

**SLAYER ACADEMY**

"Ask Me Again"

by  
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&

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## TEASER

FADE IN:

- 1 EXT. THE ARCTIC - DAY 1
- Snow as far as they eye can see. Blue skies overhead, a light dash of fluffy white clouds and the blazing sun looking down on the tundra.
- Heavy winds kick up thick clouds of snow that swirl past us, as we push forward and start to make out a shape up ahead.
- 2 EXT. ARCTIC - RESEARCH STATION - CONTINUOUS 2
- The snowstorm parts for a beat, and a small science outpost comes into view. A fluttering flag standing outside bears the letters 'AMAP.'
- The station itself is fairly modest - a cluster of small, flat buildings linked by covered corridors, with bundles of science equipment on the roofs and dotted around the area. A pair of snowmobiles stand nearby.
- 3 INT. RESEARCH STATION - REC ROOM - NEXT 3
- Gazing out at the snowstorm from within the cosier climate of the outpost is BIGGSLEY, a middle-aged man sporting several days of stubble, a thick beanie and a fur-lined overcoat as he sips his coffee.
- BIGGSLEY  
(British accent; mutters)  
Snow, snow, snow...
- He turns round, revealing the rec room he's inside - a snooker table, a television and video and a small stereo, along with three more SCIENTISTS dressed for the cold - HAMMERSMITH, BAYLISS and ATTRIDGE.
- BIGGSLEY (cont'd)  
How much longer is this storm supposed to last for?
- HAMMERSMITH  
No idea, Biggs.
- Biggsley sits down, obviously disgruntled. Tinny music plays from the stereo in the background.
- BIGGSLEY  
We've still got acres of ground to cover, piles of PTS reports to get through, and we can't do a bloody thing while we're sitting here, waiting for that storm to pass!

(CONTINUED)

Bayliss pats him on the shoulder as he walks by.

BAYLISS

It's alright, Biggs. The weather  
just came out of nowhere, so as  
soon as we have a better idea of  
where it's heading, we can-

He stops as a deep RUMBLING rings out from all around. It  
fades back into silence, and the scientists exchange alarmed  
glances.

ATTRIDGE

What the hell was that?

HAMMERSMITH

Sounded like it came from...

He trails off - and then the RUMBLING returns, this time  
accompanied by a TREMOR which RATTLES and SHAKES the room!

BIGGSLEY

(shouts)

Everybody, grab hold of something!

The rumbling and shaking intensifies, and things start  
CRASHING to the ground as they're thrown loose - the music  
cuts off as the stereo SMASHES on the floor.

BAYLISS

Hammersmith, call up outpost one!  
Tell them we're experiencing some  
kind of earthquake!

Hammersmith nods, stumbling his way out of the room as his  
colleagues try to steady themselves.

We follow Hammersmith as he races down a cramped corridor,  
passing the entrance to the kennels, where the outpost's team  
of huskies are all BARKING furiously.

He reaches a door and pushes it open, almost thrown off his  
feet by another tremor:

Hammersmith CRACKS his head painfully against a shelf,  
wincing as he presses a hand to the bloody cut.

He looks up to find all the equipment in the room going  
crazy! PRINTOUTS spew from various items of recording  
equipment, dials and gauges fluctuate wildly and everything  
electronic seems to PULSE with an accompanying HUM.

Hammersmith reaches for the bulky radio unit, but jumps back as SPARKS fly off an overheating device next to him!

HAMMERSMITH

(into radio)

Outpost One, Outpost One, come in!  
This is station twelve, we're  
experiencing a... an earthquake, or  
something, request immediate  
assistance!

He waits for a reply - but all he gets is the piercing squeal of FEEDBACK, and as he reels back the entire unit POPS, smoke pouring from its casing!

Hammersmith drops the receiver and looks round desperately - and his eyes fall on something he can see through the small porthole.

HAMMERSMITH (cont'd)

(jaw drops)

My God...

He heads for the window as another QUAKE shakes the entire station, but he's too stunned to notice this time:

Push in close as he stares out through the window - and a huge CRACK in the ice around them is starting to circle round the whole base!

Looking down on the base from above, the CRACK in the ice is cutting a jagged circle around the entire station...

... and as the two ends of the crack meet, there's an almighty CRASH as the entire chunk of ice falls into the earth!

A huge cloud of SNOW is thrown up by the disaster, and the heavy sound of RUMBLING continues to fill the air.

The snow starts to clear, and where the base once stood now sits an enormous CRATER in the ice, with a huge, ragged HOLE at its center.

The crater is at least fifty feet deep, the smoking wreckage of the research station littered all around as the rumbling finally dies down.

And with a final, loud HUM there's an eerie PULSE of light from somewhere deep down within the hole, and we SMASH TO:

7 INT. CASTLE - KIRA'S ROOM - NIGHT

7

KIRA BROGAN snaps awake with a SHOUT, sitting bolt upright and gasping as though from a terrible dream.

She presses a hand to her chest, trying to calm down as there's a KNOCK at her door.

The door opens and in steps HAMISH, looking over to her with obvious concern.

HAMISH

Kira? Are you-

KIRA

It's started.

Hamish straightens - they both know what this means.

HAMISH

I'll go and wake up the girls.

He quickly exits, and as an obviously distressed Kira leans forward to put her head in her hands, we cut to:

8 INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - NIGHT

8

Up close on SOFIA, tossing and turning as though in the middle of a particularly vivid nightmare.

SOFIA

No!!

She wakes with a start, taking a moment to get her bearings, but as she sits up she sees that FRANKIE and ALITA are awake as well.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Did you just-

ALITA

Have the dream?

She nods, and as Sofia looks to Frankie she nods as well. The girls don't get long to work out what just happened, as there's a KNOCK at their door.

ANNA (O.S.)

(through door)

Uh, guys? You'd better get out here.

Sofia glances at the others, then swings out of bed and heads for the door, opening it to reveal:

9

INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - CORRIDOR - NEXT

9

As Sofia steps outside and meets ANNA, she sees that the door to every other room is open, and various SLAYERS are standing around wearing the same kinds of expression.

ANNA

We all, and I literally mean all,  
just had the same crazy dream.

Sofia is joined by Alita and Frankie, who take in the crowd of rudely awoken Slayers before them.

SOFIA

We're no different.

ANNA

What d'you reckon it means?

ELLEN (O.S.)

It means, get yourselves ready.

The girls turn to see ELLEN, also looking like she was just woken up, heading towards them.

ELLEN (cont'd)

'Cause it looks like we have some  
work to do.

The Slayers exchange understandably troubled looks, as we:

**BLACK OUT:****END OF TEASER**

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

10 INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - MORNING

10

DEBBIE is restocking some shelves in the front area of the infirmary with more medical supplies, busily humming under her breath.

Asleep on a bed in the background is DUNSTALL, his chest heavily bandaged. He looks past the worst of his recent injuries, but he's obviously still recovering.

SKYE enters the room, bandages still across her arms and hands. Debbie looks up, surprised to see Skye up and about.

DEBBIE  
(alarmed)  
Skye? What are you-

SKYE  
(interrupting)  
Where is she?

Debbie is quiet for a moment - should she let her pass? Skye looks like she is all business and she takes a step closer.

SKYE (cont'd)  
Debbie. Tell me where she is.

Debbie nods, and she leads Skye further into the infirmary. They reach a closed door and Debbie lowers her voice.

DEBBIE  
Okay, you need to be really sensitive about this. She... she came through everything mostly okay, but her burns are pretty severe.  
(beat)  
And... her eyesight...

Skye waits for it, taking all of this in.

SKYE  
(impatient)  
Debbie, come on, I'm hanging on a cliff here.

DEBBIE  
It's gone.  
(beat, uncomfortable)  
For good this time.  
(beat)  
I'm sorry.

(CONTINUED)

Skye nods slowly, licking her lips nervously.

SKYE

All right. All right. Um, gimme a minute or two?

DEBBIE

Sure. Anything.

Debbie quickly moves off, and Skye takes a deep breath before opening the door and walking into:

Skye cautiously enters the room, eyes adjusting to the dim, comfortable light. ERIKA is splayed out on a gurney, various wires and tubes feeding into her body. The burns look fairly severe, and her eyes are open, but they've gone completely white.

Erika twitches, noticing someone has entered. She shifts round as best she can towards the door.

ERIKA

(weakly)

Who's there?

(beat)

Skye?

Skye approaches the bed, pain etched across her face.

SKYE

It's me.

Erika seems to be relieved. Her body goes loose as the tension slips away, finally relaxing for what seems to be the first time. A small, weak smile flits across her full lips.

ERIKA

(breathless)

I... wondered... when you'd come.

SKYE

I'm here. I'm right here.

She gently places a hand on Erika's, and smiles down at her, albeit still pained.

ERIKA

My... my vision...

SKYE

(shushing)

Shh... quiet. It's okay.



ERIKA  
(hollow)  
It's gone.

Skye is besieged by heart-wrenching guilt, and the pain is etched across her face.

SKYE  
I know.

ERIKA  
How are you feeling?

Skye can't help but let out a short, bark of a laugh. It almost sounds like a cough.

SKYE  
Don't worry about me. I'll be okay.  
(beat)  
It's you I'm worried about.

ERIKA  
No worries. I, too, will be "okay."  
(beat)  
Things could be much worse, Skye.  
One of us could be dead.

SKYE  
Yeah, it should be me. I should have died. But... you... you...

ERIKA  
(stern)  
I did what I had to do.

Skye can't argue with her - how could she?

SKYE  
I just want to say-

ERIKA  
(interrupting)  
No. Don't say it. I know what you want to say. Just don't say it.  
(beat)  
I did what I did because...  
(beat, emotional)  
I don't regret what I did, Skye.  
Don't ever think that I regret it.  
I know you would have done the exact same thing if it had been me.

SKYE  
(without hesitation)  
In a heartbeat.

Erika nods slightly, keeping her eyes closed.

ERIKA

You should go. I am sure that other people need your help now.

SKYE

I want to stay with you.

(beat)

For just a little while, okay?

Erika nods again, this time it's almost unnoticeable.

SKYE (cont'd)

And if I start bugging you, you know you can kick me out and I won't take it personally.

Erika manages a short laugh this time. Skye stands by Erika's bed, clutching Erika's hand tightly, staring down at her injured face, and we cut to:

Frankie stands behind the reception counter, looking over some papers and books. Across the room, sitting at a large round table, surrounded by various books and texts, are TSULA, FRAN and Anna, aiding her in the research.

TSULA

I think I found something.

(beat)

No, wait. Nothing to do with anything.

FRAN

Could you maybe not say anything until you actually find something? You keep getting our hopes up.

TSULA

Sorry. I'm new to the researching thing.

ANNA

Fran? Zip it.

FRAN

But-

ANNA

Ah! Not interested. Case you hadn't noticed, we all got woke up at the same time with the same bad dream, so we're all about as tetchy as each other right now.

(MORE)

ANNA (cont'd)  
Debbie's still busy with Skye and  
Erika and every other damn girl who  
got her ass kicked last time out,  
so you...

She dumps a heavy book into Fran's hands.

ANNA (cont'd)  
... get to work.

She heads over to the reception counter, tapping her knuckles  
on the counter. Frankie looks up and sees Anna standing  
there, looking expectant.

FRANKIE  
*Oui?* Can I 'elp you?

ANNA  
Where are we on this whole thing?  
We've been at this since we got  
back from the Tor, and I think  
Tsula and Fran are about to start  
throwing the books at each other.

FRANKIE  
We are getting closer. I feel it.

ANNA  
Well, I'm glad you feel it, 'cause  
I ain't feelin' nothing.

Frankie looks up at her, still distracted.

FRANKIE  
You can go if you like.

ANNA  
No, no, it's not that. I just...  
it's kind of frustrating, you know?  
It's like, okay, we dealt with the  
whole Roland problem, but we've  
still got Braeden out there, and  
now we're all having visions of  
black holes and lights and demons,  
and...  
(beat, darkly)  
It's never gonna end, is it?

FRANKIE  
I am afraid not.

Anna nods slowly, taking this in. They both glance over, and  
see that Tsula and Fran are fighting over one of the books.  
They exchange a look of disdain - newbies.

TSULA

Look! Look, I think I found something!

FRAN

You keep saying that!

TSULA

No, really! Look!

(beat)

Frankie, Anna - come here!

Frankie and Anna hurry over to the table and Tsula points to one of the pages of the Lost Codex. Frankie skims it over, then quickly picks it up, reading faster, eyes roving across the page. She looks up at the girls with a nod.

FRANKIE

This is it.

TSULA

(grins)

See? I found it.

FRAN

(annoyed)

Shut up.

Frankie moves around them, splaying the book open before them all. Anna hovers at her shoulder, peering down at the book as Tsula and Fran watch irreverently.

FRANKIE

(reading; frowns)

"The... anti-Slayer... will arise... to restore balance... to cleanse the Earth... of the Chosen Line..."

(beat)

'Anti-Slayer'?

ANNA

Braeden.

The other girls look at her strangely.

ANNA (cont'd)

Think about it. Braeden turns to the Dark Side, he's the only male Slayer ever in history, and he's obviously got it in for us. Doesn't it make sense that he might be trying to take us all out?

Frankie points at the book.

FRANKIE

Wait, there is more.

(beat, reading)

"The spell will activate the Chosen... which will create a great change in the balance of the world."

(beat, to the girls)

That would be us. Willow's spell that turned us all into Slayers.

TSULA

(intrigued)

The book talks about us?

FRAN

(irritated)

Just a bunch of mumbo-jumbo written hundreds of years ago. I highly doubt you'll be making a cameo.

Tsula rolls her eyes as Frankie continues on.

FRANKIE

(reading)

"The spell will be cast and the Anti-Slayer will be born."

(beat)

Willow's spell created Braeden. It's what brought 'im 'ere.

ANNA

That was some pretty loaded mojo.

FRANKIE

This is important. This could be vital. We must show this to-

The doors of the library OPEN, revealing GREG at the very same moment.

GREG

Girls, we need to mount up. We just got word from the Council.

ANNA

What's up?

GREG

There was an incident in the Arctic. An entire research station was swallowed whole, followed by a massive surge of mystical energy. However, it's a kind of energy we've registered before, which makes a change.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GREG (cont'd)  
(beat)  
We think it's another Hub.

FRAN  
(squints)  
What's a 'hub'?

TSULA  
(elbows her)  
Ssh! Let him do his job!

GREG  
(to Frankie)  
Barbara, Ellen and Grace are  
waiting for us. We need you to tell  
us everything you've learned. Leave  
nothing out.

Frankie looks at him, holding the Lost Codex before her.

FRANKIE  
I thought there was only one of  
these 'Ub' things? And that it was  
destroyed by a volcano?

GREG  
Clearly, we were wrong. There's  
plenty of Hellmouths across the  
world, so unfortunately for us it  
seems like there's more than one  
Hub to work them as well.

ANNA  
(groans)  
Great.

FRAN  
And again - what's a 'Hub'?

GREG  
Frankie?

Frankie turns to Fran and Tsula, flicking through the pages  
of the Lost Codex. She stops on a double page spread and  
turns it to show them.

FRANKIE  
'Ere. This is what an 'Ub' is.

They peer at the illustration - it depicts a metallic  
PEDESTAL rising from a craggy platform, with what looks like  
the SCYTHE rising from the centre of it. Dozens of  
HELLMOUTHS, all in varying styles and designs, surround the  
main illustration.

FRANKIE (cont'd)

It is a device which controls all the 'Ellmouths in the world. Basically, it can lock and unlock every 'Ellmouth, all at once.

FRAN

It does what?!?

GREG

The Hub that was encountered over in the Pacific was only activated for a brief amount of time, as far as we know, but it was still enough to open over a hundred new Hellmouths across the planet.

ANNA

So, if this new one in the Arctic gets switched on...

GREG

Then all the hard work we've done here in the past few terms will have been for nothing. It'll all be cancelled out in seconds.

A beat as the group mull this over in silence for a second. Anna is the one to break the moment.

ANNA

To hell with that! When do we ship out to stop this thing?

GREG

As soon as everybody's ready. Frankie?

He starts to leave, but as Frankie scans the Codex again she suddenly calls out:

FRANKIE

Wait!

She has the room's attention.

FRANKIE (cont'd)

There is something else.

She lays the hefty book down on the nearest table, and the group gather round her.

FRANKIE (cont'd)

(reading)

It says 'ere, that only the Scythe  
can be used to open and close the  
'Ub, like a key.

ANNA

Hey, I've seen that before...

She presses her finger against an illustration on the page -  
an accurate rendition of Braeden's Scythe.

TSULA

Where?

ANNA

You're not gonna like this...

(deep breath)

Braeden had one.

FRANKIE

Braeden?

GREG

(groans)

Oh, God...

FRANKIE

You are absolutely sure?

ANNA

Yeah, positive. I saw him and Sofia  
fighting. She had her Scythe, and  
he had his. Kinda like hers,  
only... well, heavy metal.

GREG

In that case, things just became a  
lot more difficult for us.

FRAN

Because...

TSULA

Because if Braeden has a Scythe of  
his own...

FRANKIE

... then 'e 'as the power to  
activate the 'Ub, oui.

As this sinks in, we PAN ACROSS the library to reveal SOFIA,  
sitting amongst the stacks, and she has overheard the entire  
conversation.

(CONTINUED)



12 CONTINUED: (7)

12

She glances round to make sure she's unobserved, then steals away towards the back exit of the library and slips away.

13 INT. BOARD ROOM - MORNING

13

BRAEDEN paces up and down inside a long, plush executive board room, clearly on edge.

A door opens and the sharp-suited MAN last seen talking to him steps inside. He seems pleased about something.

SHARP-SUITED MAN

Braeden! Good to see you. Feeling well?

BRAEDEN

Feeling like I've been left stewing in this board room for the last few hours! What the hell am I-

SHARP-SUITED MAN

Patience, my young padawan.

The Man strolls over to Braeden, taking a fat cigar from his blazer pocket.

SHARP-SUITED MAN (cont'd)

Havana?

BRAEDEN

No, I'm from Melbourne.

SHARP-SUITED MAN

(chuckles)

Cute.

He lays a fatherly hand on Braeden's shoulder.

SHARP-SUITED MAN (cont'd)

Don't worry about a thing, Braeden. You're on the winning team now.

The door opens again and a thin, red-skinned DEMON leans in - a demon nerd, if you can picture such a thing.

DEMON NERD

Sir? We're, ah, ready when you are.

SHARP-SUITED MAN

We'll be right out.

The Demon exits, and the Man turns back to Braeden.

SHARP-SUITED MAN (cont'd)

Come on, son. Time to meet your destiny.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

He guides Braeden back towards the door, as we cut to:

14 INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - MORNING

14

Sofia marches into her room, reaching under her bed and drawing out a small WEAPONS CHEST.

She unlocks it and throws it open, digging through the assortment of swords, daggers and stakes inside until she takes out a bulky leather SATCHEL.

She takes the satchel out and lays it on her bedclothes, unzipping it and opening it to reveal her SCYTHE.

She stands, slowly and reverently lifting the Scythe, gripping it firmly in both hands.

Sofia looks down at the Scythe, muted and dull in her hands.

She knows what she has to do.

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

15 INT. CAMPUS - AUDITORIUM - DAY

15

What's left of the Slayers are now gathered in the assembly hall, the buzz surrounding them all as they chatter and gossip about what's coming. The vibe is not good.

Sofia makes her way sullenly through the crowd, overhearing snips and snatches of conversations: 'This is hopeless,' 'I'm not sure we can do this,' 'this is insane!'

Sofia keeps moving, taking this in, realizing that no one is ready for this fight.

Sofia reaches the stage, where Barbara, Ellen, and Greg are gathered, now joined by AIDEN and FITZGERALD. Barbara notices her and waves her over.

SOFIA

What's happening?

GREG

We're going in to find the Hub.  
We've just made the announcement.

SOFIA

(sighs)

Why am I not sad I missed it?

GREG

It's the only logical plan. We have  
to shut it down before all the  
Hellmouths across the world get  
activated, because if that  
happens...

ELLEN

(darkly)

World goes "boom."

Sofia takes this in. She looks to Barbara.

SOFIA

They aren't ready. Not yet.

BARBARA

We can't wait, Sofia. This is a  
time sensitive issue. The longer we  
wait, the more dangerous this will  
become.

Sofia looks out at the small sea of Slayers, at the various looks of exhaustion and hopelessness.

(CONTINUED)

ELLEN

Someone should say something to them. Something positive.

On Sofia, who looks at Barbara.

SOFIA

I have something to say.

Barbara glances at the other staff members, and their vacant looks give her nothing. She looks back to Sofia and nods slightly. Sofia moves forward to the edge of the stage.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Everyone listen!

All of the girls stop talking and turn to face Sofia. She doesn't have a microphone. She doesn't need one. They're all listening.

SOFIA (cont'd)

I know you're tired. We all are. We just fought one of our toughest battles, and some of us didn't make it. It was hard, and brutal, and some of you probably wish you hadn't seen some of the things you did.

(beat)

That was just the beginning. This isn't finished. I know you aren't ready for this, but the truth is, you just have to be. We are going to the Hub, and we are going to do whatever it takes to stop Braeden. Because we have to. We're Slayers. It's our responsibility.

Sofia looks out at all of the girls. Some of them look to be a little more responsive.

SOFIA (cont'd)

This is the battle we have all been waiting for. The one we all knew was coming. The rest of the world is at stake here.

Sofia pauses for effect - she notices a few sneers aimed her way, knowing she's still far from popular round these parts.

SOFIA (cont'd)

I know a lot of you blame me for what happened here a few weeks ago. That Braeden used me to get what he needed from us, and that I was too blind to stop it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA (cont'd)

(beat)

And you'd be right.

That sends a buzz through the crowd.

SOFIA (cont'd)

But I don't make the same mistake  
twice. I'm going out to clean up my  
mistakes, whether I go by myself or  
whether you all come with me.

(beat)

So will you be with me? Will you  
fight with me?

A moment of silence passes. Barbara exchanges a nervous  
glance with Ellen and Greg.

Then, CHEERS erupt from the girls as they rally themselves  
together, ready for battle once again. Sofia watches them,  
face like stone, eyes like a warrior.

Sofia hops off the stage and merges with the crowd as they  
all fan out around her. She's patted and nudged, Slayers  
surrounding her to thank her for the speech, but her mind's a  
long way past that by now.

Greg leans to Barbara and mutters, just audible over the  
chatter down below:

GREG

We're all going to die, aren't we?

BARBARA

(nods)

More than likely.

Ellen claps the nervous-looking Fitzgerald on the shoulder  
with a wry grin.

ELLEN

Hang in there, Fitz. It'll probably  
be quick.

Fitzgerald does not look excited by those prospects, as we  
cut to:

Anna quickly moves into an empty dorm room, her cell phone  
pressed against her ear, quietly closing the door behind her  
for privacy.

ANNA

Josh, is that you?

(beat)

Josh! Answer me!

A beat. Someone replies.

ANNA (cont'd)  
What have you done with my brother?  
(listens)  
Please. I've done everything you've  
asked. Please just let him go.  
(listens; horrified)  
But... no... I can't...

Obviously the news isn't good.

ANNA (cont'd)  
You don't understand, that's...  
(beat, defeated)  
Yeah. Yes. Yes, I understand.

Anna sinks down onto a bed, looking completely lost, as if her entire world has been turned upside down.

ANNA (cont'd)  
I just want Josh to be safe.  
Please. Don't hurt him.  
(beat)  
If I... if I do this...  
(shaking)  
If I do what you ask, then you  
won't hurt him?

Anna nods quickly as she listens, her eyes full of fear. Tiny beads of sweat have begun to form on her forehead.

ANNA (cont'd)  
Okay. Fine. I'll do it. I'll do it.

CLICK. The line goes dead. Anna slowly puts her phone down, staring down at the floor with a look of utmost uncertainty. She quietly begins to sob, and we cut to:

Barbara is sorting through papers at her desk (which seem to cover every available surface) when there's a knock at the door. It's Fitzgerald, and Barbara waves her inside.

BARBARA  
Come in. Please excuse the mess.  
Doesn't feel like five minutes  
since we were last getting ready to  
head out!

FITZGERALD  
That's because it wasn't.

Fitzgerald eases herself into a chair, and Barbara stops what she's doing, taking a seat herself.

BARBARA

I know I'm asking a lot of you,  
Grace, especially after-

FITZGERALD

(cuts in)

Do you know what feels the worst  
about all this?

BARBARA

(beat)

No. What?

FITZGERALD

Stanley's dead, and... and I can't  
seem to find the time to feel bad  
about it.

(beat)

He died right before my eyes, while  
I stood there like... like some  
kind of statue, but...

She's struggling, so Barbara helps her out:

BARBARA

But you know you can mourn for him  
if you make it through all this.

Fitzgerald lowers her head and nods.

FITZGERALD

Does that... does that make me a  
terrible person? That somehow, on  
some level, I know I don't have  
time to cry for him right now?

Barbara offers her a small smile as she stands.

BARBARA

It's called being a Watcher, Grace.  
Every day could end with somebody  
we know dead. We just have to keep  
moving. I know that sounds  
heartless, but it's the truth.

She moves round the desk and lays a comforting hand on  
Fitzgerald's shoulder.

BARBARA (cont'd)

And trust me, I know exactly how  
you feel. When all this is over,  
we'll take care of the arrangements  
for Stanley together.

Fitzgerald manages a nod, patting Barbara's hand for support  
as we cut to:

18 INT. CAMPUS - STAFF ROOM - NEXT

18

Greg is just finishing a phone call as Ellen and Aiden enter.

GREG  
(into phone)  
No, sir, we'll be ready. Thank you.

He puts the receiver down and turns to the others.

GREG (cont'd)  
A helicopter is standing by at the  
Council training ground in  
Sennybridge. We're meeting the  
ferry at Portishead to get us up  
there, and from there we're heading  
due North.

AIDEN  
Straight to the root of the  
problem, huh?

GREG  
That's about right.  
(to Ellen)  
How many girls can we commit?

ELLEN  
Battle ready?  
(long beat)  
Seven.

GREG  
(heart sinks)  
Seven?!?

ELLEN  
Hey, we just got through a major  
league ass-whupping courtesy of  
Roland and his boys, in case you  
forgot! We're already at about a  
quarter strength, and we've got  
plenty of girls too sick to even  
walk right now!

AIDEN  
Then we'll have to hope it's  
enough.

Greg and Ellen look to him, but Aiden shrugs - he seems  
pretty relaxed about the whole thing as we cut to:

19 INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - NEXT

19

Sofia, Alita, Frankie and Anna are zipping up their bags,  
preparing their weapons and supplies for the trip.

(CONTINUED)



The girls toss things to one another as they tool up - stakes, knives, holy water, the usual.

Sofia pauses for a beat as she looks down at her Scythe, ready to be sealed back into its satchel, when she hears:

SKYE (O.S.)  
You know, if I didn't know any better...

The girls spin round to see a grinning Skye in the doorway.

SKYE (cont'd)  
... I'd say you were planning on ditching me and heading off somewhere.

Sofia smiles and walks over to her - and surprises Skye by HUGGING her!

SOFIA  
Welcome back, Skye.

SKYE  
(a little awkward)  
Uh... yeah, sure. No problem.

Sofia steps back, looking Skye up and down.

SOFIA  
You're coming with us, right?

SKYE  
You bet.

ALITA  
What about Erika? Will she-

SKYE  
(quickly)  
She ain't coming.

Sofia frowns, but registers the obvious disappointment in Skye's face. She steps forward and lays a hand on Skye's shoulder.

SOFIA  
Then I'm glad to have you with us.

Skye manages to grin proudly we cut to:

The campus minibuses are parked outside the front gates. Tsula, Fran and Anna are getting their things into one van as Barbara, Fitzgerald and Ellen get into the next.

Aiden walks over to Greg, who is busy trying to secure a roof rack full of bulky luggage and bags.

AIDEN

Are we set?

GREG

Almost. We should get to Sennybridge in under four hours if the ferry's kind to us, so we can be at the rendezvous in the Arctic by...

(checks watch)

... midday, local time.

AIDEN

Good. That's good.

(beat)

I suppose going through the whole 'if we make it out of this alive' speech again is a little unnecessary, isn't it?

GREG

(smiles)

We would run the risk of repeating ourselves.

AIDEN

So how about we just make a date for when we get back?

GREG

A date?

AIDEN

Yeah, you know. You, me, dinner, a movie. The kinds of things those damned kids get up to all the time.

Greg turns away for a moment, a smile creeping across his face. He turns back.

GREG

Even after being such a prick the whole term?

AIDEN

Even after you being such a prick the whole term.

GREG

(beat)

You're on.

(CONTINUED)

AIDEN

Cool. All we have to do now is save the world and both get back here in one piece. That's the easy part.

He heads off, and we head past the crowd of milling Slayers, full of nervous energy, to find our Core Four over by the entrance, surveying the scene.

As Aiden passes, he makes eye contact with Frankie, and his expression saddens. Her hand involuntarily goes to her bad arm, but she quickly shakes her head.

Aiden tears his gaze away and moves on, but the others all caught that look.

SKYE

What was that all about?

FRANKIE

(distracted)

Hmm?

ALITA

You seemed to be saying something to Aiden.

FRANKIE

Did you 'ear me speak?

SOFIA

She means 'what was the story behind that look you and Aiden gave each other'? Is it... is it to do with your arm?

ALITA

Are you still in some pain?

Frankie raises her bad arm, making a fist.

FRANKIE

Not enough to stop me using it to put that *chienne* Darcie in the ground.

SKYE

(smirks)

Yep, she's okay.

ALITA

(looks around)

Is this really everybody that is able to come?

(CONTINUED)

FRANKIE

Oui. Sebastian is still 'urt,  
Debbie 'as to stay behind to 'elp  
in the infirmary because Aiden is  
coming with us, and out of the  
whole school, we are the only ones  
fit enough to fight.

SKYE

(beat)

Bummer.

A moment of silence falls on the girls. One by one, they  
drift off, all assigned to different cars.

Nobody says goodbye, but there are looks, nods, smiles and  
waves as first Alita, then Frankie and finally Skye head off.

Sofia stands alone. Silent. Looking out across her comrades  
for what may be the last time.

She lowers her head, closing her eyes and taking a deep  
breath. She slowly lifts her head and opens her eyes. Calm.  
Emotionless. Focused.

As Sofia starts to head towards the nearest minibus, throwing  
one last look over her shoulder at the Academy, we cut to:

21

EXT. ARCTIC - CLIFFSIDE - DAY

21

We sweep across the tundra once again, strong winds kicking  
up snow as the sun blazes down, picking up:

A HELICOPTER, hovering over the edge of a tall cliffside.  
RAPPEL LINES spill out from the helicopter's belly, and six  
small figures slide down the ropes to land on the cliffside.

Kira signals to the pilot of the helicopter, and he takes off  
into the sky, leaving them alone on the icy precipice.

Kira turns to the Rogues, their features reflected in her  
sunglasses as she fluffs up the fur-lined collar of her coat.

KIRA

You all have your orders. This is  
what we've been waiting for.

(beat)

This time, the truce is off. Every  
man for himself.

DARCIE grins maliciously.

DARCIE

Every woman, you mean.

(CONTINUED)

Darcie looks around at the others as she loads what look suspiciously like EXPLOSIVES into her jacket:

DELANEY has a wry look on her face, RACHEL glances left and right, anxiously surveying the landscape while JAZ shivers in the biting cold.

Hamish approaches Kira, looking back towards the plains beyond.

HAMISH

Everything is in place. We should get moving before anybody catches up to us.

KIRA

Do you think Braeden's made it here already? He's obviously working with somebody else.

HAMISH

Hard to say. Let's hope not, eh?

Kira looks at her Slayers.

KIRA

You heard the man.  
(beat)  
Move out.

JAZ

I don't like all this. We've got absolutely no idea what to expect down there.

KIRA

And yet, I just can't seem to care what you think. Move it, lab rat! We have work to do.

As they begin trekking across the snowy landscape, we cut to:

The noise of the ROTOR BLADES fills the air, as does the RATTLING of the interior of this bulky cargo chopper.

The Slayers and faculty staff are crammed into the transport section, gripping on to the webbing hanging from the walls for dear life.

Everyone except Sofia, that is, who stares out through the nearest porthole window with a blank expression.

Barbara clambers back into the hold from the cockpit, shouting out to the assembly before her:

BARBARA

Get ready, everyone. We'll be touching down in just under five minutes.

Looks are exchanged, silent prayers whispered and chatter starts to fill the hold, as the girls check and double check their things, suddenly becoming a sea of movement.

And still, Sofia is motionless.

Barbara climbs over some supply crates, back into:

INT. HELICOPTER - COCKPIT - NEXT

With the Arctic plains all around through the cockpit windows, she joins the PILOT and CO-PILOT as they prepare for their final approach.

BARBARA

Get us as close to the co-ordinates as you can. We've got a lot of ground to make up.

PILOT

I'll do what I can, but with the state of the ground below in this area I can't promise anything. This whole grid's becoming more unstable by the minute. Whatever happened out there caused plenty of damage, and it's spreading.

CO-PILOT

My God...

His gaze is locked on something up ahead, and as Barbara and the Pilot follow his stare, they share in his amazement:

A huge, black HOLE sits in the ice, just as we saw before, but now the hole is significantly larger, with long, jagged cracks snaking across the surrounding ice.

BARBARA

That's where we're heading.

The Pilot exhales, trying to spot somewhere even remotely safe to land, as we cut to:

EXT. ARCTIC - TUNDRA - NEXT

SLOW MOTION:

As the helicopter lifts off and pull up into the sky, kicking up a whirling cloud of SNOW into the air, our Slayers stride towards us, line astern, weapons glinting in the sun.

(CONTINUED)

RESUME with Sofia and Skye at the front, Alita and the other Slayers falling in step behind.

The closest edge of the black hole opens out ahead of them, dipping sharply down into darkness but forming a definite slope they can descend.

The group stop at the edge, staring into the ice and noticing at last the faint GLOW emanating from within. A long beat.

SKYE

So... anybody got a plan yet?

SOFIA

I've got one.

(beat)

Follow me.

She starts forward, and with a shrug Skye falls in step behind her. As the two girls start down the slope, we cut to:

One by one, the Slayers zig-zag down the slippery slope and into the heart of the caverns, winding down a long tunnel boring through the ice.

SKYE

How far down you suppose this goes?

SOFIA

Hopefully not so far that things start heating up again.

She turns to see Alita, one hand pressed against the wall, cautiously removing her glove and reaching for the ice.

SKYE

Hey, if you stick to that, I'm not gonna-

But Alita rests her hand calmly against what should be freezing cold ice.

ALITA

This whole place, it feels... warm.

Skye and Sofia exchange looks, then pull their hoods back and follow Alita's lead as Barbara, Greg and the rest of the group catch them up.

SOFIA

It appears that this particular ice cavern comes with central heating.

Greg frowns, checking the wall himself.

GREG

She's not wrong.

FRANKIE

There is plenty of powerful magic  
down 'ere. Enough to 'eat up even  
this place.

Everyone looks round in wonder, until:

SKYE

Okay, bored with the science now.

She takes point, but as the tunnel starts to open out into a  
wider chamber, she slows down as she steps into:

Skye steps out onto a large outcrop of ice, and the sight  
before her takes her breath away.

SKYE

Woah...

The outcrop looks down across an enormous cavern, filled with  
bridges and pathways formed out of the ice itself, criss-  
crossing the air in dozens of directions.

There are many more tunnel entrances in the walls around the  
chamber, descending down some way into the abyss below, but  
here the GLOWING LIGHT is even stronger, pulsing through the  
very walls themselves.

Sofia joins her at the edge, looking down at the dizzying  
network of paths down available to them.

SKYE (cont'd)

Well, seeing as I forgot my trusty  
jet pack, I'd say this part's gonna  
take us a little longer than we  
expected.

SOFIA

Not really. There's only one way we  
can go.  
(to others)  
Down.

She turns back, picks the nearest slope down to another  
outcrop below and heads down it, only inches from the edge on  
either side, and we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT TWO**



**ACT THREE**

FADE IN:

27

INT. ICE CAVERNS - HUGE CHAMBER - DAY

27

Back at the entrance to the cavern, Barbara quickly starts dividing the remaining girls up into groups.

BARBARA

Skye, go with Sofia. Frankie, take Anna and Aiden and bear left. Alita, you get Tsula and Fran. Greg, you're with Ellen. Grace, with me.

SKYE

See you on the other side, guys.

Skye follows after Sofia, as quickly as she dares, while Frankie cautiously steps out onto a long, curving ice bridge that slopes down and left.

ANNA

C'mon, Frankie, it's not like you're in heels!

Anna shakes her head as she moves around her, as Alita tucks her nunchucks away and takes a beat to focus herself, ready for the balancing act.

Fran peers over the edge and down into the blackness far below, letting out an involuntary shudder.

FRAN

This plan sucks.

Reluctantly, she starts to follow Alita and the relatively unfazed Tsula, as we cut to:

28

INT. ICE CAVERN - NEXT

28

Down inside a cold, glacial blue cavern formed out of the walls of thick ice all around, Braeden walks along a frost-covered pathway, a group of other figures ahead of him.

He stops and turns, looking up to the roof as the Sharp-Suited Man comes to his side. Both men are dressed light, taking advantage of the unexpectedly warmer environment.

SHARP-SUITED MAN

What is it?

BRAEDEN

They're here.

(CONTINUED)

SHARP-SUITED MAN  
Which ones? The Council girls,  
or...

BRAEDEN  
Both of them. The rogues and the  
Academy Slayers.

The Sharp-Suited Man raises an eyebrow, then reaches into his coat pocket - and fetches another cigar.

SHARP-SUITED MAN  
Don't worry, my boy. They're all  
much too late to get a chance to  
bother us now.

He moves on and the rest of his group starts up again, and as Braeden hesitates he glances back the way he came, and we:

29 INT. ICE CAVERNS - TUNNEL - NEXT

29

We join Delaney and Rachel, making their way through the ice and keeping their senses sharp.

RACHEL  
Do you think she's down here?

DELANEY  
Who?

RACHEL  
Dana! Do you think they brought her  
here?

DELANEY  
Why would they?

RACHEL  
I don't know! I don't even know why  
they took her, unless they-

DELANEY  
Ssh!

She motions for Rachel to shush - and the duo hear FOOTSTEPS coming from somewhere up ahead.

RACHEL  
I thought we were the first ones  
down here?

DELANEY  
I guess not...

They pace forward slowly as we cut to:

30 INT. ICE CAVERNS - NEXT

30

Alita's group has found a more open section, walking through a low-ceilinged but wide open section of the tunnels. There's plenty of ambient light coming from the softly glowing walls.

Tsula suddenly pulls up short, reaching for her bow and quickly nothing an arrow.

FRAN

What? What is it?

Alita catches her eye, nods and draws her nunchucks.

FRAN (cont'd)

Er, hello? Am I missing something here? What the hell are you tw-

The SHADOWS of two figures appear up ahead, and Alita motions for Fran to stay quiet. The trio tense up, ready for a fight as we cut to:

31 INT. ICE CAVERNS - OUTCROP - NEXT

31

Barbara and Fitzgerald are making their way across a wide, flat outcrop, Fitzgerald's attention drawn to the glittering lights that seem to be within the walls themselves.

She moves in for a closer look, tracing her hands across the ice's surface.

FITZGERALD

Incredible...

BARBARA

Grace, come on, we don't have time to-

KIRA (O.S.)

Oh, let her look.

Barbara and Fitzgerald whip round - it's Kira, Hamish and Jaz! Kira smirks at them both.

KIRA (cont'd)

I mean, it's not like she's much good for anything else, now is it?

Barbara narrows her eyes, raising her sword as we cut to:

32 INT. ICE CAVERNS - NARROW TUNNEL - NEXT

32

Sofia and Skye are heading down a narrow passageway when Skye hears a faint RUMBLE behind them.

(CONTINUED)

She turns, sees nothing, turns back and continues walking. Then she hears it again.

This time, when she turns, she sees little cascades of SNOW flutter down from the arched ceiling.

SKYE

Uh...

With a sudden CRACK, a huge section of the roof CAVES IN, and Skye's eyes bulge as a small AVALANCHE of debris surges towards them!

SKYE (cont'd)

Holy-

SOFIA

Run!!

The two girls break and sprint, and as the avalanche chases after them with a deafening ROAR!

Sofia and Skye run for their lives, but the collapsing ceiling behind them is closing in with every second!

The exit rushes towards them, with a darker chamber beyond the edge of the tunnel, but as the girls pile through it, they burst out onto:

A tiny balcony, barely big enough for one person!

Sofia manages to stop herself, teetering on the edge, but with a full head of steam built up Skye can't stop herself SLAMMING into her, pitching both girls over the edge with a terrified SCREAM!

Seconds later, there's a BURST of SNOW and ICE through the tunnel entrance, arcing gracefully out into thin air.

ANGLE ON: UNDERSIDE OF BALCONY

As the mini avalanches cascades out of sight, we find our two girls - hanging for dear life from stalactites trailing from the bottom of the balcony!

Skye watches the flurry of snow and ice drift downwards, listening for the distant CRASH as it hits the deck.

SKYE

Well... at least we know there's a bottom now.

Sofia shoots her a look, then starts to clamber back up the stalactite, grunting with effort as we cut to:

34 INT. ICE CAVERNS - TUNNEL - NEXT 34

Paused and ready, Delaney and Rachel draw their swords and nod to one another, counting silently down from three...

... and on the signal, they both BURST out into:

35 INT. ICE CAVERNS - NEXT 35

Right into Alita's team!

There's a brief double take - and then the two sides leap into action!

Alita SNAPS her nunchucks out but Delaney swerves her body neatly under them, SWEEPING her leg round. Alita HOPS over it, KICKING her leg out but Delaney BLOCKS.

Rachel, meanwhile, takes on Tsula and Fran at once, CHOPPING the head from Tsula's arrow before she can fire and PUNCHING Fran as she gets too close!

Tsula whips the bow round and uses it to parry Rachel's sword, trying to twist it out of her hands and leaving her open to a KICK from Fran.

Rachel staggers back, but as Fran presses her luck Rachel FLIPS back, catching Fran across the jaw with her boot!

RACHEL  
Delaney! Let's go!

Rachel turns and breaks for the nearest exit, with Delaney reluctantly following.

ALITA  
After them!

Delaney spins round, sees the inbound Fran and quickly FLIPS herself up, bouncing one foot off her head and springboarding herself up and over!

Rachel follows suit, SKIDDING down onto one foot and SLIDING between Tsula's legs!

Alita SEETHES in frustration, leading the charge as the Slayers pursue them, and we cut to:

36 INT. ICE CAVERNS - OUTCROP - NEXT 36

Barbara and Fitzgerald, still facing off to Kira's team.

BARBARA  
Hello again, Jaz.

(CONTINUED)

JAZ

(nods)

Barbara.

BARBARA

Still forget which team you signed up for?

JAZ

Oh, no, I remember.

KIRA

Come on, Barbara. Don't make this harder than it has to be. Just step aside and let us-

GREG (O.S.)

Sorry, but that's not going to happen.

Kira rolls her eyes as she turns to see Greg and Ellen emerging from a tunnel entrance behind them.

FITZGERALD

Greg? How did-

ELLEN

We got lost.

She loads her shotgun with a loud CLICK.

ELLEN (cont'd)

Luckily.

GREG

Now, the way I see this going, there's only one possible-

ZAP! Kira raises her hand and Greg is BLASTED by a bolt of BLUE ENERGY, knocking him off his feet and HURLING him back against the wall!

ELLEN

Greg!

She raises her gun and FIRES - but the shell hits an invisible FIELD, dissolving harmlessly.

HAMISH

Och! She's a trigger-happy one, isn't she? Proper bloody American.

KIRA

As I was saying...  
(to Barbara)  
Get out of my way.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: (2)

36

Barbara keeps her sword raised defiantly. Kira HUFFS.

KIRA (cont'd)

Fine!

She raises her hands again, and then CLAPS them together.

There's a sudden POP and the Academy staff are all bathed in PURPLE LIGHT...

37 EXT. ARCTIC - TUNDRA - NEXT

37

And with another POP, Barbara, Fitzgerald, Ellen and the still-stunned Greg all reappear - back outside the hole in the ground!

It takes a few seconds for this to sink in, but as the cold hits and the team quickly wrap back up, realising what's happened, Barbara TOSSES her sword away in frustration, and we return to:

38 INT. ICE CAVERNS - OUTCROP - NEXT

38

Kira wipes her hands against each other. Job done.

KIRA

There! All better. Come on.

(beat)

Jaz?

She turns - Jaz is gone! Kira frowns as we cut to:

39 INT. ICE CAVERNS - PRECIPICE - NEXT

39

Frankie's group are making their way along a long, narrow path jutting out from one wall, when who should appear up ahead but Darcie!

DARCIE

(grins)

Hello, darling.

Frankie pulls up, looking around - the only other way round is a drop down to a wide platform below.

FRANKIE

(to Anna and Aiden)

You two, keep going.

ANNA

Uh, no! This ain't the schoolyard, Frankie! There's one of her and three of us! You can't-

(CONTINUED)

BOOM! The rock beneath Anna and Aiden's feet suddenly EXPLODES and crumbles beneath them, and with a SHOUT the two of them are deposited down on the platform below!

Frankie whips round - to see Darcie with a small black transmitter unit in one hand.

DARCIE

I set that up while I was waiting  
for you three to get here. I didn't  
want us to be disturbed.

AIDEN

Frankie!

Frankie looks down - it's too far for Anna and Aiden to get back up to her. She grimly looks to Darcie, as we cut to:

INT. ICE CAVERNS - NEXT

Jaz is suddenly THROWN into view, her sword falling out of her hands as she SKIDS along the ground.

She frantically scrambles to get back up, retrieving the sword and spinning round to face her attacker:

Braeden. He grins.

BRAEDEN

There you go, I let you get your  
sword back. Fair's fair.

JAZ

But... why... what do-

BRAEDEN

Hey, you'd know all about switching  
sides, wouldn't you? I'm sure you  
can understand what I mean when I  
say I just realised which team I  
was meant to be playing for.

He raises his Scythe and takes a step towards her. Jaz is clearly terrified - she senses she's outmatched here.

JAZ

So, what, you're just going to kill  
me now, is that it? Is that your  
new master plan?

BRAEDEN

(beat; nods)  
Pretty much, yeah.

He pauses - then CHARGES in! Jaz defends, swinging her sword left and right, but it's clear she's no match for Braeden.



With a few deft blows, he's sent her stumbling backwards, and as she tries to get her sword up to block him, his Scythe SLICES DOWN...

... and Jaz SCREAMS in horror as her hand is neatly severed from her arm!

She sinks to her knees, clutching the wound in a desperate attempt to staunch the blood pouring from it.

Braeden looks almost sympathetic as he stands over her.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)  
You know, I always figured my first  
would be more... dramatic, somehow.  
Seeing as my actual first didn't  
really count.  
(beat)  
Ah, well.

He raises his Scythe, and Jaz just has time to raise her hand and utter a SOB of fear:

ANGLE ON: WALL

Silhouetted against the wall, we see Braeden's Scythe SLICE down again, and a spray of BLOOD spatter across the wall.

Jaz slumps to the floor and stays there. Braeden waits a beat, then turns and slowly walks back out, and we cut to:

Delaney and Rachel stumble out onto a small precipice, Delaney allowing herself a grin when she realises Alita's team aren't following.

DELANEY  
We lost 'em! Guess the cold must be  
slowing their brains down.

She turns and looks out over where they've ended up - a long, narrow ice bridge that stretches across a gaping chasm. More tunnel exits stand on both sides of the bridge.

RACHEL  
We'd better not stick around. I  
don't plan on getting slowed down  
fighting those three all day!

DELANEY  
Then I hope your circus skills are  
up to scratch...

Delaney starts to pace steadily across the bridge, arms out for balance, but it's only moments before Alita's group burst into view - on the other side of the chasm!

Delaney brakes sharply as her eyes fall on the Slayers, before her mouth twists into a wicked smirk.

DELANEY (cont'd)  
Well, well. Guess this was a bridge  
too far, huh?

RACHEL  
Delaney?

Rachel is still on the far side, and Delaney turns to her.

DELANEY  
I've got this.

RACHEL  
But-

DELANEY  
Go.  
(beat)  
Go find Dana.

Rachel hesitates, but then with a nod she's off, hopping up onto a ledge and climbing up to the next highest tunnel.

Over with Alita, she steps away from Tsula and Fran, her eyes locked on Delaney.

TSULA  
Alita? What are you-

ALITA  
Leave me.

FRAN  
What? Why? So you can carry on your  
deathmatch with her?

DELANEY  
Newbie's got a point, half pint.  
You gonna do what's right, or what  
you really want to do?

Alita lowers her head for a beat, torn between two choices - then takes one step forward, onto the bridge.

ALITA  
(to Fran & Tsula)  
I will not ask you again.

She strides forward, heading out to meet Delaney as an incredulous Tsula looks on.

FRAN

(wincing)

Come on. She wants to get herself killed, that's not our problem.

She starts to pull Tsula away, who watches Alita helplessly as Alita walks slowly up to Delaney, her nunchucks in her hands. Delaney is still wearing that insolent smirk.

DELANEY

Okay, kudos where it's due. Didn't think you'd have the stones to take me on again.

ALITA

Where you are involved, I do not need 'stones.'

DELANEY

Oho! Was that sass I just heard in your voice? My, my, little Alita, all grown up! Your mom would be so proud. You know, if she wasn't dead.

Alita freezes - and then LAUNCHES herself forward with a SNARL!

Delaney ducks her first attack, SLICING out with a dagger that she quickly pulls from her belt.

Alita swerves her body back, putting one foot out to steady herself and PUNCHING Delaney hard across the jaw.

Delaney stumbles back and Alita follows, KICKING at her, only for Delaney to BLOCK, grab her foot and TWIST, spinning Alita round!

She lands face-first on the bridge with a SLAM, and the whole thing SHAKES from the impact!

DELANEY (cont'd)

Better watch those landings, Short Round, or this is gonna be a really short fi-

CRACK! Alita KICKS back out with one foot, knocking Delaney back, and as Alita rolls to her feet we cut to:

42 INT. ICE CAVERNS - PRECIPICE - NEXT

42

Frankie and Darcie, hand to hand, tooth and nail. Frankie lets fly with a SPIN KICK, but Darcie dodges back, CHOPPING down onto Frankie's outstretched leg.

She SHOUTS in pain, and Darcie follows with an ELBOW to her gut, knocking her back.

Darcie draws her dagger and STABS down, but Frankie dodges her head to one side just in time, KICKING back up and cracking her foot across Darcie's jaw.

She stumbles back, and Frankie gets to her feet, striking a combat pose.

DARCIE

(scoffs)

As if! How are you going to fight me with only one-

POW! Darcie is thrown back as Frankie plants one right in her kisser - with her bad arm!

FRANKIE

I will manage.

She follows up, advancing on the stunned Darcie as we cut back to:

43 INT. ICE CAVERNS - NEXT

43

Sofia and Skye are making their way down another tunnel when a figure passes them at the far end - Rachel!

SKYE

Hey!

Rachel ducks back - then takes off!

SKYE (cont'd)

Get back here!

Skye starts to run after her.

SOFIA

Skye, wait!

SKYE

(calls back)

Don't go far without me, alright?

And she's gone. Sofia exhales helplessly, then continues:

44 INT. ICE CAVERNS - TUNNEL - NEXT

44

Sofia is moving quickly down another one of the endless tunnels spread throughout the ice caverns, and she comes to a gap in the tunnel.

A strange GLOW emanates from the gap, like a giant fissure in the ice. Sofia moves closer to the gap, her face illuminated by the eerie glow.

She peers down into the open chamber below...

... and a section of the wall CAVES IN! She lets out a YELP as she drops out of sight, into:

45 INT. ICE CAVERNS - CHAMBER - CONTINUOUS

45

Sofia hits a SLOPE and slides down it, rolling to a stop, a little dazed. She slowly climbs to her feet and begins to look around.

The glow has now overtaken her entire body, as strange celestial lights scamper through the air, reflecting off the ice walls of the cavernous chamber.

A large ice edifice is ahead of her, PULSATING with an eerie greenish-blue hue.

Standing on top of that is a metal pedestal - a simple looking device, constructed from silvery metals and looking like an oversized combination lock. There's a circular hole in its centre, and several discs running out from that which are covered in arcane symbols and letters.

This is it. This is the HUB.

As Sofia takes in the fantastic sight before her, a figure moves around the Hub, walking around it, moving into Sofia's line of sight.

It's Braeden!

BRAEDEN

Hey, at last.

As Sofia stares hard at him, resolute, we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

FADE IN:

46

INT. ICE CAVERNS - THE HUB CHAMBER - DAY

46

Resume scene. Braeden grins at Sofia, holding his Scythe in both hands, turning it round and round slowly. Sofia holds her own Scythe down at her side, a look of weary determination on her face.

BRAEDEN

You know, I had all these great lines worked out for when you got this far, but somehow now they all feel a little lame.

SOFIA

Let's just do this.

Sofia suddenly SURGES forward, Scythe raised, but Braeden BLOCKS, the two weapons CLASHING together with SPARKS!

Braeden raises an eyebrow as she pushes against him, trying to shove him backwards.

BRAEDEN

Kinda quick to draw there, aren't we?

SOFIA

You're the one about to activate all the Hellmouths all over the world! I'd say you're trumping me about now with the whole 'rash decisions' thing.

Braeden PUSHES her back, spinning his Scythe round with a flourish, and the two begin to circle one another warily.

BRAEDEN

All right, then. Let's do this. If that's what you really want.

Sofia holds her own Scythe up.

SOFIA

That's why I'm here.

BRAEDEN

(off Hub)

No chance you'll actually let me do what I've gotta do here?

SOFIA

(plainly)

Really can't.

(CONTINUED)

BRAEDEN

Then I guess that settles it.

A beat passes as they assess each other.

Like lightning, they zip across the Hub, their Scythes CLANGING against each other. SPARKS fly from the metal as they SCREECH against each other!

Sofia and Braeden are now face-to-face.

SOFIA

You don't have to do this.

BRAEDEN

(mimicking Sofia)

Really do.

He BANGS his Scythe forward, causing Sofia to topple backwards. She quickly regains her footing and SLICES her Scythe through the air, and it ripples towards Braeden, but he SLAMS his own Scythe upward, parrying her blow.

Locked into a standstill once again, Braeden HEADBUTTS Sofia, which sends her reeling, and she falls to the ground twenty feet away, her Scythe CLATTERING to the side, too far to reach.

Sofia LEAPS to her feet with no hands, regaining her stance.

Braeden watches her, waiting, holding his Scythe before him defensively.

Sofia breaks into a run, and we slip into SLOW MOTION as she LAUNCHES up into the air, swinging her feet outward, and her feet SMASH into Braeden's chin.

Back to REAL TIME as Braeden FLIPS BACKWARD, rolling with the blow, and his legs come HURLING UP into Sofia's face, as her mouth connects with Braeden's feet.

She SLAMS to the ground, and Braeden is tossed back several feet, also hitting the deck hard.

Alita and Delaney's fight is becoming a blur of motion as the two girls chop, kick, block and parry.

Alita wraps her nunchucks round Delaney's dagger and PULLS, yanking the weapon from Delaney's hand, but a swift KICK knocks Alita's hand open, and both weapons spiral off the bridge and into the chasm below!

DELANEY

(scowls)

And I liked that knife, too!

Alita sets her jaw, marching forward to attack again, and as Delaney parries a punch and lands one of her own, we cut to:

INT. ICE CAVERNS - PRECIPICE - NEXT

Frankie has Darcie by the throat, PUNCHING her over and over again - this time with her good arm.

FRANKIE

This is for the library...

(pow!)

... this is for 'urting

Sebastian...

(smack!)

... this is for every little thing  
you 'ave ever sneered at me...

Frankie rears back to punch again but Darcie blocks, suddenly CHARGING up and barging into Frankie, and the two girls go SAILING off the ledge and CRASH down onto the platform below!

Anna and Debbie are long gone by now, and as the two winded girls lie on the floor, stunned, we return to:

INT. ICE CAVERNS - NEXT

Rachel is trying to make her escape, but Skye catches her up and TACKLES her, the two CRASHING to the ground in a spray of ice dust!

They struggle, and Rachel lands a PUNCH that only succeeds in making Skye VAMP OUT!

SKYE

Oh, this seems familiar...

She rears back and BITES DOWN, and Rachel lets out a YELL of pain - before MORPHING into a VAMPIRE herself!

Skye pulls herself away, stumbling backwards as Rachel clutches her bleeding arm.

SKYE (cont'd)

Alright, lady...

She draws her sai daggers, twirling them round.

SKYE (cont'd)

Twenty questions. One - what the  
frack are you?!?



RACHEL

You wouldn't understand.

SKYE

Oh, wouldn't I? You seen what I am lately? I'm half freakin' vampire! Believe me, I've got an open mind!

Rachel gets to her feet, SHAKING her head urgently - and after a few moments, her features return to normal.

RACHEL

Look, I... I don't want to fight you.

SKYE

Coulda fooled me.

RACHEL

I just want to find my friend and get out of here!

SKYE

Your 'friend'? What, Delaney? She-

RACHEL

(interrupts)

No, not her! Dana!

Skye cocks her head to one side, surprised, and we cut to:

She reaches for her Scythe, but suddenly, Braeden is there, standing above her! She looks up at his face, blood trickling past her lips.

BRAEDEN

Stop fighting me!

SOFIA

(weak)

I... can't...

BRAEDEN

I don't want to hurt you, Sofia. It doesn't have to be this way!

Sofia is thunderstruck by this.

Braeden then KICKS her in the face, and he SWIPES her Scythe off the ground, holding both of them in his hands.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)

But I have a job to do.

He then turns and TOSSES Sofia's Scythe out into the ether, and it disappears over the edge of a massive cliff!

SOFIA

No!!

Sofia looks up in awe as she watches it go, completely thrown.

SOFIA (cont'd)

No...

Braeden begins walking back over to the Hub, holding his Scythe ready, and it begins PULSATING with power!

He comes face to face with the energized stone, the light illuminating his face. The symbols etched into the discs PULSE with energy.

WHAM!

Braeden stumbles down, revealing Sofia, clutching a massive STALACTITE, made of thick ice!

SOFIA (cont'd)

I have a job to do, too.

Braeden rolls over, hopping back to his feet, breathing hard.

BRAEDEN

Okay. Fine. Guess I deserved that one.

Sofia holds the stalactite in her hands, unbowed.

Without giving him another moment to prepare, Sofia launches into a series of quick slashes, moving closer and closer as she assaults him with the stalactite, each time, little chunks being BROKEN OFF as it slams against Braeden's Scythe!

Sofia comes down for another blow, but Braeden STOPS it with his Scythe! The stalactite SHATTERS into two, tiny bits crumbling into dust in Sofia's hands!

Braeden deftly catches one of the jagged ends of the stalactite, and with his free hand JAMS it down into Sofia's thigh, PIERCING through her leg!

Sofia SCREAMS in agony, immediately dropping to the icy ground.

The other part of the stalactite clatters to the ground next to her and Braeden quickly turns away from her, heading back towards the center of the Hub.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA  
(pleading)  
Braeden! No! Don't do it!

Braeden turns back at her, his face sad and empty. He lowers his head.

BRAEDEN  
(soft)  
I'm sorry.

He then turns and PLUNGES his Scythe into the Hub and TURNS, creating a brilliant FLASH of immensely bright light, as we cut to:

Alita and Delaney are still mid-combat when the chamber is suddenly flooded with LIGHT, and the two girls recoil, shielding their eyes.

The light is still blazing as a low RUMBLING sounds, the entire cavern shaking from the ground up!

The ice bridge VIBRATES dangerously, and both girls lose their balance and fall, landing awkwardly on the bridge.

The light starts to fade, but all around them the cavern is showing signs of stress - CRACKS start to race up the walls, and huge chunks of ICE start to fall from the walls and ceiling, CRASHING against one another on their way down!

DELANEY  
The hell...?

The girls look up - and in that split second, realise the fight will have to wait.

They both leap to their feet and take off, running in different directions back to safety, but Alita hears a loud CRACK from overhead...

... and looks up to see a huge hunk of ICE plummeting towards them!

She whips round, ready to yell out a warning, but before she can speak:

SLAM!

The ice SMASHES straight through the middle of the bridge, breaking it in two!

The girls are thrown up into the air, hands clawing at nothing as the bridge crumbles beneath them, collapsing back into the chasm!

51 CONTINUED:

51

DELANEY (cont'd)  
(yelling)  
Oh shiiii-

Delaney's cry echoes round the cavern as she drops from view, disappearing into the black.

Alita manages to get one hand GRABBED onto a ledge as she drops, but with the cavern around her continuing to RUMBLE ominously, she can't hold on for long!

52 INT. ICE CAVERNS - NEXT

52

Kira and Hamish struggle to stand, feeling the worst as they're tossed about by the shaking caverns.

HAMISH  
Earthquake?

KIRA  
No! Can't you feel that? That  
energy?  
(darkly)  
He did it. The little bastard  
actually did it...

The two struggle on as we return to:

53 INT. ICE CAVERNS - THE HUB CHAMBER - NEXT

53

Sofia slowly clambers to her feet, favoring her injured leg. She breathes deeply, staring down at the wound as blood drips down her leg, creating a large puddle at her feet.

She tries to center herself, and places both hands around the stalactite.

SOFIA  
(quietly)  
Okay, Sofes, come on...

She tests her grip on the stalactite, grimacing in pain. She ROARS in severe pain as she YANKS the stalactite free from her leg, blood gushing from the wound as she does so.

It FALLS to the ground, covered in blood.

On Sofia, breathless and pale. She looks up, and in the FOREGROUND we see Braeden still clutching the Scythe, the energy of the Hub coursing through him as the Hellmouths all over the world are activated.

Sofia is trembling, but standing her ground. Braeden turns to face her, as the Hub continues to glow brighter and brighter behind him.

(CONTINUED)

BRAEDEN

Still up and going? You're stronger than I thought.

SOFIA

I'm a lot of things you don't understand.

(beat)

You know I can't let you go.

BRAEDEN

It's too late now.

A flash of uncertainty crosses Sofia's face, but it's gone in an instant.

SOFIA

(quietly)

I'm still going to try.

Braeden takes a step closer. Sofia tenses.

BRAEDEN

I said I didn't want to hurt you, Sofia.

SOFIA

You'll have to kill me if you want out of here. So I guess that means neither of us will get what we want.

A beat passes.

BRAEDEN

I can live with that.

He pulls out a gun from his back pocket and FIRES!

Sofia slumps to the cavern floor, holding her side where Braeden's bullet pierced her. She gasps for air, eyes wandering, afraid and wild, and we cut to:

With the two girls finding the tunnel SHAKING around them, the sound of the gunshot ECHOES towards Skye and Rachel, and Skye's head snaps round.

SKYE

Whu-

And with that, Rachel takes off!

SKYE (cont'd)

Wha- hey!

But by the time Skye's reacted, Rachel is long gone. Skye looks back towards the sound of the gunshot, torn between her choices, then with a GRUNT heads off in the direction of the sound, and we cut to:

With the chamber still SHAKING all around, Frankie groans as she comes to, groggy from her fall and already pretty knocked about, but with a YELL Darcie suddenly bursts into frame, TACKLING her to the ground!

DARCIE

You bitch! You think you can stop me? Nothing can stop me!

WHAM! She PUNCHES Frankie again and again, her face twisted into a snarl of pure rage, and Frankie's helpless to resist.

Blocks of ice and rubble CRASH down all around them, showering the duo with fragments.

Frankie tries to get her hands up to stop Darcie's onslaught, but it's no good - and as Darcie's frenzied attack continues, Frankie gasps as she sees her eyes blazing a firey RED!

DARCIE (cont'd)

(raving)

I'll kill you! I'll kill you just like I killed that worthless whore friend of yours!

FRANKIE

Wha... what?

Darcie relents for a moment, grabbing Frankie's shirt and pulling her up close to her leering features.

DARCIE

Who do you think stuck her like a squealing pig and left her in your bosom buddy Skye's room? Do you think she stabbed herself in the neck by accident?

FRANKIE

You... you killed Heidi!

DARCIE

Well... I had a little help, but yes. I put the spoilt brat out of her misery. You should be thanking me! Time was I almost thought you'd do the job for me!

She PUNCHES Frankie again for good measure, and continues:

DARCIE (cont'd)  
Truth is, she overheard Braeden and I planning our little getaway, so we had to take care of her. With Skye giving us the perfect opportunity to shift the blame onto her, all we had to do was move her, leave Skye pissed and snoring on her bed and make it look like she was the one who did it!

FRANKIE  
That's... you...

DARCIE  
And now...

Darcie raises her fist - and she's holding a STONE.

DARCIE (cont'd)  
... you'll get to meet her. Tell her I said fu-

She stops. Coughs. Looks down.

A razor-sharp ICICLE sticks out through her chest.

Her wide, startled eyes look down to Frankie - who holds the other end of the lethal spike.

FRANKIE  
Tell her yourself, bitch.

With a HEAVE, Frankie shoves Darcie back, and with another TWIST she pitches Darcie head-first over the lip of the platform!

Darcie drops silently into the darkness, chased by falling fragments of the crumbling cavern walls. Her RED EYES blaze out of the gloom as she falls, until they're finally gone.

Breathless, Frankie pushes herself back up, looking around helplessly for a way out as we cut back to:

Alita grimaces as she tries to pull herself up onto the ledge, clinging to the fragmenting ice with every ounce of her strength...

... but something CRACKS, and her eyes widen as the chunk of ledge she's hanging on to starts to crumble away...

... and with a final SHOUT of fear, Alita loses her grip, falling backwards into the chasm, plummeting out of view in an instant before we cut back to:

57

INT. ICE CAVERNS - THE HUB CHAMBER - NEXT

57

Sofia tries to push herself up but fails, her strength fading as her lifeblood seeps out onto the chamber floor.

All around them, the swirling lights are disrupted as the chamber SHAKES, starting to collapse just like everywhere else in a shower of ice fragments.

SOFIA  
(gasping)  
How... how could you...

BRAEDEN  
(softly)  
I didn't have a choice.

Sofia doubles over in excruciating pain, wincing.

SOFIA  
You... bastard...

BRAEDEN  
Face it. You've lost.

Sofia gasps for air, clutching the wound tighter.

SOFIA  
Just... kill me. Get it... over with.

BRAEDEN  
My people can save you. You just have to come with me.

He holds his hand out to her. Sofia looks at it with disgust.

SOFIA  
You can't... be serious!

BRAEDEN  
You stay here, you'll die.

SOFIA  
I can't go with you. I won't.

BRAEDEN  
Have you heard anything I've said?  
(beat)  
Sofia, you will die. Is all of this worth it? The Academy, the other Slayers, your supposed "friends"? Is it really worth dying for?  
(beat)  
Come with me, Sofia. Come with me.

(CONTINUED)



He kneels down so he can be face to face with her.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)  
Sofia... I love you.

Sofia looks up at him, fading fast, tears forming in her eyes.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)  
And if you die here, now, then my  
world... my world isn't going to  
feel right. I need you with me.

SOFIA  
If you... really love me...  
(beat)  
Ask me... again...

As Braeden looks deep into her eyes, we cut to:

Skye comes tearing down the same tunnel Sofia used to find the Hub Chamber. A gigantic TREMOR causes the tunnel to shift and shake, debris raining down from above. Sofia ducks, covering her head as she rushes onward.

SKYE  
Sofia!? Sofia, are you there!?

Up ahead, she sees bright glowing LIGHTS!

Skye forges ahead, making her way to the fissure that Sofia found leading into the Hub Chamber. Her face is lit up by the glow as she peers inside.

Another TREMOR causes the ground to quake and a massive piece of ice SLAMS down behind her.

Skye rips through the fissure and into:

Skye staggers into the chamber, taking in the devastation as it begins to crumble in on itself, the energies from the Hub too strong to contain.

SKYE  
Sofia!? Sofia!

Across the chamber, she spots Braeden! Sofia is cradled in his arms, and he's making haste into another fissure far across the expanse of the chamber.

SKYE (cont'd)  
Sofia! Braeden! No!

CRRRRRR-ACK!

A massive piece of ice FALLS from the ceiling, SMASHING into a thousand pieces mere feet in front of Skye, causing her to fall back.

SKYE (cont'd)

Sofia!

She watches helplessly as Braeden makes his escape - and blinks as she sees a group of PEOPLE standing just past the exit!

CRRRRRR-ACK!

More ice continues to fall, and Skye looks up to see another piece of the cavern coming loose from the ceiling!

She steals one last glance across the chamber, as Braeden slips away, swiftly followed by whoever was there waiting for him.

SKYE (cont'd)

Sofia! Sofia!!

As Skye looks on in fear, the cavern continuing its violent disintegration all around her, we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF SHOW**