

SLAYER ACADEMY

"Messenger"

by
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TEASER

FADE IN:

1

EXT. CAMPUS - LAWN - DAY

1

SOFIA, SKYE, FRANKIE and ALITA are walking in a group across the sunny campus of the Academy, enjoying the spring air for once. It's a welcome moment of rest.

Other SLAYERS are scattered around, playing sports together, sitting around reading or just generally enjoying the day. Sofia SIGHS happily, taking a deep lungful of fresh air.

SOFIA

It's days like these that make it
all worth it.

SKYE

You mean the killing, the dying,
and the routine sacrificing to keep
the world safe from the forces of
darkness?

SOFIA

(beat; nodding)
Yep.

ALITA

Sofia is right. We do not get to
rest very often, and the past few
weeks have been...

SKYE

Gut-wrenching?

ALITA

... difficult.

FRANKIE

I am not always fluent in English
but I do not think "difficult"
accurately describes what we 'ave
been going through.

SOFIA

It's been rough on all of us, but
these are the times when we take a
step back, appreciate what we've
got, and try to remember that we
are still teenage girls underneath
it all.

SKYE

Girls who just happen to almost get
killed once or twice a week.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

(dry)

Be thankful for small mercies.

They reach a large tree in the middle of the lawn and settle down onto the ground underneath it, enjoying the shade.

ALITA

Do you think Gregory-san is holding up okay?

SOFIA

Greg is strong. He'll make it through this. It's just going to take time - I think his pride took more of a beating than his body.

FRANKIE

I cannot wait to get my 'ands wrapped around the *écume* who tried to impersonate him.

SOFIA

I think we can all second that.

SKYE

Those rogue Slayers... they have to have something cooking. Why else steal the Codexes?

(beat)

Something tells me this is far from over. My mom always used to talk about 'the calm before the storm'... and maybe this is it.

They all look contemplatively at the ground, and in various directions, the mood turning somber very quickly.

SOFIA

(wryly)

Well, aren't we just a regular bunch of fun-lovers?

ALITA

Our lives were meant to be spent in battle. It is the way we were built. It is in our blood.

FRANKIE

'Ow depressing.

SKYE

While I'm not usually on the same page with Sofia, she's got a point. We need to relax when we get the chance to.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SKYE (CONT'D)

We have to make sure we'll be ready, when the time comes for the big battle.

ALITA

You make it sound like you know what's coming.

SOFIA

She's not wrong. A battle is coming. Delaney, Dana, the shape changer - they aren't going away without a fight.

FRANKIE

Then we will give them one!

SKYE

Shoulda known you had a brass pair, Blondie, especially after bedding that meathead Dunstall.

A stunned silence. Frankie turns a deep shade of crimson as Sofia and Alita turn to stare at her.

SKYE (CONT'D)

Wait a minute... you all knew about that... right?

SOFIA

No.

ALITA

I did not.

SKYE (CONT'D)

(beat)

Damn.

(to Frankie)

Uh...

Frankie stands abruptly, and with a glare at Skye marches away from the group without another word. There's a long beat as Skye SLAPS her forehead.

SOFIA

O-kay... maybe we should all get some rest, while we've got a quiet few minutes. Keep our eyes peeled. You never know what's coming next.

On this ominous statement, we linger for a moment on the quartet, before we cut to:

EXT. PARK - DAY

In the middle of a children's playground, several KIDS are running around, climbing, jumping, sliding, and generally being very child-like. Screams of delight and excitement fill the air, and PARENTS look on as their kids play.

(CONTINUED)

PULL IN on a young GIRL as she taps a BOY on the head and immediately runs away.

GIRL

You're it!

The boy gives chase, following after her.

BOY

That's not fair! I wasn't ready!
Come back here!

GIRL

Can't catch me!!

They continue running, and no one notices sparks of ELECTRICITY that begin to fill the air above the playground.

Moments later, a GASH in the sky appears - a PORTAL, fizzing with chaotic energy as it tears itself into our world. A dark FORM drops from the sky, landing in a kneeling position just beyond the playground.

The boy and girl come to a screeching halt just before the form, which looks down at them, GROWLING deep in its chest. They stare up at it silently, fear dawning across their small features.

It rises to a standing position, revealing a massive DEMON with muscles built into muscles and a menacing grin filled with needle-sharp teeth.

DEMON

Slayer...

Without paying the children any mind, it pushes right past them, and they are knocked aside.

They turn and watch as it walks across the playground, unfazed by the screaming kids and parents that scramble out of its way.

After a beat, the boy turns to the girl and SLAPS her lightly on the arm.

BOY

Tag!

The girl looks at him as if he is insane, and on this, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3

INT. EMPTY ROOM - NIGHT

3

We are inside an unfurnished room, and Sofia is standing in the moonlight in front of a GUY her age, with fair skin, long, fair hair and light eyes.

She tilts her head to one side as she studies the boy, a half smile creeping across her lips.

SOFIA

I've seen you before.

GUY

You're back.

SOFIA

You recognise me?

GUY

Powerful girl. Fights the monsters.

SOFIA

You know about Slayers, then?

GUY

I've heard a few stories.

SOFIA

That's what I am. I'm a vampire Slayer. My name is Sofia. What's yours?

GUY

My name?

SOFIA

Please. Tell me.

GUY

(worried)

You should go.

SOFIA

What? Wait! No! Tell me who you are! Why do you keep appearing to me? Are you in trouble?

GUY

Go to the Hightower Prep school, the next county over from you. Ask for Tyson. You'll find me.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

The guy starts to run away and Sofia tries to go after him, but everything begins to FADE AWAY...

4 INT. CAMPUS - DORMITORY - MORNING

4

CLOSE UP on Sofia's face as her eyes SNAP open. Early morning light is seeping across her face.

PULL BACK to reveal her laying in her bed, and she slowly sits up to find the room completely empty, everyone else's beds already made.

5 INT. CAMPUS - CAFETERIA - MORNING

5

Sofia enters the cafeteria, now dressed, hair pulled back in a ponytail. She looks tired, and she spots the usual gang seated around the usual table.

SKYE

Good morning, sunshine.

SOFIA

(yawns)

No one woke me up. Again.

She takes a seat at the table.

FRANKIE

You were sleeping like a dead woman.

ALITA

(quickly)

She means...

SOFIA

(disinterested)

I know what she meant.

SKYE

Same thing you've been having past few weeks, Sofes. You looked so peaceful, we didn't wanna disturb you. Looked like you were having some dream, too!

ALITA

(darkly)

I do not like to dream anymore...

SOFIA

As a matter of fact, I was dreaming. I think it was something important.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE
(all business)
Another vision?

SOFIA
Kind of. But not like any other
time before. This was... different.
It's like I've been communicating
with someone. In my mind.

ALITA
I didn't know Slayers could do
that.

FRANKIE
I don't think they can, *mon cheri*.

SOFIA
(suddenly cross)
What, you don't believe me? Even
after all of... everything?

SKYE
(quickly)
Doesn't matter if she doesn't
believe you, Sofes. I do.

ALITA
I believe you, too.

Frankie scoffs and folds her arms in front of her on the
table, rolling her eyes.

FRANKIE
I did not say I did not believe, I
was simply saying-

SKYE
(interrupting)
Yeah yeah, you were just being you.
(beat, to Sofia)
So? What did you see?

SOFIA
A boy. Well, a young man. About our
age. Pale, weak looking. He seems
very scared, and I think he needs
help or something.

SKYE
Like astral projection, maybe?
Maybe the kid's pulling a
'Poltergeist' and manifesting
himself in your head?

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

I'm not sure. I just know I get this... feeling whenever I see him. And this was the first time he actually talked to me, beyond just crying out for help.

FRANKIE

What did he say?

SKYE

(eyes her)

Now you believe her?

FRANKIE

I never said I-

SKYE

(sly grin)

Come on, Sofes! You're killing us with the suspense! What did he tell you?

SOFIA

He told me to go to the Hightower Prep school. The name sounds familiar. I think I've seen it on scouting missions.

ALITA

I believe it is a large private school in the next county, several miles away.

FRANKIE

'Ow would you know that?

ALITA

I pay attention in our reconnaissance lessons. My father always taught me to know my territory well.

SKYE

So that's the place then, right?

SOFIA

Must be. He told me to look for him there, so I guess I have to go.

FRANKIE

Greg and Barbara will never go for it. Remember the rule? Only Academy-sanctioned missions are allowed, they do not want their girls racing off whenever they feel like it!

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

Since when have a couple of rules
stopped us?

FRANKIE

You could be expelled.

SOFIA

They can't expel me, I'm a Slayer!
I'm one of the best ones they've
got!

(beat; afterthought)

Along with you lot, I mean.

FRANKIE

You may not have noticed this, what
with your 'ead permanently stuck in
your arse, but you are not the only
Slayer 'ere, Sofia.

SOFIA

(blinks)

Did you just say... 'arse'?

FRANKIE

(sighing heavily)

I 'ave been in England much too
long...

Sofia scratches her head thoughtfully as we cut to:

Sofia slowly enters the massive Academy library and looks
around, but it seems to be empty for now.

SOFIA

(calling out)

Miss Prentice?

She moves further in and approaches the reception desk, but
it seems to be abandoned.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Hello? Anybody in here?

Suddenly, CATHERINE appears from her back office, a stack of
books as high as her head blocking her view.

CATHERINE

I'm here! I'm here! Don't go until
I've seen you!

Catherine SLAMS the high pile of books onto the counter,
emanating a small cloud of dust. Sofia waves a hand in front
of her face as she looks distastefully at the books.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

Looks like you've been busy.

CATHERINE

Oh, you wouldn't believe! I just got in a new shipment of demonic texts from Bulgaria and...

(beat)

... and you were being sarcastic, weren't you?

SOFIA

(grinning)

Just a little.

CATHERINE

Was there something in particular you were looking for? I don't see you in here as often as I'd like.

SOFIA

(evasive)

Well... you know, I've been... busy. What with the whole... thing, and... lots and lots of studying, too.

CATHERINE

I see. So what's your pleasure? Spell books, demonic tomes, a little light reading?

SOFIA

I'm actually looking for books on dreams. And telepathic communications.

Catherine looks at her strangely.

CATHERINE

I thought we banished that dream demon a long time ago. Is something happening again?

SOFIA

(quickly)

No! It's not the dream demon. Nothing like that. It's just... well, I really don't have time to discuss it. I just need you to give me anything you can.

CATHERINE

Shouldn't you discuss this with Mrs. Griffin?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
I don't feel entirely comfortable
helping you on some secret mission.

SOFIA
It's not a secret mission!

CATHERINE
(smirks)
Ah, so there is a mission, then.

SOFIA
(snaps)
Look, I'm not going to do anything
wrong! Can you help me or not?

Catherine eyes her, and Sofia takes a beat to try to calm herself down.

CATHERINE
All right. Let me go find those
books for you.

Sofia follows Catherine further into the library, and as they head off screen we cut to:

INT. LIBRARY - LATER

Sofia, minutes later, rushes out of the library, several books under her arm.

CATHERINE (O.S.)
You're welcome...

She steps onscreen.

CATHERINE (CONT'D)
... Sofia.

Catherine frowns at Sofia's rapid and thankless exit, and as she heads back to her office, we cut to:

EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

In a decrepit old alleyway, two VAMPIRES are skulking in the shadows, each feeding on a RAT.

They look extremely scuzzy and unkempt, dressed in ratty clothes with messy, greasy hair. They don't look like the healthiest vamps on the streets.

Vamp #1 holds up his drained rat, wrinkling his nose in distaste.

(CONTINUED)

VAMP #1

You know, when you suggested moving over to England, I have to say I was expecting to be dining on slightly finer cuisine than the *rattus norvegicus* we're currently enjoying...

VAMP #2

Stop complaining. It's better than nothing.

VAMP #1

It's still a long way from the 'gallons of fresh, warm human blood' I distinctly remember you promising me!

Vamp #2 finishes his rat, tossing the carcass away and wiping his lips dry.

VAMP #2

We need to move. All these Slayers poking around everywhere, it's making it hard to get a decent meal in this world! This is our territory, and I'm not about to just abandon it!

Vamp #1 tosses his drained rat to the ground and kicks it.

VAMP #1

If you haven't noticed, our territory is dry.

Vamp #1 stands, dusting his filthy clothes down and getting in his comrade's face.

VAMP #1 (CONT'D)

Don't you get it? We just need to step up our game. Yes, those Slayers complicate things, but think about it. They're young, fresh, inexperienced - they don't know everything there is to know about killing us yet. If we got enough of us together and managed a degree of organisation, we could start turning the tide back to our side again.

VAMP #2

You think?

VAMP #1

Have we ever tried?

(CONTINUED)

VAMP #2
I guess not.

VAMP #1
(pleased)
There you go. That's the attitude
I'm looking for!

A hulking FIGURE suddenly looms at the end of the alleyway,
and both vamps look up and notice it.

VAMP #1 (CONT'D)
Hey, sod off! This alley's taken!

VAMP #2
(hissing)
Don't scare them off! It might be a
human! You know, as in 'food'?

VAMP #1
Why don't you let me worry about
that, hmm?

Vamp #1 swaggers forward, cocky as ever, and the shadows part
to reveal the demon from the teaser. Vamp #1 comes to a
sudden stop, overawed by the monstrous creature before him.

VAMP #2
(whispering)
What is it?

The demon ignores him and continues walking towards them as
if he doesn't even register them.

VAMP #1
(snaps out of it)
Hey! What are you doing here?

It tries to walk right past them, but Vamp #1 puts a hand on
its chest, stopping it in its tracks. The demon finally looks
at him.

VAMP #1 (CONT'D)
I said, what are you doing here?

VAMP #2
Maybe we should go. He looks... mad.

The demon GROWLS at them.

DEMON
Slayer...

VAMP #1
(to Vamp #2)
He wants a Slayer!
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

VAMP #1 (CONT'D)

(to demon)

Don't we all! Good luck bagging one though. They tend to travel in packs these days.

VAMP #2

Uh... we'll just get out of your way now.

VAMP #1

No, we need to teach our little friend here a lesson. You don't go walking into other demons' territories unannounced!

VAMP #2

(getting nervous)

We could skip it this time.

Vamp #2 looks the demon up and down warily, knowing they couldn't take him in a fight.

VAMP #1

The rules apply to everyone. Nobody pays them any kind of respect these days, and that's how we end up in situations like this!

The demon SNARLS at the vampire, and Vamp #1 SPRINGS on him, punching him lightning fast in the chest - but the demon doesn't even flinch.

Without missing a beat, the demon picks Vamp #1 up by the lapels of his shirt and HAULS him across the alleyway, SLAMMING him into the wall where he unceremoniously slides to the ground, groggy.

The demon advances on Vamp #2 as he cowers before it, glancing over to his fallen friend and wringing his hands in terror.

VAMP #2

Please! I won't make any trouble for you! Just leave me alone!

DEMON

Slayer...

VAMP #2

I'll show them to you! I promise!
I'll take you to the Slayers!

The demon pauses, intrigued.

DEMON

Slayer...

(CONTINUED)

VAMP #2

They have a school. It's full of
them! I'll take you there!

Vamp #1 is climbing to his feet behind the demon.

VAMP #1

You idiot! You'll ruin everything!

The demon swirls around, grabs Vamp #1 by the neck, and
TWISTS with all its might, beheading the vamp with his own
bare hands. Vamp #1 crumbles into dust.

It then turns to Vamp #2, watching him expectantly.

DEMON

Slayer.

(beat)

Now.

VAMP #2

Of course! You're the boss!

The two of them begin walking out of the alleyway, and as
they trudge into the night, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

9

EXT. CAMPUS - FRONT ENTRANCE - DAY

9

Sofia has her head in one of the library books as she strolls out of the reception doors, her large sports bag over her shoulder - and she walks straight into another YOUNG GIRL coming the other way!

SOFIA

Hey! Watch where you're...

Sofia looks up and sees the new arrival - a teenager, eighteen years old. She flashes Sofia a cocky smirk as she stands there, holding her luggage. Her punkish clothes are a dead giveaway - she's American. This is TRINA.

TRINA

(pops bubblegum)

Slayer over here. Do I get a t-shirt or something?

Sofia isn't quite sure how to react to that greeting.

SOFIA

Oh. Another new one. Right.

(beat)

Reception's just inside, if you're new just go and make yourself known and somebody else'll deal with you.

Trina looks Sofia up and down as Sofia hustles past her. She quickly trades her smirk for a curious expression.

TRINA

You a Slayer too?

Sofia pauses with a weary sigh, turning back round.

SOFIA

Yes, and one who's sort of in a hurry.

(beat; extends hand)

Sofia Romero.

It's more of a formality than a genuine greeting for Sofia, but with a grin Trina shakes her hand.

TRINA

Katrina Aylesworth. Friends call me Trina. Pretty much everyone else either ends up dead, or doesn't matter so much.

(beat)

Been here long?

(CONTINUED)

Sofia loses her patience.

SOFIA

Listen, there's plenty of other girls here, and I'm sure one of them will be happy to introduce you to the Academy. Now it was a pleasure to meet you, Katrina, but I really have to be going!

TRINA

Looks like somebody's in a rush.
Broken a rule?
(bad English accent)
Been caught smoking behind the bike sheds?
(beat)
Hey, some girls just need a high.
I'm cool with it. Promise I won't tell.

SOFIA

(getting annoyed)
I'm not breaking any rules, I'm-

ELLEN (O.S.)

Sofia?

ELLEN has appeared at the doorway. She looks confused.

ELLEN (CONT'D)

The girls are prepping for the mission. What're you doing out here?
(re: Trina)
And who's this? New arrival?

SOFIA

Yes. I was just...
(beat)
... helping Trina out with her bags.

TRINA

Yeah, she was.

Trina tosses a bag to Sofia, who grabs it and STUMBLES a little. It's not that heavy - just more than she expected.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Be careful, my weapons are in there.

SOFIA

(mutters)
Of course they are...

(CONTINUED)

ELLEN

Alright, I guess you'll need to see Barb - or 'Mrs. Griffin' to you newbies. She also wants to see you, Sofia.

Sofia makes a face. Busted. Trina walks over to Sofia.

TRINA

(quiet)

So was I right about the smoking thing?

SOFIA

Worse - unauthorized mission.

TRINA

Hey, if they have to authorize my missions, I'm gonna be in a load more crap than you. Lead the way, Sophie!

Sofia gives Trina a sideways look, before following Ellen inside.

Sofia and Trina enter the office, still carrying Trina's bags. Ellen enters quietly, and stands at the side.

BARBARA GRIFFIN stands behind a desk. She smiles for a moment at Trina, before going into Headmistress-mode.

BARBARA

Please, sit down.

The two girls do, and Barbara follows suit.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

(re: Trina)

Now, you are?

TRINA

Trina Aylesworth.

Barbara takes a moment to root through a pile of manilla folders on her desk, before sliding one out of the stack and opening it.

BARBARA

Ah yes, the new American girl.
Alright, Trina. I take it you understand how the Academy works?

TRINA

Yeah, Stuffy McWatcher explained it all on the flight over.

(beat)

I mean, yes ma'am. My Watcher told me everything I needed to know.

BARBARA

Alright, good. Get ready - you'll be taking Sofia's place in today's mission.

TRINA

Awesome.

There's a delayed pause as Sofia processes this.

SOFIA

What?!?

BARBARA

I know what you were planning on doing today, Miss Romero, and it wasn't greeting Trina here.

Sofia narrows her eyes, scowling at Barbara. How did she know? Then she realise - Catherine must have told on her.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

Now, Trina, you will be escorted by Ellen to meet the other girls of the squad, while I have a talk with Sofia here.

TRINA

(nods)

Will do.

Trina flashes Sofia a smile - 'good luck' - before leaving the room. Ellen slips out behind her as Barbara turns to Sofia, but we follow Trina out of the room into the hallway:

11 INT. CAMPUS - RECEPTION HALLWAY - NEXT

11

Ellen waits for Trina to catch her up.

ELLEN

Okay, new girl, follow me.

FAST FORWARD as Ellen leads her down the hallways to the room, then RETURN TO NORMAL SPEED as they stop at a door.

12 INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - NEXT

12

Muted VOICES can be heard talking as Ellen KNOCKS. The door OPENS to reveal Skye. She looks Trina up and down.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

Another one?

Ellen glances at Trina, who POPS her gum, not looking particularly impressed, and we cut to:

The girls are all getting ready to go to battle, suiting up and taking their chosen weapons down from the racks on the walls as Skye briefs Trina.

SKYE

Basically, it's a big nest of vamps. So we gotta go in, commando style, and kill the bastards.

TRINA

(grinning)

Sounds like fun.

FRANKIE

You'd better be good. I don't want a *bébé* watching my back.

TRINA

(to Skye)

Who's the Frenchie?

FRANKIE

It is Francoise, and I take offense at your language, *madame*!

TRINA

Sorry, it's the only language I've got.

Frankie just rolls her eyes at Trina turns to Skye.

TRINA (CONT'D)

So, Skye. As one American to another...

(Frankie scoffs)

... will this be fun?

Skye grabs her daggers from a shelf and slips them to her sides.

SKYE

As one American to another, I can wholeheartedly say... hell, yeah.

Off Trina's grin, we cut to:

14

INT. CAMPUS - BARBARA'S OFFICE - DAY

14

Sofia is sitting silently in front of Barbara, arms folded defiantly. Barbara waits for Sofia to speak.

BARBARA

I expect some sort of an explanation will be coming any time now.

SOFIA

There is. An explanation, I mean. And it's coming.

(beat)

As soon as I think of one.

BARBARA

(wearily)

Sofia...

SOFIA

I wasn't doing anything wrong, despite what you already seem to have decided. I just... have some things I've been dealing with.

BARBARA

Like what?

SOFIA

Things.

BARBARA

Be more specific.

SOFIA

I've been having these... dreams.

BARBARA

Dreams and visions are a natural part of the Slayer lifestyle, Sofia. I take it these dreams are giving you cause for concern?

SOFIA

Something like that. These are different. Like someone is calling out to me. Asking for help, maybe? I'm not sure. But the latest dream came with a message, to go to Hightower Prep, and that's where I'd find answers.

BARBARA

Hightower Prep? That's a private school near here.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

I know. I need to go there, Mrs. Griffin. You have to understand.

BARBARA

This sounds serious.

SOFIA

It could mean life or death. Whose, I'm not sure yet, but...

Barbara leans back in her seat, studying Sofia, and Sofia groans internally as she realises this could be a long one.

BARBARA

You're a trustworthy girl, Sofia, and an incredible Slayer, but sometimes your head isn't quite in the right place. You've dealt with a lot these last couple of months. Are you sure you're prepared for something like this?

SOFIA

I am. I really am. I have to figure this out.

BARBARA

(beat)

All right then.

SOFIA

(surprised)

'All right'?

BARBARA

Buffy Summers chose you as her successor for a reason, Sofia. You're special. I know that as much as anyone else. I trust you.

SOFIA

I don't know what to... thank you. I know what I'm doing, and I promise I'll get this sorted out without any trouble.

BARBARA

I know you will.

Sofia leaps up from her chair and heads for the door.

BARBARA (CONT'D)

And Sofia?

Sofia pauses and looks back.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

BARBARA (CONT'D)
Please don't get yourself killed.
(beat)
Again.

Sofia manages a small smile, and as she leaves, Barbara sits back in her chair and sighs heavily. We cut to:

15 EXT. HIGHTOWER PREP SCHOOL - DAY

15

Sofia approaches a large school building on her bicycle, and comes to a stop just in front of it. She stares up at its imposing front, with all its windows and a neatly manicured lawn just in front of it.

Many students are just beginning to pile out of the building, as school has just let out for the day.

She parks her bike at a rack, and begins walking up the front walk, towards the main entrance of the school. She approaches a group of GIRLS her own age.

SOFIA
Hello... um... could you help me? I'm,
er... a transfer.

GIRL #1
Ooh, a new girl!

GIRL #2
Ask away. We live to serve.

SOFIA
Yes, that's me. Actually... I
already know someone who comes here
and was hoping you could help me
track him down. His name's Tyson,
he's a skinny lad with long, fair
hair.

GIRL #1
Tyson? You mean Tyson Jenkins?

GIRL #2
Tyson Jenkins doesn't have light
hair.

GIRL #1
Oh, yeah.

GIRL #2
(to Sofia)
Sorry, I don't know... good thing,
too. You don't want to hang around
Tyson Jenkins. He's, like, a proper
freak.

(CONTINUED)

GIRL #1

(nods)

First class nutter, that one.

SOFIA

(puzzled)

So, if he doesn't have fair hair...
what does he look like?

GIRL #2

Well first of all, he's black. So
definitely not your guy.

SOFIA

(beat)

I'm sorry, he's what?

GIRL #1

You don't see many black boys with
fair hair, so I think you must have
your names mixed up!

GIRL #2

(suspicious)

Are you sure you know who you're
looking for?

SOFIA

(quickly)

Think you could point him out to
me?

GIRL #1

Alright, listen. Free bit of
advice, because it's your first day
and all. You don't want to be
hanging around with him. If you
want to make it in this school, you
have to be around the right crowd,
and Tyson is so not the right
crowd.

SOFIA

(impatient)

I'm a rebel. Just show me where he
is, please?

GIRL #2

(sighs)

Whatever! It's your life...

(points)

That's him over there. By himself.

She points across the front quad, over to a young black boy
with sad, empty eyes making his way out of the school. This
is TYSON. Back on Sofia and the girls.

(CONTINUED)

GIRL #1

Good luck with your social suicide.

SOFIA

(dismissive)

Oh... whatever.

The girls walk away from her, glad to get away from her, as Sofia makes her way over to Tyson.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Hello... Tyson?

Tyson looks up, surprised to see Sofia standing in front of him. He starts to grin.

TYSON

Sofia? You're even prettier in person.

Sofia is thunderstruck. It's him!

SOFIA

It's really you! But... how? You... you don't look like you do in my dreams.

TYSON

Really? What do I look like?

SOFIA

(stuck)

Erm... different.

TYSON

Different how?

SOFIA

Well... for one thing. You're white.

TYSON

I am?

(beat)

Weird.

SOFIA

So you know why I'm here?

Tyson looks either side of him, then motions for Sofia to follow him away from the crowds of schoolkids around them.

TYSON

Not exactly. I just know I've been seeing you. Something has been pulling my mind to yours.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TYSON (CONT'D)

I'm still trying to understand...
well, whatever it is I do. I've
been this way since I was little.
(grins)

I even knew what my name would be
before I was born!

SOFIA

(impressed)

Wow... You must be very powerful.

TYSON

Not really. I don't know how I can
do what I do, I just know I can!

SOFIA

I think I know a little about that.

They share a brief smile before Tyson motions over his
shoulder.

TYSON

I don't live too far from here, do
you want to come back to my place?
We can get something to eat and
talk about, you know... things.

SOFIA

Lead on.

They walk down the street together, into:

Sofia and Tyson are sitting in the living room of his house.
She is seated on a couch with a cup of tea, and Tyson is in
an armchair nearby, sipping a cup of his own.

SOFIA

I really appreciate this. Letting
me come over and everything.

TYSON

No problem. I'm glad of the
company.

SOFIA

Don't you have many friends?

(beat)

God, that sounded pretentious. I'm
sorry.

TYSON

It's okay. I'm not exactly popular
at school. They think I'm some sort
of freak.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TYSON (CONT'D)
(grins)
And they'd be right, too.

SOFIA
We're all freaks in a way.

TYSON
You're nice enough.

SOFIA
I've just been in this business
long enough not to judge a book by
its cover. You're a pretty good
example of that.

TYSON
I guess I am, aren't I?

They share another grin as Sofia sips her drink.

SOFIA
I'm just having such a hard time
understanding all of this. I mean,
Slayers have always had powerful
visions and dreams, but I don't
think anyone's ever... connected
with someone like this before.

TYSON
You're telling me. I've been trying
to figure this out for days, and so
far, nothing.

SOFIA
No theories? Wild suggestions? I'll
take a radical idea at a pinch!

TYSON
When we spoke last night, it was
the first time any actual words or
ideas came into play. I didn't know
I could communicate like that.

Sofia reaches for her bag, unzipping it and taking out some
of the books she took from the library.

SOFIA
I did some reading about telepathy,
dreams, astral projection. None of
it seems to match up to what we've
been experiencing.

TYSON
Maybe it's something new.

SOFIA
Maybe...

TYSON

You don't sound so sure.

SOFIA

I just...

Just then, the front door SLAMS. A grown man, large and barrel-chested, enters the room. This MR. JENKINS, Tyson's father, and he glares menacingly at Sofia.

MR. JENKINS

(to Sofia)

Who are you?

SOFIA

I'm, ah... from Tyson's school.

MR. JENKINS

(suspicious)

I've never seen you before.

(to Tyson)

Ty, you know that people aren't allowed in the house when we're not home!

TYSON

Dad, I'm sorry, it's just...

MR. JENKINS

No! You cannot talk to people alone! It's too... you know the rules!

TYSON

Dad! Please! Let me explain!

MR. JENKINS

No more excuses!

Mr. Jenkins turns back to Sofia, really angry now.

SOFIA

Please, Mr. Jenkins, I'm only here to help.

MR. JENKINS

I don't want you people messing with my son!

SOFIA

"You people"?

MR. JENKINS

You know what I mean! You need to get out of here and stay away from my family!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

MR. JENKINS (CONT'D)
Coming in here trying to control
things, take what isn't yours! It
isn't right!

SOFIA
I'm not trying to 'take' anything,
sir, I'm just-

MR. JENKINS
(yells)
Can't you see the boy wants to be
left alone!?

TYSON
Dad, please!

MR. JENKINS
I don't have any more patience for
this! Get out of here now, before I
call the police!

Sofia looks at Tyson, pained. She doesn't know what else to
do, so she looks back at Mr. Jenkins, resolved.

SOFIA
Fine. I'll go.

MR. JENKINS
Good! And don't come back!

Sofia hurries past Mr. Jenkins and we hear the door CLOSE
behind her. Mr. Jenkins looks back at Tyson, glaring.

MR. JENKINS (CONT'D)
I think you and I are going to have
to have a talk.

On Tyson's frightened expression, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

17

INT. VAMP NEST - NIGHT

17

A good number of vampires are lounging around in a dark cave, maybe six or seven. A tunnel goes deeper into the ground, and before it lies the vampires' attempts at comfort - ratty old sofas and a broken TV set.

A male and female vampire are over by the TV, the male HITTING the set to try and get a signal.

FEMALE VAMP

Oh, give it a rest already! It's not going to work!

MALE VAMP

Of course it is. Be patient.

FEMALE VAMP

(yawns)

Is it sunset yet?

MALE VAMP

(checks watch)

Another few minutes.

FEMALE VAMP

(huffy)

Why can't I be one of those vampires who sleeps all through the day?

MALE VAMP

Naah, you don't want to be one of those. They're the ones who read too much Anne Rice and spend all day poncing around in crushed velvet trousers.

FEMALE VAMP

(sly)

Which, of course, you don't own a pair of.

MALE VAMP

Hey!

FEMALE VAMP

(cackles)

Oh, come on, we've all got things we'd rather no-one else-

And the Vamp GASPS as a crossbow bolt sticks in her heart.

(CONTINUED)

FEMALE VAMP (CONT'D)

Oh sh-

She DUSTS as the male vamp leaps out of his chair, spinning round to see:

SKYE (O.S.)

Sounds like I just saved you from
exposing your dark secret, pal!

Skye and the rest of the group are advancing on the vamps, who VAMP OUT and slowly approach, sizing the Slayers up.

TRINA

Ugly bastards, aren't they?

SKYE

You said it.

FRANKIE

Can't we just get on with it?

Skye whip a stake. It BURIES itself in a vamp, who dusts. The stake CONTINUES towards the next vamp, who bends backwards to avoid it.

The Slayers LEAP into the cave, quickly making a circular formation.

SKYE

Yo, new girl. Don't let them in the
middle, you got that?

TRINA

Keep 'em on the outs. Roger.

The four girls leap into action, while Ellen hangs back. a stake-loaded crossbow in her hands.

TRINA (CONT'D)

What's she doing?

ELLEN

'She' is staying at the entrance to
keep you guys safe.

She walks back up the tunnel. Skye, Alita and Frankie are all faced with at least two vamps each.

TRINA

Great. Now she's-

And a CROSSBOW BOLT hits a vamp in the forehead, giving Frankie time to BEHEAD it.

(CONTINUED)

FRANKIE
('you're an idiot')
Do you see why she 'angs back now?

The four continue to fight as more vamps come out of the deeper tunnel, and we cut to:

18 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - NIGHT

18

Sofia is sitting on the curb of a normal suburban-looking street, looking bored. She looks up, and through her POV we see a house - Tyson's house.

A light is on in an upstairs room. Tyson appears in the window and he notices Sofia. On Sofia as she waves up at him. He gestures for her to wait, then after glancing over his shoulder he SLIDES the window open.

Sofia waits with a grin as he climbs onto the first-floor roof running beneath his window, and we cut to:

19 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREET - MOMENTS LATER

19

Sofia and Tyson are walking down the street together now, away from the house.

SOFIA
I hope you don't think I'm stalking
you. I just felt like we weren't
through yet with whatever it is
we're supposed to be doing.
(beat)
If that makes sense.

TYSON
(nods)
I feel the same way. I was hoping
you'd show up.

SOFIA
Well, here I am.

TYSON
There was something I didn't get a
chance to mention to you earlier.
There have been more to my dreams
than just you.

SOFIA
What do you mean?

TYSON
Something... else has been entering
my mind, too. Sending me messages.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

What sort of messages?

TYSON

I'm supposed to help a girl. Or it's supposed to help a girl. I'm not quite sure what it means, really.

SOFIA

Is that girl me?

TYSON

(shakes head)

I don't think so. I can sort of picture her, but it's a little... fuzzy.

SOFIA

(darkly)

Hmm. Well, this is frustrating.

TYSON

I know.

Sofia stops suddenly, turning to Tyson.

SOFIA

Alright, let's try something. I need you to think hard, Tyson. Reach into your mind. If you do have the power to connect with me in my sleep, then maybe you can do more with that ability than you know!

TYSON

What do you mean?

She takes his hands, to Tyson's surprise.

SOFIA

Concentrate. Just focus on the face of the girl you've been seeing. Maybe you can send some images my way, help me help you.

TYSON

(shakily)

Okay, I'll try. Are you sure?

Sofia hesitates for a moment as she realises there's a lot in her noggin to be experienced.

SOFIA

If you think you can handle it.

(CONTINUED)

Tyson closes his eyes and seems to concentrate hard. FLASH! Suddenly we are seeing quick images flying past us in a series of FLASHES:

MONTAGE OF IMAGES:

A) Sofia arriving at the Academy, following Barbara towards the main entrance.

B) Sofia and Skye fighting vampires, side by side.

C) Sofia wielding the Scythe, DUSTING a vampire.

D) Dana's leering face as she STABS Sofia.

E) Sofia and Tyson talking, as in her dream last night.

F) Sofia talking to Trina, just outside the Academy.

FLASH! We're back to Sofia and Tyson on the street in the night. He stumbles away from her, disoriented from all of the images he just took in.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

(beat)

And wow, that was weird...

Tyson's face has gone pale, and Sofia registers his shocked look, grabbing his shoulders.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

What? What is it?

TYSON

It's her! You've met her! Talked to her!

SOFIA

Who?

TYSON

The girl I need to save. Is she like you? Another Slayer?

SOFIA

I don't know, who is she?

TYSON

(urgent)

Come on, we have to get to your school!

Tyson begins hurrying off, and Sofia rushes to catch up with him.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA
Tyson, wait!

TYSON
Come on! We don't have time! She
doesn't have time!

As Sofia and Tyson continue running, we:

INT. VAMP NEST - NIGHT

The girls are in the midst of a battle, using a time honored stance to keep everyone else alive. Alita makes up one side of the star, sporting pointed nunchucks and lashing out in all directions.

She dusts a vamp, as we cut to Skye, who's having a ball, getting into the fight. She looks at one vamp, using the 'come here' fingers.

SKYE
Let's have a little dance.
(beat)
But you step on my toes, and I'll
have to kill you.

And she charges, feinting a duck before sweeping the air with a high kick, knocking the vamp off guard. Diving down, she turns her knife around and STABS him through the back with the wooden spike, DUSTING him.

Cut to Frankie, squaring off against three vamps with her rapier. Entering a quick dance avoiding the three - two male, one female. She manages to behead one, but his partners go after her.

She ducks backwards to avoid an attack, but slips off her feet and LANDS on her butt. The other partner dusts in the background.

One vamp SLICES towards her face, and she just manages to raise her sword to block. She flicks it, chopping off her hand.

FEMALE VAMP
You bi-

But she DUSTS, and we see Trina GRINNING behind her as she disappears. Frankie shoots her a look.

FRANKIE
(annoyed)
You were supposed to stay at your
spot! I could 'ave 'andled 'er!

A vampire CREEPS up behind Trina as she speaks.

TRINA

I just saved-

She spins around and SHOVES the stake into his chest, glaring at him as he disappears.

TRINA (CONT'D)

- your life.

(beat)

Look, Frenchie, I know I'm new, but
I can handle...

She trails off as she notices vamps have gotten in the middle of the formation, attacking Skye and Alita from both sides.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Oh, no you don't. Come to mamma!

She jumps forwards, pushing Alita out of the way of a vamp. He SLAMS her in the face, but she grabs his jacket. Nose bloodied, she slams him back in the face with her own fist.

Now trying to keep the vamps on the inside in control, she rushes into the middle and grabs a female vamp by the arm, physically THROWING her outside of the formation.

Another grabs her arm, and she KNEES him in the stomach and dusts him, but then one grabs her hair and THROWS her down, slamming his knee into her chest. He grabs her stake and throws it, grabbing her throat.

MALE VAMP

(leers)

You're new around here, aren't y-

And he DOUBLES OVER and DUSTS. Alita stands behind him - she saved Trina's life. Trina coughs.

TRINA

Why did you-

ALITA

Don't let Frankie fool you. We are
Slayers. We look out for each
other.

Trina gets up, and Alita BREAKS her nunchucks, giving Trina one half.

ALITA (CONT'D)

Be careful.

And the two turn to fight the vamps, side by side in the formation. After several more vamps are dispatched in clouds of DUST, suddenly it's down to one. He goes down on his knees.

(CONTINUED)

LAST VAMP
(terrified)
Look, don't kill me, alright?

The Slayers surround him, glaring down at his cowering form.

TRINA
Give us one good reason not to!

LAST VAMP
Er... because I'm-

Frankie BEHEADS him with one quick slice.

FRANKIE
(deadpan)
No, you're not.

Ellen steps into frame, looking down at the pile of dust on the floor, then grinning at the girls.

ELLEN
You four done in here?

SKYE
Yeah. Would have been done sooner
if Hotshot over here hadn't broken
the formation.

ALITA
She is new.

SKYE
She's a Slayer! I want someone who
can watch my back!

Skye disappears into the entrance. Frankie shoots Trina a glare as she disappears. Alita leaves silently, after looking at Trina sympathetically. Ellen does too.

TRINA
(pops gum)
This. Sucks.

And as she climbs out of the cave, we cut to:

Barbara, Ellen and Trina are in the office. Trina is sitting in the chair in front of Barbara's desk, Ellen is leaning on the wall by the door, and Barbara is pacing behind her desk.

BARBARA
Trina, I know you've only just
arrived here, and you were sent on
that nest mission last minute...

TRINA

Did I do something wrong?

Barbara looks to Ellen for support.

ELLEN

This isn't an evaluation of your skills, Trina. You're obviously a great fighter, I saw that with my own eyes. You just lack teamwork skills.

TRINA

Isn't a Slayer supposed to work alone?

BARBARA

Traditionally, yes. But times have changed, and we must change with them. I'm afraid if you can't start working well as part of a team, you won't fit in here at the Academy.

TRINA

(affronted)

So just like that, you'd kick me out? I staked half those vamps!

ELLEN

We're not keeping score, kid! We're here to do a job and work together.

BARBARA

Can you handle that?

TRINA

(rolls eyes)

Whatever.

Barbara angrily SLAMS her palms down on her desk.

BARBARA

I said, 'can you handle that'?

A tense moment passes.

TRINA

(quietly)

Yes.

BARBARA

Good. Now go. You need rest.

Trina gets up from her seat, and quickly scurries out of the office. Ellen and Barbara exchange a meaningful look as Ellen closes the door.

22 INT. CAMPUS - HALLWAY - NEXT

22

Trina storms out into the hallway and she spots Frankie and Skye sitting on a bench, almost as if they were waiting for her.

TRINA

If this is your idea of a joke, I'd think it over first.

SKYE

We're just checking up on you. Seeing what kinda damage old Griffin dished out today.

TRINA

Yeah, like you care.

FRANKIE

We just want to help you.

TRINA

Help me fail, more like! You've had it in for me all day!

SKYE

You wanna be an asshole? Fine! Be that way. Come on, Frankie.

Skye and Frankie begin walking away.

FRANKIE

And to think I used to be like that.

SKYE

Frankie... don't even try.

FRANKIE

(fading away)
What?

Trina watches them as they disappear around a corner, and she angrily marches in the other direction.

23 INT. CAMPUS - DORM - LATER

23

Trina is sitting on the bed with a notebook, headphones attached to her ears as she hums along to Linkin Park's "Somewhere I Belong".

There's a quiet KNOCK at the door, then a louder one, and Trina looks up at last to see Alita. She smiles a little and takes out her headphones.

(CONTINUED)

TRINA

Hey.

ALITA

(tentative)

Hello.

Alita comes to sit at the end of Trina's bed.

TRINA

I'm glad somebody's not a member of the Anti-Trina fan club.

Alita starts to speak, but Trina cuts her off:

TRINA (CONT'D)

You know what? Back home I was top dog. I knew my turf, and what to do if a vamp showed up. Then, one day, this stuffy British guy pops up outta nowhere and drags me out here to this stupid 'academy,' so I can train how to do what I'd been doing for a year and a half already? What's that all about?

ALITA

They want us to be strong-

TRINA

I know that. I also know that there's nobody back home looking out for my friends anymore, and obviously you guys don't need another Slayer here. It's not like you don't have enough to around!

(beat)

Back home, I was learning - but I could handle myself. Here, I'm not so sure.

There's a silence for a moment, before Alita speaks.

ALITA

Before I came here, I had my father watching over me, training me to be strong, and hoping I would bring honour to my family. For many years, I felt special, like I was unique.

(beat)

I had the same problems when I came here, in a way. But, after a few weeks, you realise - every Slayer here is...

(CONTINUED)

Alita trails off, looking for the word.

TRINA

Insecure?

ALITA

Yes. We all felt 'special,' and now we realise we are not. But we are not weak.

(beat)

We are a team.

TRINA

I don't do well with other people.
Cramps my style.

Alita seems a little hurt. Trina pauses and rethinks that.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Hey, if I have to be in one though,
least I have you watching my back.

ALITA

(smiles)

Yes, you do.

TRINA

I was watching you with that whole
Bruce Lee nuchhucks thing, too -
you were all like 'pa-chow!' left,
right and centre. That was pretty
cool.

Alita nods politely, and eyes the notebook - she's too polite to ask, but she's curious. Trina notices.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Noticed my book, huh?

Alita nods. Trina picks it up.

TRINA (CONT'D)

Every time I do something, big or
little, right or wrong, I write it
down.

(beat)

Today's screw-up definitely gets a
mention.

ALITA

That's an interesting idea. May I
see?

Tina smiles and hands it over.

(CONTINUED)

TRINA

Still don't know whether to mark
down coming here as a good thing,
or a bad one.

ALITA

It seems that way, but I think you
will enjoy it.

Alita looks at one, and blushes before putting the book down.
Trina looks at the page, curious as to what brought on the
reaction.

TRINA

Ah. I'm betting you're a virgin?

Alita blushes, embarrassed, and Trina smiles. Off this, we
cut to:

The Demon and Vamp #2 appear at the front gate to the
Academy, walking closer to it. The vamp puts his hands around
the gate bars, and looks longingly at the Academy far in the
distance across the campus, all lit up.

VAMP #2

There it is. All the Slayers you
can eat, if you're strong enough to
get in.

The Demon looks at the vampire with almost... admiration.

DEMON

Slayer. Inside?

VAMP #2

(nods)

Ripe for the picking. See? I told
the truth! I brought you here. And
now they're all ours...

(beat)

I mean, yours.

The Demon turns back to the Academy, and through its POV, we
linger on a shot of the school building, before we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

25 EXT. CAMPUS - FRONT GATES - NIGHT

25

Sofia and Tyson race into frame, and see that the front gate has been smashed and mangled - as though something big forced its way through them.

TYSON

They're not normally like that, are they?

SOFIA

(concerned)

No. We should see if-

TYSON

No time! Come on, we have to hurry!

Sofia and Tyson continue running down the drive towards the front entrance, skidding to a halt again as they reach:

26 EXT. CAMPUS - MAIN ENTRANCE - NEXT

26

Several of the parked staff cars have been SMASHED and shunted out of the way, and the glass of the entrance itself is BROKEN, sprinkled across the floor.

SOFIA

What on Earth?

She hears the distant SHOUTS of battle, and grabs Tyson as he starts to run past her.

SOFIA (CONT'D)

Let me go first.

TYSON

Sofia, we can't wait around!

She reaches for her bag - and with a flourish, produces the SCYTHE from within it. Tyson's eyes go wide as he sees the weapon.

TYSON (CONT'D)

Woah... maybe you should go first.

Eyes narrowed and focused, Sofia marches head, onto:

27 EXT. CAMPUS - MAIN QUAD - NEXT

27

Following more smashed down doors and broken glass, they come upon the main quad, and before them is a monstrous tableau: Several Slayers are out in the quad, trying to fight the huge Demon, which is severely kicking all of their asses.

(CONTINUED)

The plucky Vamp #2 is also in the fight, grinning as he tries to pry a stake from the fingers of a novice Slayer.

SOFIA
(to Tyson)
Stay here!

She immediately runs into the fray, leaving Tyson standing as he stares with wide eyes at the ferocious battle. After a moment, he snaps out of it and yells after her:

TYSON
Sofia, wait! Wait!

Sofia doesn't hear him, the red mist down as she barrels towards the demon. The embattled Slayers are all either pitched in battle or flat on the floor, out of the fight.

A Slayer is THROWN aside like a piece of candy, and she crumples beside Sofia on the ground. Sofia glances down at the fallen Slayer, then with a look like thunder turns to the demon and yells:

SOFIA
Hey!

The Demon turns and looks at her, and the circle of Slayers around it take a moment to back off, catching their breath. Vamp #2 turns to see her, reacting when he sees the Scythe in her hands.

DEMON
Slayer!

SOFIA
You want a Slayer?
(beat)
Try me on for size.

The demon ROARS with rage, and rushes towards Sofia, and she meets him in combat. They trade punches, and they seem to be out matching each other at every turn.

Sofia lands a swift KICK to the demon's torso, and he stumbles back, but quickly lunges back in and delivers a strong UPPERCUT which blasts Sofia off her feet. The Scythe skitters across the quad away from her.

SKYE (O.S.)
Sofia!

Sofia looks over and sees Skye, Frankie, Alita and Trina rushing out into the quad.

Vamp #2 sees them coming, and turns to pat the demon on the back.

VAMP #2

I've got these ones, boss!

He rushes to meet the incoming Slayers.

VAMP #2 (CONT'D)

You girls just don't stop coming,
do you? All the more for me to-

TRINA

Get a life.

She quickly pulls a stake out from her back pocket and DUSTS him effortlessly.

Back on Sofia, as she scrambles back to her feet, the hulking demon looming over her.

In the background, Frankie gets to the wayward Scythe and scoops it up, shouting over to Sofia:

FRANKIE

Sofia! Catch!

Frankie tosses the Scythe through the air, and Sofia dodges under one of the demon's swinging claws to GRAB it.

With a hard SWIPE, she SLAMS the Scythe across the demon's throat, and it SPRAYS her with dark green blood.

Its body falls to the ground, lifeless. Tyson races into view, and stops when he sees the dead demon.

TYSON

(quiet)

But... no...

SOFIA

(breathless)

It's alright, it's dead!

But Tyson just BREAKS out into TEARS, collapsing to his knees. Sofia frowns as Skye and the others reach her, and as they stare at the weeping Tyson, we DISSOLVE to:

Catherine is pacing, leafing rapidly through a thick book as Barbara enters. Catherine glances up and nods to her, and Barbara finds herself a chair.

BARBARA

Do you know what it is yet? Jaz has been leaving notes in my mailbox about how fresh demon corpses don't last long.

(CONTINUED)

CATHERINE

I swear, it was in this book...
(beat)
Yes!

BARBARA

What is it?

CATHERINE

(reading)
It's a Pykcrryth demon. Basically territorial, never travel alone.
(aside)
But can we use the body...?
(reading)
Alive, its bodily secretions can be used to stabilize blood pressure and reverse cardiac arrest. Dead, the skin can be shaved and used to stave off hunger; the saliva will cure common boils and other skin problems; and its blood is a powerful cleaning agent.

BARBARA

(blinks)
No-one can deny that it has its uses, then! Why would a demon whose corpse is so useful for humans come into a place filled with Slayers? It obviously knew what it was doing.

CATHERINE

Demons that are driven by hunger or thirst will do pretty much anything.
(beat)
Awfully like humans that way, aren't they?

Barbara pauses.

BARBARA

Hmm.

CATHERINE

What?

BARBARA

Nothing. There's just something about this demon...

CATHERINE

Well, there's nothing else about it in here.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CATHERINE (CONT'D)

And my computer database is still a bit hotch-potch after that hacking a few weeks ago, so any more information will take a few hours to find.

BARBARA

I'm sure it's nothing. There's an article I half-read somewhere floating round the back of my mind about these creatures, that's all...

(beat)

I'd better have that demon sent to the Infirmary, then.

Catherine nods, and Barbara exits as we cut to:

Sofia and Tyson are sitting on her bed in her dorm room. Tyson is still looking extremely upset, and Sofia looks worse for wear.

SOFIA

Tyson, please tell me what's wrong. Why are you so upset? It was just a demon. It wanted to kill us!

TYSON

I don't... that's not how it felt. It wanted to tell us something.

SOFIA

(dryly)

Yes, and it probably had the words 'eat' and 'brains' in there.

TYSON

I'm serious, Sofia! This thing... it wasn't evil. At least, it didn't feel evil.

Sofia frowns, puzzled, and we cut to:

As Tyson and Sofia's conversation continues in voice over, Alita and Trina are sitting in another room together, laughing and talking.

TYSON (V.O.)

It must have been on a mission. In my dreams it kept telling me to 'protect her.' It wanted to save her at all costs. I don't know why. Maybe she was special.

(CONTINUED)

Trina shows Alita another part of her diary, and they giggle at it.

SOFIA (V.O.)

But who? You said she was here at the Academy, but you haven't pointed anyone out to me yet!

TYSON (V.O.)

(frustrated)

I told you, I can't picture what she looked like properly!

Alita pulls out a picture of her family and shows it to Trina, and they continue talking. Everything begins to move into SLOW MOTION.

SOFIA (V.O.)

And you don't remember anything more than 'protect me'? You don't know what it was trying to protect her from?

TYSON (V.O.)

I don't know. But now we won't ever know. Sofia, he wasn't evil. He was just doing his job.

SOFIA (V.O.)

I don't understand.

TYSON (V.O.)

The woman who works in the library, she told us it's body has the power to heal, right? So it must have been wanting to use its powers for a reason. To save her life.

Trina is waving goodbye to Alita as she leaves the room, and closes the door.

SOFIA (V.O.)

Think, Tyson. Just like you did before. Reach out, do whatever it is you do but try to remember what it told you! What you think it was trying to warn us about!

TYSON (V.O.)

I... I can't... but.. I think he told me her name...

SOFIA (V.O.)

(agitated)

Who? Tell me who it is? Maybe we can still help them!

(CONTINUED)

TYSON (V.O.)

I think it was... Trina?

Trina walks back over to her bed, and continues flipping through her diary.

Close up on Trina's face as she seems suddenly struck with pain. She seems to try to cry out for help, but can't manage it. She stumbles around the room, knocking things over, holding her chest tightly.

After a couple of agonizing moments, she falls to the floor and becomes still.

Everything remains silent.

After a few long beats, Alita steps back into the room, patting her pockets down urgently as though she's forgotten something - and her eyes fall on Trina.

Alita gapes in horror at what she sees, and we cut to:

INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - NIGHT

In the infirmary, Trina's body lies on a gurney. She's dead. JAZ, Alita and Barbara stand over her, Alita's eyes wet with tears.

BARBARA

What happened?

JAZ

I won't know until I get a full autopsy done, but from what I can tell she suffered a massive heart attack and was dead in moments.

BARBARA

(sadly)

I... I don't know what to say.

JAZ

Chances are it was a heart defect of some kind. It could have gone at any time, but it chose tonight.

Barbara is visibly upset, turning to Alita and wrapping a comforting arm around her when she sees Alita close to tears.

They look up as they hear running footsteps, and seconds later Sofia and Tyson clatter into the infirmary - and skid to a dead stop as they see Trina on the gurney.

SOFIA

(mortified)

Oh, no...

(CONTINUED)

Tyson hangs his head and looks away. Barbara frowns, puzzled, as Jaz solemnly drapes a sheet over Trina's body.

SOFIA (CONT'D)
What happened to her?

BARBARA
Heart attack. Jaz thinks it was a defect of some sort. There's no way we could have known.

Sofia turns to Tyson, white as a sheet - and the guilt on her face is reflected in the sadness in his eyes.

Sofia looks back to Trina, her head spinning as Barbara and Alita file slowly past her.

JAZ
You should probably go and get some rest, Sofia. I heard about your fight with that demon that barged in here earlier.

Jaz heads over, snapping off her rubber gloves. She frowns, pressing a hand to Sofia's forehead - Sofia doesn't even react to it.

JAZ (CONT'D)
Are you feeling alright? You look a little-

SOFIA
(quickly)
I'm fine. I just... it's just a shock.

JAZ
(nods)
At least she didn't suffer. It would have been quick.

Jaz heads off screen, and Sofia tears her eyes away from Trina to look at Tyson, who finally joins her.

TYSON
(sighs)
That's what it wanted to tell us.

Sofia's hands go to her mouth, and her eyes are suddenly filled with tears.

SOFIA
Oh, God... Tyson... what have I done?

His sympathetic look is little comfort to her as we cut to:

32 INT. CAMPUS - ANOTHER DORM - LATER

32

It's dark - the light's off. Nobody's inside. Light slowly enters from a door opening, and someone steps inside - Alita! She wipes her cheek before moving towards Trina's bed, her unpacked luggage still sitting on the floor.

She flops down onto the bed, drained, and her hand touches Trina's notebook. The picture of Alita's family falls out. She opens it, and looks through the pages.

ANGLE ON PAGE: The last entry reads: 'NEW FRIEND, ALITA. A GENUINELY GOOD PERSON. MAYBE SHE CAN TEACH ME TO BE ONE. :)'

Alita stares at the entry, then closes her eyes as a fresh flood of tears hits her.

Clutching the notebook to her chest, she sits down on Trina's bed, curling up into a ball and continuing to weep, as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW