

SLAYER ACADEMY

"Open My Eyes"

by
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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. MOSCOW CITY CENTRE - DAY. 1

TITLE OVER - Moscow, Russia.

A raging snowstorm wreaks havoc across the city of Moscow, its tall buildings barely visible through the thick white waves of snow and ice. The odd set of headlights from a passing vehicle rolls by, as well as a few brave souls struggling through the high speed winds.

A SHATTERING noise is heard as windows break in the face of the storm. Automobiles gridlocked in traffic HONK their horns, and whispers of VOICES can faintly be heard in amongst the deafening sounds of the storm.

After a moment, the sounds of the high winds are no longer that threatening. Despite the roaring, a new sound has emerged - HAILSTONES, big as footballs, dropping onto objects everywhere. As the hail CRASHES into anything and everything across the whole city, we slowly fade to:

2 INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - CORRIDOR - DAY. 2

A run down tenement, paint and plaster peeling away from the walls and a few feeble bulbs overhead leaving the corridor filled with shadows.

The buildings lights flicker as a man in his forties appears - this is NICHOLAS. Clean shaven, and a new arrival, judging by the suitcase he has with him, he walks slowly down the hall, catching his breath as he wipes away the snow from his cloak.

He appears to be adjusting to the change in the area, and out of the corner of his eye catches another man walking towards him. This man, YURI, is definitely a Yuri of the building, and looks the newcomer up and down with interest. The duo stand in silence for a few seconds, as the storm outside rages on.

Nicholas waves in greeting, but Yuri just continues to scowl at him, before turning and marching away. Nicholas blinks, a little confused, then with a shrug turns and heads towards the stairs, heading up them and out of view.

We stay in the corridor for a beat as Yuri peers back round the corner, his suspicious expression following Nicholas up the stairs, as we cut to:

3 INT. APARTMENT BUILDING - 4TH FLOOR CORRIDOR - LATER. 3

Nick appears to have settled now. Appearing in a business suit, he knocks on a neighbor's room. The door opens to reveal a young WOMAN, who eyes him strangely.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The following scenes have their dialogue in Russian with handy subtitles.

NICHOLAS

Hello, you don't know me. I'm new in the neighborhood, actually, but I was wondering if I could borrow some butter. I'd hate to go out into the cold again.

WOMAN

I'm sorry.
(beat)
You're just going to have to deal with it.

NICHOLAS

Excuse me?

WOMAN

The fact that you're hungry is of no concern to me. It's your own fault! You should have been prepared!

With that, the door is SLAMMED in his face.

NICHOLAS

Nice to meet you too.

Defeated, Nicholas heads back to his apartment, but notices an old woman struggling with her bags and trying to open her door at the same time. After a second of debate, he heads over and attempts to help her with her bags. The Old Woman snaps round to look at him.

OLD WOMAN

What are you doing?

NICHOLAS

Offering my services.
(beat)
I'll just leave these bags at your feet, and head back to my apartment.

The Old Woman stares at him as Nicholas backs away and leaves, getting the hint that he should move on.

4 INT. NICK'S APARTMENT - LATER.

4

The apartment is sparsely furnished; a sleeping bag sits on a threadbare mattress in the middle of the room with Nicholas inside, trying to ignore the sounds from the outside world. Or, in this case, his neighbours.

(CONTINUED)

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WOMAN (O.S.)
(through wall)
I saw you, you said 'hello' to her.
How long has this relationship been
going on?

MAN (O.S.)
(through wall)
There is no relationship, She was
just a friend we bumped into today,
who I happened to go to school with
years ago!

WOMAN (O.S.)
Things like this aren't just
coincidence. Where is she?

MAN (O.S.)
I don't know!

WOMAN (O.S.)
Liar! She's here, isn't she? In my
house! How dare you bring that
bitch here!

With a SIGH, Nick gives up trying to fall asleep and
retrieves his cell phone as we cut to:

5 INT. APARTMENTS - BASEMENT - SAME TIME.

5

The basement seems empty. Swallowed in darkness, several
shapes stick out. What's more noticeable, though, is the loud
HUMMING noise echoing around the basement.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)
Yes, I know I'm calling in early,
but it's urgent.

Yuri steps into frame, wearing a red robe and carrying with
him a small CHILD. He lifts his other arm towards the statue,
and after a beat a BLACK CROSS appears, burning itself onto
his skin with a loud HISS. Yuri doesn't seem to notice this,
and looks down at the struggling youth with a sinister grin.

NICHOLAS (V.O.) (cont'd)
The civilians in this area are
acting, well out of sorts, to say
the very least. That's besides the
point, though - my detection spells
have confirmed our suspicions.

The only other thing in the bare room is something tall
covered by a sheet, roughly human-sized, in the centre of the
room. With one hand firmly holding the child, Yuri bows
reverently before the object.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YURI

You have called me, and I have come. Others will soon follow my lead. Rest assured, you shall be protected. This oath I swear.

The man takes the bedsheet away, and underneath is a STONE STATUE of an armoured warrior. Glowing brilliantly, the grim-looking warrior holds a dagger in each hand, and around its neck rests a dark cross, identical to the one that just burned itself onto Yuri's arm.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)

There is indeed a Hellmouth in this city. Where, I have yet to determine, but all the signs point to it.

YURI

We will do what you ask, as have others. Our lives are yours to use as you wish. No Slayer they send can stop you, and if they do come, we will kill them. They are new and inexperienced. If they attack, as you say they will, it shall be their downfall.

NICHOLAS (V.O.)

And it gets worse. It's active.

The statue appears to have changed its expression - whereas at first it was displeased, a wicked smile is now seen on the sleeping monument, and from that, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

6

EXT. CAMPUS - TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY

6

The sun isn't out today, and a thick blanket of grey clouds rests over the academy grounds. SOFIA, SKYE, FRANKIE and ALITA stand in line, awaiting instruction from GREG.

GREG

As promised, today we shall continue your training with your chosen weapons.

SKYE

It's about time!

SOFIA

We don't have to sign a waiver, do we?

GREG

Very funny. I get it, you can handle yourselves, but you can always get a little better.

FRANKIE

Don't mind them, Greg. Some girls are just more mature than others. I understand that we continue with our lessons today because you think we are ready, and that is what matters. Not the aspirations of this lot.

SKYE

(mutters to Sofia)

Looks like Slayer Academy finally gets a teacher's pet after all...

FRANKIE

Pardon, Skye, but I merely respect those in charge. Besides, I'm a better Slayer than you.

(beat)

I 'aven't died, for one thing.

GREG

Alright, that's enough! We'll start this class with a demonstration. Frankie and Skye, prepare for battle.

Skye is still glaring at Frankie for her last comment, but now a smirk appears - payback time. Frankie doesn't look pleased with the new situation.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANKIE

But we are not ready!

GREG

Which is in itself a lesson.
Sometimes the battles will come to
you, whether you want them to or
not. The bad guys aren't going to
care if you haven't had enough
sleep, or cut you some slack if
you've had a bad day.

With that, the duo is each given a quarterstaff. Both look at them, puzzled, while Sofia and Alita step away.

SOFIA

This should be interesting.

ALITA

I don't want to sound mean. But...
but I hope Skye wins.

FRANKIE

Is this a joke? This is just a big
stick!

GREG

Get ready to make some sort of use
of it! Ready in three, two-

Skye jumps the gun, planting her staff in the ground and using it to vault over Frankie, and Frankie doesn't react in time to catch her.

FRANKIE

That is not fair! He did not say
'one'!

SKYE

Not all battles are played by the
rules, princess.

GREG

Valid point, Skye.

Spinning round, Frankie raises her staff to stop Skye's from colliding with her head. On instinct she jumps back, narrowly avoiding a swing at her legs.

The staffs continue colliding back and forth, Skye playing offensive while Frankie uses all her energy to merely survive.

However, as Skye makes a horizontal swing at Frankie's midsection, the French Slayer uses her quarterstaff to knock her opponent's weapon from her hands.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GREG (cont'd)
Very good, Frankie.
(beat; shouts)
Sofia, don't give Skye her weapon
back, this isn't a tag team!

With a victorious smirk, Frankie tries to hit Skye, but Skye quickly grabs Frankie's staff, each Slayer struggling to yank the weapon away from the other.

As Frankie fights to regain the power in the battle, Skye suddenly releases the staff, which SMACKS back into Frankie's face to a YELP of pain.

Skye trips her opponent, grabs the staff while Frankie tumbles, and lets one end of the staff rest on Frankie's neck.

GREG (cont'd)
Excellent, girls! Skye, great use
of improvisation, using physical
combat at the last second.

SKYE
(smirks)
Well, shucks, she just makes it so
darn easy for me.

Skye steps back as Greg helps Frankie up, and she heads over to a beaming Alita and Sofia.

SOFIA
Nice job.

SKYE
I did kick blondies ass, didn't I?

SOFIA
She had it coming. But you do
realise she's using whatever harm
you caused to flirt with him later,
right?

SKYE
So next time I'll make sure she
loses her vocal cords.
(devilish)
It can be arranged.

Sofia chuckles as Greg calls over to them.

GREG
Sofia, Alita, you two are up next.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SOFIA
(to Alita)
Ready?

ALITA
Yes. I think the word to describe
our battle will be... 'cool.'

Sofia grins as Skye hands her the other quarterstaff, and as the girls take their positions, we cut to:

7

INT. CAMPUS - ASSEMBLY HALL - LATER.

7

At the front of the assembly hall, Barbara and Greg are arguing. The girls are nowhere in sight, but neither adult is aware that their voices are echoing throughout the room.

GREG
This is ridiculous!

BARBARA
Greg, I know it's hard to grasp,
but we have to do this.

GREG
They're nowhere near ready!

BARBARA
They'll have to be.

GREG
There has to be another way.

BARBARA
They're all we've got. We both know
more girls are coming here every
day, but your team stands the best
chance of success.

GREG
How much time do we have to prepare
them?

BARBARA
Not much. I'm afraid the Council
has booked your flight to leave in
a few short hours.

SOFIA (O.S.)
Leave? Where are we going?

SKYE (O.S.)
Another field trip?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Watchers turn and realize that all four girls have arrived. Greg and Barbara exchange a look before Barbara turns to the Slayers.

BARBARA
Girls, take a seat please.

Sofia and Skye exchange raised eyebrows, before we cut to:

8

INT. ASSEMBLY HALL - A FEW MOMENTS LATER.

8

Up close on Sofia's shocked expression.

SOFIA
You have got to be kidding me!

BARBARA
I'm afraid this isn't a joke.

SOFIA
So you're telling us we're going to go close down a Hellmouth as if it's no big deal? I mean, I know I've helped close one before...

BARBARA
We're aware of your history with that situation.

SOFIA
But lots of people died, and we're talking people who'd been doing this job a lot longer, with far more experience than us.

ALITA
(curious)
Excuse me, but what is a Hellmouth?

SKYE
It's where the wild things are, Allie.

GREG
The best way to describe it is as a demon magnet. If one is activated, the forces of evil are attracted to it in vast numbers, and furthermore they may use the power to unlock the Hellmouth, releasing many more creatures who have no right being in our world.

SOFIA
It also equals death.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARBARA

Sofia! You're not helping.

SOFIA

No, I'm being honest. I'm not giving my friends false information about what to expect.

SKYE

To be honest, the situation sounds cool. I've been itching for a good smackdown since I left LA.

FRANKIE

She is talking about something that may end the world, and you think it is 'cool'? I think we know which side you are really on.

SKYE

No, we're the good guys. Destroying evil's what we do, so let's get suited up, head out and close this thing. Mission accomplished.

FRANKIE

(folds arms)

I am not 'appy with this situation.

SOFIA

I'm starting to think we don't have a choice in the matter.

SKYE

So anyway, now that we know what we're dealing with, and the varied reactions have passed, that leaves one last thing. Where are we going?

BARBARA

(beat)

Russia.

Off the team's shocked expressions, we cut to:

9

INT. SMALL PLANE - DAY.

9

The small private chartered jet doesn't have much room, but the girls have managed to spread out across the seats. Skye sits in the back, alone, with everyone else at the front.

SOFIA

So what exactly are we getting into?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREG

If our source is correct, trouble.

SOFIA

(sighs)

We're going to die, aren't we.

FRANKIE

Do not say that! With someone as strong and wise as Greg here, we will be safe.

Skye looks like she's about to gag as Frankie flirts with Greg, while the man himself looks a whole new shade of red.

GREG

Uh, as I was saying... things shouldn't turn out too badly. Just keep thinking positive.

SOFIA

Easy for you to say.

ALITA

What kind of trouble will we be facing?

GREG

To be honest I'm not really sure. It's probably best to expect anything and everything.

SOFIA

(resigned)

That helps.

(beat)

Sorry. I just don't have a very good history with history with Hellmouths. I imagine Skye would say I had 'issues.'

GREG

Well then, it's time to face them! This won't be the only Hellmouth we'll be dealing with.

SOFIA

What?

GREG

It's one of the prime directives of the Academy, Sofia!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GREG(cont'd)

We did, of course, plan to have you trained a little more before tackling anything like this, but taking out any newly-activated Hellmouths has become the Council's main mission, because we don't know how many Syn managed to turn back on before Buffy was able to stop him. The resources are available to close them down once and for all.

SKYE

Just to be clear, when you say 'resources,' you mean us, right?

Greg shoots her a look before we cut to:

10

INT. SMALL PLANE - LATER.

10

It's a few hours later as we catch up with Skye, alone in the back. A few beats pass as she looks out the window, seeing the clouds beneath her and the sun ahead. A smile appears across her features - but shatters when she looks away from the scene.

She's no longer alone. From her point of view, we see a young woman with blonde hair sitting beside her. Her features easily recognizable - it's the one and only BUFFY the vampire Slayer. However, this isn't the real thing. This is THE FIRST.

BUFFY

So this is where you end up. You don't follow my advice, and here you are playing hero.

SKYE

Can I help you?

BUFFY

(shrugs)

Not really. I mean, I couldn't save you when you needed me, so it's only fair you learn not to count on me.

SKYE

What do you want?

BUFFY

It's time to start listening, Skye. I'm the chosen one, or I was, and when I say you can't be saved, there's really no hope for the situation.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SKYE

Maybe I don't want to be saved.

BUFFY

I think I finally understand why you keep trying to separate yourself from the other girls. You know you're better than they are. They're mortal before you, while death still hasn't found a way to take your sad little soul.

SKYE

Sofia talks about who you're impersonating all the time, and I know you're not really her, so drop the act. It's kind of pathetic.

BUFFY

Admit it, Skye, you don't want pig's blood anymore. Being around those girls all the time, trying to save the innocent, when you know people can't be saved? You just want a slight taste, always curious to see if it's as good as you remember it. What you're about to do goes against your nature. In case you haven't noticed, you're a demon. You're on our side.

SKYE

Never was one for following the rules.

BUFFY

Also true. I mean...

The form of Buffy morphs into another familiar face - the red hair and lopsided grin of deceased Texan Slayer EMMA.

EMMA

You're sent on a mission to save someone, and they wind up dead! Well, to be honest, you weren't meant to save me, but maybe if you had been around I'd actually be with y'all, helping you out with this little road trip. You're neither a hero or a villain. Face it, Skye, you just don't belong, but in the end, you will do what's right. I can guarantee it, because whatever you do, sugar, is gonna be part of my plan.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

With that, The First VANISHES, leaving Skye looking pretty freaked out.

ALITA (O.S.)
Are you okay?

Skye looks up to see Alita standing over her, and Skye sighs deeply, rubbing her palms into her eyes and nodding,

SKYE
Yeah, I'm fine, squirt.

ALITA
You looked peaceful sitting alone back here, compared to the front with Sofia still arguing with Greg.

SKYE
They'll get over it. You ready to do this thing?

ALITA
No. But I understand that on this mission what we're doing is right.

A silence follows her statement as Skye looks out the window, looking guilty.

SKYE
(uneasy)
Yeah... right.

With a questioning look on her features, she looks out through the window again, before we cut to:

11 EXT. MOSCOW CITY LIMITS - MORNING.

11

It's the next day as we join the girls, standing outside the city limits as the ferocious storm still rages about them. Greg shouts over the noise of the wind to address them, the team already wrapped up in thick coats.

GREG
Here we are, girls, Mother Russia!

SKYE
(sarcastic)
Mmm. Nice. Can somebody tell her to crank up the heating?

SOFIA
Do we know anything about what to expect yet, like where the Hellmouth is? Is something else after it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREG

At the moment no, so I suggest we ask those questions from our contact. Who just so happens to be coming this way.

Everyone looks up as two distinct shadows start to come closer through the storm, a tall male and a shorter female, wrapped up in coats with heavy hoods.

As the duo push back their hoods, we recognize Nicholas, and beside him is a young girl with long dark hair and dark glasses. She looks through the girls as if they don't exist, but with a nod of her head acknowledges their presence.

GREG (cont'd)

Everyone, this is Mr. Bartlett, our Watchers Council contact. He's risked a lot coming here to investigate the Hellmouth, so please pay him the proper respect.

NICHOLAS

Thank you, Greg.
(to Slayers)
First of all, I must thank you all for coming.

SOFIA

Who could pass up an opportunity to die and see the world at the same time?

NICHOLAS

(eyes her)

Secondly, I am aware of the dangers we face here. Within this city rests great evil, and those of you who don't want to come into this, I will respect that decision. You may be capable of saving lives, but if you want the choice to live in safety, I perfectly understand. So who am I leading into this city?

Each girl looks at the snow-covered city, and back to Nicholas, surprised he's giving them a choice. A few seconds pass by before Alita walks over to him.

ALITA

It is our duty.

FRANKIE

And after all, it is what we came here to do, *non?*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Skye and Sofia take another few moments looking at their comrades and back at each other.

SKYE

Well, if anyone's in need of a rescue it's gonna be Frankie, so I might as well come and watch her back.

SOFIA

And I have the weapon needed to close this thing, so that signs me up by default, really, doesn't it?

NICHOLAS

Excellent. And this is Erika, also a vampire Slayer.

Still not looking at any of the girls, ERIKA steps forwards.

ERIKA

Hello.

SKYE

Welcome to the club, comrade.

GREG

Erika will be joining us at the Academy when we're done here.

NICHOLAS

There's also another advantage to having Erika with us here.

ERIKA

This was my hometown, so at least you have an extra pair of ears to help navigate you.

FRANKIE

English may not be my first language, but is the saying not 'an extra pair of eyes'?

ERIKA

No, I meant what I said.

Erika removes her dark glasses, and her pale, differently coloured eyes tell us that she's a very unusual Slayer - she's blind! Surprised, the girls all react to this revelation, and from that, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

12 INT. MOSCOW CITY CENTRE - MORNING.

12

The squad enters the city and tries to get a glimpse of some of the structures, however most are obscured by the heavy snow. Sofia walks away from the group, trying to get her bearings.

Out of nowhere a car horns BEEPS, and two headlights appear a few metres away, heading straight for Sofia.

With razor sharp reflexes, Sofia DIVES to the side and rolls along the snow, landing back before the astonished group. The car disappears into the distance with a SCREECH.

SKYE

Woah, are you alright?

Greg and Nicholas pick her up together, but she quickly brushes them off.

SOFIA

Fine. Just my luck in winter wonderland.

GREG

You're sure you're okay?

SOFIA

I'm still alive, aren't I? For the moment, anyway.

The squad continues to walk deeper into the city, this time making sure they're on the sidewalk. No one says anything for a while.

ERIKA

Alright I'm going to be short and to the point. What's the plan?

NICHOLAS

Well, first we must locate the Hellmouth. I've been unable to pinpoint its current position, but given the unusual behaviour of the citizens I've been observing in this area, it must be close by.

GREG

Then we'll just look for it as a group. How does that sound? Safety in numbers, after all.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANKIE

I think it's a brilliant idea.

SOFIA

I don't. Safety is A Good Thing, don't get me wrong, but I really just want to find this thing, close it down and get the hell out of here. Numbers could take a while, so our best option is to split up and reconvene afterwards.

ERIKA

The faster we destroy the Hellmouth, the sooner my hometown is safe again.

GREG

I disagree, I don't think we should split up. This is new territory for all of us, and if the Hellmouth's doing what these things do best, there'll be all manner of bad guys lurking round here. This storm'll give them plenty of cover to move around, as well.

Sofia and Skye are already walking away from the group, ignoring the orders.

SKYE

(shouting)

Sorry, Greg, can't hear you over the storm!

GREG

Sofia! Skye! Come back!

SOFIA

We'll meet you back here in an hour!

With that, the two Slayers become shadows as they enter the storm, and soon all that is seen is the thick falling snow. Greg looks nervously round to the rest of his students.

GREG

What are the chances of us catching up to them?

NICHOLAS

In this weather, we're more likely to get lost ourselves than find them. We might as well just search for clues ourselves and meet them back here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GREG
(trying to reassure
himself)
Those two should be able to handle
themselves.

ALITA
I find it is best not to worry.
Overall, it accomplishes nothing
but procrastination from the task
at hand.

ERIKA
Wise words.

GREG
Well, two sets of ey-
(catching himself)
Two teams does make our chances for
success more likely.

ERIKA
(smirks)
It's alright, you can say 'eyes' in
front of me.

GREG
What? I never was going to...

ERIKA
I'm blind, but have faith in me.
I'm still a Slayer, and if anything
the loss of my vision has just made
my remaining senses work even
harder.

Without waiting, Erika walks off in a different direction,
with Alita following.

FRANKIE
(rolls eyes)
She is just one big sob story, *non?*

Greg ignores her remark and follows Erika, as we cut to:

13 INT. DEMON BAR - DAY.

13

The shady clientele of different races and powers eye Sofia
and Skye as they enter. The bar contains furniture that even
the homeless would have given away, and the wallpaper is
ripped and faded with time. There is nothing running on
electricity, just candles.

Skye waltzes in and throws herself on a shabby looking couch,
as Sofia remains in front of the door, making sure her scythe
is clear for all to see.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA

I wouldn't sit on that if I were
you, it looks like it's got SARS!

Skye stretches lazily, acting like she owns the place.

SKYE

Alright, fuglies, let's talk. Me
and my partner over there are
Slayers. Not wise to mess with us.

SOFIA

Er, I'm not sure they can
understand us, Skye. We are in
Russia, after all.

A reptilian looking DEMON emerges from the shadows. With dark
yellow eyes and green, scaly skin, it walks up in front of
Sofia, a HISS emerges from its lips, but Sofia just stares
back at it, nonplussed.

REPTILE DEMON

(thick Russian accent)

How do we know you are who you say
you are?

Sofia doesn't move for a beat - then the scythe moves
soundlessly through the air and chops off the demon's head.

SOFIA

That's how you know.

Other demons cringe into the background, trying to hide
themselves as Sofia steps forward to stand beside Skye.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Now then. We're looking for some
information.

Skye grins as fear quickly spreads among the demon lowlifes
in the bar, before we cut to:

14 EXT. OUTSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY - DAY.

14

Greg and Nicholas emerge from the tall, elegant building to a
waiting Frankie, Alita, and Erika.

ERIKA

What have we found out?

NICHOLAS

Nothing. We were using the database
of town plans, digging into this
city's past for mystical signs,
when the power of the building went
out thanks to the storm.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREG

We could look through numerous texts in the cities archives, but that would take time, which we don't exactly have.

NICHOLAS

So for the moment, we might as well head back and meet the girls.

The watchers head down a path, but Frankie and Alita remain.

FRANKIE

What do you think of our newest recruit?

ALITA

She's very positive, considering her condition. I think she will be a good addition to our team.

FRANKIE

But she's blind! The only thing she'll be is useless.

(shakes head)

You 'ave so much to learn. Just wait and see, that girl is going to 'ave to be saved by us every other day. Personally, I don't know what Barbara is thinking letting her come to the Academy.

ALITA

(hesitant)

I... I think you're being unfair.

FRANKIE

(snaps)

'Unfair'? I'm being realistic! A blind Slayer is going to be trouble. She can't even see what we're fighting!

Alita hears footsteps behind them, and turns to see Erika emerge from out of the storm, looking far from happy.

ERIKA

I can hear you talking about me, you know.

Frankie turns and sees her at last, putting one hand on her hip and giving Erika a face full of pure French sass.

FRANKIE

At least you are not deaf as well.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ERIKA

(snaps)

And at least I'm not a bitch! If you weren't so damn judgmental, you would have the brain capacity to understand what I've gone through. Here's the recap for the clueless; I lost my original Watcher a few years ago to the Bringers, and escaped them myself. But not without a price.

(beat)

They're the reason I'm blind, because of something evil did to me. Unlike you, I didn't have a team of other Slayers to watch my back. My family died when I wouldn't come out of hiding, and now here I am, doing my job, to get what insulted by someone who I most definitely have a more extensive vocabulary than. And, if you didn't get the hint, *Oui*, I did just suggest that you're stupid.

(beat)

It's funny, I thought after learning English and training with my new Watcher I could relate to some of the other girls with the same calling that they didn't ask for. I see that I was wrong, all I got was an heiress too afraid to say what's on her mind to others. Well, this is me.

(beat)

I don't like you, Frankie, and for once I'm glad I'm blind, because there's an upside now. I don't have to look at you.

And without further ado, Erika walks into the distance, leaving Frankie stunned into silence.

15

INT. APARTMENT BASEMENT - DAY.

15

Yuri stands silently before the statue, eyes closed as though meditating. A CREAK is heard as the basement door is opened, and twelve VAMPIRES step into the room each with. Yuri doesn't turn to face them as he speaks.

YURI

You have come.

VAMPIRE #1

Well, you did call.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YURI

I did not call you here for humour.
Night crawlers, be aware that you
do not have a say in this. You will
do as I command.

VAMPIRE #2

Sorry, but we don't take orders
from humans, especially religious
types. They make me uneasy.

Yuri spins to face them, suddenly seeming a lot more fierce,
and the vamps all take a step back.

YURI

(booming voice)

Fools! This human is underneath my
power. You believe I, a Hellmouth,
would let a mere mortal order my
servants?

VAMPIRE #3

(quickly)

No, sir.

YURI

Good. Be aware this mortal is
merely a vessel so that I may
communicate with you.

VAMPIRE #2

Understood. Our apologies, your
evilness.

YURI

Now, here is what you are to do.
Slayers have arrived in town, as
I'm sure you are well aware. They
are meeting near the north entrance
of the city, so six of you will go
there to dispose of the problem. Am
I making myself clear?

Without being asked, six of the vampires quickly turn and
leave, ready for action. The remaining vamps stand to
attention, awaiting instruction.

VAMPIRE #2

And what are we to do?

YURI

The rest of you receive the honours
of dinner. Feast upon the apartment
residents and prepare yourself for
the Opening.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Like the first order, this one is taken to heart as the vampires quickly make their way towards the door, cackling in anticipation of the slaughter about to take place.

But when Vampire #2 reaches the door, he hits some kind of invisible barrier with a THUD, and is knocked to the floor.

YURI (cont'd)

Except for you, Judas. You think I couldn't see your plan to run to the Slayers to warn them, in the hopes that they'd spare you? Sickening.

VAMPIRE #2

(terrified)

I wasn't going to tell the Slayers, sir, I swear on my heart!

Yuri walks up to the vampire, GRABS him by the throat and raises him into the air.

YURI

Do not lie to me. I can read your thoughts as easily as opening a book. I don't look fondly upon betrayal. The Slayers' fates have been decided since the day Miss Summers shared her power, as has yours.

(beat)

Have a nice afterlife.

Neck bones CRUNCH as the hand closes around the demons throat, until all that is left is dust floating to the ground. Yuri sighs as he wipes his hands clean.

YURI (cont'd)

Honestly. What is evil coming to?

The vessel marches again towards the strange statue and places a hand on it. The eyes of the lifeless stone turn BLACK as it begins to GLOW with dark energy.

YURI (cont'd)

Awaken. The time has come for you to defend me. Now it is time to kill the beast, starting with it's head.

The statue begins to MOVE, its arms lifting away from its body and its head starting to turn.

Slowly, the statue breaks out of its sleep, flexing its fingers as it takes its first step in centuries. Dust floats off its form as it slowly starts to move, before we cut to:

16

EXT. CITY STREET - DAY.

16

Sofia and Skye walk down the Russian sidewalk, with their weapons in hand. The streets are empty thanks to the heavy storm, as anyone who isn't a Slayer is staying indoors.

SKYE

Have to say, that whole bad cop, bad cop strategy was interesting. And by 'interesting,' I mean 'a lousy idea.'

SOFIA

We may not have learned anything, but it's all good experience.

SKYE

Did you notice Greg sounding like a textbook in front of the other Watcher today?

SOFIA

He was either trying to sound impressive, or ward off Frankie with the power of knowledge.

SKYE

I figure we should cut him a break, he is fairly new to this gig.

The two Slayers continue their walk, until with a loud and sudden RUMBLING sound, the earth starts to shake. The duo fall to the ground as car alarms go off all around them.

SKYE (cont'd)

(shouts over noise)

What, we gotta have an earthquake as well now?

With a deafening CRACK, a fissure opens up in the ground near Skye, and she loses her footing, sliding down towards the darkness below.

SOFIA

Skye!!

Sofia uses the scythe and jams it into the earth, holding onto it for dear life as she quickly grabs Skye's legs. Skye is left swinging over the dark abyss as the rumbling calms down, and the tremors fade away with it.

Sofia takes Skye's hand and pulls her back up onto the street, the two girls catching their breath.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Are you okay?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SKYE
(nods)
Still dead.

SOFIA
What on earth just happened?

SKYE
I'm guessing it's a sign.

SOFIA
I think I'd prefer-

The RUMBLING returns, and with it come the tremors again, cracks racing along the pavement as the slabs beneath their feet start to break up. In the background, a building COLLAPSES in a cloud of dust.

SOFIA (cont'd)
Let's try to make it back with all
our limbs as well, shall we?

With that, the Slayers turn and run, leaping over gaping holes as they burst out of the ground beneath them. The tremors soon subside again, but the Slayers keep going, not willing to tempt fate. We cut away to:

17

EXT. CITY LIMITS - EVENING.

17

Greg and company stand waiting and ready by a cluster of large buildings, their tall, domed roofs standing out despite the blizzard. Frankie still isn't talking, while Alita keeps checking her surroundings every few seconds.

GREG
(checks watch)
They should be back by now.

SKYE (O.S.)
Aw, sweetheart. Did you miss us?

Greg looks up as Skye and Sofia emerge from the snowstorm, both panting for breath.

NICHOLAS
Did you find anything?

SOFIA
An earthquake tried to kill us,
that's about it. What about you?

GREG
(shakes head)
We didn't have any luck either.
(beat)
Wait, did you say 'earthquake'?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SKYE

An honest to goodness temper
tantrum, courtesy of that Mother
Russia you were so in awe of
earlier.

GREG

We didn't feel any tremors.

SKYE

Guess it was a Slayer special.

SOFIA

We should be honoured.

ERIKA

(interrupts)

Everyone shut up!

(beat)

We're not alone.

The group pauses, trying to listen, but hear nothing except
the storm winds.

FRANKIE

I don't like this.

VAMPIRE #4 (O.S.)

To be honest, we vampires aren't
exactly fond of you girls either.

The Slayers tense up as six vampires step out of the snow,
surrounding the team. The five Slayers get into their battle
stances, ready for anything.

VAMPIRE #5

I have always wanted to kill a
Slayer and make a name for myself.
There's a lot more to choose from
these days.

SOFIA

You chose the wrong group, then,
because we're the side that's going
to win.

Vampire #5 is about to retort when he collapses into DUST,
revealing Erika with a stake.

ERIKA

Let's just cut to the chase. I'm
blind as a bat, and I bet I could
still kick all of your behinds.

The remaining vamps turn away from the other girls,
surrounding Erika and chuckling.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

VAMPIRE #4

A blind Slayer?

(laughs)

This should be easy!

One vamp sweeps his leg out and TRIPS her to the ground, and as Erika falls the vampires instantly descend upon her. The four Slayers make to help her, but are stopped by Nicholas.

NICHOLAS

There's no need.

SOFIA

(panicked)

They're going to kill her!

NICHOLAS

Just watch, I'm sure there's a lesson you will all soon learn.

The girls look back, and as we focus on the melee of vampires, hearing the sounds of heavy punches hitting and Erika shouting as she fights back, we quickly:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

18

EXT. CITY LIMITS - EVENING.

18

Back on scene as the four Slayers watch helplessly on, as Erika remains buried beneath the crowd of vampires.

ALITA

We have to help her!

NICHOLAS

Stand down, that's an order!

A loud SMACK is heard, and all five vampires instantly fly back off of Erika, who kicks herself up to her feet and stands in her fighting stance.

Vampire #4 picks himself up first and charges the girl from behind. Without hesitation, Erika turns around grabs his arm, twisting it all the way back until a CRACK is heard. As he YOWLS in pain, she deftly draws a stake and DUSTS him.

By now, the remaining four vamps have picked themselves up, wary of their opponent. Vamp #6 LUNGES towards her, but she catches him and flips him over in the air, using his momentum against him before SLAMMING a stake into his chest.

Vamps #7 and #8 rush her, but she easily blocks their clumsy attacks and with two rapid STABS of her stake, they're DUST.

She high KICKS the final vamp in the face and knocks him onto his back, turning and walking casually back to the girls.

The SNARLING vamp scrambles to his feet and LEAPS towards her, but in one smooth motion she turns and THROWS a stake which lands right in his chest, and as he disintegrates she completes her turn to face the others.

Each girl from the Academy stares at Erika, amazed. Nicholas has a proud smile on his face, and Greg eyes Erika with wonder.

SOFIA

Wow!

SKYE

That was so cool! You're going to have to teach me some of those moves.

SOFIA

It was just... wow.

ALITA

You are truly talented.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA
I mean, with the kicks, and the
turn, and... Wow.

Erika has a smile on her face, noticing that her performance
has stunned Frankie into silence.

ERIKA
(shrugs)
What can I say, appearances can be
deceiving.

Erika walks calmly past the group, and as the still awestruck
Slayers watch her, we DISSOLVE to:

19

EXT. CITY STREETS - NIGHT.

19

Greg marches in front of the Slayers like a general.

GREG
We'd better split up again. There's
a lot of ground to cover here, but
if we take a block each and work
our way out from this point, we'll
always have each other close by if
one of us runs into trouble.

SOFIA
Splitting up didn't exactly do us
much good last time.

GREG
True, but have you noticed how
things have only been happening
when we're all apart?

NICHOLAS
We will be splitting up into three
teams. Sofia and Alita will make up
team one, Frankie and Erika will be
team two. Greg and I will accompany
Skye, making up team three.

SKYE
Why do I get stuck with the
bookworms?

FRANKIE
Greg, may we change the teams,
please? Erika and I aren't exactly
on the best of terms.

GREG
(shakes head)
No deal. You're just going to have
to work out your differences.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIKA

Cheer up, France, worst comes to worst, you'll break a nail.

NICHOLAS

Be aware that whatever danger you may come across, you are not to engage it in any way. I think the recent disturbances like this storm, the car that almost hit Sofia and the mini earthquake you encountered are all being caused by the Hellmouth.

GREG

(nods)

It's trying to slow us down, keep us distracted.

NICHOLAS

It appears that evil can learn new tricks. It expects us to be on the offensive, so the situation is highly dangerous. Chances are the Hellmouth was behind the power cut at the library too - it's trying to stop us from finding it, keeping us distracted any way it can.

SKYE

This is one smart bastard. So evil's all grown up, huh? Mom would be so proud.

SOFIA

So it's going to try and kill us before we can close it, and doesn't need minions.

(beat; sighs)

Same stuff, different week.

A thought hits Nicholas, and he slaps his forehead loudly.

NICHOLAS

I'm such an idiot! The people!

SKYE

Are you sure you're not high?

NICHOLAS

In the apartment block I've been staying in, I've been observing unusual behaviour for the past few days. People acting strangely, aggressively... now it all makes sense.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

NICHOLAS(cont'd)

It's the Hellmouth, its energies
must be spreading out, affecting
more and more people.

(serious)

We need to find this and shut it
down, quickly.

ALITA

Everyone be careful. I wish
everyone luck.

SKYE

Yeah, you too, squirt.

Bidding goodbyes, Slayers and Watchers go off in different
directions in their teams. The snowstorm gets heavier as we
pull back from the scene, causing the screen to WHITE OUT.

20

EXT. TOWN SQUARE - LATER.

20

The town square is blanketed with snow that rests in dead
trees and along several park benches. A giant fountain stands
at the center of the square with its water frozen.

Frankie and Erika walk into frame, with no one else in
sight. Nothing is said between the two, but for once Frankie
actually looks a little humble.

FRANKIE

(hesitant)

Erika, I'm... I am sorry.

ERIKA

For being such a total bitch, or
for the outfit you're wearing?

Silence again encompasses the duo as their footprints
disappear with the falling snow.

FRANKIE

(tries again)

You know, you are an amazing
fighter.

ERIKA

Better than you, at least.

Glancing around casually, Erika bends down and reaches out a
hand to examine the ground. Frankie looks hurt, but quickly
becomes angry.

FRANKIE

(snaps)

You know what? Forget I was sorry.

ERIKA

Already have.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANKIE

Just who the 'ell do you think you are?

ERIKA

Someone who says what everybody else thinks. In case you haven't gotten the memo, out of your squad you're not only the weakest link, you're also the minority.

FRANKIE

Actually, I 'ave figured it out. Why you dislike me, I mean. It is because you are jealous.

ERIKA

(scoffs)

Of what, the world's biggest ego? Now stop thinking about yourself for a few minutes and look for some clues.

Erika stands, head bowed and tilting from side to side as she listens carefully, trying to make out any sounds over the howling winds. Without waiting for Frankie, Erika starts her walk away from the park. After a few beats, Frankie finally spots her leaving and jogs to catch up.

FRANKIE

You could at least 'ave told me you were going!

ERIKA

(smirks)

Sorry. I didn't see you.

A SHATTERING sound quickly stops the Slayers in their tracks. Over in the fountain, the thick ice has started to crack. As hairline cracks race across the frozen surface, the girls take a few steps forward.

Ice suddenly ERUPTS in all directions as a dark form blasts to the surface with an unearthly ROAR, and through the plumes of icy water all we can make out is a huge, black body and a head that seems to be covered with black, writhing tentacles.

ERIKA (cont'd)

What is it?

The fearsome creature BELLOWS, causing nearby glass to break and knocking the Slayers off their feet, sending them flying backwards to crash back onto the cold ground.

Frankie jumps up, pulling her hair out of its ponytail and raising her sword as she sizes up this new arrival.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

We still haven't got a good look at whatever just rose from the fountain, but as its dark shadow looms over Frankie, Erika's hand reaches out and drags her away.

ERIKA (cont'd)
It's only a distraction, come on!

FRANKIE
We can't lave this thing 'ere, it
could kill innocent people!

ERIKA
Which is a distraction! We have our
orders. We may not agree with them,
but they'll get the job done.

Erika starts to race out of the square, and with a final glance over her shoulder at the form lumbering towards her, its true nature obscured by the snow, Frankie follows.

21 EXT. RESIDENTIAL AREA - SAME TIME.

21

On the other side of town, Skye, Greg and Nicholas walk determinedly down the sidewalk. Skye shivers and pulls her thick coat tighter around her.

SKYE
The weather is pissing you guys off
too, right?
(beat)
Hide.

GREG
What?

SKYE
Demons, coming this way.

NICHOLAS
Hadn't you better hide with us?

SKYE
I can handle this. Now go!

The watchers slip into the background, and once they're gone Skye puts on her VAMP FACE.

Emerging from an alleyway are two DEMONS, dressed up to suit the weather, their faces obscured. The first Demon spots her and heads over, and she nods casually as they approach - one demon to another.

DEMON #1
Hey, vampire. Can you feel that
power? Singing through the wind,
all around us... it's incredible.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SKYE

(shrugs)

Nothing special, ya know?

DEMON #2

'Nothing special'? This is a once in a lifetime opportunity! The Hellmouth has called all demons within the vicinity to be on their way towards its unholiness.

SKYE

Oh, sweet. So where's the show?

(off their looks)

I'm new in town.

DEMON #2

Just tag along with us, and we'll show you the victims.

The trio makes their way off screen, and after a few beats Greg and Nicholas come out of hiding.

GREG

That girl is both brilliant and insane.

NICHOLAS

You have to admire her courage.

SKYE (O.S.)

Boys! If you're going to talk about me, make sure I'm around. Makes me feel all warm inside.

Skye struts back into frame, vampire features still in place.

GREG

What happened to those demons?

SKYE

They're taken care of.

GREG

That was fast! How could you understand what they were saying?

SKYE

(puzzled)

Couldn't you?

NICHOLAS

They were both speaking in Russian. At least, that's what we heard.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SKYE

Oh.

(shrugs)

Guess it must be a demon thing.

NICHOLAS

How do you propose we locate the Hellmouth now that you've destroyed our only chance at finding it?

SKYE

I'll follow my gut. Being evil has its advantages.

GREG

Of course, you can sense its energies, can't you?

SKYE

Yep. Once the dynamic duo clued me in, I just closed my eyes and poof! Learned evil wants me. It's good to be needed.

Skye heads back into the storm, classic devilish smirk in place, and with an exchange of looks, the Watchers follow her into the blizzard as we cut to:

22

EXT. PARK - SAME TIME.

22

Besides several trees, Sofia and Alita are alone in this park as they walk on, eyes peeled for any suspicious activity. Alita glances down at the Scythe, blinking in surprise.

ALITA

Uh, Sofia? I haven't seen your scythe glow like that before.

Sofia looks down at her weapon, and it is indeed GLOWING, getting brighter as they continue their walk. Pausing for a moment, Sofia takes a step back and watches as the scythe's light fades slightly.

SOFIA

Well, that's new! Looks like we've got a rather good chance of finding this Hellmouth after all!

ALITA

What should we do?

SOFIA

Follow the yellow brick road.

With a grin, Sofia heads off screen, holding the Scythe out to light her way, and as Alita follows her, we cut to:

23

EXT. STREET OUTSIDE APARTMENT BLOCK - EVENING.

23

From this distance, the run down building looks empty. There are no heavy winds or snow in the area, and a dead silence surrounds the building.

One team at a time, the Slayers walk into the deathly quiet street, caked with snow from the storm that seems to end just at the edge of the block the apartments stand on. They look round in surprise at the sudden absence of harsh weather.

Skye is the first to spot the apartment building, standing dead centre in the city block they're on. Sofia aims her Scythe towards it and it GLOWS more brightly, and Skye nods.

SKYE

Well, Charlie, that's the chocolate factory alright.

(to others)

This is the place, everyone.

NICHOLAS

You mean to tell me that I slept where the answer was the whole time? It was right under my nose!

SOFIA

I don't like the looks of this, with all of us arriving at the same time. Whatever's in there called us to make sure we'd be here.

GREG

It would appear that way.

SKYE

Well, since it was kind enough to send out the invitations, it's only fair we go to the party.

ALITA

Should we split up again?

GREG

No, if anything that's what it wants. We need to stay together and beat this as a team.

The team slowly walk towards the entrance, and we cut to:

24

INT. APARTMENTS - 1ST FLOOR CORRIDOR - EVENING.

24

The hallway is littered with the residents' BODIES. Blood is spattered across the walls, the heaps of unfortunate corpses piled up where they fell. The girls step carefully over them as Greg and Nicholas check for any signs of life.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREG

I'm afraid it looks like there are no survivors in here. My guess is the rest of the floors are going to look like this.

SKYE

So we failed?

GREG

There's nothing we could have done. It's not our fault these people are dead.

ERIKA

(angrily)

Don't lie, of course it is! We're Slayers, we're supposed to protect people like this from the things they can't fight themselves.

NICHOLAS

Erika, you're entitled to your opinion, but please keep it to yourself.

Erika makes her way towards her Watcher and puts her arms causally around his neck. He recoils a little, surprised by this sudden show of emotion.

ERIKA

(flirtatious)

Fine, but only because you asked so nicely, Nick. Now be a good Watcher and watch me.

Without waiting to see if she's followed, Erika walks off down the trail of dead bodies.

SKYE

What's with her?

FRANKIE

Who cares?

The squad quickly follows Erika's lead, but as they round the first corner in the corridor, they find the blind Slayer collapsed on the ground, **WEEPING** hysterically.

ERIKA

(sobs)

My mother! They killed my mother!

Erika looks up, staring at some unseen object, reaching her hand out towards it, her face suddenly full of fear.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ERIKA (cont'd)
Sis, are you okay? What's that on
your throat...
(shrieks)
No!!

Nicholas pushes past the others and goes to her side,
cradling Erika in his arms as she continues to SOB.

NICHOLAS
Erika, just stay calm. Whatever's
doing this can be stopped.
Something in here is obviously
affecting you, we should-

ERIKA
(distant)
Evil... evil did this...
(beat; softly)
Why me?

The Academy girls look on helplessly, when Erika's expression
suddenly hardens. She pushes Nicholas away and gets back to
her feet, determination crossing her features.

ERIKA (cont'd)
It's time we finish this. The rest
of you go outside, this'll be over
in a minute.

SOFIA
You can't seriously think we're
leaving you alone in here? That's
suicide!

Erika's arm shoots out and SHOVES Sofia to the floor.

ERIKA
(cold)
Leave here. This is my mission.

Erika walks down the hall with a heavy stride, but quickly
stumbles, falling down into a huddle in a corner, shaking and
cowering fearfully as Sofia and Alita hurry over.

SKYE
And I thought I had issues...

Erika is rocking back and forth like a traumatised infant as
Sofia crouches by her side.

ERIKA
(childlike)
They're going to get me... they're
going to get me...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

GREG

Erika, it's the Hellmouth, it's
playing with your mind, you have to
block it out!

Erika suddenly begins to LAUGH hysterically, and Sofia
shuffles backwards, not sure what to do.

ERIKA

Monsters, demons, they're all real!
All real!

FRANKIE

At least she is catching up with
the present.

ALITA

Erika, would you like to leave?

Erika turns to look towards Alita, her face twisting with
anger.

ERIKA

Leave? Are you insane? Just stay
out of my way!

SOFIA

Erika, you can trust us.

ERIKA

That's exactly what my last Watcher
said, before he tried to hand me
over to the Bringers to save his
own life.

GREG

(turns to Nicholas)
What? Is that true?

FRANKIE

Can we just take her 'ome, please?
She is clearly unstable, she'll get
us all butchered!

ERIKA

(angry)
You know what you need, Frankie?
You need to be put in your place.

Erika LUNGES towards Frankie, catching everyone off guard and
sending Frankie CRASHING to the floor. Nicholas rushes over
as Frankie tries to fight off the frenzied Slayer.

NICHOLAS

Erika, stop! You must-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

WHAM! Nicholas is knocked backwards by a PUNCH to the face. Erika pushes herself off Frankie, backing away down the corridor away from the others.

ERIKA

I know what you're doing... trying to take me down to Hell! I know all of your plans! You're the real evil here. Slayers kill demons, they go to their deaths because of orders given out by you!

GREG

Erika, please! You're not thinking straight!

ERIKA

Or you want to hide the truth from your perfect little students. It doesn't matter. I'll soon put a stop to any orders being given.

Erika turns and sprints away, back towards the building's exit and the streets outside. There's a beat as the others try to take in what the heck just happened.

FRANKIE

What do we do now?

SOFIA

We have to go after her!

GREG

I agree. We can't leave her like that, there's no telling what she could do to herself or anyone she runs into.

FRANKIE

But what about the 'ellmouth?

SKYE

It'll still be here when we find her and knock some sense back into her. Come on!

Skye is the first to start running after Erika, and as the others start to follow, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

25 INT. WATCHERS HQ LOUNGE - NIGHT.

25

We're inside what looks like a glorified waiting room - drab paint covers the walls, and Skye and Frankie sit across various well-worn leather couches, looking like they've been waiting for a while. Frankie flips through a magazine - but doesn't have much luck with it, given that it's all in Russian!

SKYE

So, this is the Russian Watcher headquarters, huh?

FRANKIE

(sighs)

'ow many times are you going to say that?

SKYE

Until I get a decent conversation out of someone.

FRANKIE

It is becoming *tres* annoying!

SKYE

(smirks)

Then my job is done.

A door to the right open, and Greg steps through, followed by an exhausted-looking Sofia and Alita.

SKYE (cont'd)

What's the word, Sofia? Any news on our little runaway?

SOFIA

We found her.

GREG

Well, to be honest, she found us. We had to take some... extra measures to subdue her, but she's back in our hands now. Nicholas is downstairs tending to her.

FRANKIE

Is she still crazy?

GREG

Frankie, she isn't insane!
(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREG(cont'd)

Well, I suppose she is, but the point is it's not her fault.

SOFIA

Why didn't the Hellmouth affect the rest of us?

GREG

It appears that the Hellmouth can only control the locals. It does explain how it could pinpoint us so easily, though. It merely sent it's powers to the area where it didn't have complete control.

FRANKIE

That is fascinating.

SKYE

(eyes her)

Probably because you didn't understand any of it.

(to Greg)

Did we learn anything else?

GREG

Yes, that's where we have a problem. It appears we need a Slayer to close down the Hellmouth, using the scythe to lock down its seal.

SOFIA

(raises hand)

Er, you are aware of who you're with in this room with, aren't you? I just so happen to have this funny Scythe-shaped thing in my bag...

GREG

That's where the complications come in. The Slayer also has to be of local blood.

The girls fall into silence as they realise that this is a pretty big problem indeed, as we DISSOLVE TO:

26

INT. PRISON CELL - NIGHT.

26

Erika sits in a small cell, not noticing the lack of decorum. It's merely made up of gray walls and a mattress. Hearing footsteps she looks up and listens to the two people approaching her cell.

SKYE (O.S.)

You know what we're about to do is pointless, right?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA (O.S.)

I'll just reason with her. It'll be easy.

SKYE (O.S.)

Alright, Doctor Phil, but if you get attacked I'm waiting at least ten seconds before I haul your British ass out of there, just to teach you a lesson.

Sofia and Skye come into view, each with a drink.

SOFIA

(cheery)

Hello, Erika.

ERIKA

What do you want?

SOFIA

Your help, actually.

ERIKA

You've come at a bad time.

SOFIA

Is there any other kind?

ERIKA

(beat)

To be realistic, no.

Erika turns away from Sofia, who pulls up a nearby chair and sits, staring through the cell's bars at the captive Slayer.

SOFIA

Erika, I know you're not exactly a fan of our calling, but you're still a champion.

ERIKA

So where's the glory? Why does the rest of the world get to ignore it's problems?

(angry)

You know it's not fair!

SOFIA

Well, I hate to disappoint you, but that's life! Get over it! I lost both of my parents in a plane crash, all because the demons that caused it wanted to get their hands on me, and I still fight. What the hell is your excuse?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ERIKA

For your information, I don't have to fight. Nicholas gave me a choice after my mother died.

SOFIA

Nicholas is also still unconscious because of your attack.

Erika bows her head, and after a few beats Sofia sees she's not going to get anything else out of her. She stands and heads back over to Skye.

SKYE

Not a bad interrogation, if your aim was to not actually interrogate her at all.

SOFIA

I know. Buffy and I never had any trouble getting information out of demon informants, but I doubt we should apply the same tactics here and pummel Erika to within an inch of her life.

SKYE

(nods)

Might look bad on the resume.

ERIKA (O.S.)

I can hear both of you, you know.

They step back towards the cell, bringing Erika into view.

SKYE

Oh, we know. We don't care, but we know.

ERIKA

I know you both think you're pretty tough, because one of you worked with the infamous Buffy, and the other is a vampire, but really! Get over yourselves.

SKYE

Alright, that's it!

Suddenly furious, Skye marches over to the cell, and with a HEAVE of Slayer Strength she pulls the barred iron door right off its hinges with a loud CRUNCH, dislodging a cloud of cement dust from overhead.

With a CLATTER, she throws the door away like it was nothing, and as she steps into the cell her vampire face is revealed.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Without giving Erika a chance to move, Skye CLOCKS her with a swift punch, grabbing her as she slumps and going for her neck.

As Skye's fangs break the skin and a trickle of BLOOD runs down Erika's neck, Skye looks up - and sees the form of Buffy smiling on the other side of the cell! Freaked, Skye quickly drops Erika back onto the mattress and marches back out.

Skye picks up her cup and SPITS the mouthful of Erika's blood into it, handing the cup to a shocked Sofia, trying not to look at the silent blonde spectre in the corner.

SKYE (cont'd)
There. Local blood. Use that, it'll
work just fine.

A shocked Sofia looks down into the cup as Sofia storms out of the cell, before we cut to:

27

INT. APARTMENT CORRIDOR - NIGHT.

27

Slowly our three heroes stalk through the corridors, trying not to look at the piles of dead bodies, eyes alert and weapons raised.

FRANKIE
I still don't get why we 'ad to
leave Alita behind.

SOFIA
I explained it to you, Frankie!
Chances are while we're down here
the Hellmouth will send some of its
goons to look for Erika, seeing as
it'll think she's the only Slayer
here who can stop it, so we needed
to leave her with someone who could
protect her.

Skye holds up her hand to stop the team as they reach a junction in the corridor. Skye checks left and right but doesn't look happy with either choice.

SKYE
You realize this has 'trap' written
all over it, right?

Sofia opens her mouth to reply, but pauses as CLAPPING echoes down the hall from somewhere behind them.

The girls to see the last four of the Hellmouth's vampire pack heading towards them, the lead vampire clapping his hands slowly together, mocking them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VAMPIRE #8

It's nice to have somebody finally appreciate all the hard work we've gone through.

SKYE

Almost a pity it's all going to have to go to waste.

Frankie steps between Skye and the advancing vampires, her short sword raised.

FRANKIE

Skye, Sofia, continue to the basement. I'll deal with these *idiotes*.

SOFIA

Are you sure you can handle them?

FRANKIE

Oui. It's a job I was born to do, after all.

Sofia and Skye exchange a look, then turn and race off down the right hand path. Frankie grits her teeth as the four vamps also break into a run, barreling straight for her as we quickly cut to:

28 INT. APARTMENT - OUTSIDE BASEMENT - NIGHT.

28

Skye and Sofia arrive in frame to be faced by a tall iron door, handily signposted - in Russian.

SKYE

Reckon that says 'basement'?

SOFIA

Only one way to find out.

SKYE

(grins)

Knock, knock!

Skye steps back, then charges forward and KICKS the metal door off its hinges. The duo slip into the shadows beyond as we cut back to:

29 INT. WATCHERS HQ - ENTRANCE - NIGHT.

29

Greg paces up and down at the foot of a staircase that leads up into the waiting room, the decor in this lower floor of the headquarters just as spartan as upstairs. Alita stands nearby, her head suddenly snapping round.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALITA

Move back. Something is coming.

Greg looks up, and for a beat there is silence - then with a CRASH the front doors of the building EXPLODE back into the lobby, filling the room with dust.

Heavy FOOTSTEPS ring out as something large and heavy stomps across the lobby. Alita backs up, her nunchucks at the ready as she makes sure Greg stays behind her.

A dark shape can be seen advancing through the smoke, and as it starts to clear, Alita boggles at the intruder - it's the STONE STATUE from the apartment building's basement!

Moving slowly but confidently, the statue raises one hand to reveal a gleaming metal DAGGER, which is quickly THROWS through the air towards Greg.

He GASPS - but Alita dives into frame and snatches the weapon out of the air, smoothly turning round and throwing it right back before she hits the ground.

The dagger bounces harmlessly off the statue and clatters to the ground, and as the statue raises its other hand to reveal a long, curved sword, Alita shouts across to Greg:

ALITA (cont'd)

Run! Get upstairs, quickly!

Greg obediently turns and scampers up the staircase, and as the statue turns and starts to follow him, Alita flies into frame with a YELL, jump-kicking the stone warrior.

It GRABS her out of the air and spins her round, effortlessly throwing her against the nearest wall with a heavy THUD.

Alita slides to the ground, winded, but quickly drags herself back to her feet and dives to the attack again, as we cut to:

30 INT. APARTMENT - BASEMENT - NIGHT.

30

Rushing into the basement, Sofia and Skye find themselves in a room where the walls are covered with strange symbols in long forgotten languages.

Sofia squints in the gloom, trying to make them out, but a noise overhead makes Skye look up.

SKYE

Watch out!

She TACKLES Sofia to the ground as a chunk of cement falls from the ceiling, SLAMMING into the ground and narrowly missing the duo - but blocking the exit off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sofia stands, breathing a sigh of relief - just as the large hand of Yuri SNAPS into frame, grabbing her wrist.

She turns to look up at him, all six foot ten and a hundred and sixty pounds of him, as he grins down at her.

YURI
(Russian accent)
Looking for something?

Yuri FLINGS Sofia across the basement, and she SLAMS into the far wall as Skye draws her twin sai daggers.

SKYE
Who the hell are you?

YURI
What I'm really wondering is what
the hell are you?

Yuri SNAPS his fingers, and to her surprise Skye's vampiric features suddenly surface.

SKYE
(shocked)
What the...

YURI
You see, I have a certain control
over creatures that are of the
night.

SKYE
To be honest, I'm more of a morning
person.

Skye quickly HEAD BUTTS Yuri and checks on Sofia, who is smearing Erika's blood onto the edge of her scythe.

Yuri staggers backwards but quickly recovers, shaking its head to clear it and glaring at the two Slayers.

YURI
Insolent little whelps! You think
you can defeat me?

SOFIA
(raises Scythe)
Where's the seal?

YURI
What seal?

SOFIA
Don't play games with me, I really
don't have the patience for it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

YURI

You really have no idea, do you?
Let me inform you, little girl, not
every Hellmouth has a seal. Some
may have a guardian, some can have
powers beyond mortal comprehension.

(beat)

And some can have a mixture of it
all.

FIREBALLS appear in his hands, and with a wicked grin the
evil entity THROWS them at the girls, as we quickly cut to:

31 INT. WATCHERS HQ - LOUNGE - NIGHT.

31

The head quarters are in ruins - chunks have been knocked out
of the walls, the sofas are torn in two and books and files
are scattered across the floor.

Greg tears a fire extinguisher from the wall, and Alita
expertly spins her nunchucks round, her eyes locked on the
warrior statue as it plods relentlessly towards them.

ALITA

Is Erika being guarded?

GREG

Nicholas is with her, don't worry.

Alita once again charges the strange demon, ignoring her cuts
and bruises. The statue's arms lashes out and picks her up as
if she were a doll, starting to CHOKe the life out of her.

She struggles for breath and tries to kick the demon away,
and Greg SLAMS the extinguisher into its arms, but to no
avail! Alita COUGHS, still struggling, as we cut to:

32 INT. APARTMENT - BASEMENT - NIGHT.

32

Both Sofia and Skye have ash on their faces along with burn
marks on their clothes, yet they stand defiantly as they
circle Yuri, two more balls of flame burning in his hands.

YURI

I have to admit, your endurance is
better than expected.

SKYE

(to Sofia)

Coming up with a plan yet?

SOFIA

Short of 'keep punching,' not yet.

Casually, Yuri walks towards them, but then stops as if
having an idea.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YURI

Actually, I think I'm going to let
you do the hard work for me.

(beat)

Skye, Bite her.

SOFIA

You can't expect her to...

Sofia trails off as she glances across at Skye, who is frozen to the spot, her whole body tensed up as though fighting some invisible force.

SKYE

(through clenched teeth)

Sofia... run! I can't control it!

The vampire within takes over, and Skye steps towards Sofia, who raises the Scythe defensively.

SOFIA

Skye, fight it! You can't let this
thing beat you!

With a feral GROWL, Skye LUNGES at Sofia, knocking them both to the floor. Yuri LAUGHS as Sofia pushes back with all her strength, trying to keep Skye's fangs from closing on her neck - but Skye's too strong, and her jaws draw ever closer...

Using all her strength, Sofia turns Skye over and THROWS her at a wall - but she sails straight through it!

SOFIA (cont'd)

(blinks)

Well... that's new.

YURI

You don't want to go in there.

SOFIA

I think I'll decide that.

Flipping neatly back to her feet, she avoids another fireball that Yuri hurls at her and charges towards the wall she just threw Skye towards - passing straight through it!

33

INT. BASEMENT - HIDDEN ROOM - CONTINUOUS.

33

The hidden room is another plain, dark concrete-walled area - but in the centre of the floor is a large silver star in the shape of a PENTAGRAM - this is the Seal!

Sofia glances across and sees Skye huddled up in the corner, shivering. Her features have returned to normal, but she doesn't look like she's going to be much help.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sofia steps towards the seal, her Scythe PULSING with soft white light as Yuri steps through the false wall behind her. She turns to him with a grin.

SOFIA

Well, what do you know. Our humble host lied to us.

YURI

(laughs)

You think stopping this will change anything? Believe, me there are other Hellmouths that will make the whole world bleed when they open. Mine is just the beginning.

SOFIA

In case you haven't noticed, you've lost this battle.

Sofia raises her scythe with both hands, and Yuri GROWLS, two fresh fireballs forming in his hands.

SOFIA (cont'd)

But you're right, this does mark the beginning of something. A new era.

Yuri raises his hand to throw a fireball at Sofia - and is promptly SLAMMED to the floor as Skye throws herself at him with a YELL.

With that, Sofia SLAMS the Scythe down onto the seal, and there is a sudden BLAZE of white light as it makes contact.

As the entire scene starts to WHITE OUT, we can just make out Sofia being knocked to her feet, and hear the distant cry of anguish of Yuri, before we DISSOLVE TO:

34 INT. WATCHERS HQ - LOUNGE - NIGHT.

34

The stone warrior is still choking the life out of Alita, but as a sudden gust of wind blows through the room, the warrior freezes - and then EXPLODES into fragments.

Alita lands heavily on the floor, clutching her red throat and gasping for breath as Greg helps her up.

ALITA

That was... odd.

GREG

(smiles)

I think it means we've won this round with the forces of darkness.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREG(cont'd)

That was a little too cheesy,
wasn't it?

Alita looks up at him, still recovering from her throttling,
as we DISSOLVE TO:

35

INT. SMALL JET - LATER.

35

The whole team is loaded up on the jet now - Alita
unconsciously rubs her throat as the battle-marked Sofia and
Skye spread themselves across several seats to try and find a
comfortable position to sit.

Greg reads through his mission notes in one of the front
seats and Frankie files her nails, but has a wry smile on her
face - and enough cuts and scratches to show that her evening
was pretty action-packed as well.

Erika sits alone by one of the window seats, staring out
across the night sky as the glittering lights of her home
town fan out below. She doesn't turn round as Sofia heads
over to sit next to her.

SOFIA

So, I take it you're alright now?

ERIKA

I've been better, but I'll live.

Sofia raises an eyebrow, and Erika SIGHS heavily.

GREG

Well, this was definitely an
experience, to the say the least.

FRANKIE

(proudly)

I took on four vampires and won.

ERIKA

(matter-of-fact)

I took on six.

Frankie's smile drops as Erika bursts her bubble, and with a
quick COUGH Greg quickly changes the subject.

GREG

More importantly, we worked as a
team and accomplished the mission.

SKYE

The makers of Hallmark will be
proud.

ALITA

And what of the man the Hellmouth
had possessed?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SKYE

Once Sofia popped the Hellmouth,
whatever had been controlling him
made a quick exit. When he came
round, he was just a normal guy
again. Saw my vampire face and just
fainted away.

(chuckles)

I needed a laugh after all that.

Erika turns towards Sofia at last.

ERIKA

So tell me, what is this Academy
like?

SOFIA

To be honest, it's... different.

ERIKA

Different how?

SOFIA

And spoil the surprise of next
week's adventure?

(beat; grins)

No chance.

Erika manages to smile at last, and as Sofia chuckles,
stretching out in her seat and relaxing at long last, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW