

SLAYER ACADEMY

"Intake"

by
Lee A. Chrimes

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TEASER

FADE IN:

1

INT. DARK CORRIDOR - NIGHT

1

A long, dimly lit corridor inside some old, run down building, the walls sprayed with graffiti and the floor strewn with litter.

A pair of trainer-clad FEET step into frame, pacing slowly forward, and we pan up to take in their owner, a lithe, tall young man with spiky brown hair and a SWORD in one hand.

The guy stops, his body tensing up as he slowly turns to face us - and it's BRAEDEN.

He narrows his eyes as though trying to pick up a sound, then turns back and resumes his stealthy progress down the corridor.

Doors branch off from the main corridor, and Braeden is fast approaching a T-junction when he hears VOICES up ahead. He nimbly darts into the shadows.

Moments later, two VAMPIRES step round the corner, also tensed up and scanning the dark halls for any signs of life. Neither one looks to have eaten well for some time, and both speak with British accents.

VAMP #1

You're sure you saw him come this way?

VAMP #2

Positive. It's a little hard to miss someone like that!

The vampires pace forward, drawing closer to where Braeden remains hidden.

VAMP #1

I still don't understand how he could fight the others like that. Did you see how fast he took care of Rowan and Sally? It was like-

VAMP #2

Like a Slayer.

The vampires both stop and turn to one another, the concern obvious in their expressions.

VAMP #1

Well, whatever he was, he's going to be very dead when I get a hold of him.

(CONTINUED)

VAMP #2

Hey, you're not the only person who
lost somebody today, you know! What
about all of my-

BRAEDEN (O.S.)

Fascinating as all this is,
fellas...

The vampires spin round as Braeden calmly steps from the shadows, casually twirling his sword.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)

... I'm running a bit behind
schedule, so if we can pick this up
where we left off, that'd be
bonzer.

Vamp #1 HISSES and gets ready to pounce, as Vamp #2 stumbles back a few steps in fear.

Braeden's smile drops, and he's all business as the first vamp advances on him, fangs bared.

The vamp finally LEAPS towards him, but Braeden moves faster, getting his sword up and RAMMING it straight through the vampire's chest with a dull THUNK.

The shish-kebabled vampire GULPS - and Braeden draws a stake, SLAMMING it into the vamp's chest in an instant.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)

(grins)

Give my regards to your missus when
you see her again, mate.

The vamp DUSTS, and as his comrade turns and runs, Braeden is after him in a moment, chasing him down and TACKLING him to the ground.

VAMP #2

P-please! Don't!

BRAEDEN

'Don't' what?

POW! The stake hits the vamp, and he DUSTS with a final HOWL of pain.

Braeden stands, brushing himself down before tossing the stake into the air and snatching it back. With a glance over his shoulder, he hurries off down the corridor, into:

2

INT. LARGER ROOM - NEXT

2

Braeden steps out into a wide, high-ceilinged room dotted with packing crates and steel drums. He paces forward again, sword at the ready.

He's made it a few steps out when the tip of a SWORD presses into the back of his neck. Braeden freezes, closing his eyes.

SOFIA (O.S.)

And you're dead.

Braeden grins and turns - and there's SOFIA, smiling from ear to ear as she lowers the sword and shrugs.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Top marks for the staking and the fighting bits, but your 'creeping through shadows' needs a lot of work.

BRAEDEN

Not a lot of chance to practice that where I'm from, Sofia!

She pats him on the arm as she steps past him.

SOFIA

Come on, you. There's still a couple more in here yet.

They head forward together, Sofia's eyes flicking to cover all the dark spots of the room, but Braeden's gaze is fixed on her.

SOFIA (cont'd)

How many did you get?

BRAEDEN

(distracted)

What?

She turns, registers his stare and smirks back.

SOFIA

If you can concentrate for just a minute...

BRAEDEN

(grins)

Right. Yeah I got two out there and another three before we got split up, so that makes-

There's a ROAR from above them, and the duo freeze as half a dozen more VAMPIRES drop down from the shadows!

(CONTINUED)

BRAEDEN (cont'd)
... not quite enough.

They go back to back as the vampires circle round them,
HISSING and clawing at them both.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)
Do we have a plan beyond our
standard 'hit back'?

SOFIA
Well, it got us this far...

The first two vampires CHARGE in, but with Slayer reflexes
Sofia and Braeden are ready, swords SLICING out and leaving
two headless vampires crumbling to dust.

They break away, taking on two vamps each in a flurry of
kicks and punches, fighting with every ounce of their skill.

Sofia takes a PUNCH and staggers back, but grabs the vamp's
arm as it lunges again, TWISTING it round and driving her
elbow into it for a loud SNAP.

The vamp HOWLS and staggers back, and Sofia spins on one
heel, drawing a stake as she does so and SLAMMING it home in
one fluid movement.

Braeden trades punches with his two vamps, getting dragged
into a knockdown brawl that neither vamp looks like losing
until Braeden ducks, SWEEPS one vamp to the floor and comes
back with a ROUNDHOUSE to floor the other.

Sofia's last vamp charges at her, but she grabs its arm and
swings it round, using its momentum to THWACK it into one of
Braeden's.

Sofia dashes over as the vamps hit the deck, and with two
quick strikes she's STAKED them both.

SOFIA (cont'd)
Last one's all yours.

BRAEDEN
Thanks, princess.

Braeden gets his sword up as the surviving vamp grapples with
him, the two testing their strength before Braeden SHOVES the
vamp back, SLICING with his sword and sending the vamp's arm
dropping to the floor.

VAMPIRE
Gaah! My... my arm!

BRAEDEN

Don't worry, mate. I'm sure it's
only a flesh wound.

SLAM! Braeden stakes the vamp, who crumbles to DUST and leaves the two breathless Slayers alone in the silent room.

They lock gazes - then with a grin, Sofia bounces forward and wraps her arms around him in a powerful hug, Braeden squeezing her right back.

The moment is rudely interrupted as a set of SPOTLIGHTS flare to life, illuminating the duo. They pull away and turn to the light, raising their hands against the glare.

VOICE (O.S.)

Well, that was an improvement, for
sure.

A figure walks forward, silhouetted by the lights - a stern-looking middle-aged man, dressed in an old-fashioned tweed suit. This could only be a WATCHER, holding a clipboard and checking a time on his stopwatch.

WATCHER

Not up to the standards we were
anticipating, but-

BRAEDEN

Naah, it's okay. I'm still warming
up. Shall we do another?

WATCHER

Very well.

The Watcher turns and nods to someone off screen, and as three more Council personnel move into frame, gathering up the remains of the vampires after taking photographs of the kills, we push in on Sofia and Braeden.

They exchange a wry look, and neither one can help a happy grin creeping across their features, as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3

INT. COUNCIL VAN - DAY

3

A plain minibus, bumping along through the Somerset countryside, with a tired-looking Braeden staring out through the windows.

Sofia dozes in the seat next to him, her head leaning against his shoulder. The only other person in the van is the driver, a plain-featured, overweight man.

Braeden looks down at the sleeping Sofia and smiles warmly, giving her a gentle shake to wake her back up. She sits up suddenly with a SNORT, blinking blearily.

SOFIA
(still half asleep)
Are we there?

BRAEDEN
Another half hour or so. Just
wanted to wake you before drool
became an issue.

SOFIA
(wipes mouth)
Oh, God, sorry, I...

She sees there's no actual drool on his shoulder and playfully punches him in the arm.

BRAEDEN
Sorry. You're just too cute when
you get all embarrassed like that.

SOFIA
I am not!

BRAEDEN
Embarrassed? Or cute?

She rolls her eyes with a grin, yawning and stretching.

SOFIA
God, it feels like we've been on
this bus for hours.

BRAEDEN
(checks watch)
Four and counting.

SOFIA
Haven't you been to sleep at all?

(CONTINUED)

BRAEDEN

I don't sleep much. Anyway, with the last three months being nothing but test after test after test, sleep's had to be pushed down my list of priorities, along with 'relaxing' and 'getting outside.'

SOFIA

Not true. We had that one day in London.

BRAEDEN

A trip to the Council home office for more testing doesn't count as a 'day out' where I come from!

SOFIA

At least it got you out into the open for a bit. And anyway, we're going back to the Academy now. Eighteen-hour days of testing and evaluation thankfully isn't part of our curriculum. Are you looking forward to the new term?

BRAEDEN

I guess. Not really sure what to expect, you know?

SOFIA

Well, I can promise much less emphasis on attacks by hordes of slobbering demons this time.

BRAEDEN

Here's hoping.

Sofia reaches for her bag and starts rummaging through it, but she pauses as she finds something. Taking it out, she reveals a photograph of herself with the rest of her squad, taken back in happier days last term.

Sofia stares at the photograph as if surprised by her own reaction to it, and Braeden allows her a moment before nudging her.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)

How about you?

SOFIA

How about me what?

BRAEDEN

Are you looking forward to going back?

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

Sofia falls silent, staring back down at the photograph, and Braeden takes the hint to drop the subject as we cut to:

4 EXT. ACADEMY CAMPUS - FRONT ENTRANCE - DAY

4

The minibus rolls up the gravel driveway, approaching the imposing front entrance of the Rupert Giles Academy for Girls. The campus is covered with scaffolding and half-finished repairs, the damage suffered last term taking its time to be fixed.

In amongst the teams of workmen milling around, a small group of new arrivals stands talking to ANNA, who waves to Sofia when she sees her approaching.

BARBARA looks up, moving away from her conversation with the works foreman as Sofia's minibus pulls to a halt and Braeden slides open the side door.

Braeden nods a greeting before reaching back in to grab both his and Sofia's things. Barbara heads over as Sofia steps out of the bus, looking a little edgy to be back here.

BARBARA

Hello again, Sofia.

SOFIA

(nods)

Miss Griffin.

BARBARA

How have you two been? I trust the Council took good care of you during the break?

BRAEDEN

Depends on how you define 'good care.' I think if I ever see another clipboard and stopwatch again I'm liable to flip out and start crying for my mother, but other than that, yeah, good times were had all round.

BARBARA

Sofia?

SOFIA

(shrugs)

It was alright. Nothing to write home about.

A beat as Barbara waits for more - but Sofia's said all she's going to. With a nod, Barbara waves them inside.

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA

Well, come on in, both of you.
Don't mind the mess, it's going to
be like this round here for another
month or so yet.

Barbara heads back towards the entrance, and Sofia and
Braeden fall in line behind her as she leads them into:

INT. CAMPUS - RECEPTION - NEXT

With more repairs in progress, the reception looks more like
a construction yard as the trio weave through piles of
bricks, cans of paint and other supplies.

BARBARA

There've been a few changes since
you left that I just need to make
me aware of.

SOFIA

So I noticed. Did you do something
with your hair?

BARBARA

(grins)

Not really. The main change is that
Mr. Bryce has now joined the
faculty as another Watcher, and
he'll be handling duties with the
lead squad while Greg is still...
well, while Greg is still absent.

SOFIA

Do we know when he's coming back?

BARBARA

Not yet. Catherine's also taken
early retirement, leaving us short
a librarian. After the injuries she
sustained in the attack, she
decided it was best for her to
leave her post and concentrate on
her recovery.

BRAEDEN

I spotted some new girls outside.
How many fresh recruits do we have
now?

BARBARA

Almost twenty. It seems that quite
a few corners were cut in the
Council's initial attempt to locate
all the newly-activated Slayers
across the globe.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA
Are the others here?

BARBARA
Yes, they're all in the assembly hall. Go on ahead and make yourselves comfortable, I'll be making a campus announcement in about five minutes.

Barbara heads back towards the entrance, and Braeden glances at Sofia. She still looks noticeably unsettled.

BRAEDEN
See? Was that so bad?

SOFIA
Don't.

BRAEDEN
'Don't' what?

SOFIA
Don't try to make me feel better.
It's very sweet, but I'm just not-

SKYE (O.S.)
(happily)
Sofes!!

Sofia just has time to turn before SKYE comes barreling towards her, grabbing her in an enthusiastic hug.

SKYE (cont'd)
Man, am I glad to see you. I've only had Heidi for company since I got here, and she's been making me rethink my whole opinion on justifiable homicide...

SOFIA
Hello, Skye.

Sofia manages a hug back, looking Skye up and down.

SOFIA (cont'd)
How have you been?

SKYE
(buzzing)
Fan-fracking-tastic, let me tell you! Three months on the road was the best thing I could've done! Did I send you a postcard? I can't remember. Anyway, Paris - man! Paris.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SKYE (cont'd)

To be honest, it was kinda dirty. I was only really there to call in on Frankie, but she wasn't home when I got to her place. Spain, though... man, I gotta tell you all about that later on. Oh, and don't forget to tell me to tell you the thing about Amsterdam, the cut-price hotel and the room full of rabbis next door. That's already becoming a classic.

SOFIA

O-kay...

SKYE

Oh, hey, Braeden.

Braeden offers a quick wave as Skye grabs Sofia's hand, leading her towards the doors to the assembly hall.

SKYE (cont'd)

C'mon, let's get settled.

Skye pushes open the doors, and Sofia and Braeden follow:

There's around forty girls milling around, most standing and chattering to one another as Sofia and Skye weave through them.

Skye leads them to one row of chairs near the front of the stage, picking up HEIDI and ERIKA sitting together.

HEIDI

Oh, look, it brought a friend.

SKYE

(sweetly)

Hey, Heidi? Get bent.

Erika laughs as Heidi scowls at Skye, but the more diplomatic Sofia nods a greeting to the two girls.

SOFIA

Hello again.

ERIKA

Sofia. It is good to hear from you.
How was your time away?

SOFIA

Oh, you know, ups and downs.

HEIDI

Yeah, I imagine when you're an orphan who has to scrounge off the Council to have somewhere to take your holidays, you're bound to end up in the cheap seats.

Sofia takes a deep breath, determined not to let Heidi piss her off this quickly, before looking up and seeing two more familiar faces approaching.

It's TYSON, with DEBBIE right behind him. Tyson looks cheerful as he beams at the girls, while Debbie looks paler than ever, wrapped in a thick coat.

TYSON

Well, well, if it isn't my favourite girl!

SOFIA

(smiles)

Hello, Tyson.

They embrace, with Tyson reaching over to shake Braeden's hand.

TYSON

Hey. She treated you well over the holiday, right?

SOFIA

Tyson!

TYSON

What? A man has to ask these things!

BRAEDEN

I'm all good, thanks, mate.

SOFIA

Debbie?

DEBBIE

Hmm?

SOFIA

And how are you?

DEBBIE

Oh, you know... not in hospital any more, which is good, but still pretty sore all over, really. I think my Slayer healing is broken or something.

(CONTINUED)

TYSON

Don't mind her, she's fine. She's been moaning ever since I got here, but it's just for effect.

DEBBIE

I'm sorry, were you the one caught under a bloody collapsing staircase? No, you weren't!

SKYE

Ladies! Chill. We're all friends here.

(glances at Heidi)
Except you.

TYSON

Hey, er, has anyone seen Alita? I haven't seen her show up yet, and I was hoping I could-

SKYE

(grins; interrupts)
Follow up on your little 'moment' at the end of term?

Tyson blushes as Skye nudges Sofia with a wink.

TYSON

How did you...

SKYE

Girls talk. Don't worry, she seemed to enjoy it.

TYSON

She did? Because, you know, I wasn't sure if I-

SOFIA

Oh, there she is.

Tyson turns to follow Sofia's gaze, and there she is - ALITA steps into the assembly hall, dressed plainly and with her hair tied neatly back.

Tyson lights up at the sight of her, already starting to move towards her.

TYSON

I'll be right back.

Skye and Sofia share a chuckle as he jogs towards her, all smiles. Alita looks up, but doesn't seem to react to him.

(CONTINUED)

TYSON (cont'd)
Well, well, if it isn't my
favourite girl!

ALITA
Hello, Tyson.

Tyson blinks - her flat response wasn't the one he was expecting, much less hoping for. He's thrown off balance for a moment.

TYSON
Uh... how was your holiday?

ALITA
I spent it training with my father.
I did not leave my village.

TYSON
Oh, right. Uh, you know, because I
kind of lost track of you after you
checked out of the hospital, and-

ALITA
I am fine, thank you. Are Sofia and
the others here yet?

TYSON
Um... yes, they're just over there.

She nods to him and moves away, heading for the others. Tyson watches her go, his pride deflated by her somewhat emotionless response to him.

Sofia and Skye give Alita a quick hug each as she joins them. She nods to Braeden and the others.

SKYE
So, how've you been?

ALITA
I am well, thank you.

SKYE
(blinks)
'I am well'? What, did your
vocabulary reset itself while you
were away or something?

SOFIA
You spent the time back at your
home, didn't you? How are Takeshiro
and Masami?

ALITA
They are both fine, thank you.

(CONTINUED)

Skye and Sofia swap a puzzled glance at Alita's unusually reserved reply, before Anna steps into frame with four nervous-looking girls behind her.

ANNA

Hey, guys. Got some more newbies for the pile.

HEIDI

(points)

Check them in with Aiden over there.

Anna nods, and with a few grins at the girls leads the new recruits over to AIDEN, who is standing at the edge of the stage with a clipboard, talking to a crowd of girls and ticking names off.

AIDEN

Hey, Anna.

ANNA

Last batch for now, we're expecting a few more in the morning but this is the last for today.

AIDEN

Okay, cheers.

(to Slayers)

Hello, girls. For those of you who don't already know, my name's Aiden Gorman, and I'm the campus fitness instructor. My job today is to check you all off on my list here, so if you could just give me your names, then we can...

He trails off - one of Anna's group has her hand raised.

AIDEN (cont'd)

Yes?

The girl steps forward - she's a sickly-looking willowy blonde by the name of FRAN.

FRAN

Er... where are the toilets? I don't feel very well.

AIDEN

You don't look very well, either! Anna, do you want to show...

(to Fran)

Sorry, what was your name?

(CONTINUED)

FRAN

Francesca, but everybody calls me
'Fran.'

AIDEN

(to Anna)

Show Fran to the ladies, if you'd
be so kind.

ANNA

No worries.

(to Fran)

This way.

The duo head off, and as they do another familiar face steps into the hall through the side door leading in from the canteen. Blonde hair pulled into a tight bun, slim figure, dazzlingly expensive outfit - it could only be FRANKIE.

Sofia is the first to spot her, jogging away from the others and over to greet her.

SOFIA

Frankie! There you are.

FRANKIE

Oui. 'ere I am.

SOFIA

How are you? I tried to call you at
your home, but your maid always
said you were out, so I never-

FRANKIE

(cuts her off)

I go out a lot, Sofia. Unlike the
rest of you, I actually 'ad a life
back 'ome, before any of this.

SOFIA

(taken aback)

Oh... Fair enough. How did your
recovery go? Out of all of us, I
think you took the worst...

Sofia trails off as she notices Frankie's right arm TWITCH suddenly.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Are you alright?

Frankie glances at her arm, then clamps a firm hand down on it. She doesn't look back up at Sofia.

FRANKIE

It is nothing.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA
It didn't look like nothing! Are
you sure you're-

FRANKIE
(explodes)
I said it is nothing!!

Sofia steps back, surprised by Frankie's outburst, and doesn't have time to reply as Frankie suddenly spins on her heel and stomps back out of the hall. Sofia is still staring after her in confusion as Skye joins her.

SKYE
What was that all about?

SOFIA
(darkly)
I'm not sure... but I don't think
Frankie's fine at all.

Sofia bites her lip anxiously as we cut to:

INT. CAMPUS - LADIES TOILETS - NEXT

Fran stands inside one of the cubicles, head in her hands as she sways woozily from side to side. She's leaning against the cubicle wall, sweating heavily and looking about ready to vomit...

... which she does, dropping to her knees and RETCHING violently into the bowl. She coughs, wiping her mouth, but then a fresh wave of nausea hits her and she leans forward to retch again.

This time, she just dry heaves, coughing and choking as though something is stuck in her throat. Her eyes watering, she hacks again before something falls from her mouth and SPLASHES into the bowl at last.

Fran blinks - and then leaps back in horror at what she sees before her!

A black WORM of some sort is wriggling in the bowl, and Fran lets out a YELP of alarm as the creature slithers its way down the U-bend, disappearing into the pipes before she has chance to see what the hell it was.

Fran breathes quickly, her hand clutching her chest in fear, before she turns and bolts out of the stall, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

8

INT. CAMPUS - ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

8

The gathered Slayers are now all seated, still chattering to one another as the rest of the faculty staff stand together on the stage.

Barbara walks up to the podium and taps on the microphone, sending a quick SQUEAL through the PA speakers to get the room's attention.

BARBARA

Right then, ladies, it's time for me to make my big 'welcome to the start of a new term' speech. I know most of you want to be off unpacking and settling in, so I'll make this as brief as I can.

(beat)

We ended our first term on a dark note, and I don't think any of us could have expected to come under attack the way we did. The fact that I'm standing before you all today is a testament to the strength that this Academy has built up in just a few months. We may not have made it through the attack without losses, but now it's up to the ones who survived to carry on making a difference in this world, so that the ones who died won't have given their lives in vain.

(beat)

Some of you have only recently officially discovered you were Slayers, and for that I can only apologise, but rest assured you have the best, if admittedly only facility in the world to teach you everything you need to know about your new abilities and responsibilities.

Barbara takes a moment to scan the crowd.

BARBARA (cont'd)

There'll be no lessons for a few days, and as you've all seen the campus is still getting back on its feet, but on behalf of all the staff here I'd like to welcome you all back to the Slayer Academy.

(CONTINUED)

Barbara grins, then with a nod to the rest of the staff addresses the girls once more:

BARBARA (cont'd)
Dismissed.

She steps back as the girls get to their feet, watching as the girls get back into their old groups from last term. Some of the new arrivals are absorbed into existing groups, some forming ones of their own, and as the Slayers file out of the hall, Barbara approaches the rest of the staff.

BARBARA (cont'd)
How was that? Too dramatic?

Aiden grins, shaking his head.

AIDEN
It was fine. Almost Shakesperian,
I'd have said.

JAZ
Yeah, you would, you big geek.

BRYCE
I thought it was perfect. Put just
the right amount of fear of God
into them, without sounding too
much like a passage from
Revelations or something.

BRYCE grins at Barbara, who nods back as she turns to JAZ, whose eyes are still on the departing Slayers.

BARBARA
Jaz?

JAZ
(distracted)
Hmm?

BARBARA
Do you think that was an okay
speech?

JAZ
Oh, yes, it was fi-

BARBARA
Fine, yes, I'm getting that
impression.

She turns to watch the girls again.

BARBARA (cont'd)
Here's to another year, everyone.

AIDEN

Let's hope it ends better than the
last one, huh?

Barbara glances back at him, as we cut to:

INT. CAMPUS - CORRIDOR - NEXT

Sofia, Skye, Braeden and Alita are heading down the corridor
leading from the canteen out into the staff car park, pausing
when Barbara calls out:

BARBARA (O.S.)

Sofia?

She jogs into frame, talking directly to Sofia.

BARBARA (cont'd)

Can we have five minutes in my
office?

SOFIA

What about?

BARBARA

Just a few things I need to run
through with you. It won't take
long.

SOFIA

(beat; to others)

Go on. I'll catch you up.

SKYE

'kay.

Skye leads the others away, and a reluctant Sofia follows
Barbara back down the corridor as we cut to:

INT. CAMPUS - BARBARA'S OFFICE - NEXT

Barbara opens the door and motions for Sofia to sit down. The
office is still quite messy, but it's more a wealth of
organised piles than actual mess.

SOFIA

Can I ask what all this is about?

BARBARA

(sits)

Well, I'm sure you can work it out.

SOFIA

(catches up)

My probation.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA (cont'd)

And here was me thinking you'd forgotten, what with all of us nearly getting killed and all.

BARBARA

I'm glad to see your blossoming sense of sarcasm hasn't lost any of its flavour over the break!

SOFIA

So am I still under observation, or whatever it was we agreed?

BARBARA

I'm afraid so. And I'm still expecting you to keep up with your psychiatric evaluations every few weeks.

SOFIA

What's the point? I sat through over a dozen sessions with various psychologists at the Council headquarters while I was away, and the only good that seemed to come of it was me learning just how much these people get paid for how little they actually do.

BARBARA

And that attitude is exactly why I want you to keep the sessions up.

Sofia sighs and folds her arms, clearly not happy about this.

BARBARA (cont'd)

I've got the names of several local psychologists with Council affiliations, so we'll sort out your first meeting for the end of this week, give you a chance to settle back in. Things have been quiet on the demons and rogue Slayers front for the last few months, at least.

SOFIA

Lucky, lucky me, eh? So is that all you wanted?

BARBARA

Actually, no. The other matter concerns your squad.

SOFIA

What about them?

BARBARA

There are going to be two changes.
As you may have already suspected,
Frankie isn't ready to return to
active field duty yet.

Sofia sits up, concern for her colleague washing over her bad
temper for a moment.

SOFIA

What's the matter with her? Is she
alright?

BARBARA

It's best if she tells you herself,
but what I can say is that Frankie
suffered some severe nerve damage
to her right arm in the attack, and
unless we can find some way to
counteract its effects she's
sidelined from field work
indefinitely.

SOFIA

But... what? Then why did she come
back at all?

BARBARA

Again, that's for you to ask her
about.

SOFIA

(groans)

This is rapidly turning into a
typical day for me... what's the
other piece of bad news, then?

BARBARA

(beat)

I'm making Skye the leader of your
squad.

A beat. Sofia stiffens, her weariness rapidly turning into
cold, seething anger as she glares at Barbara.

SOFIA

Excuse me?

BARBARA

I don't think it's appropriate for
you to lead your squad for the time
being. Not until I'm satisfied your
attitude has improved, and I start
hearing positive reports back from
your sessions.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (3)

10

Sofia is struck dumb, staring mutely at Barbara for a beat before jumping to her feet, turning and storming out of the office without another word, SLAMMING the door. Barbara sighs and leans back in her chair as we cut to:

11 EXT. CAMPUS - PAVILION - DAY

11

Skye and the others are in their usual spot up on the stone pavilion steps overlooking the sports fields, with Tyson staring sadly at Alita.

Skye looks up as Sofia marches towards them, her expression darkening as she registers Sofia's furious look.

SKYE

Uh-oh...

Everyone looks up as Sofia steps up onto the pavilion, heading straight for Skye.

BRAEDEN

Sofia? What's-

SOFIA

(to Skye)

Did you know?

A beat. Everyone glances at each other, but Skye lowers her head.

TYSON

Uh... know what?

SOFIA

Answer me, Skye! Did you know?

SKYE

(quietly)

Yeah.

SOFIA

I'm sorry?

SKYE

I said 'yeah'!

(guilty)

Barbara told me when I got here, but I couldn't... I didn't know how to tell you, Sofes. I'm sorry.

BRAEDEN

Tell her what? Are the rest of us missing something?

ALITA

I do not understand either...

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

Oh, I see it's still top bloody secret, then!

ALITA

Sofia, please, calm down.

SOFIA

'Calm down'? Skye, why don't you fill them in on why I'm so pissed off at this very moment?

SKYE

(reluctant; to others)

Sofia isn't the squad leader any more. I am.

ALITA

What?

TYSON

Seriously?

BRAEDEN

How come?

SKYE

Hey, I didn't ask for it!

SOFIA

You could've said 'no' to her.

SKYE

(gloomy)

Didn't have much choice.

SOFIA

I'll bet.

Sofia turns on her heel and marches away, and Braeden is soon on his feet and jogging after her. The others turn to Skye, who glumly puts her head in her hands.

SKYE

I knew this was going to happen...

ALITA

I do not understand - why is Sofia no longer our squad leader?

SKYE

Something to do with her bad attitude, I don't know. I didn't want to ask too many questions.

(sighs)

Great.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SKYE (cont'd)
We've all been here just over an hour, and already she hates me again.

TYSON
She'll be alright.

SKYE
No offence, Tyson, but you don't know her like I do. That girl can hold a grudge.

ALITA
(stands)
I will talk to her.

SKYE
No, Allie, it's okay. Sofia's got to get over this in her own time or it won't happen at all.

Alita looks back to the departing Sofia and Braeden, before narrowing her eyes as she spots something else out on the field. Skye catches her gaze.

SKYE (cont'd)
What is it?

ALITA
Out there, over by the track circuit... I believe someone is in trouble.

Alita hops off the steps and hurries out onto the field, and with a glance Tyson and Skye follow.

They join Alita to find her standing over the shivering body of one of the new Slayers - it's Fran! She's slick with sweat and even paler than before, and Alita presses a hand to her forehead as she lies shivering on the ground.

ALITA (cont'd)
She has a high fever. We must take her to the infirmary immediately.

SKYE
Tyson, go tell Barbara. We'll take care of this.

TYSON
Right.

He jogs off as Skye scoops the feverish Fran into her arms, and as she and Alita hustle back towards the campus, we cut into:

12 INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - NEXT

12

Fran is lying on one of the exam tables, a blanket draped over her as Jaz peels back her eyelids and shines her penlight into her eyes.

Skye and Alita stand to one side, anxiously watching Jaz's examination.

SKYE

Well?

JAZ

You say you just found her lying out on the field like this?

ALITA

I do not know how long she was there. It could not have been longer than half an hour.

JAZ

Well, she's burning up but there doesn't seem to be anything obviously wrong with her... I'm going to have to run some more tests. Does Barbara know about all of this?

SKYE

Yeah, I sent Tyson to tell her. Is there anything we can do to help?

JAZ

See if you can find anything out to help me diagnose her. Check everywhere she went and everyone she spoke to since she arrived, and check back further than that if you can. She may have brought some kind of virus into the campus.

SKYE

We're on it.

Skye and Alita dash out of the infirmary, and as Jaz reaches for her blood pressure testing kit, she pauses as the loud blast of HELICOPTER engines rattles everything in the room!

JAZ

What in the...

She hurries to the window and looks out - and two black helicopters are swooping back across the campus.

13

EXT. CAMPUS - FRONT ENTRANCE - NEXT

13

Barbara, Bryce and Aiden are standing outside, looking up at the helicopters as they hover over the main driveway.

Rappel lines roll out from the midsections of the 'copters, and a half dozen MARINES in military fatigues begin lowering themselves down to the ground.

BRYCE

So her entrances are always this...
dramatic?

AIDEN

That's our Ellen. She likes to make
her presence felt!

Once all six marines are on the ground, the unit leader waves back up to the helicopters, which veer off and speed into the distance.

Barbara steps forward to greet the arrivals, grinning as the unit leader removes her helmet and swishes her long, blonde hair loose - it's ELLEN.

ELLEN

(salutes)

Warrant Officer Ellen Marklew,
reporting for duty, ma'am.

BARBARA

(wry)

Hello, Ellen. Going for a more
subtle entrance this term?

ELLEN

(grins)

Two helicopters was too much,
wasn't it?

The girls hug, before Barbara leads her back to the entrance.

BARBARA

Ellen, I'd like you to meet Eric
Bryce. He's our new Watcher.

BRYCE

(offers hand)

G'day. Heard a lot about you, Miss
Marklew.

ELLEN

(shakes it)

It's all true. Even the bad stuff,
and especially that thing with the
chicken.

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA

Shall we get you and your people
set up inside?

ELLEN

Great idea.

The group head through the doors, into:

INT. CAMPUS - RECEPTION - NEXT

Ellen's commandoes start taking off their bags and sorting
their equipment out, as Ellen looks round the battle-damaged
interior.

ELLEN

Looking good. Few more licks of
paint and you'd never think this
place was overrun by demons a few
months ago.

BARBARA

I wanted it ready for the start of
term, but apparently that would
have cost too much money.

ELLEN

How come the Council didn't just
ask the Initiative for a loan?

BARBARA

Apparently, they did. It was
refused.

ELLEN

(surprised)

Oh.

BARBARA

Never mind that. That's politics,
that's nothing to do with you. I'm
glad you're back.

ELLEN

Glad to be back. How is everyone?

BARBARA

Recovering. We've got a class of
new students so the older girls are
helping them settle in. I think
it's helping take their minds off
things.

ELLEN

Yeah, I can imagine. Now, how's
about-

(CONTINUED)

HEIDI (O.S.)
Oh, look, it's the cavalry.

Ellen turns to see Heidi and Erika standing behind her. Erika nudges Heidi sharply, but that doesn't dissuade her.

HEIDI (cont'd)
Back to save the day?

ELLEN
Excuse me?

HEIDI
You know, after you and your boys
so graciously decided we all needed
saving last term.

Ellen glances at Barbara, who steps forward with a stern glare at Heidi.

BARBARA
Heidi, if you have something to say
about Ellen's presence here, you
can do so to me, in my office.

HEIDI
(shrugs)
Not really. Just wanted her to know
we're not all falling at her feet
and hailing her as the saviour of
this place. Some of us still think
we were managing just fine without
the need for a last-minute rescue.

ERIKA
Heidi, that is enough.
(to Ellen)
I am sorry. She does not mean to be
rude, I just honestly believe she
cannot stop herself.

Erika sharply pulls Heidi away, and as the girls head into the canteen Barbara turns to a deflated Ellen.

ELLEN
Is that... is that what they think?

BARBARA
I'll admit, there's a sense of...
wounded pride, perhaps, from some
of the girls here. Heidi just
happens to be one of the more vocal
ones. Don't let it get to you. I
know I'm grateful to you, and
that's all that matters.

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

Ellen nods, but doesn't look too convinced as they head down towards her office, and we DISSOLVE TO:

15 INT. CAMPUS - DORMS CORRIDOR - NIGHT

15

Night has fallen as Sofia and Braeden walk down one of the dorm room corridors, with some of the new girls dashing excitedly from one room to the next.

BRAEDEN

I still don't see why you're mad at Skye about all this. It wasn't up to her to put her in charge.

SOFIA

(sighs)

I know, it's just... I wish she could have warned me first. I looked like a right bloody idiot, storming out of Barbara's office like that.

BRAEDEN

It'll blow over. Once you stop doing your Angry Young Woman thing for long enough to get a good report from one of the docs, you'll be back in charge in no time.

SOFIA

Maybe. We'll see.

They come to a junction and stop.

BRAEDEN

Well, I'm down this way. Seems they wanted to make sure my room's some way off from yours, being the only boy on the floor and all.

SOFIA

Yeah...

BRAEDEN

Well, don't jump to defend me!

SOFIA

Sorry, I'm just not really with it at the moment.

BRAEDEN

It's alright. I'll see you in the morning, yeah?

SOFIA

Yes. Good night.

(CONTINUED)

Braeden turns and walks away, and Sofia watches him go for a long beat before turning and heading to her room.

She hasn't made it very far when she hears a SCREAM ring out from somewhere behind her.

She turns and races back, finding a crowd of new girls huddled outside one of the dorm rooms. Braeden, Skye and Alita are quick to join her on the scene.

SOFIA (cont'd)
What is it? What's wrong?

SCARED SLAYER
I-in t-th-there! They're... they're everywhere!

Frowning, Sofia steps up to the door and looks inside - and her jaw drops at what she sees!

The dorm room is swarming with INSECTS, huge, black-bodied creatures almost the size of a small cat, with long, dripping jaws and buzzing wings. They cover every surface, clinging to the walls and ceiling and making a tremendous CHITTERING noise as they clamber over each other.

BRAEDEN
What's all the-
(sees insects)
Ah.

SOFIA
(slowly)
I think we may have a slight insect problem...

The two swap a worried look as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

16 INT. CAMPUS - DORM ROOM - NIGHT

16

Sofia and Braeden back away from the door as Skye and Alita finally join them, looking inside and recoiling at the sight.

SKYE

What in the-

(to new girls)

Which one of you brought the mutant
ant farm?

ALITA

What are they?

Sofia quickly pulls the door shut.

SOFIA

Trouble.

She turns to the huddle of new Slayers.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Alright, you girls need to go and
wake up everybody else who only
arrived here today and tell them to
get out of the dorms.

(to Alita)

Go and find Heidi and her squad,
we're going to need all hands on
deck for this one.

(to Skye)

Skye, you...

Sofia trails off. Skye raises an eyebrow.

SKYE

What?

SOFIA

I just realised - I'm giving
orders.

SKYE

(not following)

And?

SOFIA

And that's supposed to be your job.

SKYE

(shrugs)

And am I complaining?

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

(beat)

Alright, Braeden, go and find Barbara and tell her we've got a bug problem. Ellen and the commandoes arrived earlier on, maybe they've got something that can help.

SKYE

What about me?

SOFIA

Help me find a way to stop those things getting out into the rest of the campus!

SKYE

That I can do.

Braeden and Alita nod and dash off as Skye turns and grabs one of the new Slayers, a brunette called JENNIFER.

SKYE (cont'd)

Alright, what happened?

JENNIFER

We were asleep - well, trying to get to sleep, none of us could, when we heard this scratching, so one of us got up to take a look, and suddenly there are all these, these... things just crawling up out of the floor and coming right for us!

SKYE

Okay. Go.

Jennifer races off as Skye stands by Sofia, who is staring at the door and racking her brains for a plan.

SKYE (cont'd)

Options?

SOFIA

We need some way to keep them contained until more help arrives.

Skye looks up and around, then a thought hits her.

SKYE

Stay here. I'll be right back.

Skye turns and dashes off, and as Sofia watches her go we cut into:

17 INT. CAMPUS - INFESTED DORM ROOM - NEXT

17

Inside the room, its insect population growing by the second as the hordes of black insects swell, there is a sudden BANG - and the door is knocked off its hinges!

It lands with a THUD, squishing several bugs beneath it to reveal Skye in the doorway, one hand behind her back.

SKYE
Pest control!

The sea of bugs visibly starts to surge towards her, but Skye just grins - and reveals a flaming MOLOTOV COCKTAIL in her hand!

SKYE (cont'd)
I hope you guys smell better when
you're burning...

FWOOSH! She SMASHES the bottle against the door, and it erupts into flames - forcing the insects back. They CHITTER loudly, several taking to the air but finding the flames spreading up the doorframe hold them back.

18 INT. CAMPUS - DORMS CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

18

Skye steps back from the flames, arms raised against the heat, to join Sofia.

SOFIA
(concerned)
Are you sure that'll work?

SKYE
It'll stop them getting out, yeah.
That was the point, wasn't it?

SOFIA
Well, yes, but I think the new
girls would prefer it if we didn't
incinerate all their luggage on
their first night here!

SKYE
Would you relax? Somebody'll get
here to help before the fire gets
too bad.
(beat)
Right?

The girls exchange a look as we cut to:

19 INT. CAMPUS - DORMS CORRIDOR - NEXT

19

In another part of the dorms, Alita is knocking rapidly on every door he passes, and as various Slayers poke their heads out to see what's going on, he turns and shouts to them:

ALITA
Everybody out! We have a major
problem, and all of you need to go
outside, now!

SLAYER
What's going on?

ALITA
It would take too long to explain,
just please, get something warm to
wear and go downstairs!

Alita comes to a closed door and knocks urgently against it, but when there's no reply she sets her shoulder and BARGES the door open, into:

20 INT. CAMPUS - DORM ROOM - CONTINUOUS

20

Alita bursts into the room and comes to a halt - the two young Slayers in this room are still in their beds, and a quick glance round shows they're both showing the same symptoms as Fran was earlier - pale, shaking and feverish.

Erika appears in the doorway as Alita heads for the nearest girl to check her temperature.

ERIKA
We have evacuated everyone that we
could on this floor, but several of
the new girls appear to be too ill
to move.

ALITA
These girls are also sick.

ERIKA
What should we do? We can't just
leave them here!

ALITA
No, we can't.

Alita scoops up the girl from the bed, bundling her up and turning to Erika.

ALITA (cont'd)
If they cannot help themselves, we
will have to do it for them.

(CONTINUED)

Erika nods and steps forward, and Alita reaches out a hand to guide her towards the other Slayer. Erika grabs her and shrugs her over her shoulder, fireman's lift style, and as the girls head for the doorway we cut to:

The duo, each carrying a Slayer, hurry back down the corridor when something SNAPS overhead, and they look up to see a large CRACK has suddenly appeared in the ceiling.

Alita stares at it for a beat, then her eyes widen as she starts to shove Erika back.

ALITA

Look out!

The duo fall back as a HOLE bursts open in the ceiling, and dozens more of the insects swarm through it, cascading down into the corridor!

ALITA (cont'd)

This way, hurry!

Alita and Erika push themselves to their feet and race down the corridor, the insects at their heels.

Alita spots an open door up ahead and heads straight for it, but both Alita and Erika are BITTEN by the insects before they make it through a doorway, SLAMMING it after them.

As the insects batter at the door, the girls catch their breath, Alita laying her Slayer down on the bed before examining the bite on her arm.

ERIKA

Are you hurt? I think something has bitten me.

ALITA

One of the creatures bit me too, but it does not look... it doesn't...

She starts to sway, suddenly looking ready to faint.

ERIKA

(frowns)

Alita?

She hits the deck with a THUD, and Erika looks round helplessly, trying to locate Alita.

ERIKA (cont'd)

Alita? Alita! Al...

21 CONTINUED:

21

Erika also starts to wilt, the Slayer sliding from her shoulder as she crumples to the floor, landing in a heap and staying there as we cut to:

22 INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - NEXT

22

An alarmed Barbara walks through the infirmary as Jaz and Aiden struggle to cope with the sudden influx of wounded Slayers. Several are feverish like Fran, others stone cold unconscious like Alita and Erika now are.

BARBARA

(to Jaz)

What on earth is going on?

Jaz is checking to another feverish girl, with Ellen, Sofia, Skye, Tyson and Braeden standing nearby.

JAZ

As far as I can tell, there's some kind swarm of insects on campus that're knocking people out just by biting them!

ELLEN

I've got my boys quarantining the dorms, but Skye reckons there's still a few girls unaccounted for.

ANNA

Alita and Erika are both missing.

TYSON

(alarmed)

What?

SKYE

No sign of Frankie either.

BARBARA

Frankie's fine, she's down in my office. What about Heidi?

Debbie bustles past, carrying a large white first aid kit.

DEBBIE

She's outside, looking after all the new girls.

BARBARA

Alright, we need to find out what these things are and how we can counteract the effects of their bites, before we run out of Slayers!

(CONTINUED)

ELLEN

I've got some new pieces of kit that could help, but I'll need to get back to my office to get them.

BARBARA

Are you sure the insects are confined to the dormitories?

ELLEN

I've got Dunstall and the others packing flamethrowers and covering all the exits. Unless these things can fly-

SKYE

(raises hand)

Hate to interrupt, but... they can.

A beat. Barbara turns back to Ellen, then nods.

BARBARA

Go. But be careful.

Ellen nods and starts to head out of the infirmary, but she stops as the door opens and DUNSTALL steps inside, spattered with thick black ooze from head to foot.

ELLEN

(eyes him)

Do the words 'status report' even have to leave my mouth, agent?

DUNSTALL

We, uh, had to chase one of the creatures down when it broke through a window and escaped, sir.

TYSON

Please don't say any more of them got out!

DUNSTALL

Nope, just the one. We managed to seal the window up and take care of the escapee.

BRAEDEN

'Take care of' how?

Dunstall pushes the door wider - and he's holding the dead carcass of one of the insects in his hand, a line of bullet holes across its back.

Jaz heads forward, peering at the creature while Dunstall pauses to wipe some more of the ooze from his face.

(CONTINUED)

DUNSTALL

Don't worry, ma'am, it's dead.

JAZ

I was looking for any way to stop
that awful smell.

Dunstall blinks, then SNIFFS at his sleeve.

DUNSTALL

Uh, actually, that would be me.

Ellen turns triumphantly to Barbara.

ELLEN

You know what this means?

BARBARA

That we have an example of the
creature, so you can tell us what
we need to know to stop them?

ELLEN

That's the plan.

Ellen hurries back out of the infirmary as Barbara turns to
the remaining Slayers.

BARBARA

Alright, girls, if anybody has any
more ideas or can think of anything
that could help, now would be the
time!

Anna calls out to the team from over by one of the beds.

ANNA

Hey, over here!

The others join her - she's standing at Fran's bedside.

ANNA (cont'd)

I recognise her. She's one of the
new girls, she came in this morning
saying she felt sick. I showed her
to the john but didn't see her
again after that.

JAZ

She might be the one who brought
the virus onto the campus, then.

BRAEDEN

But how does that link in with
these things showing up?

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA

I've been in this business too long
to ignore coincidences like this.

(to Jaz)

Do we have any idea what caused
this yet?

JAZ

Nothing so far, but they're all
getting worse by the hour. If we
don't come up with an antidote, and
fast...

BARBARA

Alright. While we're waiting for
Ellen to get back with those test
results, let's gather what we can
in case we need to mount an
offensive against the dormitories.

The others nod and disperse, each to their own job, and as
Barbara looks down at the shaking form of Fran, we cut to:

The insect's body drops into frame with a wet THWACK, landing
on a backlit white panel, and as we pull back we see that the
panel is attached to a larger, boxier machine.

Ellen is typing at a small laptop connected to the device,
watching as a series of lights scroll across the insect,
building up a 3-D model of it on her screen.

ELLEN

According to our databases, these
things are kapra demons.

SOFIA

'Demons'? This thing is an actual
demon?

BRYCE

Insect polluted by demon blood, to
be exact. Records suggest that a
less evolved form of these bugs
could have fed off a demon,
mutating and breeding to create the
evolutionary wonder before us
today. They're parasitic by nature,
so chances are one of your sick
girls in here brought one into the
campus with her, where it escaped
and got to work on breeding. They
grow fast and breed even quicker.

BARBARA

I'm less concerned with their biology as I am finding a way to kill them.

SKYE

Amen.

BRAEDEN

Amen.

They glance at each other, and Ellen gestures to diagrams and images popping up on the laptop screen as she continues:

BRYCE

They operate on a hive mind mentality, with one main queen bug controlling the rest of them.

TYSON

Like the film 'Aliens,' right?

ELLEN

Pretty much.

SOFIA

So we find and kill the queen and the rest... what? Die?

ELLEN

No, but they'll become disorganised and much easier targets for the cleanup.

SKYE

And by 'cleanup,' you mean 'my soldiers and their handy flamethrowers.'

BARBARA

Alright, girls, you know what to do. Skye, You take Sofia and Braeden. Anna, go and fetch Heidi.

DEBBIE

What about me?

JAZ

I need you here in the infirmary, Deborah. You're the closest thing we have to official medical personnel after me, and I'm hard pushed to take care of everyone as it is!

BRAEDEN

Leave it to us, boss. We'll be back before you had chance to miss us.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (2)

23

The Slayers make their way to the door, Debbie watching them go for a beat before snapping back to focus and heading for another feverish Slayer, and we cut to:

24 EXT. CAMPUS - QUADRANGLE - NEXT

24

The four girls and Braeden, armed in their standard fashion except the crossbow-wielding Heidi, walk towards the west wing of the Academy, the dorms up on the top of the block ahead of them, when Skye pauses, looking over her shoulder.

SOFIA

What is it?

SKYE

Something...

HEIDI

(rolls eyes)

Oh, come on! I want to get some sleep tonight, so can we please just kill these things and get this over with?

BRAEDEN

Skye, what's wrong?

SKYE

Ssh!

Skye starts to move - away from the dorms. Heidi plants her hands on her hips and calls after her:

HEIDI

Hey! Bugs are that way!

SKYE

Yeah, but the queen isn't.

HEIDI

How do you know?

SOFIA

(catching up)

She can sense it... can't you?

Skye doesn't answer, and as she hurries off in the direction of the science block, Sofia knows to just trust her and follow her, with everyone else falling in behind her. Heidi is last, letting out a final sigh of irritation, before:

25 INT. CAMPUS - SCIENCE BLOCK CORRIDOR - NEXT

25

Skye leads the way as the team pace through the dimly lit science block, with Heidi and Anna next and Sofia and Braeden at the rear.

(CONTINUED)

BRAEDEN

This seems familiar, doesn't it?

SOFIA

(grins)

Stalking bad guys through darkened hallways? A little, yes.

BRAEDEN

You know, I never got chance to-

SKYE

(interrupts)

They're coming.

HEIDI

'They' are back in the dorms on the other side of the campus, which is where we should be!

ANNA

Would you shut up for a second and let the girl do her thing?

HEIDI

But there's nothing-

CRACK! Everybody freezes. Heidi is the first to look to the ceiling and see the long CRACK starting to etch its way along.

HEIDI (cont'd)

Oh, sh-

ANNA

Move!!

They dive out of the way as a huge section of the ceiling CAVES IN, depositing a fresh swarm of the insects down on the girls!

SKYE

Go! Keep moving! Don't let them-

Skye YELPS as one of the kapra demon sinks its fangs into her forearm, and as she turns in shock to look at the huge insect clinging to her arm, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

26

INT. CAMPUS - SCIENCE BLOCK CORRIDOR - NIGHT

26

Skye stares for a beat at the wriggling creature on her arm - then with a GRUNT of annoyance, she turns and SPEARS it with one of her sai daggers.

SOFIA

Skye!

Skye shrugs off the kapra as it drops to the floor.

SKYE

I'm alright! Go!

The girls scatter and try to leave the bugs behind, but there are just too many of them - first Sofia, then Anna cry out as the kapra demons get their jaws into them, and Braeden bravely fights them off as he drags Sofia to safety.

Skye KICKS open a door and pushes the wilting Anna inside, with Braeden dragging Sofia through after her.

SKYE (cont'd)

Stay in here with them. Don't let anything get in. Got it?

BRAEDEN

Got it.

(blinks)

Wait, where are-

Skye shuts the door in his face, turning back to face the seething mass of bugs rapidly filling the corridor. Heidi dashes up to her, frantically reloading her crossbow.

HEIDI

This was your plan? Lead us into an ambush?

SKYE

(snaps)

Just shut up and let me concentrate, will you?

HEIDI

Oh, sure, let's stand back and wait for the army of demon bugs to suck out our brains! Why didn't I think of that?

They keep moving back, the bugs still skittering across the floor towards them, when Skye has a thought at last.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

They came from the roof, right?

HEIDI

And?!?

SKYE

That newbie I spoke to before said
they came out of the ceiling in the
dorms...

Skye glances up and spots an air vent, right over a row of lockers.

SKYE (cont'd)

... so the only way is up.

Skye bounds for the lockers, clambering up them as Heidi tries to fight back the bugs. Skye PUNCHES the vent open and leaps inside, reaching a hand back down for Heidi.

SKYE (cont'd)

Come on!

Heidi grabs her, and Skye heaves her straight up and into the vent just as more bugs zip through the air towards them.

They start to float up towards the open vent, but Skye SLAMS the grille back into place, dicing two of the bugs and blocking the others.

As Skye is forced to use one of her daggers to skewer the grille back in place, Heidi peers around the dark, narrow crawlspace they're now stuck in.

HEIDI

Great idea, Skye. Give us even less
room to fight back. Plus, need I
remind you, this is where the bugs
came from! There could be hundreds
of them up here!

SKYE

No... no, they're all down there.

HEIDI

Well... well then it won't be long
before they come back!

SKYE

We'll have found the queen by then.
Come on.

Skye heads off into the darkness, and Heidi follows into:

28 INT. SCIENCE BLOCK - CRAWLSPACE - NEXT

28

In another section of the crawlspace, weaving past heating pipes and thick bundles of electrical cables, the girls pause as they hear a loud CHITTERING coming from below them.

Skye glances at Heidi, then jabs her sai under the edge of one of the ceiling panels, raising it slightly so the girls can look down onto:

29 INT. SCIENCE BLOCK - LAB ROOM S6 - NEXT

29

The girls are looking into one of the main teaching rooms, with long tables dotted with scientific equipment and wall-mounted cupboards full of supplies.

Oh, yes - and a sea of kapra demons slithering, crawling and scuttling over every available surface!

Bobbing along in the midst of them all is one particularly large kapra, although this one is less insectoid and looking more like a larger version of the worm the unfortunate Fran threw up earlier in the day.

HEIDI

Reckon that's the queen?

SKYE

Either that, or the cafeteria
really needs to start throwing out
its trash properly...

Heidi squints at the queen bug, raising her crossbow.

SKYE (cont'd)

What are you doing?

HEIDI

What does it look like I'm doing?
I'm taking my shot!

SKYE

You sure you can hit it from here?

HEIDI

Of course I can, I've been doing
archery since I was seven!

Skye looks back down - she doesn't like this much, but duly lifts the ceiling panel more to give Heidi a better shot.

SKYE

Don't miss.

HEIDI

Trust me.

(CONTINUED)

Heidi takes careful aim at the slithering form of the queen bug, then squeezes the crossbow trigger - and a dart SNAPS down towards it!

However, a passing kapra demon happens to get in the way first, the crossbow dart RICOCHETING off its thick hide and SMASHING into two large jars of chemicals, which promptly spill their contents all over the queen and the surrounding bugs.

HEIDI (cont'd)

Damn it!

The queen bug SCREECHES, and the two girls clap their hands over their ears at the hideous sound - and the ceiling panel falls back into place with a THUMP.

SKYE

You said-

SNAP! The panels beneath the girls suddenly FALL AWAY, and with a YELL they're both sent spiralling down into the lab!

Heidi lands on one of the tables with a CRUNCH, but Skye drops straight into the mass of kapras, the bugs swarming over her in seconds.

HEIDI

Skye! Skye!!

Heidi has no choice but to leap from table to table, SWATTING one bug out of the air as she heads for the exit.

She's one jump away from the door, KICKING a stray bug out of her path - and she looks round just as Skye BURSTS out from within the sea of insects, her skin covered in bite marks!

SKYE

Go, damn it!!

Heidi turns and JUMP KICKS the door, blasting it open and sailing into the next (and mercifully bug-free) room.

Skye is quick to follow, following Heidi's route across the tables before DIVING through the open doorway:

Heidi KICKS the door shut as Skye skids across the floor, before leaping to her feet and shoving a heavy cupboard in front of the door with a CRASH.

The girls stop to catch their breath, Heidi tossing her crossbow away as she realises she's out of darts.

HEIDI

Why aren't you unconscious?

SKYE

(dry)

'Hey, Skye, are you alright?'

HEIDI

Oh, you know what I mean. You must've been bitten dozens of times, how come-

SKYE

Maybe it's because I'm half vampire, their goo doesn't work on me, I don't know. Doesn't mean they don't still sting like a bitch!

HEIDI

(smug)

Well, I guess those friends of yours at the lab might have some answers about that.

SKYE

(not following)

My friends at the... are you high?

HEIDI

Funny thing - I found this folder in the kitchen just before the end of term, and seeing as nobody else was around, I took it to have a read through...

Skye's face falls as she realises what Heidi is referring to.

HEIDI (cont'd)

Then, I realise to my shock and alarm, it's an incomplete record of results of testing on someone, and that someone just so happens to be-

SKYE

(cold)

Don't.

HEIDI

(smirks)

'Don't' what? Find out your dirty little secret? Bit late for that!

SKYE

It's not a secret. People... some people know.

(CONTINUED)

HEIDI

Do they know you took some of the pages out?

Skye is silent as Heidi gets in her face.

HEIDI (cont'd)

If you're going to destroy incriminating pages from something, try not to make it so obvious. Next time, take out the contents page too, or when people realise the section labelled 'results' is the only one missing, they're gonna realise something's up!

SKYE

(cold)

You don't know what you're talking about.

HEIDI

Not yet, I don't. But I will. It should have been me getting that job on the lead squad when your perfect Little Miss Emotional Baggage dropped the ball, not you.

SKYE

(stunned)

Is that what this is about? You just want my fricken job?

HEIDI

(enraged)

I'm the best damn Slayer in this school, and everybody knows it, and they go and give the lead Slayer squad to-

WHAM! Something big slams into the door, shaking the cupboard sealing the door, and the girls break off their argument to turn towards it.

SKYE

(warily)

What was in those jars you smashed over the bugs?

HEIDI

How should I know?

SLAM! The door rattles again - and with a third WHAM a chunk of wood is punched right of it - and a thick black TENTACLE starts to push its way through!

(CONTINUED)

An alarmed Skye and Heidi back up as the tentacle flails around, trying to find them.

SKYE

Heidi...

HEIDI

Yeah, I know. We save this for later.

They turn and run, and we cut to:

INT. SCIENCE BLOCK - ROOM - NEXT

Braeden has also barricaded himself in, with Sofia and Anna laid out on the tables before him as he looks up at the ceiling, hearing SCRATCHING noises from overhead.

Braeden looks round for some other way out, but he's stuck - this room's about three floors up, and there's only one way in or out. Frustrated, he sits back down by the door as we cut to:

EXT. CAMPUS - QUADRANGLE - NEXT

Skye and Heidi drop down from out of a first floor window, Skye looking back up into the science block.

HEIDI

Okay, so, we're three down and the bugs are now on the rampage.

SKYE

And significantly more pissed off thanks to whatever the hell you dumped all over them.

HEIDI

(sighs)

This isn't getting us anywhere! The Slayers back in the infirmary are going to start dropping like flies any time soon, and we're still no closer to...

She trails off as she notices Skye staring at the dozens of bite marks up and down her arms.

HEIDI (cont'd)

Hello? Are you even listening?

SKYE

That's it...

HEIDI

Huh?

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

That's it!

Skye suddenly turns and races away from Heidi, who throws her arms up in confusion.

HEIDI

Where the hell are you going?

SKYE

I know how to make an antidote!

HEIDI

So what am I supposed to do?

But Skye has already gone, and we cut from the frustrated Heidi back to:

A breathless Skye bursts back into the infirmary, to everyone's surprise. Barbara is the first to register that she's alone.

BARBARA

Where are the others? You never showed up at the dormitories, we didn't know where you-

SKYE

Sofia and Anna got bitten, Braeden's with them. Heidi's over at the science block.

BRYCE

Is Braeden alright?

BARBARA

The science block? What-

Skye marches past her, straight for Jaz and Debbie, holding up her arm.

SKYE

I got bit. A lot. And I'm still standing. Know what that means?

DEBBIE

That you're tougher than the rest of us?

SKYE

Well, yeah, but also - my blood isn't affected by whatever's in the bite of those things.

JAZ
(catching up)
So if I get a sample of your blood
while the poison's still in it...

SKYE
... then maybe you can make some
kind of vaccine to buy the girls
some more time.

JAZ
Good thinking, Skye.

SKYE
Well, you know me. Fast learner.

Jaz grabs a syringe and prepares to draw a sample as Barbara steps over.

BARBARA
So Heidi's still out there?

SKYE
Yeah, here's hoping she doesn't try
anything stupid until I can get
back to her.

Jaz taps Skye's forearm to bring up the veins, and as she carefully inserts the syringe into Skye's arm, we cut to:

Looking across the mass of bugs that first ambushed the girls, when through the frosted glass of the main doors a group of people can be seen approaching.

The doors are KICKED open - to reveal Heidi, flamethrower in hand, flanked by two of the Initiative agents!

MACEY and WEBBER glance at each other as they're confronted by the carpet of bugs, but Heidi seems unfazed.

MACEY
I'm not so sure this is what
Officer Marklew wanted, miss...

HEIDI
Of course it is! She told me
herself. Would I lie to you about
something like this?

Macey eyes her, but Heidi pats him on the arm and points towards the door to the room containing Braeden and the others as the bugs before them start to slither forward.

HEIDI (cont'd)
We've got people in there, so go
fetch. Now watch my back. I've got
a queen to kill.

The trio lower their flamethrowers, and with a smirk Heidi shoots first, roasting the first wave of kapra demons before we cut to:

Back in the heart of the bugs' operation, with the queen bug now several times its original size, warped and distorted into a new, more monstrous shape by whatever chemicals Heidi spilt over it.

The door BURSTS open as Heidi barges in, the two marines visible behind her as they continue to toast the bugs in their path, knocking on the door to Braeden's hiding place.

As the queen bug slops round to face Heidi, she aims the flamethrower square at what she guesses to be its head.

HEIDI
Hey there. Miss me already?

The creature lets out a hideous SCREECH - and Heidi SHOOTs, filling the room with flames!

The queen bug SQUEALS in pain, thrashing around madly as Heidi douses it and every other bug in sight in flames.

She cackles with glee as the bugs POP under the intense heat, but as the wild, frenzied thrashing limbs of the queen bug hit the tables and cupboards, they go up in flames too, and within moments the entire lab is blazing out of control!

Heidi realises at last she may have been a bit too trigger happy with the flamethrower as a section of the ceiling CAVES IN, and as she backs cautiously away from the inferno before her, we MATCH CUT to:

The lab is now a gutted, blackened ruin. Smoke rises from the charred tables and scorched walls, with brittle heaps of crispy-fried kapra demon piled high.

Heidi stands in the doorway with a suitably guilty expression on her face, staring at the destruction she caused as Skye comes to join her.

SKYE
Nice shooting there, Tex.

HEIDI

I just wanted to kill it, you know,
before it did any more damage, and-

SKYE

Oh, no need to worry. I think you
did more than enough damage for the
two of us there.

Skye pats her sardonically on the shoulder.

SKYE (cont'd)

Good luck explaining this one to
Barbara.

Skye walks off with a smug grin, and as Heidi sighs heavily,
we cut to:

Two large skips sit outside the front gates, already half
full of dead bug bodies as more are tossed in by Slayers and
Ellen's squad.

Barbara and Ellen stand nearby, watching the cleanup
operation in progress.

ELLEN

I am so sorry...

BARBARA

It wasn't your fault. Heidi can be
very persuasive when she wants to
be.

ELLEN

Yeah, but look at this from my
point of view. First day back, and
one of my guys lends one of your
girls a flamethrower, which she
then uses to burn down half of the
science department!

BARBARA

She also killed a dangerous demon
and allowed us to wipe out the rest
of its kind, so I'm prepared to go
some way towards calling it even
this time.

ELLEN

You are?

BARBARA

Oh, she's in a lot of trouble,
don't you worry.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

37

CONTINUED:

37

BARBARA (cont'd)
I'm just willing to wait a day or
so before I land her in it.

Ellen grins, and we cut to:

38

INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - NEXT

38

Sofia is wrapped up in one of the beds, her eyelids
fluttering as she comes to. She turns her head to the side
and sees Braeden fast asleep in a chair next to her bed.

She smiles, reaching out a hand to touch his knee and wake
him up. He starts, then exhales when he sees she's awake.

SOFIA
(weak)
Hello.

BRAEDEN
Morning.

SOFIA
How long was I out?

BRAEDEN
About eight hours. All the bugs are
gone, you'll be glad to know, and
it was thanks to Skye that we
worked out an antidote to get the
toxins out of your system.

SOFIA
Where is she?

BRAEDEN
Out there, helping clean up dead
kapra demons. I got special
permission to come and keep an eye
on you.

SOFIA
(smiles)
Much appreciated.

BRAEDEN
Hey, no problem.

SOFIA
What about everyone else?

BRAEDEN
All present and accounted for. But
you were the only one I was worried
about.

He reaches forward and squeezes her hand, and as they share a
smile we cut to:

39 INT. CAMPUS - CORRIDOR - NEXT

39

Aiden is walking along with his mobile phone pressed to his ear.

GREG

(filtered; through phone)

Hello, you're through to Gregory Pierce. Leave a message and then say a silent prayer that I may one day find the time to answer it.

AIDEN

Hey, Greg, it's me. Again. Just thought you ought to know, the first day of term went down as expected - monsters, fire, people almost dying... it was fun. It's a shame you're not... well, it's a shame you missed it.

(beat; sighs)

I don't know if you ever listen to these and ignore them, or whether you're okay, or what's happened, but please, just try to find the time to call me or something soon, okay? I miss you. Everybody misses you.

(beat)

That's it. Bye.

He hangs up, tucking the phone away and sighing heavily, obviously downcast. He almost walks straight into Frankie, who is emerging from an unmarked doorway.

AIDEN (cont'd)

Oh! Oh, Frankie, hi. You missed a lot of action today.

FRANKIE

So I 'eard.

AIDEN

What happened to you?

Frankie's hand goes to her right arm on reflex.

FRANKIE

I 'ad a meeting with Barbara, and when things went crazy I just kept my 'ead down.

AIDEN

Right. Well, I've got a staff meeting to get to, so...

(CONTINUED)

FRANKIE

(nods)

Bon. Goodbye, Aiden.

She walks past him. Aiden watches her go, looking like he's about to call after her but thinking better of it.

We stay with Frankie as she walks on, her head lowering as she looks down at her belly, and as she rubs her hand across it, we see there are suddenly tears in her eyes. She wipes them away quickly with a SNIFF, and as she walks on, Dunstall appears at the far end of the corridor.

He smiles and opens his mouth to speak, but she suddenly darts down another corridor, rapidly hurrying out of sight.

Puzzled, Dunstall's smile fades as he stares after her, and from his hurt features, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW