

SLAYER ACADEMY

"English Rose"

by
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TEASER

FADE IN:

1

INT. SMYTHE MANOR - NIGHT

1

We trail through a cavernous front foyer, a whopping double staircase taking over the giant space, a chandelier dangling from the center of the ceiling. Top of the line Persian rugs adorn the immaculately tiled flooring, and exquisite paintings line the walls.

As we move forward further, we find ourselves in the living room, where a family (MR. ECKHART, MRS. ECKHART, JUSTINE and BOBBY, both no more than 10 or 11 years old) is seated around a crackling fire.

Mr. Eckhart is busied with the local paper, Mrs. Eckhart is quietly sipping tea, and the kids are lying on the floor reading and doing homework.

MRS. ECKHART

See? Quiet time can be fun.

MR. ECKHART

(without looking up)

Yes, well, the point of quiet time is to be quiet.

MRS. ECKHART

Touche.

Justine and Bobby giggle to themselves. Mr. Eckhart clears his throat and the children quickly become quiet, back to their books.

It's then that a MAID quietly enters the room, addressing the family.

MAID

Good evening, all. Just wanted to check on you before I headed off for the night. Is there anything else I can get you, first?

MRS. ECKHART

I think we'll be fine, thank you, Rose.

MR. ECKHART

Yes, thank you. We'll see you in the morning, then.

The Maid nods and promptly leaves the room. In the distance the front door CLICKS shut and there's the SHNICK of a lock being turned.

(CONTINUED)

Silence overtakes the gargantuan house.

Bobby gets up from the floor and Justine casts him a sidelong glance as he pads over to a large window in the living room, staring out into the countryside splayed out in front of the mansion.

Thick clouds have overtaken the sky, and a distant peal of THUNDER booms through the night. A moment later, RAIN begins pelting the glass. Bobby watches his reflection in the glass, staring out at the rain.

A FLASH of movement behind him causes Bobby to quickly turn his head, but behind him, his family is still sitting very still. He turns back to the window...

And a horrific FACE is leering back at him!

Bobby stumbles back from the window with a mixture of a GASP and a SCREAM! He falls to the floor, creating a large racket. The Eckharts all look up to see the commotion.

MRS. ECKHART

Bobby, what is it?

BOBBY

I... I saw something!!

MR. ECKHART

It's just a storm, son.

Bobby doesn't look so sure as he slowly gets to his feet. Justine comes over to him, eyes narrowed.

JUSTINE

What did you see?

BOBBY

I dunno... it was like... a face!

MRS. ECKHART

Bobby, please don't fill your sister's head with your stories.

(beat)

She barely sleeps as it is.

Justine glances over at her parents, and then back at Bobby.

JUSTINE

(whispering)

I've seen the face too.

BOBBY

(surprised)

You have?

(CONTINUED)

Justine nods solemnly. Bobby's eyes widen in fear. After a tense beat, Justine giggles and covers her mouth, trying to stifle the laughter.

JUSTINE

I'm just kidding, stupid.

Bobby lightly punches her on the shoulder.

BOBBY

That's not funny!

Mr. Eckhart looks up from his paper again, getting annoyed.

MR. ECKHART

Children, please. If you want to play, go up to your rooms.

The kids become quiet, admonished.

BOBBY

Sorry, Dad.

JUSTINE

Yeah, sorry.

Justine stifles another chuckle and Bobby glares at her.

JUSTINE (cont'd)

Come on, you.

She grabs Bobby by the arm, and begins tugging him out of the living room. They make their way into the foyer and start to head for the stairs.

Another crash of thunder outside makes them take pause, glancing around the darkened room.

Above them, the chandelier begins to QUAKE!

Bobby and Justine glance at each other nervously. They both know they aren't imagining this! The chandelier begins to move even more furiously now, swinging back and forth. The lights start to flicker on and off.

Something MOVES behind them, faster than lightning!

Bobby and Justine turn around quickly, but there's nothing to see. Strange and eerie WHISPERS begin to chatter around them, sounding like wind, but with voices carried inside of it.

BOBBY

(small voice)

What is it?

(CONTINUED)

JUSTINE

I don't know...

Suddenly, the chandelier breaks free and CRASHES to the floor, sending glass spraying everywhere!

Bobby and Justine dash to the side of the room, just barely missed by the falling chandelier, landing on the floor in a crumpled heap.

Mr. and Mrs. Eckhart rush out into the foyer, drawn by the noise.

MR. ECKHART

What in the bloody hell?!?

MRS. ECKHART

Oh, my God!

The scene before them is a twisted one. Strange markings have begun to form all over the walls, as if nails are being dragged down them.

The family takes in this bizarre scene with wide, horrified eyes.

JUSTINE

What's happening!?

MRS. ECKHART

Let's get out of here!

They all rush towards the front door as the WHISPERS get louder and louder.

A slight WIND begins whipping through the house, flapping everyone's hair around wildly. They reach the front door and Mr. Eckhart struggles with the knob.

It won't open!

MR. ECKHART

It's stuck!

MRS. ECKHART

The window!

Mr. Eckhart picks up a sitting chair from the corner and rushes towards the window, ready to burst it open - but an unseen FORCE blasts into him, sending him and the chair flying backwards, and he skids across the floor, taking a rug with him.

BOBBY

Dad!!

(CONTINUED)

The wind continues whipping even stronger now, sending paintings flying off the walls and glass flying up off the floor.

As the family huddles together, praying for hope and survival, we linger on them for a moment before we:

**SMASH TO
BLACK.**

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

2 INT. ACADEMY - CANTEEN - MORNING

2

FADE IN on the bustling cafeteria of the Rupert Giles Academy, as dozens of girls weave their way through tables carrying trays of food.

At a table near the back of the room, sit our girls (and guy): SOFIA ROMERO, BRAEDEN DONOVAN, SKYE UNDERWOOD and ALITA KAGEMURA, who look to be halfway through their breakfast already.

BRAEDEN

Well, I'll say one thing about this place. The food doesn't suck.

SOFIA

What is that, your third helping?

BRAEDEN

I'm a growing boy.

SKYE

Careful, or you might grow a little too big.

BRAEDEN

Only one thing I'm worried about getting big...

Sofia's eyes widen and she slams her fork down.

SOFIA

(blushing)

And we're going to cut that conversation off right now!

BRAEDEN

(blinks)

What? I was talking about my muscles.

SKYE

(sly)

Uh-huh. A certain kind of muscle, right?

Alita looks up from her food, a confused look in her eyes.

ALITA

I am missing something, aren't I?

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

It's okay, Allie, you're better off not knowing.

ALITA

I imagine so.

She resumes eating, quietly and daintily, and Braeden shoots a look over at Sofia, grinning a little.

BRAEDEN

What did you think I was going to say?

SOFIA

(uncomfortable)

Braeden, please...

Braeden is clearly enjoying this moment.

BRAEDEN

No, I really want to know.

SKYE

(muttering)

Boys and their toys.

Sofia tries desperately to ignore Braeden's lascivious comments, and glances around the canteen - where she spots FRANKIE DUCONT making her way from the food line, trying very hard to hold a tray steady despite her faulty arm.

On Sofia, who looks concerned. She makes eye contact with Frankie, and smiles lightly, waving.

Frankie looks the other way and begins heading towards another vacant table. Sofia's face falls - and then she seems to get an idea.

SOFIA

I'll be right back.

BRAEDEN

We'll be here.

Sofia gets out of her chair and makes her way over to Frankie's table, as the French girl slowly begins attempting to lay her tray down.

She seems to be having a lot of trouble and mutters French curse words under her breath as she does so.

SOFIA

Frankie...?

Frankie looks up at her, annoyed.

(CONTINUED)

FRANKIE

Yes, Sofia?

SOFIA

I saw you from over there. I waved, but you... well, you just kept walking.

FRANKIE

(acidic)

As you can see, I 'ave my 'ands full at the moment.

Sofia nods slowly, but is unperturbed by Frankie's icy exterior.

SOFIA

Don't you want to come sit with the rest of us?

Frankie finally gets her tray down and she seems to breathe a quiet sigh of relief. Sofia looks at her with a mixture of pity and sadness. The girl has obviously been through a lot lately and her sustained injuries aren't making it any easier.

FRANKIE

As you can see, things are not as easy as they once were for me.

(beat)

I am comfortable 'ere.

SOFIA

(hesitates)

I could carry your tray-

Frankie SLAMS her good fist down on the table, shaking her tray.

FRANKIE

(loudly)

I did not ask for your 'elp!

Sofia winces at Frankie's outburst, hurt by her words.

SOFIA

I... I'm sorry. I didn't mean to-

FRANKIE

(quieter)

Sofia, please. Do not make this 'arder than it already is.

Tears begin to gather in the corner of Frankie's eyes, and Sofia nods softly, not saying another word.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

She slowly ambles back to her own table in a daze, as Frankie takes her seat in the background, staring blankly down at her food.

Sofia reaches her chair and slumps back down, looking entirely defeated.

SKYE

What was that all about?

SOFIA

(downcast)

Same as before. Frankie seems determined to be alone in all of this, no matter what we try.

Sofia watches Frankie from the distance, and we see BARBARA GRIFFIN make her way into the canteen, heading directly to Frankie. We see the two of them talking, unable to make out what is being said, but Frankie nods, and Ms. Griffin heads away.

On Sofia, who has a look of confusion, we cut to:

INT. ACADEMY - BRIEFING ROOM

In a conference-like room, Sofia, Skye, Alita and Braeden are gathered around a large wooden table. ERIC BRYCE enters the room, holding four manila folders. As he walks around the room, he hands one to each Slayer.

BRYCE

Good morning, ladies...
(beat, to Braeden)
And gentleman.

SOFIA

Good morning, Mr. Bryce.

SKYE

What's the sitch?

Bryce regards Skye with an odd look, before resuming his place at the head of the table.

BRYCE

The "sitch" involves a family in the countryside several miles from here. One of our contacts was given information from the family after they finally managed to escape their home early this morning.

SOFIA

'Escape their home'?

(CONTINUED)

Bryce turns to look at Sofia, glancing sidelong at Skye, who bites her lip awkwardly. A tense beat envelops the group. Sofia is used to being the leader, and she glances at Skye, backing down.

SKYE

(awkward)

Uh... go ahead, Bryce.

BRYCE

The head of the house, Mr. Eckhart, described the events as if an invisible attacker was destroying their home. The Smythe Manor goes back generations upon generations - and a brief scan through its past tells me it holds several mysteries in its history.

(beat)

It seems clear we're dealing with a haunting.

Braeden winks at Sofia.

BRAEDEN

I love a good ghost story.

Bryce clears his throat and the attention goes back to him.

BRYCE

I'm sending you out to the Manor to investigate. If there is some kind of spirit haunting it, we need to find it and exorcise it before it can do anymore damage.

Skye raises her hand like a student in a classroom.

SKYE

One thing... how do you fight a ghost?

BRYCE

Well... that's something we'll be working on.

(beat)

For now, we just need to figure out what exactly it is we're dealing with.

ALITA

It might not be an evil spirit.

Everyone turns to look at the usually quiet Slayer.

(CONTINUED)

ALITA (cont'd)
Sometimes they are just
misunderstood.

SKYE
You do realise Charles Manson
used that same line in his
defence, right?

BRYCE
("moving on...")
The Eckhart family was largely
unharmd. It could be that the
spiritual force just needs to
find its way to the next plane.
(beat)
In any case, this is your newest
assignment. You'll ship out this
afternoon.

Everyone nods, and begins filing out of the room. Bryce
gestures to Skye to stay back, as everyone leaves.

Sofia glances back and notices Skye staying behind, an odd
look on her face as she leaves.

BRYCE (cont'd)
Skye...

SKYE
What is it?

BRYCE
I want you to know... Barbara was
very firm in her decision in
making you the new team leader of
the main squad. She believes in
you. Don't forget to believe in
yourself.

Skye is thrown by this admission.

SKYE
Uh... thanks. What brought that on?

BRYCE
I know I haven't been here long,
but it's pretty easy to pick up
on the tension between you and
Sofia whenever anything
leadership related pops up.

SKYE
(sighs)
Yeah, you noticed that too, huh?

(CONTINUED)

BRYCE

Just remember you're in charge,
but also that a good leader knows
to listen to her team. You're not
going to be right all the time.

(beat)

Good luck on the mission, Skye.

As Skye leaves, we cut to:

Sofia, Skye, Alita and Braeden climb out of the Academy's
minibus, and Bryce turns around to face them.

BRYCE

I'll be monitoring you lot from
out here, keeping an eye on the
place using these.

He pats a pair of monitors, both displaying a view of the
manor in thermal vision.

ALITA

What are they?

BRYCE

Ellen's loaned them to us. If any
spectral energy starts to form
inside the manor, I can spot it
before it fully manifests. And if
anything fishy starts happening,
contact me immediately.

SKYE

How? I know I can shout pretty
loud, but if we're inside that
may be pushing it.

He hands out little communication headsets to each one of
them. Braeden eagerly takes his, affixing it to his head,
and Alita stares down at it, bemused.

SOFIA

What are you going to do, if we
call you?

BRYCE

I'm still working on spells to
fight the spirit, if need be.
Hopefully if things go badly,
I'll have something ready for
you.

BRAEDEN

Study hard, boss. We're probably gonna need you.

Bryce nods, and the four Slayers begin making their way down the front walkway towards the Manor, which stretches high into the sky, blotting out the afternoon sun. They reach the massive front door and Skye knocks loudly.

A beat passes.

ALITA

I don't hear anything.

BRAEDEN

Maybe the ghost got them?

SOFIA

(admonishing)

Braeden!

BRAEDEN

What, you lost your sense of humor today?

SOFIA

It's just... we're on a mission, alright? Let's at least try to be professional?

BRAEDEN

Alright, then. Let me tell you, as a professional, you need to lighten up.

This elicits a small grin from Sofia, and it's then that the door swings open, revealing Mrs. Eckhart, who still looks thoroughly spooked and as though she hasn't slept a wink for hours.

MRS. ECKHART

Oh, hello, you must be Mr. Bryce's... colleagues?

The woman looks the quartet up and down, assessing how young they all are.

SKYE

Rest assured, ma'am, we know what we're doing. And we're stylish with it.

Mr. Eckhart appears behind her.

MR. ECKHART

Please, come inside.

(CONTINUED)

The Slayers enter the manor, and stare around with looks of awe on their faces at the sheer size of the front entryway. The chandelier has been cleaned up, but the ceiling is quite bare where it used to be.

Everything seems to have been straightened up, but there is still something "off" about the place - besides the giant claw-like marks on the walls.

SKYE

Our colleagues told us you were attacked last night.

MR. ECKHART

That's true. I don't know what the hell it was. At first I thought I was losing my bloody mind, but... it just didn't stop.

MRS. ECKHART

Not for hours. It finally went away when the sun started to rise.

SOFIA

Did you get a look at it?

The married couple shake their heads simultaneously.

MR. ECKHART

Like I said, it was invisible.

(beat)

But damn strong.

The Eckhart's children, Bobby and Justine come down the stairs holding suitcases, and meet their parents in the foyer.

SKYE

You guys are leaving?

MR. ECKHART

We need sleep. We won't be able to rest here, knowing what's happened. You came very highly recommended from a dear friend of mine on the Council, so I trust you. I just want you to find whatever is in my house, and get rid of it.

(beat, to the kids)

Come on, then.

The family starts filing out the front door into the waning afternoon light. Mr. Eckhart turns and hands a set of keys to Skye.

(CONTINUED)

MR. ECKHART (cont'd)
These keys will give you access
to every part of the house.
(beat)
And please... save our home.

Skye nods and takes the keys, and the family disappears down the drive to get into their own vehicle, quickly speeding away. Skye closes the front door and turns to her teammates.

SKYE
So... here we are.

ALITA
We should begin searching for
clues.

SOFIA
Two teams?

SKYE
(raises eyebrow)
Let me guess. Pumpkin and Honey
Bunny on one team, me and Alita
on the other?

Sofia stands her ground.

SOFIA
Is that going to be a problem?

SKYE
(shrugs)
Fine by me. C'mon, Allie. Let's
go scrounge up a spook.

Skye and Alita head off into another section of the manor, and Sofia turns to Braeden.

SOFIA
You heard her. Let's go.

Braeden steals a glance back at Skye and Alita, and as he and Sofia make their way upstairs, we cut to:

Skye and Alita are making their way down a softly lit hallway, and we see nothing but darkness through the windows sporadically placed on either side.

ALITA
You shouldn't be so hard on her.

SKYE

Who?

ALITA

You know who.

SKYE

Who, Sofes? She can handle it.

ALITA

I think she just has some things
to work through.

(beat)

We all have our different
problems.

Skye stops walking and faces Alita.

SKYE

I know. But I'm supposed to be
leader now, Alita. I've got no
problem with Sofia making a call
now and then, but it's starting
to feel like she and Braeden are
fusing into one freaky-looking
Siamese twin Slayer, and they're
not playing the same game we are.
Plus, if I have someone else
trying to call the shots under
me, it could cost someone their
life.

ALITA

I understand.

A beat passes. Skye cocks her head, listening. We faintly
hear the WHISPERS, but Alita does not seem to hear
anything.

ALITA (cont'd)

What is it? Do you sense
something?

Skye holds up a hand to silence Alita and she moves over to
a doorway, leaning against it.

A beat passes, and she steps back, KICKING the door wide
open - revealing Sofia and Braeden looking quite cozy on a
loveseat in a small guest bedroom.

Sofia immediately leaps off the couch, blushing and looking
as guilty as she should be.

SOFIA

(quickly)

We weren't-

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

SKYE
(grins)
Hey, lovebirds, I think I sense
something downstairs.
(beat)
Wanna come?

Sofia hurriedly exits the room, and Braeden follows after,
and Skye watch them with a leer, as we cut to:

6 INT. SMYTHE MANOR - FOYER

6

The four Slayers make their way back into the foyer, and
Skye is looking all around, obviously sensing a presence.
The WHISPERS drift in and out, but only Skye seems to be
able to hear them.

SKYE
Do you guys hear that?

No one responds, as they look around the room blankly.

With a SCREAM, a sudden WHIRLWIND of energy appears in the
center of the foyer, sending ripples of air out, knocking
everyone backward!

BRAEDEN
I heard that!

The force slowly morphs into a vaguely humanoid form - and
Alita watches it with fear painted across her features -
until it SLAMS through the air, blasting against her!

The younger Slayer FLIES across the room, landing in a
crumpled heap on the floor.

SKYE
Alita!

The shape hovers in the air over the girls, HOWLING at them
as long, thin arms ending in sharp claws start to form,
until there is a loud:

7 BANG!

7

The front door FLIES open! In steps a young woman with
sleek red hair and looks that could kill - this is DARCIE.
She narrows her eyes and starts to grin as her eyes fall on
the ghostly creature before her.

DARCIE
There you are...

Turning to face her and GROWLING, the spiritual form
dissipates into the air with one final HOWL!

(CONTINUED)

Darcie walks towards the girls, reaching a hand out to help Sofia up.

DARCIE (cont'd)
I hear you girls have a ghost
problem?

As everyone looks at her with slack jaws, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

7

INT. SMYTHE MANOR - FOYER - NIGHT

7

Resume scene. Darcie has just blown into the Manor, and Sofia, Skye, Alita and Braeden are slowly getting to their feet, looking at her with confusion.

Darcie glances over and seems to notice Braeden, and a wry grin splits across her face.

DARCIE

Or should I say girls and boy?

Skye moves closer to her, a menacing look on her face.

SKYE

Who the hell are you?

Darcie begins walking further into the foyer, ignoring Skye as she looks around, checking the surroundings, looking very much as if she's seen all of this before.

DARCIE

My name is Darcie Deyncourt.

(beat)

I'm from London. And I also happen to be a Slayer.

She locks eyes with Braeden and grins again.

DARCIE (cont'd)

And if I would have known the Academy let you bring boy toys along on missions, I might have convinced my Dad to let me go!

Sofia looks uncomfortably between Braeden and Darcie.

SOFIA

Hang on - your father didn't send you to the Academy, even knowing you were a Slayer?

DARCIE

He didn't want me to have that kind of life. You see, my family has certain "expectations." You must marry within your class, become a housewife, and have lots and lots of fat children.

(beat)

Lucky for me, I don't have to worry about that anymore. Most of my family is dead, anyway.

(CONTINUED)

Everyone is shocked into silence.

ALITA

I'm... sorry for your loss.

Darcie shrugs as she continues to move about the foyer, barely looking at anyone as she inspects the area.

DARCIE

It's been a year. I've gotten over it, I guess. Bigger fish to fry and all that, right?

(beat)

Besides, whatever's holed up in this house is what killed my family. That's why I'm here, plain and simple.

(beat)

Besides saving all your arses, of course.

Skye and Sofia both exchange a glance - who the hell is this girl?

ALITA

How did you know where to find this place?

Darcie glances over at Alita with a wry grin.

DARCIE

Well, aren't you the cutest little thing ever!

(beat)

I've been tracking this poltergeist for almost a year now. I know its habits. It's a slippery git, but I've been following it all around the country.

SOFIA

All alone?

DARCIE

(shrugs)

I don't need anybody else.

(beat)

So who's in charge of this affair?

Skye steps forward again.

SKYE

That would be me.

(CONTINUED)

DARCIE

And you are?

SKYE

Name's Skye. The two love buddies over there are Sofia and Braeden, and this is Alita.

(beat)

We're in charge of this mission, so if you want to play along, I suggest you remember that before you go running off again.

Darcie regards Skye with a sardonic smile.

DARCIE

I like you. You've got spunk.

(beat)

We should split up. The poltergeist is gone for now, but it will be back soon. And things are going to get a lot worse from here on out now it knows what you all are, so get your game faces on if you've got them.

Darcie starts to walk off again, and Skye clamps a hand down on her arm. Darcie stops and glares at Skye.

SKYE

Hold up there, limey.

DARCIE

(darkly)

I would suggest taking your hand off me, before I take it off.

Skye reluctantly lets go as Darcie pulls away.

SKYE

Look, I can tell you've got the whole rogue agent thing going right now, but where we come from, we work as a team. If you're gonna be in on this with us, I need to know whether you're in, or you're out.

A beat passes.

DARCIE

Fine. One condition.

SKYE

Name it.

(CONTINUED)

Darcie stares straight at Skye.

DARCIE
The poltergeist is mine. No one
else gets to take it out.

She looks into each and every one of their faces, dead serious.

DARCIE (cont'd)
Are we clear?

No one says anything. Darcie nods.

DARCIE (cont'd)
Good.

Darcie begins walking away from them all as they stare at each other with completely flummoxed faces, as we cut to:

INT. SMYTHE MANOR - HALLWAY - NEXT

Skye is standing in another hall, Alita at her side as she activates her communications device.

SKYE
Skye to Bryce, come in. You read
me?

The sound of static FEEDBACK comes back through the receiver and Skye winces, pulling it away from her ear.

SKYE (cont'd)
Dammit!

ALITA
It's not working?

SKYE
Looks like. I guess we're on our
own.

The communications device crackles again, and we can barely hear a VOICE coming through.

BRYCE (O.C.)
(filtered, fuzzy)
Skye! Skye, can you hear me?

Skye brings the device back up to her face.

SKYE
I can hear you. We've got a
situation in here. I don't know
if you can hear me, but a new
Slayer just crashed the party.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SKYE (cont'd)
Wicked nasty bitch, goes by the
name of Darcie. Did you see her
coming in?
(beat)
By the way, that ghost you sent
us after? Majorly pissed off.

BRYCE (O.C.)
(breaking up)
I... hear... Slayer...
(beat)
Working... spell... just...
tight!

Skye and Alita both stare at the device with bewildered
faces.

SKYE
Say what?

ALITA
I believe he was saying something
about working on a spell. Perhaps
to fight the poltergeist with?

Skye sighs, stuffing the communications device back in her
pocket.

SKYE
I hope so. Because that thing is
really starting to piss me off.

As they begin to stalk off into other parts of the mansion,
we cut to:

Sofia and Braeden enter a large indoor pool area, and
slight vapors are rising off the water in the excessively
large pool, muted pool lights illuminating everything with
an eerie dark blue color.

BRAEDEN
Wanna go for a dip?

SOFIA
Braeden, can't you be serious for
one minute?

BRAEDEN
I'm just trying to get you out of
this funk you've been in. What's
the bug you got?

Sofia hesitates for a moment, fiddling with the handle of
her Scythe.

SOFIA

It's just... I'm worried, is all. When I was talking to Frankie this morning, I tried to get her to talk about what's going on with her but she just shot me down, same as every other time I've tried. Everything is so... different now. Skye is in charge, Alita is completely distancing herself from everyone, and the other Slayers just keep clouding in around us.

(beat)

And then there's you.

BRAEDEN

What about me?

Sofia moves closer to Braeden, their chests less than a foot apart from one another.

SOFIA

Even though I'm still extremely confused about everything that concerns you, you've been the one thing in my life that's made any sort of sense lately.

BRAEDEN

Yeah, saving a girl's life tends to have that effect on her.

Braeden puts an arm around Sofia's shoulders, drawing her closer to him.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)

I've been confused too. But we're in this together, right? Fellow Slayers. We can figure the other stuff out later.

Sofia looks up at him.

SOFIA

What are we going to do?

Braeden looks down at her, confused.

BRAEDEN

About what? Us?

SOFIA

No, Darcie. If we don't figure out how to stop her, she and Skye are going to murder each other.

(CONTINUED)

BRAEDEN

(smiles)

I have a feeling we'll be able to handle her.

A voice rings out behind them.

DARCIE (O.C.)

(dry)

Doesn't that sound like fun.

Sofia and Braeden pull apart, turning to see Darcie leaning against the wall across from them, a sneer on her face.

SOFIA

Darcie... I didn't hear you come in.

DARCIE

I'm a Slayer, not a bull in a China shop. Ever hear of sneaking around? Or does that Academy of yours simply leave that part out?

Darcie begins walking over to them and Sofia crosses her arms over her chest.

SOFIA

You know, that attitude of yours is really starting to wear thin. You might be able to talk to people that way wherever you came from, but here, you should show some respect!

Darcie approaches Sofia, raising her chin, appraising the other Slayer. She scoffs in Sofia's face.

DARCIE

If you'd seen half the things I have, you probably wouldn't even be standing here, Miss Posh.

Braeden steps in between them, separating the fuming Slayers.

BRAEDEN

Hey, hey - let's keep it clean, ladies. We've still got a job to do, remember?

Darcie glances between Sofia and Braeden.

DARCIE

You should listen your boyfriend. He's smarter than he looks.

(CONTINUED)

Without another word, Darcie marches off, leaving Sofia and Braeden to stare after her with drained looks on their faces.

INT. BALLROOM - NEXT

Skye and Alita are wandering around a gigantic, cavernous ballroom, complete with a grand stage at the head of the room, a grand piano, and several stately chairs and tables stacked along the far wall. The room is silent, besides their footsteps.

The double doors CREAK open, and the two Slayers turn quickly, alert - but it's only Sofia and Braeden entering.

SKYE

Oh, it's you. I was almost hoping it was Darcie, I've got this itch on the backs of my knuckles I wanna show her.

SOFIA

It's just us. We just had a run in with the Queen, herself.

(beat, muttering)

"Miss Posh," my arse...

Alita and Skye exchange a look of confusion.

BRAEDEN

Ignore her, she's just a little stung. Have you two had any luck?

ALITA

Nothing, yet. Skye seemed to think this might be the next place for the poltergeist to manifest, so we headed here.

SOFIA

Any signs yet?

SKYE

So far? Nothing. But I'm betting anything that as soon as it makes an appearance, our best new friend will show up, blazing saddles and all.

SOFIA

She is quite trying, isn't she?

ALITA

She has been through a lot. I can't imagine what I would be like if I lost my entire family.

SKYE

I'm pretty sure you wouldn't walk
around with your nose permanently
stuck in the air.

Alita shrugs. The group begins searching around the
ballroom for any signs of activity.

BRAEDEN

Maybe the ghost decided he didn't
want to play anymore?

Before anyone can say anything else, a BLAST of energy
sends Braeden FLYING backwards at least twenty feet, where
he lands skidding across the stage!

SOFIA

Braeden!

Sofia hurries across the ballroom, just as the WHIRLWINDS
return, with even greater force than ever before! Skye and
Alita begin readying themselves for anything.

WHOOSH!

A chair flies across the ballroom! Two more! Skye and Alita
begin dodging furniture as Sofia clambers up onto the
stage. She scurries over to Braeden, who's slowly sitting
up and rubbing his head with a GROAN.

BRAEDEN

What the hell hit me?

SOFIA

Come on! The poltergeist is
coming!

She drags Braeden over to the side of the stage, trying to
get themselves to relative safety.

In a flurry of wind and light, the POLTERGEIST manifests
itself once again, a glowing humanoid being with flowing
robes floating all around it, its face completely rotted
out and skeletal.

It turns its head to Braeden, locking eyes with him.

POLTERGEIST

What is this? I sense power...
dark power... this is new...

Sofia looks up at the spirit with wide eyes, and Braeden
looks completely bewildered.

BAM! The double doors to the ballroom slam open, and Darcie
runs inside, full-tilt, dodging chairs and tables.

(CONTINUED)

On Skye, who is glancing around, wild-eyed. Something chirps in her pocket - the communications device!

BRYCE (O.C.)
(filtered)
Skye! I have a corporealization
spell ready. Hold the comm device
up into the air!

Skye does as she's told.

BRYCE (O.C.) (cont'd)
(filtered, in Latin)
Spirits of the under-realm, heed
my call! Take this spirit-child
of yours and make it flesh!

A FLASH spreads through the room, and the poltergeist slams to the ground with a loud THUD - it's solid!

It pushes itself back to its feet, swaying slightly, looking down at its hands in surprise.

DARCIE (O.S.)
Hey!

The poltergeist spins around, and we see Darcie standing right behind it, holding a broadsword, a vindictive grin on her face.

DARCIE (cont'd)
Remember me?

Before the poltergeist can say or do anything, Darcie SWINGS the broadsword - decapitating the corporealized spirit! Its body slumps to the ground, melting into a puddle of GOO.

DARCIE (cont'd)
That was for my mum and dad, you
bastard.

Darcie lowers her sword and turns to Sofia, who is staring at her with a look of shock and awe.

DARCIE (cont'd)
(exhales)
So. What's the big deal about
this Academy of yours, anyway?

As she grins smugly at them, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

11 INT. ACADEMY - DORMITORY - NIGHT

11

Skye opens a door to a single dormitory room, revealing a small, clean but dingy room, with nothing but a small cot, a dresser and a mini-sink.

SKYE

Welcome home.

Darcie takes in the room with obvious distaste. She is used to much fancier abodes from her childhood.

DARCIE

(bitingly)

It's... not exactly the most sanitary of rooms, is it?

Skye shrugs, blowing a bubble-gum bubble.

SKYE

Hey, it's what we got. Barbara said you could sleep here tonight, and we'll get all the official stuff sorted in the morning, then get you moved into one of the main dorms. Until then, I suggest you get some shut-eye.

Darcie slings her backpack onto the bed, and Skye lingers for a moment at the door.

DARCIE

This will do for now, I suppose. At least it's a bed, right?

SKYE

More than you've had for a while, from what I hear.

Darcie hesitates for a moment. The icy exterior vanishes for the flick of a second.

DARCIE

(nods)

Yes. I suppose so.

SKYE

(beat)

Well, good night. I'd make a bed bugs joke but that's still kind of a sore subject around here.

(CONTINUED)

Skye leaves Darcie alone, disappearing down the hall, and Darcie begins settling into the room.

She opens up her backpack, revealing precious little inside - a couple of balled up shirts, some jewelry, a dagger or two, and a small framed picture.

Darcie picks up the frame and stares down at the little photo: a once-happy family, including herself, another young girl and boy, and a man and woman, obviously her parents.

She stares at the photo for a moment before placing it back in the bag, which she promptly shoves under the bed.

HEIDI (O.C.)

So this is the famous new girl
I've been hearing so much about!

Darcie quickly spins around to face HEIDI CHARISSE, leader of the B squad, and resident mega-bitch of the Academy.

HEIDI (cont'd)

You don't look so tough.

Darcie squares her shoulders and looks Heidi directly in the eye.

DARCIE

Are you going to be a problem for me? Because I can think of several ways I can lay your arse out on the floor right here and now.

Heidi scoffs, obviously taken aback by Darcie's immediate threats, but also, somewhat impressed.

HEIDI

What's your name, tough-chick?

DARCIE

I'm Darcie. And how might I address you? You certainly aren't the Academy's welcome wagon... not dressed like that, anyway.

Heidi looks down at her midriff top and mini-skirt, boots up to her calves, and shrugs.

HEIDI

I figure I won't look this good forever. Might as well take advantage of it now.

DARCIE
Ah, stupid and vain. What a
delightful combination.

HEIDI
(fumes)
You know, I have a certain
reputation around here -

DARCIE
(interrupting)
As what? The girl who just
happens to "fall" out of her
clothes?

HEIDI
Who ARE you?

Darcie just grins, getting in Heidi's face.

DARCIE
I'm someone you don't want to
piss off, dearie.

Without another word, Darcie slams her door shut, and we
hear the CLICK of the lock being turned.

Heidi continues to fume, staring at the door with an angry
expression, before turning and stomping away in a huff.

12 INT. ACADEMY - LIBRARY - NEXT

12

Frankie pushes through the entry-way into the Academy's
library, looking around for a sign of anyone being there.

FRANKIE
'Ello? Is anyone there?

Frankie moves further into the library, unnerved by the
silence in the large room.

FRANKIE (cont'd)
Miss Griffin?

WHAM! A stack of books hits the reception desk as Barbara
rises up from behind it. Frankie GASPS in shock, recoiling,
and Barbara stumbles back, just noticing Frankie.

BARBARA
Oh, dear lord, Frankie! You
nearly frightened me to death!

Frankie gapes at her.

FRANKIE

You? I was not the one 'iding in
the dark!

Barbara smiles apologetically, dusting off the volumes she
just placed on the counter.

BARBARA

Sorry about that. I've been
waiting for you for quite some
time, so I thought I might as
well get some work done.

(beat)

Since Catherine's been gone,
we've been hard-pressed keeping
up with the work in here. There's
quite a backlog developing.

Frankie regards the books, a solemn look on her face.

FRANKIE

'Ave you 'eard from Miss Prentice
lately?

BARBARA

(nods)

She's doing fine. She's much more
relaxed now. She didn't need to
be in an environment like this.
Just wasn't built for it.

Frankie's face falls.

FRANKIE

(crestfallen)

Per'aps I should 'ave gone with
'er.

Barbara's face is etched with concern.

BARBARA

What? Why would you say that?
Frankie, you are a part of this
team. An essential part.

Frankie doesn't look so sure.

FRANKIE

What can I do? I am not exactly
the smartest girl, I cannot fight
any more... I am useless. Slayers
are supposed to 'eal, and I
cannot even do that properly!

Barbara's face softens and she puts a hand out, taking
Frankie's good one in her own.

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA

You are anything but useless. Get that idea out of your head right now.

(beat)

And I'll have you know, you were in the top 3% of the class last term.

Frankie lifts her head a little.

FRANKIE

Really?

(beat; narrows eyes)

Better than Sofia?

BARBARA

(grins)

Really. Your test scores were quite impressive. Granted, I don't have the actual scores anymore because most of our records were destroyed in the raid, but... I happen to have a pretty good memory.

Frankie still seems glum, but we can see now that the gears are turning in her pretty little head. Maybe things aren't so horrible after all?

FRANKIE

I do not know, Miss Griffin. I'm still so... unsure of my abilities.

Barbara smiles wanly at the obviously distraught Slayer.

BARBARA

I've noticed that you've been keeping to yourself a lot lately. Staying away from your friends, your teammates. I don't want that for you. You are one of our best girls here, Frankie. I want to utilize your skills.

A beat passes.

BARBARA (cont'd)

That's why I asked you to meet me here. I want you to take over running the library.

Frankie's jaw drops, and Barbara quickly continues before Frankie has a chance to speak.

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA (cont'd)

Now, you'll still be a student,
and your training will always
take precedent, but someone needs
to take care of this place, and
right now, I can't think of
anyone else better suited for the
job. I'll make sure you have some
help with anything that needs
lifting or moving around, but the
day to day running of the place
will become your responsibility.

(beat)

What do you think?

Frankie seems to be in shock, but mulling the option over.
She looks up at Barbara.

FRANKIE

Can I at least think about it for
un momente petit?

BARBARA

Of course. Why don't you sleep on
it, and let me know what your
thoughts are tomorrow? We'll go
from there.

Frankie nods, and Barbara excuses herself from the library,
and she heads for the doors.

FRANKIE

(hesitant)

Miss Griffin?

Barbara turns back, half in-half out of the door.

FRANKIE (cont'd)

(earnestly)

Merci.

Barbara smiles, and we cut to:

Skye is leaning out the open window of her dorm room,
staring out into the clear night sky. A figure appears
behind her, and she turns around to face ANNA SUTTON, one
of the B Squad Slayers.

SKYE

Hey Anna. Didn't hear you come
in.

ANNA

I'm a quiet walker.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

What brings you to my corner of
the neighborhood?

Anna shrugs and moves deeper into the room, sitting on the
edge of Skye's bed.

ANNA

Couldn't sleep, I guess. I
figured you'd be awake. You know,
with the whole half-vampire
thing.

SKYE

(grins)

The staying up all night,
sleeping all day requirement
doesn't really apply to me.

ANNA

Right.

Skye notes that something seems to be off about the other
Slayer and she cocks her head.

SKYE

Something else bugging you?

Anna hesitates for a moment, gathering her thoughts.

ANNA

I just miss home, you know?

SKYE

(eyes her)

Term just started, and you're
already homesick? That can't be a
good sign.

ANNA

(quietly)

I didn't go home for the summer
break.

SKYE

How come?

Anna fidgets with the hem of her shirt, keeping her eyes
downcast. She finally looks up at Skye, hesitant.

ANNA

I've heard things about you, so I
feel comfortable talking to you
about this.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

"Heard things"? What kind of 'things'? If it's about that time with the bus load of football players, I swear they were all over eighteen!

ANNA

Well, that you ran away from home. Disappeared.

Skye is obviously relieved, and breathes a quick sigh.

SKYE

Oh. That. Right, yuh-huh.

Anna hesitates again.

ANNA

You see... back in Brooklyn, I started making a name for myself out on the streets. I had all this power, right? I kinda tripped out, and started sticking my neck out where it didn't belong. Got mixed up with some really bad people. Next thing you know, my head's on the chopping block and my family has a price on their lives.

(beat)

So I bolted.

She keeps her eyes down, not wanting to make eye contact with Skye after such an admission. Skye bites her lip and gets off the window ledge, coming over to sit next to Anna, who looks very awkward now.

SKYE

Look... Anna...

(beat)

I have seen and dome some things that.... would probably blow your mind. But we're human.

(thinks)

Well, you're human. I'm only half-human. But you get what I mean.

(beat)

Sometimes we make mistakes. It's natural. We do what our mind tells us to do in that tenth of a second it takes to make a decision. For all you know, you did the best possible thing you could have done.

(CONTINUED)

Anna is silent, and Skye shifts awkwardly.

SKYE (cont'd)
I should've warned you, I'm not too good at the speechifying thing. Now Sofia? She's a born speechifier. Learned from the best, so she keeps saying.

Anna manages a small smile.

ANNA
No. It meant a lot. Thanks, Skye.

SKYE
Hey, no problem. I'm here to serve, right?

Skye holds out a fist for Anna to hit, and as the younger girl is about to do so, we hear a distant BANG! and then a loud YELL!

Skye and Anna exchange a look, and rush out of the room into:

Loud BANGING and more YELLING can be heard from down the hall. Sofia sleepily comes out of her room, followed by an annoyed looking Heidi, dressed in bunny pyjamas.

HEIDI
What the hell is all that noise?

SOFIA
It's coming from Darcie's room...

Skye creeps down the hall, getting closer to Darcie's room, and she motions for the other girls to follow her. Heidi hesitates, head clearing.

HEIDI
Wait. What am I doing? I don't care about you lot. I'm going back to bed.

Heidi disappears back into her room, and Sofia catches up with Skye and Anna, an amused look on her face.

SOFIA
Not much of an early bird, is she?
(beat)
What's going on?

14 CONTINUED:

14

A SCREAM fills the hallway, and Heidi's head pokes back out of her doorway.

SKYE

Come on!

Skye backs up, and then with all the Slayer strength she can muster, KICKS forward at Darcie's door, sending it splintering inward.

15 INT. ACADEMY - DARCIE'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS

15

Inside the room, Darcie is PINNED UP against the wall, held by invisible forces as a massive VORTEX spins around in the center of the small dorm!

In the center of the room stands yet ANOTHER poltergeist - this one decidedly feminine in proportion.

Struggling helplessly against the force holding her several feet off the ground, Darcie turns and sees the other Slayers gathering in the doorway and yells:

DARCIE

Don't just stand there gawking -
help me, you idiots!

As Skye, Anna and Sofia look on in shock, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

16 INT. DARCIE'S DORMITORY - NIGHT

16

Resume scene. Darcie SCREAMS again, and Skye leaps into action, rushing into the room.

ANNA

Skye! Be careful!

A BLAST of energy rushes into the hall, sending Anna and Sofia FLYING!

More girls begin poking their heads out into the hallway. Sofia looks up at them.

SOFIA

Go! Find help! We're going to try
and contain this thing!

Several girls take off running the opposite direction, and Sofia begins climbing back to her feet. She turns to Anna, who is groaning on the ground.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Can you stand?

ANNA

I think so.

Sofia holds out a hand to her, and helps the other girl up, and they both approach Darcie's room again.

SOFIA

I can't believe I'm helping this
girl...

ANNA

Why do you think it wants to kill
her?

SOFIA

If you'd met her, you'd
understand why.

As Sofia and Anna begin to enter the room, we see Skye locked in battle with the spirit, which is now holding her in its spiritual grip across the room from Darcie.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Hey, over here!

The spirit turns to face Sofia with a SNARL, and the momentary distraction causes it to let loose of Darcie, who bolts from the room!

(CONTINUED)

ANNA

Hey, where is she going!?

In a WHOOSH of air and static, the spirit blasts past Sofia and Anna, knocking them down as it follows after Darcie into another section of the Academy.

Silence falls back across the corridor, and Sofia and Anna slowly get back to their feet.

SOFIA

Alright, now that was just plain weird.

Skye emerges from the room.

SKYE

Where did it go?

ANNA

It followed that Darcie girl!

SKYE

Come on, we better catch up.

Sofia hesitates.

SOFIA

Maybe we should let her deal with her own troubles.

(beat)

I mean, back at the Manor, she was quite clear that she didn't need anyone at her back.

Skye looks at Sofia, confused.

SKYE

That doesn't sound like the Buffy clone I've always known. Whatever happened to saving the day, no matter what the cost?

Sofia hesitates. Skye cocks an eyebrow.

SKYE (cont'd)

I'm going after her. I don't care how much of a royal pain in the ass she is - she's one of us now.

This sinks in. Sofia nods.

SOFIA

Point taken. Let's go.

The three girls rush off, and we cut to:

17 INT. ACADEMY - HALL OUTSIDE LIBRARY - NEXT 17

Skye, Sofia and Anna round a corner, following the path of destruction.

ANNA

I think it's safe to say they
came this way.

They look ahead - the doors leading into the library have been smashed open. The girls run inside:

18 INT. ACADEMY - LIBRARY - NEXT 18

The girls rush into the main area of the library and see that books have been strewn everywhere.

From up on a higher level, Darcie comes FLYING down, smashing through banisters, landing in a heap on the floor in the middle of the library!

The spirit hovers into view, greedily staring down at Darcie, who looks up at it defiantly.

SPIRIT

Time to end this once and for
all!

The doors of the library SLAM back shut, trapping them all inside! Anna goes over to the doors and tries to budge them - but no luck.

ANNA

We're locked in!

Skye turns and faces the scene before them.

SKYE

(grimly)
Perfect.

It's then that a figure emerges from the stacks up on the higher level - it's Frankie!

FRANKIE

What is going-
(beat, sees ghost)
Merde!

Skye notices Frankie.

SKYE

Frankie! We need to find
ourselves a corporealization
spell, or we're boned! Hit the
books!

(CONTINUED)

Frankie nods quickly and disappears back into the stacks. Sofia and Anna join ranks with Skye, standing on either side of her as the spirit lunges down towards Darcie.

SPIRIT

Killing you will be such a sweet reward, after all this time.

A beat passes, as realization dawns on Darcie.

DARCIE

It was you...

SPIRIT

It's just a job, child. Don't take it personally.

DARCIE

You killed my family!

The spirit grins evilly.

SPIRIT

Someone must really want you out of the way! I was summoned from a far higher plane than this to take care of you, child...

Darcie begins to climb to her feet, but the Spirit SLAMS her back down with a blast of energy. She looks up and seems to notice the other Slayers.

SPIRIT (cont'd)

We have visitors! How nice. Would you like to join us?

The Spirit waves an arm out, and Sofia, Skye and Anna are dragged across the room, slamming into a set of bookshelves on the other end of the room, books raining down on them.

Frankie is digging through books frantically, letting them fall to the floor at her feet as she searches.

FRANKIE

(mumbling)

Non... non... non!

(beat)

Come now, Françoise, you can do this. You can do this!

She keeps searching and a loud BANG gets her attention, and she looks up, distracted for a moment.

Getting her bearings, she goes back to the search, looking more frantic than ever.

The spirit lords over Darcie, looking victorious.

SPIRIT

Once I realised there was no way
for you to hurt me and my twin,
we agreed to spend some time
having a little fun with this
world after killing your parents,
and we'd come back for you when
it was time.

The spirit waves a hand, and several books STREAK through the air towards Darcie, one slashing across her cheek.

SPIRIT (cont'd)

But when you killed my twin, I
knew that time had come! Now,
prepare to di-

Skye rises up behind the spirit.

SKYE

You know why the bad guys always
lose?

(beat)

Too much exposition.

Skye picks up a piece of wood from the bookcase and HAULS it across the room at the spirit.

It momentarily dissipates, and Skye rushes over to help Darcie get up off the ground. Darcie shoves Skye off of her.

DARCIE

I didn't ask for your help! This
is my battle!

SKYE

Yeah, 'cause you've been handling
things so well this far!

Darcie shoves Skye again, and Skye gapes at her.

DARCIE

You aren't in charge of me, Skye!
I'm not one of your little push-
over friends!

SKYE

I cannot believe you're pulling
this right now! This is so not
the time or the place!

A beat passes as the tension rises.

SOFIA

Um... guys?

Darcie and Skye glance back at Sofia. They then turn back around, and the spirit has reassembled itself before them, gaping maw open and it HOWLS!

SKYE

Frankie!? Now would be a real
good time for that spell!

As the spirit SLAMS into Skye and Darcie one more time, sending them sprawling, we cut back up to:

21 INT. LIBRARY - UPPER LEVEL - NEXT

21

Frankie reaches the end of a shelf, and finally seems to find what she's looking for. She pulls the book triumphantly off the shelf, and rips it open.

FRANKIE

Finally!

She begins quickly reading, searching for the spell.

22 INT. LIBRARY - LOWER LEVEL - NEXT

22

Frankie appears at the ledge by the broken banisters where Darcie fell earlier, holding the book open before her.

FRANKIE

(in Latin)

Spirits of the under-realm, heed
my call! Take this spirit-child
of yours and make it flesh!

She closes the book quickly and looks up - a FLASH envelops the library, and the Spirit gazes down at its body. The gauzy robes flowing around it are no longer see through, and its flesh has become solid!

The Spirit pauses, cocking its head to one side and finding that it can lay a hand against a nearby bookshelf.

SPIRIT

That was... unexpected.

(beat)

No matter. This will make ripping
your spine out that much easier!

(CONTINUED)

The now-solid spirit begins to advance on Darcie and Skye, and Anna and Sofia watch in awe as the fight takes place.

DARCIE
(darkly)
You killed my family.
(beat)
Now it's your turn.

The undead creature laughs.

SPIRIT
You can't kill what's already
dead, stupid girl!

Darcie meets the spirit in the middle and they begin exchanging punches! The spirit catches Darcie's arm and TWISTS, spinning the Slayer around-

But Darcie strikes back with a SNAP KICK over her shoulder, stunning the creature.

She breaks free, and turns around quickly, facing the creature again. She lets loose a series of lightning-fast PUNCHES and KICKS!

Over at the bookcase, Sofia is trying to lift a case off of Anna's lower half.

SOFIA
Come on... push!

ANNA
I'm trying!
(grimaces)
Ah, it hurts!

Sofia continues straining to lift the case, despite her Slayer strength.

SOFIA
Almost... have it...

Back on Darcie, who is enthralled in a dramatic duel with the creature. Skye leaps into the fray, bopping in and out, trading blows with the monster.

DARCIE
(between strikes)
I told you to... stay out of
this!

Skye backhands the spirit, which spirals away from them, giving a moment to breath.

SKYE

What can I say? I don't take
direction well.

The creature LEAPS back up, and shoves Skye with both arms,
sending the Slayer FLYING!

SPIRIT

No more distractions.

DARCIE

Just the way I like it.

From up on the balcony, Frankie calls out.

FRANKIE

Hey! Catch!

Darcie turns and a DAGGER comes soaring towards her! She
deftly SNATCHES the dagger out of the air, and in one fluid
motion, SWIPES it across the creature's throat!

It staggers back, caught unawares, its hands going to its
throat as black BLOOD bubbles through its fingers.

Darcie LEAPS on top of it, and they tumble to the ground,
and Darcie continues stabbing the thing over and over and
over in a frenzy, her bloodlust consuming her.

DARCIE

(screaming)

Damn you! Damn you!

Skye finally steps into frame, grabbing Darcie's bloody
wrist as she raises the knife to stab again.

SKYE

Darcie!

(beat)

It's dead. You won.

Breathing heavily, Darcie turns to Skye, then looks back at
the dead creature beneath her as the red mist clears.

Darcie gets to her feet and steps back, the bloody knife
falling from her hands and clattering to the floor.

The creature melts into a puddle, similar to its twin, and
Darcie stays on the floor, silent.

As Sofia and a hobbling Anna slowly move over to stand near
Darcie, Skye and Frankie join them, and they all silently
look down at Darcie, who is still and quiet.

DISSOLVE TO:

23 INT. INFIRMARY - MORNING

23

Inside the antiseptic infirmary, Anna is lying on a table as JAZ PAL and DEBBIE LIVESEY hover around her, checking up on her injuries.

DEBBIE

Looks like you took quite a beating.

ANNA

(deadpan)

A bookcase fell on me.

DEBBIE

Was it an evil bookcase?

ANNA

Just a regular one. But the ghost did throw me into it.

Jaz looks down at Anna with a wry grin.

JAZ

I think you'll live another day. Maybe you'll get a chance to take revenge on that shelf one day.

ANNA

Thanks, Doc.

Jaz wipes her hands off on a towel and begins to walk away as Anna turns back to Debbie.

ANNA (cont'd)

Has there been any word on Darcie, yet?

DEBBIE

We don't know much. Miss. Griffin took her in for a meeting. I guess we'll find out soon.

As they continue to go about sitting together, we cut to:

24 INT. BARBARA'S OFFICE

24

Barbara is sitting at her desk, and Darcie is right across from her, a dark, haunted look on her face.

BARBARA

Well. It's been quite a first night for you here, hasn't it?

(CONTINUED)

DARCIE
(distant)
That it has.

Barbara leans forward, hands folded.

BARBARA
I want you to know that I think
you've shown a lot of promise
since you arrived. You may need a
bit of an attitude adjustment,
but we've all got improvements to
make.

Darcie looks up at her.

DARCIE
I brought an evil spirit onto the
campus with me. I could have
gotten everyone killed. Why are
you being so nice to me?

Barbara smiles, leaning back in her chair.

BARBARA
Miss Deyncourt, you are a Slayer.
It's our job to train you, and
teach you. I think you can make a
difference, but the journey
begins here.
(beat)
Of course, the choice is up to
you. You're free to go at any
time you choose, but I think
you'd be making the right
decision by staying.

Darcie is silent for a moment, pondering.

DARCIE
Do I get to keep my own room? I
don't share well.

Barbara manages to laugh.

BARBARA
We'll work out the rest of the
details tomorrow. I think you've
earned some rest for now.

Darcie quietly gets up out of her seat, and exits the
office, and Frankie appears as she goes, lightly knocking
on the door. Barbara looks up.

BARBARA (cont'd)
Oh, Frankie. Come in.

FRANKIE

Hello, Ms. Griffin.

Frankie does not sit down. Barbara looks at her expectantly, as it's obvious Frankie has something to say.

FRANKIE (cont'd)

I've thought about it. I thought about everything you said. And... if the offer still stands, I would like to take the library position.

Barbara gets up and moves around the desk to stand in front of Frankie.

BARBARA

You showed great courage tonight, from what I hear. If it wasn't for your help, they wouldn't have been able to defeat the ghost.
(beat)
Still feel useless?

Frankie manages a grin, and she blushes.

FRANKIE

I believe you 'ave made your point.

BARBARA

You can start tomorrow. We'll go over everything you'll need to know.

Frankie's smile deepens slightly.

FRANKIE

Thank you, Ms. Griffin.

She turns to leave, and the door closes behind her softly. Barbara sighs deeply, and goes back to her desk, looking over some paperwork.

Several moments go by, and she checks her clock, sighing again. A KNOCK sounds on her door - quiet.

BARBARA

Frankie, is that you again?

She goes over to the door and swings it open - only to reveal someone who is certainly not Frankie.

It's GREG!

CONTINUED: (3)

BARBARA (cont'd)
(softly)
Greg...

Greg looks at her with searching eyes, managing a half smile, and as we take in this surprise moment, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF EPISODE