

SLAYER ACADEMY

"Motion"

by
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TEASER

FADE IN:

1

EXT. RAPIDS - SHORE - DAY

1

TITLE OVER - McGrath, Alaska

Overlooking a quieter section of a turbulent river, flowing past the rocky shore and through thick forest on either side. It's a fresh, clear day, the spray from the rushing water misting in the air.

On the shore is a team of four people, two men and two women, decked out in white water rapids gear - helmets, life vests and wet-suits.

Leading the team is the rugged form of BRENT, standing and surveying the rapids with his hands on hips, soaking up the crisp atmosphere.

His comrade TONY is over by the large raft tethered to the shore, making a few last minute checks as the two ladies, JESSICA and KIM, adjust their outfits.

BRENT

(inhales deeply)

This is going to be a good day.

KIM

(dry)

Before or after we throw ourselves
off a waterfall?

JESSICA

(nudges her)

C'mon, Kim, where's your spirit of
adventure?

KIM

Well, gee, must've left it back at
the hotel, along with cable TV,
warm showers and room service.

TONY

Don't say you're getting cold feet
now, we've only just got started!

KIM

Says you! I consider the hour-long
trek up into these hills
'starting'!

Brent heads back over to them, fixing his attention on Kim - the non-believer.

(CONTINUED)

BRENT

There's really nothing to be afraid of, Kimberly.

KIM

Yes, there is, and it's Kim. This whole 'team building' thing just feels like a quick way for the Powers That Be to whittle us down so there's more money to go around at the next annual raise.

BRENT

(to Jessica)

Is your friend always this cynical?

Jessica smiles brightly at him - full on flirt mode.

JESSICA

Yup, I'm afraid she is.

BRENT

(to Kim)

Well then, little lady, I think you just earned yourself a front row seat for the trip! Are you girls all suited up?

They nod, and Brent grins before heading back over to Tony, lowering his voice so the girls can't hear.

BRENT (cont'd)

So which one are you taking?

TONY

Huh?

BRENT

You know, when we get back to the lodge, after the rapids. You know what girls are like for this kind of thing, the adrenaline makes them feel real-

TONY

(interrupts)

How about we just let nature take its course for a change, huh?

BRENT

(smirks)

Wuss.

Brent turns to the ladies, CLAPPING his hands.

1 CONTINUED: (2)

1

BRENT (cont'd)
Alright! Let's shoot some rapids!

Jessica beams, but it's from Kim's downcast expression that we cut to:

2 EXT. RAPIDS - NEXT

2

And suddenly Kim is YELLING with unbridled joy as the dinghy bounces down the tumultuous river!

Brent is sat adjacent to her, watching her gleeful expression with a knowing smirk, as the raft is splashed by a fresh wave of icy water.

The girls are really getting into it - by now, their raft is being carried down the rapids at high speed, their rowing making little effect on it.

BRENT
(shouting)
See? What did I tell you?

Kim WHOOPS, and Brent laughs, looking back out across the rapids - and his smile suddenly drops.

Tony notices his partner's troubled expression, and reaches forward to pat him on the shoulder.

TONY
What is it?

BRENT
I... I thought I saw-

SPLASH! A massive WAVE suddenly crashes across the raft out of nowhere - and when it clears, Brent is gone!

JESSICA
Oh, my God!

TONY
Brent!!

He looks back down the rapids - but Brent is nowhere in sight. He turns back to the two girls, visibly panicked.

TONY (cont'd)
Alright, we need to get to the shore, before we-

SPLASH! Another wall of water hurls itself across the boat - but this time, Jessica's jaw drops as she sees what look like a pair of silvery ARMS reach out from the water...

(CONTINUED)

... and they grab Tony, dragging him overboard with a YELL! Jessica SCREAMS, dropping her oar and pressing herself against the far side of the dinghy.

Kim turns to see what the commotion is, but as Jessica spots a fresh danger, she points and YELLS:

JESSICA

Look!

The rapids fork into two up ahead, with one side carrying on down the river but the other heading towards a huge drop - a waterfall!

JESSICA (cont'd)

Quickly! Steer us that way!

With only one oar still on the dinghy, Kim tries her best, but the raft is pulled quickly down the wrong path, hurtling towards the waterfall's edge. A row of tall stones stick up from the water to block off the waterfall route - but at their speed, the girls are going to fly right over them!

The frantic girls look for some way out, but all they've got are viciously treacherous rapids on either side.

KIM

What are we going to do?

JESSICA

Jump! Swim for it!

KIM

Are you crazy? We'll be swept right off the edge!

JESSICA

What the hell else can we do?

Kim looks towards the waterfall - and sees a low tree BRANCH sticking out across their path.

Grabbing the oar in both hands, she waits until they're about to pass beneath it and then RAMS the oar into the branch - and the dinghy holds fast.

Kim strains against it, the crashing waters threatening to sweep the dinghy over at any moment.

KIM

Come on! Quick! Climb up and get out of here!

Jessica nods, scrambling towards the front of the raft and reaching for the branch...

(CONTINUED)

... but a sudden BLUR of movement almost makes her fall, and in another instant she's LIFTED up into the air!

KIM (cont'd)

Jess!

Jessica SCREAMS again as some invisible force carries her up, out of frame - and a moment later, Kim's oar is STRUCK by something from above, almost breaking in two!

Kim just has the chance to let out a SOB of fear - and then the oar BREAKS.

The raft streaks towards the waterfall's edge, hurtling out into empty space and disappearing from view in an instant.

Jessica's distant CRIES for help filter down from out of frame, until her screams are suddenly cut off...

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3 EXT. CAMPUS - PAVILION - DAY

3

It's a bright sunny day over at the Slayer Academy, and soaking up the rays from his perch at the top of the pavilion is TYSON, shades on and Pepsi in hand.

SOFIA makes her way up the steps to him, and he nods a greeting to her as she takes her place next to him.

There's a moment as the two look out across the fields before she turns to him.

SOFIA
Enjoying the view?

Looking over Tyson's view, the reason for his satisfied expression is revealed - the field is full of girls! Training, taking a walk, running, or just sitting around - it's a veritable buffet for a man like Tyson.

TYSON
(smirks)
Remind me to tell you every single day how glad I am I let you talk me into staying here.

SOFIA
I wasn't aware you needed any convincing!

TYSON
Oh, come on. You twisted my arm a little.

Sofia manages a laugh, but as she looks back across the field, her gaze falls on someone and her smile fades.

SKYE is making her way back towards the campus. She doesn't look to the pavilion, too engrossed in swearing at her iPod.

Tyson registers Sofia's heavy expression and nudges her, offering her his can of soda.

TYSON (cont'd)
I'd say 'penny for your thoughts,' but something tells me I'd need a pretty big overdraft to get all your thoughts out. Unless, of course, you just want me to read them straight out of that troubled brow of yours...

She throws him a look, and he chuckles.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

Don't pull that one on me. You said yourself you're not even sure how your powers work, let alone know how to access them at will.

TYSON

Right. Good point.

(beat)

Of course, as far as Miss Griffin knows, I'm the resident Derrin Brown...

Sofia goes back to her staring into space, and after a beat Tyson SIGHS and shuffles closer to her.

TYSON (cont'd)

Alright, start talking.

SOFIA

I wouldn't know where to start.

TYSON

Try the part where you and Skye used to be best friends, and then what changed.

SOFIA

How would you know about... right. Psychic.

TYSON

I pick things up. Think of me as a radio that isn't quite tuned in. Mostly static with the odd burst of music. Plus, we're in a school full of girls. Gossip is a powerful thing.

SOFIA

(sighs)

I know I shouldn't have been so hard on her when I found out what she'd been keeping from me, but still...

TYSON

What happened?

SOFIA

Skye... she'd been keeping a secret from me. Something that totally changed my opinion of her after the few months we'd spent as friends, and...

(CONTINUED)

TYSON
You overreacted.

SOFIA
No! I...
(lowers head)
Yes, I suppose I did.

TYSON
So? What's the problem? Go up to her and say you want to start things over!

SOFIA
I wish it was that simple.

TYSON
News flash, Sofia - it is that simple. Friends fall out all the time.

SOFIA
Not like we did, they don't.

TYSON
Look, I've been here what, two weeks now? Even I can tell the two of you just need to apologise and get past whatever happened, so until then...

Tyson trails off, something on the field catching his eye. Sofia follows his gaze, and sees...

ALITA, jogging another circuit around the field. Her long hair flows out behind her, and her face is a mask of quiet concentration. You can almost hear the 'Chariots Of Fire' theme playing.

Sofia looks back to Tyson, who is absolutely spellbound. She nudges him to bring him back to planet Earth.

TYSON (cont'd)
Huh? What?

SOFIA
(raises eyebrow)
So that's why you keep coming out here...

TYSON
No, not at all! I'm never out here at exactly...
(checks watch)
... eight fifty-three every morning. No way.

(CONTINUED)

Sofia shakes her head and laughs, before noticing DEBBIE walking past the bottom of the pavilion, wearing a frown.

SOFIA

Debbie?

She looks round, climbing the steps to reach Sofia and Tyson.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Is everything alright?

DEBBIE

Yeah, I'm... actually, no. We've got a new mission, and, well... let's just say it's not exactly falling into my area of expertise.

TYSON

What's the job?

Debbie hesitates for a moment, staring at Tyson, then COUGHS nervously and continues.

DEBBIE

Er, we're going to Alaska. There's been a string of disappearances up in the hills, and a few mutilated bodies have shown up. A Council source out there thinks a nest of demons might be responsible, so we're going to investigate.

SOFIA

So what's got you so worried?

Debbie only bites her lip, and we cut to:

Close up on the video screen as it plays a series of clips of white water rapids - mainly, rafts crashing through waves, and more often than not flipping over.

The video playback stops and the room's lights fade back up to reveal GREG and AIDEN, facing the reserve Slayer squad - HEIDI, ERIKA, ANNA and Debbie.

Debbie looks noticeably terrified at the video's contents, but nobody else notices as Greg takes out four folders full of notes and hands one to each Slayer.

GREG

The disappearances have all taken place along one stretch of rapids near a town called McGrath, up in the Alaskan hills.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GREG (cont'd)

Local reports of strange, unearthly noises coming from the woods at night have been followed by the discovery of several badly mutilated corpses.

HEIDI

Lucky us to get this job, huh?

AIDEN

Park rangers have been passing off the deaths as wild animal attacks, but our contact out there was able to take a better look, and sent us these.

He picks up a remote control and aims it at the video screen, displaying a series of photographs of huge FOOTPRINTS.

ANNA

And the locals bought that 'wild animal' story? Didn't anybody find tracks that big kinda suspicious?

GREG

People will always believe what seems more logical. Given the choice between a wild animal attack and the thought of demons running round their woods, I know what I'd rather pick!

HEIDI

So, what, we're just on a basic search and destroy detail?

GREG

Yes and no. All we have to go on are these tracks and a rough idea of the creature's size from the wounds on the victims. Other than that, we're flying blind.

ERIKA

Figuratively speaking.

GREG

(beat)

Once you're out there, your mission is to locate the demon's lair and wipe out any hostiles. Now, normally we'd ask Ellen to accompany you girls as your stand-in Watcher, but at the moment she's still tied up with Initiative duties. So...

(CONTINUED)

AIDEN

So say hello to your new Watcher.

A beat as the girls swap glances. Aiden looks to Greg.

AIDEN (cont'd)

Not the cheery reaction I was hoping for...

ANNA

Oh, sorry, no offence, it's just...

HEIDI

You're the gym teacher.

AIDEN

(beat)

I also happen to have a lot of experience white water rafting. Used to teach training days for office team building exercises a few years ago.

HEIDI

And this is relevant because...

GREG

Because all of the attacks have occurred within a small radius of the river, so logically the lair you're after is located somewhere just off the rapids.

ERIKA

It will be a change of scenery at least.

HEIDI

Trust me. Rafting? Not all it's cracked up to be.

(to Greg)

So when do we leave?

GREG

We've got a flight booked in an hour's time, so go and pack your water wings and then meet Aiden in the reception at nine on the dot.

The girls all stand and file out of the room - except Debbie, still frozen to her seat. Greg heads over.

GREG (cont'd)

Is everything alright, Debbie?

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE

(blinks)

What? Oh, er... well, I'm just..
I'm not sure I'm the best girl for
the mission on this one.

GREG

Why not?

AIDEN

Hey, if you're worried about the
rapids, don't be. I know what I'm
doing - that's why I'm coming with
you, after all!

DEBBIE

Me and water? Not a good mix.

GREG

Says the girl who took on a water
elemental!

DEBBIE

Rowboats and lakes, not a problem.
It's the 'certain death' aspect of
rapids that I'm seeing me having a
problem with!

AIDEN

You'll be fine.

Aiden pats her on the shoulder, but Debbie doesn't look at
all convinced as we cut back to:

Back with Debbie as she stands before Sofia and Tyson.

TYSON

Ouch.

SOFIA

Well, if you're meeting the others
at nine, you'd better get going.

DEBBIE

Yes, I'd hate to be late for my own
death by drowning...

Head down, a sullen Debbie walks back out of frame. Tyson
watches her go with a grin before another figure steps into
frame - it's Skye.

SKYE

(to Sofia)

Hey.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

Hello.

A beat. Tyson looks from Skye to Sofia, then grabs his bag and stands.

TYSON

Okay, so... I guess I'll see you girls later.

He makes a rapid exit, leaving the awkward air between the two girls.

SKYE

So...

SOFIA

Yes?

SKYE

(sighs)

Can we talk?

A beat. Sofia finally nods.

SOFIA

I think we should.

A relieved Skye takes a seat as we cut to:

Leaving a dirt-streaked Jeep behind, Aiden leads the four girls up a mucky trail into the hills, the distant ROAR of the rapids echoing around the forest surrounding them.

AIDEN

Alright, now I've spoken to the nearest rafting club and they've loaned us a dinghy for the day. As far as they're concerned, we're just a class from a local school on a day trip, so if anyone asks any questions, you just stick to that story. Okay?

HEIDI

I think we can figure out what to say by ourselves, you know. We're not an actual school trip, so we don't need you to hold our hands!

ERIKA

Ignore her. She says many things like that.

AIDEN
So I'm noticing...

The team come to a stop - they're standing just outside a large cabin, a cheerful sign on the outside reading 'Horsepower Rafting.'

The cabin door opens and a grizzled man steps out - long, white hair and beard and the appearance of a surf dude all grown up. This is DIRK.

DIRK
Hey there! You folks must be the school trip, eh?

AIDEN
That's us.

They shake hands, Dirk casting his eyes over the girls - Heidi looks bored and Debbie still looks terrified.

DIRK
You've all been rafting before, right?

AIDEN
I'm a qualified instructor. Drifted around a lot in my youth. You know how it is.

DIRK
Sure do, son, sure do. Well, come on, follow me, I'll show you to your gear.

He heads up a small slope at the back of the cabin, and the team fall in step behind him to reach:

The more frenetic sections of the rapids can still be heard in the distance, but this part of river is much more sedate. A small pier feeds out from the rocky shore into the river, with several dinghies tethered to it.

DIRK
This is you folks here, all set up and ready to ride. There's about three more teams out there already.

Dirk steers the team towards the closest raft, and they toss their bags in. Heidi scoops up a bright red life vest and helmet, turning to Aiden with a look of disgust.

HEIDI
Is this it?

DIRK

What were you expecting, princess?

HEIDI

I was expecting some safety equipment that looked like it was made this decade, is what!

AIDEN

(to Dirk)

Don't mind her. She's a little fussy.

Dirk nods, tapping the side of his nose and stepping back as Aiden hands out jackets and helmets to the others. Erika is popping something into her ears.

DIRK

You're sticking to the Green Route out there, right?

AIDEN

That's the plan. Just a gentle run for their first time out!

DIRK

Just make sure you do. We've had a little... trouble out there. Especially on the Red Route.

ERIKA

What kind of trouble?

Dirk looks a little shifty for a moment, then leans in closer, lowering his voice - despite nobody else being around to overhear.

DIRK

Few people gone missing out there. Rangers say there might be some kind of animal loose in the woods, but...

ANNA

But you think there's something else?

DIRK

Wouldn't like to say. All I know is that I've been hearing some damn strange noises coming out of the woods at night past few weeks.

AIDEN

We'll steer clear of that section, don't worry.

(CONTINUED)

DIRK

Yeah, well, just make sure you do.

Aiden flashes a winning smile at Dirk, and as Debbie stares down at the bulky life jacket in her hands, we cut to:

Decked out in their safety gear, the team row their dinghy down a quiet section of the river, flanked by thick trees on both sides.

HEIDI

So, Aiden, can I ask you a question?

AIDEN

As long as it isn't 'when are we going home,' then yes.

HEIDI

You're, like, an official part of the staff now, right?

AIDEN

Last time I checked. I keep getting paid, at least!

HEIDI

So it's part of your job to keep up to date on everything that's going on within the academy, right? I mean, things that are going on with all the girls?

AIDEN

(turns to her)

I guess so... is this leading somewhere, Heidi?

HEIDI

(sly)

Well, it's just that I've found out something about one of the students that I think you, as a teacher, should know about.

AIDEN

Okay... can't this wait until we're actually back at the Academy? I mean, shouldn't you be telling this to Greg or Barbara?

HEIDI

I'm not. I'm telling you.

AIDEN

(sighs)

Okay, go on.

Heidi glances round - obviously milking the moment for all she can.

HEIDI

Well, you see... I've found out about a relationship one of the girls is having. With somebody inside the campus.

Aiden frowns, and Heidi pushes the point home.

HEIDI (cont'd)

Specifically, one of the girls... and one of the Initiative guys.

Aiden looks away - a piece of the puzzle falling into place inside his head...

... and with a sudden, loud CRASH, the dinghy flips up and into the air!

Turning over in the air, the SHOUTS of alarm from Aiden and the girls are almost drowned out by the crashing sound of the suddenly chaotic water around them...

... and as the raft lands upside down with another SPLASH, the raging waters die back down as quickly as they sprung to life.

The upturned raft floats on, with no sign of Aiden or the girls, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

9

EXT. RAPIDS - SHORE - DAY

9

Another part of the shore, further down the river. The overturned raft floats serenely past...

And with a GASP, Aiden bursts into frame, dragging himself up out of the water and onto the shore. He gulps in air as he claws his way up the riverbank - and he's sporting a bloody gash on his left arm.

He rolls onto his back, catching his breath, and then sits up, finally noticing his wounded arm. He winces as he checks it - it's three long cuts across the flesh - like a claw!

He looks up and across the river, realising the other girls are nowhere in sight, and as the panic hits he scrambles back to the river, splashing in up to his waist.

AIDEN

Girls! Girls!!

ANNA (O.S.)

We're here!

He looks round to see Anna splashing towards him, supporting the coughing Debbie. Aiden rushes over taking Debbie's other arm and helping her up onto the bank.

ANNA (cont'd)

What happened?

AIDEN

I don't know, we must've hit something, or-

HEIDI (O.S.)

Help!

Aiden's head snaps round - Heidi is on the other side of the river, hanging onto a rock for dear life as the river current pulls at her.

HEIDI (cont'd)

Somebody help!

AIDEN

Hang on!

Aiden starts to race towards her, but Anna grabs him.

ANNA

Are you crazy? You'll get carried off too!

(CONTINUED)

AIDEN

I can't just leave her there!

Anna notices something and nods her head towards it.

ANNA

You won't have to. Look.

Aiden follows her gaze to see a tree branch that stretches across the river, about twenty feet above it - and Erika, walking across the branch with her arms out for balance.

AIDEN

Oh, my God...

ANNA

No, she's cool. Let her do her thing.

Aiden watches, hands on his head as Erika effortlessly crosses the branch, getting down on her belly and reaching a hand down to Heidi when she's close enough.

ERIKA

Do you need a hand?

HEIDI

Oh, that's original...

Heidi reaches up and grabs Erika's arm, and with a HEAVE she's pulled up out of the water, near enough to grab onto the branch.

Aiden exhales with relief as the two girls make their way back across the branch - Erika noticeably more confident than the soaking wet Heidi.

The team are soon reassembled - all of the girls are sporting cuts of some kind, but Aiden's is the worst.

HEIDI (cont'd)

Alright, I'm open to suggestions for what the hell just happened to us...

DEBBIE

Something blew us up into the air, and...

(coughs)

... did anyone see what it was?

ANNA

It wasn't a rock, that's for sure.

Erika tilts her head towards the river, and we get a look at what's in her ears - plugs, against the noise of the rapids.

(CONTINUED)

ERIKA

I thought I sensed something in the water just before we were flipped.

HEIDI

Then why the hell didn't you say anything?

ERIKA

(sharp)

I said I thought I sensed something.

AIDEN

Girls! We have bigger problems.

Aiden tears a strip of fabric from his life jacket and starts tying it round his wound.

AIDEN (cont'd)

Like finding the weapons we brought with us.

The girls look round - even the raft has drifted out of sight now. Nothing bag-shaped is floating in the water.

ANNA

Yeah... I think we're out of luck.

AIDEN

Okay, we'll have to improvise.

HEIDI

With what?

AIDEN

Well that's kind of the idea of 'improvising,' now, isn't it?

DEBBIE

(shivers)

W-we sh-should find somewhere w-warm...

AIDEN

(looks round)

Alright, let's head into the woods, find some shelter so we can dry off before any of us catch hypothermia.

The girls follow Aiden - all except Heidi.

HEIDI

Go into the woods, where we think the demons might be living... with no weapons? Yeah, great plan.

(CONTINUED)

Aiden hesitates, but Erika nudges him.

ERIKA

If anything demonic comes our way,
I will know before the rest of you.
Trust me.

AIDEN

(beat)
Let's go.

Heidi throws a disgruntled look at Erika as she passes.

HEIDI

You creep me out sometimes.

Erika grins, and as the team head into the forest, we cut to:

10

EXT. FOREST - NEXT

10

Aiden steps out from behind a tree, shirtless, wringing out the last of the river from his shirt. A small fire crackles nearby, with the girls all waiting round it.

Aiden notices Heidi smirking at him as he starts to pull the thick shirt back on.

AIDEN

Something on your mind, Heidi?

HEIDI

Just thinking what a waste it is.

AIDEN

What a waste what is?

(beat; gets it)

Very funny. Are we all set to move out?

DEBBIE

Er, aren't we still kind of
weaponless?

Erika raises a long, quarterstaff-sized branch she's recovered from the woods.

ERIKA

Speak for yourself.

DEBBIE

Okay, so you're okay, but what
about the rest of us? Shouldn't we
go back and get some new weapons?

(CONTINUED)

AIDEN

That guy at the rafting shack said there were another three teams already out on the water. If we waste time now going back, more people could be killed.

Aiden starts to head back towards the river.

HEIDI

And besides, Debs, we're Slayers, remember? We don't need weapons - we are weapons.

(beat)

Most of us, anyway.

DEBBIE

(flustered)

Well, I do need a weapon, so there!

AIDEN

Ladies! Can we just move on, please?

The girls follow him back to:

EXT. RAPIDS - SHORE - NEXT

The section of forest comes to an end opens back out onto the rapids, with the team faced by the fork in the path - with the waterfall's edge visible at the end of the right hand fork.

A set of large rocks stand up from the water, forming a makeshift causeway from one side of the river to the next, but it means walking across a particularly choppy part of the rapids.

HEIDI

Oh, don't even think about saying what I think you're going to...

AIDEN

It's the only way we can go.

ANNA

(points)

Hey, didn't that old guy say all the people went missing on Red Route?

Thy follow her finger - and see a small sign on the bank just at the fork that reads 'Red Route.'

DEBBIE

Erika, are you getting anything?

(CONTINUED)

Erika frowns, putting her fingers to her ears and shaking her head.

ERIKA

It is too noisy here. Sorry.

AIDEN

All in favour of crossing the river
to see if we have more luck on the
other side?

Everyone but Heidi raises their hand.

HEIDI

Wait, wait. I'm team leader,
doesn't my vote count twice or
something?

ANNA

How do they spell 'democracy' on
your planet?

AIDEN

Let's go.

He leads the way, stepping carefully out onto the first rock.
He looks at the opposite shore - and it seems a long way off.

AIDEN (cont'd)

(gulps)

Some of those Slayer reflexes you
all have would come in handy right
about now...

He takes another step, making it to the second rock - and
gapes as Erika hops neatly past him from rock to rock,
reaching the other side in moments.

She turns to the astonished group with a grin, shrugging
casually.

ERIKA

Like you said. Slayer reflexes.

AIDEN

(to himself)

Come on, Aiden, you've got to do
better than the blind girl at
least...

He takes another faltering step - and then has to pause again
as Heidi strides across the stones and past him.

HEIDI

You know, for a fitness instructor,
you're pretty slow.

(CONTINUED)

Aiden scowls, and starts again - and this time, it's Anna and Debbie who pass him.

Aiden is one rock from the shore now, but he takes a moment to look up at the girls waiting for him.

ANNA

What are you waiting for?

AIDEN

I'm just wondering again how I let myself get talked into thi-

And with an inhuman ROAR and a sudden BLAST of water, Aiden is bowled off the rock and into the rapids!

DEBBIE

Aiden!

She dives forward, trying to grab him, but he's carried away by the river in moments - and straight towards the waterfall!

HEIDI

Come on!

She sprints forward, trying to keep up with him as he splashes around in the water, spluttering.

DEBBIE

Hold on, Aiden! We're coming!

AIDEN

No! No! There's something...

DEBBIE

What?

Aiden goes under for a second - and when he pops back up, he shouts:

AIDEN

It's in the water!

Debbie's eyes go wide, and her eyes are drawn to the frothing water around Aiden - and with a GASP she sees a dark SHAPE speeding along after him! She grabs Anna, pointing to the shape.

DEBBIE

There! Do you see it?

Anna squints - and spots the mystery creature. She turns and snatches away Erika's staff, running up to the shore's edge and SNAPPING the staff in two, tossing the non-sharp half back to Erika.

ERIKA

Hey! What are you-

ANNA

Aiden! Heads up!

She takes aim - and THROWS the makeshift spear down into the water.

It SPLASHES in, missing Aiden by inches - and whatever was behind him lets out a piercing SCREECH!

There's another SPLASH as something JUMPS out of the water, and as the water falls away, the spear is revealed to be sticking into... nothing!

Whatever this thing is, it's not visible to the naked eye. The creature SPLASHES back into the rapids and streaks away, the spear sticking up out of the water as it exits.

The girls gape before Aiden's CRY for help brings them back to their senses.

Heidi spots a tree overhanging the waterfall's edge and runs over to it, DROP KICKING it with a shout and sending a heavy branch down into the water.

HEIDI

Grab hold, we'll pull you out!

Aiden reaches for the branch as he's swept towards the edge - just managing to snag his fingers round it.

The current threatens to toss him off the edge of the waterfall, but Heidi and Anna are quick to form a human chain, Heidi's hand stretching out to Aiden.

With a grimace, he stretches back out, locking fingers with her and letting the girls pull him bodily back out of the water, out of harm's way.

The team collapse on the riverbank, the deafening THUNDER of the waterfall ringing in their ears as they gasp for breath.

AIDEN

Thanks...

ANNA

No problem.

DEBBIE

Did everybody see that thing?

ERIKA

Well... no.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA

There was nothing to see. That's why nobody's reported a sighting of this thing - it's invisible!

HEIDI

Oh, good. Because that makes things much simpler.

AIDEN

Okay, okay, time to regroup. It's obvious whatever we're looking for is near here, so we just need to-

DEBBIE

(points)

Look!

They look up - and see the spear speeding back towards them, Whatever Anna spiked with it is heading their way!

The girls back up, Anna pushing Aiden behind then defensively as they all strike a fighting stance.

HEIDI

Get ready! Here it...

She trails off - the creature suddenly darts to the left - and flows impossibly straight over the waterfall!

A beat as the team process what they just saw.

ANNA

Okay, that's new.

DEBBIE

It just... went over the edge?

Heidi walks carefully to the edge of the bank, as close as she can get, peering down over the waterfall itself.

HEIDI

Maybe you should all take a look at this.

They gather round her and look down - and there it is. The waterfall isn't a huge one, but the jagged rocks some way below promise a sticky end for anyone going over it.

What Heidi is drawing their attention to is a dark hole about thirty feet down from the edge, behind the waterfall itself - a tunnel.

HEIDI (cont'd)

Who wants to bet that's our lair?

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (5)

11

DEBBIE

How are we going to get down?

AIDEN

The old-fashioned way, I'm afraid.

The cliff face either side of the waterfall is rocky enough to form a makeshift path, and Aiden is the first to venture down it.

12 INT. WATERFALL - TUNNEL - NEXT

12

With the ROAR of the cascading water falling past the mouth of the tunnel, Aiden is the first to appear at the entrance, peering into the darkness before finding a small emergency torch on his life jacket and using that.

He steps inside so the girls can follow him, and the team make their way slowly into the gloom. Heidi rattles her torch, trying to get it working.

HEIDI

I can't see a thing in here!

ERIKA

For once, I feel at home...

AIDEN

Stay sharp, everyone. We don't know how many of those things are down here.

A series of low GROWLS echo round the cave to answer him.

DEBBIE

I'm guessing one or two...

The girls quickly form a defensive square, their eyes trying to penetrate the gloom for any sign of the demons.

ANNA

How are we supposed to kill something we can't even see in the daylight?

ERIKA

Ssh!

She holds up her hand, and the girls obediently fall silent - and in the dim light, Erika SMILES.

ERIKA (cont'd)

(whispers)

Just listen.

(CONTINUED)

She steps forward, away from the others. A confused Heidi tries to pull her back, but Erika is already too far away, standing about ten feet from them.

HEIDI

(hisses)

What is she doing? Does she want to be the first one to get killed or something?

More GROWLS - and in the darkness, indistinct SHAPES start to shift around Erika. She keeps her hands down, closing her eyes and raising her head.

ANNA

What's our plan 'b'?

DEBBIE

I'm with 'run.'

ERIKA

(snaps)

Will you please be quiet?

The girls shut up again, and Erika nods.

ERIKA (cont'd)

Thank you. Now I can do... this!

WHACK! She KICKS out and hits something, which lands with a heavy THUD and a GROAN.

Erika streaks out again, her fists POUNDING into some other dark shape, and as the stunned girls look on, Erika whips from side to side, fists and feet flying, slamming into an increasing number of creatures in the pitch black cave.

The small torches on their vests catch occasional glimpses of leering, demonic faces, sporting smooth, grey skin and gaping mouths - moments before Erika PUNCHES them to the floor.

The staff whirls in her hand, and as it RAMS into the creatures around her, several guttural HOWLS of pain echo round the cave.

She SWEEPS something to the floor, STAKING the staff into it and smoothly turning to ROUNDHOUSE KICK something behind her. She then WRENCHES the staff free and SPIKES it into another creature.

She's SPATTERED with green gunk as the demon SCREECHES in pain and slumps to the floor.

The girls keep watching - all they can see is Erika and a decreasing number of shadowy forms around her.

(CONTINUED)

In moments, Erika becomes still again, moving her head from side to side before turning to the others.

ERIKA (cont'd)
It is done.

Heidi blinks - then lowers her fists.

HEIDI
'Done'?

ERIKA
I have taken care them all.

HEIDI
And what are 'they' exactly?

ERIKA
I do not know. Aiden?

AIDEN
Not a Watcher, remember? I'm just the hired help. We should let the local Council people know about this, let them worry about the cleanup.

DEBBIE
Okay, so... we got them. Can we go home now?

HEIDI
That's the first good thing you've said all day.

Erika walks past the group and towards the entrance, not a mark on her, and as Aiden chuckles with relief, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

13 INT. CAMPUS - RECEPTION - NIGHT

13

Aiden leads the weary-looking girls back in through the front doors. Debbie looks noticeably unwell, and she SNEEZES loudly as Greg heads over to the team. Erika is still picking hardened gobs of green goo from her hair.

GREG

How did it go?

Debbie SNEEZES again, and Heidi recoils in horror.

HEIDI

For God's sake! Can't you go and do that somewhere else?

DEBBIE

(sniffs)

Sorry...

ANNA

She caught a cold. Nothing serious. C'mon, Debs, let's put you to bed!

The girls head off, leaving Greg and Aiden together.

GREG

So how did it really go?

AIDEN

Please don't ever put me on a plane with Heidi again. I had to keep fighting the urge not to rip open the main doors at thirty thousand feet...

GREG

(grins)

That bad?

Aiden YAWNS, and Greg notices the bandage wrapped round his arm at last.

GREG (cont'd)

What happened? Are you alright?

AIDEN

Huh? Oh, yeah, I'm fine. We had a bit of an incident before we found the demon's nest, nothing major, Speaking of, did you get any feedback from the American Council boys about what we were fighting?

(CONTINUED)

GREG

Not yet. We're still waiting on a full report - it seems the creatures become invisible in daylight thanks to some unknown chemical property to their skin, so performing an autopsy on them is proving a little tricky!

AIDEN

Try tracking one through a river...

Greg throws him a puzzled look, but Aiden dismissed his comment with a grin.

AIDEN (cont'd)

Hey, have you seen Frankie?

GREG

Oh, yes, she's still up and about. I just saw her dive into the ladies at the end of the corridor. Why do you ask?

AIDEN

Oh, no reason. Just wanted to have a word with her about something.

GREG

(frowns)

Anything I should know about?

AIDEN

Yeah, your surprise birthday party. No big deal.

Aiden walks off with a grin, leaving a confused Greg behind - but Aiden's smile soon fades once he's left Greg.

The bathroom door pushes open slightly to reveal Aiden peeking inside, checking the coast is clear. The bathroom is empty except for the last stall, whose door is closed.

Glancing over his shoulder, he slips inside and discretely locks the door behind him. He steps forward - then pauses as he hears the muffled sound of CRYING.

AIDEN

Frankie?

There's a SNIFF, and the sound of someone blowing their nose.

FRANKIE (O.S.)

You are not supposed to be in 'ere!

AIDEN

Somehow, I don't think I'm posing a danger to any of the girls around here. Are you alright?

FRANKIE (O.S.)

Oui. I am fine.

AIDEN

No, you're not.

Aiden stands before the stall she's occupying.

AIDEN (cont'd)

Frankie, I know about the baby.

Silence.

AIDEN (cont'd)

It's okay, you know. We can sort this out.

FRANKIE

'Ow, exactly?

AIDEN

(beat)

Well, that part I'm still working out, but...

The stall door is flung open to reveal FRANKIE, dabbing her red eyes as she glares at him.

FRANKIE

It is my problem, and I will deal with it.

AIDEN

You don't have to be so proud about this, you know. A lot of girls-

FRANKIE

(snaps)

I am not 'a lot of girls,' Aiden!

AIDEN

(patiently)

That's not what I meant. Look, you have to tell-

Frankie brushes past him, heading for the sinks.

FRANKIE

I do not 'ave to tell anybody.

Aiden watches her wash her face for a few moments.

(CONTINUED)

AIDEN
Who's the father?

Frankie hesitates, but doesn't answer.

AIDEN (cont'd)
Is it Dunstall?

FRANKIE
(shocked)
'Ow did you...

AIDEN
Heidi knows about the illicit
romance you two are keeping such a
bad secret of. It wasn't hard to
put the pieces together.

Frankie lowers her head as a fresh wave of tears hits her,
and Aiden is quick to lay a comforting arm around her.

AIDEN (cont'd)
Ssh. It's alright.

FRANKIE
What am I going to do? They will
send me 'ome for sure, but my
father will not want me if I 'ave a
baby on the way, and-

AIDEN
That's not going to happen.

He reaches into his jeans pocket and hands her a fresh
tissue, and she blows her nose again with a HONK.

AIDEN (cont'd)
I'll talk to Greg and Barbara in
confidence. We'll get something
sorted out, I promise.

FRANKIE
Thank you...

AIDEN
Don't mention it. However, if I do
this for you, you have to do
something for me.

FRANKIE
Anything!

AIDEN
Tell Dunstall. He has a right to
know, whether you plan on keeping
the baby or not.

(CONTINUED)

FRANKIE

(ashen)

I can't! I couldn't... He wouldn't understand!

AIDEN

Do you know that for sure?

Frankie SNIFFS again, and Aiden reaches over to unlock the door. Frankie eyes him suspiciously.

FRANKIE

You locked us in?

AIDEN

(grins)

Just in case you were thinking of running out on me.

She playfully shoves him, and as she manages a relieved grin at last, glad somebody's there for her, we cut to:

Heidi's team head into their dorm rooms, dumping their bags and collapsing onto their beds. Debbie SNEEZES again, quickly burying herself under the covers.

ERIKA

Deborah? Would you like me to bring you some medicine from the infirmary?

DEBBIE

(under covers)

Yes, please...

ERIKA

Stay here and rest in the warm. I will be right back.

Leaving the others behind, Erika exits and heads into:

Erika walks down the darkened corridor, one hand against the wall to help guide her way.

What she doesn't notice is something MOVING in her hair! It's only small, but there's definitely something in there...

She stops, frowning, and reaches a hand up to her hair - and then YELPS as the unseen something LEAPS from her long, curly hair, hitting the floor with a soft THUD and disappearing into the shadows!

Erika looks all around, wigged out, but whatever just escaped from her hair is nowhere to be seen.

She hesitates, trying to decide what to do - and then turns and follows the path the mystery creature just took!

Greg sits at his desk, tapping away at his computer and deep in concentration about something - when his mobile phone RINGS, making him jump half a mile.

GREG
(answers phone)
Gregory Pierce.

Greg listens - we don't hear the other end of the call - and his expression darkens.

GREG (cont'd)
Who is this? How did you get this number?

He looks over his shoulder to the window, but as he hears something major from the unidentified caller, his expression changes to one of shock.

GREG (cont'd)
How do... how do you know about that?
(listens)
Meet you where?

He reaches for a notepad and pen, scribbling something down.

GREG (cont'd)
And how do I know I can trust you?
If we're being honest, your record with us isn't exactly spotless.
(listens; sighs)
Of course it was all just a 'misunderstanding.' How could I think anything else?

Greg leans back in his chair, rubbing his eyes.

GREG (cont'd)
Yes, I'm still here.
(listens)
Alright, alright. I'll meet with you. But on my terms. Neutral ground somewhere, and no escorts on either side. Do we have a deal?
(listens; nods)
Good. I'll see you then.

He hangs up, staring at the phone before putting it back down. He rests his chin on his hand thoughtfully for a few moments, lost in contemplation, before reaching for his office phone.

GREG (cont'd)
(into phone)
Barbara? It's Greg.
(listens; smiles)
Well, I'm still in my office, so it stands to reason you are too.
Barbara, I need to ask a favour, I need to take a few days off on... personal business.
(listens)
It's family stuff. And I'll need to leave first thing in the morning.
(listens)
Thank you. I'll see you before I go tomorrow.

He hangs up, then leans back in his chair, exhaling, as we cut back to:

Erika pushes open the door leading in from the back of the canteen, looking out across the darkened kitchen and storeroom.

It's filled with long tables for food preparation, along with sinks and ovens, and at the back of the room are rows of tall steel shelves filled with crates and boxes.

Using her hands to feel her way across the room, Erika takes a few steps in when she hears something metallic CLINK.

She ducks down, tilting her head towards the sound and listening hard - then she hears the HUM of an oven!

Frowning, she stands and takes another few steps forward, tensing up as the hum abruptly stops.

She hears FOOTSTEPS approaching and raises her fists, and as the figure draws close she waits for her moment - then LEAPS forward to attack!

However, all she does is barge into Skye, knocking a large MUG out of her hand.

SKYE
(startled)
Woah!

ERIKA
Skye?

SMASH! The mug hits the floor - and it spills fresh BLOOD all over the kitchen floor!

SKYE
(groans)
Aw, man...

ERIKA
What happened?

SKYE
Nothing much, you just kinda ruined my midnight snack.

ERIKA
(sniffs)
Oh. I am sorry.

Skye is holding a white binder in her other hand - the files she and Sofia took from the vampire cult's lair. She sets it down on a nearby table and looks around the kitchen.

SKYE
What's with the hiding in the dark and jumping out at people, anyway? You're a bit late for Halloween.

ERIKA
I thought... I think something is here in the Academy with us.

SKYE
What kind of 'something'?

ERIKA
I do not know. But I do not think it is friendly.

Skye reaches for a nearby dish towel and crouches down, ready to mop up the split blood - but freezes as she looks down.

SKYE
Huh...

ERIKA
What? Can you see something?

Skye is looking at a TRAIL through the middle of the pool of blood - like something snake-shaped slithered its way through!

SKYE
This 'something' you're after - how big is it?

ERIKA

Not very large. As strange as this is going to sound, I think it came out of... my hair.

SKYE

(beat)

Yeah, that does sound pretty strange. Well, something just scurried past us while we weren't looking, and I'm guessing that and you being down here aren't exactly a coincidence.

ERIKA

I was following it from the dormitory corridor, and I-

The girls both freeze as a shrill SCREAM rings out from somewhere outside! They dash out of the kitchen, into:

19 INT. CAMPUS - CORRIDOR - NEXT

19

Erika and Skye race outside and find Tyson hiding behind several rows of stacked chairs, just by the canteen doors.

SKYE

Tyson?

He pokes his head out, visibly shaken.

SKYE (cont'd)

Was that you screaming like a girl just then?

TYSON

Is it... is it gone?

ERIKA

Is what gone?

TYSON

That... thing!

Skye looks to Erika as Tyson steps slowly out from behind his cover, rolling up his trouser leg - and revealing a bloody BITE MARK on his calf.

TYSON (cont'd)

I didn't get a good look at it, but either it was a very angry cat or we've got a gremlin on campus!

ERIKA

Which way did it go?

(CONTINUED)

Tyson points with a shaking hand, and Skye grabs Erika's hand before starting to race away, shouting back to him:

SKYE

Go find somebody in charge and tell
them we have a situation!

The girls disappear round a corner, leaving Tyson alone.

TYSON

Right, so... I'll just go do that,
then...

With an uncertain glance round the dark corridor, he limps towards the canteen doors as we cut to:

Greg is just stepping out of his office and locking the door as Tyson explodes through the double doors at the top of the corridor, hurrying towards him.

GREG

Tyson? What's the matter?

TYSON

(breathless)

Skye... Erika... they... and the...
thing... teeth... help them!

GREG

Slow down, I don't know what you're
talking about!

TYSON

(deep breath)

There's something running round the
Academy with teeth...

(shows wounded leg)

... and Skye and Erika have gone
after it.

Greg's worried expression takes us to:

Skye and Erika are pacing carefully along the long passageway, with the classrooms on one side and a line of windows overlooking the main quad to their right.

SKYE

(whispers)

Anything?

ERIKA

Not yet.

SKYE

See, I'm still not getting this whole 'falling out of your hair' thing. Have you been using a new shampoo?

ERIKA

When we were on our mission, something I killed splashed me with what I assumed was blood, but perhaps...

SKYE

(grimaces)

Oh, no. I am so not ready to think about that.

They hear a CRASH as a locker falls to the ground up ahead, and as the girls rush towards it, we cut to:

A sleepy-looking CATHERINE is quickly rifling through a bookshelf in the main body of the library, with an anxious Greg and BARBARA stood behind her.

Catherine has a mobile phone cradled against her shoulder, talking into it as she searches.

CATHERINE

Well, yes, I appreciate that it's hard doing an autopsy when you have to keep the lights switched off, but you must know something by now!

(listens)

Alright, good, that's a start.

She drops a heavy book onto the nearest table with a THUD, quickly leafing through it.

CATHERINE (cont'd)

Mm-hmm. That sounds likely. Alright, thank you, Gillian. If you could stay near a phone in case I need your help again, that'd be fantastic.

She hangs up, peering at the book and then rotating it to show it to Greg and Barbara. The illustration shows a particularly fearsome demon, its thick-set neck and shoulders making it almost hunchbacked.

CATHERINE (cont'd)

A duende demon. Almost invisible to the human eye, and a tough little customer indeed, I'm afraid.

BARBARA

Alright, so we know what we're dealing with - but how did one get into my Academy?

Catherine studies the book again.

CATHERINE

Er, I'm not sure... Oh, did any of Heidi's team get splashed by any of the creature's blood? It'd be a thick, mucous-like green substance.

GREG

I think I saw Erika picking something like that out of her hair...

CATHERINE

Oh, dear.

BARBARA

'Oh, dear' what?

CATHERINE

Well... it's quite unique really, you see, the female of this species carries its young in a protective sac in its chest, and-

GREG

Catherine! The bottom line, please?

CATHERINE

If Erika killed a female duende and got some of its blood on her, it's likely she transferred some of its young onto her body, and accidentally brought them all the way back here.

BARBARA

Okay, that's... possible, I think. But Tyson said he saw something the size of a house cat. How could Erika have brought something that size back without realising it?

CATHERINE

These things do grow up rather quickly.

GREG

How quickly?

Catherine's look says it all, as we cut back to:

23

INT. CAMPUS - CLASSROOM CORRIDOR - NEXT

23

Skye and Erika round the corner and find a row of lockers smashed and scattered across the ground.

SKYE

You keep any of your things round here?

ERIKA

I do not believe so.

SKYE

Good. Me neither.

They head on, pressing themselves against the wall.

SKYE (cont'd)

Alright, what's the plan for when we find this thing? I mean, it's only going to be pretty small, right?

Erika starts to reply - and then the closest classroom door EXPLODES outwards in a shower of fragments!

The girls dive back for cover, and as the sound of heavy, deep breathing is accompanied by a huge SHADOW falling across the duo!

Looking through Skye's eyes, we get our first view of the DUENDE DEMON - for whatever reason, Skye can see it as a shimmering red outline, the demon already six feet tall and full of thick, knotted muscles.

As the creature looms over the girls, Skye's shocked look takes us to:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

24 INT. CAMPUS - RECEPTION - NIGHT

24

Several girls are standing around, mostly in dressing gowns and nightclothes, chief among them Sofia, Alita and Heidi's team. They chatter anxiously as Greg, Aiden, Barbara and ELLEN head towards them from the staff corridor.

BARBARA
(speaks up)
Alright, girls, I need your
attention.

The crowd shut up as Barbara steps forward.

BARBARA (cont'd)
There's a demon on the loose within
the campus.

Several urgent murmurs pass through the crowd, but Barbara raises a hand for silence.

BARBARA (cont'd)
Skye and Erika are currently out
looking for it, and we're going to
give them all the help we can. I
want you to split into teams of two
and spread out across the campus,
keeping your eyes peeled for...
(beat)
Actually, you should all be aware
that what you're looking for can't
actually be seen.

HEIDI
Excuse me?
(to Aiden)
Is it another one of those things
from Alaska? How the hell did it
get back here?

GREG
That's less important than finding
it before anybody gets hurt.

BARBARA
Now, are we all accounted for?

She does a quick head count - there are around fifty girls standing in the reception.

BARBARA (cont'd)
Where's Frankie?

(CONTINUED)

AIDEN

(quickly)

She's okay, she wasn't feeling well
so she's down in the infirmary with
Jaz and Tyson.

BARBARA

Alright. I'll be taking two teams
out, with Greg, Aiden and Ellen
taking another two each.

ELLEN

Stay in contact at all times. I
know pretty much every one of you
has a cell phone, so use them!

BARBARA

That's all. Watch each other's
backs.

HEIDI

Are we getting weapons this time?
(looks at Aiden)
I seem to recall that being an
issue before.

BARBARA

We'll get them on the way. Let's
go!

She leads the girls out of the reception - Sofia and Alita
unconsciously fall in step next to each other, realising
they've paired up with a grin as we cut to:

Skye and Erika are pressed against the door of another
classroom, desperately trying to keep it shut as the demon
outside POUNDS against it.

SKYE

You know, today started off so
well...

The demon outside BELLOWS and SMASHES into the door again,
nearly bowling the girls off their feet.

ERIKA

How so?

SKYE

Me and Sofes had a really good
talk, you know? Sorted out a lot
of...

BANG! She pauses as the demon hits the door again.

SKYE (cont'd)
 ... stuff. Definite progress. And
 now? I'm trapped in a classroom at
 night with a fricken shadow demon
 trying to ram its way inside!

The door BUCKLES in its hinges as the demon hits it again,
 but stays in the frame - just.

ERIKA
 Things could be going a little
 better, I will admit...

SKYE
 Shouldn't we have some backup by
 now? This is definitely-

CRASH! The door is hit again - and then the attack stops.
 Skye looks to Erika, then carefully takes a step away from
 the door.

SKYE (cont'd)
 Is that it?

ERIKA
 (listens)
 I cannot hear anything outside.

SKYE
 Let's go check.

Erika nods and reaches a searching hand out for the door
 handle, but Skye calls out to stop her:

SKYE (cont'd)
 Wait!

She looks around the classroom, before KICKING one of the
 wooden desks and tearing off a stake-sized lump of wood.

SKYE (cont'd)
 (nods to Erika)
 Okay, go.

Erika opens the door slowly, and the girls step out into:

Skye peers into the corridor, with Erika close behind.

SKYE
 Looks clear.

ERIKA
 That does not mean it is gone.

SKYE

Good point.

She steps out, stake clutched tightly in her hand.

SKYE (cont'd)

Alright, let's get looking fo-

WHACK! Something slams into Skye and lifts her up off her feet, and she hits the deck with a loud CRUNCH, skidding along the corridor floor.

ERIKA

Skye!

Erika hears a GROWL very close by, and whips round - and a second powerful THWACK sends her hurtling back to crash down next to Skye.

The dazed girls get up, Skye leaning on her shoulder and crying out in pain.

ERIKA (cont'd)

Are you hurt?

SKYE

(grits teeth)

Shoulder...

Erika grabs Skye and drags her to her feet, and as the invisible creature ROARS again and SMASHES its fist into one of the windows lining the corridor, the girls duck round a corner out of view:

Barging through the swing doors that lead onto the staircase landing, Erika turns and fumbles with the lock, managing to seal the doors before the demon CRASHES into them.

Erika hurries down the stairs, one hand on the railing and another keeping the woozy Skye moving.

They clatter down the two flights of stairs to the bottom level, almost running straight into Sofia and Alita as they hit the doors!

SOFIA

Skye! Are you alright?

SKYE

(wincing)

Just a sec...

Skye steps to the nearest wall, takes a deep breath - and RAMS her shoulder against it!

There's a loud CRACK and Skye YELLS in pain, but as she pushes away from the wall, she lifts her arm - her shoulder is back in its socket.

Sofia raises an eyebrow as she staggers back over, but as the demon ROARS again at the top of the stairs, the girls are straight back into action.

SOFIA

Alright, what are we up against?

SKYE

I don't know, but it's ugly and pissed off at everything.

SOFIA

How do you know it's ugly?

SKYE

'Cause I can see it.

The others throw her a puzzled glance.

ALITA

I thought Miss Griffin said it was invisible?

SKYE

It is.

SOFIA

So...

SKYE

Hey, do I look like I understand why? All I know is, I can see it.

(beat)

Sort of.

They look up as the doors above them CREAK - the demon is still trying to break through!

ERIKA

Perhaps it is your vampire side that can 'see' this creature?

SKYE

Say what now?

ERIKA

Well... I do not have a better explanation.

ALITA

So what should we do?

SKYE

You can do whatever you like. I think I should go take this thing on myself.

SOFIA

Skye, don't be-

SKYE

Don't argue, Sofes. I've got the best chance of taking this thing out, and we all know it.

SOFIA

Well, at least wait for us to get some more backup!

There's a CRASH overhead - the doors are open!

SKYE

No time.

She bounds back up the stairs.

SOFIA

Skye, wait! Skye!

She turns to Alita - and Erika runs up the stairs after Skye!

ERIKA

Bring reinforcements! We will hold it off here until then!

As the sounds of a ferocious fight kicking off upstairs drifts down to Sofia and Alita, she scowls darkly.

SOFIA

(mutters)

Nobody ever bloody listens to me, do they?

Alita places a hand on her arm.

ALITA

Come. We must bring the others.

Sofia looks back up the stairs, hearing but not seeing the fight overhead, and as she and Alita rush off to get some help, we cut to:

With a CRASH, Skye is flung backwards through another pair of double doors, this time skidding to a stop in the middle of the science block of the campus.

(CONTINUED)

More rooms and corridors branch off all around her, but as she pushes herself to her feet, spitting away a mouthful of blood, her attention is fixed on something approaching her.

SKYE

Alright, fugly, it's down to you
and me now.

Through Skye's eyes, we get another vision of the beast, the hazy red outline of the duende demon stretching its long, clawed hands out to her.

Skye wipes away the blood from her mouth and tenses up - but as the creature rears back to strike, Erika suddenly rockets into frame, JUMP-KICKING the demon and sending it stumbling sideways into another row of lockers!

A surprised Skye watches as Erika takes her place alongside her, her fists bunched up tightly.

SKYE (cont'd)

What the hell are you doing here?

ERIKA

You are not the only one who can
'see' this creature, Skye.

Erika turns her head towards the demon - and we get a unique look into Erika's world.

The various edges and corners of the science block show up as a series of light and dark blue outlines, with Skye showing up alongside her and the bulky form of the duende demon picking itself back up before her.

ERIKA (cont'd)

Attack from both sides, it is too
slow to hit us both at once!

Erika springs into action, striking with uncanny precision as she punches and kicks into what appears to be thin air - but the GRUNTS of pain from the demon indicate she's right on target.

Skye steps forward, but then turns her head to the side, spotting something - and she dashes out of frame!

ERIKA (cont'd)

Skye! Where are you going?

Erika's attention is distracted - and the demon lands a solid PUNCH that knocks her off her feet.

Erika clutches her head, stunned - and her view of the world starts to disintegrate as her senses recover from the hit, the various shapes and outlines starting to blur together.

(CONTINUED)

She backs up, her eyes wide as she desperately tries to regain her focus, but the heavy THUD of the demon's footsteps closes in on her...

Until a sudden SPLASH of white PAINT hits the demon, and it ROARS in anger again!

Skye lowers an empty can of paint with a smirk, looking at the now-visible demon as it lurches towards her. Over her shoulder, we can see more cans of paint and a stepladder, alongside a half-painted corridor wall.

SKYE

Ah, stop moaning. It's washable.

The demon rears back, ready to strike - and a SHOTGUN BLAST rings out as a huge bullet hole bursts open in the demon's chest!

Skye spins round to see Ellen, shotgun in hand, with Sofia and Alita behind her. She quickly reloads and FIRES twice more, and the demon staggers backwards, wounded but not out.

SKYE (cont'd)

Hey! I had that thing!

ELLEN

I know. I'm just being thorough.

ERIKA

Skye, look out!

She spins round as the demon CHARGES at her with its last ounces of strength - but Skye is quick enough to duck its clumsy blow, RAMMING her stake into its chest.

She darts back as a SPRAY of green goo spurts from its chest, spattering onto the floor as the demon CRASHES to the ground.

Skye steps back as Erika and Ellen join her. She nudges the demon with her boot - it's dead. The trio stare at the gunk as it BUBBLES on the floor for a moment.

SKYE

Well, I ain't cleaning that up.

ELLEN

Me either.

ERIKA

(wrinkles nose)

Something smells bad.

Ellen and the others step out of frame, leaving Sofia and Skye looking down at the demon. Sofia looks over to Skye.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

Nice work.

The two share a grin - the first one for some time - and as Sofia walks away, we DISSOLVE to:

EXT. CAMPUS - FRONT ENTRANCE - DAY

Greg is putting a small flight bag into the boot of his car as Sofia heads over to him.

SOFIA

Road trip?

GREG

Something like that. I'll be gone for the next few days or so.

SOFIA

Where are you going?

Greg is quiet for a moment as he opens the driver's side door and climbs into the car.

GREG

Hopefully? To get some answers.

He starts the engine, and with a grin to Sofia puts the car into gear and rolls out of frame.

Sofia watches him go as Skye strolls up to stand alongside her. The two stay in silence for a moment.

SKYE

He's coming back, right?

SOFIA

Of course he is. He's our Greg!

SKYE

Cool. Hey, you wanna hear what I learned today?

SOFIA

Go on.

SKYE

I learned that my bad side doesn't always have to be a bad thing. I'd have been dead meat without it last night, so I guess it's not always the burden I make it out to be.

SOFIA

That's... that's actually quite mature of you, Skye.

SKYE

(shrugs)

I have my moments.

(beat)

Hey, Sofes? Are we... are we cool?

SOFIA

We had one conversation, Skye. It's a start.

SKYE

Yeah, that's what I thought. But, you know... a good start?

Sofia turns to her, then smiles and walks back towards the entrance. Skye breaks into a grin as we cut to:

INT. CAMPUS - GYM BLOCK - CHANGING ROOMS - DAY

DUNSTALL steps out of the shower - towel covering his decency, of course - and is surprised to find Frankie waiting for him.

DUNSTALL

Oh, er, hey!

(looks round)

Uh... we're alone here, right?

She slinks up to him, wrapping her arms round his neck and pulling him in for a KISS.

DUNSTALL (cont'd)

I'm going to take that as a 'yes'...

Frankie rests her head against his shoulder, and he looks round the thankfully empty changing rooms again.

DUNSTALL (cont'd)

Great as this is, I should really put some clothes on before somebody catches us like this!

FRANKIE

(sighs)

They all know.

DUNSTALL

They do?

FRANKIE

Oui.

DUNSTALL

Did... did you tell them?

FRANKIE

No! Of course I did not!

DUNSTALL

Okay, okay, I'm sorry. I didn't mean anything by that.

He keeps his arms round her, noticing a distant look in her eyes.

DUNSTALL (cont'd)

What's up?

She leans back, staring into his eyes.

DUNSTALL (cont'd)

Frankie? Is something wrong?

FRANKIE

I...

ELLEN (O.S.)

Am I interrupting something?

Their heads snap round - Ellen has stepped into the changing rooms, gym bag over one shoulder. Frankie darts away from Dunstall, who does his best to stand attention - despite still only wearing a towel.

DUNSTALL

Uh, no, ma'am. Francoise and I were just-

ELLEN

I saw what you were 'just' doing, Leon. Frankie, could you give us a moment?

With an apologetic look back towards Dunstall, Frankie leaves the changing rooms. Ellen waits until she's gone before heading over, dropping her bag and standing before Dunstall.

DUNSTALL

Ma'am, we were only-

ELLEN

I distinctly recall us having a conversation where I told you to break it off with her.

Dunstall is silent as she glares at him.

ELLEN (cont'd)

Am I going to have to make that into an order, soldier?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ELLEN (cont'd)
You're twenty-four, and she's
seventeen. How old does she think
you are?

DUNSTALL
Uh... I don't know, ma'am.

ELLEN
Don't make me have to make this
into a bigger problem than it
already is. Is that clear?

DUNSTALL
Yes, ma'am. I'll end things.

Ellen stares at him for another beat, then reaches for her
gym bag and marches past him out of frame.

Dunstall exhales heavily, and from his downcast expression,
we cut to:

An overhead light shines down on a round table, around which
sit six DEMONS of various shapes, sizes and colours. Most are
smoking fat cigars, all six dressed in sharp suits.

A card game is in progress before them, but before the next
hand can be played, the back door to the room CRASHES open,
and with a brief BLAZE of red magic, a demon bodyguard keels
over backwards, crumpling to the floor.

The demons turn as a striking figure strides into the room -
it's KIRA. She smiles as the wary demons watch her approach.

KIRA
Good morning. Sorry to interrupt.

DEMON
Who the hell are you? What do you
want?

KIRA
I'm here to offer my services. I
heard you and your respective clans
were planning an attack on the
Slayer Academy...
(beat; grins)
... and I want in.

From the demons' surprised looks, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW