

SLAYER ACADEMY

"Long Distance"

by
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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. TOKYO STREETS - NIGHT. 1

Panning down the quiet yet bright streets of Tokyo at night, the base of an ancient tower rising up to fill the screen.

Suddenly, we hear sounds of SWORD SWIPES and RUNNING FEET far above us.

2 EXT. TOWER BLOCK - ROOFTOP - NIGHT. 2

Swiftly shifting upwards to the flat roof of the tower, a young Japanese girl fighting bravely against a pack of demon ninja known as the 'shibito'.

The shibito are dressed all in black with a red trim around their suits. A small portion of their masks is missing round their eyes, with green, scaly skin visible around that.

The girl is called AYUMI, and she is dressed in leather pants with a red sleeveless top.

A shibito charges at her, brandishing a sword taken from the sheath on his back. She ducks underneath the blow and sweeps him off his feet, pausing to blow a stray lock of hair from her face.

AYUMI
(subtitled Japanese)
Just so you all know... I've had a
really long night.

Another comes at her from the side and kicks her in the face. She retaliates with a PUNCH before blocking another kick, grabbing his leg and spinning him around, its body landing with a THUD on the ground.

AYUMI (cont'd)
And you are all going to die for
keeping me up this late.

Two more come at her with swords, but she runs to the side of the roof, grabbing a katana from a statue of a warrior resting on the steel railing outlining the building.

They rain sword blows down upon her, but with the agility and grace of a slayer, she is able to simultaneously fend blows from both shibito. She blocks one then another until both attack at once.

She blocks both at the same time, and then flings them backwards with finesse. Then, she stabs one right through the chest and kicks the other away.

(CONTINUED)

Pulling the blade from the penetrating wound, the carcass falls to the floor. One other shibito runs at her, carrying two swords, and Ayumi jumps into the air, landing square on the railing.

She runs along it, parrying various blows from nearby shibito and even decapitating a few.

Finally, she jumps off the railings, wrapping her legs around the head of a shibito and swinging her body around snapping its neck.

She backflips, landing on her feet and striking a pose with the sword.

AYUMI (cont'd)

You're not so tough.

Abruptly, six or seven more shibito seemingly fall from the sky, landing in a crouching position and slowly rising.

AYUMI (cont'd)

Damn...

She continues to fight, using her sword to slice through the group. She slashes one across the chest before blocking another's sword blow and kicking it in the stomach. She rolls to gain more distance and continues with the onslaught.

She stabs another in the chest from behind and then backwards rolls taking another's legs out. She scrambles to her feet, stabbing the downed enemy.

She rises, muddy and worn out but with plenty of fight left in her. She eyes up her five remaining opponents and then charges back into battle.

AYUMI (cont'd)

Let us finish this.

One shibito, the General of the Army, wearing a gold trim as opposed to a red trim, attacks her using a chain with a spear-like weapon on the end called a *kusuri-gama*. He swings it around his body as it heads straight towards Ayumi.

She uses her sword to deflect the spear outwards but behind her, a shibito jumps at her and lands a kick right on her back. She stumbles forwards, right into an uppercut sending her into the air and crashing down to the floor.

She slowly stumbles to her feet as the shibito holding the *kusuri-gama* takes another swing at Ling. The shot narrowly misses impaling itself in her face, but it deeply cuts her cheek.

(CONTINUED)

AYUMI (cont'd)

Ah!

She stumbles backwards letting out a small WINCE touching the fresh wound. The remaining shibito rain a barrage of attacks down on Ling as she desperately tries to block all three blades.

Accidentally, she lets one slip through, slicing through part of her shoulder. She lets out a small SCREAM from the pain and tries to run back to regain some ground, but is blocked by the General shibito.

He throws his kusuri-gama at her, this time wrapping itself around her sword throwing it far from the battlefield.

The shibito pulls back, ready for another throw when Ling realises what she has to do. Empty handed, she lunges herself like a cannonball towards a nearby shibito, grabbing its jacket and flipping herself behind it, still maintaining her grip.

The kusuri-gama flies right towards the shibito, lodging itself in its chest. With the dead shibito body firmly attached to the kusuri-gama, she runs to collect her sword, but halfway through running she is stopped dead in her tracks.

AYUMI (cont'd)

(softly)

No...

Pan backwards to see a typical white four-pronged ninja star lodged deep into her back. She stumbles falling to the ground, landing on her hands and knees. Blood is dripping from her various cuts and bruises.

After a few beats, we zoom even further backwards to see the back of a huge golden-armoured samurai demon called KARIUDO.

He slowly advances towards the fallen girl, pounding the ground with his feet. He's about seven feet tall and quite obviously very strong. He crouches down in front of Ayumi and raises her chin.

The samurai looms huge through the bleary eyes of Ayumi as she slowly slips into unconsciousness.

KARIUDO

(subtitled Japanese)

Looks like you're out of ideas,
little girl...

Kariudo gracefully takes out his own sword from a sheath attached to his waist. He flips it around quickly so that the blade pointing at Ayumi's face.

(CONTINUED)

KARIUDO (cont'd)
... but here's one for free.

He raises the sword above his head, and with a war cry he
SLAMS its down. On this, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3 INT. BARBARA'S OFFICE - MORNING.

3

GREG and BARBARA sit in her office - or, at least, Greg is sitting. Barbara is standing and pacing slowly around the room. Greg looks slightly uncomfortable. After a few beats of pacing, she speaks.

BARBARA

So, Greg, I guess you know why I called you here?

GREG

(awkward)

Er... yes.

Barbara sits down on the edge of the table with her legs folded.

BARBARA

Why didn't you tell me?

GREG

I guess... I didn't want to tell you because I knew you'd be angry with me for not telling you sooner, and then I thought you'd just give me the sack or something.

BARBARA

Greg, why would you think that?

GREG

Well... you could be homophobic. Believe me, I've already had my fair share of supposedly respectable Watchers suddenly developing an allergic reaction to having me around.

Barbara lets out a small chuckle.

BARBARA

Greg, you're one of the best Watchers out there. That doesn't change because you're gay. You could be a convict and you'd still be my best Watcher. I mean, I'd probably have you committed, but still...

Greg smiles and looks up.

(CONTINUED)

GREG

Really? So... you don't mind?

BARBARA

Well, I'm a little annoyed that you kept it such a secret. It made me feel that you couldn't trust me.

GREG

I never meant that.

BARBARA

Don't worry, I'll get over it. So, have you ever told anyone else? Your father, for instance?

There is a short pause as he looks down.

GREG

Actually, I never knew my father.

BARBARA

Oh. I'm sorry. It must've been hard for you... you know, growing up.

GREG

(shrugs)

It's okay. I'm fine to talk about it now.

BARBARA

Mr. Giles never told me.

GREG

(looks up)

Mr. Giles spoke to you about me?

Barbara pauses - she probably shouldn't have let that particular bit of information out.

BARBARA

Well, I wasn't going to tell you about this, but you might as well find out from me.

GREG

(frowns)

What do you mean?

BARBARA

Mr. Giles personally recommended you for the post of the main squad's Watcher.

(CONTINUED)

GREG
(shocked)
Really?

BARBARA
(smiles)
Yes. He said that he's never seen
such a diligent worker, and that he
knew you'd take care of the girls
as if they were your own kids.

Greg sits there, gob smacked and very pleased with the kind words. There's a long pause of silence.

BARBARA (cont'd)
So... are you seeing anyone, or...

There's a short pause before we cut to:

The girls are all getting ready for their morning briefing. SOFIA is checking herself in the mirror, FRANKIE is straightening her hair, ALITA is folding some clothes and neatly putting them into a draw. SKYE, as usual, is absent.

SOFIA
Does this shirt make me look fat?

FRANKIE
Non, *cheri*, your fat makes you look fat.

SOFIA
(rolls eyes)
Listen, Frankie, I know that you're bitter about last week, and I know that me telling Barbara didn't exactly put you on her best side...

FRANKIE
Oui, and?

SOFIA
But you did the right thing. You righted a wrong, and for that, I respect you.

Frankie opens her mouth to say something but abruptly closes it, not knowing how to come back from Sofia's words.

SOFIA (cont'd)
Anyway, we've got that mission briefing, so I'd better go find Skye. Alita?

Alita raises her head and stops putting away her clothes.

SOFIA (cont'd)
Are you coming?

ALITA
(nods)
Yes.

Alita grabs her coat and they both head out of the door. As they do this, Alita comes closer to Sofia and whispers.

ALITA (cont'd)
I like it when you stand up to her
like that.

Sofia grins back at her, and they both giggle and head out, leaving a very confused Frankie in the distance.

EXT. CAMPUS GROUNDS/QUADRANGLE - MORNING

Sofia, Alita and SKYE are all walking slowly down the left quadrangle path, towards Barbara's office.

SKYE
Wonder where we're goin' this week?

SOFIA
Don't know. We've been halfway
round the world by now, I think
we're running out of places!

SKYE
(sarcastic)
Yep, the sacrifices we must make
for the greater good, eh?

Suddenly, Greg emerges from one of the buildings. Sofia waves to him and shouts:

SOFIA
G'morning, Greg!

Greg politely waves back and advances towards them.

GREG
Good morning, angels.

Sofia grins, Alita blinks, missing the joke, and Skye just rolls her eyes.

GREG (cont'd)
So, girls, ready for the next
mission?

SOFIA

So far!

SKYE

(sarcastic)

Yeah, big smiley faces all round.

GREG

Alita, I hear tell that we're going to a place in Tokyo not far from your village. Sounds like you'll get to see your father and brother again!

Alita looks far from happy, but disguises it as best she can by putting on a fake smile.

ALITA

That's... excellent news.

Greg goes to explain more, but is shut down when Frankie hurriedly emerges from behind them wearing a loud, garish pink dress.

FRANKIE

Attends!

She slows down and starts to walk with them.

GREG

(wry)

Oh, hello Frankie. I didn't see you there.

Frankie, not really understanding the joke, waves disinterestedly back.

GREG (cont'd)

Frankie, are you alright?

FRANKIE

Oui, why wouldn't I be?

There is an awkward pause as she stares at Greg, a little uncomfortably.

GREG

(sighs)

Okay, look, girls, I'm sorry I didn't tell you sooner about my sexuality, but I didn't want it to endanger our friendship, and-

SKYE

(interrupts)

Greg, Greg, stop right there.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SKYE (cont'd)

To be honest with you, and I think I speak for everyone in present company when I say this, but we really don't care if you like the pen-

SOFIA

(quickly)

What Skye is trying to say is that we all don't mind. Being gay doesn't make you any less of a Watcher, and we all admire you for coming out.

GREG

Really?

FRANKIE

(nods)

But of course.

SOFIA

In fact, we did kind of have an inkling.

GREG

(grins)

Oh, really? Mind telling me how?

SOFIA

Well... this sort of gave us an indication.

Sofia reaches into the rucksack slung over her shoulder and pulls out - a glossy covered gay lifestyle magazine, 'Gay Times,' with a muscular shirtless man on the cover.

GREG

Oh, I thought I'd lost that -

A beat - the penny drops. Greg's eyes widen and the girls all let out a giggle as Greg tries to wrestle it from Sofia.

GREG (cont'd)

Where'd you get it? Give it back!

SOFIA

(guiltily)

Um, Skye found it in your office.

GREG

You were in my office? When?

SKYE

Few weeks back, you asked me to grab those mission notes off your desk, and...

(CONTINUED)

GREG

You decided to have a look round
while you had the chance.

SKYE

(shrugs)

No hard feelings, right?

Greg glares at Skye, who just smirks back at him, before he tries to grab the magazine away from Sofia.

As Sofia laughs, teasing him by keeping the magazine out of his reach, Skye turns to Alita.

SKYE (cont'd)

You know, I think this is going to
be a good year.

Alita manages a smile, but it's obvious that something still troubles her. We stay on her for a beat before we cut to:

The girls all sit around the familiar rounded table with Barbara at the foot of it. There are various documents scattered everywhere, which Barbara is slowly leafing through eventually finding the correct sheet.

BARBARA

Hello, everyone.

SOFIA

What do we have today?

BARBARA

There has been a report of a girl found dead at the foot of a tower in the streets of Shinjuku, Tokyo. The girl was actually found yesterday, but due to time zone differences we're only hearing this now. She was found with severe wounds all over her body, some consistent with sword cuts, others with animal-like teeth marks.

SKYE

So there's an evil sword-wielding demon out there in Godzilla country?

FRANKIE

(sighs)

Must *everything* be such a joke to you?

SKYE

Actually, yes.

BARBARA

Getting back on topic... we're looking at possibly more than a couple of demons at large. The wounds couldn't have been made by the same sword, so there are several different weapons involved, according to the coroner's report.

GREG

Is there any hard evidence to this being the work of demons?

Barbara leans over to hand Greg a picture. It's a mug shot photo of Ling that was probably kept on file.

BARBARA

This is the girl. Her name is-
(corrects herself)

Sorry, was Ayumi Kobayashi. A seventeen year old girl, and also a Slayer.

SOFIA

(looks up)

A Slayer?

Barbara nods as Greg hands her Ayumi's photo.

FRANKIE

Did the Council already know about her?

BARBARA

Yes. That's what brought this to our attention, so perhaps Ayumi was getting too close to something, maybe she even found a demon hideout.

SKYE

Wrong place, wrong time, huh? At least she went down fighting.

FRANKIE

Perhaps it is another Hellmouth?

BARBARA

Precisely. Which is why I'm sending you girls on a mission to Japan. Alita?

(CONTINUED)

ALITA
(looks up)
Yes?

BARBARA
I believe that your family's
village is close by?

Alita nods, slightly solemnly.

BARBARA (cont'd)
Perfect. You can see your family
again, and the rest of you get
somewhere to sleep.

Alita nods and looks down. Barbara notices something is up
but dispels it as anxiety.

BARBARA (cont'd)
Moving on, you girls are going to
have to sweep the area around the
tower, staking out any potential
Hellmouth locations now we've...

Alita lowers her unhappy face. Barbara's words begin to fade
out as the camera moves around Alita in an anticlockwise
motion.

The motion speeds up and the surroundings become a blur, when
out of nowhere the surroundings change from the dull, grey
mission briefing room to a sepia toned landscape of a forest
in Japan. The only things there are trees as far as the eye
can see.

We are quickly taken into:

We zoom the camera over to see a young girl aged about
eleven, wearing a blue kimono with a white sash at the waist.
It's Alita, albeit five years ago. She is practising fighting
movements elegantly, weaving in and out with her hands as if
she was attacking an opponent. She is in deep concentration,
or so the look on her face tells us.

Behind her stands her father, TAKESHIRO, who looks on,
displeased, with his arms folded. He is a tall man, his hair
just starting to grey at the edges.

He looks about forty years old, and is also wearing a blue
kimono, except his is slightly darker and he has a sheathed
sword tied to his waist.

Alita finishes with a spinning kick which she accidentally
fumbles, losing her balance.

She regains it well, putting her foot in the correct place; once recovered, she turns and bows to her father, keeping her head down, waiting for a verdict.

Staying perfectly still, his arms still crossed, he utters:

TAKESHIRO

(subtitled Japanese)

You disappoint me, Alita. If this were real combat, our village would have been ravaged and burnt to the ground by now, all because of you!

She lifts her head slightly, obviously afraid of him. She bows her head back down.

ALITA

(subtitled Japanese)

I'm sorry, father,

TAKESHIRO

Apologies are for the weak. You know the punishment.

Alita nods. Takeshiro pulls a bow from his back. He loads it with an arrow and points it straight at Alita.

Alita GASPS, but just as it looks like Takeshiro is about to release the arrow, he points it skywards, shooting it at the top of a tree.

TAKESHIRO (cont'd)

Retrieve it.

ALITA

Yes, father.

She bows again and gets to work.

TAKESHIRO

To defend yourself and our village, you need both balance and patience, much like this test. You need to-

As he says this, his words merge with that of Barbara's and we zoom to an extreme close-up of his mouth.

BARBARA (V.O.)

- need to find a place to plan your strategies.

As Barbara's lips fade in from Takeshiro's, we return to the familiar briefing room.

8 INT. MISSION BRIEFING ROOM - MORNING

8

We zoom out and half-circle the table to see Alita, deep in thought and frankly looking a little scared. She shakes it off and continues to listen to Barbara.

BARBARA

Now, we've already scouted out some potential locations for you to start, so make sure you all-

As she speaks, we zoom in on her mouth again, and this time her words merge with Takeshiro. His mouth starts to fade in as he speaks:

TAKESHIRO (V.O.)

- stay in the river! The river can only flow as fast as you!

9 EXT. MOUNTAIN RIVER - DAY

9

We zoom out to see Alita swimming bravely in a large river next to giant snow capped mountains disappearing into the mist. The landscape is still sepia toned, however, as if it were an old movie.

Alita is breathing heavily and is pretty exhausted, but is carrying on, not wanting to let her father down.

He is standing a few feet away from the river, arms folded as always.

TAKESHIRO

Be as the frog in the pond. It waits patiently for the fly to submit.

ALITA

(struggling)

I... can't... breathe!

TAKESHIRO

Breath is just a whisper in the wind.

Alita, starting to tire and slow down, bobs her head under the water.

The camera dives into the river along with Alita. The sepia picture suddenly changes to a deep blue.

We push in on Alita's face, unpanicked, very still and calm as a few bubbles escaping to the surface.

We zoom closer panning on her closed eyes, when without warning they snap open.

10 INT. MISSION BRIEFING ROOM - MORNING

10

The azure blue changes to her faces natural colour and were back in the mission briefing room.

The camera pulls backwards, still lingering on Alita with Barbara wittering in the background. Barbara's speech suddenly becomes much clearer.

BARBARA (O.S.)
Everybody got that?

The angle still on Alita, deep in thought, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

11 EXT. TOKYO SKYLINE - MORNING 11

The area is littered with tiered pagodas, temples and shrines marking back to ancient methods of construction combined with tourist attractions here and there. Long buildings brightly lit, painted in red.

Lanterns shaped in ancient style but illuminated by electric lights. Taxis on the narrow city roads and businessmen wandering home beside the flowing water of canals. Tall urban skyscrapers and vast shopping places as far as the eye can see.

12 EXT. BUSTLING TOKYO STREET - MORNING 12

We quickly zoom into the centre of a bustling street where Greg and the girls are standing in awe of their surroundings. Citizens still walking by them while they are standing still.

SOFIA

I know I keep saying this every five seconds, but... wow!

SKYE

Yup. Sure is nice.

FRANKIE

After we are done 'ere, remind me to come back and bring my credit cards!

Greg playfully glares at the girls.

GREG

Girls, remember our mission, we have to find a bar, get hammered, and kill a bunch of demons. Though not necessarily in that order.

They all smile at Greg's joke, except for Alita who surprisingly is in complete culture shock.

SOFIA

Allie, you never told me it was like this!

ALITA

That's because I did not know.

SOFIA

But you live here!

(CONTINUED)

ALITA

Not here, about three miles west of here. I only ever ventured outside my village to gather water for my family.

Sofia, Skye and Greg seem genuinely sorry for Alita, whilst Frankie is just not caring.

FRANKIE

Alright, sorry to break this moment, but if you don't mind, can we move the slayer squad along here? My feet are already killing me, and I need a coffee!

GREG

All right, I guess we should move west.

(beat)

Allie, what's Japanese for 'taxi'?

ALITA

Ah... I do not know. I have never use done.

Greg groans as we cut to:

The area looks very primitive. Dusty roads and tracks, pagoda-roofed buildings and a dense forest surrounding the area.

A small yellow taxi rolls down the dusty road heading up to the village, kicking up a wide trail of dust behind it.

The door opens and out pops Greg, followed by the rest of the girls. Greg walks up to the front window of the car, money in hand.

The driver rolls the window down and Greg hands him the money.

DRIVER

(subtitled Japanese)

Thank you.

GREG

(subtitled Japanese)

This way to the village?

DRIVER

Yes.

GREG

Thank you very much.

The taxi drives away, trailing dust, as the girls walk up to the main crossroads.

SKYE

Greg, You never told me you speak Japanese!

(sly)

You been watching some 'special' foreign movies in your spare time?

GREG

(rolls eyes)

Only enough to tell people that I don't speak Japanese. Oh, and I can say 'not tonight, sweetheart' in a dozen different languages too. You'd be surprised how often that comes in handy.

SOFIA

(looking round)

Well, this is certainly a completely different side of Japan.

FRANKIE

Oui, the gross side.

Sofia nudges Frankie maliciously, but Alita just smiles.

ALITA

It is alright. I think Frankie just found out where she doesn't belong.

Frankie opens her mouth and is about to bust a gut and go mad at Alita right when they reach a patch with three out pathways left, right and ahead.

Joining these paths is a fountain, flowing with water, which is escaping from great stone Koi carps mouths.

SOFIA

It's so beautiful!

ALITA

Yes, my brother and I used to play here when we were younger.

Frankie rolls here eyes and mouths the words, 'Here we go again.'

SKYE

Which way?

ALITA

Straight ahead and then take a left turn.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

The girls set off, and we cut from them to:

14 EXT. KAGEMURA RESIDENCE - DAY

14

The girls stop before a fairly big house with a pagoda shaped roof. It has decking in front of the main door, raised floor on pegs and sliding doors.

ALITA
This is it.

GREG
Nice place. Very Lian Hearn.

Everybody stares at Greg blankly.

GREG (cont'd)
Never mind. Going over here...

Alita nods and steps up in front of the sliding doors. She carefully opens them peering inside.

ALITA
(subtitled Japanese)
Father? I am home.

Alita takes off her shoes and enters the house and everybody follows her in.

She pauses and turns to the others, glancing at their feet.

ALITA (cont'd)
Uh, guys? Shoes? My father can be a little... strict.

SOFIA
Oh, right.

Everybody takes their shoes off and leaves them on the front decking on the house, before following Sofia inside.

15 INT. KAGEMURA RESIDENCE - LIVING AREA - MIDDAY

15

They enter a fairly large main room split into two sections by two large sliding doors. Everything's mainly made of wood, sectioned floorboards, wooden horizontal blinds covering windows and more sliding doors with the familiar square pattern. There seems to be few modern conveniences, no television or lighting system.

There's large alcove in the far wall where a bonsai tree and a picture of Alita's mother is sitting. A large scroll of calligraphy hangs on the wall. The ceiling is quite low with rafters running along it. The rafters have beautiful carvings at the corners.

(CONTINUED)

There is very little furniture, a small table sits in the middle of the room which is only tall enough to kneel before. Small cushions act as chairs for the person to kneel on. There's a traditional lantern in one corner of the room.

ALITA
(subtitled Japanese)
Father, are you here?

One of the sliding doors to the left opens and Alita's father, Takeshiro Kagemura, walks out. He's older than last time we saw him, his hair a lot greyer. He's clutching a walking stick made of some kind of wood. His accent is much thicker than Alita's when she speaks English.

TAKESHIRO
Alita!

Alita runs up and hugs her father - but he doesn't return it with much affection.

TAKESHIRO (cont'd)
(in English)
And these must be your friends you told me about.

Greg walks up and bows in front of Takeshiro.

GREG
Pleased to meet you, sir. Your English is exceptional.

TAKESHIRO
Pay me no heed, English is a very useful language to have in today's world. The Council said you would need a place to stay, I would be honoured to have you as my guests.

GREG
Arigato!

Takeshiro smiles.

ALITA
These are my friends, Greg, Skye and Sofia. And that's Frankie.

Frankie frowns at the wisecrack Alita makes.

SOFIA
Hello.

TAKESHIRO
I'm sure you have all had a rough journey.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TAKESHIRO (cont'd)

If you would like to freshen up,
the bathroom is that way.

He points to the room left of the one from which he emerged.
Sofia steps forward and bows to Takeshiro.

SOFIA

Thank you for your hospitality, Mr.
Kagemura.

TAKESHIRO

Please, one kind gesture can warm
three winter months.

Frankie steps in.

FRANKIE

So, can you tell us where we will
be sleeping?

TAKESHIRO

Of course, you may have to take
turns but two can sleep in Alita's
room and three out here.

FRANKIE

(mortified)

On the floor?

TAKESHIRO

Where else?

Frankie looks like she's about to hyperventilate but Alita
steps in.

ALITA

So how's Masami?

TAKESHIRO

I do not see him much nowadays.
He's working in the city. He will
be here soon.

SOFIA

Masami?

ALITA

My brother.

Sofia nods and walks towards the door to Alita's room. She
tries to open it outwards but has some trouble.

ALITA (cont'd)

(smirks)

Sliding door, Sofia.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (3)

15

SOFIA
(blinks)
Oh. Right.

She slides the door across and ventures in.

16 INT. OFFICE ROOM - MIDDAY

16

An empty dark office room, filled with printers, computers, just general office stuff. We move further across the room to see MASAMI KAGEMURA, a 20 year old intern for the local city newspaper. He's busily typing away at the computer sitting before him.

Masami finishes typing, picks his jacket up from the back of his chair and walks out the door behind him.

17 INT. KAGEMURA RESIDENCE - LIVING AREA - MIDDAY

17

The girls are all setting up camp and unpacking their personal items, when suddenly Masami bursts through the door.

MASAMI
(subtitled Japanese)
Hello?

Alita leaps to her feet, beaming happily, and she runs over to Masami, throwing her arms round him.

ALITA
Masami!

MASAMI
Alita!

This time, Alita's hug is returned. She pulls away, wiping a slight tear from her eye. Masami looks over at the other house guests.

ALITA
Oh, forgive me, these are people
from the Academy.

Masami waves at them all.

MASAMI
Nice to meet you.

Greg nods back, the girls all wave at him.

ALITA
Masami works as an intern at the
Shinjuku post.

SOFIA
Cool. Buffy once told me that...

(CONTINUED)

Everyone glares at Sofia for once again mentioning her travels with the Scooby gang. Sofia gets the hint and changes the subject.

SOFIA (cont'd)
So, Masami, how's the city?

On this, we cut to:

Its beginning to get dark outside as everybody is setting up their sleeping bags. Everyone, except for Alita, her father and Masami, are in Alita's room. Masami is in his own room and Alita and her father are in the living room.

GREG
So, are you girls up for some reconnaissance, followed by a night on the tiles? I don't know about you, but I think after we've made our sweeps we've got a prime opportunity to check out the nightlife.

SOFIA
(feigned shock)
Mr. Pierce, are you leading us young, impressionable girls astray?

GREG
(grins)
Wouldn't dream of it. You'll notice I said we go out after we do our work. I don't know about you four, but my body clock's still on British time so we may as well familiarise ourselves with the area.

SKYE
I'm up for it.

SOFIA
Yeah, Greg, maybe you'll meet someone?

GREG
(shakes head)
I'm not much for long distance relationships. They're a nightmare on the phone bill.

We hear Alita and her father ranting to each other in their native languages in the background. Sofia tilts her head round as she picks up on the raised voices.

SOFIA

Do you guys hear that?

Frankie walks to the door and opens it just enough so that we can see what's going on. The girls and Greg queue up along the door to watch.

INT. KAGEMURA RESIDENCE. LIVING AREA

We see Takeshiro and Alita standing up and talking to each other - shouting more than talking, however.

TAKESHIRO

(subtitled Japanese)

Alita, I don't understand what caused you to be like this!

ALITA

(subtitled Japanese)

To be like what?

TAKESHIRO

You have forgotten your roots!

ALITA

Father, I will never forget my roots, as long as I have Kagemura blood flowing through my veins!

Takeshiro HUFFS irritatedly, and Alita glares at him, knowing that she's got no chance of making him change his mind.

INT. ALITA'S BEDROOM.

Frankie turns back to the other girls as the heated conversation is still going on in the background.

FRANKIE

I don't think I've 'eard her say so many words in a sentence before!

SKYE

I guess this explains why she doesn't talk much.

SOFIA

Greg, can you translate?

GREG

I'm trying, she just said something about blood... and then something about Shredded Wheat?

The girls all stare at Greg, confused.

GREG (cont'd)
Why does that strike me as
incorrect?
(beat)
Do they even have Shredded Wheat in
Japan?

We cut across the hall where Masami is also looking out
through the gap of his bedroom door. He seems very
disheartened about the whole situation.

We can still hear the argument and see the shadows of Alita
and Takeshiro on the wall.

We cut back to the argument which is getting fiercer by the
minute.

TAKESHIRO
(subtitled Japanese)
Those friends are a bad influence
on you. Look at you! You are
dressed like a street courtesan!

ALITA
(subtitled Japanese)
Father, I... I only asked Frankie
to make me look my best. I wanted
to impress you, to show you how
much I have-

TAKESHIRO
And, you never used to talk to me
in this way before you went to
England!

ALITA
Father... I...

TAKESHIRO
No excuses! What would your mother
say if she saw you like this?

ALITA
(tearful)
Don't bring mother into this!
(lowers head)
I can't talk to you when you are
this way.

TAKESHIRO
(shakes head)
Then you can't talk to me at all.

Alita closes her eyes, saddened, and we cut back to:

22

INT. ALITA'S BEDROOM - DAY

22

The girls are still eavesdropping on the conversation.

SOFIA

Poor Allie...

There's a long beat of silence, where everybody's faces fall. Frankie suddenly perks up.

FRANKIE

Wait, what did she say about me?

GREG

(ignores her)

We need to help her out.

SKYE

How? We can't exactly waltz on into someone else's blood fued, Greg. We'll just make things worse for Allie, not to mention risk the whole Kagemura clan going all 'Hard Boiled' on us.

SOFIA

We have to do something.

GREG

I think we should wait and see how Alita handles this. I'm sure it won't look very good for her if all of us lot try to pile in there and 'help' - sounds like she needs to have it out with her dad first.

FRANKIE

Maybe, but it also sounds like she is losing.

SKYE

(sarcastic)

Yeah, and there's you being a great big old help again.

They listen to the argument next door as it explodes into heated, rapid shouting again, and Greg stands, a determined look in his eyes.

GREG

Right. Forget everyting I just said. Follow my lead, girls.

Sofia nods, and we cut back to:

23

INT. KAGEMURA RESIDENCE. LIVING AREA

23

Greg suddenly bursts through the door in a hurry.

GREG

Come on, girls, we have to go do
that thing. Alita, you have to come
too. Right now.

He grabs Alita's wrist and pretty much flings her out of the front door. The girls all follow. He turns back to Takeshiro.

GREG (cont'd)

Don't worry, Mr. Kagemura, I'll
have her back by eleven. *Sayonara!*

He grabs his bag from next to the door, and closes it behind him.

There is another long pause.

TAKESHIRO

(mutters)

English people... all crazy.

On this, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

24 EXT. SKYSCRAPER BAR - ESTABLISHING 24

Pan upwards to see a huge skyscraper in the centre of the bustling city of Tokyo. Zoom into one of the windows at the top.

25 INT. SKYSCRAPER BAR - NIGHT 25

Pan across to see a busy bar area. It's all very retro, sort of a cross between two cultures.

Greg and the girls are sitting around a large red table, empty glasses sprawled out everywhere, Sofia sips at her soda through a pink straw, Skye is leaning on the table, Frankie is fiddling with her hair, Greg is downing his pint and Alita is gently circling the rim of her glass. She looks deep in thought yet again.

SKYE

I can't believe you just dragged us out the door like that!

FRANKIE

I didn't even get to change!

GREG

Mes anges, are we forgetting our mission? We're supposed to get hammered and then go kill some ancient evil. In *that* order.

SOFIA

Now, Greg, not that I'm complaining about the chance to grab a drink before our mission and everything, but...

SKYE

Ah, jeez, here we go.

SOFIA

Shouldn't we be finding the ancient evil and then getting hammered?

GREG

Trust me, Sofia. I know what I'm doing. A little downtime before combat has been shown to increase the effectiveness of any resulting combat, and I wanted to give Alita a chance to get her head straight before throwing any demons at her.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GREG (cont'd)
Besides, none of you girls are
drinking anything alcoholic, and
I've always wanted to try Asahi!

SKYE
Oh sure, rub our noses in it. Damn,
why couldn't my parents have had
sex a few years earlier?

GREG
That's... a little too much
information there, Skye. Anyway the
legal age of drinking here is
twenty, so you're out of luck
either way!

SKYE
Damn it, Greg, you always have to
steal my sunshine!

A waitress walks by their table, and Greg leans out to talk
to her.

GREG
(subtitled Japanese)
One Asahi, please?

The waitress nods her head and walks away. Greg turns back to
the group with a smug smile. Skye pouts and folds her arms.

GREG (cont'd)
Anyway, the important thing is the
latter, so I have the case files
and the coroners report that Ellen
sourced out for us. I wanted us to
go over these before we hit the
streets, and that wasn't likely to
happen with World War Three kicking
off at Alita's house.

Alita squirms awkwardly as Greg tips the contents of the bag
onto the table and various files and plastic wallets onto the
desk. Greg takes out his glasses, polishes them slightly and
reads.

GREG (cont'd)
(reads)
Okay, so it says here that Ayumi
must have also taken a fall, since
there were bruises all over her
left side.

SOFIA
Wait, that's what killed her? I
thought it was the gaping head
wound that did it?

GREG

Yes, that too. She was thrown over the side of the building post mortem.

SOFIA

That's not very stealthy of whoever did this!

(beat)

Wait, who did do this?

Greg hands over a large, old book to Skye. The girls all crowd round her to read from it - it has a picture of a ninja demon in one corner and some old indigenous language.

GREG

One of the Council's contacts over here e-mailed some information to me about a nest of demons in this area, they believe they're the ones we're after. They're called the 'shibito,' sort of a cross between a ninja and a crocodile. I'm guessing they threw her off the tower to make it look like a natural death.

FRANKIE

'Shibito'? Sounds like some kind of Japanese snack food.

Alita perks up and leans forward on the table.

ALITA

The shibito? I've heard of them. There's an old folk legend in our village.

GREG

Interesting. Old legends about demons are normally the first place I stop to find a way to kill them!

SOFIA

Well, that answers who, how and why, now we just need a 'where.'

Greg pulls out a large map of the area. There are various red crosses on the map made with a marker pen.

GREG

Here's a map of the local area. I marked out some places where we can split up and search for clues when we start out again in the morning, using the tower where Ayumi was found as our starting point.

The girls, even Alita, all smirk at Greg.

FRANKIE

(mischevious)

Aw, did you have too much time on your 'ands on the flight over?

GREG

What? I had to do something to pass the time on the plane! The movie was 'Glitter,' for God's sake!

SOFIA

So, who's going where?

GREG

Well, I guess you and I can hit the books in the museum, try and find out anything about the shibito. Frankie and Skye, you can stake out the city for any trace of shibito. Allie, do you mind searching the tower where Ayumi's body was found?

ALITA

Not at all.

GREG

Groovy. It'll be just like 'C.S.I.'

ALITA

(blinks)

C.S. what?

The waitress returns and puts Greg's beer on the table.

GREG

Thank you.

Skye catches something out of the corner of her eye.

SKYE

Greg?

GREG

Yeah?

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

That guy over there is totally checking you out.

Pan across the bar to see a young man in his twenties sitting on one of the bar stools. He has short hair which has been dyed blonde, blue eyes and he's a very snappy dresser. He's looking over his shoulder at Greg.

SOFIA

(nudges Greg)

Go and talk to him! He looks like he speaks English, so that's a good place to start. We can all head off and get started without you.

Greg looks over at the guy. Sofia's right, he's not of Asian decent, he looks to be a tourist visiting Japan. Greg turns back to the girls.

GREG

I'd like to, but we have a lot to do tonight, so I, uh, should try to stay focused.

SKYE

Oh, it doesn't matter anymore.

GREG

Good.

SOFIA

Because he's coming over here!

Greg looks back to see the tourist heading over to them.

GREG

Oh, God, what do I do?

FRANKIE

Just act naturally. Funny is good but don't get arrogant. Now, I have to go check my make-up.

Frankie makes a gesture with her head for the girls to follow her.

SOFIA

Oh, um... me too!

SKYE

yeah, I gotta check Frankie's makeup too. See if there's a secret to how she makes herself look so damn bad all the time.

(CONTINUED)

Alita just sits there, not really getting what's going on, still deep in thought about the earlier events. Skye grabs her by the arm and takes her with her.

SKYE (cont'd)
You need to come too, Allie.

Skye drags her away with the other girls.

ALITA
But I'm not wearing any make-up!

The girls all run and hide behind a large ornate sideboard at the other end of the room.

Back on Greg's end, the tourist makes his way over to Greg's table. He leans on the end of it.

DEVON
(smiles)
Hi, I'm Devon!

GREG
Uh, hello. I'm Greg. But don't call me Gregory because then it goes from Gregory, to George and then people will end up just calling me 'G'!

DEVON
(beat)
I'll, um, bear that in mind. Do you mind if I sit down?

GREG
Not at all, but I've got some friends waiting over...

Greg turns towards their general direction and the girls are all waving down and mouthing things to Greg.

GREG (cont'd)
You know what? I can spare five minutes.

Devon sits on the opposite side of the table to Greg.

DEVON
So where are you from?

GREG
Um, I'm from England. Yep, good old England! Not Wales or Scotland, just England!

Devon stares blankly at Greg.

(CONTINUED)

GREG (cont'd)
Uh, where are you from?

DEVON
Tennessee, originally. I have
family living over here so I'm
visiting.

GREG
Ah, Tennessee, the volunteer state,
right?

Greg laughs nervously.

GREG (cont'd)
With the amount of hillbillies
there they should have called it
the voluntary learning state!

Greg chuckles at his little inane joke.

DEVON
Beg your pardon?

GREG
(coughs)
Nothing. I'm very bad at this. I
get all spaced out and then I get
phlegm in my throat. You, um...
probably didn't want to know that
though.
(beat)
Did you?

Devon looks absolutely bamboozled.

GREG (cont'd)
So how are you feeling?

DEVON
Uh... I'm okay.

GREG
Great! And by *feeling* I wasn't
making some crazy sexual
innuendo... not that I'm into that,
uh, stuff. I'm sure you aren't
either.

Devon looks shocked, as do the girls. Even Greg looks like he
cant stop himself from talking.

GREG (cont'd)
You have fantastic hair!

On this, we cut to:

26

INT. TAXI - NIGHT

26

The girls and Greg are sitting inside a moving taxi, heading back to the Kagemura residence.

GREG

... Bad, bad, very bad!

SOFIA

Greg, you just need a bit of confidence and a few pointers.

GREG

Or a muzzle!

SOFIA

You've got to stop being so blunt when flirting, let him come on to you!

Greg looks at Sofia with disgust and shock, thinking she had just said something perverse.

SOFIA (cont'd)

(beat; gets it)

Not in that way!

SKYE

(sarcastic)

Okay, when we get back to England, let's all have a girlie night in. We can braid each others hair, and talk about guys - oh, we'll just be great big bitches!

Greg smiles at Skye.

GREG

Point taken. Now let's get back to the important stuff - sleep.

The taxi pulls up in front of the Kagemura residence, everybody gets out of the taxi and walks up the path.

27

INT. KAGEMURA RESIDENCE - LIVING AREA - NIGHT

27

The lights are off in the Kagemura residence as the door slides open. The girls and Greg come in tiptoeing, trying not to wake Takeshiro up.

FRANKIE

Couldn't we have just gone to an 'otel or something? All the plants in this 'ouse are giving me allergies!

(CONTINUED)

They all "shhh" Frankie.

FRANKIE (cont'd)
(protests)
I'm just saying!

They walk a little bit more forward, towards Alita's room, and Greg slides the door open. Standing in the doorway is Masami. The girls all jump backwards slightly.

ALITA
Masami!

MASAMI
If dad knew you were up at this time, he'd freak!

ALITA
We were working!
(beat; guilty)
Technically...

MASAMI
Look, my lips are sealed, just get to bed. We'll talk in the morning.

FRANKIE
I'll never sleep on one those sleeping beds! They're 'orrible, they're degrading! I will absolutely, positively never ever-

In the middle of the sentence, we smash cut to:

Later on at night, the girls are all tucked away in their mattresses. Pan right to see a snoring Frankie, completely lost in her dreams. On this, we cut to:

The next morning the girls and Greg, dressed in their normal clothes, armed and dangerous are sitting on the floor.

GREG
Everybody understand?

SKYE
So, I'm Blue Falcon, Sofia's Pink Dragon-

FRANKIE
I thought I was Pink Dragon!

SKYE
No, you're Silver Wolf.

GREG

Actually, I'm Silver Wolf.

SKYE

Who's Pink Dragon then?

Alita raises her hand.

SOFIA

Wait, I thought Allie was Blue Dragon, I was Silver Phoenix, Skye was-

GREG

Girls! Sorry to break the 'Reservoir Dogs' moment, but does it matter? What matters is that we kill a bunch of scary monsters and restore order to this town.

(beat)

And besides, Frankie was Golden Tiger.

FRANKIE

Merde!

Greg smirks, and we cut to:

Greg and Sofia are busily at work leafing through some dusty ornate books. They seem to have not found much yet.

Greg is busily examining a book as Sofia walks over, looking tired and frustrated already.

SOFIA

Greg, as glad as I am to be in Tokyo right now, why on Earth did we go to a museum where all the books are written in Japanese?

GREG

I can translate! See, this one says something about some kind flying lizard creature that attacked Tokyo in the Fifties.

He leans over the table and hands her the book. She glances at it, rolls her eyes and hands it back.

SOFIA

That would be Rodan. You're in the 'Films and Entertainment' section.

GREG

Oh.

(beat)

So how do you think Allie's holding up?

SOFIA

Well, she's perked up a little, but I think she's still pretty downbeat about her dad.

GREG

It must have been tough for her, being trained to be a Slayer since childhood and not having a mother around. I can relate to that.

SOFIA

I think we both can.

There's a small pause of silence.

GREG

I just made us all depressed, didn't I?

SOFIA

(nods; smiles)

I'm afraid so.

She grabs another book off the shelf and passes it to him, and as the two get back to work, we cut to:

Skye and Frankie are strolling along the familiar city street. It's filled with businessmen, tourists and street signs hanging from buildings as far as the eyes can see.

The sun has set in the sky overhead, and the myriad of neon lighting that makes up the city has finally come to life.

FRANKIE

So what exactly are we looking for?

SKYE

I think Greg described them as Hattori Hanzo crossed with Dig'em Frog and a dash of 'Samurai Pizza Cats.'

FRANKIE

He really needs some work, doesn't he? I mean, when that man tried to speak to 'im in the restaurant? Grosse problems.

SKYE

I'm sure he'll get there. He just needs a bit of tutoring. We can guide him through the basics. Sofia can work on his suaveness, I can work on his confidence, you on his looks and Allie on his... other things.

FRANKIE

Greg 'as a thing for her brother, doesn't he?

SKYE

(grins)

Big time!

Frankie glances across the street and spots something.

FRANKIE

Ah! Just what I was looking for.

Frankie immediately runs over to a modern, neon lit clothes shop with loud music playing inside. Skye rolls her eyes as she sees where Frankie is heading.

SKYE

Tell you what, I'm gonna go meet up with Allie, you check around here. I'm sure lots of ninjas like to wear 'Hello Kitty.'

Frankie doesn't even notice Skye speak. She just walks into the shop without saying a word.

SKYE (cont'd)

Uh, bye?

Skye shrugs her shoulders and simply walks off.

Alita is walking down a silent alley. There are very few signs of life, it looks like an urban back alley in New York.

Her long, dark skirt is flailing wildly behind her even though there appears to be no source of wind. She carries on down the alley until she reaches a pathway.

A full shot of the pagoda style tower seen last when Ayumi was killed - but now it has a giant purple and black VORTEX surrounding the roof. Alita takes a few steps forward.

She narrows her eyes as she studies the vortex, then takes out her cell phone and starts talking into it.

ALITA

Gregory-san, I am at the tower.
Meet me at point sixteen-thirty six
on the map. Do you copy?

She listens into the speaker of the phone but we hear nothing. She shrugs and decides to enter the tower anyway.

She takes a few more steps forward and hears a NOISE. She turns around quickly and raises her sword but sees nothing. She continues down the path, wary of her surroundings.

Suddenly, a SHIBITO falls from the sky behind her! Fully armed, it hits the ground with a heavy THUD.

She turns around, sees the demon and with a WAR CRY Alita runs towards it and sticks the sword right in its chest.

The shibito stumbles forward and then falls to the ground. Alita pulls her sword out.

ALITA (cont'd)

There, that wasn't so...

She turns around to see six more shibito brandishing various weapons.

ALITA (cont'd)

(less confident)

... tough.

A shibito takes a swing at her but she blocks it with her sword and kicks him backwards.

She runs up a brick wall in front of her and flips backwards landing behind the group of shibito. She stabs one and throws him to the side and proceeds to kick one in the face.

Then, she swings her sword full circle above her head knocking the others to the ground.

Out of the shadows behind her, the general shibito emerges and swinging his trademark kusuri-gama in a circular fashion.

Alita turns around to see the kusuri-gama's sharp point hurtling towards her at full speed. On this we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

33 EXT. TOWER - FRONT PATH - NIGHT

33

The spear tip of the kusuri-gama is still hurtling straight towards Alita's head when from out of nowhere, Skye pushes her out of harm's way, the spear tip lodging itself in a wall behind her.

Skye pulls Alita up off the ground and strikes a fighting pose.

SKYE
You okay, Alita?

Alita quickly jumps back to her feet, instantly back in a fighting stance as she draws her nunchucks.

ALITA
I am fine. These are the creatures
we seek.

SKYE
Yeah, figured.

Skye sticks her fingers in her mouth and WHISTLES as loud as she can, to a puzzled look from Alita.

From the alley to the left, Greg, Sofia and Frankie emerge. They also prepare to fight just when they hear a loud CACKLE coming from the doorway of the tower.

We turn half circle to see Kariudo, the samurai from earlier. He raises his sword and yells.

KARIUDO
(in Japanese)
Attack!

A horde of fifteen shibito fall from the sky. They disperse across the front path quickly and begin to charge.

Sofia moves to the left whilst Frankie and Greg take the right. Alita and Skye charge ahead through the bulk of shibito.

Sofia jumps right into the fray, kicking a shibito right in the jaw. It retaliates by throwing her a punch, which she ducks under, smashing it with an uppercut, which throws it to the ground.

She kicks another shibito behind her, and sweeps it off its feet. She slams her heel down on its chest but the shibito rolls out of the way and backflips, kicking Sofia in the face.

(CONTINUED)

She stumbles backwards dazed, but runs back towards the fight, a tough look on her face.

SOFIA

Not so bloody fast!

Frankie and Greg, battling it out with about four other shibito. Frankie knees a shibito in the stomach and wrestles its sword of it. She throws the ninja out of the way and raises the sword, ready to hack into the group.

Greg smacks one right in the face with a backhand knocking in to the ground. He ducks under another's blow and elbows it in the face.

GREG

Girls, watch each other's backs!
They're trying to circle around us!

A sudden shibito wielding an axe seemingly appears from nowhere and swings the bladed edge of the axe straight towards Frankie's eyes.

Amazingly, she catches the blade right between her fingers. She pauses in shock, but regains herself and pushes the axe backwards, burying it in the demon's chest.

FRANKIE

(smirks)
A bientot.

Skye and Alita are double teaming a shibito. Skye punches it over to Alita, the Alita punches it over to Skye. She follows up with a massive uppercut, flooring the enemy.

SKYE

Hoo-yah!

Alita swings her sword with a loud SLASH noise, towards another shibito, whilst Skye is making short punches to the midsection of a ninja.

Alita looks over to the empty doorway where Kariudo was standing. She calls over to the others whilst still fighting the ninjas.

ALITA

There's some kind of vortex on top
of the tower! I think that's where
we need to be!

We pan over to Greg, struggling to fend off the enemy.

GREG

I see it, Allie, bit busy right
now!

(CONTINUED)

Frankie pushes her last enemy out of the way.

FRANKIE

I will go.

Skye runs over, a little worse for wear.

SKYE

No, I'll go.

GREG

All of you go, Sofia and I'll hold
them off here!

Skye nods and looks back at the group. Without another word
they all dash to the entrance of the tower.

We look around a huge room with a red, ornate double door
laced with gold on one side.

What's immediately brought to attention is a gigantic
staircase curling into the upper floors. The banister,
trailing to the bottom, is a gigantic gold dragon which coils
up at the base.

FRANKIE

Zut! Look at this place! Now I know
where papa hid the silver!

Suddenly Skye twitches slightly. She goes over to the stairs
and waves the girls over there.

ALITA

What is it?

Skye doesn't answer. She simply lifts her axe and THROWS it
high into the air. There's a long pause as the other girls
eyes roll upwards.

Then a dead shibito body falls to the ground with an axe
sticking out of its chest.

SKYE

Even without the vampire thing, I
could Spidey Sense that thing
coming a mile off.

FRANKIE

Well, that was...

Skye's eyes widen considerably.

SKYE
(shouts)
Get down!

Frankie quickly throws herself to the floor. Behind her we see the kusuri-gama flying towards the back of Frankie's head, the general firmly holding the rope.

Skye cartwheels out of the way to the left, letting the spear hit the wall. Frankie rolls towards the stairs.

Alita begins to charge forward but Frankie stops her.

FRANKIE
We 'ave to go!

ALITA
But - what about Skye? What if it kills her?

FRANKIE
(beat)
She knows what she is doing! Come on, we 'ave to get to the roof!

Frankie grabs her hand and leads her up the stairs.

Skye cracks her knuckles and cocks her head with a determined look on her face.

SKYE
Alright, goon squad, rise and shine! The bitch is back!

She raises her fists, and as the general starts to swing his weapon and we cut to:

We follow Frankie and Alita striding up the velvet covered steps of the staircase.

From out of nowhere, a shibito swings around the banister and kicks Frankie in the face.

Alita swipes her sword but the ninja ducks and smacks her in her face. It takes a few steps back when Frankie taps him on the shoulder.

It turns around and Frankie looks it up and down.

FRANKIE
(sneers)
Black is so last year, *cheri*.

She does a huge SPIN KICK which sends it into the air, shattering a giant window above the staircase. It disappears out of sight.

Frankie shrugs and smiles, carrying on up the stairs.

A huge door opens and Frankie and Alita burst into a fairly small room, with a gong in one corner and a large dining table in the middle.

FRANKIE

Be careful. That large one we saw earlier may still be around 'ere somewhere,

They take a few more paces forward and look round the room. Alita raises her sword across her body. The door behind them closes slowly with a CREAK.

FRANKIE (cont'd)

Where is he?

We zoom to a close up of Alita's sword reflecting the closing door. She peers into the reflection - and we see Kariudo hiding behind the door, holding two katanas across his body. He bounds from behind the closed door and tries to attack Frankie.

ALITA

Frankie!

Frankie looks behind and jumps out of the way swiftly, as both of Kariudo's swords hit the floor in a cross position.

Alita launches an attack with her sword but it is blocked between both of Kariudo's. Frankie comes at him with a punch but he effortlessly kicks her to the side.

He then uses his katanas to push Alita into Frankie, taking away her sword at the same time. They land in a heap in the corner.

Kariudo begins to advance towards them, both swords drawn. Alita fumbles around in her kimono, desperately looking for a weapon to use.

She pulls out a very small knife from her inside pocket and points it directly at Kariudo.

FRANKIE

What good will that do? Are you going to butter him to death?

Kariudo lunges at them with his katanas but the girls both scream and roll in separate directions.

Alita kicks Kariudo in the stomach and he stumbles backwards. Frankie then elbows him in the face but with little effect.

He throws a massive backhand making Alita fly backwards and roll across the table, landing in a heap on the other side.

FRANKIE (cont'd)

Alita!!

Frankie continues to punch him in the face but he simply shakes it off. She then does a spinning back kick but Kariudo grabs Frankie's leg and sweeps her other leg off the ground.

She scurries backwards but is stopped by the wall behind her. She looks round but Alita is nowhere to be seen.

KARIUDO

You think you can stop me? You
don't have the g-

He stops in mid sentence. We linger on his expression for a few beats until we pan down to see a sword protruding out of his chest. He lets out a small WHIMPER.

We pan backwards a little to see Alita holding the handle of the sword. She has a look of pure determination on her face.

ALITA

Look who's talking.

She twists the blade slightly, then pulls the sword all the way out. In one swift move she spins around and decapitates Kariudo.

His head, helmet still attached, rolls along the floor and stops in the middle of the room. The dead body falls to the ground.

Alita very calmly sheathes her sword and breathes out as Frankie watches on in disbelief.

FRANKIE

Merde...

ALITA

Are you alright?

FRANKIE

I am.

(beat)

And 'ere's something I thought I
would never say, but... thank you.

(CONTINUED)

There's a short pause before the double doors fly open, and in rushes Greg, Sofia and Skye. Greg and Sofia have spatters of blood staining their clothes, whilst Skye is very marked up from her fight with the general.

SOFIA
(quickly)
We've come to save...

She trails off as she looks down to see the dead body of Kariudo on the floor a few feet in front of her, and double takes.

SOFIA (cont'd)
Oh. Well, that was easier than I thought.

FRANKIE
(out of breath)
Speak for yourself!

GREG
Let's get onto the roof and find out what that vortex is all about. Chances are it's the reason the demons have been drawn here, and it's most likely what the Slayer they killed was looking for.

Sofia and Alita lead the team towards a staircase, and up onto:

The team walk out onto the roof. A fast wind has been kicked up by the huge, whirlpool-like swirl of the vortex overhead, the HOWL of the wind forcing them all to shout.

SKYE
What the frick is that?

Sofia glances down at her Scythe, which is pulsing rapidly with light.

SOFIA
I don't know, but something tells me this is what we need to take care of it!

Sofia turns to Alita - and then holds the Scythe out towards her.

SOFIA (cont'd)
Just in case, best if someone of local blood does this. Would you do the honours?

ALITA

(blinks)

What would I have to do?

SOFIA

That's what I keep wondering? Just do what comes naturally. I always find this thing seems to have a mind of its own, so let it do its thing.

Alita nods, takes the Scythe and strides out into the centre of the roof, directly beneath the eye of the vortex.

Alita stands perfectly still, the scythe in one hand. She begins to raise it and proceeds to twirl it around herself, almost as if she was dancing with it.

The Scythe glows ever brighter as she runs through one of her more graceful kata exercises, the scythe blade singing as it slices through the heavy air.

FRANKIE

Isn't she meant to be doing something?

GREG

(points)

Look!

The chaotic energy starts to die down, long trails of purple light spiralling downwards from the vortex and bearing down on the Scythe.

As the energy connects with the Scythe, the Scythe FLARES with brilliant white light, and as Alita continues her motions, the vortex is sucked down from the sky and into the Scythe itself.

Within moments, the vortex has been removed from the sky, leaving only a bright, starry night as the clouds overhead finally part.

The camera spins around Alita as the first rays of moonlight hit her face and the wind blows through her hair. She begins to smile as she opens her eyes, looking down on the Scythe as its glow fades away.

SKYE

(impressed)

Woah...

(to Sofia)

Why cant we all have one of those things?

Sofia grins, and on this, we dissolve to:

38 INT. KAGEMURA RESIDENCE - LIVING AREA - MORNING

38

The next morning, the girls are on the floor packing their suitcases apart from Alita, who is absent.

SOFIA

Where's Allie? She still hasn't packed and the flight is in two hours.

SKYE

She went out in the front of the house with her brother. Probably one of those soap opera family goodbye moments. I figured, after she did her trick with sucking up that vortex last night, she deserves a little downtime.

Sofia shrugs and continues to pack.

39 EXT. KAGEMURA RESIDENCE.

39

Alita and Masami are both sitting on the edge of the front decking which surrounds the front of the house. There is a little breeze in the air which is blowing the trees.

ALITA

(subtitled Japanese)

It is not how I would have wanted this to go. I only got to see you and father for a few days. Now I won't see you again for a long time.

MASAMI

(subtitled Japanese)

No, you won't. We'll always be with you in spirit. You have to keep fighting the good fight. It's what mother would've wanted.

Alita and Masami both exchange smiles.

MASAMI (cont'd)

I'll always protect you. Through everything. And you've got your friends and your teacher. You're not alone, and you never will be.

Alita's normally determined face looks close to tears. Masami brings her hand to his and links them together.

MASAMI (cont'd)

Wherever you are, wherever I am, we'll be together.

(CONTINUED)

Alita sheds a single tear. Masami wipes it away and smiles.

ALITA

Forever.

She stands up and walks back into the house leaving Masami to sit and reflect. He smiles and looks into the distance.

INT. KAGEMURA RESIDENCE. LIVING AREA

Alita walks through the door at half pace, hair and clothes blowing in the wind.

ALITA

Uh, hello?

Everybody looks up at her and stops what they are doing.

ALITA (cont'd)

There's been something weighing on
my mind every since we got here.

The girls and Greg hang on her every word.

ALITA (cont'd)

I'm not stupid.

Frankie huffs at the statement but everybody frowns at her.

ALITA (cont'd)

I knew that you heard me and my
father arguing.

GREG

(covering)

What? You were arguing... I had no
idea that... um...

Greg stutters slightly, trying not to be fake, but failing.

GREG (cont'd)

That... well... I was the worst
liar in the world, wasn't I.

ALITA

(smiles)

It's okay. It just... opened my
eyes to how broken our relationship
was. That was why I was
wondering... if it is alright for
me to stay behind for a few days?

Alita looks on promisingly at Greg.

GREG

Well, that's quite a bit to ask and
it's a very unorthodox thing to
do...

Alita's face falls.

ALITA

Forget it. Never mind.

GREG

But, I can make a few calls.

Alita perks up considerably.

ALITA

Really? You'd do that for me?

GREG

But only if you get straight to
work on patching things up with
your father. Finish what I never
started with mine.

Alita nods and slowly walks into the double doors at the end
of the room, disappearing into the sunlight, the wind
ruffling her hair and clothes again.

Alita takes a few steps forward into a beautiful Japanese
styled garden, beautiful pink sakura leaves raining down upon
her.

She takes a few more steps forward and looks off screen
slightly. She then walks over to the left, venturing under
the pagoda eaves of the house.

We pan left, over the sakura tree to see Takeshiro sitting
solemnly on one edge of a wooden bench.

Alita comes into shot and slowly takes up a seat on the
opposite side of the bench. Both Takeshiro and Alita never
once look at each other, they both seem to be staring into
oblivion.

There's a huge pause of silence and neither of them flinch or
say a word, before:

ALITA

I thought I might sit with you a
while, father.

Takeshiro finally looks up at her, and after an agonisingly
long pause, he nods, patting the bench next to him.

TAKESHIRO

Sit.

Alita nods and quickly takes a seat, keeping her head bowed as her father looks out across the garden.

TAKESHIRO (cont'd)

I have been told of what you did
last night.

ALITA

Father?

TAKESHIRO

You fought well, you saved your
friend's lives, and above all you
vanquished a powerful evil force
from our lands.

(beat)

I am proud of you, my daughter.

Alita bows her head again in respect - but can't help a
little smile creeping over her lips.

We begin to pan upwards over the roofs of the garden giving
us a bird's-eye view of the area, whilst "Hikari" by Utada
Hikaru plays in the background. We pause on this lingering
shot before we eventually:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW