

**SLAYER ACADEMY**

"By Dawn's Early Light"

by  
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&

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## TEASER

FADE IN:

1

INT. CHAMBER - TIMELESS

1

FADE IN on a small, dank chamber, liquid condensation dripping from the ceiling. Tucked in the corner, bound and chained is SKYE, who looks to be unconscious.

CLOSE UP on Skye's face. She almost looks peaceful.

Her eyes SNAP OPEN. Invigorated. Alive.

And pissed.

She looks down at the chains holding her, and begins tugging, pulling. Desperately trying to escape. She pulls again - DUST crumbles down from the stone wall where the chain is fastened.

A look of determination flashes across Skye's face, and she firmly grips the stem of the chain, wrapping her fingers tightly around the metal.

WHAM!

She pulls once - more dust. She takes a deep breath, centering herself.

SILENCE overtakes everything, and the only thing that can be heard is the slow, steady BREATHING of Skye exerting herself, getting ready...

WHAM!

She pulls again! This time - the chain pops free from the wall!

Elated, Skye flexes her muscles, relishing her moment of success. Fully relished, she gets to her feet and begins tracing her fingers along the walls of the chamber, looking for a way out.

She finally looks up.

SKYE'S POV:

A door is set into the wall - seven or eight feet up into the air.

ON SKYE, who sags, sighing; annoyed.

SKYE  
Well... crap.

As she contemplates her next move, we cut to:

2

INT. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

2

A dimly lit corridor made of stone, similar to the chamber Skye was trapped inside. Wall sconces are lit with flames, their flickering light providing an eerie ambiance.

TRACK IN on a wooden door, barely reinforced, tucked in at the end of the corridor.

A beat passes.

CRASH!

Skye comes BARRELING through the door, and the wood splinters into a hundred pieces. She tumbles through the broken door, somersaulting and flipping, rolling into a ball.

She skids to a stop on her butt in the middle of the corridor, hair mussed and tangled with splinters.

She quickly gets to her feet, dashing down the corridor, eyes darting back and forth carefully as she makes her daring escape. So far, so good.

Up ahead - VOICES!

Skye freezes, reaching a juncture in the corridor.

PAN AROUND the corner to reveal two VAMPIRES marching towards her, making their security rounds. One is frowning, looking back in Skye's direction.

VAMPIRE #1

Did you hear something?

VAMPIRE #2

Huh?

VAMPIRE #1

(annoyed)

Never mind.

(beat)

Come on, Roland is waiting for us.

Vampire #2 hesitates.

VAMPIRE #2

Aren't we supposed to check on the prisoner first?

VAMPIRE #1

Do you really want to be late?

VAMPIRE #2

(beat)

Good point.

(CONTINUED)

The two vampires scurry off, and as Skye crouches low, hiding in shadows, they pass her by, hurrying off down the other end of the corridor in the "T".

Skye's eyes follow after them and she narrows them, helplessly curious.

In a cavernous room, full of pews and tables and chairs, hundreds upon hundreds of VAMPIRES and snarling TUROK HANS are gathered for a meeting.

Skye is peering through a crack in a door at the back of the room, taking in the massive scope of the army gathered here.

At the head of the room is ROLAND, smiling admiringly at his forces.

ROLAND

Welcome, my brothers. Our moment is finally almost upon us. Soon, everything we've been working towards all this time will come into fruition.

(beat)

Provided our guest of honor doesn't manage to run away, of course.

On Skye, who's eyes narrow in confusion. Very "WTF?" She only gets a moment, however, before CLAWED HANDS grip onto her!

She is forced through the door and marched into the meeting room by two powerful Turok-Hans.

Skye looks at her enemies with a fierce gaze, a ripple of chatter passing through the assembled vamps as she's frog-marched through them.

ROLAND (cont'd)

(devious)

Leaving so soon, Skye?

Skye tries to budge free from the ubervamps' grips, but she is unable to move.

SKYE

You know me. Thanks for the bed and breakfast and all, but I guess I'm just ready to get back to work.

(beat)

You know, the whole killing you thing.

Roland marches closer to her, going down the center of the room. Vampires on all sides move out of his way as he comes closer and closer.

ROLAND

My dear girl. So brave, despite the obvious odds stacked against you.

(beat)

I have to say, your persistence is rather charming. Thinking you can escape, even after everything you've seen and learned.

Skye glares at him, her gaze unwavering.

SKYE

I will stop you. My friends...

ROLAND

Your friends are meaningless. They will fall, just like you.

SKYE

Just wait. You'll see.

Roland tuts, shaking his head mournfully.

ROLAND

I'm afraid it's too late, Skye. There's nothing more you can do. By the time the sun rises, you will be gone...

A lengthy beat passes as Roland leans even closer, so that his face is mere inches from Skye's.

ROLAND (cont'd)

... and then, no-one will be able to stop me.

As the tension rises, and Skye stares into the face of death, we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF TEASER**

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 INT. CAMPUS - STAFF ROOM - DAY

4

PAN UP from a table full of opened books and charts and research papers.

Sitting in a chair before the table is ERIKA, hands neatly in her lap as she faces STANLEY, FITZGERALD, GREG and ELLEN.

ERIKA

And that is all I was able to learn.

STANLEY

(thoughtful)

I see.

FITZGERALD

And you're absolutely sure about all of this?

ERIKA

(nods)

Kira kept her plans as secret as she could, but I do not think any of her followers realised just how good my hearing has become over the past few years.

STANLEY

Thank you, Miss Nemerov. You may leave.

Erika nods again, stands and exits the room. A beat of silence passes as Stanley rubs his chin, deep in thought.

ELLEN

So... what do we make of all that?

GREG

Roland wanted to get his hands on Skye, and after a battle against him she's gone missing. I don't think there's much we can make of it all.

STANLEY

Pass me the first volume again.

Ellen glances at Greg, then hands over a leather-bound tome with archaic symbols on the cover. Keen viewers will notice this is one of the Slayer Codexes.

(CONTINUED)

ELLEN

So what's the verdict?

FITZGERALD

That's to be determined.

GREG

We have the information we need,  
right? Why should we be waiting?  
Skye is still out there, and she-

Stanley SLAMS the book closed.

STANLEY

We are well aware of the situation,  
Mr. Giles. The constant reminders  
are really not as helpful as you  
seem to think they are.

GREG

(scowls)

At least you managed to get my name  
right, for once.

Fitzgerald sighs and looks around at her companions.

FITZGERALD

Look, we all just need to calm  
down. Take a step back, look at  
this rationally-

ELLEN

And while we're doing that, Skye  
could die and Roland and his army  
will have become an un-killable  
army.

(beat)

Gee, I can't wait to see what your  
next move is, admiral.

Stanley glares at her.

STANLEY

Your sarcasm is not appreciated,  
Miss Marklew. You may not believe  
me, but the fate of this Academy  
and its students does mean  
something to me.

ELLEN

(scoffs)

Then why are we still sitting here  
with our thumbs up our asses?

GREG  
(softly)  
Ellen...

Ellen shakes her head, frustrated.

ELLEN  
No! Greg, I am tired of waiting.  
We've waited long enough.  
(beat)  
It's time to do something.

A beat passes.

VOICE (O.C.)  
She's right.

Heads turn to see that BARBARA has entered the room, looking haggard and extremely exhausted.

FITZGERALD  
(hesitant)  
Oh, Barbara. Where have you been?

BARBARA  
I had a proposition to hear.

Barbara walks further into the office and she looks both determined and resolute.

BARBARA (cont'd)  
And Ellen's right. The time for  
waiting is over. We are taking the  
fight to Roland and we are  
finishing this once and for all.

Everyone is suitably shocked by this announcement. A flurry of movement as Barbara begins picking through the research material about Roland's plans.

FITZGERALD  
Hang on. We can't just...

Barbara looks at her darkly.

BARBARA  
Can't just what? Save Skye? Stop  
Roland?  
(beat)  
Watch us.

Barbara returns to the research material.

FITZGERALD  
We can't! We're at half strength as  
it is. More Slayers will die.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (3)

FITZGERALD (cont'd)  
It's suicide. We've tried... and we failed.

(beat)  
We'll fail again.

ELLEN  
(rolls eyes)  
There's the attitude we're looking for...

Greg shrugs his shoulders, trying to maintain reason.

GREG  
Much as I hate to admit it, she's right. We either need a much better plan this time round, or start praying for divine intervention.

This gets looks of disapproval from Barbara and Ellen. Greg wavers for a moment, but continues.

GREG (cont'd)  
We can't just go rushing in unprepared. Roland will destroy us all. We can't risk that.

STANLEY  
What we need to do is formulate a plan of action. I want to know everything we can before we go in again.

Barbara faces them all.

BARBARA  
There's no need for that.  
(beat)  
We'll be ready this time.

GREG  
(confused)  
Barb...?

BARBARA  
Do you want to know where I was just now?  
(beat)  
I was meeting with Kira Brogan.

A beat of stunned silence. Jaws drop.

STANLEY  
You... did... what?!?

BARBARA  
A truce with the rogues will give us the chance we need to win.

(CONTINUED)

GREG

Please tell me you're joking...  
(off her look; gulps)  
... you're not joking.

ELLEN

A 'truce'? C'mon, Barb, we both  
know that's just gonna leave us all  
with a knife in our collective  
backs.

Barbara looks between them all, desperate for support.

FITZGERALD

It's absolutely out of the  
question, and furthermore, how  
could you go over our heads with  
this? This is precisely the kind of  
behaviour that brought Stanley and  
myself here in the first place!

BARBARA

It's our only option.  
(beat)  
You have to trust me.

ELLEN

(quietly)  
This is crazy...

BARBARA

Saving Skye and stopping Roland are  
our two primary objectives. Nothing  
else matters right now.  
(beat)  
Who is in the fight doesn't matter,  
as long as the end result is the  
same.

Fitzgerald shakes her head vehemently.

FITZGERALD

There is absolutely no way we can  
trust Kira. She is volatile,  
unpredictable... she'll betray us  
at the first opportunity!

Barbara SLAMS her hands down on the table.

BARBARA

Do you think I don't know that?

Silence overtakes the room.

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA (cont'd)

But do you know what? We don't have a choice right now! So if you want to sit around here all night waiting for a magical solution to pop up, then by my guest.

(beat)

But you sure as hell better get out of my bloody way, because I have a war to fight.

Fitzgerald is stunned into silence. Ellen has turned to stone, the dread of what is coming finally beginning to sink in. Greg has fallen into a resolute silence.

Stanley finally pipes in.

STANLEY

Then we'd better begin preparing.

All eyes turn to him. Fitzgerald's eyes widen in surprise. Stanley is actually agreeing with Barbara?

Barbara and Stanley's eyes lock into each other's gaze. An unspoken agreement has been made. Barbara nods slightly.

STANLEY (cont'd)

All right, then.

(beat)

We have a war to win.

The others still aren't on the same page, exchanging shocked looks as we cut to:

INT. CAMPUS - ASSEMBLY HALL - LATER

Murmurs and general chit-chat hover through the air as all of the Slayers begin gathering in the assembly hall. Confusion hangs over them all, and some of them appear to be quite afraid.

TRACK IN on SOFIA, ALITA and FRANKIE, who are all together along with TSULA, who still looks half-asleep. Frankie rubs her arm and winces as she looks around.

FRANKIE

Something must be 'appening. Why else would we be 'ere so late?

SOFIA

Maybe they know where Skye is?

ALITA

I hope so. Our search parties have found nothing.

(CONTINUED)

Alita looks towards the stage and sees the staff members gathering, getting ready for some sort of speech.

TRACK OVER to DEBBIE and ANNA, getting into seats next to each other. Debbie YAWNS as Anna takes a seat.

ANNA

Sup, girl?

DEBBIE

Well, I was sleeping.

ANNA

How could you sleep at a time like this?

DEBBIE

It was more involuntary than anything. I've been awake for three straight days researching and caring for Slayers. In fact, it was more like a coma.

Anna raises her eyebrows as we:

TRACK OVER to ERIKA, sitting calmly by herself, several other Slayers casting her sidelong glances as she quietly keeps to herself.

UP ON STAGE:

Barbara and Stanley approach a podium in the center of the stage, Stanley positioned before a microphone.

STANLEY

(amplified)

Hello, students. I appreciate you all gathering here in such a calm fashion. I know it's late. I know you're tired. But I'm going to need to ask you all to open your eyes and wake up. As most of you know, things have gotten extremely serious around here.

(beat)

I'm sure the situation isn't lost on any of you. But we have a lot of work ahead of us. I'm hoping you will all pitch in any way you can.

(beat)

I'm going to turn you over to Miss Griffin. She has some... well, interesting news to share with you.

(CONTINUED)

He nods at Barbara and she nods back. Stanley moves away from the podium, joining Fitzgerald, Ellen, Greg and other staff members near the back of the stage.

Barbara faces the audience of Slayers, a deep look of concern and sadness overtaking her features.

BARBARA

Girls... we have gone through a lot together. We've been through many battles. Some of them we have lost...

ON SOFIA, who looks drawn and sad.

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

Some of them we have won.

ON DEBBIE, who looks hopeful.

ON BARBARA, who continues speaking.

BARBARA (cont'd)

Now it's time for us to enter into another battle. This time, more is at stake than ever before.

(beat)

I have a confession to make to you all.

ON FRANKIE, who narrows her eyes, confused. She exchanges a look with Alita.

ON BARBARA who takes a deep breath.

BARBARA (cont'd)

I have formed a truce with Kira Brogan and her Academy of rogues.

Several GASPS ring out from the audience, but Barbara continues, unbowed.

BARBARA (cont'd)

We are going into battle with them against Roland and his forces.

(beat)

Here's the part where it gets interesting.

(beat)

We're going in tonight. All of us.

More shocked gasps and murmurs. Several of the Slayers stand up with various protests of "WHAT?" and "THAT'S CRAZY!" Barbara tries to wave her arms to keep them calm.

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA (cont'd)

Please, please, stay in your seats, everyone! I know how insane this plan sounds, but you have got to trust me. I know that we have made mistakes in the past...

(beat, forceful)

But now it's time to finally do something right.

A Slayer stands up - a girl with braided red hair and harsh, green eyes. This is REBECCA.

REBECCA

(loudly)

Um, permission to speak, or whatever?

Barbara looks at her, a bit surprised. She looks back at Stanley and Fitzgerald, who look lost. Barbara waves at Rebecca for her to go ahead.

REBECCA (cont'd)

Am I the only one here who thinks this idea is total crap?

Some of the other Slayers look at each other, mumbling. The girls around Rebecca seem to agree with her.

REBECCA (cont'd)

I mean, no offense, Miss Griffin, but you haven't exactly been the greatest leader to us all. You aren't even really in charge any more.

Barbara is completely stunned by this obvious show of insubordination. Stanley immediately interferes, moving past Barbara.

STANLEY

How dare you.

The Slayers fall into silence.

STANLEY (cont'd)

(continuing)

How dare you all. This woman has been here for you, all this time, caring for you, helping you. Cultivating you into the women you will grow up to be.

(beat)

She is the strongest mind in this army of ours, and we would be a sad, sorry lot to lose her.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

STANLEY (cont'd)  
If you cannot find it within  
yourself to show her any amount of  
respect you can muster within  
yourselves, then I suggest you  
leave this Academy now and never  
come back.

Rebecca falls into her seat, completely taken aback by Stanley's defense of Barbara. The rest of the Slayers are completely stunned.

STANLEY (cont'd)  
Alright, then. You are all  
dismissed. You have two hours to  
prepare. Please make good use of  
that time, girls.  
(beat)  
Dismissed.

All of the Slayers begin shuffling out of the auditorium, and the tension in the air is a palpable thing.

Barbara approaches Stanley, a strange look on her face.

BARBARA  
I... I honestly don't know what to  
say.

STANLEY  
I might not always agree with your  
methods, Barbara. Actually, I am  
several miles away from ever  
agreeing with your methods.

Barbara looks down, nodding slightly, accepting the criticism.

STANLEY (cont'd)  
But you have, nevertheless, worked  
extremely hard with these young  
women, and with an amazingly small  
amount of casualties.  
(beat)  
If anyone should be leading these  
girls into battle, it should be  
you. They need to respect you.

Barbara narrows her eyes as she studies him - but she can tell he's being genuine. She allows herself a wry smile.

BARBARA  
For once, I think we agree on  
something.

As they take that in, we cut to:

6

INT. CASTLE - KIRA'S ROOM - NIGHT

6

KIRA is relaxing in her study in a leather arm chair, a roaring open fire crackling behind her and soft, bluesy music drifting through the air.

She closes her eyes and takes a breath, enjoying the solitude - and then there's a loud KNOCK at her door.

She GROANS, twisting towards the door just as it's thrown open to reveal an obviously hacked off JAZ.

JAZ

What the bloody hell were you thinking?

KIRA

I was actually thinking how wonderfully quiet it was in here.

JAZ

A truce with the Academy? Are you out of your mind?

Kira stands, not fazed in the slightest as the indignant Jaz stomps over to her.

JAZ (cont'd)

There's a reason I left that place, you know! I didn't exactly expect to find myself fighting alongside them again!

KIRA

(mocking)

Aww, poor Jaz. Do you think your old friends will call you names and pull your hair?

Jaz scowls at her, burning with anger.

JAZ

I'm not doing it.

KIRA

(stern)

You will do exactly as I say, when I say it, or you can say goodbye to those new found powers of yours, you jumped-up little madam!

Kira advances on her, quickly turning the advantage away from Jaz as she backs away.

(CONTINUED)



KIRA (cont'd)

Maybe if you hadn't been so determined to become a Slayer again, you wouldn't have done the things you did across your so-called colleagues!

JAZ

I didn't-

Kira is still advancing, seeming to loom ever larger.

KIRA

Question. Did you or did you not compile a dossier of misdeeds on Barbara, and then turn it over to the Council to try and get her ejected?

JAZ

(beat)

She was-

KIRA

She was going to get you all killed if you didn't do something, yes, yes, blah blah. Question two. Did you, or did you not, accuse Bryce of murdering that Tyson boy without justification, when you were the one who decided to drag him along with you on the day you escaped?

Jaz bumps into the back wall - cornered.

JAZ

That's... how did-

KIRA

I see a lot more than what goes on directly in front of me, Jaz. You'd do well to remember that.

JAZ

(protests)

I was trying to bring him to you! I knew you wanted him from the last time you tried to-

KIRA

Those plans changed the day I discovered Dana's ability, and you knew that full well! Trying to score extra brownie points doesn't wash with me.

(CONTINUED)

Jaz's mouth flaps as she searches for a comeback, but as Kira steps away she knows she's been shouted down.

KIRA (cont'd)  
Frankly, it's a miracle you made it  
back out without anybody seeing  
you. Although, I imagine knowing  
more than one way off the campus  
has its perks when one is trying to  
slip away from one's former duty.

Kira stalks back over to her chair, sitting down and pointedly turning away from the sagging form of Jaz.

KIRA (cont'd)  
Go and get ready with the others.  
We're dealing with our Roland  
problem tonight, and if you're not  
lined up with the others when the  
time comes, don't expect to have  
much skin left when you wake up.  
(beat)  
You may leave.

Jaz stands in silence for a beat, then turns and scurries back out, closing the door behind her.

Kira settles back down, the music returning as she exhales deeply, closing her eyes as we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

7 INT. CAMPUS - TRAINING ROOM - NIGHT 7

BAM, BAM, BAM!

Sofia is all alone in the training room, mindlessly pounding a punching bag, a look of determination on her face.

Several emotions cross her face. Pain. Determination. Rage. Her features changing with every hit.

She stops punching, and stands breathlessly, looking around at the empty room. Her shoulders heave as she breaths heavily.

Without warning, tears begin flowing down her cheeks. She sinks down into a crouching position, holding her head in her hands, sobbing quietly.

A few beats pass. She slowly rises back to her full height, staring hard at the punching bag.

She takes several deep breaths, approaching it, getting into a fighting stance once again.

BAM, BAM, BAM...

The punching continues, and as Sofia fights off another onslaught of tears, we cut to:

8 INT. THE TOR - CHAMBER - NIGHT 8

PAN DOWN from a star-filled sky, visible through the open roof of the tower, to reveal Skye being marched up a set of stone steps and flanked by several Turok-Han warriors, a ritualistic-looking gown covering her lithe figure.

Skye looks out into the distant horizon through the small windows, the moonlight reflected in her stormy eyes.

A large stone table of sorts is situated in the middle of the chamber, like a dais of sorts. The Turok-Hans motion her towards it, and Skye pensively moves forward, a look of apprehension taking over her features.

Skye takes one last look up at the night sky, as if sending some sort of quiet plea into the air, and begins to move forward once again.

9 INT. CAMPUS - GREG'S OFFICE - NIGHT 9

Greg is packing a few things into a shoulderbag - supplies like spellbooks and weapons - when there's a soft KNOCK at the door. He looks up as AIDEN enters, rubbing his arm.

(CONTINUED)

GREG  
(off arm)  
Are you alright?

AIDEN  
Fine, fine, just... never mind.  
(off bag)  
Ready for the big trip?

GREG  
(sighs)  
As I'll ever be.

Aiden closes the door behind him and heads forward, glancing round the room. Greg looks up, noticing his examination.

GREG (cont'd)  
What?

AIDEN  
How come you don't have any photos  
of your parents up in here?

Greg looks away sharply, getting back to packing.

GREG  
I just don't.

AIDEN  
Yeah, but even your foster parents?  
I mean, didn't they-

GREG  
(sharp)  
They were just two people who  
looked after me while I grew up.  
Nothing more.

Aiden hesitates, then lays a hand on Greg's arm to stop him.

AIDEN  
What did you find out?

GREG  
What do you mean?

AIDEN  
Come on, Greg. No more faffing  
around. You promised you'd tell me  
what you found out over the summer  
when the time was right. We could  
all be dead before the sun rises,  
so I'd say this qualifies as 'the  
right time.'

Greg looks up and holds Aiden's gaze for a long beat, then exhales heavily.

GREG

Don't make me do this.

AIDEN

Why not?

GREG

It's... look, there's a reason I haven't told anyone.

AIDEN

Hence me asking.

GREG

Aiden, please!

AIDEN

What? What could possibly be so bad that you can't even-

GREG

(snaps)

My mother was a murderer!

Silence. Aiden is lost for a response. Greg flops back into his chair, a great weight on his shoulders.

GREG (cont'd)

That's what I found out.

AIDEN

But... how...

GREG

When she was undercover, trying to infiltrate that coven in Europe, I always thought... I was told that Kira Brogan exposed and killed her, but there's a lot more to the story than that.

Aiden sits, not wanting to interrupt him.

GREG (cont'd)

By all accounts, she went rogue. Fell in love with the kinds of black arts the coven were mixed up in, and when she made her scheduled contact with the Watcher she reported to, she... she killed him.

Aiden reaches forward and gently takes Greg's hand.

(CONTINUED)

AIDEN

How the hell did you find any of this out?

GREG

(bitter laugh)

My dad - my real dad, I mean - clearly had a lot of extra-curricular talents that run in the family.

(off Aiden's look)

I broke into Council archives and stole what I needed to know.

Greg lowers his head as Aiden squeezes his and.

GREG (cont'd)

There's still a lot more to it that I haven't been able to find out yet, but that... well, I think that was enough to start with.

AIDEN

Greg... I'm so sorry.

Greg SNIFFS loudly, standing back up and resuming packing.

GREG

Yes, well... never mind. Work to be done.

Aiden stares at him for a moment, before we cut to:

Alita is standing in the middle of the quad, in the midst of going through an extremely complicated series of tai chi moves, a serene look on her face.

Her limbs move elegantly, as she moves through another series of complex positions, never missing a beat. She is centered, focused.

CLOSE UP on Alita's face, as she hears:

TYSON (V.O.)

That was amazing! How did you-

ALITA (V.O.)

I told you to get to safety!

TYSON (V.O.)

Yes, you did. But I had to see that with my own eyes.

(smiles)

You're incredible, Alita.

10 CONTINUED:

10

Alita allows herself a smile as we cut to:

11 INT. CASTLE - BRAEDEN'S ROOM - NIGHT

11

A knock at the door gets BRAEDEN'S attention as he swishes his dark red SCYTHE through the air, and he turns as BRYCE steps inside.

BRYCE

You nearly ready, matey?

BRAEDEN

As much as I can be.

Bryce nods, closing the door as he steps inside.

BRYCE

Big night.

BRAEDEN

(shrugs)

For some people.

BRYCE

You clear on what we have to do?

BRAEDEN

Never clearer.

BRYCE

Good.

(beat)

There's a lot of people counting on us tonight, Braeden. Don't let us down.

Braeden stares at his Scythe for a long beat before turning back to Bryce, flashing him his trademark sly grin.

BRAEDEN

I won't.

Bryce nods and exits, and as Braeden gets back to absently sweeping his Scythe around, we cut to:

12 INT. CASTLE - CORRIDOR - NEXT

12

Bryce heads away from Braeden's room and passes DELANEY and HAMISH as they stroll down the corridor. Bryce and Hamish manage a nod to one another, but as soon as Bryce is out of earshot:

HAMISH

(mutters)

Wanker.

(CONTINUED)

DELANEY

He's up to something.

HAMISH

You reckon?

DELANEY

(nods)

Gotta be. Too much stuff we don't know and that the old lady won't tell us about him.

HAMISH

Between you and me... you may be right.

Delaney pretends to clutch at her chest, faking a heart attack.

DELANEY

Do... do my ears deceive me? Did somebody just agree with me?

HAMISH

(rolls eyes)

Now, now, lass. Just because neither of us like the fella doesn't mean he's up to no good.

DELANEY

Yeah, it does.

Hamish starts to reply, then pauses - she's got a point.

DELANEY (cont'd)

All I'm saying is, I'm gonna be watching my back tonight whenever he's around, and if I were you I'd do the same.

Delaney leaves Hamish to mull this over as she continues down the corridor, and we cut to:

Back with Ellen, who is staring at a small framed photograph - a much younger Ellen smiles alongside four rowdy-looking teenage boys.

Ellen traces a finger across the photograph, as we start to hear:

ELLEN (V.O.)

You said you wanted to know, and I said I'd tell you when I was ready.

(MORE)



13

CONTINUED:

13

ELLEN (V.O.) (cont'd)  
(beat)  
I guess I'm ready.

BARBARA (V.O.)  
You'd better come in.

Ellen closes her eyes and leans back in her chair, staring thoughtfully out through the window as we cut to:

14

INT. CAMPUS - BARBARA'S OFFICE - NIGHT

14

We're back a few nights, as a concerned-looking Barbara sits opposite Ellen behind her desk.

ELLEN  
Those pills I've been taking - or,  
more accurately, was taking - they  
were for my transplants.

BARBARA  
Excuse me?

ELLEN  
When the Initiative found me, after  
I went missing back in Cleveland, I  
was torn up pretty good. Ulithios  
did a real number on me, left me  
bleeding out in the street. Lucky  
for me, the Initiative were  
watching the whole thing and  
decided to take pity on me as I  
bled to death out in the pouring  
rain.

Barbara listens, not quite sure what to make of all this.

ELLEN (cont'd)  
Thing is, when they were patching  
me back up, they decided to use me  
as a guinea pig for something  
they'd been itching to try out -  
demon organ transplants on humans.

BARBARA  
My God...

ELLEN  
They knew I was a Slayer, and  
figured with my accelerated healing  
I'd have more chance of surviving  
the operation.

Ellen stands, rolling up her shirt to expose her belly - and  
Barbara GASPS as she sees a criss-cross of SCARS all over  
Ellen's belly and abdomen.

(CONTINUED)

ELLEN (cont'd)

And as you can see, they were right.

BARBARA

Ellen, I... I'm not quite sure I understand what you're telling me...

ELLEN

(sits back down)

I'm part demon, Barb. Roland called it when we got into it last time round, and without my medicine, I don't...

(lowers head)

Without that medicine, my body's going to start rejecting the demon organs.

BARBARA

Can't you just get hold of some more? The Initiative can't just let you suffer!

ELLEN

Far as they're concerned, the test was a success so they've got all the data they need from me. I'm no longer relevant.

BARBARA

So... if your body rejects the transplants, then...

ELLEN

Then it's goodnight from me, yeah.

BARBARA

(exhales)

Oh, Ellen...

ELLEN

But hey, I'm still alive and kicking for now, so let's try to stay positive.

BARBARA

There must be something we can do! A shaman, perhaps, some kind of spell, maybe even-

ELLEN

Seriously - I'm fine. I should've died two years ago. Everything since then has been a bonus.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2) 14

ELLEN (cont'd)  
(beat)  
Just promise me one thing.

BARBARA  
Of course. Anything.

15 INT. CAMPUS - ELLEN'S OFFICE - NIGHT 15

Back in the present, as we hear:

ELLEN (V.O.)  
This is just between us. I don't  
want anybody else knowing. Okay?

BARBARA (V.O.)  
(beat; sighs)  
Alright...

Ellen lowers the photograph as we cut to:

16 INT. CAMPUS - LIBRARY - NIGHT 16

Frankie is sitting alone in the library, determinedly moving  
her arm around, privately testing it, a focused look on her  
face.

But her arm starts to TREMBLE.

The door CREAKS OPEN and Frankie immediately stops moving her  
arm, turning around to face DUNSTALL, who is quietly padding  
into the library, face drawn.

FRANKIE  
(surprised)  
Sebastian?

Dunstall comes closer and Frankie instinctively holds her arm  
close to herself.

DUNSTALL  
I heard about the truce with the  
rogues. Guess it's time for some  
action, huh?

Frankie raises an eyebrow and sits back down in her chair,  
purposely hiding her arm underneath the table.

FRANKIE  
I suppose it is.

Dunstall kneels down before her, looking up into her eyes.  
Frankie meets his gaze.

DUNSTALL  
I just want you to know, that no  
matter what happens, I'm there for  
you. Right behind you, all the way.

(CONTINUED)

FRANKIE

Just promise me one thing.

DUNSTALL

Anything.

FRANKIE

(smile fades)

Barbara says we are in a truce with the rogues. But I know Darcie is not going to go along with it.

(beat)

If she tries anything, you must let me fight 'er. Do not stand in my way.

DUNSTALL

But-

FRANKIE

Sebastian, promise me.

(beat, quietly)

I need this. More than you realize.

Dunstall pauses, and finally, he nods.

DUNSTALL

Of course. Anything you say.

Frankie nods, and as the two of them continue to sit in silence, we cut to:

INT. CASTLE - DARCIE'S ROOM - NIGHT

DARCIE is sitting on the floor, leaning up against the wall in a small, spartan room. Her knee is propped up as she sharpens a wicked looking DAGGER, a look of grim determination on her face.

She stops sharpening, and looks at her reflection in the shining dagger, her eyes focused and hard.

INT. CAMPUS - CAFETERIA - NIGHT

Stanley and Fitzgerald are sitting together at one of the cafeteria tables, surrounded by darkness. A couple of lights are on in the background, providing just enough light to see them sitting together.

Stanley procures a flask from inside his suit jacket, and pours some liquid into two cups sitting between them.

FITZGERALD

I have to admit, I was shocked when you backed Barbara, especially in front of all the Slayers.

(CONTINUED)

STANLEY

This is the way it should be. The Slayers need someone they can look up to. Barbara, whether she has made the right decisions or not, is that person.

Fitzgerald swigs back some of the alcohol in her cup and grimaces.

FITZGERALD

I have to say... I'm almost looking forward to all of this.

STANLEY

(surprised)

You can't be serious!

FITZGERALD

The only field time I've ever seen was under the close scrutiny of the Council. I've heard stories about the great battles the Slayers engage in. Gods, demons, apocalypses...

(beat)

And now. Here I am. I almost can't believe it.

Stanley pours her another drink.

STANLEY

Here. You're going to need more of this.

Fitzgerald looks at him a bit wistfully.

FITZGERALD

What's brought on this change of heart? If you don't mind me asking.

Stanley swallows back his own drink, sighing a little as he sits his cup back down.

STANLEY

I have come to the realization, for once in my long, pathetic life, that I actually made a mistake.

Fitzgerald softens at this admission.

STANLEY (cont'd)

We never should have gone into the Tor that first time. We weren't ready, the Slayers weren't ready. Barbara was right.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

STANLEY (cont'd)  
We were out of our minds, and I  
should have listened.  
(beat)  
But I didn't.

FITZGERALD  
(quietly)  
Edward...

Stanley shakes his head, signaling Fitzgerald not to go on any further. He pours himself another drink, and she holds out her own cup as well.

STANLEY  
Tell you what. Let's make it  
through tonight, and then we can  
live with our regrets.

Fitzgerald holds her cup out for a cheers, and Stanley lightly hits it with his own. As they sit in the quiet darkness, we cut to:

Erika is walking across the roof of the Academy, a slight wind tousling her long, dark hair. She stares out into the distance, knowing Skye is somewhere out there, waiting for them to find her.

She stares around, taking in for the first time the sights of Skye's favorite place to go. She makes her way to the edge of the roof and kneels down, finding a hidden pack of cigarettes tucked away.

She picks them up, smiling a little. She sighs heavily and looks back out into the horizon, taking it in. She can see why Skye would love it so much. As she settles in, sitting on the edge of the roof, we cut to:

DANA is sitting on a bench in the garden, cupping a flower in her hand, a distressed look on her face.

DANA  
Dies. It all dies. Everything dies.

RACHEL appears at her side, a concerned look on her face.

RACHEL  
(hesitant)  
Dana...?

DANA  
(re: flower)  
I killed it. Now it's dead. Doesn't  
breathe anymore. Gotta stop it.  
(MORE)

DANA (cont'd)  
Can't breathe.  
(beat)  
Everything dies...

Rachel sits down next to her, wrapping an arm around Dana's shoulders.

RACHEL  
Dana, you didn't do anything wrong.

DANA  
(fierce)  
Killed the girl. Stabbed her. Felt  
the blood. Killed the girl.

Rachel takes a deep breath, trying to gather her thoughts.

RACHEL  
Dana... what happened... you can't  
keep holding onto it. You've got to  
let it go.  
(beat)  
You aren't a killer. You aren't  
evil. You're a Slayer. What you  
feel, it's... natural. But you have  
to try and-

Dana PUNCHES Rachel without warning, and Rachel falls off the bench, splayed out at Dana's feet. She holds her cheek, looking up at Dana, hurt and confused.

DANA  
(confused)  
Hurt the girl...

RACHEL  
Dana, no! It's me, Rachel! You  
don't want to hurt me!

Dana gets to her feet, a strange look in her eyes. She cocks her head erratically, tugging at her hair, a painful look on her face.

DANA  
(agitated)  
One by one... one by one, they all  
shall open... and we all shall  
fall... fall down! All fall down!

Dana crumbles to the ground, collapsing on top of herself, breaking down into a fit of terrible sobs.

DANA (cont'd)  
Sorry... so sorry... Hurt the girl.  
Didn't mean to. Pain. Caused it.  
Don't want to look. Don't make me  
look!

Rachel slowly crawls over to Dana, her face softening, and she hesitantly puts her hand on Dana's trembling shoulder.

RACHEL

Dana... I'm going to help you. If it's the last thing I do, I am going to help you.

A long beat passes.

RACHEL (cont'd)

Do you trust me?

Dana looks up at Rachel, her eyes now vacant and empty. She nods slowly, and falls into Rachel's arms, and as she embraces the mad Slayer tightly, she hears:

DELANEY (O.S.)

Uh... guys?

Rachel turns to see Delaney standing at the entrance to the garden. She casts a frown across Rachel and Dana.

DELANEY

It's time.

Rachel nods, and as Delaney exits we cut to:

Anna is all alone in a deserted hallway of the school. She looks around to see if anyone is around. When she is suitably pleased that she's definitely all alone, she pulls a cell phone out of her pocket, dialing a number.

She holds the phone to her ear as it RINGS on the other end of the line, a worried look on her face.

VOICE (O.C.)

(filtered)

This is Josh, leave a message. Unless you're my sister, in which case, yes, I'm fine. Stop asking me already!

ANNA

(after the beep)

Josh? It's Anna. Please, please pick up the phone, because you not answering means something must be wrong, and if something is wrong that must mean you're in danger.

She begins pacing back and forth, worried.



ANNA (cont'd)  
 Okay, I'm babbling now, because I'm  
 in danger too, and who knows if  
 I'll even be...  
 (beat; deep breath)  
 You have to call me now, or you  
 might not ever get a chance to talk  
 to me ever again.

She hangs up, clicking her phone shut. As she stares ahead,  
 the worry mounting further and further, she hears:

SOFIA (O.S.)  
 Anna?

She turns to see Sofia approaching, with Alita and Frankie  
 behind her.

SOFIA (cont'd)  
 There you are! We've been looking  
 all over for you.  
 (beat)  
 It's time.

ANNA  
 Right.

Sofia's group turn and head back the way they came, and after  
 a beat Anna follows as we DISSOLVE TO:

BIRD'S EYE VIEW of a large field as we see Kira and her  
 Slayers converging with Barbara and the Academy, the two  
 groups walking in from opposite sides of the field.

On Kira and Barbara, who stop within a couple of yards of  
 each other, their respective forces lined up behind them.

In the distance, the Tor rises up over the horizon, wrapped  
 in mist and bathed in the first hints of sunlight - daybreak  
 isn't far away.

We join Sofia and the others, their eyes locked on their one-  
 time foes facing them. Braeden holds Sofia's gaze as Darcie  
 leers at Frankie. No words are needed.

Kira and Barbara finally meet, the leaders of the two groups  
 all alone in the middle of the field.

KIRA  
 (dry)  
 Nice night for it.

BARBARA  
 Are you ready for this?

KIRA

That depends. Are you?

BARBARA

Some of us won't survive.

KIRA

Wouldn't dream of thinking  
otherwise.

Barbara nods, and as they all prepare to mount up, we cut to:

INT. THE TOR - ENTRY - NEXT

Roland is descending a spiral staircase, several vampire henchmen surrounding him. Several dozen other vampire minions are busily moving about, preparing, carrying bundles of items around - books, candles, incense burners and the like. Four are struggling under the weight of a huge MIRROR.

TRACK IN on the entry door, as a quiet RUMBLING in the distance causes the door to shake slightly in its frame.

Roland pauses, looking confused.

BOOM!

The door BLASTS open, and dozens of Slayers begin pouring in, the Rogues and Academy girls splitting into two distinct waves as SCREAMS and BATTLE CRIES ring out!

Roland is thrown for half a second - then his features crease into a wry grin, and as he VAMPS OUT and ROARS defiantly at the incoming wave of Slayers, we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT TWO**

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

24

INT. THE TOR - ENTRY - DAWN

24

It's mayhem incorporated as the two sides meet with an almighty CLASH - Slayers and vamps are sent flying like skittles as two waves of bodies crash together.

Alita is straight into action, FLIPPING neatly over the head of one vamp and wrapping her nunchuck chains around its throat, SNAPPING its neck and exploding it into DUST.

Erika storms forward, pausing to SWEEP one vamp down and RAM the sharpened point of her staff into another, the vamp DUSTING as she marches on - all she's here for is to find Skye!

Kira raises her hand as a vamp rushes her - and it bursts into FLAMES, SHRIEKING in anguish as it burns to a crisp!

Sofia and Frankie find themselves back to back as they try to fight off the tide of vamps closing in.

Sofia hazards a quick glance up and around - vamps are scuttling along the walls of the tower, flinging themselves down from staircases and LEAPING onto the Slayers.

There's a YELL of anguish as Roland descend on one poor Slayer - it's Rebecca, the girl making her case heard earlier.

Sofia is forced to look away as Roland tosses Rebecca's body away, and she yells out:

SOFIA

Everybody, split up! Find Skye! And stay in pairs! Watch each other's backs!

She takes a few steps - and comes face to face with Braeden! Sofia halts, frozen to the spot - but Braeden breaks the stare and hurries past her.

Sofia can't help watching him go, shaken out of it as Frankie grabs her arm.

FRANKIE

Sofia! Allons-y!

Sofia is literally dragged away as Delaney stumbles back into frame, CLASHING swords with one particularly fierce-looking vamp.

DELANEY

Get out of my face, freak!

(CONTINUED)

The vamp SNARLS, raining down sword blows on her and forcing her back until she trips and FALLS.

The leering vamp raises its sword, ready to strike - and jolts as an ARROW bursts through its chest!

It DUSTS, raining fragments down on Delaney, who looks up to see Tsula lowering her bow.

Tsula offers Delaney a wry grin and a wave before she's off, notching her bow again. Delaney scowls as she picks herself up, and we cut over to:

Several vamps burst through a door and hurry down one of the long, winding corridors that wrap all around the tower, approaching a thick door and hurrying to lower a heavy beam of wood across it.

Somebody WHISTLES off screen, and one of the vamps turns round...

BOOM! The vamp's head DETONATES and its body follows as Ellen and Dunstall step into frame, both wielding shotguns.

ELLEN

Sorry, boys, did we interrupt something?

The vamps drop the bar into place and leap to the attack - but a volley of SHOTGUN BLASTS takes care of them.

Ellen hurries over to the door and tries to lift the bar, but it's too heavy for her. She grimaces with effort as Dunstall tries to join in, but she waves him away.

ELLEN (cont'd)

Go get me some help! Whatever's back here was worth keeping us away from, so it's gotta be important!

Dunstall nods, hurrying back into the melee as we cut to:

Frankie and Sofia are fighting their way up one of the spiral staircases, the battle in the tower's foyer raging on below them.

Frankie's rapier flashes left and right as she parries with a vamp before her, and Sofia has her back as she DECAPITATES an attacking vamp with her Scythe.

The vamp before Frankie suddenly DUSTS - to reveal Darcie! She blinks, then smirks down at Frankie.

DARCIE

Well, well. Fancy seeing you here!

FRANKIE

(narrows eyes)

Now is not the time.

DARCIE

So when is the time?

SOFIA

Frankie? What's the hold up?

Frankie glances over her shoulder at Sofia, then back at Darcie - and sees a vampire creeping up behind Darcie!

Frankie hesitates - should she warn her? Darcie's oblivious to the threat, and Frankie stiffens as the vamp prepares to stab Darcie in the back...

BRAEDEN (O.S.)

Darcie, look out!

She spins round, DUCKING the vamp's clumsy stab and STAKING it in one smooth motion.

She turns slowly back on her heel to face Frankie, whose eyes burn with fury. Darcie chuckles.

DARCIE

No hard feelings. I wouldn't have warned me either.

She skips back up the stairs, and as the battling Sofia nudges into her and shakes her from her daze, Frankie hurries up the stairs as we cut to:

A group of vamps pile back into a large room lined with long dining tables, turning to face the entrance as Erika marches in, followed by Greg, Hamish and Rachel.

There's a standoff moment as the two sides face each other - half a dozen armed vamps versus two Slayers and two Watchers.

Then, with a ROAR, the vamps charge forward and our team rushes in to meet them.

Erika is a blur of motion, CHOPPING one vamp down and SPIN-KICKING another, while Rachel dodges one sword slice, GRABBING the vamp's arm - and MORPHING into a vampire herself!

She SNARLS, opening her mouth of razor-sharp fangs and BURYING them in the vamp's neck!

The vamp HOWLS with pain, and RachelVamp uses the distraction to draw a STAKE, plunging it into the reeling vamp's chest.

As it DUSTS, she changes back into her normal form, while behind her Hamish crosses swords with another robed vampire, the two grappling as the spill into the table and chairs.

Greg valiantly dives in to help, dragging the vamp off Hamish and holding it back long enough to for Hamish to STAKE it, and as that one dusts Hamish suddenly SHOVES Greg to the ground, STAKING a second vamp that was ready to bite him!

Greg lands on his arse, but looks up to see Hamish offering him a hand back up.

Greg isn't sure how to respond as Hamish pulls him to his feet, but with a wry grin Hamish mock salutes him.

HAMISH

You're welcome, lad.

He joins Rachel and the two hurry off, as Greg turns to see Erika leaving by another exit.

GREG

Erika, wait! Where are you going?

ERIKA

Skye is this way.

GREG

How do you-

ERIKA

Trust me, Gregory. I know.

Greg pauses - then takes her word for it, following her through the doorway as we cut back to:

The battle is raging on. Dana ROARS with unrestricted fury as she rips into two vamps at once, a loud CRUNCH ringing out as she literally tears an ARM from its socket!

Stanley, surprisingly, is taking on two vampires at once, swinging a sword before him valiantly.

STANLEY

That's right! I didn't spend twelve years training at Sennybridge without picking up a few tricks!

He's clearly on an adrenaline rush, a contrast to the terrified Fitzgerald who is sticking close to Barbara.

Barbara has Tsula just ahead of her, the young Slayer picking off another vamp with her bow as Barbara grapples another, SHOVING it back and into the clutches of more Slayers.

BARBARA  
(to Fitzgerald)  
Come on! Don't just stand there!

FITZGERALD  
I... I...

Barbara grabs her arm, dragging her forward.

BARBARA  
If you aren't going to fight, then  
get out of here! You're no use to  
us dead!

Fitzgerald stares at her, mouth flapping - and with a SHOUT, Anna comes flying past them, SLAMMING hard into the wall!

She slides to the floor, stunned, and Barbara whips round as two huge vampires close in on her. She grips her sword determinedly, stepping forward.

BARBARA (cont'd)  
(to herself)  
Alright, Barbara... time to find  
out what you're made of...

The first vampire ROARS and charges for her, but it hasn't taken two steps before it suddenly HOWLS - and DUSTS!

Barbara jumps back, startled - and sees Jaz, stake in hand, whipping round at blinding speed to SLAM a stake into the second vamp's chest!

That vamp makes its exit, and Jaz turns back to lock eyes with Barbara.

There's a moment, then Jaz nods, Barbara returning the gesture as Jaz turns and dashes back into the fray.

Barbara hears a CRY and turns to see Fitzgerald fighting off a vampire, and as she rushes over to help we catch up with:

Ellen is still straining to lift the bar over the door as Dunstall returns, Debbie and Aiden in tow.

ELLEN  
(grimacing)  
I said get me help! I need more  
than these two!

DUNSTALL

This is all I could find!

AIDEN

Hey!

ELLEN

(points)

Just shut up and help me with this!

The foursome brace their shoulders against the bar, heaving with all their might and slowly but surely lifting it...

... until with a CRASH it lifts up and onto the floor, and Ellen stumbles forward into the doors:

INT. THE TOR - CHAMBER - NEXT

The doors fall open as Ellen falls through, revealing a huge chamber beyond at the very heart of the tower.

Dozens of small MIRRORS line the walls, running in a spiral up to the roof where the open air filters through. The sun will be up very soon.

In the middle of the chamber, strapped down to the stone dais and struggling like crazy, is Skye! She's surrounded by a circle of robed figures, heads down, and the huge mirror we saw earlier stands opposite her.

All around her stands the lab equipment Roland went to such lengths to acquire, with thick cables running to and from the dais and Skye herself - a bizarre mix of the scientific and the occult.

Skye looks up and sees Ellen, and a moment later Greg and Erika appear through another doorway into the chamber.

ERIKA

(calls down)

Skye!

SKYE

Hey! Don't just stand there - get me out of here!!

Ellen scrambles to her feet - just as the figures around her spin round and throw back their hoods.

DEBBIE

(heart sinks)

Oh, my God...

TUOK-HANS. A dozen of them. And as they BELLOW their bestial battle cry and start to surge forward, we cut to:



31 INT. THE TOR - ENTRY - NEXT

31

Still battling with great gusto, Stanley KICKS one recovering vampire over and STAKES it, his suit spattered with blood and filth from the battle.

Behind him, Alita DROP-KICKS a vamp off one of the balconies circling the hallway, and the vamp SCREAMS as it sails to the ground, where Bryce is waiting to STAKE it.

Flush with success, Stanley looks round and sees Fitzgerald bravely following barbara's lead in taking on a stray vampire.

STANLEY

That's the spirit, Grace! Show them  
what we're made of!

Stanley turns round, looking for a fresh target - and BUMPS straight into something much bigger than he is.

He slowly looks upwards - and into the snarling features of a Turok-Han.

Stanley GULPS, his confidence rapidly fading as the fearsome, primal vampire takes one step towards him.

Stanley backpedals - and then tries to SLICE his sword down across the ubervamp's chest!

The sword ARCS down and it meets the hands of the Turok-Han, which twists and SNAPS the sword in two!

The Turok-Han tosses the broken sword to one side, and Stanley stutters backwards as the vamp advances on him.

Fitzgerald gets a good SLICE in with her sword, getting her vamp across the neck and DUSTING it, but as this gives her a clear view of Stanley she cries out:

FITZGERALD

Edward!

He can't hear her, his eyes locked on the ubervamp towering over him - but Tsula is ready, hurriedly reaching for a fresh arrow.

But she's out!

She looks up, suddenly panicked, and it falls to Alita to SOMERSAULT down from the balcony, closing the ground between herself and the ubervamp as fast as she can...

Stanley grits his teeth and CHARGES forward with a yell, but the Turok-Han effortlessly GRABS him by the throat, lifting him up and off the floor.

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA  
Stanley! Hold on!

She races over to him, seeing Alita speeding towards the ubervamp from the other side...

... but with a sickening SNAP, the ubervamp breaks Stanley's neck!

Alita CRASHES into the vamp, letting rip with a flurry of kicks and chops as she batters the mighty demon to the floor, Stanley's limp body dropping to the ground.

FITZGERALD  
No!!

Alita STAKES the ubervamp - but the creature doesn't dust! It starts to reach for the stake, but Alita quickly SLAMS her elbow down onto the stake, driving it into the vamp's heart.

It DUSTS with an agonised HOWL, just as Barbara finally reaches the fallen Stanley.

There's nothing she can do. His head twisted round at an impossible angle, she has to tear her eyes away just as the tearful Fitzgerald stumbles into frame.

Barbara looks up grimly - the Rogues are mostly tied up with the last few vampires in the foyer, but Barbara notices two things as she scans the hall:

Several groups of vampires are fleeing the scene in unison, fleeing through other doorways and entrances, while Braeden and Bryce seem to be slipping away from the rest of the Rogues, unseen by the others.

She calls over Tsula and the recovering Anna, pointing towards the fleeing vamps. Tsula pauses to grab a stray arrow from the floor.

BARBARA  
Follow them! Make sure they're not ambushing the others!

Barbara looks across as Kira joins them.

KIRA  
Where the hell is Roland?

BARBARA  
I have no idea. Can you help-

KIRA  
(nods)  
I'll take my girls and follow yours.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

31

CONTINUED: (2)

31

KIRA (cont'd)  
(beat; grins)  
After all, I have people out there  
too.

Tsula nods, gesturing for Anna to follow as she trots away,  
and Barbara turns to Fitzgerald, who is kneeling by Stanley.

BARBARA  
There's nothing you can do for him.

FITZGERALD  
(dazed)  
He... he just... we weren't  
supposed to...

Barbara gently helps Fitzgerald to her feet.

BARBARA  
Mourn him later.

She pushes a sword back into the Watcher's hands.

BARBARA (cont'd)  
We still have work to do.

Barbara heads off after the departing Kira, and as Fitzgerald  
looks back at Stanley's body, we cut to:

32

INT. THE TOR - CHAMBER - NEXT

32

Halfway up the walls of the chamber, a vampire suddenly  
hurtles back out of a doorway leading onto another balcony,  
YELLING as it falls back to earth and DUSTING in mid-air.

Sofia bursts into view a moment later, followed by Frankie,  
who is wincing as she holds her arm.

SOFIA  
(re: arm)  
Can you still fight with that?

FRANKIE  
*Oui*. I can.

Sofia looks down - just as she sees Ellen's group get stuck  
into the Turok Hans, and dozens more vamps start to flood out  
of the other entrances into the chamber!

SOFIA  
Good, because I think we're about  
to start round two...

ON DUNSTALL, who is standing between Debbie and Ellen, all  
fighting for their lives.

ELLEN  
Keep going! We can do this!

(CONTINUED)

PFFT! PFFT!

Two arrows strike the floor next to their feet, and the three of them look up:

PAN UP to Tsula standing up on a balcony ledge, firing arrows down at the incoming vamps! Anna is racing down a staircase, into the fray.

ELLEN (cont'd)

Incoming!

A vampire charges Ellen, and she wraps her hands around its neck, SNAPPING it! It falls down, DUSTING before it hits the ground.

Over with Erika and Greg, more Turok-Hans charge them but Erika is in no mood to be slowed down - she drives her staff into one with such fury that she SPEARS straight through it!

With a YELL, she SWINGS the ubervamp round, SLAMMING it into another!

An impressed Greg wisely hangs back as she LEAPS onto the two stunned vamps, KICKING her staff through the first and DUSTING the second, before SNAPPING the staff in two and finally STAKING the first.

As Sofia jumps down into the main chamber and heads for the captive Skye, Frankie unleashes her pent-up frustrations at last, swiping her rapier through the air with a flurry of death-dealing motion.

SWIPE! SWIPE!

Instantly, two vampires become headless, DUSTING!

Two more vampires take their place, but Dunstall is there! He leaps into the fray, and the two of them stand back-to-back, fighting more foes off.

DUNSTALL

(breathing hard)

Remember? I said I'd have your back.

Frankie SLICES her rapier through the air, chopping off a vampire's arm.

FRANKIE

*Merci* - but I do not think I need that today!

She gently nudges him towards Ellen and Debbie, who are in danger of getting swamped by vampires.

(CONTINUED)

Dunstall glances back at Frankie, who grabs him and quickly KISSES him before pushing him towards Ellen and Debbie.

As Erika also races towards Skye, Greg pauses by some of the complex machinery leading away from the dais, trying to work out its function.

And a vampire LEAPS onto his back!

He SHOUTS OUT, flailing around as he tries to shrug the vamp off, the cultist struggling to get its fangs into his neck.

He manages to get an ELBOW into the vamp's chest, finally throwing it off him - and straight into the nearest hunk of machinery!

Greg slowly turns and watches as SPARKS trickle out from it.

GREG

Oh, sh-

KA-BLAM!

The machinery EXPLODES - sending shrapnel and flames bursting out into the battle.

Greg is engulfed in the blast and tossed to the ground, charred and scraped all over.

ON ELLEN who is in the midst of hand-to-hand combat with another Turok-Han. They trade blows, and Ellen is KNOCKED back by a forceful punch.

Ellen comes back, slamming the Turok-Han with an upper-cut punch. It tumbles to the ground and she looks down at it with a glint in her eyes.

DUNSTALL (O.S.)

Ellen!

Ellen looks up to see an DAGGER speeding towards her!

Her eyes bulge - and Dunstall suddenly LEAPS across her, and they TUMBLE to the ground.

Dunstall CRIES OUT in pain and rolls off of Ellen, and she sees that the dagger is sticking THROUGH his side!

ELLEN

Dunstall! Dunstall! Oh, God...

As she tries to help him, the battle surging around them, we TRACK OVER to:

Sofia and Erika reach Skye at the same time, Skye no closer to getting free of her bonds.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

Well, it's about god damn time!

SOFIA

Sorry, we were a little-

ERIKA

(all business)

Sofia! Help me untie her!

Sofia gets to work, but as Skye looks towards the roof, she sees what she was dreading...

The sun's rays are starting to peek over the edge of the open tower rooftop!

SKYE

Oh, crap... guys! Hurry it up!

Sofia looks up in alarm - the first beams of sunlight are only seconds from striking the first mirror!

ROLAND (O.S.)

It is time!

Sofia looks up and sees Roland has reappeared at last, standing imperiously on a balcony overlooking the main chamber.

He starts to LAUGH victoriously, and the machinery surrounding Skye begins to HUM ever louder, the inscriptions all over the dais GLOWING fiercely.

SKYE

Sofia! Quit spacing out and-

She freezes - the sunlight hits the first mirror, and in an instant the beam of light has zig-zagged from one mirror to the next, striking the huge mirror before Skye.

She's bathed in a beam of blazing, white hot light, and as she SCREAMS in agony, her skin BLISTERING, Erika yells:

ERIKA

No!!!

She THROWS herself onto Skye, directly into the beam of light's path, and as Erika SCREAMS as well, we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT THREE**

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

33

INT. THE TOR - CHAMBER - DAWN

33

Erika and Skye SCREAM together as the sunlight from the mirror envelops them both.

All around, Roland's vampires throw their heads back, their bodies GLOWING with energy as the machines all around Sofia go into overdrive, SMOKE pouring out of them as they start to WHIRR at a deafening volume.

Sofia staggers back, hands over her ears, absolutely no idea what to do...

... until Alita streaks into frame, charging straight for the mirror!

With a YELL, she JUMPS into the air and SLAMS feet first into the mirror - knocking it off its frame and sending it sailing to the floor below!

Roland's laughter cuts off, as does the glow enveloping his army.

SLOW MOTION:

As Roland cries out in alarm, the mirror drops to the floor - and SHATTERS into a thousand fragments!

RESUME SPEED:

Sofia spins round - Skye and Erika are still in one piece, but are both badly burned.

One of the machines next to her suddenly EXPLODES, and Alita is there again to PULL her to the floor to avoid the shower of fragments.

ROLAND

(roars)

No! No! No!!

(to vamps)

Kill them! Kill them all!

Several vamps have already recovered, LEAPING towards the battered Slayers - just as the Rogues finally get to the chamber, spilling out of several doorways and into battle!

KIRA

You heard the man, girls - kill them all!

She turns and TOASTS an unlucky vamp with a FIREBALL as Delaney and the others launch themselves onto the vamps.

(CONTINUED)

Alita pulls Sofia to her feet, checking her for injuries.

ALITA  
Are you alright?

SOFIA  
I'm fine, I'm fine! Go and help the  
others, I'll get Skye and Erika out  
of here!

Alita nods and races away, TACKLING a vamp that was battling with Aiden.

Sofia jumps up onto the dais and pulls at Skye's bonds, resorting to using her Scythe to saw through them.

She carefully rolls Erika onto her side, wincing as she sees that Erika's upper body is badly burned. Skye, thanks to Erika, isn't too bad by comparison, but she's still out cold.

SOFIA (cont'd)  
(shakes her)  
Skye? Skye! Wake up!

Sofia finishes cutting through her bonds, looking up as the battle opens up all around her once again.

Ellen hurries over to her as Barbara and Fitzgerald appear in one entrance, Barbara gasping at the sight of the stricken Skye and Erika.

A vamp JUMPS for Ellen, but without breaking stride she BLASTS a hole right through it, letting it drop.

Sofia is in a state of panic as Ellen joins her, Aiden following moments later.

SOFIA (cont'd)  
I can't wake her up, she won't-

AIDEN  
I've got this.

He starts to reach for Skye - but another machine DETONATES nearby, raining broken metal down on the group.

ELLEN  
Heal later, just get her out of  
here!

Aiden scoops Skye up, with Ellen taking the groaning Erika in her arms as Sofia looks round for something to do.

And she spots it.



Roland is heading straight for her, murder in his baleful yellow eyes. More EXPLOSIONS bite chunks out of the tower walls around him, the network of machines feeding back on each other and overloading.

She takes a breath, gripping her Scythe tightly, ready to face the cause of all this carnage head on...

... until somebody comes to stand beside her.

BRAEDEN

Need a hand?

She looks up - it's Braeden alright, looking down at her with the same sideways grin as always.

Sofia couldn't get a retort to that out if she tried - but here comes Roland, ready to finish the job!

He comes to a halt a few feet away from the duo, panting with feral rage.

ROLAND

You... you've ruined everything!

BRAEDEN

Yeah, we're known for that.

ROLAND

I'll tear your hearts from your chests with my bare hands!

SOFIA

Go right ahead and try.

Roland SNARLS again as he vamps out, before reaching up and TEARING his robes in two, whipping them off his body.

Sofia reacts - Roland's entire body is covered in ritualistic SCARS and TATTOOS, not to mention a set of iron man muscles!

BRAEDEN

Oh, great, you work out. I'd hate to think you'd be a pushover after all this buildup.

Roland HOWLS like a wolf at the moon before LUNGING forward, and Braeden leaps up to meet him first.

Roland SWATS the Scythe away and PUNCHES him in the gut, lifting Braeden up off the ground.

Sofia tries to rush in with a low SWEEP, but Roland KICKS her square in the jaw and sends her Scythe skittering from her hands.

(CONTINUED)

Roland turns back to Braeden, lifting him into the air and PUNCHING him again and again

Sofia flips to her feet, LEAPING onto Roland's back and PUNCHING him in the side of the head, and he drops Braeden to the floor with a THUD.

He SHRUGS Sofia off him and GRABS her in mid-air, THROWING her face first to the floor.

Stunned, she weakly rolls onto her back just as Roland STAMPS one boot down onto her chest!

She GASPS in pain, but as he rears back to stamp again she manages to GRAB his foot, TWISTING hard and sending Roland spinning back to the ground.

She pushes herself back up as Braeden leaps in again, and this time his Scythe strikes Roland square on the arm - but all he hears is a metallic CLANG!

Braeden hesitates, Roland grins - and HEADBUTTS him. Braeden hits the deck, dropping his Scythe.

Roland straightens, holding up his arm - revealing a sliver of METAL glinting out from beneath his torn skin!

ROLAND

I discovered a long time ago that  
Slayers and hunters always fight  
with their weapons, not their  
bodies.

Braeden tries to get back up but Roland KICKS him in the chest, PINNING him to the floor with his boot.

ROLAND (cont'd)

So I made sure my body became a  
weapon.

SOFIA (O.S.)

Did you put anything in your back  
as well?

Roland starts to turn - as Sofia IMPALES him with a long, spear-like chunk of machinery!

Roland GRUNTS and CRACKS his fist across her jaw, sending her reeling.

Braeden gets chance to get back up as Roland slowly pulls the metal out through his chest - and something else EXPLODES nearby, throwing him to the floor!

(CONTINUED)

Sofia finds an unexpected hand offer to help her up as Braeden pulls her to her feet. She snatches her hand away from him coldly.

SOFIA (cont'd)  
I don't need your help.

BRAEDEN  
Come with me.

SOFIA  
(blinks)  
What?

BRAEDEN  
Come with me.

She doesn't understand, and as she looks over she sees Roland is ready for the next round.

Sofia pushes past him, scooping up her Scythe as she charges in to fight again...

... and Braeden GRABS her, spins her round and SUCKERPUNCHES her!

Sofia hits the deck - out cold. A surprised Roland looks from Sofia to Braeden.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)  
(shrugs)  
Couldn't let her steal my glory,  
could I, mate?

Roland chuckles, cricking his neck bones as he advances on Braeden again, but this time Braeden takes his fighting up a notch.

He ducks and dodges under Roland's attacks, looking for an opening and taking his time over fighting back.

Roland grows frustrated, swiping and missing over and over as Braeden dances round him. Ali would be proud.

ROLAND  
Lost your taste for the fight, boy?

BRAEDEN  
Nope...

Roland GROWLS and charges towards him - and Braeden pushes off the ground, SOMERSAULTING over Roland and SLICING his Scythe as he passes.

Roland stumbles to a halt, slowly turning round...

BRAEDEN (cont'd)  
... just waiting for my moment.

... and Roland's head slides neatly from his shoulders!

He DUSTS as he crumples to the floor, but Braeden only has a moment to revel in victory as something else EXPLODES - and a huge chunk of BRICKS falls from the walls and SLAMS into the ground next to him!

He quickly darts over to one of the few undamaged pieces of equipment around the dais - but as he throws open its doors, he reveals some kind of storage cabinet.

A thick cable runs into the cabinet, and Braeden tears that away to reveal two rows of GLOWING WEAPONS - swords, daggers, the works.

He looks around, spots a vamp lying on the ground, pinned by a hunk of fallen roof, and after PUNCHING the vampire out cold he TEARS away a chunk of its robe, using it to carefully gather up the weapons.

He steps away from the cabinet and takes a step towards the fallen Sofia, but turns as he hears:

BRYCE (O.S.)  
Braeden!

Bryce is waving him over to another doorway.

BRYCE (cont'd)  
Leave her! Come on!

Braeden hesitates, torn between two decisions, but after another beat turns and heads over to Bryce.

BRYCE (cont'd)  
Did you get 'em?

BRAEDEN  
(off bundle of weapons)  
Yeah, I got 'em.

BRYCE  
Good lad. Come on, we've still got one job to do yet.

As the building continues to crumble and shake, Aiden haphazardly makes his way through the rubble, depositing Skye with Barbara and the others. He COUGHS, the air thick with smoke and dust.

All around him, vampires are fleeing the scene as the tower shakes from the foundation upwards, disappearing through grates and holes in the floor.

AIDEN

They're getting away!

ELLEN

Screw 'em! We've got about thirty seconds to get out of here before this whole place comes down on us!

BARBARA

Alita, Frankie! Get everyone who's left and get out of here!

Alita nods, and she and Frankie gather up the cluster of surviving Slayers and head for the exit.

AIDEN

Where's Greg?

FITZGERALD

I thought he was with you?

AIDEN

Greg! Greg!

ANNA

I'll find him! You have to-

But Aiden's already off, racing back into the heart of the Tor.

DEBBIE

Aiden! Come back!

BARBARA

Anna, make sure you bring him back!  
Everybody else, let's get out of here!

Barbara leads her survivors back outside, just as Kira's team emerge from the smoke-filled centre of the tower.

KIRA

Is everybody here?

DELANEY

Where's Braeden?

RACHEL

And where's Dana?

DANA (O.S.)  
No... no! Can't open them! Musn't  
do it!

Rachel whips round - Braeden and Bryce are manhandling Dana away on the other side of the hallway.

KIRA  
Bryce? What the hell are you doing?

Bryce looks up, but doesn't stop trying to restrain the struggling Dana, reaching into his pocket and taking out a small crystal.

KIRA (cont'd)  
Get over here, right now!!

Bryce whispers an incantation, then tosses the crystal to his side - and with a BANG and a flash of light, a PORTAL opens up out of thin air!

Braeden quickly hauls Dana over to it, and as Rachel cries out in alarm the duo disappear through it!

RACHEL  
No!!

Bryce starts to dash for the portal, but as the tower SHAKES from another explosion, he stumbles and falls.

By the time he's back up, Kira is as close as she needs to be.

KIRA  
Bryce!

His head snaps round - and she BLASTS him with a bolt of blazing electricity!

Bryce cries out in pain as his body spasms, convulsing from the volts coursing through him.

Kira's face is hard and furious as she intensifies the blast.

KIRA (cont'd)  
I don't know what the hell you just  
pulled on me, you sly little  
bastard... but it was the last  
thing you'll ever do!

BRYCE  
(gritted teeth)  
I was... just... doing... what I...  
graah!!

There's a BLAZE of light, and Bryce SCREAMS in agony...

(CONTINUED)

... and when the light fades, he's gone. There's no trace of him beyond a SCORCH MARK on the floor.

Kira pauses for a moment, clearly incensed at the double cross, before she turns and marches back over to her horrified Rogues.

KIRA

What are you all standing there  
for? Come on! Get the hell out of  
here before this whole bloody place  
comes down!

She storms past them, and as Delaney has to drag the stunned Rachel away, we cut back to:

Thick, black smoke fills the room, along with a deep RUMBLING as the tower starts to crumble.

AIDEN

Greg! Where are you? Greg!

Coughing, Aiden stumbles through the rubble, streaked with soot and blood.

He finally sees Greg's broken body lying on the ground, covered in burns and scrapes.

AIDEN (cont'd)

Greg!!

He falls to his knees beside Greg, frantic.

AIDEN (cont'd)

No... no... no...

Greg is unresponsive. Aiden gently cups Greg's chin in his hand, leaning in close. Blood spills out between Greg's lips and he COUGHS.

AIDEN (cont'd)

(hesitant)

Greg...? Greg! Hold on, it's  
alright! I'm here now!

Aiden begins breathing heavily, trying to formulate a plan.

BAM!

A piece of the Tor FALLS to the floor beside them! The building is completely falling apart.

Aiden turns his attention back to Greg, holding his hands out over Greg's chest. He closes his eyes, muttering:

(CONTINUED)

AIDEN (cont'd)  
 Come on. Please. Please work.  
 Please, anything.  
 (beat, sobbing)  
 Please...

A GLOW begins to emanate from Aiden's hands. He looks down at them in awe, a shaky smile spreading across his face.

The glow SPREADS across Greg's body, and slowly but surely, his wounds begin to heal!

Aiden WINCES with pain as Greg's wounds disappear, almost doubling over, but with supreme strength of will he hangs on long enough, and Greg finally GASPS as his body wakes him back up.

Aiden clutches the dazed Greg to him as Anna finally fights her way over to them.

ANNA  
 Aiden? Damn it!

AIDEN  
 Here! We're here!

Anna staggers into view through the smoke, just as Aiden helps Greg to his feet.

ANNA  
 He okay?

AIDEN  
 He'll make it. Let's go!

The trio hurry back towards the exit, and as another tremor SHAKES the very foundation of the Tor, we cut to:

Anna, Aiden and Greg barely make it out of the entrance before the entire entry hallway COLLAPSES behind them, sending a cloud of DUST billowing out into the air.

Further back, as the Academy girls and boys watch the once majestic Tor start to collapse in on itself, crumbling back to the ground, Barbara suddenly finds Kira standing next to her. She opens her mouth, but Kira presses a finger to her lips.

KIRA  
 Nobody else can see me. Best not to  
 alarm your lot unnecessarily.  
 (MORE)



KIRA (cont'd)  
And my girls are already some  
distance away.

Barbara relaxes a little, looking back towards the rapidly-disintegrating Tor.

KIRA (cont'd)  
Looks like we both survived.

BARBARA  
Looks like.

Kira purses her lips expectantly.

KIRA  
Would this be the part where you go  
all vengeance demon on me, and kill  
me despite our agreement?

Barbara pauses, and she looks very much like she would like to do just that.

BARBARA  
No, Kira. Luckily for you, this is  
the part where I let you walk.

KIRA  
(smiling a little)  
"Let"?

Barbara flashes a withering stare.

BARBARA  
Just go.

Kira grins back for a beat, before her smile fades and she fixes Barbara with a serious look.

KIRA  
You should know - Braeden's gone.  
(off her look)  
He took Dana and escaped through a  
portal of some kind. I have no idea  
where, or why. All I know is that  
it looks very much like we were  
both played for fools.

BARBARA  
I... I had no idea.

KIRA  
However, you may be glad to hear  
that you won't have to worry about  
one Eric Bryce any more.

Barbara flashes her an alarmed look.

KIRA (cont'd)  
Call that a favour owed.

Barbara starts to respond - but Kira's gone. Just like that. Her head spinning, Barbara looks back towards her wounded girls as we cut to:

Several smartly dressed BUSINESSMEN AND WOMEN are seated around a large, elegant conference table. A MAN at the head of the table seems to be in mid-sentence, when:

WHAM!

The door leading into the room slams open, revealing Braeden, an unconscious Dana hanging over his shoulder, a massive suitcase dangling from his free hand.

He gently lays Dana down on the table and sits the suitcase down beside her, opening it up and revealing the weaponry he took from the Tor.

The Man looks up at Braeden, checks the contents of the suitcase and then checks his watch.

MAN  
You're ahead of schedule.

BRAEDEN  
I get a kick out of punctuality.

The Man moves over to Dana, gently caressing her unconscious face. He looks back up at Braeden, his eyes eager and bright.

MAN  
You have served the Cabal well,  
Braeden. I can assure you that your  
hard work won't go unrecognized.

A beat as the Man steps away from Braeden, going back to the front of the room.

MAN (cont'd)  
But first, time to begin the next  
phase of our plan.  
(beat)  
Eliminating the Slayer line, once  
and for all.

On Braeden, a small smile creeping across his lips, as we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF EPISODE**