

SLAYER ACADEMY

"Need To Know"

by

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TEASER

FADE IN:

1

INT. MEETING ROOM - DAY

1

ALARIC sits at the head of a long rectangular table, every other seat filled with CABAL CLIENTS, some HUMAN and some DEMON. Most of them are SHOUTING at Alaric.

HUMAN CABAL

That factory cost thousands!

DEMON CABAL

It took us a year to build, and one lousy little Slayer managed to destroy it all, thanks to you!

The DEMON CABAL member points a scaly finger at Alaric.

HUMAN CABAL

There should have been more guards!

Several other Cabal clients nod and grunt in agreement. Alaric just shakes his head.

ALARIC

There were over one hundred guards in the base. They were expecting a full scale attack, not a suicide mission!

DEMON CABAL

They should have been prepared for anything!

ALARIC

I doubt there is a single person on this Earth who could have predicted that Marklew would cause such devastation just by herself. Would you have been prepared?

This shuts the demon up.

ALARIC (cont'd)

I thought so.

He coughs into his hand, making everyone else shut up and look at him.

ALARIC (cont'd)

However, we have achieved at least one victory this week.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

ALARIC (cont'd)
As you may know, the Slayer
training camp of Sennybridge has
been destroyed, along with a
healthy wedge of demon hunters and
other Council personnel.

A few CHEERS from the workers sound, but they quickly quieten
down when they see Alaric's expression.

ALARIC (cont'd)
This was just the first of many
victories. Soon, we shall strike
again. And next time, the
devastation will be far, far worse -
and I trust that we can continue to
count on your co-operation.

A smile begins to form as we ZOOM OUT into:

2 EXT. SPACE - NEXT

2

We can see the full globe, but not even five seconds have
passed before we bounce off a communications satellite and
into:

3 INT. CAMPUS BRIEFING ROOM - DAY

3

A large image of Alaric is projected onto the SCREEN.
Standing behind a desk is GREG, shuffling the papers around
to try and find the right sheet.

SKYE and ERIKA are both sitting on the nearest desk. Skye has
her feet up on Greg's desk, much to his dislike.

GREG
Your mission is simple. You'll go
in, grab him, and get out. Take him
to the Safe House in -

SKYE
Aren't people not meant to know
where a safe house is?

GREG
(blinks)
How will you find it if you don't
know where it is?
(beat)
As I was saying, you'll proceed to
the Safe House in the town of
Bedford. It's the one round the
back of that old industrial estate.

ERIKA
(confident)
We shall get him.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE
What she said.

Greg clicks the screen off, and the image disappears.

GREG
Make sure you contact us as soon as
you've captured him, so we can send
out some interrogation specialists.

SKYE
Do we have those?

GREG
We do now.

SKYE
(shrugs)
Works for me.

Skye JUMPS off the table and starts to make her way to the door. Erika slowly begins to rise from the desk.

GREG
One more thing. This Alaric
character is still something of an
unknown quantity. We know he's got
access to some pretty high-level
intel within the Cabal itself, but
beyond that we don't know much
about who he is.
(beat)
Watch yourselves, is all I'm
saying. Don't engage him unless you
have to.

Skye throws a quick salute, and Erika smiles as she follows her outside. Greg looks down at his notes - then realises he's forgotten something!

GREG (cont'd)
Oh, arse... girls?

Too late. They've gone. Greg CURSES as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4

EXT. SENNYBRIDGE - DAY

4

The sun shines brightly, contrasting against the charred remains of the massive complex.

A figure is visible, wandering amongst the wreckage of what used to be Sennybridge.

It's CERY'S, looking sad and a little lost. She kicks at a piece of debris and sighs.

She turns to see BARBARA approaching from the top of a hill, sympathy in her eyes. She makes her way down to Cerys, then appraises the site with her eyes.

BARBARA

This really is a sight, isn't it?

She smiles sympathetically at the younger woman, who frowns and looks down. Barbara moves closer, patting Cerys on the back. There's a familiarity here, a feeling that these two know each other well.

BARBARA (cont'd)

I'm sorry this happened, Cerys. You were doing good work here.

Cerys just nods. Barbara tries to meet Cerys' gaze.

BARBARA (cont'd)

What's wrong?

Cerys meets Barbara's eyes, blinks away tears. The first time we hear her speak, and her voice is hoarse from crying.

CERY'S

They couldn't find it.
(clarifying)
Jon Grant's body.

A look of realisation crosses Barbara's eyes - she hadn't even thought of that. She lays her hands on Cerys' shoulders and pulls her gaze up to her face.

BARBARA

He was a good man, and he went out fighting, like he would've wanted.

CERY'S

(dry)
I like to think that but,
shockingly, it doesn't help at all.

(CONTINUED)

Barbara slowly, awkwardly, starts to pull Cerys into a hug - but Cerys sharply pulls away.

CERYS (cont'd)
I'm not a charity case, Barbara.

BARBARA
(nods)
Of course not.

A moments of silence passes, while Cerys picks herself up a little. Finally, she stands upright, wipes her eyes and looks back at Barbara with a familiar stoicism.

CERYS
Alright, I'm good.
(beat)
So, I guess you weren't here to witness my angst. What's your angle, Barbara?

Barbara looks over the ruins surrounding them, and gives Cerys another look.

BARBARA
You know about Ellen Marklew's death?

CERYS
I heard something, but at this point, with new reports coming so often, I've stopped remembering names.

Barbara nods, knowing the feeling.

BARBARA
She was... she was a good friend of mine. Not only that, but her passing left us with a hole in our staff. One that you are uniquely prepared for.

CERYS
(adds it up)
You need a Watcher for Nimeda's squad.

BARBARA
It will give you a chance to finish off what you started with them here. Dr. Cairns, has already taken a position in our infirmary, so you'll have a familiar face. Plus, the three girls you mentored will be happy to see you.

(CONTINUED)

CERYS

(wry)

I don't think 'happy' is the word.

(beat)

Those girls were good. Some of the best I've seen, considering their age and relative experience.

(grins)

Though, don't tell them that. A cocky Slayer is a dead one. Plus, you know Kimusume would never shut up about it.

The two share a smile. Cerys looks up at the sun.

CERYS (cont'd)

When would I start?

Barbara smiles, and we CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - GARDENS - DAY

PAN DOWN into the beautiful sight of the campus gardens. The familiar monument in the center of the garden reading "Rupert Giles - In Memoriam" tells us where we are.

Headstones are scattered around the garden, but our view turns to one. A large oak tree is bent over as if to keep the headstone from the light.

In front of the headstone is SKYE. She kneels down, placing a BOUQUET of roses in front of the headstone.

CLOSE UP ON HER EYE as a single TEAR forms and rolls down her cheek. She wipes it away with her hand and steps back. She turns to leave when she finds Erika watching her.

ERIKA

(cocks head)

I thought you didn't like her?

SKYE

We never did get on, but, y'know how it is. You always wish you'd made more of an effort with somebody when they're gone.

ERIKA

It was a shame you missed the funeral. Barbara read a moving speech.

SKYE

I would have given anything to be there. She was something different. She was a Slayer with a twist.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SKYE (cont'd)

(beat)

Plus, that stunt she pulled?

Genius. That's how a Slayer's meant to go down.

ERIKA

In an explosion?

SKYE

On duty.

ERIKA

(nods; beat)

Let's go.

Erika puts an arm round Skye and they slowly walk away from the grave.

Skye rummages through a drawer, headphones on and rocking out to "Walls" by The Red Paintings. Erika packs a small backpack at her bed in the background.

Erika looks up at something unseen, but Skye continues to live in her own world - until Erika throws a SOCK at her head! Skye dodges and whips off her headphones.

SKYE

(snaps)

What?

Erika just points in the opposite direction. Skye turns to see FRAN leaning in the doorway. Skye audibly groans.

FRAN

Thanks, Erika.

(to Skye)

I could hear that crap from over here. You're gonna go deaf, you know.

Skye tosses a look towards Erika, then glares at Fran.

SKYE

(sarcasm)

Sensitivity. I like that in a stalker. Now go away.

FRAN

I have every right to be here.

(pointed)

Teammate.

Skye's jaw goes slack, and she throws a glance to Erika. Realising she can't see it, Skye makes her complaints audible:

SKYE

Erika? You know something about this?

ERIKA

Why yes, Francesca and I have been chatting about it for the last fifteen minutes. She'll be accompanying us on this mission. Apparently, Greg forgot to tell us in the breifing.

Skye rolls her eyes.

FRAN

Hey, you have a problem, take it up with big bad Babs. I've done plenty, and I have every right to be here.

ERIKA

Of course you do. Welcome to the team.

Skye shoots another glare at Erika that goes unnoticed. Fran counts off missions on her hands, whispering them to herself.

FRAN

(thinking)

The Arctic thing, artifact run in Peru, two-week thing with the Cabal in Africa, Czyenka clan in southern France...

Skye lands her eyes on Fran.

SKYE

I'm not sold on you, kid. I'll be watching.

FRAN

(hands on hips)

So, I haven't been suspected of murdering anyone or betraying the Academy, but I'm the one that has to be watched?

(aside to Erika)

No offense.

Erika just waves it off as she appraises a set of throwing knives, before placing them into a backpack.

ERIKA

None is taken. However, I suggest you run. You wouldn't like Skye when she's angry.

(CONTINUED)

Fran glances at Skye's rather murderous expression and gulps. Skye makes to lunge, sending Fran running into the hallway.

SKYE
(still pissed off)
Newbies.

She turns back to her packing.

Fran, Skye and Erika stand together, holding their backpacks, listening to Greg. A BUS is parked not far away.

GREG
I can't come with you as I'm set to
go with Anna and Alita to Portugal
tomorrow, so you're on your own.
You'll land in Sydney tomorrow
evening.

The girls nod, and he waves them away. As they move towards the bus, he gestures to Skye to come back.

SKYE
Yeah?

Greg shots a glance at the others boarding the bus.

GREG
Something you should know about
Francesca. She was on the shortlist
to go to Sennybridge before...
well, you know. As it stands, we're
considering her for the final slot
in the B Squad.

SKYE
So this is her big chance, then.

GREG
(nods)
You have to be careful with her.
She has a year of experience, but
she's still not a old hand at this
like you and Erika.

Skye nods, making to go to the bus.

GREG (cont'd)
And Skye?

Skye turns back. Greg cracks a smile.

GREG (cont'd)

Good luck. And remember, don't hold back. This guy's a bastard.

Skye grins and gives him a thumbs up, then boards the bus. Greg watches it pull out, and his smile fades as it heads out.

INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - NEXT

The doors BURST open and in steps DEBBIE, followed by the newest member of staff, DR. MANU CAIRNS.

DEBBIE

And this, as you may have guessed, is the infirmary. I guess you'll be spending a lot of time in here. We can use all the help we can get!

MANU

I'm sorry - 'we'? Does that mean you work here as well? I thought you were a Slayer?

DEBBIE

It's a long story.

MANU

May I have the short version?

DEBBIE

I was the worst Slayer of my generation and the team leader, Heidi, hated me so I retired to where I could do the most good. Which is the infirmary.

Debbie walks over to a bed and puts a hand on a sleeping SLAYER.

DEBBIE (cont'd)

(to herself; muttering)

Temperature's still too high...

Manu walks over and then looks around the room. Every bed is filled with a Slayer.

MANU

What's happening to all of them?

DEBBIE

We don't know. We need some more intelligence from the field, and that's why Skye's going to get Alaric.

MANU

(shocked)

Barbara's sending a single Slayer
to get Alaric?

DEBBIE

Don't be silly! She's sending
three.

Manu still isn't convinced that this is the right thing to do
as we CUT TO the other side of the room, where JUANITA is
sitting on one of the beds. REIKO and TSULA are sitting on
chairs next to the bed.

REIKO

(shocked)

They were fakes? All of them?

JUANITA

Yep. That witch was sending us on
bogus Cruciamentums.

TSULA

Well... that does make sense.

Juanita and Reiko both stare at her, confused.

TSULA (cont'd)

It saves any Slayers from getting
killed or hurt. It just teaches
them the lesson, without risking
actual harm. It's quite sensible.

Juanita shakes her head, crossing her arms.

JUANITA

I still don't trust her.

REIKO

She's a foul woman, more foul than
the foulest woman, like, ever.

TSULA

That's unfair. She was only doing
her job. I'm sure it wasn't her
idea!

But Juanita isn't listening, she's staring around the room
and finally her eyes fall on Debbie. She's overheard them.
And it looks like she isn't surprised, more like she's just
fit some more pieces into a large puzzle.

Juanita frowns at her, but as soon as Debbie notices that
Juanita is looking at her, she turns away and starts talking
to Manu again.

9

INT. LIMO - DAY

9

At the end of a long row of empty seats sits Alaric in his personal luxury LIMO. Her is staring at a screen further up the car, where BRAEDEN's face can be seen.

BRAEDEN

(filtered)

What do you want me to say? 'Sorry, sir, it won't happen again'? We both know these fights don't always go our way.

ALARIC

(scoffs)

You say that every time after a mission screws up. I should have your team terminated because of your failure.

(snapping)

You let key targets get away!

BRAEDEN

Look on the bright side, we managed to destroy the -

ALARIC

I don't care about Sennybridge. You had the chance to kill two Slayers and three members of the Watcher's Council, but only a single Watcher was killed! I have teams that are nowhere near as skilled as you that could have easily wiped them all out!

(beat; calmer)

This is your final chance. One more failure and the punishment will be severe. Do you understand?

BRAEDEN

(pointed)

Yes. Sir.

ALARIC

Good.

Alaric flips a switch and the screen goes blank. He sighs and then settles back into his sight.

The limo comes to a sudden STOP, making Alaric sight upright again. A door opens and Alaric's BODYGUARD sticks his head through.

(CONTINUED)

BODYGUARD

Sorry sir, there's a tree in the road. We're going to have to take the long way.

Alaric groans, rubbing his temples.

ALARIC

Just find the quickest route and get us moving again. I'm having a bad enough day as it is without another delay!

(mutters)

Probably just a damn twig in the road...

The Bodyguard leans back out and moves away, leaving Alaric to simmer down for a moment.

WHACK! Alaric hears the Bodyguard hit the deck outside, and he sits up sharply.

ALARIC (cont'd)

What in the -

SKYE (O.S.)

Good one, bug girl!

FRAN (O.S.)

Stop calling me that!

Alaric pauses, recognising the voices, and he quickly reaches under his seat as though searching for something.

A moment later, Skye pokes her head into the limo. She GRINS at the sight of Alaric.

SKYE

A-ha! There you are. Change of plans, I'm afraid.

Alaric shrinks back as Skye reaches in to GRAB him, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

10

INT. SAFE HOUSE - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

10

Alaric sits, tied securely to a chair and gagged, while the three Slayers stand surrounding him. His eyes are panicked, his forehead covered in sweat. He's a mess.

Skye looks down on him, smug, while Fran looks at him guiltily. Erika stands nearby, but deeper back in the shadows.

FRAN

Is this guy really the big bad Greg
was talking about?

He shakes his head desperately, looking up at her with pleading eyes. Skye frowns and rips out his gag. He SCREAMS until she PUNCHES him in the face.

He quiets down, and instead begins sobbing. Skye just looks down on him - he's pathetic.

ALARIC

(whining)

Please, please don't hurt me.
Please don't hurt me. I'm not a bad
person. I'm not, I swear.

SKYE

Do you want me to hit you again?

He shakes his head.

SKYE (cont'd)

Then zip it.

He nods mutely. Erika approaches, a file folder in her hand, which she passes to Skye.

SKYE (cont'd)

Alaric, also known as Alan Kale,
Raymond Ellis-Hale and Giovanni
D'Agnostino. All of these are
aliases, of course, used in your
transactions for the Cabal.

He looks at her with wide eyes, unsure of what to do.

ERIKA

You may nod to confirm.

He nods slowly. Erika turns to him.

(CONTINUED)

ERIKA (cont'd)
So, Mr. Alaric, what exactly do you
do for the Cabal?

His eyes frantically look around the room.

ALARIC
I - I move money around, arrange
funds for operations. I work with
data, but I don't - I don't
actually *do* anything.
(scared)
You're not going to... kill me, are
you?

Skye throws a look to Fran, gives her a wink.

SKYE
I hope not, but you never know. Us
Slayers are feisty.

ALARIC
Oh, you're Slayers! Like the two
women the Cabal employs? I've met
them before, but only briefly.

SKYE
(narrows eyes)
Two women?

He is very quick to nod, and is excited to have some
information they might want.

ALARIC
Yes, yes, Sofia Romero and
Cassandra Holmes. Two very
important agents, if I am correct.
Their names show up a lot, on my
files.

SKYE
Who is she? This 'Cassandra
Holmes,' I mean.

Alaric blusters and stutters, not really getting anything
out. Skye leans forwards menacingly.

SKYE (cont'd)
It'll hurt less if you cooperate.

She bares her FANGS and he gives a yell.

ALARIC
A Slayer! A powerful one.

Erika looks puzzled. Alaric looks around, worried.

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

ALARIC (cont'd)
What else do you want to know? I
swear, I'll tell you anything, just
spare my life!

Skye smirks. She's got him where she wants him.

11 INT. CABAL BASE - WEAPONS ROOM - DAY

11

Somewhere within another cabal facility, and we're in a kind
of armoury, weapons old and new lining the walls as CASSANDRA
walks in, talking on her CELL PHONE.

CASSANDRA
Can you give me an exact location?
(beat)
Good. Thank you.

Cassandra SLAMS the phone shut and walks up to the DEMONIC
WEAPON DEALER who is shuffling towards her.

DEMONIC WEAPON DEALER
What would you like?

CASSANDRA
Sharp.

DEMONIC WEAPON DEALER
(grins)
I know just what you need.

The demon shuffles away, unhooks something from the wall and
shuffles back to Cassandra. He passes her a DOUBLE-SIDED AXE.

DEMONIC WEAPON DEALER (cont'd)
The Axe of Trihorn, wielded by -

CASSANDRA
(cutting in)
I don't care who it belonged to.

Cassandra snatches the axe away and turns to leave - but is
stopped by SOFIA!

SOFIA
I'm coming too.

A beat - and then Cassandra starts to march right past her.

CASSANDRA
No, you're not.

Cassandra steps past her and EXITS, just as the weapon dealer
passes Sofia her SCYTHE.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

I have as much right to go on this mission as you do! I work for him too, remember!

Cassandra turns, looking Sofia up and down before she SIGHS.

CASSANDRA

Fine. Just don't get in my way.

SOFIA

(to demon)

Thanks.

The demon NODS in reply and then shuffles off, leaving Sofia to turn and follow Cassandra as we CUT TO:

The three Slayers watch Alaric sweat.

SKYE

What do you know about the Council's plans?

ALARIC

I don't know anything about that.

Skye pulls out a sai.

FRAN

Skye!

Skye just throws the younger girl a look that clearly states, 'shut up'. Fran steps back, chastened. Skye turns back to their prisoner.

SKYE

You know, I could probably take a finger off with this without causing too much blood loss.

She leers at him in a way that makes skin crawl. He breaks.

ALARIC

(babbling)

I don't know, I swear! My paperwork only deals with the aftermath, cover ups, that sort of thing. That and surveillance of known enemies: The Watcher's Council, the Slayers, Kira Brogan -

This name rings bells. He stops talking and smiles as Skye leans forward, clearly interested. Erika steps forward as well.

ERIKA

What do you know about Kira?

ALARIC

Considering what we know about you,
Ms. Nemerov, you probably know more
than I do -

Skye PUNCHES him again.

SKYE

Stay on topic.

Alaric winces, taking a moment to recover.

ALARIC

Her castle was passed down through
the family of her Scottish
henchman, Hamish McFanchon, who
she's known for at least fifteen
years, maybe more.

Skye, bored, picks at her nails with the sai.

SKYE

(flat)

Boring. Anything useful in that
brain of yours?

ALARIC

Her bodyguards, one of them is her
daughter-

Skye's eyes narrow, and in a FLASH the sai is dug into one of
his fingers! He lets out a YELL as Fran darts forward.

FRAN

(angry)

He was talking -

Skye turns to Fran, glaring her down.

SKYE

Fran. Out.

Fran stands, crosses her arms against her chest.

FRAN

You're not Jack frigging Bauer,
Skye. We can't just go torturing
people. Look at what happened to
Debbie!

SKYE

War time calls for desperate
measures. That's what Barbara says.

(CONTINUED)

ON Alaric, watching the two with interest.

FRAN

And you think she knows anything?

Skye doesn't even respond, instead just turning back to Alaric. Fran, annoyed, leaves the room with a slam of the door.

Skye turns back to Alaric. She realises he's smirking, and a dark look flashes across her.

SKYE

What're you grinning about?

(beat)

You want to see what I can do with the other one?

Sai draws her second sai, and Alaric's fear quickly returns.

ALARIC

Please, no! I'll tell you what you want!

ERIKA

You said that before, and you gave us nothing of value.

(beat)

Do you know of the weapons that have a mystical effect on the Slayers? The ones Braeden's team uses?

He nods. Skye beams, tucking her sai away.

SKYE

Good.

She listens as he begins to speak.

Alaric's abandoned limosine sits askew across the road.

A JEEP rolls up, driven by Cassandra with Sofia in the passenger side.

SOFIA

You could drive faster, you know. No traffic.

CASSANDRA

(disdainful)

Are you a Slayer or a ten-year-old? Sit there and be quiet.

Sofia ignores her.

CASSANDRA (cont'd)
And if you're missing your boy-

SOFIA
I am not. We just need some space.

CASSANDRA
(rolls her eyes)
Of course.

SOFIA
I mean, we've been so great lately,
but sometimes it feels like, are we
partners or are we boyfriend and
girlfriend? I mean, I gave up the
Academy, my friends, everything for
him - what has he given up?

CASSANDRA
(biting)
Peace and quiet?

Sofia falls silent as the Jeep stops. Cassandra gets out, and
throws a glare Sofia's way.

CASSANDRA (cont'd)
Let's get a move on, princess.

Sofia grumbles as she gets out of the Jeep.

Cassandra is crouched on the ground, looking off into the
trees and squinting as though looking for something.

Cassandra then moves forward to get a good look at the
limosine, leaning into the backseat. She COUGHS.

CASSANDRA (cont'd)
The demons are dead.
(coughs)
God, that smell!

She steps back as Sofia approaches, leans forwards to take in
the backseat herself.

CASSANDRA (cont'd)
(annoyed)
What's this? Monkey see, monkey do?

Sofia pulls her head out and glares at Cassandra.

SOFIA
(annoyed)
Somebody woke up on the wrong side
of the coffin today.

Cassandra throws her another glare before she looks into the Driver's seat.

CASSANDRA

Looks like the driver made it away.
Or, he was working with them, in
which case we'll get to hunt him
down and kill him too.

(heartened)

Might be a good day after all.

She leans in. Cassandra looks around, sees nothing. Her hand slips into GOO, and she frowns and wipes it away on her pants.

She looks up to see Sofia leaning in through the passenger side door to look at her.

SOFIA

Can we just clarify something?

CASSANDRA

About Alaric?

SOFIA

About us. I get the feeling you
don't like me.

CASSANDRA

(straight up)

No. I don't like you.

(beat)

There's nothing here. Let's get
moving.

She starts to move back towards the Jeep. Sofia throws her a confused look.

SOFIA

Where are we going?

CASSANDRA

We know where their nearest safe
house is already. This was just a
preliminary reconnaissance.

SOFIA

Great, a waste of our time.

Cassandra just shakes her head.

CASSANDRA

Your friend Skye; her signature
weapon, the sais, were used.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

Well, that complicates things.

The two get into the jeep.

CASSANDRA

Three sets of tracks means we're dealing with, most likely, three Slayers. Considering Sutton reported that she and Kagemura were heading for Portugal, that means we're probably facing the remains of the A Squad and one of your newbies.

SOFIA

Tsula, probably. She was in A Squad for a while.

Cassandra shows Sofia a blonde hair.

CASSANDRA

This time, it isn't any of the Sennybridge brats. We've got a complete newbie. An easy kill.

(smiles)

As I said, it looks like it might be a good day after all.

She grins like a Slayer in hunt mode as she starts the Jeep and begins to drive.

Alaric is twitchy, but talking, noting the interest on Erika and Skye's faces.

ALARIC

The weapons were developed last year by one of our business associates, Roland.

Skye growls at the name, causing Alaric to gulp. Erika throws her a look.

SKYE

Go on.

ALARIC

They affect Slayers mystically, attacking the source of the Slayer power and causing nausea and headaches. Usually they don't have a debilitating effect on Slayers, just enough to give our agents an edge over yours.

SKYE

Not really too surprising.

ALARIC

That's really all I know.

He shrinks back from Skye, but she just ponders this.

SKYE

How do you get your intel on the Academy? You're the paperwork guy, give us names and numbers.

ALARIC

(blusters)

A variety of demons, agents, on constant surveillance, of course.

SKYE

Seems to me like you'd have a mole. Someone feeding you inside information. When whole factories empty out before we can get there, I start to wonder.

ALARIC

Really? Or are you still smarting from last year, when -

(rethinks)

Well, I've already reminded you of Ms. Nemerov's double-double-crossing stunt. She's quite adept at it. We had no idea, and Braeden was sending us weekly reports. Not to mention your other little secret back home.

(to Erika)

Congratulations.

Erika just nods, but Skye SLAMS her fist into his face again.

SKYE

Shut your stupid mouth about that.

ALARIC

(smiles)

Strike a nerve?

SKYE

I'd trust her with my life. I just don't like the way you talk to her.

ALARIC

That would be a lot more touching if you weren't immortal, Ms. Cannes.

(CONTINUED)

Skye looks at Erika, seeing the realisation on her face.

ALARIC (cont'd)

I must apologise, Ms. Underwood. I forgot your little alias.

(beat)

It seems you are both quite adept at deception. However, as you have such a close friendship, I'm sure you've told her about Ms... Collins, was it? And how you -

Something snaps within Skye. She grabs the sai and LUNGES towards Alaric's throat!

Erika just barely pushes her away from Alaric, keeping her from hurting him. The two have a staredown, though Skye quickly looks down.

ERIKA

We are going to have a talk, Skye.

She jerks her head in the direction of the door, and exits. Skye turns her head to look at Alaric.

SKYE

We'll have our round two, pops.
Just wait for it.

And Skye leaves, her threat echoing in the small room. But Alaric isn't scared. No, he just smiles contentedly.

Everything is proceeding as planned.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

15 INT. SAFE HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY 15

Skye and Erika move from the interrogation room to the back room.

Down the hall, Fran leans against the wall, watching them leave. She then glances towards the doorway they just left.

16 INT. SAFE HOUSE - BACK ROOM - DAY 16

Skye and Erika burst into the back room, facing each other down.

ERIKA

What was that in there, Skye?

SKYE

Did you see that? The son of a bitch is playing us! Filling our heads with all that... bull!

ERIKA

You know I don't care about your real name, or what you did when you were first sired. What I do care about is that it affected you enough to jeopardize the mission.

(beat)

Was there anything else I should know about that he might try to use against you?

Skye paces, looking away from Erika.

SKYE

Look, I didn't quiz you on your 'secret back home', so let me keep mine.

Erika crosses the room, grasps for Skye's hand. Skye looks at it, and finally takes it.

ERIKA

There is nothing about you I could learn that would make me distrust you, Skye. If you keep secrets that give him power over you, we can't use him.

Skye steps back, still holding onto Erika's hand. She closes her eyes, thinking.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

Unless...

ERIKA

Yes?

SKYE

His shtick is trying to set us against each other, hinting he'll reveal each other's secrets. But if only one of us is there, he can't play us against one another. If he tells a secret one-on-one, that doesn't actually means -

ERIKA

(grins)

It means that he loses any power he has over us!

SKYE

(nods)

Exactly.

Erika thinks, then remembers something.

ERIKA

Where is Fran?

Skye looks at the door, then looks at Erika.

SKYE

She wouldn't.

ERIKA

If she is, is there any more danger than you or I seeing him alone?

SKYE

(shrugs)

I hope not.

Still, she throws a glance at the door.

Fran enters the room. Alaric looks up hopefully, a weak smile showing.

ALARIC

(weak)

Miss St. James. Is there a chance we could negotiate some terms of my release?

She looks at him with fire in her eyes, and crosses her arms as she faces him.

FRAN

Let me get this straight. I think you're scum. You're a creepy old man who knows more than he should, which makes you valuable.

He nods, agreeing.

FRAN (cont'd)

Personally, I'd be happy to let you go, provided you gave us something we could use.

(bitter)

But I'm basically a flunkie, so I don't have any real power.

She turns to him, looks at him with a bit of pity in her eyes.

FRAN (cont'd)

If you tell me something, I promise I can make them take you more seriously.

Something seems to click behind Alaric's eyes, and his helplessness slides away like a mask. He smiles insidiously.

ALARIC

As a Slayer, it's your duty to protect people.

Fran removes her hands and steps back, listening to him but not getting too close.

FRAN

Of course.

ALARIC

I'm curious, then, when was the last time you spoke to your sisters? Your mother?

Now this causes a reaction. Fran approaches him, puts her hands on his shoulders and looks him straight in the eye.

FRAN

Leave my family out of this. That's your first and only warning.

Alaric, amused, leans back on his chair and watches Fran. Finally, power he can use.

ALARIC

Now, now, no need to get testy. I was just saying. Your mother is supporting two girls on one salary. If she were to lose her job...

FRAN

Why don't you just -

ALARIC

(interrupting)

One other thing.

(beat)

Kelly is approaching sixteen. A girl her age often has a social life of some sort.

(emphasized)

Parties, boys.

(beat)

You know what can happen, Fran. I know you do.

Fran GRABS Alaric by the throat, lifting him (and the chair) up and slamming him against a wall! She meets his gaze, cold hard rage covering her features.

FRAN

(cold)

I told you, leave my family out of this. The Slayers are your enemies. Just the Slayers.

Alaric attempts to speak, but can't with Fran's hand on his throat. She lets him drop.

ALARIC

(winded)

It's a bit more complicated than that.

She leans down to look him in the eyes.

FRAN

No it's not. It's simple. You touch them, I will personally slit your throat and watch you die.

His expression turns dark.

ALARIC

(serious)

Then you'll keep in mind the consequences of keeping me here.

Fran steps back, almost unsure of what to do, before turning and leaving the room quickly.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (3)

17

Alaric, left alone, just chuckles.

18 EXT. WOODLAND - DAY

18

The two drive down the uneven dirt road in silence. Sofia fidgets, then pulls a sheathed knife from behind her back.

SOFIA

Ow.

Cassandra only faintly smiles. Sofia looks at her, and seems to be building up the courage to speak. Finally:

SOFIA (cont'd)

(blurts)

Who are you?

Cassandra just gives her an annoyed look.

SOFIA (cont'd)

You know what I mean. Slayers never get past the age of twenty, Giles - I mean, a Watcher once told me.

There was Nikki Wood, I guess, and Ellen, but she was after the spell. So how come he hadn't heard about you before? Did you

(finger quotes)

"die" like Buffy?

Cassandra throws her a look, but Sofia is genuinely interested. Cassandra looks back towards the road.

CASSANDRA

Do you really want to know?

SOFIA

Of course. You may not think much of me, but I can tell I could learn a lot from you.

Well put. That buffs Cassandra's ego enough.

CASSANDRA

Then you have to keep this to yourself. No chatting your head off to your boy.

Sofia nods.

CASSANDRA (cont'd)

Alright. You wouldn't guess it, but technically I've only been around the past ten years or so.

Sofia gives her a quizzical look. Cassandra sighs.

(CONTINUED)

CASSANDRA (cont'd)
You're so up on your Slayer lore,
so I expect you to know about the
second time your beloved Buffy came
back from the dead?

Sofia nods.

CASSANDRA (cont'd)
Let's just say the Cabal have
plenty of dark magicks much, much
more powerful than any resident of
Sunnydale.

SOFIA
(surprised)
Oh.

Cassandra nods, then looks at Sofia intensely before
returning her eyes on the road.

CASSANDRA
Nobody learns this, alright? You're
a Slayer, so despite your...

She gives up on finding the right adjective to describe
Sofia.

CASSANDRA (cont'd)
Anyhow, you're still a Slayer. Even
if we are, to borrow a cultural
affectation,
(finger quotes)
"evil," then we're just as much
sisters as your former teammates.
(finally, a smirk)
And, though I hate to admit it, you
play the annoying teenage sister to
perfection.

SOFIA
I'm not sure if I should be
offended or pleased by that.

CASSANDRA
(smiles)
Someday, 'little sister', you will
learn complex emotions.

Sofia just frowns and Cassandra laughs.

Erika steps in quietly, unassuming. Alaric sits in his chair,
facing away from her.

ERIKA

Alaric?

When she hears no response, she crosses the room and lays a PUNCH across his jaw!

ALARIC

(splutters)

Ow! What was that for?

ERIKA

I assumed you were sleeping and needed to be woken.

Alaric openly shows his disdain for her, knowing she can't see him.

ALARIC

I wouldn't dare. You're my captor, and I know punishment could come at any time.

She PUNCHES him again!

ALARIC (cont'd)

(works jaw)

Okay, this is becoming a little predictable...

ERIKA

I will not tolerate your insolence disguised as weakness. I'm not fooled by your alligator tears.

ALARIC

That's crocodile tears, kid.

She PUNCHES him again!

ALARIC (cont'd)

Alright, I'm getting a little tired of this game now!

She turns away from him, pacing back and forth.

ERIKA

All I can wonder, Mr. Alaric, is why you are so cocky when your life is in our hands.

ALARIC

(smirks)

I know you better than you know yourself, Ms. Nemerov. You aren't a killer.

ERIKA

I know. However, my friend, Skye, is.

(beat)

Yes, she's told me she's killed before. That's all I needed to know.

ALARIC

And you still trust her?

She just shakes her head at the question.

ERIKA

You know, I attempted to give my life for her before. I'd do it again in a heartbeat.

Alaric nods, pleased by the answer.

ALARIC

However, would you give your life knowing another is depending on yours?

She sharply turns towards him, approaching him.

ALARIC (cont'd)

(cold)

You know who I'm talking about, Erika. You should have known better.

A thousand thoughts and emotions run behind Erika's face - fear, anger, worry, panic. However, outside she remains cool.

ERIKA

You want to give us some intelligence worth your freedom? Tell me what your people know about Ma-

(beat)

About her.

ALARIC

(grins)

Well, we now know she's still alive.

And that's when it hits Erika - it was a bluff! One she fell for, too. Suddenly the room seems too small, and she's shaking.

ALARIC (cont'd)

Thank you, Erika. The Cabal will be pleased to know -

(CONTINUED)

Erika runs towards him and jumps, landing in his lap. She then proceeds to STRANGLE him!

He lets out a garbled yell, and the door opens to reveal Skye! Erika looks at her, suddenly realising her mistake.

SKYE

Erika, I think you need a break.

She cracks her knuckles, which is the perfect time to show she's wearing Greg's metal knuckles!

SKYE (cont'd)

My turn.

Erika nods and stands, awkwardly moving towards the room. She pauses as she approaches Skye, and leans into her ear.

ERIKA

(whispering)

I will understand if you kill him.

Skye just nods, and Erika leaves. Skye turns to Alaric.

SKYE

(cold)

Alright, champ. Time to get asked some questions, Slayer style.

Alaric sits, fearlessly waiting, as she approaches.

Outside the stone building steps Erika. She pulls out a cigarette, holding it awkwardly as she lights it. She breathes in, just enjoying the moment, letting out her tension. She hears something.

That something is Fran sitting beside the door, eyes closed, meditating. She mouths numbers and breathes evenly, before she hears the door close.

She opens her eyes and looks up at the older girl, calmed down a bit.

FRAN

I didn't think you smoked.

ERIKA

(smiles to herself)

A bad habit I learned from Skye. I do not often do it, but today has been... stressful.

FRAN

I hear that. Was just out here
thinking, myself.

She kicks at a small stone in frustration, sending it
skittering away.

FRAN (cont'd)

I hate this, you know? Being a
Slayer. I mean, it's a rush, but a
lot of the time it's hard to know
you're cut out for it, you know?
It's so easy to feel weak.

(off Erika)

Well, you're A Squad. You were born
for this, I guess.

Erika frowns and sits next to Fran.

ERIKA

Before my blindness, and what
happened to my family, I would say
I was much like you, Fran. I was
selfish and angry much of the time.

(beat)

Don't be offended by that last
comment, please.

FRAN

(shrugs)

Hey, I'm all that and more,
sometimes.

ERIKA

When I lost my parents, my family,
that changed me. My eyes were
nothing to that.

(beat)

There's strength in everyone, Fran.
You'll find yours.

FRAN

(smiles)

Thanks, Erika.

ERIKA

No problems.

Erika stands, goes to the door.

FRAN

Erika?

ERIKA

(turns to her)

Yes?

(CONTINUED)

Fran's voice goes quiet. She feels guilty.

FRAN

I heard your conversation with him.
I just wanna say, your secret is my
secret. I mean, I'm not gonna
pretend I know what he was talking
about, but... you know.

Troubled but thankful, Erika nods and goes inside, leaving
Fran on her own.

Cassandra and Sofia ride along in the Jeep in silence. For a
few beats, at least.

SOFIA

I just can't believe I've never
heard of you before.

CASSANDRA

History is written by the victors.

Sofia throws her a confused look, but then gets it:

SOFIA

Did you get... what, left out of
the books?

CASSANDRA

Would you want other people knowing
about someone like me?

SOFIA

I suppose not.
(beat; grins)
No offence.

Cassandra turns and glares at her for a moment - and then
cracks into a grin.

And then she stands on the BRAKES, the car SCREECHING to a
sudden halt and jolting Sofia in her seat.

CASSANDRA

We're here.

She unbuckles her belt and jumps out:

The Jeep is parked at the edge of an industrial estate, with
boxy buildings and units clumped together.

SOFIA
Are you ready?

Cassandra wordlessly reaches back into the Jeep - and takes out the huge AXE she grabbed earlier. And that's her answer.

She flips out her cell phone, hitting the speed dial and holding it to her ear.

CASSANDRA
(into phone)
We're good for extraction. Be here in ten.

She looks down at the meaty axe in her hand.

CASSANDRA (cont'd)
Make it five.

She snaps the phone shut and turns to Sofia.

CASSANDRA (cont'd)
Let's go.

The two start across the tarmac road leading towards the buildings, and we CUT TO:

SMACK! Alaric lets out a moan as Skye pulls her hand back to punch him again.

SKYE
Gonna tell us what we need?

ALARIC
I'm not that easy to break you know. Your parents, though -

SMACK! Skye lands another PUNCH directly in Alaric's gut, winding him.

SKYE
Shut up!

Alaric laughs, BLOOD on his lips.

ALARIC
They've moved on -

Another PUNCH to the face.

ALARIC (cont'd)
- they've forgotten you.

SKYE

Shut up!

Skye loses it and HITS Alaric so hard around the face that the chair falls over!

Alaric LAUGHS, and Skye lunges onto him, grabbing his shirt and SHAKING him as she yells into his face:

SKYE (cont'd)

(raging)

You don't know a god damn thing
about my parents, you rat bastard,
so shut your mouth before I -

ALARIC

(interrupting)

You can move on too.

Skye frowns, staring at him. He holds her gaze, and she eventually steps back, pulling the chair upright.

SKYE

The hell is that supposed to mean?

ALARIC

Do you know what a mohra demon is?

Skye shakes her head.

ALARIC (cont'd)

What they are isn't important. It's
their blood that's important.

SKYE

Why are you telling me this?

ALARIC

So you are interested.

SKYE

Assume I am.

ALARIC

Mohra demon blood has a rapid and
irreversible effect when mixed with
the blood of any demon or vampire.

(beat)

It makes them human.

Skye frowns, crossing her arms. Alaric's face never breaks - the same half-cocked grin.

(CONTINUED)

ALARIC (cont'd)
I'll make you a deal. Let me go,
and I'll provide you with mohra
blood. And something for your
friend Alita.

SKYE
What's she got to do with any of
this?

ALARIC
About her mother. A name.

SKYE
Woah, back up - the Cabal killed
her mom?

ALARIC
Maybe, maybe not. Let me go and
you'll find out.

Skye thinks about it - and suddenly moves forward and UNTIES
him!

SKYE
The name?

ALARIC
The Coven di Fuoco.

SKYE
(nods)
Thanks.

SMACK! It was all a trick! Alaric's back on the floor and
Skye stands over him, grinning.

SKYE (cont'd)
Oh, somebody give me an Oscar!

She CACKLES, Alaric glaring bloody murder back up at her,
when suddenly:

BOOM! Something EXPLODES off screen, and Skye whips round.

ALARIC
That'll be my rescue.

Skye races towards the main door as we CUT TO:

Through the smoking hole where the main door used to stand,
Cassandra and Sofia step inside as Erika and Fran rush to
meet them!

Cassandra's casually points her axe towards Erika as Skye bursts into the room.

CASSANDRA

I believe you have something of
ours.

Sofia grins at the prospect of a rematch as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

25

INT. SAFE HOUSE - DAY

25

Skye throws Fran a look, to which she nods. They and Erika move without words, moving to interrupt their opponents movement.

Cassandra steps forward, and is a WHIR of moving limbs as she strikes out, catching Skye unawares in the chest and kicking sideways to deliver a crushing blow to Erika's knee, taking her attention from Sofia.

Erika falls with a yell, and Cassandra turns to Skye, leaping forwards to deliver a punch that Skye barely blocks.

Fran looks across the room, sees Skye in trouble. She JUMPS on Cassandra's back, arms around her neck. Cassandra just turns and THROWS her at the recovering Erika, knocking both into a table, breaking it with a CRUNCH.

In the background, Sofia slips away into further the safe house.

Cassandra turns to Skye, easily blocking her blows. She dodges a punch and delivers a forceful one to Skye's chin, forcing her to fall back a few steps.

Erika stands, slipping a set of Skye's sai's from under a table.

She charges Cassandra. Cassandra stands and turns just in time to grab Erika's wrist and use her momentum to push her towards Skye.

Erika manages to right herself before collision, only for Cassandra to jump, delivering a kick with each foot to both Skye and Erika's faces, sending them flying into the wall!

She turns to see, other than the three of them, the room is empty! She shrugs and returns to the fray, attacking the two young Slayers with an increased vigor.

26

INT. SAFE HOUSE - INTERROGATION ROOM - DAY

26

Sofia enters, crosses the room to Alaric and starts untying him.

ALARIC

(annoyed)

Took you long enough. I know they call it a silent alarm, but you still need to be listening to hear when I trip it!

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

Want me to leave you here?

She sighs at the knot, and pulls out a knife. She begins sawing, throwing a look at her watch while doing so. But as she lowers it to the rope, the door opens to reveal Fran!

Sofia stands, a small smirk crossing her face.

SOFIA (cont'd)

(surprised)

Fran?

(beat; smiles)

I'd hoped it would be you that followed me.

FRAN

Likewise.

Fran leaps forwards, causing Sofia to step away from the chair. Sofia throws the dagger, forcing Fran to move out of the way and giving her time to advance.

Sofia CHARGES, moving up close to Fran. She throws a flurry of punches that the younger girl only barely manages to block or avoid.

Sofia gets a hit on Fran's shoulder, while Fran manages to score a hit on Sofia's chin.

Fran pushes on when Sofia reels from the hit, getting in a shot at Sofia's ribs and side.

Sofia GRABS Fran's hair and THROWS her to the ground, then kicks her forwards into the wall. Fran gives out a yell.

Sofia turns back to Alaric, and gives a YELL as a thrown knife skims her forearm. She looks back - Fran has risen.

FRAN (cont'd)

Don't turn your back on me.

Sofia considers a comeback, but instead just pointedly turns back towards Alaric.

Fran launches forwards, throwing out a punch that Sofia turns to block. Fran steps back and throws a KICK towards Sofia's face that she easily grabs.

SOFIA

Stupid -

Fran TWISTS her foot, using Sofia's grip as support to throw a kick from her other foot at Sofia's face. She grazes Sofia's cheek, and leaves a long, bleeding CUT!

(CONTINUED)

Fran lands on her foot and steps back, ready for Sofia's advance. Sofia looks at her palm, now also bleeding. Sofia throws Fran a glare.

SOFIA (cont'd)
Razor blades... on your shoes? Are you serious?

FRAN
(shrugs)
Saw it a movie once. Thought I'd give it a shot.

Sofia shakes her head - then throws a glance at one of the fallen throwing knives. She ducks and grabs it, whipping it towards her opponent. Fran, showing signs of tiredness, just dodges, letting her attention slip for a moment.

Her mistake.

Sofia is ON her, shoving her bleeding palm into Fran's face, enjoying the CRUNCH of it colliding with the girl's nose. Fran falls backwards, but only until Sofia grabs her collar and pulls her close.

SOFIA
(angry)
You're really getting on my nerves, Fran. I don't have time for this, so just stay down!

She lets go, sending a CRUNCHING kick into the dazed girl's midsection. Another KICK sends Fran's back slamming into the wall, and all she can do is slide down into a sitting position.

SOFIA (cont'd)
(yells)
No blades, but it still hurts, doesn't it?

Fran is winded. Sofia looks down on her, contempt clear on her face, before turning back to Alaric. Fran tries to raise her head to look at Sofia.

FRAN
(pained)
You know you're just a number to him, right?

Sofia continues to walk away.

SOFIA
Don't talk about things you know nothing about.

Fran chuckles, though it hurts to do so.

FRAN
(contemptuous)
He's using you as a weapon. After
he's killed you, he won't even
remember your na -

Sofia TURNS on her, lifting her by the throat and SLAMMING
her against the wall.

SOFIA
Fran. I have to go, so I'll make
this quick. When we leave here,
remember how I didn't kill you.
(beat)
Then remember that next time, I'll
take pleasure in fixing that
mistake.

She lets Fran drop. She walks back to Alaric. Fran doesn't
even try to stop her.

Cassandra glances down at her watch - and PULL BACK to see
Skye and Erika sprawled before her, both recovering from her
last round of attacks.

CASSANDRA
Well, girls, it's been fun, but I'm
afraid I have to dash.

She turns and races away as Skye picks herself up, going to
help Erika first.

SKYE
You think maybe we should start
running after her?

ERIKA
(breathless)
I think so...

Winded, the two Slayers start their pursuit as we CUT TO:

Sofia leads Alaric through the door onto the wide roof. She
throws a glance back, but continues on, pulling him towards
the centre of the roof.

Sofia sighs and glances at the door, then the sky. She checks
her watch. It's BROKEN. She groans.

SOFIA
(to herself)
Cassandra, where the hell are you?

She glances back up at the sky.

29 INT. SAFE HOUSE - HALLWAY - DAY

29

Cassandra is making an escape, with Skye and Erika in full pursuit. Skye looks back at Erika.

SKYE
Erika, go find Fran, make sure
she's still kicking, alright? I'll
take care of this.

Erika makes to speak, but Skye yells:

SKYE (cont'd)
Go, damn it!

Erika nods and turns the other way, leaving Skye to pursue.

30 EXT. SAFE HOUSE - ROOF - DAY

30

Cassandra exits onto the roof, with Skye in pursuit. She's made a few steps when a loud ROAR suddenly rings out.

Skye looks up - and a jet black HELICOPTER swoops over the roof, swinging in a wide circle to head in for a landing!

SKYE
Damn, forgot my rocket launcher.

Cassandra continues moving to Sofia and Alaric, who are already waiting.

CASSANDRA
You take the girl. I've got him.

She grabs Alaric by the arm and moves towards the helicopter, which hovers dangerously near the edge with no room to land.

Sofia advances on Skye, stretching her fingers out as she limbers up, ready for a scrap.

SOFIA
Looks like I get a chance to repay
you for Sennybridge.

SKYE
Just shut it and fight, Sofes. We
got nothing to say to one another.

Sofia just shrugs and moves forwards to meet her former friend. She throws a weak punch, why Skye ducks under and delivers a BLOW to Sofia's ribs, causing her to fall back.

As she stumbles backwards, Skye dashes forward and jumps to deliver a spinning KICK, wincing as Sofia blocks it. This is painful to watch, as both are so obviously defeated already.

However, Skye has her vampiric bonuses that help, certainly giving her an advantage in the roughly managed fight that ensues. Skye attacks, Sofia defends, moving back towards the helicopter.

Skye manages to grab Sofia's wrist and pull her forward, then use her other hand to grasp the back of Sofia's head and PUSH her towards the door, effectively putting herself between Sofia and the helicopter.

Sofia turns around wearily, while Skye takes a defensive pose.

SKYE (cont'd)
Come on, Sofes! Stop messing around
and fight me!

Sofia takes a moment to breathe, then looks Skye face to face.

SOFIA
You asked for it.

And she has a second wind, bursting forward and delivering a flurry of punches and jabs that takes Skye by surprise.

Sofia hits Skye's shoulder, ribs and finally lands one on her jaw, distracting her enough so Sofia can move past her.

However, Skye desperately grabs Sofia's HAIR and pulls her back, using her other arm to restrain her arms. Skye has Sofia in a tight grip, watching as the helicopter leaves without her.

SKYE
Forget it! I want my answers,
Sofes, and that means you ain't
goin' nowhere.

Skye leans forwards and rests her FANGS on Sofia's neck, daring her to struggle.

As it takes off, Cassandra watches as Sofia is left behind.

CASSANDRA
Damn it!

31 CONTINUED:

31

She reaches into a bag, and Alaric looks puzzled.

ALARIC

What are you doing?

She pulls out a GUN and looks out the door.

CASSANDRA

I have my orders. She can't go back
to that school of theirs. She's
with us, or she's dead.

(to pilot)

Pull in closer!

She looks out at Skye and Sofia, and aims.

32 EXT. SAFE HOUSE - ROOF

32

Skye sees Cassandra aim the gun at them. Confusion passes
through her eyes, and she has to make a decision.

33 INT. SAFE HOUSE - INTERROGATION ROOM

33

Erika kneels to the injured, unconscious Fran with a worried
look on her face. She checks that she's breathing and sighs
with relief.

34 EXT. SAFE HOUSE - ROOF

34

Skye just barely pulls Sofia to the side as the shot rings
out. Skye falls back, BLEEDING from the shoulder.

SKYE

(yowls)

Son of a bitch!

Sofia pulls away and runs to the helicopter, JUMPING from the
edge straight into the passenger bay!

35 INT. HELICOPTER

35

Cassandra looks impressed as Sofia combat rolls to a halt
inside the helicopter.

CASSANDRA

So, you decided to join -

SMACK! Sofia PUNCHES Cassandra in the mouth.

SOFIA

(serious)

That doesn't happen again.

Sofia simply sits down, while Cassandra looks at her, maybe a
little impressed with her nerve.

36 EXT. SAFE HOUSE - ROOF - DAY

36

Meanwhile, on the roof, a bleeding Skye mutely watches them fly off.

Erika bursts from the door and rushes over to her, but the fading sound of the helicopter tells her the mission was a bust.

FADE TO:

37 INT. CAMPUS - BRIEFING ROOM - NIGHT

37

A battered Skye, Erika and Fran sit at the table while Skye speaks. At the other end sits Barbara and FITZGERALD, while Greg stands.

SKYE

We didn't get much out of him, really. Nothing we can verify, anyway. He talked a lot of crap, but for all he said, he really didn't tell us anything.

All three adults are less than pleased.

GREG

That's disappointing, to say the least.

FITZGERALD

You got nothing from the man you held in captivity for a day? Nothing?

Skye pauses for a moment, obviously thinking of the mohra demon, but decides to hold that back. She shakes her head.

FRAN

(pipes up)

I learned something.

The three adults shift their attention to her. Fitzgerald scans her sheet.

FITZGERALD

Yes...

(looks)

Francesca?

Fran sits up, but winces from the pain.

(CONTINUED)

FRAN

It's Fran. The guy, he knew things.
Things that pretty much tell us
that they have good surveillance on
our families and friends back home.

(beat)

Their power isn't just military.
They mentioned potentially getting
my mom fired - she's a single mom
supporting my two sisters - and
threatened my sisters, too.

Barbara is troubled by this, and throws a glance at
Fitzgerald.

BARBARA

Grace, do we have any intelligence
on their targeting family members?

Fitzgerald shakes her head. Barbara smiles at Fran.

BARBARA (cont'd)

Thank you, Fran. We'll keep an eye
on the Slayers' families, makes
sure they are safe.

(important)

This does not leave this room, do
you three understand?

All three nod. Barbara stands.

BARBARA (cont'd)

That's all for now. You can go back
to your rooms. I'm sure you're
tired from the long flight.

With groans of relief, the girls rise and slouch towards the
exit, watched by the adults.

The three girls exit the room. Fran turns to go.

SKYE

Hey, Fran.

Fran turns around, curious.

SKYE (cont'd)

You did good today.

FRAN

Are you kidding? Look at me. I let
Romero beat me to a pulp, and let
them get away.

SKYE

Yeah, but you had the guts to take her on in the first place. That's big for a newbie.

(off Fran's expression)

Semi-newbie. And besides, I know Sofia, and I fought her right after. She was pretty winded.

Fran considers this, and smiles.

FRAN

Well... thanks, Skye.

Skye offers a hand, and Fran takes it. They shake.

SKYE

Don't forget, we're Slayers. We might bitch a lot, but we're all sisters here, as Erika says.

Fran nods, heartened by this.

SKYE (cont'd)

Now get to bed, you look like crap.

Skye lets Fran depart with a smile, then turns on her own way. She meets up with Erika at the corner.

ERIKA

Thank you for giving her a chance.

SKYE

(shrugs)

Meh.

(beat)

I'll catch you later, alright? I have business to take care of.

Erika nods, and disappears into the dark hallway.

Skye sits on the edge of the roof, looking out on the horizon and smoking. She watches the smoke drift off vacantly, deep in thought.

Footsteps make her look back, to see ALITA approach. Skye smiles, a little sadly.

SKYE

(quiet)

Hey, Allie.

Alita steps forward tentatively, a little worried.

ALITA

You wanted to speak to me, Skye?

Skye turns her gaze out to the horizon again, while Alita is still visible over her shoulder.

SKYE

The old guy had something pretty interesting to say while we were 'persuading' him to talk. Had to do with you, so I figured I'd pass the info along.

Alita looks intrigued, while Skye looks a little conflicted. Will this just open old wounds? But there's only one thing she can do.

SKYE (cont'd)

He said that he knew something about your mom's death.

Skye turns to see Alita's shell-shocked expression, though she quickly hides it under stoicism.

ALITA

That is...
(pained)
What did he say?

Skye puts out her cigarette and turns completely to face Alita.

SKYE

Said your mom had some pretty damning ties to this group, the Coven di Fuoco. Said she spent years poking around, sticking her nose in.

(beat)

He implied they didn't approve.

Alita nods, a distant look on her face, and sits down across from Skye. Skye waits for a response, but doesn't get one. Finally:

SKYE (cont'd)

So, what's the plan? Time to open the cold case and kick some evil wicca ass?

Alita smiles at Skye, and stands.

ALITA

Thank you, Skye. This helps. I don't want to do anything rash, of course.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

Yeah, you might wanna sleep on it.

Alita gets up.

ALITA

Thank you. We'll talk tomorrow.

Alita turns to walk away, and her face shifts. An ice enters her eyes. It's clear that, despite her calm reaction, the only thing on her mind is revenge.

Off Alita's angry expression:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW