

FAITH

"Homecoming"

by
Li Robb

Based on characters created by Joss Whedon
(c) Mutant Enemy, Inc. & FOX
And characters created by Jason Scott
(c) Monster Zero Productions

(c) Monster Zero Productions 2008

TEASER

FADE IN:

1

INT. BOWEN RESIDENCE - KITCHEN - DAY

1

With a yawn, VI lifts a cup of coffee to her lips, looking up with a slight frown as ELENA hurries towards her, carrying a large plate full of food.

ELENA

Here you are, sweetie.

Putting the plate in front of her, Elena kisses her on the forehead and returns to the stove - to continue cooking!

VI

Are we planning on having company
for breakfast, mom? Like, maybe
another dozen people?

Elena turns back and smiles at the look on Vi's face.

ELENA

I just thought you'd like a nice
breakfast. And you always liked
your food.

VI

Yeah, but even with Slayer
metabolism, this is going to take
me a week to eat.

ELENA

(beat)

Sorry. I guess I'm...

VI

I'm not gonna run off again, okay?
We don't have to rush around,
eating mountains of food, like
we've only got a few hours left in
Disneyland.

Elena nods, happy beyond words, and turns the stove off. She comes to sit down at the table as JOHN enters.

JOHN

Hmm, what's for breakfast?

VI

(grins)

Mountain food.

John frowns, confused, as Vi begins to tuck in.

(CONTINUED)

JOHN

Squirrel?

ELENA

I may have... overcompensated.
There's some more eggs in the pan
if you're hungry.

JOHN

Thanks, honey.

John crosses to the stove and begins to dish himself out some food.

JOHN (cont'd)

So what are your plans today, Vi?

VI

I, uh, I'm going to meet some
people later.

ELENA

(beams)

You're seeing your friends again?
That's great, honey.

VI

Something like that.

And Vi gives her a bemused look, as we cut to:

Vi closes the gate of an old, abandoned mansion behind her and she heads up the short path to the building itself. The garden is overgrown and unkept, the house itself looks close to falling apart.

Coming to the porch, she draws a dagger from her jacket as the door opens and a MAN steps out onto the porch.

In his late 30's, slightly balding, wearing glasses and a stuffy suit, we've seen this look many times before.

VI

(sighs)

You know, Watchers really need to
choose a better uniform.

WATCHER

And I haven't heard that one many
times before.

Vi puts her dagger away as he exits the house, followed by two young WOMEN.

WATCHER (cont'd)

My name is Harold. This is Melissa
and Cici, my charges.

MELISSA is a Hispanic girl, dressed in torn jeans, a corseted top and fingerless gloves. She nods to Vi in greeting and Vi smiles in response.

CICI is a delicate looking blonde girl, dressed in an old, torn and dirty white dress, and not wearing any shoes. She stares blankly at Vi with cold eyes.

VI

I'm Vi. And yes, that's what
everyone calls me.

HAROLD

I'd guessed. I'm glad you got our
letter. I thought it would be a
little intrusive to just knock on
your door.

VI

To be honest, I'd probably have
just kicked your ass if you had.

Melissa smirks, impressed.

VI (cont'd)

So what do you want?

HAROLD

Why else would we call you away
from your family?

(beat)

We need your help.

Vi looks around at the state of these guys and their home and nods. They really do.

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

3

Vi perches on the end of a dirty old sofa, clearly not willing to risk the chance of catching the plague. This room is filthy, and the ceiling creaks dangerously above.

Melissa and Cici sit on the floor opposite her, apparently used to living in these conditions. Harold stands by the window.

HAROLD

The Cabal sent a small lab here six months ago to set up a cloning facility just outside of town. There's a rare mineral compound in the soil in this area that they decided to take advantage of to create a new breed of demon.

VI

Creating demons? The Cabal? What are you talking about?

CICI

Typical Sunnydale Slayer. Out of the loop, as always.

VI

I'm from Hazelhurst, actually.

HAROLD

The Cabal are an organization who, until recently, watched from the sidelines. Over the past few years they've been working towards the extinction of the Slayer line, and they have many agents all over the world doing their work.

(beat)

Some of that work includes creating armies.

VI

Great. So the Council sent you to stop them.

HAROLD

We're on assignment from the Slayer Academy in England.

VI

(frowns)

Just the three of you?

(CONTINUED)

MELISSA

There used to be more of us. Twelve Slayers, two Watchers. We're all that's left.

VI

(beat)

And... you've done how much damage?

HAROLD

Hardly any at all. We were unprepared. However, the Council have been tracking you for some time, Vi, and when they realized you were making your way back to Hazelhurst... we thought that with your experience, you could aid us.

VI

So the Council messes up by sending an unprepared team, and they want me to get them out of it?

MELISSA

This isn't about them. It's about survival, and whether you like it or not you're a Slayer like us.

VI

So why aren't more of us here?

HAROLD

The Academy and the Council are stretched very far at the moment fighting the Cabal all over the world. We simply don't have the resources.

MELISSA

And the lab here is very close to perfecting their new model.

HAROLD

If they aren't stopped, tonight, then we're putting ourselves, and the world, in a very bad position. These demons will be mass-produced, ready to ship out in a day.

VI

(sighs)

Fine. I'll help, but only because these Cabal guys are in my home town.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

VI (cont'd)

You tell your Council that I won't be available for any other missions they think they can get me to go on. I don't work for them.

HAROLD

I'll tell them personally.

CICI

If we survive.

A beat.

VI

Can we get out of here? It's kind of depressing. And I think your sofa is moving.

Getting to her feet, Vi strides out of the room, and the Academy team swap glances before quickly chasing after her.

4 INT. NYPD - 4TH FLOOR - DAY

4

SCOTT is sat at his desk, a curious frown on his face as he goes through a thick wad of files. There's an open file sat next to him, displaying a large surveillance photo of Faith.

Sorting through the files, he looks completely stumped as he gets to the end.

HOGAN (O.S.)

I'm not liking that look of confusion of your face.

He looks up as HOGAN leans over his desk.

SCOTT

Not a good time, Ann.

HOGAN

Something I can help you with? I mean, you know I don't do massages or anything...

SCOTT

(sighs)

I don't know.

He passes the last file to Hogan, who looks down at it with interest.

SCOTT (cont'd)

Faith Lebane. That's an arrest report, but... there's just nothing. No release papers, no conviction or court appearance. The trail just goes dead.

(CONTINUED)

HOGAN

That's weird. Any chance you just missed 'em? I mean, we live in the age of unnecessary paperwork. Bound to be something in all those folders somewhere.

SCOTT

No, there's no records at all. By all accounts, she should still be in our holding cells.

HOGAN

And given that she's not...

Sighing, he puts the file down and grabs some of the others, starting to flip through them.

ANGLE: the file she placed on the desk.

BAM! A hand SLAMS down on it;

ON SCENE as Hogan and Scott jump in surprise. DARK AMBROSIA, all sweetness and smiles as AMBROSIA, takes the file off the desk.

AMBROSIA

Is there a problem?

HOGAN

(mock sweetness)

Why no, Miss Kilby. We were just wondering when your cute little face was going to show up and brighten all of our days.

Dark Ambrosia looks down at the file, her expression completely passive.

SCOTT

This paper trail runs dry. We have an arrest report for Faith Lebane, but no further paperwork. She just slipped right out of the system, and stuff like that's gonna make it pretty difficult for us to -

AMBROSIA

(over him)

It's an admin error.

SCOTT

(blinks)

I don't think so, I mean, there isn't even a -

(CONTINUED)

AMBROSIA

(hard)

It's an admin error.

Sticking the file under her arm, she also collects the others, and begins to walk away with them.

SCOTT

Hey, wait a minute, you can't -

Hogan rises as he does, taking his arm.

HOGAN

Scott, leave it.

SCOTT

What? But -

HOGAN

Let it slide, Scott. I mean it.

By now, Dark Ambrosia has made her way across the room, and Scott sighs, looking after her with a mixture of frustration and determination.

In the restaurant, Harold, Cici and Melissa sit at a table, talking quietly among themselves. Vi stands at the counter ordering food.

VI

Thanks, Shani.

She smiles as SHANI slides a tray of food towards her.

SHANI

Half price. Family discount.

VI

(frowns)

Huh?

SHANI

If my manager asks, you're my cousin.

VI

(grins)

Right.

She hands over her money.

SHANI

Hey, you remember Helen and Pete from school?

VI

Scary brace girl and the guy that dealt weed to twelve year olds? How could I forget.

SHANI

We've all meeting up after I finish my shift if you wanna hang. We can gossip about how you and Kirsty Mellor are the only ones who actually got out of this godforsaken place.

VI

Kirsty left?

SHANI

Uh-huh, she works in fashion now. Or, I mean, that's what she says, for all we know she just works in a launderette or something, so -

VI

(interrupts)

Sounds cool.

(beat; remembers)

Uh, I would, but I have something... big to do today. Maybe tomorrow?

SHANI

That's good too. Not like any of us are goin' anywhere, right? See you later.

VI

See ya.

Picking up her tray, Vi doesn't look particularly anxious to commit to that offer as she heads over to the group waiting for her.

VI (cont'd)

Okay, I got burgers all round and something that vaguely resembles french fries.

Passing out the food, Vi takes a seat next to Harold.

MELISSA

Thanks Vi. We're all pretty much... well, broke and starving.

VI

The Council don't pay you... like, anything?

(CONTINUED)

HAROLD

I get wages, but it's not enough to support the girls. They seem to have...

CICI

Forgotten about us and left us to die?

HAROLD

Now that isn't fair -

CICI

How can you stick up for them?

HAROLD

They don't have the money or the resources to -

CICI

To send us money to buy food every once in a while?

MELISSA

(sharp)

Cici.

The blonde slayer immediately closes her mouth and digs into her food, the anger in her eyes the only evidence of the argument.

Vi watches this exchange curiously.

VI

Okay, so the Council sent you here to deal with these Cabal guys.

(beat)

What went wrong?

MELISSA

Six months ago we were all students, or Watchers, at the Academy in England. We weren't exactly big players, but we were good at what we do.

FADE TO:

Resembling a drill team, Harold and a very beautiful, female WATCHER lead a group of teenage girls in what appears to be a cross country run.

Melissa and Cici are among them, the other ten girls are also SLAYERS.

(CONTINUED)

MELISSA (V.O.)

We were chosen from the Academy ranks. We'd all been there for at least a year, all proven ourselves in battle, all apparently stable enough to handle the mission.

The female watcher YELLS something we can't hear, and the girls step up their game, overtaking the watchers and SPRINTING across the grounds with unnatural speed.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - BATHROOM - NIGHT

A yawning Melissa pushes the door open to the bathroom, dressed in her pyjamas. She stops, looking up in shock as she sees -

One of the young girls, a pretty redheaded SLAYER, hanging from the ceiling by a rope!

MELISSA (V.O.)

The first week we were there, Hannah killed herself after our first encounter with the Cabal.

Melissa SCREAMS and backs out of the bathroom, as Harold and the female watcher hurry up the hallway.

Looking inside, the two watchers turn away, distraught by the sight of their hanging charge.

EXT. WOODLAND - NIGHT

In a woodland area, the remaining eleven slayers are battling furiously with CABAL DEMONS.

Melissa soars through the air, KICKING a demon out of her path.

Behind her, Cici SWINGS an axe over her shoulder, DECAPITATING a demon in a gush of blood and gore.

MELISSA (V.O.)

Five died the second time we tried to fight them, including my watcher Gwen.

Harold and GWEN make their way through the battle, both armed with crossbows. Gwen SCREAMS as something hits her and she goes down!

Harold shouts out to the slayers but no one can hear him, and he drops his own weapon to catch the fallen Gwen, pulling her up to look at him.

(CONTINUED)

There's a BULLET HOLE in her chest, and she stares lifelessly back at him, bleeding all over him.

Harold shouts again, panicking, and watches helpless as a Chinese SLAYER is completely and savagely GUTTED by one of the demons!

The Cabal base appears to have been a water treatment plant at one point, and sits right along a small river. The entire base is fenced off, apart from the ground area that touches the river.

MELISSA (V.O.)

We were ordered to try a stealth attack and destroy the base from the inside.

From the water, two HEADS rise quickly to take deep breaths. The heads belong to an athletic African American SLAYER and a SLAYER with short, spiky blonde hair.

They climb sneakily onto the ground, both of them dressed in tight-fitting dark clothes, and they begin to make their way towards the base, each carrying a large bag.

Suddenly, something EXPLODES, and the girls are instantly VAPORIZED, the explosion reaching the river itself!

MELISSA (V.O.) (cont'd)

The girls chosen to go, Denise and Jess; they were killed instantly.

PAN ACROSS to the other side of the river, where Harold, Melissa, Cici and three other slayers watch in complete horror.

The remaining slayers minus one are huddled together on the sofa, apparently trying to keep warm. They look up expectantly as Harold enters the room.

He shakes his head sadly.

MELISSA (V.O.)

That was the last time we heard from the Council, about a month ago. Until they told us about you.

(beat)

In the meantime, Freya ran away.

The girls sigh, disappointed and frustrated.

11 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

11

Harold and Melissa hurry down a dark Hazelhurst street, looking extremely panicked about something.

MELISSA (V.O.)

A few days later, Sahara went out to buy supplies.

The two of them come to a stop and their eyes widen in shock as they spot something in the street.

Thrown onto a pile of trashbags outside a restaurant, is the burnt, battered and extremely dead body of what used to be a beautiful brunette SLAYER.

MELISSA (V.O.) (cont'd)

When she didn't come back, we went looking for her. The Cabal had ambushed her, now attempting to whittle us down before we tried to attack again.

CUT TO:

12 INT. BURGER BEAN - DAY

12

Looking very pale, Vi pushes her tray of food away, but not even Melissa has stopped eating to tell her story. These people are starving.

VI

Which leaves three.

Cici looks up at her with cold eyes and takes a big slurp of her drink.

CICI

Bella snapped. She took off in the middle of the night, tried to take the base on all by herself.

VI

(shocked)

What?

MELISSA

(sadly)

They left her body in Cici's bed, while we were out looking for her.

HAROLD

(growls)

Sick bastards.

(CONTINUED)

Vi looks across at Cici, and for the first time we can see actual emotion in the blonde slayer's eyes.

VI

She was important to you.

CICI

The most important thing I've ever had. And they're gonna regret taking her away from me.

(dangerously)

I can promise you that.

A beat, before Vi takes a slurp of her own drink.

VI

(thoughtfully)

Yes, they are.

Cici looks slightly comforted by these words, and Vi continues to study the group as we CUT TO:

Vi pushes open the front door and hurries inside, sticking her head in through the living room door.

VI

Mom?

Receiving no answer, she shouts up the stairs.

VI (cont'd)

Mom? Dad?

Turning her head, Vi looks at the mirror at the foot of the stairs, and finds a post-it stuck there.

VI (cont'd)

(reads)

'Out shopping, be back soon. Big dinner again! Love, Mom and Dad.'

Taking a moment to smile and appreciate the note, Vi takes it with her as she sprints up the stairs and out of sight.

Hurrying into her room, Vi pulls her empty travelling bag out from under her bed and places it on the bed.

Pulling out a drawer from her dresser, she turns it upside down into the bag, spilling out a number of smaller, handheld WEAPONS.

14 CONTINUED:

14

Reaching back under the bed, Vi pulls out two swords and shoves them in the bag too.

15 INT. BOWEN RESIDENCE - KITCHEN - DAY

15

Heading for the back door, Vi stops only to place her own note on the kitchen table, and she quickly disappears, leaving the house empty and quiet.

16 EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - DAY

16

Harold, Melissa and Cici have their own bag of weapons, and they meet Vi halfway up the garden path as she marches towards them.

VI

You guys ready?

MELISSA

Ready.

VI

Then let's do this.

Taking the lead, Vi turns back towards the gate and the others follow after her, as we:

BLACK OUT:**END OF ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

17

INT. VAN - DAY

17

Harold drives the battered old van, and Vi sits next to him in the passenger seat. Melissa and Cici sit in the back, talking quietly with each other.

HAROLD

The Cabal are based in an old water treatment plant, easily modifying the water pipe system to draw the material they need from the ground.

VI

Security?

HAROLD

Fences, numerous demon guards, and some kind of digital system round the back to protect invasion from the river.

VI

You mean the...?

MELISSA

The system that was triggered when Denise and Jess tried to sneak in. Explosives.

VI

Okay, so... avoiding the back, then.

HAROLD

Once we get into the building all we'll need to worry about is the guards. Now, we estimate anywhere between thirty to fifty guards present inside.

VI

That doesn't seem a lot for a worldwide organization with the rep you guys are giving them.

HAROLD

Thankfully, the Academy has been making some successful raids and offensives on other Cabal bases in the past few months. This base isn't as high of a priority as it used to be.

(CONTINUED)

MELISSA

Which is why we need to take it out now, before they finish what they're doing.

VI

And there's no chance of reinforcements at all? Why is the Academy stretched so thin?

HAROLD

(beat)

It's not just the Academy. There's been a virus outbreak that seems only to affect Slayers all over the world.

CICI

It's making us weak, putting us in hospital beds, and it's affecting a whole chunk of us. The Council can't afford to send any more girls out here to die.

VI

(sighs)

Always the last to know. Okay, I think I'm starting to get it now.

HAROLD

Get it?

VI

(shakes head)

Never mind.

(beat)

So do you have a plan? You know, one that won't get us all killed?

HAROLD

I can't promise that, I'm afraid, but I do have a plan. Cici.

Cici reaches over the seat and hands Vi a file.

CICI

Don't know how she did it, but Bella made sure that found it's way to us.

Vi frowns, opening the file and taking a good look inside.

HAROLD

Access information, passwords, security layouts. Their whole security system on paper.

(CONTINUED)

VI

This is... good. This means we can get in.

HAROLD

Once inside, I'll make my way to the security area and shut down the internal security.

MELISSA

I'm going to the source and shutting down the power. The cloning facility will run on generators, but we'll have the advantage when the power goes down.

CICI

And I'll be stopping the inflow from the pipes. Can't be using that special ground juice if there's none for them to use.

VI

Which leaves me to take down the scientists.

HAROLD

From there, I suppose...

VI

From there we kill the hell out of anything that moves.

A beat.

CICI

I like her.

Harold, Melissa and Cici smile for what has to be the first time in a long time.

The back door of the house opens and John and Elena practically stumble in under the weight of the shopping bags they're carrying.

Dropping her bags on the floor with a sigh of relief, Elena turns to look at her husband and grins.

ELENA

Do you think we overcompensated?

JOHN

(laughs)

I think you overcompensated.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOHN (cont'd)
I just kept my mouth shut and
carried things.

ELENA
I'm sure she will -
(beat)
What's that?

Crossing to the table, Elena picks up Vi's note and reads it,
unsure how to react.

JOHN
What?

Elena bursts into tears and drops the note on the table,
quickly panicking and hyperventilating.

JOHN (cont'd)
Elena!

Helping her to a chair, he grabs the note himself and reads
it, cursing loudly.

JOHN (cont'd)
Elena, listen to me. She's going to
be fine.

ELENA
No! Did you read...?! She's...!

JOHN
Doing what she's been doing for the
past five years. Elena, listen,
she's a Slayer, she knows...

ELENA
She's my little girl!
(beat)
She's my little girl...

Pulling her into an embrace, John has no more comforting
words and just holds his sobbing wife.

Harold, Melissa and Cici are waiting in the woods around the
Cabal base - the base itself can be seen in the distance.
Hiding in the depths of the trees, they look up as Vi
approaches them, carrying a pair of binoculars.

VI
No exterior guards.

HAROLD
The facility is underneath the
plant itself. There won't be any
guards above ground.

VI

I can see two entrances that we can get through, so we should split into two teams and then separate once we're inside.

HAROLD

I have three entrances in the file. One leads right to the security station. Surely it's best that -

Vi grabs him by the arm and pulls him out into the open, shoving the binoculars in his hand and pointing across the way.

VI

Look.

He obeys, frowning.

VI (cont'd)

That entrance is rigged. And to God knows what. Open that door and we'll probably be picking bits of you up off the ground you for weeks.

HAROLD

(gulps)

Oh.

CICI

Is this you taking charge?

VI

(beat)

Yes.

CICI

(shrugs)

Cool.

VI

Melissa and Cici, you'll enter through the North West entrance. If you stay to the left wall you won't be picked up by the security camera.

HAROLD

And us?

VI

Entering through the Southern entrance. It requires a manual security input.

(CONTINUED)

She takes the file from Cici and holds it out to him.

VI (cont'd)

Which, thankfully, we have. It's only a hundred feet from the security station so you'll be practically there.

HAROLD

(nods)

Very well.

VI

Everyone ready?

Responding in a series of nods, the assembled group lift their bags onto their shoulders, and they begin to creep through the darkness, out of the trees and towards the base.

INT. NYPD - COMPUTER LAB - NIGHT

Scott stands over a desk in an empty computer lab, watching in slight awe as PHILLIP, a stereotypical computer geek-looking guy types away at a computer.

SCOTT

Can you get in?

PHILLIP

I've been decrypting government files since before I was able to open a cereal box.

(off look)

Yes, I can get in. What is it with you detectives?

Scott keeps quiet, watching as Phillip's fingers rattle across the keyboard.

Picking up a disk, he whacks it in the machine and in moments, a document pops up on the screen.

PHILLIP (cont'd)

Voila.

SCOTT

(grins)

Phil, you just earned yourself that lifetime's supply of nachos we shook on earlier. Can you print these?

PHILLIP

No problem. Throw in some soda with that deal and I'll burn you a CD.

(CONTINUED)

And the printer roars into life as the documents are printed. Phillip begins to scroll through the document on screen.

PHILLIP (cont'd)

So if you don't mind me asking, why are we breaking into these files? You know, for when the inevitable IA investigation hauls my ass into court.

SCOTT

They belonged to Jon Quinn. And I'm betting there's information in here about Faith Lehane, things that some people, for some reason, don't want us to know.

PHILLIP

(shrugs)

None of my business, but maybe there's a reason for that?

SCOTT

Yeah, there's a reason, and I'm going to find out what and then -

(beat)

Hey, hold it there.

Phillip obeys and Scott takes a closer look at the document, shaking his head in disbelief.

SCOTT (cont'd)

A copy of Lehane's arrest report. You don't make copies for admin errors.

He taps the screen.

SCOTT (cont'd)

(frowns)

Can you bring these up for me?

(squints)

Aren't those release papers?

Phillip nods, peering at the screen.

SCOTT (cont'd)

Release papers, but no explanation as to why she was released. It's just... this makes no sense at all.

PHILLIP

Looks like someone pulled some strings to me. Believe me, I've seen plenty of string-pulling.

(CONTINUED)

Nodding thoughtfully, Scott grabs the printed documents and pats Phillip on the back.

PHILLIP (cont'd)
Difference is, I knew when to stop looking!

SCOTT
(absently)
Thanks.

Turning to leave, Scott smiles in triumph - but it's quickly wiped from his face as he runs right into Hogan.

SCOTT (cont'd)
Ann, what are you -

HOGAN
Here.

Holding up his CELL PHONE, she passes it to him.

HOGAN (cont'd)
You left this upstairs, and I felt at liberty to answer it.

Scott's face falls.

HOGAN (cont'd)
Can you guess whose perky little voice was on the other end?

SCOTT
Ann, you didn't -

HOGAN
Rachel Hagerman.

Scott winces, starting to walk on as Hogan follows.

HOGAN (cont'd)
And you know, I thought to myself, 'now, where do I know that name?' And then it hit me.
(snaps fingers)
That's it! It's the same 'Rachel Hagerman' whose name is in huge letters up on our suspects board!

SCOTT
What did you say to her?

HOGAN
I just said you couldn't come to the phone. Believe me, I was gonna be a lot less kind.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

HOGAN (cont'd)

(sighs)

We've talked about this Scott, but for some reason you seem to think I'm not being serious when I tell you it could lose you your job.

SCOTT

I've told you why I'm doing this. I really think -

HOGAN

No, you don't think, Scott, you just don't. We can't afford to ruin this case, and if anyone finds out you're having an affair with a major witness, then you're going to get crucified. And not figuratively, either - I mean they'll actually build a wooden cross and nail you to it.

SCOTT

(sharp)

Then they don't find out!

Hogan raises an eyebrow, crossing her arms. Scott grimaces.

HOGAN

I did, and it's only a matter of time before someone else catches on. Someone much less willing than me to give you time to sort your stupid head out.

SCOTT

Ann, I know you're only trying to look out for me, and I appreciate that, I do, but...

He backs away from her, holding up the printouts.

SCOTT (cont'd)

I gotta go.

HOGAN

Scott! Scott!

He turns and jogs off down the corridor, leaving her to seethe after him.

EXT. CABAL BASE - SOUTHERN ENTRANCE - NIGHT

Vi and Harold creep along the wall of the water treatment plant, Vi taking the lead. Reaching the entrance, she places her bag down on the floor and pulls out the file.

(CONTINUED)

HAROLD

What if this doesn't work?

VI

I'm thinking violence or a quickly,
cowardly fleeing.

Registering his expression, she pats him on the shoulder.

VI (cont'd)

Relax. I've gotten pretty good at
both.

Entering the code from the file into a security pad, Vi
smiles as the door SLIDES open, allowing them access.

VI (cont'd)

See? So far, so good.

(winces)

I did not just say that...

Grabbing her bag, she leads the way inside, followed by an
anxious-looking Harold.

Melissa and Cici make sure to stay very close to the wall as
they sneak towards the North West entrance.

They both look up at the SECURITY CAMERA there, hoping they
haven't been picked up.

MELISSA

I hope she's right about this.

CICI

She's right.

(beat)

And if she isn't, what can happen
to us that's worse than what
already has?

MELISSA

We're still alive, Cici. 'Worse'
would be dying. Worst still would
be dying like Jess. Or Nancy.

CICI

(shrugs)

If you say so.

MELISSA

Oh, would you just stop, goddamn
it? Do you think you're the only
person who's ever lost someone?

(beat)

(MORE)

MELISSA (cont'd)
Bella would kick your ass if she
could see the way you're acting, so
shut the hell up and let's do this
with the intention to survive,
okay?!?

A beat.

CICI
Okay.

Reaching the door, Melissa gives it a swift KICK, gaining
them immediate access.

MELISSA
Now stay behind me and keep that
pretty mouth of yours buttoned
tight. You make one more wise ass
remark, and it won't be demons
you'll have to watch your back for.

Leading the way, Melissa ventures inside, Cici not far behind
as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

23 INT. CABAL BASE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT 23

Harold quickly walks down a darkened corridor, doing his very best not to look out of place despite the very obvious fact that he looks extremely out of place.

Hearing voices approaching, he curses and quickly disappears down a side corridor, hiding in the shadows as two GUARD DEMONS pass by him.

Once they're out of sight, Harold emerges from the shadows and heads towards a door labeled 'Security'.

24 INT. CABAL BASE - SECURITY STATION - CONTINUOUS 24

The security station is a nest of computers, screens and wires, and is being overlooked by a ferocious-looking red DEMON.

The demon turns as the door opens and Harold steps inside, SNARLING as it gets to its feet.

HAROLD
(cheerily)
Hello.

Pulling a crossbow from his bag, he fires swiftly, sending the demon sprawling with an ARROW protruding from its eye!

As the demon crashes into the terminal behind and slumps to the floor, Harold calmly steps over its body and FIRES another arrow into the station in front of him, causing it to SPARK dangerously.

Pulling a knife from his bag, he grabs a handful of wires and SLICES them. The security screens promptly FUZZ as they go off line.

Harold smirks triumphantly, and quickly turns to leave as the technology continues to SPARK and SIZZLE, damaged beyond repair.

25 INT. CABAL BASE - POWER CENTRE - NIGHT 25

BANG! As a DEMON slams into the steel door, the door is thrown open, the demon stumbling into the room and hitting the floor!

With a ROAR, Melissa and another DEMON soar through the air into the room, grappling for dominance, and they hit the floor near the other demon, still struggling in each others' grasps.

(CONTINUED)

With a feral YELL, Melissa knees the demon hard in the gut and scrambles to her feet, KICKING it in the face before it can recover!

Melissa turns as the other demon makes a sprint to the wall, SLAMMING its hand down on a big, red pad. It looks around expectantly, but nothing happens.

MELISSA

(smirks)

Oh, yeah. Should probably have warned you about that.

Pulling a dagger from her belt, Melissa launches it across the room, STABBING the demon in the chest!

She turns back as the demon slumps to the floor, dead, and RIPS a handful of wires out of an electrical box.

Pulling the unconscious demon up, Melissa SLAMS its head into another electrical box, ELECTROCUTING the demon as SPARKS fly everywhere and the lights go down.

Smiling in the darkness, Melissa runs off the way she came.

This room is full of pipes that protrude from the ground itself, all heading off into various directions of the building. There are several control units and it all looks a bit like a maze.

Out of nowhere, Cici drops from the ceiling and lands next to the pipes, her hands on her hips as she surveys her mission.

CICI

Great.

Looking up, Cici smirks as the lights die.

Hurrying over to the nearest control station, Cici begins to flick switches and turn valves, clearly having no idea what she's doing but enjoying the fact that she's probably ruining something.

Once satisfied, she grabs up a stray metal pole off the ground and SLAMS it into one of the pipes, SPEARING it right through!

Humming cheerfully to herself, she grabs hold of another pipe and PULLS it right out of its fixtures, spewing a dark brown sludge onto the ground.

Crossing to another control station, Cici continues her sabotage, as we cut to:

27 INT. CABAL BASE - MAIN HALL - NIGHT

27

The main hall is full of demon cloning vats, desks, work stations, and dozens of SCIENTISTS and GUARDS swarm everywhere, going about their work.

Within the huge vats, indistinct, dark SHAPES squirm around - something alive and moving in every one of the many, many rows of vats!

Up on a long catwalk that crosses the room a hundred feet above it, Vi walks slowly as she looks around at the sight below.

She can't believe her eyes, completely shocked at the immense operation.

VI

Jeez... guess they were right about these guys.

Vi quickly looks around as a red LIGHT starts to flash and an ALARM sounds in the distance.

ELECTRONIC VOICE (V.O.)

Attention, security systems have been breached. Repeat, security systems have been breached. High alert situation.

VI

Crap. I mean, yay.

As commotion is caused by the announcement below, Vi sprints to the end of the catwalk and disappears out of sight before anyone can spot her.

28 INT. CABAL BASE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

28

Melissa looks around as the alarms begin to sound and she curses; she's only halfway up the corridor and completely surrounded as GUARD DEMONS emerge from both ends.

There's seven all together - two in front of her and five behind.

MELISSA

C'mon, boys... show me if you can catch me this time.

Taking off at a sprint, Melissa rushes towards the two demons, THROWING one of her way and KICKING the other down, FLIPPING OVER it and continuing to flee as the other five give chase!

29

INT. CABAL BASE - SUPPLY ROOM - NIGHT

29

Cici is busy repeatedly SLAMMING a large rock into one of the pipes when the alarms start to go off, and she looks up from her frantic destruction with a small frown.

CICI

Huh.

She spins round as a DEMON swings out of nowhere, ducking beneath a fast PUNCH!

CICI (cont'd)

Squeaky shoes!

KICKING the demon back, Cici LEAPS into the air like a feral animal, LASHING out with every available limb and giving the demon a beating so severe it has no chance to even attempt to defend itself.

Thrusting it back, Cici grabs the demon by the neck and SLAMS its head down into a nearby pipe, causing it to BURST and spill its contents all over the floor!

The demon ROARS and PUNCHES her back, but Cici doesn't even seem to register the pain that should have caused her.

Grabbing the demon once more, Cici throws it to the floor and STAMPS its head down into the sludge spewing from the pipes.

The demon struggles under her foot, but it isn't long before it stops moving, smothered by the sludge and suffocated to death.

CICI (cont'd)

Stay quiet now.

Now covered in the sludge herself, Cici turns - as another demon BARRELS into her, taking her down!

30

EXT. NYPD - NIGHT

30

The door SLAMMING behind her, Hogan steps out into the night, taking in a deep breath. She runs a hand through her hair and takes out a packet of cigarettes, but is interrupted before she can light one.

HOGAN

Hello?

Listening carefully, she walks round to the edge of the building to peer down an alleyway, where muffled VOICES can be heard.

31 EXT. ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS

31

Two FIGURES stand talking to Dark Ambrosia, but with their backs turned to us, all we can see are grey jackets and beanie hats. She appears to be giving them instructions.

DARK AMBROSIA

I want you to keep a closer eye on
Scott Jacobs when he isn't in the
office. He's being... difficult,
and I want to -

CRASH! Dark Ambrosia's eyes immediately hone in on Hogan, as she looks down at the trash can she's just knocked over. She stares back at Dark Ambrosia, busted.

Unsure what to do, Hogan backs up, just as the two figures turn around to reveal two very demonic faces!

HOGAN

(eyes bulge)
What the...

Shocked beyond the telling of it, Hogan turns and runs. Dark Ambrosia nods her head with an evil smirk and the two demons give chase.

32 EXT. NYPD - CONTINUOUS

32

Running back to the door she came out of, Hogan pulls on the handle, but to her despair it won't open!

HOGAN

No!

She gives it another rough pull, cursing all the way, but it won't budge.

Turning, she sees the demons sprinting towards her and she screams, taking off down the street as fast as she can.

33 INT. CABAL BASE - MAIN HALL - NIGHT

33

Vi, Harold and Melissa are crouched behind a large workstation, listening as panic ensues all around them. The lights have now gone down and machinery is failing all over the place.

Vi grins and gives Harold a high five. Or, rather, she raises her hand and waits for the return that will never come.

VI

(coughs; moving on)
That's what I'm talking about,
Watcher Man.

(CONTINUED)

MELISSA

Where the hell is Cici?

THUMP! The Hispanic slayer jumps in surprise as Cici flops down next to her, drenched head to foot in slime, blood and filth.

CICI

I got dirty.

A beat.

MELISSA

I'm not gonna ask.

(to Vi)

So what's next?

VI

We let them panic for a while, then
we just -

BEEP, BEEP, BEEP!

The lights suddenly come back on, and a machine to their left ROARS back into life. Vi's face falls.

VI (cont'd)

Oh, come on!

(to Harold)

You were supposed to -

HAROLD

I did!

Poking her head up from behind the workstation, Vi watches furiously as the lab at least seems to be powered back up.

VI

Okay, so... this is a new
complication.

HAROLD

What is it?

VI

They must have generators we don't
know about.

Sliding back down into her position, Vi frowns deeply.

VI (cont'd)

I, uh... I hate to be the bearer
and all that, but...

MELISSA

What?

(CONTINUED)

Vi bites her lip.

ANGLE: flying up above the lab, the demon cloning vats start to power up. Scientists are flicking switches, activating machinery.

And the vats begin to OPEN!

ON SCENE as Vi turns to her very small army.

VI
Alright, I'm now officially open to suggestions?

CICI
Kill, crush, destroy?

VI
(beat)
Uh-huh.

CICI
Then we do it to them before they can do it to us.

VI
Usually, I'd disagree, but -

Lifting an axe out of her bag, Vi lets out an almighty battle cry, FLYING over the workstation and disappearing out of sight.

Only Harold seems surprised by this.

CICI
(grins)
I so knew she was going to do that.

Grabbing a sword, Cici follows suit. Melissa and Harold swap a slightly worried glance.

MELISSA
Ah, hell.

HAROLD
Yes, I'd say so.

He turns to her, extending a hand.

HAROLD (cont'd)
It's been an honour.

A beat - and then Melissa grabs his hand and shakes.

And then the two of them grab a weapon each.

(CONTINUED)

In the lab, Vi swings at two oncoming DEMON GUARDS, SLASHING one across the chest and swiftly DECAPITATING the other!

Spinning on her heel, she KICKS a SCIENTIST out of her way, sending him CRASHING into a workstation.

VI

Cici, go for the guys in white coats! Without them, this place is useless!

Not far behind her, Cici SLAMS the butt of her sword into a scientist's head, sprawling him out on the floor, and LEAPS onto a workstation to avoid the blow of a DEMON.

Up on the workstation, Cici KICKS a computer at the demon, SMASHING it over its head, and she leaps on the surprised creature, STABBING the sword down into its head!

Backing them up, Harold fires his crossbow into a workstation, causing the machinery there to SPARK dangerously and shutting down two of the demon vats.

He's quickly pounced up by a scientist, but he uses the butt of his crossbow to knock the man back and quickly lays him out with a solid RIGHT HOOK!

HAROLD

(mutters)

That's for being part of what killed my girls, you wanker...

Melissa takes on two DEMON GUARDS, throwing one back into a scientist and taking them both down, and using her mace to beat the other one senseless.

VI

Alright, follow me!

Leading the others, Vi takes on another DEMON GUARD, spinning underneath its attack to thrust her elbow into its chest!

Spinning back up to block its next attack, Vi gives it a vicious HEADBUTT, before SLAMMING its head into a workstation and swiftly SNAPPING its neck.

Lifting her axe, she SMASHES it through one of the demon vats, causing it to CRASH and SPARK and shut off, the demon inside letting out a pitiful WAIL as its life is taken from it.

VI (cont'd)

Melissa! Cici!

Spinning round, Vi quickly takes out the demon pounding on Melissa as Cici joins them.

(CONTINUED)

VI (cont'd)

You have to cut off the power supply. These vats are going to open and there aren't enough of us to take them down.

MELISSA

But the guards...

VI

(dangerously)

Not an issue.

Melissa nods and she and Cici head off to cut off the power supply.

Vi turns to look at the demons and scientists getting ready to pounce at her, a good two dozen of them all together. Harold stands at her side, raising his crossbow defiantly.

HAROLD

Have you got a plan?

VI

(dead cool)

I was thinking I'd kill them all. Then, I'm gonna go home, pick out a decent top, some sneakers, maybe try some of that new lipstick I bought.

(off look)

I'm meeting some friends later.

HAROLD

(nods)

Good plan.

And he fires, taking out the nearest scientist, as Vi LEAPS at their attackers.

FLYING through the air, Vi KICKS a demon guard out of her way, and lands gracefully, her legs split like some kind of hybrid ballet-martial arts position.

FLIPPING over into a handstand, she KICKS another demon down, spinning round and ELBOWING a scientist out of her path!

Grabbing hold of a tub on a workstation, Vi LAUNCHES it at the demons and scientists running at her, and glass shatters inside, spilling CHEMICALS all over them!

VI

(grimaces)

Oh, oh... sorry! I mean... yick.

(CONTINUED)

The ones that were hit shriek in agony as their skin is burned, and Vi wastes no time, LEAPING over the workstation and drawing the guards after her as she disappears out of sight.

And indeed they give chase, and Vi springs out of nowhere, grabbing one guard and SMASHING the demon RIGHT THROUGH one of the demon vats!

CUT TO:

Melissa and Cici as they find the power supply. The girls get stuck in right away, TEARING pipes and wires out of the system.

Melissa looks up and grins, spotting a vat in the distance that SHUTS DOWN.

MELISSA

This is it!

Turning back, Melissa SLAMS her foot into another pipe, RIPPING it out of the wall.

Neither of them notice the vat directly behind them as it slowly starts to OPEN.

CUT TO:

CRASH! A scientist crashes THROUGH a workstation and disappears beneath it as it collapses on top of him!

Vi dances past, swift as a cat, as three DEMON GUARDS give chase. She freezes into a fighting stance and the demons stop, weary of the destruction she's already caused.

Everything falls into SLOW MOTION - Vi blinks, nothing but confidence, the demons look back at her.

Behind her, Harold jumps onto a work station and FIRES a crossbow bolt into the face of a demon.

Around them, demon vats are dying everywhere. Lights BURST and go dark, the creatures within falling limp.

Still in slow motion, Vi grins one confident, deadly Slayer grin, as we hear:

VI (V.O.)

These guys are dust.

THE PRIMITIVE (V.O.)

It has only just begun.

(CONTINUED)

And time SPEEDS UP again as Vi flares into action, pulling a dagger from her belt and sending the first demon crashing back with the blade buried in its throat!

Wasting no time, Vi KICKS the legs out from under the next demon, and PUNCHES the last hard in the face as its comrade goes down.

VI
(raging)
That's right... that's right! Keep
it coming! Come on!

Shoving the third demon up against a wall, Vi kicks out a support beam and leaps out of the way as a small balcony falls from above, CRUSHING the demon beneath its weight!

VI (cont'd)
Come on! More!

Vi spins to take on her floored demon, but finds herself being thrown back as it recovers, and she SLIDES over a workstation, hitting the floor with a thud.

Rolling back to her feet, Vi narrowly avoids being stamped on, and she gives the demon a back kick, throwing it back into Harold's path, who promptly shoots it down.

VI (cont'd)
Thanks.

HAROLD
(nods)
Are you harmed?

VI
(rolls eyes)
Ask me that later, will ya? Jeez...

Looking around at the pure destruction they've caused, Harold can't help but to grin. Only a few scientists are left now, trying desperately to get the failing vats to work.

VI (cont'd)
Can you take the stragglers? Tell
them I said 'hi.'

HAROLD
It would be my pleasure.

And Harold marches off, as Vi looks around for a new target.

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

Still at the power supply, Melissa and Cici have done pretty much all the damage they can do, and are busy tearing out the last few pipes and wires.

Too consumed in their work, they don't notice as the vat behind them opens fully, and a newly-born clone DEMON steps out, looking only for a moment like a fragile, confused creature -

Before it SNARLS and LEAPS at the unsuspecting Slayers:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

34 INT. CABAL BASE - MAIN HALL - CONTINUOUS

34

With a YELL, Vi flies out of nowhere, HACKING the clone demon down with her axe!

Melissa and Cici spin round in surprise as Vi continues to hack away at the shrieking demon, sending sprays of blood and gore up into the air!

The demon decidedly dead, Vi looks up at her fellow Slayers, as they watch on in shock.

VI

Yeah, they do that. Oh, and...

She reaches forward and lightly SWATS them both like a scolding schoolteacher!

VI (cont'd)

Always watch your backs, dumbasses!

They can't seem to form a response at the extremely close call, and instead turn to look as Harold approaches them.

HAROLD

Time to leave, I think. Lots of screens are showing countdowns. In my experience, that's never a -

VI

(interrupts)

Let's get the hell out of here!

Harold stuffs his bag into the empty demon vat and the trio make a hasty escape.

35 EXT. WOODLAND - NIGHT

35

Stood on the other side of the river Vi, Melissa, Cici and Harold look across at the water treatment plant, hiding the facility beneath it.

HAROLD

I will say one thing for the Council...

After a moment, Harold lifts a device from his pocket and pushes the button.

And the trio watch triumphantly as the plant EXPLODES sky high, every inch of it and the facility below being BLOWN into nothing but flaming debris!

(CONTINUED)

HAROLD (cont'd)
They always know how to get the
good stuff.

They continue to watch until the explosion dies down, having
nothing to say to each other while this occasion passes.

Finally, they turn to look at each other; everyone has
suffered injuries, but everyone is still standing, everyone
has survived.

CICI
I can't... believe it's gone.

Melissa wraps an arm around her and Cici shuffles
uncomfortably, but she doesn't try to get out of it.

HAROLD
It has been quite a struggle to get
here.

MELISSA
What do we do now?

HAROLD
(exhales)
I suppose I'll be reassigned.

CICI
I'm not going back to that place.

MELISSA
We don't have to. We can always ask
to be assigned somewhere else, or
we could quit...

Vi stares off into the distance, not really paying attention
to the conversation.

MELISSA (cont'd)
We could be freelance Slayers, like
Vi.

CICI
I don't know about that. It's a
good question, though.

MELISSA
Yeah Vi, what are we gonna do now?

PUSH IN on Vi's face as a smile starts to creep across her
pensive expression.

36

INT. BOWEN RESIDENCE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

36

Elena sits alone at the kitchen table, her eyes still red and weepy as she sips from a cup of coffee.

She looks up angrily as the back door opens and Vi steps inside, covered in gore and blood.

VI

(beat)

Hey, Mom.

ELENA

(jumps up)

Don't you 'hey, Mom' me, Violet!

VI

Mom, I'm sorry, I had to. Demons in our town, and I'm a Slayer.

ELENA

Demons?

VI

There were Slayers here, girls like me, and they'd been here for months fighting them. Ten of them died in six months.

Elena tears up once more. Her hand going to her mouth.

ELENA

Oh... oh, my, their poor mothers...

Unable to take anymore, Elena gets to her feet and sweeps her daughter into a tight embrace.

ELENA (cont'd)

(calling)

John! She's home!

John promptly hurries into the room and joins the hugging game.

JOHN

Vi! What were doing, just taking off like that?

VI

I'm sorry, okay? But this is the life I lead. I have to go out and fight, risk my life every night.

(CONTINUED)

ELENA

But why? Why do you have to? You said there were hundreds of Slayers. All over the world! Can't one of them go instead? Why does it always have to be you?

VI

Because it's what I am. I have the ability to help, to change things. You want me to just ignore that? Let people die? Because that's what happens if I don't go out there and fight.

(beat)

This is why I didn't ever contact you. I didn't want to have to put you through all this. I... I hope you can understand that now.

ELENA

Oh, oh, so you'd just rather have us think you'd been abducted, or you'd become a crack whore, or you'd been murdered, or -

JOHN

(cuts her off)

Elena.

VI

And I'm sorry for that. I know I was wrong in not even letting you know I was okay.

(beat)

I'm going to keep in touch from now on, visit you often. I promise.

JOHN

(beat)

Does this mean... are you going back to New York?

VI

(nods)

Yeah. It's where I'm supposed to be.

ELENA

When?

VI

The next few days. I'm going to rest up and go back.

(smiles)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

VI (cont'd)

I'm sure they could use my help by now.

JOHN

What made you change your mind?

VI

Tonight. You'd... if you could have seen the kind of things I've seen these past few years, you'd be... well, you'd be terrified. I know I was, for a long time.

(beat)

But tonight I was fighting, I was leading other Slayers, and I realized... I'm not terrified any more.

(beat)

Yeah, I get scared still, and that's normal, but not like I used to be.

Elena sighs and gives her daughter a look of understanding.

ELENA

You've grown up.

VI

That's exactly it. I wasn't ready to become a Slayer, but I had to. And now I really am growing up, and I just realized... I'm ready now. To be a Slayer, to be an adult.

(beat)

Which means no more running away. I'm sick of running.

ELENA

Oh, honey...

Pulling her into another hug, Elena begins to cry again, this time a mixture of happy tears and sad.

ELENA (cont'd)

If you want to go back, we're going to support you. We're so proud of you.

VI

(beat)

You are?

JOHN

Of course we are. Look at you.

(chuckles)

Covered in demon guts.

(CONTINUED)

Vi and Elena can't help but laugh.

ELENA

Which is now all over me too.

VI

Hey, Mom of a Slayer? You have to
get used to getting difficult
stains out of clothes.

And we leave the happy family as they continue their bonding.

EXT. BOWEN RESIDENCE - DAY

The Mississippi sun is shining brightly and its a near
perfect day as John heads down the Bowen driveway, dragging a
suitcase behind him.

He heads towards a waiting taxi as Vi and Elena step out of
the house as well.

Spotting something across the road, Vi turns to her Mom.

VI

I'll just be a second.

ELENA

Okay, honey.

Passing by her struggling father, Vi effortlessly lifts the
heavy case with one hand and places it inside the taxi, once
more leaving him dazzled by her strength.

Not even responding to his awe, Vi crosses the road to where
Harold, Melissa and Cici are waiting for her.

All three of them have cleaned up and acquired new clothes
from somewhere. They look good.

VI

Hey.

HAROLD

We thought we'd come and see you
off.

VI

Funny, I didn't tell you I was
leaving today.

HAROLD

(shrugs)

I have my sources. Plus, Cici
here's been keeping an eye on your
place since you left us.

(CONTINUED)

CICI

I'm glad you and your family are cool. It's nice to see.

Cici looks longingly across the road at Vi's parents, and Vi smiles sadly.

VI

Thanks.

(to Harold)

Did you contact the Council?

HAROLD

(nods)

They're sending a plane to get me tomorrow. I'm returning to the Academy.

MELISSA

Me and Cici are going to chance it in Vegas. I hear it's a good place for Slayers to get by.

VI

Lots of demons.

CICI

Exactly.

VI

Well, good luck girls. You know were I am if you need me.

Grinning, the three Slayers share a group hug and Harold watches on fondly.

VI (cont'd)

Listen, I've gotta go. See you around?

CICI

Bye, Vi.

HAROLD

Thanks for everything. And whatever you were running from that made you come back here... well, I hope you beat it.

VI

(smiles)

Don't worry. I did.

Vi hurries back across the road as the trio head off down the street.

(CONTINUED)

Elena and John look up from loading the taxi as Vi joins them again.

ELENA
Who was that?

VI
(smiles)
Some new friends.
(beat)
So... I'll call when I get there,
let you know I got back okay.

JOHN
You'd better.

Vi gives both of her parents a hug as she starts to tear up.

VI
Okay, I'm gonna go before I start
crying. I think we've had enough
tears for one week.

ELENA
I think you're right. Go.

JOHN
See you soon.

Nodding, Vi climbs into the taxi and she waves to her parents as it starts to drive away. They wave back as "City" by Sara Bareilles begins to play over this MONTAGE:

A) Sat in the back seat of the taxi, Vi isn't listening as the TAXI DRIVER rambles on at her about something. She smiles serenely, looking out the window at the Hazelhurst houses as they speed past.

B) At an airport, Vi makes her way through a crowd of people, that serene look still on her face.

C) Sat on the plane, Vi is listening to an MP3 player and reading an old, tattered novel. She looks excited.

D) Vi climbs into a New York City taxi, pulling her case with her. She says something to the DRIVER and he takes off. Vi smiles to herself.

FADE TO:

FAITH, PRYOR, NOA, JERRY, RACHEL and RUTH are waiting outside the Asylum, and Faith points down the road as a taxi drives towards them.

(CONTINUED)

The music FADES as the taxi pulls up, and Vi steps out, paying the driver and pulling her case with her.

She and Faith look at each other for a long beat before Faith snaps, pulling the redhead into a tight hug.

Vi is momentarily surprised, but quickly returns the embrace, happy to be back.

VI

Hey.

Faith pulls away and gives her a grin.

FAITH

Hey.

PRYOR

Welcome back, Vi.

RACHEL

Welcome back!

And with a chorus of welcomes, Vi's face splits into a grin.

NOA

We're having a 'welcome home' party. But... in the Gateway room, because Dawn felt left out.

VI

That's... great! Let's go!

And with the atmosphere noticeably much more comfortable than its been in a long time, the assembled gang begin to head inside -

But Faith pulls Vi back, until they're left alone.

FAITH

Can we talk before the guys start... you know, drinking all my beer?

VI

(grins)

Sure.

FAITH

I just... I wanted to apologize for being such a thoughtless bitch these past few months.

(beat)

I kind of realized that yeah, maybe I wasn't treating you the way you deserve.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FAITH (cont'd)
I got kinda carried away with...
stuff. Gettin' my powers back
must've gone to my head a little.

VI
You think?

She mock punches Faith in the arm with a grin.

VI (cont'd)
I think it was just as much to do
with my own insecurities as you
being a thoughtless bitch.

FAITH
And she comes out swinging...

VI
I realized a lot of stuff, too,
these past few days.

FAITH
Translation?

VI
Everything's cool. As long as you
understand the way things are, I'm
more than happy to be here.

Faith nods, turns to leave:

VI (cont'd)
But.

Faith turns back. Vi steps up, confidently.

VI (cont'd)
You start getting out of line
again, putting me or the others in
danger, running off like a
jackrabbit at the first sign of a
good fight... then I'm gonna be the
first one to smack your ass down
and snap you out of it.

Faith holds her firm gaze for a long beat.

FAITH
Deal.

Smiles all round.

FAITH (cont'd)
Okay, I hate to be gooey, but...
friends?

VI

Friends.

Their friendship re-established, Faith grabs one handle of the case and gives Vi an unneeded hand to carry it inside.

39

EXT. ALLEYWAY - DAY

39

A different alleyway to the one seen previously, Dark Ambrosia watches as her demon buddies drag the beaten and battered form of Hogan towards her.

Thrown onto the concrete, Hogan groans as she looks up at Dark Ambrosia.

HOGAN

I... what's going on? I... you work for us!

DARK AMBROSIA

This vessel is merely a means to an end. As is my involvement in your investigation.

HOGAN

So all of this... Scott's case, the Mayor's help, it's all... it's all lies?

DARK AMBROSIA

(coldly)

Now you know the truth. Or at least part of it.

HOGAN

(gasping)

Who... who are you?

DARK AMBROSIA

I'm the only one who can help Scott close his case. He is starting to lose focus. He requires further motivation.

HOGAN

What do you... what do you mean?

Dark Ambrosia smirks cruelly before MORPHING into an exact replica of FAITH!

Hogan panics and tries to scramble away but "Faith" pulls her back, drawing a KNIFE from the waistband of her jeans.

"FAITH"

Now.

(CONTINUED)

She looks up as one of the demons pulls out a camera, and he takes a photo as she cruelly SLASHES Hogan's throat!

The evidence taken, Dark Ambrosia assumes her appearance as Hogan slumps to the floor, her throat spilling blood all over the concrete.

DARK AMBROSIA

Let's go. We have work to do.

She and her demons stride away, leaving Hogan's body dumped amongst the trash cans.

PUSH IN on Hogan's lifeless, glazed over eyes, staring back at us as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW