

SLAYER ACADEMY

"Who Am I?"

by
Lee A. Chrimes

Based on 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer' created by Joss Whedon
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WEBISODE

FADE IN:

1 EXT. MOUNTAIN RANGE - DAY 1

Gleaming, snow-capped peaks, fluffy clouds and brilliant sunshine blazing down from above.

We're moving at speed across a jagged mountain range, stretching for miles in every direction.

A SHADOW comes into view, rolling across the pure white snow beneath - until we PULL BACK and reveal a CARGO PLANE cruising through the sky.

2 INT. CARGO PLANE - DAY 2

With the ROAR from the bulky plane's turbine engines accompanied by RATTLES from bouts of turbulence, it's a pretty noisy place to be.

However, for the four occupants of the rear section, silence is something they're keeping.

PUSH IN to make out SOFIA, DELANEY, and leaning closest to the open bay doors to watch the scenery scroll past below is SKYE. Each looks a million miles away in a different direction.

The girls are wrapped up against the chill high altitudes, all fur-lined coats and boots.

The fourth figure is a nervous-looking young Dominican Slayer. She glances at the others, not getting any response.

She looks over her shoulder, further back into the cargo section, staring into the dark recesses until:

SOFIA

Soledad?

SOLEDAD turns, Sofia shuffling closer and speaking up over the noise.

SOFIA (cont'd)

We'll be there soon. Do you want to go over any last minute details?

SOLEDAD

Oh, uh... no.
(shakes head)
No, thanks.

DELANEY

(scoffs)
'Thanks.'

(CONTINUED)

Sofia shoots her a sharp look, then turns back to Soledad:

SOFIA

Humour me. Let's hear the mission brief one more time before we make our final approach.

SOLEDAD

Um... I'm to be stationed in the village for the next three months, after which I'll be relieved by another Slayer.

SOFIA

Primary objective?

SOLEDAD

Protect the package. By any means necessary.

DELANEY

I think she's got it, Romero.

SOFIA

(without turning)

And I don't think I was talking to you, Brogan.

(to Soledad)

Protocols?

SOLEDAD

Communication at an absolute minimum, emergencies only. Satellite phone at the monastery, not even switched on unless absolutely necessary.

SOFIA

Very good. So how do you feel?

SOLEDAD

'Feel'?

DELANEY

She means are you freaking out yet.

SOFIA

(rolls eyes)

And that's still not helping...

SOLEDAD

A little. I mean, you're A Squad! You guys are like the freaking A-Team around here, and I'm just... well, I'm the newbie. So yeah, I'm freaking out a little.

(CONTINUED)

DELANEY

Well... don't.

SOFIA

Thank you for those words of wisdom, Captain Encouragement. Perhaps you'd like to stick on 'Alive' for us to watch while you're at it?

Delaney scowls, turning to face Sofia fully.

DELANEY

Hey, it's not my idea to do all of this! You ask me, the package needs to stay -

SKYE

The package needs to stay as far away from us as possible.

Skye's utterance gets everyone's attention. Seems like it's the first time she's spoken for a while.

SKYE (cont'd)

That's the... that's the only way.

Skye lapses back into silence. Delaney settles back, and Sofia turns to call into the cockpit to the PILOT:

SOFIA

How much longer?

PILOT (O.S.)

Final approach in ten minutes, ma'am.

SOFIA

Right. Thanks.

She turns back to Soledad. Offers a hopeful smile. Soledad tries to return it, but it's forced as we DISSOLVE TO:

SWEEP across another part of the range, with a modest OUTPOST at one end of a long natural runway up above.

The cargo plane stands on the runway, propellers idling, a cluster of buildings forming a makeshift airport surrounding it. A TRAIL leads down into a valley:

Where three husky-drawn SLEDS are now speeding across the piercing white snow.

PUSH IN to find Skye at the reins of the lead sled, Sofia and Soledad on the next and Delaney bringing up the rear.

The sleds crest the peak of a small hill and come to a stop, the groups of huskies taking a moment to catch their breath, YAPPING friskily at one another.

ON SOFIA as she pops up her mirrored sunglasses, peering down at something below.

SOLEDAD

Is that it?

SOFIA

That's it.

DELANEY

Must feel weird to be back here,
huh?

SOFIA

Yes, well... better circumstances
and all that.

DELANEY

Gotta admit, I'm surprised they
agreed to this. You know, after all
that -

SKYE

We cut 'em a good deal. Got their
village put back together. Besides,
it's the monks we're dealing with
here.

She SNAPS the reins of her sleds, sparking the huskies back into action, and as the other two sleds start to follow:

REVERSE ANGLE to see them heading towards a small VILLAGE at the base of the valley, with a MONASTERY visible through the mist some way beyond that in another valley.

TITLE OVER: SASUAM VILLAGE, SHANNAN PREFECTURE, TIBET

The three sleds approach the MONASTERY at the foot of the next valley.

The monastery itself is like a small town, a complex of buildings in a large circle surrounded by a high wall.

Decked out in reds, oranges and browns, it stands out against the snow and rock but also looks perfectly at home.

6

EXT. MONASTERY - PATHWAY - NEXT

6

A tall white TEMPLE rises from the centre of the complex, dozens of smaller buildings all around. Red-robed BUDDHIST MONKS pass by, nodding to the newcomers as they make their way along the main promenade.

The ground underfoot is neatly paved - patches of grass and trees are dotted around to add to the cosy atmosphere.

TITLE OVER: SAMYE MONASTERY

The foursome are approached by a yellow hat-wearing old monk, MASTER KIM HO-SHANG, who bows respectfully to them.

He smiles as he reaches Sofia, clasping her hands in his own. He bows again, and she returns the gesture.

SOFIA
Master Ho-shang.

HO-SHANG
Shechen. It is good to see you.

SOFIA
I only wish it were under different circumstances, Master. You remember my friends?

She indicates Skye and Delaney. They remember their manners and bow, Master Ho-Shang nodding to them.

HO-SHANG
(off Soledad)
And is this your comrade?

Soledad offers a wave. Delaney NUDGES her, indicating she should bow. Soledad BLUSHES, bowing like the others.

SOFIA
This is Soledad. She'll be here to help guard the package for the next few months.

Master Ho-Shang approaches her, placing his wizened hands on her shoulders. Soledad shifts awkwardly.

HO-SHANG
Welcome, Soledad. May our home become as such to you.

SOLEDAD
Um... thanks.

Ho-Shang nods, then turns to the others.

(CONTINUED)

HO-SHANG

Now - to our business. The package...

SKYE

Is here. Back with the sleds.

HO-SHANG

Good. Then let us begin.

Skye nods, still expressionless as she heads back down the path. The others follow - but Ho-Shang stops Sofia.

HO-SHANG (cont'd)

Your friend Skye, she seems particularly troubled. Her energies, they...

SOFIA

(sighs)

I'm afraid we've all got a lot on our plate at the moment.

She smiles, patting his hand as it rests on her arm.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Nothing we can't handle.

But as she turns away, the smile fades before we CUT TO:

INT. TEMPLE - CHAMBER - NEXT

PAN ACROSS a dark, crowded chamber deep within the temple. The walls house glass cases with RELICS inside - skulls, possessions and other items.

More STATUES and PAINTINGS hang on the walls, with incense burners and candles adding to the ambience.

There's a huddle of chanting MONKS in the middle of the room, INCENSE smoke wafting around them.

Sitting on a bench by the wall are Skye and the others, watching as the monks do their thing.

SOLEDAD

(whispers)

So is this how it worked before? I mean, you know -

SOFIA

Yes.

Soledad gets the hint not to push that line of questioning. She returns to watching the monks:

(CONTINUED)

Master Ho-Shang rises on his rickety knees, the other monks stepping back - to reveal a HOODED, ROBED FIGURE kneeling on the ground.

Ho-Shang reaches forward and draws back the hood as the monks continue to chant:

BLONDE HAIR spills out, messy and tangled. A pale-skinned face with crystal blue eyes peers blearily out, squinting against even this dim light.

It's VICTORY.

Skye tenses up, Sofia taking one of her hands and squeezing it. Soledad GULPS, glancing at Skye's stern features.

VICTORY

Where... where am I? What did you...

She looks round - her gaze falling on Skye's team.

VICTORY (cont'd)

You! What have you done to me, you little -

She STRUGGLES - but can't seem to break free of the robes she's wearing. She starts to panic.

VICTORY (cont'd)

Get this off me! Hey!

She looks round at the monks, more and more freaked out as Master Ho-Shang approaches her - PAINT BRUSH in one hand and small pot of PAINT in the other.

VICTORY (cont'd)

What are you doing to me? Hey! I said, what are you -

Ho-Shang starts to draw SYMBOLS on her exposed skin, Victory unable to move away despite her body straining tight.

VICTORY (cont'd)

Stop it! Stop it! Get me out of here!

Soledad's also quite perturbed by now, the ritual continuing as the CHANTING rises to drown out Victory's cries.

Ho-Shang keeps daubing paint on Victory until her skin is covered by the symbols, after which he places his hands either side of her head, bowing his own.

VICTORY (cont'd)
(desperate)
Please... please, whatever you're
doing, just stop... just -

She JERKS back. Starts to CONVULSE. She can't move thanks to the robes, her body JUDDERING in place as Ho-Shang keeps his grip tight round her head.

SOLEDAD
Oh, my God...

DELANEY
Relax, New... You. She can't go
anywhere.

Sofia looks to Skye - who hasn't taken her eyes off Victory.

SOFIA
Hey.
(no response; louder)
Hey.

Skye tears her eyes away to meet Sofia's. Sofia doesn't say anything else - doesn't need to.

Skye looks back as Victory lets out a final anguished CRY, then keels backwards and hits the floor with a THUMP.

The chanting stops, silence filling the room as the incense smoke wafts towards the ceiling.

The monks gather round Victory, lifting her unconscious form up and carrying it away across the room.

Ho-Shang approaches the girls - Soledad's face is a mix of fear and wonder as Skye looks up to the old monk.

SKYE
Is it done?

He nods. She EXHALES loudly, leaning forward and rubbing her face with her hands.

SKYE (cont'd)
How much will she remember?

HO-SHANG
Only that which you asked.

Skye nods in return.

SKYE
Thank you.

HO-SHANG

Do not thank me for asking me to perform such a task. Ask yourself if what this girl has done is worth the punishment you have decreed.

SOFIA

Abso-bloody-lutely it is!

Everyone turns to her. She shrugs. Skye manages a grin before we CUT TO:

EXT. MONASTERY - GATES - NEXT

At the main entrance to the monastery complex, the four girls turn to Master Ho-Shang.

SKYE

We'll see you in a few month's time.

HO-SHANG

(nods)

Remember to bring me some more of those... what did you call them?

SKYE

(smirks)

Oreos. I will.

SOFIA

Two for one in Sainsbury's, don't you know.

Ho-Shang nods, not getting the reference. The girls make their goodbyes and start back down the long staircase leading to the trail below, and we CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE - NEXT

And now they arrive at the entrance to Sasuam Village, nodding a few greetings as they approach:

Wooden shacks and huts are scattered around, with thickly-dressed VILLAGERS milling between them.

Shop fronts display their wares - fresh food, bubbling pots of soups and livestock clucking nearby.

An OX CART trundles past, the oxen letting out a low MOO as they pass by, carrying a wide, straw-filled cart.

Sofia turns to Soledad, who now has a large BACKPACK slung over one shoulder.

SOFIA

Right! Good luck. Welcome to your new assignment and all that.

SOLEDAD

Thanks. I guess.

DELANEY

They're good people here. You'll be fine.

SOFIA

Yes, I'm sure you can manage without Facebook and E! News for a few months without it killing you.

SOLEDAD

(half-smile)

Not even Twitter?

SOFIA

Don't push your luck.

Skye steps over, her features cold and business-like again.

SKYE

You check in at the monastery every day, without fail. Any sign of trouble - and we mean any sign - you fire up that sat phone and call us. We'll beam some backup over here before you have chance to finish the phone call.

DELANEY

(mutters)

Should never've agreed to teach people that Lightstep spell...

SKYE

And above all - keep your eyes open. You can trust the people here, but you see anything out of the ordinary -

SOFIA

She understands, Skye. This is important. She won't let us down.

(to Soledad)

Right?

SOLEDAD

Right. You can count on me.

Skye hesitates - then turns and walks away. Sofia steps before Soledad in her place. Extends her hand.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

See you soon.

Soledad SHAKES, Delaney offering a nod as the girls follow Skye.

Soledad EXHALES, turning to face the village spread out behind her.

A matronly village woman, HARITI, looks up from the row of vegetables she's tending to and SMILES.

Soledad smiles back, adjusting her backpack and heading through the gates.

HIGH ANGLE, looking down as Soledad passes through the high-fenced gateway and into the village, Hariti moving to meet her.

PULL BACK from the scene as the two women head deeper into the village - Skye, Sofia and Delaney coming into view as they head back towards their waiting sleds before we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF WEBISODE