

SLAYER ACADEMY

"Slayers: Heroes or Villains?"

by
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& Lee A. Chrimes

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

ON BLACK:

WOMAN (V.O.)
The seventh of October, 2008.
London. The world is introduced,
officially, to the Slayers.

CUT TO:

STATIC.

Then there's movement as FOOTAGE starts to filter through:

1 EXT. LONDON - STREETS 1

Handheld camera, someone RUNNING through the city streets.

MAN (O.S.)
Oh, my God! Oh, my God!

There's an enormous EXPLOSION as a BUILDING roars INTO FLAMES
and the CAMERAMAN stumbles.

Then he SCOOPS the camera up and continues to run - while
SHADOWY FIGURES blur past.

One of the running CIVILIANS is pounced upon by several
figures...

... which SPIN AROUND to reveal that they're SLAYVAMPS! Their
leering features LEER menacingly as they close in.

MAN (O.S.) (cont'd)
Aah! Oh God, oh God...

2 INT. LONDON - BUILDING - CONTINUOUS 2

The Cameraman rushes into a building - which has several
drained BODIES laid outside, BLOOD pooling around them.

MAN (O.S.)
(breathless)
What the... but... what the hell
are those things?

Several CIVILIANS are with him now, each of them YELLING and
SCREAMING as the SlayVamps finally spot them.

MAN (O.S.) (cont'd)
Oh sh- run!! Run for it!

The Cameraman SPRINTS into the room, through a FOYER - and
COLLAPSES into a room.

(CONTINUED)

He places the camera onto a table, and starts to SHOVE a TABLE in front of the door, with the help of the others:

Just as ZILVIA appears at the door, ROARING in anger as she tries to get inside!

ZILVIA
(cackling)
Little pig, little pig...

One of the civilians - a cute BLONDE - grabs a piece of METAL and SMASHES it against Zilvia's hand, forcing the girl back.

ZILVIA (cont'd)
Ow! Son of a -

They barricade the door with a CHAIR and then stop. One MAN starts to SOB as the Cameraman eventually picks his camera up.

Then he places it back on the table and TURNS IT AROUND so that we're faced with:

SURVIVORS

Most are sporting some injury or another, the Cameraman sitting beside them as they all sit in a row against a set of windows.

The Cameraman - CARL (30s, modestly handsome) - takes a moment to compose himself and then starts to speak:

CARL
In case this is the last thing you find, my name is Carl Rogers. My mum and dad are on holiday in Spain with my sisters, so please make sure that if anything happens to me that they know.

(beat)

It's October seventh, 2008. And the whole of London has just been attacked by...

(beat; rubs face)

Oh, God, I can't believe I'm about to say this, but... by vampires. I've seen... my friends get attacked by them, my girlfriend, Sally Jackson, died because of them. There was this... blockade, this military blockade that stopped us from getting out...

CARL turns to the other survivors, each coping in their own silent way.

(CONTINUED)

CARL (cont'd)

Does anybody... who wants to say something?

The camera first falls on a young blonde, AMY.

AMY

My name is Amy Connor. I... I've seen these vampires attack before. I was at a local village a few days ago when these girl-vampire things attacked. Me and my bandmates got away, we came to London, but then...

Carl touches Amy's arm sympathetically. Another survivor, a young BLACK TEENAGER speaks up:

TEENAGER

I'm... my name is Zero - my real name is Alexander. Alexander James Monroe. If my mum and brother managed to get out, I love you guys.

ASIAN WOMAN

I'm Naoko. My dad ran a restaurant in the West End... I think he's away in the Alps, but his girlfriend... I locked her in the apartment when she started attacking me.

REDHEAD

Trina Williams. My twin brother, Tom, he's still somewhere in the city. I need to find him. He's not strong enough.

Suddenly Carl holds his hand up. Silence. TRINA, NAOKO and ZERO all share nervous looks:

Just as a SLAYVAMP barrels into the room THROUGH THE WINDOWS!

BROKEN GLASS cascades everywhere as the SlayVamp SMASHES into Zero and BITES INTO HIS NECK!

ZERO

Aah! Aah! Help me! Help me!

Amy heads over with the piece of metal but the SlayVamp KICKS Amy aside easily, dropping the woozy but alive Zero as she advances on the frightened Naoko.

The camera DROPS TO THE GROUND, landing awkwardly - us seeing only part of the action:

(CONTINUED)

Until a GIRL sails in through the open window with a CRASH!
She FLIPS to her feet, KICKING at the SlayVamp.

We instantly recognise her as BELLE PARRISH.

Belle HEADBUTTS the SlayVamp and draws a STAKE free from her
belt - RAMMING IT HOME into the SlayVamp's chest.

She SCREECHES before bursting into DUST. Silence.

Then shakily, Belle picks up the camera. Stares into it.

BELLE

Huh. Is this thing on?

(beat; to survivors)

Look, head to the Initiative
barrier - the American army guys -
and they'll get you out of the
city. I'd help but me and my
friends have got a much more
dangerous situation at hand.

(beat; awkward)

Um. Bye, I guess.

She turns the camera back towards the shocked group. Carl
NODS, taking the camera.

Amy is helping a shaken Naoko while Trina treats Zero's neck
wound with a strip of her tee shirt.

ON BELLE as she DROPS back out through the window, Carl
following her as she BOUNCES from fire escape to fire escape.

ANGLE BELOW to see that Belle's rejoined some FEMALE FIGURES
that we recognise as we ZOOM IN:

SKYE UNDERWOOD, DELANEY BROGAN, REIKO KIMUSUME and FRAN ST
JAMES.

UP ABOVE once more as we ZOOM IN to see the INITIATIVE
BLOCKADE is in effect.

The camera turns, showing a speechless Carl, until
eventually:

CARL

Who the hell was that?

The camera FREEZES:

WOMAN (V.O.)

As Carl Rogers so aptly put it: who
exactly are the Slayers?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

WOMAN (V.O.) (cont'd)
Three months on from the events of
the London Siege, are they warriors
for good as they claim, or are they
a deadlier form of terrorist than
we could ever imagine?

CUT TO:

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

A regular TV set up - a large STAGE in bright colours where a
large PLASMA TELEVISION SCREEN takes pride of place.

To one side is a single, comfy CHAIR while on the other side
of the screen is a long PANEL, each holding room for several
people.

In front of each person lies a COPY of the show's
information.

In the solitary chair sits DIANE TEMPLE. She's in her
forties, professional coiffed and styled.

DIANE
Tonight, in the first of a new
series, we'll be attempting to cut
through the myth and legend and
find our way to the truth. Welcome
to 'Slayers: Heroes or Villains?'

And as the show's ominous theme music starts to play, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

4

Back with Diane as the lights come back up. She offers a courteous nod to the camera.

DIANE

Hello, good evening and welcome to Slayers: Heroes or Villains? I'm Diane Temple, and tonight we'll be taking an exclusive look into the past three months, which have been some of the most controversial in the history of mankind itself.

(beat)

With me tonight, I have renowned supernatural specialist Donald Wilkes, who has spent the past twenty years of his life studying and hunting the paranormal. He's also a credible source of information about the Slayers themselves.

Polite APPLAUSE as we find DONALD WILKES - fifties, balding, tough-looking.

DIANE (cont'd)

Also joining us is top clinical psychologist Dr. Leona Burton, who believes that the Slayer 'myth' is nothing more than a paranoid and extremely dangerous delusion.

DR. LEONA BURTON, a classical brunette, nods, more applause filtering through.

DIANE (cont'd)

With us also, we have a survivor of the shocking events in London and Eirene - former singer of indie band 'Heroine', Amy Connor.

AMY from the Teaser NODS, a little nervous and shakier than her previous self as we move on:

DIANE (cont'd)

Completing the panel of experts we have tonight are medical examiner Dr. Tony Ramsay and journalist and prominent reporter, David Wong.

DR. TONY RAMSAY, a strong but silent type and DAVID WONG, a younger Asian man NOD.

(CONTINUED)

DIANE (cont'd)

Now, we've all just seen the video evidence retrieved from the footage filmed by Carl Rogers during the infamous London terror raids. In it, Carl and his fellow refugees are attacked by what appear to be vampires, before being rescued by a young woman fitting the description of a 'Slayer.'

(beat)

Donald, perhaps you'd like to give us a brief potted history of what we know so far before we start to look back at the genesis of the Slayer myth? What exactly is a 'Slayer'?

WILKES

Put simply, a 'Slayer' is a young girl gifted with extraordinary strength, enhanced reflexes and healing abilities and who is tasked with using these powers against an army of supernatural creatures, most of whom have been present on our planet since its creation, and defending us, the little people, against threats beyond mortal comprehension.

DIANE

Where do they operate from? How are they funded?

WILKES

There's an organisation, based until recently here in London, known as the Watchers Council, from what we've been able to gather so far, which has nurtured, trained and guided the Slayers since their creation - whenever that was. It's also believed that they have a headquarters of sorts, based out of an old school, somewhere in the south-west of England, although the precise location of the so-called 'Slayer Academy' has yet to be confirmed.

DIANE

Is this a government operation? Who do the Slayers or Council answer to?

(CONTINUED)

WILKES

Oh, no-one - they're completely outside the boundaries of any kind of governing body save their own.

AMY

What, like Torchwood?

WILKES

(blinks)

I'm sorry, who?

DIANE

And approximately how many Slayers are currently operating, both at home and abroad?

WILKES

It's honestly hard to tell. There have been reported sightings stretching back hundreds of years all over the world, but seven years ago it seemed there was a sudden and unexplained growth in the number of reported Slayer sightings and activity, as though dozens, possibly hundreds more had been... 'activated' overnight.

BURTON

Whereas those of us with actual qualifications would say that this points more to some kind of carefully orchestrated mass delusion. A psychotic flash mob, if you will.

DIANE

(to camera)

Either way, the story of the Slayers in the public eye extends further back than most of us can conceive.

(smiles)

Let's go back to a small town in California called Sunnydale. 2003.

CUT TO:

PULL ACROSS the bright sun colours of the desert underneath a perfect blue sky - until we LAND ON a REPORTER - NICK SIDLE - who addresses the CAMERA:

(CONTINUED)

SIDLE

This is Nick Sidle, on site live from what used to be the small town of Sunnydale, California. As you can see behind me...

He indicates the enormous CRATER where the town used to be.

SIDLE (cont'd)

From what we can gather, some kind of unknown explosion completely obliterated the town in May 2003, resulting in the crater which you can see behind me. Had this been a natural disaster or other freak accident, civilian casualties would have been in the thousands, but for unknown reasons, several days before the incident, almost all of the residents of Sunnydale were reported to have evacuated.

(beat)

Footage gathered by the police, FBI and other agencies seems to show a steady stream of young girls arriving in Sunnydale in the weeks leading up to the incident, as in the following video.

CUT TO shaky black-and-white FOOTAGE - showing BUFFY rushing across an alleyway!

With her, XANDER and WILLOW are carrying injured POTENTIALS, AMANDA, KENNEDY, RONA and VI amongst them.

CUT TO another piece of footage, showing a quiet and eerie GRAVEYARD - as Vi and Amanda fly through the air and STAKE a VAMPIRE each.

BACK TO SIDLE as he peers down into the edge of the crater - just RUBBLE here. Sidle kicks a bit of rock into the crater.

SIDLE (cont'd)

What happened to cause Sunnydale to literally fall into the earth has yet to be discovered, but the town's tragic end was merely the closing chapter in a long-running litany of unexplained events and mysterious deaths.

(beat)

This is Nicholas Sidle, from what used to be Sunnydale, California.

CUT TO:

6

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

6

Back to the studio as Diane turns to her panel:

DIANE

So, David, if I can start with you - you ran an article about the destruction of Sunnydale back when it originally happened. What were your thoughts?

WONG

There'd been enough chatter and speculation about Sunnydale over the years that I'm surprised it took the town being swallowed up for anybody to finally take notice of it. The so-called 'technopagans' claimed that the site was a centre of deep unnatural and mystical energy.

(beat)

I mean, I thought it was just some experiment or little terrorist cell in Sunnydale that had gone 'kaboom' by accident.

WILKES

I investigated the Sunnydale disaster myself when I was travelling in Los Angeles. There was a fairly large amount of non-human energy circulating the whole of the crater, but that could be anything. And as for the 'Slayers' in the archive FBI footage... it's inconclusive at best.

DIANE

This footage was all that was retrieved from the FBI's extensive archives in Cleveland after their offices were attacked. The attackers were never found.

RAMSAY

So there's a possibility that these attackers were the Slayers? That they destroyed the footage to cover themselves?

AMY

No way. I'm sorry, but these girls - at least the girls that I met - did nothing wrong. They saved our lives.

(CONTINUED)

DIANE

Let's take a look at that incident
in Cleveland, then...

CUT TO:

EXT. CLEVELAND POLICE DEPARTMENT - DAY (9X22)

Shaky footage of the assault - as an EXPLOSION blasts out,
knocking out SWATs as they're caught in the blast.

DIANE (V.O.)

In 2005, Cleveland, Ohio saw the
complete destruction of its police
department, resulting in several
fatalities, including alleged
Slayer Shanna Shaw. The same blonde
woman - known only as 'Buffy' - was
seen arriving and exiting during
the aftermath of the police
department's destruction. 'Buffy'
has been a key point of interest of
'Slayies' or people fascinated with
the open urban 'myth' of the
Slayers.

CUT TO:

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

Back with the panel as the footage continues to play on large
screens surrounding them:

On screen, the whole of LA is under siege - as the hulking,
nightmarish forms of THE WOLF, THE RAM and THE HART lumber
into view as the footage, clearly taken from a helicopter
PUSHES IN on a STADIUM.

DIANE

Approximately a year later, Los
Angeles became under siege from
what survivors of the incidents and
terrified Angelinos referred to as
'the mini apocalypse'.

WONG

Again, I remember actually being
present during the BBC's coverage
of the Los Angeles incident - there
was a lot of destruction and
terrified people there, but as to
actual vampires and demons... not a
thing.

(CONTINUED)

RAMSAY

However, I have a pathologist friend who was present in that incident, and he e-mailed me photographic images of some of the victims - which all showed the similar markings of strange burns and two puncture wounds into the jugular.

AMY

What the hell are those three... monsters? Standing in the stadium?

WILKES

Ah, yes, now - this I can help answer. Ancient Sumerian and Polynesian myths have described these so-called 'Old Ones', the most ancient kind of demonic creature in ancient recorded texts such as the Book of Qu'la.

(beat)

The Wolf, the Ram and the Hart are the most ancient form of the Old One, and from the looks of the footage and of the destruction afterwards -

BURTON

Are you seriously going to sit here and tell me we're watching a gaggle of ancient demons battling one another? I'm afraid that these are all severe indicators of paranoid delusions to say the least! All of these texts have been the result of one mistaken and misinterpreted belief which has taken place in the mind.

Then there's an almighty CRASH on screen - as ILLYRIA appears, monstrous limbs MORPHING as she starts to TACKLE the others...

... as the VORTEX starts to appear! The helicopter RATTLES in the sudden wind but starts to stabilise.

DIANE

And the footage you see now, Dr. Burton?

(CONTINUED)

BURTON

Anyone with a video camera and decent software at home can manipulate the footage into anything they want. They could have made it in a giant talking bunny if they wanted, but they chose to follow their own mentally unstable delusions and made this.

DIANE

This footage was retrieved from a privately owned helicopter by one of the American news corporations. However, the footage was never publicly released during the aftermath.

WILKES

The Old One which just appeared goes by the name of Illyria...

DIANE

The authorities claim that the city of Los Angeles was under attack from a large group of Afghanistan-based terrorists, who created a barrier around LA and then systemically attacked the city.

BURTON

(scoffs)

Which is far more likely, I'm sure.

CUT TO:

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - DAY

A quick shot of the Big Apple.

DIANE (V.O.)

However, the attacks in London were not the first public revelations of Slayers in the world - in fact, a few months earlier, Mayor Richard Wilkins led the 'zero tolerance' campaign against apparently recently discovered demons, vampires and Slayers alike. Wilkins claimed that the Slayers were akin to terrorists, citing certain acts as evidence of their villainy.

CUT TO:

10

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

10

And we're back with the panel.

ON SCREEN, a TASK FORCE leads a shaking but alive YOUNG WOMAN outside - while DARK NOA leads up the rear. There's a lot of FLASHES as REPORTERS rush for the latest scoop.

DIANE

Wilkins set up a series of Task Forces, pulling its members from Special Forces, military and black ops team veterans, who challenged and defeated rebellious vampires, demons and Slayers whilst maintaining peace within New York City.

On screen, pages of press releases, official photographs and diagrams start to scroll past.

DIANE (cont'd)

The mayor's office was also very forthcoming with information for the citizens of New York - and, indeed, anywhere else that wanted to learn more - with resource packs detailing the kinds of threats that were out there, along with ways to combat them.

BURTON

As horrible as this may seem, maybe Wilkins was right in challenging these Slayers. If these girls are having these extremely dangerous and paranoid delusions of being 'chosen' and important, then they need challenging and testing in order to stop them from causing more civilian damage.

AMY

What makes you think that these girls are having delusions? Science can't explain everything about humans and I've seen it up close. There is an entire world that we just haven't been exposed to, that we haven't been able to comprehend.

RAMSAY

I have to agree with Amy on this one - how can you explain the sudden exponential increase in physical strength of these girls?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RAMSAY (cont'd)

(beat)

And a shared paranoid delusion
amongst several hundred girls
across the globe, that's a little
far-fetched, isn't it?

BURTON

As opposed to the idea of these
girls being chosen to protect the
human world from demons and
vampires? And you talk about these
girls having unnatural strength...
tell me, have you seen any of these
girls in the flesh?

RAMSAY

As a matter of fact, I have. A
friend of mine from university,
Manu Cairns, is currently working
with these girls and allowed me to
observe footage from a training
session with several Slayers. I was
both shocked and... impressed, by
how much strength they have and the
inherent martial arts skills they
seem to have developed.

BURTON

So you're saying that these girls
have never been able to study
martial arts beforehand? And that
maybe they do what a lot of people
are able to do and just copy any
Bruce Lee or Jackie Chan movie?

AMY

You didn't see this 'Belle' girl in
action. She was an expert.

BURTON

Not to point fingers here, but you
were in a stressful situation and
maybe your mind filled in the
blanks when these... terrorists
attacked London.

DIANE

(interrupting)

Wilkins' campaign continued until
he arrested and tried apparent
Slayer terrorist Violet Bowen in a
public hearing in Times Square.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DIANE (cont'd)

Fortunately for Bowen, she was rescued by vigilante Slayer Faith Lehane, who despite having recently served an eighteen-month jail term was quick to defend the people of New York against a vampire attack on Times Square that threatened hundreds of lives.

(beat)

Things haven't always gone so well for the Slayers, however. Join us after the break when we'll look at some of their less successful activities.

PULL BACK as the studio lights go down, before we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

11

EXT. TOWN HALL - DAY (2X09)

11

Tattered and broken, the TOWN HALL looks very damaged. CORONERS start to move BODIES out as the camera moves around, Diane speaking as we PAN AROUND:

DIANE (V.O.)

Our entire purpose here is to investigate the Academy's activities - a key instance of which occurred in early April 2006, when a small town near Glastonbury was attacked and most of its residents were found burned to death inside the town hall. To many, this seemed like a tragic accident gone wrong - however, amateur footage showed the Slayers arriving at the village...

CUT TO shaky footage - as a pair of SCOTTISH TEENAGERS appear, one holding the cheap camera.

TEENAGER #1

Right, no-one is gonnae believe this... but we've found vampires.

TEENAGER #2

Here is Glastonbury! And it's weird, it's like they're looking for some--

WHOOSH!

There's a BLUR of MOVEMENT - as A SQUAD bursts into view, battling a group of VAMPIRES!

SKYE tackles one vampire, VAMPING OUT while she does so, SOFIA taking another as:

ALITA snaps another into DUST with her nunchucks - TUROK HAHNS keep up the attack as BRAEDEN continues to fight.

WONG (V.O.)

Yeah, this was one of those 'Blair Witch' kinda things that we all remembered watching because it just seemed so fake. Apparently not.

Stumbling as they run for their lives - a VAMPIRE hot on their tails!

CUT TO:

12 INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

12

Back with the panel, the footage still playing on screen.

WONG

I recall this video making it onto the internet and going viral to spectacular levels within twenty-four hours. It seems that 'slayer' is a pretty popular search term these days!

BURTON

If people are looking for something, then they're going to find it.

AMY

What does that mean?

BURTON

It means, young lady, that people will believe what they want to believe. If they watch this video and want to see a team of super-powered young women battling vampires, then that's exactly what they'll see.

DIANE

And you, Dr. Burton?

BURTON

I see an easily-staged and well-choreographed demonstration designed to supply a ready-made and waiting audience with just enough 'evidence' to keep them hungry for more.

(beat)

It's an easy suggestion to assume these Slayers are orchestrating events such as these in order to further their own urban legend, and thus feed their own delusions.

DIANE

The two men who uploaded the video would disagree - as would the thousands of comments the video attracted.

WONG

I have to play Devil's Advocate here and point out that this is the internet we're dealing with.

(CONTINUED)

WILKES

Yes, sadly even I have to concede
that it's information is governed
more by volume over quality.

BURTON

(smug)

My thoughts exactly.

Wilkes shoots Burton a foul look before we:

CUT TO:

EXT. FIELDS - NIGHT (3X09)

ON A BUILDING as it BURNS dramatically - several DARK FIGURES
scurrying across away from the fire.

Some of the figures CATCH FIRE - as the camera PUSHES UP and
finds a HELICOPTER, flying away from the scene of the
explosion.

DIANE (V.O.)

In June of 2007, a local television
crew in Wales were travelling back
from a human interest piece when
they spotted an explosion ripping
through an abandoned Army facility.

(beat)

The Academy later confirmed that
this facility was no longer
abandoned and that they had been
using it as a training ground -

BURTON (V.O.)

See? These girls have real mental
instability issues, and have
developed such a mental psychosis
that they're resorting to violence
in order to try and gain attention!
And what part of 'training ground'
isn't going to make people think of
Al Quaeda?

DIANE (V.O.)

While these girls may indeed be
under a delusion, it does not
explain the discovery of these
bodies after the fire was put out.

CUT TO the shaky images of a charred, very dead DEMON CORPSE.
One of the cameramen THROWS UP at the sight of it.

14

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

14

Back to the panel - Amy looking a little queasy herself as the Cameraman on screen continues to COUGH.

DIANE

Dr. Ramsay, I believe you helped exhume these corpses after the 'Sennybridge incident'?

RAMSAY

I did. I remember almost throwing up at the smell - three of my interns actually did - but they definitely were not human. Unless humans have started developing claws!

WILKES

I never encountered creatures like those in all my time as a demonologist and researcher. They were something new, engineered maybe.

RAMSAY

Which fits in with what I found after examining the bodies. There were signs of needle and injection marks at what I hazarded were arms, and the back of the creature's heads.

DIANE

What do you say now, Dr. Burton?

BURTON

I never denied the existence of demons and other creatures in our world - like most people, I relish the idea of finding other new species on our tiny little planet. But the point remains that while these demons may exist - maybe as a result of genetic manipulation, or maybe due to natural environmental changes - the Slayers are still acting as a dangerous threat towards them.

AMY

By what? Trying to shut them down? And the real question here is, if this was a Slayer training camp, then why did the demons attack?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

14

CONTINUED:

14

AMY (cont'd)
Is it the Slayers' fault for
defending themselves? No, of course
not!

DIANE
Unfortunately, there were almost no
survivors of the Sennybridge
incident - we believe a handful of
staff made it out alive, but there
were sadly plenty of human bodies
amongst the demon dead.

CUT TO:

15

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY (4X11)

15

AN AERIAL SHOT of the decimated VILLAGE which shows dozens of
BODIES laid in piles.

Around them, several of the homes have burnt to the ground -
leaving nothing but SCORCH MARKS and ASH. And a copious
amount of DUST.

DIANE (V.O.)
The activities of the Slayer
Academy continued until late July,
2008, when a remote, secluded
village in England was attacked by
a rebellious group of vampires who
would later go on to encircle
London in a vice-like grip.

AMY (V.O.)
What did... what did they all die
of?

WILKES (V.O.)
Looks like regular vampire bites to
me. But some of them...

CUT TO one of the bodies being moved out by EMTs and
CORONERS. A pale arm FLOPS out... showing the distinct BLACK
VEINS of Jendayi's poisonous touch!

16

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

16

Amy's hand goes to her mouth in horror as the arm on screen
is hastily tucked away, the body bundled up.

WILKES
Some kind of highly virulent toxin
that killed in seconds. Like no
bioweapon or virus we've ever seen.

(CONTINUED)

RAMSAY

When results leaked on the autopsies of some of the Slayers - the girls' names were confirmed as Mei Kim, Claire Frye and Jamie Bell - in order to corroborate their claims, there was an unknown, slow-acting poison in their system which had effects which acted like a toxiodrome. Or a poison which caused mental confusion, coma, hallucinations, nausea and eventually death.

BURTON

But they claim this is a mystical poison? Or was, I should say?

AMY

In Eirene, they mentioned a Virus sweeping through the Slayers there - and the team of Slayers that I saw... almost all of them had these green veins all over their skin.

BURTON

I can't believe we're basing this on some eyewitnesses who only saw a snapshot of life. How do we know if this 'virus' wasn't just some ruse for the Slayers to conduct their own dangerous and volatile experiments?

(beat)

Yes, we know that in the village, we saw many people dead for an... infection of some kind. Now, with the Academy's resources, how do we not know that the Slayers were testing it or whichever vulnerable people they came across?

(beat)

Maybe the green veins were merely an illusion in order to keep their own delusions safe and secure?

WONG

And the victims? How do you explain them?

BURTON

I'm not denying the existence of a sickness, that'd be childish.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BURTON (cont'd)
What I am suggesting is that rather than being convenient victims of this plague, the Slayers manufactured it to make themselves 'victims' in the eyes of the world when they would eventually be revealed.

RAMSAY
So they sacrificed a lot of innocent girls in a long con? That's a little bit...

AMY (V.O.)
Preposterous.

CUT TO:

Rushing and MOVEMENT as we finally see the ACADEMY SURVIVORS at the head of the Council building as they move out.

DIANE (V.O.)
And finally we come to the event which formally introduced the Slayers and the world in which they live to the rest of us. In a several-day invasion of London, the Council claimed through a press statement afterwards that Jendayi, a rogue Slayer long since thought dead, had joined forces with Victory - a Slayer-vampire hybrid - and the pair of them led an army against the people of London and massacred the staff of the Watcher's Council.

WONG (V.O.)
What about the Council now?

WILKES (V.O.)
One of the former Slayers - a Miss Francoise DuCont - is apparently trying to oversee the establishment of the new Council.

CUT TO the sight of SKYE, REIKO, GRACE FITZGERALD, FRANKIE DUCONT and FRAN being bombarded by questions.

ON SCREEN, the rotting BODIES of WATCHERS are still hanging. Several in the panel are revolted, looking away.

(CONTINUED)

AMY

Oh my God... are they the -

RAMSAY

(sadly)

Yes. They're the Watchers.

BURTON

And the Slayers couldn't save them.

RAMSAY

The rate of decomposition when the Slayers arrived indicated they were dead before the girls even heard of the news.

(to Amy)

Was the devastation really that bad when you escaped?

AMY

(beat)

Yes. I remember just stumbling through bodies to get to the Army barrier, and...

WONG

I should have been in London when it happened, covering some new film premiere. But I got sick, some cold-virus thing, so I stayed in Manchester for a couple of days.

DIANE

The Slayers ended up becoming icons for the twenty-first century - but whether they deserve this pedestal remains to be seen.

ANGLE ON THE GIRLS as they try to fight their way through -
FREEZE FRAMING on a framed shot of them all.

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

Join us after the break when we'll be taking a closer look at the public's reaction to the revelation of the Slayers' existence.

PULL BACK and dip the lights before we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

19 INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

19

The lights come back up, Diane's cool, professional demeanour already in place.

DIANE

Welcome back to 'Slayers - Heroes or Villains.' In which we continue our analysis of the increasingly public activities of the 'Slayers,' a community of young girls with apparent superhuman abilities, and the supernatural, paranormal threats they claim to be defending us from every day.

(to panel)

Now, let's discuss actively the reaction that people have had to the introduction of Slayers to everyday life. First, we have an interview, taken from a Japanese news station in Tokyo in mid 2008, after a small village was devastated by what sources claim to be a demonic attack.

CUT TO:

20 EXT. VILLAGE - DAY (4X16)

20

ON NORIKO, the female survivor speaking to Nick. Nick talks through a TRANSLATOR:

NICK

<Tell me, Noriko, how did you survive such atrocities?>

NORIKO

<Many centuries ago, we learned of an ancient prophecy which claimed that a Slayer would be born to our village who would save us from the demon. Unfortunately our Slayer was lost during battle, but her destiny was passed onto two others who defeated the demon.>

NICK

<And the demon...?>

NORIKO

(smiles)

<Buried.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

20

CONTINUED:

20

NORIKO (cont'd)
We all helped to bury it beneath
rock, in a chasm close to the
village.>

CUT TO the CHASM - where the camera ZOOMS IN... to show the
crushed BODY of the DEMON. Very DEAD.

Nick looks shocked - and a tiny bit repulsed - at the sight
but Noriko merely SMILES as we CUT TO:

21

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

21

ANGLE ON THE SCREEN which shows the freeze framed IMAGE of
the demon's BODY. Diane turns to the panel:

DIANE

So what do we think about this? As
our resident demonologist, Mr
Wilkes, can you help to explain the
demon there?

WILKES

Unfortunately I can't. Normally I
have nothing but praise for the
Slayers, but... they killed a
unique creature that could have led
to a lot of scientific and mystical
discoveries. They handled this in a
'kill first, ask questions later'
approach, which was plain ill-
thought out and reckless.

WONG

But isn't that your business? To
kill dangerous demons?

WILKES

Only when they've been well
documented and researched to try
and help combat them without
killing them. Only when there's no
other alternative.

DIANE

Dr. Burton?

BURTON

I agree with Mr. Wilkes. These life-
threatening actions are often
indicative of a psychosis - which
in itself can be seen as what has
dubbed amongst the scientific
community as the 'Slayer delusion'.

(CONTINUED)

RAMSAY

But the end result is still positive - from the size of the demon, and I'm no demonologist, it looks big enough to decimate the whole of Japan if it escaped, let alone one small village.

(to Wilkes)

Am I right?

WILKES

(nods)

Yes, the size and detail of the demon does show it to have at least some aggressive tendencies. See the little red bumps along the back? They're the same as the ones on Sho'tan demons - a Chinese species - that release a hyper-advanced testosterone into the bloodstream when the sympathetic system kicks in, making it extremely aggravated at times of stress.

AMY

'Sympathetic system'?

RAMSAY

The fight or flight reaction. When you become stressed, you release adrenaline to get you to move quicker. That's the sympathetic nervous system - the parasympathetic system calms you down afterwards.

DIANE

So the Slayers...

(checks notes)

... Sofia Romero and Reiko Kimusume helped the village more than this creature harmed it?

AMY

Definitely. Have you seen the damage done to the village before the demon was stopped?

BURTON

How much of it was actually caused by the Slayers?

Amy SIGHS, a little frustrated but before she can say something:

(CONTINUED)

RAMSAY

True, doctor, but one cannot make an omelette without breaking a few eggs. And how much physical collateral damage is committed by our armed forces in order to help protect the public interest?

BURTON

The difference is, you are talking about trained, sanctioned members of the Army. The Slayers are highly inexperienced, vulnerable and probably illegally armed teenage girls who are acting in a dangerous manner that could - and has - gotten people killed.

DIANE

(nods; beat)

Let's move onto the next interview we have. This interview concerned itself with the events of October 31st 2006, when a listening and research station owned by AMAP in the Arctic Circle experienced a sudden and violent earthquake which resulted in the destruction of the station and loss of the team.

(beat)

That is, however, save for Daniel Johnston - a research intern who was in his final year of studies from Bradford University. Johnston was on his way back from 'Outpost One', the primary command outpost, when he discovered that the station had disappeared... and that he had company.

CUT TO:

ON DANIEL JOHNSTON who SHIVERS as Nick faces him:

NICK

Mr. Johnston... what did you see when you returned to the original outpost?

JOHNSTON

I arrived with another intern, Mara Jacobs, who waited with the sleds while I returned.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JOHNSTON (cont'd)

Then I saw the huge hole in the ice
and I looked down...

(beat)

There was the station, smashed to
bloody pieces. But then I saw
this... light. This sort of pulsing
light, coming from underneath where
the station had fallen.

NICK

Didn't you also see the Slayers
during this period of time?

JOHNSTON

Yes, I... I saw a group of girls
emerging from a helicopter. They
all had weapons, and I thought that
they were the girls who'd destroyed
the base at first - but then I saw
them come out about an hour later,
looking as if they'd been through
the wars.

NICK

So these girls had definitely been
in a fight?

JOHNSON

Yeah, and judging from the big
burst of light that came out just
before they ran out... they had
something to do with whatever was
done there.

CUT TO:

Resume, with Danny's still-haunted face on the screens.

DIANE

There's a lot of speculation about
this event - especially seeing as
this Arctic location became the
sight for the alleged headquarters
of an international terrorist group
known as the 'Cabal'.

RAMSAY

I'm sorry, the who?

WILKES

The Cabal, a conglomerate criminal
organisation whose alleged
activities extended to every aspect
of malevolent possibility when it
concerns the world.

(CONTINUED)

WONG

Have to step in here - we've got no real proof that this 'cabal' actually exists at all, much less that it's some kind of globe-trotting, demonic terrorist network!

WILKES

There's plenty of -

WONG

There's plenty of unsubstantiated chatter, hearsay and conjecture, something we've had to sadly base quite a lot of tonight's show around as far as I can tell.

WILKES

(beat)

From what I recall from recent reports, Academy Slayer Sofia Romero was brainwashed by the Cabal - she was seen operating in the company of their chief black ops squad for several months.

BURTON

'Brainwashed'?

DIANE

And we'll go more into the troubled history of Romero later on tonight, but for now let's keep it on this Arctic incident.

WONG

I don't remember any reports of this, or at least not mentioning the Slayers' involvement. There was some very minor ripples in the scientific community that an outpost in the Arctic Circle hadn't checked in, but most people assumed that they'd gotten... bored, I suppose, and had shut down the outpost after almost a year in the cold.

BURTON

So they covered their activities up? I mean, if we look at Johnston's interview objectively, he doesn't mention seeing anyone else at the summit of the destruction as well as this....

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BURTON (cont'd)

'glowing light'? Whatever that may be.

DIANE

Academy sources and an independent research team have both claimed that the light was the result of a 'Hellmouth' - or a mystical portal to a more dangerous world than our own. This Hellmouth in particular was known as a 'Hub'. Dr. Wilkes, can you expand on that term?

WILKES

The Hubs are like keys to the rest of the Hellmouths. They unlock them and can 're-lock' them all again.

(beat)

The first was apparently on a remote Japanese island and was partially activated before being submerged. Remember the freak waves of 2005 off the coast of Japan?

DIANE

Wasn't Sofia Romero part of the expedition to shut that one?

WILKES

She was. A younger Romero than we know now, but definitely the same girl.

BURTON

True, but do we know that Romero didn't activate the secondary Hub?

(off looks)

She was part of the Academy team when the research station disappeared and she didn't return with the Academy. As a matter of fact, she went AWOL for three months before returning as a Cabal agent. And all of this is based on her testimony alone and that of her friends?

(beat)

Can we really trust this? How do we know that the Slayers might not have activated this in order to make sure they had a reason to keep their 'saving' us, and thus further their own delusions of grandeur?

(CONTINUED)

AMY

You don't even know them! These girls... they would never do anything like that!

BURTON

I'm sorry, but you met one Slayer for, what, a minute? That doesn't make you -

RAMSAY

Yes, but I have. And I agree... these girls are perfectly normal and well-adjusted. At least from a physical point of view.

WILKES

But not every Slayer is a picture of mental health. Have you ever heard of Dana Wells?

DIANE

She was a young girl kidnapped and abused by the man who murdered her family, before she broke out of a Los Angeles mental institution in 2003. She's been spotted numerous times since then.

WILKES

(nods)

She had a psychotic break when she was 'Activated', or when she and hundreds of others became Slayers and started experiencing intense visions and mood swings. She killed two nurses during her escape and had to be brought in by the Watcher's Council.

(beat)

Therefore, we can't generalise. Maybe Dana is the only Slayer who has been officially diagnosed as 'psychotic.' We haven't fully investigated the psychological effects of Slayerdom amongst the girls - they do have all these physical attributes and advantages, but mentally, these girls are under a lot of pressure...

WONG

So they might theoretically... snap?

(CONTINUED)

BURTON

Exactly! Maybe Sofia Romero did snap and became the cause of the troubles for her friends.

WONG

Do we have access to any kind of health records for these Slayers?

DIANE

The Council have made a point of keeping any information not currently circulating the public domain as classified as possible, out of a desire to safeguard the identities of the Slayers and their families.

BURTON

And yet, here we are, name dropping like we went to school together! Perhaps this Council needs to step up its security...

DIANE

And now we'll move onto a much more recent event... in 2008, in the events leading to the occupation of London. The small town of Eirene was subjected to an attack by the Slayer-vampire hybrids led by Jendayi and Victory.

(beat)

While most of the residents were found deceased in the aftermath of the town, there were a handful of survivors who managed to escape. In this interview conducted a few weeks ago, high school students Lucy Thornton and Dan Taylor speak to a BBC correspondent.

CUT TO:

DAN and LUCY (4x18) are sat side-by-side as Nick speaks to them:

NICK

Dan, Lucy, I know this still must be very tender for you... but can you describe to me what happened to you both on that night?

(CONTINUED)

LUCY

(sighs)

It was a normal day at school. We had a couple of lessons, break... and then that vampire, Victory invaded. She killed everyone in town.

DAN

Me and Luce... we just ran out of school, saw them hitting the hill and then... I grabbed the first heavy-looking car I could. The keys were still in the ignition, and I just saw everyone dying...

NICK

How did you both escape?

LUCY

Dan came along in the truck, saved me from that Victory chick when she was trying to kill me. We drove towards the bridge and managed to provide some cover for other survivors... before a vampire attacked Dan and I had to kill her.

NICK

(to Dan)

They attacked you?

DAN

(nods)

Nobody got out unscathed.

ON DAN as he shifts the collar of his shirt, unbuttoning it a little - to show a pair of INCISOR WOUNDS in his neck, still pale against his skin.

NICK

I daresay you were both very lucky.

LUCY

We both were.

NICK

Did either of you see any of what happened afterwards? When the Slayers came in as part of their 'cleanup' operation?

(CONTINUED)

LUCY

(nods)

We were escorted to the Initiative protection barrier where I saw part of the battle in the main square. I saw the... 'A Squad'? Is that what they're called? Yeah, I saw them attacking those vampire things.

NICK

And were they helping?

LUCY

Yeah. They were kicking arse and killing those things. No doubt about that.

DAN

All I saw was when I heard a lot of screeching noise, looked out... and saw that Rachel girl firing a rocket. It hit this stealth bomber plane...

NICK

What about the 'virus bomb'? The green toxic cloud that followed?

DAN

Yep. We had to be evacuated just in case it reached us, but it didn't.

(beat; looks to Lucy)

We're two of the luckiest people on the planet.

CUT TO:

Resume - as Diane FLIPS over a page of her research folder.

DIANE

Now - what do we think about this?

BURTON

I think that we've missed a vital part of that interview.

She picks up her own copy and flips through until she finds the interview in question.

BURTON (cont'd)

Here, it reads: "when I saw the green wave, I was a bit freaked..."

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BURTON (cont'd)

but then I saw that Slayer, the one in charge of A Squad, running from the wave."

(beat)

And once more, a seemingly heroic situation raises a lot of questions. These Cabal bombers, they might not have even been bomber planes. From the sky, a lot of surveillance and harmless reconnaissance planes can look as if they're the cause of the problem... when it's really down below, that is.

RAMSAY

Are you seriously suggesting that Skye Underwood was the cause of the virus bomb in Eirene? Even though, if she had, it caused no damage to Slayers or humans in the vicinity.

BURTON

All we do know is that these girls are working in a highly unstable and volatile environment. Let's not forget that we have plenty of reports that suggest Underwood herself is or was originally the same as Victory - a Slayer-vampire hybrid. What makes her different from the creatures that attacked London?

(beat)

What if Underwood set off the bomb to try and... cover her tracks?

AMY

You're saying that she killed someone and tried to blame it on the Virus? I mean, I read a little about this online, and she lost her best friend to Victory - according to Skye, she's running around as a rogue vampire!

RAMSAY

Which might be indicative of conditions similar to PTSD, which I'm sure is what Dr. Burton is trying to get at. But blow up a town with a dirty bomb? That doesn't fit Skye's behaviour...

(to Burton)

... which I'm sure you've already analysed.

Burton doesn't say anything - Ramsay just hit home a point or two there.

RAMSAY (cont'd)

More to the point... why on Earth would a group of teenage girls who have just lost a comrade blow up a town where the only creatures there can't get hurt by them - at least in the case of Slayer-vampires? Revenge? Self-destruction? It's pointless, and while the average Slayer may have more aggressive tactics towards the threats they encounter, they wouldn't do something like that.

BURTON

Are you sure? The eyewitnesses, as you've just heard, saw a troubled and grieving Slayer running away from the site of a chemical bomb. The physical evidence itself is undeniable.

WONG

The riots were just the start of the London situation with Jendayi and Victory - but even with all the evidence proving that the Slayers were doing us good, I have to admit that there are cracks.

(beat)

Why not just ask for help from the regular Army before these events? The Slayers are strong and capable, but even these girls need firepower - look at the backup they needed for the Council building raid. Going in gun-ho might just end up with more casualties, and not just on the side of the Slayers.

DIANE

That's a great point - one of which we'll come back to after the break, when we go in depth as to the public's opinion of Slayerdom and what being a Slayer actually is.

PULL BACK as the lights go down, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

26

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

26

OPEN ON DIANE as she turns towards the screen - which scrolls through a collage of recognisable Slayers - SOFIA, SKYE, REIKO, FRANKIE and DELANEY.

DIANE

Hello there, and welcome back to "Slayers - Heroes or Villains?". We've covered the witnesses of famous Slayer-based events and the timeline of controversy - now we'll be discussing the Slayers themselves.

(beat)

Slayers have been identified across the world since they were discovered on the eve of what people are called "Slayergate", but none are so famous as those that are currently, if speculation is to be believed, reside here in England, at a former boarding school somewhere in the South-West, the fabled 'Slayer Academy.'

(off screen)

The girls before us make up most of the remaining A and B Squads - the lead Slayer teams - of the Academy. Let's look at them individually before we look at the whole impact of the Slayers.

The screen changes to a press photo of SOFIA, looking much better than she has recently.

DIANE (cont'd)

Sofia Romero. She's possibly the most controversial figure in the Academy's previous history. As with all our information on the individual Slayers themselves, what we have is a little sketchy, but we do know that Romero appears to be a high-profile member of the Academy, leading a team on dozens of missions from late 2005 onwards.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DIANE (cont'd)

Unfortunately, events led her to abandon the Academy after a few years, and she was later seen working alongside agents supposedly of the mysterious - and, it seems, almost mythical - Cabal for several months before returning to the Academy fold.

BURTON

I return to my former arguments. Romero is the epitome of the slow-burning mental challenges that these Slayers face and become victim to. I'm not implying in any sense that Romero is intellectually challenged, far from it. I am suggesting, however, that with her defection she lost her connection to her friends as a result of the pressure that these girls are under - and ended up being the cause of her best friend's death because of it.

AMY

You're talking about Alita Kagemura, right? Yeah, I saw all that stuff about that big demon Sofia helped kill in Japan earlier - I found loads of blogs and message boards full of people talking about that.

BURTON

(nods)

I am. Sofia is my own personal 'test case' as I set out to prove that these Slayers are subject to their own delusions and the pressure of these delusions will eventually cause them to buckle and snap out in destructive ways that will catch civilians in their path.

RAMSAY

You claim all of this psychological damage, but Sofia and Dana Wells are just two of several hundred girls, this generation, who have experienced these symptoms. Two girls cannot make a concrete theory, doctor.

(CONTINUED)

DIANE

True, but Sofia's actions did, it seems, cause Alita Kagemura to lose her life as a result of Sofia's hand - and this in turn caused Sofia's brainwashing, as revealed in transcripts recovered from the ruined Council building of a Council trial by Sofia's former Cabal handler, Roper, to become loose and Sofia Romero was returned to normal, some claim.

(beat)

Romero's life did not stop there, when she helped her former teammates take down the Cabal headquarters, which we briefly mentioned earlier. She took a self-imposed isolation, disappearing off the radar completely for several months until she was spotted again in the company of her old teammates.

(beat)

Does Sofia deserve to be forgiven for her actions, as she apparently has been by her friends?

RAMSAY

The Sofia Romero case is an interesting one. Neurological reports sent by Manu showed that a severe amount of brainwashing had previously occurred in Romero's brain - but after she returned to the Academy, there was much more deep-rooted, deep-set amnesia. Which might fit the idea which Skye and Delaney brought back of Sofia wiping her memory in order to forget her past sins.

BURTON

Can I just stress that you're getting this so-called inside information from a source at the Academy itself?

RAMSAY

That's correct.

BURTON

And so we're supposed to just accept that at face value?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BURTON (cont'd)

How do we know they haven't just doctored the results you were sent to tell whatever story they wanted?

RAMSAY

Because Manu is a professional. And one painfully attached to nobler causes - he wouldn't sugarcoat what went on with Sofia for her benefit.

DIANE

However, Sofia's team mates are not the apex of virtue themselves. Skye Underwood, the current leader of A Squad for three years running, was a vigilante herself when she accused of brutally murdering a Slayer in the Academy itself - young Swede Heidi Charisse.

The plasma screen now shows an image of SKYE - with another of HEIDI CHARISSE superimposed upon it.

DIANE (cont'd)

She was however, found innocent, and returned to the Academy where she remained A Squad leader.

(to Amy)

Do you remember seeing this girl?

AMY

(nods)

Definitely. I saw her pull up in Eirene with the other girls, along with that Sofia chick.

WONG

I was a little surprised to hear this - a national manhunt to find a killer usually makes the news, but it didn't make anything. I should remember, I was freelance at the time and was looking at every UK newspaper all week.

(beat)

Makes you wonder how many people the Council has working to keep its press coverage at a minimum, doesn't it? I mean, apart from the official press releases we've all started getting since the London attack from somebody named Madison Riley, all we've been basing this programme's content on are unsanctioned witness reports and internet chatter. Hardly the most reliable of sources!

(CONTINUED)

BURTON

Did they ever uncover who actually killed Charisse?

DIANE

According to an Academy statement, a rogue Slayer by the name of Darcie Deyncourt murdered Charisse and framed Skye for the killing. Former Slayer Francoise DuCont eventually apprehended Deyncourt, and she's been in official custody since then.

RAMSAY

I'm sorry, 'former' Slayer?

The image changes - to one of FRANKIE, in a sharp suit.

DIANE

Miss DuCont was a Slayer who had an accident saving another Slayer and apparently started to lose her powers. There have been a lot of cases recently of girls losing their powers, but the Academy have released no information on this as yet.

(beat)

As far as we can tell, Francoise, or 'Frankie' as she likes to be known, is now a certified Council member though she remains active within the Academy.

BURTON

Ah, yes, I remember the name now - wasn't there some scandal surrounding her where she killed a member of the American military subgroup the Initiative? Some fellow named Sebastian... something-or-other. I believe there were civilian deaths in that case as well?

(beat)

It's obvious from this case that Frankie's own experiences as a Slayer have left her mentally scarred for the rest of her life. Witness statements from the death of the Initiative soldier seem to suggest Frankie believed him to be a 'demon' of some sort.

(crosses arms)

Classic PTSD.

(CONTINUED)

RAMSAY

She was grieving! She had to kill someone she loved, of course she'd be suffering from PTSD!

BURTON

The fact remains that if the Slayers had had more monitoring and controlling, then maybe this travesty would never have occurred.

WILKES

If you start to control these girls, then there'll be so much red tape that any attempt they do to save the world or do something positive will just be met by people who don't know a thing about the world these girls live in.

DIANE

Exactly. When does control become detrimental or imposing? It's a fine line.

(beat)

Next is Reiko Kimusume.

An image of REIKO appears.

DIANE (cont'd)

Reiko is referred to by sources as 'the last Chosen Slayer'. For those who don't understand why, can you help explain, Mr Wilkes?

WILKES

My Slayer mythology's a little rusty but here's how it goes. Since the dawn of humanity, a girl was called to be a Slayer. When she died, another girl was called and so on and so forth through the generations. However, when a magical spell changed the rules several years ago, every girl at that time who could potentially become a Slayer, did become a Slayer until they started losing their powers in some cases.

(beat)

A Slayer who is called, or 'activated' in this way is said to be 'Chosen.' What the significance of being the last Chosen Slayer is, I'm afraid I can only speculate.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WILKES (cont'd)

Perhaps she's the last in line of the current generation? We know many Slayers are losing their abilities - maybe the buck stops with Reiko, as it were?

DIANE

Kimusume, born and raised in Tokyo, is also B Squad leader and led several successful assaults in the London invasion, rescuing dozens of civilians and saving lives along the way.

(beat)

Delaney Brogan is an interesting case. She fits the description of a wanted criminal responsible for several high-profile thefts over the last ten years, although -

BURTON

The key issue we seem to be missing with these girls is are they actually the best candidates to be protecting us from the seedy underworld they live in? While they may be 'chosen', all of these girls seem to have a lot of unresolved, painful personal issues which manifest themselves in potentially psychotic behaviour. For example, Underwood, Brogan and Romero have all shown signs of trauma affecting them deeply which has become physical in the form of murder, violence and possible acts of terrorism--

AMY

(angry)

They are not terrorists!

BURTON

I'm sorry, but their actions speak--

RAMSAY

I'm pretty sure that you do actions that you couldn't explain either, doctor. Everyone responds in their own unique ways. As a psychologist, you should know this.

Amy gives a thankful little smile to Ramsay - but Burton gives them both icy glares.

(CONTINUED)

BURTON

That's entirely irrelevant. These girls' actions are in the public domain and are affecting very human lives with every mission they undertake.

WILKES

So you're suggesting that they should step down? Leave the work for the untrained?

DIANE

Ironically enough, this is exactly what Mayor of New York Richard Wilkins III proposed when he first introduced Slayers and demons to the city.

CUT TO:

27

EXT. NEW YORK CITY - NIGHT

27

PULL ALONG, the camera obviously attached to a HELICOPTER as we SWOOP DOWN and see:

TASK FORCE SOLDIERS

Attacking a group of VAMPIRES. One Task Force goon DROP KICKS a vampire and then SETS IT ON FIRE, INCINERATING it instantly!

Another FIRES a jet-propelled STAKE from a modified SHOTGUN into the vampire, DUSTING it within seconds.

A third DECAPITATES a pair of vampires - while DARK NOA ducks a blow and PUNCHES the vampire's head CLEAN OFF!

DIANE (V.O.)

Wilkins created a series of Task Forces, trained SWAT teams that roamed across the state of New York, executing dangerous threats. Head of this was former Slayer ally Noa DeRubria. The reasoning behind her change of sides has yet to be revealed.

(beat)

The Task Forces came as a result of Wilkins introducing Slayers as dangerous vigilantes who had previously caused a series of deaths in New York...

CUT TO:

28

INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - DAY

28

Resume. Burton seems to be growing more irritated.

BURTON

If we are going to have specially trained teams, then why does it have to be these Slayers? The very fact that these girls are living underneath a delusion of being powerful, chosen beings makes them as safe and as stable as a nuclear device.

WILKES

And I have to agree to some extent. Some Slayers I have met in the past have had some sociopathic tendencies, caused by the nature of their work. We should have more structure for these girls, if they are going to be going out and acting as our protection.

AMY

What greater protection is there? No trained ex-Army goon is going to be as naturally strong and gifted as these girls are, and most teenage girls do have issues like these. Worry and fear are just part of growing up, aren't they? It just so happens that the eyes of the world are on these girls and we're analysing their every move.

DIANE

I suppose it all depends on how the public view the Slayers. And David Wong, as our resident journalist and media expert, tell us how the Slayers have been viewed.

WONG

Well... surprisingly most of the girls have been given almost idol like worship and appreciation. Hundreds of thousands of Facebook messages have been sent to the girls' private accounts, almost all of them in reverence or in some kind of tribute.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WONG (cont'd)

In the United States, talks of inviting Skye Underwood, Mela Haskins or one of the other American Slayers onto one of the popular talk shows such as Ellen DeGeneres or David Letterman.

(beat; smiles)

Reiko Kimusume is practically royalty back home in Japan. She's as big as any of the huge J-pop stars and has a whole host of otaku devoted to her cause. Of course, the A and B Squads are treated with fan worship. In fact... I think I might have a video loaded off of YouTube...

ANGLE ON THE SCREEN as a VIDEO FILE appears - and the words 'THE GIRLS OF THE SLAYER ACADEMY' appear:

Just as VIDEOS of the GIRLS appear, bouncy rock music KICKING IN as the 'fanvid' plays, showing footage of the girls kicking ass and speaking during press conferences.

The video stops as we return ON SCENE:

WONG (cont'd)

(beat)

That's only the tip of the iceberg. Thousands of these videos and other tributes exist. Surprisingly, the most popular Slayer or the Slayer most queried and theorised about is Sofia Romero. In fact there have been talks about her receiving a movie or television deal of some kind.

(beat)

However, not all media attention has been good. A lot of critics have claimed that the girls and the role of Slayer is nothing more than a media con in an attempt to gain false influence and money. In fact, a lot of pro-vampire protestors have spoken out against the treatment that Slayers give them.

AMY

Vampire lobbyists? Are they all vampires?

WONG

Ironically, no. There are quite a few teenage girls who want to stand up for the vampires.

(sighs)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: (2)

28

WONG (cont'd)
One Twilight novel and they all
want a vampire stalker.

CUT TO:

29 INT. ROOM - NIGHT

29

Shaky camera footage that shows a dimly-lit room where a
handful of VAMPIRES are standing, GAME FACES and all on.

LEAD VAMPIRE

We are the Vampire Integration and
Mankind Treatment Organisation. We
want fair treatment for vampires as
well as recognition as ourselves as
a endangered species.

(beat)

The Slayers are committing genocide
by hunting us. While some of us do
commit acts against humanity, most
of us are a peaceful race who only
want to find a blood-synthetic
substitute to stop us from drinking
human blood which we need to
survive.

(beat)

All we are is in the latest stage
in evolution, the next plateau of
the food chain. To kill us is to
stop evolution.

The feed turns to STATIC as we...

CUT TO:

30 INT. TELEVISION STUDIO - SAME TIME

30

Resume. Amy is looking incredulously at Wong.

AMY

They can't be serious! All the
vampires I saw didn't try to keep
people safe or not bite them.
London was a free buffet for them.

BURTON

Yes, I think we can all agree that
the vampires in London were right
to have been forcibly executed for
killing hundreds of innocent
civilians...

RAMSAY

But there's so much we could learn
from them. Their strengths, their
weaknesses.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RAMSAY (cont'd)

Maybe if we managed to study them, see if they really are the next stage in evolution... then we could help humanity.

WILKES

I've only ever come across two vampires who didn't try to kill someone. And both of them had pretty bad streaks before. It's pretty damn presumptuous to assume that this little vampire group is telling the truth and not just trying to score a quick bite.

WONG

I don't know about this group, but a few groups like this have succeeded in having their cases heard in Russia, Greece, Australia...

DIANE

So maybe the idea of a Vampire Slayer itself is a controversial issue - can a girl slay vampires who might not want to kill humans? Does that go against everything that the Slayers stand for, killing creatures just because they can?

(beat; to camera)

Sadly, that's all we have time for today. Join us next week when we'll be back with a brand new panel and more exclusively-uncovered evidence as we attempt to get to the truth behind the world of the Slayers, and to see if we can answer once and for all - heroes... or villains?

(beat)

I'm Diane Temple. Good night.

PULL BACK and drop the lights, the brooding theme music fading back in. As the end credits begin to roll over the panel still on-screen, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW