

FAITH

"Live By The Sword"

by
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Based on characters created by Joss Whedon
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And characters created by Jason Scott
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TEASER

FADE IN:

1

EXT. PALACE - COURTYARD - DAY

1

CLOSE UP on a pair of weeping human eyes, staring blankly back at us. They blink and tears fall; the only sound heard is quiet sobbing.

VOICE (V.O.)

Bring them forth.

CLOSE UP on a pair of demonic eyes, staring coldly back. They blink. All is silent for a few long moments.

Slowly, PAN OUT to reveal that the eyes belong to none other than AKU, who sits proudly on an elaborate wooden throne. Two Geisha-like DEMON WOMEN sit on the floor by his side.

PAN ACROSS the courtyard to take in the view of this world - the courtyard resembles a Buddhist temple, the sky above is a shimmering blue and purple.

Finally, SOUND kicks in, as dozens of HUMANS and DEMONS ROAR and CHEER. Aku nods his head appreciatively at their applause. He is clearly in his element; here, he's practically worshipped.

Aku smiles cruelly as two disheveled and chained PRISONERS are pulled before him by burly warrior demons.

He rises slowly to his feet as the first man is dragged to the foot of his throne.

This is the weeping MAN, who is barely able to control himself. He looks up at Aku in an attempt at defiance.

AKU

(subtitled)

<Why do you weep so? Do you not realise that you are in the presence of a God?>

The prisoner doesn't reply, and with a smirk Aku draws a katana from his robes, swiftly DECAPITATING him!

The crowd CHEERS louder as the unfortunate man's head bounces away and his body slumps lifelessly to the floor.

AKU (cont'd)

(to crowd)

<And now he has been sent to join his gods!>

Aku nods his head once more as the next prisoner is dragged forward.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

CLOSE UP on a pair of steely, truly defiant human eyes.

PAN OUT as the second prisoner lifts his head to look at Aku.

It's KINCAID!

Not at all worried about his defiance, but not exactly impressed by it either, Aku looks back at Kincaid with a dark glint in his eyes.

AKU (cont'd)
<I have waited an age for this
moment...>

Aku lifts his sword, and with a whistle of air he slices it through the air -

SMASH CUT TO:

2 INT. ASYLUM - KITCHEN - DAY

2

THUD!

CLOSE UP on a KNIFE cutting through a tomato, staining a chopping board in its juice.

PAN OUT as RACHEL removes the knife, placing the chopped tomato into a sandwich.

Bopping along to the radio, this appears to be a very normal day as Rachel lifts the completed sandwich and takes a good bite out of it.

RACHEL
Mmm... sandwich.

She takes another bite - then starts as though hearing something.

Frowning, she puts the sandwich down as her PHONE starts to vibrate on the counter top.

She scoops the phone up, checks the caller ID and grins, answering:

RACHEL (cont'd)
Can't a girl eat a healthy snack in
peace?

She chuckles at the response.

RACHEL (cont'd)
(dry)
And you know my mouth is watering
just thinking about it.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RACHEL (cont'd)
(beat)
Uh huh. Okay. Bye.

Hanging up, Rachel sighs and turns to her half-eaten sandwich.

RACHEL (cont'd)
Sorry, Tom. Girl's gotta have her
priorities.

And with that, she throws the sandwich into a nearby bin.

FOLLOW its descent into the never-ending blackness of the garbage bag, forcing us to:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3

INT. OLD ASYLUM - GATEWAY ROOM - DAY

3

PRYOR, FAITH, VI, JERRY, NOA, RUTH and the disembodied DAWN are stood around the Gateway, all attention on Dawn as she brings up a visual of Aku's world.

Displayed on a floating panel of light, it shifts from landscape to landscape, shooting over miles of terrain.

They all look up as Rachel comes down the stairs towards them.

NOA

Hey, glad you could join us.

RACHEL

(shrugs)

Sorry. I was battling a demon of my own. So what's up?

DAWN

Right. So, as I was saying, I've been keeping track of Mr. Seppuku here, keeping an eye on what he's up to.

The visual changes to one of Aku, shouting orders at his MYSTICS.

DAWN (cont'd)

From what I can gather, Aku has been searching far and wide, gathering warrior demons from all over his world.

Pryor steps up, examining the screen.

PRYOR

He's building an army.

JERRY

You think he's going to try and invade?

DAWN

Like the Nazi's could never have dreamed of.

NOA

Great. Because, you know, it's been a while since that last happened to us. We're getting out of practise.

(CONTINUED)

FAITH

But they can't get through, right?
I mean, isn't that part of what
Dawn can do now?

DAWN

Not yet. But these mystic guys know
what they're doing. It won't be
long until they figure out how to
break through.

(beat)

I've already felt them probing the
Gateway's defences.

JERRY

(smirks)

As long as that's all they're
probing.

Even in her disembodied state, Dawn blushes at this. Pryor
however, shoots Jerry a dark look.

VI

So these mystics break through, Aku
and his warriors get a vacation,
and we all die horrible and bloody
deaths.

(beat)

Did I miss anything?

Pryor watches as Dawn wipes the view over several large troop
formations.

PRYOR

The sheer number of demons Aku is
gathering. This goes far beyond us
fighting a small advance force -
there must be hundreds of these
creatures already.

DAWN

If these guys get through, they're
not going to stop at us. The entire
city could be overrun in hours.

RACHEL

So what do we do?

FAITH

We kill the hell out of them before
they can kill the hell out of us.

VI

See, I prefer my plans to have a
little more detail...

FAITH

We open the Gateway, go to Aku's world and remind him that he doesn't have a ticket to this one.

PRYOR

I'm inclined to agree with Faith. Aku hasn't finished gathering his forces yet. We have a much better chance of stopping something ugly if we act now.

RUTH

Now?

PRYOR

We're going tonight.

A long, tense beat.

FAITH

Cool. We'd better get psyched up then, huh?

The meeting apparently over, Faith heads for the exit, with the others not far behind.

VI

Faith, wait.

Turning back, the older Slayer looks cautiously at the redhead, the tension still obvious between them.

VI (cont'd)

Dawn's found something you might be interested in.

Frowning curiously, Faith follows her over to the Gateway where Dawn is waiting for them.

FAITH

What's up?

DAWN

You.

FAITH

(beat)

Is this going to involve a couch and ink blots? 'Cause I really -

VI

She's figured out how to transfer the tattoo back to you.

Vi holds up her arm, showing Faith the WARDEN TATTOO.

(CONTINUED)

FAITH
Are you kidding?

DAWN
It's actually just a simple
transference of energy from Vi,
into the Gateway, and back to you.
(beat)
Which is cool, 'cause, you know,
tattoo removal? Expensive.

FAITH
So how does it work?

VI
Watch.

Vi lays a hand on the left side of the Gateway, and Dawn
motions for Faith to do the same on the right side.

Once both Slayers are position, Dawn shakes out her hands and
CRACKS her knuckles.

DAWN
Okay, baby, give it to me.

FAITH
(raises eyebrow)
Would you prefer it if we left?

DAWN
(dryly)
Smart mouth, Slayer, keep it shut.

Faith grins, as Dawn begins to GLOW ethereally.

DAWN (cont'd)
You know, I don't have to be doing
this. I could just keep getting
Rachel to order pizza and try to
figure out how the hell to eat
it...
(beat)
Oh.

Suddenly, streams of ENERGY are flying everywhere as Dawn
rises several feet off the ground!

The tattoo on Vi's arm GLOWS, and the Gateway joins in the
glowing game as the tattoo DISSIPATES!

VI
(grimacing)
Ow... ow... ow! Dawn?

(CONTINUED)

DAWN

Hang on... sorry...

Faith's eyes widen in surprise, and she looks down at her own arm as the tattoo APPEARS there, as if being drawn on by invisible hands.

Faith winces - the tattoo is literally burning back onto her skin - but within moments, it's all over.

A beat. Faith holds up her forearm, examining the tattoo - it's like it never left.

FAITH

Damn, girl, gotta hand it to you...

Faith grins and looks across to where Vi was stood - but she's no longer there.

FAITH (cont'd)

Vi?

Dawn looks up to the stairs, just in time to catch a sight of Vi's heels as the junior Slayer disappears.

DAWN

Huh. You'd think she'd be happy.
Or, at least, she'd stay to say
'gee, thanks Dawn.' You think she's
pissed?

FAITH

That's pretty much all she is these
days.

Faith exhales wearily, looking over the tattoo as we CUT TO:

Vi is sat on her bed, looking out the window, and the redhead looks extremely put out by something. She pulls a stake out of her jacket and sighs at it.

FAITH (O.S.)

Hey.

Vi looks up as Faith enters, and quickly turns her eyes back to the window.

VI

Hey.

FAITH

You okay?

VI
(sarcastic)
Five by five.

FAITH
(frowns)
Look, am I missing something here?
I thought you didn't want the
tattoo? You hated being in charge
of that thing.

VI
Yeah, I did. What's your point?

FAITH
You're pissed -

VI
(cuts her off)
I don't give a crap about the
tattoo Faith, that's not why I'm
pissed off.

FAITH
Then we're gonna have to have a
heart to heart, because I ain't
cracking out the telepathy for no
one.

VI
Faith, just... please, just get
out. I need to... I need to walk,
clear my head.

Faith is stumped by this turn in the conversation, and shakes
her head.

FAITH
Whatever.

Faith makes a hasty exit, leaving Vi to simmer in her own
anger as we CUT TO:

Free from the meeting, Jerry heads up a hallway, not noticing
as Pryor follows, looking mightily pissed off.

PRYOR
And what was that meant to be,
Jerry?

Surprised, Jerry stops walking and turns to look at Pryor's
thunderous face.

JERRY

I'm sorry?

PRYOR

I'm just trying to understand why you can't take our staff meetings seriously.

JERRY

(frowns)

I wasn't aware that I didn't.

PRYOR

You can stop with the crude jokes then, because next time, I will insist that you leave.

Jerry looks back at Pryor, surprised by his tone, but also slightly amused by it.

JERRY

Is there something going on that I should know about? Mid-life crisis? Have you bought a motorbike recently? Power boat?

PRYOR

You think you're so funny, Heal, but you're really not. I run this place, not you.

JERRY

Really? Because I was under the impression that Faith did.

PRYOR

And I've been here for her all this time. Where were you?

Stung, Jerry puffs his chest out a little.

PRYOR

And while we're on the subject, I've been here for Ruth as well, all this time. So stay away.

JERRY

What?

PRYOR

I know what's been going on between the both of you!

(CONTINUED)

JERRY

Pryor, have you heard yourself?
Nothing's going on between me and
Ruth. There's nothing to know
about!

PRYOR

Don't think I haven't seen you.

Pryor gets up close, right in Jerry's face. Even though he's
taller, Jerry's still a little alarmed by this.

PRYOR (cont'd)

I would be very careful if I were
you.

And with that, Pryor takes off, leaving Jerry to frown
disbelievingly after him.

CLUNK!

CLOSE UP on the floor as a large BATTLE AXE connects with the
stone.

DAWN (O.S.)

Hey! Not on the floor, alright?

PAN OUT as Faith lifts the axe, spinning it effortlessly
across her hand. She grins, reveling in the power of her arm
and the weight of the weapon.

Behind her, Dawn is permanently stood at the Gateway, her
arms folded in frustration as she watches Pryor unload a
crate of similar Medieval weapons.

DAWN (cont'd)

This place looks bad enough already
without you putting dings all over
it. I'm the one stuck living here,
you could at least make the effort
to keep it nice.

Dawn looks around, watching the duo tool up.

DAWN (cont'd)

You know, this whole 'no body'
thing? It sucks ass.

FAITH

You mean you wanna come along on
the suicide mission that we
probably won't come back from?

PRYOR

Thank you for the reassurance,
Faith.

DAWN

So who's going along?

FAITH

Me, Pryor, Vi and Ruth. Jerry,
Rachel and Noa are staying as
backup.

DAWN

Backup?

PRYOR

Researching ways to shut off Aku's
world. Just in case we fail
miserably.

DAWN

Now that would be the more sensible
plan.

(off Faith's look)

But hey, Buffy followed the stupid
plan for ten years and she turned
out okay.

(beat)

Eventually.

FAITH

You just worry about opening the
Gateway, squirt. Leave the rest to
me.

PRYOR

Us.

FAITH

(beat)

Yeah.

DAWN

Have you spoken to Vi yet?

FAITH

No, she skipped out, took a walk to
clear her head. Didn't wanna listen
to anything I had to say.

PRYOR

It's probably best that you find
her. We need to get moving soon,
and -

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL (O.S.)
That's going to be a problem.

The others turn to look at the stairs as Rachel descends, carrying a letter in her hands.

FAITH
What is it?

RACHEL
I went looking for Vi. Found this
in her room.

Faith holds out her hand impatiently, and Rachel hesitates for a moment before giving it to her. She and Dawn share a worried look as Faith reads it.

FAITH
(reads)
Hey, guys. Sorry to bail on you,
but this is something I had to do.
Please understand.

Faith frowns before continuing, and we CUT TO:

A large bag slung over her shoulder, Vi walks away from the ticket desk with a ticket held firmly in one hand. Spotting her bus, she walks towards it.

FAITH (V.O.)
I don't really know where I'm going
to go yet, but I just know that I
can't be there with you. The Asylum
is just... too much right now.

Reaching her bus, Vi climbs aboard.

Dawn, Rachel and Pryor look on sadly as Faith continues.

FAITH
(reads)
I don't know when I'll be back, or
even if I'll be back. I guess I'll
come back when I'm ready, whenever
that is.

CUT TO:

Vi has found her seat, and she holds her bag firmly to her lap, her eyes holding back tears as the bus begins to move.

(CONTINUED)

FAITH (V.O.)
Good luck with Aku. I'm sorry I
can't be there, but I know you'll
be fine without me. You always
were.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

10

Vi's bus pulls away and drives off down the street towards
the unknown.

FAITH (V.O.)
I just wanted you to know; I love
you all.

And it's gone in moments.

11 INT. OLD ASYLUM - GATEWAY ROOM - NIGHT

11

Faith pauses, a look of genuine sadness on her face.

FAITH
(reads)
Later, Vi.

A solemn beat, as the others try to formulate a response.

PRYOR
Are you... okay, Faith?

FAITH
(quickly)
I'm fine.

DAWN
Liar.

FAITH
Seriously, I'm fine. You heard;
she's coming back. She just needs
some time away. I guess we all do.

PRYOR
I must say, this is very unlike Vi.
She's not one for flaking out on us
at the last moment. What could have
gotten to her that she felt this
was her only answer?

Faith shrugs, not noticing Dawn's suspicious glance her way.

RACHEL
I'll, uh... go find Noa. I guess we
have some research to do.

(CONTINUED)

Faith nods as she leaves, and Ruth and Jerry arrive, Ruth carrying an armful of clothing.

PRYOR
What's all that?

RUTH
After seeing what Aku's world looks like - thanks to you, Dawn - I decided we'd need some new outfits to help us blend in.

Faith glances down at her own clothes.

FAITH
What's wrong with what we're wearing?

RUTH
Oh, I don't know, it lacks a certain...

She unfolds the item on top of the pile - it's a Geisha-inspired black and red number.

RUTH (cont'd)
... style.

Passing out the clothes to them, the others look down in wonder at that work she's done.

FAITH
Hey, these aren't bad...

PRYOR
How did you do all this?

RUTH
(shrugs)
Costume store and a sewing machine.
Oh, and Pryor? Now I owe you fifty bucks.

Pryor nods, impressed, as Faith examines her outfit.

FAITH
I feel totally 'Last Samurai', but yeah, I think I can work this.

PRYOR
We'll, uh...

FAITH
Find somewhere to change into these on the other side?
(MORE)

CONTINUED: (2)

FAITH (cont'd)
Yeah, way ahead of you there,
Pryor. Trust me, I'm in no hurry to
see you naked.

She glances slyly back at Ruth, who smirks.

JERRY
You'll look great.

FAITH
(dry)
Okay, and now Daddy approves, it's
time to go. Promise we'll be back
before midnight.

Jerry grins as Faith steps towards the Gateway with her axe.
Pryor and Ruth follow, Pryor with a crossbow and Ruth with a
sword.

FAITH (cont'd)
You ready, Sunnydale?

DAWN
Born ready, Boston.

And as Dawn begins to GLOW, Faith grabs the handle, the
Gateway opens with a CRACKLE of energy - a PORTAL roars to
life, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

12

EXT. FIELDS - DAY

12

A beautiful, strange field.

The sky above is the same bruised purple/blue colour seen previously. The field is full of towering, golden grass. All is quiet and peaceful, until -

With an EXPLOSION of energy, Faith, Pryor and Ruth fall from the sky!

With triple cries of pain they hit the ground and roll through the grass, Ruth landing hard on top of Pryor.

RUTH

Uh... sorry.

Sitting up, Ruth brushes herself down, and Pryor smiles as she helps him up.

PRYOR

Don't worry about it. I think we can allow Dawn still being a little off with her calculations.

FAITH

When you guys are done with the puppy eyes?

Pulling herself to her feet, Faith takes a good look around, squinting through the grass that's grown taller than her.

FAITH (cont'd)

Over there.

Pryor and Ruth gather around, looking across the distance to where Faith is pointing.

PRYOR

What?

FAITH

I can see a village or something. Houses.

RUTH

Is it wise to just stroll into a village? We don't really know what the inhabitants of this world are like.

(CONTINUED)

FAITH

What do you wanna do? Stand around
all day and wait for Aku to come to
us? Ain't gonna happen.

PRYOR

We need to be cautious, though. We
don't know what's waiting for us.

FAITH

(shrugs)

One way to find out.

Lifting her axe, Faith swings it over her shoulder and begins
to head towards the village.

Swapping a glance, Ruth and Pryor pick up their weapons and
quickly follow, Ruth calling out:

RUTH

Uh, Faith? The outfits?

FAITH

(beat)

Right, right...

Ruth tosses her the clothing, the trio spreading out a little
for some privacy as we CUT TO:

A quaint little village, the buildings greatly resemble
Japanese cottages, and they're all surrounded by perfectly
preened little gardens.

A number of VILLAGERS go about their daily business, a good
variety of humans and demons, all of them dressed in similar
Oriental-style clothing.

No-one pays much attention to them as they pass through,
Faith, Ruth and Pryor keeping close together and avoiding
looking anyone in the eye.

FAITH

Anyone else think we're blending in
a little too well?

RUTH

That's a good thing.

PRYOR

Look, here.

Pryor takes charge and leads the way towards what looks like
a tavern of some kind.

FAITH

Bit early, ain't it?

PRYOR

What better place to get
information out of the locals?

FAITH

The bedroom?

PRYOR

(beat)

Let's go.

Faith grins and once again leads the way, pushing the tavern doors open.

The locals fall quiet and turn to the door as Faith enters, all eyes on her. She looks back at them, sizing them all up, before giving them a friendly nod and walking to the bar.

As Pryor and Ruth enter and follow her, the locals slowly return to their conversations and their beverages.

FAITH

(quiet; to Pryor)

Heh, always loved this part in
'American Werewolf.'

The trio sit down at the bar and Faith slams her hand on the bar top to get the demon BARTENDER'S attention, who quickly scurries over to them.

Literally. He has four legs.

BARTENDER

What can I do for you?

FAITH

English! Thank God.

BARTENDER

Well... you three are human, aren't
you? That's what we speak here.

FAITH

I guess it'd be too much to ask for
beer?

BARTENDER

(frowns)

Beer?

FAITH
Thought so.

RUTH
Three *jacruseli* please.

The bartender nods and turns to make their drinks, as Faith and Pryor turn to Ruth curiously.

RUTH (cont'd)
Never heard of a world where they
don't make *jacruseli*.

FAITH
What does it have in it?

RUTH
Jacru berry, wild elderflower, and
seli, which is like vodka. If vodka
fell from trees like coconuts.

FAITH
Cool.

And Faith quickly gulps back her drink as the bartender places them on the bar.

FAITH (cont'd)
So, bartender, what's your name?

BARTENDER
Gershu.

FAITH
Nice to meet you, Gershu.

GERSHU nods and grins a fangy grin.

FAITH (cont'd)
What can you tell me about Aku?

Everything suddenly goes silent, and Gershu's eyes widen at the sound of the name, as the three of them look around the tavern.

All eyes are once again on Faith.

RUTH
We're definitely not blending in
any more.

PRYOR
I'm thinking that was probably the
wrong thing to say.

GERSHU

What are you doing, using that name? We don't speak that name!

FAITH

Hey, I know it sucks, but there's no need -

GERSHU

You need to leave. Now.

RUTH

What? But... wait, we -

Gershush's eyes flick to the door as it's pushed open once more, and he quickly scurries away, disappearing into the depths of the tavern.

The trio turn back towards the door as four ONI walk into the tavern - fierce, fiery red ceremonial armour but no need for masks. These are Aku's DEMON WARRIORS.

FAITH

They found us already?

PRYOR

I don't think they're here for us.

The three of them watch as the patrons panic. Several of them make a break for the door, as the Oni hone in on one table in particular.

The WOMAN there screams and tries to run, but she's easily caught by the warriors.

FAITH

Hey!

RUTH

Faith, no!

But Faith is already half way across the room, and in three quick strides she has the first demon wrapped in a headlock, dragging him away from the others.

FAITH

Okay, you fugly piece of -

Faith cries out as the demon rears up, throwing her off him and sending her SMASHING through a table laden with glasses!

PRYOR

Faith!

As Faith hits the floor, the Oni turn to look at the intruders, and Pryor quickly raises his crossbow in defence.

15 INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

15

THE MAYOR sits at the desk in his office, listening intently to someone on the phone, and he looks up as DARK AMBROSIA barges in, SLAMMING the door behind her.

MAYOR

(beat)

Harold, I'll have to call you back.
Tell Patricia that quiche was to
die for, will ya?

Hanging up, he turns his eyes back to Dark Ambrosia.

MAYOR (cont'd)

Is there something wrong, Little
Miss Slammy?

DARK AMBROSIA

I hunger.

Smiling, the Mayor reaches into his desk and pulls out a plate of COOKIES. Dark Ambrosia watches with pure murder in her eyes.

MAYOR

There you go.

DARK AMBROSIA

That isn't what I meant.

MAYOR

(beat)

Oh. Well... I don't think that's -

DARK AMBROSIA

You would deny me?

MAYOR

Of course not. It's just that...
ah, I know.

Dark Ambrosia glares as the Mayor writes something down on a piece of paper.

MAYOR (cont'd)

Go to this address and wait for me
there.

She takes the paper from him and looks down at it, clearly unimpressed.

DARK AMBROSIA

Why?

(CONTINUED)

MAYOR

Because I asked you to, young lady.
I have a conference to go to, but
when I'm done you can eat all you
want.

DARK AMBROSIA

This had better not be a trick,
Wilkins.

MAYOR

(raises finger)

Ah! Mayor Wilkins. And I wouldn't
dream of it. Now, if you'll excuse
me?

The Mayor gets to his feet and puts his jacket on as he
crosses to the door.

MAYOR (cont'd)

I'll meet you there in about an
hour.

Giving her a somewhat hesitant smile, he leaves, and Dark
Ambrosia looks down at the paper once more.

INT. VILLAGE - TAVERN - DAY

CLOSE UP on one of the wooden walls of the tavern, sitting
there doing no harm to anyone. Until:

With an almighty ROAR, ONI #1 SMASHES through it and
disappears out of sight!

ON SCENE as Faith pulls back, spinning on her heel to KICK
ONI #2 as he tries to attack. Grabbing his oncoming fist, she
spins him round and KNEES him sharply in the face.

FAITH

You know, I really hope you guys
aren't the best there is round
here, or I'm gonna have a real
quiet day...

And as she HEADBUTTS him hard in the face, PAN ACROSS to
Pryor and Ruth, who are both fighting an Oni each.

Pryor has lost his crossbow somewhere along the way, but Ruth
is valiantly fighting on with her sword.

As Ruth and ONI #3 trade sword blows, Pryor is busy being
thrown around by ONI #4 and he cries out as he's thrown
backwards, SLAMMING into the bar!

RUTH

Pryor!

(CONTINUED)

Oni #4 wastes no time and leaps on Pryor, wrapping his hands around his throat and attempting to throttle the life out of him.

Pryor lets out a strangled cry, but he can't pull the demon's hands off...

Across the room, Faith spins around as she hears Pryor struggling, and with a furious battle cry, grabs Oni #2 by the arms, SWINGING him into Oni #3 and taking them both down!

RUTH (cont'd)

Faith! Help Pryor!

Faith looks round - sees Pryor. Kicking up his fallen crossbow, Faith takes rapid aim and FIRES:

Oni #4 cries out as the bolt SINKS into his shoulder, and he lets go of Pryor, who gasps for breath.

PRYOR

Thanks...

The demons sufficiently distracted, Faith flies at Oni #4, grabbing the bolt in his shoulder and GRINDING it further into him!

FAITH

Okay, asswipe, here's how its gonna go. You're going to tell me all you know about Aku and his forces, and I'm going to make sure you don't feel a lot of pain when I kill the hell out of you.

RUTH

Faith, I don't think it under -

FAITH

Uh uh.

(to the Oni)

What do you say?

Oni #4 ROARS and pushes her away, TEARING the bolt from his shoulder.

As Faith barrels into Pryor, the Oni makes a run for the exit, closely followed by his friends.

FAITH (cont'd)

Okay... maybe you were right.

RUTH

I don't think it spoke English, Faith. It didn't understand your threat.

FAITH

Threat? I'm gonna gut that thing
next time I see it.

GERSHU (O.S.)

You shouldn't have done that.

The troops turn as Gershu hands the woman the Oni came after
a cup of water.

FAITH

(shrugs)

Can't help it. It's in my blood.

PRYOR

(to woman)

Do you know why they came after
you?

WOMAN

They're Aku's warriors. They're
always after someone, whether
they've done anything or not.

FAITH

Why is everyone so damn scared of
this guy?

Faith looks around at the now empty tavern and shakes her
head in disbelief.

FAITH (cont'd)

Someone even mentions his name and
they freak, his men come by and
everyone gets the hell out of
Dodge...

GERSHU

You haven't seen what he's capable
of. And you really don't want to.

WOMAN

Thank you for helping me, but the
best thing you can do is leave.
You're only going to make things
much worse.

FAITH

I ain't going nowhere.

PRYOR

Double negative.

(to Gershu)

Can you show us where Aku's palace
is?

(CONTINUED)

GERSHU

Why? So we can get ourselves
killed? Find it yourself, if you're
so desperate to die.

FAITH

How about I beat it out of you?

RUTH

Faith!

FAITH

What?

PRYOR

He's peaceful, Faith, you can't -

FAITH

He's a demon, and he's holding out
on us.

RUTH

So because he's a demon, he's free
game, is that it?

Faith rolls her eyes as Ruth tries to square up to her.

FAITH

Off your horse, Medusa, I don't
need a lecture in demon rights.

RUTH

(scoffs)

No wonder Vi wanted to get away
from you.

Faith's expression immediately turns murderous, but she
doesn't reply. Pryor coughs nervously as the two women stare
each other out.

FAITH

Fine. We'll find it ourselves.

Grabbing up her axe, Faith storms out of the tavern.

PRYOR

Uh... thanks for your hospitality.

And with that, he and Ruth are gone too. Gershu looks around
at the mess they've made and sighs.

A face like thunder, Faith leads the way as the three of them
exit the tavern. She stops in her tracks after only a few
footsteps, and her eyes widen slightly.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

FAITH

Crap.

PAN OUT to reveal a dozen PALACE GUARDS stood waiting for them, spears aimed and ready to attack!

18 EXT. BUILDING - NIGHT

18

An old, abandoned building with boarded up windows and missing doors, this is clearly a very rough part of the city.

A TRAMP sits in a doorway opposite this building, talking to himself in barely cohesive sentences. Something about the trash can he just had a conversation with.

He looks up as Dark Ambrosia appears from the shadows next to him and walks across the street to the building. He gasps in shock as she turns and looks at him, her eyes BLAZING red in the night.

TRAMP

It is a devil! Look, it comes for us! Run, Debbie, run!

Pulling himself to him feet, the tramp stumbles away down the street as fast as he can.

FOCUS on Dark Ambrosia as she looks down at the piece of paper in her hand, then up at the building in front of her.

Not looking that impressed, she enters through the hole where a door should be:

19 INT. BUILDING - CONTINUOUS

19

The interior of the building appears to have been a warehouse at some point, but all that's left is empty steel cans and decades' worth of debris.

Dark Ambrosia moves through the din, not effected by the decay here, and comes to a large hole that seems to have been RIPPED through the ground.

Peering down, she tilts her head to one side, listening intently. After a moment, she effortlessly LEAPS down the hole and disappears into the darkness.

20 INT. BUILDING - PRISON - CONTINUOUS

20

Completely disregarding the stairs, Dark Ambrosia falls ten feet from the ceiling and lands gracefully on the hard stone floor. She takes a moment to look around.

VOICE (O.S.)

Can I help you?

(CONTINUED)

Dark Ambrosia turns around to find a tall, brunette WOMAN stood behind her. Dressed in a long but revealing silk dress, she has sensuality and power.

DARK AMBROSIA

Who are you?

WOMAN

My name is Kathryn. Would you be Ambrosia?

DARK AMBROSIA

Ereshkigal.

Dark Ambrosia's eyes GLOW red for a moment, but KATHRYN is neither surprise not intimidated. She only smiles.

KATHRYN

Mayor Wilkins did say to expect you and keep you here to wait for him.

DARK AMBROSIA

What is this place?

KATHRYN

Just a place.

Stepping ahead, Kathryn begins to walk across the room, motioning for Dark Ambrosia to follow.

PAN OUT as we follow them to finally get our first proper view of the room: just as large as the old warehouse above, this room is full of CELLS, each containing a MAN or a WOMAN. There are a number of DEMONS guarding the cells.

FOCUS on one cell, one WOMAN, as some kind of magickal ENERGY seeps out of her hands. But whatever power she's trying to summon has no effect on her prison cell.

ON SCENE as Kathryn leads Dark Ambrosia across the room, who is greatly intrigued by what she sees.

DARK AMBROSIA

A prison. But why?

KATHRYN

Now that really would be telling.

Dark Ambrosia takes another good look around, her expression is becoming increasingly more greedy. She gives us one hell of a devious smile, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

21

INT. PALACE - PRISON - DAY

21

FOCUS on a patch of dusty stone, filth and mud and hay strewn across it. All is quiet, until:

With a yell, Faith SLAMS into the floor, her hands tied behind her back and a large cut on her forehead.

ON SCENE as Ruth and Pryor are also thrown into this large prison cell. They both tumble to the floor next to Faith, propelled by two demon GUARDS.

Taunting them in their native language, the demons laugh and leave, slamming the door shut behind them.

FAITH
(grimaces)
Another old date experience coming
back to haunt me.

Pryor and Ruth both give her a look. Faith raises her eyebrows.

FAITH (cont'd)
So what've we got?

The trio look around at the ten or twelve other prisoners in the room, most of them broken into desperate silence.

PRYOR
Four walls and our hands tied
behind our backs.

FAITH
Great.
(beat)
Hey, what the hell are you...?

But before she can assault the shadowy MAN who has crept over to her, she finds herself being pulled up into a sitting position, her hands unbound.

She looks back at the man as he crawls into the light - it's KINCAID!

FAITH (cont'd)
Uh... thanks.

Nodding, he holds up a small, wickedly sharp stone knife and moves over to free Pryor and Ruth.

(CONTINUED)

KINCAID

I was waiting for you. Even here,
we heard tales of what you did to
the Oni.

FAITH

(smirks)

They had it coming.

KINCAID

And yet, I also knew that you would
be overpowered and brought here.

FAITH

(beat)

Well, thanks for the help, man. We
owe you.

RUTH

But what are we going to do now?
Getting trapped in Aku's palace
really wasn't part of the plan.

FAITH

(shrugs)

I don't know, he's probably only
sat a few rooms away.

PRYOR

What are you suggesting?

FAITH

Get out, get bloody, get gone. You
with me?

Faith looks around at her companions as we CUT TO:

Noa, Rachel and Dawn wait around inside the control room.

RACHEL

I can't believe she just took off.

DAWN

She had her reasons.

NOA

You really think this is all
because of her and Faith being
all... argh?

RACHEL

Hey, the way Faith's been acting
since she got her powers back, I'm
only surprised it took this long.

NOA

Okay, yeah, fair point. She's been putting extra bitch sauce on her fries, but still...

DAWN

I could always find her, you know. Vi. All I have to do is concentrate, and -

RACHEL

No.

DAWN

You're sure?

RACHEL

Dawn, she doesn't want to be found. Not yet. She wouldn't skip out on us unless she felt she had no other choice. We try and drag her back before she's ready...

NOA

... and by the time the smoke clears, we'll only have one Slayer around here.

Rachel and Noa share a concerned look as we CUT TO:

Ruth and Pryor are sat on the floor in their previous position, tending to each other's minor wounds.

Faith and Kincaid stand either side of the prison door, waiting for something.

KINCAID

So you really fought four Oni by yourself?

FAITH

Not really by myself.

KINCAID

Still, people don't challenge the Oni. Taking on four is really brave. Or really foolish.

FAITH

Two of my best friends.

(beat)

So what's your story? You're not like any of these others.

(MORE)

FAITH (cont'd)
By which I mean you're not hiding
in a corner, crying for your mom.

Kincaid glances around at the other prisoners, most of whom
are staring blankly at the walls, no signs of life in their
eyes at all.

KINCAID
I'm from a different world. I fell
through a... portal, I suppose,
with a friend of mine. She got
away, and I've been trying to raise
a resistance here ever since. Maybe
find a way back to her.
(beat)
Aku should have killed me when he
caught me, but he didn't.

Kincaid opens his shirt to reveal a horribly scarred SIGIL
burnt into his chest.

KINCAID (cont'd)
He spared me, for some reason.

A beat, as Faith studies him carefully. Finally, she turns to
look at Pryor, who is also watching intently.

FAITH
You think...?

PRYOR
It looks like it.

KINCAID
(frowns)
What?

FAITH
Does the name 'Noa' mean anything
to you?

KINCAID
(blinks)
You... know Noa?

FAITH
We're her friends. She told us
about you, Kincaid. We're the ones
who got her back.

KINCAID
(narrows eyes)
How do I know this isn't one of
Aku's tricks?

RUTH
Halide.

FAITH

What now?

RUTH

Noa said your people gave praise to Halide, but when she landed on your world you held a dual celebration for her as well.

Kincaid nods slowly.

PRYOR

Oh, and they killed a scabbia demon. You all thought it wanted to harm Noa, when it was just trying to get home.

KINCAID

(beat)

So you're...?

FAITH

Faith.

PRYOR

Pryor.

RUTH

Ruth.

KINCAID

(smiles)

She spoke of you to me too.

(beat; to Ruth)

Except you.

Ruth isn't quite sure how to take that.

KINCAID (cont'd)

Very well, then. If you are Noa's friends, then you are my friends, and I'll make sure we all get back to her.

FAITH

Sweet.

(turns)

Someone's coming.

Falling silent, Faith and Kincaid press themselves against the walls either side of the door, and Ruth does an amazing impression of someone passing out on the floor.

The door is pushed open, and a GUARD comes inside.

(CONTINUED)

PRYOR

You, please, you have to help me!

The demon SNARLS.

PRYOR (cont'd)

Please, my, my friend, she needs
water, I -

THUNK!

And as the demon steps further into the room, Faith SLAMS the door in its face!

The demon ROARS and Kincaid springs forward, kicking him sharply in the gut, allowing Faith to wrap the demon in a quick headlock and promptly SNAP his neck.

Sighing as she drops the corpse to the floor, Faith turns to Ruth.

FAITH

Nice.

Ruth smirks as Pryor helps her to her feet.

RUTH

I watch a lot of bad television.

And with that, the foursome head out, but Kincaid pauses by the door, looking back into the cell.

FAITH

C'mon, man, time to split!

KINCAID

What about these others? We can't
just leave them to -

FAITH

Yeah, because dragging a dozen
nearly comatose prisoners behind us
will make this mission real simple.

Kincaid stiffens, and Faith huffs as she steps closer.

FAITH (cont'd)

Yeah, it sucks, but we can't help
them now. We take out Aku, that'll
help them. Now let's go.

Reluctantly, Kincaid follows Faith out, leaving the already broken prisoners to their fate as we CUT TO:

24

INT. PALACE - HALL - DAY

24

Kincaid leads the way, Faith, Pryor and Ruth following as he walks purposely down a large hall.

PRYOR

Are you sure you know where you're going?

KINCAID

I'm sure. The courtyard is this way. They'll be in session now.

FAITH

How many?

KINCAID

Dozens of courtesans, people who are loyal to him. Most of the guards will be protecting the walls, so we should...

RUTH

Shh!

Grabbing Pryor, Ruth pulls him down behind a tall statue, and Faith and Kincaid follow suit, Kincaid disappearing down a dark corridor, and Faith LEAPING up and disappearing out of sight -

Just in time, as an ONI marches down the hall, dragging a PRISONER with him.

PRISONER

No, please! I'm begging you!

But the Oni doesn't respond, only dragging the unfortunate man away towards the courtyard.

Once they're gone Ruth, Pryor and Kincaid reveal themselves and look up at Faith:

Who is currently hanging by her legs from a ceiling beam!

FAITH

I'm thinking he wasn't trying to get him to buy car insurance.

Flipping herself round, Faith SOMERSAULTS off the beam and lands effortlessly next to Kincaid.

PRYOR

We should keep going. We can only help him if we stop Aku.

(CONTINUED)

KINCAID

This way.

Taking charge once more, Kincaid leads the others towards the courtyard as we CUT TO:

INT. BUILDING - PRISON - NIGHT

Dark Ambrosia stands in front of one of the magic cells, looking hungrily at a particular warlock, who is doing his best to avoid her gaze.

Grinning slightly, she steps closer to his cell, so close that her face is almost touching the bars.

DARK AMBROSIA

Do you know what essence tastes like? It's not even really a taste, it's kind of a smell, a taste and a feeling all at once.

(inhales; grins)

It's like ambrosia to the gods.

KATHRYN (O.S.)

Nice pun.

She looks at Kathryn, who is lingering nearby. Dark Ambrosia smirks and looks back to the warlock.

DARK AMBROSIA

This one is powerful.

KATHRYN

Not powerful enough to avoid capture, clearly.

Not even listening anymore, Dark Ambrosia grabs the lock of the cell, and gives it a good, sharp PULL.

KATHRYN (cont'd)

What are you doing?

DARK AMBROSIA

What does it look like? Ending this pitiful creature's life.

KATHRYN

Stop.

Grabbing her shoulder, Kathryn turns her around, but Dark Ambrosia DECKS her with a solid right hook!

DARK AMBROSIA

(beat; calm)

No.

Turning back to the cell, Dark Ambrosia is surprised as she's hit with a BLAST of violent energy and thrown away from the cell!

She looks up, her eyes GLOWING red, to see Kathryn stood over her, hair and clothes swirling around her on mystic winds.

KATHRYN

The kitchen is closed.

SNARLING, Dark Ambrosia leaps up to attack, but is interrupted by -

MAYOR (O.S.)

That's enough!

And as the Mayor steps between them, the two women glare each other down.

MAYOR (cont'd)

(to Dark Ambrosia)

I told you to wait, sweetie.

DARK AMBROSIA

You 'told' me?

A beat, before he turns to Kathryn.

MAYOR

I apologize, Kathryn. Won't happen again.

KATHRYN

No, it won't.

MAYOR

You're doing a great job, by the way. Love how you've brightened the whole place up.

Kathryn gives him a dry look and walks off, leaving him alone with Dark Ambrosia.

MAYOR (cont'd)

If you could refrain from attacking my employees, I'd appreciate it.

DARK AMBROSIA

I want this one.

MAYOR

Alright. Tuck in.

Turning back to the warlock, she tears the cell door open, and the Mayor doesn't stop her as she swoops down on him, to his SCREAMS!

26

INT. PALACE - COURTYARD - DAY

26

CLOSE UP on a pair of weeping human eyes, staring blankly back at us. They blink and tears fall; the only sound heard is quiet sobbing.

VOICE (V.O.)

Bring them forth.

CLOSE UP on a pair of demonic eyes, staring coldly back. They blink. All is silent for a few long moments.

Slowly, PAN OUT to reveal that the eyes belong to Aku, who sits on his throne. His Geisha demons sit either side of him.

Aku nods his head and an ONI drags a PRISONER forward. A number of other PRISONERS are being held captive nearby, awaiting their turn.

FOCUS on the crowd of spectators as Kincaid, Faith, Ruth and Pryor attempt to get closer.

FAITH

This is sick.

PRYOR

How many guards?

KINCAID

Eight.

FAITH

That we can see. This place has to be crawling.

The foursome freeze as Aku draws his sword, raising it to execute the prisoner.

KINCAID

No!

Pushing several spectators out of his way, Kincaid makes a mad dash for Aku, leaving the others behind.

FAITH

(raises eyebrow)

I don't do that... do I?

Pryor and Ruth swap a glance, and Faith sighs dejectedly.

FAITH (cont'd)

Vi was right. That is really annoying.

And with that, Faith LEAPS after Kincaid as Aku spots the freed prisoners.

(CONTINUED)

AKU

Oni!

Before Kincaid or Faith can reach him, the Oni are swarming around him, and he disappears out of sight as more and more of the demon warriors emerge from the crowd and doors of the palace.

PRYOR

Faith!

FAITH

Go!

Grabbing hold of Kincaid, Faith KICKS an Oni out of her way and dashing through the crowd, dragging Kincaid with her.

The uproar is immediate - courtesans scramble around, panicked, the Oni give chase, our heroes fighting through the crowd of bystanders to escape.

And as they manage to climb up and over what appears to be the boundary wall, we CUT TO:

INT. VILLAGE - TAVERN - DAY

The four-legged demon Gershu is busy sweeping the glass up from the floor of his tavern, and he looks up in frustration as the door swings open and Faith, Kincaid, Pryor and Ruth enter.

GERSHU

Not you again!

FAITH

We liked the ambience.

(to Pryor)

Tails?

Stood at the door, Pryor looks out into the village before closing it.

PRYOR

All clear.

Faith nods and turns to Kincaid, who looks back at her angry expression with a defiant one.

FAITH

We could have got close enough to take Aku out if you hadn't pulled that stunt.

KINCAID

He was going to kill that man.

FAITH

And you stopped him how, exactly?
That guy and about twenty others
are dead anyway, because Aku is
still alive.

KINCAID

I had to do something!

RUTH

I think we should calm down. That's
something we can all do.

GERSHU

(nervous)

Please! You need to leave!

FAITH

Don't worry, we're going. Just as
soon as we -

With a CRASH, a FLAMING ARROW soars through a window and
imbeds itself in the wall behind her, missing her head by
inches!

FAITH (cont'd)

(sighs)

You know what, never mind.

Grabbing Gershu, Faith DIVES to the floor as another arrow
flies through the same window!

SMASH CUT TO:

Five Oni stand firing arrows into the tavern. Another TWENTY
are marching up the village, weapons drawn and ready to
attack!

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

29 INT. GATEWAY - CONTROL ROOM - NIGHT

29

Noa and Rachel are sat by the Gateway, Noa in her chair, Rachel on the floor, a big pile of musty old books sat between them.

Dawn stands by the pedestal, her arms folded across her chest and a thoughtful expression on her face as she stares off into space.

NOA

(looks at watch)

They should have been back by now.
How long does it take to kill a
demon overlord?

RACHEL

They probably ran into some
trouble. They'll be back.

NOA

Or, they've run into trouble and
are in the process of being
brutally killed to... death.

RACHEL

They'd want us to keep researching.

NOA

Yeah? Well, I was never good at
listening.

Turning her chair, Noa wheels purposefully over to an intercom, but is interrupted by an electrical SPARK.

NOA (cont'd)

What the hell was that?

Noa turns to the Gateway and she and Rachel watch as the monitoring equipment begins to SPARK as well.

Dawn is pulled out of her reverie and she looks around cautiously. CRACKLES of energy spark in the air.

RACHEL

Dawn?

DAWN

Whoa.

NOA

What is it?

(CONTINUED)

DAWN

I don't know. Something... there's something here. In the city.

(beat)

It's consuming a hell of a lot of power and giving us feedback.

Noa and Rachel swap a cautious look as Dawn frowns, attempting to gain more insight.

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. BUILDING - PRISON - NIGHT

CLOSE UP on the stone floor, as a burnt-out husk of sickening black ash and bone SLAMS into it and crumbles, leaving a putrid mess in its wake.

ON SCENE as Dark Ambrosia smiles down at what once was the warlock she'd chosen as her meal.

Even the Mayor, who is stood behind her, has some trouble watching this.

MAYOR

There. Fill a hole?

DARK AMBROSIA

I wish to come here more often.

MAYOR

I'm sure that can arranged. As long as you're a good girl.

She turns to him and gives him a cold look with her burning red eyes.

DARK AMBROSIA

You would restrict me?

MAYOR

You're free to come here when I tell you it's okay. And I will tell you it's okay when we have a happy working relationship.

(beat)

Do you understand?

DARK AMBROSIA

I could take them all now.

MAYOR

Yes, well, you could try, but my friend Kathryn over there is very well trained in the use of mass-teleportation spells.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MAYOR (cont'd)

(beat)

She could have these cells in Texas
in moments.

DARK AMBROSIA

I believe this is called bribery.

MAYOR

I am a politician, my dear.

DARK AMBROSIA

(beat)

Very well.

Her appearance quickly shifts into something that looks much
more like AMBROSIA KILBY.

AMBROSIA

I'll play by your rules. Sir.

Smiling, the Mayor heads towards the exit, and Ambrosia turns
to the next occupied cell, giving the terrified PRISONER a
dark smirk.

CLOSE UP on the battered face of Faith, her skin heavily
bruised as she lies unconscious on the floor.

PAN OUT to get a view of the cell. A different, smaller cell
to the one seen previously, Kincaid, Ruth and Pryor are sat
around her, all in a bad shape but better off than Faith.

They all look to her as the Slayer groans, opening her eyes
and blinking painfully at the light streaming in from the
window.

PRYOR

Are you alright, Faith?

FAITH

That depends. Is losing feeling in
your legs a good thing?

PRYOR

At least you have Slayer healing.

FAITH

Not looking so bad yourself there.

PRYOR

(quickly)

You took most of the beating, to be
fair. They took us down without too
much trouble.

KINCAID

Now we're just waiting for the inevitable death and torture.

FAITH

Not on my watch.

Pulling herself into a sitting position, Faith groans once more in pain.

FAITH (cont'd)

Damn, what'd they hit me with? A friggin' city bus?

RUTH

They may as well have.

FAITH

Huh?

KINCAID

Aku's mystics.

PRYOR

It seems they pack quite a punch.

FAITH

(sighs)

Okay, so we need a plan.

RUTH

I don't think the fainting is going to work this time. They may have seen through our devious trick.

FAITH

Looks like it's the bulldozer technique then.

KINCAID

The what?

PRYOR

Attacking brutally and relentlessly without thinking, and killing them all before they have a chance to kill us.

KINCAID

(nods)

I like it.

Faith opens her mouth to respond, but is interrupted as the door is opened, and Aku steps inside.

(CONTINUED)

With a grin, Faith rises to her feet, but stops in her tracks when he's followed inside by a dozen ONI and his MYSTICS.

He nods to one of them, who mumbles an incantation. There's a brief RIPPLE though the air, then Aku speaks:

AKU

Did you think I would come alone?

FAITH

(shrugs)

I kinda figured that with the big badass routine you got going, you wouldn't need twenty bodyguards to back you up.

(beat)

Guess I was wrong.

AKU

(chuckles)

I hope your world is full of more people like you. You've been quite the capture.

FAITH

Yeah, I do bondage real well. But you ain't gonna see my world, and believe me, I'm one of a kind.

AKU

Oh, but that's why you're here.

FAITH

(beat)

What?

AKU

Why else would I let this creature live?

Aku motions to Kincaid, who frowns at being called a 'creature'.

AKU (cont'd)

He and his consort travelling through worlds, something even I have yet to achieve. I knew it I kept him here as a lure, someone would come looking for him.

(beat)

And here you are.

FAITH

And you think I'm just going to give you a free ticket to our world?

(CONTINUED)

AKU

No.

(beat)

I'm going to take it from you.

Aku's eyes drift to the tattoo on Faith's arm, and her eyes widen as she catches on.

FAITH

You can't do that. You don't have
the -

AKU

Power?

He motions to his mystics, who all step forward, their eyes
GLOWING green.

FAITH

Hey, look, I just got this thing
back!

PRYOR

Faith!

FAITH

What?

RUTH

You can't let them take it!

FAITH

(snaps)

I know that!

Faith swings at one of the mystics but she's lifted into the
air by an invisible force and SLAMMED back into the wall
behind her!

Dawn shudders as the energy dies down, and she looks around,
seeing things that we can't.

DAWN

Crap.

NOA

What is it?

DAWN

I can see them. Aku's mystics are
trying to take Faith's tattoo from
her.

She sweeps one hand through the air - and conjures up another floating SCREEN - showing the fight taking place in the cell!

RACHEL

They can do that?

DAWN

They're gonna try.

NOA

(scoffs)

I don't think so. Dawn, dial it up.

Wheeling her chair back over to the intercom, Noa begins to press buttons, as we CUT BACK TO:

Pryor, Ruth and Kincaid rush to help Faith, but they're all pulled back by Oni as the Mystics advance on the fallen slayer.

With a groan, Faith pressed back against the wall and slides back up to her feet.

FAITH

Should've known you wouldn't play fair.

AKU

Take it. Now.

PRYOR

No!

MYSTICS

(chanting)

*Mel radorshi, mel radoi, gortendi
muola peradantae,
Mishti mello wenji liment, coraloe
senti minuo.*

Faith stares, helpless, as ENERGY begins to swirl and crackle around the room, the Mystics summoning ancient power.

Faith looks for a way out as the others struggle against their captives - but it looks like this is it.

AKU

I'll be sure to tell your world how
it is I became their conqueror -

His arrogant smirk is wiped off his face fairly quickly as a BLAST of energy sends him, his Oni and his Mystics tumbling across the room!

Faith looks up in surprise as a PORTAL roars into life in the air in front of her, and Jerry and Rachel leap through it!

JERRY

Not too late, are we?

Faith opens her mouth to respond, but Jerry and Rachel are already charging towards the Oni, swords raised in attack!

Faith tries to protest, but is interrupted as several ORDERLIES also come crashing through the portal, weapons at the ready.

Pryor, Ruth and Kincaid are freed by the attack, and they're ushered towards the portal as the others hold the Oni back.

RACHEL

What are you waiting for? Get the hell out of here!

Obeying, Ruth pulls Pryor through the portal, and Kincaid waits for Faith, ushering her through the portal as well.

With the demons successfully beaten back, Jerry and Rachel lead the retreat of the orderlies, their battle cries dying as they disappear through the portal too.

AKU

Keep it open!

As the portal begins to close, the Mystics rise back to their feet and begin to CHANT.

Noa and Dawn watch as Faith, Pryor, Ruth, Kincaid, Rachel, Jerry and the orderlies tumble through the portal and land hard on the ground in a manic rush.

NOA

(boggles)

Glenn?

Kincaid looks up and grins as Noa wheels over to him.

DAWN

Uh, some help here?

The team look to Dawn as she GLOWS green and begins to FADE AWAY.

PRYOR

The Mystics! Faith, we can't let them get Dawn!

FAITH
Not gonna happen.

Removing the HANDLE from her pocket, Faith hurries over to the pedestal - and SLAMS the handle back into place.

The portal SHUTS OFF with a loud SNAP, restoring Dawn to her previous state!

The danger apparently over, Kincaid scrambles to his feet and wraps Noa in a tight embrace, as the others take a moment to catch their breaths.

KINCAID
I knew I'd find you again.

Smiling brightly, Noa just holds on to him more tightly.

NOA
Hey, I'm worth finding.

Climbing to her feet, Faith walks over to Dawn as the others begin to file upstairs. Dawn looks a little shaken by her encounter with the Mystics.

FAITH
Are you okay?

DAWN
Yeah, I just... I felt them trying to pull me through. Kind of like when you fall off something and think you're going to have a heart attack.

FAITH
Seal them off.

DAWN
What?

FAITH
Screw him, okay? Seal that dimension off so they can't get through.

DAWN
Oh, right.

She glances at Noa and Kincaid, who are still busy getting reacquainted.

DAWN (cont'd)
I guess we can do that now.

She turns, eyes closed and hands raised.

(CONTINUED)

ENERGY crackles in the air around her, a shimmering PORTAL appearing before her - but Dawn's eyes suddenly snap open.

DAWN (cont'd)
I... I can't do it!

FAITH
Alex did it, so you must be able
to. You're part of this thing now.

Dawn tries again, visibly pushing her strength - but the portal keeps shimmering.

DAWN
It's not that. Those Mystic guys
have... it's like they have my
frequency now. They can tune in
whenever they want.
(beat)
I can put defences up and hold them
off, but... eventually, they're
going to find a way through.

Let down by this information, Faith turns to watch as her battered team make their way upstairs.

FAITH
Guess we'll just have to be ready
waiting for them when they do.

With a cry of frustration, Faith lifts a sword and LAUNCHES it across the room -

35 INT. ASYLUM - KITCHEN - NIGHT

35

THUD!

CLOSE UP on a KNIFE cutting through a tomato, staining a chopping board in its juice.

PAN OUT as Rachel removes the knife, placing the chopped tomato into a sandwich.

Licking her fingers, she leaves her sandwich unattended for a moment as she pulls out a cell phone and dials:

36 INT. NYPD - 4TH FLOOR - NIGHT

36

In the middle of typing up a report, SCOTT quickly picks up his phone as it rings.

SCOTT
(answers; grins)
Hey, Rachel.

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL

(filtered)

I just wanted to say sorry for
blowing you off tonight.
Something... uh, important, came
up.

SCOTT

Hey, that's okay. I understand.
Family thing?

RACHEL

(beat)

Yeah, that's it. Be thankful we're
not at the stage where you have to
meet them yet.

Scott nods and looks down at a file on his desk, where a
surveillance photo of Rachel is clearly visible.

SCOTT

So, some other time, then?

RACHEL

Definitely. Night, detective.

SCOTT

(smiles)

See you later, Rachel.

Hanging up, Scott turns back to his computer and jumps in
surprise as he finds HOGAN perched on the edge of his desk.

SCOTT (cont'd)

Could you not do that?

HOGAN

'Rachel'? As in Rachel Hagerman?

A beat. Busted.

HOGAN (cont'd)

What are you playing at, Scott? Do
you have any idea how much trouble
you could get into?

SCOTT

Look, I didn't know who she was
when we started seeing each other.
But now that I do... what better
source of intel do we have?

HOGAN

You're not serious?

(CONTINUED)

SCOTT

Ann...

HOGAN

No, Scott, you listen to me. You need to sort this out, before Internal Affairs find out and come down on our asses. They find out you're involved with a suspect, they'll pull the rug from under you so fast you'll get launched into orbit.

(beat)

I mean it, Scott. You better clean this mess up, or I'll do it for you.

Getting to her feet, Hogan marches away, leaving Scott to look down at Rachel's photograph. He frowns, unsure what to do, as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW