

**SLAYER ACADEMY**

"Blink"

by  
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TEASER

FADE IN:

1

INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - MORNING

1

It's daybreak at the Slayer Academy. Sitting up in bed and yawning is DEBBIE, her hair a mess as she blinks blearily in the sunlight.

Reaching for her bedside table, she knocks a few things over before she locates her glasses, putting them on and focusing on the room around her.

Groaning and covering her eyes from the sun is ANNA, turning over in bed. She's not ready to wake up just yet.

Debbie looks to the far end of the room as HEIDI elegantly stretches out, sighing happily as she eases her way into the morning. She turns and notices Debbie looking her way.

HEIDI

(frowns)

What the hell are you looking at?

DEBBIE

Uh... nothing. Sorry.

Debbie looks away meekly as Heidi shakes her head and swings out of bed, slipping on a dressing gown and a pair of slippers.

She heads past Anna's bed, KICKING it to elicit another GROAN from Anna.

HEIDI

Come on, Brooklyn! The rest of us  
don't get to stay in bed all  
morning, so neither do you.

ANNA

(muffled; under covers)

Five more minutes, mom...

Heidi steps before the large dresser and mirror at the other end of the room, taking several moments to make sure her hair looks right before heading for the door.

DEBBIE

Hey, where's Erika?

Debbie draws their attention to Erika's empty bed - neatly made and looking undisturbed.

HEIDI

(shrugs)

Beats me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBBIE

Did anybody see her come in last night?

HEIDI

What am I, her teacher? I don't keep track of when people clock in and out, Debbie!

DEBBIE

I know that, I'm just saying-

ERIKA (O.S.)

Good morning, everyone.

They turn - ERIKA has stepped in from outside, wrapped in a towel and drying her hair off.

HEIDI

You'd better have left me some hot water, or I'm gonna call a jihad on your Russian ass.

ERIKA

You do not need to worry, Heidi. There is plenty for everyone.

Heidi marches outside as Erika feels her way across the room and sits down on the end of her bed. She continues drying off as Debbie heads over.

DEBBIE

So...

ERIKA

Yes?

DEBBIE

Today's the big day, isn't it?

ERIKA

(beat)

I suppose it is, yes.

DEBBIE

Are you nervous?

ERIKA

Not particularly.

DEBBIE

Really? Because I know I'd be absolutely terrified!

Debbie takes a seat at the edge of Erika's bed as Anna finally sits up and yawns.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ERIKA

I do not worry about things before  
I have to, Deborah. It is a family  
trait I was glad to inherit.

DEBBIE

(sighs)

I wish I could be like that. I tend  
to worry about things that aren't  
even anything to do with me half  
the time...

ERIKA

(smiles)

I'm sure there's concern for my  
well-being in there somewhere,  
Deborah, so thank you. But really,  
you do not need to worry. I have  
faced far worse things than a  
single vampire, even if I am to be  
without my Slayer abilities.

Anna heads over, leaning against the wall as she rubs the  
sleep from her eyes.

ANNA

You got any kind of battle plan  
made up yet?

ERIKA

Once inside, I will find the  
vampire and kill it. I believe that  
is what Heidi would call a 'plan.'

ANNA

(chuckles)

You know what I mean. With your  
whole... eye... thing.

ERIKA

You can say 'blindness,' Anna. I  
will not be offended.

ANNA

(relieved)

Oh, good. Man, I've been tip-toeing  
round that sucker for way too long!

DEBBIE

She's got a point, though, Erika. I  
mean, you're fighting with an added  
disadvantage, aren't you?

ERIKA

I do not view my blindness as a  
'disadvantage.'

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DEBBIE

(stumbles)

Oh. Right. Er, that's not what I meant, I just-

BARBARA (O.S.)

Erika?

The girls turn round as BARBARA leans into the room.

BARBARA (cont'd)

All set? Ellen's ready for you as soon as you're done in here.

ERIKA

Thank you, Miss Griffin. I will be down to the gymnasium shortly.

Barbara nods and exits, and as Erika reaches a hand out towards her wardrobe, Anna obligingly opens it up, quickly picking out an outfit for her.

ANNA

Here. Wear this.

Erika tilts her head to one side as she traces her fingers over the t-shirt and jeans combo.

ERIKA

Why this?

ANNA

(shrugs)

May as well look good while you're fighting for your life in there, right?

Anna and Erika share a chuckle, but Debbie still looks visibly worried about the whole situation.

ERIKA

Thank you both. If I may have a moment to change?

ANNA

No problem. C'mon, Debs.

Anna heads for the door, waiting for Debbie.

DEBBIE

Just... well... good luck.

She leans in and gives Erika a quick hug, then follows Anna out of the room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Once the door closes, Erika's smile fades a little. She places her clothes beside her on the bed, then puts her hands together.

Leaning her head forward, she starts to murmur under her breath in her native tongue.

She's praying.

We hold on Erika for a beat, head still bowed, before we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF TEASER**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

2 INT. CAMPUS - CANTEEN - MORNING

2

The canteen is buzzing with chatter as the girls sit down to breakfast - the place isn't as full as it was at the end of last term, but the girls here are making more than enough noise to fill the room!

Heidi is waiting in the queue at the serving counter when FRANKIE comes to stand next to her. Heidi casts a sly glance at Frankie's tray as she loads it with food.

HEIDI

Are you eating for two or something?

Frankie freezes, slowly replacing the apple she was holding and turning to glare coldly at Heidi. Heidi smirks back, happy to have found something to push Frankie's buttons.

HEIDI (cont'd)

Don't let it get to you, Frankie.  
We all let ourselves go a bit from time to time.

(looks her up and down)

Of course, in your case, you-

FRANKIE

(hisses)

Be quiet.

Frankie leans in close, her face lined with anger as she gets right in Heidi's face - and Heidi actually seems a little alarmed by the fury burning in Frankie's eyes!

FRANKIE (cont'd)

When I want your opinion on my diet, I will ask for it. Until then...

(looks Heidi up and down)

... per'aps you should try running a few more laps round the field before class.

Frankie spins on her heel and marches away, and as Heidi watches her go, she realises several of the girls in the queue are looking at her - and sniggering!

HEIDI

What?

Heidi sulkily grabs her tray, stares at the food on it for a beat - and then replaces several items before heading on her way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

We pick up Frankie again as she walks past a table where SKYE, SOFIA and ALITA are sitting.

SKYE  
Hey, Frankie?

She stops and turns, and Skye indicates an empty seat next to Alita.

Frankie raises an eyebrow, and Skye just looks right back at her, as if to say 'well?'

FRANKIE  
(long beat)  
Thank you. But not today. I 'ave to  
work through breakfast.

She heads off, exiting the canteen as Skye sighs and drags the empty chair back into place.

SKYE  
That's progress, right? I mean, she  
actually said 'no' politely this  
time.

ALITA  
Frankie will join us again when she  
feels she can.

SKYE  
Yeah, I know that, I'm just... ugh.  
Never mind.

Skye glances at Sofia, who is staring into her cereal bowl, stirring it absently with her spoon.

SKYE (cont'd)  
So then, once I'd finished eating  
the kid, I turn to his mother and  
say 'Hey, mom, what's for seconds?'

SOFIA  
(blinks)  
Sorry?

SKYE  
(nudges her)  
What's the view like from cloud  
nine today?

SOFIA  
(beat)  
I don't know what you're talking  
about.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

SKYE

The hell you don't! I'm talking about that make out session you and our resident mystery boy had a few nights ago.

SOFIA

(blushes)

How did you-

SKYE

(taps ears)

Vampire hearing. And you're a crappy liar.

Sofia looks back to her cereal, then starts to grin.

SOFIA

Don't let it get around, alright? We're trying to keep it... discreet.

SKYE

Oh, right. 'Discreet.' Word of advice? Don't meet up for your next session in a place with such thin walls.

Skye goes back to her breakfast, and a mortified Sofia shrinks back in her seat as Erika walks past.

We follow her as she heads for the exit, pulling away to see Barbara and BRYCE sitting together at one of the two staff dining tables.

Barbara watches Erika walk past, her face full of concern, and is lost in thought until Bryce nudges her.

BARBARA

Hmm?

BRYCE

I said 'she'll be fine.'

BARBARA

Who, Erika? Oh, yes. Of course she will. I was just...

BRYCE

Remembering how the last Cruciamentum held here went?

BARBARA

(sighs)

Yes. I don't want us to start getting a reputation.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BRYCE

Relax, Barb. These things are about as safe as you can make them now. Not like back in the day, from what I've heard.

BARBARA

Rupert Giles did a lot to make the whole procedure less... 'barbaric,' was his choice of words, I believe. And I appreciate the importance of the Cruciamentum as a rite of passage for the girls, a huge step in understanding and appreciating their powers, but...

BRYCE

But you still worry like a mother hen every time a girl goes into that house.

BARBARA

(nods)

I'm rather pathetic, aren't I?

BRYCE

Naah. You're a good teacher, Barb, and a good teacher always worries about the welfare of her students. I think you're doing just fine.

He offers her a smile, and as she returns it, we cut to:

3

INT. CAMPUS - STAFF CORRIDOR - NEXT

3

GREG and AIDEN are exiting the staff room, sports bags over their shoulders.

AIDEN

So, I was thinking, after a few laps we could maybe grab something to eat in town.

GREG

Oh, I can't. I have-

AIDEN

(irritated)

'Plans'?

GREG

Work. Actually.

Greg walks on, but Aiden stops with a sigh. Greg turns back to him as Aiden raises his hands in frustration.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AIDEN  
How much longer do we have to keep  
doing this, Greg?

GREG  
Doing what?

AIDEN  
Avoiding the issue.

GREG  
And what 'issue' is that?

AIDEN  
That you've been off with me ever  
since you got back from wherever  
the hell it was you were for four  
straight months, without a single  
phone call or message to say you  
were alright.

GREG  
(beat)  
Right. That.

Aiden starts to walk past him again.

AIDEN  
(moody)  
You know, if you wanted to split up  
with me, there were plenty of  
easier ways to do it.

GREG  
Aiden, I'm not-

AIDEN  
Forget it. See you on the circuit.

Greg sighs heavily as Aiden exits.

GREG  
(to himself)  
I don't want to break up...

He hangs his head, removing his glasses to rub his eyes  
before carrying on up the corridor, and we cut to:

4 INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - NEXT

4

BRAEDEN steps out of the boys' bathroom to find TYSON waiting  
for him, towel over one shoulder.

TYSON  
At last! I was starting to think  
you'd fallen down the hole.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BRAEDEN  
(confused)  
What 'hole'?

TYSON  
Never mind. It's a British thing.

Braeden nods, not really understanding, and starts to head back to his room as Tyson calls out:

TYSON (cont'd)  
So...

BRAEDEN  
(turns)  
Yeah?

TYSON  
You and Sofia, eh?

Braeden pauses, glancing up and down the corridor before walking back over to Tyson.

BRAEDEN  
Keep it down, will you, mate? We  
don't want the whole world to know.  
(beat)  
Actually, how did you know?

TYSON  
(taps head)  
Psychic. Ish. And Sofia's a  
terrible liar.

BRAEDEN  
(sighs; grins)  
Yep, that she is.

TYSON  
So what's the story?

BRAEDEN  
No 'story,' Tyson. We just, you  
know... hooked up.

TYSON  
How does she feel?

BRAEDEN  
I dunno. Happy, I guess?

TYSON  
Ah. Good.

BRAEDEN  
Meaning?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TYSON

Meaning, if I were you I'd treat that girl very carefully. She may have done a lot to sabotage her own reputation round here, but there's still plenty of girls here who'd take it very personally if somebody were to break her heart, Slayer or not.

BRAEDEN

(eyes him)

Is that a threat?

TYSON

It's a friendly warning.

(pats him on the arm)

'Mate.'

Tyson steps into the bathroom, leaving a somewhat perplexed Braeden as we cut to:

5 INT. CAMPUS - GYM - NEXT

5

Erika, now dressed in sweat pants and a t-shirt, pushes open the doors leading into the main gym area and sees ELLEN up ahead, getting in some boxing practice as she attacks the swinging punchbag hanging from the ceiling.

Erika quietly lays her bag down and stays by the door, watching Ellen, decked out in tracksuit gear, hop nimbly from foot to foot, JABBING at the punchbag.

ERIKA'S P.O.V.

The gym is seen through Erika's eyes - mostly black, its edges and corners are picked out in shimmering blue lines, with the outline of Ellen a blur of rapid motion up ahead.

ON SCENE

Erika heads forward, and as Ellen notices her she eases off, wiping the sweat from her brow.

ERIKA

Good morning, Miss Marklew.

ELLEN

(grins)

I'm gonna get you to call me 'Ellen' one of these days, you know.

ERIKA

(smiles)

Perhaps.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELLEN

Ready to get started? There's a lot  
I want to go through with you  
before you're due at the infirmary.

ERIKA

(nods)

Of course.

Ellen heads over to one wall, walking back with a short staff  
in each hand. She tosses one to Erika - who SNATCHES it  
effortlessly out of the air.

ELLEN

(impressed)

I don't think I'll ever get used to  
how you do that. You've got better  
reflexes than people who can see!

ERIKA

It is called 'making the most of  
your situation,' Miss Marklew.

As if to prove a point. Erika launches into a series of moves  
- spinning the staff around her body, stepping from foot to  
foot as she lunges, slices and chops with it, never losing  
her balance or grace for a moment. She strikes an offensive  
pose, and Ellen offers a brief round of applause.

ELLEN

(dry)

And to think Barbara was worried  
about you for tonight.

Erika returns to her normal stance with a bow.

ERIKA

A little concern goes a long way.

Ellen starts to pace around Erika in a circle - Erika doesn't  
flinch.

Ellen keeps pacing for several moments - then LUNGES forward  
with her staff!

CRACK! Erika blocks the attack, and with a smirk Ellen steps  
back, pacing round once again.

ELLEN

You may only be facing one vamp in  
there, but all he needs is for you  
to drop your guard for one second.

SNAP! She strikes again, and again Erika blocks, this time  
ducking under and round Ellen's outstretched arm.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ELLEN (cont'd)  
You make one mistake in there, and  
that's it.

She CHOPS down towards Erika's legs, and Erika neatly hops over the staff, pushing back as she lands and BACKFLIPPING out of harm's way.

Ellen waits a moment, then starts to circle her again. Erika doesn't seem to have even broken a sweat.

ELLEN (cont'd)  
I'll be on the outside, ready to  
step in if things go too bad, but  
all you need to remember is...

She pauses - and JUMPS to the attack, spinning her staff round.

Erika moves to block, her own staff moving like the wind as she blocks blow after blow, Ellen forcing her back but Erika never losing her momentum.

She DUCKS one strike, SWEEPING her foot round and forcing Ellen back.

Ellen is quick to recover, but has to dodge round two rapid STABS from Erika's staff, on her back foot now.

Erika presses her advantage, driving Ellen back towards the wall in a flurry of moves, throwing in SPIN KICKS to back up her staff attacks and keeping Ellen on the defensive.

Ellen backs into the wall and spins to the side, but Erika is ready - her staff STABS into the wall, inches from Ellen's head, and as she steps back Erika catches her with another SWEEP, knocking her to the crash mat below.

Erika steps back, twirling the staff in one hand as she offers the other to Ellen to help her up.

ELLEN (cont'd)  
Thanks.  
(dusts herself down)  
Where was I?

ERIKA  
'All you need to remember is...'

ELLEN  
Oh, yeah. Just remember that this  
is the night you'll find out if you  
were meant to be a Slayer or not.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ERIKA

I am confident tonight will go well.

(beat)

But I am also conscious of how easily these tests can go wrong.

Ellen takes her staff away, and as she kicks two more crash mats together, Erika steps to face her, ready to do a little hand-to-hand sparring.

ELLEN

Good. Then let's take this up a notch.

Ellen raises her fists, and Erika assumes another offensive pose. There's a long beat...

... and as Ellen launches herself forward, Erika meeting her head on, there's a SMACK as somebody's first strike connects, and we SMASH CUT to:

6 INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - LATER

6

The door is pushed open by Erika, who still looks immaculate, followed by Ellen - who holds an icepack to her BLACK EYE.

JAZ looks up as the two head over, frowning as she takes in Ellen's injury. Barbara is also here, waiting by the beds.

JAZ

I thought Erika was the one taking the Cruciamentum tonight?

ELLEN

She is.

Ellen winces as Jaz gently presses her black eye.

ELLEN (cont'd)

What can I say? She's faster than she looks.

Erika feels her way over to one of the beds, hopping up onto it as Jaz passes Ellen the ice pack.

JAZ

Did you ever stop to consider that your training session went on a little too long?

ELLEN

Huh? We were only-

She glances up at the clock - it's almost ten o'clock!

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

ELLEN (cont'd)

Oh.

BARBARA

'Oh' indeed!

(to Erika)

How do you feel?

ERIKA

(nods)

I am ready. Miss Marklew and I have trained well, although I fear I was a little too rough with her.

BARBARA

(smirks)

I'm sure she'll live.

Barbara looks over to Jaz as she opens up a plastic case, revealing a SYRINGE and a small bottle of YELLOW FLUID.

JAZ

Barbara... a word?

Barbara looks up as Jaz heads over, and she ushers her over to the other side of the infirmary.

BARBARA

What's the matter?

JAZ

I'm a little concerned about using this formula on her.

BARBARA

'Concerned'? What for? You know we don't use those old muscle relaxant style serums any more, not since that link with nerve damage was discovered.

JAZ

Yes, I'm aware of that.

(glances at Erika)

I'm just a little pensive about using something with mystical ingredients on her.

BARBARA

You mean because of her blindness?

JAZ

It was caused by a spell, right?

BARBARA

That's correct.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JAZ

So what if this formula has some kind of side effect linked to that? There's still a chance we can restore her sight some day as things stand, so I don't want to run the risk of potentially blinding her for good.

BARBARA

Jaz, I'm sure-

ERIKA

Miss Pal?

They both turn - did Erika hear them from over there?

JAZ

Um... yes?

ERIKA

Whatever you wish to use on me, I am sure it will be alright.

JAZ

(glances at Barbara)  
With all due respect, Erika, there's no way you can predict-

ERIKA

I will take that chance. And I will take responsibility for it.

Jaz looks to Barbara, who nods, and with a reluctant sigh Jaz takes out the syringe and fluid, filling up a shot.

She heads over to Erika, taking a cotton bud and wiping down her arm, ready for the injection.

JAZ

(mutters)

I hope you're right about this...

Erika offers her an encouraging smile, and as Jaz carefully inserts the needle and starts to depress the syringe, we push in on the yellow fluid as it flows into Erika's arm, and:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT ONE**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

7 EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - NIGHT

7

Ellen and Barbara walk into frame, with Ellen carrying the unconscious Erika in her arms.

ELLEN

(off Erika)

Isn't there some way we can make that shot so it doesn't knock 'em out cold? She ain't as light as she looks, you know?

Barbara smirks and takes out a ring of keys, unlocking three separate padlocks before opening the thick steel door to the old, abandoned house on the back of the Academy grounds.

ELLEN (cont'd)

So what do we do? Just leave her inside?

BARBARA

That's the plan.

(beat)

Ellen, I just want to make sure-

ELLEN

Yes, I can stand in for Greg and be the Watcher tonight.

Barbara lowers her head, grinning.

BARBARA

Thank you. I know how your superiors don't like you taking time off your Initiative duties to help us out.

ELLEN

And I know how Greg and Aiden need a night off to get their crap together before they pout each other to death, so I'm fine with doing this.

Ellen shifts Erika's weight in her arms a little.

ELLEN (cont'd)

Now can we get her inside already? Slayer strength or not, I'm starting to feel the strain now!

Barbara gestures for Ellen to head inside, and as the two enter the house, we cut to:

8 INT. CAMPUS - AIDEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

8

Aiden is sitting on his bed, flipping through TV channels but clearly not paying any attention to what's on. His room is dark but a little messy - a typical boy's room.

There's a KNOCK at the door, but Aiden doesn't look round, continuing to channel surf.

AIDEN

Who is it?

GREG (O.S.)

(through door)

It's me.

Aiden pulls a sour face, then switches the TV off, rising from the bed and heading to the door:

9 INT. CAMPUS - CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

9

He opens it to reveal Greg standing outside, who has his eyes to the floor.

GREG

Hello.

AIDEN

(terse)

Hey.

They stand there for a moment. Greg finally looks up at Aiden, but Aiden is standing his ground.

GREG

Look, there's no easy way to say this, so-

AIDEN

So don't.

GREG

(beat)

Aiden, this isn't what you think. Really.

AIDEN

Oh, right. Because what I think it is has something to do with you going off and 'finding' yourself, and realising somewhere along the way that you didn't need me in your life any more.

GREG

It's not like that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AIDEN  
Do you want to end things with me?

GREG  
(long beat)  
Yes.

AIDEN  
Right.

He starts to close the door, but Greg lays a hand against it to stop him.

GREG  
I need to explain why.

AIDEN  
(angrily)  
No, Greg, you don't! You didn't have a proper reason to leave, so I'm not about to sit and listen to you try and come up with another excuse now!

He tries to shove the door closed, but Greg pushes harder to keep it open.

GREG  
It's not about you!

AIDEN  
Who else it is going to be about?

GREG  
It's m-

AIDEN  
(scoffs)  
Oh, don't. Just... just don't.

He stares at Greg, who reluctantly brings his hand back, and Aiden SLAMS the door decisively in his face.

Greg SIGHS heavily, lowering his head and turning to walk away.

10 INT. CAMPUS - AIDEN'S ROOM - NEXT

10

Aiden leans against the door, sliding down it to the floor. TEARS glisten in his eyes, but he fights back any sounds, determined not to let this get the best of him.

We leave Aiden in the dark as we cut over to:

11 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - NIGHT

11

Pan across a dilapidated room - floorboards are missing, damp creeps up the walls, paint and plaster peels away and everything is covered in a thick layer of dust.

Rested in a large, tatty leather armchair is Erika, still sleeping off the serum she was given.

She stirs, murmuring as she comes round, her hands instinctively reaching out to feel her way round her surroundings.

She slowly gets to her feet, pressing a hand to her head - she looks a little dizzy, leaning against the armchair.

ERIKA'S P.O.V.

Through her eyes, her usual perception of the world is blurred, the lines that mark out her surroundings hazy and shifting.

ON SCENE

Clearly very disorientated, she takes a few cautious steps forward, pausing as she steps on a loose floorboard with a loud CREAK.

The sound ECHOES through the whole house, and Erika looks up and all around, following the sound and using it to get her bearings.

Tears drip from her eyes, and she rubs them, her milky irises reddened from the serum coursing through her body.

With one hand against the wall for support, she takes another step forward - and freezes as she hears a WHISPER.

Tensing up, her senses coming online, she rotates her whole body to try and locate the sound, looking up above.

The house stretches up for three more floors above her, with an old chandelier CREAKING as it swings gently in its socket. A WHISTLE of wind blows through the cracks in the windows overhead.

Erika closes her eyes and takes a deep breath. She's nervous, but she's not going to let it throw her. She clenches her fists tightly, exhaling slowly.

ERIKA

(subtitled Russian)

Mother, father, watch over me now  
as I travel. The path is dark, and  
my way is not clear, but through  
your eyes I will see.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She opens her eyes, and already looks a little calmer. Visibly more relaxed, she reaches down to one of the loose floorboards at her feet, taking it in both hands and PULLING.

She wrenches a chunk free with a loud SNAP - and she has a stake. Clutching it tightly, she starts to make her way into the house, out onto:

12

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - BALLROOM - NEXT

12

Erika steps into a large and empty ballroom, just as dark and filthy as the rest of the house.

Lots of sets of FOOTPRINTS can be seen in the dust, but Erika is oblivious to them as she heads out into the centre of the room, keeping her senses sharp.

WHISPER

Slayer...

Erika WHIPS round - but there's nothing behind her. She blinks, rubbing her eyes again in obvious discomfort.

Shaking her head to clear it, she hunches down a little, ready to spring to the attack.

We pan around Erika in a large circle, taking in the ramshackle ballroom all around her - until a pair of EYES glitter out from the shadows for an instant!

Erika frowns and turns towards the general area where the eyes just vanished:

ERIKA'S P.O.V.

Her vision still blurred and indistinct, Erika can make out a hazy red GLOW in the gloom, but it just looks like a shapeless blur.

ON SCENE

Erika backs up, knowing she's at a disadvantage here and wanting to pick her battlefield more carefully.

She TRIPS as her foot hits a broken chair leg on the floor, and despite trying to regain her balance, her lack of any Slayer reflexes mean she's helpless to stop herself CRASHING to the floor.

The stake SKITTERS out of her hands and across the room, and Erika sits quickly back up, her hands scrabbling round on the dusty floor in search of the stake.

Pulling back to watch her from across the room - and a BOOT steps out of the shadows!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Erika is too busy trying to find her stake to notice, and as one of her searching hands finally makes contact, she snatches the weapon up and scrambles backwards.

The figure emerging from the shadows starts to pace slowly forward, making no noise at all as it weaves across the floor.

Erika looks up at last, sensing something coming her way, but her brow wrinkles in confusion:

ERIKA'S P.O.V.

An indistinct, humanoid shape can just be made out coming towards her - but the colours of her vision keep shifting from black to blue, washing across her in dizzying swirls of colour.

ON SCENE

Erika tries to get to her feet, but all grace seems to have left her as she tumbles back to the floor.

The advancing figure picks up its pace a little as Erika struggles back to her feet, rubbing her eyes again and wobbling like a drunk.

She finally manages to stand upright, but the figure is almost on her!

ERIKA'S P.O.V.

Her vision clears - and for one split second she sees the ballroom in perfect colour and definition - as well as the VAMPIRE lunging towards her!

ON SCENE

Erika lets out a YELP of surprise, getting an arm up just in time to block the vamp's first punch.

It hops back a step, through a beam of moonlight, but moves too quickly to get a look at it.

Still shaking her head to clear her dizziness, Erika gets her fists up, trying to regain her composure.

VAMP

(from the shadows)

So you're the one I've been waiting  
for, then?

ERIKA

(looking around)

Apparently so.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

VAMP

You don't look like much to me.

ERIKA

Why don't you come a little closer  
and put your theory to the test?

VAMP

I'd like to...

Erika's head turns - the vamp is moving round behind her. She  
twists her body, trying to keep up with its movements.

VAMP (cont'd)

... but there's something different  
about you, isn't there?

ERIKA

I am a Slayer, you are a vampire.  
That much is the same.

VAMP

No... you're not like the others.

She spins round again - the vampire's voice is changing  
location every few seconds, and she's having a hard time  
keeping up with it.

VAMP (cont'd)

You can't see me, can you?

ERIKA

I can see enough. I shoul-

WHAP! Erika is sent reeling backwards as the vamp flashes  
past her, landing a quick PUNCH to the side of her jaw.

Her lip split, Erika blinks rapidly as she tries to focus  
again, the sound of the vamp's snickering laughter echoing  
round the room.

VAMP

Just as I thought. Why would they  
send a blind Slayer in to do one of  
these things? That's just cruel.

ERIKA

So you understand what's happening  
here?

VAMP

We've all heard the stories. They  
take a Slayer, take away her powers  
and lock her in a room with one of  
us. Always thought it was a myth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ERIKA

I'm happy to disappoint-

POW! The vamp streaks past again, this time KICKING her in the gut and knocking her back several steps.

ERIKA'S P.O.V.

Her vision is swimming now, the room around her disintegrating into a mess of lines, colours and patterns.

ON SCENE

As Erika's eyes flit from side to side, the distress is clear across her face as the vampire half steps into view.

He's tall, well built and dressed in a tattered shirt and suit, his features still cloaked in shadows.

VAMP

What's wrong? Did that last punch hit a little harder than you were expecting?

ERIKA

(shaken)

I... I...

The vamp takes one step forward, STAMPING heavily on the floor for effect - and Erika turns and runs!

The vamp throws its head back and laughs as she races away, almost slamming straight into a wall and feeling her way desperately across to the exit.

VAMP

Oh, this is going to be fun...

The vamp starts to slowly follow her out of the room, as we cut to:

13 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - STAIRCASE - NEXT

13

One hand on the bannister, Erika clatters up the rickety stairs as fast as she can, soon running out of steps and stumbling again, hitting the deck with a THUD.

She crawls forward, finding solace in a corner and huddling up in the shadows.

Breathing rapidly, she presses her palms into her eyes, trying to choke back her fear.

ERIKA'S P.O.V.

The world is black.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

And then Erika moves her hands away.

The top of the staircase is bathed in moonlight before her - but it's in colour!

ON SCENE

Close on Erika - her typically misty eyes have cleared, revealing one blue and one green iris.

Erika blinks, looking around her with wide, disbelieving eyes.

ERIKA  
(whispers)  
But... how...

She looks down at her hands - and realises at last that she can see them!

Erika looks slowly back up, the full weight of this development starting to sink in - when a door SLAMS open down below, and the vampire's mocking voice drifts up to her:

VAMP (O.S.)  
Come out, come out, wherever you  
are... don't worry, little Slayer!  
I'll give you a few free hits to  
make this fair. I mean, you can't  
see me, so it's the honourable  
thing to do, isn't it?

The vampire LAUGHS, and as a panicked Erika gets slowly to her feet, looking around for somewhere to hide and catch her breath, we cut to:

14 EXT. CAMPUS - FIELDS - NIGHT

14

Alita is jogging round the circuit marked out on the field, her breath misting in the night air and a light fog blanketing the fields around her.

The lights on and around the pavilion overlooking the fields poke out through the fog, and as Alita nears the stone steps she spots a figure sitting on them, wrapped up in a thick coat against the cold night air - Tyson.

Alita comes to a stop, taking a moment to catch her breath as Tyson hops off the steps and makes his way over.

TYSON  
Do you always run that fast?

ALITA  
It's the only way I know how to  
run.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TYSON

Right. I should've worked that much out. Oh, here.

He passes her a bottle of water. She looks at it for a beat, then accepts it, taking several deep swigs.

ALITA

(wipes mouth)

Thank you.

TYSON

(shrugs)

Just doing my part.

ALITA

(frowns)

Your 'part'?

TYSON

Yeah, you know. As your... well. Whatever it is I am to you.

ALITA

My friend?

TYSON

(a little deflated)

'Friend.' Yep. That's the one.

ALITA

(looks round)

What time is it?

TYSON

(checks watch)

Uh... after eleven.

ALITA

Then it is time to head inside.

TYSON

Lead on.

The duo head back towards the gym block, passing beneath the pavilion archway:

15

EXT. CAMPUS - GYM BLOCK - CONTINUOUS

15

TYSON

Hey, I've been meaning to ask you what you thought of our little night out.

ALITA

You mean when we left the others?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TYSON

And had lots more fun and a whole lot less in the way of evil circus demons, yes!

ALITA

It was... enjoyable.

TYSON

Is that all?

ALITA

What do you want me to say?

TYSON

I want you to say you had a good time.

ALITA

I did.

TYSON

And that you want to do it again.

Alita comes to a stop, looking over to him.

ALITA

Tyson...

TYSON

(raises hands)

Is this going to be unpleasant? If so, I should probably take a minute to go and find some tissues.

Alita lowers her head, gathering her thoughts.

ALITA

I realised something when we returned to the circus.

TYSON

Was it about me?

ALITA

Tyson, please.

TYSON

Right, sorry. You were saying?

ALITA

The others found themselves in trouble, they fought against a pack of powerful demons - and I was not there to help them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TYSON

Are you blaming me for that?

ALITA

'Blaming' you? No... don't you see?  
I didn't need to be there.

TYSON

(puzzled)

Huh?

She steps closer to him, visibly more animated now.

ALITA

I've fought with Sofia, Skye and  
Frankie many times. We've faced  
dozens of opponents together, and  
every time we've won. But this  
time...

(smiles)

This time, I wasn't there, and they  
still won.

TYSON

So... what are you saying?

ALITA

I'm saying... I'm saying I think I  
finally understand what Skye means  
when she tells me to 'loosen up.'

With a cryptic smile, Alita turns and heads into the gym  
block, leaving the bemused Tyson behind as we cut to:

16 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

16

Erika gingerly pushes a door open, wincing as it CREAKS  
loudly. Everything in the house is still again - the wind  
still whistles its way through the house, but her cautious  
footsteps are the only real sound she can hear.

Her knuckles have turned white from gripping the stake so  
tightly, but Erika's still looks like she's having trouble  
adjusting to the return of her sight.

She pauses as she reaches a boarded up window, trying to peer  
through the gaps and get a look outside.

She squints, trying to make out the campus buildings through  
the fog...

... and doesn't see the shadow of the vampire rising up  
behind her!

A floorboard CREAKS, and Erika suddenly realises she's not  
alone...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

... but as she spins round, stake raised, the vamp GRABS her, one hand round her wrist and the other round her throat!

He SLAMS her back against the wall, rattling the boards in the windows and leering down on her as she struggles to fight him off.

VAMP

Not half as confident without your powers, are you, little girl?

Erika grits her teeth, pushing with every ounce of her strength...

... but it's not enough.

The vamp HISSES as he bares his fangs, and Erika is powerless to stop him LUNGING forward, burying his fangs in her neck!

She lets out a YELL of pain and fear, and we:

**BLACK OUT:**

END OF ACT TWO

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

17 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT 17

Back with Erika as she writhes frantically in the vampire's iron grip its jaws clamped around her neck.

The vamp REARS back with a GASP, dropping Erika to the floor in a heap.

Pressing a hand to her neck, she quickly drags herself to her feet and runs off down the corridor - but the vamp makes no effort to pursue her.

Languidly licking its lips clean, it calls out after her:

VAMP

Run as fast as you can! We both  
know you're not the one who's going  
to see the morning here!

Taking great sadistic pleasure in her desperate retreat, the vamp allows her a few moments' head start before it begins to follow her again, and we cut to:

18 INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - NIGHT 18

Skye is heading back to her room, shaking her iPod and cursing at it under her breath when she reaches a junction.

She pauses, turning to her left - and she spots Sofia and Braeden in the doorway of his room, engaging in a passionate bout of tonsil hockey.

Skye's look darkens as she steps back out of view, watching the duo as they finally break the kiss, all smiles as Sofia pushes Braeden into his room, waving good night and heading back down the corridor towards Skye.

Skye hides in the shadows, letting Sofia pass her before stepping out and announcing herself:

SKYE

Catching up on some homework?

Sofia jumps a mile, but HUFFS when she turns and sees Skye approaching her.

SOFIA

Are you spying on me?

SKYE

An opportunity presented itself.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

SOFIA

Funny, I could say the same thing.

With a grin, she turns and heads off, with Skye jogging to catch her up.

SKYE

Sofes, can we talk?

SOFIA

That's what we appear to be doing.

SKYE

About Braeden.

SOFIA

(wearily)

Skye, I haven't-

SKYE

I don't think you two should be an item.

Sofia stops dead, turning to Skye with a scowl.

SOFIA

Excuse me?

SKYE

I just think-

SOFIA

What business is it of yours, exactly?

SKYE

(haughty)

Well, I know I'm not wearing my badge, but I'm pretty sure I'm still the squad leader.

SOFIA

Oh, and I suppose this falls under your jurisdiction, does it?

SKYE

Damn straight it does.

SOFIA

(rolls eyes)

This is ridiculous.

SKYE

No, you banging the Destroyer back there, that's ridiculous! We don't even know what the hell he is yet!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SOFIA  
(puzzled)  
The what?

SKYE  
(shakes head)  
Never mind. Listen, I know you're all 'aww, Braeden, you're such a big, strapping hunk of man meat,' and he's all 'no worries, mate, you're my wittle love kitten,' but it's got to stop.

SOFIA  
(crosses arms)  
Why?

SKYE  
'Why'? Don't you-  
(changes tact)  
Okay, look. Say we were all in a band and you two hooked up. Then, you have a fight just before we play Madison Square Garden. We go on stage, and you two are all angsty and wound up, and the gig sucks. Whose fault is that?

SOFIA  
What's your point?

SKYE  
My point is, replace 'band' with 'squad' and 'gig' with 'fight horde of slime demons' and you're halfway there, big difference being if we screw up, we don't get booed. We get killed.  
(in her face)  
I'm not having either of you putting the rest of us at risk.

Sofia doesn't back down, getting right back in Skye's face.

SOFIA  
That's not going to happen.

SKYE  
Glad you agree.

SOFIA  
But what I do with Braeden is my business. Not yours.

She turns and marches away, and as a seething Skye watches her go, we cut back to:

19

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - LIBRARY - NIGHT

19

Erika dashes into an old library, closing the door behind her and looking around for something she can use to seal it shut,

She grabs a large dresser and drags it in front of the door, wincing with every loud SCRAPE it makes along the floor.

Safely barricaded in, she sinks to the floor, breathless and shaking. She carefully touches her bloody neck, grimacing in pain as she finds the tender bite mark.

She reaches for the bottom of her t-shirt, tearing off a small strip and pressing it to her wound, getting to her feet and looking around.

Dusty bookshelves line the walls, with a large desk and reclining leather chair on the far end of the room.

Erika heads over, hesitating as she makes out patches of DRIED BLOOD on the chair.

ERIKA'S P.O.V.

Her vision is far from perfect, still blurry and coming in and out of focus, but she can see well enough for now.

ON SCENE

She starts looking around for some way out of the room, heading for a window and trying to prise away some of the boards nailed across it.

Without Slayer strength, she can't exert enough pull to get the boards loose, only succeeding in giving herself a nasty CUT down her finger.

Erika steps back, losing the battle to stop her fear washing over her - when the door RATTLES in its frame!

She spins round, raising her stake, but frowns as she tries to focus.

ERIKA'S P.O.V.

She looks over to the door - but she can make out the shape of the vampire on the other side!

As she watches, however, the vampire seems to walk RIGHT THROUGH THE DOOR, heading straight for her!

Erika takes a step back, and the ghostly figure soon melts away to nothing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ON SCENE

Erika blinks, shaking her head to try and clear her vision, but as the door SHAKES again as the vamp outside POUNDS his fists against it, she takes more steps back - she's scared now. She knows she can't fight the vamp like this.

VAMP (O.S.)  
 (through door)  
 Little pig, little pig...  
 (snickers)  
 Sorry. Always wanted to say that.

Erika glances down at the stake in her hand, looking like she's wishing it was a rocket launcher.

VAMP (O.S.) (cont'd)  
 So what's going on with this 'cower in fear' routine? Not that I don't mind a little terror with my meals, just that I thought the point of this exercise was for you to find me and stake me, not try to hide out until morning!

Erika isn't wasting a moment while the vamp keeps talking, however - she's searching round the room, looking for another exit or something else she can use against him.

The dresser in front of the door is SHOVED back an inch as the vamp tries to barge his way inside, and Erika knows she's almost out of time.

She glances back over to the bookcases, narrowing her eyes as if coming up with something, and we cut to:

20 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - CORRIDOR - NEXT 20

The vamp outside takes a few steps back, ready to stampede his way into the room at last.

He puts his head down and barrels towards the door, letting out a YELL as he crashes into the door, finally BLASTING it open as he stumbles into:

21 INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - LIBRARY - CONTINUOUS 21

Dusting himself down, the vamp looks around the library - and it's empty. He smirks, clearly a long way from worried about the girl he's hunting down.

The vamp paces slowly forward, his eyes sweeping the floor and trying to track Erika by her footprints in the dust.

He spots a trail of BLOOD DROPS on the floor, and starts to follow them over to the leather chair behind the desk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The chair is turned away from him, and the vamp pauses a few feet away. He glances to either side as though cooking up a plan, but then with a shrug decides to KICK the desk as hard as he can!

It skids forward, hitting the chair and knocking it over, and the vamp LEAPS into the air, ready to pounce on whoever's in the chair...

... but it's empty! The vamp has enough time to register surprise before he lands nimbly on his feet.

He hears something CREAK behind him, and turns to see Erika lowering herself to the floor from her hiding place - over the doorway!

The vamp SNARLS and springs to his feet, but Erika is already off and running.

22

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - CORRIDOR - NEXT

22

The vamp barrels out of the room, but by the time he's reached the corridor Erika is nowhere in sight. He yells:

VAMP

You can't run forever, Slayer!  
Sooner or later, you're going to  
have to fight me, and then we're  
going to find out why I'm the  
predator in here!

The vamp turns and stomps off down another corridor, and as he leaves the frame we pan down to the next floor - and find Erika, huddled out of sight beneath the staircase.

Her eyes squeezed shut, she holds her breath, not daring to make a sound as the vamp's heavy footsteps fade away.

Once the vamp is out of earshot, she finally opens her eyes exhales, looking round the gloomy building and carefully extricating herself from beneath the stairs.

With a last glance overhead, a thought suddenly hits her, and Erika heads off again, weaving around any creaky-looking floorboards as we cut to:

23

INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - NIGHT

23

Debbie is fast asleep in her bed, tucked in tightly and looking like she's enjoying a good dream...

... and is rudely woken as Skye steps into frame, laying a hand on her and shaking her awake.

DEBBIE

Whu-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Skye lays a finger on her lips and shakes her head.

SKYE  
(whispers)  
Sorry to wake you, Debs, but I need  
your help with something.

DEBBIE  
(bleary)  
Skye?  
(reaches for glasses)  
What time is it?

Skye hands Debbie her glasses, waiting as she pushes them on  
and YAWNS, looking to her small alarm clock.

DEBBIE (cont'd)  
Oh, God, Skye! What on earth is so  
important at this time of night?

SKYE  
I need you to do something for me.

DEBBIE  
What?

SKYE  
You can get access to the Academy's  
main file servers, right?

DEBBIE  
I should think so - I'm the one who  
helped set them up!

It takes Debbie a moment to catch up, and her expression  
grows more alarmed as she shakes her head.

DEBBIE (cont'd)  
Skye, no. I can't!

SKYE  
I just need you to check up on  
something for me.

DEBBIE  
But-

SKYE  
(reassuring)  
It's not gonna get you into  
trouble.

DEBBIE  
You always say that!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SKYE

(beat)

No, I don't!

(back on subject)

Anyway - it's just some personnel files I need to take a look at. You've got access, right?

DEBBIE

Miss Griffin gave me administrator rights because I helped set the system back up after it got hacked into last term. I can't do something like this across her - she'll kick me out for sure!

SKYE

Not if she doesn't find out.

Debbie huffs, crossing her arms. Skye knows she's going to need a different tactic here.

SKYE (cont'd)

You know, if you do this for me and we find something out that could help the Academy out... then I'm pretty sure Barbara'd be grateful enough to overlook the methods.

DEBBIE

Don't get all 'end justifies the means' with me. It won't work.

SKYE

Okay... I'll get you a date with Tyson.

Debbie freezes, blushing a deep scarlet.

DEBBIE

How did you-

SKYE

Ah, question not the ways of the true master. So are you in?

Debbie glances round the dorm - Heidi and Anna are still sleeping. She turns back to Skye, sighs and nods.

SKYE (cont'd)

(grins)

Cool. Let's go.

DEBBIE

But what about my-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Debbie doesn't have time to finish as Skye grabs her wrist and pulls her off screen, and we cut to:

24

EXT. ABANDONED HOUSE - NIGHT

24

Ellen waits on duty outside the old house, idly smoking a cigarette.

DUNSTALL (O.S.)

Thought you gave up?

She turns to see DUNSTALL heading over, dressed casually.

ELLEN

Old habit. Whenever I'm nervous.

DUNSTALL

So I'm guessing tonight is one of those nights?

ELLEN

So far.

(looks at watch)

You've been on one of these things before - how long is too long to wait?

DUNSTALL

Depends. You heard any sounds of distress?

ELLEN

Nope.

DUNSTALL

Then wait some more. These things take time.

ELLEN

Yeah, that's what I was afraid of.

They stand in silence for a moment, before Ellen reaches into her jacket and takes out a slip of paper.

ELLEN (cont'd)

This came for you today.

She passes it to him, looking away as a puzzled Dunstall opens up the paper and reads it.

Official US Military seals are at the top of the sheet, which contains little text but manages to make the colour drain from Dunstall's face.

He looks back up at Ellen, who can't bring herself to look at him, taking another pull on her cigarette.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

DUNSTALL

Is this...

ELLEN

Your transfer, yeah.

(sighs)

I wish things hadn't come to this.  
 After losing Webber and McLachlan,  
 I tried to rescind the request I  
 put in to have you transferred to  
 another base, but...

DUNSTALL

It's alright, ma'am. I understand.

ELLEN

(frustrated)

Damn it, Sebastian! Why'd you have  
 to go and make me do this? Is she  
 really worth your career?

DUNSTALL

Honestly?

(grins)

Maybe.

Ellen sighs again, dropping her cigarette butt and stamping  
 it out, and as the duo continue to wait for any sign of  
 Erika, we cut to:

25

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - ATRIUM - NIGHT

25

The vamp marches out into the large hallway that holds the  
 main entrance to the house, growing frustrated with its  
 fruitless search for Erika.

He can't see Erika looking down on him from the next floor  
 up, seeming a lot calmer than a few moments ago.

Keeping her eyes locked on the vamp, she slowly tears off  
 another strip from her t-shirt, this one much longer.

She reverently lifts the strip up and ties it round her head,  
 covering her eyes like a blindfold.

Once it's in place, she pulls a knot tight to secure it and  
 takes a step back from the edge of the floor.

The vamp HUFFS loudly as it looks around, trying to see any  
 sign of her - and he doesn't hear Erika silently drop into  
 frame behind him until:

ERIKA

Alright, then.

The vamp spins round, cocking its head at her blindfold.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIKA (cont'd)  
I am ready for you now.

VAMP  
(laughs)  
What's this? Are you trying to make  
this easier for me or something?

Erika smoothly adopts a fighting pose as we push in on her,  
focusing on her blindfold.

ERIKA'S P.O.V.

Everything is black - but as the vampire takes a step towards  
her, the familiar old lines return, building up a view of the  
scene that's more like what she's used to.

ON SCENE

Erika smiles - this is more like it!

The vamp SNARLS as it advances on her, fangs ready to finish  
what it started.

VAMP (cont'd)  
This has gone on long enough.  
You've had your fun, so now it's  
time to-

WHAP! Erika's hand lashes out and CHOPS the vamp in the  
throat, and he staggers back with a GRUNT.

Erika assumes her fighting stance again, and the vamp  
suddenly seems less sure of himself.

ERIKA  
I should thank you.

She KICKS out, throwing more attacks the vamp's way and  
forcing it back.

ERIKA (cont'd)  
If you hadn't made me so fearful  
for my life, I might never have  
realised how I was going to beat  
you.

The vamp throws a punch of its own, but she ducks around it,  
landing a hard UPPERCUT in return.

ERIKA (cont'd)  
My sight was taken from me many  
years ago.

The vamp GROWLS and charges in, but she sidesteps, using its  
momentum to send it hurtling into the wall with a CRASH!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ERIKA (cont'd)  
I have become accustomed to  
fighting in darkness ever since  
then.

Shaking its head, the vamp picks itself up, growing angrier  
by the second.

ERIKA (cont'd)  
And though my vision appears to  
have returned...

The vamp YELLS as it rushes her, but Erika holds her ground  
as it LEAPS towards her.

Her stake is suddenly in her hand, and in one fluid motion  
she steps forward, STABS the stake into its chest and twirls  
out of its path.

The vampire starts to DUST in mid-air, disintegrating before  
it hits the floor.

ERIKA (cont'd)  
... the darkness is where I know  
how to fight.

Erika raises her blindfold, seeing the pile of dust that used  
to be her opponent, and she allows herself a sigh of relief.

She removes the blindfold, looking down at it for a long beat  
before she starts to smile again.

Looking up and around, she's able to appreciate her restored  
vision for the first time tonight, and as Erika lets out a  
happy LAUGH, we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT THREE**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

26 INT. CAMPUS - CLASSROOM - NIGHT

26

With the class in darkness except for the pale glow from Debbie's laptop, Debbie still in her pyjamas as Skye stands over her, Debbie's fingers rattling over the keyboard.

DEBBIE

Alright, we're in. Now what am I looking for?

SKYE

(points)

That folder. Bring up the students' records.

DEBBIE

(warily)

Are you sure about this?

SKYE

Trust me. This is for the greater good.

Debbie still doesn't look convinced, but points and clicks, typing again.

A long list of names scrolls down the screen, and Skye scans down them until she finds the one she wants.

SKYE (cont'd)

There.

DEBBIE

Skye... that's Braeden's file.

SKYE

Yeah? And?

DEBBIE

Well... it's classified. Very classified.

SKYE

Which is why I asked you to open it up for me.

DEBBIE

I'm serious! I could get in a lot of trouble for even thinking about looking at this!

SKYE

Would you relax?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBBIE

(snaps)

'Relax'?

SKYE

Just open the damn file!

Debbie scowls, but does as she's told. Dozens more sub-folders and files pop up on the screen, and Skye rapidly scrolls her way through them.

SKYE (cont'd)

(frowns)

There's nothing here.

DEBBIE

What are you expecting to find?

SKYE

This is just test results, mission reports, attendance records.

There's nothing here about who he is! What he is!

(to Debbie)

Are you sure this is everything?

DEBBIE

There's no hidden files, and unless what you're after is stored on another part of the network I can't see, this is all there is.

(eyes Skye)

Is this about him and Sofia?

SKYE

(darkly)

Sort of.

DEBBIE

Skye, I know you're suspicious of him, but you can't use his relationship with Sofia as an excuse to try and prove he's up to no good! He's been-

SKYE

(firm)

Debs, with all due respect, shut the hell up.

(back to screen)

We're missing something here, but I'm damn sure gonna find out what it is.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Skye continues to peer at the screen as a tired Debbie stifles a yawn, before Skye frowns and points to another folder.

SKYE (cont'd)  
Hey, what's this?

Debbie opens it up - it's Skye's permanent record! Debbie clicks on few files until Skye stops her, reading the long block of text that comes up on screen.

SKYE (cont'd)  
(reading)  
'Despite consistently professional work out in the field, Skye remains a cause for concern among some echelons of the Council, who insist that her dual nature makes her a security risk. I'm hesitant to agree with them, but recent reports of erratic behaviour when the vampire cult leader Roland has made an appearance would indicate some deeper connection we need to explore.'

Skye leans back, not at all liking what she's reading.

DEBBIE  
Uh... there's more, shall I-

SKYE  
No.  
(beat)  
Shut it down.

DEBBIE  
Are you sure? I can easily-

SKYE  
(sharp)  
Debbie. We're done.

Debbie watches as Skye turns and walks out of the classroom, her face full of concern as we cut to:

27 INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - NEXT

27

Jaz finishes applying a bandage to Erika's neck wound as Barbara, Ellen and Greg crowd round her.

GREG  
And your sight's completely restored now?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIKA

Apparently so.

BARBARA

Well, I'm... I'm honestly lost for words.

ELLEN

This is good, right?

BARBARA

(to Jaz)

I imagine this is one of those 'side effects' you were concerned about earlier?

JAZ

This wasn't what I was expecting, but still...

She takes out a small pen light, shining it into Erika's eyes to test her pupil reflexes.

JAZ (cont'd)

Her eyes are as responsive as any normal person's would be. As of right now, medically she's got perfect vision.

BARBARA

How do you feel, Erika?

ERIKA

'Feel'? I suppose I feel...  
(smiles)  
... better.

JAZ

I should warn you, this effect could only be temporary. Once the serum leaves your system, your blindness could return.

ERIKA

Then I should make the most of my sight while I still have it. Am I free to leave?

JAZ

Yes, you're all patched up. You got off pretty lightly, all things considered.

Erika nods, stepping off the exam bed and heading for the door, striding confidently out of the infirmary.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Barbara and the others gather round for a conference.

BARBARA

So what do make of all this?

GREG

On paper, that was a textbook  
Cruciamentum. Slayer goes in,  
Slayer comes out. End of story.

ELLEN

Yeah, but what if her sight's back  
for good now?

JAZ

I wouldn't get ahead of  
ourselves...

BARBARA

No, Ellen's right. This could be a  
major turning point for Erika.

GREG

Meaning?

BARBARA

Meaning, Erika was my first choice  
for 'B' team squad leader, and it  
was only her... 'condition' that  
made me pick Heidi instead.

GREG

So you're going to demote Heidi in  
favour of Erika?

BARBARA

If this change in her situation  
sticks... perhaps, yes.

Greg and Ellen seem happy with this plan as we cut to:

28

INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - NEXT

28

Erika heads down the dorm rooms corridor, passing a few  
Slayers and nodding to them as she does.

She runs into Skye, who is leaving her room with a sullen  
expression.

ERIKA

Hello, Skye. Why do you look so  
troubled?

SKYE

Huh? Oh, Erika, hey. I was-  
(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

SKYE(cont'd)

Wait, how did you know I looked  
'troubled'?

ERIKA

(smiles)

The same way I know you're wearing  
a red t-shirt with a black design,  
your black and red sneakers and a  
silver bobble in each ponytail.

(off her look)

Let's just say that tonight has  
been an eye-opening experience for  
me.

Skye is genuinely puzzled as we cut to:

29

EXT. CAMPUS - RECEPTION - ROOF - NEXT

29

The sky is much lighter now, sunrise only a short time away  
as Skye and Erika settle down in Skye's favourite spot over  
the main entrance.

SKYE

So you can see, what... everything?

ERIKA

Things are still blurred, and I  
expect the sunlight will hurt a  
little, but apart from that, yes.

SKYE

(grins)

Cool.

ERIKA

It is going to take some getting  
used to, I admit.

SKYE

So you reckon it's permanent?

ERIKA

(beat)

Perhaps.

SKYE

Do you want it to be?

ERIKA

(puzzled)

I don't understand.

SKYE

Okay, look. Everybody here has a  
'thing,' don't they? Like, some  
major personality trait or physical  
quirk that makes them different.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SKYE(cont'd)

It's part of the gig - even normal girls seem to pick something up when they become Slayers.

ERIKA

And you're saying that being blind is-

(corrects herself)

Was my 'thing'?

SKYE

Just saying.

ERIKA

(muses)

I do not think so. We are all defined by more than one characteristic.

SKYE

Except Heidi. She's just a bitch.

ERIKA

(chuckles)

Yes, except Heidi. Although...

SKYE

(wags finger)

Uh-uh. I have a rule up here. My word is law. I say she's a bitch, she's a bitch. No arguments.

ERIKA

Very well.

(beat)

Now, what is troubling you?

SKYE

(evasive)

Me? Nothing. C'mon, you just got your sight back! Isn't that a hotter conversation topic?

ERIKA

(firm)

Skye.

Erika fixes her with a measured look, and Skye sighs, lowering her head.

SKYE

You have to keep it to yourself.

ERIKA

You know that I will.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SKYE

(long beat)

I went looking for something tonight, but I found something else out instead.

ERIKA

Such as?

SKYE

(uncomfortable)

I was trying to find some dirt on Braeden.

ERIKA

'Dirt'?

SKYE

You know, something that's gonna back up the bad feeling I've had about him since day one. Now him and Sofia are an item-

ERIKA

(surprised)

They are?

SKYE

(d'oh!)

Uh... yeah. Recent thing.

(quickly)

Anyway, I got Debbie to help me hack into the network-

ERIKA

(raises eyebrow)

You brought Debbie into this as well?

SKYE

Hey, you gonna let me finish or keep picking holes in my story?

ERIKA

(nods)

Sorry. Please continue.

SKYE

There was nothing on Braeden, but I did find...

(sighs)

There's a whole file in there about me.

ERIKA

What does it say?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SKYE

It says I'm still a risk. That even after everything I've done here, the higher ups still think I could go postal with the right triggers. And they brought up Roland too.

ERIKA

It's fair to say he wields some sort of influence over you.

SKYE

(darkly)

You think I don't know that?

ERIKA

Perhaps you should approach Miss Griffin about this?

SKYE

That'd be kinda tricky without letting on where I got my intel from.

ERIKA

Ah. I see.

Erika goes quiet, and Skye anxiously watches her, waiting for her to speak again.

SKYE

So what should I do? How am I gonna convince these people I'm not the bad guy they think I could be?

ERIKA

I do not think you are a 'bad guy,' Skye.

(smiles)

I did not need to be able to see your face to see into your soul.

Skye manages a smile at Erika's sincerity, and as the first rays of morning sunlight creep across the rooftop, Erika turns to face the sunrise.

She lets out a quiet breath as she slowly gets to her feet, smiling broadly as she watches the sun light up the clouds around it.

Skye stands beside her, grinning as she watches Erika's obvious joy at the spectacular sunrise unfolding.

SKYE

First one for a while, huh?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ERIKA

(nods)

You never really forget what it looks like, but still... it is good to see one again.

SKYE

Even if it's only one more?

ERIKA

Even if it's only one more.

Without taking her eyes off the sunrise, Erika reaches across to take Skye's hand. Skye grins and squeezes back.

We pull back as the two girls are framed by the morning, before we DISSOLVE TO:

30

INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - DAY

30

Heidi, Anna and Debbie are all sitting around, leafing through exercise books as Skye pushes the door open - the sleeping Erika in her arms.

DEBBIE

(alarmed)

Erika! Is she-

SKYE

Ssh. She's sleeping.

Skye gently lays Erika down on her bed as the others gather round her.

ANNA

Sleeping? After getting her sight back? Man, I'd be out looking at everything for miles if I was her right now!

SKYE

She's been up all night, remember? You know, locked in a house with a vampire and no Slayer powers? That's kind of a strain on a girl's energy levels.

HEIDI

Oh, yeah. So she won?

SKYE

(dry)

Yes, Heidi, she won.

HEIDI

Hmm. Good.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Heidi heads off as the other three watch Erika doze.

SKYE

She just conked out up on the roof,  
so I figured I'd let her sleep it  
off and come see how she's doing  
later.

(beat)

No pun intended.

ANNA

It's cool. We'll keep an eye on  
her.

(beat; grins)

And again with the no pun intended.

Skye nods, glancing back at Erika as she heads out of the  
dorms, and as we push in on Erika, we DISSOLVE TO:

31 INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - LATER

31

Keeping Erika in the centre of the frame, the morning sun  
fades to afternoon light, before the gradually darkening  
early evening sky drifts into view.

Erika stirs, rolling onto her back as she comes round. She  
starts to open her eyes - but then closes them again.

Mentally preparing herself, she takes several deep breaths  
before her eyes slowly open again...

ERIKA'S P.O.V.

Everything is black. Erika reaches a hand up into frame - and  
her vision is back to how it was. Outlines and the occasional  
pattern, but nothing more.

ON SCENE

Erika's eyes are back to their usual, cloudy selves, her  
sparkling irises almost hidden.

She exhales, lowering her hand and laying it across her  
chest. Half of her was expecting this - but half of her was  
hoping things would be different.

She glances over to the door as Anna heads in, walking over  
to Erika when she sees she's up.

ANNA

Hey! Good to see-

She pauses, picking up on the change in Erika's demeanour  
straight away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANNA (cont'd)

Erika?

Erika doesn't turn to look at her, but manages a smile.

ERIKA

Hello, Anna.

ANNA

How's your- I mean, can you...

Erika shakes her head, and Anna sighs.

ANNA (cont'd)

Man, that sucks. I'm sorry.

ERIKA

It is alright. I knew it would not last.

ANNA

Yeah, but still...

ERIKA

Really, Anna. I will be alright.

(beat)

May I have a moment, please?

Anna nods, offering a hopeful smile as she leaves Erika be. Erika waits for the door to close, then turns on her side.

She closes her eyes - and a single TEAR rolls down her cheek. Erika curls her whole body up tightly, not bothering to hold back as more tears start to flow.

We pull back from her as she lets out a SOB, burying herself in her bedclothes as the night's emotions finally work their way out.

As we pan up to look out through one of the windows, the sun gradually setting in the darkening sky, we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF SHOW**