

**SLAYER ACADEMY**

"Hoax"

by  
Lewis S. Payne

&

Lee A. Chrimes

TEASER

FADE IN:

1

EXT. SCOTLAND MOORS - NIGHT

1

We close in on a misty moonlit wood at night. Fairly tranquil, just the basic chatter of birds and the rustling of trees in the wind.

DEWEY (V.O.)

Hurry up already! We're ne'er gonna  
get this thing done!

We zoom into the thick foliage to see three teenage boys in warm coats - STEVE, BEN and DEWEY - strolling along carrying a big grey sack. They all speak with Scottish accents (naturally).

STEVE

Aye, we'll get it done.

BEN

Just make sure no-one sees us. This  
whole thing'll be busted wide open  
if they do.

STEVE

Ben, it in't like we're committing  
a crime or nuffin.'

BEN

Aye, but if we do get caught then  
this whole thing's pointless, and I  
just wasted a Saturday when I  
coulda been doin' coursework!

STEVE

Eh, you gonna get an 'A' anyway.  
Plus, you completely bone Miss.  
Fischer.

DEWEY

(scowls)

Are we gonna do this or not?

BEN

It won't work. The suit's so fake.  
(off sack)  
Where'd you get this anyway?

DEWEY

Me mam's real good with a sewing  
machine.

STEVE

So who's doin' it?

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

BEN

You.

STEVE

Why me?

DEWEY

Cuz you're the tallest. And the  
hairiest. It'll blend in well.

Ben lets out a small snigger before beginning to unwrap the  
grey bag. Steve peers inside and GROANS.

STEVE

Oh, come on! How am I supposed to  
get into that?

BEN

Worry about that later. Dewey, you  
got the video camera?

DEWEY

Aye.

Dewey lifts a small camcorder with a grin, and as Steve HUFFS  
loudly and peers back into the sack, we cut to:

2 EXT. WOODS - PATH - LATER

2

A more secluded area of the woods. It's much darker and  
harder to see. Dewey's busily fiddling with the video camera  
whilst Ben is helping Steve into a FUR SUIT.

STEVE

Does Bigfoot even live in Scotland?

BEN

Does it matter? We'll just call it  
something new. How about...  
"Fangs"?

DEWEY

(shakes head)  
Too generic.

BEN

(thinks)  
Big...

STEVE

Before ye even finish that, no.

BEN

Alright, smartarse, you think of a  
name then!

(CONTINUED)

STEVE  
(thinks; proud)  
"The Hairy Monster"!

DEWEY  
("anyway...")  
Okay, I've got the camera working,  
so let's do this. Zip it up.

Ben takes the final piece of the suit out of the bag and looks at it - it's a silly cartoonish looking Bigfoot head which looks more like a moose.

Dewey can't help but laugh as he helps screw the head down onto the rest of the bulky suit Steve is wearing.

DEWEY (cont'd)  
We're never gonna fool anyone with that!

BEN  
It'll work, we only have to shoot it from behind. The shadows should give us some cover.

STEVE  
(muffled)  
Just do it and get it over with, will you? This thing's right itchy!

DEWEY  
Go stand over there by those trees.

STEVE  
(beat)  
Which way? I cannae see a bloody thing in here!

Dewey turns him on the spot and gives him a NUDGE to get him started, and Steve plods over to the shadows of the trees until he is properly concealed.

DEWEY  
Okay, and... go!

CAMERA'S P.O.V.

We see the scene through the camera's lens, complete with jerky movements, etc, as Dewey trudges forward through the woods, 'Blair Witch' style.

BEN (V.O.)  
(in fake voice)  
Hey, Dewey. What's that noise?

(CONTINUED)

DEWEY (V.O.)  
(fake)  
Oh, my God! Look at that!

He moves his camera around to where Steve is, lumbering slowly across the frame and desperately trying to hold back his laughter.

BEN (V.O.)  
What the hell is that?

DEWEY (V.O.)  
(whisper)  
Shhh...

Suddenly the camera starts to dissolve to snow.

DEWEY (V.O.) (cont'd)  
Aw, crap. Hold it, Steve!

ON SCENE

Dewey begins fiddling around with the camera again, violently hitting it to try and get rid of the static.

STEVE  
(muffled)  
What's goin on?

DEWEY  
Ma camera's gone all weird.

Dewey shakes the camera for another beat - and there is a low pitched BELLOWING sound which sounds almost like laughter from somewhere nearby, echoing around the woods.

The three boys freeze, each slowly looking around and then to each other.

BEN  
Do you guys hear something?

DEWEY  
I... I dunno. I think so...

The group of boys congregate towards Steve, who shifts uncomfortably, reaching up to try and take the suit's head off.

STEVE  
Alright, that's it. Get me out of 'ere!

DEWEY  
Steve, just give it a second!  
There's something...

(CONTINUED)

CAMERA'S P.O.V.

The camera suddenly comes to life and we see the shot through it once more.

Dewey lifts the camera to film Steve, who finally tears the suit's head off with a GASP.

STEVE

(growls)

Would you get that flaming thing  
out of my face already? It's so f-

He's cut off in mid-sentence as he looks behind Dewey.

We hear RUSTLING sound from somewhere behind them, growing louder every second, and Dewey slowly turns around, camera lifted to film whatever's coming towards them.

DEWEY

Guys, I think we should-

STEVE (O.S.)

(yells)

What the hell is that?!?

BEN (O.S.)

Dewey! Look out!!

A blur of movement CHARGES towards the camera as something large speeds towards us, and there's a brief flash of CLAWS slicing down before Dewey SCREAMS, and we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF TEASER**

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3

INT. CAMPUS - LIBRARY - DAY

3

ALITA is sitting at a chair, wide-eyed, busily surfing the internet on a computer in the school library.

Her brow is furrowed in concentration, and she doesn't notice SKYE step into frame, peering over her shoulder.

SKYE

And this is called a forum.

Alita jumps, a little startled, and turns to Skye as she pulls up a chair and sits next to her.

SKYE (cont'd)

What'cha doin'?

ALITA

I am attempting to familiarise myself with the academy's computer network.

SKYE

(nods)

Good plan. How's it coming along?

ALITA

(sighs)

Very, very slowly.

SKYE

Yeah, we all start out like that.

ALITA

(off screen)

You called this a 'forum'? What is it for?

SKYE

Usually for idiots to post 'lol' and talk in leet-speak.

Alita blinks, not following, and turns back to the computer to bring up another browser window.

ALITA

And this? I found many places telling me to come here, but I do not understand what it is.

SKYE

Ah, that'd be Myspace.

(CONTINUED)

ALITA

Your... space?

SKYE

Well, not just my space, it's everyone's space. It's a profile site where all the emos and ugly goth chicks post pictures of themselves in compromising positions, and then whine to each other about how hard their pampered middle class lives are.

ALITA

(lost)

I... see.

SKYE

Mind if I ask where the sudden interest in the great interweb's come from? You've never really struck me as much of a geek.

ALITA

A what?

SKYE

Someone like Debbie.

ALITA

Ah. Well, I believe it started when I realised something about myself recently.

SKYE

That you need a Myspace?

ALITA

No, not that. It's just that...

(searches for right words)

I've spent my whole life learning how to be a Slayer. From my childhood, it's the only world I've ever known, and even when I came here I did my best to avoid getting too involved in all these new experiences around me.

SKYE

And now I guess that's changing?

ALITA

There's just so much to real life I haven't experienced. Live journals, the Google search engine, online auctions...

(CONTINUED)



Alita scrolls down the browser page, squinting as she reads another web address.

ALITA (cont'd)  
What's this? 'Big, meaty-'

Skye's eyes bulge, and she scrambles in front of the screen, quickly closing the window.

SKYE  
(quickly)  
Ahaha, oh, that's just... um...  
my... uh... favourite... restaurant  
chain?  
(changes subject)  
Hey, why don't we see what's in the  
news?

ALITA  
Good idea. There may be something  
we can research.

SKYE  
(relieved; grins)  
Always with the research. I was  
just thinking we could see what's  
going on in Big Brother.

ALITA  
(blinks)  
You have a brother?

Skye chuckles and shakes her head as she types away at the keyboard, and after a few clicks she brings up a newspaper article which reads: "Teen missing in woods after filming horrific reversal of spoof."

SKYE  
(intrigued)  
What's this?  
(reads on)  
Three teenage boys out filming a  
Bigfoot spoof video were attacked,  
and one's still missing.

ALITA  
Look, there's a hyper... link?

SKYE  
Very good.  
(clicks)  
Oh, it's to a video.

Alita cranes forward, both puzzled and intrigued by what she's seeing as a small video player opens to show the footage of the attack.

It's small and blurry, with all the shaky camerawork you'd expect, but there is a brief, unmistakable glimpse of something BIG lunging towards the camera before Dewey's SCREAM makes both girls jump back in alarm.

The video suddenly goes to snow, and a contact message pops up, scrolling along the bottom and asking for any information on Dewey's whereabouts.

Skye clicks the video off before she and Alita turn to each other, eyebrows raised, and we cut to:

Alita and Skye are walking hurriedly down an academy hallway.

SKYE

That couldn't have been...

ALITA

(still startled)

It was.

SKYE

I mean, maybe it was just a wild animal. A bear or something.

Alita stops, throwing a bemused look to Skye.

ALITA

A bear... in Scotland?

SKYE

(beat)

Or what about a hoaxed hoax? I mean, those guys were out there filming a fake monster video, right? What if they just stumbled into somebody else doing the same thing?

(off Alita's look)

Yeah, okay, that is pretty unlikely...

ALITA

I don't know what any of what we saw really means, but we cannot take the chance of it not being real.

SKYE

You're right. We should report this to Barbara.

The girls turn off down another corridor, into:

5

INT. CAMPUS - BARBARA'S OFFICE - NEXT

5

BARBARA is learning over Skye's shoulder, who is showing her the offending video on a laptop computer. Alita looks on whilst BRYCE looks over Skye's other shoulder.

BARBARA

(appalled)

My God, this is just... and people actually want to see things like this?

BRYCE

Kids today, eh?

SKYE

D'you think it's legit?

BARBARA

I honestly can't say. The image quality isn't the best, after all. I'll see if Debbie can try to improve it a little so that we can verify what demon it is, if it is indeed a demon, but I think I've got a good idea already.

BRYCE

A Cagnadh demon, right?

BARBARA

(nods)

Lives in the Scottish Highlands, light green skin, large fangs... I'd say so.

SKYE

So what do we do about the... Gonad... demon... thingy?

BRYCE

Well, they gave a contact number on the video, which is a plus in these situations. I'll order an emergency briefing, and if it checks out, we'll go straight there. Wouldn't want these little buggers tearing through the nearest town.

BARBARA

Skye, this is a job for your squad. Can you get them ready to move out as soon as Eric gets confirmation?

SKYE

Consider it done, chief.

(CONTINUED)

5

CONTINUED:

5

Barbara glances at her, but Skye's already out the door.

6

EXT. CAMPUS - PAVILION - NEXT

6

SOFIA is sat down on the pavilion steps, looking up from writing in her diary as Skye stands over her.

SOFIA

A camping trip?

SKYE

Yeah, I thought it'd be a good opportunity for you to spend some alone time with Braeden without Little Dragon Girl bothering you all the time.

SOFIA

Well, that's surprisingly generous of you, Skye.

(beat)

What's the catch?

SKYE

Catch? Why does there have to be a catch? Can't I just be nice?

(off her look)

Okay, so... you may get a few demons attacking you guys every now and again, but nothing we can't deal with.

GREG walks past and overhears the conversation.

GREG

What's this about demons?

SOFIA

(grins)

And you're one of the few men I know who'd be interested by that.

SKYE

We got a new mission. Demons attacking teens in the Scottish Highlands, plus a free camping trip. Wanna come with?

GREG

Sounds like a barrel of fun. Who else is going? The regular gang and Braeden, I expect?

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

It'll give you a chance to get to know him, Greg. I know I do, so it's time everyone else did too.

SKYE

(to Greg)

Did you get that oh-so-subtle fornication hint?

GREG

I most certainly did, and there'll be none of that whatsoever.

SOFIA

(rolls eyes)

Greg, please. I'm not some kind of oblivious child. Braeden's my boyfriend now, and I think I'm perfectly capable of knowing how to behave with him.

SKYE

Sofes, it's not that you're not allowed to choose things in your life, it's when you make decisions which could affect others. If you're so far into Braeden that your head's not in the game, you could wind up putting us in a lot of hurt.

SOFIA

(getting defensive)

You don't like him, do you? Either of you? Is that what this is all about?

GREG

It's not that I don't like him, I just...

SOFIA

Don't trust him?

Greg falls silent. Off his reaction, Sofia HUFFS and simply walks away with a disappointed expression. Skye waits for her to leave, and then:

SKYE

I don't like him. If that helps.

GREG

Skye, you know how dangerous this could-

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

I know, I know. But I'm still  
taking him. Friends close, enemies  
closer, right?

Skye also walks away with a stern look on her face, and on  
this we cut to:

EXT. SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS - EVENING

It's a beautifully misty evening in the Scottish Highlands,  
the trees still and leafless as the sun sets overhead.

As we pan down into a clearing in the woods, we pick up  
BRAEDEN and Sofia walking together, arm in arm. They're  
wearing warm jackets to protect them from the cold.

BRAEDEN

I thought Scotland'd be all  
bagpipes and men in kilts. Where's  
all that stuff?

SOFIA

You'd be surprised what you can  
learn from a little culture. You're  
not seriously going to tell me you  
didn't think England'd be all tea  
and scones and long, boring films?

BRAEDEN

Guilty as charged.

Sofia smiles and turns around.

SOFIA

Anything to report back there,  
Allie?

We pull back to see Alita holding some sort of tracking  
device, complete with short BEEPS every few seconds. Skye is  
behind her, holding a long receiver aerial high in the air.

ALITA

I'm fine. Nothing has shown up yet.

SKYE

How much longer do I have to hold  
this thing? I stopped being able to  
feel my arm a coupla miles back!

We pull further back to see Greg, walking alone behind the  
group and pulling his jacket tighter against the cold.

GREG

Just until we get some kind of heat  
reading.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

'Heat reading'? It's minus fifty  
fricken degrees out here!

Skye lowers her arm, shaking it to try and restore some of the feeling, but Greg frowns as he steps towards her.

GREG

Oh, I'm sorry, would you like to  
take a rest so that if any demons  
do show up, we have next to no  
warning?

A beat - and Skye sheepishly raises her arm again.

SKYE

Since when did you get all hardcore  
on us?

Greg pauses, then turns round and starts walking again.

GREG

Come on. Not far now.

Skye frowns, knowing Greg's going to keep avoiding that question for some time yet as we cut back to Braeden and Sofia.

BRAEDEN

Heh, what's with Alita all of a  
sudden? Culture shock finally set  
in?

SOFIA

I'd say so. She's suddenly started  
to use words like 'telly,' and  
apparently she's taken a shine to  
the contents of Skye's iPod. Maybe  
all this time around us has finally  
rubbed off on her?

BRAEDEN

I'd blame Tyson, myself. He's been  
trying so hard to break her out of  
her shell, I was starting to think  
he'd just push her off a wall and  
hope all the King's men would do  
the rest.

Sofia smiles and playfully nudges him, as Braeden turns his attention to the path they're walking down.

It seems to stretch off forever into the mist ahead, with nothing but more trees before them.

Braeden turns round to address the trio following behind him.

(CONTINUED)

BRAEDEN (cont'd)

Are we sure this is the way to go?

GREG

Well, the deceased's sister said to meet them in the forest.

BRAEDEN

Right, 'cause that narrows it down. Take a look around, Greg! This is all forest! Did they happen to mention which part?

Skye and Greg swap a cross look before Greg turns back to Braeden.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)

Just keep moving. If I read the directions I was given correctly, we're almost there.

Alita's device suddenly BEEPS, and she looks back at Greg.

ALITA

Greg, we have something.

The others crowd round her and all look down at the device as the beeps start to sound closer together.

GREG

Heat emitting beings, about a hundred yards from here.

SOFIA

Demons?

SKYE

Dunno. Don't think so, I'd have sensed 'em by now.

BRAEDEN

Better to be safe than sorry, eh?

Braeden reaches across his back, unsheathing his sword and giving it a quick swing through the chilly air.

BRAEDEN

Grab your torches and pitchforks everyone, it's splatter time!

With an eager grin, he jogs off ahead, leaving Skye to shake her head.

SKYE

'Splatter time'? Guy's jokes are even lamer than mine...

(CONTINUED)



7 CONTINUED: (3)

7

As she hurries to catch the others up, we cut to:

8 EXT. THICK TREES - NEXT

8

The gang walk stealthily towards a small clearing in the woods. As we get closer, we can hear the CRACKLE of a fire.

GREG

(whispers)

Okay girls, the best thing we have now is the element of surprise. I vote we jump out there and make the first move.

SKYE

Yeah, I'm with Greg. If it's humans, we say 'hi.' If it's our bad guys, we tear through 'em.

BRAEDEN

Got it.

Skye counts down from three on her fingers, and on 'three' the squad burst through the treeline, out onto:

9 EXT. FOREST CLEARING - CONTINUOUS

9

The girls, Braeden and Greg charge into the clearing, weapons ready...

... and stop when they're faced with Steve, Ben and a young blonde girl sitting round a campfire.

They look at the girls with bemused expressions, and the girls try to quickly cover up their weapons.

Skye steps forward, quickly plastering on her best disarming smile.

SKYE

Um, hi!

STEVE

Who are you lot?

GREG

Permit me to introduce ourselves. We're here to help look for clues relating to the murder of your friend.

The blonde girl, KAYLEIGH, stands up. She's wearing a loud rainbow beanie hat and jeans.

KAYLEIGH

You mean my brother?

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA  
That's him.

BEN  
So you're, like, what... police?

GREG  
We're... a special division of the  
police.

Kayleigh eyes the weapons.

KAYLEIGH  
With big red axes?

SKYE  
We're very method.

BRAEDEN  
So what exactly are you fellas  
doing in the middle of the woods?

BEN  
We're looking for Dewey. The police  
couldnae give a crap about us, so  
we took matters into our own hands.

GREG  
You can place those matters in our  
hands now.

SKYE  
I guess it's just lucky that we  
found your video, or else-

She's cut off as Alita's tracker starts to BEEP again. She  
fishes it out of her pocket and looks down at the screen.

It shows a map of the area, with several big red DOTS coming  
directly towards their location.

GREG  
Alita?

ALITA  
(looks up)  
I'm afraid we are about to have  
company.

On the reactions of the others, we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

10

EXT. FOREST CLEARING - EVENING

10

The girls, Greg and Braeden are all surrounding the teenagers in a circle to protect them, as CRASHING and GROWLING noises start to filter through the woods towards them.

The teens seem very confused, both by the defensive stance of the Slayers and the noises they can hear.

STEVE

What the hell is going on?

GREG

(off teens)

Sofia, get them back the way we came and make sure they're out of harm's way, then get back here quick as you can.

SOFIA

Right.

(to teens)

Come on!

She grabs Kayleigh's hand and the other boys quickly follow as Sofia hurries away.

With Greg, Skye, Alita and Braeden left to take on the incoming demons, they break away from each other a little.

ALITA

What is the plan?

SKYE

Kill them first?

BRAEDEN

Works for me.

The crashing sounds get louder, and the team tense up as they can make out SHAPES tearing through the woods towards them.

SKYE

Here they come!

With a series of ROARS, the pack of CLADNAGH DEMONS burst out into the clearing - green fur to match the forest, claws and plenty of teeth - and they do not look happy.

Alita is the first to attack, charging towards a nearby tree with a war cry. She swings her nunchucks around one side of the tree, and with a CRUNCH she knocks one of the demons out cold! It falls to the floor in a heap.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE (cont'd)  
(impressed)  
Okay... respect. I didn't even see  
that one!

Suddenly, she is grabbed from behind by one of the demons.  
She HEADBUTTS it and twists its arm round to get free.

We cut to Braeden, fighting two of the demons alongside Greg.  
Braeden PUNCHES one square in the jaw and then proceeds to  
drive his KNEE into the other's gut.

He does a single handspring, and uses his legs to SMACK the  
demon in its chest, pushing it backwards. Greg looks dazed by  
this surprising show of athleticism.

BRAEDEN  
(smirks)  
Eight years of gymnastics does the  
body good, mate.

Greg snaps back to action and proceeds to KICK the demon he  
is fighting. The demon recovers and HITS Greg in the stomach,  
winding him.

Braeden races back over, LEAPFROGGING over an unsuspecting  
Greg's back and knocking out the demon with a DROP KICK.

He turns back to Greg, offering him a hand to help him back  
up, looking a little smug at his flashy manoeuvre.

We join Skye, who is more than a match for the demon she's  
fighting. She gives it an ELBOW and plunges the blunt end of  
one of her Sai daggers into the demons chest.

She tosses it over her shoulder and puts it in an armlock,  
twisting the demon's arm round.

DEMON  
(struggling)  
We didn't...

SKYE  
(blinks)  
What?

The demon passes out, and a startled Skye releases it from  
the arm lock. Greg hurries into frame, registering Skye's  
dazed expression.

GREG  
Skye, are you okay?

SKYE  
Yeah I'm... I'm fine. Did you...  
did that thing say something?

(CONTINUED)

Greg looks down at the unconscious demon at her feet.

GREG

I didn't hear anything. Why?

SKYE

(shakes head)

Never mind. Must've got hit harder  
than I thought.

Greg looks round - with Alita KICKING another demon to the floor, the last few stragglers are beating a hasty retreat back into the woods.

GREG

I think that's all of them for now.  
We seem to have scared them off.  
Come on, we need to go set up camp  
in case they come back.

Leaving the still confused Skye behind he takes off into the distance. On this, we DISSOLVE TO:

Greg is poking at the camp fire with a stick as Braeden shadow boxes in the background and Alita gathers up more firewood. He looks up as Skye steps into frame.

GREG

Is Sofia back yet?

SKYE

Yeah, I just saw her pull up. I  
think she's stepped out to answer a  
call of nature.

(beat)

Greg, can I ask you something?

GREG

Of course you can.

SKYE

What the hell is wrong with you?

GREG

(beat)

Excuse me?

SKYE

Alright, look, I know a lot of this  
is probably going to get you all  
British and uptight, but hear me  
out.

(MORE)

SKYE (cont'd)  
Ever since you came back from your  
big self discovery trip, you've  
been... well, you've not been Greg.

GREG  
(looks away)  
I don't know what you mean.

SKYE  
Oh, right. So I guess I should be  
asking Aiden if he knows what's up?

Greg snaps his head back round, but his stern look bounces  
right off her.

SKYE (cont'd)  
Yeah, that's what I figured.

GREG  
Skye, please. I don't want to talk  
about this now.

SKYE  
What happened? You two break up  
because you came back with a king  
size stick up your ass?

GREG  
(stern)  
Skye. Drop it.

SKYE  
Or did you just wuss out of having  
an actual boyfriend for probably  
the first time in your life?

GREG  
(beat)  
I... I can't believe you'd say  
that.

SKYE  
And I can't believe you've become  
that.

Skye stands, folding her arms and fixing him with a critical  
gaze.

SKYE (cont'd)  
Everybody else seems fine with  
letting you act like an ass, but  
I'm not gonna put up with it.  
Barbara made me squad leader for a  
reason, and I think not taking crap  
off people is a part of that.  
(MORE)

SKYE (cont'd)

Either you sort out whatever's been making you this way, and fast, or soon as we get back to the Academy I'm asking for a new Watcher.

GREG

You wouldn't do that... would you?

SKYE

I don't want to... so don't push me to have to make that call.

Skye turns and walks away, and as Greg SIGHS heavily, running a hand through his hair, we cut over to Alita, desperately trying to rub two sticks together to make a fire. You can tell she's very frustrated by this.

Braeden walks over to her, drenched in sweat, and looks up as Sofia emerges from the woods, stepping away from Alita to meet her.

BRAEDEN

Hey. Thought you'd gotten lost or something.

He brings Sofia close and gives her a quick kiss. This clearly infuriates Greg, and he clears his throat to get everyone's attention:

GREG

It's getting dark. We'd best get set up for the night now we're all here.

BRAEDEN

Sounds good. Anybody up for a story to pass the time?

Braeden grins off their looks, and we DISSOLVE TO:

The gang are all sat around the campfire. Braeden is sat up as if he's narrating a story to everyone, despite Sofia being the only one paying any real attention.

BRAEDEN

It all started a couple of years ago, I guess, like everyone else. I was just a kid in a regular Melbourne high school. I was majoring in Phys Ed, despite being the only guy in my whole class that couldn't climb the rope in gym class.

Sofia smiles, and we cut to:

13 INT. BRAEDEN'S BEDROOM - DAY - FLASHBACK 13

A slightly younger Braeden wakes up in his bed, surrounded by the clutter of a typically messy teenage boy's room.

BRAEDEN (V.O.)

Then, one day, I woke up and I just felt... different. Usually in the morning I suck at doing anything but that day, I was on a constant rush. I took a shower, and when I squeezed out my shampoo...

14 INT. BATHROOM - NEXT 14

Braeden is in his bathroom taking a shower (waist up only, girls), and he reaches for the shampoo bottle.

BRAEDEN (V.O.)

... half of it came out.

He gently squeezes the bottle - and it SQUIRTS half its contents out across the cubicle wall! A surprised Braeden looks down at the crushed bottle in his hands.

15 EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - NEXT 15

Braeden jogs up to the bus stop out on the street, checking his watch.

BRAEDEN (V.O.)

The bus was late, so I ran all the way to school...

Braeden looks up and down the road, then starts to jog out of frame, as we cut to:

16 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - NEXT 16

Braeden skids to a halt outside his school, glistening with sweat but still looking full of energy.

BRAEDEN (V.O.)

... with twenty minutes to spare.

Braeden looks down the road - and sees the school bus approaching! He glances around, not sure what to make of this, then quickly heads up the steps and into:

17 INT. HIGH SCHOOL - GYM - NEXT 17

As the gym lesson goes on all around him, Braeden stands in his shorts and t-shirt, staring up at the rope stretching towards the ceiling, hands on hips.

(CONTINUED)



BRAEDEN (V.O.)

And then, it came to gym class.

Braeden slowly steps up to the rope, grabbing it with both hands and taking a deep breath as he closes his eyes.

BRAEDEN (V.O.) (cont'd)

I climbed that damn rope in five seconds flat.

And sure enough, a moment later, there he is. Braeden opens his eyes, sees he's at the very top of the rope, and beams happily as we DISSOLVE TO:

Skye and Alita are now listening, while Greg stubbornly stays out of things.

BRAEDEN

It was the greatest feeling. I was showing off to anyone and everyone, not caring why I suddenly felt different but knowing it was... well, right, I guess.

Braeden pauses to chew a chunk of marshmallow before continuing.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)

It was a weird rush, though. It felt... dark. Really intense. Like I was connected to something very good, and something very bad at the same time.

(looks round)

How was it for all of you?

SOFIA

I think it's a little different for each one of us. I honestly didn't notice it for a long time.

ALITA

I was always prepared for it, but when I finally became a Slayer, I just felt a little light-headed. I thought I had just overslept.

BRAEDEN

Skye?

SKYE

(shrugs)

Itchy. And kinda sick.

A beat. Sofia turns back to Braeden.

SOFIA

Okay, so go on! What happened after  
all that?

Braeden pauses for effect, and we DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - NIGHT

Gym bag slung over his shoulder, Braeden walks casually down  
a street on the way back to his home.

BRAEDEN (V.O.)

I was coming home from soccer  
practise, and this guy jumped me.

Somebody LEAPS from the shadows and TACKLES Braeden to the  
ground, pinning him down as the two struggle.

BRAEDEN (V.O.) (cont'd)

I couldn't get a good look at him  
'cause it was so dark, but I just  
remember seeing one thing.

(beat)

Fangs.

The man attacking Braeden HISSES, and Braeden's eyes go wide  
as he sees that his opponent is a VAMPIRE!

Braeden recovers, throwing the vampire off him and scrambling  
to his feet. He only has a moment before the vampire CHARGES  
into him again, and both men are shoved off screen.

BRAEDEN (V.O.) (cont'd)

It went a bit blurry after that.  
I'm pretty sure we must've fought  
for a while, but all I can remember  
was breaking a crate over his head  
and feeling this impulse to stab  
him with a big chunk of it.

There's a SHRIEK from off screen, and a dazed Braeden  
staggers back into frame, a makeshift STAKE in his hand.

Braeden looks up as he hears FOOTSTEPS - and sees several  
more VAMPIRES bearing down on him! Shocked, he lets the stake  
fall from his hand.

BRAEDEN (V.O.) (cont'd)

Then more of them came. And more  
and more. I didn't know what the  
hell was going on, so... I ran.

19 CONTINUED:

19

Braeden turns and starts to run - and WHAM! Someone socks him in the jaw. Braeden hits the deck, and is quickly grabbed by yet another VAMPIRE, this one ROARING into his face.

BRAEDEN (V.O.) (cont'd)  
All I remember the next moment is  
winding up face down in my own  
blood, and-

20 EXT. NEW CAMPING SITE - NIGHT

20

We snap back to the campsite as Greg CLAPS his hands.

GREG  
Right, that's enough for one night.  
I think we should all get some rest  
before we become too enthralled.  
Braeden can finish his story  
tomorrow. Is that alright?

Braeden looks a little disgruntled at being interrupted, but managed a mock salute.

BRAEDEN  
Absolutely, boss.

GREG  
Who's got first watch?

BRAEDEN  
I'll take it.

GREG  
Watch away, then. As soon as you  
hear something, wake us up. And I  
mean anything. We're in the natural  
environment for these Cladnagh  
demons, so chances are they'll be  
very quiet.

Braeden nods, and as the others stand up, getting ready to turn in for the night, we DISSOLVE TO:

21 EXT. NEW CAMPING SITE - LATER

21

Later at night, everyone is tucked up tightly in their tents. The only sound we hear is the crackling of the fire and Greg's gentle snoring.

One of the tents ZIPS open to reveal a completely unchanged Sofia. She quietly tiptoes out of her tent and out into the open, heading for the fire.

Over by the camp fire, Braeden is trying to keep himself awake and failing, his head nodding forward.

(CONTINUED)

Just as he falls asleep, he suddenly JOLTS awake, spinning round and aiming the sword directly at...

Sofia. She raises an eyebrow as Braeden sighs, sitting back down and rubbing his tired eyes.

BRAEDEN

You shouldn't have snuck up on me like that! I almost took your bloody head off!

SOFIA

Sorry. I just thought you'd want a little company.

BRAEDEN

(smiles)

Company'd be nice.

Sofia sidles up next to him on the log he's sitting on.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)

If Greg catches you out here, he'll kill me. And then you.

SOFIA

He won't catch us. Once he's out for the night, he's way out.

(beat)

So, erm, I never heard the ending of your story...

Braeden looks over before we cut to:

The only person standing in the changing area is DUNSTALL. He's standing before an empty locker, with a box full of various items at his feet. He stares sadly into the locker for a beat before swinging the door closed.

His surname is written on a piece of card at the top of the door, and with a heavy-hearted expression he taps it out, sliding it out of its niche and dropping it into the box.

As it lands, however, he notices a small piece of PAPER sticking out from the bottom of the door.

Frowning, he reaches down and picks it up, unfurling it and reading it. His expression immediately lightens, and as he looks up, smiling, we cut to:

Dunstall swings open the doors and notices a trail of CANDLES guiding his way up the stairs up to the second floor.

23 CONTINUED:

23

The entire Library is dimly lit, and a faint romantic TUNE is playing somewhere overhead. He looks towards the second floor as we cut to:

24 INT. CAMPUS - LIBRARY SECOND FLOOR - NEXT

24

Dunstall climbs the stairs, following the trail of candles as he turns towards the office against the far wall.

And there sits FRANKIE, all dolled up, looking ravishing in a beautiful black dress. She's sitting in front of a table covered with food, and a rose sitting in the middle in a glass vase.

Frankie smiles seductively, crooks her finger and gestures for him to come over. Dunstall can't help but smirk as he heads for the table.

Frankie extends her hand, and as he takes it and kisses it, ever the gentleman, we cut back to:

25 EXT. NEW CAMPING SITE - NIGHT

25

Sofia and Braeden are still sitting on the log, but are in the middle of a heated necking session.

Sofia breaks away, and the two share a laugh as they try to regain their composure.

SOFIA

I'm sorry, I keep interrupting you,  
don't I...

He leans in for another kiss, but this time she gently pushes him back.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Story. To the end. Then we can  
carry on getting distracted.

Braeden makes a big act of sighing, but as Sofia snuggles up next to him he continues, and we DISSOLVE TO:

26 EXT. SUBURBAN STREET - NIGHT

26

Braeden is face down, covered in wounds, but as a vampire gleefully reaches for him, ready to finish him off, there's a BANG from a shotgun, and the vamp is flung backwards.

Braeden stirs, weakly lifting his head as a pair of BOOTS step into frame. He follows them up to his owner - and it's Bryce, wielding a smoking shotgun!

BRAEDEN (V.O.)

I awoke and found some guy with a  
shotgun protecting me. Turns out  
his name was Eric Bryce.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA (V.O.)

Ah, I can see where this is going.

Bryce aims the shotgun and FIRES again, offering Braeden his hand and pulling him to his feet. He slings one arm over his shoulders, supporting the woozy Slayer as the two make a quick exit, and we cut to:

INT. BRYCE'S BASE - NIGHT

With the badly wounded Braeden lying on a bed, some of his wounds patched up but others losing a lot of blood, Bryce works quickly, bandaging some and trying to clean the young Slayer up, but the blood on the bedsheets and Bryce's hands show he's fighting a losing battle.

BRAEDEN (V.O.)

Bryce he tried to nurse me back to health, but I was pretty knocked about. For whatever reason, my Slayer healing wasn't kicking in, and I was slipping away no matter how hard he tried.

Bryce wipes his brow, the desperation clear across his face, while Braeden's head lolls to one side.

BRAEDEN (V.O.) (cont'd)

It was the strangest feeling. I knew I was alive, but I couldn't feel anything. Everything was just so... still.

Braeden SIGHS once, and then falls limp, and Bryce stares at his body for a long beat before lowering his head, accepting defeat at last.

And then, with a GASP, Braeden jolts back to life, sitting upright and knocking the startled Bryce off his feet!

BRAEDEN (V.O.) (cont'd)

And then I came back.

The panting Braeden falls back onto the bed as the stunned Bryce looks on, and we DISSOLVE back to:

EXT. NEW CAMPING SITE - NIGHT

Sofia is staring intensely at Braeden, but he's too wrapped up in his story to notice.

BRAEDEN

I hardly remembered anything about the attack, but I knew something had changed.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BRAEDEN (cont'd)  
Everything feels different after  
you go through something like that.  
It felt like I was still dead,  
but... I wasn't. I mean, I was up  
and about, moving around, talking,  
fighting, getting the big  
Watcher/Slayer talk off Bryce and  
eventually packing my bags to fly  
out to England, but really it's  
just felt like I've been bouncing  
from place to place, all just one  
big blur.

Braeden turns to Sofia at last, who looks close to tears.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)  
And then I came here. And there you  
were. And I finally feel... like  
I'm alive again.

He smiles, and she manages a smile too, tears rolling down  
her cheeks as she tries to SNIFF them away.

SOFIA  
Braeden... I felt it too.

BRAEDEN  
Felt what?

SOFIA  
Dead. A while back... the same  
thing happened to me.

Braeden is taken back by this.

SOFIA (cont'd)  
And then when you arrived... that's  
when I felt alive again.

Braeden and Sofia are looking at each other with pure lust.  
They come a little closer... and then a little more closer.

They kiss tenderly, deep and slow. Sofia's ragged breathing  
is audible. Braeden grasps the back of Sofia's head, pulling  
her closer and they begin to kiss more passionately.

Braeden begins to slip Sofia's jacket off, and Sofia lies  
back on the log. Braeden lies on top of her, the couple still  
locked in their passionate embrace, when the moment of  
passion is broken by a piercing female SCREAM!

Sofia quickly sits up, instantly alert, her head scanning  
round the dark woods surrounding them.

SOFIA (cont'd)  
Did you just hear that?

28 CONTINUED: (2)

28

BRAEDEN  
I sure did...

They scramble to their feet, hurrying towards the sound of the scream and onto:

29 EXT. FOREST PATH - NEXT

29

Sofia is running down a forest path, Braeden close behind, when she spots something on the ground up ahead.

She runs over to it and picks up a rainbow style beanie hat - or, more precisely, the same one Kayleigh was wearing!

Sofia turns to Braeden, holding up the hat for him to see, and off Sofia's worried expression, we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT TWO**



**ACT THREE**

FADE IN:

30 EXT. NEW CAMPING SITE - NIGHT

30

Sofia and Braeden dash back into the campsite, Sofia beating her hands against the various tents to wake the others up.

SKYE (O.S.)  
(through tent)  
The hell?

She pokes her head out, squinting up at the anxious Sofia.

SKYE (cont'd)  
What's going on?

SOFIA  
Trouble. The demons have taken the  
civilians.

Greg is half out of his tent now, fixing his glasses in place.

GREG  
Are you sure?

BRAEDEN  
We found tracks and a few stray  
bits of clothes. No sign of a  
struggle, though, so I'm guessing  
they jumped them same way they  
tried to with us.

Skye steps out of her tent, stretching her arms.

SKYE  
Difference being, we're hot chicks  
with superpowers and they're more  
malleable normal people.

Alita is finally up, looking round at the activity in the site and blinking.

ALITA  
(sleepy)  
Has morning come already?

Skye pats her on the head as she walks past.

SKYE  
Not yet, Allie. Work first.

Alita YAWNS as we cut to:

31

EXT. FOREST PATH - NEXT

31

Alita and Braeden are leading the way as the team trek along the moonlit forest path.

It's a lot colder now, the girls pulling their jackets tight against the chill wind as Greg rubs his hands together.

SKYE

(grumbling)

Damn tree-hugging, hippy demons...  
couldn't they pick a beach  
somewhere to hang out instead?

GREG

We're in the United Kingdom. Our  
beaches are colder than this.

SKYE

(huffs)

Your country sucks.

Braeden lifts his hand and the team freeze, crouching down and silently drawing their various weapons.

Sofia edges her way over to him, noticing that Alita seems to be picking up on whatever Braeden's sensed too.

SOFIA

(whispers)

What is it?

BRAEDEN

(whispers)

Something up ahead. Not sure what  
it is. Sounds like-

Alita suddenly springs forward, catching them both by surprise.

SOFIA

(hisses)

Alita! Alita!

Alita darts to the left, ducking into the treeline and out of sight. Sofia and Braeden exchange a glance, then as he heads forward she motions for the others to follow.

Sofia, Skye and Greg join Braeden at the edge of the path - and find him looking down on Alita, who is cradling the body of the unfortunate Ben in her lap.

Bloody claw marks across his chest and throat signal his departure from this world, and Alita respectfully closes his eyelids as she lowers him gently to the ground.

(CONTINUED)

GREG  
(gravely)  
We need to keep moving.

SOFIA  
We can't just leave him here like  
that, Greg!

GREG  
There's nothing we can do for him.

SOFIA  
But-

SKYE  
Greg's right, Sofes. Those other  
two'll end up just like this guy if  
we don't find them first.

Sofia knows she's right, but still doesn't look too happy  
about it as the team head into the woods, Alita jogging out  
front, looking like she's picked up a trail as we cut to:

Frankie and Dunstall appear to be having a very good time.  
The food is almost eaten, the wine glasses are half full and  
they're both chuckling away.

DUNSTALL  
Alright, I have to admit, I'm a  
little surprised at all this.

FRANKIE  
*Pourquoi?*

DUNSTALL  
You haven't exactly been keeping in  
touch with me lately. Not since  
your... accident.

Frankie looks away for a beat, and Dunstall silently curses -  
why'd he have to bring that up now?

DUNSTALL (cont'd)  
Sorry. That was-

FRANKIE  
No, it is alright.

She reaches forward, stretching out her hand and waiting for  
him to take it.

FRANKIE (cont'd)  
I am just glad you came.

DUNSTALL

(grins)

Are you kidding?

(off plates)

Look at this stuff! It's like you broke into my mom's house and stole her recipe book. How did you know to rustle up pretty much all of my favourite foods?

FRANKIE

I 'ad a bit of 'elp.

DUNSTALL

Don't tell me. Ellen, right?

FRANKIE

(smirks)

She may 'ave made a few suggestions...

She squeezes his hand, falling silent for a few beats. Dunstall knows to wait for her to speak again.

FRANKIE (cont'd)

I want to let you back into my life, Sebastian.

DUNSTALL

And I wanted you to let me back in, I just didn't know how the hell to go about doing that. You've been avoiding me when we've met round campus, I didn't hear a word from you all over the break, and with Greg and Aiden's pretty public troubles I had a nasty feeling we were going the same way.

(beat)

Are we going the same way?

FRANKIE

(beat)

Things 'ave been wrong for a some time now, I will admit. But I did not want it to be like that any more.

(looks up)

Even if my arm seems to be beyond repair... I 'ope my 'eart is not.

Dunstall looks at Frankie, a little guiltily.

DUNSTALL

Frankie... there's something I need to tell you.

(CONTINUED)

FRANKIE

(confused)

Quoi? Is this about you being transferred? Ellen 'as already explained it to me. I am sure we can still find some way to-

DUNSTALL

No, it's... it's not about that. I haven't been completely honest.

(long beat; sighs)

See, when I told you I was eighteen... I kinda lied.

FRANKIE

So...

DUNSTALL

I'm twenty-four.

FRANKIE

(long beat)

Oh.

DUNSTALL

I wanted to tell you, but-

FRANKIE

(interrupts)

There is something I must tell you.  
And... I fear you are not going to like it.

He reaches forward, taking her hand in both of his, but from his sincere expression and Frankie's obvious nervousness, we cut to:

The team weave their way through the thick trees, finding Alita standing on top of a small hill, staring out into the darkness.

SKYE

Anything?

Alita points towards a small spinney up ahead.

ALITA

In there.

GREG

Demons or humans?

ALITA

Humans.

BRAEDEN

How can you be so sure?

Alita calmly hops down from the hill.

ALITA

Because they have not attacked us yet.

She heads for the spinney, and with a grin Skye follows her as we cut to:

EXT. HIGHLANDS - SPINNEY - NEXT

Alita leads the girls as they push their way into the circular cluster of thick trees, pausing as they hear the faint sound of SOBBING up ahead.

Alita steps forward, lifting one thick branch - to reveal a terrified looking Kayleigh, who quickly shuffles away.

KAYLEIGH

No, please! Get away from me!

SOFIA

Kayleigh, it's alright! It's us!

KAYLEIGH

You...

(blurts out)

Where were you?!?

SOFIA

Er... what?

KAYLEIGH

You just left us out there with those... things! Didn't you know they'd come back? Why didn't you stay with us?

Kayleigh gets to her feet, advancing on the startled Sofia.

SOFIA

I thought you were safe...

KAYLEIGH

(furious)

We weren't! Do you want to know what happened?

Greg steps in, trying to calmly push Kayleigh back.

GREG

Come on, getting angry won't-

(CONTINUED)

KAYLEIGH

They came out of the woods, just like they did before, and they dragged Steve and Ben off right in front of me! There wasn't anything I could do to stop them!

Kayleigh suddenly has tears in her eyes again, her anger melting back into weeping as the reality kicks in.

KAYLEIGH (cont'd)

There wasn't... I couldn't...

She starts to sink to her knees, and Greg keeps a comforting arm round her as she starts to SOB again.

He looks up at the others, and with nods of his head sends Alita and Braeden out to check the rest of the spinney.

GREG

It's alright. We're here now. We can protect you.

KAYLEIGH

Did... did you find them? Ben and Steve, are they...

SKYE

Ben's dead.

Kayleigh freezes, looking up at Skye with wide, fearful eyes.

SKYE (cont'd)

I'm sorry. But we're gonna find Steve and get you both out of here.

Kayleigh buries her head in Greg's shoulder and starts to WAIL, as a cross Sofia pulls Skye to one side.

SOFIA

What did you do that for?

SKYE

Band-Aid Theory.

SOFIA

What?

SKYE

She needed a straight answer. Yeah, she'll hurt now, but if she knows he's gone then she won't get distracted thinking he's still out there when we're trying to get her away.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA  
(stunned)  
That's... that's inhuman!

SKYE  
(beat)  
Yeah, and so am I. What's your point?

It's a stare off. Old leadership versus the new regime. The girls keep their angry gazes locked for a beat before Kayleigh's voice drifts up to them:

KAYLEIGH  
Ben, he... he just wanted to get them on film.

Sofia looks down to the dazed Kayleigh as she continues.

KAYLEIGH (cont'd)  
He thought... he thought if he got one of them on film, then what happened to Dewey, it'd... it'd mean something.  
(closes eyes)  
And now he's dead, too...

Alita steps back into frame, drawing their attention.

ALITA  
I have found tracks not far from here. They match the ones I was following earlier.

Braeden enters from the other side of the screen.

BRAEDEN  
Yeah, me too, but going the other way. Looks like there's two sets of those buggers out there.

GREG  
Alright, here's the new plan. I'll get Kayleigh back to safety and stay with her.

SKYE  
We should split up. Two to a trail. Allie, you're with me. Romeo and Juliet there can take the other.

GREG  
Agreed.

Sofia is still obviously annoyed with Skye, but lets it slide as she follows Braeden back out of the spinney.

(CONTINUED)



34 CONTINUED: (3)

34

Greg helps Kayleigh to her feet, guiding her back towards the path, and as Skye and Alita move off we cut back to:

35 INT. CAMPUS LIBRARY - SECOND FLOOR - NIGHT

35

We cut back to Frankie and Dunstall. He's still waiting for her to speak, looking anxiously at her.

FRANKIE

I do not know why my arm 'as not  
'ealed the way it should. Every  
other cut, bruise, break and sprain  
I 'ave suffered since becoming a  
Slayer 'as gone away in a matter of  
days, 'ours, even. But this...

(sighs)

Something is different this time,  
and I do not know what it is.

A long beat. Dunstall eyes her.

DUNSTALL

Is that what you wanted to tell me?  
That you think something could have  
happened to you when you got hurt?  
Something that's stopping you from  
healing properly?

FRANKIE

(shakes head)

No... no, that is not what I am  
trying to say.

DUNSTALL

Frankie, come on. Just say it. You  
know I can handle whatever it is.

FRANKIE

(long beat)

When I was crushed by the  
staircase... my arm being 'urt was  
not the worst thing to 'appen to me  
that day.

A pause. Dunstall is now looking very worried.

DUNSTALL

Are you... what's going...

FRANKIE

Please. Let me finish.

(beat)

Remember that night, while Skye was  
taking 'er Cruciamentum, when we...  
when we made love to each other?

(CONTINUED)

DUNSTALL

Of course I do. How could I forget?

FRANKIE

Sebastian... I was pregnant.

Dunstall takes this in with shock. Tears well in Frankie's eyes as she watches him try to process this, before something hits him.

DUNSTALL

Wait a second... 'was' pregnant?

Frankie lowers her head, tears falling down onto the table as she nods her head, her hands squeezing Dunstall's tightly.

DUNSTALL (cont'd)

Frankie...

FRANKIE

(through tears)

And then when the staircase fell on me, I... I...

(blurts out)

I lost the baby!

Dunstall lets go of her hands. He doesn't quite know how to react as Frankie starts to SOB, drawing her hands back, and as Dunstall feels the temperature in the room drop, we cut back to:

A large rock face looms up before us, and despite the trees concealing most of its entrance, a CAVE can be seen chiselled into the rock.

Alita and Skye crawl into view, peering down towards the cave entrance from the top of a grassy knoll.

SKYE

Reckon this is the place?

ALITA

(scans round; points)

There.

Sure enough, two Cladnagh DEMONS creep into view, almost hidden against the trees as they slip into the lair.

SKYE

Paydirt. C'mon, Allie, let's go find that last civvie and get the hell out of here, before my body temperature gets low enough to officially deep-freeze me.

36 CONTINUED:

36

The girls start to make their way down the hill, sticking to cover and staying out of sight as we cut to:

37 EXT. HIGHLANDS - NEXT

37

Sofia and Braeden are standing behind two thick trees, looking out through the forest ahead - and there's another CAVE, this one burrowed out of a smaller hillside.

Just like the other lair, this one has a trickle of DEMON traffic heading in and out.

Sofia looks to Braeden as he draws his sword, gesturing to her that they should come at the cave from two sides.

The duo start to creep round, pincer movement style, keeping to the cover of the trees as they close in on the cave.

They're within striking distance when Braeden signals for Sofia's attention, counting down from three on his fingers.

As he hits three, he bursts from the trees, racing towards the cave in a blur of motion, Sofia hot on his heels as we cut back to:

38 EXT. HIGHLANDS - ELSEWHERE - NIGHT

38

Skye's head snaps round as the echo of a distant demon's ROAR rings out.

She looks back to Alita - and then the duo slowly turn towards the cave entrance ahead as first two, then four more, then four more of the demons emerge!

Skye stiffens, her eyes flicking to Alita, trying to signal to her to stay very, very quiet.

One of the demons starts to SNIFF the air, its head slowly turning towards the two girls.

Skye twigs that they're seconds away from being rumbled, and decides to make the first move.

SKYE

Ah, crap... run!!

She springs to her feet, grabbing Alita and dragging her along as the pack of demons break into a sprint, chasing them down as we cut to:

39 EXT. HIGHLANDS - CLEARING - NEXT

39

Skye and Alita race through the trees, branches whipping into them as the demons close in behind them.

(CONTINUED)

They both emerge into a small clearing, devoid of any trees, Skye skidding to a halt and drawing her daggers.

ALITA

Skye? What are you doing?

SKYE

Making a stand! We've got room to fight here. We can take them.

Alita doesn't look convinced, whipping round as she hears something else crashing through the trees on the other side of the clearing - and out bursts Sofia and Braeden!

SOFIA

What-

SKYE

Here they come!

Skye's cache of demons emerge from the treeline - and seconds later, a second pack step out from behind Sofia and Braeden! There's about a dozen on each side, each as big and mean as the next.

SKYE (cont'd)

(groans)

Aw, man...

SOFIA

(breathless)

I was trying... to tell you...

Skye looks round - they're surrounded. With a wall of demons on both sides, there's no way out for the Slayers, who start to back up into a defensive circle as we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

FADE IN:

40

EXT. HIGHLANDS - CLEARING - NEXT

40

The team form a circle, back to back, as the two sides of demons close in. More of the creatures are emerging from the woods on either side every second, leaving the Slayers vastly outnumbered.

ALITA

We are surrounded!

SKYE

You think?

SOFIA

Don't worry, we can get out of this.

BRAEDEN

How, exactly?

SOFIA

Um... Skye?

SKYE

Don't look at me, my plan stops and ends with the word 'hit.'

There's a beat. The team realise that despite encircling them, the demons aren't actually moving any closer.

ALITA

Something is wrong...

BRAEDEN

We're not getting ripped a new one, that's not what I'd class as 'wrong.'

SKYE

No, she's right. Look.

The demons aren't staring at the Slayers - they're staring at each other!

SKYE (cont'd)

You guys seeing what I'm seeing?

Skye slowly lowers her daggers, and with wary looks around the others follow her lead.

SKYE (cont'd)

It's not us they want...

(CONTINUED)

The two sides of demons start to GROWL at each other, baring fangs and flexing their claws. Those on the left have paler green fur, while those on the right are a darker shade.

SOFIA

And we're caught in the middle.  
Bloody great.

ALITA

Perhaps we should just walk away?

BRAEDEN

I don't see that happening.

SKYE

Let's just wait and see what...

She trails off - the demons on her side are parting, making way for a new figure to stride into the clearing.

SKYE (cont'd)

... happens.

The new arrival is a taller, more battle-scarred DEMON, his green fur much paler than those around him. This is a creature who's seen many better days. This is the CHIEFTAIN.

CHIEFTAIN

Rolak? Rolak! Where are you?

The girls turn as the demons on the other side also make way for their leader - another wiry demon chieftain with much darker fur than those around him. This is ROLAK.

ROLAK

I am here, Voru.

The girls are still stuck in the middle, with Skye gently easing them all back a few steps to make way for the two elders, as Rolak and VORU stride forward to meet one another.

VORU

I warned you the last time you  
crossed into my territory that I  
would not tolerate another show of  
disrespect!

ROLAK

(growls)

And I warned you, the last time you  
killed on my territory, that I  
would settle the score with your  
blood.

Skye glances around - there's no clear way out, but only a handful of the demons are actually paying them any attention.

(CONTINUED)

The rest are focused on the two chieftains, heckling and hurling insults at their opposite numbers.

BRAEDEN

Please tell me we're not in the middle of a demon turf war...

SKYE

Alright... we're not.

ALITA

But-

SOFIA

Skye's being facetious, Allie.

ALITA

She's being what?

SKYE

It means stay sharp...

Skye TWIRLS her daggers as she readies them once again.

SKYE (cont'd)

... because this situation could require a whole lot of kicking.

Skye takes a bold step forward, clearing her throat to attract the attention of the two elders, and getting a drop in volume from the other, rowdy demons.

ROLAK

This does not concern you, human.  
Get out before we change our minds  
about letting you live.

SKYE

Hey, I'd love to, only we have a slight problem here.

VORU

The affairs of the world of man  
mean nothing to us!

SKYE

Usually, I'd agree, but we're looking for some people. Human, like us. Skinny, too, I'm told. Thick accents. Answers to the names of 'Steve' and 'Dewey.'

A beat as the two demons glance at each other.

SKYE (cont'd)

Am I ringing any kinds of bells here? Even little ones?

(CONTINUED)

Rolak turns on Skye with a ROAR that resonates around the clearing - but she's far from fazed by it.

ROLAK

(points to Voru)

This one killed them both! He hates your race, and all trespassers!

VORU

You lie!

(to Skye; off Rolak)

He drank their blood! We may not care for your kind, but we have no wish to bring your men with your fire down on these woods! This is our home!

ROLAK

Enough! You wish to turn these humans against us!

VORU

(to Skye)

Help me kill this murderer, and my tribe will help you find your lost comrades.

ROLAK

Do not believe his falsehood! He means to trick you into destroying us, when we are the ones you need!

Skye glances over her shoulder, and the others take their cue to step forward and back her up.

SKYE

Not really caring who you two want to blame, I just want to know where our people are, and then we'll leave so you two can get on with your hair-pulling, or whatever.

SOFIA

(warily)

Skye...

SKYE

What? I'm negotiating!

Sofia nudges Skye to get her attention - and Skye sees at last that now every single demon in the clearing is staring straight at them in silence.

SKYE (cont'd)

(beat)

Oh.

(CONTINUED)



40 CONTINUED: (4)

40

Skye frowns, looking from one half of the horde of demons to the other, weighing up her options as we cut to:

41 INT. CAMPUS - LIBRARY - SECOND FLOOR

41

Frankie has dried her eyes, but as she hugs her knees and watches Dunstall, who is staring out through one of the upper floor's windows, it's clear things aren't going the way she planned at all.

DUNSTALL

(quiet)

Why didn't you tell me?

FRANKIE

I couldn't. I did not know 'ow to!

DUNSTALL

(beat)

How long did you know?

Frankie SNIFFS, wiping her eyes but not making much difference to her tears.

FRANKIE

A little while after we were together.

DUNSTALL

Does anyone else know?

Frankie hesitates, and Dunstall turns from the window.

DUNSTALL (cont'd)

Frankie? Who else knows?

FRANKIE

(lowers head)

Aiden....

DUNSTALL

(sighs)

Oh, jeez...

FRANKIE

(reluctant)

... and Sofia, Skye and Alita.

DUNSTALL

What?!?

FRANKIE

(pleading)

Sebastian, please! You 'ave to listen to me, it wasn't-

(CONTINUED)

DUNSTALL  
(getting angry)  
So am I the last person here to  
know about this or something?

FRANKIE  
(tearful)  
I am sorry...

She reaches out to him, but he takes a step back. This is too much for him right now, and his reaction sends Frankie into a fresh wave of tears.

FRANKIE (cont'd)  
Please, you 'ave to-

DUNSTALL  
Um... I have to go... some place.

He turns and starts to head for the stairs, and a desperate Frankie calls out:

FRANKIE  
No, please! Do not leave!  
Sebastian! Please!

But Dunstall's already heading down the stairs, not looking back, and within moments Frankie is all alone. Frankie collapses in a heap on the table, her body wracked with SOBS.

We stay on her for a few moments, Frankie's pitiful cries echoing through the empty library, before we cut back to:

Skye is still looking from Rolak's tribe to Voru's, no nearer her decision.

SOFIA  
Skye, come on!

ROLAK  
We grow impatient, human. Make your  
choice!

SKYE  
I...

Alita tightens her grip round her nunchucks, sensing that things are about to get very ugly.

ALITA  
Skye, I think you should choose,  
and quickly.

SKYE

(snaps)

Hey, does somebody else wanna make  
the call? No? Well, then!

She looks back at the demons, opens her mouth to speak...

... and is interrupted by the noise of someone stumbling  
awkwardly through the trees on the far side of the clearing.

Demons and Slayers alike look across - and the tattered,  
bloodied form of Steve staggers out from the forest!

STEVE

(frantic)

Help! Please! It's right behind me,  
it won't-

He freezes as he sees the demons before him.

STEVE (cont'd)

Oh, sh-

THUNK! Steve stiffens, his body arching back, and as he  
slowly sinks to the floor, he reveals another DEMON emerging  
from the shadows, BLOOD dripping from its claws.

Rolak turns smugly to Voru as the new demon looks around the  
clearing, baffled by the congregation he sees. Its fur is a  
dark green. It's one of Voru's.

ROLAK

Case closed, murderer.

Rolak POUNCES on Voru with a ROAR, and his compatriots follow  
suit, the two sides of demons surging into each other as the  
clearing erupts into a full scale war zone.

The bemused Slayers are just on the cusp of the action, but  
all the demons are concerned with is tearing their opponents  
to shreds instead.

BRAEDEN

What do we do?

SKYE

'Do'? Stay the hell out of it? This  
isn't our fight.

SOFIA

What about that boy over there? He  
could need help!

Skye looks over - Steve is down but not out, weakly trying to  
crawl away despite the ugly wounds across his back.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

Allie, Sofes, go get him out of here. Braeden, back me up. We're going in.

Skye flips her daggers up and CHARGES forward with a YELL, and Braeden is right by her side as they CRASH into two of Voru's demons, barging them to the floor.

Sofia and Alita scamper through the melee of demon bodies, twisting around battling pairs of the creatures and getting to the badly wounded Steve.

He GROANS as Sofia tries to help him up, and Alita glances urgently back towards the battle.

SOFIA

Go. I'll get him away from here.

Alita nods, racing back into the fray and DROP-KICKING one demon as she does so.

Several demons have already fallen as Skye and Braeden get stuck in, Braeden's sword dispatching another before he's TACKLED to the ground.

The demon pins him down, SNARLING into his face as he struggles to push it off, but he's helpless to stop the demon's jaws closing down on his neck...

... until with a THUD, the demon is smacked off him - revealing Rolak, who offers Braeden his hand.

ROLAK

Are you alright?

Braeden hesitates, then lets Rolak pull him up.

BRAEDEN

I'm good, mate.

(beat)

Er, thanks... I guess.

Rolak nods, turning and launching himself into another of Voru's demons, and as Alita dodges into frame, her nunchucks CRACKING across the jaw of another demon, we cut to:

Sofia helps the hobbling Steve down, leaning him against a tree. She's taken off his shirt, quickly tearing it into strips and pressing them against the wounds on his back.

SOFIA

Here. Hold these in place, they'll slow down the bleeding.

STEVE  
(grimacing)  
How bad... is it?

SOFIA  
I've seen worse, but you're going  
to need some work to patch these  
back up again.

Sofia glances over her shoulder, back towards the sounds of  
the fight, and Steve lays a hand on her arm.

STEVE  
Go on. Help your mates. I'll be  
alright.

SOFIA  
Are you sure? I-

STEVE  
(serious)  
Those bastards killed Ben and  
Dewey. Make them pay.

A beat, then Sofia nods, turning and dashing out of frame,  
leaving Steve with his makeshift bandages as we cut to:

Sofia races back into the clearing - just as Rolak puts the  
last SLICE down across the limp body of Voru.

The clearing floor is littered with demon bodies, but it's  
half a dozen of Rolak's that are left standing. Skye, Alita  
and Braeden are a little bruised, but otherwise okay.

Rolak drops Voru's body to the floor, walking with some  
difficulty over to Skye.

ROLAK  
Thank you.

SKYE  
Hey, one freak to another. No big.

Rolak grimaces and stumbles a little, but Braeden is quick to  
catch him and hold him up.

ROLAK  
(weak)  
I fear the cost of avenging the  
human blood spilled has been  
grave...

ALITA

You and your tribe fought bravely.  
There is much honour in what you  
did here.

Rolak manages a chuckle, coughing up a little BLOOD.

ROLAK

Perhaps... perhaps not. More will  
come, more humans will wander into  
the wrong parts of these woods, and  
then we shall see a war like  
tonight all over again.

(beat; darkly)

I fear our time is running out.

SKYE

Well...

Rolak looks up as Skye gets her 'I've got a plan so  
cunning...' face on.

SKYE (cont'd)

Maybe I can help you out with that.

Rolak frowns, puzzled, as we cut to:

Greg is sitting by the fire with Kayleigh, who is wrapped in  
a thick blanket, looking up as he hears people approaching.

He stands as Skye, Alita, Sofia and Braeden emerge from the  
woods, Braeden carrying Steve in his arms.

KAYLEIGH

(relieved)

Steve!

She leaps up, racing over to him and hugging him, to a GROAN  
of pain from Steve.

STEVE

Easy, easy! I lost a fight to a  
monster!

Kayleigh's too relieved to care, until she realises someone  
she wanted to see is missing, and her face falls.

KAYLEIGH

Dewey? Where... where's Dewey?

Sofia lays a sympathetic hand on her shoulder.

SOFIA

He didn't make it. I'm sorry. We're going to go back and look for him when it's first light, but...

Kayleigh's head drops, and after a moment Sofia gives her a comforting hug.

Skye steps over to Greg as Braeden carefully lays Steve down, with Alita emerging from her tent with a first aid kit.

GREG

So what happened out there?

SKYE

The demon version of 'West Side Story.' Only with a lot more blood. And fur.

GREG

They're all dead?

SKYE

Every last one. We can go home with a clear conscience.

GREG

Good work.

Greg turns to leave, but Skye grabs his arm to stop him.

SKYE

Greg... look, about what I said earlier. I was out of line. I shouldn't have-

GREG

No, you were right.

SKYE

(blinks)

I was?

GREG

There's a lot I still need to understand in my own mind, lots of questions I don't have answers for about my parents - my real ones - but it's not fair of me to let it affect my attitude with you all.

SKYE

(smirks)

So no more Mr. Bad Greg?

GREG

(grins)

Oh, I wouldn't go that far. Some things have still changed.

SKYE

Just remember, this communication we've got going? Two-way thing. You need to talk, we'll listen.

GREG

Thanks. I appreciate that.

Greg looks over to Kayleigh, who is over by Steven, her arms round him as she mourns her lost sibling.

GREG (cont'd)

We'd better get him to a hospital.

SKYE

Go ahead. Sofes and I are going back to find her brother's body when the sun's up.

GREG

Are you sure there's no more of the Cladnagh demons out there?

Skye just grins and walks past Greg, and off his puzzled look we DISSOLVE TO:

With Greg and the team packed into a mud-stained Land Rover, the vehicle bouncing its way down a dirt trail leading back to civilisation, we push in on Skye, looking out through a passenger side window.

She's looking out across the trees as the morning sun filters through them - and just for a second, there's a brief flash of ROLAK, standing tall between two trees.

Skye blinks and turns back - but he's gone. She sits back round in her seat, a smile creeping across her face, and as the Rover bounces on, we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF SHOW**