

SLAYER ACADEMY

"Sunshine"

by
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Emilie de Ravin as Claire Frye

WEBSITE

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SUBURBS - DAY - (FLASHBACK) 1

The sun is shining, the ocean is rolling in beautiful turquoise, foaming waves as we LAND IN:

TITLE OVER: Sydney, 1986

PAN DOWN to a HOUSE, typical suburbia, the silence is only disturbed by:

2 INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - SAME TIME 2

A WOMAN SCREAMS!

Propping herself upon her elbows and SCREAMING for all she's worth, she breathes heavily whilst continuing to yell.

CLAIRE (V.O.)
Not the greatest beginning to a
story, I know. But right now, this
is my chance to tell my story.
(beat)
And I don't know if I'll ever get
another chance to.

The woman is panting now, clearly nearly at the end of whatever it is.

REVERSE ANGLE and now see that she's PREGNANT. Nine months and swollen by the looks of it, she pants, tears and sweat mingling together as she presses down against the tattered couch, BLANKETS underneath her.

She PUSHES and then...

She cradles a BABY, who's crying and fussing for her mother's attention and her mother SMILES, pain dissolving rapidly into euphoria.

CLAIRE (V.O.) (cont'd)
 Yep, that's me. I was cute back then. Well not right then - then I looked like I had been a love-child of a Xenomorph.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. STREET - (FLASHBACK) 3

Its several years later and a six year old CLAIRE watches as a BOY about her age plays basketball with his FATHER.

She fiddles with her tiny shoes, as we:

(CONTINUED)

CLAIRE (V.O.)

I never had a dad. I didn't mind,
not really and never mind all that
Freudian crap about the lack of a
father and Electra complexes.

(beat)

Fathers to me were and still are
like shiny jewelry. They're
something that other people have
but they're not essential.

(beat)

Maybe that's why I loved my power.

The Boy SMILES and HUGS his Father and Claire stands, walking
away, forcing us to segue to:

INT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - (FLASHBACK)

A nine year old Claire makes her way happily through a set of
halls along with other CHILDREN, running straight through
into:

EXT. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - PLAYGROUND

The games of school are in play. Boys are playing tag and
basketball while the majority of the girls sit and play with
each other's hair.

Claire and another BOY, CHARLIE, sit talking and laughing.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

It wasn't until I was nine that I
got the Slayer stirring in me. Most
Slayers or Potentials have a
stirring or a feeling about seven
or eight.

(beat)

Guess I was a late starter.

Claire and Charlie's play is interrupted when a SHADOW falls
over them and they look up to see a group of BOYS, led by
RICO.

Rico SMIRKS at the pair and KNOCKS at Charlie, sending him
sideways.

CLAIRE (cont'd)

Hey! Leave him alone!

RICO

Ooh, Charlie, gonna get your
girlfriend on us?

CLAIRE

(angry)

I said leave him alone.

Rico appears to turn away before he SPINS and KNOCKS Claire over.

Charlie stands and raises his fists timidly at Rico and his cronies before Rico WHAPS him one.

And at that moment, Claire FLIPS TO HER FEET in a turning display that'd make any gymnastic coach happy. She turns to the smirking boys and then a RUSH OF WIND blows over Claire - just before she TRIPS one of Rico's cronies over.

Without a second's pause, she SMIRKS, a mirror of Rico's reflection, and then KNOCKS him aside so fast he trips into his other goons, knocking them down like a set of bowling pins.

Claire stands above him, looking annoyed, and leans down to the terrified Rico's level.

CLAIRE (cont'd)
Leave him alone.

And with that she and Charlie turn and keep on talking.

CLAIRE (V.O.) (cont'd)
Despite being able to lift more
weights than my best friend, I was
actually okay at school.

CUT TO:

Claire, now wearing a tank top, shirt and jeans combo walks down the halls, talking to a small group of friends. She's well into her teenage years now, looking understated and pretty. Very Juno.

She heads to her locker, a fifteen year old Charlie following her, but she's blocked in her path by a group of three CHEERLEADERS, wearing the blue and yellow uniform of the school.

The head is blonde and cold SHANNA and flanking her are two brunettes, KRISTIN and TYRA.

SHANNA
Out of the way, tramp.

CLAIRE
(sweetly)
My pleasure, whore.

KRISTIN
Talking to us like that will have
consequences, loser.

(CONTINUED)

CHARLIE

Yeah, it'll result in you three trying to find out who has the brain cell for today and then trying to make a comeback when school's actually closed.

SHANNA

Shut it, fag.

Claire's expression turns immediately to anger but only a restraining hand from her gothic friend, KIELY, stops her from using her Slayer powers and beating these bitches.

A beat and then Shanna SMIRKS, SHOVING past Claire, Charlie and Kiely, Kristin and Tyra following suit.

KIELY

Ignore them. All the plastic from their boob jobs have melted into their brains.

CHARLIE

It's a shame there isn't a field trip to a church, you know?

KIELY

Why?

CLAIRE

(smirks)

Because if they got in three feet of one, I suspect the 666 would be burnt into their foreheads. And that would be fantastic.

They SNORT with laughter, forcing us to DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. AVALON BEACH - AFTERNOON

It's a densely packed expanse of golden sands, deliciously cool and foamy surf and a slight breeze.

PAN DOWN to find dozens of Australians bathing in the sunshine.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

I mean, every high school has its cliques and bitches and cliques of bitches... and I just happened to be the latest in a line of verbal punching bags.

(beat)

Along with the fact that the Slayer dreams were affecting me more and more, I needed to tell someone.

(CONTINUED)

PAN ALONG the sun worshippers and surfers alike before we rest on:

Claire and Kiely are sat underneath a brightly coloured PARASOL, sipping from a bottle of water. Both are dressed for the weather, with Kiely wearing a black tank top and skirt while Claire is dressed in her school clothes.

KIELY

So... any more of the dreams?

CLAIRE

(nodding)

Two last night. A dark haired girl in Italy and a girl with blue hair in Madrid.

KIELY

When were these?

CLAIRE

(shrugs)

Twentieth century as far as I know.

KIELY

Well, this whole 'Slayer' thing's still a bit on the 'whoo' side for me but at least if the Heathers start on you, you can kick your ass without breaking a nail.

CLAIRE

(smiles; without missing a beat)

And we have a positive side to the migraines.

They LAUGH and Claire stands, shrugging off her shirt and leaving her in a tank top and knee length shorts.

CLAIRE (cont'd)

Hey, I'm just going for a run. Be back in five.

Kiely nods and Claire starts off before SPRINTING along the beach.

We TRACK her along the beach as she approaches a group of HUNKS, all bare chested and running along. She heads out into the surf, not losing speed in a second.

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

For a year or so, life was manageable... it was even fun.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

Outstripping them, she manages a coy smile at the Hunks who slow to watch Claire's progress, WHISTLING appreciatively.

CLAIRE (V.O.) (cont'd)
Before life got a lot less simple
and a lot more Slayer.

HOLD ON Claire's smiling face as she runs before we WHITE OUT into:

8 INT. BEDROOM - EARLY MORNING

8

Claire's bench pressing weights in her bedroom, the WEIGHTS a sharp contrast to the otherwise girly demeanour of her room.

TITLE OVER: May, 2003

Then suddenly, Claire FALLS BACKWARDS, GASPING as she leans against the wall.

BUFFY (V.O.)
Anyone who could have the power...
will have the power.

Claire FLEXES her body, SMILING at the power that's just flooded her.

Then by her bedside, her PHONE RINGS.

CLAIRE (V.O.)
Just as I got my power... my world
changed forever.

CUT TO:

9 INT. HIGH SCHOOL - LIBRARY - MORNING

9

Claire is alone in the library studying when she hears LAUGHTER coming from behind her. She turns and sees Shanna, Tyra and Kristin giggling at Claire. They're all a few years older as confirmed with:

TITLE OVER: March, 2007

She ignores them but a beat later, they throw a SPITBALL at her. Claire clenches her fist but SOMEONE stands in front of her.

We LOOK UP and see it's a man in his fifties with salt-and-pepper hair and wearing a smart suit.

MAN
Claire Frye?

CLAIRE
Who wants to know?

(CONTINUED)

MAN

My name's William Bennet. I'm a representative of the Watcher's Council and I'm here to inform you that as a newly appointed Slayer... come with us.

Claire looks confused but after a long beat gathers her books under one arm.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

That was how I met Bennet and that was how I got involved with the smaller amounts of Slayerdom that a girl can get.

As Claire and BENNET retreat from the library, her confused expression forces us to CUT TO:

10

EXT. BAR - NIGHT

10

BOOM!

A DEMON, all tentacles and fangs BURSTS from the bar, SHATTERING the doors as Claire, her blonde hair tied back in a ponytail and wearing dark clothes, SPIN KICKS him straight into an alleyway.

11

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NEXT

11

The Demon SLUGS Claire in the face but she recovers, ROUNDHOUSE KICKING the Demon in the chest, following it up with a vicious headbutt.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

The Watcher's Council decided having me in the Academy was a waste of my... resources. So I stayed in Sydney, doing the rounds and keeping an eye for info about anything big going down. With the Cabal targeting everything Slayer in the world, I figured staying in the central would be a bit obvious.

(beat)

I've never had so much fun before.

Claire HEEL PUNCHES the Demon in the jaw, CRACKING it with a CRUNCH. The Demon BACKHANDS an unprepared Claire and as she lands heavily against a dumpster, he CRACKS his jaw back into place.

He lunges for Claire but she kicks him against the brick wall. He grabs her leg and SPINS it, forcing her to SLAM DOWN into the ground.

(CONTINUED)

However, Claire ROLLS back, avoiding an attack by the Demon, allowing her to PUSH KICK off a wall and launch a kick that sends him flying back.

She pulls a CURVED DAGGER from her pocket and the Demon swings clumsily, throwing left and right hooks all over the place. Claire waits and then KICKS away one arm, SLAMMING it into the wall, allowing her to FLIP OVER him and her dagger FLASHES as she lands.

A long beat and then the Demon's DECAPITATED HEAD slides neatly from its shoulders. Claire smiles, WINCING as she lifts her shirt up and inspects a SLASH from the Demon's claws.

BENNET (O.S.)

You know, you could have done that
a lot easier.

Claire looks up and smiles as Bennet, her very own Watcher, descends down the fire escape.

CLAIRE

True, but the adrenaline's... wow.

Claire pulls an MP3 PLAYER from her pocket and puts an earphone in.

BENNET

What are you doing?

CLAIRE

(sweet)

I have a 'just killed a bad guy'
playlist on here.

She smiles and Bennet shakes his head but with a small smile of his own, forcing us to DISSOLVE TO:

Claire opens the door and steps through:

To find her MOTHER, SARAH, waiting for her.

SARAH

Where the hell have you been?

CLAIRE

I - I was out. With some friends,
I...

SARAH

That's the third time this week,
young lady!

(MORE)

SARAH (cont'd)

I know you have no respect for me,
but by God, I expect you home at a
certain time.

CLAIRE

Mum, you don't understand. I...
kind of have a duty to...

SARAH

To what?

Claire can't answer but at that moment, there's a KNOCK at
the door. Sarah shoots a deadly look at Claire as she opens
the door.

A man, wearing a dark jacket and trousers steps into view,
his face obscured by a cloak.

MAN

Miss, my name's Hartigan. Bradford
Hartigan and I'm afraid we need to
discuss your daughter.

(beat)

May I come in?

SARAH

Yes, of course, come in...

But as the Man SOARS through the open doorway, we can see
he's a VAMPIRE! Shrugging off the dark jacket and revealing a
variety of weapons.

Before Claire can react, the Vampire RIGHT HOOKS her, sending
her FLYING! The Vampire turns to the terrified Sarah.

VAMPIRE

I'm sorry. Well, I'm not, but
before I kill you, I'd like you to
know it's because she killed you.
She caused your death.

CLAIRE (O.S.)

And yours.

He turns, just as Claire SWINGS into view, carrying a SWORD!
She FLIPS DOWN and SLASHES at the Vampire who DUCKS.

He grabs a GUN from his pocket while Sarah escapes to safety
but Claire KICKS it away to safety. He PUNCHES her fully in
the face and she drops onto the STAIRCASE.

The Vampire LEAPS high into the air but Claire ROLLS to one
side and his foot SLAMS into the stair. Claire FLIPS and
KICKS him, sending him over the banister with a SNAP.

From her position on the stair, Claire SPIRAL KICKS him in the face as she SLIDES down the banister before LEAPING BACKWARDS off of the wood, just as the Vampire SMASHES his fist into it and BREAKS it.

The two are throwing and trading punches, kicks and vicious attacks before the Vampire HIGH KICKS Claire, SPEARING her against the wall.

He SMIRKS, snatching Claire's sword from where she dropped it.

VAMPIRE

Imagine how much rep I'm going to
get when they hear I killed a
Slayer.

(beat)

All I hope is that you cry more
than your precious Watcher did.

Claire looks up, pissed, just as the Vampire LEAPS towards her but stops. His eyes BULGE as they look down and see a WOODEN STAKE, made from the remnants of the stair in his heart!

Claire manages a SMIRK back at him before he DUSTS.

She picks herself up and rubs her ribs before seeing Sarah look nervously from around a corner.

CLAIRE

Hey, mom, it's okay, now...

SARAH

No! You get away from me! No!
You're not my daughter, not any
more!

CLAIRE

(teary)

But... but I...

Sarah runs from her daughter and we HOLD on the bloody and beaten Claire, TEARS welling in her eyes as we DISSOLVE TO:

A single TANKER SPEEDS ALONG the bridge which is abandoned and appears to extremely quiet. All noise is gone apart from:

CLAIRE (V.O.)

I never saw my mum again. She moved
to Melbourne and after Mr. Bennet
died, I had no one and nothing. So,
I quit school and devoted my life
entirely to the Academy.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CLAIRE (V.O.) (cont'd)
Not a wise career choice,
considering that Debbie's smart
enough to be a doctor, but I was
pissed off and needed something to
distract me.

(beat)

A few weeks later, I heard from the
Watcher's division in Sydney that a
group of Cabal agents were moving a
large batch of anti-Slayer weaponry
into the Arctic Hub from a disused
airfield a few miles north of
Sydney.

PUSH IN on the top of the tanker as we see none other than
Claire and two other FIGURES clinging to the roof of the
tanker. They're all clinging by SWORDS embedded into it and
we can now see them.

The trio of Australian SLAYERS are now in our forefront.

One is a BRUNETTE with YELLOW STREAKS in her hair named KARA.

The other, a redhead nods at Claire. She's JULIE.

CLAIRE (V.O.) (cont'd)
That's where I first met Julie and
Kara and my first mission.

The three Slayers as one SLASH OPEN the steel and titanium
tips of the swords and DIVE INSIDE.

The three girls SNAP several GLOW STICKS and hold them about,
seeing a large PILE of WRAPPED SHEATHES.

CLAIRE (V.O.)
It was dangerous and risky but
Julie was an expert and since
moving to the Academy, she'd been
on missions in Portugal, Kyoto...
sorry, I'm waffling.

Kara gives Claire a boost and our Australian Slayer SAILS
through the hole in the roof, followed closely by Julie.

INTERCUT WITH the inside of the tanker as Julie SLIDES along,
clinging grimly to the roof of the truck before SLIDING all
the way to the driver's section of the truck.

Kara THROWS Claire a batch of the anti-Slayer weapons and
above her, Claire THROWS it over the side into the foaming
water.

CLAIRE (V.O.) (cont'd)
We were assigned to destroy them
and throwing them over into the
ocean seemed the best bet. But then
we miscalculated.

Pulling her trusty pair of KNIVES from her side-pocket, Julie aims before dangling upside down and THROWING them both into the driver's section, KILLING both guards instantly!

The tanker immediately SWERVES violently and Claire SLIDES from one side to another before grabbing her sword-anchor and holding on for dear life.

Inside the compartment of the tanker, Kara is SLAMMED from one side to another, SMACKING her head on one of the stacks of weaponry.

Julie LEAPS UP from the section and SPEEDS along to the hole where Claire is trying to recover Kara. Claire grabs hold of Julie as the tanker TURNS and DIVES across the bridge and into the water!

The tanker starts to CAPSIZE as Julie and Claire take a DEEP BREATH and DIVE through the hole into the hold of the tanker.

Claire and Julie struggle to pull Kara from underneath a large pile of the weaponry and see that she's not breathing.

Both of them kick off, swimming for their lives as their escape route becomes deeper and deeper embedded in the water.

Finally, they BURST OUT, GASPING for air as we CUT TO:

The body of Kara is laid on the shore while Claire performs CPR desperately.

CLAIRE (V.O.)
We tried our best.

A tearful Julie forces Claire back as the dead body of Kara lolls against the rough stony beach and the two surviving Slayers look on in abject horror.

CLAIRE (V.O.) (cont'd)
But she still died and it wasn't
our best. And then he came.

Claire starts to SOB and her shaken face forces us to CUT TO:

17 EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

17

The moonlight spilling over the beach illuminates Claire and the unmistakable forms of BRAEDEN, the DARK SCYTHE in his hand. Behind him, we can see CASSANDRA, DEX, DANA and SOFIA, her own SCYTHE slung across her back.

BRAEDEN

Sorry this had to happen to a fellow Aussie, mate.

CLAIRE

(grins)

Bring it on, mate.

Braeden SLASHES her across her waist, dropping Claire. She moans but Braeden STABS downwards with the Scythe, stilling Claire.

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

And then I died, apparently. I can't remember it, but there was a warmth, before I...

RACHEL pours the powder onto Claire's wound and she YELLS, shaking.

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

Well, you know the rest.

WHITE OUT:

18 INT. SYDNEY HOPE GENERAL - PRIVATE WARD - LATER

18

Claire lies in a bed, apparently asleep. We HOLD ON her before she starts to STIR, eyes twitching and everything.

CLAIRE (V.O.)

After that, they asked me to join the Academy. Asked me because I was one of the few survivors of the urban legend that was Braeden Donovan.

(beat)

I told them that he didn't play fair. That's all I could tell them.

WHITE OUT:

19 INT. CABAL COMPOUND - (FLASHBACK)

19

Claire and REIKO are tag-teaming a pair of gnarled, vicious looking DEMONS, kicking and slashing before STABBING the demons with their weapons of choice.

(CONTINUED)

CLAIRE (V.O.)
And I helped out where I could.
Killing bad guys and saving the
world's kind of genetic.

Reiko and Claire HIGH FIVE before SLASHING the tires of one
of the Cabal trucks.

WHITE OUT:

INT. CABAL HQ - CLONING LABS - (FLASHBACK)

Claire, NEELA and GABRIELA force their way through a set of
DOORS and begin to SMASH the tubes, sending FLUIDS spilling
all over the floor.

Gabriela's nearly SPEARED by an incoming CABAL DEMON but
Claire IMPALES him on one of the LEVER CONTROLS!

She and Neela AX-KICK two more to the ground while Gabriela
MUTTERS an INCANTATION and the remaining tubes BURST INTO
FLAMES!

CLAIRE (V.O.)
I'm part of a team now. I'm not
Claire, the solo Slayer...

WHITE OUT:

INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - LATER

Reiko, Claire and FRAN are hanging out in one of the Academy
dorms. Music's playing and it's generally a scene of
happiness.

CLAIRE (V.O.)
I'm Claire Frye. And I'm a Slayer.

Claire looks INTO CAMERA and SMILES, before we:

FADE TO BLACK: