

SLAYER ACADEMY

"Seppuku"

by
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TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. CAMPUS - TRAINING GROUNDS - DAY

It's a bright, frosty day on the academy grounds. Stay on the image of the sun's muted color before a WHITE SASH billows into frame.

PAN DOWN to see the sash is connected to the arm of a white robed figure, delicately practising serene tai chi movements.

PUSH IN even further to see that it is in fact ALITA. She has a sash tied to each arm, which flail gently in the wind as she weaves in and out with her hands.

She slowly places her arms out in front of her and moves them to the side of her body.

She moves to the right side of her body, stretching out as far as she can with her palm. All of a sudden, she brings both of her palms inwards towards her body, and with a great deal of force effortlessly pushes both of her palms down.

She then continues to move her arms outwards, and contorts her legs into a position where she then steps backwards and gracefully turns with perfect balance.

VOICE (O.S.)

Tai chi?

Alita breaks out of her routine and turns towards the voice, as FITZGERALD approaches.

FITZGERALD

It's fascinating, really. The ability to be graceful and elegant, but at the same time powerful. I'm very envious.

Alita eyes her as if she is asking what she wants.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

Oh, I'm sorry, I'm not interrupting am I?

Alita closes her eyes, mentally clicking out of tai chi mode.

ALITA

Not at all, I was just practising for later on today.

FITZGERALD

I don't have to remind you, then.

Alita opens her eyes and looks over.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALITA

How could I not remember? This is the day I have been waiting for my entire life.

FITZGERALD

That makes a refreshing change. Most girls dread their Cruciamentum.

(beat)

That is what we're talking about, right?

Alita nods.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

Far be it from me to question your motives, but why are you excited?

ALITA

I did not choose to do this. It chose me.

Fitzgerald keeps looking at her, not really getting it.

ALITA (cont'd)

It is destiny. Most people in their lives never have a true purpose, so I consider us lucky to have one. The Cruciamentum is when I get to prove how worthy I am.

FITZGERALD

I don't think proving yourself has ever been an issue with us, Alita.

ALITA

Perhaps not.

(beat)

Do you ever wish you could be a Slayer?

FITZGERALD

(blinks)

Honestly? No. I've got nothing but respect for what you girls do every day, but... I'm not a fighter.

ALITA

(smiles)

I understand. Thank you for your concern, but there is something I must do beforehand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

FITZGERALD

Very well. Your test starts at six.
Barbara and I need to see you in a
meeting before that, though. Just
to go over a few things.

Alita nods, and with a last smile Fitzgerald turns and walks
away. Alita watches her depart before we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - DORMS ROOMS - NEXT

MARIA sits on one of the beds, looking a little nervous as
ERIKA carefully unpacks her bags.

MARIA

Are you sure they're alright about
me staying here?

ERIKA

I have spoken to both Miss Griffin
and Miss Fitzgerald. They are happy
for you to stay.

MARIA

I know, you said that already,
but...

ERIKA

Maria. It was no longer safe for
you to stay in hiding back home.
While the Academy is a more visible
location, at least here there is a
literal army of Slayers protecting
you.

MARIA

Well...
(grins)
... there's that, yeah.

Erika fishes something out of one of the bags - it's a yellow
flower-shaped cushion. She recognises the shape and passes it
to Maria with a smile.

ERIKA

Perhaps this will help make the
Academy feel a little more like
home?

Maria rolls her eyes, but takes the cushion as we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - NEXT

Alita is sitting alone on her bed, the telephone receiver
pressed against her ear.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALITA
(in Japanese)
<Hello, father.>

TAKESHIRO
(filtered; through phone)
<Alita! It is good to hear from you
again, my daughter.>

ALITA
<Do you remember what day it is
today?>

TAKESHIRO
<How could I? The dawning of your
eighteenth year brings you one step
closer to your destiny.>

ALITA
<And, as you can see, I do still
remember your phone number.>

He chuckles - a little father-daughter inside joke.

TAKESHIRO
<How are your preparations going?>

ALITA
<very well. Skye and Reiko have set
aside the afternoon to train with
me, and I have made sure to stay
rested and focused since returning
from Spain.>

TAKESHIRO
<Yes... Alita, about what you
discovered, I'm - >

ALITA
<There is no need to be sorry for
hiding the truth from me, father. I
understand why. You just wanted to
protect me.>

TAKESHIRO
<It's all I have ever wanted. And
Now, as you prepare for one of the
most important days of your life, I
am hundreds of miles away, stuck in
this village when I should be by
your side.>

ALITA
<You are always with me, father.>

She smiles, glad the atmosphere between them is so warm now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALITA (cont'd)
<I also wanted to say thank you,
for believing in me and teaching me
all these years. I won't disappoint
you.>

TAKESHIRO
<Your mother would have been very
proud. I'd like to believe she's
watching you.>

Alita nods, suddenly getting a little emotional.

ALITA
<I wish she was here.>

TAKESHIRO
<As do I.>
(beat)
<But we cannot dwell in the past.
She wanted you to continue with
your life.>

A beat as Alita wipes her eyes.

ALITA
<I must go. I will try to speak to
you again before this evening, and
if not - >

TAKESHIRO
<If not, then you must call me as
soon as the trial is completed.>

Alita grins - yep, that's still her dad, alright.

ALITA
<I will, father.>

TAKESHIRO
<Goodbye, my daughter. I... I love
you.>

ALITA
<And I love you, too.>

On Alita's glowing expression, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. CAMPUS - BARBARA'S OFFICE - DAY

Barbara has been joined by Fitzgerald and CERYS, all three of whom are looking at the seated Alita.

BARBARA

I still don't understand this. Why would you want to do that?

ALITA

I don't view the hallucinogens as a test for me. I need the experience to be real, or I will have accomplished nothing.

CERYS

(nods)

You need to be in a situation where you might die in order to perform.

ALITA

Yes. But I won't die.

(beat)

Being a Slayer... it's who I am. It's been my entire world since I was born, and I would feel like I had cheated myself and my father if I did not take the Cruciamentum for real.

(beat)

The alternative may be enough for some girls, but...

FITZGERALD

I think she's saying that she can't go through slaying with the training wheels on.

BARBARA

Alita, you've already been in situations far worse than this. You survived being lost in the Arctic for three months!

ALITA

I had some help.

BARBARA

(sighs)

I shouldn't really be telling you this but... I can't afford to lose any more Slayers.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARBARA (cont'd)
You're one of our fiercest weapons,
a true force to be reckoned with. I
can't risk losing you.

CERYS
Which is precisely why we devised
the hallucinogens as an alternate
means of taking the test!

ALITA
(firm)
I will not die.

FITZGERALD
Barbara... it's her choice at the
end of the day. She's dead set on
what should be an easy task for
her, and I for one think we could
spare it - this once.

Barbara looks to Cerys, who muses on that point.

CERYS
Well... it would give us a chance
to test the safe house out...

FITZGERALD
And wouldn't you rather have Alita
back in action knowing that she's a
hundred per cent happy with her
abilities?

Barbara sits back in her chair, feeling the debate swinging
against her. Finally, she nods.

BARBARA
I'm not happy about the idea but...
it's your decision.

Alita beams.

BARBARA (cont'd)
However, we will have to contact
the Council to get approval, so I'd
have to delay the test until this
evening.

ALITA
That is perfectly fine. I have some
more training to complete anyway.

On Alita's smirk and Barbara's concerned look, we CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - QUADRANGLE - NEXT

Erika and Maria are talking to a small group of Slayers,
including FRANKIE, TSULA and FRAN.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIKA

And so, once we had landed back in England, I contacted the Council and arranged transport for us.

FRAN

Getting used to chauffeur driven treatment already, huh?

MARIA

Hey, they offered and I said yes.

ERIKA

Maria is still getting used to the way things are done here.

TSULA

You make us sound organised.

FRANKIE

Speak for yourself!

MARIA

(chuckles)

I know, I know, it's just like a school, only there are no boys and all the girls know how to blow up buildings and kill vampires.

FRAN

What, they didn't teach you that at your school?

TSULA

I feel almost sorry for her.

FRAN

Makes this place sound alright.

ERIKA

(over them)

Anyway... I was just showing Maria around, introducing her to everyone.

FRANKIE

Well, on behalf of those of us you 'ave not met yet, welcome to Slayer Academy, Maria.

MARIA

Thanks.

FRANKIE

Will she be joining us in class, or...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ERIKA
(quickly)
No. No, Maria is not a Slayer.
She's just -

MARIA
'She' is just thinking you should
watch how you end that sentence.

Erika relents, grins and pulls Maria close.

ERIKA
Excuse us, everyone.

The others nod, saying their good-byes as they leave.

MARIA
Are you embarrassed of me or
something?

ERIKA
What? No, of course not! Why would
you think that?

MARIA
Because you haven't told a single
person here about my blood thing.

Erika lifts her head, listening to see if anyone can hear them
before she continues:

ERIKA
Maria, the fewer people who know
about that, the better for
everyone.

MARIA
But everyone here gets to be
something cool! Can't I have a
'thing'?

ERIKA
Not if it means the Cabal try to
take you away again.

MARIA
Yeah, but if that happens, then
you'll save me.

A beat - but Erika's serious expression dissolves back into a
warm smile.

MARIA (cont'd)
Good.
(beat)
Now.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MARIA (cont'd)
About some of those other girls I
haven't met yet... is Alita the one
with all the colours in her hair,
or is that Reiko?

Erika chuckles as we CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - FIELD - NEXT

And here's REIKO herself, jogging along the track before she
spots Alita, waving and heading over.

REIKO
Hey, girl! Excited for later?
You're gonna ace it, I'm sure!

ALITA
I wouldn't say it is something you
can 'look forward' to, but...

REIKO
Yeah, yeah. Super Slayer's gonna
walk it, even though she gets to do
the proper Cruciamentum and not the
iMAX version me and the others
took.

(smirks)
I wish I could be as cool as you in
the face of certain death.

ALITA
(raises eyebrow)
'Certain death'?

REIKO
(gasps; rapid)
Omigod! No, no! That's not what I
meant, I, uh, meant that you're
just doing the test, you know, with
the vampire and the actual fighting
and not having any powers and I
didn't mean that you were gonna die
because no way is -

ALITA
(shakes head; smiles)
It is alright, Reiko.

REIKO
(blinks; suspicious)
Were you just playing a trick on
me?

Alita just grins enigmatically, and Reiko giggles, hero
worship radiating off her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALITA

You seem to be in better spirits.

REIKO

(beat)

I'm keeping myself busy. Stops me thinking too much about... you know.

ALITA

Actually, Reiko...

(in Japanese; serious)

<... there is something I need to speak to you about.>

REIKO

(also in Japanese)

<Uh, okay. Shoot.>

ALITA

<There is something I must return to my village to do soon, a task of great importance.>

REIKO

<Sounds mysterious.>

ALITA

<It is a trial I have been preparing for my whole life, and until recently I always believed one day I would return to face it.>

REIKO

<'Until recently'?>

ALITA

<When I was lost in the Arctic, there was a time when I did not think I was going to survive to return home, and my thoughts fell to who would be able to take my place if that happened.>

REIKO

<Wait, wait. You're not being Alita right now. Alita never thinks she even has a chance of failing.>

ALITA

<I'm afraid there is much you still have to learn about me.>

Reiko GULPS loudly, not liking the direction this conversation is taking.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

REIKO

<So... what can I do?>

ALITA

<I need you to promise me something. If I were to... fail, if the Cruciamentum does not go according to plan, or even if something after that should happen to me, I... I need someone to go to my homeland and complete my destiny for me.>

REIKO

(jaw drops)

<Me?!?>

ALITA

<I trust you, Reiko. I have seen great bravery in you, a fierceness of spirit that is rare in anybody, let alone a Slayer. In all our time together, you've only confirmed my belief that if anyone can follow me, then it is you/>

Reiko turns introverted and nervous for the first time we've seen her. She eyes the ground.

REIKO

<So... what would I have to do?>

Alita lays a hand on her shoulder, and we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - CANTEEN - NEXT

Maria and Erika walk through the double doors and into the canteen. The canteen is very empty apart from a few random slayers.

ERIKA

And this is the canteen. Three meals a day are served here, although I can make no promises as to the quality of those meals.

MARIA

(rolls eyes)

This really is like a school...

She approaches a group of girls, namely SKYE, ANNA, DELANEY, VANESSA (an albino girl), LANA (Eastern European) and ADRIANNE (brunette, bohemian style).

ANNA

'S up, Erika? Who's the new girl?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Maria steps forward, looking a little shy.

ERIKA

This is my sister Maria, all the way from Russia.

MARIA

Hi.

She gives a little wave. Skye gets up to shake her hand.

SKYE

Pleased to meet you. This is the girl you snatched from the Cabal, right? Good save.

Anna double takes, suddenly paying much closer attention.

MARIA

Yeah, you know. Scary, but once big sister showed up I knew everything was gonna be alright.

DELANEY

Ain't she an adrenaline junkie?

SKYE

How do you speak English so well?

MARIA

MTV. Carson Daly - mmm...

SKYE

(smirks)

You give her the tour?

ERIKA

Yes, but there's a lot of ground still to cover.

SKYE

Well, me and Delaney got assigned to show these here newbies around...

She signals at Adrianne, Lana and Vanessa, who smiles.

SKYE (cont'd)

... so d'you wanna tag along?

ERIKA

That sounds good. And it is good to see you making an effort to fit in, Delaney.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DELANEY

Please. We're about as tight...

She looks downwards at Erika's cleavage.

DELANEY (cont'd)

... as you are in that top.

MARIA

(stifles giggle)

You girls don't get on, do you?

DELANEY

Sure we do. In a nice, wholesome,
'toaster in the bathtub' kind of
way.

Skye gets up and starts to lead the group away. Anna watches them go, her eyes glued to Maria as we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - CORRIDOR - NEXT

Elsewhere on campus, and Anna has snuck away to make a phone call.

ANNA

(into phone)

Yeah, I've got something worth
knowing this time.

VOICE

Let's hear it.

ANNA

Nuh-uh. First off, this time I want
some kind of guarantee before I
start handing things out.

VOICE

What did you have in mind?

ANNA

Josh. I want to spend more than
five minutes with him. I need to
talk to him, to make sure he's
okay, and I don't mean another
visit with Braeden and his goon
squad tagging along. Just me and
Josh.

VOICE

(beat)

I'll see what I can arrange. That's
the best I can promise. Now... what
do you have for us?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANNA

(not listening)

Second of all, you give him to me,
no strings attached. We'll meet
somewhere and I'll give you the
info -

VOICE

You give us the information right
now, or your brother is dead.

ANNA

(freezes)

You're bluffing.

VOICE

Would you like to tell him
yourself?

There's a beat - and then JOSH's trembling voice comes over
the line:

JOSH

(desperately)

Anna? Anna, is that you?

ANNA

(gasps)

Josh! Where are you?

JOSH

I don't know, they won't tell me
anything... Anna, they're gonna
kill me if you don't do what they
say... I've been trying to get them
to listen to you but they won't -

VOICE

(cuts him off)

I think that's enough.

Anna fights to hold back a SOB, struggling to keep calm.

ANNA

If you even touch him...

VOICE

You'll be the one responsible,
because you haven't told us
anything useful.

ANNA

(quickly)

Okay, okay, I'll tell you!

(sighs)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANNA (cont'd)
Some wicca put a magical
restriction on Kira. She can't do
squat with her magic 'til they lift
it.

VOICE
I see. What else do you know?

ANNA
That's it! That's all I know, I
swear!

VOICE
Really? Because your tone a moment
ago suggested you had something
really juicy, and I'm sure Josh
here would want you to be honest
with us...

The voice laughs. Anna now has tears streaming down her face.

ANNA
(panicking)
Erika's kid sister escaped from the
Cabal and came to the Academy.
She's here right now!

Anna puts her head in her hands, disgusted with herself.

VOICE
Now that is interesting...

ANNA
It's Alita's Cruciamentum tonight,
and the whole Academy's on standby
in case anything happens. They'll
be too distracted to notice anyone
sneaking in to grab her.

Anna waits - no response.

ANNA (cont'd)
Please, I told you everything! Jus'
give me my brother back!

The line GOES DEAD. Anna stares at her phone in shock for a
beat, then puts her palms against her temples and slides to
the floor.

She SOBS, too mentally exhausted to do anything but weep as
we CUT TO:

EXT. INDUSTRIAL ESTATE - DAY

The back of someone's head as they lower a phone receiver.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VOICE

Well...

The figure turns around - it's Dexter!

DEXTER

... I'm glad we bought these now.

He holds up a small device over his mouth - and as he speaks, his voice changes to Josh's!

DEXTER (cont'd)

(in Josh's voice)

Did you get all that?

PAN ACROSS - standing straight ahead, arms folded and wearing a smirk on his face is BRAEDEN.

BRAEDEN

Hell, yeah. Looks like we get to take that payback sooner than we planned.

Dexter laughs a sinister laugh, and on this we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - DAY

While the infirmary has cleared out a lot of the wounded from the last big cabal offensive, there are still plenty of Slayers laid up in here.

Maria sits up on an exam table as MANU checks her blood pressure. Erika hovers nearby.

ERIKA

I do not understand - are you saying that there is nothing out of the ordinary with Maria's blood?

MANU

Not as far as I've been able to discover, but I don't exactly have access to a lot of facilities here.

He checks the pressure, unwrapping the inflated cuff from Maria's arm.

ERIKA

So why would the Cabal need her blood if it's not valuable?

Maria sits up and frowns.

MARIA

Hey! It's valuable to me!

ERIKA

You know what I mean. Charles told me that the Cabal use an antibody Maria has in their demon cloning process.

MANU

Again, there's no way of telling what that is without further testing.

MARIA

(groans)
Not more needles?

MANU

I'm afraid so.

Erika suddenly SPINS Manu round to face her, the speed and force of the gesture catching him off guard.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIKA

(firm)

No. No more testing. She has been through enough.

MANU

(taken aback)

I know, and I'm sorry for that, but we need to know exactly what they're after from her. It could give us valuable insight into how their cloning process works, and maybe even a more effective weapon to use against it.

MARIA

Erika, seriously - it's alright. I'd rather be doing something useful than just -

ERIKA

(over her)

Right now she needs to rest. I am her legal guardian, and it is my consent you will need for any further tests.

Manu looks over at Maria, who squirms. Manu bows his head, nodding.

MANU

Alright, I'll speak to Barbara and Grace, see if there's some other way we can run the tests.

ERIKA

Thank you. Come on, Maria. Let's get some food.

Maria nods, but on her way out Manu hands her something secretively. It's a URINE CUP.

She looks up at him and he simply winks. Maria grins, nods and rushes to catch up with Erika as we CUT TO:

EXT CAMPUS - GARDENS - NEXT

Sunset in the memorial gardens. Sitting on a small gazebo, rocking absently back and forth, is KIRA. She has her hand up before her, brow creased in concentration.

After a long beat, a tiny SPARK of flame pops up from her fingers - and promptly snuffs out.

KIRA

Oh, for God's sake...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RACHEL (O.S.)
Looks like Willow knew what she was
doing.

Kira turns - RACHEL stands nearby, arms folded.

KIRA
Bloody right, she did. I'd have
difficulty lighting a candle at the
moment.

RACHEL
How does it feel? Not having power?

Kira turns to glare at her, but Rachel stands her ground.

KIRA
You're loving this, aren't you?

RACHEL
(shrugs)
Just taking advantage of an
opportunity, is all.

Rachel smirks and turns to leave, when Kira calls out:

KIRA
How does it feel, not being
yourself?

Rachel stops, and Kira smirks - one-all. Rachel doesn't look
round as she answers:

RACHEL
Natural.

Kira frowns, and Rachel turns to face her - MORPHING into the
form of DANA as she does so!

Kira reacts, a long way from being used to seeing this. Dana
slowly approaches her, and Kira tenses up.

DANA
You... you can't begin to imagine
what it's like for me right now.
Doesn't matter if I close my eyes,
if I cram myself full of sleeping
pills every night... they don't
stop. Ever.

Kira wisely keeps quiet, letting Dana continue:

DANA (cont'd)
When the girls here look at me, all
they see is a monster. A killer.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KIRA

They have good reason to.

Dana stops, whirling to face Kira:

DANA

You made me that way!

Dana's tone rises in anger, and she pushes towards Kira. Kira knows she can't escape this one.

DANA (cont'd)

You abused me, kept me locked up like an animal... I was your lab rat for two years!

KIRA

I was only -

Dana SHOVES her roughly.

DANA

No, you don't get to talk!

(beat)

All that time, you knew I was sick. You knew I needed help, but not once did you comfort me. You treated me like I was... like I was some kind of experiment, some twisted little plaything you could make dance for your own amusement!

KIRA

It's more complicated than that, and you know it!

DANA

You sent me out to kill! Even before Braeden got his hands on me, used me to track down those girls... those poor girls...

KIRA

There wasn't anything I could have done to 'fix' you, Dana.

Dana stares in disbelief, indicating herself:

DANA

So what the hell is this? There was a way, you just didn't bother to find it! It didn't suit your plans!

Kira doesn't have an answer as Dana leans in close, almost snarling:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DANA (cont'd)
I will never forgive you.

Kira looks down, knowing she's right.

DANA (cont'd)
I just hope that when they put me
back in my body, I can still
remember all this... because I'm
going to make you pay for what you
did to me.

Dana turns and marches away, but only manages a few steps
before she quickly SHIFTS back into Rachel.

Rachel turns, looking bewildered at what just happened:

RACHEL
(stutters)
Did... Kira, I don't know why
she... she's never said any of -

Kira stands, and without a word leaves the garden. Rachel can
only watch her go as we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - GYMNASIUM - LATER

Alita is adjusting her gi robes, checking the belt is tight
and assuming a standard offensive pose.

ALITA
Are you ready?

ON SKYE & REIKO - who are both dressed in thick, padded body
armour. They look like they're about to train police dogs.

SKYE
(muffled)
Mmrf mrrm-hmm.

ALITA
(blinks)
Excuse me?

Skye HUFFS, unfastening and removing her helmet - and then
taking out a GUM SHIELD.

SKYE
I said, 'we're ready.'

Alita grins as Skye redresses herself. Skye glances at Reiko -
who looks absolutely terrified.

Skye CLAPS her hands together - wearing thick boxer's
training gloves - and motions for Alita to get started.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Alita takes a few steps forward - Skye throws a RIGHT HOOK but Alita DUCKS underneath, KICKING Skye in the back of the leg and pushing her away.

Reiko charges in with a FLYING KICK, but Alita sidesteps and KICKS her in the chest, stopping her dead in mid-air.

Reiko hits the deck as Skye rushes in with an incoming attack, but Alita simply ROLLS underneath the blow, too fast for Skye as she ELBOWS her in the gut.

Skye WHEEZES and staggers back, and Reiko tries to SWEEP Alita, but Alita jumps over her leg and lands a planted KICK to Reiko's stomach.

Skye runs at her with a WAR CRY, but Alita launches herself into the air and lands delicately on Skye's shoulders.

She KICKS OFF, arcing gracefully in mid-air to DROP-KICK Skye twice in the back, before landing perfectly.

Alita strikes a fighting position, but her concentration is broken by as she sees how much Reiko is shaking.

ALITA

Reiko... are you alright?

REIKO

(whimpers)

Uh-huh!

Skye GROANS as she picks herself back up.

SKYE

Alright, alright, time out, Xena.

Alita bows to Reiko, who visibly sags with relief.

SKYE (cont'd)

I know we're wearing pads and everything but do you mind next time not going quite so 'enter The Dragon' on us?

ALITA

I am sorry. I just wanted to be prepared for tonight.

SKYE

Al Qaeda couldn't be prepared for you!

Alita smiles, hopping back and forth on her feet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SKYE (cont'd)

Look, I think I speak for everybody
- and their possibly cracked ribs -
when I say you'll be fine. Sure,
maybe you won't be able to do all
of that high-level ass-kickery you
just pulled, but... you'll work
with what you got.

ALITA

Thank you for believing in me.

REIKO

Hey, we've got your back, remember?
Anything happens, you know that I -

Alita shoots her a look, and Reiko GASPS in horror. She
quickly looks at her wrist - she isn't wearing a watch.

REIKO (cont'd)

Oh crap! Gotta go. I was supposed
to meet up for a thing. I'm so
dead!

Reiko tears away, almost tripping up as she starts tearing
off her protective gear. Skye watches her go, puzzled.

SKYE

She on something?

Alita just shrugs, feigning ignorance - and that's when
Fitzgerald enters the gym and heads over.

FITZGERALD

Alita? It's time.

Alita nods, turning to Skye - who GRABS her for a hug! Alita
smiles as Skye squeezes, and we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - NEXT

DEBBIE is preparing a syringe with a clear yellow fluid.

DEBBIE

Part of me wants to say how brave
you're being...

She turns and heads over to the exam table where Alita is
waiting, her sleeve rolled up.

DEBBIE (cont'd)

... and the other part wants to
shake you until you change your
mind.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALITA

I have made my decision, Debbie.

DEBBIE

Shaking.

Alita bows, and Debbie SIGHS as she knows there'll be no talking her out of this.

DEBBIE (cont'd)

Alright, then. I'd say 'last chance to change your mind...'

ALITA

... but you know what my answer will be.

Debbie hesitates - and then administers the injection. Once the serum is gone, she steps back.

ALITA (cont'd)

What happens next?

DEBBIE

Well, you'll start to feel a little sleepy, and then snap - out like a light. You'll wake up locked in a dark room with a hungry vampire, and after that it's up to you.

ALITA

Thank you for your concern.

DEBBIE

(blurts)

How can you be so blase about this?

ALITA

I... I am not sure I understand.

DEBBIE

Alita, we buried Juanita last week. Taking the fake Cruciamentum didn't do her any good, so what makes you think doing this will make any difference? For God's sake, you don't need to prove yourself!

ALITA

It is not about proving myself.

DEBBIE

Then what? What could possibly be so important that you'd risk your life for?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ALITA
(long beat)
I just have to be sure.

Debbie presses a hand to her forehead, frustrated.

DEBBIE
Alright, alright... fine. Just
count backwards from ten.

ALITA
Ju. Kyu. Hachi. Nana. Roku. Go...
Yon... Sa...

And she's fast asleep, wilting gracefully down onto the
waiting pillow.

DEBBIE
(sighs)
I hope you know what you're
doing...

And on Debbie's fearful expression we CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - GROUNDS - NIGHT

Rachel is taking a walk out in the chilly evening, breath
misting as she paces across the grass. The campus is at the
far end of the drive behind her.

DANA (O.S.)
I'm sorry you had to see that.

She turns - Dana steps into view. Rachel SHIVERS a little.

RACHEL
It's okay.

DANA
No, it isn't. You feel what I feel
now, and I let myself...
(grunts)
Ugh! I'm just sorry.

RACHEL
Hey, if Kira had done to me half of
what she did to you...

DANA
That doesn't excuse what I did.

RACHEL
Dana... we're in this together now.
You and me, we're gonna be sharing
everything for as long as it takes
to fix you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RACHEL (cont'd)
Whatever you're feeling, good or
bad - I want to feel it too.

Dana manages a smile, and Rachel relaxes a little - but then Dana tenses, turning round to look out into the night.

RACHEL (cont'd)
What is it?

DANA
I thought I heard -

FWIPP! Something snaps into frame and WHACKS Rachel hard in the jaw, spinning her round and sending her to the ground!

She's out cold - and Dana is gone. FOOTSTEPS crunch across the grass until a SHADOW looms over her - it's Dexter.

He speaks into the walkie-talkie in one hand, retrieving the BOLA he just stunned Rachel with in the other.

DEXTER
We're in.

He looks down at Rachel, puzzled.

DEXTER (cont'd)
Who were you talking to?

He looks up again as more figures approach - Braeden, CASSANDRA and SOFIA.

But they're not alone - literally stepping from the shadows behind them are row after row of CLONE DEMONS, armed to the teeth and ready for a rumble.

BRAEDEN
We need to keep moving. The
cloaking spell we're using won't
hold out for much longer.

CASSANDRA
Are they going to spot us before we
get to the front door?

BRAEDEN
Will that be a problem?

Cassandra smirks, hefting up a monstrous SWORD.

CASSANDRA
Actually, that just makes things a
lot more interesting.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DEXTER

'Interesting'? Alright, if we get as far as the library, remind me to steal you a dictionary.

Braeden turns to the demons - more of whom are still melting out of the darkness, the cloaking spell starting to fade.

BRAEDEN

Simple mission, everyone. Most of them'll either be in bed or waiting over on the far side of the compound, so it'll be easy money to burst in, grab the girl and throw a little ruckus around on the way back out.

CASSANDRA

Are we sure the witch isn't a threat?

BRAEDEN

(nods)

Had it confirmed. She's about as deadly as a sleeping kitten.

CASSANDRA

(deadpan)

I'm allergic.

Braeden blinks - then turns behind him and addresses the demons, which seem to be ever increasing in quantity.

BRAEDEN

Remember, kill anyone you see. Just leave her.

A DEMON on the front line pipes up.

DEMON #1

Can't we at least have part of her?

BRAEDEN

(rolls eyes)

Maybe a finger or two, but don't kill her. We need her alive.

The demons perk up - but something is clearly wrong with Sofia, who is clutching her head in pain.

Braeden notices, stepping closer to her. She lets out a long breath, woozy on her feet.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)

What's wrong, baby?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SOFIA

I'm getting those headaches again.

CASSANDRA

Perhaps you just hit puberty? It
can be quite a headrush.

SOFIA

Oh, get bent, you stupid bint!

DEXTER

Play nice, girls. Save the energy
for the disemboweling.

Braeden catches Cassandra glaring at Sofia, then casting a
glance at Braeden - a look that seems to suggest Sofia's
headache is a cause for concern.

Braeden shrugs it off, turning to make a final address to the
demons behind him:

BRAEDEN

Ladies. Gentlemen. Assorted weird
scary demon things.

(beat; grins)

Let's go to work.

Braeden leads his army forwards, and as the demon horde start
to RUMBLE with anticipation, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. CAMPUS - BARBARA'S ROOM - NIGHT

Barbara is sitting up in bed, reading a paperback. There's a soft KNOCK at her door, and she looks up as GREG pops the door open a crack.

GREG
Are you decent?

BARBARA
Depends who you ask.

Greg grins, stepping inside.

BARBARA (cont'd)
Couldn't sleep either?

GREG
(shakes head)
Not until I know she's back in one piece. I just saw Aiden, he can't even -

An ALARM SIREN suddenly rings out, startling them both.

GREG (cont'd)
Is that -

BARBARA
The perimeter alarm - we're under attack!

Still in her nightdress, she throws back the covers and leaps out of bed as we CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - MAIN ENTRANCE - NEXT

With an almighty SMASH of breaking glass, the first wave of demons break down the glass doors and surge into the reception.

Braeden watches with a smirk as the demons trample one another to get inside. He motions to the girls:

BRAEDEN
Ladies first.

Cassandra steps up, elbowing Sofia back to stay behind her as we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - NEXT

Doors are thrown open all down the dorm room corridor as the ALARM wakes up everyone within a two-mile radius.

Bleary-eyed Slayers lean out of their rooms, blinking in confusion as Skye comes rocketing down the corridor.

SKYE

Battle stations, battle stations!
Wake your asses up, ladies, this is
not a drill!

She meets Greg coming the other way.

SKYE (cont'd)

Who is it?

GREG

Braeden. He's brought his whole
team and enough demons to fill
Wembley.

SKYE

What? How the hell did he get past
all those cameras and magical 'spot
Braeden before he gets to the front
door' crap?

GREG

I don't know!

Slayers start to push past them. Pulling their clothes on as they pour towards pre-set defensive positions.

GREG (cont'd)

Take your squad and Frankie's and
get down to the main entrance. I'll
start locking the rest of the
campus down, stop them getting too
far inside.

SKYE

Alright, but what about -

SMASH! One of the windows SHATTERS as a SMOKE GRENADE sails inside, and in a heartbeat the corridor fills with choking clouds of thick, white smoke.

INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - NEXT

Debbie is helping the injured Slayers off their beds as AIDEN rushes over, loading a SHOTGUN.

DEBBIE

Please remain calm!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AIDEN

Debbie, we need to go.

DEBBIE

Aiden, we can't just leave these girls here!

AIDEN

We don't have a choice! If we try to move them all, we'll be sitting ducks.

DEBBIE

So what the hell do you suggest?

MANU

We can lock the infirmary down. Seal ourselves inside.

DEBBIE

Yeah, great plan - until wounded people outside need to get in.

AIDEN

Look, we don't have a lot of options! They'll be looking to cause as much damage as possible, and a room full of already-weakened Slayers is just what they -

MANU

(penny drops)

It's not us they want.

Debbie blinks - then her expression switches to one of horror as she gasps:

DEBBIE

Maria...

Another GRENADE smashes through the window, and as the trio stagger back, COUGHING, the first group of DEMONS make it to the windows!

AIDEN

Go! All of you!

He takes aim and FIRES - the closest demon's head DETONATING in a spray of ichor.

Manu and Debbie start to herd the remaining Slayers outside as we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - SAFE HOUSE - NEXT

A dark, ramshackle house, all creaky floorboards and rising damp.

Laying sprawled out on the floor is Alita. As she comes to, she groggily begins to stand up, holding her head in pain.

ALITA

Wha... where is...

Her eyes come into focus - and she realises she's inside the safe house. The Cruciamentum has begun.

She slowly rises to her feet, her senses sluggish but already starting to catch up.

Alita paces forward, head snapping from side to side as she listens for the inevitable approach of the vampire...

... but she hears a muffled BOOM instead, sounding like it came from some distance away.

She frowns, trying to work out what she just heard - and a FIGURE drops into view before her!

She whirls round - but takes a heavy PUNCH that knocks her backwards.

VAMPIRE

Gotcha!

She looks up from the ground - it's the VAMPIRE, brow knotted and fangs on display as he sneers triumphantly.

VAMPIRE (cont'd)

We both know I'm dust whether I
kill you or not, little girl... so
let's try to make this entertaining
at least.

Alita glares, FLIPPING back up to her feet and launching into an attack as we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - DORM ROOM - NEXT

Erika is at the door, listening for any signs of incoming attack as Maria hurriedly gets dressed.

MARIA

I don't understand! What's going
on? Is there a fire?

ERIKA

They are coming for you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARIA
(eyes wide)
The... the people from before?

Erika steps back over to her, grabbing Maria's wrist.

ERIKA
We have to run. We are in no
position to fight.

MARIA
But the girls...

ERIKA
(snaps)
They can't help you! Only I can
protect you, do you understand?

MARIA
(beat)
Where are we going?

ERIKA
I will figure that out when we get
there. First, we must -

CRASH! The second door into the room is BLASTED open as a
demon that's ninety percent muscle forces its way inside.

Erika leaps back out through the other door, YANKING Maria
along after her as we CUT TO:

EXT. SAFE HOUSE - NIGHT

A tense Cerys paces back and forth, yelling into her walkie-
talkie:

CERYS
Greg? Barbara? Anybody? Somebody
tell me what the feck is going on
over there! Sounds like we're in
the middle of bloody Baghdad!

No response. Another muffled BOOM from the campus. Cerys
looks back towards the safe house.

CERYS (cont'd)
(into radio)
I can't leave Alita, but I can't
just sit here! Can somebody just
come and help me out?!?

Nothing but static. Cerys CURSES as we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - AUDITORIUM - NEXT

In the main hall, a fresh wave of demons pours in through the doors from the canteen - but a pack of SLAYERS are waiting!

With a CHEER, the girls surge forward and BASH their way through the demons, knocking them down like skittles.

Swords, axes and anything in between slice through the air, SPRAYS of demon blood flying as bodies drop.

One demon GUTS an unfortunate Slayer, HOOTING in triumph as he pushes her body from his sword.

BRAEDEN (O.S.)
Woo, take in easy, mate! Leave some
for the rest of us, eh?

LOLA looks up in horror as Braeden looms over her.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)
After all...

SHINK! He puts a hole through her with his Scythe.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)
... wouldn't want my life to get
boring.

Lola wheezes her last, BLOOD bubbling on her lips as she slides to the floor.

The rear doors of the hall FLY OPEN as Frankie's squad finally arrive, Skye's team right behind her.

Skye quickly assesses the situation - there's too many demons for the girls to handle, with more Slayers dropping every second.

SKYE
(yells)
Everybody, fall back! Regroup out
in the quad!

With practised co-ordination, the Slayers flow away from the demons, throwing open the glass doors in the right-hand wall and scurrying out into the quad.

Braeden spots the two Slayer squads, and nudges Dexter to get his attention.

He WHISTLES to get the demon horde's attention, then points towards the Slayers heading outside.

BRAEDEN
Take care of them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

With a chorus of guttural ROARS, the demons oblige him and swarm outside - leaving Braeden's team facing the two squads.

SKYE

Alright, we're two girls down with Alita and Erika, so we're gonna have to work extra hard.

Sofia tugs at Braeden's arm, whispering urgently:

SOFIA

We can't get bogged down fighting! We're here on a mission, remember?

BRAEDEN

Don't worry, babe. This won't take long.

The two sides advance on each other, each picking their opponents as they square off.

Skye LUNGES at Braeden, but is cut off by Sofia who TACKLES her to the side.

Frankie throws a punch at Cassandra with her good arm, which Cassandra blocks and grabs, pulling her close.

CASSANDRA

How's the arm Frankie? Still there?

FRANKIE

(grimaces)

Disparaissent la baise vous-même, putain!

CASSANDRA

I'm going to assume that wasn't a compliment.

She WRENCHES the arm round, and Frankie HOWLS in pain.

Tsula and Reiko, meanwhile, are fighting Dexter, who wields a sword in each hand as he keeps them at bay.

Tsula goes for a SWEEPING HIGH KICK, but Dexter nimbly ducks under her outstretched leg - and ELBOWS her in the kidney!

Tsula doubles over, but Reiko thunders in with a HAMMER PUNCH, loosening Dexter's fillings.

DEXTER

You know, just between you and me - straight up fighting? Not my thing.

He SMACKS Reiko across the chops, sending her backwards.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DEXTER (cont'd)
I'll always give it a try, though.

Tsula is back up, GRABBING Dexter's arm and delivering three SNAP PUNCHES to his gut.

TSULA
Truth is... I hate fighting too.

DEXTER
So why do it?

Tsula launches towards Dexter and takes him to the ground.

TSULA
Said I hated it.

CRACK! She bounces his head off the floor, stunning him.

TSULA (cont'd)
Didn't say I wouldn't do it.

Cassandra KICKS the winded Frankie across the jaw, turning on Anna as Frankie slumps.

Anna blocks two KICKS from Cassandra and throws a lazy punch of her own. Cassandra sneakily pulls out two small knives from her back and strikes a stance.

CASSANDRA
Ideally, I should be thanking you...

SNIKT! The knives SLICE left and right - catching Anna across both forearms.

CASSANDRA (cont'd)
... but we both know you'd just get all embarrassed...

She SPINS one knife round and THROWS it - opening a jagged GASH across Anna's cheek!

CASSANDRA (cont'd)
... and I'm too polite for that.

With a feral ROAR, Anna launches towards Cassandra, who SPINS round with her knife at throat-height.

Anna manages to change course, SLAMMING into Cassandra's legs and taking them both down.

ON THE BALCONY as the rear door is kicked open, Delaney and Kira spilling out to see the battle below.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DELANEY

Aw, crap! I knew I shoulda gone out tonight...

KIRA

So go and help them. I'm afraid I won't be much use.

Delaney throws her a glare, but Kira just holds up her hands, miming being handcuffed.

With a GRUNT, Delaney clatters down the balcony stairs and LEAPS over the edge!

She sails down into the fight below, CRASHING into Sofia and taking them both down.

Delaney gets up first, grappling the stunned Sofia and rearing back for a punch.

DELANEY

Boo.

POW! She lays one on Sofia as we CUT TO:

EXT. SAFE HOUSE - NEXT

Cerys hears a shrill SCREAM from the campus, and decides she can't wait any longer.

She reaches into her jacket and draws a HANDGUN, checking the clip and thumbing the safety.

CERYS

Sorry, Alita, but you'll have to -

A soft FWIPP makes her turn.

An ARROW has landed just next to her - with an EXPLOSIVE DEVICE strapped to it!

CERYS (cont'd)

Oh, sh -

BOOM! She's hurled back through the air, CRASHING into the wall of the safe house and disappearing in a cloud of smoke.

ON THE DEMON with the bow who just fired the arrow, who hops up and down as he CACKLES in delight, and we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - SCIENCE BLOCK - NEXT

Debbie and Manu are herding the injured Slayers from the infirmary through the winding science block, the sounds of BATTLE echoing all around them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Aiden jogs round to catch them up, already spattered with blood as he reloads his shotgun.

DEBBIE

What do we do? We're going to run
out of places to hide!

Three DEMONS lurch round the corner, one young Slayer trapped between them.

Aiden whips round and brings up his shotgun, but he can't get a clear shot - and one demon sinks its FANGS into her neck!

She SCREAMS in terror - it's Adrienne, one of Skye's new recruits.

Aiden wastes no time, FIRING three times in quick succession and blasting all three demons away.

Adrienne slumps to the floor, but Aiden tosses his empty shotgun away, tearing off his jacket as he kneels over her.

Debbie boggles - then realises what he's doing as Aiden reaches out with his hands.

DEBBIE (cont'd)

Aiden, no! There isn't time!

He doesn't listen, sweat dripping from his brow as he lays his healing hands on her...

... and with a GASP, Adrienne jolts back to life, breathing rapidly as Aiden leans back, grinning.

AIDEN

There. All better.

Debbie and Manu hurry over, hauling the weakened Aiden back to his feet as we CUT TO:

INT. SAFE HOUSE - NEXT

Back to Alita, facing off against the vampire. Even without her Slayer strength, she's matching him blow for blow.

VAMPIRE

What's the hurry? Don't you want to
take your time with this one?

ALITA

My friends may be in trouble. Your
death will be quick.

The vampire smirks - and SMASHES a fist into her which staggers her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VAMPIRE

My death already was quick. It's
yours I'm interested in.

Alita snaps round with a BACKHAND, surprising the vamp.

VAMPIRE (cont'd)

You hit hard for a girl.

ALITA

Eighteen years of practise.

VAMPIRE

Hmm...

The vampire UPPERCUTS her and she flies to the ground. She
may be powerful but she's lost her stamina.

VAMPIRE (cont'd)

... I think I hit harder.

Alita rolls backwards and continues her assault.

She PUNCHES and KICKS the vampire, who takes both blows and
DUCKS under the next kick.

He CLAWS at her but she dodges both blows, jumps against the
wall and lands a KICK on the vampire's chest.

The vampire falls against one of the pillars, which SPLINTERS
into several hunks of wood.

The vampire SPIN KICKS Alita, who steps backwards - taking
the hit - but the vampire continues to SWEEP her feet. It
POUNCES on her, ready to bite!

Alita struggles to pry the vampire off of her, then KNEES him
in the gut.

Scrambling to her feet she grabs a handful of DUST from the
floor and quickly BLOWS it in the vampire's face, temporarily
blinding him.

He stumbles back, disoriented. Alita capitalizes on this and
DROP-KICKS the vampire, sending it backwards - and impaling
it through it's heart on the broken piece of pillar!

The vampire lets out a last SHOUT of pain before it DUSTS,
and Alita slumps, exhausted.

ALITA

(in Japanese)

<Thank you... father.>

She turns, trying to find which way leads her out of this
maze, and we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - AUDITORIUM - NEXT

With Delaney in the fray, the scores are a little more even - Braeden's team versus Skye, Anna, Reiko, Tsula and Delaney.

Skye glances out into the quad - and sees an EXPLOSION blow out the library windows overhead.

Braeden wipes blood from a split lip, his team poised and ready around him.

BRAEDEN

Seriously... starting to get a bit racked off with all this now. Just give us the girl.

SKYE

What 'girl'?

Braeden glances at Anna, who pales, but before anyone can notice Delaney whips up her hand, palm out:

FOOM! A bolt of BLUE ENERGY hits Dexter in the chest, and that's the signal for Skye's team to attack again.

Tsula drags the dazed Frankie back as Delaney covers her, locking swords with Sofia.

SOFIA

So it is true? You changed sides?

DELANEY

Yeah, imagine that.

Delaney TWISTS to break the deadlock, her sword SPARKING off Sofia's Scythe as the two duel.

DELANEY (cont'd)

I mean, technically, I'm working for myself, but I figure if anyone could understand making a switch, it'd be you.

She KICKS Sofia in the face, and she stumbles backwards.

DELANEY (cont'd)

he must be dynamite in the sack to keep you evil, is all I'm saying.

Sofia retaliates with a hard PUNCH, snapping Delaney's head back.

SOFIA

He's alright.

Delaney spits out a TOOTH.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DELANEY
You rotten little -

WHACK! A bundle of CHAIRS hits Delaney dead on, and she crumples - out cold.

Sofia spins to see Dexter, fresh from having beaten Tsula to the ground, shrugging and winking - stood by a pile of chairs.

SKYE (O.S.)
Hey!

Sofia turns - and barely dodges an attack from Skye! Sofia KNEES Skye in the stomach and then lands an UPPERCUT.

Sofia advances on Skye as she PUNCHES her, but Skye blocks both and PUSHES Sofia backwards with her leg.

SKYE (cont'd)
Ya know, this is getting pretty
frickin' old now.

She HOOKS her sai around the Scythe, WRENCHING it out of Sofia's hands.

SKYE (cont'd)
So I say we finish this one.

Skye and Sofia rush towards each other, launching into a vicious bare knuckle fight.

Sofia hits Skye with a KICK, sending her sideways. Skye retaliates with a DOUBLE PUNCH, pushing her backwards.

Skye runs towards Sofia, but Sofia TRAPS Skye's legs, making her fall flat on her face.

Sofia grabs her ankle, SWINGS her round and lifts her up and across the room, sending Skye SMASHING into the stacks of chairs against the wall!

Skye collapses to the ground in a shower of chairs, pinned by the weight crushing her.

Sofia manages a snicker as she recovers - but the smile fades as her eyes fall on a new arrival.

It's Alita.

She locks gazes with Sofia - now it's on.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. CAMPUS - AUDITORIUM - NIGHT

Alita squares off against Sofia, as Braeden calls out:

BRAEDEN

Babe?

SOFIA

(over her shoulder)

I've got this one. Get the girl.

Braeden turns, lands a knockout PUNCH to Reiko that floors her, and then hurries back, heading for the exit.

Dexter pulls Tsula up by the hair, knife at her throat...

BRAEDEN (O.S.)

Dexter, come on!

DEXTER

But what about -

BRAEDEN

I said let's go!

Dexter pouts, SHOVING Tsula back to the ground and hurrying after Braeden.

Anna is the last girl standing, and has no choice but to race after them.

Alita paces slowly forward - behind her, the battle in the quad rages on, a demon's body BURSTING through the windows in the first-storey classroom corridor.

SOFIA

Enjoy your Cruciamentum?

No answer. Alita continues to advance.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Mine was a bit of a mess, all things considered. Always did have the feeling somebody was out to get me at this place.

ALITA

What did you do with Miss Mason?

SOFIA

(shrugs)

No idea. Haven't seen her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ALITA
Do not lie to me.

SOFIA
I'm not! I've been in here the
whole time.

Sofia, still edging backwards, quickly darts to grab her discarded Scythe.

Alita rushes forward, but pulls up as Sofia grabs the weapons, recovering quickly.

SOFIA (cont'd)
You know, I'm actually glad that
you managed to pass the test in one
piece...

Sofia tightens her grip on the Scythe.

SOFIA (cont'd)
... because it's about to be the
last thing you ever did.

Sofia charges at the barehanded Alita, who has no choice to duck under the SWIPES of the Scythe.

Sofia SLICES once to Alita's head, which she ducks under and then again to her midsection, which she leans away from.

Alita SNAP KICKS Sofia in the face, who stumbles back, the heavy weight of her Scythe dragging her down.

SOFIA (cont'd)
Is it just me... or are you not
hitting as hard as you used to?

Alita's face betrays what's going on, and Sofia grins wickedly.

SOFIA (cont'd)
Oh, I know what's going on...
you're still half-cut on that stuff
they shoot you up with, aren't
they?

Alita clenches her teeth, anger bubbling over before she launches a DOUBLE KICK, which Sofia easily side-steps.

Alita tries a backhand, but Sofia ELBOWS her stomach, twisting to nail her with an UPPERCUT, sending her flying.

Alita SKIDS across the ground as she lands, and Sofia can't help but CACKLE - Advantage Romero as we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - ART CORRIDOR - NEXT

As more demons rampage through the campus, tearing down displays and SMASHING anything not nailed down, Fitzgerald turns a corner with Greg and a small pack of Slayers.

GREG
(to demons)
Oi!

They look up, and he levels his sword at them.

GREG (cont'd)
People spent a long time on those
posters you're defacing.

The demons ROAR at him, bounding forward on all fours, but the Slayers CHARGE to meet them head-on.

It's bedlam as one demon gets cut almost clean in two, but a Slayer gets picked up and SLAMMED into the wall - hard enough to BREAK HER NECK.

Fitzgerald flounders, unarmed and with no way to help out - until Kira suddenly appears behind her.

KIRA
There's a way to stop this.

Fitzgerald spins - and reads Kira's intent.

FITZGERALD
(shakes head)
No, absolutely not. We were ordered
by the Council to not, under any
circumstances -

KIRA
(snaps)
We don't have a choice, you daft
tart! Would you rather we get torn
to shreds and eaten alive, or would
you like me to do something about
those monsters?

Fitzgerald looks round - Greg and the Slayers are fighting bravely, but another girl goes down, a demon taking a BITE out of her throat.

Fitzgerald turns back to Kira, and sags, nodding.

FITZGERALD
Alright.

She reaches into her jacket and takes out a small metal CHARM - and with one motion SNAPS it in two.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kira closes her eyes, feeling a RUSH of power flood back into her, her breath catching.

KIRA
I thought... I thought Babs was the
only one who could...

FITZGERALD
We took it in turns to hold onto
this thing.

She tosses the two halves of the now-useless charm away.

Kira grins - then turns her focus on the demons taking Greg's Slayers apart. She CRACKS her knuckles.

KIRA
You might want to stand back.

Fitzgerald steps back as Kira advances, mumbling an incantation under her breath...

Greg CRIES OUT as a demon BITES his arm, and even as he tries to PUNCH the thing enough times to make it let go, the demon sees the incoming Kira.

Her hair billows out, a HAZE of magical energy forming around her as she powers up...

FWOOSH! A wave of POWER blasts down the corridor like a tornado - and the demons SHRIEK as they're incinerated!

Greg and the remaining Slayers are unharmed - a little singed, but otherwise okay.

KIRA (cont'd)
(smirks)
Oh, that felt good...

From Greg's disbelief, we CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - QUADRANGLE - NEXT

Aiden and Debbie make it out into the main quad, where the bulk of the Slayer versus demon battle is taking place.

Another EXPLOSION rings out from the library overhead, and the quad floor is littered with bodies from both sides.

AIDEN
I have to help them...

Aiden hurries towards the nearest fallen Slayer, even as Debbie gets a sword up to fend off a SNARLING demon.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBBIE

Aiden? Aiden! Help me!

Aiden lays his hands on the fallen form of MAYA, the Israeli Slayer WHEEZING from a ragged CHEST WOUND.

Debbie struggles desperately against the demon SNAPPING its jaws at her, even as Aiden pushes to heal Maya...

Maya sits up with a SHOUT, but Aiden is already off to the next girl, leaving the stunned Slayer behind.

NEELA is next, a hand pressed to her neck as BLOOD pumps from her artery.

AIDEN

Hold on, hold on...

He presses his hands either side of her neck, his hands GLOWING as he focuses his energies.

Left behind, Debbie is SHOVED up against the wall by her attacker, her sword barely keeping its fangs from closing round her throat!

DEBBIE

(screams)

Aiden!!

He can't hear her, releasing Neela - who reels as she finds her wound is gone - and moving on to the next victim.

Demons and Slayers clash all around him, pushing him further from the frantic Debbie.

Aiden comes to the aide of TIA, who is trying to crawl to safety even as a DAGGER sticks from her side.

Aiden puts one hand over the wound and another on her belly - and YANKS the dagger free!

Tia YOWLS in pain, but Aiden's magic touch does the trick - she's as good as new in moments.

Aiden finally stands - and his eyes finally meet Debbie's, realising at last the peril she's in.

His eyes bulge as he realises with shock that he recognises her attacker - it's the same demon he healed that told him of the Cabal's plan to dish out the anti-Slayer weapons!

AIDEN

Debbie! Debbie, hang on!

He PUSHES his way back through the melee, Debbie disappearing from view each time his path is blocked.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

AIDEN (cont'd)
Debbie!

Debbie tries to push the demon back - but it's too late. It makes one final LUNGE - and sinks both CLAWED HANDS into her chest!

AIDEN (cont'd)
No!!

TIME SLOWS DOWN as the demon RIPS its claws from her chest, Debbie sliding down the wall - leaving a trail of BLOOD.

Aiden can't reach her - he's struggling to shove past two demons even as she falls.

TIME RESUMES as he finally skids to her side, Debbie fading fast as he cradles her head.

DEBBIE
(weakly)
Aiden...

AIDEN
Don't talk. You're gonna be fine.

DEBBIE
Aiden, don't... do anything. It'll
kill you...

Debbie's eyes close as she goes limp.

AIDEN
(panicked)
Debbie? Debbie!

He SHAKES her, but she's unresponsive. He looks up - nobody else can help. He looks at his hands - and sees at last that several CUTS, WOUNDS and BRUISES have started to form all over his body!

He's at the very edge of his powers - but he takes another deep breath and plants his hands on Debbie's stomach, her clothes slick with blood, as we CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - GARDENS - NEXT

Erika and Maria are running as fast as they can across the large garden of the campus.

CRASHING through the bushes and plants behind them is a pack of demons - with Dexter and Cassandra close behind!

They continue to run, but one demon LEAPS through the air and TACKLES Erika to the ground. Maria slows, and Erika yells:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ERIKA

Go! Keep running! Don't stop!

Maria hesitates, but as two more demons pile onto her sister's struggling body, she bites her lip and runs.

Erika fights back, but she's having the breath crushed from her body under the weight of the demons.

Her strength starts to fade...

... until a SWORD pierces one demon's skull, Maria YELLING as she drives the blade straight through and into the next!

Erika gets the break she needs to PUSH OUT from under the bodies, Maria grabbing her hand and dragging her free.

ERIKA (cont'd)

You... you shouldn't...

DEXTER (O.S.)

She's right...

Maria looks up - Dexter and Cassandra have caught them.

DEXTER (cont'd)

... you really shouldn't have.

Erika pushes Maria behind her, backing up even as the two Cabal agents advance.

The girls BUMP into the gazebo, Erika reaching back to identify what it is.

ERIKA

Climb up here and get on the roof.

MARIA

But -

ERIKA

Do it now!

Maria begins to climb up on the side of the gazebo, and from there up on to the roof of the Academy.

Erika stands her ground against Dexter and Cassandra, unarmed as they move to cover each side of her.

ERIKA (cont'd)

I will not let you take her.

CASSANDRA

If you're about to add 'over my dead body,' then trust me - that's very much on the cards.

EXT. CAMPUS - GARDENS/ROOFTOP - NEXT

Maria scrambles to her feet and looks down on Erika as she launches into the attack below.

Erika blocks an incoming CHOP from Dex's sword, turning to KICK Cassandra before WRENCHING Dexter's wrist round, DRIVING her palm up into his throat.

Choking, Dexter sinks to his knees, allowing Erika the opening to SMASH a hammer fist across his temple.

POW! Erika takes a ROUNDHOUSE to the back of the neck, pitching her headfirst into the gazebo.

MARIA

No!

She stands - but then freezes and slowly turns...

... a FLYING DEMON, black as the night sky, is swooping down towards her! Maria steps back, but there's nowhere to go.

MARIA (cont'd)

Erika!

She gets ready to jump down - but the demon GRABS her by the shoulders, scooping her up like a bird of prey!

MARIA (cont'd)

No!! Erika! Help me!

ERIKA

Maria!

Erika screams out in failure as she hears Maria's cries fade away into the night:

ERIKA (cont'd)

Maria!!

WHACK! Cassandra silences her with a final, staggering PUNCH as we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - CORRIDORS - NEXT

Kira is tearing through the demons using as many magic spells as she can. She's floating a few inches off the ground in this sudden surge of power.

FIREBALLS and BOLTS of energy fly from her fingers as Barbara joins a stunned Fitzgerald.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BARBARA
Grace? What the hell -
(sees Kira)
What did you do?!?

FITZGERALD
(distant)
I had no idea.. I mean, I knew she
was strong, but this...

BARBARA
Grace! Snap out of it!

Kira CACKLES as she BLASTS the skin from two demons' bodies,
their skeletons collapsing to the floor.

FITZGERALD
I didn't know what else to do...

GREG
Barbara.

He takes her arm, his grim, blood-spattered face telling the
whole story.

GREG (cont'd)
We didn't have a choice.

Barbara looks back towards Kira, still in a world of her own
as we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - AUDITORIUM - NEXT

Sofia and Alita are still going at it all guns blazing, now
alone in the hall - except for the KO'd Slayers nearby.

Sofia throws a KICK at Alita, but as she ducks Sofia drops
down and SWEEPS Alita's legs out from under her.

Alita manages to arch her back, landing on her hands and
PUSHING OFF, spinning her leg round to KICK Sofia back.

Alita lands on her feet, taking a moment to look down at her
fists - and then she clenches them with renewed fervour.

ALITA
My powers are returning.

SOFIA
(dazed)
It won't matter...

ALITA
We can still end this without
further bloodshed, Sofia. Just give
yourself up, and we can -

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA

No!

She SURGES forward, forcing Alita to CARTWHEEL back to avoid the Scythe.

SOFIA (cont'd)

It's too late! It's been too late
for me since the first time we
fought!

Alita backflips, KICKING the Scythe upwards and away from her. Whilst Sofia is distracted, Alita scrambles for a sword on the floor next to her.

She SWIPES at Sofia, who blocks with the shaft of the Scythe. Deadlocked, Sofia begins pushing the Scythe towards Alita.

Sofia is winning, forcing Alita back onto one bended knee - but with a sudden surge of adrenaline, Alita PUSHES them back to level - and then takes the advantage.

She KNEES Sofia in the stomach, who stumbles back. Alita continues to PUNCH her in the face, making her stumble further back.

Sofia falls, the Scythe skittering from her hands, and Alita has her dead to rights.

She has her shot. She readies her sword by pulling it back, but she hesitates.

She can't do it, and it reads all over her face.

Sofia gets the time to regain focus. Flailing wildly, she knocks the sword right out of Alita's hand with a war cry.

She spins around, scoops up the Scythe and in one motion SLAMS the sharp end of the Scythe straight into Alita's chest!

BLOOD sprays over Sofia. Alita's eyes widen in disbelief.

SOFIA (cont'd)

(eyes wide)

Alita...

Alita grimaces, pain coursing through her body. Sofia's expression softens. She PULLS the Scythe out of Alita's chest, who slumps to the ground.

Sofia touches the blood on her face with her fingers, an expression of horror on her face.

Sofia lets the Scythe fall from her hand, CLATTERING to the ground.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

She drops to Alita's side, trembling as she stares into Alita's wide eyes. BLOOD is pooling around them both.

SOFIA (cont'd)
Alita, I... I'm...

ALITA
What is it... you are afraid of?
Death? Or... me?

TEARS stream down Sofia's face.

SOFIA
Oh, God... Alita! Alita, I'm
sorry... I'm sorry... I'm sorry...

ALITA
I never thought... that things
would turn out... this way...
either...

Alita reaches up and GRIPS Sofia's hand, and Sofia stares down at it in utter disbelief.

There's an EXPLOSION behind them - and several demon BODY PARTS shower into the room, quickly followed by Dexter, Cassandra and Braeden.

DEXTER
The hell is she doing back in the
fight?

CASSANDRA
You said she wasn't a threat!

BRAEDEN
She wasn't!

Kira appears in the shattered doorway to the hall, still a few inches off the ground. She GRINS as her eyes fall on the three Cabal killers.

KIRA
Hello, you...

She SNAPS her palm, and a bolt of LIGHTNING streaks down, HITTING Cassandra and blasting her back through the air!

She SLAMS DOWN just past Sofia and Alita, and Dexter is quick to race over to her.

DEXTER
Sofia, come on. We have to go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SOFIA
(shakes head)
No...

DEXTER
What? Come on!

Dexter sees Alita, cradled in Sofia's arms.

DEXTER (cont'd)
You got her! Nice work. Now let's
go!

Braeden joins them, DUCKING as Kira sends a FIREBALL his way.

BRAEDEN
Gather all the survivors. Call a
retreat. We can't...

He trails off, seeing Sofia on the floor. She brushes stray
hair back from Alita's face.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)
(to self)
Oh, no...
(Calling out to her)
Sofia!

She looks up, but just cries even harder. She can't look at
him any more.

DEXTER
Braeden, man... we gotta go.

Braeden doesn't flinch. Dexter focuses on Cassandra, helping
the smoking Slayer back up.

BRAEDEN
(quiet)
Sofia?

We stay on Braeden's crestfallen expression for a moment.

DEXTER
Braeden...

Cassandra and Dexter grab Braeden's arms and literally have
to drag him out.

BRAEDEN
No... no!
(struggles)
Let me go! Let go of me! Sofia!
Sofia!!

Kira sends more bolts their way, the trio bugging out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BRAEDEN (cont'd)
Sofia!!

His cries ring out even after Dexter and Cassandra have hauled him away.

Kira settles back onto her feet, breathless with exertion but having had the time of her life.

KIRA
Now... that was what I call...

She looks down. Sofia is clutching Alita close to her, rocking back and forth as she SOBS. Kira's face falls.

KIRA (cont'd)
Oh.

Sofia continues to weep as we CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - QUADRANGLE - NEXT

CLOSE ON DEBBIE, her lifeless body pale and still, her glassy eyes staring straight up into the sky.

PULL BACK slowly for another few beats - until she suddenly LURCHES forward, GASPING like a drowning victim!

She takes a few more short, shallow breaths as her eyes dart around the quad. Her eyes transfix on the floor before her.

It's Aiden.

He's on his side - the exact chest wound that Debbie suffered open and bloody on his chest.

DEBBIE
(horrificed)
Aiden! Aiden, no, please, no...

She scrambles over to him, trying to support his head. Aiden manages a weak smile.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
Aiden, tell me you didn't...

AIDEN
(breathless)
Yeah... I did.

DEBBIE
But... why?

AIDEN
I'm done, Debs... it's over. You
can help...
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AIDEN (cont'd)
(grimaces)
... much more than I ever could.

DEBBIE
Aiden...

She touches his face softly - but he's gone. Debbie lets out a SOB, the awful truth sinking in...

... and standing right behind her is Greg. He stares down at Aiden's lifeless body, eyes wide, unable to move or even speak.

Debbie starts to turn, realising at last that Greg is behind her as we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - AUDITORIUM - NEXT

Alita is fading fast, but she has enough strength to stir in Sofia's arms.

SOFIA
Alita... I'm...

ALITA
(weakly)
Sofia... is it... you? The real
you?

Sofia begins sobbing again.

SOFIA
It's me, it's me... Alita, please..
I never wanted... I can't...

ALITA
You had... no choice...

SOFIA
No... please...

ALITA
Sofia... give my love to my family.
Tell them... I've found peace. With
my mother.

SOFIA
Alita...

ALITA
(smiles)
I get to see her...

Alita's eyes flutter - and close for good. She sags in Sofia's arms, her body falling limp.

All sound dies away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Sofia clutches Alita's body for another beat - then lets out a SCREAM that rings out around the entire campus.

The scream dies down as Sofia's voice gives in, and she lowers her head to suck in air in great, ragged gulps.

Sofia looks up at last - a horde of SLAYERS surround her. Some look at her, some at Alita, but nobody says a word.

Amongst the faces are a bruised Skye, Tsula, Frankie and Delaney - but at the forefront is Reiko.

She's quivering, her eyes locked on Alita's body as if somebody just changed the rules of her entire universe.

Sofia's mouth flaps, trying to find something to say - but nothing comes.

Skye steps forward, placing a hand on Reiko's shoulder as she moves past her.

Sofia meets her gaze, still desperately searching for words. Skye just lowers her head, shaking it.

Sofia's face is contorted with emotion, utterly lost and overwhelmed at what she's done...

... and Skye rears back to land a PUNCH so hard it knocks Sofia flat to the floor, knocking her cold as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW