

SLAYER ACADEMY

"Rearranged"

by
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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. GREG'S FLAT - MORNING

A personal computer is on and buzzing away quietly on top of a cluttered desk, with a mass of screwed up balls of paper trailing from the desk over to the overflowing litter bin.

The decor of the place is halfway between modern and homely - neat Ikea shelving is under siege from an assortment of piles of magazines, books, trinkets and framed photographs.

GREG walks into frame, still in his dressing gown and unshaven as he munches through a bowl of cereal. He pulls up a chair to sit at the desk, ruffling a hand through his hair.

GREG

Alright, let's see where we were...

He locates his glasses, perched across his temples, and lowers them into place as he starts warming the computer up.

The screen has almost a dozen windows and folders open, with a dizzying amount of information on offer as Greg peers at the monitor.

He uses the mouse to click on a few documents, opening them and studying the contents for a beat before hitting 'print.'

The outdated printer stowed beneath the desk clatters into life, and in moments Greg has a fresh printout in his hands.

He gets out of his chair and heads over to the cordless phone cradle by the sofa, engrossed in the printout - but finds the actual phone receiver is missing. He frowns, walking off screen.

He returns a moment later, his mobile phone pressed to his ear. After a beat, there is a muffled RING from the missing part of his house phone, and a bit of excavating in the sofa unearths the stray receiver.

Replacing it and then using it to make a fresh call, he paces over to the window and looks out across the view - a frosty rural landscape - as he waits for the call to connect.

GREG (cont'd)

(into phone)

Oh, hello, yes. I'm trying to track down the contact number for a Professor Brion, I believe he was a faculty member back in the Eighties?

(listens)

Oh, he did...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREG (cont'd)
no, I didn't know him personally,
but yes, yes, I am sorry to hear
that. Well, thanks anyway. Bye.

He hangs up, cursing under his breath and looking back at the sheet in his hands. He dials a fresh number.

GREG (cont'd)
(into phone)
Oh, good morning, I hope you can
help. I'm trying to track down
Doctor Glenn Garton, she was part
of your university's science
department around 1981, and...
(listens)
She did? Oh, that's great. Well, I
mean, bad for her, what with the
accident and all, but... is there a
way I can reach her?
(listens)
She was an old friend of my
mother's, Evelyn Pierce, and I'm
putting together a surprise reunion
party so I'm just trying to track
down all of her teaching pals.

Greg grabs a notepad and pen and starts to scribble down an address.

GREG (cont'd)
That's fantastic. Thank you very
much, you've just helped make an
old woman very happy!

Greg hangs up, tapping his pen thoughtfully against the notepad.

GREG (cont'd)
(quietly)
Sorry, mother... hope you
understand why I'm doing this.

There's a KNOCK at his door, and Greg glances towards it before looking back to the computer. He heads over to it, making sure to close down any open files before stepping off screen to answer the door, and we cut to:

EXT. CAMPUS - GROUNDS - MORNING

SKYE and FRANKIE are doing something very unusual for them - jogging. Together. Both girls are focused on their run as they follow the edge of the wide, verdant playing fields at the back of the campus.

Skye glances towards the pavilion overlooking the fields, back towards the campus itself, and sees SOFIA sitting idly on the stone steps, staring into space.

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CONTINUED:

As Frankie and Skye approach the pavilion, they slow down, Frankie coming to a stop first as she starts to stretch her long legs.

FRANKIE
(exhausted)
I am done.

SKYE
'Done'? We only just started,
princess!

FRANKIE
Oui, but I am especially tired
today. I did not sleep well.

SKYE
Yeah, I heard. Sounded like you
were having a bad dream about
something.

FRANKIE
(blinks)
I was?

SKYE
Yup. Bounced a few pillows off you
trying to get you to stop, but no
dice. Everything alright?
(beat)
Still can't get used to this whole
'not hating the sight of you'
thing, you know...

FRANKIE
(quickly)
I am fine. I will go and take a
shower now, say 'ello to Sofia.

SKYE
Yeah, no problem.

Skye watches Frankie jog away with a frown as she approaches Sofia.

SKYE (cont'd)
Morning.

No answer. Sofia doesn't even seem to have noticed she's there.

SKYE (cont'd)
(clears throat)
Hey! English!

Sofia looks round, but doesn't seem too glad to see Skye.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SOFIA

Oh. Hello.

Skye eyes her as she hops up the pavilion steps to take a seat next to her.

SKYE

Okay, what's with everyone this morning? Frankie's crying off her morning run and you've got a bad case of the Spacies.

SOFIA

The what?

SKYE

As in 'staring into'?

SOFIA

Sorry, I'm just... preoccupied.

SKYE

With what?

SOFIA

(beat)

Nothing.

SKYE

Yeah, my ass it's 'nothing.' Is there a surprise party I don't know about or something?

Sofia has drifted off again, and Skye nudges her to get her back to planet Earth.

SKYE (cont'd)

Hey! You even listening to me?

SOFIA

No, I wasn't. What were you saying?

SKYE

(sighs)

Forget it. I'm gonna finish my run and hope everybody's had their coffee or whatever by the time we start today's lessons, 'cause I don't fancy spending a day talking to myself.

Skye jogs off the steps and back onto the field, and Sofia doesn't even look like she's noticed her leave. A shadow falls over her, and Sofia looks round at last.

It's EMMA.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

EMMA

Hey, limey. What's the what?

Sofia stares at Emma for a beat, and Emma frowns at Sofia's unusually frosty reaction to her.

EMMA (cont'd)

Is everything okay?

SOFIA

Don't.

EMMA

Don't what?

SOFIA

I know what you are now.

EMMA

(blinks)

Okay, you've lost me.

SOFIA

Did you think I wouldn't work it out?

EMMA

Work what out?

SOFIA

(snaps)

Don't patronise me!

EMMA

I'm not! Sofia, honey... I don't know what you're talking about!

Sofia stands, looking out across the fields.

SOFIA

Just leave me alone. I've had enough of your games.

Sofia walks away without looking back, and as a downcast and thoroughly confused Emma watches her leave, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. CAMPUS - BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

Skye, Frankie and ALITA are waiting in their seats. Greg is leafing through a folder full of notes, not paying any attention to the girls.

After a few moments of glancing at each other, waiting for something to happen, Skye clears her throat to get some attention, and Greg looks up.

GREG

Is something the matter, Skye?

SKYE

No, just wondering when we were gonna give up waiting for Sofia and get started, is all.

GREG

(checks watch)

Five more minutes. I still need to go through my notes.

FRANKIE

You 'ave been going through your notes since we arrived, *monsieur*!

GREG

Nothing wrong with being prepared.

SKYE

No, but there is something wrong with you being the only person in the room who knows what we're supposed to be doing!

GREG

This is a complicated task, and I want to make sure we-

SOFIA (O.S.)

Are we ready, then?

Everyone looks round as Sofia strolls casually into the classroom.

GREG

Glad you decided to join us.

SOFIA

Sorry. I had to take a walk, I needed some air to clear my head.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SKYE
(groans)
Oh, great, still crazy...

GREG
Take a seat, please. We've been
waiting for you.

Sofia pulls up a seat next to Skye and the others. Alita
looks a little concerned at Sofia's behaviour.

ALITA
Is everything alr-

SOFIA
(quickly)
I'm fine, and I'll be a lot better
as soon as everybody stops asking
me how I am.

Alita shrinks back, and a scowling Skye turns on Sofia.

SKYE
Hey, don't bite her head off, okay?
She's just looking out for you,
Sofes! We all are!

SOFIA
I don't need three baby-sitters,
Skye.

SKYE
I tell you what you need, you need
a good ki-

GREG
Ladies!

They shut up, turning to him as he stands before the
whiteboard and projector screen at the head of the class.

GREG (cont'd)
Let's get started, shall we? We've
had reports of darzig demon
activity in a town a few miles from
here, so we're going to be...

He trails off, seeing Frankie with her hand raised.

GREG (cont'd)
Yes? What is it?

FRANKIE
May I be excused?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GREG

What for?

FRANKIE

I need to go to the ladies room!

GREG

Can't it wait?

Frankie suddenly looks very nauseous, and Greg rolls his eyes as she puts a hand to her mouth.

GREG (cont'd)

Alright, but be quick.

FRANKIE

Merci.

Frankie gets out of her seat and dashes for the door, leaving a puzzled Skye watching her exit.

SKYE

What's up with her?

ALITA

I think she is unwell. She has not been eating or sleeping very well for the last few days.

SKYE

Serves her right for all those fad diets she keeps-

GREG

(snaps)

Can we possibly get back on topic, please?

The girls quieten down again as Greg messes with the overhead projector. He takes an unusually long time to locate the power switch, prompting puzzled glances between Sofia and Alita.

SOFIA

Er, do you need a bit of help with-

GREG

I've got it. Thanks.

He finally gets the screen working, bringing up a diagram of a darzig demon - a shaggy-haired humanoid with long claws and thick, muscular limbs.

GREG (cont'd)

The darzig demon, ladies and... ladies.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SKYE

Cute.

GREG

(ignores her)

Preferring temperate climates and wooded areas for its natural habitat, these creatures can usually be found in small packs of ten or more, where they will only hunt as much as they need from the local wildlife to feed themselves and their young.

SOFIA

So... they're friendly demons, then?

GREG

They're not intelligent enough to have the power of human speech, but their strong family and pack bonds mean they usually keep to themselves.

ALITA

So if they have been attacking humans, then is that what has brought them to our attention?

GREG

Exactly. By rights, darzig demons are rarely seen at all, much less to be found attacking humans of their own accord.

SKYE

So let's head out, find out why, kick some tail and be back in time for dinner!

(off looks)

It's steak night.

GREG

Just a minute, Skye, I'm not finished.

He replaces the projector slide with another, a close up of one of the demons' torsos.

GREG (cont'd)

Darzig demons have a thick hide covering their bodies which makes them pretty tough when it comes to physical attacks, so you'll need to know exactly where to hit them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

There's a beat as Greg leafs through his files again.

SKYE
(prompts)
And that is...

GREG
(looks up)
What?

SOFIA
(impatient)
The weak spot! Where we're supposed
to hit them? Where is it?

GREG
Oh, yes...

He points to two areas of the torso with his pen.

GREG (cont'd)
Here and here. Their skin and
skeletal structure are weakest
here. A good hit will incapacitate
them quite effectively.

Greg switches the projector off and starts packing up the
files, but the girls glance at one another again.

ALITA
Er... is that everything?

GREG
Yes. Why?

SOFIA
That just felt a little...

SKYE
Quick.

GREG
I can't hold your hands all the
time out in the field, girls! I'll
drive us out to the location they
were last seen, and then we can
find them, take care of them and
come home in time for dinner, as
Skye so elegantly put it.

SOFIA
But...

GREG
Yes?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ALITA

What about knowing their habits?
The numbers they usually move in?
Their typical styles of attack?

SKYE

Yeah, what she said.

GREG

Er...

He leafs through the folders again for a few beats, before giving up and scooping them under his arm.

GREG (cont'd)

I'm sure we'll figure it out as we go along. I've got some errands to run, so meet me out by the front gates in one hour and we can head out.

With that, he hurries out of the room. Skye settles back in her chair, exhaling loudly.

SKYE

Okay, it's official. This whole place has gone all Cuckoo's Nest on me overnight.

ALITA

(confused)

All what?

SOFIA

She means everyone's acting a little strangely. Like they've got something to hide.

Sofia throws a meaningful look at Skye, who shifts awkwardly in her chair before Sofia stands.

SOFIA (cont'd)

I'll catch up to him, see if I can find out what's bothering him. Alita, could you get Frankie's things for her?

Alita nods, picking up Frankie's bag from her chair as Sofia hops down the steps and over to the exit.

Once she's gone, Skye lays a hand on Alita's arm to stop her, motioning for her to sit down again.

SKYE

Allie, I need you to do a favour for me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

ALITA

Of course.

SKYE

Well, thing is, Sofia and me, we... we had a bit of a disagreement over something last week, and things haven't been square between us since then.

ALITA

I have noticed a little tension between you two. I thought you were good friends? What happened to cause all of this?

SKYE

Honestly?

(beat)

Long story. That's not what I wanted you for, though - I want you to keep an eye on her for me.

ALITA

Oh. What for?

SKYE

Remember that thing last week where she died?

ALITA

(gravely)

Yes.

SKYE

She ain't been right since then, and she's not too pleased with me at the moment so I can't stay near her long enough to make sure she's alright. You, on the other hand, can. So can you do that for me?

ALITA

You want me to spy on her?

SKYE

'Spying' can be such an ugly word. Think of it as... 'observing.'

ALITA

Well... alright. But if there is some kind of problem between you two, I would rather you sorted it out yourselves than involve the rest of us in it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

SKYE

Duly noted.

Alita nods, gathers up hers and Frankie's things and then exits, and we cut to:

EXT. CAMPUS - MAIN QUAD - NEXT

Greg is striding across the quadrangle linking the two sides of the main teaching block, as Sofia jogs to catch up.

SOFIA

Greg! Slow down!

He doesn't stop until she's close enough to grab his arm.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Alright, what's gotten into you?
Everybody says I've been acting
strangely just lately, we can't
have both of us doing it!

GREG

I'm not acting strangely.

SOFIA

Hate to contradict you, but I'm
afraid you are. Is something on
your mind?

GREG

Thanks for your concern, but I'm
fine. Really.

He turns and starts to walk away, but she stops him again.

SOFIA

No, you're not.

GREG

Sofia, this isn't the time to-

SOFIA

Greg, cut the crap, as Skye keeps
saying. Are you and Aiden falling
out?

GREG

No, not at all? Why would we be
'falling out'?

SOFIA

I don't know, you tell me! I'm just
trying to work out why you're being
so distracted!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREG
(long beat)
It's my father.

SOFIA
(frowns)
I thought you didn't know who he
was?

GREG
I don't. But I've been trying to
find out.

SOFIA
Oh! Oh, well, that's... that's
good. Isn't it? Have you found much
of anything out?

GREG
So far, not really. I've got a few
leads, but... look, can we possibly
talk about this another time?

SOFIA
Oh, of course. I didn't mean to
pry, I was just...

Greg nods and walks away, leaving Sofia mid-sentence.

SOFIA (cont'd)
... worried about you.

She sighs and turns round, almost bumping straight into
Alita.

SOFIA (cont'd)
Alita! You scared me.

ALITA
(edgy)
I did? Ah, I am sorry. I didn't
mean to frighten you.

SOFIA
(eyes her)
That's alright. I'm going past the
dorms to get my things for today's
mission, are you going that way?

ALITA
(nods)
Yes. Uh, I mean, yes, I am.

SOFIA
(beat)
Right then.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Sofia heads off with Alita following, noticing Alita's odd behaviour as we cut to:

INT. CAMPUS - LIBRARY - NEXT

A few of the Academy's younger Slayers are sitting round a table in the library, passing notes to one another instead of focusing on the work in front of them, and giggling.

They shut up as CATHERINE strolls past, absently leafing through a reference text, and once she's nearer her office they start with the notes again.

One young Slayer unfurls a note and starts to read - but a hand snaps into frame and grabs it.

The girl blanches and turns to see AIDEN standing over her with a grin, the offending note in his hand.

AIDEN

You know, I may only be the gym teacher around here but I can still bust you for this. You girls want to go tell Miss Prentice why you're passing notes instead of revising for your next test?

The girls shake their heads quickly, and Aiden smirks again as he tucks the note into his pocket.

AIDEN (cont'd)

I didn't think so. Get back to work and we'll say no more about this, alright?

They nod, quickly getting engrossed in their work again as Aiden heads away. He pauses a few feet away from their table, taking the note back out.

AIDEN (cont'd)

(offnote)

And just so you all know, yes, I am gay and yes, Greg is my partner. Hope that clears everything up.

The girls smile as they turn back to their books, and Aiden turns to leave - walking straight into Greg!

AIDEN (cont'd)

Oh! Hey, I've been looking for you.

GREG

You have?

AIDEN

Yeah, I wanted to talk to you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He glances at the nearby Slayers, then ushers Greg towards a more private section of the library.

AIDEN (cont'd)
Have you found out any more about
that pregnancy kit you found?

GREG
The what?

AIDEN
You know, last week! You said you
were going to look into it?

GREG
Oh, right, yes, sorry. I've got a
lot on my mind.

AIDEN
Haven't we all...

GREG
Aiden, can you do me a favour?

AIDEN
Sure thing.

GREG
I need to go and grab some books
from the Restricted section
upstairs, but I don't want
Catherine or Barbara to have to
know about it.

AIDEN
(frowns)
Okay... can I ask why?

GREG
It's personal.

AIDEN
That's not a great excuse if you
get caught, you know.

GREG
(sighs)
Alright... I'm looking for more
information about my father.

AIDEN
Oh, right. So, what, you think
you're going to find something up
there? I thought it was all old
magic books and things up there?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GREG

It is, but there's a lot of old records and archives too. Can you cover for me if anyone asks where I am?

AIDEN

Yeah, no problem. Course I can.

GREG

Great. Thanks.

Greg hurries past him and towards the stairs, quickly heading up to the top floor as a puzzled Aiden watches him.

INT. CAMPUS - LIBRARY - RESTRICTED SECTION - NEXT

Greg approaches the section of shelves with the large 'Restricted' sign over them, glancing over his shoulder to make sure nobody's watching.

Over in a darkened corner of the floor, he starts pushing a line of old, dusty books out of the way along one shelf - to reveal a SAFE hidden behind them!

Greg stares at the safe for a few beats, then tries experimentally turning the combination lock a few times - but there is a ZAP of blue energy, and Greg is almost knocked back off his feet as something SHOCKS him!

Wincing and clutching his singed hand, he glares at the safe as he gets back to his feet.

Glancing up and down the aisle again to make sure he's out of sight, he covers the safe with books and walks away, and from his dark, determined look, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

The campus minibus is parked at the edge of a road in the background, as the start of a dense patch of woodland scrolls into the foreground.

Sofia, Skye, Frankie, Alita and Greg are all ready to venture into the forest, the girls armed with their choice of weapons and Greg carrying a small backpack.

GREG

Are we all ready?

ALITA

Yes.

FRANKIE

Not so fast - do we know where we are to look for these creatures?

GREG

(blunt)

In the forest.

FRANKIE

I can see that, but where?

SKYE

Frankie's got a point there, Greg. This is a big forest, and even with this old nose of mine...

(taps nose)

... I can't sense evil from this far away. Any hints on where we should start looking?

GREG

Well... not really, no. I'm not sure what you want me to tell you! There's the forest, the demons are inside. We go in, find them and take care of the problem.

SOFIA

I thought you said we just needed to find out why they were attacking people?

GREG

Did I?

Sofia and Alita exchange frowns.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALITA

Yes, you said their behaviour was unusual, and we should find a cause for it.

SKYE

Which don't necessarily mean 'hack 'n' slash' as soon as we find them.

Greg surveys the faces of the girls, then shrugs his shoulders and steps into the forest.

GREG

I'm sure we'll figure out what we need to know when we find them. Let's get moving, we have a lot of ground to cover.

The girls exchange puzzled looks at Greg's behaviour, then head off into the forest to follow him.

Skye walks with Alita up front, with Frankie hanging back to talk to Sofia. Sofia doesn't look like she wants the company all that much.

FRANKIE

I do not think this mission is going to go very well.

SOFIA

You're telling me!

FRANKIE

'as Greg lost his 'ead over another man, perhaps?

SOFIA

What?

FRANKIE

Well, I 'ave not seen 'im and Aiden spending all that much time together lately.

SOFIA

Aiden's been busy. They both have.

FRANKIE

Oui, but still, you would think they'd want to make the most of-

SOFIA

(interrupts)

Frankie, don't take this the wrong way, but do you mind if I just walk on my own for a bit, please?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

FRANKIE

(blinks)

Pourquoi?

SOFIA

Because I've barely had a moment's peace since all that business at the wicca convention last week, and this seems like a good time to get some.

FRANKIE

Oh. Very well.

Frankie jogs to catch up to the others, leaving Sofia by herself as we cut to:

EXT. FOREST - CLEARING - NEXT

Greg is consulting a compass and frowning as the girls catch up to him, in a small clearing overlooking a brook that leads off into a cave.

GREG

Alright, we're...

He looks around, then back at the compass, and Skye rolls her eyes.

SKYE

I'm guessing 'lost'?

GREG

Of course we're not lost!

SKYE

Yeah, okay, you go on thinking that. Meantime, we passed the Blair Witch Project crew a few miles back, so I'm gonna go ask if they've still got their map.

ALITA

Perhaps this is the kind of environment the demons we are after prefers?

FRANKIE

What do you mean?

Alita kneels down, running her hand through the waters of the stream, before bringing a mouthful to her lips and sipping.

ALITA

(nods)

Something unnatural is near here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SKYE

What are you, Captain Planet? How did you know that from drinking some of that water?

SOFIA (O.S.)

She's tasting something that shouldn't be there.

They turn as Sofia finally catches them up, Skye registering her dark expression. Sofia looks towards the cave as she unfastens the Scythe from her back.

SOFIA (cont'd)

If there are demons near here and they're using this as a fresh water source, then they'd be leaving residual chemicals and skin cells in the water every time they use it, which would add a noticeable taste to the water.

(to Alita)

Right?

ALITA

(nods)

Yes. My father once taught me how to track shin-goji demons through the mountains near my village with this technique.

SKYE

(not buying it)

Okay...

Sofia begins walking towards the cave, not bothering to check if anyone's following her.

SOFIA

I trust her. Let's get this over and done with.

FRANKIE

Sofia, wait for us!

Frankie hurries to catch up, but pauses as Sofia hops down into the stream, ducking her head to disappear into the inky blackness of the cave.

Skye grins as she SPLASHES into the stream, walking past Frankie who doesn't look too thrilled at the prospect of getting wet.

SKYE

What's wrong? Afraid of a little *eau naturele*?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

FRANKIE

(scowls)

'ave you seen this boots? They will
be ruined if I get them-

Frankie YELPS as Skye grabs her and PULLS her into the stream
with a SPLASH.

FRANKIE (cont'd)

(furious)

Vache!

SKYE

Yeah, yeah, my poor boots, blah
blah, woof woof. Come on.

Skye ducks under the overhanging cave entrance and heads
inside, and Frankie follows, muttering several dark phrases
in her native tongue.

Greg is next, pausing as he sees Alita staring at the pitch
blackness of the cave with wide, fearful eyes. He roots
through his backpack and takes out a flashlight.

GREG

What's wrong?

ALITA

Uh, I am... I mean, I can't...

GREG

Are you afraid of the dark?

Alita looks at him, then to the cave - she doesn't need to
answer. Her body language is giving it away.

GREG (cont'd)

Well... maybe you should stay out
here, then.

ALITA

No, I will be fine.

(deep breath)

It is simply a case of mind over-

GREG

No, it's a case of me not wanting
to compromise this mission by
having you not at your best.

ALITA

There is no need to exclude me,
Gregory-san!

GREG

Actually... there is.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Without another word, Greg turns and heads into the cave, and a hurt Alita has no option but to sit down on the grass near the cave entrance, staring into its depths, as we cut to:

INT. CASTLE - CORRIDOR - DAY

KIRA BROGAN strides into frame, her boot heels clicking against the stone beneath her feet as she heads down one of her castle's many long, winding corridors.

A distant SCREAM of pain can be heard, and Kira grins. She approaches a wooden door as there are sounds of fists PUNCHING and more GRUNTS of pain.

She leisurely takes a set of keys out of her pocket, unlocking the door and stepping through into:

INT. CASTLE - INTERROGATION ROOM - CONTINUOUS

Kira steps into the small, plain and cold room, pausing to look over at the two figures in the centre.

DANA stands over a figure with its back to us, bound to a chair, the Slayer sweating and breathing heavily, rubbing her reddened knuckles.

KIRA

That's enough for now, Dana. I need to ask a few questions of our guest.

Dana looks to Kira, then back at the figure in the chair, a sickening grin starting to spread across her features.

Dana starts to ball up her hands into fists, but Kira is quickly at her side, standing between her and her victim.

KIRA (cont'd)

(sharply)

That's enough, Dana.

Dana looks up into Kira's commanding eyes, then meekly bows her head and steps back.

DANA

Answers. Only get the answers with pain.

KIRA

That's right. But I think you've done quite enough pain for now... or at least the next few minutes.

Dana backs off as Kira turns to the person in the chair, grinning as she looks them up and down.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Bruised and bloodied, his breathing ragged thanks to the punishment has inflicted on him, GREG sits in the chair. His head is bowed, trails of blood leading from several open cuts on his face.

KIRA (cont'd)
Gregory?

Greg slowly lifts his head, his eyes staring coldly into Kira's. She reaches out a hand to smooth down his ruffled hair, much as he tries to move away from her.

KIRA (cont'd)
I see you've been getting very well acquainted with Dana.

Greg turns his head and SPITS a mouthful of blood onto the stone floor, then turns back to Kira.

GREG
(defiant)
I hope she's a good listener,
because she's a terrible talker.

KIRA
She can be a little... blunt, can't she?

Kira takes a tissue from her pocket and starts to wipe the smears of blood from Greg's wounded face.

KIRA (cont'd)
But you know I have her very well trained. I saved her, you know.

GREG
She doesn't look too safe from where I'm sitting...

KIRA
Well, 'saved' is a relative term. I found her living rough on the streets of Los Angeles and gave her shelter, food, and the right kinds of training. I'm just glad your friends at the Council made such a bad job of taking her into custody, or we might never have met!

GREG
And what a shame that would have been...

Kira takes Greg's head in her hands, leaning in close.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KIRA
(sweetly)
How do we get access to the Slayer
Codexes, Greg?

GREG
I wouldn't know.

KIRA
Yes, you would. That's why my man
on the inside is doing such a good
job impersonating you at the
moment. We realised you were the
best face we could use to get what
we need.

GREG
I'm not telling you anything.

KIRA
Not yet, you're not, no. And
that's... well, disappointing.

Kira releases him and steps back, motioning for Dana to
rejoin them.

KIRA (cont'd)
So, I'm going to leave you with
Dana for another hour and then I'm
going to come back and ask you
again. You two play nicely together
now!

Kira leans in and whispers into Greg's ear.

KIRA (cont'd)
She can be a little rough when she
gets playful.

With a smirk, Kira leans back and heads for the door, and as
Greg braces himself for the grinning Dana's next PUNCH to
connect, we cut back to:

INT. CAVE - DAY

With the light from Greg's flashlight making some impression
on the gloom around them - but not much - Sofia leads the
team as they head down a long tunnel, wading through waist
high, freezing cold water. Frankie SHIVERS, pulling her
clothing tightly round herself.

FRANKIE
C'est folie! What kind of a demon
would live down in this much water?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SKYE

(wry)

Gee, princess, I don't know - a water demon, maybe?

SOFIA

Be quiet, both of you. There's an echo in here, I don't want to give away we're coming.

FRANKIE

(ignores her)

And we 'ave been walking for some time, with no sign of any kind of demon lair, or nest, or anything! 'ow do we even know we are in the right cave?

SKYE

This is still about ruining those pretty little boots of yours, isn't it?

FRANKIE

(scolds)

Bouchée moi, you arrogant bi-

SOFIA

(hisses)

Shut it, the pair of you! I hear one more word out of your mouths, and the next thing you hear'll be-

She stops as a low, menacing GROWL echoes down the tunnel towards the group. The girls instinctively form a closed circle, weapons raised.

SKYE

Sofes, promise me you'll save any 'I told you so's' for after we're done here, alright?

GREG

It's alright, it probably just means we're close to their nest now. Like I said earlier, these creatures live in woodland, so we won't be finding any down here.

Sofia spots a ripple in the black water up ahead, then Skye also spots something, and Greg's torch beam falls on a third ripple - all three of them surrounding the team and cutting them off.

FRANKIE

Qu'est-ce que c'est maintenant?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SKYE

Uh... Greg?

Greg is silent as three CREATURES start to slowly rise out of the water around the girls - and they look nothing like the darzig demons they were expecting!

The new demons are green and scaly, with webbed, clawed hands and wide, flat-topped heads.

SOFIA

I'm sensing an urgent need for a plan 'b' here!

FRANKIE

Greg? What are these things and how do we kill them?

GREG

(stuck)

Uh, they're... well...

SKYE

Ah, screw it. Hit first, examine later!

Skye RUSHES forward, her sai daggers slashing through the air towards the nearest creature - but it BLOCKS her blows with a swing of one powerful hand, BACKHANDING her with the other.

Skye SPLASHES back into the water, knocked off her feet, and Sofia is forced to charge in, swinging the Scythe, as the hulking demon tries to follow its attack up.

Greg watches in horror as more ripples appear in the water around them - more of the demons are coming!

Frankie's sword is up and slicing towards the exposed belly of one demon - but her blade BOUNCES off its tough, scaly skin.

FRANKIE

Oh, sh-

THWACK! She's sent flying backwards, colliding with Greg - and he drops his flashlight into the water.

The scene is plunged into near total darkness, and the girls frantically huddle closer together as the demons close in.

SOFIA

Head back to the entrance, quick!

Skye SPLUTTERS as she gets back to her feet, shaking her head as she recovers from the demon's stinging blow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SKYE

We can't! They've cut us off!

Back to back, the girls are forced to defend themselves as demons swarm around them, and we cut to:

EXT. CAVE ENTRANCE - NEXT

Alita's head snaps up as the distant sounds of battle echo up the tunnel towards her.

She jumps to her feet, straining to listen - and hears a definite cry of alarm from Frankie! Alita urgently snatches up her nunchucks and jumps down into the stream, running for the cave...

... but then coming to a dead stop at the entrance to the cave. More sounds reverberate up towards her, but she's frozen to the spot, her eyes swallowing up the darkness in front of her.

She turns round, looking around the woodland, but there's nobody else who can help her.

Urgent, shouted voices carry out to her, and Alita knows she doesn't have another second to waste.

She closes her eyes, mentally steeling herself...

... and then RUNS into the cave at top speed, vanishing into the darkness, as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. CAVE - DAY

Sofia is swinging the Scythe wildly, trying to fend off the mass of demons swarming towards her, as Frankie supports a stunned and half-conscious Skye.

The girls are backed up against the wall of the cave, several demon bodies floating face down in the water around them, but more are surfacing every few moments.

SOFIA

We have to do something! We can't just stay here and wait for them to overpower us!

FRANKIE

(panicked)

What do you suggest?

SOFIA

Greg?

GREG

I don't know! I'm not the one who was born to fight things like this!

Greg grapples with a demon, its mighty jaws SNAPPING as they try to close round his neck, and he's slowly pushed back by the sheer brute strength of the thing.

SOFIA

Greg! Look out!

GREG

(gritted teeth)

Bit late... for that!

Sofia PUNCHES the nearest demon as hard as she can, knocking it back a step, but as she rears back with the Scythe to get the demon attacking Greg, she's HIT from the side, dropping the Scythe into the water!

SOFIA

Oh...

She looks up as a demon towers over her, BELLOWING as it reaches back its claws, ready to strike her down...

... and with a YELL, Alita THROWS herself into frame, knocking the demon back into the water!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FRANKIE
(blinks)
Alita?

Alita springs to her feet, her nunchucks flying as she strikes left and right with precision accuracy, the nunchucks connecting with the demons with a chorus of solid THUNKS.

Sofia takes a deep breath and ducks under the water, surfacing a moment later with the Scythe back in her hands.

SOFIA
Alright, let's go!

Sofia shoves the stunned Greg back as Alita buys the team the time they need to escape, her yells halfway between fear and anger as she strikes out again and again, keeping the demons at bay.

EXT. CAVE ENTRANCE - DAY

With Frankie stumbling along, half dragging Skye behind her, the team emerge from the cave, covered in cuts and wounds from their battle.

Greg clambers up onto shore, his breathing quick and panicked, as Sofia turns and waits for Alita to race back out of the cave.

Alita trips and pitches forwards into the stream, gasping for breath as Sofia helps her up.

SOFIA
Are you alright?

Alita is hyperventilating, driven into a state of panic, and Sofia quickly gets her up onto the bank of the stream.

SOFIA (cont'd)
It's okay, you're out! You're safe!

Sofia drops the Scythe and GRABS Alita, holding her tight as the young Slayer's breathing gradually starts to calm down.

Skye staggers to the edge of the stream, clutching an open wound across her temple as an exhausted Frankie plops down next to her.

GREG
Okay... okay... that didn't exactly
go according to plan.

The four girls turn slowly to glare at him, their expressions halfway between anger and confusion.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREG (cont'd)

We just need to, ah, regroup and, er, come up with a better-

SOFIA

(furious)

What we need to do is slap your arse from here to the Academy, you stupid idiot! You could have gotten us all killed!

GREG

Don't you talk to me like that! I'm your Watcher!

SOFIA

I don't care if you're my fairy bloody godmother! What were you thinking?!?

GREG

I made a mistake! It happens!

SOFIA

No, it doesn't! Not with you!

FRANKIE

Ah, he did try to get us using that camera equipment, and that almost got us all-

SOFIA

(snaps)

Shut up, Frankie. This is different.

Frankie's mouth drops at Sofia's sharp tone, but as Skye COUGHS and gets groggily to her feet, she CLAPS her hands to get everyone's attention.

SKYE

Can we all agree to call this mission a bust and get back to base camp? We're in no state to go back down there, or go looking for whatever the frick we were supposed to find out here in the first place.

SOFIA

She's right.

SKYE

Plus, I think I cracked a rib.

She presses a hand to her side and WINCES.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SKYE (cont'd)
Make that two.

ALITA
(shaking)
I can't... I can't... can't go
back...

FRANKIE
(rolls eyes)
Merde, look at us! Reduced to
nothing by one group of demons!

SKYE
There must've been fifty of those
things down there at least! I
didn't see you saving our
collective ass, your highness!

FRANKIE
(angry)
That's because I was carrying your
useless body away from them!

Skye gets in Frankie's face but is SHOVED sharply back by
Sofia.

SOFIA
That's enough!

Sofia's sharp tone dispels the tense moment. She turns her
attention on Greg.

SOFIA (cont'd)
I'm the lead Slayer of this group,
and I say we cut our losses and go
back to the Academy. We'll have to
send another team out here later on
to finish what we didn't start.

GREG
You can't overrule my authority
like that!

SOFIA
(narrows eyes)
Try and stop me.

Sofia locks gazes with Greg, daring him to answer her back -
but after a beat, he sighs and nods his head.

GREG
Alright, let's go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Relieved, Frankie marches back towards the path they found the cave from, with Skye pausing to help Alita to her feet. Sofia turns on Greg as she starts to follow the others.

SOFIA

I don't know what's gotten into you today, Greg, and frankly I don't care. The fact is you failed to prepare us for what to expect, and bloody nearly led us straight into our deaths down there. Whatever's on your mind, get it sorted out. Now.

She turns and stomps away. Greg waits for her to head out of earshot, then reaches into his jacket pocket and takes out his cell phone.

It's thankfully dry, and he dials in a number, waiting for an answer.

GREG

(into phone)

It's me. I very nearly just blew my cover in the most spectacular way possible, so I hope you got him to talk because I need to get out of here - tonight!

He listens as we cut to:

INT. CASTLE - INTERROGATION ROOM - SAME TIME

Kira is on her phone, back in the small room where the real Greg is being held prisoner. Dana is still PUNCHING him in the background.

KIRA

I'm doing everything I can, but he's proving to be a stubborn old thing. Just like his father.

She glances over her shoulder and calls out:

KIRA (cont'd)

Dana, that's enough.

Dana obediently steps back as Kira returns to her call.

KIRA (cont'd)

I'll try a different approach. Keep your phone handy.

She snaps the phone shut and struts over to Greg, who COUGHS as he recovers from his latest beating.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIRA (cont'd)
Here's what's going to happen,
Greg. You're going to give me the
combination for the hidden safe in
the restricted section of the
library...

GREG
Or what?

KIRA
Or I'll have your father killed.

Greg's head snaps up - his one eye is blackened and swollen,
and his other eye is red from the beating, but the sudden
terror in it stands out.

GREG
You'll... you'll what?

KIRA
Oh, I'm sorry, didn't I mention? I
not only know who your father is, I
know how to get to him, and...

She smirks as she pats Dana's shoulder.

KIRA (cont'd)
... I can tell he and Dana would
get along very well.

GREG
(growls)
You... you can't... I won't let
you...

Kira nods to Dana - who SLAPS Greg hard across the face! Greg
shakes his head as he recovers, and Kira steps closer.

KIRA
Actually, yes, I can, and no, you
can't stop me.
(beat)
The combination. Now.

Greg looks back up, fresh tears in his eyes as he finds
himself stuck between two impossible decisions...

... but he lowers his head and nods.

KIRA (cont'd)
(smiles)
Good boy.

Kira straightens up and opens up her phone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KIRA (cont'd)
(into phone)
We're in business. Get back to the
Academy and stand by for further
instructions.

She closes the phone and leans back down to Greg.

KIRA (cont'd)
You've done the right thing.

Greg can't bring himself to look at her, and Kira turns to Dana as she heads for the exit.

KIRA (cont'd)
Get Rachel in here, tell her to
patch up Mr. Pierce as best she
can. He's going to be our guest for
tonight.

Kira opens the door and exits, and as Greg starts to WEEP, Dana reaches a hand out towards him, pressing it against his cheek. He slowly raises his head to look up at her.

DANA
Tears won't help. Tears never help.
Just make you sad.

GREG
(yells)
Get away from me!!

Dana withdraws her hand, looking almost hurt as she turns and slopes away, and as Greg continues to SOB, we cut to:

INT. CAMPUS - LIBRARY - DAY

A last few Slayers are just heading out of the library, saying their good-byes to Catherine at her desk, as Greg enters.

Catherine looks up, smiling over at him. He grins back and heads over, finding her avoiding the mountain of books waiting to be checked back in and busying herself instead with a particularly fiendish suduko puzzle.

CATHERINE
Afternoon, Greg.

She notices the plasters and scrapes on his face and grimaces, closing the puzzle book.

CATHERINE (cont'd)
Looks like you had a more eventful
afternoon than I did!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREG

You could say that. Things didn't go too well on a mission out in the field, and... well, let's just say I don't think Sofia and the others are too happy with me at the moment.

CATHERINE

These things happen. I'm sure they're just angry at you by default, once things settle down it'll all be fine again.

GREG

I hope so.

He leans casually against the desk, indicating the heap of books nearby.

GREG (cont'd)

Settling in for the night?

CATHERINE

Hmm? Oh, no, I just can't face that lot right now.

GREG

You could always close early.

CATHERINE

(smirks)

Close early? Gregory Pierce, are you encouraging me to be a bad little librarian?

GREG

(smirks back)

They do say it's always the quiet ones, and I can't think of a quieter place than this!

CATHERINE

I'd love to, really, but I know in my heart that I can't get out of this lot. It's end of year test time for the girls at the moment, so they're taking them out as fast as I can put them back on the shelves!

Catherine turns away for a moment, not noticing Greg look down at his hand and frown.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CATHERINE (cont'd)
You could always give me a hand if
you want to lay low for a couple of
hours?
(turns back)
Could do you the world of...

She trails off as she sees what's wrong with Greg's hand - it appears to be CONTORTING, the skin RIPPLING and STRETCHING!

CATHERINE (cont'd)
What's...

Catherine's eyes go wide as the rippling effect on Greg's hand starts to appear on his neck, spreading up to cover his face.

She stumbles out of her chair and back a few steps as Greg calmly looks on.

CATHERINE (cont'd)
Greg? What's happening?

GREG
Oh, don't worry...

He quickly reaches into his jacket and SNAPS his hand back out towards her - there is a FLASH of white light and Catherine crumples to the floor, out cold, accompanied by a fine shower of white powder.

The rippling continues, and Greg's features quickly dissolve into a mass of writhing flesh - until they start to reform, solidifying into an entirely new face altogether.

It's HAMISH.

He pats his face, checking that everything is where it should be, and with a satisfied nod heads over to the library doors.

HAMISH
Serratura porte.

The doors emit a loud CLUNK as they lock and seal themselves together, and Hamish pushes them experimentally a few times to make sure they're shut tight.

INT. CAMPUS - LIBRARY - RESTRICTED SECTION - NEXT

Hamish stands at the edge of the restricted wing of the library, reaching into his pocket and taking out his phone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

HAMISH
(into phone)
I'm here, and I'm ready and
waiting. Give me that code, and
then we're in business.

He GRINS, smug with his success, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. CAMPUS - OUTSIDE LIBRARY - DAY

Sofia notices a commotion outside the library - a crowd of Slayers and faculty staff - and heads over to investigate.

Getting closer, she sees Skye and Alita heaving as they try to open the magically sealed doors.

Skye HEAVES again, but gives up, stepping back with an angry GRUNT.

SKYE

Okay, that's all I've got.

Barbara arrives on the scene just as Sofia pushes her way through the crowd.

SOFIA

What's going on?

BARBARA

What's going on?

They exchange a glance.

SOFIA

You may as well go first.

BARBARA

Thank you, I will.

(to Slayers)

What's the problem?

SKYE

Somebody's sealed the doors to the library.

ALITA

I heard noises inside, and when I managed to look inside I saw that Miss Prentice had fallen over by her desk.

Barbara cranes up to peer through the small window looking into the reception area of the library - and sure enough, there's Catherine, still out cold.

BARBARA

What have you tried to get the doors unlocked?

Skye raises an eyebrow, and Barbara realises that was a pretty redundant question.

SOFIA

Has anyone seen Greg?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AIDEN

Not since this morning. He said he wanted to go nose around in the Restricted section, but not to tell anyone.

(beat)

Uh, so don't tell him I told you.

ALITA

I thought I saw him waiting up here just before all this happened. In fact, I think he was the last person to go in there.

Sofia's look darkens, and she pulls Skye and Alita back as Barbara instructs more Slayers to break the doors down.

SOFIA

Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

SKYE

Probably not.

SOFIA

(beat)

One of those rogue Slayers is a shapeshifter, isn't she?

SKYE

Oh, yeah, that blonde chick, Rachel.

ALITA

Do you think somebody has been impersonating Mr. Pierce?

SOFIA

Does anyone else have a better explanation for why Greg's been so strange all day, and then this has happened?

SKYE

No. But that doesn't mean you're right.

SOFIA

Maybe not... but it's a start.

Sofia jogs over to Barbara.

SOFIA (cont'd)

I think I know what's going on here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BARBARA

You do?

SOFIA

Well... I'm not a hundred per cent,
but-

BARBARA

Go. Whatever you're thinking of
doing, go try it.

SOFIA

Thanks.

She motions for Skye and Alita to follow her as she bounds down the steps near the library entrance, heading down to the ground floor, as we cut to:

EXT. CAMPUS - GROUNDS - NEXT

Skye and Alita jog to keep up with Sofia as she races underneath the library block, which stretches overhead and joins up with the other half of the teaching block.

SOFIA

If somebody's impersonated Greg to
get access to the restricted books
at the library, they'll need a way
out.

ALITA

And the only way back out if the
front is blocked is...

Sofia points upwards - a staircase leads back down onto the rear of the common room from the back of the library.

SOFIA

There.

She races for a staircase to get up to the common room, and Skye catches up to her.

SKYE

Uh...

SOFIA

Skye, we have to get a move on! We
don't know if Rachel has
reinforcements in there, or-

SKYE

Look, I just wanted to know... are
we cool now?

Sofia stops. Alita waits expectantly, and Sofia turns to her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA
Go on. We'll catch up.

Alita nods and bounds up the staircase as Sofia turns to Skye, running a hand through her hair.

SOFIA (cont'd)
Skye, I...

SKYE
Hey, it's a 'yes' or 'no' question.
I just wanna know where I stand
with you.

SOFIA
This... look, can't we have this
conversation later?

SKYE
Yes or no?

SOFIA
(long beat)
No.

SKYE
Oh.

SOFIA
I'm sorry. But...

Sofia doesn't finish her sentence, leaving Skye and heading back up the stairs. Skye sighs, then follows her to:

INT. CAMPUS - LIBRARY - REAR STAIRCASE - NEXT

Alita waits as Sofia and Skye join her on the small landing at the top of the staircase. A pair of double doors leading into the library face them.

SOFIA
The restricted section's just above
where we are now, but unless
whoever's in there is going to just
jump out through the windows and
run across the roof, we'll catch
them when they-

There's a SMASH from somewhere overhead, and then a THUD, followed by the sound of running feet.

A moment later, the library doors swing open before them. Sofia looks out towards the roof through the windows surrounding the staircase - and sees Hamish racing along the rooftop, three thick books under his arm!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA (cont'd)
Alita, see if you can find out what
he took! Skye, follow me!

Alita nods and dashes into the library as Sofia BARGES the nearest window open, starting to climb out through it.

SKYE
Follow you where?

SOFIA
Just follow me!

Sofia deftly grabs hold of the edge of the rooftop and pulls herself up onto it, out of view, and we cut to:

EXT. CAMPUS - TEACHING BLOCK ROOFTOP - NEXT

Hamish has a good head start as Sofia gets up onto the long, straight roof, but she's faster and is soon gaining ground.

EXT. CAMPUS - FRONT ENTRANCE ROOFTOP - CONTINUOUS

Hamish glances over his shoulder as he hops down to the entrance over the campus reception - but TRIPS and lands awkwardly, the books spilling from his hands!

HAMISH
Bollocks!

He scoops them up, looking up as a black van SMASHES through the gates at the far end of the drive, tearing down towards the reception.

SOFIA (O.S.)
Hold it right there!

Hamish looks round as Sofia gets to the edge of the next roof up, but with a grin he jumps to his feet - and RUNS straight off the edge of the roof!

SOFIA (cont'd)
No!!

Sofia GASPS as she jumps down after him, racing to the edge of the roof and looking down below...

... but Hamish is floating serenely down to the ground below, a BLUE GLOW surrounding him. He lands, light as a feather as the black van screeches to a halt in front of him.

DELANEY is driving, and she throws open the passenger door as Hamish hurries over.

Hamish bundles into the van, and Delaney SCREECHES it away from the campus before Sofia has time to react.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sofia stands, a foul look on her face as she watches the van speed away from the campus.

SKYE (O.S.)
They got away, huh?

SOFIA
(darkly)
They got away.

Sofia stares after the van as it SCREECHES around a corner and rapidly disappears from view, and we cut to:

INT. CAMPUS - BARBARA'S OFFICE - NEXT

Barbara and ELLEN are in the middle of a heated discussion as Sofia and Skye arrive at the door.

BARBARA
Don't tell me what I can and can't
do when it comes to my staff!

ELLEN
I'm not, Barb! I'm just saying,
think about what you're doing here!

BARBARA
I am! I'm not risking the life of
one of my...

She stops as she sees the two girls waiting, waving them in.

SOFIA
It was the rogue Slayers. I didn't
recognise the man who escaped, but
I definitely saw Delaney driving
the getaway van.

BARBARA
We know it was them.

SOFIA
You do? How?

Barbara and Ellen swap glances, before Barbara heads for her answering machine and hits the playback button.

GREG
(filtered; through
answerphone)
Hello Barbara, it's Greg. I'm
afraid I've been taken prisoner by
Kira Brogan. I'm alright - I'm not
looking my best, but all my
important parts are still intact.
(beat)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GREG (cont'd)

As you probably know by now, she wants the Slayer Codexes, and as I understand it you'll have just been the victims of a robbery from the library. Thing is... she wants all of them. And that includes the one that's kept in your office.

(beat; sighs)

I'm sorry. I had to tell them. I hope you can forgive me. She's going to send you details of a drop off point in the next few hours. Bring the book, send one Slayer and I'll be returned. Otherwise, I'm afraid this is the last time you'll hear from me.

(beat)

So... see you later, I hope.

The message CLICKS to a stop. A horrified Sofia looks to Barbara, who shakes her head.

BARBARA

That came in a few seconds after that van left the premises.

ELLEN

These guys are organised.

SOFIA

What are we going to do? I mean, the Slayer Codexes are vital reference texts, we can't just let them have them!

BARBARA

They are... but this is the one they want.

Barbara turns to a painting on her wall, removing it to reveal a safe. She turns the combination lock and swings it open, taking out a cloth-wrapped package.

BARBARA (cont'd)

The Codexes are written in a way that all four texts are needed to get the most from them.

She unwraps the package to reveal another thick, leather bound book.

BARBARA (cont'd)

It's all to do with the footnotes and cross-referencing, I think - the point is, while we still have this, the three books they do have won't give them everything.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SOFIA

But if we keep this book, then
they're going to kill Greg.

BARBARA

(sighs)

Yes.

ELLEN

Barb, let me handle this. I can set
up a tac team to monitor the drop,
we can take the rogues into custody
and get the books back, and-

BARBARA

(firm)

No. It's too risky. Kira Brogan's
far from stupid, she'll anticipate
every move we make. We'll have to
play this by her rules or we'll
wake up tomorrow to find Greg's
body on our doorstep.

Sofia looks horrified, glancing from Ellen to Barbara as she
waits for someone to make a decision. Finally, she snatches
up the fourth Codex and steps back towards the door.

SOFIA

I'll go.

BARBARA

Sofia, you can't-

SOFIA

I'll go. Alone. That's what she
wants.

ELLEN

(shakes head)

No way. We've got no way of knowing
we can trust her. If what you've
been telling me about this Kira
chick is true...

BARBARA

It is.

ELLEN

... then I don't see any reason why
she won't kill you and take the
book anyway.

SOFIA

I've already died once this year.
Twice would just be pushing it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Sofia stares Ellen down, clutching the Codex firmly to her chest. She's not backing down on this. Ellen throws a look to Barbara, as we DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

Sofia stands alone in the centre of a dark field, swirls of mist curling round her feet. She shivers in the cold night air, pulling her coat tight around herself and adjusting the strap of the bag over her shoulder.

A nearby road and several clusters of house provide some glitters of light, but visibility is low as Sofia looks around for any sign of the rogue Slayers.

DELANEY (O.S.)

And how did I know it'd be you?

Sofia spins round as Delaney struts out of the shadows, smirking in her usual way. Sofia's eyes narrow as she glares back at her.

SOFIA

I imagine this must make me the responsible one.

DELANEY

Naah, it's simpler than that, the way I see it.

SOFIA

So why don't you enlighten me?

DELANEY

You think you have to be the leader. You're the kind of girl who thinks that if she doesn't make a call, everybody else is just gonna sit around waiting for divine intervention to solve a problem.

Delaney walks closer, not making any threatening moves but still keeping Sofia on edge.

DELANEY (cont'd)

I gotta admit, I do kind of respect that about you.

SOFIA

I find that very hard to believe.

DELANEY

(shrugs)

There isn't much else I respect, if that makes it easier for you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA

(beat)

Where's Greg?

DELANEY

Close. And safe. He's a little battle damaged, but I'm sure you can appreciate the importance of a good interrogation these days.

SOFIA

(cold)

If you harmed him-

DELANEY

Hey, not the girl you want. I think you already know which of us is the most likely to inflict a little collateral damage on a POW.

SOFIA

Her... the one who... who killed me, right?

DELANEY

(nods)

I haven't got the stomach for it myself, but Dana, well... you already know what she's like in a fight.

Delaney holds her hand out.

DELANEY (cont'd)

So give me the Codex, I'll give you your Watcher back and we can all get out of here without anything but your pride getting hurt.

SOFIA

Not until I know he's safe.

Delaney retracts her hand, then puts her fingers in her mouth and WHISTLES sharply.

There's a commotion from behind a nearby cluster of trees, and Sofia gasps as she sees the bruised Greg being led out into view by Hamish.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Greg!

GREG

(woozy)

Sofia... don't do it... don't give them what they want...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HAMISH

See? Coherent sentences. He's fine.

DELANEY

Hand it over. I don't want this to turn nasty any more than you do.

SOFIA

I'd have thought you'd enjoy that.

DELANEY

Like I said, not my thing. I'm the thief, not the fighter.

Sofia looks back towards Greg, then shrugs her bag off her shoulder, unzipping it and taking out the Codex. She hesitates as she stands back up, keeping the book close.

SOFIA

We're going to get these back, you know. All of them.

DELANEY

I know you're gonna try to, yeah. Truth be told, I'm looking forward to it. You're fun to go up against.

SOFIA

I'll take that as a compliment.

DELANEY

It was meant as...

She trails off, looking towards the black and starry sky and straining as though trying to hear something.

DELANEY (cont'd)

What's that?

SOFIA

I can't hear anything.

Delaney takes few steps back, tensing up, and Sofia looks up, puzzled.

SOFIA (cont'd)

What is it?

DELANEY

Oh, you just screwed up big time! You should've played this by the rules!

SOFIA

But... I don't understand! What can you-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

She's cut off as there is a sudden BLAST of sound from overhead - and a jet black HELICOPTER soars over the scene!

Sofia's eyes bulge as she looks up at the sleek, military-spec helicopter hovering overhead, the wash from its rotors sweeping across the field.

SOFIA (cont'd)

What the...

She gets her answer as the 'copter's bay door slides open - to reveal Ellen and her Initiative commandoes!

DELANEY

Nice try! You want to make this harder? Fine! It's harder!

Ellen and the commandoes rappel down out of the helicopter, each one of them sporting a submachine-gun.

SOFIA

(to Delaney)

Wait! This isn't... I didn't do this!

Delaney's face is like thunder as she LUNGES forward for the book, and Sofia struggles to keep it out of her grip.

Delaney tries to trip her, but Sofia gets an ELBOW into her Delaney's chest to knock her back.

She sweeps her leg round in a high kick, but Delaney blocks it, CHOPPING her hand against Sofia's leg in two places and dropping her to the floor.

As the commandoes charge in, guns trained on her, Delaney PUNCHES Sofia again and wrestles the Codex from her hands.

Hamish is ready to cover Delaney as she turns and runs back, muttering an incantation and HURLING bolt of energy towards the advancing commandoes.

A BUBBLE of blue light springs up around them, forming a barrier that they bounce off, clattering to the floor.

Hamish starts to drag Greg back out of sight, but as Sofia cries out in desperation, Delaney pauses, grabs Greg and SHOVES him to the floor.

With a glance at Sofia, she quickly bustles Hamish away, the duo disappearing from view.

The bubble fades away, and Ellen barks her orders at the commandoes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ELLEN

Fan out! Don't let them get away!

Ellen goes to help Sofia up, but she angrily pushes her hand away as she gets to her feet, running over to Greg.

He GROANS in pain as she cradles his head, looking over his battered body and biting her lip.

GREG

(weakly)

How bad does it look?

SOFIA

You'll be... we'll get you fixed up in no time.

GREG

That bad?

Sofia manages a short laugh of relief.

SOFIA

I'm afraid so.

Sofia looks up as Ellen steps into frame, looking down on them.

ELLEN

Is he alright?

SOFIA

(angrily)

What the bloody hell was that all about?!!?

ELLEN

I'm sorry, Sofia, but I have my orders too!

SOFIA

Oh, and I suppose that order was 'bugger up the exchange and nearly get my Watcher killed,' was it?

ELLEN

(beat)

We'll find them.

GREG

No... no, you won't... they've got some kind of... cloaking spell... keeps them out of sight...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ELLEN

You let me worry about that.

(beat)

I'll be back soon as I can.

SOFIA

Don't hurry.

Sensing she's not too welcome, Ellen hurries off after her commandoes, and as Sofia clutches Greg tightly to her, we DISSOLVE to:

INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - DAY

Greg dozes in an infirmary bed, JAZ checking over him as Sofia looks on. She squeezes his hand, nods to Jaz and then exits the room.

INT. CAMPUS - CORRIDOR - NEXT

Sofia walks down the empty corridor, head down, lost in thought, when she senses somebody standing up ahead.

She lifts her head to see Emma looking at her, a hopeful smile on the redhead's face.

EMMA

Hey.

Sofia glares back at her, and Emma's smile soon fades.

EMMA (cont'd)

Still mad at me for whatever it is
you're mad about, huh?

SOFIA

I've got nothing to say to you.

EMMA

So I see! Sofia...

Sofia starts walking again, passing Emma without another glance at her.

EMMA (cont'd)

What did I do?

Sofia stops, spins on the spot and steps back towards Emma, her face full of anger.

SOFIA

Why don't you go and bother Skye
instead?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA (cont'd)
She seems to be more used to
putting up with you, and to be
perfectly honest I've got enough
things to worry about at the moment
without you popping up every five
minutes!

EMMA
Nu-uh. I'm not going anywhere until
you tell me what's going on!

SOFIA
Do I have to spell it out for you?

EMMA
It'd be a start!

SOFIA
I know you're The First!

EMMA
You... what?

SOFIA
I can see you when I'm awake now.
You told me as much when you showed
up as Buffy that night in the
infirmary. Now I know it must have
been you all along, pretending to
be Emma, ever since she died. You
make me sick.

EMMA
Sofia, you've got it all wrong, I'm
not-

SOFIA
(fierce)
I don't want to hear it!

Sofia turns on her heel and strides away from her.

SOFIA (cont'd)
I don't want to hear it...

Emma looks heartbroken as Sofia marches off, and we cut to:

INT. CASTLE - STUDY - DAY

Hamish sits behind a desk which has the four Codexes spread
across it. Several piles of notes are arranged around him,
but as he rests his chin on his hands it's clear he's been at
this for some time with little success.

Kira steps into frame, leaning over him and scanning over the
open books.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KIRA
Anything yet?

HAMISH
They may as well be written in
Klingon, lass. This is going to
take me a while.

KIRA
Take your time. I'm not planning on
taking these particular books back
to the library any time soon.

HAMISH
(bitter)
Oh, lucky me.

She straightens up, a smirk on her face.

KIRA
Just call me when you've got some
results. You've got a lot to find
out about him.

She turns and exits, and as Hamish gets stuck back into the
books with a resigned sigh, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW