

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. BANK - DAY 1

A downtown city street, with civilians ambling to and fro as we PUSH IN on a BANK framed by larger buildings.

The fashion, cars, billboards and snatches of music heard above the bustle hint at this being some time in the late 1980s - just the wrong side of stylish.

OVERHEAD SHOT:

Looking down on the bank's front steps from a bird's eye view as THREE PEOPLE approach it out of the crowd.

Women - a BLONDE, a REDHEAD and one with RAVEN black hair - dressed smartly and moving with confidence as they ascend the steps.

2 INT. BANK - FOYER - NEXT 2

Pushing open the doors, we're behind the ladies as they enter the main atrium.

Marble effect walls give the place a Roman feel, with lines of CUSTOMERS queueing before the TELLERS, and SECURITY letting their gazes fall on the attractive young women.

The women fan out, two heading to opposite sides while the Blonde stays by the door.

She turns towards us - revealing herself - and flicks her wrist in a short, sharp motion.

The main doors close - and with a loud CLICK, the locks activate.

One of the Guards frowns, hearing the noise, and moves to investigate - but finds the Redhead in his path. She smiles sweetly.

REDHEAD

Excuse me, could you tell me the way to the ladies room?

GUARD

Uh... this is a bank, ma'am. We don't have a 'ladies room.'

REDHEAD

(laughs)

Of course, of course.

(CONTINUED)

The Blonde looks up at the clunky SECURITY CAMERAS on the wall, narrows her eyes - and the red lights blinking beneath each GO OUT.

Raven, meanwhile, slips closer towards the other Guard, whose attention is focused on his colleague.

The other Guard moves to step past the Redhead - but she GRABS his arm, holding him in place with surprising force.

REDHEAD (cont'd)

Sorry, just one more thing...

And with that, she HURLS him bodily across the foyer! There's a FLARE of coloured light as he lifts off:

And as the other Guard fumbles for his pistol, he comes face to face with Raven:

RAVEN

(British accent)

Trust me. I'm doing you a favour.

She waves her hand past his face - and a cloud of inky BLACK SMOKE suddenly forms right in front of him!

The Guard stumbles back, customers now painfully aware of the commotion and starting to back away from the women.

Fearful chatter rises in volume as the women stride into the centre of the floor, the Blonde addressing the crowd:

BLONDE

(French lilt)

Ladies and gentlemen, please don't be alarmed. We're just here for what's ours.

ON THE TELLERS:

As they start to edge towards the doors, one reaching for a SILENT ALARM switch beneath her desk:

Only for another Teller to GRAB her wrist, pulling her hand away from the button.

TELLER

(smirks; Scottish)

Best not, lass.

The first Teller frowns - then the second SLAPS her and lets her crumple, shocked, to the floor.

ON THE WOMEN:

They take a moment to confer:

(CONTINUED)

BLONDE

Time to see if your boy's as good
as you keep telling us, Eve.

Raven shoots the Blonde a dark look - then makes eye contact with the Teller.

She nods - and the Teller nods back, stepping away from the others as they look in alarm between her and her fallen comrade.

PUSH IN on the Teller as she closes her eyes and inhales deeply:

And PULL BACK to find a dark-haired, impish TEENAGE BOY standing in her place!

Several of the Tellers let out cries of alarm, but the lad merely turns and WINKS at them. He then grabs a BAG stashed beneath his counter and starts to head back into the bank itself.

ON THE WOMEN:

The Redhead steps over to the Guard she threw across the room, planting one expensively-shoed foot down on his chest.

REDHEAD

(cocks head to side)
I think I broke mine.

RAVEN

That's because 'subtle' to you is
something only other people know
how to spell.

BLONDE

Quiet! Both of you. We're on the
clock here.

(off Teenager)

And there goes our *wunderkind*...

ON THE TEENAGER:

As he darts past the stunned staff, slipping around the mahogany desks and heading deeper into the bank:

He clatters down a short stairwell and hurries down a long tunnel, towards the:

BANK VAULT, the huge circular steel door nestled snugly at the end of the corridor.

The Teenager moves up to the door, slipping off his bag and opening it - to reveal a variety of thick old BOOKS.

He starts unpacking them, revealing a set of PAINTS and BRUSHES beneath as we CUT TO:

The Redhead is busy rounding up the rest of the customers, keeping them squatting on the floor over in one corner.

REDHEAD

That's right, be good little boys
and girls and Mummy won't have to
see what colours you leave behind
when she throws you against the
wall.

Raven steps up to her, pulling her back a step.

RAVEN

Celeste said we weren't to -

REDHEAD

Kill anyone?
(shrugs)
I haven't.

RAVEN

Yet.

REDHEAD

(bristles)
If you've got a problem with my
methods, Eve, then by all means, go
ahead and -

BLONDE

Ssh!

They both turn - the Blonde is looking back towards the doors.

BLONDE (cont'd)

Someone's coming...

She tenses up as we CUT TO:

The Teenager is putting the finishing touches to a large MAGIC CIRCLE he's daubed onto the vault door itself.

He takes a few steps back, one of the books open across his forearms as he reads aloud:

TEENAGER

*Trekkracht naar de waarden zat en
verhuren zij trekking stevigheid
vanuit mijn troep...*

The circle GLOWS, accompanied by the SCREECH of metal grinding against metal.

TEENAGER (cont'd)

*... en mei zulks deuropening zitten
gescheurd vaneen zodat mij mei
verloop!*

The GROAN of buckling metal fills the corridor - and as the circle GLOWS more brightly, the vault door begins to CRUMPLE!

The Teenager smiles devilishly - but his smile fades as the light from the glowing circle does too, the vault door deformed but still very much in place!

VOICE (O.S.)

(Spanish accent)

Having a little trouble?

He turns - and a beautiful SPANIARD slinks past him, tying her long, dark hair up in a loose ponytail.

TEENAGER

I just need to give it another
minute to recharge, then I can -

SPANIARD

Si, si. Save it for your mistress.

She CRACKS her fingers, then grips two fist-sized lumps of twisted metal:

And with a HEAVE, she manages to pull the vault door an inch forward!

The Teenager doesn't look too surprised - in fact, his petulance is clear to see as he's forced to watch the lithe Spaniard impossibly haul the vault door clean off its hinges!

She lets it topple to one side with an almighty CRASH, revealing the bank vault beyond - filled with piles of CASH, GOLD BARS and row upon row of SAFETY DEPOSIT BOXES.

She theatrically DUSTS her hands, then turns to the Teenager with a wry grin:

SPANIARD (cont'd)

No offence, *chico*, but sometimes
getting your hands dirty is the
quickest way to get ahead!

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

She steps into the vault, the sulky Teenager following before we CUT TO:

6 INT. BANK - FOYER - NEXT

6

The three women are waiting as the Spaniard and Teenager emerge from the corridor leading to the vault - she's dragging several huge sacks behind her, while he can only manage one.

BLONDE
(quirks eyebrow)
Confident, were we?

SPANIARD
(shrugs)
Couldn't let the little one do all the work.

RAVEN
This has already taken too long. We need to go.

REDHEAD
Relax, Eve. Nobody outside even knows we're in here.

RAVEN
Stop calling me that, you little pipsqueak!

REDHEAD
(incensed)
Hey! You watch your -

BLONDE
Enough!

Admonished, the two bickering women turn to the Blonde.

BLONDE (cont'd)
If we're all quite finished?

The group huddle together - Raven giving the Teenager a proud smile when nobody's looking - before the Blonde raises her hands.

BLONDE (cont'd)
Bujný kráčet... aktivovat!

ENERGY flares around the group, rising from the floor to encircle them in a sphere:

Before it fades away, the group disappearing with it and leaving the bank as they found it.

(CONTINUED)

VOICE (V.O.)

Mom?

CUT TO:

EXT. HILLSIDE - NIGHT

And here's KIRA, blinking as she snaps out of her reverie. She turns to DELANEY, standing beside her.

DELANEY

You spaced out on us there. What were you thinking about?

KIRA

(quirks a smile)

A story from the good old days.

(off look)

Never you mind. Are we there yet?

GREG heads back down the winding path up into the hills towards them.

GREG

We should be, if your directions were correct, but there's no sign of the cabin.

KIRA

(mutters)

She must have moved again. Paranoid old thing...

DELANEY

So what do we do? I mean, we're not gonna be able to speak to her if we can't find her, are we?

VOICE (O.S.)

She's here.

They turn - and there's DADE, hands in his pockets, looking like he'd rather be anywhere else.

DADE

She's been watching us the whole time. Waiting for us to realise.

Kira strides over to him, looking towards the empty plateau and calling out:

KIRA

Come on, Harry! We're both getting too long in the bloody tooth to arse about up some freezing cold hillside like this!

(CONTINUED)

DELANEY (O.S.)

Uh... mom?

Kira and Dade turn - to see LADY HUANG'S CABIN has materialised out of thin air, right by where they stood!

DELANEY (cont'd)

I think she heard you that time...

The group gather together as the cabin door CREAKS open - and after a long beat, LADY HUANG steps out into the moonlight.

KIRA

About bloody time. Can we come in?

Huang doesn't answer, her gaze passing over each of them - and lingering on Dade. He shifts, awkward.

DADE

Uh... hi. I'm -

HUANG

(smiles)

Dade.

DELANEY

Yeah, yeah - he's Greg, I'm Delaney, you and mom obviously know each other. Can we get out of this cold now, please?

HUANG

(nods)

Of course.

She steps aside, indicating that they should head in. Dade is the last of the group, stopping as he reaches Huang.

DADE

Um, I... I don't know if I'm supposed to say anything, or -

Huang suddenly EMBRACES him. Dade blinks, surprised by the gesture, but before he can return it she lets go.

She keeps smiling until Dade gets the hint and steps inside, Huang following. The door closes by itself behind her, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

SLAYER ACADEMY

"WHAT'S PAST IS PROLOGUE"

BASED ON 'BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER' CREATED BY JOSS WHEDON
(C) TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX TELEVISION, KUZUI ENTERPRISES
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ACT ONE

FADE IN:

8 INT. CABIN - FRONT ROOM - NIGHT

8

Warming themselves by the log fire, Greg and Delaney gratefully accept hot cups of TEA that Dade passes them.

He moves over to Kira and Huang, seated in large wicker chairs. The women take their drinks from him, Dade rejoining the others.

KIRA

Much as I'm a little aggrieved
you'd still play hide and seek with
me...

HUANG

You also realise why.

KIRA

I'm sure plenty of people still
think I'm the same girl I used to
be. No reason you shouldn't be
cautious.

Huang doesn't take her eyes off Dade - he's chatting to Greg and Delaney.

KIRA (cont'd)

Hope you didn't mind me bringing
him. He wasn't sure about coming.

HUANG

It must be... strange for him to
see me again after all these years.

KIRA

Mmm. So strange, in fact, that he's
barely come near you since we came
in.

Huang fixes Kira with a look. Kira bows her head.

KIRA (cont'd)

Sorry.

HUANG

(raises eyebrow)
You have changed.

KIRA

(beat)
Do you know why we're here?

(CONTINUED)

HUANG

To request my assistance.

KIRA

More than that.

(beat)

It's started.

Huang doesn't reply. A half-smile creeps across Kira's lips.

KIRA (cont'd)

But then, you already knew that,
didn't you?

HUANG

It is my gift.

(beat)

And my curse.

KIRA

So you know what's coming? What
we'll have to do?

HUANG

Do you wish to stop it?

KIRA

No, I'd love the world to be
consumed by fire and our souls to
broil in Satan's filthiest cauldron
for all eternity.

(off look; tetchy)

Yes, to stop it!

Huang merely nods, her attention falling on Dade again. Kira looks up as Delaney approaches:

DELANEY

So! What do we need to be asking
here?

GREG

She means, given that from what
I've gathered you knew why we were
coming here before we even set foot
off the plane...

Huang grins, nodding to concede the point.

GREG (cont'd)

... then how can we go about
convincing you to come back to the
Academy with us?

Dade's head snaps up at that. Huang manages not to meet his eyes.

(CONTINUED)

DELANEY

Wouldn't she already know if she's coming back or not?

HUANG

There are many possible outcomes. I can no more tell which will be the truth than you know when your powers will return.

Stung, Delaney starts to reply, but Greg wisely cuts in:

GREG

You obviously knew Kira wasn't going to be a threat. Despite your... history, I mean. So that means you know we're on the level when we say we need your help.

HUANG

It is true that your mother and I share some secrets we had hoped would stay forgotten.

Huang fixes Kira with a powerful gaze.

HUANG (cont'd)

Or have you allowed yourself to forget?

Kira holds the gaze - with effort - as we DISSOLVE TO:

As a group of WOMEN approach the main doors of a trendy, busy nightclub, the huge (and noticeably identical) Bouncers ready to push the doors open.

They do so as the women reach the threshold, and a blast of loud ELECTRO hits the women as the club is revealed in all its glory:

A dance floor made of ever-changing coloured panels, glitterballs galore and an explosion of neon lighting tracing every contour. Safe to say we're still in the Eighties.

ON THE WOMEN as they enter the club, the Bouncers closing the doors behind them:

It's our foursome from the bank, this time dressed to impress, their high fashion glamour standing out amongst all the clubwear.

BLONDE
 (shouts over noise)
 We'll have to tell Celeste those
 golems she's got working the door
 are her best yet!

REDHEAD
 (shouts back)
 Why's that?

BLONDE
 (smirks)
 She's managed to stop them trying
 to speak!

Exchanging grins, the duo lead Raven and the Spaniard across the packed club.

WIDE ANGLE to show more of the layout - a VIP BALCONY, accessible by two curved staircases, overlooks the main floor.

10 INT. NIGHTCLUB - BALCONY - NEXT

10

The women arrive at the balcony, another identical Bouncer stepping aside to allow them in.

Here, a smattering of higher class clubbers sprawl across the Roman-style couches, hairy-chested lotharios entertaining busty, giggling young girls.

The women pay little attention to this, heading for a PRIVATE ELEVATOR set into the back wall.

Its doors open to let them step inside, and as the doors close again we CUT TO:

11 INT. NIGHTCLUB - BASEMENT - NEXT

11

The elevator opens out into a dark, narrow corridor leading up to a set of double doors.

The women file towards them, the Redhead taking point and pushing the doors open to reveal:

12 INT. NIGHTCLUB - CONFERENCE ROOM - NEXT

12

A large, circular room with a large round TABLE as the centrepiece. Its surface is carved with ornate patterns, snaking round like ivy.

Already waiting is a slim, graceful OLDER WOMAN, and a shaking, terrified MAN sitting in the head chair.

The four new arrivals take their seats, not batting an eyelid to the man's presence.

(CONTINUED)

OLDER WOMAN
 (crisp British accent)
 Be with you in a moment, dears.
 (to Man)
 Now then, Terrence, where were we?

TERRENCE stiffens as the woman steps closer.

TERRENCE
 Please, please, don't, I don't know
 anyth -

The woman raises her hand, clenches her fist - and Terrence's body goes rigid before he SCREAMS in pain!

OLDER WOMAN
 I've been counting the number of
 times you've said that, and I must
 say... it's starting to look like a
 very unappealing number.

TERRENCE
 (gritted teeth)
 I... don't... know... anything...

OLDER WOMAN
 I'm beginning to suspect that's
 true.

She rotates her wrist a few degrees - whatever force is holding Terrence TIGHTENS, and as he GRINDS his teeth together, BLOOD starts to drip from his ears and nose.

OLDER WOMAN (cont'd)
 Absolute last chance, Terry. We've
 got a meeting to hold. How do I
 access the Higher Realm?

TERRENCE
 You... you can't... too... too
 old...

Th older woman does not like the sound of that.

OLDER WOMAN
 Well... that's a shame.

She SNAPS her wrist round, and Terrence's neck does the same, breaking with an audible SNAP. He slumps, dead, in the chair.

The woman turns to the others, who'd been watching the exchange closely.

OLDER WOMAN (cont'd)
 Sorry about that, everyone. Just
 trying to tie up a little business.
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

OLDER WOMAN (cont'd)
 (looks round)
 Where's Amelie?

BLONDE
 Running late. As usual.

OLDER WOMAN
 What about Evelyn's student?

RAVEN
 Out running an errand.

OLDER WOMAN
 Then we'll have to get started
 without them.

REDHEAD
 What about Harry?

OLDER WOMAN
 Harry's... having another one of
 her 'moments.' She'll be with us
 when she's ready.

The women exchange looks as we CUT TO:

13 INT. NIGHTCLUB - ROOM - NEXT

13

Up in a tiny, sparse loft, a needle-thin Asian woman - HUANG
 or 'Harry' to her comrades - lies on the floor, black hair
 spread messily around her.

She TWITCHES involuntarily, breathing fast and ragged as
 though in the grip of a high fever.

ZOOM IN on her eyes and MATCH CUT TO:

14 EXT. RUINED CITY - DAY

14

FLAMES - an inferno all around, shattered buildings, piles of
 BODIES, the SCREAMS of the dying. CHAOS of the highest order.

SMASH CUT TO:

15 INT. NIGHTCLUB - CONFERENCE ROOM - NEXT

15

The older woman places one shoe against Terrence's chair and
 KICKS - the wheeled chair glides smoothly across the room.
 The woman pulls up a spare chair to replace it.

She reaches forward, placing her hand on a GLYPH on the table
 just before her. On cue, the others do the same.

OLDER WOMAN
Che il fuoco sia rivelato.
 (beat)
 Celeste Rourke.

(CONTINUED)

BLACK, INKY MARKS, like intricate tattoos, begin to SPREAD across CELESTE'S face. After a few moments, they stop, solidifying as a full-body tatoo of thorny vines.

The others do the same, each reciting the incantation and their name - and as they do so, the black markings trace across their own skin:

BLONDE
Madeline Deschamps.

REDHEAD
Rebecca Rogers.

RAVEN
Evelyn Pierce.

SPANIARD
Ana Marquez.

TOGETHER
*È pausa verso lotta fuoco con
fuoco. The Coven di Fuoco, eternal
like the flame.*

The ritual complete, MADELEINE, REBECCA, EVELYN and ANA lean back in their seats. Celeste studies the group, and is about to speak when:

VOICE (O.S.)
(French accent)
Desole! Desole...

The women look up as another bounces into the room - sleek like a model, with long chestnut brown hair.

She slips into her seat, places her hand on the glyph and follows the steps:

FRENCH WOMAN
Che il fuoco sia rivelato.
(beat)
Amelie Pouvoir.

AMELIE looks round - some of the others are amused, some are not. Celeste clears her throat to get their attention.

CELESTE
Now that we're all quite finished
making an entrance...

She casts a dark look at Amelie, who mouths another apology.

CELESTE (cont'd)
... let's get down to business.
First of all, congratulations to
Maddy for her successful excursion
to boost our finances.

MADELEINE
A girl's got to eat, as our
American friends round here are so
fond of saying.

CELESTE
Now. I'm sure you're all wondering
if Harry and I have managed to
secure our next target yet...

An expectant silence. All eyes are on Celeste - something she
seems to enjoy.

CELESTE (cont'd)
... and I can confirm that we're
going for the one hundred and
thirty-third Annual Wicca
Convention in Paris, a week from
tonight.

A buzz of excited chatter rises from the others. Celeste
leaves it a few moments, then RAPS her knuckles against the
table to get their attention once more:

CELESTE (cont'd)
I don't need to impress on any of
you the level of opposition we're
going up against - no less than a
room full of the most powerful
wiccass currently operating above
the radar in the world today.

EVELYN
But if we succeed...

REBECCA
... then we become the most
powerful wiccass in the world.

CELESTE
Precisely. We'll be going up
against some stiff opposition, and
we'll have no choice but to use
lethal force against the majority
of our targets before we can
suppress the others.
(glances at clock)
(MORE)

CELESTE (cont'd)
We'll make this a short meeting tonight, as I'm sure you'll all have plenty of things to prepare ahead of this. We'll reconvene tomorrow night to start discussing our strategy.

(beat)
È pausa verso lotta fuoco con fuoco.

OTHERS
È pausa verso lotta fuoco con fuoco.

CELESTE
Dismissed.

Celeste stays seated as the others rise and file out - passing Huang as she makes her way inside.

CELESTE (cont'd)
Dear, oh dear, Harry - you look like death warmed up. Come here, sit down.

Huang flops into a chair, leaning forward and putting her head in her hands.

CELESTE (cont'd)
Was it a bad one?

HUANG
It was the same one.
(looks up)
Over and over, every day, it's the same. The fire, the death... and all of us, dead.

CELESTE
And you still think something we're going to do will trigger the events building up to what you've seen?

HUANG
I'm sure of it.
(sighs)
I just don't know what 'it' is. I still think we would be safer if we suspended all our -

CELESTE
(cuts her off)
I'm aware of your misgivings, but I think we both know your prophecies have never been a hundred per cent.

Huang scowls, stomping back across the room to the exit.

HUANG

That doesn't mean I'm wrong about
this one.

With that parting shot, she exits, letting the doors CLUNK loudly as they swing back into place.

CELESTE

(exhales)

I'm hoping you are, dearest.

And from Celeste's expression, we DISSOLVE TO:

INT. UNDERGROUND CAR PARK - NIGHT

PAN ACROSS the grimy maintenance area of the car park, past wire fences and HUMMING generators, to find Evelyn pacing.

She looks up as a hatch RATTLES open - and it's Huang who approaches her. Evelyn relaxes.

EVELYN

I was wondering where you'd gotten to.

HUANG

Had to be sure I wasn't followed.
Celeste may be a lot of things, but
oblivious isn't one of them. Plus -
headache. Bad.

The two women look around, as though expecting somebody else.

EVELYN

She's late too.

HUANG

So I see.

(beat)

What do you make of this scheme to
raid the Wicca Convention?

EVELYN

I think it's an excellent idea - if
the aim is for every one of us to
get killed. Celeste's going to be
biting off a lot more than she can
chew if she thinks that idea's
going to stick.

VOICE (O.S.)

That won't be your problem.

The women rise, turning - as an attractive, dark-haired WOMAN enters the area.

(CONTINUED)

EVELYN

Nina. It's about time.

NINA smiles - she's dressed casually, an air of quiet confidence about her.

NINA

(Spanish lilt)

Sorry. Taki kept me on the phone longer than I was planning. He's not exactly keen on this whole 'deep cover' business.

HUANG

(sharp)

We're not here to listen to your relationship problems, Kagemura. We're here to talk about putting a stop to Celeste Rourke before any more blood ends up on our hands.

NINA

(raises eyebrow)

You know Mizoguchi and Eto have been working with the Watchers Council on this, and we have every intention of bringing Rourke to justice, but we have to wait for her to put one foot over the threshold before we can snatch her.

HUANG

Do you think it's easy, to know what I know? If you'd seen the things I'd seen...

(darkly)

... you wouldn't let her take another step.

EVELYN

(to Nina; off Huang)

Never mind her. Ever since her last vision she's been like this. Won't tell any of us what she saw, just that it was a long, long way from anything good.

Nina looks to Huang - who keeps quiet. Nina brings up the BRIEFCASE she was carrying, rests it on a surface and pops it open.

She hands out a folder to Evelyn and Huang - each contains files, reports and glossy surveillance photos.

(CONTINUED)

NINA

Based on the information you gave us, we've been keeping track of Rodgers, Pouvoir, Deschamps and Marquez.

Evelyn glances through the photos as Nina speaks - it shows the aforementioned Coven members meeting.

NINA (cont'd)

And you were right - they've been meeting up in secret for several weeks now. Rodgers seems to be the ringleader of whatever they're planning.

HUANG

It's a coup.

(off looks)

Come on. We all know what Becky's like. She'd love nothing more than to see Celeste cold in the ground and herself at the head of the table instead.

EVELYN

Our table's round, Harry. It doesn't have a 'head.'

She grins, but the attempt at levity washes over Huang.

NINA

Whatever her motivations, we're going to move on them. Soon. If they're going to try anything to depose Rourke, then this raid on the convention is where they'll do it. We need to move before that. Shinema and I have a variety of strategies to cover every eventuality.

HUANG

No plan can cover every eventuality.

NINA

Then we'll make sure we cover as many as we can. Will that do?

Huang turns away haughtily. Nina rolls her eyes as Evelyn approaches her.

NINA (cont'd)

How about you? How are you holding up?

(CONTINUED)

EVELYN

I'm fine. I've been doing this for four years now - lying through my teeth every day's become second nature to me.

NINA

This is the final stretch, Evey. Once Rourke is in custody and the rest of the Coven rounded up, you can walk away. Back home.

(beat)

Back to Greg.

Evelyn looks away, a pang hitting her at the mention of his name. Nina regrets pushing that button, biting her lip.

NINA (cont'd)

Sorry, I didn't mean to -

HUANG

We should go. We'll be missed if we stay away any longer.

EVELYN

And that's our cue.

She HUGS Nina, plenty of warmth between them.

EVELYN (cont'd)

Speak soon, Nina.

NINA

Take care of yourselves. And I meant what I said - we're almost there now.

Evelyn smiles, but Huang looks less convinced as she heads for the exit, Evelyn following before we DISSOLVE TO:

Back in the present, where Dade stands on the veranda at the rear of Huang's cabin, looking out across the hills.

HUANG (O.S.)

Are you warm enough?

He turns - Huang glides towards him, pulling a shawl around herself. Dade manages to suppress a SHIVER.

DADE

'M fine.

She nods, coming to stand beside him. Neither speaks for several moments, until:

HUANG

You should come back inside. There is much still to discuss.

DADE

It's just you and Kira talking. At great length. Nothing for me to do but sit and -

HUANG

Listen? Exactly.

(beat)

Your path may seem far from clear at this moment, Dade, but the fog will lift with time.

DADE

(beat)

I'm going to hear a lot of cryptic stuff like that from now on, aren't I?

HUANG

(smiles)

If you stay close enough to hear it.

(beat)

I will see you inside soon.

She heads back into the cabin, leaving Dade to his thoughts for a beat.

DADE

(exhales)

Damn it...

Admitting defeat, he follows her back inside as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

18

INT. HUANG'S CABIN - FRONT ROOM - NIGHT

18

The atmosphere is a little cosier now - Greg and Delaney recline on heaps of pillows and cushions, though Dade remains on his feet, stiff and awkward.

Huang enters the room bearing a tray of nibbles - dried fruit, crackers, things like that.

She sets it down, Greg and Delaney greedily tearing into it. Kira is offered some, but shakes her head.

KIRA

So are you going to play the gentle host all night, or are we going to talk about getting you to come home with us?

HUANG

(quirks eyebrow)
'Home'?

Kira starts to respond, but Delaney interjects:

DELANEY

Don't get her started.

KIRA

(narrows eyes)
What my daughter is so eloquently trying to say is that a lot has changed since we last met, Harry.

HUANG

(nods)
I have seen the ripples from many events spread across the surface of the world, Kira.
(to Dade)
As have you.

DADE

Hey, I'm just an impartial observer. I'm nothing to do with this whole Coven thing you two've got going on.

KIRA

That's not strictly true. You're very much a part of things.

DADE

Well... maybe I don't want to be.

(CONTINUED)

HUANG

We rarely get to choose our own destinies, Dade. They choose us.

KIRA

But sometimes we can make our own.

(off Huang's look)

Sometimes, we can start all over again.

(beat; meaningful)

Can't we?

Huang holds her gaze as we DISSOLVE TO:

INT. COFFEE SHOP - DAY

A busy downtown franchise coffee store, busy with the hubbub from its customers and orders shouted by the staff.

Madeleine and Ana sit at one booth, Madeleine nervously drumming her fingers on the table as Ana nonchalantly sips her drink.

MADELEINE

I still think meeting in places this public is the worst thing we could do.

ANA

Becky wouldn't suggest it if it wasn't safe, Maddy.

(off drink; amused)

Milk and coffee. Who would have thought?

MADELEINE

Still, that doesn't make it -

REBECCA (O.S.)

Actually, it does.

Madeleine looks up - Rebecca has arrived with Amelie in tow. Shades, revealing clothes, hair and makeup in place.

MADELEINE

(off her outfit)

I thought this was a private meeting, Becky...

REBECCA

It is. Take a look around.

Rebecca and Amelie slide into the booth as Madeleine looks round the room - and sees a dozen people dressed just like Rebecca.

REBECCA (cont'd)
You need to watch MTV once in a while. Nobody's given me more than a glance since I hit the streets to come over here.

Ana looks up from her drink, a dollop of foam on her lip.

REBECCA (cont'd)
Mustache.

ANA
(blinks)
What?

REBECCA
Never mind.
(beat)
Alright ladies... where are we at?

Amelie starts to speak, but Madeleine gets in first:

MADELEINE
First, tell me this location is secure.

REBECCA
(weary)
Relax, Maddy. None of Celeste's little clockwork horrors are spying on us.

She lifts up her matching purse and takes out an AMULET.

REBECCA (cont'd)
This'd be hooting like a howler monkey if anything hostile was within fifty feet of us.

She replaces the amulet. Madeleine doesn't seem convinced, but is the first to speak:

MADELEINE
I've been applying counterspells to the enchantments Celeste's been placing on her golems. They'll switch over to our control when we speak the command phrase aloud.

ANA
Which is?

MADELEINE
Which is a secret until it's time for anyone but me to know it.

(CONTINUED)

REBECCA

Amelie?

AMELIE

I 'ave leaked the details of the attack on the convention to several key members of its security staff. They will know exactly where and when she plans to strike.

All eyes turn to Ana. She takes her time, finishing her coffee before replying:

ANA

I am ready to do my part.

REBECCA

A little more detail would be nice, Ana. We're all friends here, after all.

ANA

I am not here to make 'friends.' I am here to test the limits of what power this world will allow a woman to hold. Celeste is an obstacle to that, and you are part of the solution to remove that obstacle. Don't kid yourself into thinking it's anything more.

Rebecca bristles at Ana's defiant words - but the quick looks the others exchange suggest her sentiment isn't exactly one they don't share themselves.

REBECCA

Thanks for the vote of confidence. And for the record, I know all about yours and Maddy's little 'experiments' with that wretched little Slayer girl you captured. So don't think either of you are keeping any secrets from me.

MADELEINE

What about you?

REBECCA

What about me?

MADELEINE

Are you prepared to do what must be done when the moment presents itself? To strike down our leader and take her place for your own?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MADELEINE (cont'd)

We all know what she'd do to anyone
she believed was challenging her
authority.

(beat)

We remember what she did to Esme.

The others fall quiet - but Rebecca just SMIRKS.

REBECCA

If that bitch thinks I'm afraid of
her, she's got another thing
coming. Someday, the world will
know the name... Jilhandra de
Laurent.

Ana SNORTS, trying to hold back her laughter. Amelie fights
to keep a grin back herself. Rebecca scowls at them both.

ANA

Sorry, sorry, just... you're really
going to use that stupid name for
yourself?

REBECCA

Why shouldn't I?

MADELEINE

It's a little... theatrical.

REBECCA

That's the idea! It's supposed to
be striking, bold, and even -

AMELIE

I think it sounds ridiculous.
(glances at her watch)
And I am late for my facial.

She rises, Rebecca's jaw hanging at her insolence.

AMELIE (cont'd)

(air kisses)

A bientot, mes amis.

She struts away from the booth, leaving Rebecca seething as
we CUT TO:

Out in the 'burbs, brightly-coloured middle class homes all
round, roads curving to make sure everybody gets a good look
at what everyone else has got.

Celeste steps into frame, studying one house in particular
for a long beat before taking a deep breath and approaching.

She walks up to the door and KNOCKS. Waits. Hears a dog BARKING, then FOOTSTEPS as a slurred woman's voice shouts:

VOICE (O.S.)
Shaddap, you worthless piece of
crap!
(mutters)
The hell is the god damn dog
barking 'about...

The screen door opens to reveal a blonde in her twenties with fading looks - dark bags under her eyes, dressing gown and sloppy PJs.

CELESTE
(tight-lipped)
Hello, Lois.

LOIS pouts, pulling her dressing gown tight before she opens the main door a fraction.

LOIS
Adam's not home.

CELESTE
I'm here to see you.

LOIS
Well, I don't wanna see you.

She starts to close the door, but Celeste puts a hand up to stop it.

CELESTE
Lois.

Lois holds her gaze - then relents, shuffling away from the door. Celeste is fighting down some bubbling emotions as she enters:

21 INT. HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NEXT

21

Inside, the house is as well to-do as the exterior suggests - colourful decor, plenty of modern home appliances (although 'modern' here is strictly late Eighties).

Hanging back in the kitchen doorway is a DOG, its hackles up as it BARKS angrily at Celeste.

She shoots it a withering look - and the dog WHIMPERS, scampering away to safety.

CELESTE
When is Adam home?

LOIS

Any minute now. I guess.

CELESTE

Then I suppose you'd better get
that junk out of your system,
hadn't you?

Lois whirls to face her, accusing:

LOIS

How dare you! I haven't even -

Celeste SNAPS her fingers - and a hazy MIST of energy rises
from Lois like steam! Alarmed, she tries to swat it out.

LOIS (cont'd)

Hey... hey! Cut it out!

Celeste lowers her hand, the mist fading. Lois glares at her -
then FLOPS down onto the couch, defeated.

CELESTE

I could smell that basement-level
pixie dust on you from a mile away,
Lois. I thought you were better
than that.

LOIS

Yeah, well... I'm not.

Celeste strides over to her, looming above Lois.

CELESTE

I didn't come all the way over to
this god-forsaken land to start a
family just so they could end up a
series of disappointments like you!
God forbid you should ever have
children of your own.

LOIS

(petulant)

Sorry I'm such a failure, mom.
Maybe if you hadn't lost your first
kid, you wouldn't have -

SMACK! Celeste SLAPS Lois, losing control for a moment.
Celeste fights the rage back down, but Lois slowly looks back
up at her, voice dripping with venom:

LOIS (cont'd)

And there's the mother I know.

CELESTE

Now, you listen to me, and you
listen good.

She stabs a reprimanding finger at the seated Lois.

CELESTE (cont'd)

I'm going to come back in five
days, and I expect to find you
cleaned up. No more bargain-grade
mystical narcotics anywhere in your
system. Is that clear?

LOIS

But what -

CELESTE

(over her)

Because if you're not straight, if
you're not a hundred per cent done
with this... this waste of an
existence you're putting yourself
and Adam through, then that's it.
I'm done.

LOIS

(shrugs)

Big deal. Is that supposed to scare
me?

Celeste straightens, crossing her arms.

CELESTE

How about if I tell Adam why you're
really housebound at the moment?
That it's not some lingering
variant of the flu keeping you out
of sorts?

Lois' gaze burns holes through Celeste, but she doesn't
flinch.

CELESTE (cont'd)

Exactly.

(beat)

Seven days, Lois.

She turns on her heel, marching straight back out without
another word. As Lois slumps back into her seat, CUT TO:

Where Celeste has to take a moment to stop her emotions
getting the better of her.

She bows her head, breaths short and sharp, trying not to let the tears come, when she hears:

VOICE (O.S.)

Celeste?

She looks up - as clean cut, All-American ADAM walks towards her, closing his car door. He's dressed for the office, power suit and tie.

ADAM

(smiling)

Hey. Did you swing by to see Lois?

How's she doing?

CELESTE

(fixing on a smile)

Oh, you know. Still under the weather. I was hoping some of that British stiff upper lip'd passed through the DNA to her, but perhaps not!

They laugh - Adam's is genuine, Celeste's more forced.

ADAM

Are you stopping for dinner?

CELESTE

No, no, lots to do.

ADAM

The club, right? How's all that working out?

CELESTE

It's a good decade for people to go out dancing, is all I need to say.

ADAM

I guess it is.

(beat)

Well, I'd better not keep you.

Great to see you again.

He steps forward for a quick HUG. Celeste's smile drops for a beat, but is back when he releases her.

CELESTE

Adam...

ADAM

Hmm?

CELESTE

Just... just keep an eye on her for me, will you?

ADAM

You know I will.

She nods, walking quickly past him and off down the street. Adam watches her go before heading into the house - missing Celeste wiping a TEAR away.

However, after a few more steps, her phone RINGS. She reaches into her purse - it's a bulky, old school MOBILE PHONE.

CELESTE

(into phone; distracted)

Hello?

VOICE

(filtered; modified)

Your acolytes are plotting against you.

Celeste pulls up to a stop, suddenly alert.

CELESTE

Who is this?

VOICE

È pausa verso lotta fuoco con fuoco. When we meet, then you will know.

CLICK. The line goes dead. Celeste's expression darkens as she lowers the phone, and we CUT TO:

INT. ROOM - DAY

CLOSE on a woman's mouth as they lower the phone handset, the features hidden in darkness as we DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HUANG'S CABIN - FRONT ROOM - NIGHT

Dade is asleep on a mattress in one corner of the room. Delaney SNORES softly next to him, leaning against the wall.

Greg approaches Kira and Huang, deep in their own conversation, as he sips a mug of tea.

GREG

Ladies?

They stop, looking up as he joins them.

GREG (cont'd)

You've both been talking for hours.
I don't know if either of you had
noticed.

KIRA

We haven't -
(notices Delaney; frowns)
Has she always snored like that?

GREG

(grins)

My point being, since you ushered
us three away out of earshot so you
could discuss whatever it is you're
discussing, that it's late and I'm
going to try and get some rest.

HUANG

Of course. You may use my room if
you wish. I still have much to
speak to your mother about.

KIRA

He doesn't like being reminded of
that.

Greg throws Kira a look. She shrugs.

KIRA (cont'd)

It's been almost a year and we
still haven't had that
conversation, Gregory. I rather
doubt we ever will.

GREG

(beat)

Good night, both.

He heads off into another room. Huang waits for the door to
close, then turns to Kira.

HUANG

There is the potential for great
love between you.

KIRA

Potential's all it's going to be
for a while yet. Technically, I
killed his mother.

HUANG

(grins)

Such tangled webs we lead.

KIRA
(rubs eyes)
I have a hard time keeping track of
everything myself...

HUANG
Do you wish to retire also?

KIRA
No, no. I've come all this way, may
as well bash everything out now
while you're in the mood to listen.
Who knows when that'll happen
again.

HUANG
You are not the only one to have
changed, Kira.

KIRA
Says the woman who used to speak
like a DJ!

HUANG
(shrugs)
Isolation has made me more...
careful with my words.

KIRA
You didn't have to be isolated, you
know. After the Coven were first
split up, you could have -

HUANG
(suddenly serious)
It was my only choice. My actions
to that point had left me no other
path.
(beat)
As did yours.

Kira shuts up, chewing her lip and trying not to bite back.

KIRA
I think I need more tea.

She rises, marching off into the kitchen. Huang looks across
to where Dade sleeps and smiles, before we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

25

EXT. HILLS - MORNING

25

PAN DOWN to find Delaney, eyes closed, sitting cross-legged on the ground. The view all around is breathtaking - mountain ranges, the ocean, glints hinting at civilisation far away.

KIRA (O.S.)

Now... just keep controlling your breathing.

Kira steps into frame, carefully pacing around Delaney.

KIRA (cont'd)

Reach out and feel the energy humming through every living thing around you.

DELANEY

Thanks, Yoda.

KIRA

Delaney, try and take this seriously. We wouldn't want to have made poor Greg come all this way for nothing, would we?

She glances to her side - where Greg, looking like he's run a marathon or two, GULPS down a bottle of water.

GREG

(weary)

Next time... we find somewhere nearer!

Kira smirks, then turns back to Delaney.

KIRA

With every breath in, gather and store a little sliver of that energy. And with every breath out, let that power flow through your body, from your head, heart and gut outwards.

Delaney breathes in, then exhales. Kira waits while she performs a few more breaths, then crouches before her.

KIRA (cont'd)

Now let's try it again.

Delaney opens her eyes, suddenly pensive. Kira extends her hand, palm flat and facing upwards. After hesitating, Delaney does the same.

(CONTINUED)

There's a quick flicker of light, then a small FLAME bursts to life from Kira's hand.

Delaney stares at her palm, narrowing her eyes, focusing all her will onto it...

... then withdraws her hand with an angry GRUNT. Kira bows her head and exhales.

DELANEY

Nothing! Again! Can we just give up on this already?

KIRA

You don't get to 'give up' on a level of magical aptitude like yours, Delaney. It's not an old pair of boots you can just throw out when they go out of fashion.

GREG

We've been trying this for an hour now. We should probably head back, get some breakfast. Delaney and I can maybe try again later, after -

DELANEY

Don't bother.

(rising)

My magic's gone. Kaput. Finito. End of. Whatever happened when I cancelled out that bitch Jendayi's Hand of Doom, it did for my magic too.

KIRA

For all we know, it's just something psychological blocking your body's attempts to -

DELANEY

No! Don't you get it? It's been nine months, mom! It's over!

She turns on her heel and stomps back down the slope.

DELANEY (cont'd)

(calls back)

You're better off focusing your attention on Greg now. He's the one worth the effort.

Kira looks to Greg, who just shakes his head.

GREG

I'll speak to her later.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

Kira nods, letting Greg follow Delaney. Once he's gone, Kira runs a hand through her hair, allowing herself a moment to compose her emotions before we CUT TO:

26 INT. HUANG'S CABIN - FRONT ROOM - MORNING

26

Dade stirs, waking up and sitting up from the mattress. A blanket has been thrown over him.

He STRETCHES lazily, then picks up on the smell of something COOKING wafting towards him.

27 INT. HUANG'S CABIN - KITCHEN - NEXT

27

He steps into the kitchen to find Huang in surprisingly domestic mode, using a variety of pots, pans and small cooking fires to work on preparing some food.

DADE

You cook?

She turns, smiles, then returns to her cooking.

HUANG

When you spend as much time alone
as I do, you find plenty of time to
master new skills.

He cautiously approaches, watching her work - bowls of unidentifiable ingredients are spread across the counter.

DADE

I don't know what the hell any of
this is...

He INHALES deeply, allowing himself a happy grin.

DADE (cont'd)

... but it smells good.

HUANG

I rarely have the opportunity to
cook for guests.

(wry)

Although it seems to be becoming
more commonplace these days.

DADE

Where are the others?

HUANG

Kira took Greg and Delaney out for
a walk.

Huang pours some sauce into one of the woks - it SIZZLES.

(CONTINUED)

HUANG (cont'd)

Delaney still has much to do if she is ever to restore her magical abilities.

DADE

Yeah, but if anybody can get Delaney back on course, then it's Kira, right? I mean, you two were part of one of the most powerful covens in Europe for years. There must be all kinds of cool stuff she can do, right?

Huang's expression darkens, and she wisely focuses on stirring some soup rather than answering as we DISSOLVE TO:

Back now with Evelyn, flicking through a magazine in her spacious apartment. There's a KNOCK at the door, and she heads over to answer it:

It's Hamish, that mischevious smirk still firmly in place. Evelyn quirks a grin back at him.

EVELYN

Did you get what I need?

HAMISH

You know I did.

EVELYN

Where is it?

HAMISH

'It' is downstairs in the basement. Everything's set up, ready for ye.

EVELYN

Thanks.

(pats his cheek)

You're a good boy, Hamish.

HAMISH

For you, I am.

With another smile, she exits the apartment with him, and we CUT TO:

Down where the generators HUM and air conditioning machinery RATTLES. Evelyn and Hamish descend a staircase.

HAMISH

Nobody'll come down here while
you're working. I layered enough
enchancements and spells outside for
us to drill our way to China
without anybody hearin' us.

They reach the main floor, Evelyn pausing to examine his
handiwork - GLYPHS, RUNES and other magical symbols painted
across the walls.

EVELYN

Very good. I'm impressed.

HAMISH

(shrugs)

I had a good teacher.

She turns to face him, slinks in closer - then KISSES him.
It's hungry, lustful - and over in a moment.

Evelyn smoothly walks away, leaving the obviously smitten
Hamish reeling.

She steps past a row of cabinets and lockers - and hears the
faint sound of someone SOBBING.

A figure comes into view, huddled on the floor and half-
hidden by shadows.

HAMISH (cont'd)

Her name's -

EVELYN

(sharp)

Don't. Don't tell me anything about
her. It's easier if I don't
humanise her in any way.

The figure looks up - it's a YOUNG WOMAN, roughly the same
age, build and appearance as Evelyn herself.

She's been roughed up already - her wrists and ankles are
bound, tape over her mouth. Her makeup is smeared down her
cheeks, her eyes wet with tears.

She SOBS again, trying to speak but her words are muffled.
Evelyn looks her up and down, studying her, while Hamish
hangs back, watching Evelyn closely.

EVELYN (cont'd)

(finally)

She's perfect. Let's begin.

Evelyn extends her hand without looking round - and the
woman's eyes bulge as Hamish places a huge KNIFE in it!

(CONTINUED)

Evelyn takes the knife, gets a firm grip on it and approaches the woman slowly, who SCREAMS through the tape and tries to shuffle away.

EVELYN (cont'd)
(chanting)
*Svibanj ovaj posuda uzeti moj
formalan...*

The woman's backed up into a corner and can't get away, much as she tries to struggle against her bonds.

Evelyn crouches over her, taking her bound hands and opening them towards her. She takes the knife blade and CUTS across the woman's palms.

EVELYN (cont'd)
*Svibanj ovaj posuda uzeti moj
formalan...*

She SCREAMS again, cowering as Evelyn releases her - and CUTS across the palm of her own hand!

She then takes the woman's hands again, pressing her bloody palm to the woman's.

EVELYN (cont'd)
*Svibanj ovaj posuda uzeti moj
formalan...*

Hamish's grin spreads as he watches the ritual, Evelyn bowing her head and continuing to chant.

The woman suddenly tenses up, her body SPASMING as Evelyn finally steps away. She passes the knife back to Hamish, who carefully wraps it in a handkerchief.

The woman THRASHES and CONVULSES as best as her bonds allow, her eyes rolling back into her head.

ON EVELYN as she watches, rapt - the sounds of the woman's struggles still audible.

Finally, all noise stops. Evelyn glances back at Hamish - and SMIRKS.

EVELYN (cont'd)
Time for phase two.

Hamish nods eagerly, dashing off screen as Evelyn looks back to the corner where the woman lay:

And the woman's features have now shifted to make her look identical to Evelyn! From that, we CUT TO:

30

INT. NIGHTCLUB - BOARD ROOM - NIGHT

30

Celeste sits alone in the darkened board room, going over a slew of paperwork.

Muffled BEATS and BASS from the dance floor below filter up to her as she works, until:

The board room doors FLY OPEN, and the battered, bloodied Evelyn stumbles inside! Startled, Celeste half-rises.

CELESTE

Evelyn? What -

EVELYN

She's trying to kill me! Please...
please, you have to help me!

Celeste jumps out of her seat and hurries over as the exhausted Evelyn COLLAPSES into her arms.

CELESTE

Who is? What's going on?

EVELYN

I don't know... I don't know!
Please, you have to get me out of
here, before she -

VOICE (O.S.)

Step away from the girl.

Celeste looks up - silhouetted in the doorway is another YOUNG WOMAN, petite and baby-faced with close-cropped dark hair. She points to Evelyn.

WOMAN

She's lying.

Evelyn WAILS, scrabbling at Celeste.

EVELYN

Please! Please... don't let her
kill me!

Celeste rises, staring down the newcomer with fury on her eyes. She balls her fists - crackles of ENERGY spark.

CELESTE

Whoever you are, you made a grave
mistake barging in here and
thinking you could -

WOMAN

*È pausa verso lotta fuoco con
fuoco. You will know.*

(CONTINUED)

Celeste pauses, surprised to hear this. The woman in the doorway reaches behind her and reveals a FOLDER, which she tosses onto the table near Celeste.

WOMAN (cont'd)

Take a look.

Celeste glances down at Evelyn - then steps away from her, opening the file and flicking through it.

It's the intel Nina gave out about the planned coup, complete with surveillance photos.

WOMAN (cont'd)

(off Evelyn)

She's a part of this.

CELESTE

She isn't in any of these -

Celeste double takes - there's EVELYN as part of Rebecca's group, doctored seamlessly into the image.

EVELYN

What... what are you doing? Don't listen to her! Help me!

Celeste looks from the woman down to Evelyn.

CELESTE

How could you...

EVELYN

(sobs)

No! No! This has nothing to do with me, I swear! I'm not -

FZAK! A bolt of ENERGY burns through Evelyn's chest, and she drops stone cold dead to the floor.

Celeste whirls to see the woman lowering a smoking hand as she finally steps into the light.

WOMAN

My name is Kira Brogan. And I just did you a favour.

Celeste's guard is still up as KIRA approaches.

KIRA

The only question now is...

Kira lifts up the photograph of Rebecca's group.

KIRA (cont'd)
... what shall we do about the
others?

From Celeste's dark expression, we DISSOLVE TO:

31 INT. NIGHTCLUB - CONFERENCE ROOM - NEXT

31

Celeste waits at the head of the round table as Rebecca and the others file in. They take their seats, Huang noticing Evelyn's absence.

HUANG
Where's Evey?

CELESTE
I'm afraid Evelyn won't be joining
us.

Celeste drops the selection of surveillance shots onto the desk, then PUSHES them out so the others can all see.

CELESTE (cont'd)
Ever again.

Rebecca pales as she sees herself in the photos - Amelie, Madeleine and Ana all tense up too.

REBECCA
What - how -

KIRA (O.S.)
Mizoguchi and Eto.

The others turn as Kira strides boldly into the board room.

KIRA (cont'd)
They've been keeping tabs on you
for months. They know all about
your little coup.

ANA
(splutters)
Celeste, we would never -

MADELEINE
It was all Becky! She said -

REBECCA
(hisses)
You traitorous little bitches!

CELESTE
Harry?

Huang turns. Celeste nods graciously.

(CONTINUED)

CELESTE (cont'd)
I know you have nothing to do with
this. Please step away from the
table.

Huang shoots Kira a look, then she looks up at the clock on
the wall.

REBECCA
(off Kira)
And who the hell is this?

Kira smirks, heading for Evelyn's empty place at the table.
She places her hand on the glyph, and recites:

KIRA
Che il fuoco sia rivelato.
(beat)
Kira Brogan.

The BLACK MARKINGS of the Coven spread across Kira's skin.
The others react, horrified to see this. Kira grins, soaking
up the attention.

KIRA (cont'd)
I took out Pierce. By your rules,
that makes me one of you.
(beat)
È pausa verso lotta fuoco con
fuoco. The Coven di Fuoco, eternal
like the -

ZAP! Kira is BLASTED off her feet by an ENERGY BOLT courtesy
of Rebecca.

MADELEINE
Becky, no!

Celeste is quick to respond - she SNAPS her wrist, and
Rebecca is sent FLYING across the room!

She hits the wall hard, tumbling to the floor as Ana LEAPS
across the table towards Celeste:

But Huang gets in her way, the two women GRAPPLING as they
roll across and off the table!

CELESTE
Stand now, all of you!

MADELEINE
Sorry, *cherie*...

Madeleine brings her hand up - and Celeste is SNARED by a
field of ELECTRICITY, snapping and crackling all over her
body as it lifts her off the ground!

(CONTINUED)

MADELEINE (cont'd)
... but you don't give the orders
round here any more.

Celeste grimaces, her body pulled taut by the energy.
Madeleine grins wickedly, clenching her fist to tighten the
energy:

Until Kira SMASHES a chair across her back! Madeleine folds,
and Celeste is released, dropping to the floor.

The doors swing open as Hamish appears, quickly taking in the
frantic scene with alarm.

HAMISH
What's -

KIRA
Hamish, no!

They lock gazes. Hamish starts to answer:

KIRA (cont'd)
Run!

He doesn't need telling twice - he turns and bolts from the
room, just as Rebecca TACKLES Kira to the ground.

REBECCA
(raging)
How dare you get in my way, you
tramp! I'll show you who you're
screwing with!

Rebecca's fists FLARE with yellow energy as she rains down
PUNCHES on Kira, who struggles to fight back.

Ana has Huang by the throat, lifting her clean off the floor
as Huang CHOKES, clawing at Ana's iron grip.

ANA
The demon-bound strength of the
Slayer is mine to command... what
makes you think you can take me
out?

Amelie suddenly raises her hand, an AMULET in her palm!

HUANG
No! Don't -

Amelie SMASHES the amulet onto the table with a SHOUT - and a
wave of GREEN ENERGY blasts out across the room!

The woman are bowled over, CRASHING to the floor as the
energy washes over them.

(CONTINUED)

Celeste is the first to recover, clawing her way back to her feet as Rebecca follows suit.

REBECCA
(snarling)
I've waited a long time for this,
Celeste...

She reaches back and SNAPS her hand forward - but nothing happened. She stares, dumbfounded, at her hand.

REBECCA (cont'd)
What...

Celeste smirks, bringing up her own hand - but that fails to produce any result either! Celeste's face falls.

AMELIE
But... that amulet, it was only
meant to affect -

HUANG
I switched it...

Huang GROANS, using her chair to pull herself up.

HUANG (cont'd)
I set it to knock out all our
magics, not just Celeste's.

CELESTE
Harry - why?

CRASH! The doors BURST OPEN as a crowd of people spill into the room - ARMED SOLDIERS, POLICE and several men and women in unmistakably stuffy clothing. WATCHERS.

Nina is among them, stepping boldly forward with a GUN pointed straight at Celeste.

NINA
Hello, Celeste. I'm sure you know
exactly who I am.
(beat)
You're all under arrest.

And as the Coven exchange horrified looks, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

32

INT. NIGHTCLUB - CONFERENCE ROOM - NEXT

32

The Council agents, police and troops fan out, keeping the women covered.

CELESTE

(to Huang; stunned)

You knew...

Huang says nothing as the women are grabbed, restrained and cuffed in rapid order.

CELESTE (cont'd)

You're a part of this too...

REBECCA

She's nothing to do with me! Jumped up slut thought she was better than any of us - I wasn't about to let her get a piece of -

NINA

Oh, Rebecca...

Nina comes to stand before Rebecca. The satisfaction drips from her features.

NINA (cont'd)

You just don't know when to shut up, do you?

Nina approaches the men holding Huang.

NINA (cont'd)

Let her go.

They exchange a glance, then release her. Huang rubs her wrists, keeping her head down.

HUANG

(quiet)

Thank you.

NINA

Just because you're not under arrest doesn't mean you're free to go just yet, but...

(sighs)

We found Evey's body. I'm sorry.

Huang shoots Kira a filthy look.

(CONTINUED)

HUANG

She hasn't gone far.

Kira tenses, staring right back at Huang - does she know?

NINA

(to agents)

Alright, let's get everybody
separated and properly restrained
before that amulet wears off, and
we -

There's a YELL from outside - and Hamish charges back in with
another AMULET in his hand!

HAMISH

(to Coven)

Close your eyes, girls!

He SLAMS the amulet against the table - and each member of
the Coven suddenly BLAZES with light!

Within seconds, the effects are clear - Ana TEARS the
handcuffs from her wrists and BACKHANDS a police officer with
enough force to send him flying across the room!

Madeleine turns and presses a hand to the chest of the agent
holding her - FLAMES burst out all over his body!

Celeste brings her hands together with a CLAP - and a
SHOCKWAVE of power bowls over Nina and several more agents!

Hamish hurries over to Kira in the confusion, helping her
back to her feet.

KIRA

I told you to go.

HAMISH

And I decided not to listen.

KIRA

(smirks)

Good boy.

HAMISH

That amulet'll only last a few
seconds - c'mon!

The duo scamper for the door, taking advantage of the chaos
erupting, but not before Amelie shouts after her:

AMELIE

Brogan!

(beat)

One day... I will own you.

(CONTINUED)

Kira shoots Amelie a smug look right back before she and Hamish slip away.

Rebecca finds herself alone in one corner of the room - so she shuts her eyes, brings her hands together and VANISHES in a haze of purple light.

Ana still has Huang held fast - Huang fading as the life is choked out of her - until Ana is zapped by a TASER.

She turns to face her attacker - bodily HURLING Huang at them to knock them down like skittles!

Presented with an opening, she rushes towards the room's FIRE ESCAPE, barging it open with her shoulder and tearing off down the corridor.

Several agents race after her as Nina goes to Huang's side. Huang COUGHS, rubbing her throat.

Nina looks back up to see Madeleine and Amelie getting put down and restrained, their brief burst of magic having faded once more.

Celeste finds herself faced by half a dozen armed soldiers. She raises her hands slowly.

Nina steps through the guards, looking Celeste up and down with a smirk.

NINA

As I was saying... Celeste Rourke,
you're under arrest.

(to agents)

Bring her in.

Nina turns and starts to walk away as the agents move in to cuff Celeste. She calls out:

CELESTE

Watch your back, Kagemura...

(as Nina turns)

... people like me tend to have
long memories.

Nina tries not to react, heading over to the Watchers as Madeleine and Amelie are led away.

NINA

William?

The young WILLIAM GRIFFIN straightens.

GRIFFIN

They're willing to strike a deal.
They'll tell us whatever we need to
know about Celeste in exchange for
certain... liberties.

NINA

That's for your Council to decide.
We've done our part. Good work,
Will. You've got the makings of a
fine Watcher.

GRIFFIN

Thank you, ma'am.

NINA

What about the others?

GRIFFIN

Rodgers got away. Lightstep, we
think. We'll have people combing
the area for her.

He looks towards the fire escape Ana escaped through.

GRIFFIN (cont'd)

Same goes for Marquez.

NINA

What about that other woman? The
one who escaped with McFanchon?

GRIFFIN

(shakes head)

Not enough time to make a positive
identification. I'm afraid we've no
idea who she is.

HUANG (O.S.)

I can tell you...

They turn - Huang is standing nearby.

HUANG (cont'd)

... but I don't think you'd like to
hear it.

Nina frowns, puzzled. Huang glances towards Celeste as she's
led away, head high and defiant.

ON HUANG as she surveys the trashed room, the table now with
a CRACK running down the centre before we DISSOLVE TO:

Huang stands outside her shack, soaking up the morning.

(CONTINUED)

DADE
There they are.

Dade points towards the approaching Delaney, Greg and Kira.

HUANG
They will be hungry. Could you
prepare them something?

DADE
I'll just slop some stuff from the
kitchen onto plates. I still don't
know what half of it is anyway.

HUANG
(nods)
Thank you.

Dade nods back, hesitates as if about to add something else -
then heads into the cabin.

Huang turns to Delaney as she stomps moodily up towards the
entrance.

HUANG (cont'd)
How did you -

Delaney marches right past her, disappearing inside and
SLAMMING the door behind her.

Huang raises an eyebrow and waits for Kira and Greg to catch
up.

GREG
The answer is 'not well.'

HUANG
Her powers will return. I am sure
of that.

KIRA
It's going to take more than words
to make her believe that.

The trio stand for a moment. Greg gets the hint.

GREG
I'll go sort us out some breakfast.

HUANG
Dade is in the kitchen.

Greg nods, heading indoors. Kira steps up to join Huang on
the front porch, looking out across the valley below.

KIRA

It's beautiful up here. I can see why you picked this spot.

HUANG

I did not want to be so far away as to leave the place I felt most at ease.

KIRA

Do you feel at ease here?

HUANG

No.

KIRA

(short laugh)

That figures.

They stand in contemplation for another beat.

HUANG

Tell me of the others.

KIRA

The rest of the Coven? Well, Celeste's still in that god awful Council prison facility Laneshead, and has been since the day of the raid.

HUANG

She deserves no better.

KIRA

Amelie's dead. I saw to that one myself.

(off look)

She had it coming. She honestly thought she could sign a witness protection agreement, and then go on to pop up at wicca conventions and gatherings like some faded former TV star like nothing happened?

HUANG

Madeleine?

KIRA

Jilhandra has her.

HUANG

I thought you disapproved of Rebecca using that name?

KIRA

Oh, I do. The fact that I find it faintly hilarious makes it easier for me to want to kill her.

(beat)

Maddy was captured by the Cabal, so I can only assume Jilhandra's either killed her or convinced her to rejoin the team.

(beat)

Hamish, well... delusions of grandeur aside, he came alarmingly close to snatching the power of the entire Slayer line for himself last year. We haven't seen the last of him by a long shot.

HUANG

Which leaves Ana.

KIRA

Still at large. Proved herself to be an exceptionally fast runner.

Huang nods, falling silent for a moment.

HUANG

I only wish Nina were still here.

KIRA

Me too.

(beat)

I'd tell her I was sorry for betraying her.

Huang looks at Kira, whose sentiment seems to be genuine.

KIRA (cont'd)

She stuck her neck out to try and bring dangerous, powerful people to justice... and I stabbed everyone in the back just so I could get them all out of the way. I was selfish. Stupid.

HUANG

You were young. And you were in love.

KIRA

(snorts)

I wouldn't call what Hamish and I had 'love' in any way. I just remember what Celeste said to me once.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

KIRA (cont'd)
'Love is stupid, dearest. It's
blind. Loyalty, trust, even fear
are useful tools. But love...
that's far too volatile.'

HUANG
Your love for Delaney and Greg...
that is not volatile.

KIRA
Try telling them that.

Kira steps back and sits on the recliner laid out under the
cabin's front window. Huang comes to sit beside her.

HUANG
I have always known what is coming.
'They were born in fire; they will
die in fire. One will stand alone
amongst the wreckage.'
(beat)
We will not survive this war.

KIRA
I'm aware of that.

HUANG
Nor will our children.

That sends a cold shiver down Kira's bones.

HUANG (cont'd)
Unless we stop it.

Kira turns to her. Huang nods slowly.

HUANG (cont'd)
I will come with you. There is much
work to be done.

KIRA
(grins)
That's the Harry I used to know.

Kira rises - but Huang lays a hand on her arm to stop her.

HUANG
They must never know.

KIRA
Who, the kids?

HUANG
Our destinies were set over twenty
years ago. Theirs were not. If they
know of what is to come...

(CONTINUED)

KIRA

Then they could end up changing
things. I get it.

Kira removes Huang's hand from her arm.

KIRA (cont'd)

But I'm not going to stand by and
let one of my children die, no
matter what the prophecy says. And
neither should you.

With that, Kira heads indoors. Huang inhales, the weight of
the world laying itself across her shoulders.

HUANG

It will not be our choice to
make...

She finally rises, heading back into the cabin.

WIDE SHOT and PULL BACK from Huang's cabin, framed by the
trees and hills all around as the midday sun beats down,
until we slowly:

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF SHOW