

SLAYER ACADEMY

"Perchance To Dream"

by

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TEASER

FADE IN:

1

EXT. CAMPUS - MAIN QUADRANGLE - DAY

1

SOFIA stands in the middle of the courtyard, eyes closed, a soft breeze blowing across her.

The edges of our vision are blurry, and thick grey SMOKE wafts across the quad.

Sofia opens her eyes and looks around - and we start to pull back to show where the smoke is coming from.

The entire Academy is in FLAMES!

Dead and dying BODIES litter the quad, dozens of Slayers having fallen in battle. Some are hanging from smashed windows in the classroom corridors overhead, others still trying to crawl their way to safety.

Sofia's face is oddly impassive as she surveys the carnage, looking down at spatters and trails of BLOOD all around her.

As SCREAMS float across to her from other parts of the burning campus and the MOANS of the dying echo around the quad, Sofia lowers her head.

EMMA (O.S.)

You can stop this, you know.

Sofia turns - EMMA is standing behind her, her body peppered with cuts and bruises and her clothes tattered, looking like she's been caught up in whatever's tearing through the Academy.

SOFIA

(downcast)

I don't think any of us can stop
this now.

EMMA

Well, that's where y'all are wrong,
honey.

Emma walks towards her, limping and in obvious pain.

SOFIA

What happened to you?

EMMA

Hasn't happened yet. Don't worry
about me.

Sofia frowns as Emma reaches her, laying a hand on her shoulder and pausing for breath.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA

I take it there's something you
need to tell me?

EMMA

Oh, so you trust me now? You don't
still think I'm that First thing,
do you?

Sofia chews her lip as she thinks this over.

SOFIA

Honestly? I'm still not sure. But
it hasn't been around for a while,
so I'm inclined to believe it's
really you.

EMMA

Well, gee, Limey, nice to know I
inspire such confidence in you!

Emma grins, and Sofia smiles back, but Emma winces and
clutches her side - and Sofia sees fresh BLOOD staining
through her t-shirt.

SOFIA

Can I-

EMMA

(quickly)

No!

(deep breath)

It's too late for me this time. But
you can still save the others.

SOFIA

How?

EMMA

How do you think? Warn them! Tell
them this is coming, and what's
going to happen unless you stop it!

SOFIA

Don't I get any more help than
that? Who did this? When are they
coming?

EMMA

You'll find out. And soon.

There's a demonic ROAR from somewhere off screen, and Sofia's
head whips round. When she looks back, Emma is gone.

SOFIA

Emma? Emma!

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (2)

1

She steps forward, calling out Emma's name, and as another ROAR rings out, this time much closer, Sofia spins round again - and GASPS as a shadow falls over her...

2 INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - MORNING

2

Sofia GASPS and sits bolt upright in bed, crying out:

SOFIA

Emma!

It takes her a moment to come to her senses, and she leans forward, resting her head in her hands and breathing deeply.

SKYE (O.S.)

Sofes?

She looks round - SKYE is in the dorm room with her, eyeing her strangely.

SKYE (cont'd)

Bad dreams again?

SOFIA

Do I have any other kind?

Sofia flops back in her bed with a SIGH, watching as Skye rifles through her things.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Have you lost something?

SKYE

My notes.

SOFIA

What 'notes'? For class?

SKYE

No, those ones we took from that vampire cult's lab, remember? I had them last night, and now...

(penny drops)

Oh, crap.

SOFIA

What is it?

SKYE

Just remembered where I last saw them.

Skye rushes out of the dorms, leaving a confused Sofia behind as we cut to:

3 INT. CAMPUS - CORRIDOR - NEXT

3

Over by the rear entrance to the kitchens, the swing door pushes open to reveal HEIDI, holding a freshly cooked pastry - and Skye's white folder of lab results in her other hand!

She grins as she starts to leaf through it, heading off down the corridor as we cut to:

4 EXT. INDUSTRIAL ESTATE - MORNING

4

Over in a more urban part of the area, a small Fiat rolls into frame, parking up outside an old warehouse. The car's door opens and out steps GREG, scanning the surrounding area carefully.

He walks out into the middle of the small concrete parking lot, rubbing his hands together for warmth in the brisk morning air.

VOICE (O.S.)

I was beginning to think you
weren't going to show.

Greg spins round as a figure walks out from the shadows just inside the warehouse's open doors - it's ETHAN RAYNE! Greg stares at him for a beat before regaining his composure.

GREG

You picked somewhere quite hard to
find, to be fair.

ETHAN

I value my privacy.

Ethan walks over, his wiry form wrapped in a thick overcoat.

ETHAN (cont'd)

So, shall we begin? Where would you
like to start?

GREG

Why don't we cut right to the
point, Mr. Rayne? Tell me what you
said you would over the phone
yesterday.

(beat)

Tell me who my real father is.

Ethan SMILES unfathomably, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

5

INT. CAMPUS - BARBARA'S OFFICE - MORNING

5

Rifling through her files, BARBARA pays no attention as the door to her office is opens and shuts with a BANG.

BARBARA

What can I do for you now, Miss
Romero?

Sofia drops into the chair opposite Barbara, who finishes searching through her files before looking up.

Without saying anything, Sofia reveals a small black book with a bookmark sticking out, sliding it across the desk.

SOFIA

I wrote the latest chapter as soon
as I got up. Everything you need to
know is in there.

Barbara picks up the book, throwing Sofia a puzzled look.

SOFIA (cont'd)

It's a dream diary. You know, like
you suggested I start keeping?

BARBARA

So you do listen to me sometimes,
then?

SOFIA

Stating the obvious is a definite
talent of yours, you know.

BARBARA

(beat)

Quite. Then I imagine I don't have
to explain my reasoning when I tell
you I've booked you in for therapy
at the nearest psychiatric clinic,
starting next week.

SOFIA

(shocked)

You've... what?

BARBARA

Your behaviour of late has a lot us
concerned, Sofia. I think you still
have some residual mental
difficulties to work through
following your-

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA
(interrupts)
Following me watching one Slayer
get murdered right in front of me
and then almost following her
myself?

Sofia leans back in her chair, arms folded, clearly not happy
with this state of affairs.

SOFIA (cont'd)
Don't take this the wrong way, but
no bloody way am I having some over-
qualified, overpaid 'specialist'
have me talk about my 'feelings.'
I've got better things to do with
my time than dwell in the past.

Glancing across over her workload, it's perfectly clear to
the headmistress that the Slayer is dead serious.

BARBARA
(sighs)
Alright, fine. If you want to do
things your way...

Grabbing a pink slip of paper from her desk, Barbara shoves
it into Sofia's lap. Sofia reads - and her jaw drops.

BARBARA (cont'd)
You're officially on probation.

SOFIA
You... you can't do that!

BARBARA
I'm taking you off active duty. If
you start attending your sessions
then I'll re-instate you to the
lead squad, but if you continue to
protest I'll strike you from the
roster permanently and, if
necessary, expel you from the
Academy altogether.

SOFIA
You... you can't! The others need
me, whether you like it or not!

BARBARA
What they need is a leader with a
level head, not someone who shuts
everyone out, especially those who
should be able to trust you with
their lives out in the field.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BARBARA (cont'd)

The staff has been lenient enough with your case, Sofia, but it's clear it's doing you no favours. Unless you start making the effort to change back to the charming, role model you once were...

(off look)

... or at least co-operating, I'll be forced into doing this, and I have full Council backing to take these steps. Consider this your second 'strike.'

Leaving the threat to hang ominously in the air, Barbara lets the subject drop as she picks up the book and flicks to the latest update, clearly speed-reading.

BARBARA (cont'd)

Was there anything else?

SOFIA

Yes, I thought filling the blanks in would be fun!

Barbara peers critically towards her, and Sofia closes her eyes, fighting her rising anger back down.

SOFIA (cont'd)

(gritted teeth)

Sorry.

BARBARA

(reads diary)

This is certainly a vivid account! I take it you're concerned that your dream is some kind of portent that the Academy is in danger?

SOFIA

They've never let me down before. So what can we do?

BARBARA

To be honest, just keep an eye on everyone and stay alert.

SOFIA

May I quote you at the eulogy?

(off look)

Look, I'll head to the library and get a copy of 'Respect For Dummies' later, but for now isn't there anything else we can do?

BARBARA

I wish we could do more, but I'm up to my eyeballs with work.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA (cont'd)
Greg couldn't have picked a worse
time to take some personal days
away from here!
(deep breath)
Sofia, I think it's obvious you've
been under a lot of stress lately,
and we all know the effect that can
have on the subconscious. Maybe for
once this was just a dream?

SOFIA
Here's hoping.

Getting up out of her chair, Sofia heads for the exit without
glancing back. Barbara watches her go as we cut to:

Back in the card game she just disrupted, KIRA BROGAN eyes
the hostile crowd of six cigar-chomping DEMONS round the
table. They don't look too happy to see her.

DEMON #1
How do we know we can trust you?

KIRA
Oh, please. Spare the cliched
lines, because we both know the
truth is you don't.

DEMON #2
(snarls)
Show some respect, human!

The Demon stands, GROWLING menacingly at her, and without
even looking at him Kira SNAPS her fingers - and the demon
DISINTEGRATES in a ball of flame!

Kira casually strolls up to the table and pulls up the dead
demon's chair, taking a seat.

KIRA
Shall we talk shop now?

DEMON #3
(beat)
Alright, we're listening. You want
in on our attack on the Academy?
Why? What's in it for you?

KIRA
Let's look at this logically.
You're about to face an army of
teenagers that were created with
the ability to snap your necks
while applying their make up.

DEMON #4

We've got more than enough warrior demons to take care of them. We're pulling six clans together here!

KIRA

I'm sure you do, but at least with a few of my Slayers on your side, the playing field is more even.

DEMON #1

Stereotypes aside, we don't care about the playing field.

KIRA

Precisely. However, as it's been proven time and time again, the good guys do. So here's what I'm suggesting - there are certain items I want from inside that Academy, but in exchange for letting my associates join your ranks, I'm prepared to let a few of those items find their way into your hands.

DEMON #2

What good will a few trinkets do us?

KIRA

In all fairness - you haven't heard what I'm after yet.

The demons still look a little confused, but off the smirk on Kira's face we cut to:

7

EXT. ACADEMY GROUNDS - LUNCH TIME

7

The Academy is a buzz of activity, so much so everything is a blur as Slayers and staff rush past us. The sun quickly arcs through the sky, from midday to a sunset of bright red and orange, and as the Academy starts to close down for the night we cut to:

8

INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - NIGHT

8

Back in the dorm rooms, ALITA hides her nervousness as she casually glances around the room. Sofia is waiting for a response from Skye.

SOFIA

So? What do you all think?

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

I think there's either a drug ring under the Academy that only you know of, or Jaz let you have something for... 'medicinal' purposes.

SOFIA

Skye, this isn't a joke! For once in your life - or unlife - take something seriously, for God's sake!

SKYE

Well, sorry Sofes, but what's worrying going to do? Do I believe you? Yes, you have an uncanny ability of knowing when we're about to get our asses kicked. But worrying isn't going to stop the visit to the infirmary.

SOFIA

(scowls)

That's your attitude, all right. Just wait for the storm to hit and then get bandaged up. I can see why you're not the team leader!

Skye winces at the comment but manages to let it slide.

SKYE

At least my plan involves getting a free lollipop at the end. Allie? What do you want to do?

Both girls eye Alita, clearly expecting her to join their side. A FLUSH of the adjoining toilet is heard, and the bathroom door opens to reveal a tired looking FRANKIE. Glad of the distraction, Alita quickly moves over to her.

ALITA

Are you alright? You have not been well for the last few days.

FRANKIE

(snaps)

For the last time, I'm fine!

ALITA

Perhaps you should go and see Jaz?

SKYE

Speaking as your occasional mortal enemy, it couldn't hurt.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

At least that's something we can
both agree on.

Throwing Sofia a look, the trio of eyes follow Frankie as she sits on her bed.

FRANKIE

(weary)

Just, please... mind your own
business.

Clearly having had this conversation with Frankie before, the Slayers stare at her before realizing that's all they're going to get tonight.

SOFIA

So, back on topic... all in favour
of helping me save the Academy?

Not understanding it's a rhetorical question, Alita raises her hand, while Skye jumps onto her bed, clearly sick of arguing with Sofia.

SKYE

Can't we just call the forces of
evil and ask them to reschedule?
I'm sure they'll understand.

Silence follows the statement, everyone at a loss for words. Skye YAWNS and lies back on her bed.

SKYE (cont'd)

Look, let's make a deal. You have
another dream o' doom tonight, then
we'll look into it in the morning.
If you don't, we'll all count
ourselves lucky and go back for
seconds at lunch time.

Skye turns on her side without waiting for a response, and as Alita and Frankie start getting into bed too, a defeated Sofia HUFFS and flops back on her own bed.

She stares up at the ceiling in silent contemplation for a few moments, before she closes her eyes, and we WHITE OUT to find ourselves in:

Scrolling past photographs of Skye (with a lot more colour in her cheeks) along with a few framed pieces of art with her signature on them, the otherwise deserted house has four occupants - Sofia, Skye, Alita and Frankie, all standing in the front room with their eyes closed.

(CONTINUED)

As the bewildered girls open their eyes and look around, Skye isn't too happy to be back home.

SKYE

Oh, man...

Sofia's face falls as she sees the others.

SOFIA

Oh, no... the dream demon again?

FRANKIE

C'est impossible!

ALITA

(stern)

Let us find the creature and finish this once and for all.

Nodding in unison, the only one not with the gang in team spirit is their vampire counterpart.

SOFIA

Skye? Are you alright?

SKYE

Why here?

SONHO DEMON (O.S.)

Aren't you curious what your mother and father have been up to, Miss Cannes? The possibilities are endless. Maybe they're divorced... or even dead!

The girls look round for the source of the disembodied voice, but Skye steps forward, shouting out defiantly:

SKYE

Unless you're the world's best stalker, you've never even seen this part of my life, so while the effort to creep me out is appreciated, I'll pass! Why don't you show yourself so we can settle this LA style?

A low, sinister CHUCKLE rings round the room, and the other girls stake an unconscious step back - except Skye, who is in no mood to mess about!

Skye clenches her fist as a cloud of BLACK SMOKE starts to pour up from the floorboards, forming a solid SHAPE in front of her.

Materializing before their eyes is the tall, black form of the SONHO DEMON that's plagued them since their first day at the Academy.

SONHO DEMON

You still haven't caught up yet, have you? Everything you know, I know! I'm aware that Sofia has considered running away, and that she still thinks Skye is a danger you all, just like I know Frankie is bearing a child!

The shocked girls turn to Frankie, who turns a deep shade of crimson and glares at the demon with fire blazing in her eyes. Sofia turns slowly to Skye.

SOFIA

Skye, what he said, I don't-

SKYE

(quickly)

Forget it. We'll worry about that after we kill this thing.

Sofia can tell Skye's hurt by the demon's revelation, as Alita steps defensively in front of Frankie.

ALITA

Frankie, stay behind me.

(to dream demon)

How are you even still alive?

SONHO DEMON

Mind over matter, my dear. Our last encounter may have destroyed my chance of becoming a physical being, but luckily you Slayers still need enlightenment in the brain department. So without further ado... let's settle this once and for all.

Exactly like last time the girls take up a defensive stance - except this time, they start to slowly become TRANSPARENT! Alarmed, they try to grab hold of each other and the furniture around them, but nothing works...

SONHO DEMON (cont'd)

Well, I did learn a few tricks first. I have to keep up with society's ever changing standards!

The demon CACKLES as the horrified girls fade away to nothing, before the demon itself FADES AWAY too.

(CONTINUED)

Moments later, a door leading into the front room opens and Emma barges inside, out of breath.

EMMA

Sofia? Skye? Where are you?

Growing worried, she looks around for any sign of the girls before we cut to:

10

INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - NIGHT

10

Back in the dorm rooms, except this time the only people present are a shirtless TYSON and Alita in a nightdress. The two seem to be entering a very compromising position.

Alita interrupts their furious kissing, pushing herself away from him with a GASP.

ALITA

Wait, wait! Stop! Is this... is this really what people in love do?

TYSON

Only if you want to. I'm willing to wait if you're not ready...

Kissing him once, obviously pleased with the answer, she runs her hands through his hair, continuing the displays of affection - before suddenly WINCING in pain.

TYSON (cont'd)

(concerned)

Allie? Are you okay?

ALITA

I am fine. Just a scratch.

TYSON

Who did this? I'll make them pay, messing with my girl!

Alita smiles, nudging him playfully, but a second grimace of pain is followed by Alita doubling over in pain, GASPING for breath and clutching her stomach.

TYSON (cont'd)

(panicked)

Alita? Allie! Help! Someone, please, help!

Alita starts to CONVULSE, and Tyson clutches her desperately, trying to keep her still - but she suddenly goes limp, sagging in his arms.

Tyson shakes her, trying to rouse her, but her glazed eyes and slack jaw mean only one thing - she's dead.

(CONTINUED)

Tyson starts to SOB, moaning her name - until a HAND lays on his shoulder, and he snaps his head round to see Emma.

EMMA (O.S.)

Relax, sugar. It's just a dream.

(looks to Alita)

Thank God.

TYSON

What? But... how... who are you?

EMMA

(serious)

I'm someone who needs your help...

or neither of us are going to see

Sofia and the others ever again.

Turning around, Tyson stares at the redhead, utterly confused, as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

11

INT. GRAND BALLROOM - NIGHT

11

A spotlight illuminates two people in the centre of the room - as we move closer, we realise that it is Frankie and Dunstall, dancing in true ballroom style.

Frankie, looking like several million dollars, is wearing an elegant ball gown and Dunstall is wearing a tuxedo.

DUNSTALL

There isn't a man here tonight who doesn't wish he was in my shoes.

FRANKIE

Something tells me they would not dance as well in them as you do!

She laughs happily as the couple continue to sashay across the floor, the spotlight following them.

Dunstall leans in and gently kisses Frankie - and the lights raise and the room is revealed to be jammed with elegantly dressed men and women, all dancing around the room.

GREG approaches - he is dressed as the LORD CHAMBERLAIN, and he bows respectfully to the couple.

GREG

Ma'am.

(beat)

Your majesty.

FRANKIE

Oui, Pierce? What is it?

GREG

I believe we need to move you from the palace. We have reason to believe there's a grave threat to your life if you remain.

DUNSTALL

What is this threat?

GREG

Nothing you need to worry yourself about, my lordship.

DUNSTALL

If it concerns Queen Francoise then, I am sure to say, it does concern me. No harm will come to her whilst I am close.

(CONTINUED)

Greg and Dunstall exchange looks - there is a cold silence.

GREG

Very well, if the Queen permits,
you will be informed.

FRANKIE

I do permit. Tell us what 'as you
so concerned, Pierce.

GREG

(beat)

We have come into receipt of
reports of Phantom activity in the
vicinity. It seems he's coming for
the Queen and her brethren - as he
did before.

FRANKIE

He was beaten before, *non*? Why
should we worry ourselves a second
time?

GREG

With all due respect, Your
Highness, he was not beaten -
merely vanquished.

FRANKIE

And he will be vanquished again!

She turns to Dunstall with a proud smile - she's with her
hero and knows it. Dunstall flashes a charming smile back at
her, but Greg clears his throat to regain their attention.

GREG

Perhaps, but he has had time to
build up his power, and he will be
much stronger than he was in your
first encounter.

FRANKIE

I will take your word for it,
Chamberlain.

GREG

Very well, if you'll come with me?

Greg moves to take Frankie up the staircase and out through
the big double doors - but there is an EXPLOSION of smoke,
and suddenly the PHANTOM is at the top of the stairs,
blocking their way.

The Phantom is dressed like the PHANTOM OF THE OPERA,
resplendent in a swirling black cloak and, sure enough, the
relevant music begins playing, courtesy of the orchestra.

(CONTINUED)

Frankie is drawn towards the Phantom, who reaches a hand out to her as she moves through the crowd around her.

PHANTOM

(sings)

Sing once again with me, our
strange duet, my power over you,
grows stronger yet, and though you
run from me, and glance behind. The
Phantom of the Opera is here -
inside your mind.

The Phantom GRABS Frankie, and in a POOF of smoke they vanish. Dunstall, Greg and OTHERS rush to the spot in which they vanished.

DUNSTALL

The demon!

GREG

(darkly)

A most vile creature.

DUNSTALL

We will rescue the fair lady with
all due speed! You're all either
with me, or against me. And if
you're with me, prepare to kill the
beast-

GREG

(surprised)

Kill the beast?

DUNSTALL

(nods)

Kill the beast!

As Dunstall tries to lead a morale-boosting CHEER - and finds he's the only one cheering, we cut to:

12 INT. CAMPUS - BARBARA'S OFFICE - MORNING

12

Barbara is just opening her office up for the new day when there is a KNOCK at the door.

BARBARA

Come in.

ELLEN enters, a concerned look on her face.

BARBARA (cont'd)

Ellen? What's wrong? You normally
wait until at least ten before
giving me my first piece of bad
news for the day...

(CONTINUED)

ELLEN

Just got word in from one of my boys out on a scouting run. We've got trouble heading this way.

Barbara sits, sharing Ellen's worried expression.

BARBARA

Can you be more specific?

ELLEN

Demons. Lots of them.

Barbara glances down at her desk - and at Sofia's dream diary. She stands, all business.

BARBARA

We need to get the girls together.

ELLEN

(nods)

I'm on it.

Ellen hurries out of the office, and as Barbara looks back to the diary and picks it up, we cut to:

A barge, like a Venetian gondolier, pushes through the dark water in the cavernous chamber. The gondolier itself is illuminated by a flaming torch and propelled by a shrouded figure with a large bone oar in its hands.

The Phantom and Frankie are on the barge, Frankie pressed back against the far end as the Phantom pushes the gondolier through the gloomy caverns.

Frankie moves to speak, but the Phantom raises a finger to his lips.

PHANTOM

Hush, my darling. Quietly and quieter we must be. You wouldn't want to disturb the help...

The Phantom gestures to the shrouded figure - who, prompted by a flick of the Phantom's hand, drops its hood...

... to reveal a decaying KEEYA, flesh, muscle and bone exposed! Frankie SCREAMS in horror, and we cut to:

There's a knock at the door before Barbara and Ellen step inside, taking in the four sleeping girls.

BARBARA

Come on, girls! Wake up! We've got trouble!

A beat. Ellen and Barbara exchange a look before she heads over to Alita, gently shaking her. Ellen tries to rouse Frankie and Skye, without success.

BARBARA (cont'd)

(darkly)

Oh, no...

ELLEN

What is it?

BARBARA

(grim)

This has happened before. They're all in grave danger unless we can help them.

ELLEN

Why? What's going on?

BARBARA

It'd take too long to explain. Quick - go to the library, get Catherine, tell her the first day of term is happening all over again. She'll understand.

Ellen may not understand, but she registers the importance and dashes out of the dorms, as we cut back to:

Frankie scrambles away from the zombified Keeya, who stares at her with glassy, vacant eyes.

PHANTOM

Hush, girl.

FRANKIE

What do you want?

The Phantom grins, his motions suddenly becoming far less grandiose and more casual.

PHANTOM

Come now, we all know the fallacy of the talking villain! A good nemesis never ever reveals their plan, not even when their victory, like mine, seems inevitable.

(MORE)

15

CONTINUED:

15

PHANTOM (cont'd)
 You might as well settle down for
 the trip, my dear, for it's long,
 and the scenery isn't all that
 stimulating.

The Phantom rips his mask off - revealing the SONHO DEMON!
 Frankie inches as far away from him as she can - then KICKS
 her leg up and SMASHES the demon in the face.

The demon staggers back and Frankie jumps to her feet,
 striking a fighting stance - but finding her voluminous
 ballroom getting in the way!

She struggles with it for a beat before the demon lands a
 solid PUNCH that knocks her to the floor.

Frankie rolls to avoid a CLAW as it scythes down towards her,
 scrambling back to her feet, grabbing the ball gown in both
 hands - and TEARING!

With one leg now freed to move, Frankie is able to dodge the
 demon's attacks more easily, the gondolier rocking
 dangerously from side to side as the two combatants dance
 around each other.

Frankie tries to grab the oar to use as a weapon, but the
 demon beats her to it, raking his CLAWS across her chest, and
 as Frankie shouts in pain and staggers back, clutching her
 stomach, we cut to:

16

INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - MORNING

16

Jaz is standing over Frankie, all business, with Catherine,
 Aiden and Tyson nearby - and they all recoil in alarm as the
 demon's claw wounds BURST across Frankie's stomach!

CATHERINE

Oh, no!

Jaz tries to cover the wounds, but her grim expression says
 it all as Frankie's blood flows from the cuts.

JAZ

She's losing too much blood.

CATHERINE

We can't send her to a hospital,
 this is magic at work and they'd
 just mess things up - kill her,
 even!

JAZ

(urgent)

Tyson, get back to the infirmary
 and get me all the emergency
 supplies you can.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

JAZ (cont'd)

Aiden, you've said before that you have some sort of healing powers and that N'Gel in Manchester helped you to channel it and save its friend. I need you to do that now, channel your powers again and help me save Frankie!

AIDEN

(backs off)

I- I- I'm not sure I can...

JAZ

You have to at least try! If it doesn't work, it doesn't work... but at least you tried.

CATHERINE

We're not exactly blessed with a variety of options here!

AIDEN

(deep breath)

Alright. No promises. I'm not even sure how I got it working last time!

Aiden nods and rolls up his sleeves, advancing on Frankie he puts a hand on her forehead and a hand in her bloody hand - he winces as he makes contact with the sticky red stuff.

Jaz, meanwhile, looks up at Tyson who is still standing in the corner of the room, frozen as he stares at Frankie's wounded hand.

JAZ

(urgent)

Go, damn it!

Tyson snaps out of his trance and runs into:

The door to the dormitory opens and Tyson runs into the darkened corridor, but skids to a halt when he hears:

EMMA (O.S.)

Howdy! Tyson, right?

Tyson slowly turns round - there's no-one there. He frowns and turns back - and there's Emma! Tyson YELPS and leaps backwards.

EMMA (cont'd)

Hi. I'm Emma. The girls must've told y'all about me.

TYSON

Uh... yes, they did. Sofia still keeps a photograph you gave her.

EMMA

(smiles)

Yeah, she's a sweetheart like that.

Emma takes a step forward - and the wary Tyson takes a step back.

TYSON

They also told me you died.

EMMA

(rolls eyes)

Long story.

TYSON

How come can I see you?

EMMA

You're tuned to the same kind of frequency I am, that's why. Guess being psychic has its advantages, huh?

TYSON

(unsure)

Looks that way... so what's going on here? Nobody's telling me what's happening in there with the girls!

EMMA

That's why I need your help.

TYSON

With what? I mean... don't take this the wrong way, but I don't really see what I can do to-

EMMA

(interrupts)

Dream demon - the same one, in fact, that got me killed. He's tossed the girls into their own personal nightmares - easier to take them out that way, dont'cha think? A divide and conquer strategy.

TYSON

(catching up)

Frankie... we need to tell this to Jaz, right away!

(CONTINUED)

EMMA

Nothing that Jaz can do will help them, but we can do something to help. You can help me go into their dreams and help them beat this thing. We're both immune - I'm a ghost, and when you phase into a dream you're not really asleep, so he can't harm you. And his powers won't work on non-Slayers... yet.

TYSON

My girl's in there.

EMMA

Alita?

TYSON

Yeah.

EMMA

Lucky girl.

TYSON

Okay... so what do I have to do?

EMMA

Find somewhere quiet and lie down. I'll take care of the rest.

TYSON

This is... well, I'd say 'weird' but I don't think that covers the true level of bizarreness we're dealing with here.

EMMA

Hey, I'm dead! Spare a thought for me, alright?

Tyson doesn't look like he understands as we cut to:

A dark stone corridor illuminated by wall mounted - through which Emma walks in silence and grim determination.

She turns a corner and come face to face with Dunstall, Greg and numerous others - armed with swords, clubs and pitchforks. Dunstall narrows his eyes and glares at her.

DUNSTALL

Who are you?

EMMA

A friend of Frankie's.

(CONTINUED)

DUNSTALL

Who is this 'Frankie'?

EMMA

Francoise DuCont? French chick,
can't miss her. Blonder than blonde
and a mouth the size of-

DUNSTALL

Yes, we all serve Queen Francoise
of the House of DuCont. She has
been kidnapped by the Phantom and
taken to the *lac du noir* in the
dungeons.

EMMA

Right! Count me in to rescue the
Queen-lady then.

Dunstall nods - and the others in his party push past Emma
and lead the way down the corridor.

EMMA (cont'd)

(under his breath)

Even her nightmares are
grandiose...

As she follows the rescue party, we cut to:

Frankie lies on the ground in the depths of the cavern, a
huge ORGAN rising from the very rock before her and dozens of
small mirrors mounted on the walls around her.

She coughs weakly, her hand pressed to her stomach as the
sonho demon, still wearing the Phantom's cloak, strides over
to the organ and begins to play.

SONHO DEMON

It's quite poetic, really. I had
this all worked out, ready to throw
your greatest fear at you - and
then it changes!

Frankie pushes herself up, trying to stay strong.

FRANKIE

What... what do you mean?

The demon turns, stepping away from the organ and over to
Frankie, GRABBING her by the hair and pulling her to her
feet. Frankie shouts in pain as the demon drags her towards
the mirrors.

SONHO DEMON
Let's demonstrate.

Frankie tries to pull his claws away, but the demon pushes her face closer to the mirror - and Frankie watches in horror as the mirror starts to CRACK!

FRANKIE
Non...

As the mirror starts to break up, huge CUTS start to streak across Frankie's face!

She SOBS in fear as the demon roughly SHOVES her back to the floor, kicking her onto her back and pressing his taloned foot down on her chest.

SONHO DEMON
Only now, it seems there's something else gnawing away at the back of your mind...

FRANKIE
Please... please, don't...

The demon puts its weight on its foot, and Frankie SCREAMS out in pain!

SONHO DEMON
The life growing inside you... do you want it? Are you scared what'll happen to it when it becomes too big to hide? Or maybe what'll happen to you when your headmistress finds out about it?

DUNSTALL O.S.)
My lady!

The demon looks up - and leading his band of volunteers towards the lair is Dunstall, flaming torch held high.

SONHO DEMON
(groans)
Oh, great...

DUNSTALL
There's the beast! Destroy it!

Dunstall leads the charge, and as he and several other warriors tackle the demon, Emma and Greg hurry over to Frankie, lifting her back up.

GREG
Can you move, your majesty?

FRANKIE

Non... I am... too weak...

EMMA

No, you're not, honey. You just need the right motivation.

Emma presses a sword into Frankie's hand, and before a stunned Greg can react, she turns Frankie round and pushes her towards the demon, calling out:

EMMA (cont'd)

Hey, gruesome! Over here!

The demon fells two of Dunstall's men with a sweep of its claws, PUNCHING Dunstall to the ground as he charges in to attack.

The demon looks up and sees Frankie before him, shaking as she tries to focus, aiming the sword at the monster. The demon GRINS sickeningly and steps forward.

SONHO DEMON

Now this should be interesting... I wonder, should I kill your child first, or start with-

FRANKIE

Noo!!!

With a sudden burst of strength, Frankie charges forward, catching the demon by surprise and SLICING her sword across its chest.

It staggers back but she keeps up the frenzied attack, not just fighting for her life any more, and the demon can't fight her off.

With a SWEEP of its long cloak, it VANISHES, and the breathless Frankie stays on her feet for a moment - before starting to FAINT.

Dunstall dives in to catch her, and Frankie's eyes flutter open to see him.

DUNSTALL

Are you alright, my lady?

FRANKIE

(smiles)

I'm...

Frankie stirs, Jaz and the others stood round her.

(CONTINUED)

FRANKIE

... fine.

JAZ

Frankie? Frankie, can you hear me?

Frankie tries to sit up, but Catherine gently pushes her back down onto the bed.

CATHERINE

You've been hurt badly, Frankie,
try not to move.

FRANKIE

Emma... she was...

Frankie's head lolls to one side, and Jaz quickly checks her pulse.

JAZ

She's alive. Her heart rate's weak,
but she's just unconscious.
(looks round)
Where the hell is Tyson?

Jaz gets back to dressing Frankie's wounds as we cut to:

Asleep on top of one of the beds is Tyson, and as we push in on his dozing expression, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

22

INT. DORMS - MORNING

22

Push in on a still dreaming Alita, her expression peaceful before she slowly opens her eyes.

She sees Heidi, Skye, Frankie and Sofia all looking through her diary. They turn to each other, constantly whispering and giggling all the time as Alita rises from her bed.

ALITA

What... what are you all doing?

HEIDI

Oh, we're just searching through your private life. No harm done.

SKYE

Even more secrets kept from us, huh?

SOFIA

I was quite happy to find out that Alita was half Spanish. Now we can converse in our native tongue!

ALITA

But... you were born in Italy!

SOFIA

(shrugs)

Italian, Spanish, same thing.

ALITA

Okay... what is going on here? You are not being yourselves.

FRANKIE

Perhaps it is you who is not being 'erself!

HEIDI

Bullied at a young age for not being fully Japanese. Hidden from the world because you're a Slayer. No mother, barely a father. I'd say she's about there.

ALITA

Please...

HEIDI

See this is what you'd call round two, Alita.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

22

CONTINUED:

22

HEIDI (cont'd)
You fought me before, and you won,
but that was only because you had
your friends with you. Now they're
not with you. They're against you.
This is your worst nightmare,
Alita. *Sayonara.*

Heidi narrows her eyes with a sinister smile, and as the other girls continue giggling and whispering, glancing at Alita, Heidi starts to GROW - her skin blackens, her eyes glow a fierce red and her hands elongate into claws...

In moments, the Sonho Demon rises from the floor before Alita, who is frozen to the spot. The demon raises a claw and SWIPES it down, and with a short gasp from Alita we cut to:

23

EXT. FOREST - DAY

23

Alita's eyes snap open, and she's elsewhere. As she wakes up, she sees that she's in a clearing in the middle of a thick forest. It's where she trained when she was younger.

She rises from the floor, a little confused, and begins to look around. She looks down at her clothes - and she's wearing a beautiful white geisha outfit.

As her eyes dart around the forest clearing, she hears something. She walks forward, but begins to back off slightly when she hears rustling in the bushes.

ALITA
Who's there?

Sitting high atop a fallen tree branch is none other than Alita's mother, NINA!

NINA
Ola, mi chico.

Alita turns around, and her eyes go wide as she sees her.

ALITA
(shocked)
Mother! You're... alive?

NINA
Let's just say we're meeting in
between. I'm very proud of you,
Alita. Look at you, a fully fledged
Slayer, carrying herself on wings
of despair.
(beat)
Beauty and talent combined as one.

ALITA
What's happening? Why am I here? Am
I dreaming?

(CONTINUED)

NINA

So many questions, so little time.
I'm so happy. My little blood
splattered angel's all grown up.
You haven't forgotten me, have you?

ALITA

(smiles; tearful)
Mother, how could I ever forget
you? Not a day goes by that I don't
wonder what my life would be if you
were still here!

NINA

Oh, I'm sure you're doing just fine
without me. I mean, you killed me,
right?

ALITA

(beat; smile drops)
What did you just say?

NINA

You'd forgotten? Forgotten those
bullets I took for you? Ashamed of
me, are you? Is that why you never
mention me?

Alita shakes her head, fresh tears welling up.

ALITA

(shouts)
Please, stop this!

NINA

Maybe this will help you remember.

From out of nowhere, Nina pulls out a GUN and FIRES at Alita!
As Alita the bullets rip into Alita, time SLOWS DOWN - she
stumbles back, her arms flailing.

NINA (cont'd)

(blocked out)
And you didn't even get to hear me
sing...

Alita crashes to the ground and lies still, and we cut to:

Alita, passed out on the floor of the Kagemura household.
VOICES speak over her, and we pan up to see Skye, Frankie and
Sofia standing over her, looking down at her.

FRANKIE

Maybe we should throw water on her?

SOFIA

That never works. Maybe she's anemic or something. My cousin once told me a really good cure - she needs to drink a gallon of pineapple juice, put on a sombrero, and then eat a goat's liver, before-

SKYE

(quickly)

Look, she's coming to.

As Alita rises once again, dazed and confused, she turns to see the other girls crowding around her.

SOFIA

(relieved)

Oh, thank goodness. We thought we'd lost you there for a minute!

SKYE

Yeah, and I think Sofia was thinking about poisoning you.

ALITA

Where am I?

SOFIA

Home. Your home, in fact.

FRANKIE

(raises eyebrow)

Why are you wearing that outfit?

Alita looks down to see she's wearing the same geisha outfit, yet it's now stained with BLOOD.

SOFIA

It's not exactly the Alita we've come to expect!

ALITA

I don't understand...

SKYE

I'll just make it clearer, then.

(in Japanese)

<The clothes you are wearing are ridiculous. Please take them off.>

ALITA

When did you learn Japanese?

SKYE

(sighs)

Must I do everything myself?

(CONTINUED)

Skye suddenly RIPS Alita's clothes off - to reveal a rather skimpy costume underneath!

SKYE (cont'd)
Now that's the real you.

Alita lowers her head, blushing deeply.

SKYE (cont'd)
The pleasure's all mine. Now hurry up, you're gonna be late for your destiny.

Alita looks at a nearby clock to see it's frozen at 11:42. Her eyes widen as she bolts it out of the door.

SOFIA
(calling to her)
And wear a hat! You'll catch a cold if you don't...

They watch her scurry away as we cut to:

Alita runs like a bat out of hell across the dirt path outside her home, kicking up dust as she sprints away from the house.

She glances over her shoulder, but when she looks forwards again she BUMPS into a figure, and she's knocked to the floor.

He turns around - to reveal the CHEESE MAN! He's holding cheese slices in front of her on a silver platter.

CHEESE MAN
Most Asians are lactose intolerant...

Alita stares at him, confused for a moment, before getting up and running straight past him.

As she comes to the end of the trail, the sky starts to become considerably darker. Alita stops in front of a figure. It's her father, TAKESHIRO, standing in the middle of the road, arms folded.

TAKESHIRO
(subtitled Japanese)
<You disappoint me once again Alita. The demons are close, you are late...
(looks her up and down)
... and dressed like a street crawler.>

ALITA
(breathless)
Stop, wait... I haven't yet...

TAKESHIRO
<There is no time for pause. You
are the only one who can exorcise
these demons. You and only you.>

ALITA
What... how do I...

TAKESHIRO
<They are coming. Don't cry. This
is your destiny.>

As Takeshiro backs away into the darkness, Alita looks down to see a KATANA embedded in the ground at her feet.

Alita's expression hardens, instinct taking over as she grabs the sword and looks up - and sees a huge swarm of DEMONS spilling over the countryside, racing towards her and HOWLING.

The first group of demons come charging towards her, ROARING a battle cry. They are quite large, red in colour and have faces which resemble Japanese Oni masks.

Alita charges forward and goes for a downwards SLASH on one of the demons. It DISAPPEARS into thin air and reappears behind Alita, kicking her to the ground.

She scrambles to her feet and tries to STAB another demon. It spins out of the way, but she's able to knock out another with a quick KICK.

Sweeping another off its feet, she moves to the side and CUTS another in half. As the demons begin to circle Alita, the fallen demon re-emerges as two separate demons!

Alita grimaces, then decides to try a different strategy. She sheathes her sword, and strikes a fighting stance.

Weaving in and out with open palms, she lunges at another demon. She's able to grab its arm and take it to the ground. Unsheathing her sword, she STABS the demon in the gut.

Once again, however, the demon breaks apart and re-emerges as two more demons!

Alita turns round, frustrated, beginning to hack through the pack again. It's no use - for every demon she kills, another two take its place.

She's floored by a massive PUNCH from one of them, knocking her to the ground.

(CONTINUED)

As she falls flat on her stomach, dazed, she looks over to see her father, shaking his head disapprovingly. She turns to the other side to see her brother, MASAMI, being held captive by the Oni demons.

ALITA

Masami! Hold on, I am coming!

One grabs him by the neck, and with a quick SNAP, his lifeless body falls to the ground.

ALITA (cont'd)

(screams)

Masami!

Alita scrambles to her feet, but her path to Masami is blocked as dozens more of the demon horde flood towards her. Heartbroken, she knows she can't fight them all - and she turns and RUNS.

Ducking into a nearby alleyway, she falls to the ground, her back slumped against a wall.

She SOBS, her whole body shuddering as she weeps, when out of nowhere Emma steps into frame before her.

EMMA

Don't cry, honey. It's going to be alright.

Startled, Alita looks up as Emma crouches before her, blinking in disbelief.

ALITA

How-

EMMA

Tyson. Your man's got a few handy talents in a crisis!

ALITA

My... 'man'?

EMMA

(beat)

Never mind. We can get you out of here, but you need to do exactly what I say. None of this is real, you know that, right?

Alita SNIFFS, wiping her eyes and nodding.

ALITA

Alright... what do I have to do?

EMMA

The dream demon should be disguised as your worst fear, that's the way it works. Whatever is in this world you're in, its source is being powered by your fear. Destroy the one thing you're scared of the most and you should wake up. Got it?

ALITA

I don't think I can...

EMMA

You can do this, Alita. Just face your fear. If you can overcome that, you can achieve anything.

Alita looks up and down the alley - the distant SHOUTS of the demon horde echo down to her. She turns back to Emma, her expression defiant, and nods.

ALITA

Alright. I think I know what I must do to defeat the creature.

EMMA

That's my girl. Everybody's waiting for you on the other side!

Alita rises to her feet, clenching her fists, but when she turns back Emma is gone. Setting her jaw, Alita marches to the entrance to the alleyway:

The small village is already ravaged by the demon army, with people's SCREAMS mixing with the ROARS of the demons and the sounds of FIRE ripping through the homesteads.

As Alita walks forward with a look only a true warrior could display, she unsheathes her sword.

We flow into slow-mo as she cuts through a group of demons in one strike, hardly looking.

She continues to march towards something in the distance. It's her father, watching her with his now typical stoic, disappointed expression.

He steps back as Alita ignores the demons, marching straight towards him.

TAKESHIRO

<Wait, what are you...>

27 CONTINUED:

27

SMACK! Alita PUNCHES him straight in the jaw! We suddenly WHITE OUT as he falls:

28 INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - MORNING

28

And we're back to the real dorms. Alita jumps up with a GASP, wide eyed, clutching the bedsheets in fear. Catherine and Jaz are nearby, sighing with relief.

ALITA

What... what happened?

CATHERINE

You're safe now, Alita. You're back in the real world. You conquered your worst fear. Whatever you did in your dream released you from the nightmare.

JAZ

Are you alright? Were you hurt?

ALITA

No, I... I am fine. What about the others? Are they still trapped?

JAZ

Frankie got out, but Sofia and Skye are still trapped.

ALITA

We need to rescue them.

JAZ

No, you need to go find Barbara and help her. Those demons Sofia dreamt about are on their way, and without Skye, Sofia or Greg we need all the help we can get!

Alita nods and grabs a nearby axe as she heads for the open door, pausing to look back round at Skye and Sofia.

Push in on Skye's sleeping face as Alita hurries away, and as Catherine moves over to her, we cut to:

29 EXT. STREET/ALLEYWAY - NIGHT

29

Skye is on the run, all vamped out. She jumps over some nearby trash cans, turning down a dark alleyway. She ducks down behind the trash cans, hiding from her pursuers.

Running into frame comes Frankie and Heidi, weapons in hand, scanning the streets around them.

(CONTINUED)

FRANKIE

Did you see where she went?

HEIDI

No. We should split up. I'll wait here and you can go find the scary vampire.

FRANKIE

Pas du chance!

HEIDI

Heads or tails?

FRANKIE

Heads.

Heidi pulls out a coin from her pocket. She flips it into the air, catching it on her hand. She reveals it.

HEIDI

Looks like I win.

FRANKIE

Two out of three?

HEIDI

No dice, Frenchie.

Frankie turns her nose up at Heidi and carries on, brandishing a stake in hand.

Suddenly we hear a RATTLE from behind the trash cans. Heidi looks behind her, and her jaw drops in horror.

HEIDI (cont'd)

No! Please don't kill me! I'm too young to die!

Skye BURSTS out of the darkness and GRABS Heidi, holding her by the throat and pinning her against the wall.

SKYE

I should have done this a long time ago...

She bares her fangs and begins to chow down on Heidi. As the colour drains from Heidi's face and her body goes limp, Skye eases off.

She drops Heidi's corpse to the ground, and looks down at her bloodstained hands.

SKYE (cont'd)

(quietly)

Oh god... what have I done?

(CONTINUED)

From out of nowhere Heidi's eyes flutter open.

HEIDI

You just killed me, isn't that kind of obvious?

Skye looks a little shocked and confused.

HEIDI (cont'd)

Oh, right, I forgot. Sorry.

And then she closes her eyes and continues to be dead in a rather dramatic fashion.

Skye sinks to her knees, desperately trying to wipe Heidi's blood away on her t-shirt.

SKYE

(feverish)

No... it's alright... just need to get rid of the body... just need to get rid of the-

VOICE (O.S.)

Oh, we're a long way past that.

She turns around - and it's her old teacher, MS. COLLINS!

SKYE

You! What do you want with me?

MS. COLLINS

Well, at first I wanted you to pass your school, get good grades and just generally be the best student you could be. I guess now I'll just have to settle with tormenting you to the point of sanity.

SKYE

(shakes head)

You're not real. You're the First.

MS. COLLINS

Is that right? I don't feel like I couldn't touch you. Couldn't taste you. Couldn't hurt you. I'm more than the First. I'm what nightmares are made of.

Skye looks taken back by this.

MS. COLLINS (cont'd)

You can't control it, Skye. You're nothing more than an animal. A vicious, cold-blooded killer.

(CONTINUED)

From off screen, Emma emerges from in a darkened alleyway.

EMMA

Don't listen to it, Skye! It's not what you think! It's just that thing again. You can fight this.

MS. COLLINS

What are you doing here?

SKYE

Emma...

EMMA

Skye, listen to me. That thing is the demon that killed me. It's not your old teacher, or the First. It's messing with your head, trying to break you down.

Emma steps forward, but Skye backs off, wary.

SKYE

And how would I know that the demon isn't really you?

EMMA

You have to trust me! That thing will kill you if you don't let me get you out of here!

MS. COLLINS

It seems that you're facing your worst nightmare, Skye. Trust. Can you trust someone you hardly met?

EMMA

Skye, stand up to it!

MS. COLLINS

You think her head isn't screwed up enough already? She's pathetic, and she knows it!

HEIDI

Don't I get a say in this?

EMMA

No!!

MS. COLLINS

No!!

MS. COLLINS

Well, she's going to have to choose. Which one is it?

Skye's eyes dart back and forth between Ms. Collins and Emma. Her breathing becomes heavy.

(CONTINUED)

EMMA
(pleading)
Please, Skye. They need you out
there!

Skye walks towards Ms. Collins - and gives her a quick KICK to the face, knocking her to the ground!

Emma claps her hands in triumph as Ms. Collins falls back - and quickly morphs into the Sonho Demon!

EMMA (cont'd)
Attagirl! Now to get you out of all
this...

From out of nowhere, Emma pulls out a wooden STAKE and swiftly drives it right into Skye's heart! On Skye's shocked face, Emma pulls her closer.

EMMA (cont'd)
Thank me later.

Skye slowly crumbles to DUST as the demon HOWLS in frustration behind her, and we WHITE OUT:

And Skye wakes up with a shock. Looking around the room she notices she's safe and sound. She looks down at her chest.

SKYE
(to self)
You only die if he kills you...

JAZ
Skye! Are you-

SKYE
I'm good. It's that demon again.

CATHERINE
Yes, we know. Frankie and Alita
have made it back already, but I'm
afraid Sofia is still trapped.

She looks around the room to see Sofia still in a deep sleep, and from her worried features, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

31

EXT. FIELD - DAY

31

Sofia is standing in the middle of an expansive field. A giant ROCK juts out of the ground before her, pulsating with dark energy.

She looks down at her hands:

The SCYTHE glows with energy.

Without a word, Sofia begins running, full-tilt, towards the rock. She reaches it, and peers through a crevice:

DEMONS seethe across one another, reptile-like, as FIRES burn around them. She is literally looking into the mouth of Hell!

She looks at the Scythe. She knows what to do.

Close up on the Scythe as it is driven into the rock! Sofia waits for something to happen... but it doesn't. Nothing happens!

SOFIA

I... I don't understand...

VOICE (O.C.)

Aww, what's the matter?

Sofia spins around to face DELANEY! The Slayers face each other, faces grim. Delaney pulls a gleaming broadsword out of a sheath on her back.

SOFIA

What are you doing here?

DELANEY

I'm just here to watch the show.

Sofia PULLS the Scythe out of the rock.

SOFIA

You probably shouldn't piss me off right now.

DELANEY

What's wrong? Your little Slayer toy isn't working?

Sofia cracks her neck, holding the Scythe ready.

SOFIA

I think we're done talking now.

(CONTINUED)

DELANEY

Well, I'm glad we agree on one thing.

Without preamble, Delaney STRIKES with her sword, but Sofia parries the blow with the Scythe, the weapons CLANGING against each other with a SPARK!

DELANEY (cont'd)

You're fast...

Delaney spins quickly, her sword sliding across the blade of the Scythe, knocking Sofia off-balance.

DELANEY (cont'd)

I'm faster.

Delaney strikes again, and they trade several blows, each concentrating so hard that they barely even take their eyes off of each other.

SOFIA

When are you going to get it through your...

(strikes)

... thick...

(strikes again)

... head!

Sofia SLAMS the side of the Scythe against Delaney's face, knocking the other Slayer backward. Sofia glowers down at Delaney, triumphant.

SOFIA (cont'd)

You just aren't strong enough to beat me.

Delaney looks up at Sofia, anger in her eyes.

DELANEY

You obviously don't know me very well.

Delaney SCISSOR-KICKS Sofia, knocking her legs out from beneath her, and the Scythe goes FLYING from her hands!

Sofia lands on the ground face-first, grimacing in pain as Delaney flings herself back onto her feet.

DELANEY (cont'd)

I know how to bounce back.

Surprised, Sofia is caught off guard and looks up at Delaney helplessly. Delaney pushes a foot down on Sofia's chest, pinning her to the ground.

(CONTINUED)

DELANEY (cont'd)

Come on! Fight back! Where's the new look, bad tempered Sofia we all know and love? Aren't you supposed to be special? Buffy's 'Chosen One'?

SOFIA

(forced out)

You... have no idea... what you're spouting on about!

DELANEY

Oh, really? You walk around like you're God's gift to this Earth. Perfect little Slayer, out to kill the bad guys. But you're just a scared little girl, hiding behind the lies. You're nothing, Sofia.

SOFIA

At least my life means more than being the lapdog to some psychotic witch!

Delaney reaches down and BACK-HANDS Sofia across the face and the pinned Slayer recoils in pain.

DELANEY

(angry)

Shut up! You don't know what you're mouthing off about!

(beat)

Besides... who's the one winning right now? If I were you, I'd keep my mouth shut.

SOFIA

Good thing you aren't me. Now why don't you let me up, and fight me like a real Slayer?

DELANEY

(laughs)

You think you know what a real Slayer is? You act like you're so privileged. Buffy's little protege. You couldn't survive one day without your annoying little gal-pals at your side twenty-four seven.

SOFIA

I've survived by myself so far, haven't I?

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (3)

31

DELANEY

That won't be true for long.

Delaney raises her sword and prepares to swing, as we cut to:

32 EXT. FIELD - DAY

32

Sofia looks up, and Delaney is gone. However, now she can see a small PLANE rushing towards her, hurtling out of the sky! She tries to move, but she can't!

Looking down, she sees that her feet have been somehow welded into the ground!

Sofia looks back up, and the plane is getting closer and closer! She continues struggling, but can't get free. Standing defiant, accepting her death, she waits. The plane gets closer still and we move into SLOW MOTION.

Sofia moves to guard her face from the plane as it WHOOSHES through her - THROUGH HER - as if she were a ghost.

An EXPLOSION rocks the earth, but Sofia stands still, as if she is a specter watching everything from another world.

33 INT. PLANE - SAME TIME

33

Sofia is now within the interior of the plane as it crumbles and explodes upon impact. Still in slow motion, she sees a MAN and a WOMAN being rocketed back and forth within the plane, their bodies broken and smashed by the impact.

SOFIA

(slow and distorted)

Mum! Dad! No!

A brilliant plume of FLAMES shoots through the entire body of the plane, engulfing everything in sight, including Sofia's parents, and Sofia THROWS herself out of the way to hide her eyes from this horrible vision.

34 EXT. FIELD - NEXT

34

Back in real-time motion, Sofia slowly picks herself up off the ground as a slight wind tousles her hair. She reaches a sitting position, and looks out across the field, where a pillar of SMOKE rises into the air.

Angle on a pair of running legs as they make their way through the field. Panting breath is the only sound to be heard.

ON SOFIA as she runs with all her might, and she comes to a skidding stop at the site of a massive crash! Pieces of the plane are scattered all around, most of them still on fire, smoke everywhere.

(CONTINUED)

Sofia slowly makes her way through the wreckage, looking around with empty eyes as she takes in the sights and sounds of everything around her. Tears have begun to streak down her face...

Something MOVES in the wreckage!

Sofia's eyes immediately dart to what appears to be a dangling arm hanging from a seat still suspended in the air, due to the main body of the plane flipping in the crash.

Sofia's MOTHER dangles before her, dead and covered in burns, scrapes, gashes and bruises.

SOFIA
(sobbing)
Mum... Mum, can you hear me?!?

A HAND appears on Sofia's shoulder. She jerks around and sees that she is facing Emma!

EMMA
Can't you see, Sofia? None of this
is real! It's all an illusion. It's
a trap, darlin'!

Sofia shoves Emma away, trying to get towards the wreckage. Emma tries to hold her back, Sofia struggling to get free.

SOFIA
(screaming)
No! You don't know anything! Get
away! I have to save her! I have
to! Let me go!

EMMA
Sofia, you have to open your eyes!
You're believing the lies! This
isn't real!

SOFIA
You're what isn't real! Now leave
me alone, I have to save them!

Sofia rushes away from Emma and begins trying to help her dying mother, but Emma just watches her helplessly.

A tall SHADOW falls over Emma, and she spins round to see the Sonho Demon is standing right next to her!

SONHO DEMON
Looks like you lose...

Emma GASPS as the demon looms over her, and as she lets out a brief SCREAM we quickly cut to:

35

EXT. INDUSTRIAL ESTATE - MORNING

35

Greg watches Ethan carefully as he lazily lights a cigarette, leaning back against a nearby crate.

ETHAN

Let's make this brief, Mister Pierce. I've a few virgin sacrifices to make and it's not yet time for brunch.

GREG

This is serious business, Mister Rayne. You must know why I've asked to see you-

ETHAN

It's 'Waters.' Daniel Waters.

GREG

(confused)
What?

ETHAN

In order to stay as mobile as I am, I've been forced to take a few creative liberties with my identity - one of them being a new name for myself.

GREG

(beat)
How is any of that relevant?

ETHAN

Because on the off chance somebody wanders past and hears you calling me 'Mr. Rayne,' I'll be forced to take drastic measures to maintain my secrecy.

GREG

Alright, then... Can we get back onto the subject at hand?

ETHAN

I've got an idea - or two. Why don't you tell me all about what you know of your background, and when you start veering from the actual facts I'll be sure to nudge you in the right direction again.

GREG

(beat)
I was born in 1980.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GREG (cont'd)

My mother was a Watcher, Evelyn Pierce, born in 1962 - a talented and beautiful woman, from all accounts. You knew her, I believe?

ETHAN

Our paths crossed once or twice back in the day. She was a good woman, shame about what happened.

GREG

We're getting to that.

(beat)

My mother was killed in 1983 when I was only three years of age, she'd never been really good as a mother, being devoted to her deep infiltration of a coven - from what I've been told, it's the coven infiltration that got her killed. A powerful sorceress named Kira Brogan killed her, and her body was dragged out of the Thames shortly before my third birthday.

Elisabeth, my mother's friend who raised me in her absences and after her death, gave me a locket with a picture of her in it - but I've never seen a picture of my father.

(beat)

Many years ago, an Initiative agent named Preston Thrusting told me that there was much more to who my parents were than meets the eye. And since then, I've been trying to track my father down.

(beat)

Ethan... I'm not asking anymore. You have to tell me who my father is. If you don't...

Ethan turns and regards Greg with a sly grin.

ETHAN

What? You'll kill me? Forgive me if that doesn't exactly inspire the fear of God within me.

GREG

There are some things worse than death, Mr. Rayne.

ETHAN

And I've experienced half of them, Mr. Pierce. Don't think you can scare me into giving you such delicate information.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ETHAN (cont'd)

(beat)

I mean really, what do you take me for? A second-class amateur? You're playing with the big leagues now, son.

GREG

(beat)

You just called me...

Greg looks at Ethan as if he just realized the secret of life. He suddenly moves backwards.

GREG (cont'd)

Are you...?

Ethan laughs, a real, hearty laugh.

ETHAN

My dear boy, you really are as thick as I imagined you might be. And to think I feared you might have gleaned one modicum of the cleverness your father once possessed.

(beat)

Thankfully for me, you skipped that part of the gene pool.

GREG

Well, if you aren't my father...

(beat)

Then who is?

Ethan hesitates for a moment, drawing it out.

ETHAN

Such precious information...

Greg furiously GRABS Ethan by the shirt lapels!

GREG

Just tell me, damn it!

ETHAN

Fine. I'll tell you.

(beat)

No need to get angry.

Ethan chuckles, and Greg finally releases him.

ETHAN (cont'd)

You've put two and two together and made bitter lemonade, Gregory. I'm not your father... but I do know who is.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ETHAN (cont'd)
You've looked at the information
from one angle and drawn a
conclusion. Look at it from yet
another and you'll draw a different
one. The correct one.

Ethan pulls a scrap of paper out of his pocket and hands it
to Greg.

GREG
What's this?

ETHAN
Your father's obituary.

Greg stares at Ethan, then slowly looks down to read the
paper - and his jaw drops in shock!

GREG
You've got to be kidding me!

ETHAN
I'm afraid the time for joking is
long past, Gregory.

As a dumbstruck Greg reads it again, scarcely believing what
he's seeing, we cut to:

Alita and Skye hurry into the main hall to find pretty much
every other Slayer on campus gathered there. Barbara and
Ellen are standing over by the stage, watching the assembled
Slayers chatter nervously among themselves.

BARBARA
Can I have everyone's attention,
please?

The girls fall silent, and Barbara takes a moment.

BARBARA (cont'd)
Doesn't seem like five minutes
since we were last all standing
here like this...

SKYE
That's because it was last week.

ERIKA
Is another demon on the loose
again?

HEIDI
Is this going to take long? I have
things to do, you know!

ANNA

Oh, give it a rest, girl!

The girls start to descend into chatter again, until:

ELLEN

The campus is about to come under attack from a large incoming force of demons.

Ellen's bluntness shuts them all up. Ellen looks to Barbara, who nods her thanks.

BARBARA

We don't know where they've come from, but Ellen's troops have spotted them inbound for the Academy, so we can only assume they've come to wipe us out. Needless to say, we're not going to let that happen.

ELLEN

We're going to co-ordinate a defence of the campus. Everyone who can carry a weapon, grab one. Barbara and myself will be organising you all into teams and giving you positions to defend.

BARBARA

Where's Frankie?

ALITA

She was injured. She is down in the infirmary.

HEIDI

(mutters)

Chickening out, more like.

Skye glares at Heidi, who rolls her eyes as Barbara takes a step forward, fixing her gaze on Heidi.

BARBARA

This isn't a drill, Heidi. This is deadly serious. These things aren't coming here to scare us or threaten us - they're here to kill us. I need to know your mind is totally focused on the safety of this campus and every single one of your fellow Slayers, or you're no good to me.

HEIDI

(huffs)

Fine. Whatever. I'm focused. Just point me at the demons and let me take care of the rest.

Barbara nods, and as the girls swap worried looks, we cut to:

INT. CAMPUS - ELLEN'S OFFICE - NEXT

Ellen pulls a cell phone off her belt, and speed-dials a number.

ELLEN

This is Warrant Officer Marklew, calling HQ, HQ please respond.

She waits, knowing precious seconds are ticking away.

HQ

(filtered; through radio)

This is home base, please give us your situation, Agent Marklew.

ELLEN

The Academy has been compromised. An army is advancing as we speak. We need backup, now!

A beat. A tense silence fills the air.

HQ

Request for backup denied.

ELLEN

What?!?

HQ

We can't spare any teams to help you out, Agent Marklew. We've got trouble all over Europe, every resource we've got is stretched to the limit.

ELLEN

Am I speaking a different language?

(slowly)

An army of demons is coming here to kill us!

(angrily)

Send everything you've got in the area, right now!

HQ
Request denied. Advise you pull
your team from the Academy and
return to base, over.

Shocked, Ellen drops the phone from her ear, and it CLATTERS
to the floor in SLOW MOTION.

Ellen looks around, confused, desperate, before she takes
off, running out of the office as we cut to:

The front of the Academy, and the road that stretches out
from the front gates. Tall stone walls encircle the whole
campus - topped with razor sharp barb wire and other
deterrents.

A column of WARRIOR DEMONS and HUMANS making their way
towards them, armed to the teeth.

The demons begin climbing the gates, bashing through them,
and fighting their way in. It won't be long before they get
through.

PAN UP higher and higher to see the entire Academy as swarms
of demons begin wending their way closer and closer to the
main building, crowding round the gates and CLANGING their
weapons against them.

Their frenzied cries start to build in volume, the intensity
rising as a series of close ups of the leering, snarling
demonic faces takes us to:

BLACK OUT:

TITLE OVER - To Be Continued...

END OF SHOW