

SLAYER ACADEMY

"Otaku"

by
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Based on 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer' created by Joss Whedon
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(c) Mutant Enemy, Inc.

WEBISODE

ON BLACK:

WOMAN (V.O.)
(Japanese accent)
Once upon a time, there was a girl
called Reiko Kimusume. She was a
Slayer.

CUT TO:

1 EXT. COUNCIL BUILDING - DAWN 1

ANGLE ON THE SURVIVORS as they head out of the ruined Council building, the ROTTING BODIES still strung up there.

It's shaking, rattling - the images from the REPORTERS assembled there last time! The camera starts to PUSH IN:

And we locate REIKO at the forefront, just a little behind SKYE, FRAN, FRANKIE and FITZGERALD.

WOMAN (V.O.)
She took part in the singularly
most defining moment of the twenty-
first century - the discovery of
the lineage of the Slayer Line.

ON REIKO as the FLASHES of cameras start to blind her before we CUT TO:

2 EXT. CAMPUS - MORNING 2

All business at the Academy, SLAYERS milling about in work or relaxation - and the camera ANGLES ON:

REIKO

Who's talking to a much-healthier looking SOFIA on a BENCH.
Both of them spot the camera.

WOMAN (V.O.)
Reiko is head of the Slayer
Academy's 'B Squad' and has been a
member circa May 2007, when she
joined with former Slayer Juanita
Davalos, now deceased. During her
press conferences, Reiko has
claimed that the real Japanese idol
should be Alita Kagemura, another
former Slayer and one member of the
first 'A Squad,' who was killed in
action as so many of these young
girls are.
(beat)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WOMAN (V.O.) (cont'd)
 However, this hasn't stopped the
 Japanese media from setting up
 permanent stations across the
 United Kingdom to cover her
 movements and actions.

And once more, we CUT TO:

EXT. SKYSCRAPER - DAY

ANGLE ON THE SIDE OF THE BUILDING... until there's an
 almighty CRASH and several VAMPIRES are KICKED OUT,
 SHATTERING the window!

They SCREAM before BURSTING INTO FLAME in the harsh sunlight -
 and it's REIKO once more who bobs her head out of the window.

WOMAN (V.O.)
 As one of the youngest Slayers
 currently on active duty, Reiko is
 considered a national hero in her
 home country of Japan, and the
 media have even moved onto her
 remaining family in the search for
 fresh gossip, history and
 exclusives about their new
 obsession.

INSERT: AN IMAGE of Reiko, smiling with mother KAYIKO in an
 old photograph, along with another handsome JAPANESE MAN.

WOMAN (V.O.) (cont'd)
 Reiko's mother, Kayiko Kimusume,
 was married to local successful
 businessman and Oshiro Kimusume for
 seventeen years. However, Oshiro
 caused controversy in 2005 when the
 infamous and still unexplained
 Japanese tsunami caused colossal
 waves to strike several bayside
 hotels without precedent or chance
 to evacuate - and Oshiro's naked
 body was found in his hotel room,
 with that of a known prostitute.

INSERT: AN IMAGE of the remnants of the HOTEL - DEBRIS is
 spread across everywhere, CHUNKS of the hotel floating in the
 now placid sea.

WOMAN (V.O.) (cont'd)
 Kayiko relocated herself and Reiko,
 aged fourteen, to downtown Tokyo,
 using Oshiro's life insurance to
 afford a home for her family.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WOMAN (V.O.) (cont'd)
One home which is now a public
enterprise for the whole of Japan,
a proud nation overlooking a
veritable holy site of the nation's
latest heroine.

INSERT: A VIDEO FILE - showing CROWDS of people, all
SCREAMING in wonder as a mounted WALL SCREEN in a public
square shows a live interview with Reiko.

DISSOLVE TO:

A CRASH of THUNDER and a FLASH of LIGHTNING as we PULL BACK
and find ourselves in plush surroundings, comfy seats -
definitely the lap of luxury:

INT. PLANE - NIGHT

The lighting's on low as we PAN ACROSS the padded seats and
find a single GIRL sat in a row on her own:

REIKO

She looks tired but is determinedly FLICKING through a PRESS
RELEASE FOLDER, all of it in kanji.

REIKO

Hey, um... what does it mean by
'national treasure'?

REVERSE ANGLE:

To see that a maternal WOMAN is sat across from her, dressed
in a smart suit. This is JADE SCHOFIELD - the Watcher who
originally discovered Reiko.

JADE

As you are well aware, the media
back home has been following you
like a hawk - every part of your
life has been covered, every
mission since the Council raid
several months ago. Even survivors
of your previous missions have come
forward with video files,
testimonies, all to get a bit of
the media gold dust.

REIKO

So...?

JADE

In terms you'll understand, you're
the new Utada Hikaru. Except with
no singing. Yet.

(CONTINUED)

REIKO

(boggles)

'Yet'? Have you heard me sing?

JADE

If my time in your country has taught me anything, it's that no-one in J-pop can sing, dear. Sorry to break that childhood illusion, but a lot of it is smoke, mirrors and audio technology.

(thinks)

Apart from Utada and Perfume. They can sing.

REIKO

Anyway... what kind of re--

There's a couple of high-pitched BLEEPs and Jade turns towards the front of the plane, CLICKING a button on her armrest.

JADE

Hello, Grace.

REVERSE ANGLE:

To see FITZGERALD is appearing on a small WALL SCREEN mounted against the plane's interior.

Behind her, MANU and FRANKIE are busily working - to show that they're in the infirmary, someone holding the camera rather shakily.

FITZGERALD

Jade, Reiko. How's the flight?

As if on cue, a little RUMBLE of turbulence shakes the plane.

REIKO

Bumpy. How are things back home?

MANU

I thought you were going home, Reiko?

JADE

We're touching down in a few hours. About seven local time.

ANGLE ON THE SCREEN as the image moves, scanning the odd ill SLAYER - nowhere near the damage of last year.

The camera SWIVELS around, revealing the camera operator - smartly-dressed blonde FIONA, who WAVES to Reiko.

(CONTINUED)

FIONA

Hey! A few of the girls wanted to say hi, hence the whole 'Cloverfield' look.

The camera moves back, showing that FRAN and TIA are working hard, but spare Reiko a quick WAVE and SMILE.

REIKO

Thanks, guys. I'm more worried about the whole Japanese idol thing they've got going on.

JADE

However, these reports are a few months old - and coverage of you has been considerably smaller and less common. A few media rags here and there.

REIKO

Really?

FITZGERALD

Reiko, when I allowed this visit, I meant for you to visit your mother and give us a little bit more positive publicity.

REIKO

Do we need any more?

FIONA

We might do, after that documentary series a few months ago that's, like, never not being repeated somewhere. Plus, you're their national hero - you'd need to, I dunno, eat a puppy on breakfast TV or something to put them off you.

REIKO

Ew! I have a dog... wait, do I? I haven't seen Oscar since...

(to Jade)

Oh, crap, do I still have a dog?

JADE

Yes. As far as I know.

FITZGERALD

Okay, we've got to go now, Reiko. Some kind of Council meeting that Frankie's helping to host.

(CONTINUED)

FRANKIE

Bon. Have fun. And don't anything I
wouldn't do.

FRAN

(cheeky)

That doesn't leave much--

Frankie gives Fran a withering glare, the camera JERKING
AROUND until it's back on Fitzgerald.

FITZGERALD

Make us proud, Reiko.

TIA

Keep on rocking, megastar!

The video feed CRACKLES to a halt before turning to STATIC.
ON REIKO as Jade presses the screen off.

JADE

So, ready?

REIKO

Give me a few hours sleep, and in
the words of Skye 'enough booze to
make a nun go naked in a church,'
and I'll be okay.

Jade CHUCKLES, settling down into her comfortable seat as we
PUSH IN on Reiko...

MATCH CUT TO:

Reiko's smiling face - emblazoned on dozens of brightly
coloured BANNERS! Screaming FANS enter frame as we start to
PULL BACK:

To find ourselves in a veritable sea of people, all of them
brightly dressed and with a lot of fan merchandise - all of
it with Reiko on it!

Tee shirts, banners, posters and other things are visible as
we start to see what they're looking at:

REVERSE ANGLE:

To show that the girls' private plane has landed and a set of
STAIRS are being brought up.

A typical airport's landing strip, all grey concrete - even
you can't see it for all of the Japanese supporters gathered
there!

(CONTINUED)

TITLE OVER: NARITA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

REPORTERS are mingling with fans, a lot of them holding traditional Japanese weapon FANS, embroidered with different kanji.

ANGLE ON THE PLANE as the passenger door OPENS and Jade leaves, stepping down the stairs a little... as REIKO is revealed to the public.

The crowd ROARS its approval, CHEERS sounding out as Reiko descends, a little surprised and shocked at the attention.

A whole bunch of JAPANESE SCHOOLGIRLS almost faint as Reiko reaches them and starts to tentatively sign autographs.

Reporters clamour for attention, SHOVING people out of the way as SECURITY start to surround Reiko for protection.

Now the attention starts to get at Reiko as the horde of fans start to advance on the security, everyone desperate for a piece of the action as it were.

ON REIKO as the team of security lead the Japanese Slayer across to where a hefty, reinforced SUV is waiting.

Reiko SLIDES INSIDE, Jade a few seconds later and the security SLAM the doors shut, the FLASHES of camera lightbulbs still ongoing.

INT. SUV - CONTINUOUS

The DRIVER starts to pull away, clearing a path through the worshipping crowd as we PULL BACK into the backseat.

REIKO

Whatever happened to 'oh, you're a C-lister'! I thought I'd be on the same equivalent fame level as a Big Brother contestant, not some freakin' rockstar!

JADE

So did I, but wind must have gotten over of your arrival. There's nothing much we can do at the moment. There's a press conference scheduled for tomorrow, but I suspect that our hotel location has been leaked as well.

There's a quick BANGING on the window as a SECURITY GUARD ushers someone inside - tousled and rumpled as if she's knocked her way through the crowd:

It's KAYIKO!

(CONTINUED)

Reiko BLINKS, before she and Kayiko LEAP into a BEAR HUG.

REIKO

Mom!

KAYIKO

(overjoyed)

Reiko! I am so, so happy to see you, my darling...

REIKO

Oh, God... I never thought it would be like this...

JADE

(checks phone)

Damn. My contact has confirmed that the hotel's being staked out by half of the media in Japan, plus every teenage girl in Tokyo.

REIKO

So what? We drive around for hours?

JADE

There is one place. The media are already there, but at least then there'll be less than the hotel.

REIKO

Where...

(penny drops)

Oh. Well... there's no place like home.

The SUV starts to pull away, the otaku clamouring to get inside the van.

KAYIKO

You have no idea what it's been like since that building was attacked in London. When they started identifying Slayers... I was scared for you.

(beat)

According to a branch of the Slayers' Union in Japan, there are three Slayers currently active here - you, this Kyotan girl and this other Slayer from the Shibuya provinces.

JADE

(nods)

She's right.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JADE (cont'd)

Ayumi Kasakoko is currently stationed in a small Japanese island that's got a major kru'lak infestation, and Haru Shikano is one of the members of Lolita X, so they're touring at the moment.

KAYIKO

Kru'lak?

REIKO

Big red demons with razor-sharp spines. They like bamboo shoots and kittens.

Kayiko BOGGLES a little as Jade and Reiko continue:

REIKO (cont'd)

But what about Alita? She was a bigger star than me!

JADE

Yes, but I'm afraid her time passed before all of...

(waves towards window)

This. And didn't you want a little recognition for your actions? You did tackle that demon last year.

KAYIKO

Demon?

JADE

Your daughter was very brave. She and another Slayer defeated a fifty foot demon in rural Japan.

KAYIKO

(to Reiko)

You told me you were on a mini-vacation!

REIKO

(sheepish)

I did go shopping afterwards...

JADE

Reiko, you're this country's biggest source of pride - and you're saying you don't want to take the spotlight, even a little?

REIKO

Yes. No. I--I wanted a little bit but not all this!

(CONTINUED)

KAYIKO

The reporters have been outside our apartment ever since you were announced as a member of the Slayer Line.

(beat)

What does the Slayer Line mean actually mean? And how did you and the other girls find out?

REIKO

There's this guy back at the Academy, Dade, and his mom's a witch - she lives in the hills above Alita's village - so he's got a lot of magickal energy around him and so he could... 'divine' the results out.

(beat)

The Chosen girls are the ones who will always -

(pauses; to Jade)

Can I tell her all this?

JADE

Probably best to keep it simple for now. We'll have time to talk later.

(to Kayiko)

The Slayers are worldwide now, even though in New York there was a bit of a negative campaign against the girls stationed out there.

REIKO

And here it's all good?

KAYIKO

You think?

PULL OUT from this scene, THROUGH the windows to find that the REPORTERS are following in their trusty VANS.

EXT. APARTMENT BLOCK - DAY

There's a media frenzy outside as the van pulls up, even more reporters there, each for their respective station.

ON REIKO as she, Jade and Kayiko are bundled through into the building block, cameras snapping photographs.

INT. APARTMENT - MOMENTS LATER

The apartment itself has definitely improved since last time - no more religious clutter and with a lot of modern equipment and stylish furnishings.

(CONTINUED)

Reiko WHISTLES a little as the three women stand inside, Kayiko moving to the kitchen area and CLICKING on a kettle.

KAYIKO

(off looks)

I did one interview after the Academy press releases. Didn't mention anything about your private life, they just wanted to interview the mother of Japan's biggest asset.

REIKO

Cool. I might have done the same.

The CRIES of the media are still present as we PUSH ALONG - to see that a gap in the curtains has allowed several brave REPORTERS to clamber onto structures and try to peer inside.

ON REIKO as she looks down and sees a bunch of glossy MAGAZINES lying on the coffee table. She scoops a handful up and starts to FLICK through them, the front covers all showing Reiko in various media shots.

REIKO (cont'd)

Wow. I'm the 'media darling', huh?

JADE

Definitely. There's enough of the same stale stuff to keep them going for months but then again... you arriving will give them some juicy fresh meat to gnaw upon.

Kayiko opens one of the magazines, and starts to read:

KAYIKO

(reads)

'Once upon a time there was a girl called Reiko Kimusume. She was a Slayer.'

Reiko's eyes glaze over, still trying to process this. Her mother continues to speak until Reiko opens another magazine, starting to read:

REIKO

'Reiko Kimusume, media darling and golden girl of the worldwide media has been sighted on one of her numerous missions across the globe, this time in the middle of Istanbul, rescuing and recruiting another Slayer to their cause. This Slayer, believed to be working in a European branch of Slayers...'

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

REIKO (cont'd)

(beat)

That was a month ago! This is this week's issue!

KAYIKO

They're all recycling them, plus the Academy releases the stories a few weeks afterwards.

(off look)

I've been receiving some transmissions from the Academy. One every few months at a time.

REIKO

(reading)

'B Squad is headed by Reiko Kimusume, described by her Slayer teammates as bubbly and sweet; Fran St. James and Mela Hasskins complete the team as long-time resident Slayers and are currently in a relationship.'

(beat)

They've even got photos! We never posed for these!

JADE

With Photoshop and enough time, you can make anything work.

REIKO

(reads)

'Kimusume Reiko was seen in Sofia, Bulgaria when the plucky Slayer saved a small village from destruction from vampires. After staking the fearsome creatures, Reiko was seen talking to a handsome man whom she saved. The man seemed to strike quite a rapport with Kimusume, aged eighteen.'

(indignant)

We spoke for twenty seconds! He was crying like a little girl, I was comforting him!

There are YELLS from the corridor outside as reporters try to get in, cameras FLASHING all the time.

Kayiko enters, three COFFEES in her hand. Placing them on the table, she SWEEPS the magazines into the wastepaper BIN.

KAYIKO

They get bored eventually. Don't worry.

(CONTINUED)

JADE

It gets worse, unfortunately. Or
better, depending on your view.

REIKO

View of what?

Jade indicates a pair of PLASTIC CASES resting on the coffee
table, which Reiko picks up, glancing at them:

REIKO (cont'd)

(blinks; shocked)

'The Girl Who Saved The World: The
Reiko Kimusume Story.'

KAYIKO

Look at the second one.

ANGLE ON THE SECOND CASE which is brightly coloured, showing
an image of Reiko with her FANS in an action hero shot.

The title reads: 'Reiko: Become The Slayer, Save The World'.
Reiko BLINKS even more so at this.

It's a VIDEO GAME.

REIKO

You mean... you mean... there's a
freakin' video game after me?

(beat; choked)

I--I just--

ON REIKO as she suddenly BOLTS, heading for the bathroom as
the flash of cameras continues and we CUT TO:

STAY ON REIKO as she SLAMS the door behind her - a few
SPLINTERS of wood FLYING free as she does so!

Reiko sinks to her knees, the odd FLASH from outside her
bathroom window still present.

She starts to SOB, the fervent attention overwhelming her as
we PUSH IN on her face.

Her world starts to turn upside down as Reiko continues to
BREAK DOWN, CRYING and letting loose with her emotions as we
eventually...

BLACK OUT:

END OF WEBISODE