

SLAYER ACADEMY

"Trust"

by
Lee A. Chrimes

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. CAMPUS - FRONT ENTRANCE - NIGHT 1

Three large black vans are parked outside the front gates, and as we approach we see COLLINS, the leader of the Council operations team, barking instructions to two more teams of men, dressed and armed as he is.

Behind him, his colleagues WEATHERBY and SMITH are tooling up, checking weapons from rifles to stakes, preparing to go off and join the hunt for Skye

Several concerned Slayers watch the team suit up from inside the Academy, as we cut away to:

2 INT. CAMPUS - BARBARA'S OFFICE - NEXT 2

SLAM! A phone receiver is rammed back down onto the cradle as a frustrated BARBARA ends her call.

Pull back to find GREG and ELLEN standing before her, both sharing Barbara's troubled expression.

ELLEN

No good?

BARBARA

Those... those idiots!

GREG

(sighs)

No good.

BARBARA

They said they're not going to call the operations teams off until Skye is apprehended.

ELLEN

And by 'apprehended,' they mean...

GREG

Let's not finish that sentence.

ELLEN

Okay, so, the goon squad out there roll out no matter what. What are we going to do?

Barbara looks up, and Ellen raises a questioning eyebrow.

BARBARA

Greg, go and find me Sofia and Erika and bring them here.

(CONTINUED)

GREG

Will do.

He quickly exits.

BARBARA

Ellen, I don't know how your
standing is with your superiors at
the moment...

ELLEN

Better, since I reassigned
Dunstall, but I'm still not exactly
in the running for Employee of the
Month.

BARBARA

Is there anything you can do to
help us? Reinforcements, supplies,
resources... anything?

ELLEN

Let me make some calls.

Barbara nods as Ellen heads out of the office, giving the
headmistress chance to take a seat and catch her breath at
last.

She doesn't get long, however, before BRYCE hurries into her
office, looking alarmed.

BARBARA

Eric?

BRYCE

You'd better come see this, Barb.

Concerned, she stands and follows him out, into:

The growing crowd of Slayers in the reception is one thing,
but the growing NOISE Barbara can hear is another.

BARBARA

What's that?
(penny drops)
Oh, no...

BRYCE

(solemn)
'Fraid so.

She and Bryce head for the nearest set of windows, looking
out across the driveway as we cut to:

4 EXT. CAMPUS - FRONT ENTRANCE - NEXT 4

A black HELICOPTER is coming down to hover over the three Council vans, its blades kicking up dust as the operations teams clamber into their vehicles.

Collins' van leads the way, skidding through the gravel as the other two vans fall in behind it, the helicopter tilting and flying overhead, keeping level with the convoy.

5 INT. CAMPUS - RECEPTION - NEXT 5

Barbara watches as the Council convoy heads for the main gates, helpless to stop them now.

BARBARA

Eric... we can't let them find her.

BRYCE

You don't need to tell me that.
Even if they manage to catch her,
we've got no guarantee we'll ever
see her again.

Barbara stays glued to the glass, and as Bryce starts to disperse the crowd of curious Slayers from the reception, we cut to:

6 EXT. STREET - NIGHT 6

Panning across a deserted city street, with closed down shop fronts and businesses sharing the pavement with low-rent apartments.

The stolen COUNCIL VAN rolls into frame, its driver's side door wide open and keys still in the ignition, but from its position in the middle of the road it looks like it ran out of petrol.

SKYE steps into frame, a glass bottle in one hand as she stares at the van. She exhales, looking down at the bottle, before stuffing a piece of rag into its neck.

SKYE

Sorry to have to do this...

In her other hand, she holds the van's cigarette lighter, one end GLOWING RED. She holds it to the rag until the rag CATCHES FIRE, before she takes several steps back.

Skye looks at the van for one last beat, then rears back and THROWS the molotov cocktail into the driver's compartment.

The flames take straight away, and with a dry WHOOMP the van's whole interior is soon up in smoke!

(CONTINUED)

Skye watches the flames for a few moments, before a nearby chorus of dogs BARKING and a distant POLICE SIREN snap her back to attention.

With a furtive glance up and down the otherwise empty street, she melts back into the shadows, and we stay on the burning van for another few moments before we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

7 EXT. ALLEYWAY - NIGHT 7

Skye strolls down a quiet alley, her hands in her pockets and a busier street up ahead. She's approaching a more crowded part of town, the perfect place for her to get lost in.

8 EXT. STREET - NEXT 8

She slips out of the alley and onto the pavement, glancing over her shoulder every few moments as she makes her way to a pair of public telephone booths.

9 INT. PHONE BOOTH - NEXT 9

Digging some change out of her pocket, she counts through it and grimaces as she realises how little it comes to.

Taking out her wallet, she roots through it until she produces a phone card, grinning as she slides that through the phone's card reader.

She waits a few moments before a message on the small backlit screen next to the receiver tells her to pick up, and she lifts the receiver to her ear.

Skye waits as we can just about hear the buzzing of a call ringing out.

SKYE
(mutters)
Come on, come on...

She waits a while longer before there's a CLICK.

WESLEY
(filtered; through phone)
You've reached Angel
Investigations.

SKYE
Wes! Man, am I glad to hear you.
Listen, this is important. I need
you to find Spi-

WESLEY
(continuing)
I'm afraid nobody is here to take
your call at the moment, but if
you'd like to leave a message and
number, somebody will contact you
as soon as possible.

(CONTINUED)

There's a BEEP, and Skye hesitates before electing to just hang up. She sighs, rubbing her eyes as she tries to think of a new plan.

With nothing forthcoming, she steps out of the phone booth and walks away - but as we stay inside, we see that she's left her wallet behind...

10

INT. CAMPUS - BARBARA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

10

Barbara's called another full staff meeting, with Ellen and Bryce joined by JAZ and AIDEN.

BARBARA

Alright, everybody, here's the current situation. Three separate Council operations team are now on Skye's trail, and it's only a matter of time before they track her down.

JAZ

Well, yes, but we know this already, don't we? You were the one who called them!

BARBARA

And I realise now what a mistake that was.

AIDEN

'Mistake' how? Isn't this what those guys are trained for?

BARBARA

I think I over-estimated their sympathy towards Skye's current situation.

ELLEN

In their eyes, she's guilty even if proven innocent.

AIDEN

And you've only just worked this out?

Barbara hangs her head, the guilt clear to see, and Ellen nudges Aiden to get him to drop the subject.

ELLEN

The point is, there's only so much we can do here. If the Council think we're interfering, there'll be hell to pay, but...

(CONTINUED)

BRYCE

But if we just let them find Skye,
we'll never get to the bottom of
who killed Heidi. Whether Skye was
responsible or not.

JAZ

So what are our options?

BARBARA

We don't really have any.

JAZ

Which is what I was thinking.

ELLEN

But we're not giving up.

BARBARA

I just needed to let you all know
what I'm planning. This is a
decision that could cost anyone
involved their job at the Academy,
so I'm offering you all the chance
to leave this room now, and spare
yourself any later claims of
implicit.

AIDEN

Sounds serious.

JAZ

(suspicious)

What are you planning?

Barbara and Ellen exchange a look as we cut to:

Greg is standing before SOFIA and ERIKA.

GREG

(finishing)

... and so that's the plan so far.

SOFIA

And Barbara's okay with this?

GREG

Why wouldn't she be?

SOFIA

Well, it's not very...

ERIKA

Barbara-like.

GREG
Desperate times.

Sofia exhales, pacing up and down as she runs what Greg has told her through her mind. Erika, by contrast, remains still and calm.

GREG (cont'd)
Erika?

ERIKA
You do not even need to ask.

Greg smiles, turning to Sofia as she looks up.

SOFIA
Alright. I'm in.

GREG
Good stuff.

SOFIA
I hope she realises this means I'll miss my next session with Dr. Trent, though. We were set for an early start.

GREG
I'm sure she'll understand, given the circumstances.

Sofia and Greg manage a little smile before he turns to go, the two Slayers following as we cut back to:

The three Council vans are parked in the middle of the road, and as Collins steps out of the closest one and BANGS the door behind him, we follow him as he walks forward.

The helicopter hovers overhead, its spotlight picking out the burned-out shell of the stolen van as the other team members are forced to shout over the noise.

OPS MEMBER #1
There's no sign of her, sir! We're checking for tracks in all directions, but so far nothing!

COLLINS
She's still in the area. She's a loner by nature, given her profile, but she's most likely to stay close by while she weighs up her options.
(off helicopter)
(MORE)

COLLINS (cont'd)
Get that thing to sweep a five mile
radius, on the double!

OPS MEMBER #1
Yes, sir!

He scurries away, and Collins is joined by Weatherby as the
two men survey the husk of the stolen van.

WEATHERBY
That little bitch. That was my van!

COLLINS
We'll find her, don't you worry.
She's not going to get away from us
this time.

Weatherby grunts and stomps off, clearly aggravated, and as
Collins allows himself a grin, we cut to:

Sofia and Erika are standing before Barbara, both girls
already sporting their trademark weapons - the Scythe for
Sofia and a quarterstaff for Erika.

BARBARA
Last chance for either of you to
back out.

ERIKA
Not a chance.

SOFIA
Skye doesn't deserve to be hunted
down like a stray animal. We owe it
to her to at least try and figure
out what happened to Heidi
rationally.

ERIKA
Miss Griffin, if I may ask...

BARBARA
Yes?

ERIKA
Why are we the only two people
involved in the search? Surely it
would run much faster with more
people?

ELLEN (O.S.)
You're not going alone.

They turn round as Ellen enters the office, slipping a
handgun into her underarm holster.

ELLEN (cont'd)
I'm a Slayer too, remember? That
makes this my business.

SOFIA
What about the Initiative?

Ellen shakes her head, and Barbara speaks up:

BARBARA
They told Ellen to stay out of the
Council's way.

ELLEN
But it was a pretty bad phone line.
I'm pretty sure they said 'get in
the Council's way.'

She grins, and the others return the gesture.

BARBARA
The three of you are going because
you're the ones I can trust the
most to remain impartial. With
Darcie's little revolution earlier,
I'm running a little short on
available woman power at the
moment.

SOFIA
What about Greg?

BARBARA
Greg needs to stay here and help me
maintain the order. If we feel we
can send anyone else out to help,
then we will.

ERIKA
Come, Sofia. We need to get moving,
we have a lot of ground to catch
up.

Erika and Sofia head for the door, but pauses as they hear a
BEEPING.

Ellen takes her mobile phone out of her pocket, reading a
message from it and wincing.

BARBARA
What is it?

ELLEN
Uh... nothing. Just need to pop
back into my office for a sec.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

ELLEN (cont'd)
(off phone)
Left a reminder.

BARBARA
Alright, well, be quick. You'll be
heading out via the rear staff car
park to avoid arousing suspicion.

Ellen nods and leaves the office, as we cut to:

14 INT. CAMPUS - ELLEN'S OFFICE - NEXT

14

She unlocks the door and hustles into her room, opening a desk drawer and rifling through it until she produces a small white pill bottle.

Ellen unscrews the cap and tips the bottle onto her hand, but the two small white pills that roll out slide straight out of her palm, skittering to the floor.

ELLEN
Oh, crap!

She quickly dives down, but the pills are nowhere in sight. She searches for a few moments, but to no avail. Ellen's face drops - this appears to be a big deal.

She stands, shaking the pill bottle - but it's empty. Growing increasingly agitated and muttering curses to herself, she searches quickly back through all of her desk drawers, but there are no more bottles to be found.

She stares at the empty bottle in her hand, her mind racing, before she closes her eyes, drops the bottle back into her desk and leaves the room.

15 EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

15

In another part of the city, the Council helicopter swoops low across the buildings, acting like a police 'copter as its spotlight sweeps along the streets below.

It swoops over a cluttered rooftop laid out before us, its beam highlighting every surface as it moves on to a rumble of nearby THUNDER.

A few beats pass before Skye cautiously peeks out from behind a row of chimneys, making sure the helicopter is out of range before stepping out of her cover.

She looks left and right before heading for the edge of the roof - and ducking back as she hears VOICES below.

Peering slowly over the edge, she sees two of the operations team in the street below, kicking over anything big enough to hide her and scanning the darkness with high-beam torches.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

Skye leans back just as a stray beam flashes past where she was standing, and she sinks back into a sitting position.

She clasps her hands together and rests her chin on her knees, still figuring out what to try next...

... and it starts to RAIN. Skye looks up at the night sky, closing her eyes and letting the water wash over her for a moment, before she gets up and heads off screen.

16 INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - NIGHT

16

With a KNOCK at the door, Greg slowly pushes it open and steps into one of the dormitory rooms to be greeted by FRANKIE, TYSON and ALITA.

GREG

Just checking up on everybody.

TYSON

We're all fine.

(off Frankie's look)

You know... considering.

FRANKIE

Is there any news?

GREG

None so far, I'm afraid.

Frankie stands, hands on hips.

FRANKIE

Then why are we all still 'ere?

Greg glances over his shoulder before slipping inside, closing the door behind him.

GREG

What do you mean?

FRANKIE

We cannot let those *vandales* from the Council catch Skye!

ALITA

Frankie, we can't interfere.

FRANKIE

Are we to sit 'ere while they find 'er and lock 'er away somewhere, then?

GREG

Are you saying you don't think she killed Heidi?

(CONTINUED)

Frankie huffs, choosing her words carefully.

FRANKIE

I am saying that while part of me,
and just a tiny part of me, I
should add, is a little glad that
Heidi is no longer with us... *non*.
I do not believe Skye could kill
'er. Unless somebody *made* 'er do
it.

ALITA

Who would be able to do something
like that?
(penny drops)
Roland...

FRANKIE

'E as influenced before, and we
'ave all seen it. I would not be
surprised if 'e played some part in
all this.

ALITA

I admit, that sounds... plausible.

FRANKIE

("hmph!")
Says the girl who ran away from 'er
earlier.

TYSON

Yeah, so I heard. What was that all
about?

ALITA

I saw...
(shakes head)
I do not wish to discuss it.

FRANKIE

Alright, then, simple question. If
you 'ad a chance to 'elp Skye,
would you take it?

ALITA

Yes.

Greg has been studying the trio, and Tyson finally notices.

TYSON

Er... Greg? Is something wrong?

Greg starts to grin - which just unsettles Tyson further.

(CONTINUED)

GREG

Actually, no. I think you three are
about to be more help than you
realise...

Off their confused expressions, we cut to:

INT. DEMON BAR - NIGHT

A fairly standard demon bar, if there is such a thing - easy
on the furnishings and decor, but full of various DEMONS and
VAMPIRES looking for a quiet spot away from the crowds,
accompanied by plenty of loud music.

The bar's chatter dies down as Skye strolls into the room,
all eyes turning to her as she stops in the middle of the
floor, looking all round.

SKYE

Yeah, I'm a Slayer.

She VAMPS OUT, to the surprise of the patrons.

SKYE (cont'd)

But tonight, I'm off duty.

(beat)

So who wants to get me wasted?

The chatter gradually returns, and with a smirk Skye
approaches the bar. ORBIT, the tall, thin and pure white-
skinned demon bartender, looks down on her.

ORBIT

I don't suppose you're over
eighteen, are you?

SKYE

Technically, yes.

ORBIT

(beat; shrugs)

What'll it be?

SKYE

A little information.

ORBIT

Ah, you must have us confused with
the library round the corner.

SKYE

Don't get cute. It definitely
doesn't suit you.

ORBIT
(frowns)
Alright, listen-

Skye LUNGES across the counter and GRABS Orbit by his shirt, pulling him down to her level.

SKYE
No, you listen!

ORBIT
(quickly)
Okay, okay!

Skye releases him, glancing round to make sure nobody's about to give her any trouble. Orbit fusses as he smooths his shirt back down.

ORBIT (cont'd)
There's no need for behaviour like that, you know.

SKYE
I know. It's a tradition thing.

ORBIT
(sighs)
So what were you hoping to find out?

SKYE
Something went down at the Slayer Academy last night. Hear anything about that?

ORBIT
I heard that some poor young girl wound up dead... but seeing as she was one of your kind, I can't say I'm all that upset.

SKYE
(makes a fist)
Oh, keep talking, please.

ORBIT
What, are you going to try something? Take a look around!

Orbit indicates the rest of the bar with his hands - and now some mean-looking vamps have started to take an interest in Skye.

ORBIT (cont'd)
Something tells me you should think about taking your search elsewhere.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

SKYE
Is that right?

ORBIT
That's right.

Skye just smirks, and as the vamps standing around start to close in on her, we cut to:

18 INT. DEMON BAR - LATER

18

The bar doors are flung open as Collins and Weatherby step inside, stakes ready - but then they lower them.

The bar has been completely TRASHED - broken glass and splintered tables and chairs litter the floor, along with two dozen slumped BODIES of the bar's patrons.

Some are unconscious, some GROANING as they try to sit up, but all of them look like they came off second best in whatever fight we missed.

COLLINS
(narrows eyes)
She was here, alright.
(to Weatherby)
Concentrate the search. She won't
have had time to get very far.

Weatherby nods and steps back outside as Collins paces into the centre of the room.

Orbit, his face bloodied, reaches a trembling hand out towards him - and Collins KICKS him in the face with a look of disgust!

COLLINS (cont'd)
(sneers)
Vermin. The lot of you.

Turning his back on the scene of carnage, Collins strides back out of the bar as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

19

INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - NIGHT

19

ANNA strolls down one of the dormitory corridors, pausing when she hears a commotion up ahead. Intrigued, she quickens her speed and turns a corner.

She's greeted by DARCIE and DEBBIE, along with a handful of other students, in the middle of a heated debate about something. Anna decides to wade in.

ANNA

What the hell's going on?

DARCIE

Ah, Anna, good! About time!

ANNA

(ignoring her)

Debbie?

DEBBIE

Um, well, a few of us were just talking, and we were-

DARCIE

Don't be shy, Debbie, tell her what you saw.

DEBBIE

(blushes)

Er, I- I mean, we, you know, a few of us, saw, er...

ANNA

What?

DEBBIE

(deep breath)

Sofia and Erika aren't here.

ANNA

What do you mean, 'aren't here'?

DARCIE

That's what I'm trying to find out. Only thing is, some people here seem to think I'm trying to start the Spanish bloody Inquisition back up again!

SLAYER #1

Yeah, but who says we have to report to you?

(CONTINUED)

SLAYER #2

You're not in charge!

DARCIE

I'm not trying to be! I'm just trying to make sure nobody else tries any funny business!

ANNA

The hell is that supposed to mean?

DARCIE

Oh, don't you start! I thought you were on my side?

ANNA

I don't take 'sides,' English.

DARCIE

Funny, that's not how it looked earlier.

ANNA

(stuck)

I... I didn't...

BRAEDEN (O.S.)

Girls, girls! What's all this?

The girls turn as a tired and irritable-looking BRAEDEN approaches.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)

I'd have thought we'd seen enough drama for one night. What's going on now?

DARCIE

Do you know where Sofia is?

BRAEDEN

What?

DEBBIE

It's a simple question.

Braeden shoots Debbie a look that shuts her right up, before he turns his bleary eyes back on Darcie.

BRAEDEN

I haven't seen her for a while. Not since, you know, we had that little...

(off everyone's looks)

Why is that important?

(CONTINUED)

DARCIE

Because neither she nor Erika are anywhere to be found, that's why, and some of us think they may have gone out to find Skye.

BRAEDEN

Then best of luck to 'em both. Did you see the kinds of things those teams from the Council were packing? I know I wouldn't want to get on the wrong side of them!

ANNA

Did everybody's IQ just drop sharply or something?

DARCIE

Meaning?

ANNA

Meaning, the hell are we doing standing around here arguing about this for?

DARCIE

(sly)

Why Anna, are you about to propose a plan of action?

ANNA

Maybe...

(steps back)

We all need to cool down first.

Anna stomps off, clearly upset, and as the rest of the girls fall back into animated chatter, Darcie turns to Braeden.

DARCIE

You honestly don't know where she is?

BRAEDEN

That's what I said.

DARCIE

(leaning closer)

Well, then... perhaps you don't know her quite as well as you thought.

Darcie slinks away, leaving Braeden wearing a troubled expression as we cut to:

20

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

20

Hurrying away from the vicinity of the demon bar, a somewhat bruised and battered Skye glances quickly towards the sky as she hears the Council HELICOPTER in the distance.

She crosses a road, rain still spitting from the sky as she SPLASHES through a big puddle, cursing.

SKYE

Aw, damn it!

Pausing to inspect the water damage, she doesn't notice a FIGURE darting from shadow to shadow behind her.

SKYE (cont'd)

(brushing trousers down)

Gotta make these last now...

VOICE (O.S.)

Um...

Skye whips round - and sees a short, nervous-looking TEENAGE GIRL standing before her, features hidden by a black hoodie. Skye turns back and starts to quickly move away.

SKYE

Whatever it is, I'm not interested.

GIRL

I saw you...

Skye stops, slowly turning to face the girl.

GIRL (cont'd)

In the bar. Just then.

SKYE

(frowns)

How?

GIRL

(shrugs)

Nobody ever notices me in there. I just go to be around other people, you know...

She slowly pulls back her hood - to reveal mottled skin and a set of ridges running along her head.

GIRL (cont'd)

... people like me.

Skye hesitates, then steps closer, looking the scrawny girl up and down.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

So what, do you want an autograph or something?

(holds up bruised hand)

I think my writing hand's out of action right now.

GIRL

No, no, nothing like that. I just... I want to help you.

SKYE

(eyes her)

Right...

GIRL

No, I do! Honest!

SKYE

How can you help me? I mean, no offence, but you look like the kind of person whose job in a fight is to get caught in the crossfire.

GIRL

I can find people. That's what I do. I'm a njita demon.

SKYE

(narrows eyes)

Really...

GIRL

(nods)

We're trackers. Scouts. We go on hunts but don't do any killing. We're pacifists. Just, you know, lead people to their food.

SKYE

I'm not looking for a meal.

GIRL

Oh, I know, I know! You're after whoever killed that girl at the Academy last night, right?

Skye freezes. She suddenly surges forward, and the terrified girl takes a step back.

SKYE

How do you know about that?

GIRL

I-I-I just, you know, I, er... heard. Her.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

Who?

GIRL

The girl who did it.

Skye's eyes bulge as we cut to:

INT. CAMPUS - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Barbara and Bryce hurry down one of the corridors together, heading past several classrooms before they arrive at a junction to join Aiden.

Aiden's standing before a group of about ten of the younger Slayers, banded together in dressing gowns and pyjamas.

BARBARA

What's going on? It sounded urgent.

AIDEN

Depends on how you classify
'urgent.'

BRYCE

(off Slayers)
What's the problem?

AIDEN

(sighs)
They don't feel safe here.

BARBARA

What?

AIDEN

Come on, can you blame them? After
what happened here yesterday?

BRYCE

Where do they plan on going?

AIDEN

Anywhere but here, in their own
words.

Barbara glances at the huddle of girls, who look scared half out of their wits. She takes a moment, then turns to Aiden:

BARBARA

Tell them to go back to their dorm
rooms. I'll arrange some temporary
accommodation for them in the
morning. That's the best I can do.

AIDEN

Thanks.

Aiden turns to address the girls as Barbara and Bryce head off, and we stay with them as Barbara rubs her head.

BARBARA

This is ridiculous... I can't be everywhere at once!

BRYCE

Under the circumstances, I think you could make a great case for human cloning.

BARBARA

What am I supposed to do? This place is going to turn mutinous if we're not careful...

Barbara sighs, rubbing her temples as Bryce gives her a moment, before he gently takes her hands.

BRYCE

Let me help.

BARBARA

How?

BRYCE

Well... alright, look. Ellen and Greg have security access codes, right? The locks, the fire doors, stuff like that, don't they?

BARBARA

(nods)

Yes, they do.

BRYCE

So... maybe it's time you let a few more staff members into the club?

BARBARA

You're asking for the security codes?

BRYCE

Hey, I'm not going to rob the place, am I? I work here! I'm just as concerned as you are about this place going all French Revolution on us, but I know you too well by now, Barb. You'll run yourself into the ground before passing any of your burden onto anyone else.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

She considers this for a beat, not seeming too certain.

BRYCE (cont'd)
We'll split the campus up into sections. I'll get Greg, Aiden and Jaz organised and keep an eye on the place, while you keep tabs on what's going on with Ellen and the girls out in the field.

She looks up, and Bryce tries his most persuasive grin.

BRYCE (cont'd)
Or, you start fixing a plank over the main entrance.

She manages a brief chuckle at that, squeezing his hand.

BARBARA
Thank you.

BRYCE
No worries. Now let's get back to work, alright?

She nods, following him as they exit and we cut back to:

22 EXT. FIRE ESCAPE - NIGHT

22

Out on the streets with Skye and the young demon girl, as they clatter up a fire escape running alongside an old, rickety building.

SKYE
So what's up here?

GIRL
Somewhere to stay.

Skye reaches the top of the ladder to be confronted by a heavy old window.

SKYE
In here?

GIRL
The window gets jammed. I'm not strong enough to lift it by myself.

Skye grins, placing both hands on the frame and WRENCHING it up, motioning for the girl to step inside.

SKYE
Luckily for us, I am.

The girl grins as she steps through the frame, into:

23

INT. HIDEOUT - NEXT

23

Skye follows her into a small, dusty room filled with all manner of refuse - black bin bags, broken up furniture and assorted magazines and food cartons.

SKYE

Homely.

GIRL

It does the job.

Skye finds a light switch and flips it, and a single, bare bulb hanging overhead illuminates the meagre room.

SKYE

You're here by yourself?

GIRL

People pass through all the time. I suppose you could say it's a pit stop for people on their way to somewhere better.

SKYE

(raises eyebrow)

If you wanted to sound like a bad poet, then yeah, you could.

GIRL

So... your accent? You're American?

SKYE

Cleveland born and raised.

GIRL

Did you leave there to come to the Academy?

SKYE

(half chuckle)

No, plenty more happened before that. We can save that for later. Tell me where to find who I'm looking for.

GIRL

Right now? Don't you want to, I don't know, eat first?

SKYE

Do I look hungry?

(beat)

Don't answer that. Yes, right now. The sooner, the better. I've got a bad case of people on my tail.

(CONTINUED)

GIRL

Those men in the vans?

SKYE

(alarmed)

You saw them? Are they near here?

GIRL

No, don't worry, going the other way. I think they found the mess you left at that bar, though.

SKYE

(shrugs)

I have a unique way of tipping.

The girl smiles, and Skye manages one back at last.

SKYE (cont'd)

I'm Skye, by the way.

GIRL

Lianna.

SKYE

Lianna. Cute.

(beat; serious)

Now let's go.

Lianna nods, and we cut to:

Skye and Lianna creep along the roof of a small shopping complex, aiming for a large park laid out up ahead. A stone war memorial stands in the centre of the park, which is surrounded by tall buildings on all sides.

Skye starts to clamber down, with Lianna following in her footsteps as she hops from ledge to windowsill.

SKYE

You need a hand?

LIANNA

I'm fine.

(off Skye's look)

I do this every day, remember.

SKYE

Right. Just don't come running to me if you fall and break both your legs.

Lianna chuckles before we cut to:

25

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

25

Keeping to the cover of a series of stone pillars leading up to the monument, Skye and Lianna make their way towards the centre of the park a little bit at a time.

They pause a little way out from the tall stone obelisk, its sides covered with plaques that list the names of the fallen.

SKYE

You feel like at all like telling
me how you know who we're after
yet?

LIANNA

I hear things. That's one advantage
to blending into the background
like I do. Yesterday, I heard some
people in that bar talking about a
murder at the Academy, and then
later on I saw this girl running
away from the museum as the alarms
were ringing. It was her.

SKYE

How do you know that? Is that part
of your demon thing?

LIANNA

(nods)

I can see where people have been. I
had it explained to me when I was
little, but I never really
understood it. Something about
being able to track a person's...
scent, or something. I can... kind
of... 'see' my way back along where
they've come from.

SKYE

(beat)

Cool. And you knew about this
meeting because...

LIANNA

Oh, I followed her. And I heard her
talking to some woman on her phone.
She sounded upset. Maybe she-

Skye hears FOOTSTEPS and puts a finger to her lips, peering
out from behind the pillar as somebody heads into the park.

The figure approaching is wreathed in shadows, but as they
pass under the light from a nearby lamppost, Skye gets a
shock...

(CONTINUED)

It's DELANEY!

Skye gapes as Delaney comes to a stop by the monument, checking her watch impatiently.

There's a sudden GLOW and a ball of PURPLE LIGHT appears next to her, and Delaney steps back as a second figure MORPHS into existence.

And it's KIRA! She opens her eyes, sees Delaney and grins.

KIRA

Well?

Delaney reaches into her jacket and takes out a small necklace, passing it to Kira.

KIRA (cont'd)

Any problems?

DELANEY

Nothing I couldn't handle.

KIRA

Good.

Kira suddenly SMASHES the necklace against the nearest pillar, making Delaney jump. She watches, confused, as Kira extracts a gem from the remains of the necklace.

KIRA (cont'd)

(examining gem)

This is good, but...

(scowls)

... it's not right.

DELANEY

What?

KIRA

You heard me, Delaney. I told you specifically what to get. What was so difficult about that?

DELANEY

(protests)

But.. The guards, the alarm... any of this making sense?

KIRA

What happened to 'nothing I couldn't handle'?

DELANEY

(narrows eyes)

Mom, come on.

(CONTINUED)

Kira shoots Delaney a filthy look, but nothing tops the shock written on Skye's face at hearing that last comment!

KIRA

Don't 'mom' me. Just tell me you got the tapes at least.

DELANEY

Yeah, I got 'em.

KIRA

Good. At least you did one thing right.

She pushes the now worthless gem back into Delaney's hands.

KIRA (cont'd)

Now get back to work. And bring me the right stone this time. I can't tap into whatever Dana saw at the Academy without it.

Delaney lowers her head and nods, before Kura closes her eyes and disappears in another HAZE of purple light.

As Delaney, her face like thunder, trudges back the way she came, a stunned Skye steps out from behind the pillar.

SKYE

You're sure that was her?

LIANNA

That was her. Who is she? Somebody you know? An enemy?

A beat - then Skye starts to grin.

SKYE

Better.

(turns to Lianna)

She's a lead.

Lianna sadly fails to grasp the importance of that, as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

26

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

26

Ellen, Sofia and Erika are wandering down another part of the city, the streets starting thin out as the night draws on. Ellen is rubbing her head as though in pain.

Sofia stops suddenly, huffing loudly and causing Erika and Ellen to head back to her.

ERIKA

What is wrong?

SOFIA

This is getting us nowhere!

ELLEN

Hey, if I could have gotten hold of my stealth helicopter and spy planes, I would have, but I'm off book on this one, remember?

SOFIA

So, what, we're just supposed to comb the streets one at a time in the blind faith that we'll find her?

(beat; winces)

Sorry, Erika.

ERIKA

That is alright.

(to Ellen)

Sofia is right, however. We need to broaden our search.

SOFIA

We need to start thinking like Skye.

ERIKA

What about your Scythe?

SOFIA

Hmm?

ERIKA

It can sense other Slayers if you wish it to, can it not?

Sofia pales - Erika obviously doesn't notice, but Ellen does, watching Sofia suspiciously.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA
Oh, er, yes, well...

ELLEN
Something wrong?

SOFIA
(quickly)
No! No, it's just, well... it won't
work.
(quickly)
In the crowds, I mean. Too many
people.

Ellen glances to either side - there's hardly enough people
around to class as a 'crowd.'

ELLEN
Can;t you give it a shot?

SOFIA
I'd rather not. What if we get a
false reading and it sends us off
the wrong way?

ERIKA
If there is a chance it could
hinder us, perhaps we should avoid
using it.

SOFIA
Exactly.

Erika turns and starts to walk on, with a relieved Sofia
following, but Ellen knows there's something she's not being
told here.

They haven't taken many more steps when Ellen suddenly
pauses, leaning against a streetlight and clutching her head.

SOFIA (cont'd)
(notices)
Ellen?

ELLEN
I'm fine, I just...
(deep breath)
... little light-headed...

Sofia steps over, concerned, as Ellen leans bodily against
the streetlight, breaking out in a sweat.

SOFIA
You don't look fine at all.

She presses a hand to Ellen's forehead, biting her lip.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA (cont'd)
You're not well. You're hot enough
to defrost a chicken!

ELLEN
(waving her away)
Seriously, I'm fine! Just go and...

She stumbles, and Sofia has to catch her to stop her from
falling to the ground!

SOFIA
(alarmed)
Ellen!

ERIKA
Is she alright?

Erika hurries back over, helping support Ellen as they sit
her down, her back against a wall.

ELLEN
(groggy)
I'm... fine...

SOFIA
You most certainly are not 'fine'!

ELLEN
Just need... a minute...

Ellen suddenly turns and VOMITS onto the street, and Sofia
skips gingerly back to avoid it.

SOFIA
Alright, that's it. I'm calling
Barbara. We have to get you-

ELLEN
No!

Ellen recovers, wiping her mouth as she turns to them.

ELLEN (cont'd)
Just... just go on... without me.

ERIKA
We cannot leave you here like this,
Miss Marklew.

Ellen takes her mobile phone from her jeans pocket.

ELLEN
I'll call... the Academy. You
two... keep looking.

Sofia doesn't look like she wants to leave, but Erika lays a hand on her arm.

ERIKA

Come, Sofia. Miss Marklew is right.
We cannot let ourselves be slowed
down.

The girls start to head away, Sofia casting a last concerned glance back at Ellen as Ellen puts her head in her hands, taking deep lungfuls of air before we cut to:

Debbie, Anna and a handful of other Slayers are gathered round one of the tables. The library is in darkness - obviously closed for the night - and the girls look like they know they shouldn't be here.

A door CLOSES and they jump - but it's Darcie who strides towards them, to several sighs of relief.

DARCIE

Is this everyone?

DEBBIE

This is everyone who wanted to come
along.

DARCIE

Good.

Darcie takes a moment to cast her eyes over the group before her, before she speaks:

DARCIE (cont'd)

Are you all clear on what we're
going to do?

SLAYER #1

We're going to find Skye before the
men from the Council do.

DARCIE

That's right.

ANNA

Then we bring her back here.
Unharmed.

Darcie looks to Anna, who returns with a firm glare, causing Darcie to smile.

DARCIE

Unharmed. You have my word.

Darcie turns to leave, but stops as Anna gets in her face:

ANNA

Just so we're clear, I'm not doing this for you.

DARCIE

Really? Then who are you doing it for? Skye? Or Heidi?

(leans closer)

Or maybe you're just not sure, and you don't want anybody else to have the pleasure of taking care of Skye for what she did?

Anna can't respond to that, and with a victorious smirk Darcie starts to lead her makeshift posse out of the library.

EXT. CAMPUS - OUTSIDE LIBRARY - NEXT

The group bump straight into Braeden as they exit.

DARCIE

Ah, there you are! Come to join in?

BRAEDEN

Actually, I was kind of hoping to talk you all out of this.

DARCIE

What for?

BRAEDEN

Look, I want whoever killed Heidi brought down just as much as the rest of you, but this is not the way to do it.

DEBBIE

What else can we do?

BRAEDEN

I don't know, stop and think for a second? It's not our place to get involved with this!

DARCIE

If you want to go on thinking that, then fine.

Darcie steps away from him, addressing the others:

DARCIE (cont'd)

Anybody who wants to join him is welcome to do so. Everyone who wants to join me...

(CONTINUED)

With that, she walks away, and one by one Braeden watches the rest of the girls follow her. He sighs as the group head off down the corridor, before we cut to:

Erika and Sofia are heading into a more derelict part of town now, with Sofia leading the way.

ERIKA

Are you sure about this?

SOFIA

Trust me, I know Skye. She'll be hiding out somewhere nobody would bother looking for her. She likes to be on her own.

ERIKA

Perhaps...

SOFIA

(a little tetchy)

Do you have a better idea, then?

ERIKA

I just think maybe you do not know Skye as well as you think.

SOFIA

Excuse me?

ERIKA

You must have noticed the distance between the two of you, Sofia.

That shuts Sofia up. Her expression darkens.

ERIKA (cont'd)

I know you two have had your differences, but I also know that you would not be here now if you did not believe in her.

SOFIA

I do believe in her!

ERIKA

Or are you just making sure she receives a fair trial?

Sofia stops, and Erika waits for her reply.

SOFIA

Look, Skye and I, we've had... problems, I'll admit.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA (cont'd)

(beat)

And what Darcie said... I know Skye wasn't always on our side. Before she went to stay with Angel, she was out on the road by herself for a long time with nobody to guide her, and she...

ERIKA

She made mistakes.

SOFIA

(beat)

We all have. That doesn't mean she's guilty now.

Erika smiles, laying a hand on Sofia's shoulder.

ERIKA

Good. I believe you.

(beat)

Now, you must follow me.

Sofia blinks as Erika turns and walks off in another direction, suddenly full of purpose.

SOFIA

Where... how do you know where we're going?

ERIKA

(turns and smiles)

Because I can hear her.

Sofia pauses, shocked, for a beat.

SOFIA

Since when?!?

ERIKA

For a little while now. I just needed to make sure I could trust you before leading you to her.

SOFIA

(stuck)

But... but...

ERIKA

My apologies for deceiving you. I hope you can understand why.

Sofia is lost for words, finally jogging to catch Erika back up before we cut to:

30

EXT. TOWN HOUSE - NIGHT

30

A stately National Trust house just outside the city's main shopping quarter. The city has expanded around the house on both sides, but it's retained its sense of dignity.

A black-clad figure steals into view, darting from shadow to shadow as it heads for the tall trees overhanging the front garden.

The figure quickly shimmies up the tree, hanging off one of the branches before peeling silently down into the garden.

As they disappear from view, Skye emerges from another set of shadows, with Lianna close beside her.

SKYE

Alright, wait here. I'm gonna watch her from a distance, and soon as she's back out I'm gonna jump her.

LIANNA

What will you do to her?

SKYE

Whatever I have to, to get a confession.

(cracks knuckles)

And I hope it takes me a while.

Lianna watches as Skye starts to head across the street towards the house, as we cut to:

31

INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - NIGHT

31

Aiden is working late, sorting through several heaps of files as Frankie enters, wandering over to him.

FRANKIE

Still 'ard at work?

AIDEN

Yes and no. I couldn't sleep, so I'm working on some of the filing that normally knocks me right out if I try to do it when I'm awake.

FRANKIE

I know the feeling.

Frankie hangs around for a beat, and Aiden looks back up.

AIDEN

Can I... help?

(CONTINUED)

FRANKIE

'Ave you forgotten?

A beat - then Aiden nods, putting his pen down.

AIDEN

I had. I'm sorry.

FRANKIE

That is alright.

She pulls up a chair opposite him, rolling up the sleeve on her injured arm as Aiden wipes his hands down his shirt.

FRANKIE (cont'd)

We can leave this, if you are too tired, or-

AIDEN

No.

(softer)

No, I'm fine.

He holds out his hands, and Frankie gently lays her arm across them. Aiden closes his eyes, his brow knitting in concentration. Frankie watches him anxiously, starting to murmur something under her breath as we cut back to:

A set of French windows are hanging slightly ajar, an alarm cable running above them cut just before the junction box.

The house within is dark, but after a few moments someone can be seen moving around inside, before Delaney emerges from the shadows and steps outside.

She pauses to turn and carefully shut the windows, patting her jacket to make sure whatever she took is safe. She turns and takes one step before she hears:

SKYE (O.S.)

So, if you're getting in this late...

Delaney freezes as Skye steps into view before her.

SKYE (cont'd)

... I'm guessing you've got one of those free guest pass things, right?

DELANEY

(tensing up)

What are you doing here?

SKYE

Window shopping, same as you.

Delaney strikes an offensive martial arts stance.

DELANEY

I'm warning you, Skye, don't get in my way.

SKYE

Oh, is this the part where I go 'make me, beyatch!' so you can be all 'I'll put you down if you stand before me!'

DELANEY

No, this is the part where I leave your half-breed ass stapled to one of those trees by your own teeth.

SKYE

Is that a fact? Well, then...

Skye VAMPS OUT, putting her fists up.

SKYE (cont'd)

... show me what you got.

Delaney grins, taking one step forward...

... and the COUNCIL HELICOPTER suddenly swoops from behind a nearby tower and flies straight across the garden, its spotlight picking out both girls!

SKYE (cont'd)

Aw, crap!

Delaney bolts as soon as Skye's attention is turned, and Skye is quick to turn and chase her.

SKYE (cont'd)

Hey! Get back here!

SMITH (O.S.)

(filtered; through
megaphone)

Stay where you are, Skye!

Skye pauses just long enough to turn and give the helicopter the finger, before she follows Delaney up the nearest tree and out of the garden:

Skye hits the floor, her head snapping up as Delaney races off - and a Council van skids into view before her!

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

Skye mutters a quick curse before she's off and running, three OPERATIONS TEAM MEMBERS bursting from the van, all brandishing tranquiliser rifles.

34 EXT. ANOTHER STREET - NEXT

34

Drawn by the commotion up ahead, Sofia and Erika hurry into frame and see the helicopter hovering above the next street along - just as they see a second BLACK VAN screech round a corner.

SOFIA

That's her! They've found her! Come on!

Sofia races off with Erika behind, Erika grimacing at the noise from the chopper as we cut back to:

35 EXT. STREET - NEXT

35

With the helicopter looming in the background, Skye runs on but there's no sign of Delaney, and now she's got the ops team right on her tail!

She dodges left as TRANQUILISER DARTS start to zip past her, but as she passes an alleyway she sees Lianna, who waves urgently for her to follow.

Skye skids into the alley, ducking behind a large, wheeled rubbish bin just as the ops team run into view, splitting up and heading off in three different directions - all of them away from the alley.

Skye exhales in relief and turns to Lianna, whose wide, scared eyes peer out from inside her hood.

SKYE

Thanks.

LIANNA

Are those men after you?

SKYE

They think I did what that other girl did.

LIANNA

Oh...

(beat)

You can't stay here. You need to catch that girl - Delaney, was it?

SKYE

Yeah, I do, but first I've gotta lose those-

(CONTINUED)

ERIKA (O.S.)

Skye?

Skye looks up - and sees Erika at the end of the alley!

SKYE

Erika?

She cautiously gets up, stepping into view as a breathless Sofia joins them both.

ERIKA

It is alright. They are moving on.
We have lost them for now.

Skye looks relieved, jogging over to embrace Erika as she waits for Sofia to get her breath back.

SKYE

Man, I'm glad to see you guys...

ERIKA

As are we. Now, come, we must get
you to-

SOFIA

No.

Erika has one hand on Skye's arm to lead her away, as Sofia steps before them.

ERIKA

Sofia?

SOFIA

She has to come back to the Academy
with us, Erika.
(to Skye)
It's the only way.

Erika starts to reply, but with a thunderous look Skye brushes past her to stand before Sofia.

SKYE

Make me.

Fresh RAIN starts to fall as the two girls stare each other down, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

36

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

36

As before. Erika wisely hangs back as Sofia and Skye stare one another down in the falling rain.

SOFIA

Excuse me?!?

SKYE

You heard.

SOFIA

Skye, I want to help you!

SKYE

Yeah, well... your idea of 'helping' sucks.

SOFIA

(beat)

You're not seriously going to make me have to fight you... are you?

SKYE

Like I said - I'm not going back there. Not until I've got some answers.

SOFIA

So what? You're just going to stay on the run from the Council? How long do you think it'll be before they catch up to you again?

SKYE

Hopefully, just long enough.

SOFIA

You're not thinking straight! You're just one person, they've got resources stretching across the whole world to throw at you! Where are you going to run to next?

SKYE

Sofes, don't take this the wrong way, but... please shut the hell up for once.

Erika glances over her shoulder, hearing something in the distance as Skye and Sofia continue to argue.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

You'd rather keep on running than come back to somewhere you know will protect you?

SKYE

Funny, seems like 'protect' means the same to you as 'sell out.'

SOFIA

(beat)

Barbara made a mistake. She accepts that. She's willing to do whatever it takes to-

SKYE

(interrupts)

Barbara's a fricken pushover. She knows it, I know it. She can put on her game face and try to stand up to the Council all she likes, but it ain't gonna last.

Skye takes a step back, but Sofia advances to counter.

SKYE (cont'd)

I'm not gonna end up like her.

SOFIA

Like who?

SKYE

Faith! Who else?

SOFIA

Is that what this is about?

SKYE

Hey, our Behind The Musics are going to look pretty damn similar at the moment, don't you think? Both accused of murder and on the run from the Council?

SOFIA

Yes, but she gave herself up.

SKYE

(beat; shrugs)

Good job I've still got chance to try writing my own ending, then.

Skye turns to leave, but Sofia firmly grabs her arm.

SOFIA

I can't let you do that.

(CONTINUED)

Skye slowly looks to Sofia's hand, then at her.

SKYE

You want to move that arm.

SOFIA

Make me.

A beat. Skye glances at Erika, who turns away from whatever she heard and steps towards Sofia.

ERIKA

Sofia, this is not the way. We can't guarantee Skye's safety even if we bring her back.

SOFIA

What the bloody hell else are we supposed to do?

Skye shrugs her arm out of Sofia's grip.

SKYE

Let me go. Let me find out what really happened. Let me bring Heidi's killer in and end this.

SOFIA

Oh, and I suppose you've got a lead already, have you?

SKYE

As a matter of fact, I have.

(beat)

Delaney.

ERIKA

Delaney is here?

SKYE

Delaney and Kira.

SOFIA

Do you... do you think she's involved in all this?

SKYE

I'm thinking the Coincidence-O-Meter just blew a fuse. So yeah.

SOFIA

So what do you plan on doing?

SKYE

Well, when you let me go, I'm gonna go find her, and then-

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA
(shakes head)
Skye...

SKYE
You calling me a liar now? I
thought you weren't part of the
lynch mob?

SOFIA
I'm not! I just...

Skye turns and starts to walk away, and a furious Sofia draws her Scythe! The sound stops Skye in her tracks.

SOFIA (cont'd)
Don't make me do this. Please.

Skye slowly turns round, flexing her muscles as she warms herself up. Erika watches on, trying to figure out what to do to defuse the situation.

SKYE
You're the one calling the shots
here, Sofes. Your call. Let me go,
or try to take me down.

There's a very, very long beat. Sofia is clearly torn between what she should do and what she wants to do. She finally lowers her head, and Skye relaxes a little.

SOFIA
(quietly)
I'm sorry.

And she LUNGES forward to attack! Quick as lightning, Skye GRABS Erika's staff and gets it up to block, just holding off the Scythe.

The two girls are locked together, ignoring Erika's protests to stop as they push their weapons against one another.

SKYE
So this is how it goes, huh?

SOFIA
It doesn't have to!

ERIKA
Both of you, stop!

SKYE
You reckon you can take me?

SOFIA
I reckon I can try.

(CONTINUED)

ERIKA

Sofia, Skye, please!

Skye SHOVES Sofia back, following up with a KICK as she hops up into the air, but as she lands Sofia retaliates with a SWEEP that sends Skye stumbling backwards.

Sofia follows up, shrugging off Erika as she tries to restrain her, landing a PUNCH to Skye that knocks her back into a puddle with a SPLASH.

ERIKA (cont'd)

Sofia, no!

SOFIA

This is the only way! She brought this on herself!

Skye FLIPS to her feet, SHOVING both girls back and SWATTING the Scythe from Sofia's hand.

SKYE

What the hell is wrong with you?

Sofia KICKS out, but Skye GRABS her foot and YANKS it to the side, sending Sofia spinning painfully onto her side.

SKYE (cont'd)

Do you want me to kick your ass?

Skye starts to follow up, but to her surprise Erika TACKLES her, sending them both to the ground.

SKYE (cont'd)

Hey! What the-

She's cut off as Erika clamps a hand over her mouth, putting a finger to her lips.

ERIKA

Quiet!

(beat; whispers)

Listen...

Sofia pushes herself up, shaking her head groggily, but she hears it too.

SOFIA

The helicopter...

She whips round, exchanging a look with Skye seconds before the Council helicopter THUNDERS back into frame, its powerful spotlight searching for the girls.

Sofia and Skye scramble back to their feet, looking over as the three black vans speed in, one from each direction.

(CONTINUED)

Sofia starts to turn back to Skye...

WHACK! Skye SPIN KICKS her to the ground, and with a last glance at Erika races off screen.

The helicopter follows, two of the vans racing after it as the third screeches to a halt next to Erika and Sofia.

A raging Weatherby clambers out as Sofia picks herself back up again, storming over to them both as his two colleagues race after the other vans on foot.

WEATHERBY

What the hell are you two doing here?

The girls exchange a look as we cut to:

Skye's only moments ahead of the speeding vans, with the helicopter coming in low to SHOUTS of alarm from other pedestrians.

Running out of space, she VAULTS over a railing and drops down into a subway system, racing out of view as the two vans SCREECH to a halt.

Collins is leading one team as six men pile out, clattering down the steps in pursuit.

COLLINS

Rigby, Brown, Roberts! The other side! Cut her off before she gets away!

Three of the ops team run back across the street, heading for the other entrance to the system as we cut to:

Collins' team run into frame, the dim neon lighting showing up the dingy corridor around them, slowing to a halt as the second team also appears before them.

COLLINS

Where is she?

RIGBY

I don't know, she must've doubled back!

COLLINS

She can't have gotten far! Go back and search every inch of this place until you find her!

The furious Collins clomps back down the corridor out of sight, and we push in on an air vent up on the wall - just big enough for a girl to climb through...

And with a POP and a CLANG, another vent jumps up from the floor, moments before a sooty and coughing Skye pulls herself up out of it.

Skye gets to her feet, leaning against the wall to catch her breath until she hears FOOTSTEPS.

She looks up - and a frantic Lianna rounds the corner!

LIANNA

Skye!

She jogs towards her as Skye straightens, wincing but otherwise okay.

LIANNA (cont'd)

Are you okay? I saw everything!
Those other two girls, are they-

SKYE

Also long stories, yeah. How'd you
find me so fast?

LIANNA

I've used this way out before. It
pays to know your exits when you're
as little as I am.

She skips back a few steps, eager for Skye to follow.

LIANNA (cont'd)

Come on, I found something! Follow
me!

Still worn out, Skye manages to keep up as we cut to:

It doesn't look like anybody lives in this grafitti-covered, crumbling block any more - which means it's the perfect base for Delaney, as she nimbly hops from ledge to ledge to make her way to an open third-floor window.

As she swings inside, we pull back to see Skye and Lianna watching her from the street below.

LIANNA

(proudly)

I followed her back here. If you
see what I mean.

SKYE

Yeah, yeah, I see. Good work.

LIANNA

What do you want me to do? Wait here, or-

SKYE

Yeah, that.

Lianna looks almost relieved as Skye heads forward, her eyes on the prize of the window up above.

SKYE (cont'd)

Alright, Delaney... time to do me a favour.

Skye jumps up to grab an overhanging balcony, pulling herself up and starting the climb as we cut to:

41 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

41

Weatherby has his back to Sofia and Erika as he barks into his wireless radio.

WEATHERBY

Yes, both of them! Running around like this was a sodding playground! (listens; turns to girls)
Right away?
(listens; nods)
Alright, then.

He pushes the radio's aerial back into place as he turns to address the Slayers.

WEATHERBY (cont'd)

Right, you two, into the van. I'm taking you back to the Academy.

SOFIA

What? But what about Skye?

WEATHERBY

She's our responsibility. Not yours.

Weatherby turns his back on the girls to reach in and start the van. Sofia and Erika exchange a look...

... and with a THUD Weatherby suddenly stiffens, then slumps forward - revealing the end of Erika's staff.

She steps back as the ops man slides face down onto the street before them.

(CONTINUED)

ERIKA

I think we just created a lot of trouble for ourselves.

SOFIA

It'll be worth it. Let's go!

She starts to run off, but Erika holds her back.

ERIKA

Sofia... no.

SOFIA

But-

ERIKA

Skye will not approach us if she sees you. I must find her alone.

Erika takes off without waiting for a reply, and as Sofia watches her go we cut to:

Inside the old apartment, which Delaney has managed to make halfway liveable while she carries out her mission, the girl in question carefully takes another small necklace out of her jacket to examine it.

SKYE (O.S.)

I'll give you ten bucks for it.

Delaney spins round to see Skye perched on the windowsill.

SKYE (cont'd)

Unless you want to haggle?

Delaney backs up as Skye hops into the room.

DELANEY

You just don't know when to stop trying, do you?

SKYE

That's why I'm still here.

DELANEY

(off necklace)

You're not gonna take this from me.

SKYE

(scoffs)

Whatever. That's not why I'm here.

DELANEY
(frowns)
Huh?

SKYE
(points at her)
I'm here for you.

Delaney raises an eyebrow - then tosses the necklace to one side, getting ready for another rumble as Skye advances.

DELANEY
Can I ask why?

SKYE
Because you know something that I
need other people to hear.

DELANEY
Hey, if you want me to out you to
all your friends, I'll do that free
of charge.

SKYE
Funny! Almost as funny as you being
Kira's kid!

Delaney freezes, eyes bulging.

DELANEY
How did-

POW! Skye uses the distraction to land the first punch,
sending Delaney stumbling backwards and CRASHING into an old
wardrobe.

With blood on her split lip, Delaney TACKLES Skye with a
GROWL, the two girls hitting the deck hard.

Delaney is up first, ripping out a drawer from a nearby table
and BREAKING it across Skye's raised arm.

Skye YELPS in pain but gets a leg up to KICK Delaney back,
following through but getting FLIPPED into the wardrobe for
her trouble.

The wardrobe SPLINTERS around Skye as she hits it, and Skye
rolls back onto the floor with a HOWL of pain. Delaney sneers
as she sees a hunk of sharp WOOD sticking out of Skye's back!

DELANEY (cont'd)
Too bad that won't kill you...

Delaney STAMPS on the wood, driving it further into Skye's
chest to another YELL of pain.

(CONTINUED)

DELANEY (cont'd)
... but at least it hurts!

Delaney raises her foot to stamp again, but Skye manages to swing her arm round, catching Delaney's other leg and TRIPPING her.

Delaney bounces off the bed and into a bedside table which disintegrates with a CRASH.

Skye gets up, pausing to slowly draw the bloody chunk of wardrobe from her back, but this gives Delaney chance to recover and get back to her feet.

Skye pulls the wood free with a GASP, dropping it to the floor, but she can only take one step before Delaney CLAPS her hands together, and a bright FLASH of white light suddenly fills the room!

Blinded, Skye stumbles back, giving Delaney chance to scoop up the necklace and throw open the door, racing out of the scene as Skye shakes her head to clear the lights away.

Skye gets slowly to her feet, wincing and rubbing her eyes as her vision returns - and she sees Delaney is gone.

She doesn't get time to curse, however, as the sound of the Council helicopter starts to come into range again!

Skye steps for the exit, but pauses as she recalls:

KIRA (V.O.)
Just tell me you got the tapes, at
least.

Skye looks round the room - and spies three unmarked VIDEO CASSETTES sitting on top of the one non-demolished table in the room. She darts over, grabs them and makes her exit as we DISSOLVE TO:

Erika sits on the edge of a roof, her legs hanging over the ledge as she waits patiently. The rain has eased off, and as Erika hears someone slowly walking across the roof towards her, she smiles.

ERIKA
You took your time.

Skye grins as she steps into frame, taking a seat.

SKYE
Busy night.

ERIKA

Are you alright?

SKYE

I'll live. Technically. Oh, and thanks for the help. Found this other kid, too, little demon girl called Lianna. If you see her, and you probably will, tell her I said 'hi.' Looked for her, couldn't find her.

(beat)

And, you'll need these.

She extracts the tapes from various pockets in her trousers, passing them to Erika.

ERIKA

What are they?

SKYE

Honestly? Not sure. But I think they'll help.

ERIKA

Then I will see that I get them to the right people.

SKYE

Thanks.

(beat)

Erika... I have to go.

ERIKA

(nods)

I know. I will not stop you.

SKYE

(grins)

Thanks.

SOFIA (O.S.)

Don't leave just yet...

Both girls spin round - and there's Sofia! She looks exhausted, clearly having had her work cut out to keep up with Erika, but as Skye slowly rises Sofia's only got one thing on her mind.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Come on, Skye.

SKYE

Aw, what? Sofes, come on! Do you have any idea what I've been through tonight?

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

Don't know, don't care. You lost
the right to plead your case when
you suckerpunched me earlier. Now
stand down so we can-

WHACK! Sofia staggers back a step, blinks - then wilts to the floor!

Skye blinks in surprise - then sees Erika step over Sofia's unconscious form, staff in hand. She looks up at Skye.

ERIKA

Go.

Skye hesitates, then nods and races past her, disappearing from sight in moments. Erika sighs as she kneels down to lift Sofia up, and as she drags the KO'd Slayer to her feet, we cut down to:

Skye drops down into view, checking up and down the street before racing off into the night.

As she leaves, Lianna steps out from the shadows - and her mouth twists into a sinister smirk.

And Lianna MORPHS into HEIDI!

HEIDI

(shakes head; chuckles)
Sucker.

'Heidi' turns and melts back into the darkness, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW