

SLAYER ACADEMY

"Charity Case"

by
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TEASER

FADE IN:

1

INT. CAMPUS - I.T. LAB - DAY

1

It's a full house in the Academy's computer lab - SOFIA, SKYE, FRANKIE and ALITA sit on one row, each behind a computer terminal, while behind them sit HEIDI, KEEYA, DEBBIE and ANNA.

The girls are in various states of mind - Skye is staring out the window as Alita and Sofia chatter to each other. Frankie is busy filing her nails - as is Heidi, the two campus princesses making sure everything is in place.

Keeya looks pretty bewildered as she taps experimentally at her keyboard, nodding a thanks as a grinning Anna reaches across to correct what she's doing. It's only Debbie who seems to be actually looking forward to their lesson.

The door at the far end of the room opens, and the girls look up expectantly - and in walks DR. RAYMOND CHANNING. He's a handsome man in his late thirties, clean shaven and smartly dressed.

Frankie and Erika perk up noticeably as they look the new arrival up and down. He casts his eye over the girls before heading for the desk at the head of the class.

CHANNING

Good morning, ladies.

They mumble their greetings, and he smirks.

CHANNING (cont'd)

And what an enthusiastic bunch of fireworks you all are this morning!

Channing turns and draws his name on the whiteboard behind him, then turns to face the girls.

ANNA

Are you gonna do that every time you take a lesson with us, Doc?

CHANNING

Until you all start spelling my name correctly on your test sheets, then yes. Now then. Which of you can tell me why you're here today?

Debbie's hand shoots up. Channing scans the rest of the room - obviously Debbie is always the first to answer - before he has to settle on picking Debbie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHANNING (cont'd)
Yes, Miss Livesey.

DEBBIE
We're here to move from, er, basic
computing skills to starting an
understanding of elementary
technopaganism. Er, sir.

CHANNING
Correct. As part of the wide
variety of Slayer-related skills
you'll be learning here, your
headmistress feels that a ground
knowledge of the art of the
technopagan is an important thing
to understand, especially in
today's computerised age. Now, who
has previous experience with modern
day technopaganism?

Debbie raises her hand - and no-one else does. She COUGHS and
slowly lowers it again.

CHANNING (cont'd)
Let's start with the basics. Miss
Underwood?

Everyone turns to Skye, who is still staring out through the
window. Channing waits a beat, then stands over her desk.

CHANNING (cont'd)
Skye?

She blinks and looks round at last.

SKYE
That's me.

CHANNING
I need you to perform an important
demonstration for me.

SKYE
Does it involve me leaving early?

CHANNING
Not exactly. I need you to turn
your computer on.

She looks at her screen - it's blank. Everyone else's is on
and humming quietly.

SKYE
I didn't think we'd-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHANNING

It's painfully obvious that you'd rather be somewhere else right now, Miss Underwood, but I'm afraid for the next fifty-three minutes you're all mine, and when you're all mine, I only have one rule. Computers are to be switched on.

Skye scowls at him, hitting the power switch and flopping back in her seat.

CHANNING (cont'd)

That's better. Now. Let's run through a few simple exercises. You should see an icon on your desktop marked...

Channing's voice fades away as we slowly DISSOLVE TO:

2

INT. CAMPUS - I.T. LAB - LATER

2

Channing sits at his desk alone - Debbie is the last girl to leave, following the others as they file out through the door. The whiteboard behind Channing is covered with complicated diagrams and scribbled writing.

Debbie pauses in the doorway, waiting for the others to leave before stepping cautiously towards Channing's desk.

DEBBIE

Uh, Mr. Channing?

CHANNING

Yes, Debbie?

DEBBIE

I just wanted to say, er, thank you. For the lesson. Today. It was, uh... well, your class is the only one I'm taking so far that I think I have a chance at passing!

CHANNING

(nods)

You have a natural aptitude for this kind of thing, Debbie. I'd hate to see it go to waste. I understand you're also something of a medical expert?

DEBBIE

(blushes)

Well, 'expert' is a bit of a stretch, but...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHANNING

Never sell yourself short, Debbie.
Anybody can achieve anything they
set their mind to. Especially here.

She nods, smiling, then hurries out of the classroom.
Channing waits until her footsteps have moved away, then
turns back to his computer screen.

With a few taps at his keyboard, he brings up a screen with
the Academy's coat of arms on it - and a wide banner reading
'Classified Access Only.'

Channing grins, his fingers skittering rapidly across the
keys - and the banner changes to one that reads 'Access
Granted.'

He reaches into his briefcase and takes out a small zip
drive, plugging it into his desktop and typing again -
bringing up several windows with files and folders.

CHANNING (cont'd)

(shakes head)

Honestly... it's like working in
the Dark Ages!

A few more runs over his keyboard flashes up the message
'Downloading files...'

Channing sits back and watches the folders on display
download themselves into his zip drive, and from his
satisfied grin, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3

EXT. CAMPUS - MAIN ENTRANCE - ROOFTOP - LATER

3

Skye sits in her usual haunt up on the roof overlooking the front grounds, her shades on against the sun as she busies herself with a graphic novel.

The access door opens up and Sofia steps out, scanning the roof and spotting Skye hiding behind an air vent.

She heads over, Skye not looking up as Sofia's shadow falls across her.

SOFIA

Good book?

Nothing. Sofia looks around, sighs and crouches next to Skye.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Why aren't you talking to anyone?

Skye looks at Sofia over the frame of her glasses, then back down into her book.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Skye, I don't know where this attitude has come from all of a sudden, but you-

SKYE

(interrupts)

But you don't have any idea what I had to go through last week, so until then...

She mimes zipping her mouth shut. Sofia isn't about to let that put her off, so she plonks herself down next to Skye. Skye mutters something under her breath.

SOFIA

I'm sorry, what was that?

SKYE

Nothing.

SOFIA

It sounded like something.

SKYE

(snaps)

I didn't say anything!

SOFIA

'Say,' no. 'Mutter,' yes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SKYE
(rolls eyes)
I said 'make yourself comfortable.'

SOFIA
(smiles)
Thank you, I will.

Skye closes her eyes, curses silently and then shuts her book, knowing she won't get any peace now.

SOFIA (cont'd)
So tell me about what happened.
Everyone I've spoken to about your
Cruciamentum's been a little,
well... cagey about the whole
thing.

SKYE
(bitterly)
Figures.

SOFIA
I think I have a right to know.

SKYE
Did I ask for a blow-by-blow
description of yours?

SOFIA
You didn't need to, it was round
the whole bloody school before I'd
even got back from it!

Skye looks away, and Sofia exhales, patiently waiting for Skye to open up to her.

SKYE
It's just...

SOFIA
Just what?

Skye lowers her head, choosing her words carefully.

SKYE
I thought I'd made a difference
here, you know?

SOFIA
You have.

SKYE
(shakes head)
Not yet. Not by a long shot.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SOFIA

Skye, what happened out there? I know you were in a real state when they brought you back, but nobody was able to tell me anything.

SKYE

It doesn't matter.

SOFIA

Of course it matters! You're my friend!

Skye looks at her, and Sofia raises an eyebrow, as if daring Skye to deny that claim.

SKYE

You gonna keep it to yourself?

SOFIA

Of course I am.

SKYE

They tried to get me killed.

SOFIA

What?!?

SKYE

Straight up.

SOFIA

But... who did? Barbara?

SKYE

Her, not so much. But her bosses, definitely.

SOFIA

I... I don't understand.

SKYE

(shrugs)

Nothing to understand. They still look at me like I'm just a vampire who got lucky and found herself with Slayer powers. All they're ever going to see me as is a threat.

Sofia takes this information in, then folds her arms and resumes her casual air.

SOFIA

Well, I don't see you like that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SKYE

That's cute, but your opinion
doesn't really count for all that
much.

SOFIA

Doesn't it matter to you?

SKYE

Well...
(sighs)
Yeah.

SOFIA

There you go, then. Stop being such
a martyr and tell me the rest of
the story.

Skye leans back, closing her eyes.

SKYE

They shipped me off to this African
temple, said it was like a training
ground for Slayers back in the old
days, when they were still all
tribal and crap like that.

SOFIA

Like the Primitive, you mean?

SKYE

The what now?

SOFIA

Buffy told me once, it was about...
(catches herself)
I promised I'd stop doing that,
didn't I?

Skye nods, and manages a grin at last.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Sorry. Carry on.

SKYE

This temple was like the ultimate
Slayer challenge. You made it
through that, you'd earned your
stripes for life. I guess they
figured that for a special case
like yours truly, they'd need
something more hardcore than
shutting me in a locked house with
a vamp on the loose to take out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

SOFIA

Yikes... I had no idea!

SKYE

I think that was the plan. Doubt they'd want their dirty little secret getting out - the Slayer who lived!

SOFIA

Well, yes, I can see why you'd think that, but look at it this way - maybe they put you through all that because they wanted to test your abilities to the limit?

SKYE

I'd count falling ceilings and big swingy pendulum things as a long way past 'the limit,' Sofes!

SOFIA

That's not what I mean. They know you're stronger and faster than any of us, so they needed a test that was proportionately harder for you.

Skye considers this - she hadn't looked at it that way before! Sofia stretches out on the roof, soaking up the early evening sun overhead.

SOFIA (cont'd)

But that's not all that's bothering you, is it?

Skye shoots her a look, and Sofia shrugs.

SOFIA (cont'd)

I've known you a while now, Skye. I know when something personal is bothering you.

SKYE

(evasive)

Nothing's 'bothering' me.

SOFIA

And I can certainly tell when you're lying.

Skye shifts uncomfortably, and Sofia turns to look at her.

SOFIA (cont'd)

So go on. While it's just the two of us up here. Slayer to Slayer.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

SKYE

What's with the interrogation? You
been reading those Nancy Drew
novels again?

SOFIA

Nancy who?

SKYE

Never mind.

(beat)

It's... it's about Spike.

Sofia sits up, interested.

SOFIA

The Spike? Mr. vampire-with-a-soul,
the blonde-haired lover from Los
Angeles who broke your heart?

SKYE

(eyes her)

Yeah... him.

SOFIA

Sorry. I get a little carried away
sometimes.

SKYE

Anyway... I saw... something when I
was in that temple. I'm putting it
down to a hallucination from the
juice Dunstall shot me up with
before I went in, but...

She trails off, and Sofia leans closer, pressing for more.

SOFIA

But?

SKYE

I think I saw Spike. Or, at least,
something that looked like him.

SOFIA

What did he say?

SKYE

He said... he told me he'd moved
on.

SOFIA

Oh dear.

SKYE

Those ain't the words I used.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

SOFIA
And has he?

SKYE
How should I know? We haven't
spoken since I left LA. For all I
know he's married with kids by now.

SOFIA
That's a little unlikely.

SKYE
You know what I mean.

Skye pulls her knees to her chest, hugging them.

SOFIA
And that's what's been bugging you?
You had a hallucination of your ex
who told you he'd moved on?

SKYE
I know. Stupid, huh?

SOFIA
Actually... no.

SKYE
Huh?

SOFIA
What are hallucinations, anyway?
They're the subconscious mind
imprinting itself on our perception
of the world.

SKYE
If you say so...

SOFIA
No, seriously. Hear me out. What
if, deep down, you're just a little
insecure that Spike may indeed have
moved on and found someone else...
while you haven't?

Skye turns to stare at her, and Sofia continues.

SOFIA (cont'd)
Maybe what you saw was your brain's
way of making you accept that?
Almost like it was trying to give
you a shake and tell you to move on
yourself?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

SKYE
(thoughtful)
That's... that's actually pretty
profound.

SOFIA
(grins)
I have my moments.

SKYE
What about your dream boy?

SOFIA
(blushes)
Er... what?

SKYE
You know, that long-haired pretty
boy you keep dreaming about.

SOFIA
Oh... him.

SKYE
Yeah, him! Come on, Sofes, we both
know you've got the strongest
Slayer visions of any of us.
Haven't you tried to reach out and
touch somebody yet?

SOFIA
I wouldn't know how to. But...

SKYE
Yeah?

SOFIA
I think he's in trouble.

SKYE
How do you know?

SOFIA
Because every time I see him...
he's in trouble.

SKYE
Point taken.

SOFIA
Maybe I can try... I don't know,
talking to him?

SKYE
(cheeky)
Or getting his number?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

SOFIA

Skye!

SKYE

What? It's not like the rest of us
are getting any tail around here!
Although...

SOFIA

Although what? Something you
haven't told me?

A beat as Skye mulls over whether to tell Sofia about Frankie
and Dunstall or not.

SKYE

Naah. It's nothing.

Sofia lets the subject drop, and as the two girls continue to
relax on the roof, we cut to:

4 INT. CAMPUS - ELLEN'S OFFICE - DAY

4

ELLEN is at her desk, sorting through a stack of paperwork,
when something starts to BEEP on her computer.

She frowns and turns to it, rattling at the keyboard for a
few moments before squinting at the screen.

ELLEN

What the...

She watches for a few more moments - then her eyes go wide,
and she LEAPS out of her seat, dashing out of the office.

5 INT. CAMPUS - STAFF ROOM CORRIDOR - NEXT

5

Ellen hurries out of her room, almost colliding with Channing
as he heads the other way.

ELLEN

Woah! Sorry, Ray.

CHANNING

That's alright. What's the rush?

ELLEN

Uh... I'll let you know. Is Barbara
in?

CHANNING

Same place as always, glued to her
desk.

ELLEN

Thanks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ellen hustles past him, and Channing watches her go.

CHANNING

Sure it's nothing I can help with?

ELLEN

Ask me tomorrow!

She KNOCKS at the door to Barbara's office before stepping inside. Once she's gone, Channing's expression quickly grows anxious, and with a glance over his shoulder he hurries up the corridor, heading for the foyer - and the exit.

6

INT. CAMPUS - BARBARA'S OFFICE - NEXT

6

BARBARA sits behind her desk, looking up at the agitated Ellen with a raised eyebrow.

BARBARA

A hacker?

ELLEN

Looks like. I've got alarms going off all over my computer, says we've got a Level One security leak on our hands.

BARBARA

But we don't have anything to hack, except...

Her look darkens, and she glares at Ellen.

BARBARA (cont'd)

How did you know about that?

ELLEN

(guilty)

Sorry. You know how it is.

BARBARA

You're keeping tabs on our restricted files now?

ELLEN

Hey, not my idea!

Barbara leans back in her chair, clearly far from happy. Ellen leans urgently across the desk.

ELLEN (cont'd)

Barb, this 'you being mad at me' thing is gonna have to wait. Somebody's gained access to all of the restricted file databases you guys keep here, and that means-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARBARA

That means somebody may well have just walked out of here with all our secrets.

Barbara stands, reaching for her phone.

BARBARA (cont'd)

(into phone)

Greg? It's Barbara. Find the girls, would you? I think we have a job for them. And look for Dr. Channing, we may be in need of his skills.

She hangs up, then dials another number.

ELLEN

Now who are you calling?

BARBARA

The police. They need to-

She stops as Ellen puts her hand on the phone, disconnecting the call.

ELLEN

Are you nuts?

BARBARA

I could ask you the same thing! What on earth are you doing?

ELLEN

Barb, we can't get the police involved in this!

BARBARA

They have a division for this sort of thing. I should know.

ELLEN

How?

BARBARA

I'm afraid that's none of your business.

Barbara starts to dial again - and again Ellen cuts her off.

ELLEN

Alright, fine. But hear me out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BARBARA

(sighs)

I'm listening. Against my better judgement, I might add.

ELLEN

You tell the police we've had our network hacked into and files stolen, they're gonna launch an investigation, right?

BARBARA

That is what we pay them for. And anyway, we'd use our cover of just being a private school, they'd have no idea what our real function is.

ELLEN

But whoever these hackers are, they do know what we are. What we do. And if they get wind of the Feds on their trail, they'll scoot and we can kiss all our documents goodbye.

BARBARA

So what are you suggesting?

ELLEN

I'm saying we do this ourselves. Track down the hackers and get our stuff back. Quiet, like.

BARBARA

I'd much rather-

ELLEN

Barb, trust me.

Ellen holds Barbara's gaze - and after a beat, Barbara rolls her eyes and puts the phone down.

BARBARA

Alright, let's hear it. And be quick, before I change my mind.

Ellen grins, and from that, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

7

INT. CAMPUS - BRIEFING ROOM - EVENING

7

Skye and Sofia head inside to find Frankie, Alita and Debbie already waiting, along with Ellen, Barbara and GREG.

BARBARA

Ah, girls. Take a seat.

Skye and Sofia join the others as Barbara takes her place at the front of the room.

SKYE

What's the sitch?

BARBARA

In layman's terms...

GREG

... we have a serious problem.

FRANKIE

When do we not 'ave a problem?

BARBARA

(eyes her)

Earlier today, the Academy's main database was hacked into, and a substantial amount of highly sensitive information was downloaded and stolen.

DEBBIE

By who?

The staff exchange a look - and decide to keep what they suspect to themselves for now.

ELLEN

We don't know yet. But as soon as we find out, you girls are going to head out to retrieve the stolen data.

ALITA

How do we recover 'stolen data'?

SOFIA

Yes, good question - how are we going to do that, exactly?

SKYE

And define 'sensitive.'

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARBARA

I'm sorry?

SKYE

You said, and I quote, 'highly sensitive information' has been stolen. Such as?

BARBARA

(beat)

It's classified.

SKYE

Oh, come on!

GREG

Skye, this is serious. We're talking translations of prophecies and manuscripts that speak of many...

Greg trails off, realising Barbara is glaring at him. Sensing he's said too much already, he wisely shuts up.

BARBARA

It's best if you don't know too much about what's been taken.

ELLEN

Just take our word for it, this is stuff we don't want anybody but our side knowing.

SOFIA

Alright, I think we get the idea.

ALITA

Have you contacted the authorities?

FRANKIE

(scoffs)

What good would they do?

ALITA

They would be able to help.

FRANKIE

They would ask too many questions. That is unwise in a place such as this, *non*?

GREG

Frankie's right. And while I can count on one hand the number of times I've said that...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

FRANKIE

Hey!

GREG

... the fact remains we need to be
covert about this.

Barbara nods to Ellen, who takes over the briefing.

ELLEN

Debbie, you're probably wondering
why we called you in here.

DEBBIE

Actually... yes. I thought I was in
trouble.

ELLEN

(grins)

No, far from it, sweetheart. You've
got the best computer skills out of
anyone on the campus.

DEBBIE

Well, I don't like to boast, but...

ELLEN

The strategy I've drawn up is going
to need someone like you to pull it
off successfully, so for this
mission only, you can consider
yourself part of this squad.

Debbie seems quite pleased by this, and gets a warm smile
from Sofia.

SKYE

Welcome to the big leagues, Deb.
This is where screwing up means
losing an arm instead of Heidi
breaking a nail.

Debbie GULPS, suddenly looking less pleased, as Ellen
continues.

ELLEN

We'll continue this briefing over
in my office, so let's all meet
there in five minutes.

She nods to the girls, then she, Barbara and Greg make their
way out, leaving the girls to chatter.

ALITA

What do you think we are going to
do?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SOFIA

I think Debbie's the expert here...
any ideas?

DEBBIE

Logically, if someone-

SKYE

(interrupts)

Uh-oh, she used the word
'logically.' Bad start.

DEBBIE

(flustered)

Uh, I mean, if somebody got into,
you know, the Academy's databases,
in theory, they'd be-

SKYE

(interrupts)

And now she uses 'in theory'! I can
already tell I'm gonna hate this
job.

SOFIA

Skye!

Sofia scowls and puts a finger to her lips, and with a roll
of her eyes Skye motions for Debbie to continue.

DEBBIE

(adjusts glasses)

If someone got into the school
servers and downloaded the files,
they'd need to bounce them to a
static IP address.

FRANKIE

Quoi?

SOFIA

She means another computer network
somewhere.

(beat)

Right?

DEBBIE

(nods)

There's a heck of a lot of data
stored on the servers here. Miss
Griffin asked me to help organise
some of it a while ago. Whoever
took it would probably need to
download it to their own systems
first before moving it, and that'll
take some time.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

DEBBIE(cont'd)

If Miss Marklew can track the data
to wherever it's being held...

FRANKIE

... then we can just go and steal
it right back!

DEBBIE

Pretty much.

SOFIA

Alright, let's go and see Ellen and
find out what the plan is, then!

Sofia stands, and the others follow her lead. Skye hangs back
to talk to Debbie, gesturing towards Sofia.

SKYE

She likes being in charge. Lucky
for her, we're all too lazy to
fight back.

Debbie manages a nervous smile as we cut to:

8

INT. CAMPUS - ELLEN'S OFFICE - EVENING

8

Ellen is stood behind McLACHLAN, another of her commandoes,
as he taps away at her computer. Sofia and the other girls
are waiting inside the office.

ELLEN

Alright, girls, here's our plan.
I've got McLachlan here and some of
the guys back at Initiative HQ
running a trace on the data that
was downloaded from the servers
here. Soon as they can find a
location for us, we're shipping out
to-

MCLACHLAN

Ma'am?

Ellen heads back round to McLachlan.

ELLEN

Got something already? That was
fast!

MCLACHLAN

That's because the intel hasn't
gone very far. According to our
tracking software...

He points to the screen - it shows a map of the United
Kingdom, with two flashing dots - one in the South, marking
the Academy, and a second further North, towards Scotland.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MCLACHLAN (cont'd)
... this is where we need to be.

ELLEN
Huh.

SOFIA
Can I ask where?

Ellen turns the monitor round to show the girls.

SKYE
Is that it?

ALITA
I would have thought they would
have travelled further.

ELLEN
You and me both, Alita. Guess
this'll be a short trip after all!

MCLACHLAN
Whoever made the transfer must've
been in a hurry, they left a trail
a mile wide for us to follow.

ELLEN
Works for me.
(to girls)
Okay, game time.

FRANKIE
Just show us the way.

Ellen motions to the door, and the girls file out. Frankie is
last to leave, pausing as McLachlan gets her attention.

MCLACHLAN
Psst!

FRANKIE
Hmm?

MCLACHLAN
Hey, Frankie, over here.

With a glance to the departing team, Frankie hangs back as
McLachlan stands and heads over to her.

FRANKIE
Is this important? I 'ave a plane
to catch.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MCLACHLAN

Oh, no, not really, ma'am, I just heard about you... and Dunstall.

FRANKIE

(beat; innocent)

Heard what?

MCLACHLAN

Oh, come on. It's, like, the biggest thing that's happened for any of the boys since we got here!

FRANKIE

(dismissive)

I am sure I do not know what you are talking about.

She turns to leave, but McLachlan catches up to her.

MCLACHLAN

Look, you don't need to act all innocent. He hasn't been bragging. He just, you know... told us what happened.

Frankie stares at him, then with a sigh nods her head.

FRANKIE

Alright, *oui*, something did 'appen between us. But I do not see 'ow it is any business of yours.

MCLACHLAN

Well, the thing is, ever since we arrived here, Officer Marklew told us all that you girls were strictly off limits, but if that's changed...

Frankie frowns, not liking where this is going.

MCLACHLAN (cont'd)

... I was wondering if you could find out if your pal Sofia, you know... likes me.

FRANKIE

(stuck)

I... will 'ave to see what I can find out.

MCLACHLAN

You will?

She pats him on the chest, beaming brightly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

FRANKIE

(nods)

Bon. Now, I must go. Au revoir.

McLachlan nods and lets her go, not seeing Frankie's smile drop and be replaced by a look of dread as soon as her back is turned. He goes back to the desk, and we cut to:

9 INT. MINIVAN - NIGHT

9

Ellen drives the Academy minivan as it thunders down a quiet motorway, distant city lights just orange blobs in the gloom beyond the van windows.

Debbie rides shotgun, a laptop computer open on her knees as she reads from an on-screen map for directions.

ELLEN

How much further?

DEBBIE

(consults screen)

Another twenty miles.

Ellen steps on the gas, and the minivan picks up speed.

ALITA

(edgy)

Why must we drive so fast?

DEBBIE

Well, uh, they could be moving the data on somewhere else, and we don't know for sure how long we have until they finish processing it.

SOFIA

(beat; to Ellen)

Go faster.

Ellen grins and puts the pedal down, and we cut to:

10 EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

10

The minivan rolls across a bumpy field, the sky blanketed by thick clouds, its headlights flicking off. Mist stretches across the murky surroundings as the girls inside peer all around.

11 INT. MINIVAN - NEXT

11

Lit by the glow of the laptop screen, Debbie squints out into the darkness.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBBIE

Are we here?

ELLEN

Apparently. According to the trace my people gave us, the data was transmitted to a server within a mile of here. They can't nail it down any closer than that.

SOFIA

Well, there's nothing but fields as far as I can see. If there's anything within a mile of here, we'll be able to see it!

SKYE

In theory.

SOFIA

Yes. In theory.

She slides open the van door and steps out:

12

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

12

The other girls join her as Sofia scans the darkness. Skye steps to her side, eyes narrowed.

SOFIA

Anything?

SKYE

Not yet.

SOFIA

You've got the best eyes out of all of us, Skye. If you can't see anything, then there's nothing here!

Alita looks around, then glances towards Sofia - and spots something. She frowns, stepping closer.

FRANKIE

(shivers)

It is cold out 'ere! 'Urry up!

SKYE

Look, Frenchie, I don't know what to tell ya, there ain't nothing-

ALITA

Uh, Sofia?

The girls turn to see Alita pointing towards Sofia's back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA
What is it?

ALITA
I believe your Scythe is trying to
tell us something.

Sofia frowns, then reaches for her Scythe, drawing it from its sheath across her back.

Ellen, bulky backpack over one shoulder, shines a flashlight over as Sofia takes the weapon out - and it's GLOWING!

Sofia looks surprised to see the Scythe pulsing with soft white light. She swings it slowly from side to side, noticing the pulsing getting stronger over to her right.

SOFIA
(confidently)
This way.

She starts to walk, but Frankie holds her back.

FRANKIE
'This way'? What is 'this way'?

SOFIA
Where we're supposed to go.

FRANKIE
'Ow can you know that?

Skye walks past them, heading in the direction the Scythe is indicating.

SKYE
That thing's never wrong, Frankie.

FRANKIE
All I am saying is, we should
exercise a little caution! We are
out 'ere in the middle of nowhere!
Who knows what's waiting...

She trails off as the thick clouds overhead part at last, letting the full moon shine down - and a CASTLE is revealed in the moonlight!

It's a classic design - square and angular, with four stubby towers at each corner.

Sofia smiles back at Frankie.

SOFIA
See? This way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Frankie mutters something as she follows the others, and they find themselves in:

13

EXT. CASTLE GROUNDS - NEXT

13

The girls are closer to the castle now, hiding behind a row of thick shrubs to take a better look.

There are a few scattered lights on inside, and a small outer wall leads down a hill to the right, towards a lake below. Dotted trees line the way between the girls' hiding place and the tall front gates.

SOFIA

Well, this is a first.

SKYE

You're telling me! I thought England was covered with these things.

DEBBIE

You must watch a lot of television.

SKYE

(dryly)

However did you guess?

GREG

Come on, girls, focus. We need to get inside without being seen.

SKYE

That won't be too hard. You seen how dark it is? I say we head round this tree cover to that side wall, then climb up the hill on the lake side to get to the side entrance.

FRANKIE

What side entrance?

SKYE

(points)

Can't you see it?

Everyone but Skye squints, and she rolls her eyes.

SKYE (cont'd)

Trust me, I can see it. Follow me.

FRANKIE

(mutters)

Do we 'ave a choice?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She steps out from behind the shrubs and starts to head towards the outer wall, and as the others slowly follow her, we cut to:

14

EXT. CASTLE - TURRET ROOFTOP - NEXT

14

Up high on the roof of one of the towers, overlooking the fields surrounding the castle. Skye and the rest of the team can just be seen dashing towards the outer wall far below.

A DARK SHAPE rises into view, reaching out one taloned hand and gripping onto the battlements, HISSING as it watches the approaching girls.

It studies them for a few beats, then with an angry SNARL it DARTS back out of sight, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

15

EXT. CASTLE - WALL - NIGHT

15

At the point where the outer wall blends into the side of the castle, and the top of the hill reaches the base of the wall, a somewhat muddy Skye clambers into view.

She gets to the top of the hill and pauses for breath, as the other, similarly muddy Slayers drag themselves into view.

Once Debbie and Ellen have caught up, the group stop for a moment, all clearly exhausted by the climb.

SOFIA

(darkly)

'Climb up the hill,' you said. What a daft bloody idea that was!

SKYE

Hey, night vision doesn't tell me which bits are gonna be slippery, okay?

FRANKIE

It was all slippery!

ALITA

(sneezes)

I think I am coming down with something...

ELLEN

Let's keep moving.

DEBBIE

That's easy for you to say!

ELLEN

Hey, I'm not overjoyed about freezing my ass off out here either, you know!

SOFIA

Girls, girls. We can argue about how bad an idea of Skye's this was later.

SKYE

Hey!

SOFIA

Let's find a way in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They clamber up and onto the rear of the castle - a long balcony runs along the base of the wall, leading towards a doorway in its side.

SKYE

See? Told you there was a side entrance.

FRANKIE

Very clever. Are you perhaps trying to earn a gold star?

Alita tries the door - it's locked. She rattles the handle a few times, putting her weight against it, but it won't budge.

ALITA

We may have to find another way in.

Skye looks up the wall - it's a sheer climb, with very little in the way of footholds.

SKYE

Anybody bring a grapple gun?

DEBBIE

Uh, that might be a bit too noisy for what we're attempting.

SKYE

Naah, you just need one of those cool Batman-style ones, that just go 'fwipp!'

There's a FWIPP sound from behind them. The girls slowly turn round - and Ellen is aiming a high tech GRAPPLE GUN at a window ledge some way up the wall.

With a distant CLANK, the grappling hook she fired locks into place, and Ellen gives the rope trailing from it an experimental tug.

ELLEN

It's secure. Sofia, you go first.

Sofia nods, still looking a little surprised, and starts to climb the rope, shimmying up the wall and using her feet for leverage.

SKYE

Where do you get those wonderful toys...

ELLEN

Skye, you're up.

One by one, the girls start to climb the rope, and we cut to:

16 INT. CASTLE - EMPTY ROOM - NEXT

16

Looking towards a shuttered window, a few rays of moonlight peeking in from outside.

The shutter RATTLES, then with a CRACK it pops open, revealing Sofia with the Scythe in one hand. She'd used it as a makeshift crowbar to lever the shutter open.

Clambering into the room through the exposed window, she leans back out to help pull Skye and the others up.

Once the team are all assembled, Ellen bring out her flashlight and shines it round the room.

It's filled with furniture covered by dust sheets, and looks as though it's been disused for some time.

SKYE

(cynical)

Great. We drive for four hours to
break into the fricken Addams
Family mansion.

Ellen takes the laptop out of her bag, and Debbie pops it open, bringing up a GPS map on the screen.

DEBBIE

(points)

There. The signal's much stronger
now we're in here. The stone walls
must have been disrupting the
tracking signal before.

ELLEN

Where do we need to look?

DEBBIE

Ah, three floors down.

ELLEN

Okay, we split up. Debbie, Alita,
you're with me. The rest of you, go
take a look around, find out who
lives here and why they'd want to
low-jack our files.

SKYE

Can we cause a diversion? I'm good
at that.

ELLEN

If we need you to, yeah. But make
sure you know where the exits are.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sofia heads for the only door in the room, a heavy, oaken affair, and pulls it open with a CREAK.

SOFIA
(winces)
Sorry.

FRANKIE
Apologise if somebody 'ears that
and finds us. Not before.

With a last nod to Ellen's group, Sofia leads Skye and Frankie off down the darkened corridor beyond.

ELLEN
Alright, Debbie, you're in charge
now. Lead the way.

Debbie GULPS again, still pretty tense, and leads the team out through the door and off in the opposite direction to Sofia's gang, as we cut to:

17 INT. CASTLE - CORRIDOR - NEXT 17

Sofia and the others creep stealthily forward, Sofia raising a hand to stop them when she sees a light up ahead.

SKYE
What?

SOFIA
You see that?

SKYE
Yeah, light. And?

SOFIA
Just be careful.

She starts to edge forward again, following the corridor round a bend and into:

18 INT. CASTLE - CHAMBER - NEXT 18

The light Sofia saw is coming from several flaming TORCHES fixed to the wall, as the girls step into a large chamber.

The walls are covered with an array of mounted WEAPONS, everything from swords and axes to archaic weapons like maces and spears.

SKYE
(impressed)
Woah! Now that's what I call a
halberd.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANKIE

Who keeps a room full of weapons in
an old castle like this?

Sofia lightly pricks her finger against one of the sword
blades - and WINCES. It's very sharp.

SOFIA

(sucking finger)
Somebody who plans on using them.

SKYE

I don't need Slayer Sense to get a
bad vibe about this drop, guys.

SOFIA

I'm starting to agree with you.

SKYE

I vote we change our plan to 'cause
diversion, exit.' In that order.

FRANKIE

We should at least try to find out
who lives 'ere first.

SOFIA

Frankie's right.

SKYE

Twice in one day?

FRANKIE

(scowls)
It is better than your suggestion!

The two start to bicker as Sofia approaches a door at the far
end of the chamber, opening it slightly.

She hears FOOTSTEPS, and frantically waves to Skye and
Frankie to make them shut up.

Sofia listens at the doorway as a male voice, boasting a
thick Scottish accent, can be heard:

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Aye, all I'm saying is, if we do
have intruders, we shouldnae let
the girls just run around lookin'
for a fight!

A woman's voice answers, strong and commanding:

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

And are you going to tell them to
stop, Hamish?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

A beat.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.) (cont'd)
I didn't think so. Now come with
me, we need to make sure our guest
has finished...

The voice trails off, and Sofia's face drops.

MALE VOICE (O.S.)
What is it?

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)
Someone's there.

Sofia jumps away from the door, pushing Skye and Frankie with her as the trio race back out of the chamber.

They're just out of sight as the door opens - to reveal KIRA BROGAN! Her dark eyes scan the chamber as the owner of the male voice joins her. He's a tall, wiry man with short, scrappy blonde hair - this is HAMISH.

HAMISH
There's no-one here.

KIRA
There was. Get Rachel and Delaney
to make a sweep of this floor. We
have visitors.

From Kira's fierce glare, we cut to:

19 INT. CASTLE - STAIRWELL - NEXT

19

Debbie leads Ellen and Alita down a descending spiral staircase, glancing from the laptop screen to the steps.

ELLEN
Is it much further?

DEBBIE
Er... no, not far. There should be
a door any second...

And there it is. A wooden door, set into the staircase wall. Alita steps up to it, trying the handle - and it opens. She looks to Ellen, who nods, and Alita darts through, into:

20 INT. CASTLE - STUDY - CONTINUOUS

20

Alita finds herself in a cosy study room, complete with large, high-backed leather chairs and roaring open fire.

She checks round but the room is empty, and so she waves Ellen and Debbie in behind her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBBIE
(looking round)
Well, this is... nice?

ELLEN
I think it's safe to say somebody
lives here now.

Alita spots two cups on a coffee table by the chair, and
steps over to press her hand against them.

ALITA
Half full. And still warm. Somebody
was just here.

ELLEN
Which means they could come back
any second. Debbie?

DEBBIE
(points)
Should be right through those
doors.

She aims them towards a set of double doors in the opposite
wall, and the trio head over. Ellen draws a HANDGUN from
inside her jacket and motions for Debbie to hang back.

Ellen and Alita take a side of the doors each, and wait as
Ellen counts to three... and on three, they BURST into:

21 INT. CASTLE - BACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS 21

A small room overflowing with high tech computer equipment.
Servers, terminals, monitors - the works.

Ellen lowers her gun as she scans the room, and Debbie pokes
her head in to check it all out.

DEBBIE
Blimey! There must be thousands of
pounds' worth of gear in here!

ALITA
Would this be where our data is
being held?

Debbie consults the laptop, and nods.

DEBBIE
It is. It could be on any one of
these servers, though, so I'll have
to go through them until I get the
right one.

Ellen nudges Debbie into the room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELLEN

Get started. We've got your back.

DEBBIE

I'll warn you now, I'm no hacker,
I'm just-

ELLEN

(reassuring)

All you need to do is link that
laptop to their server and point it
towards our files. McLachlan's set
an ftp transfer up over at the
Academy, it'll zap the files right
back over there.

DEBBIE

Really?
(impressed)
That's quite clever.

ELLEN

(grins)

Yeah, I thought so too. Now hurry
it up!

Debbie jerks back to reality and wades through the mess of
wayward electronic equipment, finding a cluttered desk and
settling the laptop down.

She opens a panel on its side and feeds out a thin cable,
looking round for an input socket on the nearest server, as
we cut to:

22 INT. CASTLE - CORRIDOR - NEXT

22

Sofia, Skye and Frankie are hurrying back along the darkened
corridor.

FRANKIE

Why are we running away?

SOFIA

We're not 'running away'! I just
didn't like the look of things back
there, that's all.

FRANKIE

'Didn't like the look of things'?
We were in a room filled with
weapons! What wasn't to like? We
could 'ave 'elped ourselves to
them!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA
(frustrated)
I don't know! I just...

SKYE
You just what?

SOFIA
I just got a bad vibe off whoever
that woman I heard was. Like she
was somebody we shouldn't take on.

SKYE
So we are running away?

SOFIA
(beat)
It's a tactical withdrawal.

FRANKIE
It certainly feels like we are-

Frankie suddenly SHRIEKS as something LAUNCHES itself at her!
She crashes to the floor, frantically trying to shove
whatever it is away as Sofia and Skye run over to help.

Something small and dark is attacking Frankie, and as a set
of claws SLASH across her cheek, she CRIES OUT - and KICKS
the creature square in the chest.

It sails away and lands further down the corridor in a heap,
and Frankie gets to her feet, pressing a hand to her wound.

FRANKIE (cont'd)
Chienne!

SKYE
The hell was that?

SOFIA
One more reason we should find
Ellen and the others and get out of
here, come on!

The small figure stirs and starts to rise again, as Sofia
pulls Skye and Frankie round a corner.

SKYE
Okay, stop. Random women giving you
the chills? Whatever. But freaky
little midgets dropping from the
ceiling? I say that makes this
Slayer time.

Skye draws her twin sai daggers from her belt, twirling them
round.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SOFIA
 (pleading)
 Skye, please, I really am getting a
 terribly bad feeling about-

SKYE
 Relax! Just let me kill that thing,
 then we're good.

Skye winks, then jogs back round the corner, out of sight.
 Sofia and Frankie wait for a beat...

... and Skye comes racing back round the corner, eyes wide,
 frantically waving to them!

SKYE (cont'd)
 Run! Run!!

With a mass of GROWLS, a horde of dozens more BLACK SHAPES
 burst out of the darkness and stream round the corner in hot
 pursuit, and the girls take flight!

23 INT. CASTLE - TRAINING ROOM - NEXT

23

They hustle into another room, quickly SLAMMING the door shut
 behind them and drawing a heavy bolt across the door - just
 as the wave of creatures SLAMS into the door!

The door buckles, but holds, and the angry SNARLS and HISSES
 of the critters outside fills the room as they back away from
 the door.

The room they're in is long and narrow, with what look like
 monkey bars against one wall and a line of training dummies
 arranged before the next. An archway on the far side forms
 the only other exit out of the room, and there are various
 items of weight training equipment scattered around.

The girls don't notice any of this, their attention locked on
 the door as it rattles furiously. There's a long beat before:

SOFIA
 That was-

DELANEY (O.S.)
 Close?

The girls spin round - and waiting for them is DELANEY and
 RACHEL, each sporting a weapon and each looking ready to
 rumble.

FRANKIE
 You!

DELANEY
 Me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA
You know her?

FRANKIE
(narrows eyes)
Oh, *oui*. We are old friends.

Delaney and Rachel fan out as Sofia and the others do the same, the two sides eyeing each other warily.

SKYE
(to Rachel)
You're in on all this too, huh?

RACHEL
Afraid so. No hard feelings about that thing in the attic, right?

SKYE
Oh, no sweat. I figure once I knock out a few of your teeth I'll be feeling almost happy about the whole thing.

Rachel grins and starts spinning her sword round in her hand, and Skye moves out to meet her.

Delaney watches as Frankie draws her long, thin duelling sword from its scabbard across her back - and takes out an ornate short sword of her own, grinning as she advances on Frankie.

Left alone, Sofia looks from one pair to the next, trying to work out what to do next.

SOFIA
What, nobody for me?

KIRA (O.S.)
No need to feel left out...

Sofia looks up as Kira strides into the room through the archway, grinning wickedly at Sofia.

KIRA (cont'd)
... I'm sure we can keep everyone happy.

Sofia grits her teeth and raises her Scythe - and Kira lifts her hands, which start to CRACKLE with dark energy. Sofia registers this, baking up a step defensively.

SOFIA
And you would be?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KIRA

The last person in the world you
want to take on by yourself.

Kira's smile broadens as bolts of black magic start to spark
away from her hands, and Sofia's face falls.

SOFIA

(mutters)

Oh, bollocks...

As one, Kira, Delaney and Rachel charge to the attack, and
we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

24

INT. CASTLE - TRAINING ROOM - NIGHT

24

Sofia LEAPS into the air as Kira sends a bolt of energy screaming towards her, and the blast DETONATES a chunk of the floor beneath her.

Delaney launches herself at Frankie, her face twisted with anger as her short sword rains down on Frankie's own sword, Frankie desperately trying to fend off the frenzied attack.

Skye and Rachel are sparring more evenly - Skye seems faster and stronger but Rachel is clearly the better fighter, dodging, feinting and pirouetting around Skye's attacks.

KIRA

You've got a lot of nerve breaking
into my home, I'll give you that!

ZAP! Another stream of energy lances out from Kira's hands, and Sofia narrowly dodges it, the energy BLASTING a hole in the wall by her head.

SOFIA

Your home? I doubt that.

KIRA

What, you don't think I'm the
castle type?

SOFIA

More like the trailer type.

Kira SNARLS with anger and lets fly with another ball of energy, but Sofia easily dodges that one.

She grins - she's getting Kira angry, and her shots are going wide. Just as she needs them to.

Over with Skye and Rachel, Rachel ducks behind a training dummy and SHOVES it towards Skye, knocking her off balance.

Before Skye can recover, Rachel flashes past her, her sword SLICING into Skye's arm.

SKYE

(growls)

Cheap shot!

Skye turns on Rachel - and VAMPS OUT! Rachel staggers back in surprise, and Skye grins.

SKYE (cont'd)

You wanna see my party trick?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Skye runs in to the attack, her sai SPARKING off Rachel's sword as she lets loose with a flurry of attacks, finally knocking Rachel back with a KICK to the stomach.

Frankie, meanwhile, is holding her own against Delaney's assault, ducking under one swing and BARGING her shoulder into the brunette, sending her CRASHING back into the monkey bars.

FRANKIE

(smirks)

Perhaps you need to spend more time
in 'ere!

Delaney glares at her - then deftly RUNS up the bars, leaving Frankie wide-eyed as Delaney pushes off, flips over her in mid-air and lands behind her, to SLAM her fist into Frankie's jaw.

Frankie hits the deck, and a grinning Delaney steps over her, flexing her fist.

DELANEY

Actually, I think I'm doing
alright.

Sofia ROLLS to avoid another blast of energy, and Kira is clearly getting frustrated.

KIRA

You've got to be Sofia.

SOFIA

On first name terms, are we?

KIRA

Cocky little British bitch? Yeah,
you're her, alright.

Kira THROWS another bolt her way, and at last this one connects, striking Sofia in the chest and sending her sailing across the room.

She SLAMS into the wall and drops to the floor, winded, wheezing for breath as Kira stalks over. She kicks the Scythe away from her hands, then crunches her boot onto Sofia's hand.

KIRA (cont'd)

I know a lot about you and your
friends, Sofia. You should know
you've got a lot of trouble coming.

SOFIA

(gritted teeth)

What else... is new?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Kira kneels, GRABS Sofia by the throat and effortlessly lifts her up into the air. Sofia CHOKES, her feet dangling.

KIRA

I've got a lot of work to do, and I
can't have a bunch of little do-
gooders like you getting in my way!

SOFIA

So try... a new line... of work!

Sofia manages to KICK Kira in the chest, and Kira staggers back, dropping her to the ground.

Their eyes both fall on the Scythe, and Sofia dives for it. Kira sends a blast of energy Sofia's way, and it hits the floor by the Scythe, EXPLODING in Sofia's face.

She SHRIEKS and rolls backward, stunned, as Kira turns to see how the other two are doing.

Delaney is busy punching the stuffing out of a bloodied Frankie, while Rachel and Skye are still sparring - they seem evenly matched, neither one able to get the upper hand...

... until an impatient Kira BLASTS Skye with a spell, sending her spinning to the floor with a CRASH.

RACHEL

(breathless)

Hey! I was-

KIRA

Wasting time, is what you were
doing. Delaney!

Delaney turns, registering Kira's stern gaze and dropping the battered Frankie to the deck.

KIRA (cont'd)

Clean up in here.

(to Rachel)

Come with me. We have to find the
others, before they-

She stops as a panting Hamish appears in the archway.

HAMISH

They found the archives room!

KIRA

(rolls eyes)

Perfect.

She strides out of the room, taking Rachel with her, and Delaney looks across the three stunned Slayers before her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DELANEY
(bitter)
'Clean up in here...'
(sighs)
Story of my life.

She heads over to Sofia, who has several cuts across her face from the last energy bolt thrown at her.

DELANEY (cont'd)
So you're the special one, huh? The
one who got this?

She reaches for the Scythe, turning it over in her hands.

DELANEY (cont'd)
Doesn't look like all that much.
Maybe if I use it to-

WHAM! Delaney freezes - then slumps to one side, collapsing to the floor to reveal Frankie, a dumbbell in her hand.

FRANKIE
(furious)
You turn your back on me?!?

She drops the dumbbell with a CLANG and goes to Sofia, helping her up.

FRANKIE (cont'd)
Are you alright?

Sofia dabs at the cuts on her face, wincing.

SOFIA
I've been better. Where's Skye?

Skye GROANS loudly as she picks herself up, shaking her head to clear the cobwebs.

SKYE
(groggy)
What happened?

SOFIA
Remember that bad feeling I was
telling you about?

SKYE
(darkly)
Yeah, yeah. Let's go.

Picking up their fallen weapons, Frankie and Skye head for the archway, but Sofia calls to them:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

SOFIA
(off Delaney)
Wait, what about her?

SKYE
(shrugs)
Screw her.

SOFIA
We can't just leave her here, what
if she wakes up and comes after us?

Skye and Frankie swap glances, before Skye heads over,
crouches next to Delaney - and PUNCHES her again.

SKYE
There. Happy?

Skye offers a hand to help Sofia up, and we cut to:

25

INT. CASTLE - STUDY/BACK ROOM - NEXT

25

Ellen and Alita wait at the entrance to the back room as
Debbie taps away at the laptop.

She GROANS, disconnects the laptop from another server, and
starts hunting around for one she hasn't tried yet.

ELLEN
Debbie, come on! What's taking so
long?

DEBBIE
(frustrated)
I can't find the bloody server with
the Academy files on, can I? It's
not like there's a big sign painted
on the side saying 'Plug In Here!'

ELLEN
(checks watch)
We've already been here too long.
Pick one more, then I'm aborting
the mission.

DEBBIE
No! Don't do that. I can find it, I
know I can!

ELLEN
(beat; sighs)
You got two more minutes, make 'em
count!

Alita narrows her eyes, heading over to the entrance to the
study. Ellen catches up to her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELLEN (cont'd)

What?

ALITA

Someone is coming... no, several
people are coming.

ELLEN

Damn it...
(shouts back)
Debbie!

DEBBIE (O.S.)

Just a bit longer!

Alita leans out into the corridor beyond - then her eyes
widen, and she SLAMS the door shut.

ELLEN

What is it? What did you-

POW! Something big SLAMS into the door, and Alita is almost
thrown away from it.

Ellen quickly joins her to help brace it shut, as whatever's
on the other side starts to HAMMER at the door.

ELLEN (cont'd)

Did you see what it is?

ALITA

Not clearly... but I know it is not
something I wish to see up close!

Another SLAM against the door threatens to blast it clean off
its hinges, and it's all Ellen and Alita can do to stay
standing!

ELLEN

(yells)
Debbie!!

DEBBIE (O.S.)

Last one!

Ellen tries to go for her gun, but as the door SHAKES behind
her, she fumbles it and the gun goes skidding across the
floor, out of reach. She CURSES as we cut to:

26

INT. CASTLE - BACK ROOM - CONTINUOUS

26

Debbie is on her hands and knees under the desk, dragging
large server cabinets out of the way - and finally exposing
one, hidden amongst the others.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBBIE
(grins)
There you are...

She grins and reaches for it, pulling it close enough to plug the laptop cable into it. She waits for an anxious moment - then beams as her laptop starts to BLEEP happily.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
(shouts back)
I've found them! I've got the files!

She turns back to the screen, and we cut to:

27 INT. CASTLE - STUDY - CONTINUOUS

27

Ellen and Alita can't share in Debbie's joy, as the thing outside the study is moments away from forcing its way in!

ELLEN
That's great, Debbie!

ALITA
(straining)
We cannot hold this much longer!

ELLEN
I know, honey, I know...

Ellen looks around for something she can use - and spots a heavy-looking cabinet over by the fireplace.

ELLEN (cont'd)
Alright, I'm gonna try something, but I've got to leave you to do it. Can you hold this door by yourself?

ALITA
I-I... I do not-

ELLEN
(stern)
Can you hold the door by yourself?

Alita closes her eyes and nods.

ELLEN (cont'd)
Okay! On three. Ready? One... two... three!

She darts away from the door, and Alita SHOUTS with exertion as she takes the full weight of the creature outside.

Ellen races over to the cabinet and throws her shoulder against it, muscles bulging as she starts to push it over...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The cabinet slowly starts to topple, and with a final YELL of effort she sends it crashing towards the door - and Alita!

Alita just sees it coming in time to DIVE out of the way - and the heavy cabinet SLAMS against the door, blocking it shut.

Ellen lifts Alita up as Debbie scampers in from the back room, clutching the laptop.

DEBBIE

(excited)

It's done! It was really simple,
once I'd dialled up the school, all
I had to do was-

ELLEN

(exhausted)

Yeah, that's great, Debbie, but
let's save it for after we get out
of here, okay?

Debbie nods, looking around for another exit - and that's when they hear a muffled male voice shout for HELP.

They look round, confused, before Ellen heads to a small pantry door set into the study wall, pushing it open...

... and there's Dr. Channing! He's been stuffed into the small pantry, wrists and ankles bound.

DEBBIE

Dr. Channing?

CHANNING

Ellen! Girls! Oh, thank God...

ELLEN

What the hell are you doing here?

CHANNING

I...

(hangs head)

I've got some explaining to do, I'm
afraid.

Alita reaches in to cut his bonds with a small dagger, helping him out of the cramped pantry.

ELLEN

It can wait. You know a way out of
here?

CHANNING

Yes, there's a back door out
through the archives room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ELLEN

The what?

CHANNING

The room with all the computers.

DEBBIE

(suspicious)

How do you know what it's called?

Channing takes in their suddenly suspicious faces.

CHANNING

Like I said... I have some
explaining to do.Ellen grabs his arm and marches him towards the back room.
Debbie follows, but Alita calls to get their attention:

ALITA

What about Sofia, Skye and Frankie?

ELLEN

They can take care of themselves.

ALITA

I am not leaving without them!

ELLEN

And neither are we! But you may
have noticed the big, pissed off...
whatever the hell that thing is on
the other side of that door, so my
plan right now is to find a way out
and then go find the others. That
okay with you?

A beat - then Alita nods. She follows Ellen as we cut to:

28

INT. CASTLE - CORRIDOR - NEXT

28

Ellen leads her group along one of the many stone corridors
in the castle, turning a corner - and bumping straight into
Sofia's battered group!

ELLEN

Sofia!

SOFIA

(relieved)

Oh, you're all alright, thank
goodness!

DEBBIE

What happened to you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sofia, Skye and Frankie exchange looks.

FRANKIE

We ran into a little... trouble.

SKYE

Yeah. We're gonna save payback for another day, and move up to Def Con Get The Hell Outta Dodge.

ELLEN

My thoughts exactly.

The reunited team head on as we cut back to:

29 INT. CASTLE - STUDY - NEXT 29

Back in the study, the fallen cabinet still keeping the door closed - until it EXPLODES out in a shower of flames and splinters!

A furious-looking Kira steps through the smoking hole in the door, her expression showing that she knows the Slayers got what they came for.

From her seething face, we DISSOLVE TO:

30 INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - NIGHT 30

JAZ is on hand to patch up the injured Slayers, with the handcuffed Channing sat in a chair surrounded by Ellen, Greg and Barbara.

CHANNING

I can't apologise enough for what I did.

GREG

I think you've got some mileage yet.

CHANNING

I told you, they blackmailed me! They threatened my family, said if I didn't help them get to your files, they'd hurt my children!

BARBARA

Why should we believe a word you tell us?

CHANNING

Well... you picked up my trail, didn't you?

The staff exchange curious looks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CHANNING (cont'd)

I made sure you could follow the downloaded files to where they were being held. I was hoping for a rescue... but I suppose an interrogation comes with the territory.

ELLEN

Wait, back up - you let us find you?

CHANNING

With all due respect, Miss Marklew, I'm an excellent technopagan. If I'd have wanted those files to disappear, you'd never have found them again.

Greg and Ellen look to Barbara - and she reaches forward, unlocking his cuffs.

CHANNING (cont'd)

Thank you.

BARBARA

I'm handing you over to the Council. It's not up to me to decide what to do with you.

CHANNING

I have valuable inside information on a new enemy organisation, I think they'll be very interested in what I have to say.

BARBARA

We'll see. Ellen, would you do the honours?

ELLEN

My pleasure.
(to Channing)
Let's go.

She hoists Channing to his feet and frog marches him out of the infirmary, as Barbara and Greg head back over to Sofia and the others.

JAZ

Some nasty bruises all round, but nothing too serious.

SKYE

(dryly)
Yeah, they must've gone easy on us.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BARBARA

What can you tell us about them?

SOFIA

Who, the people in the castle? Not much.

FRANKIE

I recognised one as that girl Heidi and I encountered in Valencia.

SKYE

Yeah, and the other was that chick I caught up in the rafters on Sports Day.

SOFIA

I didn't recognise the woman, the witch, but she knew who I was. And that's what really worries me.

BARBARA

You've given us a good description, we'll run it through the Council files and see what we can come up with.

GREG

You girls just need to rest now.

SKYE

(tongue in cheek)

Really? Can we?

Greg smiles as he and Barbara move to a quieter corner of the room, their expressions turning serious.

GREG

Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

BARBARA

I'm afraid so. She's back.

GREG

What are we going to do? We have to tell the girls something, they have a right to know what they're up against.

BARBARA

Not yet.

GREG

Barbara, we can't just-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BARBARA

We need to know what we can tell
them first, Greg! There's no point
telling them the full story yet.
Until I tell you otherwise, this is
between us. Understand?

He nods, and Barbara exits. Greg takes a breath and turns
back round - to find Debbie standing before him.

GREG

Oh! Hello.

DEBBIE

I, er...

She holds out a CD-R in its plastic case to him.

DEBBIE (cont'd)

You know, those files you wanted me
to find for you. On the Academy
server. I snuck them onto a CD
while we were recompiling the
database.

GREG

Ah, yes. Good. Thank you.

DEBBIE

No problem.

She smiles and heads off. Greg stares down at the CD in his
hands, his expression turning serious once more, and as he
quickly tucks it back into his jacket and heads back over to
Sofia and the others, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW