!

VI

One and only.

Vi drops into a fighting stance. Dark Ambrosia gets back to her feet. They begin to circle each other.

Vi's eyes flick to the ball of energy, bobbing gently up and down in mid-air. It looks safe. For now.

From the circle of stunned, wounded and groaning monks all around, one manages to cry out:

RANDOM MONK

This is a house of God! No violence
is permitted here!

VI

I'll Hail Mary later.

DARK AMBROSIA

Why do you continue to fight? You
have no chance of success.

VI

Because you killed a friend of mine
whose name you don't even know.
Plus, I don't like that face you're
wearing, and I know it doesn't like
me.

(CONTINUED)

DARK AMBROSIA
(seething)
You are ruining our plans!

VI
I know! And here I am, still having
so much fun doing it.

DARK AMBROSIA
This girl has defeated you before.
Do you really think you stand a
chance with my power added to her
abilities?

Vi falters a bit, shuffling her feet and nervously opening
and closing her fists.

VI
That was three years ago. I've
gotten better.

Dark Ambrosia GROWLS, inhumanly low, and they charge right
into one another like bulls before we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

18

INT. COVEN ROOM - MONASTERY - NIGHT

18

Writer's note: Once again, I must abbreviate to conserve my sanity. Dark Ambrosia is 'DA' for this fight.

Vi falls to her stomach, dazed. Above her in the background, DA is HIGH in the air, bearing down on her.

Vi rolls out of the way and DA's right hand PUNCHES THROUGH the ground. Vi backrolls to her feet just as DA rips her hand free (and a large chunk of the floor with it).

DA stalks towards Vi, in no particular rush. Vi throws a wild overhead right that DA easily dodges, but it's a set up for a spinning LEG SWEEP that knocks her down.

Vi throws an elbow towards DA's head. DA's entire body DISAPPEARS in a cloud of smoke just before impact.

Vi stands, confused. A nearby monk goes wide eyed:

MONK

<Dozadu tebe!>

DA grabs Vi from behind in a choke hold.

VI

(strained)

English please!

Vi hits a front somersault (still with DA attached), but she lands on her back alone in a cloud of smoke.

She quickly gets back to her feet, hands up and clenched. Eyes flick from side to side - no sign of DA.

DARK AMBROSIA (O.S.)

Shame about these high ceilings!
Makes it hard to track my
movements, doesn't it?

DA kicks Vi in the back. Vi answers with a backfist, but it only hits smoke.

VI

(frustrated)

Stop screwing around! You wanted a
proper fight, so let's have one!
Forget all this hide and seek crap!

She takes a RIGHT CROSS from seemingly nowhere for that remark.

(CONTINUED)

DARK AMBROSIA (O.S.)
What's the matter, Slayer? Finally
realising you can't win?

Vi licks a speck of blood from her split lip. And then a thought strikes her.

VI
Actually... no.

She takes a deep breath and calms herself, then closes her eyes!

PAN AROUND her entire body, a serene expression on her face. She's silent. Concentrating. Listening.

Suddenly, her right arm comes up to BLOCK a kick from DA. Vi doesn't counter back, knowing it's pointless. Still with her eyes closed, she starts bouncing on her heels, staying loose.

Wide shot on her as she JUMPS over a leg sweep. DA's leg and lower torso are the only visible parts of her. Her upper body remains a mist of smoke.

Vi lands and BLOCKS a three punch combination from her left, immediately spinning to her right and CATCHING a mid kick on her arms.

She back bends to miss a left spinning roundhouse kick, ducks a right straight, her movements a blur of impeccable reaction time.

DA stops attacking. Vi takes two slow steps back - then throws a jump spinning BACK KICK just as DA materializes in front of her!

DA sails through the air and SMASHES into a wall, leaving a large dent in it. Her head snaps up. Now she's pissed.

Vi motions to 'bring it' with her hands, her eyes open again and a cocky smirk on her face.

VI (cont'd)
Now, wouldya look at that. I think
you just got your ass kicked,
Amber.

With a HOWL of fury, DA runs right at her. Vi doesn't flinch. DA jumps through the air and DISAPPEARS again!

Vi spins around, throwing an UPPERCUT with all her might that catches a materializing DA right under her chin!

DA flies backwards and lands in midair - right on the glowing Key! She SCREAMS at the top of her lungs.

(CONTINUED)

Her body CONVULSES and the Darkling appears over Ambrosia's body, contorted with agony as it spirals upwards.

Ambrosia's body itself immediately pales and splotches up with bruises - looking like the living dead!

Vi's jaw drops. Wasn't expecting that. Ambrosia looks up and meets her former nemesis's eyes.

AMBROSIA
(pleading; gasping)
Vi... please... kill me...

VI
(shocked)
What?!?

AMBROSIA
Please, it's too -

She GASPS and doubles over as the Darkling dives back into her body, assuming control again.

DA looks up at Vi, murder in her eyes. She draws her fist back and thrusts it forward, sending a huge pillar of SMOKE twisting towards Vi!

Vi turns and runs, the pillar bearing down on her. She runs up a nearby wall and leaps off it just before the smoke BLASTS into it, showering her with debris.

DA appears behind her in mid air and drives an ELBOW into the back of her neck. Blood spurts from Vi's mouth as she's sent hurtling face-first to the ground.

She lands on two feet and jumps right back in the air with a flying kick. DA mists out of the way, two feet to the left, and CATCHES the kick.

Vi yelps as DA swings her and THROWS her into another section of the wall, the impact leaving a Vi-sized dent in it.

Vi crumbles to the ground on all fours, trying to catch her breath. DA, by contrast, just floats to the ground, lightly landing on her feet.

DARK AMBROSIA
As much as you mortals may not want
to admit it, you all have your
limitations.
(beat)
Even Slayers.

VI
What are you doing to her?

DARK AMBROSIA

Giving her more power than she ever imagined.

VI

You're killing her.

DARK AMBROSIA

She'd be dead already if not for my power. Yet she still resists. Despite knowing that rejecting me would mean her death.

(beat)

Why do you care? You have no love for her, nor does she for you.

Vi stands, a new fire in her eyes.

VI

It's a Slayer thing. You wouldn't understand.

DA starts to draw her hand back again, preparing the same attack from earlier.

Vi slowly circles off from the wall, giving herself room to move.

DARK AMBROSIA

You've been enough of a nuisance.

She fires another pillar of SMOKE, the energy hurtling towards Vi like a battering ram!

Vi hits a series of BACKFLIPS to get out of the way - but the pillar is slowly gaining on her.

In SLOW MOTION, Vi finishes her series with a high back SOMERSAULT - sailing over the Key positioned behind her!

DA goes wide eyed just before the pillar SLAMS into the key! DA ROARS in agony again and goes into convulsions.

Vi draws her stake as the Darkling once again separates from Ambrosia, closing the gap in an instant.

Ambrosia has just enough time to look up before Vi BURIES the stake deep into her heart!

She doubles over, blood slowly trickling out of her mouth. A weak GASP slips from her lips.

The two Slayers lock eyes. Vi's expression is a mix of determination and sorrow. Ambrosia weakly smiles at her.

(CONTINUED)

AMBROSIA

Thanks.

(beat; gasping)

Dirty... hippie.

She falls to her back and goes still, the same smile still on her face.

Its link severed, the Darkling HOWLS like the wind, spiralling faster and faster in the air overhead.

Strong WINDS kick across the room, sending several of the downed monks SLIDING across the floor and forcing Vi to fight for her ground.

With a final SCREECH, the Darkling sucks in on itself, warping and deforming as it shrinks to no larger than a fist - and then disappears with a CRACK like thunder.

Silence falls. The winds die down, the surviving monks staggering to the aid of their fallen comrades.

Vi looks over to the Key - safe and sound, still hovering a few feet off the floor.

VI

(relieved)

Yeah, you're welcome.

Vi then looks down at Ambrosia's body, kneels down, and gently closes her eyes, allowing herself a moment of grief.

The monks slowly approach her as she stays crouched, the first one she spoke with in front.

MONK

Thank... you. You are truly a gift from the heavens.

VI

(uneasy)

Uh... yeah, don't mention it.

She looks down at Ambrosia's body.

VI (cont'd)

Look, I know she was beating you up and all, but it wasn't really her. She was possessed.

(beat)

Umm... do you think you could give her a proper burial? Somewhere... nice.

The monks look among one another briefly before they all bow their heads towards Vi.

(CONTINUED)

MONK

We will in the morning. Right now,
we have a more important purpose.

Everyone in the room looks to the Key, still floating there,
and Vi realises this is her cue to go.

Vi politely nods her thanks and walks out, pulling the Handle
from her belt.

As she pauses in the doorway, the monks form a circle around
the Key and begin to CHANT.

INT. HALLWAY - MONASTERY - NEXT

Vi stops at a door and presses the Handle against it.
Nothing.

She takes a deep breath and exhales, calming herself. Then
she tries it again, and this time it sticks!

VI

Whew!

She smiles and opens the door to reveal a corridor of the
Gateway.

VI (cont'd)

Okay. Good. Managed not to screw
this -

WHAM! Out of nowhere, she's knocked off her feet from the
DARKLING as it swoops into the Gateway and down the corridor!

Vi gets her head up just in time to see its smoky form speed
down through the Gateway, too fast to pursue.

VI (cont'd)

Aw crap!

She scrambles back to her feet and takes off after the
creature, grabbing the Handle and SLAMMING the door behind
her as we CUT TO:

INT. MAIN HALL - CHURCH OF HESSIONISM - NIGHT

ON A DEMON as a sword comes into frame and slices it in half!
Faith jumps between the two halves as they fall to the
ground, meeting the attack of another demon that she quickly
dispatches.

She pulls her stake and throws it. WHIP PAN to a vampire
catching the stake right in the heart and dusting.

FAITH

Like riding a bike.

(CONTINUED)

Wide shot of the melee, the number of demons and vampires significantly lower than earlier as Faith leads the Slayers into the attack.

Several acolytes still crowd round the Gateway. The entire structure looks like the single spier from earlier, glyphs GLOWING on the inner structure of it.

The entrance portal starts to coalesce more urgently - and the Darkling SWOOPS out and into the chamber!

Pryor sees the black smoke circle up into the air, his face falling. Vi failed.

Noa's next to him now, still picking off demons with her gun. In Rambo-esque fashion, she has a belt of shells strapped across her chest.

DAWN (O.S.)

Hey... I'm me again!

Pryor turns to Dawn, who is looking over her body. She looks up at Pryor and holds up her hands. Still tied.

DAWN (cont'd)

Uh... ya mind?

He hurries over and begins to untie her, Dawn anxious to get the hell out of here.

The Darkling, meanwhile, hovers over a group of acolytes, commanding their attention as it fills the air overhead.

Choosing its victim, the creature SWOOPS down and POSSESSES one of the unfortunate acolyte, sucking itself into his body before he can even cry out!

The other acolytes watch him fall to the ground, convulsing as the Darkling takes over his body.

He stops shaking and gets to his feet, head bowed as the other acolytes cautiously approach him.

DARK ACOLYTE

(pissed off)

Are the safety spiers removed?

FEMALE ACOLYTE

What... what happened to your other host?

The Darkling viciously SNAPS HER NECK! She drops to the ground, dead. It turns to another acolyte.

DARK ACOLYTE

Do not make me repeat myself!

(CONTINUED)

ACOLYTE
(stammering)
Yes... yes, they are removed.

DARK ACOLYTE
Good.

The Darkling slowly raises its arms, and a swirl of DARK ENERGY surrounds its body.

ACOLYTE
What... what are you doing?

DARK ACOLYTE
Ending this nonsense.

Pryor spots the Darkling building up to something, shouting to get some attention:

PRYOR
Faith! That man in the robes, it's the Darkling!

Faith is busy with trouble of her own, grappling with a slobbering DEMON.

FAITH
So shoot him!

Pryor reaches for his belt, bringing up an oversized TASER GUN, taking aim at the Dark Acolyte.

He pulls the trigger - just as another acolyte throws themselves in the way, taking the full SHOCK of the high voltage gun and falling to the floor!

Free to act, the Darkling FIRES the pent up energy directly into the spires of the Gateway!

The glyphs GLOW brighter than ever before rays of light shoot out of them. Pryor's jaw drops - he knows what's happening.

PRYOR
My God. It's overloading it!

He frantically fumbles for another weapon as a pair of knife-wielding acolytes close in, and we CUT TO:

21 INT. CONTROL ROOM - GATEWAY - NEXT

21

Vi has reached the control room, but all is not well. Within the control console, all of the tubes are raising and lowering on their own.

She replaces the Handle and looks at the chaotic console, different coloured lights rapidly cycling across it.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

VI
What's going on?

One tube raises higher than the other and SHATTERS! Vi shields her face from the glass as we CUT TO:

22 INT. MAIN HALL - CHURCH OF HESSIONISM - NEXT 22

A bolt of LIGHTNING shoots out of the Gateway into the center of the room.

Where it lands, a small PORTAL tears itself open in the middle of the battle!

Everyone around it is knocked off their feet, including one of the Slayers.

She hits the deck - and then starts to get DRAGGED BACKWARDS as the portal begins sucking in everything nearby!

A vampire HOWLS as he's yanked off his feet and sent spiralling back into the crackling mouth of the portal.

23 INT. CONTROL ROOM - GATEWAY - NEXT 23

All around the room, doors are appearing, opening, and disappearing in the blink of an eye. A powerful wind is swirling through the entire room, forcing Vi to shield her eyes.

VI
Help! Somebody!
(beat)
Somebody who knows how to work this thing!

The tubes are SHATTERING left and right now. Vi finally turns tail and runs for it.

24 INT. MAIN HALL - CHURCH OF HESSIONISM - NEXT 24

Energy is practically streaming out of the Gateway now. Several of the bolts PUNCH HOLES in the ceiling.

There are several portals open in the room now. Chairs and other random items are being sucked into them.

An unfortunate Slayer is lifted off her feet, SCREAMING as she's pulled back through the air, vanishing into yet another portal.

Hair whipping round her face, Noa's chair starts to SKID towards one portal, Noa jamming the brakes on as hard as she can.

(CONTINUED)

The chair leaves deep tracks in the chamber's carpeted floor - but she's still drawn inexorably closer!

NOA

Help!!

Tracy dives towards her - just as another BOLT streaks out from the Gateway, smacking her right in the chest!

She's HURLED across the room as the bolt continues on its path, BLASTING through the wall:

EXT. CHURCH OF HESSIONISM - NEXT

The bolt punches out of the roof of the Church into the night sky. A haze of LIGHT glows from within the Church now.

INT. CHURCH OF HESSIONISM - NEXT

Pryor and Dawn hit the deck to avoid one of the bolts. Dawn hears Noa cry out and looks up:

Her chair topples, DUMPING Noa onto the floor, but as the chair is sucked towards the portal, Noa is more concerned with:

NOA

No! Not my car!

Her car REARS UP on its front wheels, hanging for a second before finally LAUNCHING itself backwards!

It collects several demons and acolytes, THUDDING into them on its path back into another portal.

With a loud BANG, the car CRUMPLES like it was made of paper as it's pulled through the portal.

Tracy, charred and woozy but still in one piece, manages to STAKE a vampire sneaking up on the fallen Noa, hooking an arm round her to pull her to safety.

TRACY

Easy, I got ya!

Tracy manages a few steps when another PORTAL opens up right behind her!

The sudden pull blows her off her feet, and Noa's dropped again as Tracy CARTWHEELS back through the air!

Tracy's a fraction away from the portal when Faith TACKLES her from side on, spearing Tracy out of the air and sending them bouncing across the floor.

Faith springs to her feet, right back into action as the stunned Tracy stays flat on her back.

TRACY (cont'd)

Thanks...

Another slayer fires a wrist mounted stake gun, DUSTING two more vampires. The dust gets sucked into a nearby portal.

All around the room, demons and slayers are either fleeing or being sucked into portals. Dawn and Pryor take cover in a corner, furniture RATTLING all round them in the maelstrom.

PRYOR

(yells)

This is extremely bad!

DAWN

(yells)

Appreciate the update!

NOA'S LEGS start slowly sliding out and towards a portal. Noa, not actually feeling the movement, doesn't notice until her upper body starts to slide too.

NOA

(wide-eyed)

Oh, God...

She starts SLIDING across the floor to a nearby portal.

NOA (cont'd)

(screaming)

Faith!

Faith finishes off another demon and looks over to see Noa, hands clawing at the ground as she's dragged backwards.

FAITH

Hang on!

She gets a running start, picking up a stray sword along the way, and LEAPS through the air, passing over Noa's head.

She SPIKES both swords into the ground ten feet from the portal, her legs flying up in the air from the portal's pull. She looks over to Pryor and Dawn covering up in a corner.

FAITH (cont'd)

Pryor!

Pryor looks over as Faith CATCHES a screaming Noa's arm as she rapidly slides by her.

FAITH (cont'd)

Catch!

(CONTINUED)

Faith HURLS Noa several feet through the air! She lands with a bump a few feet from Pryor's position. He grabs her and pulls her to safety.

PRYOR
Are you alright?

NOA
(dazed)
What the hell just happened?

DAWN
Faith saved you. It was pretty cool.

NOA
Oh... good.

Pryor starts to pull the girls back, away from the increasing level of destruction and towards the exit to the hallway.

Faith grits her teeth and grabs the other sword. She yanks one out and drives it back into the ground two feet in front of her, like a mountain climber.

Slowly but surely, she gets herself far enough away from the portal to be able to move freely. She gets to her feet and runs over to the rest of her team.

FAITH
What the hell is going on? What's with all the portals?

Pryor points to the Darkling still standing at the Gateway, pumping energy into it.

PRYOR
It's overloading the Gateway!

NOA
'Overloading'? It's not a PC, Pryor!

PRYOR
With that much influx of energy, all of the dimensions the Gateway can access are being ripped open at once!

FAITH
So we shut it off!

PRYOR
We can't! Only Alex had the power to do it, and with Vi taking your tattoo...

(CONTINUED)

Faith looks away, the situation getting more grim by the second.

But things can always get worse. With a loud CRACK, a chunk of the ceiling CAVES IN, hunks of masonry FLATTENING two demons as the rest of the debris is torn into three separate portals!

Faith and the team look round as the other walls start to WARP, the sheer volume of power exerted on them starting to suck them inwards.

PRYOR (cont'd)
And if we don't do something fast,
then this building and everything
in downtown Manhattan is going to
get sucked straight into those
portals!

Dawn cowers, trying to shield Noa as Pryor looks to Faith. They need a plan, and fast. Faith looks towards the Gateway.

FAITH
Damn it, Vi... where are you?

Another dull BANG signals a piece of the far wall IMPLODING, and as the tornado of energy inside the hall climbs every second, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

27

INT. MAIN HALL - CHURCH OF HESSIONISM - NIGHT

27

Back to the howling wind, the snapping energy of the dozens of portals strewn at crazy angles throughout the air, and the train wreck that is the main hall as the whole Church starts to slowly fold in on itself.

One of the other Slayers lies dead on the ground, skewered by a sword. Her body starts to SLIDE into a nearby portal.

PULL BACK to find the Darkling, gritting its teeth with exertion as it continues to overload the Gateway. Streams of snarling BLACK ENERGY pour from its arms.

And then there's our team, still trying to figure out what the hell to do. Dawn is off to the side. Pryor is holding Noa up behind Faith, who is glaring at the Gateway.

Faith runs her hands through her hair, struggling to come up with anything. She glances over at Dawn, more specifically on her tattoo.

FAITH
(to herself)
Dawn.
(to Pryor)
Could Dawn do it?

PRYOR
Do what?

FAITH
Alex gave her tattoo to Dawn. Could she shut the Gateway down?

PRYOR
Maybe, I... I don't know. Alex said it was always an unconscious thing with her, she had no real idea how her powers worked.

Dawn looks up, not even wanting to entertain the suggestion.

DAWN
(shows tattoo)
I can tell you right now, I have no clue what I'm doing with this.

PRYOR
But...
(realises something)
You're the Key.

(CONTINUED)

DAWN

(snaps)

Stop calling me that! That was a long time ago!

PRYOR

(shakes head)

That's not what I meant. I meant you're the Gateway Key now.

(beat)

Whether you like it or not, Alex has made you connected to that thing. You're our only chance.

Dawn looks at Faith, who solemnly nods at her.

NOA

Wait. What about Vi?

Faith and Pryor share a grim look.

PRYOR

If she's not back by now, and the Darkling is -

Noa SLAPS Pryor in the face!

NOA

Damn it, think like a human being for once instead of a lab geek!

FAITH

Okay, okay, Noa. I'll go in and try to find her first. Then we'll shut it down.

Dawn points over to the Darkling.

DAWN

Not to be a downer, but it's going to be kind of hard with that in the way.

Faith sets her jaw, picks up a sword and turns to face the Darkling. She aims and THROWS it like a lance!

Unfortunately, it sails harmlessly off to the left - and hits a panicking demon right between the eyes.

FAITH

Damn it.

She picks up the other sword she was using.

FAITH (cont'd)

Last chance.

(CONTINUED)

Pryor steps and grabs her wrist as she pulls back to throw.

PRYOR

Let me.

(off her look)

I did javelin in college.

He accepts the sword from Faith, aims his shot, and HURLS the sword at the Darkling.

Just then, Vi steps out of the entrance portal - between the sword's trajectory and the Darkling!

PRYOR (cont'd)

Vi! Get down!

Vi turns to Pryor - and YELPS as she just barely ducks the sword!

It connects with the intended target, IMPALING the Darkling right through the chest!

The trails of energy are cut off in an instant, the Dark Acolyte's arms falling limply to its sides.

The creature looks down at the bodily intruder - and slumps to the ground. Very dead.

Vi quickly hurries past it, weaving through the dead bodies but having to stop and grab hold of a large desk when she feels the pull of the closest portal.

VI

Guys! You coulda just say you were glad to see me without the whole 'sword to the head' thing!

FAITH

Just shut up and get back here!

Seconds later, the black cloud of the Darkling's native form PUSHES out of the dead acolyte.

VI

Aw, jeez, here we go again...

A loud CRACKING sound gets the team to look up - at the night sky above them! The entire roof of the Church is GONE, beams pulled in two and sagging overhead.

FAITH

Ready?

DAWN

No.

(CONTINUED)

FAITH

Good.

Faith grabs her hand and pulls her towards the Gateway.

FAITH (cont'd)

Stay close.

They stay to the edges of the wall, away from any portals. Dawn looks around, clearly on edge.

She looks off screen and SCREAMS, pulling Faith to the ground - just as a bolt of energy STRIKES the wall where they were standing!

Faith looks up at the fresh, smoking hole in the wall, then back at Dawn.

FAITH (cont'd)

Nice save, kid.

They get back up and continue moving, albeit slowly to maintain solid footing.

Finally, they reach the right side of the Gateway where Vi is waiting.

VI

So... I miss anything?

Before Faith can reply, a SHRIEK from above them grabs their attention.

They look up to see the Darkling circling above them, ready for its revenge as it begins to DIVE!

Another bolt fires out of the Gateway, forcing the darkling to break off as it lances past.

ON Pryor and Noa, Pryor seeing the bolt heading straight for them!

PRYOR

Down!

He THROWS Noa off of him and drops to the ground in the opposite direction. The streak shoots right between them.

FAITH

We need to do this quick.

DAWN (O.S.)

Faith!

Dawn is GLOWING GREEN again!

(CONTINUED)

DAWN (cont'd)
It's happening again!

Faith boggles, looking to Vi, who looks just as thrown.

VI
Don't look at me! I saved her ass
back in the Gateway!

DAWN
I feel -

A beam of WHITE LIGHT fires out of the Gateway - straight into Dawn! Faith and Vi are knocked off their feet.

Dawn is bathed in a brilliant haze of light, her hair up on end as her entire body starts to glow white.

Faith and Vi step away from her as the glyphs on the Gateway slowly start to dim down.

The long, snaking beam of energy keeps pulsing its way towards Dawn, who stutters slightly as the waves of power wash over her.

The beam suddenly cuts off, and Dawn reels backwards, her entire body CRACKLING with green and white energy.

Her eyes are PURE WHITE as she looks down at her hands, gaping at the miasma of colour swirling over her.

DAWN (cont'd)
What the hell?

Above her, the Darkling DIVEBOMBS towards her!

FAITH
Dawn! Heads up!

She lifts her head to see the darkling coming in - but it's repelled by the energy Dawn is radiating, shrieking and moving back!

Faith looks up at the Darkling, then back at Dawn.

FAITH (cont'd)
That's it... that's it!

She grabs Dawn from behind and SLAMS her right hand onto the Gateway.!

The bottom of each side of the Gateway flashes white. The flashes continue up the structure, stopping at the glyph Dawn is touching.

(CONTINUED)

One by one, the dozens of portals begin to shrink and POP out of existence, the wind they caused dying down.

Furniture, bodies and jagged pieces of the Church itself start to DROP out of the air, raining down on those below.

As more of the glyphs on the gateway start to LIGHT UP, a dazed Dawn turns to Faith:

DAWN

What... what am I doing?

FAITH

You're doing what you're meant to,
Dawn! Just stay on it!

DAWN

What is 'it'?

VI

Faith, it's coming back!

Faith snaps round - sure enough, the Darkling is SWOOPING back in for another shot!

Faith points Dawn's free hand at it just as the energy from the Gateway SURGES through her body.

The energy flies out of her hand and PIERCES the Darkling, encasing it in a cell of energy!

Faith grits her teeth, feeling the burn as she holds Dawn's arm in place. It's CONVULSING from the energy flow.

DAWN

(scared)

Faith!

The Darkling's shrieks get higher and higher in pitch, the pain racking the creature.

FAITH

Just a few more seconds!

Vi clamps her hands over her ears, the Darkling's keening cries loud enough to break glass.

DAWN

I don't think I can -

The glow around Dawn's body gets more and more intense until a white FLASH explodes out of her, knocking Faith away!

A long, silent moment passes. The smoke clears.

(CONTINUED)

Faith is face first on the ground. She pushes up to her knees and moves the hair out of her face. She takes a moment to get her bearings.

A few feet away, Dawn is on her hands and knees, panting heavily, sweat dripping off of her face.

The Gateway just off to her side starts to FADE AWAY! Faith gets to her feet and watches as the Gateway completely disappears.

She takes that in for a moment before looking around at the rest of her team.

Tracy picks up one of the other Slayers - two down, two up. Along with Faith's team, they're the only ones left standing.

FAITH
Everyone okay?

Vi stands up, shaking the cobwebs out of her head. Tracy gives a thumbs up, and Vi nods.

VI
Yeah, I'm good.

FAITH
Pryor?

Pryor is laying on his back, wincing in pain.

PRYOR
I need a chiropractor.

Faith walks over to Dawn, helping the dazed Key to her feet.

FAITH
How you feeling, hero?

DAWN
(dazed)
What now?

FAITH
For today, anyway. Don't let it go to your head, kid.

DAWN
Did I get kidnapped again?

Faith smiles and looks around the room.

FAITH
Noa, you good?

A beat. No answer.

(CONTINUED)

FAITH (cont'd)
(frowns)
Noa?

Pryor looks to his side where he threw Noa. Nothing. He looks to Faith, horrified.

FAITH (cont'd)
No.

Pryor gets to his feet and looks around, not wanting to believe it. His cell phone RINGS, and he answers it.

PRYOR
Yes?

RACHEL
(filtered)
Pryor?!?

28 INT. CHAMBER ROOM - OLD ASYLUM - NEXT

28

Rachel is standing in the large chamber at the heart of the Old Asylum.

She's looking right at the Gateway!

RACHEL
It's back! The Gateway is back!
(beat)
Oh, and I'm glad you guys are okay.
Since you obviously made it.

29 INT. MAIN HALL - CHURCH OF HESSIONISM - NEXT

29

Faith rushes over and SNATCHES the phone out of Pryor's hand.

FAITH
Rachel, is Noa there with you?

RACHEL
(filtered)
What? No, why would she be here? I
thought she went with your guys?

Faith drops the phone and puts her hands to her head, officially wiggling out.

FAITH
(not believing this)
No. No, no, no...

She starts pacing back and forth.

PRYOR
She must've gotten sucked into -

(CONTINUED)

Faith whirls on him, looking ready to kill.

FAITH
I already figured that out, Pryor!
Jesus, you don't need to say it!

Pryor looks away guiltily. Faith resumes pacing before her ringing cell phone gets her attention.

FAITH (cont'd)
(into phone)
What?

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. EMPLOYEE LOUNGE - ASYLUM - NEXT

Jerry's in the lounge with all the other orderlies, huddled around a television set.

JERRY
Faith -

FAITH
(frantic)
Dude, I'm in the middle of a crisis
right now. I don't have time to
chat. Noa's missing and probably
lost in some shrimp dimension!

JERRY
(blinks)
Oh.
(beat)
Well, I hate to be the bearer of
more bad news...

FAITH
What?

ON the television set showing a news report. The byline reads 'Wilkins wins in a landslide.'

On the screen, the Mayor is in the middle of a throng of cheering supporters.

REPORTER (V.O.)
In a shocking turn of events,
Richard Wilkins has won the mayoral
election by a landslide margin.

JERRY
Wilkins just became Mayor of New
York.

Faith drops her phone - another bombshell she didn't need.

31 INT. WILKINS CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS - NIGHT

31

The Mayor's supporters continue to cheer their victor, who is standing on a chair trying to calm them down. He's sporting that typical Wilkins grin.

CROWD

Speech! Speech! Speech!

THE MAYOR

Okay, okay! I was saving it for the press conference, but I'll say a few words now.

He clears his throat and straightens his tie.

THE MAYOR (cont'd)

When I came out of... retirement, I never thought this would be possible. It's sort of hard to get re-elected when your claim to fame is disappearing just before your city fell into the ground.

The crowd chuckles with him.

THE MAYOR (cont'd)

I just feel blessed to be sharing this with all of you here today. Just goes to show that when the chips are down, all you need... is a little faith.

He winks at the camera and the crowd erupts in cheers again.

32 EXT. UNKNOWN - DAY

32

CU on Noa, face down on the ground. She picks her head up and blows her hair out of her face.

NOA

(groans)

Okay, that is officially the last apocalypse I...

She stops. Looks around, appearing to be in some sort of a desert. With PURPLE SAND.

NOA (cont'd)

Faith?

(beat, more panicked)

Guys? Where are you?

She continues to take in her surroundings. She turns around and sits up, looking up at the moon in the sky.

(CONTINUED)

Make that all THREE moons in the sky.

NOA (cont'd)
What the...?

Noa looks all round - nothing but sand, the moons shining down on her and a light breeze rippling across the desert.

She turns round - and freezes. Looks down at her legs.

They're twisted round from where she fell.

And then her left leg TWITCHES.

Wide eyes, Noa carefully rolls into a sitting position, staring at her legs like it's the first time she's seen them.

Her leg TWITCHES again. Noa's eyes bulge, her hands clapping over her mouth.

She closes her eyes, taking a deep breath, and shakes her hands to help the stress out of her system.

She opens her eyes again, looking directly at her legs - and then pulls her left leg up towards her!

NOA (cont'd)
(blurts)
Oh, my God!

Head spinning, she looks at her other leg - and does the same. Noa can't help but burst into LAUGHTER.

She throws her head back, tears rolling down her cheeks, before she reaches down and tears off her shoes and socks, looking at her wriggling toes.

And then the smile fades, replaced by a look of mild disgust. She wrinkles her nose.

NOA (cont'd)
I need a pedicure.

She cocks her head, examining her feet, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW