

SLAYER ACADEMY

"Another Mistake"

by

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TEASER

FADE IN:

1

INT. CAMPUS - DORM ROOM - NIGHT

1

SOFIA stares in horror at the fresh BLOOD glistening on her fingers. At her feet lies the dead body of HEIDI.

Sitting up in the bed in the otherwise unfurnished room is SKYE, groaning as she rubs her head.

SKYE

(wincing)

Man... the hell did I do to myself?

She looks across and spots Sofia, not registering the dumbstruck expression she's wearing.

SKYE (cont'd)

(rolls eyes)

Okay, if you're here to check up on me, then I must have done something bad, so why don't you just tell me-

Skye freezes. She sees the shock on Sofia's face at last.

SKYE (cont'd)

(quiet)

S... Sofes?

Skye follows the trail of blood down Sofia's clothes, her eyes widening as she spies a pool of blood on the floor...

... and then Heidi's body. Skye GASPS, reeling in horror as Heidi's glassy eyes stare back at her.

SKYE (cont'd)

(quickly)

Whu- how- what- but-

SOFIA

Skye...

SKYE

(freaking)

What happened? What the hell's going on? What's...

Skye trails off - she's seen the BLOOD on her hands at last, and her face falls as the pieces start to come together.

SKYE (cont'd)

(disbelief)

Oh, my God...

(CONTINUED)

Sofia snaps out of her trance, hurrying over to Skye as she stands from the bed, staring at her hands.

SOFIA
Skye... Skye!

Sofia grabs her by the shoulders, shaking her to try and get her attention.

SOFIA (cont'd)
Skye, listen to me!

Skye's eyes are locked on Heidi, no matter how hard Sofia shakes her.

SOFIA (cont'd)
Skye, snap out of it! We have to figure out what happened here, before-

ALITA (O.S.)
Sofia? Are you in there?

Sofia freezes, then spins round and calls out:

SOFIA
I'm... I'm fine! Don't come in, Skye's still-

The door OPENS, and in steps ALITA.

SOFIA (cont'd)
... sleeping.

Alita spots the body straight away, stumbling back a step in alarm as Sofia rushes up to her.

ALITA
What... is she...

SOFIA
(firm)
She's dead. Alita, listen to me very carefully.
(beat)
Alita?

Alita is also frozen at the sight of Heidi's body, so Sofia is forced to GRAB her firmly by the arm.

SOFIA (cont'd)
Alita! I need you to listen!

ALITA
(dazed)
I... I...

SOFIA

We have to keep this quiet. We'll start a bloody riot if everybody sees this, so I need you to go and find Greg, and don't tell anyone else what's happening in here. Can you do that?

Alita tears her eyes from Heidi and looks to Sofia, then manages to nod.

ALITA

Y-yes... yes, I will.

She turns and dashes out of the room, and Sofia hurries over to Skye, who's backed up against the far wall, still staring at her bloodied hands.

SKYE

No... no... can't... no...

SOFIA

Skye, come on. We have to get you cleaned up before anybody else shows up!

SKYE

Clean... 'cleaned up'?
(louder)
I killed her!

SOFIA

We don't know that!

SKYE

(holds up hands)
What the hell is this, then?

SOFIA

(beat; struggling)
I... look, I don't know what's happened, but we can't let people find you like this!

They hear VOICES outside as people approach down the corridor, and Sofia turns to the door again - and sees to her horror that Alita has left it wide open!

She darts across the room, one arm reaching out to close it, but before she can get there ANNA and DEBBIE walk into view.

ANNA

Yeah, she was in a real-

Anna glances across - and sees the body. Her eyes bulge, but Debbie does what Sofia was fearing the most.

(CONTINUED)

Debbie SCREAMS.

Debbie stumbles backwards as Anna barges into the room, looking from Heidi to Skye, then to Sofia with confusion raging over her face.

Sofia looks desperately towards Debbie as she hears more doors open out in the corridor, and as more FOOTSTEPS signal the impending arrival of an unwanted crowd, she looks back over to Skye.

Skye is busy WRENCHING the room's single window open, ready to jump outside!

SOFIA

Skye! Don't!

Skye gets one foot out the window, and before Sofia can react Anna has barreled forward to GRAB her.

SKYE

(struggling)

No! No! Let me go!

ANNA

Skye, hold it! You can't-

CRACK! Skye ELBOWS Anna in the face and turns back to escape, but as Anna hits the deck Sofia steps into frame, laying a hand on Skye's shoulder.

SOFIA

I'm sorry...

Skye whips round - and SOFIA punches her square across the jaw.

Skye wilts, falling into Sofia's arms, and Sofia carries her back from the window.

She collapses onto the floor with her, TEARS starting to roll down her cheeks as more SLAYERS appear in the doorway, led by DARCIE and BRAEDEN, drawn by the commotion.

Sofia doesn't look round, her wide, tearful eyes on the new unconscious Skye as we finally:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

2

INT. CAMPUS - CELL - NIGHT

2

Skye is lying on her side on a thin mattress, inside a plain, stone-walled room. A bruise has formed across her jaw from Sofia's knockout punch.

She stirs, GROANING as she starts to move - but the CLINK of CHAINS snaps her to attention.

She sits up quickly, raising her hands to see she's in MANACLES, and as she follows the chains she sees she's been chained to the wall itself!

She tugs at the chains, but she's not going anywhere. Utterly bewildered, she looks round the room she's in - the far wall is made of thick glass, but the other walls are dark stone.

In the dim light, Skye gets to her feet and takes a few steps forward, able to get within a few feet of the glass but no further.

SKYE

(calls out)

Hello? Hello! Where am I?

There's no answer, and Skye's panic is growing by the second.

SKYE (cont'd)

Hey! Anybody? What's going on?

Somebody!

She RATTLES her chains, fear turning to anger and then back again, before she sinks to the floor, her mind racing as she tries to stop herself flipping out.

A LIGHT clicks on outside the cell, and Skye looks up as somebody steps into view on the other side of the glass.

It's BARBARA.

She looks in at Skye for a long beat, Skye staring right back.

BARBARA

How are you?

SKYE

(blinks)

What?

BARBARA

It's a simple question.

(CONTINUED)

Skye gets to her feet, angrily shaking her manacled wrists towards Barbara.

SKYE

How the hell do you think I am? I'm chained to the fricken wall! What's going on? Where's Sofia? Is anybody-

BARBARA

Skye... what happened tonight?

Skye falls silent. Barbara narrows her eyes, trying to read her without success.

BARBARA (cont'd)

Skye?

SKYE

(quiet)

I don't know.

BARBARA

I'm sorry?

SKYE

(yelling)

I said I don't know!

Barbara gives her a moment to rein her anger back in.

SKYE (cont'd)

Where am I?

BARBARA

You're still at the Academy. You're somewhere I hoped I'd never have to open up for anyone, but...

(sighs)

Well, here we are.

SKYE

Since when do we have prison cells on campus?

BARBARA

Since we bought this building and renovated it. After the incidents with Faith back in her day, the Council felt it best to cover every eventuality when it came to the possibility of rogue Slayers.

SKYE

Rogue... Hey! I'm not a 'rogue Slayer'!

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA

Then why was Heidi found dead in
your room?

Skye glances down - her clothes are still spattered with
dried blood.

She looks back up at Barbara, then trudges back to the
mattress, flopping back onto it and putting her head in her
hands.

BARBARA (cont'd)

Skye, this is important. I need you
to tell me exactly what happened
tonight. I can't help you unless I
know the full story.

SKYE

Help me from what?

BARBARA

(hesitant)

I have to inform the Council of
this, Skye. You know that.

SKYE

Yeah, so they can lock me back up
somewhere deep underground and
'lose' the key, you mean.

BARBARA

Nobody here wants that. Least of
all me.

SKYE

So how come I'm in here?

BARBARA

Skye...

SKYE

Alright, alright, I get it.
Security risk.

(mock salute)

No problem.

Barbara opens her mouth, then pauses as a DOOR opens off
screen, and she looks round as GREG and Sofia join her.

GREG

Where is she? Is she alright? What
about-

Greg looks into the cell and sees Skye, as Sofia presses a
despondent hand to the glass. Skye looks up and manages a
bitter smile.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

Roll up, roll up. Come see the
freak.

SOFIA

Skye...

Skye leans back against the wall with a loud SIGH.

SKYE

I know, alright?

GREG

(to Barbara)

What has she said?

BARBARA

Nothing yet. She's only just woken
up again.

GREG

(to Skye)

Are you alright?

SKYE

No.

SOFIA

What can you remember?

SKYE

You mean after the fight in the
hall with Heidi? Zip. You got me
into bed, next thing I know I'm
waking up with a monster hangover,
and somebody's killed Heidi and
dumped her in my room.

Barbara and Greg exchange a serious look and step back,
allowing Sofia to take the front seat at the glass.

She glances over her shoulder as Barbara and Greg enter into
a heated discussion, before she beckons for Skye to come
closer.

SOFIA

They haven't... I mean, they
wouldn't...

SKYE

Wouldn't what?

SOFIA

Have they, you know... hurt you?

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

Wouldn't know. Far as I can tell,
I've been out cold since you
suckerpunched me back there.

SOFIA

(winces)

Sorry. I had to.

SKYE

It's okay. I was spinning out, God
knows what'd have happened if you
hadn't put me down.

(remembers)

Oh, man... is Anna okay?

SOFIA

You left her with a bloody nose,
but other than that, she's fine.

Sofia checks that Barbara and Greg are still distracted, then
turns back to Skye.

SKYE

How are things up top?

SOFIA

(sighs)

Not good. But you don't need me to
tell you that.

SKYE

Hey, it's a small place. Big news
travels fast.

SOFIA

How can you be so... blase?

SKYE

Because if I'm not, then I'm
probably gonna hit thermonuclear
and have to be chained by my legs
as well. We don't want that.

SOFIA

No... no, we don't.

(serious)

Skye, promise me something.

SKYE

What?

SOFIA

You're sure you can't remember what
happened?

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

Sofes, I wouldn't lie to you.

(beat)

Do you... think I did it?

Sofia hesitates, and Skye's face drops a little further. Barbara returns, and Sofia quickly steps away.

BARBARA

I need to go back upstairs. The campus is working itself into a frenzy, and I need to make some kind of general announcement before things get out of hand.

SKYE

Just tell them all I'm locked up. I'm sure that'll help.

Barbara shoots her a scolding look, and Skye backs down. With a last glance at Greg, she exits. Sofia joins Greg as Skye retreats to one corner of her cell.

SOFIA

God, Greg... what are we going to do?

GREG

I have absolutely no idea.

Sofia didn't need to hear that, and we cut from her distraught look up to:

The hall is filled with Slayers, most still in their dressing gowns and nightdresses, the floor buzzing with chatter.

One group in the middle of the hall is expressing its opinion considerably louder than the others, and as we push in we find Darcie, Debbie and Anna on one side, FRANKIE and ERIKA on the other, with Braeden caught in the middle.

ERIKA

No! I cannot believe it. Skye is not a killer.

DARCIE

Er, excuse me, did you miss the evidence? You don't need to be able to see to figure out what she's capable of! Look at Anna!

Anna looks up, pressing a wad of tissue to her bloody nose.

ANNA

Hey, don't bring me into this!

DARCIE

She went for you, though, didn't she?

ANNA

She didn't know what she was doing!

FRANKIE

I am sure you must 'ave provoked 'er somehow. Skye does not just 'it people for no reason.

DEBBIE

(distant)

There was so much blood...

ERIKA

Enough! We cannot allow ourselves to fall into speculation!

DARCIE

Well, you go ahead and take the high ground. I know what I saw.

More and more Slayers are crowding round them, their own conversation fading as they listen to Darcie's rant.

BRAEDEN

Darcie...

DARCIE

Braeden, you did too! Skye's not like the rest of us here, everybody knows that. There's a demon within her, whether the staff here want to admit it or not!

FRANKIE

That does not make her a murderer!

DARCIE

She is a murderer!

There's a little stunned silence at that comment, and Darcie allows herself a smug smile.

DARCIE (cont'd)

Oh... none of you knew that, did you?

Darcie turns to Erika, who is fighting to stay calm as Darcie presses her advantage.

(CONTINUED)

DARCIE (cont'd)
You stay on the road as long as I
have, you start to hear plenty of
dirty little secrets.

ANNA
(shakes head)
Nu-uh. No way.

DARCIE
(shrugs)
Believe me, or don't. It's up to
you.

ANNA
You're full of it, Darcie.

Darcie spins round, getting in Anna's face as the mood
quickly turns nasty.

DARCIE
Is that right?

ANNA
Damn straight it is!

BRAEDEN
Hey!

He tries to wedge his way between the, but neither of the
girls are moving until:

BARBARA (O.S.)
(filtered; through PA)
Can I have everyone's attention,
please?

Anna breaks off the stare first, and as the other girls turn
they see Barbara behind the podium up on the stage, Greg
standing behind her.

BARBARA (cont'd)
Girls, I need... I just need you...

She's struggling, and has to take a moment to compose herself
as the Slayers gather before her.

BARBARA (cont'd)
I'm afraid I have some... some bad
news, and, ah... I... I wish-

DARCIE
We know what's happened.

Barbara's head snaps up, fixing Darcie with a steely glare.

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA

(terse)

I don't recall asking anyone to
speak, Darcie.

DARCIE

You looked like you were a bit
stuck. I thought I should help.

FRANKIE

Silence! Nobody wants to 'ear what
you 'ave to say!

A beat. Barbara turns her gaze back on the rest of the girls.
There's another long moment as Barbara searches for the right
words, before she takes a deep breath:

BARBARA

Last night, there was... an
incident on campus grounds. We
don't know exactly what took place,
but one thing is sadly very clear.

(beat)

Heidi Charisse is dead.

The girls burst into chatter again, but Barbara calls out:

BARBARA (cont'd)

(sharp)

That's enough!

Her unusually fierce tone shuts the girls up at once.

BARBARA (cont'd)

As I said, we're still trying to
establish what happened, but until
we do I'm afraid I have no choice
but to lock down the entire
Academy. Nobody enters or leaves
until we get to the bottom of this.

VOICE FROM CROWD

Who killed her?

BARBARA

That's not up for discussion.

VOICE #2

I heard it was one of us.

VOICE #3

Yeah! Was it?

VOICE #4

I heard it was Skye.

(CONTINUED)

VOICE #3

Me too!

The chatter builds up again, before Barbara angrily FLICKS her microphone, causing a piercing SQUEAL of feedback to ring out from the PA.

The girls jump back in alarm, and Barbara glares out at them before continuing, more fierce this time:

BARBARA

Alright then. This is how it's going to be. Every student on campus is hereby confined to their dormitories. You will not leave unless accompanied by a member of staff at all times, you will not communicate with the outside world and you will most certainly not discuss what happened last night. When this assembly is over, you will all return quickly and quietly to your rooms, and stay there unless instructed otherwise. Is that perfectly clear?

There's a murmur of assent, a few nodding heads, and a few dark glares, but Barbara's point is made.

BARBARA (cont'd)

Then that's all. Everybody back to their rooms, on the double.

The girls filter out, Darcie one of the last to leave as she carefully studies Barbara's tired expression before Braeden pulls her away.

As the last of the Slayers leave the hall, Barbara lets out a heavy sigh, leaning forward against the podium. She's clearly exhausted, and doesn't hear BRYCE approaching her.

BRYCE

Barb?

She looks up, smiling with relief when she sees who it is. He heads straight for her and embraces her, catching her by surprise, but she's quick to return the hug.

BRYCE (cont'd)

How did the big speech go?

BARBARA

As well as can be expected.

Bryce releases her and steps back, keeping one hand on her arm. Barbara seems to appreciate the gesture.

(CONTINUED)

BRYCE

Long night.

BARBARA

You can say that again.

BRYCE

Long night?

He grins, and she manages a grin back.

BARBARA

How are the rest of the faculty doing?

BRYCE

Pretty spazzed out all round, to be honest. Greg and Aiden are keeping busy checking up on all the girls, and Ellen and Jaz are sealing off the crime scene.

Barbara rubs her face with her hands.

BARBARA

I could use some good news.

BRYCE

(reluctant)

Well...

BARBARA

Oh, God...

BRYCE

You remember you sent me to make sure the surveillance camera tapes were up to date?

BARBARA

Yes. And?

BRYCE

That's the thing... they're gone.

From Barbara's shocked expression, we cut to:

With a white camera FLASH, we're back in the scene of the murder, with ELLEN taking some photos on a large camera as JAZ seals up the door with some thick white tape.

A sheet covers Heidi, but blood is already soaking through it. Ellen has laid out several small, numbered tags to mark blood spatters and other evidence.

(CONTINUED)

Jaz joins her, snapping off a pair of latex gloves.

JAZ

I still think I'm in a state of
shock about this...

ELLEN

Tell me about it.

JAZ

I mean, we've lost Slayers before,
don't get me wrong, and I don't
think that's ever going to get any
easier, but all this...

Jaz nods, and Ellen puts her camera down, her chin resting on
her hand as she studies the room around her.

ELLEN

What was the cause of death?

Jaz kneels next to the sheet, lifting it up a little to show
Heidi's neck and shoulder.

JAZ

See for yourself.

Ellen peers over - and there they are. Two small PUNCTURE
WOUNDS, right on her jugular and streaked with dried blood.

Ellen exhales as Jaz lowers the sheet, still struggling to
get her head round it all as we cut to:

INT. CAMPUS - CELL - NEXT

Skye is curled up on the mattress, facing the wall. She's
still awake, hugging her knees tightly for comfort.

And a pair of BOOTS step into frame.

VOICE (O.S.)

Well, well, well...

Skye leaps up, spinning round...

... and there's HEIDI! She smirks insolently.

HEIDI

Look at you.

Skye gapes in absolute disbelief, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

6

INT. CAMPUS - CELL - NIGHT

6

Skye stares in mute shock at the spectre standing before her. Heidi's grin broadens, taking obvious pleasure in the state she's putting Skye into.

HEIDI

Well? Aren't you going to say something? We could never shut you up when I was alive!

SKYE

(slowly)

You're...

HEIDI

Dead? Yup. But you knew that already, didn't you? I mean, after all...

Heidi pulls back her hair from her neck - revealing two ugly, bloody BITE MARKS!

HEIDI (cont'd)

... you're the one who did this to me.

Skye scrambles backwards, shaking her head and rubbing her eyes, but Heidi just CHUCKLES at her squirming.

HEIDI (cont'd)

Yeah, right! Like this would all be a dream. Wish on, loser.

Skye looks utterly lost for a few moments - before a thought strikes her. Her eyes narrow, and she rises slowly to her feet, staring Heidi dead in the eyes.

SKYE

Get out.

HEIDI

Excuse me?

SKYE

I said get out.

HEIDI

(pretends to think)

No.

SKYE

You're not her.

(CONTINUED)

HEIDI

So what am I, then?

SKYE

I think we both know.

Heidi grins, sauntering over to Skye and circling her.

HEIDI

So what did you want, a prize? You know I'd love to clap my hands, get you out of those chains and welcome you back onto my team, but sadly...

SKYE

Your 'team'?

HEIDI

Oh, yeah! Didn't you realise? You're one of us now!

SKYE

(frowns)

Meaning?

HEIDI

You killed another Slayer in cold blood. Out of pure anger. If that doesn't earn you a lifetime membership to Team Evil, then I don't know what does!

SKYE

(thrown)

I... you don't... I didn't kill anyone!

HEIDI

Uh, hate to disagree, but yeah, you kinda did.

SKYE

How would you know?

HEIDI

Just because you can't see me, doesn't mean I'm not watching you.

Skye glares at Heidi for a beat, then marches back over to the mattress, slumping down onto it. Her stormy features would signal that the conversation is over, but Heidi's not about to give up so easily.

HEIDI (cont'd)

Oh, sulking. That's mature.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

Get out of my face.

HEIDI

I'm not in your face. I'm just reminding you of a few home truths.

SKYE

Go bother somebody else, okay?

Heidi walks over to Skye, crouching before her.

HEIDI

We both know how this story's going to end. The Council have had their eye on you since day one, and you've just given them a reason to put you down for good. Like a pet that bit its master's hand.

Skye is silent as Heidi continues.

HEIDI (cont'd)

But I can help.

Skye looks up, and Heidi grins.

HEIDI (cont'd)

Being incorporeal doesn't mean I can't pull a few friends together when I need them. I'm sure you heard all about what I did in Sunnydale.

SKYE

Refresh my memory. The part where you lost, or the part where you still lost, and, more to the point, got your ghostly ass kicked by a bunch of teenage girls?

Heidi chuckles, Skye's bravado bouncing off her.

HEIDI

You're part vampire, Skye. Part demon.

SKYE

Operative word, 'part.'

HEIDI

No, operative word 'demon.'
Murder's in your blood.

SKYE

Get bent.

(CONTINUED)

HEIDI

It's not like you've never killed before, is it? What would your so-called friends say if they knew about the other blood on your hands?

SKYE

(furious)

Shut up!

HEIDI

You may have all your little groupies here fooled, playing for the other side, taking down the bad guys and saving the day, but deep down inside, you know what you want.

Skye is almost shaking with barely suppressed fury as Heidi closes in on her.

HEIDI (cont'd)

(whispers)

To kill them all...

SKYE

No!!

Skye LUNGES forward, but her hands sail straight through Heidi's ghostly form. Heidi LAUGHS, getting to her feet and striding back across the cell as Skye slumps in defeat.

HEIDI

You'll come round to my way of thinking soon enough.

SKYE

(shakes head)

No... never. Not ever.

HEIDI

What do you think the Council'll do with you? They haven't figured out how to kill you, so my bet is they'll lock you away somewhere where nobody'll ever find you.

(beat)

Alone. Never ageing, never dying. Forever.

Skye looks to the floor as Heidi walks up to the glass.

HEIDI (cont'd)

I'll see you again soon.

(CONTINUED)

She steps STRAIGHT THROUGH the glass, and as Heidi melts back into the shadows outside the cell, a single TEAR starts to roll down Skye's cheek before she buries her head in her hands, and we cut upstairs to:

INT. CAMPUS - BARBARA'S OFFICE - NEXT

The whole faculty is gathered in Barbara's office, some seated and some standing as she addresses them all.

BARBARA

Alright, here's where we stand. Heidi is dead and Skye's in custody. All signs are pointing to Skye being the culprit, only she claims to not remember a thing, and we have no actual witnesses one way or another. To add to that, the surveillance camera footage that would have captured the incident have been... well, they've gone missing. We're suspecting foul play, most likely the work of the real killer.

(beat)

I am now officially open to suggestions.

There's a beat as the others swap glances, waiting for somebody else to speak first. Barbara sighs and lowers her head.

BARBARA (cont'd)

That's what I thought...

AIDEN

How's Skye doing?

BARBARA

To paraphrase her, she's 'chained to the effing wall.'

GREG

What about the Council?

BARBARA

I haven't spoken to them yet.

JAZ

Don't you think you should?

BARBARA

In good time, yes. I'm looking for ways to get back on top of this situation first.

(CONTINUED)

JAZ

Well, with all due respect, I'm pretty sure the Council have people who are far more specialised in getting 'on top of' situations like this than we are!

ELLEN

She's got a point, B.

BRYCE

Naah, I say go in-house first. Get things under control and then call in the Council to clean up.

GREG

(nods)

Yes, I'm the same. Damage control first.

BARBARA

Okay then. I'm keeping the girls confined to their rooms and Skye in the cells until further notice. Ellen, any luck with the...

(beat; closes eyes)

With the room itself?

ELLEN

Plenty of evidence, nothing solid yet. Have to say, it's all pointing towards a single attacker with exceptional strength at the moment.

AIDEN

What I don't get is how could nobody have heard anything? Heidi was one of the best fighters we've got... sorry, had.

ELLEN

There wasn't much in the way of physical trauma to Heidi's body. Whoever took her out did it quick and clean.

JAZ

I'm still waiting for the results of my tests on blood found at the scene to come back. It's a pretty safe bet to say that the blood all over Skye was Heidi's, though.

BARBARA

That's what I'm afraid of.

(CONTINUED)

There's another beat before Jaz speaks up.

JAZ

What do we all think happened?

It's a good question. Bryce is first to answer.

BRYCE

Heidi was attacked, most likely
from the back, and taken down
pretty quickly.

(to Ellen)

Any signs she'd been moved to or
from Skye's room?

ELLEN

None. That's where she was killed.

GREG

Hang on... we're not seriously
entertaining the notion that Skye
actually killed her, are we?

A beat. Greg's face falls.

GREG (cont'd)

That's outrageous!

BARBARA

Greg, I want to believe in her just
as much as you do, but the evidence
is starting to pile up!

AIDEN

They had a fight earlier in the
evening. Skye and Heidi.

ELLEN

What happened?

AIDEN

Far as I can tell, Skye snuck out
and got pretty boozed up, then
staggered back onto campus and came
to blows with Heidi. Sofia had to
literally drag her off.

JAZ

This is all starting to go one way,
isn't it...

BARBARA

We'll have to cut short our
speculation for now. Jaz, Ellen,
get back to the scene of the crime
and turn the place upside down.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA (cont'd)
Take Debbie along, she'll be able
to help. I want every cold, hard
fact you can find.

ELLEN
Will do.

Ellen nods to Jaz, and as the two exit Barbara turns to Greg
and Aiden.

BARBARA
You two, go and take statements off
every girl who witnessed either the
fight or the murder scene tonight.
There's bound to be some
conflicting statements given the
mood of the place at the moment,
but the more we know about what
happened, the better.

Greg nods, pausing to lay a comforting hand on Barbara's
shoulder before he and Aiden leave. Bryce waits a moment
before stepping over to her.

BRYCE
What about me?

BARBARA
Your job is to stay here and make
sure I don't try to hide under my
desk until this all goes away.

He manages a grin as Barbara sits down behind her desk. Bryce
takes a seat opposite her.

BARBARA (cont'd)
I don't think any of us ever
dreamed this would happen, Eric.
Not with one of our own.

BRYCE
Not wanting to sound negative, but
Skye's not exactly in the Council's
good books at the moment.

BARBARA
You don't have to remind me.

BRYCE
And then there's her erratic
behaviour on some recent missions
involving that cult leader, Roland.
We may have to face the possibility
that she's been compromised.

BARBARA
'Compromised'? You mean...

BRYCE

That she's no longer on our side,
whether she knows it or not.

Barbara leans back, staring out into space as several heavy thoughts roll round her brain, and we cut to:

INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - NEXT

Sofia has a small cluster of Slayers gathered before her, the girls crammed into one of the four-person dorm rooms.

She's addressing one of the younger Slayers, a petite redhead called ELLIE.

SOFIA

And you're sure that's what you
saw?

ELLIE

(nods)

Yeah, definitely. Nobody came in or
out of our corridor all night.

SOFIA

Alright, good. Thanks.

Ellie steps back as Sofia makes some notes on an already dense sheet of paper, glancing up as Braeden steps inside.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Braeden, what are you doing? We're
supposed to stay in our rooms!

Braeden ignores her, heading straight for her and wrapping his arms round her. Sofia twigs that he was just worried about her at last, relaxing into the embrace.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Sorry...

BRAEDEN

That's alright. I figured I could
bend the rules to come see how you
were doing.

He releases her, the other Slayers clearing back to give the duo some room.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)

(off notes)

What are you up to?

SOFIA

I'm gathering alibis. I'm trying to work out exactly who was where at what point of the night, see if I can narrow down our list of suspects.

DARCIE (O.S.)

The list's already pretty narrow, if you ask me.

Sofia scowls as Darcie slinks into the room.

SOFIA

(to Braeden)

Let me guess. She's a rebel like you too?

DARCIE

Oh, tish. Don't get so protective. You should be flattered he came to see you in such a hurry.

SOFIA

I'm sorry, exactly when did you get invited into our conversation?

DARCIE

When your bosom buddy murdered one of us. It's hard to keep to yourself when we're all under martial bloody law.

Sofia tries to ignore her, turning back to Braeden.

SOFIA

Where were you when it happened? If you don't mind me asking. Just for my records, you know.

Braeden suddenly looks awkward, glancing at Darcie who raises a wry smile.

SOFIA (cont'd)

(frowns)

Braeden?

BRAEDEN

Uh...

DARCIE

He was with me.

Sofia shoots her a cold look, stepping back from Braeden.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

What?

BRAEDEN

We were just-

DARCIE

He needed a break from you lot, so
I offered him a few hours of peace.
We were together the whole time, so
if you need alibis for either of
us, look no further.

SOFIA

(beat; to Braeden)

Is that true?

BRAEDEN

We weren't-

SOFIA

(stern)

Is. That. True?

Braeden sheepishly hangs his head and nods. Sofia's heart lands in her boots with a loud 'thunk,' and Darcie's smug grin cuts right through her.

SOFIA (cont'd)

But... but why would you...

DARCIE

That's not for me to answer, is it?
I'd have thought you'd be happy! I
mean, after all, this has just
crossed two names off your little
list, hasn't it?

Sofia stares back at her for a beat, before barging past them both and stomping out of the room.

BRAEDEN

Sofia, wait! Sofia!

He starts to follow, but Darcie holds him back.

DARCIE

Word from the wise, dear. Let a
woman go when she's wearing a face
like that.

Braeden slowly turns back to Darcie, looking down at her hand on his arm. Her smile fades as she retracts it.

Without another word, Braeden hurries out of the room, and as Darcie puts her hands on her hips and 'hmphs,' we cut to:

9 INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - CORRIDOR - NEXT

9

Sofia, clearly on the verge of tears, ducks into her own room as Braeden rounds a corner in pursuit.

BRAEDEN

Sofia! Hey!

He makes a few more steps before Greg steps into view.

GREG

Braeden? What the hell are you doing out of your room?

BRAEDEN

I was-

GREG

I don't care! Get back there, this instant!

Braeden tries to stare Greg down, but Greg's in no mood to play games, and Braeden is forced to back down.

Braeden trudges back round the corner, and as Greg turns back to Sofia's room, he hears the muffled sound of SOBBING before we cut down to:

10 INT. CAMPUS - CELL - NEXT

10

Skye lies on her side, curled up again, her mind locking up as it tries to process the night's events.

BARBARA (V.O.)

I appreciate that it's late, Harold, but when you hear what I have to say I'm sure you'll forgive me for calling you at this hour.

(beat)

The situation we always feared has finally come to pass.

Push in on Skye as Barbara's voice over continues:

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

I need you to dispatch an operations team to the Academy immediately. We have a situation.

Skye closes her eyes, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

11 INT. CAMPUS - DORM ROOM - NIGHT

11

Alita is lying on her bed, curled up and looking about as despondent as Skye. Sitting next to her, one hand idly stroking her hair, is TYSON.

He keeps quiet, perfectly happy to stay where he is for now. There's a sense that little has been said since these two found each other.

Standing by the doorway is Frankie, restless but knowing there's nothing she can do right now.

Tyson glances up as he hears raised voices outside - it's Braeden calling after Sofia - and while his attention is turned:

ALITA

Do you think Skye killed her?

He looks back down at Alita, moving his hand away as she sits up to look at him.

TYSON

I don't know. I hope not, but we all know what Skye's capable of if you push her far enough. I think Heidi could push the Dalai Lama into a fight!

ALITA

(looks down)

That is not what I wanted to hear.

TYSON

Er... sorry. Just trying a little humour. I think all of our moods could do with some lightening.

FRANKIE

My mood is fine. It is everyone else's I am concerned for.

Alita swings round and slides off the bed, heading for the window as Tyson watches her.

ALITA

Everything will be different here now.

TYSON

Yeah, I think so.

(CONTINUED)

ALITA

(beat)

I need to speak to her.

FRANKIE

Are you sure that is a good idea?

ALITA

I have to.

She turns round, and Tyson and Frankie registers the fierceness suddenly blazing in her eyes.

ALITA (cont'd)

I want to look her straight in the eyes and ask her if she did this terrible thing. Only then will I know for sure.

TYSON

Do you want me to come with you?

(remembers)

Oh, wait, we can't. The curfew, remember? We're not to leave our rooms.

FRANKIE

Alita, do not get yourself in trouble.

Alita marches across the room, throwing the door open and checking the corridor outside.

ALITA

This is more important than obeying the rules this time, Tyson.

(beat)

Are you coming with me?

He hesitates, torn between the choices for a moment.

TYSON

(shakes head)

No, I'd better not. I think this is something you need to do alone.

Alita nods once, checks the corridor again and then darts off, and as Tyson lets out a heavy sigh we cut to:

Skye has her back to the glass, not budging as somebody comes to stand outside her cell.

SKYE

Go away.

There's a beat. The new arrival is silent.

SKYE (cont'd)
Can't you hear me? I'm not gonna
listen to you any more.

More silence. Skye manages not to turn around.

SKYE (cont'd)
You can say whatever you want, but
I'm never gonna listen to a word
you have to-

ERIKA (O.S.)
Skye?

Skye snaps round - Erika is the latest visitor, one hand
pressed against the glass. Skye gets to her feet, advancing
with a RATTLE of chains.

ERIKA (cont'd)
I'm afraid I recognise the sound of
chains.

SKYE
You do?

ERIKA
A long story for some other time.
(beat)
Who did you think I was?

SKYE
(looks away)
Nobody.

ERIKA
It did not sound like a 'nobody.'

SKYE
(snaps)
I said it was nothing!

Skye instantly regrets losing her rag, but Erika isn't fazed
by the outburst as Skye settles back down.

SKYE (cont'd)
What's the rumour mill saying so
far?

ERIKA
You mean Darcie?

SKYE
Oh, she's stepped up to be Queen
Bitch already, huh? Fast work.

ERIKA

Many bad things are being spoken. I will not listen to them. That is why I am here.

SKYE

(half grin)

Thanks.

ERIKA

I'm sure you are sick of being asked if you can remember what happened.

SKYE

You have no idea...

ERIKA

I just wanted to make sure you were alright, but it seems many other things are troubling you.

SKYE

You mean that stuff when you first got here. Yeah, uh... just crazy talk. Stress, you know. Accusations of murder'll do that to a girl.

Erika raises an eyebrow, not buying a word of Skye's story.

SKYE (cont'd)

Can we just file this under 'discuss later'? If there is a later, I mean.

ERIKA

(shakes head)

Do not say such things.

SKYE

Hey, I'm just being realistic. Beats spinning out and ending up in a straitjacket with just a piece of chalk and padded walls for company.

ERIKA

Skye...

Erika hesitates, and Skye takes another step closer to her.

SKYE

What?

ERIKA

Darcie, she... she said something that I...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ERIKA (cont'd)
(beat; inhales)
She said she knew something about
you. Something very serious.

SKYE
Such as? This isn't about my real
hair colour again, is it?

ERIKA
Skye, please. This is no time for
flippancy.

SKYE
It's no time for plenty of things.
Now tell me what the British bitch
has been saying about me.

ERIKA
She said... she told us that you...
that you had already killed
someone.

Skye freezes, and that moment's hesitation confirms Erika's
worst fears. She hangs her head.

SKYE
Erika... Erika, come on!

She tries to step forward again but runs out of slack on her
chains, angrily pulling at them as her panic rises.

SKYE (cont'd)
Erika, please! You have to listen
to me!

ERIKA
So... it is true?

Skye looks away, biting her lip and clearly having no idea
what to say next.

SKYE
I...

Erika looks back up at her, and Skye is surprised to see
Erika's eyes are wet with tears.

ERIKA
Skye! Is it true? Have you killed
before?

A long beat. Skye can't bring herself to say it, until:

SKYE
(soft)
Yes...

Erika looks back down, shaking her head. Her sense of disappointment hits Skye like a punch to the face.

SKYE (cont'd)
Erika, please...

ERIKA
I... I have to... I have to go. I'm
sorry. I... I can't...

Erika turns and scurries away, and a desperate Skye sinks to the floor again, her head in her hands.

She glances up, sensing something - and sees Heidi leaning against the wall inside her cell, idly picking at her nails.

Skye buries her face in her hands, scrunching her face up tightly as we cut to:

Alita is making her way stealthily down one of the deserted form room corridors, sticking to the shadows, when she hears FOOTSTEPS approaching.

She ducks back out of sight, waiting as the sound grows nearer - and ANNA rounds the corner ahead, two more Slayers behind her.

ALITA
Anna?

Anna stops and turns as Alita steps out of the darkness.

ALITA (cont'd)
Where are you going?

ANNA
Didn't you hear?

ALITA
Apparently not.

ANNA
Sofia's called, like, a town
meeting of every Slayer on campus,
out in the quad.

ALITA
But what about the curfew?

ANNA
Well... you're here already,
ain'tcha? Besides, we've all given
our statements. We're in the clear.

Anna grins, and Alita manages a small smile back before following Anna and the others, and we cut to:

Sure enough, out on the small quadrangle that opens out from the back of the assembly hall, a crowd of Slayers has gathered.

As Alita and Anna join the throng, Alita sees Sofia up on the stone steps leading down from the hall's rear entrance. The girls are chattering quietly to themselves, but as Sonia stops pacing and raises a hand, they fall into silence.

SOFIA

Okay, then. Thanks for coming out, everyone. I know we haven't got long until the staff come to check up on us again, so I'll make this quick.

(beat)

I think we can all agree that something terrible has happened here tonight. One of us is dead.

That gets a murmur from the crowd.

SOFIA (cont'd)

What's happening now is much worse than that, however. We're starting to point fingers of blame. Latching onto the easy answer, because it's simpler to accept what's in front of us, even when it doesn't add up.

(beat)

I know some of you think Skye killed Heidi. I don't. I know how everything looks, I know most of you saw or heard about their fight, or have seen them at each other's throats plenty of times since she got here...

More murmurs from the crowd. Sofia winces knowing she's perhaps just sabotaged her own argument a little.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Look, what I'm trying to say is-

DARCIE

What you're trying to do is brainwash us into believing whatever you believe!

Sofia falls silent as Darcie steps out of the crowd, all eyes on her.

(CONTINUED)

Further back, Frankie starts to advance on her, but Alita holds her back with a firm shake of her head.

Darcie walks to the foot of the steps, looking defiantly up at the visibly rattled Sofia.

SOFIA

Where do you get off talking to me like that? This is no time to play silly buggers!

DARCIE

Er, hello? Have you been wearing blinkers the past few hours? There's a killer on the campus!

SOFIA

We don't know that! We-

DARCIE

(interrupts; louder)
More to the point, the killer's in custody, so what are we even doing out here, freezing our unmentionables off debating it?

FRANKIE

Who appointed you as our spokesperson?

DARCIE

Nobody did. I'm just voicing my opinion, and I happen to know plenty of you agree with me.

SOFIA

(cold)
You need to watch your mouth before somebody shuts it for you.

DARCIE

(sly)
And I can see why Skye's one of your friends...

The other Slayers are chatting more animatedly now, and Sofia can sense control of the situation slipping away from her. She marches down the steps to face Darcie.

SOFIA

What is your problem? Why have you got it in for her?

DARCIE

I haven't! I happen to quite like Skye, but that's not the point here, is it? She killed another Slayer in cold blood, and I for one don't want to have a liability like her anywhere near me!

SOFIA

Why are you so quick to damn her?

DARCIE

Why are you so quick to close your eyes?

The two girls are in each other's faces now, and Braeden finally makes an appearance as he levers them apart.

BRAEDEN

That's enough, both of you!

SOFIA

Don't defend her!

BRAEDEN

I'm not, I-

DARCIE

Stop taking her side all the time!
Show some backbone for once!

Braeden shoots Darcie an appalled look, and as Sofia and Darcie start yelling at one another again the rest of the girls erupt into heated debate, the clamour of their raised voices echoing round the quad until:

CLANG! Everybody falls silent as a loud, metallic crash rings out across the quad.

All eyes turn to see Erika, walking away from one of the waste bins, which now has a foot-shaped dent in its side. She wears a face like thunder as she heads for the group.

The Slayers part to let her through, until Erika is right up before Sofia and Darcie.

ERIKA

What is going on?

SOFIA

She's trying to-

DARCIE

Sofia thinks she can-

ERIKA (cont'd)

(sharp)

Quiet!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ERIKA (cont'd)
(beat)
Sofia?

Sofia shoots Darcie a quick, victorious look.

SOFIA
I'm trying to make sure everybody
stays on the same page, and not to
let themselves get distracted by
gossip, rumour and hearsay.

Erika turns to Darcie, who pauses before speaking up:

DARCIE
And I'm making sure we don't all
fall under the same spell Sofia
has, choosing to ignore all of the
facts in front of us about what
Skye did here tonight.

There's a beat as Erika muses on what's been said. The girls
fall into a hush as they wait for her response.

ERIKA
So we all know now that Skye has
killed before. But that in no way
means she was the one to end
Heidi's life tonight. I see that
now.
(beat)
We will put it to a vote.

DARCIE
A 'vote'? This isn't Judge sodding
Judy!

SOFIA
Will you shut up?
(to Erika)
What do you mean?

Erika takes one large step to her left, to Sofia's side.

ERIKA
Everyone who believes Skye is
innocent is welcome to join me.
Everyone who believes she is
guilty, go and stand by Darcie.

SOFIA
(wary)
Erika, I don't think-

ERIKA
You have both spoken your minds.
Now it is up to all of us to decide
where we stand on this.

Sofia looks back at Darcie, who seems pretty assured that she's got the upper hand here.

There's a long, silent beat. Nobody moves. The other Slayers cast uncertain glances at one another.

Debbie steps forward, her head bowed...

... and stands by Darcie.

SOFIA
(shocked)
Debbie!

ERIKA
Leave her. She has made her choice.
(to others)
Who else?

A group of Slayers look at one another, then move to join Darcie. They're followed by several more, soon exposing Alita, Anna and Frankie.

SOFIA
Come on, you lot. You know Skye
wouldn't do something like this.

Anna looks from Darcie to Sofia and back... and then goes to join Darcie's side!

ANNA
I'm sorry, Sofia. But I know what I
saw. I wish it wasn't true too,
but...

DARCIE
(smug)
You don't need to explain yourself,
Anna. You've done what you believe
is right.

Sofia looks desperately to Frankie and Alita, who look at one another, agonising over what to do. Sofia's face falls a few more inches at their hesitation.

SOFIA
(quiet)
Alita...?

Alita looks to Sofia, then to Darcie... and then she steps back, shaking her head.

ALITA
No. I cannot choose. I must speak
to Skye myself.

SOFIA

Alita, you-

But Alita turns and hurries away, and with a last look at Sofia Frankie follows her.

Sofia is crestfallen as Darcie turns to her, the entire group of Slayers minus Braeden behind her.

Braeden stands between them - Sofia and Erika on one side, everybody else on the other.

DARCIE

Well?

Braeden turns back to Sofia, who brightens for a brief instant - and then fades again as Braeden starts to slowly shake his head.

SOFIA

(softly)

No...

Braeden takes one step back, joining Darcie's group. He glances at Darcie, but a heartfelt look back to Sofia tells us this was a tough choice for him to make.

DARCIE

So! Looks like it's just you and Erika supporting our resident murderer, then.

SOFIA

(narrows eyes)

This isn't over. Skye's innocent, and I'm going to prove it.

DARCIE

Well... good luck with that.

Darcie turns and walks away, the other Slayers following her despite a few casting glances back to Sofia and Erika. Sofia sags, but Erika wraps an arm around her.

ERIKA

Let them go, Sofia. We know who we can trust now.

Sofia's hear breaks as Braeden leaves with the others, the two unable to take their eyes off each other as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

15 INT. CAMPUS - RECEPTION - DAWN

15

The sun is starting to rise in the background as a tense-looking Barbara paces up and down inside the reception area, Greg and Ellen standing nearby.

GREG

Wearing a rut into the carpet won't make this any easier.

Barbara is chewing her nails, and Ellen nudges Greg to shut him up as she steps forward.

ELLEN

Come on, B. Don't work yourself up over this. You did what you had to do.

BARBARA

(stops)

Did I?

Her sharp tone startles both Ellen and Greg.

BARBARA (cont'd)

Did I do what I had to do, or what I was supposed to do?

ELLEN

I... I don't understand.

BARBARA

What if Skye is innocent? I've called in the Council's most hardened gang of hatchet men to take her into custody! I may as well have just thrown any chance we had of proving her guilt or innocence out of the bloody window!

Barbara is clearly getting increasingly agitated, and Ellen moves closer to take her by the arm, trying to soothe her.

BARBARA (cont'd)

What if... what if I've done the wrong thing? Oh, God, Ellen... what if they take her away, and that's it? None of us ever see her again?

ELLEN

You can't think that. You have to trust that these people will do the right thing.

(CONTINUED)

Greg SCOFFS without thinking, and gets a sharp glare from Barbara in return.

GREG
(awkward)
Er... sorry. Force of habit.

BARBARA
You're not helping my mood, Greg.

GREG
Well, I hate to be the voice of dissent here, but I don't think we should have brought the operations team in this soon. Especially that team.

ELLEN
What's the big deal with these guys, anyway? What are they, demons or something?

Barbara and Greg exchange a dark look, but before either of them can speak, a sturdy BLACK VAN rolls into frame outside.

Barbara turns to see it, visibly tensing up as the van's two front cabin doors open and a pair of tall, well-built men step out.

A third joins them from the rear of the vehicle, all three men wearing dark leather jackets and black clothes as they stride towards the front entrance, their craggy, weathered faces not showing the barest hint of emotion.

Barbara steps forward to meet them as the three men enter the reception, Ellen and Greg hanging back.

The lead man extends his hand - more out of formality than warmth - and after a beat, Barbara shakes it.

COLLINS
Miss Griffin, I presume? Collins, Smith and Weatherby. Council Operations team. I understand you have a problem Slayer we need to extract.

Familiar to anyone who got between them and Faith a few years ago in Los Angeles, COLLINS is open faced, friendly even. Which makes him all the more ominous. WEATHERBY makes no attempt to disguise his contempt of Greg. SMITH, the smallest of the three, looks like he drinks a lot.

Barbara exhales, her body still tight with nerves as we cut down to:

16

INT. CAMPUS - CELL - NIGHT

16

Skye is sitting on her mattress when she hears people approaching outside her cell.

She looks up to see a breathless Alita, with Frankie standing right behind her.

SKYE

(flat)

Hey.

ALITA

Skye?

SKYE

Nobody else in here.

ALITA

Skye, listen to me. I need you to come closer.

SKYE

(bitterly)

You sure about that? Word on the street is I'm a dangerous girl to be around.

ALITA

(firm)

Skye!

Skye frowns at Alita's forcefulness, getting to her feet and moving as far forward as the chains will allow.

SKYE

What is it?

Alita stares deep into her eyes, and Skye finds herself staring right back at Alita's piercing gaze.

Frankie watches as the two girls hold the stare for a long moment, before Alita finally blinks, stepping back from the glass.

SKYE (cont'd)

What? What is it?

ALITA

(paling)

No... it can't be...

SKYE

(alarmed)

What? Alita! Hey!

(CONTINUED)

Alita takes a few more steps back, then suddenly turns and darts away, racing back down the corridor as Skye yells after her:

SKYE (cont'd)
Alita! What is it? What did you
see? Alita!!

Frantic, Skye turns to Frankie, who looks just as bewildered.

SKYE (cont'd)
What the hell just happened?

FRANKIE
I... I do not know.

SKYE
Why did she do that? Why did she
want to look into my eyes?

FRANKIE
She said...
(inhales)
She said she 'ad to see for
'erself. Too look you straight in
the eyes and ask if you did this...
this 'terrible thing.'

Skye drops her head, clutching her temples with her hands.

FRANKIE (cont'd)
I am afraid it does not seem she
liked what she saw.

SKYE
But it can't...
(looks up)
I didn't do anything! Frankie, come
on! This is me! You know me!

Frankie hesitates, and that flicks Skye straight into 'fury,' her hands trying to reach forward and SLAM against the glass.

SKYE (cont'd)
Damn it, Frankie!

Frankie steps back, startled by Skye's outburst, and a moment later a door opens off screen, and Frankie looks round.

SKYE (cont'd)
Frankie! Frankie?
(calming down)
Frankie...

Frankie steps back as the three men from the Operations team step into frame, with Barbara close behind.

Skye meets Collin's grin with a fierce glare, ready to kick off at the first person who looks at her sideways.

SKYE (cont'd)
And who the hell are you?

COLLINS
The name's Collins. Watcher's
Council Special Operations.

SKYE
And?

SMITH
And, we're here to deal with your
situation.

Skye holds up her hands, rattling her chains.

SKYE
Be my guest. You gonna get me out
of here?

COLLINS
Oh, yes.
(evil smirk)
Just until we get you somewhere
more...
(looks round)
... secure.

Skye's face drops, and as Collins keeps up his ominous grin, we move over to Weatherby as he speaks to Barbara.

WEATHERBY
You did the right thing in calling
us.

BARBARA
(not convinced)
Hmm.

WEATHERBY
We've been keeping Miss Underwood
under close observation for some
time. You're not the only one
concerned about recent... anomalies
in her behaviour.

Barbara watches as Collins unlocks the glass panel, sliding it across so Smith can enter the cell, approaching Skye as she backs into one corner like a caged animal.

BARBARA
What's going to happen to her now?

WEATHERBY

She'll be escorted back to a secure location and questioned. When we're sure we've exhausted all our lines of investigation, we'll transport her to Wilder's Green while the Council decide what to do with her.

BARBARA

Wilder's Green? The prison facility?

WEATHERBY

It's been decided at the top level, Miss Griffin. The Council's had enough problems with rogue Slayers over the years, it's not about to take any chances now. We have an opportunity to take a decisive step in resolving Miss Underwood's... unique situation, and we're taking it while we can.

Barbara watches in alarm as Smith unlocks Skye's chains, slapping a fresh set of manacles on her and SHOVING her back towards the exit.

Barbara pushes past Weatherby, but Collins blocks her as she tries to intercept Smith and Skye.

COLLINS

We'll handle things from here.

BARBARA

She's not leaving until I get some assurance she won't be mistreated!

COLLINS

(slimy)

Miss Griffin... we're professionals.

BARBARA

Skye, I-

SKYE

Don't. Don't bother. Not this time.

Barbara looks suitably distressed as Skye is led past her, Smith keeping a firm grip on her arm as they lead her away, and as Frankie watches in alarm we cut to:

Sofia and Erika are just walking into reception as Sofia notices the van parked outside.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

Hey, whose is that?

ERIKA

What is it?

SOFIA

There's a strange van parked
outside. Who on earth would show up
at this time of the morning?

She gets her answer as the doors to the staff room corridor
are pushed open, and Smith and Collins lead the shackled Skye
out into the open.

SLOW MOTION:

Sofia's jaw drops in horror as Skye is led past her, Skye
looking up and making eye contact, turning to look at Erika,
who clutches Sofia's arm.

NORMAL SPEED:

Barbara enters the reception, flanked by Weatherby as Sofia
and Erika rush towards her.

BARBARA

No, you're not listening! I'm not
asking to have one of my staff go
with you, I'm demanding it!

WEATHERBY

And I'm telling you, it's out of
the question! This matter is out of
your hands now!

SOFIA

Barbara? What's going on?

Weatherby quickly glances at Sofia, then dismisses her and
continues:

WEATHERBY

Skye ceased to be your
responsibility the second this
incident occurred! Leave this up to
the right people now!

BARBARA

You can't just drag her away like
that!

Weatherby pauses, then just grins and turns away, joining his
comrades as they reach the doors.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA
(frantic)
Stop them! Do something!

ERIKA
Miss Griffin, please!

BARBARA
(stuck)
I... I don't know what I can do!

SOFIA
Don't just let them take her!

BARBARA
Sofia, please! I'm trying to-

WHACK! Heads snap up - and Smith hits the deck!

Skye swings her hands round, SMASHING her manacles into Collins' face before he can react!

Weatherby reaches into his jacket and draws a tranquiliser gun, but Skye is quick to KICK it out of his hands, diving in for a HEADBUTT which throws him back against the doors.

Sofia and the others watch in shock as Skye nimbly leaps over the fallen ops team, dashing back towards the canteen.

Erika is the first to break, chasing after her as Sofia finally snaps out of it and joins her.

BARBARA (cont'd)
Sofia! Erika! Wait!

Barbara doesn't know which crisis to tackle first as we cut away to:

Skye bounds through the cafeteria, bowling over tables and chairs in her mad dash for the exit.

Erika follows, her sharpened reflexes sending her ducking and diving around the obstacles in her path.

Sofia is slower to get through the mayhem, and as Skye slams through the doors at the exit and disappears round a corner, Sofia lets Erika keep up pursuit as she breaks right, into the assembly hall.

Erika barrels down the corridor, but skids to a halt, her head snapping left and right.

She takes a deep breath, trying to calm her racing adrenaline and concentrate, listening out for any sign of Skye's whereabouts.

Lost for options, she heads down to a junction and turns right, as we cut to:

The access door CREAKS open as Skye peers out, before she scurries into one corner, getting to work on trying to prise her hands free of the manacles.

She's not having much luck, GRUNTING with exertion before she hears:

SOFIA (O.S.)
Those things come off much easier
with a key, you know.

Skye freezes, turning slowly round to see Sofia calmly perched on the edge of the roof.

There's a beat before Sofia hops back to her feet, taking a few steps towards the stationary Skye.

SKYE
You here to bring me in?

SOFIA
Actually, I'm here to help you
figure out what to do next.

SKYE
Looks to me like my plan starts and
ends with 'run away.'

Skye's tense, ready to spring away if Sofia makes a move, but Sofia doesn't look like she's about to try anything.

SOFIA
What are you doing, Skye?

SKYE
Right now? Wondering when you're
gonna go for me.

SOFIA
Don't be ridiculous.

SKYE
After everything else that's
happened tonight, I think
'ridiculous' just found itself a
new definition.

Sofia glances over her shoulder as she hears raised voices below - the Academy is switching to full alert.

SOFIA

We can't stay here. Everybody knows
this is your spot, they'll find us
in no time.

SKYE

So what do you suggest?
(raises hands)
Running at kind of a disadvantage
here.

SOFIA

We'll think of something. Come on.

Sofia heads over and helps her to her feet, Skye finally relaxing a little as the duo head back to the door.

SKYE

I take it this means you don't
think I did it?

SOFIA

Let's just say I'm open to new
theories.

That gets a grin out of Skye, but as Sofia starts to smile back the moment is short-lived...

With a BANG the door is kicked open, and Collins bursts out onto the rooftop, tranquiliser gun in his hand.

COLLINS

Get down!

SOFIA

No!

Collins FIRES - but Sofia DIVES forward, the dart meant for Skye sticking into her neck!

SKYE

Sofia!!

Sofia hits the deck, the powerful sedative knocking her out in seconds, and as Collins starts to quickly reload his gun Skye tears her eyes from Sofia and charges forward.

She BARGES into Collins, knocking him down as she disappears back down the staircase, into:

21 INT. CAMPUS - ASSEMBLY HALL - NEXT 21

Skye stumbles down the staircase leading onto the back of the stage, seeing Weatherby racing towards her across the hall.

She races across the stage, LEAPING forward as he FIRES, the dart missing her by inches as she sails back into the:

22 INT. CAMPUS - CANTEEN - NEXT 22

Skye CRASHES into a pile of tables and chairs, managing to pick herself up as Ellen and a group of Slayers appear at the nearest entrance.

ELLEN

Skye, wait!

Skye doesn't waste any time, getting to her feet and racing back towards reception.

Weatherby runs into the canteen, almost colliding with Ellen as she gives chase, and we cut to:

23 INT. CAMPUS - RECEPTION - NEXT 23

Smith whips round as Skye charges towards him, but before he can bring his gun to bear she TACKLES him to the ground, the two collapsing in a heap on the floor.

Skye spins her legs round, CRACKING one across Smith's temple and sending him slumping backwards.

With more potential captors inbound from all sides, Skye wastes no time in grabbing the KEYS from Smith's belt, getting to work on unlocking her manacles as she leaps for the exit.

She skids to a halt as she sees the van, looking back to Smith and then turning back round, heading back to his unconscious form.

She looks up as Collins appears from one entrance and Weatherby from the other, but she doesn't stop from reaching into Smith's pockets, managing to fish out the VAN'S KEYS!

The two ops men FIRE, both darts catching Skye in the chest, but despite going groggy on her feet for a moment she isn't slowed down for long, pulling the darts out and staggering back towards the doors.

Weatherby looks at his gun in disbelief as Collins hurries past him, heading for the downed Smith.

COLLINS

Don't just stand there, get after her!

(CONTINUED)

Collins checks on Smith as Weatherby races out after Skye, and as more Slayers finally make it back into reception, we cut to:

Skye clambers into the van's driver's seat, woozy from the tranquiliser but pumping with enough adrenaline to keep going for a while yet.

She fumbles with the keys, managing to get the van started as Weatherby closes in on her.

WEATHERBY

Stop! Get out of the van right now!
You're only making it worse!

Skye manages a bitter laugh at that, FLOORING the accelerator and sending the van surging towards him!

Weatherby has to DIVE to avoid the van, which SIDESWIPEs Greg's parked car as Skye wrenches the steering round, aiming the van back towards the main gates and powering away.

Collins, Barbara, Ellen, and Erika all burst out of the front entrance, watching in disbelief as the van tears up the driveway, lurching from side to side but managing to stay on course. She's too far away to catch now, even if they tried.

Collins snarls, turning to Barbara as Weatherby picks himself back up from the floor.

COLLINS

Don't worry. She won't get far.

He heads back for the entrance, calling out:

COLLINS (cont'd)

Congratulations, Miss Griffin. Your Academy just gave birth to its very first fugitive.

The others can only watch as the stony-faced Collins marches back into the Academy, and we finally:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW