

SLAYER ACADEMY

"The Nightmare Before..."

by
Chris Kelly

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. DORM ROOM - MIDNIGHT. 1

The girls sleeping quarters are dead quiet as the majority of the young slayers sleep.

SKYE is still wide awake as she lies in her bed, listening to her trusty iPod and looking out through the window.

A SHADOW passes across her bed, and she shifts round to see who it is - it's her old Cleveland College teacher, MRS. COLLINS. She smirks down at Skye, who just shuffles round in bed and turns her back on the apparition, turning up the volume on her music player.

Beside her, ALITA looks anything but sound asleep. The bedclothes are wrapped tightly round her, an expression of fear on her face. She shivers to break the silence of the night, but clearly this is a battle she must fight alone.

Meanwhile, SOFIA looks at peace with the world - her breathing patterns are long and deep, and it's on this face of calm that we cut to:

2 EXT. SMALL TOWN - RESIDENTIAL STREET - SAME TIME. 2

A historic looking cobblestone street, with gray clouds hanging ominously in the sky and Victorian houses adding a sense of dignity.

Sofia walks into frame - the scene is slow and hazy, the colours oversaturated as she looks around her, confused.

Footsteps echo nearby, and Sofia's head whips round - but there's not another soul to be seen.

SOFIA

Hello?

(beat)

Emma? Are you here?

CRASH! A garbage can rolls into frame from a nearby alley, and Sofia finds a stake in her hands on reflex.

She paces slowly over to inspect the can, only to find a few rats looking up from their meal with beady black eyes.

With a SIGH, Sofia turns around and heads back towards the middle of the street - just as a figure races out of the alley to attack her!

Sofia spins round and KICKS out at the attacker, knocking them to the ground, and in an instant she's standing over them, her boot pinned against their neck.

(CONTINUED)

Her attacker doesn't appear to be much, though; he's just a TEENAGER with penetrating blue eyes and brown hair down to his shoulders - whoever he is, he isn't a threat.

TEENAGER
(out of breath)
Sorry, I didn't know...
(beat)
It's all a mistake.

Sofia studies him for a beat - then steps back, offering her hand to pull him to his feet.

SOFIA
Care to explain why you attacked me, then?

TEENAGER
I know what I'm about to say may classify me as someone who needs to be put in a mental ward. But here goes... I... I thought you were one of them.

With that, the teenager looks back into the alley, but again nothing is there.

SOFIA
One of who?

TEENAGER
That's the same question I've been asking.

SOFIA
What can you tell me?

TEENAGER
(shrugging)
They're everywhere and nowhere at the same time. They tell me to do things.
(off Sofia's look)
I'm not just some troubled kid either, making up excuses!

SOFIA
(beat)
I believe you.

TEENAGER
But they're not there! No one else can see them!

SOFIA
Do you... live around here?

(CONTINUED)

TEENAGER

I don't really have a home anymore.
I've been on the run for a while.
Actually people are looking for me
as we speak, but it's useless.
Cops, old friends... it stops them!
Their lives end because they're
searching for a memory.

SOFIA

Sounds like you need help.

TEENAGER

No! Don't waste your time. The
voices tell me I don't exist. You
can't help or stop what isn't in
reality!

Visibly spooked, Sofia takes a step back and once again looks
around the area - something isn't right.

VOICE (O.S.)

You can't help him...

At the strange voice, the teenager looks in her direction,
fear evident in his eyes. Sofia returns his gaze.

TEENAGER

You can hear them too?

SOFIA

(to voice)
Who's there?

VOICE (O.S.)

After all, you couldn't help her!

WHOOSH! Sofia is thrown backwards by an unseen force. She
clatters across the cobbled street as the teenager sinks to
his knees.

TEENAGER

(whispering)
No...

SLASH! Blood spatters from his cheek and he MOANS in pain.
Sofia scrambles to her feet and tries to go to him, but it's
no good. Something's blocking her way.

SOFIA

Hang on! I'm coming!

Slowly, the teenager rises into the air, despite his
struggles. His right arm BENDS BACK, and a sickening CRACK
signals the arm is now broken.

(CONTINUED)

TEENAGER
(crying)
Help me!!

Sofia tries to fight whatever's blocking her path, and she watches helplessly as the boy launches into a coughing fit, spitting up blood.

Tears fill her eyes as she realises she can't save him - and then there is a brilliant white FLASH!

Back on scene, and Sofia finds she is finally able to get to her feet - but the teenage boy is gone.

Sofia looks up and down the street for any sign of him, as a croaky LAUGH echoes around her.

VOICE (O.S.)
Soon...

A pair of huge, dark hands suddenly GRAB her, and Sofia SCREAMS!

GASP! Sofia jumps awake in her bed, wide eyed and gasping for breath. She takes a moment to look around the rest of the room, but all of her classmates are still asleep.

It's still dark outside, meaning even though it's the morning sunrise won't happen any time soon. She raises a hand to her head, but her hand is visibly shaking. As she takes in a breath of fresh air, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4

INT. CAMPUS - RECEPTION - EARLY MORNING.

4

The reception area definitely looks different from the first time we saw it. Candles adorn the walls and tables, and garlands of green, red, gold, and silver are wrapped around the stairwell's banisters.

Beside the comfortable chairs, and above the fireplace rest many pairs of stockings, each bearing the name of one of the Academy's members - including the staff!

Of course, the most important decoration lies in the center of the room - the Christmas tree, with brightly coloured lights, small flags from every country a Slayer is from hanging on the branches, and a heap of presents underneath.

The reception conveys a feeling of holiday cheer - but this is shattered as the Academy's main doors swing open, and Sofia comes rushing into view with a large brown suitcase.

She takes a moment to put the luggage to the side and shake the snow off her coat, before looking up to the open doors.

SOFIA

(calling)

Hurry up, I want you to see it!

MAN (O.S.)

Just give me a sec, I think jet lag's catching up with me.

SOFIA

(rolls eyes)

Please, we both know the plane ride wasn't that long!

MAN (O.S.)

Still, just you remember, Sofia, jet lag is definitely not a new evil to this world. Actually, I'm thinking it's part of a variety pack, because there's no way airplane food is fighting for the forces of good.

SOFIA

You haven't changed a bit, have you?

MAN (O.S.)

It's why people adore me. I'm one of life's constant factors in today's society.

(CONTINUED)

Stepping into the Academy at last with luggage in both hands is XANDER HARRIS. It's been a while since we've last seen him, but he still has that same friendly face and casual style. Dropping both suitcases, he takes a moment to look around the spacious reception area.

SOFIA

So what do you think?

XANDER

I had a whole reference to the X-Men lined up, but Buffy made it pretty clear that even though she can no longer beat me up, an Academy full of Slayers-in-training will have no problem with a walk-in punching bag.

SOFIA

At least you received a warning.

XANDER

After nine years in the business it's well deserved.

SKYE (O.S.)

So this is the legend, huh?

Xander glances round as Skye strolls into the reception, before turning to Sofia with a smile.

XANDER

You've been talking about me?

SKYE

Not just in the waking world.

Sofia looks like she'd rather be somewhere else as the crimson in her cheeks matches the red lights of the tree.

Sofia tries to keep herself busy by examining Xander's suitcases with extreme scrutiny. Xander narrows his eyes as he studies Skye, trying to recall why she looks familiar...

XANDER

Holy Bejesus!

Following that statement, a look of recognition finally enters Skye's eyes as Sofia attempts to fit the puzzle pieces together.

SOFIA

You two... know each other?

The duo nod, but quickly keep an eye on what the other one is up to.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

At least I know I leave a good
first impression.

XANDER

My face and headache from hell two
years ago thank you.

Skye is quick to smirk but quickly realizes what was said
between the lines.

SOFIA

Alright, so I'm picking up that
there was an 'incident' between you
two, but now's not the time for
that sort of thing. It's Christmas!

(beat)

A time for good cheer? Need I
mention the food, presents, and
television specials?

XANDER

You are raising some valid points.

(to Skye)

Promise there won't be any
occurrence whatsoever of déjà vu?

SKYE

Cross my unbeating heart.

Sofia appears to be pleased with the truce, and out of the
corner of her eye she sees Alita hovering nearby, looking
unsure if she should make her presence known.

SOFIA

Allie! Come on over here, I want
you to meet Xander Harris.

Caught out, Alita walks towards the gang realizing she's now
the center of attention.

ALITA

The man who saved you from Italy?

XANDER

Free of charge, I might add.

ALITA

(misses the joke)

It is an honor to meet you at last,
Mr. Harris.

XANDER

Please, call me Xander. 'Mr.Harris'
just sounds so old.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

XANDER (cont'd)

So respect your elder's wishes and
make an old war veteran happy.

(off looks)

You had to be there. And there is a
hell of a lot of irony in that
statement.

ALITA

I'm sorry, but I do not understand.

XANDER

Trust me, many would consider that
a gift.

Alita nods, smiling politely, and Xander spots something as
she scratches the back of her hand - a long, slim SCAR. Alita
hides it beneath her shirt sleeve as Sofia pipes up again.

SOFIA

So, what do you want to do?

XANDER

Put my stuff away, then hear what
you lovely ladies have been doing
for society.

Putting one arm around Sofia, and another around Alita, the
trio begin to ascend the stairs, while Skye remains in the
shadows, a dark expression on her face.

SKYE

That's the problem with the past.
It always comes back to bite you in
the ass.

She turns and leaves, and we cut to:

EXT. CAMPUS GROUNDS - NEXT.

A light frost covers the academy's grounds as Sofia and
Xander walk along one of the many stone paths winding around
the area, deep in conversation.

XANDER

So what's it like being a
superhero?

SOFIA

Would you believe we're not allowed
to sleep in?

XANDER

Next you'll be telling me there's a
deadline to save the world. Now
that's a homework project I never
thought I'd have to deal with in
high school!

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

(laughing)

So why'd you leave Cleveland?

XANDER

To be honest, I think after all that happened there we needed a change of scenery. The Hellmouth was closed, and the gang decided it was time to move on and get a fresh start.

(beat)

Again.

A look of sorrow flashes across both faces, recollecting previous memories.

SOFIA

(quick subject change)

So what's Ireland like?

XANDER

Ah, the Emerald Isle has been good to me. I'll admit my judgment may be biased due to the many bars I've been to, but overall it's been a good experience.

SOFIA

And the others?

XANDER

Well, Willow will be the first to tell you the educational aspects of Dublin. She'll start with the history of the place, and then her face will get all red and excited when it comes to the magic's she's been studying there. Something about an oasis? I don't know too much of the technical aspects, but the vague summary involves her studying legends and such, along with a coven. Oh, and Buffy has started the dating game again! She's currently seeing a guy named Owen, and we Scoobies have decreed that he isn't evil. And while Dawn is happy to be alive, she's less happy about redoing her senior year of high school.

SOFIA

Ouch.

(CONTINUED)

XANDER

So, I've shared my life. Now are you going to tell me what's on your mind?

As if on cue, a bell RINGS in the distance.

SOFIA

(grins)

Oh, dear. Class.

XANDER

Fine, but later I expect coffee and a detailed synopsis!

And with that, the Slayer hunches her knapsack over her shoulder and begins her trek to the indoors.

INT. HALLWAY - SAME TIME.

Skye looks through her bag like she has all the time in the world - that is, until a shadow falls over her, and without looking up, she launches into:

SKYE

(angry)

Look, I don't care what you've got to say anymore! I'm not going to kill people for you, because guess what? The rumours are true! I have free will!

She looks up to find herself face to face with a stunned FRANKIE. Skye is thrown off guard, and Frankie eyes her in silence for a few beats.

FRANKIE

(wry)

Clearly, you are 'ow the English say "bonkers".

SKYE

(beat)

I was expecting somebody else.

FRANKIE

Like the voices in your 'ead?

Skye scowls and barges past her.

SKYE

Just drop it, okay?

FRANKIE

(shrugs)

Whatever. Are you going to class?

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

Nope, gonna skip.

Picking up her bag Skye throws it over her shoulder and walks off into one of the many corridors, leaving a puzzled Frankie go her separate way.

Moments later, however, who should come stepping out of an empty classroom, smirk in place, but HEIDI.

INT. LIBRARY - NEXT.

The girls are seated at a desk with tons of open books. None of them look like they want to be there, but GREG is completely unaware of this as he tries to watch several tables of students at once.

SOFIA

Well, this sucks.

(beat)

What? Just saying what Skye would say if she was here.

FRANKIE

We should 'ave skipped also.

ALITA

Is it not against the rules to do that?

SOFIA

Well, technically, you two could have chosen to go home for a few weeks. It being the season and all.

As soon as the words are out of her mouth, Sofia scolds herself as she notices Alita look crestfallen. Frankie glances at Alita and rolls her eyes.

FRANKIE

Ah, cheer up! Your father did not want you to come 'ome. It is 'is loss, not yours.

That statement doesn't help either, and Sofia puts a hand on Alita's shoulder to comfort her as Greg makes his way over.

GREG

(worried)

Girls? What's wrong?

SOFIA

Nothing, just Frankie trying out her people skills.

(CONTINUED)

ALITA
(softly)
May I be excused?

GREG
Of course.

Alita rushes out of the library, leaving all of her school materials behind. Greg eyes the duo left behind, his face conveying the message "explanation?"

SOFIA
When they said 'tis the season to be jolly,' they forgot to compensate for Alita's father. But that's just an orphan's opinion.

GREG
I do wish I could fly to Japan and kick her father's-
(catching himself)
Talk to him in a civilised manner and make him realize the foolishness of his ways.

SOFIA
(prompts)
But?

GREG
Barbara wouldn't permit it. And my wages aren't the highest, either, so a plane ticket is out of the question - 'Watcher' isn't the kind of career one takes for the money!

FRANKIE
At least you are getting paid to do this! I 'ave to make do with the tiny amounts of money Papa chooses to send me each month.

SOFIA
Speaking of cash, why didn't you go back to France to spend your dad's funds?

Frankie looks like she's about to retort, but never gets a chance as their watcher chooses to intervene.

GREG
Sofia!

SOFIA

Skye's a bad influence on me! And sorry, Greg, but growing up I didn't think I'd spend December researching types of demons whose names I can't even pronounce.

GREG

I'm well aware of all your situations.

FRANKIE

Excuse moi, but are you a beautiful seventeen year old girl with super powers?

GREG

Well... no.

SOFIA

Greg, know that I do respect your authority, but I'm playing hostess to a guest, so I'm going to head off if that's alright.

Sofia gets her stuff ready to leave, as Greg notices several other tables looking in their direction, observing the matter with open interest.

FRANKIE

And I would rather go get a manicure, instead of learning 'ow to kill things with my hands. *Au revoir*.

Frankie takes her leave, and Greg glances round to see every eye in the library looking at him. He coughs nervously.

GREG

(to Sofia and Frankie)

Yes, girls, please go and deliver that message to Barbara for me. Thank you.

(to library)

Back to work.

With a collective groan the Slayers obey, not noticing the Watcher looking at the clock.

Despite the conflicting weather, flowers and bushes flourish with life, as several trees shelter the area from the outside world. Sunlight filters down onto a large stone monument in the garden's centre, with an epitaph which reads "Rupert Giles - In Memoriam."

(CONTINUED)

Xander is sitting on a bench before the monument, his hands on his chin and his eyes glued to the grave.

Sofia and Frankie make their way into the garden, but Sofia signals they should wait a moment to let Xander have some more quality time with Giles.

Xander looks up as the two girls finally head over, Sofia offering a warm smile as she takes a seat next to him.

SOFIA

I see you found the garden. I was going to come show you later, I just got a bit tied up with-

XANDER

You don't have to explain yourself to me, Sofia.

SOFIA

Have you been here long?

XANDER

I guess so.

FRANKIE

(beams)

Ah, we were looking for you for quite a while. My name is Frankie. Sofia 'as probably mentioned me on countless occasions.

The sad truth is Frankie actually looks like she believes that herself, despite Xander's skeptical eyebrow as she offers him her hand.

XANDER

Xander Harris, carpenter extraordinaire, previously handicapped, and living legend.

SOFIA

(proud)

And don't forget my hero for the day.

Frankie is completely out of the loop on this one, as Xander and Sofia share a smile of familiarity.

FRANKIE

(confused)

Pardon, but you are not making much sense. I am going to go back to the cafeteria.

(to Sofia; smirks)

Enjoy your friend.

(CONTINUED)

Sofia blushes at Frankie's comments as the French Slayer leaves the duo in the garden.

XANDER
(raising hands to a crowd)
Xander Harris, everybody, repelling
the opposite sex since birth.

Sofia manages a chuckle, but silence soon wraps itself around the scene again, leaving both of them staring at the monument in the centre of the garden.

Sitting at her desk, and looking absolutely furious, BARBARA stares down Greg, looking like she can't believe what she's hearing.

BARBARA
They just walked out on you? This
is unacceptable! I want you to send
those girls up to my office
immediately.

GREG
I don't exactly think that's fair,
after all it is the holidays.

BARBARA
That's not the issue here. As the
girls with the most seniority
they're setting a bad example for
the rest of the Academy. God only
knows I'm going to hear complaints
from Heidi as it is.

GREG
Look, the girls disrespected my
authority, I'll grant you that. But
we know they're not usually like
this, so I'm willing to let it
slide. This is a difficult time of
year for them - we're not exactly
able to offer them a cosy family
Christmas.
(beat)
Especially in Sofia's case.

BARBARA
Everyone has their baggage, Greg,
you of all people should understand
that. But we can't let them act out
because of their circumstances.

GREG

(frustrated)

Sofia is an orphan, for God's sake!
How can you say you know what she's
going through? Alita's father
refuses to let her come home,
because he feels the rest of his
family wouldn't accept her. Skye
doesn't trust anyone but herself,
and Frankie's father believes his
daughter should stay here in a
controlled environment.

BARBARA

We have to treat these situations
like we would with any other girl
here. We can't show favouritism.

GREG

These aren't normal girls, Barbara.

(beat)

At the very least they deserve a
break. They've earned that.

BARBARA

You're emotionally attached, and
you're letting your judgment be
affected. The forces we're battling
against don't take time off for
Christmas, do they?

GREG

Have you ever been a beau-

(catches himself)

A teenage girl with superpowers?

At this last comment Barbara slowly looks up from her
paperwork, and Greg stares defiantly back at her.

BARBARA

(sighs)

Fine! You win, the girls may have a
break. They can leave the academy
for a short while and get a breath
of fresh air on one condition.

GREG

Anything.

BARBARA

You are to remain here.

GREG

You can't be-

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA

I think it's best if you spend some time apart. You're too attached and we both know it. The girls need a break from this life, like you've suggested, and need I remind you you're a part of that life.

A few moments pass until Greg finally nods his acceptance to the terms.

GREG

Who will be chaperoning them?

BARBARA

Mr. Harris can accompany them to the real world. He's been in the business long enough and will be able to take care of them. Now I have to go make arrangements with some people I'd rather not.

GREG

The Initiative?

BARBARA

(nodding)

They have the resources at their disposal to protect the girls where we can't.

(beat)

Besides, after that fiasco a few weeks ago with the tracker on the Scythe, a safe house is the least they can give us for their damn interference!

Collecting herself from the outburst, Barbara looks every bit the businesswoman as she picks up her phone and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

10 INT. DORM ROOM - LATER.

10

Alita sits on her bed with the phone to her ear. She checks over her shoulder to make sure she's alone as she waits for her call to connect.

ALITA
(English Subtitles)
Hello, Father.

TAKESHIRO
(English Subtitles;
filtered; through phone)
Little wing.

ALITA
I was just calling to let you know
that I'm going to be away from the
Academy for a few days. Gregory-san
has decided we need a break.

TAKESHIRO
Are any other descendants of the
chosen line taking a break?

ALITA
Just my friends. The other girls
are staying at the Academy, or
they're already at home for the
holidays.

TAKESHIRO
And you wonder why I didn't want
our family to witness what you've
become! Alita, you have a destiny,
that is not the kind of
responsibility you can just ignore
whenever you feel like it!

ALITA
(shaken)
Father, I... I thought you'd
understand. After that time we
spent together, I thought we-

TAKESHIRO
(interrupts)
You took an extra week off your
duties to stay behind and help
around the house. That does not
excuse you from your calling!

(CONTINUED)

ALITA

But I showed you that I still
follow the ancient ways!

TAKESHIRO

I'm afraid that's not enough.
(sighs)
Nothing can change what you've
become. I fear the influence that
place is having on your focus.

ALITA

What I've become is what I thought
you wanted me to be!

TAKESHIRO

(beat; sadly)
May the gods forgive me, then.

CLICK. The other line goes dead, and Alita hangs her head
before replacing the receiver. She looks up at a photo at the
top of her bed - it's Takeshiro in his younger days with both
of his children, and all three of them look happy with their
lives. Alita can't mirror the sentiment right now.

INT. RECEPTION - NEXT.

Skye lounges in a chair, bobbing her head to the beat of her
iPod, ignoring all of the other girls in the vicinity. Sofia
nudges her, and she pops out the headphones.

SKYE

Where's your hero?

SOFIA

Getting food and checking out the
library. He's trying to get over
the fact that there are actually
more than seven people there.

SKYE

Please don't tell me another one of
the stories you weren't actually
there to witness. Xander's cool, I
get it. Hell, average guy in the
business this long, he has to be.

HEIDI (O.S.)

(smug)

Nice to hear your opinion on the
matter. You weren't planning on,
oh, I don't know... killing him,
were you?

Sofia looks round at Heidi in disgust, not noticing Skye's
rapidly darkening expression.

SKYE

Alright, everyone, gather around to hear the latest rumor spun from the mill. What in the name of N'Sync are you rattling on about this time, Peroxide?

HEIDI

Well, apparently, and I'm going off of what you told Frankie, you aren't going to kill people, despite you being instructed to do so.

Skye scowls, and Heidi does a quick check round to make sure several girls are close by and listening in.

HEIDI (cont'd)

Now, see, almost everyone in this room can be considered "people." But then there's you.

Skye looks like she was just hit in the face, and all of the girls take a step back, watching her every move. Sofia gets in Heidi's face, glaring angrily at her.

SOFIA

I think you should walk away now.

HEIDI

(ignores her)

Let's lay out the facts, shall we? Besides the fact that you're a wannabee Buffy, you have the Midas touch of death. Of course, that only affects everyone but you, so you're safe. Too bad for the majority of the world, especially your poor parents! Although... it does explain why you're friends with Skye. Imagine if she had your gifts? She could follow out the orders from the voices in her head, and be alive to witness her chaos!

A vicious smile covers Heidi's face, and Sofia and Skye are stunned into silence.

SKYE

Leave her out of this.

HEIDI

But Yin and Yang go so well together! Perfect balance, you know? Death and evil, a match made in heaven.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HEIDI (cont'd)
We all know whose side you're
really on Skye, you're not fooling
anyone.

FRANKIE (O.S.)
Oui, after all, the Academy sends
'er out to save the world and not
you. Care to explain to all of your
adoring fans why that is?

Stepping out of the crowd and in front of her teammates is
Frankie, focusing all of her attention on Heidi.

HEIDI
Frankie, how about-

FRANKIE
(interrupts)
'*Françoise*' is what you may call
me. Only *mes amis* may address me as
'Frankie.'

HEIDI
(stepping up)
And what'll you do if I don't?

FRANKIE
You really do not want to find out.
Now let us get something straight
'ere. Sofia, Skye, and myself were
invited to the Academy before you.
If you are so talented, why weren't
you contacted first, eh?

The smirk is wiped clean off of Heidi's face, as the
attention of the room shifts back to her.

HEIDI
(scoffs)
Please, you can't expect the
dynamic duo to consider you a
friend! After all of your bickering
with them, what's wrong with me
doing it?

FRANKIE
I am their teammate, I 'ave earned
the right. You are simply a
nuisance we all need to wipe off
the bottom of our shoes. Whether
you like it or not, Skye and Sofia
are better than you, better than
even *moi*, and they 'ave the
credentials to prove it. So do the
world a favour, and get over your
self!

HEIDI

(laughing)

This from the Slayer who thought I
was a vampire!

FRANKIE

I don't think I was wrong. I
already know Skye 'as more of a
soul than you.

Smirking, Frankie knows she's won this battle, but Heidi
doesn't look like she's about to give up yet.

HEIDI

That's too bad, France, I really
thought you showed signs of
potential. I was just on the verge
of considering you cool enough to
be my friend, but I see now that
you've picked your side.

FRANKIE

I think I'll live. Now,
mademoiselle, a lady should never
be unprepared for battle. So let me
give you a warning, *non?*

(beat)

En garde!

WHACK! Frankie PUNCHES Heidi square in the face, and Heidi
slams into the floor, clutching her bloody nose to a
collective GASP of horror from the onlookers.

FRANKIE (cont'd)

I 'ave wanted to do that for so
long!

BARBARA (O.S)

Frankie!!

Frankie freezes, and the crowd of Slayers around her slink
away as Barbara marches over, not looking happy at all.

BARBARA (cont'd)

My office. Now. Heidi, get someone
to take you to the infirmary to get
that nose taken care of.

One of Heidi's sidekicks helps her to her feet, and with a
final, deathly glare at Frankie the wounded Slayer is led off
screen. Skye and Sofia stare at Frankie like they've just
seen her for the first time.

BARBARA (cont'd)

You heard me, Frankie. Get moving.

(CONTINUED)

FRANKIE

Oui, madame.

Frankie holds her head high as she follows Barbara back towards the steps down to her office, leaving a stunned Sofia and Skye behind.

SOFIA

What was that about?

SKYE

All I can say is, it was worth it.
Heidi's had that coming.

SOFIA

You think this means... that
Frankie actually likes us?

Skye cracks into a grin, and with a gleeful chuckle Sofia joins in as we cut to:

12 EXT. ACADEMY - FRONT ENTRANCE - LATER.

12

Luggage bags are placed into the back of a minivan as the girls make their final preparations. Greg is running through some final things with Xander, clucking like a mother hen.

GREG

And make sure they're interacting
with people, not demons.

XANDER

In their defense, some people are
worse than demons... but I think I
get the gist of it. Rule number one
- Don't die.

GREG

Just keep them away from danger,
and sharp objects!

(beat)

Despite their obvious skill with
them, I mean.

XANDER

One word, Watcher man: chill. I
won't let anything get to those
girls.

SKYE

(teasing)

Mom, don't forget to tell him that
my bedtime is at nine o' clock, and
that the boys are actually allowed
to sleep over!

(CONTINUED)

GREG
(blushing)
I'm being overprotective, aren't I?

SOFIA
It's nice to know you care.

GREG
Alright girls I'll let you go,
enjoy your downtime.
(to Skye)
No drinking!

Skye pouts as the girls exchange their collective goodbyes.
Xander slides open the side door of the van for them.

XANDER
Alright, girls, Harris Airlines is
now making its final boarding call.
Please watch your step as you enter
the aircraft, and keep your arms
and legs inside the vehicle at all
times.

Without further ado the gang gets in, and as the Academy
gates open the engine roars to life. The van is on its way in
moments, driving off into the distance as we cut to:

The girls are spread around a tidy, stylish room, Skye
stretching out across the leather sofa as they listen closely
to Xander, who is mid-story.

SKYE
Seriously?

XANDER
(Nodding)
One hundred percent serious.

ALITA
(curious)
Is it wise?

FRANKIE
Shh! Do not complain, Alita,
Alexander is the adult.

XANDER
Boy, I never thought I'd be called
that in this lifetime. But
seriously, you girls are teenagers,
and I'm trusting you. Considering
what you've already been through,
this is small potatoes.

SKYE

So we can go out and do whatever we want? Without your supervision?

XANDER

Well, I wouldn't suggest murdering the Prime Minister or trying to end the world.

(shrugging)

Go out and have fun. Somehow, I think me looking over all your shoulders would prevent that. Just make sure you're all back by nightfall. Are we clear?

SOFIA

Crystal.

Without hesitation, Skye and Frankie head for their suitcases. Frankie grabs an expensive looking purse, while Skye just grabs a simple black wallet. Frankie then proceeds to leave the room, and with a click of a door, the house.

SKYE

(to Sofia)

You coming?

SOFIA

I think I'm just going to hang out with Xander.

SKYE

Suit yourself.

(to Alita)

What about you, up for some adventure?

ALITA

I do not know the area.

SKYE

Neither do I, that's half the fun! Come on, Allie, this is a major chance for some bonding time.

ALITA

Will we get into trouble?

SKYE

Only the good kind.

Dragging along the Japanese slayer, Skye soon follows suit and leaves the safe house, leaving Sofia with Xander.

SOFIA

Are you sure that was wise?

(CONTINUED)

XANDER

You can only be young once, kiddo.

SOFIA

Yes, but what happens if they do
get into trouble?

XANDER

Hopefully, they'll learn from it.
Failing that, I have bail money.

Sofia raises an eyebrow, as we cut to:

EXT. CITY CENTRE STREET - AN HOUR LATER.

People flock around stores and boutiques, as they go about
their last minute Christmas shopping.

Frankie is completely absorbed by a display of the new
fashions hitting Europe. She rummages through her purse but
only comes up with a few coins and sighs.

Looking along at the other shoppers with a pout, a flash of
recognition enters her face as she sights a tall,
professional looking businessman. Her eyes quickly scan the
person again, double checking the grey hair and fancy suit.

FRANKIE

(hesitant)

Papa?

The man turns round - and it's Frankie's father, DOMINIC.

DOMINIC

(surprised)

Françoise?

FRANKIE

(happily)

Papa!

Rushing over to hug her father, she looks him up and down,
seeming surprised to see him.

FRANKIE (cont'd)

What are you doing 'ere? I thought
you 'ad business, keeping you away?

DOMINIC

C'est vrai. But I couldn't not get
my princess presents, now could I?

FRANKIE

(smiling)

Papa, you shouldn't. You 'ave
always spoiled me!

(CONTINUED)

DOMINIC

True, but it's my fault for
spoiling you, and if it stops you
bitching in my ear... well, it is a
small price to pay.

FRANKIE

(beat; taken aback)

Thanks... but I'd rather you just
focus on your work. After all, it
is more important.

DOMINIC

(nodding)

That's what I've tried to explain
to your mother for years, but she's
finally agreed. You are just an
economic inconvenience.

FRANKIE

(confused)

But... but I went to the Academy to
learn discipline, like you wanted!
Why did you send me there if I'm
such a waste?

DOMINIC

Because it was a good way to get
rid of you.

(beat)

Legally.

Frankie steps back, shocked at her father's words, as a
SHOPKEEPER taps her on the arm.

SHOPKEEPER

Miss?

FRANKIE

(snaps)

Excuse me, I am in the middle of
something!

(to Dominic)

I'm... I'm sorry I've been such
a... disappointment.

DOMINIC

As a mistake, you should be. You're
lucky your birth didn't bankrupt my
company while it was just starting
out!

FRANKIE

(scowls)

Is that all you care about, your
money?

(CONTINUED)

SHOPKEEPER

Miss, are you going to buy something?

DOMINIC

Money has a value, Françoise, whereas you are just worthless.

Frankie looks close to tears, but her father looks deadly serious. The shopkeeper stares at Frankie, bemused.

FRANKIE

But I tried... I mean... I thought I was just behaving, as you would want me to.

DOMINIC

Blaming me for the Academy girls not liking you? Not this speech again, Françoise. It is time you grow up.

SHOPKEEPER

Can I help you?

Frankie whirls round angrily to face the shopkeeper, but there is a sudden FLASH of white light:

We're on the same scene as before - only Frankie's father is nowhere to be seen. She blinks a few times, disoriented, before focusing on the hand shaking her.

SHOPKEEPER

Are you all right? You looked a little starry-eyed for a while there. Is everything okay?

FRANKIE

(shakes head)

Oui. Just daydreaming.

Frankie hurries away from the store front, confused to all hell about what just happened. As she shoves past other shoppers in her efforts to get away, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

16 INT. INTERNET CAFÉ - SAME TIME.

16

Xander weaves his way through the tables, a coffee in each hand. He deposits them at a table where Sofia is sitting, her eyes glued to the laptop before her.

XANDER

Alright, do I even have to ask again?

SOFIA

(without looking up.)

A hot chocolate with whipped cream and marshmallows. Your treat.

XANDER

Now I think we both know that wasn't what I was referring to.

SOFIA

(casual)

I'm just doing homework.

XANDER

See, this is where I break the news to you. Sofia, you're not a great liar.

Sofia is about to object but Xander is quick to wave a hand in front of her, pushing the beverage towards her.

XANDER (cont'd)

The evidence speaks for itself. First off, a student on vacation never does homework, or if they do it's at the last minute. Secondly, you're ignoring the potential sugar rush right in front of you.

SOFIA

Xander, I swear I'm not doing anything wrong. I have to do this!

XANDER

Again with the vague.

(beat)

I don't have to put you on my naughty list, do I?

Sofia raises an eyebrow, it takes Xander a few seconds to realise the subtext of what he just said. Some of the café's patrons look at him like he's a pervert.

(CONTINUED)

XANDER (cont'd)
(quickly)
Not that there's anything wrong
with being a good girl. They're
nice too. Innocence is completely
sweet.

Having heard enough, one couple gets out of their booth,
throwing a stern glance at Xander as they hurry away.

XANDER (cont'd)
(sighs)
Alright, let's see what you're up
to before I get a restraining order
from most of the population of
England.

He reaches for the laptop, too quick for Sofia to hide what
she's looking at. He looks at the screen, then at Sofia.

XANDER (cont'd)
(surprised)
A dating service?

SOFIA
What?

XANDER
It's okay, totally normal,
especially with there being a lack
of guys at the Academy. I
understand the situation.

SOFIA
There isn't a situation.

XANDER
Although you're very technical,
you're aware nobody's perfect,
right?
(beat)
Cause what you're looking for is
very... detailed. I mean, I'll do
what I can, but-

SOFIA
Xander, I don't need help getting a
boyfriend! This is for a friend.

XANDER
(relieved)
Thank God! I had no idea how I was
going to have the "talk" with you.
Also, us Scoobies aren't exactly
the best when it comes to
relationship advice.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA
(sips coffee)
Yes, so I've noticed...

XANDER
But if you think that's putting me off asking you what's been on your mind since I got here, think again. I have a finely tuned Danger Sense when it comes to one of my girls being in trouble.

SOFIA
(deep breath)
Alright. The other night, before you arrived, I had... a dream.

XANDER
Let me guess, no rainbows or silver lining?

SOFIA
(nodding)
I met this teenage boy, but it was like he was actually there too, wherever I was. The long story short, I think he needed my help, considering what I've already experienced about Slayer dreams.

XANDER
So why are you doing this alone?

SOFIA
Well, to be honest I really don't have much to go on, besides what he looks like. So, I thought I should know more before I brought it up. That, and the fact that the dream really scared me.

XANDER
Tell you what, I'll help you do this for a few hours, but if we can't narrow it down by then, we'll drop it.
(off look)
Just for a while. I promised your Watcher you'd have fun, which isn't the worst order in the world. Okay?

Xander shuffles round to sit next to her, and as the duo start tapping away at the laptop, we cut to:

17 INT. BAR - SAME TIME.

17

The bar is packed with customers, despite the early hour and the dimmed lights. The Barman has his hands full as he refills drinks and slides them along the bar.

Skye and Alita are sitting up on two stools - Alita has a pint in front of her but it remains untouched, contrary to the several empty glasses that surround Skye.

ALITA

I'm confused. I thought Gregory-san took your fake I.D away before leaving the Academy?

SKYE

I'd say he only managed to take one of them. First rule of Slaying, Allie, always be prepared. Plus, we're in England, remember? Legal age here's only eighteen, so we're cool either way! Now are you going to touch that beer?

ALITA

(uncertain)

Didn't Gregory also say you couldn't go out drinking?

SKYE

True, but he didn't say you couldn't. And as long as Greg doesn't know, it can't hurt him, right?

We see the conflict play across Alita's features, but after a few seconds of debate she grabs the pint and drains some of the glass.

ALITA

(coughing)

That's awful!

SKYE

It's an acquired taste. I should know, I spent a lot of time acquiring it.

ALITA

My father would frown upon this activity.

SKYE

Look, Allie, your dad can't see how amazing you are, and frankly that's his problem.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

17

CONTINUED:

17

SKYE (cont'd)
There's absolutely nothing wrong
with you, and if you're still not
convinced, just compare yourself to
me for a second.

Another few seconds pass before Alita nods, then surprisingly
grabs her beer and takes another drink!

SKYE (cont'd)
That's the spirit!

Alita smiles at Skye's enthusiasm and makes a start on her
drink as we MATCH CUT to:

18

INT. BAR - LATER.

18

Alita and Skye are exactly where we left them, with the
exception that lots more empty glasses lay about the table,
and their bodily movements seem a little less controlled.

ALITA
(slurred)
You know what else I hate? Evil!
That's what I hate. Evil... evil
sucks.

SKYE
(also slurred)
Tell me about it! It's like,
like... it's like it's always just
there, you know?

ALITA
People and demons should be more
honorable, and respect the sacred
gift of life.

SKYE
You know what's weird? Even drunk
you're, like... wise. But I have to
disagree with that statement about
life. Personally it's a bitch, and
then you die. But, oh no! Not in my
case, no, Fate throws a curve ball
and I get to experience it all over
again!

Skye then picks up her shot glass and drains all of its
contents before slamming it back on the table.

ALITA
At least you have the advantage of
being cool.

SKYE
(pointing at her)
See, wise!

(CONTINUED)

For no apparent reason, after that statement the two slayers burst into LAUGHTER.

BARMAN

I think you two girls have had
enough for tonight.

SKYE

For once, I'm gonna agree with you.

Alita starts to slump to one side, and Skye pats her on the shoulder to wake her back up.

SKYE (cont'd)

C'mon Allie, let's get back home so
Sofia can look disapprovingly at
us.

ALITA

She does that a lot...

Skye flashes a grin at the barman as she helps Alita off her stool, and we cut to:

Everyone's back at base, sitting around a table. Making sure they keep their cards to themselves, in what appears to be an intense game.

Alita is fast asleep on the sofa, a blanket thrown over her, and Skye sways a little, clearly still intoxicated. She HICCUPS, blinking as she tries to focus on her cards.

SKYE

(to Sofia)

Got any aces?

SOFIA

Go fish. You know what that means.
(mischevious)
Truth or dare?

SKYE

Truth, I don't have anything to
hide.

SOFIA

Did you get Alita drunk earlier?

All eyes are on Skye, especially Xander's, who has a childish expression of curiosity about him.

SKYE

The Slayer metabolism works
wonders, that's all I'm saying.
(MORE)

SKYE (cont'd)

(To Xander)

You're not going to rat us out are you? This was all my idea, Alita shouldn't catch the rap for me.

XANDER

Well, I can't go and break the vow we all agreed upon at the beginning of the game now, can I? I mean, in normal circumstances I'd have to call your Watcher, but what happens in the circle, stays in the circle.

(beat)

Now correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe it's Sofia's turn.

SOFIA

(to Xander)

I don't suppose you have any queens?

XANDER

(Smirking)

Go fish. Now, truth or dare?

SOFIA

Dare.

SKYE

And she comes out swinging!

XANDER

Actually I think you'd all have problems following this dare...

SKYE

Oh, you are so on!

(to Frankie and Alita)

You two ready to back Sofia and me?

The girls nod, ready for his challenge.

XANDER

I dare you to all... to go to bed.

SKYE

(beat)

What are we, nine?!?

XANDER

(smirks)

I said you wouldn't be able to handle it.

Team Slayer exchanges several looks, before looking at the digital clock. Sofia and Skye swap glances, then with a resigned sigh they drop their cards back onto the table.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

Xander smirks and starts packing the cards away as the girls tromp upstairs, and we cut to:

20 INT. BEDROOM - LATER.

20

In a king sized bedroom, enveloped in darkness, the Academy girls are fast asleep, tucked into their sleeping bags.

With a creak, the door opens slightly allowing a sliver of light to enter the room. Cautiously, Xander's head pops in and scans everything.

XANDER
(whispering)
Goodnight, girls.

Satisfied, he carefully closes the door again, and his footsteps echo as he travels down the hallway.

Moments later though, the lock starts to turn by itself, and with a loud CLICK it seals the room!

21 INT. ARENA - DAY.

21

A dusty, gladiatorial arena stands ancient and empty as a wind HOWLS through it, lifting sand into the air.

Sofia steps into frame, looking around and trying to figure out what's going on. The scene appears hazy and over saturated, her movements slow.

SOFIA
(confused)
Hello?

SKYE (O.S.)
Quite yelling, Sofes. We're all here.

Sofia turns to see Skye, Frankie and Alita are standing behind her, all looking equally perplexed.

FRANKIE
Something is not right. I know I am real, but are you?

SOFIA
Well, I'd like to think I am, but there's a chance I'm just inserting you all into my subconscious, so-

SKYE
We're not a part of your dream, so stop with the analyzing!

(CONTINUED)

If anything, this just causes more confusion as the girls search around for answers and back to each other, not exactly trustingly.

ALITA

I also think we're all really here.
Despite us sleeping.

SKYE

The thing is, how could that be possible?

Sofia's eyes widen as the pieces start to fit together.

SOFIA

Oh no...

WHACK! A mysterious force knocks the girls off their feet, sending them skidding along the sandy floor and leaving a whirlwind of sand and dust behind them.

Sofia is the first to pull herself upright, staring in horror as the SONHO DEMON steps out from within the whirlwind - six feet tall with jet black skin, blazing red eyes and long, dreadlocked hair, it leers down at the Slayers.

SONHO DEMON

(chuckles)

You're exceeding my expectations!
That only took you girls about a minute, you must be excellent students.

SKYE

Care to explain why we're doing summer school, then? 'Cause last time I checked, I kicked your ass back in the final exam.

SONHO DEMON

Really? I would've said you cheated, Miss "Cannes," helping your friends out on a test.

Sofia gets to her feet, helping Alita up but keeping her eyes fixed on the demon.

SOFIA

Everyone be careful! Don't get too close!

SONHO DEMON

Afraid of a repeat performance?
Don't worry, Sofia, I like to keep things fresh, gets the adrenaline pumping.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

Skye's right, how did you come back? We defeated you!

SONHO DEMON

I wasn't defeated, just regaining strength. And besides, even evil has its dreams and aspirations.

FRANKIE

Am I missing something? Who is this... thing?

ALITA

(terrified)

It's... it's the dream demon...

SOFIA

(to Alita)

How did you know?

The Academy girls all look to their Japanese comrade for some answers, and a vicious smile forms on the dream demon's face.

SONHO DEMON

(mocking)

You mean you didn't tell your friends I've been visiting you? I thought we had bonded!

With the demon's attention turned away from her, Frankie starts slowly creeping round behind it.

SOFIA

Alita, is that true?

Alita looks down at the scar on her hand, then slowly nods her head, her eyes on the floor.

ALITA

(quietly)

Yes.

The sonho demon grins and SNAPS its fingers, and Alita lets out a cry of pain as the scar on her hand SPLITS open, blood pouring out across her fingers.

SKYE

Allie! What the hell did you do to her?

SONHO DEMON

Ask any psychologist, it was all self inflicted.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SONHO DEMON (cont'd)

But if it helps explain things,
your friend is the reason I was
able to come back so soon. I've
been feeding off of her for a while
now. Her mind is where I went into
hiding after your unexpected
appearance.

SOFIA

(defiant)

This ends now. You're not going to
hurt any more of my friends.

The demon doesn't realize it but Frankie is in place behind
it, ready to strike.

SONHO DEMON

Oh, I'm only just beginning.
There's a world full of Slayers out
there fresh for the picking, full
of dreams, visions, and fears all
calling to me. This is just a score
to settle.

Frankie finally tries her attack from behind, but without
turning around the demon catches her arm and swings her over
his head, throwing her towards the floor.

Before she can collide with the sand floor, she DISAPPEARS,
and Sofia throws a shocked look at the demon.

SOFIA

What did you do to her?

SONHO DEMON

You'll soon find out. Get ready,
girls.

Skye, Sofia, and the injured Alita try to stand in a battle
stance, but again they're whipped backwards by an unknown
force, and just like Frankie, before they can make an impact
on the earth, they DISAPPEAR.

SONHO DEMON (cont'd)

It's time to face your worst
nightmares.

The demon begins to LAUGH, and from that, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

22 EXT. ALLEYWAY - DAY.

22

The alleyway is covered in shade as a wary Skye comes into view. She ignores the dumpsters and graffiti along the walls.

SKYE
(apathetically)
Evil demons, come out, come out
wherever you are!

Seeing nothing out of the ordinary the vampire slayer walks into the sunlight, but instantly recoils!

Skye's exposed skin starts to catch on FIRE! Freaking out, Skye tries swatting at her clothes, her vampiric features surfacing in her panic.

Jumping back into the protection of the darkness, Skye quickly puts out the flames, then she feels her vamped out features and tries to shift back - but nothing happens.

SKYE (cont'd)
What the...
(taking a breath)
Skye, calm down, this is no time to
play twenty questions.

There's a faint ZING sound - and Skye ducks as a small throwing star ricochets off the wall next to her. Skye looks up to see Alita, Sofia and Frankie advancing on her.

SKYE (cont'd)
Guys, chill! It's me!

ALITA
Evil is evil.

SKYE
Very funny, Allie, but it's the
dream demon, remember? He's done
something to me, we just have to
fix it.

FRANKIE
But of course.

SOFIA
What are friends for?

Skye looks nervously at her comrades, but the awkward silence is soon broken as Sofia reveals a stake, and the reality of the situation sinks in.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

(cautious)

Okay, let's take a deep breath here. We all know those things have a tendency to not have an effect on me.

FRANKIE

That was then. Now you are just a filthy vampire.

SKYE

(protests)

But I'm a Slayer as well!

ALITA

Then you should understand what we must do.

SOFIA

It is our destiny.

Finally making their move the trio charge, but Skye is quick to react, grabbing the dumpster and launching it in their direction.

It slows them down, but only for a few seconds, but that's when Skye spots a manhole cover. Without waiting, she quickly wrenches it up and drops into the shadows of the sewer.

A few lights brighten the simple gray building. But it's the CLANG of weapons that attracts our attention. Two figures are pitched in battle on the rooftop - and it's Sofia and Alita!

The double-edged weapons clash back and forth as each girl looks slightly worn, with a scratch here and there. Sofia feints to the left, but Alita recognizes the move and with a screech the swords once again cross in a stalemate.

ALITA

I'm sorry! I have to do this!

SOFIA

What is it you're afraid of Alita?
Death? Or me?

Alita is quick to play offense and as she swings at Sofia's midsection, the English slayer drops to the floor and rolls backwards, raising her sword at just the right moment to stop the incoming blow.

ALITA

(freaked out)

I can't control what I'm doing!

Seeing an opportunity, Sofia sweeps her leg out and trips Alita. Giving herself time to stand up, she allows Alita the same, and the duo begin to circle each other slowly.

SOFIA

Neither can I! But are we in the same dream?

ALITA

I think so...

SOFIA

So what happens if we finish this battle?

Sofia gets her answer as Alita runs straight at her, and does a front flip over her. Before she has time to react, Alita RAMS her sword into Sofia's gut!

Both slayers take a few moments to recognize the change of events, as Sofia uses what's left of her energy to face her friend.

ALITA

I... I didn't mean to!

Tears start streaming down her face as Sofia manages a brave smile.

SOFIA

Think there'll be a sequel?

Sofia collapses to the ground, the light of life gone from her eyes.

With shaking hands, Alita YANKS her sword out of her fallen comrade, and as we see the wet blood on the blade, we see a resolve cross Alita's face.

A crowd of Slayers are gathered in a circle in the middle of the street, looking down at something by their feet.

We close in on what holds their attention - and it's Frankie, with wide eyes, sprawled out on the floor. Standing above her with a victorious air about her is Heidi.

HEIDI

See girls, I told you she was absolutely useless.

Frankie tries to crane her neck, but whatever pain she's in it's obvious she can't stand up or move her legs.

FRANKIE
(through gritted teeth)
Picking on a cripple, is that not
low? Even for you.

Stepping up beside Heidi is Erika.

ERIKA
Oh, the irony of that statement!

HEIDI
So tell us, France, how's it feel
being paralyzed?

FRANKIE
You'll know when I am done with
you.

ERIKA
(scoffing)
Please, we were all aware you
couldn't do anything as a person
when you had your "gifts," so your
current situation really isn't a
loss to the world.

Another moment passes, but the rest of the Academy girls
disappear, leaving Frankie utterly alone.

FRANKIE
'ello? Anybody!
(beat)
Please, 'elp me!

The French slayer attempts to do something with her body, but
the end result is nothing! She tries again, and again! But
still, the most she gets is a light sweat.

FRANKIE (cont'd)
(desperate)
Sofia! Greg! Alita!
(beat)
Skye! Someone!

Running as fast as she can, Skye doesn't pay any attention to
the noise she makes as her shoes splash in the water. As she
turns a corner, an ARROW bounces off the wall, inches away.

FRANKIE (O.S)
Skye, there is only so far you can
run!

Spotting a fork in the road, Skye notices one of them leads
to a grate, blocking off any type of passage.

Skye chooses this side and puts her hands on the grate, straining with effort before she manages to WRENCH it out of the wall. Tossing it to the side, she then doubles back and takes the other path.

SOFIA

I understand your need to be a walking apocalypse sign, but I guarantee as soon as you're dust you'll be in Hell where you belong, suffering with all of your demon buddies. It'll be like a reunion!

Panting for energy, Skye stops running for a few moments and listens - but nothing else can be heard.

It's then that Alita CHARGES Skye from behind, and Skye goes crashing head first into the murky waters.

Alita makes to kick her fallen comrade in the head, but her foot is grasped by Skye's hands and quickly turned around and lifted up, flipping her over.

Letting out a huge sigh, Skye looks troubled as she picks up her foe, and puts a hand over the Japanese slayer's mouth.

SKYE

Sorry, Allie, but it'll just be for a little while, 'till I figure out how to get us out of this mess.

Alita tries to break out, using her feet on the sewer wall to push Skye back, but as Alita's eyelids slowly flutter, the rest of her energy soon dissipates and she slips into unconsciousness.

Skye sits Alita up against the side of the tunnel and turns to escape, heading towards a ladder leading to the surface.

Once again Sofia and Alita fight, this time without weapons, a deserted and plain town street their background.

SOFIA

So what do you think? Maybe it's a best out of three thing?

Alita doesn't respond as she jumps into the air and lands a high KICK to Sofia's face. Stumbling backwards, Sofia glances around for something to use as a weapon.

Closing in, Alita picks up her fellow Slayer and prepares to throw her, but gets an elbow to the face!

SOFIA (cont'd)
(winces)
Sorry!

ALITA
Don't be.

Without hesitation, Alita throws a punch into Sofia's gut, and the winded Sofia drops to her knees.

ALITA (cont'd)
It is not your fault my hand is
attracted to your face.

Standing over Sofia, Alita attempts the same move again but Sofia catches the punch with one hand. With a sickening CRUNCH she twists Alita's wrist round.

SOFIA
(sincerely)
I really am sorry.

ALITA
I never knew things would turn out
this way either.

Mechanically, Sofia brings her knee into Alita's face with full force, grabbing her head again before Alita can fall.

Sofia looks like she has no idea what she's doing as she stares into Alita's eyes - then SNAPS her neck! Sofia stands up slowly and takes a few steps back from the body.

SOFIA
(crying)
No...
(to the area)
Stop doing this! It's me you want,
come out here and face me!

SONHO DEMON (O.S.)
Silly girl, haven't you learned?
It's all in how you play the game!

Red and blue flashing lights signal the arrival of the police, and Sofia doesn't hang around, racing away with one last look down at Alita's still body.

Compared to the girls dreams, the room would seem peaceful as they simply toss and turn in their sleeping bags. However the dream demon standing over their sleeping forms is a definite cause for worry.

A strange black energy is coming from each girl, and slowly flowing into the depths of the Sonho Demon, who doesn't look like he'll be transparent for much longer!

The doorknob starts to rattle, followed by a KNOCK and Xander's voice:

XANDER (O.S)
Girls? What's that noise? Is everyone okay?

Xander starts to rattle the handle and knock more urgently.

XANDER (O.S) (cont'd)
Let me in! This isn't funny!

BANG! The door comes flying off of its hinges, finally catching the demon's attention.

SONHO DEMON
Mr. Harris! I must say, I'm a huge fan of your previous work.

XANDER
(steely)
Step away from those girls.

The Sonho Demon narrows its eyes and grins at Xander, who grits his teeth and prepares to charge as we cut to:

Frankie has her eyes closed, murmuring something to herself as she tries to push herself upright.

SKYE (O.S.)
Boy, I wish we had time for me to gloat about this...

Frankie's eyes flash open at the voice, and she sees Skye standing over her.

SKYE (cont'd)
You okay?

FRANKIE
Skye? What are you doing 'ere?

SKYE
Helping you out. Looks like we're all in the same general area with this dream thing.
(off look, shrugging)
I can't believe it either. Now what's wrong?

FRANKIE

I cannot move!

SKYE

Here's what I'm thinking. We're all in a dream world, right? And it's possible to control your own dreams if you focus hard enough, right? Therefore, if you put every ounce of your considerable body weight into telling yourself you can get up, then that's what'll happen.

(beat)

I think. It's kind of a work in progress theory.

FRANKIE

But I can't control anything below my neck!

SKYE

Frankie, you have one of the strongest wills around - believe me, there's no way I'd find attempting to crush it so entertaining otherwise. Now, I don't care if your motivation involves getting your nails done, or seeing me kicked out of the Academy, but the others probably need us... so get the hell up!

Frankie tires to follow Skye's advice, but it doesn't work.

FRANKIE

(defeated)

It's useless!

Losing patience, Skye crouches and SLAPS Frankie as hard as she can.

Frankie seethes with anger and jumps to her feet, grabbing Skye by her shirt - and then realises she's standing again!

SKYE

See? All a matter of the correct motivation. You can thank me now.

FRANKIE

Merci!

SKYE

Anytime.

(beat)

Can you do me a favour and forget I just said that?

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: (2)

28

Frankie nods, and the two girls dash out of the street.

29 INT. SAFE HOUSE - BEDROOM - NEXT.

29

The room has been torn apart, and Xander has definitely taken a beating as he faces up to the Sonho Demon again - which by comparison still looks fresh and unhurt.

XANDER

Now I'm going to ask you again,
what did you do to them?

SONHO DEMON

Your courage is an admirable trait,
but it'll be the death of you. The
slayers have been put to sleep,
permanently, like the dogs they are
on this world.

Xander CHARGES at the demon, but it neatly sidesteps and sends Xander CRASHING into the wardrobe.

SONHO

Now, as interesting as meeting you
has been, I have some business to
attend to.

(hopefully)

Maybe another time?

Xander scrambles to his feet, but the dream demon has turned into an eerie black cloud of ENERGY. Before Xander can find a plan 'b,' the energy rushes into the four girls.

Xander rushes to their aid and begins to shake Sofia, but she won't wake up. Desperate, he keeps shaking her as we cut to:

30 EXT. GRAVEYARD - NIGHT.

30

A low fog floats along the grass, as we see shadows seamlessly move and change. It's your standard graveyard, with headstones, mausoleums and ancient statues guarding the dead. It even has Slayers.

CRASH! Thrown into one of the many headstones with force, Alita lets out a sharp cry. Struggling to stand, an arrow streaks out of the night and flies straight into her gut.

Alita slumps back to the ground as Sofia steps through the fog with her crossbow.

SOFIA

This is the price for getting in my
way.

(CONTINUED)

ALITA
(breathless)
Is this... how things have to be?

SOFIA
Death is sometimes the only thing
we can endure to save others.

Sofia hesitates, and Alita manages to KICK Sofia's crossbow out of her hands. She grits her teeth and pulls the arrow out of herself, throwing it back towards Sofia.

With the arrow in her leg, Sofia stumbles to the ground, placing both slayers on even territory.

ALITA
You know I never saw this coming.

Alita reveals a small dagger and stabs down into Sofia's calf muscle! Sofia SCREAMS in pain and rears back to punch Alita:

And Skye's hand snaps into frame and grabs Sofia's wrist, and as she tries to pull the struggling Sofia away, Frankie grapples Alita to do the same.

SKYE
And you all thought I was twisted?
Murdering Your Friends 101 is not
on at the Academy for a reason!

SOFIA
(fights back)
Let me go!

FRANKIE
(struggling with Alita)
Zut! They are like magnets!

SKYE
Guys, get a grip! We have bigger
issues, like, say, killing Freddy
Kruger once and for all.

It takes a while, but eventually Sofia and Alita stop trying to go after each other, and when Frankie and Skye let them go, the peace remains.

Sofia looks to Alita, her face ashen, and steps forward, reaching her arms out to Alita.

SOFIA
Alita, oh my God... are you okay?
I'm so sorry!

ALITA

(shakes head)

There is no need for apologies. I
am to blame as well.

SONHO DEMON (O.S.)

Touching. Very touching indeed.

Emerging from the shadows, the familiar dream demon appears.

SONHO DEMON (cont'd)

You have to love how the final act
is in a graveyard. I didn't even
pick the setting. As Slayers, this
is where you make your stand every
night, and it's time I inform you
this is where you belong.

(beat)

Six feet under the ground!

SKYE

Then it's time we let my fists do
the talking for a while.

SONHO DEMON

I should acknowledge that I'm very
impressed with you girls, though. I
did think the odds were stacked
against you, but you somehow
managed to pull through. I'm sure
there's a moral somewhere in there,
but to be honest I think you would
have been better off if you had
given up when you had the chance.

SOFIA

Skye's right. Enough talk.

(beat)

Girls? Kill it.

The girls attack the dream demon as one unit, throwing
punches and landing kicks for all they're worth.

Despite all the hits they're getting in, the dream demon just
stands there and takes it. Unfazed.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Fall back! We're not having any
effect on it!

Retreating, the girls cautiously circle him like predators.

FRANKIE

Remember, Skye said we are in a
dream. We can use that to 'elp us.

(CONTINUED)

SONHO DEMON

It didn't help your friend Emma, did it? She was the annoying red head that couldn't shut up if I'm correct. Stupid girl.

SOFIA

(cold)

Oh, no. You don't even get to speak her name.

Sofia goes all out on him, ignoring the wounds he's inflicting upon her with his slashing claws, her anger fuelling her rage.

The other girls yell at her to stop - and the demon sends her flying with a powerful BACKHAND.

SKYE

Calm down, Sofes, damn it! We need to keep a clear head!

SOFIA

'A clear head'?

(angry)

That thing killed Emma!

SKYE

Yeah, well, he's going to kill us too if you don't stop with your kamikaze mission!

The demon starts to stalk slowly towards the girls, who begin backing away, trying to find a new offensive.

ALITA

Wait a minute... dreams are considered to be outside of reality, correct?

SKYE

(going along with it)

Even evil has dreams.

SOFIA

What are you two talking about?

SKYE

Alright, this is a dream, everyone can mess with the cards, right? What if he just wanted to be invincible, and that's why we've been having as much luck as Firefly so far?

SOFIA

So what are you suggesting?

SKYE

Dreaming this guy down to a kickable level. Make any logical sense to you?

SOFIA

(beat)

Not really. But that doesn't mean it won't work.

SKYE

(winks)

Trust me. It'll work.

(to others)

Guys, fall back. No matter what happens next, just ignore the demon, and pretend he doesn't even exist.

The girls stand their ground as the demon halts a few feet away. It GROWLS, sensing its advantage slipping - and morphs into the form of SPIKE!

SPIKE

(to Skye)

What's wrong, love? You can't seriously believe defeating me will be that easy, do you?

SKYE

(ignoring him)

Close your eyes, and ignore whatever happens. Just remember, he can only hurt you if you let him.

Sofia grimaces as she feels hundreds of SNAKES slithering past her legs! Trying a new approach, the demon morphs into Dominic.

DOMINIC

Francoise? You know I meant what I said earlier, don't you?

Frankie squeezes her eyes tightly shut - and Dominic looks down at his hand to see he's becoming transparent!

DOMINIC (cont'd)

No... no!! Not like this!

The demon morphs again - this time into a middle aged woman with long, dark hair. SOFIA'S MOTHER!

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA'S MOTHER

Sofia, my baby... we miss you. Why don't you just let go? You could be with us at last... it'd be so easy...

SOFIA

(yells)

No! You're not her! You're not!

The demon continues to fade away as he morphs one last time into his true form.

SONHO DEMON

(furious)

Know that if I'm defeated, I'm taking you with me!

The girls ignore the threat, as we hear a huge WHOOSHING sound getting louder every second. Crashing across the gravestones towards the girls comes a huge TIDAL WAVE!

The dream demon begins to LAUGH, throwing its head back and howling into the night sky until it's swallowed up the wall of water.

The wave looms high in the air, threatening to crash down and sweep the girls away at any second, when we SMASH CUT to:

INT. SAFE HOUSE - BEDROOM - NEXT.

Sofia leaps up in bed with a SHOUT, and it takes a few frantic seconds before she realises where she is - and that she's safe.

Looking round, she sees Skye, Alita and Frankie start to wake up too - before her eyes fall on the wounded form of Xander, who is hurrying over to her.

SOFIA

Xander! Are you alright?

Sofia jumps up and HUGS him, and Xander winces at the Slayer bearhug. He sits her back down and pushes the hair out of her face.

XANDER

Always worrying about others.

She lets out a blush at that, as Skye grins and stretches.

SKYE

Now that was intense!

Skye gives Sofia the thumbs up as we DISSOLVE to:

32

INT. ACADEMY - DORM ROOMS - MORNING.

32

Greg is sitting in a chair in the girls dorm, fast asleep, with paperwork in his lap and spread out across the floor.

The door CREAKS open and he jolts himself awake with a snort, fumbling for his glasses - but he looks visibly deflated as he sees that Barbara is the one entering the room.

GREG

Oh, it's only you.

BARBARA

Well, it's nice to see you too.

GREG

(beat)

Sorry. Are the girls back yet?

BARBARA

Any second now.

(looks around)

Did you spend the night in here?

GREG

I couldn't sleep, so I thought it'd help. These girls are the closest thing I have to a family.

BARBARA

I may be the Headmistress, Greg, but I'm far from blind. I understand how you feel, but you have to stop sulking!

GREG

What if the girls get into trouble?

BARBARA

They'll handle it. To be fair, some might say they have brilliant teachers.

GREG

(eyes her)

Did you just crack a joke?

BARBARA

(ignoring the comment)

You know they'd want you to have a good time. And so do I.

Barbara leans back and addresses somebody standing outside.

BARBARA (cont'd)

You can come in now.

(CONTINUED)

Barbara smiles at Greg - and when AIDEN walks through the door with luggage, he understands why.

BARBARA (cont'd)
I'll leave you two alone.

Stepping out of the girls' room, Barbara closes the door behind her. Aiden finally puts his suitcase on the floor, and smiles at Greg's shocked expression.

AIDEN
Your place was looking for a new
P.E. Teacher, which I just so
happen to have a qualification in.
Barbara called me, and here I am.

Words aren't exchanged; they don't have to be. Aiden just sits on the bed opposite Greg, and a moment passes before Aiden slips his hand into Greg's. Greg doesn't argue, and the two boys sit there, happy to be in each other's company.

Patched up from his night's work, Xander grins happily as Sofia deposits a pair of traditional English bacon butties down in front of him.

SOFIA
Get stuck in, that's a family
trademark you're about to eat.

XANDER
And every part of my bruised body
says 'thank you, kind English type
person.'

Sofia smiles as Xander's expression turns a little more serious.

XANDER (cont'd)
Seriously though, be careful. We
don't know if that last dream you
all had was tampered with by the
demon, so we can't be sure it's
gone for good. Last thing I want to
hear is you've gotten into a trap
when I'm not here to take care of
you.

Sofia playfully punches his shoulder.

XANDER (cont'd)
I'm sorry I couldn't help you when
you needed me.

SOFIA

It's not your fault. You can't fight all my battles. If it helps, I'll let you threaten the occasional boyfriend? And something tells me 'occasional' won't be an overstatement...

That gets a smile out of Xander, and he puts an arm around Sofia. She lies her head on his shoulder and sighs happily.

XANDER

Seriously, your parents would be proud of you.
(beat)
I know I am.

Sofia looks grateful for the kind words, and Xander uses his other hand to reach into his pocket and pull out a small package.

XANDER (cont'd)

And after all you've been through, the least I can do is give you a Christmas present early.

It's a small, gold-wrapped box, complete with red ribbon.

SOFIA

Xander, you shouldn't have!

XANDER

You're entitled to it. All of the Scoobies have one.

Sofia deftly unties the ribbon and opens the box. She catches her breath as she see's what's inside - resting in the box is a silver Claddagh ring.

SOFIA

It's beautiful...

Taking it out of its casing Sofia slips it onto her finger, starting to get teary eyed.

XANDER

Perfect fit.
(beat)
We decided as a group we all earned the right to have something mark us out as friends. Buffy and Willow weren't too keen on spandex, so jewelry was the next big thing.

SOFIA

So it's official? I'm a Scooby?

(CONTINUED)

XANDER

And don't you forget it! That's not the best part, either. I've always said the Irish were geniuses.

(off look)

Well, I have since then. When you have the heart facing towards yourself, it means your heart belongs to someone else. But if you have the heart facing out it means you're free and available. Not only does it make the dating game way easier, but also when it comes to marriages, ending things is much simpler. Just turn the ring around and the divorce is over.

Sofia lets out a giggle at the joke - and notices that Xander's Claddagh ring is still facing towards himself. She quickly dismisses the thought, and keeps her eyes focused on the senior Scooby.

SOFIA

I'm honoured.

XANDER

Damn straight!

SOFIA

Of course, saving all our necks tonight makes you an honorary Slayer. You do realise that, right?

XANDER

Actually... no.

SOFIA

(grins)

It's not a big deal. It just means I get to ask you the question I ask every new Slayer I meet.

XANDER

Which is?

SOFIA

(beat)

What did you want to do with your life?

Xander grins, and as Sofia beams back we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW