

SLAYER ACADEMY

"Flatline"

by
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TEASER

FADE IN:

1

INT. ACADEMY - INFIRMARY - DAY

1

The infirmary is, as usual, packed. Slayers fill every available bed, and some are even sitting on the floor, nursing everything from broken bones to stab wounds to missing limbs.

DEBBIE walks into frame, head buried in a clipboard, yet still managing to dodge out of the way of passersby, her ever-present lab-coat trailing behind her.

That is, until she BUMPS right into BARBARA. Debbie lets out a startled cry, but regains her posture almost instantaneously.

BARBARA

Deborah, there you are. I've looking all over for you.

DEBBIE

Oh, right, that raid yesterday that went wrong. Um...

She flips through several pages, trying to find one particular sheet.

BARBARA

Actually -

DEBBIE

Here it is - Oh, sorry, go ahead.

Barbara shakes her head.

BARBARA

No, better let me have it now.

Debbie gives the sheet one last look-over, before:

DEBBIE

Well, the good news is nobody died. Two slayers are going to be out for a while, one may be gone permanently. The rest should be back to full health within a few weeks.

(bites lip)

Well... should be.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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DEBBIE (cont'd)
Some of the girls seem to be a bit
slow healing these days. I'm
looking into what could be causing
that.

Barbara nods, taking it in.

BARBARA
It could have been a lot worse.

DEBBIE
Yeah.

There's a long, awkward pause, as Barbara and Debbie look
away from each other. Both know they need to talk about
something, but neither says anything.

SLAYER (O.S.)
Hey, it's the Doc!

Debbie and Barbara both turn to see a young SLAYER, maybe 16,
lying in a bed next to them, as doped up on morphine as
physically possible.

SLAYER (cont'd)
(slurred)
Have a good birthday doc... Oh,
wait, you're like... whoa...

Both Debbie and Barbara stare at the young girl, confused as
all hell.

SLAYER (cont'd)
Uh... you're like... eighteen now,
right? So that's like... you need
to... uh...

Barbara and Debbie exchange a glance, both of them a little
wiggled out.

SLAYER (cont'd)
The, uh, you need to get...
cruci... crucia... crucified today.
Heh.

Barbara, keeping her arms crossed, points at the young
slayer, and asks:

BARBARA
Is she maybe getting too many
painkillers?

Debbie bends over to read the paper stuck on the girl's bed.

(CONTINUED)

SLAYER

And then... you'll be like,
Jesus... and you could heal people!
And, and, y-you, you could... uh...

Debbie stands up, turning away from the girl.

DEBBIE

No. She's terminal. Some kind of
poison.

(off Barbara's look)

Braeden.

Barbara nods, solemnly, and she and Debbie begin to walk
away.

SLAYER

(calling out)

And bring me some... fishes...

The two staff members continue to leave, trying to
(temporarily) ignore the patients.

As Debbie walks on, her face goes from solemn to just short
of outright terror. She knows what day it is, and one could
tell from her facial expression that she's rather be in one
of the beds than having to go through with her Cruciamentum.

Right beside her, Barbara's face tells the same story. She
knows this could very well be the last time Debbie steps foot
in the infirmary.

Off both of their worried looks, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

2 INT. ACADEMY - RECEPTION - DAY 2

ALITA pokes her head in through the front door, looking around the empty reception area.

ALITA
Hello?

She steps through, weary, but doesn't go any further in, instead opting to wait for someone to show her in.

Except nobody's coming. After a few moments, she shrugs, disappointed, and starts heading towards the hallway.

3 INT. ACADEMY - HALLWAY - NEXT 3

Alita wanders down the hallway, looking around for any signs of life. She turns a corner, and we cut to:

4 INT. ACADEMY - DORMS - NEXT 4

Alita pushes open the door to the dormitories, sliding through, and is immediately wrapped in a large BEAR HUG by SKYE!

SKYE
Allie! I knew you were alright!

ERIKA, TSULA, FRANKIE and ANNA are also in the room, and each girl welcomes Alita back with a warm smile.

ERIKA
We are all glad to see you once again, Alita.

Alita grins, soaking up the welcoming party.

SKYE
Sorry we couldn't meet you at the door. Been a little hectic lately.

ALITA
It is alright. I understand the circumstances we now face are...

SKYE
Shite?
(off their looks)
Hey, you try coming up with one word that fits all this.

(CONTINUED)

ALITA

(beat)

For lack of a better term.

Anna steps forward, giving Alita a half-hug.

ANNA

Good to have you back, Al.

Alita wrinkles her nose.

ALITA

"Al?"

Everyone looks at Anna like she just suggested they all turn over to the Cabal's side.

ANNA

No?

TSULA

It is not very becoming.

There's a slight awkward beat.

SKYE

You're fitting in worse than I was
when I started here.

The other girls let out a short laugh, although Anna's is obviously forced.

SKYE (cont'd)

Anyway, Allie, we're all really,
really happy to see you. And, we're
sorry we -

ALITA

No, it is fine.

FRANKIE

'Ow did you...?

ALITA

Survive?

The others nod, curious.

ALITA (cont'd)

It's... I'm not... It is
complicated. There was a family
that lived near the hub. They
helped us.

SKYE
You and Delaney.

Alita nods. Skye decides to leave that subject for now.

SKYE (cont'd)
Anyway, I hate to throw you back
into it right away, but Barbara
wanted me to drag you up to the war
room on the double.

ALITA
Now?

SKYE
I think so. You could probably
change your clothes if you wanted
to, though. I made sure nobody
touched your stuff.

ALITA
(smiles; small bow)
Thank you, Skye.

Skye signals the other girls to leave.

SKYE
I'll wait outside.

Alita nods, and as the other slayers leave, we CUT TO:

Barbara, GREG, AIDEN, FITZGERALD, and a few other council
representatives are seated around the table, discussing in
impending mission.

AIDEN
(defensive)
I just don't see why we need to go
after this one.

FITZGERALD
Aiden, we need every edge we can
get.

GREG
Do we need to send our A squad out,
though?

BARBARA
It's the best way to guarantee
results.

Greg sighs, conceding the point.

Aiden opens his mouth to argue again, but at that very instant, Alita (now changed into something different), Skye and Tsula enter the room, and everyone rises to welcome Alita back into the fold.

BARBARA (cont'd)

Alita! I can't tell you how good it is to see you again. We all...

She cuts herself off, trying to think of what she wants to say.

GREG

We're just glad you're back.

ALITA

Thank you, everyone. I look forward to participating in missions with you all once more.

Skye can't help herself let out a little smirk at Alita's borderline ridiculous politeness.

FITZGERALD

(very professionally)

You'll need to get checked in at the infirmary before you can go out again. Just standard tests, to make sure you're combat ready.

Alita nods.

AIDEN

And again, it's great to have you back.

There's murmured agreement from everyone present as Alita nods her thanks and ducks out of the room, followed by Skye.

Tsula remains however, and Barbara gives her a questioning glance.

BARBARA

Tsula? Is there something I can help you with?

Tsula wastes no time in getting to the point.

TSULA

With Alita's return, where will I be moved?

Barbara blinks in surprise. She hadn't thought of that.

BARBARA

Uh...

GREG

When's that mentorship scheduled to start?

FITZGERALD

(checking clipboard)

As soon as possible.

GREG

What about putting Tsula, Reiko and Juanita on a squad of their own? Miss Nimeda here has already shown impressive leadership qualities, and I think she would do very well with our other two newbies.

Barbara shrugs.

BARBARA

Sure. That sounds great. Tsula?

Tsula nods, a small smile forming.

TSULA

Thank-you.

She turns and exits, quieter than a mouse.

Barbara watches the door shut, her face wracked with guilt. Greg notices, and gives Barbara a funny look.

GREG

I don't think she'll take the re-assignment too hard, Barb. It's not like she was expelled or anything.

Barbara, realizing that everyone else is still here, shakes her head to clear it.

BARBARA

Oh, no, it's just... Alita.

AIDEN

You wrote her off.

Barbara nods, the guilt returning once more.

(CONTINUED)

FITZGERALD

The odds of surviving something
like that is...

She trails off, quite possibly attempting to calculate the
math, although she ultimately gives up.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

Very, very low. Borderline
impossible, even for a slayer.
Besides, our wiccan's couldn't pick
her up, and they're the best.

BARBARA

Yes. Yes, you're right. Still...

One of the other unnamed COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES speaks up.

COUNCIL REP

Worry about all that later, Ms.
Griffin. We have more pressing
matters to concern ourselves with.

Barbara casts a icy glance at the Council man, but doesn't
say anything.

FITZGERALD

Agreed. Back to business.

Barbara rolls her eyes towards Greg, and he gives her a small
smile in return.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

It's come to my attention that
Debbie Livesey is due to take her
Cruciamentum this week, despite
having officially retired from
active duty.

Greg and Aiden swap a quick, concerned look.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

I know she was effectively demoted
from the 'B' Squad last year even
before she decided to step down,
and she's been a godsend in keeping
the infirmary running, but...

(sighs)

We can't have her not take the
test. It'd set an unpleasant
precedent, especially to some of
the younger girls.

(CONTINUED)

GREG

You can't be serious!

BARBARA

Debbie isn't a fighter. We'd be foolish to risk someone fulfilling such a vital role in the Academy.

FITZGERALD

We'd be more foolish to let these girls forget their backgrounds at a time like this.

Barbara narrows her eyes, not liking how this is going.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

I vote that Livesey take her Cruciamentum as scheduled. All those in favour?

A show of hands. Greg, Aiden and Barbara don't vote, but the rest of the assembled staff do.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

The 'ayes' have it.

Barbara looks away, knowing she's just been outmaneuvered, and we CUT TO:

Alita follows Skye into the infirmary, which is just as packed as it was before.

The two girls make their way deeper in, looking all around for Debbie, but can't spot her.

SKYE

Huh. Doctor Debs is usually in here twenty-four seven. What gives?

(to nearby patient)

Hey, you seen Debbie around lately?

WOUNDED SLAYER

(nods)

Yes, ma'am. She been in the back room for at least an hour.

Skye mouths "Ma'am?!" to Alita, before nodding her thanks to the wounded slayer and leading Alita further into the infirmary.

Alita looks around her as they head towards the back, taking in the massive amounts of wounded.

ALITA
(whispering)
I... I didn't realize...

SKYE
What's that?

ALITA
(shocked)
I did not realize how bad it was...

Skye gives her a solemn look.

SKYE
Don't kid yourself. Keep it cool
and work with the squad, and you'll
be fine.

Alita throws a funny look towards Skye.

ALITA
I have not been gone that long.

Skye smiles, and pushes her way into:

Debbie is sitting with her back against the wall, wiping away tears, and standing up to greet Alita and Skye as she quickly regains her composure.

DEBBIE
Oh, hey. I heard you were back,
Alita. Nice to have some good news
for a change!

Skye eyeballs Debbie while Alita places her hand on the older girl's shoulder.

ALITA
It is your Cruciamentum today.

Debbie nods.

SKYE
That's today?

Alita gives Skye a quick look, and turns her attention back to Debbie.

ALITA

And you are terrified of failing.

Debbie tries to hold it together, but breaks down in a fresh wave of tears.

DEBBIE

(crying)

Why have I got to do this? I gave up being a Slayer! That's why I'm in here now, I... I'm not...

Alita nods to Skye: "I'll handle this." Skye nods back, ducking out of the room.

ALITA

Deborah, my Cruciamentum is later this year. And although I am scared, I am confident that both of us will come through ours.

DEBBIE

You're on the bloody A-squad, and I got kicked off the -

ALITA

It does not matter. You are a slayer, and you will pass.

DEBBIE

(sags)

I don't want to talk about it. This is just one more reason why I don't belong in this place.

ALITA

You have earned your place here. I consider you a comrade and a friend. And so I am telling you that you will pass your Cruciamentum.

Debbie sighs, partially because she does not want to argue, and partially because she is beginning to think that she might come through this after all.

DEBBIE

When did you get so good with people?

ALITA

I blame Skye.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE
(agreeing)
She's a bad influence.

The girls share a smile.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Alright, I guess we should get you
cleared. No doubt your squad has
another mission coming up right
away.

Alita steps out of the way, letting Debbie pull the door
open.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
And... thanks.

ALITA
You are very welcome.

They step out of the back room, letting the door click shut
behind them.

Alita, Skye, Anna and Erika are all lounging about the room,
waiting for Greg to arrive.

SKYE
Anyone know what's the dilly-o for
this one? I'm looking to lay down
some hurt.

GREG (O.S.)
Well...

Greg pushes his way into the room, tossing a manila folder on
the table as he does so.

GREG (cont'd)
Sorry to disappoint, but it looks
like we're only going for a quick
snatch and grab. Another slayer,
one Cassie Lewis, was picked up a
few days ago, seems she's been off
the radar ever since the Bringers
first started killing Potentials
back in '03.

SKYE
Seriously?

ERIKA

Are we to rescue her, or are we stealing her away?

GREG

Rescue. If we can pick her up, other factions may be able to as well.

ANNA

You mean Braeden.

SKYE

Of course. It's never just one thing.

GREG

We've narrowed the girl's location down to a small town in southern Ireland, but our wiccans aren't picking up anything more specific than that. Once you locate her, a Council team will move in for extraction. Any questions?

(beat)

Good. See you when you get back.

He turns and hurries out, without so much as a "good-bye."

SKYE

Alright, ladies, you heard the man. See you at the front in half an hour.

Alita looks around as all of the girls head out, clearly not used to things working the way they are now.

Barbara is sitting alone in her office, enjoying a rare moment of peace, when the intercom on her desk cackles to life.

SECRETARY

(filtered, through
intercom)

Ms. Griffin? Miss Nimeda, Miss Davalos, and Miss Kimusume are here to see you.

Barbara leans forward to reply:

BARBARA

Send them in.

The door opens, and Tsula, JUANITA, and REIKO pile through, each of them not 100% sure why they are here.

BARBARA (cont'd)

(greeting)

Girls.

The girls stand in silence while Barbara searches for a file folder in her desk. Locating it, she pulls out the three sheets inside, handing one to each girl.

BARBARA (cont'd)

This is a basic overview of what you'll be doing at Sennybridge. They're mostly the same, but we tailored each course to suit your respective strengths and weaknesses.

The girls look through their assignment sheets, growing less confident with every line they read.

BARBARA (cont'd)

You'll each be assigned a senior slayer to assist you as well. Reiko, you'll be paired with Alita, Juanita with Erika, and Tsula with Skye.

REIKO

This all looks... really, really intense.

BARBARA

You'd be better off with more training, but it's the best we can do with what we have right now. That, and we'll need to schedule around missions, so be ready to go to Sennybridge at a moment's notice.

The girls nod, waiting to be dismissed.

BARBARA (cont'd)

You can go and train however you like for now.

Reiko turns and begins to walk out, quickly followed by Juanita and Tsula, when:

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA (cont'd)
Oh, and good luck. You'll need it.

Unseen by Barbara, Reiko rolls her eyes and walks out, folding the paper up and tucking it away in her pocket.

As the door shuts behind them, Barbara sighs, her polite smile fading. She rubs her tired eyes as we CUT TO:

10

INT. ACADEMY - INFIRMIRY - NEXT

10

Debbie is checking a machine that an unconscious Slayer is hooked up to, looking better, although still quite nervous.

Alita, Skye, Anna and Erika enter the room, walking up to Debbie, who notices their approach.

DEBBIE
Oh, hey, guys. Aren't you supposed to be heading off?

ANNA
Just came to wish you luck on your test tonight.

DEBBIE
(to herself)
Or say goodbye...

SKYE
Now, that kinda talk isn't going to help anyone. Trust me, these things aren't as tough as the Council makes them sound.

ANNA
Yeah. I went up against two of the things and I made out alright.

Debbie looks from one girl to the next, noting that of them, only Alita hasn't taken her Cruciamentum yet.

DEBBIE
Well... no-one else has died on one of these, right?

ANNA
Nope. See? That's the spirit!

ERIKA
You will not die. Greg and Aiden will be there, and they will help you if anything goes wrong.

(CONTINUED)

Debbie nods. They've all got some good points.

ALITA

Will you be alright?

DEBBIE

(nods)

Yeah. I'll just brick it.

SKYE

Attagirl. Just go all out. Be over
before you know it.

Debbie takes a deep breath, still nodding.

DEBBIE

(trying to be confidant)

S-see you when you guys get back.

Anna pats her on the shoulder as she and the other girls make
their exit.

ANNA

Later, Debs.

As Debbie watches her fellow slayers leave, she muses over
their pep talk. Maybe they have a point?

Debbie smiles, and shoves her impending Cruciamentum out of
her mind for now. Lots of work to do.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

11 INT. CASTLE - HALLWAY - DAY 11

Somewhere inside the Rogue's castle, DELANEY wanders around, looking for some sign of life.

DELANEY
Hello? Rachel? Hamish?

Getting no response, she continues walking down the hall, rounding a corner and going out of sight.

12 INT. CASTLE - MAIN ROOM - NEXT 12

Delaney steps into one of the big, open rooms in the castle, and nearly jumps when she sees RACHEL and HAMISH examining a text. The two shapeshifters look up to greet her.

RACHEL
(amazed)
Oh, my God! Delaney!

She races over and HUGS her, which just makes Delaney squirm uncomfortably. Rachel quickly releases her, beaming.

RACHEL (cont'd)
Sorry, just... well, you know. We
thought you were -

HAMISH
Dead.

Rachel shoots him a look, but Hamish just grins.

HAMISH (cont'd)
But we're glad you're not.

DELANEY
Thanks. I think.

RACHEL
What happened? Where were you? How
did you get back? Kira thought you
were, well...

KIRA enters through another door, stopping dead in her tracks when she sees her daughter is back, although she quickly regains her composure.

Delaney turns to see her, with Rachel still hovering behind her and beaming. Delaney raises an eyebrow.

(CONTINUED)

KIRA

Oh, good, you're back. I'm in need of some leg work.

Delaney lets the faintest of grins slip through. It's good to be home.

Everyone returns to what they were doing, except Rachel, who approaches Kira.

RACHEL

Have you found any leads on where they might be keeping Dana yet?

KIRA

(annoyed)

Nothing yet. I have some other business I need to take care of first.

Rachel rolls her eyes, clearly pissed off.

RACHEL

No, of course, you go ahead and do whatever. Should've known you weren't going to go looking for Dana when you wouldn't even go after your own-

A sharp glare from Kira shuts her up, as Rachel covers her mouth, almost letting slip Kira's dirty little secret.

KIRA

Rachel, I'm going to need some supplies. Now.

Rachel sighs, ready to accept her punishment.

RACHEL

I'll get my gear.

KIRA

No. Go into town and get me some food stuffs. Just the normal goods.

RACHEL

Teleport spell?

KIRA

You can walk.

Rachel slumps, dragging her feet as she leaves the room.

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

Delaney watches her go, wondering...

13 INT. ACADEMY - STAFF ROOM - NEXT

13

Barbara and Greg are seated at one end of the table, going over a few dozen documents.

Debbie enters the room on the far side, making as little noise as possible, although Greg still notices her.

GREG
(looking up)
Ah, Debbie. Please, sit down.

Debbie does so, albeit nervously.

BARBARA
As you I'm sure you well know,
today you have a Cruciamentum
scheduled.

Debbie nods.

DEBBIE
I'm... I'm ready as I'll ever be.

Greg and Barbara exchange a glance.

GREG
Yes, about that...

Barbara clears her throat.

BARBARA
In light of recent events, I feel
as though it would be in our best
interests to indefinitely postpone
your Cruciamentum.

GREG
(interjecting)
At least until you get a bit of
help in the infirmary.

Barbara nods as Debbie looks at them, unsure.

DEBBIE
Well... I mean, I guess if we...

She trails off, remembering what Alita said to her earlier.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
No.

(CONTINUED)

Both Barbara and Greg blink in surprise. Several times.

GREG

Are-are you sure? I mean, if something happened to you, you know, the infirmary, we'd -

DEBBIE

Aiden could take over.

(beat)

We all know that no-one here thinks I'm a real Slayer.

BARBARA

Debbie, that's not -

Debbie holds her hand up, cutting Barbara off.

DEBBIE

If I take this test, I'll be able to prove to everyone that I belong here. Not just the other girls. The Council as well.

There's a short pause as Barbara and Greg think about what Debbie just said.

GREG

Are you trying to prove your point to everyone else, or to yourself?

Debbie doesn't have an answer, but it doesn't matter. She's made up her mind.

BARBARA

Debbie, listen, I know you -

GREG

Alright.

Barbara looks over at him, surprised.

GREG (cont'd)

I'll get Aiden to help me get everything ready.

(to Debbie)

See you at eight o'clock.

Debbie nods, a smile creeping across her face as she exits the room.

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

On Barbara and Greg, as the former starts to say something, but Greg merely grins, stands and, patting her on the shoulder, walks past, heading for the exit as well.

GREG (cont'd)
All in hand, Barb.

Barbara watches him go, a look of astonishment on her face. Did that all just go down the way she thought it did?

14 EXT. IRISH TOWN - AFTERNOON

14

Somewhere in northern Ireland, Skye, Alita, Anna and Erika walk down the street of a small town, looking around for a certain address, although they're not having any luck.

SKYE
So... why can't I find 37 Baffin?

ANNA
I'm thinking it doesn't exist.

ERIKA
Are we even sure that is the
location of the missing Slayer?

SKYE
It's the most likely place. Actual
spot's being blocked by magic, so
we had to go old school on this
one.

Anna raises her arm unenthusiastically.

ANNA
Hooray for leg work.

ERIKA
I think it is refreshing. We don't
get to just walk much these days.

ANNA
(shrugs)
Guess it beats fighting for our
lives every day.

Alita watches the banter, keeping out of it, until now.

ALITA
How bad is it? Really?

Skye gives her a "You don't want to know" look.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA

It's... bad.

ALITA

How many Slayers have died?

Skye and Anna swap a glance, not wanting to think about it.

ERIKA

Too many.

ALITA

I wish to know what we are facing.

SKYE

Allie, I promise, I'll show all the mission logs and crap once we find this girl, alright? You need to know what's going on, but we've got a job to do right now.

ALITA

(nods)

That is fair. Thank-you.

Skye sighs as she leads the group onwards, and we pan over behind them to see BRAEDEN'S team, including DEX, CASSANDRA and SOFIA, exiting a building and noticing Team Slayer as they explore the town.

Dex starts to go after them, but Braeden holds him back, shaking his head.

BRAEDEN

Job to do first, mate. Plenty of time for fun later.

Braeden nods towards an empty lot across the street.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)

There we go.

DEX

(blinks)

It's... an empty lot.

BRAEDEN

(sighs)

It's a cloaking spell, isn't it? Leave it to the more experienced of us, alright?

Dex is slightly taken aback, more surprised than insulted.

(CONTINUED)

He turns back to face the lot, deep in thought, trying to remember how to do this.

Sofia puts a reassuring hand on Braeden's arm.

SOFIA

Braeden, hon, don't let them get you riled up. You know I don't like that.

BRAEDEN

(snapping)

Shut up! I'm trying to remember how to make this work!

Sofia backs away, hurt. Braeden rolls his eyes and pulls her into a hug.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)

Look, I'm sorry, Sofes. I'm just a little on edge right now, yeah?

Sofia nods, nuzzling up against Braeden before he pulls away.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)

(to Cassandra)

This is the right place, isn't it?

CASSANDRA

I believe so, yes. But it's cloaked. Very well.

BRAEDEN

So... de-cloak it.

Cassandra stares at the lot, studying it.

CASSANDRA

I can't. The spells used here are beyond my skill level.

Braeden turns and PUNCHES a nearby street sign, bending it at an odd angle. Fortunately, there's no-one around to notice.

BRAEDEN

So that's just great. I'm not going back empty handed! Get us in there!

Cassandra looks at him like he's a baboon dancing for money.

CASSANDRA

We must find the spellcaster. They will know the password that will allow us to see the hidden entrance.

BRAEDEN

(frustrated)

Right. Let's go, then.

He turns, leading Sofia, Dex and Cassandra in the direction from which Skye's team came.

INT. ACADEMY - INFIRMIRY - AFTERNOON

Debbie is working away in one of the back rooms, prepping a needle for the slayer-sapping serum.

Greg and Aiden enter the room, although Debbie is too focused to notice.

Greg reaches out and taps Debbie lightly on the shoulder, startling her and nearly causing her to drop the needle, although she manages to save it.

DEBBIE

Jeez, you startled me!

GREG

Sorry. Just here to talk about your Cruciamentum tonight.

DEBBIE

(dryly)

Yay.

Greg smiles and hands Debbie a small vial from off the shelf: the serum.

AIDEN

Debbie, I still think you should at least consider postponing the test.

Debbie gives him a slightly hurt look, causing Aiden to stumble for a better explanation.

AIDEN (cont'd)

I just mean you there's a lot going on right now. What if the Cabal attacked during the test? We can't even afford to be one Slayer down right now.

Debbie finishes with preparing the needle, and puts it down, turning towards Aiden and Greg.

DEBBIE

I need to do this. I won't really belong here unless I pass.

Greg gives her an "I call bull#!@" look.

GREG

Are you trying to prove you're a Slayer to everyone else... or to yourself?

Debbie doesn't have an answer.

DEBBIE

I'm afraid.

(beat)

I'm terrified. I'm scared out of my mind that I'll fail, or get hurt, or killed, or...

She takes a deep breath, calming herself down.

DEBBIE (cont'd)

But I need to try. I can't just hide in the infirmary for the rest of my life. I'm supposed to be a Slayer.

AIDEN

You are a Slayer. Who cares if some stuffy Watcher doesn't think so? What do they know about it?

(beat; to Greg)

Er... no offense.

GREG

It's alright.

Aiden redirects his attention back to Debbie.

AIDEN

The point is... look, I heal people. But I'm not an M.D., and I wasn't christened by some organization of healers as an official healer.

(beat)

You don't need anyone telling you who or what you are.

Debbie mulls this over, before:

DEBBIE

But... you know you're a healer
because you can fix people. But how
am I supposed to know I'm a Slayer
if I can't, you know... slay?

AIDEN

Do you really want your life to be
about ending others'?

Once again, Debbie has no answer.

DEBBIE

I just... I just need to know I can
do this.

Greg and Aiden exchange a glance. She's really going through
with this.

DEBBIE (cont'd)

Thanks for worrying about me, but
I'll be fine. Even if the vampire
does get me, you'll be able to pull
me out of it, right?

Aiden gives her an unsure look, but quickly adjusts his
expression to be more reassuring.

AIDEN

Of course.

Debbie smiles, picking up the needle and JAMMING it into her
arm, causing her to wince slightly.

DEBBIE

Great.

She injects the serum into her arm, then withdraws the needle
and gets rid of it.

DEBBIE (cont'd)

So that's that, then. I'm going to
go get ready, and I'll see you guys
in a bit.

She steps past them, heading out of the room. Greg and Aiden
give each other a suspicious look.

GREG

I'll get it set up, then.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: (3)

15

With a nod to Aiden, he follows Debbie out the room.

On Aiden, as he thinks over the impending Cruciamentum, a hint of guilt on his face.

16 EXT. IRISH TOWN - AFTERNOON

16

Back with Skye's team as they continue their search, clearly not having any luck.

Finally, Anna stops.

ANNA

Alright, this isn't getting us anywhere.

SKYE

Anna...

ANNA

No, I mean it. We're going nowhere.

ERIKA

She does have a point, Skye.

Skye sighs, turning to face Anna.

SKYE

Fine. What do you propose we do?

ANNA

We've been going at this all wrong. Slayer's off the radar, right? Watcher probably hid her?

SKYE

Yeah. You miss the breifing or something?

ANNA

Call the Council back. Have 'em look for the Watcher. We find him and have him take us to see the girl.

Skye stares Anna down, but she has to admit, the younger slayer has a point.

SKYE

(hesitant)

Good call. Erika?

She's already dialing.

(CONTINUED)

ANNA

Hey, Skye, I'm not trying to overthrow your authority, or whatever, I just-

SKYE

No, it's cool. We need to find this girl fast as we can.

Anna nods. Erika finally gets an answer.

ERIKA

Hello? It's Erika Nemerov. We need a location for the girl's watcher.
(beat, listens)
Alright. Thank you.

She snaps the phone shut, tucking it back into her pocket.

ANNA

That was fast. Faster than usual.

ERIKA

They had anticipated our request. The Watcher is nearby. A few blocks back the way we came, in the "St Thomas Apartments."

SKYE

Alright, let's get our groove on.

She leads the team back, picking up the pace as we CUT TO:

Inside the St. Thomas apartment building, just outside apartment #301. We're focused right up close on the door, when a female hand appears in frame and KNOCKS lightly.

The door creaks open, revealing a thin, middle-aged man with greying hair, dressed in a stereotypical tweed suit.

WATCHER

(fearful)

Who-who are you?

Cut back to reveal Braeden and his team, the former grinning sadistically! Off his sinister look, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

18 INT. ACADEMY - HOUSE - EVENING

18

It's growing dark outside as Debbie awakes inside the house on academy grounds, already knee-deep in her Cruciamentum.

DEBBIE

Wha... Oh, poop.

She sits up, quickly realizing where she is.

DEBBIE (cont'd)

Hello? Vampire?

She mentally kicks herself. Not yet, you idiot.

DEBBIE (cont'd)

Okay. Alright. Okay. Alright.

(beat)

Weapon. Right.

She looks around the room, figuring she must be in the main room.

She spots a wooden chair against the back wall, and stumbles over to pick it up.

She HITS it against the wall, but it doesn't do much. So, she SMACKS it harder.

And harder.

On the fourth SMACK it finally BREAKS, falling into several decent-sized stakes.

Debbie chooses a particularly sharp one, picking it up and holding it close to her.

DEBBIE (cont'd)

Okay. Alright. Vampire. Kill.
Gotcha.

She turns around, looking all over the room.

DEBBIE (cont'd)

Not in here. Okay. Alright.

She shakes her head, trying to clear it.

(CONTINUED)

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Focus, Debbie. Plenty of time to
get killed later.

She takes a deep breath, heading into the next room.

Inside the Watcher's house, Braeden and his team have made
themselves at home.

The already bruised Watcher is bound to a chair in the centre
of the room, with Braeden and Dex standing over him, ready
for round two.

BRAEDEN
You're good, mate. Real good.

The Watcher looks up at him, groggy.

DEX
Ah, come on. He's not that bad.
Just needs a bit more toughening
up.

BRAEDEN
What do ya say? Another go?

The Watcher can only stare. Cassandra, sitting next to Sofia
on the couch, clears her throat.

CASSANDRA
If you boys are quite through...

Braeden steps back.

BRAEDEN
All yours.

Cassandra gets off the couch, walking up to the helpless
watcher.

CASSANDRA
Watch how the pros handle it.

She withdraws a small, curved DAGGER from her belt, holding
it up to the terrified Watcher's eye.

CASSANDRA (cont'd)
Now, if you would be so kind, we
would very much like to know where
you've taken your ward.

WATCHER
(shakes head)

No.

Cassandra sighs, and FLICKS the blade across the older man's eye, sending a spray of blood across his jacket.

WATCHER (cont'd)
(screaming)
AGH!
(shaking; grits teeth)
No, I won't tell you, I won't!

DEX
Give it up, old man. The hell's so special about this chick anyway?

The watcher remains defiant, not looking at any of them. Braeden sighs.

BRAEDEN
Alright, we tried it the easy way.

He nods towards Sofia.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)
Dear, would you like to do the honours?

Sofia grins as she gets up off the couch, walking up to the watcher.

SOFIA
I have to warn you, I always hated Watchers. Bunch of uptight old men who hide behind little girls? Pathetic.

She withdraws her sword, swinging it about in front of her, successfully scaring the holy hell out of the watcher.

She pulls the blade back, ready to thrust it into the man's leg, when a voice calls out:

ALITA (O.S.)
Sofia?

Sofia turns, shell-shocked as she sees Skye, Erika, Anna and Alita have just entered the room.

SOFIA
Alita?

DEX

Ah... heck.

Dex LEAPS to attack, swinging a pair of dual knives around, ignoring the restrictions of the small apartment.

But Erika is quick to counter, bringing up her quarterstaff to block, then SMACKING Dex right across the face.

BRAEDEN

(to Sofia and Cassandra)

Get to work!

He pulls out his black scythe, swinging it around and heading right for Alita.

But Skye is already there, STABBING a sai into his shoulder!

Braeden SCREAMS in pain, WRETCHES the dagger free, and SWINGS it at Skye, who ducks under it and HEADBUTTS Braeden in the face.

Anna runs up to Sofia, trying to wrestle her to the ground without actually hitting her.

ANNA

Just let it go, Sofia. I don't want to do this anymore than you do.

But Sofia THROWS Anna off of her, KICKING her across the room.

SOFIA

Funny, I was looking forward to kicking your ass.

She runs up to Anna as the latter gets to her feet, engaging her in unarmed combat.

Cassandra dashes for Alita, pulling out a sword to match Alita's nunchucks, and SWINGS it at the smaller woman, but Alita BLOCKS it, kicking her opponent in the stomach.

SKYE

Erika! Geezer!

Erika, still fighting off Dex, nods to herself.

She blocks another of Dex's attacks, then spins around backwards, TRIPPING Dex and sending him crashing to the ground.

She darts past the others, grabs the watcher, and keeps going, THROWING herself out the window and taking the old man with her!

BRAEDEN

After them!

Skye KICKS him across the face.

SKYE

Not today, Dr. No.

She PUNCHES Braeden again, then grabs Alita and PUSHES her towards the door, KICKING Cassandra as she does so.

SKYE (cont'd)

Come on, Allie.

(to Anna)

Meet at the safehouse!

Anna nods, KICKS Sofia, and jumps out the window after Erika and the watcher, leaving a small GRENADE in her wake.

BRAEDEN

(screaming)

DOWN!

A loud, sharp "ping" is heard, and smoke begins emitting from the grenade, quickly filling the room.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)

(coughing)

Dammit! Everyone out!

He coughs again, dashing towards the doorway Alita and Skye disappeared through.

Braeden stumbles out of the room, still coughing from the smoke.

Dex, Cassandra and Sofia are right behind him, and as the Cabal team catches their breath, they look around for the slayers, but they're nowhere to be found.

Sofia puts a hand on Braeden's shoulder...

SOFIA

Braeden, are you alright?

... and Braeden swats it away.

BRAEDEN

Fine.

(beat)

Track him down. Those Slayers ain't gonna win this day.

He COUGHS again, then stands upright, determination in his eyes as he heads towards the exit.

INT. ACADEMY - HOUSE - NIGHT

Night has fallen outside, and Debbie has made her way around the top floor already, back in the same room she started in.

DEBBIE

Well. This is going... well.

VAMPIRE (O.S.)

Could be worse.

Debbie SCREAMS, turning around as the big, ugly VAMPIRE appears behind her, grabbing her lifting her up.

VAMPIRE (cont'd)

You know, last time I went up against a Slayer, she at least put up a fight.

DEBBIE

(scared silly)

Y-you've killed a Slayer before?

VAMPIRE

(reluctantly)

Well... no. I, uh... ran away.

(coughs)

Actually.

DEBBIE

Oh. Okay.

VAMPIRE

But, hey, not gonna make the same mistake twice.

Debbie begins to sweat profusely.

The vampire begins to move in for the kill, but Debbie KICKS him in the groin, causing him to drop her!

VAMPIRE (cont'd)

(in pain)

Alright, that's enough, you-

THUNK! Debbie SHOVES her stake into the vampire's chest. The vamp stares at it for a few beats, waiting, before:

VAMPIRE (cont'd)
Heh. You suck.

The vampire grabs the stake and YANKS it out, tossing the makeshift stake aside.

VAMPIRE (cont'd)
Need to work on that aim, missy.

Debbie gulps. She's in for it now.

She falls back on her butt, desperately trying to put some distance between herself and the advancing vampire.

DEBBIE
Wait... please...

The vampire continues his advance, still sizing Debbie up.

VAMPIRE
Shut up. I hate it when people talk during a meal.

He continues his advance, almost there...

Debbie keeps up her retreat, only delaying the inevitable. She's scrambling behind herself with her hands, trying to find something to use as a weapon.

She grabs something! Without thinking, she SWINGS it, SMACKING the vampire across the face, causing him to stumble back.

VAMPIRE (cont'd)
(frowns)
Whoa... that hurt more than it should have.

Debbie wastes no time in getting to her feet, scrambling out the room and dropping the broken piece of wood she hit the vampire with.

The Vampire looks around, trying to pick up her scent. He gets a whiff of something, and sets off.

Erika and Anna help the Watcher sit down, right next to a pile of trash.

WATCHER

(in shock)

They-they want her. Don't let them -

ANNA

Easy, gramps. We got ya.

Skye and Alita jog into frame, both nearly out of breath.

SKYE

Hey.

(to watcher)

Look, we don't have a lot of time,
so I need you to tell us where -

WATCHER

No. Have to keep her safe!

Skye and Anna exchange a glance. This'll be fun.

SKYE

Hey. Focus.

Anna reaches in under his coat, and pulls out a hand that's
now covered in blood.

ANNA

Oh, crap...

ALITA

HEY!

She SMACKS the man across the face, startling him to
attention.

SKYE

The girl. Where is she?

The man shakes his head.

WATCHER

Can't tell you...

SKYE

She'll die if you don't tell us.

WATCHER

She'll die if I do!

SKYE

(seethes)

Dammit...

(CONTINUED)

ERIKA

Listen.

She crouches down in front of the Watcher, and would be staring him in the eye, were it not for her blindness.

ERIKA (cont'd)

My Watcher gave me up to an evil that makes the Cabal look like a group of clowns at the circus.

SKYE

(aside)

I don't trust clowns.

ERIKA

I know you want to do the right thing. But if you don't help her, she's going to be killed.

The man looks up at her, torn. Finally, he sags, sighing in defeat.

WATCHER

An... empty lot. 37 Baffin.

ANNA

Aha!

Erika holds her hand up for silence.

WATCHER

It's cloaked. The password is... shumagorath.

ERIKA

Why do you care so much about this girl?

WATCHER

She has... she's not a Slayer. Wanted to be a... a teacher.

ERIKA

We cannot just run from our problems.

WATCHER

She's my daughter...

He winces again, and expires. Erika hesitates, then reaches out closes his open, staring eyes respectfully before she steps away from the body.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

Uh... okay. That wasn't in the briefing.

Alita indicates the dead Watcher.

ALITA

What are we to do with him?

Skye looks down at him, unsure of what to think of the man.

SKYE

Leave him. We need to find that girl or he died for nothing. Assuming anyone remembers the password?

ERIKA

Shumagorath. Got it.

SKYE

Let's go.

The head off, leaving the body in the alley.

Alita turns and stares at the body for a moment, uncomfortable with leaving the corpse there, but what choice do they have? She turns and follows the others.

Debbie is sitting against the door of a bedroom in the house, wiping away tears.

DEBBIE

(quietly; to herself)

Okay. Got to pull it together.

She looks around the room, trying to spot another weapon.

There's not much in here, though, although the bed is wooden, Debbie doesn't think she can break it.

Taking a deep breath, she gets to her feet, and pulls open the door a bit, peeking out into the hallway.

We focus right on the door opening as Debbie cautiously looks down the hall, and sees the vampire walking right past her!

She backs away, and although she doesn't shut the door, she still makes a bit of a noise as she tries to get out of sight.

But the Vamp just keeps walking.

Debbie's face peers out the door again, and to her considerable surprise, the Vampire hasn't noticed her!

She watches the vampire as he heads down the hallway, and notices something... off, about him. He's barely walking in a straight line, and he's holding his head as though he had a migraine.

The vampire disappears around the corner of the hallway, and Debbie carefully steps out of the room, looking both ways, but there's no sign of it.

She takes a few steps and spots an already fashioned STAKE lying on the ground.

DEBBIE

Okay...

As she picks up the stake, she hears a noise from where the Vampire went.

She scoops up the weapon and turns to face the vampire, but there's nothing there.

She closes her eyes and breathes deeply for a few moments, trying to calm her fear.

When her eyes open, they're full of determination. Debbie begins to follow the vampire ready to end this, one way or another.

Skye and her team jog into sight of the empty lot Braeden was examining earlier.

ANNA

This the place?

Skye nods.

ERIKA

Shumagorath.

There's a beat as nothing happens.

Suddenly, a small distortion can be seen. The air around the lot becomes wavy, and a small shed FADES into view.

Team Slayer heads for the door, yanking it open, and heading into:

A stairway, leading down. Skye, Erika and Anna begin the descent, but Alita is hesitant.

ALITA

What is this place?

Anna stops, turns:

ANNA

Missile bunker. Come on, we got a girl to save.

Alita follows them as they step into:

The team step into a large, sparsely furnished room. A bed, a bookshelf, and a young, very thin blonde Slayer by the name of CASSIE LEWIS.

Cassie is sitting on the edge of the bed, holding a short sword. She speaks in a light Irish accent.

CASSIE

Who are you people?

Skye holds her hands up to tell Cassie to relax.

SKYE

It's alright. We're Slayers, like you.

CASSIE

(suspicious)

Did my father send you?

A quick flash of guilt almost gives Skye away, but Cassie, fortunately, doesn't pick up on it.

SKYE

Listen, there's people here after you, and we have to get you somewhere safe. Now.

CASSIE

My father is -

SKYE

He'll meet us there! We have to go!

Skye darts forward, grabbing the thin Slayer by her arm and dragging her towards the door.

CASSIE

Ow! Hey, don't-

BRAEDEN (O.S.)

That's what we're here for?

Skye spins around to see that Braeden's team has just entered the bunker, and they're now armed with their trademarks weapons - all of which are GLOWING with a sickly light.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)

Not much of anything, is she? Ah well. Less of a mess to clean up.

Off his sadistic grin, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

28

INT. BUNKER - MAIN ROOM - RESUME

28

Right back where we left our two teams, Braeden's side spacing out to give themselves room, while Skye's team regroups closer together, trying to protect Cassie.

BRAEDEN

Give up now and we might make it quick...

SKYE

(deadpan)

That was really cheesy. Even for you.

Braeden scowls, not really in the mood for Skye's humour.

BRAEDEN

Just kill them.

His team RUSHES Skye's, Dex going after Alita, Sofia going after Anna, Cassandra stepping up to Erika, and Braeden himself gunning for Skye.

Skye SWINGS her sai at Braeden, who BLOCKS with his scythe, but Skye keeps up her attack, spinning around to deliver a BACKHAND PUNCH to Braeden's face.

Erika punches at Cassandra, but misses, shaking her head as though disorientated.

Cassandra KICKS her in the stomach, knocking Erika off balance, although the blind Slayer manages to recover in time to BLOCK a swing from Cassandra's sword.

Anna's attacks on Sofia are noticeably weaker than before. She attempts to SMACK Sofia with the flat side of her blade, but the newest Cabal agent easily ducks under and ROUNDHOUSE KICKS Anna square across the jaw.

Alita is holding her own against Dex. She KICKS one of his daggers out of his hand, then SMACKS him across the face with her nunchuck.

Back with Skye and Braeden, the tables have turned. Braeden uses his sword to push Skye back against the wall, using his free hand to get in a sucker PUNCH.

SKYE

Cheap shot!

(CONTINUED)

She KICKS out at him, but he darts backwards, avoiding the blow.

Skye presses the attack again, though, and manages to land a PUNCH to Braeden's face.

Braeden KICKS out, pushing Skye away, and before she can recover, he STABS her with her own Sai dagger, causing her to scream and VAMP OUT in pain!

BRAEDEN

Kept that after you dropped it.
Nice weapon, have to admit.

Skye can only grimace as she YANKS the dagger out of her stomach, trying her best to hold the blood in.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)

Ouch. That's gotta -

THWACK! He's STRUCK across the back of the head with a piece of wood, which sends him stumbling about as he tries to regain his balance.

CASSIE was the one who hit him, and she drops the broken chunk of wood and grabs Skye by the arm, pulling her towards the exit.

CASSIE

Let's get the bloody hell out of
here!

The other Slayers take note of Cassie and Skye's retreat, making their way towards the exit as well.

Cassie and Skye barrel out of the bunker entrance, quickly followed by Alita, Erika and Anna. We follow the girls as they run out of the lot and down the street.

ANNA

(panting)
We're just gonna run?

SKYE

The van's only two blocks away! Go!

The girls continue their escape as Braeden and his team rush out of the bunker entrance. The chase is on.

30

INT. ACADEMY - HOUSE - MAIN ROOM - EVENING

30

Debbie's back in the room she woke up in, still looking around for the Vampire.

She looks through the entrance, but doesn't see it.

Confused, she continues wandering around the room, listening carefully for any sign of the vampire's location.

THUNK!

Debbie's startled by the noise, letting out a audible GASP, but quickly regains her composure.

The Vampire stumbles into the room, pulling itself up after its fall.

Debbie looks on, slightly confused, wondering why the Vampire is so off-balance. Did she hit it that hard?

VAMPIRE

Come 'ere!

It clumsily tries to grab Debbie, but she sidesteps it with little effort.

The vampire continues to fumble it's attacks, and Debbie avoids each and every one, still confused as to why the vampire has gotten so sluggish.

She backs away, pulls her arm back, and PUNCHES the vampire as hard as she can.

And it reacts! It nearly falls over, even though Debbie's punch should have barely registered.

Debbie looks at the vampire again, trying to figure out what's wrong with it. She locks eyes with the undead creature, and notes that its eyes aren't the same colour as normal vampires - they're orange.

Debbie blinks, wondering what that means, until:

VAMPIRE (cont'd)

Hey, wha... stop.

DEBBIE

... I'm sorry?

The vampire stumbles towards her, acting like its drunk.

(CONTINUED)

It dawns on Debbie that this could be a trick, and she backs up as fast as she can, pressed right against the wall.

VAMPIRE

...did some... uh... oh.

It wobbles, but manages to stay upright.

Debbie continues to stare at it, until she finally manages to clear her head and RUSH it, raising her stake and STABBING right over the heart!

It takes a long moment, but the vampire finally falls over.

Debbie watches it writhe on the ground. She's sure she stabbed it in the heart, but it's not turning to dust!

She continues to stare at it as, finally, its skin begins to crack and it crumbles into dust.

Debbie takes a few deep breaths.

DEBBIE

Did... did I just do that?

She continues to stare incredulously at the remains of the vampire, until it finally dawns on her:

DEBBIE (cont'd)

I did it! Ha! I did it!

She laughs, ecstatic that she passed.

But a lingering doubt crosses her face. That vampire sure seemed weak.

Equally happy and confused, she turns and walks towards the exit, dropping her stake as she does so.

Back with Team Slayer, as they flee from Braeden's squad, running down the sidewalk of what could be the town's main street, trying to get Cassie away safe.

ANNA

Where's the van again?

SKYE

Kinda busy here!

They round a corner, nearly knocking over an old couple!

OLD MAN

Oi! Ye darn kids, runnin around
with yer... big weapons... and...

The team quickly dart past the old man, not even bothering to try and explain.

We hold with the old couple as they watch the fleeing Slayers, not noticing Braeden's team bearing down on them.

Braeden slows as he approaches the old couple, nodding to Dex and Cassandra to keep chasing the Slayers.

He and Sofia stop right in front of the couple, weapons ready.

OLD MAN (cont'd)

What in the bleedin' hell are ye
kids doin'? I've half a mind ta
report you to the-

SHIKT!

The old man balks, looking down as he sees Braeden's sword
STICKING RIGHT OUT OF HIS GUT!

BRAEDEN

Sorry pops. No witnesses. You
understand, right?

The old man looks up, dying, and falls over without so much as a word.

Braeden CUTS the old woman's throat, ignoring the bodies as he pulls Sofia back into the chase.

Sofia herself looks down at the bodies, her face expressionless... except for a hint of what MAY be remorse.

But as soon as it appears, it's gone. She follows Braeden as they pursue Skye's team.

On Skye, further up the road, as she steals another glance back. The expression on her face tells us she saw what Sofia just did.

Down the street and into a nearby ally, a BLACK VAN sits, ready and waiting for team slayer.

Frankie is in the driver's seat, calmly doing her nails and looking around for trouble.

Without warning, Skye, Erika, Anna, Alita and Cassie pass right by the van, then quickly double back as it starts up.

Skye reaches the door first, throwing it open and climbing in, quickly followed by Anna, Erika and Alita...

But Cassie isn't so lucky, as Braeden rounds the corner and THROWS Skye's discarded sai, landing it right in Cassie's back!

She CRIES OUT, falling forwards and into the shocked Anna's arms.

ANNA

Cassie! No!

Erika and Alita reach out, managing to pull the girl into the van and shut the door.

The van revs its engine and takes off, heading straight out of the alley, forcing Braeden to jump out of the way.

Braeden watches the van take off as Dex, Cassandra and Sofia catch up.

DEX

They're getting away! Let's go!

Braeden shakes his head.

BRAEDEN

We got what we came for. Mission accomplished.

He turns and begins to lead the team away.

Sofia steals a glance at the departing van, before she turns back to catch up to Braeden.

Inside the van as it speeds down the street, Skye and Anna are trying to stop the bleeding while Alita attempts to examine the wound.

SKYE

Christ, I can't stop the bleeding!

ANNA

Gonna have to. This chick's barely got any blood in her to begin with!

Skye looks at the borderline anorexic girl.

SKYE

Was this your dad's fault?

Cassie, too weak to say anything, just stares back.

ANNA

Worry about her eating habits
later, help me... oh, no...

Alita pulls the sai out, and her and Anna share a horrified glance.

ERIKA

What is it?

ALITA

She... it went too deep.

Skye grabs Cassie by the shoulders and SHAKES her violently.

SKYE

Hey. HEY! You gotta hold on,
alright? Hold on! We'll get you to
a hospital just as soon as we're
sure we're not being followed.
Alright?

(beat)

Cassie? Cassie!

It's no use. Cassie's gone.

FRANKIE

Where's the nearest 'ospital?

Skye sits back, defeated.

SKYE

Never mind, Frankie. She's gone.

The girls all sit back, spirits at an all time low as the van drives on, heading home.

Debbie is sitting on the floor, back against the wall, as she waits for a debriefing.

She's running the events of her Cruciamentum over in her head, still trying to make sense of it all.

She looks up as she sees Greg and Aiden approaching, big smiles on their faces.

GREG

Hey.

AIDEN

I knew you'd pass.

Debbie smiles back at them.

DEBBIE

Thanks. I just...

AIDEN

Everything went alright, though, right?

DEBBIE

Yeah, I mean, I guess... It's just...

AIDEN

There wasn't anything wrong with the vampire, was there?

Debbie looks up at him, confused.

DEBBIE

I... I don't know. I mean, It just seemed kind of... easy.

GREG

Well, you know what they say. You never know your own strength until you need it. Or something.

He grabs Aiden by the arm, pulling him away.

GREG (cont'd)

Anyway, we have to go, and I'm sure you want to rest. See you tomorrow.

He pulls Aiden out the door, leaving Debbie to think about everything that's happened today.

Skye, Erika, Anna, Alita and Frankie pile in through the front door, where Barbara is waiting for them.

BARBARA

How did it go? Where is she?

Skye just looks at her and shakes her head.

Barbara lets out a loud discouraged sigh, plopping down on one of the nearby seats.

SKYE

Look, I know we're supposed to debrief or whatever, but we're all really tired.

BARBARA

Alright. We'll do it in the morning.

Anna, Alita and Frankie all head towards the dorms, and Barbara gets up and walks towards her office.

Skye turns to Erika, who already knows there's something else bothering her friend.

ERIKA

What is it?

SKYE

(smiles)

How can you always tell? Seriously, it's like the blind girl can see the best. Makes no sense.

ERIKA

That bad?

SKYE

It's Sofia. When we were running, I... I saw Braeden kill that old couple we nearly knocked over. Sofia, she just... she just watched him do it. Like they weren't even there.

Erika takes a while to answer.

ERIKA

I am sure we will find a way to help her.

SKYE

We still don't even know if she wants to be doing this... I mean, how can we -

ERIKA

No. Sofia is not an evil person. Even I can see that.

SKYE

Yeah, but still... would Sofia even
want to come back after all this?

Erika doesn't have an answer.

SKYE (cont'd)

That's what I thought.

(sighs)

I'm going to bed.

She takes off, heading towards the dorms, and leaving Erika
standing in the middle of the reception area.

Erika turns, and a tear falls down her face. She wipes it
away, and heads slowly towards the dorms.

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW