

SLAYER ACADEMY

"Woman Down"

by
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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. ROAD - DAY

1

A little, windy country road. Surrounded by thick, dark hedges and trees, illuminated only by the full beam headlights of a slightly beat-up looking Vauxhall because the hedges and trees are so thick.

VOICE (V.O.)

Are we there yet?

2 INT. VAUXHALL - SAME

2

LAYLA is driving, a look of extreme annoyance on her face as she glances into the rear view mirror. BARBARA sits in the passenger seat, her head stooped as she goes through a file of papers.

DEBBIE sits behind her, pointedly trying not to pay any attention to CAROLINE, a stylish blonde, American SLAYER - the owner of the voice.

LAYLA

If we were there, we wouldn't be driving through a dark country lane, would we?

CAROLINE

(sneers)

It's a 'road,' not a 'lane,' British.

LAYLA

There's hardly a difference!

DEBBIE

Plus, the British-American ratio is three to one, so probably not the best choice of words. Unless you'd like us to start calling you 'Yank' or something?

CAROLINE

(indignant)

Hey!

LAYLA

(smirks)

The brunette-blonde ratio is also three to one, so don't go down that lane-slash-road.

Caroline huffs slightly and leans back in her seat, her arms folded in defeat.

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA

(distracted)

When you're quite finished, girls,
we have more important things to
think about than cultural slurs and
choice of nouns.

(patiently; to Layla)

How much longer?

LAYLA

Half an hour?

(beat)

If we had been allowed to drive on
anything resembling actual tarmac,
we'd be there already, but as it
stands...

BARBARA

(nods)

This is safer. We're less
detectable travelling if -

CRASH!

The windshield SHATTERS, the girls within letting out CRIES
of alarm as the car skids out of control.

Barbara's files fly all over the car as Debbie and Caroline
join in the screaming game, and the car SCREECHES before
SMASHING into a clump of trees!

On the other side of the road, BRAEDEN and DEX look up as
CASSANDRA drops from a tree, a bow and a handful of arrows in
her hands.

CASSANDRA

(smirks)

That was just...

DEX

Shockingly easy and leaving us in
awe as to how they've all survived
this long?

BRAEDEN

A waste of a perfectly good car?

Cassandra raises an eyebrow, and the trio march towards the
car billowing smoke from its crushed front end.

4 INT. VAUXHALL - SAME

4

Inside the car, Barbara groans as she rights herself, saved from serious injury by her seat belt, but still sporting a nasty bruise on her neck.

Wincing in pain, she looks across to the driving seat where Layla is still sat.

And Cassandra's ARROW protrudes from the unfortunate slayer's throat, her lifeless eyes staring back at Barbara.

BARBARA
(shocked)
Oh God...
(beat)
Debbie? Carol -

CAROLINE
(groggy)
Aww, we there yet?

BARBARA
Shut up and get out!

DEBBIE
What's going on?

BARBARA
(frantic)
Get out! Now!

DEBBIE
But Layla's hurt. She's -

BARBARA
She's dead, Debbie! Get out!

Barbara tears the seat belt off and forces her door open, but before she can even attempt to make her own escape, a pair of HANDS reach in and pull her out!

5 EXT. ROAD - CONTINUOUS

5

Barbara cries out in surprise as she looks up at Cassandra, the Slayer having grabbed her by the front of her jacket.

Her eyes flick cautiously to Braeden and Dex, who are stood behind her.

CASSANDRA
(smirks)
Well, look what I found.

BRAEDEN
Been a while, eh, Barb?

(CONTINUED)

CAROLINE (O.S.)

Hey!

The team turn their attention back to the car, as Caroline appears on its roof, and Debbie steps out of the car on their side.

Debbie looks just short of petrified, but Caroline looks ready to go at it, a short sword held firmly in one hand.

DEX

(grins; to Debbie)

Hello again.

CAROLINE

How about you try addressing the actual Slayer?

Caroline ignores Debbie's sharp look as Braeden chuckles, turning to his colleagues.

BRAEDEN

I think this one's got a superiority complex.

CAROLINE

(beat)

Huh?

CASSANDRA

(rolls eyes)

That'll make up for the two brain cells she doesn't have.

CAROLINE

Yeah? Well...

(beat; lost)

Oh, screw it.

Caroline SOMERSAULTS off the roof of the car, catching Cassandra by surprise, KICKING the older Slayer hard in the chest and throwing her down to the ground!

Barbara SLAMS back into the car from the impact, but Caroline doesn't stop; she SLAMS a punch into Cassandra's face as she lands on her feet.

Debbie rushes to grab Barbara, but is intercepted by Dex, who slams a solid KICK into her gut, and BOUNCES her head off the side of the car!

Debbie cries out but clings onto her consciousness, struggling to get back to her feet as Caroline takes on Braeden, using her sword to block blows from his SCYTHE.

(CONTINUED)

BRAEDEN

What're you trying to prove,
sweetheart? I've taken down bigger
and badder Slayers than you without
even blinking.

CAROLINE

(glares)
You just blinked, like, five times
during that sentence.

BRAEDEN

(beat)
Imagery.

Sweeping under her defences, Braeden SLASHES the Scythe
across her thighs and she cries out, stumbling backwards but
managing to keep her footing.

At the car, Debbie manages to block the next punch from Dex,
but after three more vicious KICKS to the face, she SLAMS
back into the car and slumps to the ground, unconscious.

BARBARA

Debbie!

Unrestrained, Barbara moves to help the fallen slayer, but
another cry from Caroline draws her attention back, and she
grabs up a crumbled piece of metal from the front of the car
and runs in Caroline's direction.

Caroline herself swipes out at Braeden, but he swiftly ducks
underneath her attack and SWEEPS her legs out from under her.
She already has deep cuts along her legs and chest, but is
still fighting bravely.

BRAEDEN

You looked like the 'lying on your
back' type.

He looks down at the blonde slayer, and she glares in
response, before THRUSTING her sword upwards...

... and SCREAMS as Braeden avoids the attack and CHOPS her
hand off with the scythe!

Screaming for all she's worth, the mutilated Slayer clasps
her bloody stump to her chest in an attempt to defend
herself, as Braeden raises the Scythe again.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)

You know, the list of things you
need and don't have is getting
considerably -

CLANG!

(CONTINUED)

Braeden stumbles forward as Barbara flies out of nowhere, her makeshift weapon striking him around the back of the head!

BARBARA

Get the hell away from her!

Her attention focused on Braeden, Barbara raises her weapon to attack once more, not noticing as Cassandra slides up next to her - and GRABS a firm hand onto Barbara's wrist.

CASSANDRA

Funny thing is... they're not yours.

And with one quick PUNCH Barbara slumps into Cassandra's arms, unconscious.

CASSANDRA (cont'd)

(to Braeden)

Now, will you please do something with that putrid little tart?

Braeden turns to the still screaming Caroline, and swiftly puts her out of her misery with a sharp CHOP to the throat!

CASSANDRA (cont'd)

I came for some carnage, not a migraine.

BRAEDEN

(dryly)

Buy one, get one free.

CASSANDRA

(beat)

Let's go.

With a smirk, Dex lifts Debbie into his arms, and the three of them head off up the road, with the addition of two brand spanking new hostages, as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

6 INT. CAMPUS - STAFF ROOM - DAY

6

A yawning GREG walks into the staff room, accompanied by the chittering of early morning birds. Noticing the sombre silence, he frowns as he looks round at the table of equally sombre faces.

FITZGERALD, CERYYS, KIRA, FRANKIE and a dozen other WATCHERS and TEACHERS all look back at him.

FITZGERALD

Take a seat please, Greg.

Greg obeys, taking a seat next to Frankie, who looks almost close to tears.

GREG

(cautiously)

What did I miss?

FITZGERALD

(sighs)

It seems that we have a problem. Well, another problem. As you know, Barbara and Debbie had a meeting with the Council yesterday evening to discuss... certain situations.

(beat)

We received word from the Council last night that Barbara and her guard never arrived in London. They waited for a time, but eventually sent out a small search party of bodyguard Slayers.

GREG

And?

CERYYS

The car was found in wreckage form two hours ago. Layla Carter and Caroline Morgan were found dead.

(beat)

Barbara and Debbie are missing.

GREG

(shocked)

But...

(CONTINUED)

KIRA

The fact that the Slayers guarding the two people the Council actually needed to meet with were horribly murdered, and that I can't seem to locate where Barbara and Debbie are, indicates Cabal involvement.

FRANKIE

(seethes)

Braeden.

KIRA

(nods)

And I imagine that the Cabal have set up magical defences wherever they're being kept.

FRANKIE

But why Barbara and Debbie? They may 'ave places 'ere at the Academy, but why take them? It would make more sense to simply kill Debbie, and even Barbara - what could they possibly think they could get out of 'er?

FITZGERALD

Barbara has been a Watcher for long enough to have access to certain information. But she can't know much more than they already do, so I'm inclined to ask the same question.

(beat)

It's possible that they may try to find more delicate and complex information of the inner workings of the Council.

CERYS

It's not too much of a stretch to think at least part of their agenda is to wipe the Council out as well as our girls.

GREG

And we know at least one member of the Cabal has a strange fascination with Debbie.

(beat)

This might not even be about information. They have one of our headmistresses, a competent medic, murdered two more of our rapidly decreasing number of slayers.

(CONTINUED)

FRANKIE
(shakes head)
They are playing with us?

FITZGERALD
(sighs)
You're surprised?

FRANKIE
(glares)
No, I am not surprised,
Mademoiselle. I am outraged.

Fitzgerald and Frankie share a meaningful look, and Fitzgerald nods in approval.

FITZGERALD
Assemble your team, Miss DuCont.
Greg, if you could find Skye and
ask her to assemble hers as well?
(looks at watch)
We'll meet in the assembly hall in
fifteen minutes, promptly.

CERYS
What's the plan?

FITZGERALD
(pointedly)
To save the day, Miss Mason.

Fitzgerald glides out of the room, and the rest of the staff immediately spring into action, striding after her to exit the room.

In an extraordinary display of tentative trust, SKYE sits on one side of a table inside the cell, a notebook laid out in front of her, and SOFIA sits on the other side with no restraints.

ERIKA stands in the open entrance to the cell, her hand over the controls for the sliding partition.

SKYE
... and what can you remember
about... what they did to you?

SOFIA
They would strap me to a chair and
lower a screen in front of me.
They'd play a loop, footage, like
images and sounds and strange
symbols...
(frowns)
(MORE)

SOFIA (cont'd)
... and there were some kind of
drugs. I think.

ERIKA
Can you remember any of it?

SOFIA
Any of what?

SKYE
What they showed you. On the
screen?

SOFIA
(frowns)
No, it's...
(beat)
I can't remember.

SKYE
They didn't show you anything about
some guy named 'Jacob,' did they?

SOFIA
(blinks)
I'm sorry?

SKYE
(quickly)
Never mind.

Skye taps her pen against her notebook, studying Sofia in
silence for a moment, before nodding and turning to Erika.

SKYE (cont'd)
I think we got what we need.

ERIKA
Are you sure?

Skye turns back to Sofia, and looks her hard in the eyes.

SKYE
She's told us all she knows.

Skye tears the handful of pages she's written on out and
passes the notebook and pen over the table to Sofia, as a
KNOCK echoes through the cell.

SKYE (cont'd)
(to Sofia)
If you remember anything else, you
need to write it down. I don't have
to tell you how helpful inside info
could be right now.

SOFIA

(nods)

I understand. Anything I can do to help.

Skye gives her a ghost of a smile, and turns to the door as Greg enters, the partition being opened by Erika.

GREG

Sorry to interrupt. We need the squad.

(glances at Sofia)

Urgently.

SKYE

What's up?

GREG

Now's not the best...

SKYE

I said, 'what's up'?

GREG

(beat)

We believe that Braeden and his team attacked Barbara's car last night.

SOFIA

(alert)

What happened?

GREG

(coldly)

I don't think -

SKYE

Greg! Cut the crap, and tell us what happened!

GREG

(sighs)

They killed two slayers, and took Barbara and Debbie. We're meeting for a briefing in five minutes.

ERIKA

What is the plan?

GREG

(dryly)

To save the day, apparently.

SKYE

Uh... what about...

(CONTINUED)

She jerks her head very noticeably towards Sofia.

GREG

Oh, I have her covered.

Greg turns to the door as Kira and FRAN walk into the room, Fran carrying a big AXE.

SKYE

(quirks eyebrow)

Now that's a big ass axe.

FRAN

(shrugs)

Yeah, well I don't usually agree with that whole 'size matters' thing, but in this case...

(glances at Sofia)

I'm thinking as much axe as possible. Just in case.

SOFIA

Let me come.

GREG

(deadpan)

You are, of course, trying to kill us all with your stand-up routine.

SOFIA

I can help you. Who knows the Cabal better than I do?

FRAN

That really isn't something you should be boasting about right now.

SKYE

Cut it out, pintsize.

GREG

I don't think I have to remind you, Sofia, that you're nowhere even near a level of trust where we'd let you possibly endanger our squads.

(beat)

You'll continue your session with Kira.

KIRA

And I'm happy to report that I do have Grace's permission to use magic to make you choke on any lies you might have brewing in that head of yours.

(CONTINUED)

GREG

I'll leave you to it then, Kira.
Girls, come on.

Kira takes Skye's seat at the table, and Greg quickly leaves the room, followed by Skye and Erika.

Fran takes Erika's previous position, as Kira leans over the table slightly to study Sofia closely.

KIRA

I know you've probably repeated
this information several times, but
just once more, for my aging
ears...

(beat)

What do you know about the Cabal
forces?

Sofia sighs, and we CUT TO:

Erika is walking ahead of Skye and Greg, and either doesn't notice as they fall behind, or respects them too much to invade what appears to be a private conversation, and keeps walking as they come to a stop.

SKYE

Why did you shut her down like
that?

GREG

I don't think I need to explain
myself to you. We all know what she
did.

SKYE

(angrily)

The frack do you get off, talking
to me like that? Alita was one of
my best friends, of course I know
what she's done! But believe it or
not, oh great and wise Watcher,
she's actually giving us
information we might be able to
use, which is a hell of a lot more
than you and your Council have been
able to do.

(beat)

I don't know if I can forgive what
Sofia's done, and her giving us
information and trying to help us
isn't going to be anywhere near
enough to redeem it - but take it
from a murderer. It's a good start.

(CONTINUED)

Skye storms away down the hallway after Erika, who is lingering nervously at the end of the corridor, leaving Greg to stare after her thoughtfully.

INT. CAMPUS - ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

Several boxes of WEAPONS are spread across the stage, and Cerys is overseeing their withdrawal.

Frankie, TSULA, REIKO, RACHEL and DELANEY are already assembled, choosing their weapons, and they all turn to look as Greg, Skye and Erika finally join them.

SKYE

We're not late. All your watches are slow.

DELANEY

Can we get to the 'briefing' part of the briefing now?

CERYS

Yes, lets, unless you have something else you'd like to offer, Miss Brogan?

DELANEY

(shrugs)

I'm good.

CERYS

As you may know, Barbara's entourage was attacked yesterday, and she and Debbie were taken, we believe, by the Cabal.

(beat)

This information I have here is the location of the car wreckage, the location of the Council Headquarters, and any number of places the Cabal could be using in the area between to hold them.

TSULA

Any indication of the most likely places?

CERYS

Highlighted. But even then, London's a big place. There are too many places to search, which is why you'll need to go to the wreckage first and see if you can find any clues.

(CONTINUED)

REIKO

Like what? A little Roadrunner with
a sign saying "Diabolical Evil,
this way"?

CERYS

Check that sarcasm, Kimusume.

FITZGERALD

(sighs)

Just see what you can find.

ERIKA

What about magic?

FRANKIE

It's being blocked. We 'ave tried.

RACHEL

So the old fashioned way, then?

CERYS

I've placed Frankie in charge of
communications. She'll keep the
Academy updated, while the Council
and Grace try to eliminate some of
the places the Cabal could be
using.

(beat)

The Cabal clearly want Barbara and
Debbie alive. But I have to stress
that once they have what they want,
whatever it is, they'll begin to
play an entirely different game.

(beat)

Lets make sure it doesn't get that
far.

REIKO

(tenderly)

We're not losing anyone else.

SKYE

You said it. Mount up, girls.

(beat)

Where's Anna?

RACHEL

She didn't show up?

Skye turns to Greg with a worried look, one he returns, as we
CUT TO:

10

INT. DARK ROOM - DAY

10

CLOSE UP on Debbie's face as the Slayer begins to come round. Her eyes seem to be unable to focus as we PAN OUT, taking in the whole room.

DEBBIE
(groggy)
Bloody hell...

It looks like an old abattoir, with rusty steel, blood-stained walls, each wall boasting an arrangement of sharp instruments and weapons.

Debbie herself is suspended by a hook in the ceiling, ropes tied tightly around her wrists, her feet dangling a foot from the floor.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
(more coherent)
Damn it.

She immediately begins struggling, doing her best to loosen the ropes around her wrists, but it holds firm.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
No, come on...

She pulls hard, but it still refuses to give way.

DEBBIE (cont'd)
(panicking)
Come on!

Finally, with a dull CLUNK, the hook is TORN from the ceiling, and Debbie falls forward, landing on her hands and knees.

Immediately starting on her bonds, Debbie starts trying to free her hands, but looks up suddenly as she senses movement.

Dex is stood beside her!

DEX
Hmm. Now... this looks vaguely familiar, doesn't it?

Debbie scrambles away from him, petrified.

DEBBIE
What... what do you want?

DEX
Oh, come on, are we really going to go through this? You're not stupid, despite popular belief.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DEX (cont'd)
(grins)
What do you think I want?

Debbie slowly rises to her feet, her hands still bound, and gives Dex a really good impression of defiance. One hand finally slides out of the rope, and she holds both of her free hands up to show him.

DEBBIE
What do you think I want?

Debbie falls into a stiff fighting stance, and Dex chuckles in amusement, as we CUT TO:

This dark hallway, boasting a number of other steel doors leading into other rooms, is relatively quiet.

Until Debbie's SCREAMS echo along it, as we CUT TO:

Fitzgerald is sat behind the desk she shares with Barbara, tapping her fingers nervously as she listens to the voice on the other end of the phone.

FITZGERALD
Yes, I understand that, but we really could use some more assistance...

The door flies open, and Fitzgerald looks up with a scowl as ANNA storms into the office. She holds a finger up to silence her, and continues to speak.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)
Yes, yes, I know, but...

Anna SLAMS a folder down on the desk in front of her, and Fitzgerald jumps in surprise, before looking up into Anna's blazing eyes.

ANNA
I know where they're keeping them.

Fitzgerald opens her mouth to respond, but doesn't seem to be able to form any words to reply.

FITZGERALD
(into the phone)
I'll, ah, have to call you back.

Hanging up the phone, Fitzgerald fixes Anna with an incredulous look.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

How?

ANNA

(abruptly)

I've been working for the Cabal for over a year now, giving them information. Telling them where we'd hit next, who'd be there... everything.

(beat)

So I guess I'm ready to hand in my two weeks' notice.

Her shock quickly turning to anger, Fitzgerald folds her arms across her chest to survey Anna's serious face, as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

13

INT. CAMPUS - BARBARA'S OFFICE - DAY

13

The door flies open once more, accompanied by Skye's frustrated voice as she and Greg enter the office.

SKYE

This is stupid, we should be out
there looking for -

Spotting Fitzgerald's barely contained fury, and Anna, who is now sat opposite her, Skye immediately falls silent.

SKYE (cont'd)

What's going on?

FITZGERALD

It seems we have another traitor in
our midst.

SKYE

(explodes)

What?!?

Skye looks to Anna, to Fitzgerald and back. Anna's guilt-ridden expression says it all.

Shaking her head in disbelief, Skye slumps into the chair next to Anna and shoots her a death glare.

SKYE (cont'd)

Why?

FITZGERALD

We were just getting to that part,
and I think we'd all like to know
that. What possible reason could
you have had for working against us
all this time?

ANNA

My brother. The Cabal have my
brother, and they've been using him
to get to me, threatening him, and
I...

(sighs)

I'm the mole.

SKYE

And you think that's a good enough
reason?

ANNA

What?

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

If you'd come to us earlier, we could have helped you. You and your brother, and now... frack knows how many people you've put in danger!

(beat; stern)

You should have come to us.

ANNA

That's easy to say when it's not your brother!

FITZGERALD

(sharp)

Girls!

(beat)

Anna, you said you knew where Barbara and Debbie are. How?

ANNA

Since Alita, I've been... I've been branching out. Trying to find Josh and get him out. I happen to have access to the facility he's being held at, and my intel says Barbara and Debbie are there too.

GREG

What exactly are you saying?

ANNA

I want this over with. I'm prepared to go in, gain access for the others, and get Josh, Barbara and Debbie out of there.

FITZGERALD

Where is it?

ANNA

It's an old abattoir not far outside London.

FITZGERALD

(to Greg)

Where are Erika and Delaney?

GREG

They've waiting for us. The B squad have gone ahead.

FITZGERALD

(nods)

Take Anna and get the others ready. And contact Frankie and tell her about the facility.

(CONTINUED)

Greg nods, and Anna gets to her feet, offering Skye an apologetic look before following.

SKYE

Do you trust her? How do we know
this isn't just some trick? Another
plan by the Cabal?

FITZGERALD

What choice do we have? She came to
me and confessed, Skye. That's got
to count for something.

Skye heads for the door, but stops as Fitzgerald adds:

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

Just don't let her out of your
sight.

With a sigh, Skye nods, and quickly follows after Anna and Greg.

The wreckage site is still much the same as we last saw it,
but is now surrounded by the rescue mission from the Academy.

Cerys, Frankie and Reiko examine the wreckage of the car,
while Tsula and Rachel stand further back, searching the
surroundings.

CERYS

Here.

Pointing at the driver's seat, Reiko and Frankie step closer
to see the blood stain on the seat.

CERYS (cont'd)

This is where they found Layla with
the arrow in her throat. Looks like
she was the first target, and once
she was down the vehicle went
straight to the scene of the
accident.

FRANKIE

(solemnly)

She never even 'ad a chance to...

REIKO

So she dies, the car crashes.

CERYS

Yes, and over there by the trees is
where they found Caroline.

The Watcher leads them both over to the grassy bank, pointing to an area drenched in blood.

REIKO

She got flung out the car?

CERYS

No. Her hand had been... cut off.
And someone had buried a blade
halfway through her neck.

FRANKIE

She tried to fight them.

CERYS

(nods)

And with the guard dispatched, I
doubt they had much trouble
fighting Debbie or Barbara.

FRANKIE

And 'ere was me saying one of the A
Squad should 'ave taken them.

CERYS

(sighs)

We couldn't have known this would
happen. Layla and Caroline were
perfectly able Slayers, and they
were outnumbered. Even if Anna,
Skye or Erika had gone... the
result could have been the same.

RACHEL (O.S.)

I think you're forgetting someone.

They turn to see Rachel stood behind them, her hands on her hips.

GREG

What?

RACHEL

("duh")

Hello? Delaney's on A Squad too,
remember?

CERYS

(shakes head)

Sorry Rachel, it's just I'm used
to...

She breaks off, clearly unwilling to talk about this in front of the others. Reiko and Frankie share a look of pain, and Rachel shifts uncomfortably.

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL

Uh, well, Tsula thinks she's found something.

CERYS

(pointedly)

Thank you, Rachel.

Tsula is knelt down on the road a few metres away, and Cerys leads the others to walk up next to her.

CERYS (cont'd)

(to Tsula)

What have you found?

TSULA

These are fresh.

Tsula points to a track of footprints and Cerys and Frankie kneel down to get a better look too.

TSULA (cont'd)

They're not as fresh as the rest, which are probably the girls from the Council, but these...

(beat)

I think these were made yesterday, which would indicate Braeden's team. And there are three sets.

REIKO

Braeden, that psycho old Slayer chick, and Dex.

TSULA

(nods)

And further up are tire tracks. These lead directly to them. So at least we know which direction they were headed in.

REIKO

We can probably cut that list right in half now. We know they were headed...

TSULA

West.

REIKO

West.

CERYS

That's good work, girls.

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL

I think I can help.

FRANKIE

'Elp?

RACHEL

I mean, I think I can. Dana... she had this ability, this sixth sense when it came to finding Slayers. That's what Braeden used her for - she could home in on them from miles away. Maybe I can use it to find Debbie.

(beat)

I mean, she is technically a Slayer, right?

CERYS

That could work. Dana's gift was very specific; she always found the Slayer she was looking for -

Interrupted by a RINGING PHONE, everyone turns to look at Frankie as she pulls a mobile out of her pocket.

FRANKIE

Oui?

(beat)

Are you sure?

(beat)

Hmm. *D'accord.*

Finding everyone looking at her expectantly, Frankie starts moving towards the academy minibus.

FRANKIE (cont'd)

We know exactly where they are.

TSULA

How?

Frankie's expression darkens as she ushers her team into the vehicle.

FRANKIE

Apparently, traitor number two.

SLAMMING the door shut before anyone can speak, Frankie climbs into the passenger seat as Cerys climbs into the driver's seat, and the minibus quickly pulls away.

15

INT. ABATTOIR - BARBARA'S ROOM - DAY

15

CLOSE UP on Barbara's face as Debbie's SCREAMS echo overhead. Her eyes finally SNAP open as we PAN OUT, revealing a room very similar to Debbie's.

Tied to a chair, Barbara can do nothing but glare back as Braeden leans over into her face.

BRAEDEN

Alright?

BARBARA

(dry)

Oh. It's you. For a moment there, I thought I might be in trouble.

BRAEDEN

(grins)

My sentiments exactly.

(beat)

How long's it been now, Barb?

BARBARA

Not long enough.

BRAEDEN

No hug?

BARBARA

Spare me the joking, Braeden. What have you done with Debbie?

BRAEDEN

Nothing. Dex is just saying hello.

(beat)

Those others girls, on the other hand? Now that's what I call fun.

BARBARA

'Fun'?

(beat)

Did you know Layla had just finished a novel she was trying to get published?

BRAEDEN

I -

BARBARA

Did you know that Caroline Morgan had only just turned seventeen, and had given up a fairly successful job as a runway model to be a Slayer?

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA (cont'd)
Those girls will have something you
will never have. Loyalty, and
bravery, and...

BRAEDEN
That's lovely. That really is, but -

BARBARA
(furious)
No! You sick son of a...
(beat; calmer)
You will listen to me. And you will
listen hard. You can kill as many
of us as you like. You can kill me
right now.
(beat; cold)
All it'll do is make sure that my
girls will tear you apart.

BRAEDEN
You really have faith in them,
don't you?

BARBARA
Yes, I do.

Braeden nods, and then GRABS her by the hair, pulling her
head back so hard that she barely conceals a scream!

BRAEDEN
I don't want to kill you, Barb. Not
yet, anyway. The thing is, you
happen to be the headmistress of
the Academy. You have a unique role
in the Council.
(grins)
What better person to ask a few
little questions to?

BARBARA
(laughs)
What information could you possibly
want from me? You mean there are
things you don't already know?

BRAEDEN
I want access to records,
passwords, the locations for
Council bases we have yet to find.
That sort of thing.
(beat)
Come on, Barb, you're not a slayer.
Two minutes in here with me and
you'll be spilling your guts. Why
bother holding out if you're just
going to give it to me anyway?

BARBARA

(shakes head)

You really are stupid, aren't you?
Do you think the Council would give
me access to that sort of
information? After what happened
with your friend Eric Bryce?

(grins)

I think you kidnapped the wrong
woman - don't you?

BRAEDEN

(frowns)

What are you...?

BARBARA

They don't trust me, Braeden. You
saw to that. So I'm afraid I have
no information for you.

(beat)

I wonder what the headlines are
today. You wouldn't have a
newspaper, would you?

Giving him an oddly bright grin, Barbara makes her stance
clear, and Braeden glares back at her, thinking how best to
handle this situation.

Debbie SCREAMS for all she's worth, her hands bound once
again, as Dex TEARS a knife from her gut!

Her clothes are drenched in blood and filth, but this fresh
wound is the only one we can see, as Dex steps back to admire
his work.

DEX

Now that's got to...

He stops, eyes wide.

Debbie's wound begins to CLOSE, the blood seeping back into
her body. It's healing!

DEX (cont'd)

(furious)

Ugh! Not again!

Dex SLAMS a fist into Debbie's face and she cries out, her
head bouncing off the wall behind her!

DEX (cont'd)

How are you doing that? How?!?

DEBBIE
(breathless)
I suppose... I'm just... gifted...

HOWLING in fury, Dex raises the knife to do more damage, but is interrupted by a KNOCK at the door.

DEX
(snaps)
What?

BRAEDEN (O.S.)
It's me.

Shooting Debbie another look of pure venom, Dex throws the knife on the floor and storms out of the room, SLAMMING the door behind him.

Dex looks over at Braeden, who is leaning casually against the opposite wall, his arms folded as he thinks.

DEX
She's healing! Can you believe that?

BRAEDEN
Healing?

DEX
I cut her, and the wounds just... seal themselves.

BRAEDEN
(realizes)
Right... I wonder how he managed that one, then?

DEX
What?

BRAEDEN
The healer - the Watcher's lover. He must have passed it along to her somehow.
(beat)
Anyway, she's not important. You can have your fun later.

DEX
The Watcher?

BRAEDEN

(nods)

She's not talking. Says she doesn't know anything.

DEX

You don't believe her?

BRAEDEN

Actually, I think I do.

(grins)

But I have another idea.

Lost, Dex frowns as Braeden walks away up the hallway. Glancing back at Debbie's room, Dex quickly follows him.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

With one minibus already parked alongside a dirt road, the passengers begin to climb out as a second, identical minibus passes it and parks in front of it.

From the first minibus come the B Squad, the second, the A Squad, all of them carrying weapons. Skye, noticeably, is carrying the SCYTHER.

RACHEL

What's going on?

SKYE

The facility is just down this road. It's an old abattoir, not heavily guarded, but it does have a pretty advanced security system.

TSULA

So how are we getting in?

Skye turns to look at Anna, who bows her head slightly as everyone else turns to look at her too.

SKYE

Anna's getting us in. She has access.

The others frown in confusion, but Erika, Delaney, Frankie, and surprisingly Reiko, already seem to know what's going on.

REIKO

(to Anna)

You bitch.

Anna looks back at her, and tears begin to well in her eyes, but this just seems to make the Japanese Slayer all the more angry.

(CONTINUED)

REIKO (cont'd)
Don't you dare! Don't you even
dare!

Reiko storms over to Anna, and is only just pulled back by Tsula, inches away from Anna's face.

REIKO (cont'd)
Are you gonna cry for her? Or are
you just crying for yourself,
because you're a useless,
traitorous -

TSULA
Reiko, stop it!

Grabbing Reiko in a firm hold, Tsula pulls her away from Anna, and forces her to walk in the other direction, the Japanese slayer crying furiously to herself.

FRANKIE
(to Anna)
Are you 'appy now?

Shaking her head in disgust, Frankie turns on her heel and walks after Reiko and Tsula.

ERIKA
Do you know anything about...
(beat)
Is Maria being held here as well?

ANNA
(shakes head)
I don't think so. I couldn't find
anything on her...

ERIKA
(sharp)
Did you even try?

Anna blinks at Erika's uncharacteristic tone, lost for words for a moment.

ANNA
I'm sorry, I...

ERIKA
I do not want to hear it.

Erika turns and also walks towards the abattoir, followed by Skye and Delaney, leaving Rachel with Anna.

ANNA
I guess even the newbies have a
right to be pissed, huh? Go ahead.

(CONTINUED)

Rachel glances at Greg and Cerys, who are stood waiting by the minibuses, and shakes her head.

RACHEL

Things look a lot clearer in hindsight, after you've already made that decision that's so...

(beat)

It's easy for them to stand there and say those things. You made that choice, and it was the wrong one, you can see that now.

ANNA

Oh, don't even try to -

RACHEL

What? Be on your side? Yeah, because I wouldn't know a thing about being seen as one of the bad guys, would I?

Anna holds her gaze - then relents. Rachel's right.

ANNA

The trouble with waiting for hindsight is it's usually too late to matter.

RACHEL

(smiles)

That's not true.

(beat)

At least, I hope it isn't.

Rachel follows after the others, and after a moment's hesitation, so does Anna.

Fitzgerald is sat behind the desk, a phone caught between her shoulder and her ear as she types away at the computer, her attention split equally.

FITZGERALD

(into phone)

No, no, that's not it.

(beat)

Because I said London, not Leeds, that's how I know! Put the bloody phone down and do what I asked you to do!

She stops typing long enough to put her own phone down, and looks up as Kira enters the room.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)
Kira, this really isn't a good
time, so unless this is urgent -

KIRA
Just to let you know that I'm
finished with the prisoner.

Kira places a handful of notes on the desk, and Fitzgerald
nods distractedly.

FITZGERALD
Thank you. Skye didn't hand her
notes in this morning so I don't
have...

Interrupted by a BEEPING, Fitzgerald looks back at the
computer screen with a frown, and clicks something.

KIRA
Something wrong?

Fitzgerald's eyes widen in horror as something pops up on the
screen, and curiously, Kira walks round to the other side of
the desk to take a look herself:

ANGLE: The screen, on which Barbara and Dex can be seen,
Barbara SCREAMING as he inflicts some kind of torture on her
that we can't quite see.

ON SCENE:

KIRA (cont'd)
Is that...?

Fitzgerald's hands go to her mouth, and Kira grimaces as
another piercing SHRIEK sounds from the monitor.

KIRA (cont'd)
Oh God...

The two women look on in horror, unable to do anything, as
we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

20

INT. ABATTOIR - BARBARA'S ROOM - DAY

20

ON THE CAMERA, set up on a tripod to record every hideous second of Barbara's ordeal.

Her head hung, Barbara is close to tears as Dex wipes a bloody knife clean on a cloth. He seems to have finished whatever kind of physical torture he's been inflicting on her, and watches her curiously.

DEX

Well, that was an experience,
wasn't it? Your first?

BARBARA

(breathless)

What... have you... done... to
Debbie?

DEX

(grins)

Caring about others over yourself,
eh? Even until the end.

(beat)

It's more fun to let you guess what
I've done to her. But... it is
awfully quiet, isn't it?

BARBARA

(stunned)

No...

DEX

I suppose that's just another one
to add to the list, isn't it? How
many girls have you let die this
year alone?

BARBARA

(furious)

You mean how many have you
murdered?

DEX

Oh, so it's all our fault?

BARBARA

Of course it is! You're the ones
killing them!

(CONTINUED)

DEX

You don't think that maybe, just maybe, things would be different if you'd put more effort into making sure they were ready?

(beat)

Maybe they'd still be alive?

BARBARA

They'd also still be alive if you hadn't been an evil piece of sh-

Dex PUNCHES her in the face and Barbara cries out, SPITTING blood from her mouth.

DEX

(dangerously)

I think we need to get back to what we're here for.

(beat)

What do you think?

Barbara looks back defiantly, as Dex chuckles to himself.

INT. CAMPUS - BARBARA'S OFFICE - DAY

Fitzgerald and Kira are watching the proceedings, Kira's face a mask of calm, but Fitzgerald is rapidly starting to panic.

FITZGERALD

Stop it! Barbara? Barbara!

KIRA

They can't hear you. It's a one-way feed.

FITZGERALD

What do we do?

KIRA

(raises an eyebrow)

You're the Headmistress.

Pushing herself away from the computer screen, Fitzgerald quickly scrambles to pick up her phone and dials a number.

EXT. ROAD - DAY

The abattoir is just visible now, and the girls are all hiding in a clump of trees, waiting to make their move in silence.

Until a phone begins to RING, and Frankie lifts a mobile to her ear.

FRANKIE

Quoi?

(beat)

Oui, we are 'ere. We will be entering in moments.

(beat)

What? But...

(beat; sighs)

Alright. I understand.

SKYE

What's going on?

FRANKIE

(closes phone)

Fitzgerald 'as Barbara on 'er computer. Some kind of video feed. She is... they are torturing 'er.

ERIKA

And Deborah?

FRANKIE

(beat)

She said that Barbara's torturer implied she was dead.

A beat, as everyone takes in that information. Reiko casts a chilling glare back at Anna.

SKYE

Anna?

ANNA

(nods)

I'm ready.

Receiving a comforting smile from Rachel, Anna ignores the glares sent at her from every other direction, and begins to walk towards the abattoir, unarmed and alone.

We follow her as she walks down the road, finally coming to the front doors. Once there, she presses a BELL.

VOICE (O.S.)

Who's there?

ANNA

Anna Sutton. Open up.

The doors open, and a large, scaly DEMON steps out.

DEMON

Clearance?

(CONTINUED)

ANNA

ASX243. Science division. I'm here
to see Carl Stoker and Merielle
Peters, and if you make me late
they're really not going to be
happy - with you.

The demon blinks, and steps aside, letting Anna in.

Back in the trees, Skye blinks in surprise as Anna talks her
way in.

SKYE

Yikes. Guess she really does have a
way in, huh?

Reiko shoots her an annoyed look, as we CUT TO:

Starting to SOB, Barbara is doing her best to control herself
as Dex stands over her, his very features taunting her, and
his knife dripping fresh BLOOD.

DEX

(admiring knife)
Wow. You know, you can really
bleed.

BARBARA

Stop it...

DEX

Why? Don't you want to join Debbie
and the others?
(beat)
Don't you want to see all those
poor little girls who wanted to be
something? Girls who gave up
everything they wanted to be
Slayers? To be your little
henchwomen?

BARBARA

(yells)
Stop it!

DEX

I heard you lost a girl before
first term even started! Now, what
was her name... Emma?

BARBARA

(sobbing)
Just stop! Stop it!

(CONTINUED)

DEX

I could name more, of course. Sofia was quite chatty. Keeya Mandisa ring a bell? Heidi Charisse? Ellen Marklew? That Juanita girl?

(beat)

You should have seen Braeden coming too, but of course... you really weren't up to the job, were you?

BARBARA

(shakes head)

I won't let you... no, can't do this to me...

DEX

Who else is there?

(beat)

Oh, of course! Alita Kagemura, the Academy's golden girl. That was tragic that was. Dana Wells? That poor, sick little girl... look how that turned out.

BARBARA

(desperate)

Stop...

DEX

Uh... no. I don't think so. You see, I'm not quite as soft as our boy Braeden. I think you do have information.

(beat)

But I'm actually kind of enjoying this, so if you could hold off telling me for about another hour, that would be great.

Sobbing almost hysterically, Barbara has no retort, and Dex only grins in response.

Anna walks down a hallway, passing several burly DEMONS that pay no attention to her at all. Once they're out of view, she looks up and down the hallway to make sure it's clear, and turns to one of the doorways.

And with a solid KICK, sends it caving in!

Anna hurries into the room, which is barely bigger than a cage, in which sits JOSH, huddled into the corner of the room, nursing his bruised face.

ANNA
(gasps)
Josh?

JOSH
Anna...

Smiling in relief, Anna hurries over to her brother and pulls him into an embrace, the siblings reunited at last.

JOSH (cont'd)
I can't believe you're here.

ANNA
I couldn't leave you, could I?

Pulling back quickly, Josh fixes her with a frightened look.

JOSH
We've gotta get out of here.

ANNA
(nods)
That's why I'm here. But I've got some other stuff to do while I'm here. Other people to help.

JOSH
But -

ANNA
Come on.

Anna grabs his arm and pulls him out of the room, leaving his prison behind.

Braeden exits the room Barbara is being kept in, apparently checking up on her, and almost bumps right into Cassandra, who is stood waiting.

CASSANDRA
Well?

Braeden quickly closes the door and the pair of them walk further up the hallway away from the room.

BRAEDEN
She's not talking. About anything, really. In fact, she's kind of crying like a little girl at the moment. I think Dex might've broken her.

CASSANDRA
And the other one?

BRAEDEN
(quirks eyebrow)
You're kidding, right?

CASSANDRA
Then why are they still alive?

BRAEDEN
(shrugs)
Seemed like a good idea to let Dex have his fun. You know how he gets if we don't give him chance to blow off steam. Hey, speaking of - is your hand any better now?

CASSANDRA
(twitches)
This isn't about 'fun.' This is war. End it now, Braeden, so we can get on with what's important.

BRAEDEN
(sighs)
Fine. You wanna tell him that? 'Cause I ain't going back in there. It's embarrassing, the state she's in.

CASSANDRA
(darkly)
It would be my pleasure.

Braeden steps back and allows Cassandra to march back down the hallway to the room, a slight smirk on his face.

Anna leads Josh down another hallway, her senses on high alert for guards. Poking her head around one corner, she quickly draws back and pushes Josh up against the wall behind them.

JOSH
(whispers)
What?

ANNA
Demon. Stay here.

JOSH
But...

ANNA
(firm)
Stay here.

Smoothing down her clothes, Anna leaves Josh and turns the corner, walking down the hallway towards a door where another burly DEMON is stood.

DEMON
Hey! You can't come down here.

ANNA
What? Oh, I'm sorry.
(giggles)
It's my first day, I keep getting lost. Do you think you could tell me where the lab is?

The demon steps towards her and frowns in confusion.

DEMON
There isn't a lab here.

ANNA
(shrugs)
I know.

And with one swift movement, Anna draws a knife from her belt and STABS the demon in the forehead, spearing it back into the wall and leaving it slumping to the floor. It's so very dead.

JOSH (O.S.)
Alright... that was awesome.

ANNA
I told you to stay there!

JOSH
Haven't seen a move like that since you left the 'hood!

She turns to look as her brother walks towards her, but with a smirk, she KICKS the demon's door down and steps into the room.

Anna steps cautiously into Debbie's room, followed by Josh, who wrinkles his nose in disgust at the blood and instruments of torture everywhere.

JOSH
I'm afraid to ask...

ANNA

This is where Debbie was meant to be kept.

(frowns)

I guess my intel was wrong...

JOSH

Or maybe not.

Josh points to the large amount of fresh BLOOD and the empty chains on the opposite wall, and Anna's face falls as she sees what he means.

ANNA

Frankie said she could be...

(beat)

Dammit!

JOSH

She's dead?

ANNA

(sighs)

Looks like.

(beat)

Come on, we need to get the others in. Hopefully Barbara is still... hopefully.

Unable to continue, Anna just grabs Josh by the arm and pulls him once more out of a prison cell.

Barbara's a complete mess now, physically and emotionally. Dex is practically glowing at the sight, gaining some kind of pleasure from her distress.

DEX

They trusted you. Did you know that? And you got each and every one of them killed.

(beat)

You were in charge of them, taking their lives into your hands. How many more, Barbara?

BARBARA

(hysterical)

Do you think I don't know? Do you think I just don't care? Of course I care!

(beat)

I tried! I wanted nothing but to keep them safe, make sure they knew how to handle themselves!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BARBARA (cont'd)
(sobbing)
And I told myself that they're
Slayers, and that's how all Slayers
end up sooner or later. They died.
But all I wanted to do is keep them
safe!

DEX
And you failed, didn't you?

BARBARA
I was doing my job...

DEX
Didn't you?

BARBARA
They knew the risks from the start!

DEX
(roars)
Didn't you?

BARBARA
Yes!

A beat. Dex leans back, smug. He's done it. Barbara hangs her head, **WEEPING** wretchedly.

BARBARA (cont'd)
Yes...
(beat)
There was so much to do, so many
lives, and every day I just told
myself I had to keep going, I had
to pretend I knew what I was doing.
I had to be cold.
(beat)
But inside I was breaking up, and I
kept asking if I was ever strong
enough for this...

Dex chuckles as Barbara pours her heart out, just listening to what she has to say.

Fitzgerald and Kira watch, even Kira displaying cracks in her mask as Barbara exposes her heart. Fitzgerald herself is barely holding back tears.

BARBARA (O.S.)
I just wanted... I tried to do my
best...

FITZGERALD
(to herself)
No, Barbara, keep fighting!
Please... don't let him do this!

The sound of Barbara's breakdown echoes across the office,
and the two women can do nothing but watch.

31 INT. ABATTOIR - SECURITY ROOM - DAY

31

Anna and Josh hurry into this large room, full of complicated-looking gadgets, machines and computers. A DEMON is sat watching security monitors, and it quickly gets to its feet -

But Anna launches a METAL BAR across the room, IMPALING the creature in the chest and sending it sprawling to the floor!

Josh hangs back as Anna hurries over to the machinery, scanning it and trying to figure out which button does what.

JOSH
Anna...

ANNA
Just a second.

JOSH
I don't like this. We should just get the hell out of here before any more of those psychos show up!

ANNA
No!
(beat; softer)
I can't just keep running. I have to make things right.

JOSH
And you think you can?

ANNA
(smiles)
Yeah, I think I can.

Anna turns her back on him and looks up at the machinery in front of her, inspecting it curiously.

ANNA (cont'd)
Which means I have to shut the security system down, let in the others, and get Barbara the hell out of here.
(beat)
Then see what the Academy's gonna do with me once we all get home.

(CONTINUED)

She flicks a switch - and several GREEN lights flip to RED.

ANNA (cont'd)

Aha! Got it. That oughtta do -

She freezes. COUGHS. Hunches over.

And suddenly LURCHES forward, CRASHING across the consoles -
a KNIFE sticking out of her back!

Anna hits the floor, GASPING for breath as she tries to look
behind her - but there's only Josh.

JOSH

Sorry, sis, but... you're a long
way past making things right.

Anna stares at in him in disbelief, BLOOD pooling around her,
as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

32

INT. ABATTOIR - SECURITY ROOM - NIGHT

32

Resume scene, as Anna begins to try to crawl away from Josh, who continues to step towards her.

ANNA

(weak)

You're not... Josh...

JOSH

Sorry, but I am. When I was five, I fell off my bike and screamed for an hour, until you told me everything would be okay and my knee would -

ANNA

Stop it!

Josh smiles slightly at the distress on Anna's face, and shrugs a little.

JOSH

Thanks for all the info, by the way. That really helped me climb the ranks around here. I guess that's what big sisters are for, huh?

Josh reaches down, grips the knife and PULLS it out of her back. Anna SCREAMS in agony her body like lead as she tries to keep crawling away.

Josh nudges her over onto her back with his boot, pinning her down with a boot on her chest.

JOSH (cont'd)

If it means anything... this is actually hard for me. I want you to know that.

ANNA

(crying)

Josh...

JOSH

Yeah?

ANNA

(firm)

Screw you.

(CONTINUED)

Anna swings her arm round to SLAM it into Josh's leg, forcing him to lose his balance and tumble to the ground!

Woozy, Anna scrambles back to her feet, grabbing the demon's computer chair as Josh look up at her.

JOSH

You really think you can -

SMASHING the chair into his face, Anna hits him with enough force to throw him out of the room and send him crashing down the hallway outside!

Dropping the chair, Anna limps to the door and closes it, LOCKING it behind him.

Taking a moment to lean against the door for support, Anna collects herself before hurrying over to the computers and quickly typing in her access codes.

More GREEN lights flip to RED as she shuts down the security systems one by one.

Outside, Josh starts to HAMMER on the door, furiously calling her name.

She keeps pausing, her vision swimming as BLOOD continues to flow from her wound.

The last set of lights go RED, and Anna allows herself a small smile - and her eyes roll back in her head.

She blacks out, crumpling to the floor even as Josh keeps POUNDING at the door, and we CUT TO:

Four guard DEMONS are stood at the entrance of the facility, none of them noticing as Tsula drops silently into frame behind them, having entered from a ventilation shaft.

Raising her bow and arrow, Tsula smirks before whistling loudly. The demons spin and one instantly goes down, an ARROW protruding from its throat!

TSULA

Gatecrashing, 101.

The demons ROAR in fury, but are suddenly surrounded as Skye and the others appear from nowhere, dropping from above, emerging from shadows, all of them YELLING their battle cries!

Skye swiftly DECAPITATES one demon with the Scythe, sending a spray of BLOOD into the air, as Reiko BURIES an axe in into another's chest, and Rachel GUTS the last with her sword!

ERIKA

Do you think there are more?

SKYE

Anna said it wouldn't be too heavily guarded. They were relying on the security system.

She points up to the ALARM BOX up on the wall - all the lights are off.

SKYE (cont'd)

Looks like she did us a favour.

DELANEY

So where to now?

ERIKA

I must look for Maria.

SKYE

But -

ERIKA

I know what Anna said, but I have to look.

SKYE

(beat)

Go. Be careful.

Twirling her staff in her hands, Erika disappears down a hallway, running as fast as she can.

SKYE (cont'd)

Frankie, Reiko, Tsula. You're finding Barbara.

The three Slayers nod, and quickly disappear down another hallway.

SKYE (cont'd)

I'm going for Anna.

RACHEL

You don't trust her?

SKYE

No.

(beat)

You and Delaney find Debbie.

Without another word, Skye hurries off and Delaney turns to Rachel.

(CONTINUED)

DELANEY

And here I thought this was about team spirit, and learning to be a team player.

RACHEL

It is.

DELANEY

(raises eyebrow)

I already know how to work with you, though!

RACHEL

Yeah, but we still have a lot to learn about working together on this team.

With a smile, Rachel chooses a hallway and disappears, followed quickly by Delaney.

INT. ABATTOIR - BARBARA'S ROOM - NEXT

Barbara is looking remarkably calm now, her eyes staring blankly across the room as if there's nothing left in her to give. There's no fight left in her.

She barely blinks as the door opens and Braeden walks into the room, heading over to the computer and camera.

BRAEDEN

How are we doing, then?

Getting no response, Braeden grins, before turning to the camera.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)

Hope that made our point. Thank you, and goodnight.

He reaches up and FLICKS the camera off:

INT. CAMPUS - BARBARA'S OFFICE - SAME

Fitzgerald jumps in surprise as the computer screen goes blank, and Kira HITS the top of the monitor as if to force it to work.

FITZGERALD

Barbara? Barbara!

KIRA

Once again - she can't hear you!

FITZGERALD

Do something!

KIRA
I don't know if I...

A silver LIGHT begins to swirl around Kira's hands, and she passes them over the monitor. Fitzgerald watches expectantly, but the screen doesn't respond.

36 INT. ABATTOIR - BARBARA'S ROOM - SAME

36

Braeden turns back to Barbara, who is now frowning curiously as he pulls the computer's plug out of the socket.

BRAEDEN
So, I suppose this is it. I just wanted to thank you. You've been a great hostage, you know. Dex had fun.

Barbara doesn't answer. Braeden walks up to her.

BRAEDEN (cont'd)
Looks like you're so useless that it's not even worth keeping you alive.

BARBARA
(murmurs)
No...

BRAEDEN
Hmm? What was that?

BARBARA
(louder)
No... I don't imagine it is. But do me a favour, would you?

She slowly looks up at him.

BARBARA (cont'd)
Stop talking, and get on with it.
(beat)
I think my ears are starting to bleed.

A tiny bit of fire rekindled, Barbara stares back at him as Braeden leans closer to her, drawing a knife from his belt.

BRAEDEN
Let's see what else we can get to join that list.

SMASH!

Braeden spins round as the door COLLAPSES, and Frankie, Reiko and Tsula step into the room, Frankie raising her rapier.

(CONTINUED)

FRANKIE

En garde!

And without any other warning, the blonde Slayer flies at Braeden, forcing him to scramble backwards.

Tsula and Reiko hurry to Barbara, starting to break her bonds, as Frankie SWIPES backwards and forwards, forcing Braeden to go strictly defensive to avoid her sword thrusts.

Finally, he tries to STAB her with his knife, but Frankie catches him arm with her bad hand, and TWISTS, causing him to cry out!

FRANKIE (cont'd)

Not today, Braeden.

HEADBUTTING him, Frankie pulls herself out of the embrace, and SLASHES him across the midsection with her rapier, causing him to crash into the wall and slump to the floor.

FRANKIE (cont'd)

Go!

With Barbara free and Braeden temporarily down, the three Slayers help Barbara out of the room and they all disappear out of sight.

INT. ABATTOIR - RIGHT HALLWAY - NEXT

Rachel and Delaney hurry up the dark hallway, KICKING doors open and searching everywhere for any sign of Debbie. In their frantic searching they don't seem to notice the noise they're making.

CASSANDRA (O.S.)

Well, this is a nice surprise.

They quickly turn as Cassandra turns a corner, a wickedly sharp SWORD in one hand.

CASSANDRA (cont'd)

Day trip, is it?

RACHEL

Where is she?

CASSANDRA

(frowns)

Which 'she' are we talking about?

DELANEY

Iactatio!

Before Cassandra can react, a jet of blue ENERGY crackles across the space between them, and Cassandra YELPS as it burns her skin!

Taking her cue, Rachel hurries forward and SLASHES her sword across Cassandra's chest, sending her crashing through a doorway!

TSULA (O.S.)

Guys!

They both turn as Frankie, Reiko and Tsula appear, Reiko and Tsula carrying Barbara between them.

TSULA (cont'd)

Have you found Debbie?

Delaney and Rachel share a look. No response is needed.

FRANKIE

Then we need to go. Braeden won't be down for long.

She glances into the room where Cassandra was thrown, her eyes widening as the older Slayer starts to stir.

FRANKIE (cont'd)

And neither will she.

Clumping together, the assembled Slayers start their retreat, just as Braeden and Dex arrive on scene.

BRAEDEN

Damn it!

CASSANDRA (O.S.)

You're telling me...

They both look over as Cassandra exits the doorway, a hand pressed to her bleeding chest.

CASSANDRA (cont'd)

(off their looks)

Bitch caught me off guard.

Braeden rolls his eyes at their failure, and the trio hurry after the escapees.

The door BURSTS open, the lock completely torn out of the wall, and Skye hurries into the room towards the unconscious Anna.

SKYE

Anna!

Pulling her into her arms, Skye smiles as Anna's eyes flutter open.

ANNA
How... how did...

SKYE
Figured you'd be around here when I
saw you'd pulled the plug on the
security. Nice work, by the way.

Anna smiles - but starts to wilt, and Skye SHAKES her to keep her conscious.

SKYE (cont'd)
Hey, you're going to be okay. You
just need to hold on, alright?

Anna smiles softly, but doesn't respond as Skye notices how much blood Anna's lost.

SKYE (cont'd)
What happened?

ANNA
(almost delirious)
Couldn't save... he said... just
go... Josh... I love...
(laughs)
Look at me. I only ever wanted
to... to help, and... now look...
(struggling to breathe)
... look at me.

SKYE
Anna, please, I... I'm sorry. You
can come back to the Academy, and
we can forget about all of this.
You just need to hang on!

ANNA
(smiles)
You don't... have to... lie. But
thanks. One more... favour?

SKYE
Anything.

ANNA
Tell Sofia... she was right.

SKYE
(confused)
Uh... okay, but...
(beat)
Anna?

(CONTINUED)

Anna stares up at Skye, but she's no longer moving or struggling to breathe. She's DEAD.

SKYE (cont'd)

Anna...

Finally shedding TEARS for her former team mate, Skye looks up as Erika enters the room.

ERIKA

Skye? Our cover is blown, we need to...

SKYE

Anna's dead.

Erika bows her head respectfully, but Skye quickly wipes her tears away and gets to her feet, carrying both Anna's body and the Scythe in her arms.

SKYE (cont'd)

Maria?

ERIKA

She is not here.

SKYE

(nods)

Then let's get out of here.

Erika leading the way, the two Slayers make their great escape.

Braeden, Cassandra and Dex hurry out of the entrance of the abattoir, but all they find is the rear end of the minibuses speeding out of view.

BRAEDEN

(furious)

Gah - bollocks!

Turning and storming back inside, he leaves Cassandra and Dex to glare after the minibuses.

DISSOLVE TO:

The infirmary is, as always, quite active. A number of SLAYERS lie in beds in sectioned off areas, but we focus on Barbara, who is lying in a bed in the main infirmary area, surrounded by Fitzgerald, Greg, MANU, and a group of people we don't recognize.

(CONTINUED)

COLIN is a tall, tweed-clad man in his thirties who is clearly a WATCHER. But despite his stern demeanor, he gives Barbara a warm smile.

With him are two young women, a fragile-looking Indian woman in a sari, and a tall woman with a blonde bob. Both of them are SLAYERS.

COLIN

So all in all, the facility should
get you back on track, Barbara.

Barbara doesn't respond. She seems completely shell-shocked.

GREG

Are you sure it's best to take her
away? I mean -

MANU

I think it's for the best, Greg.

Greg nods, clearly cut by this decision. Another beat passes before Colin clears his throat.

COLIN

Right, then. If there's nothing
else?

MANU

If you could keep us updated?

COLIN

Of course. Mona, could you bring
the van around please?

Colin throws a set up keys to MONA, the blonde Slayer, and she nods before quickly exiting.

COLIN (cont'd)

If you're ready, Barbara.

Once again, Barbara doesn't respond, and Colin offers a sympathetic smile to Fitzgerald and Greg.

Colin and the other Slayer take a side of Barbara's bed each and begin to roll it out, barely giving her time to receive her goodbyes.

Fitzgerald and Greg watch on sadly. Another of their own down.

FITZGERALD

She'll be alright. Barbara's
strong, she...

She trails off, knowing how hollow her words sound.

(CONTINUED)

GREG

So I guess this means you're in charge now?

FITZGERALD

(beat; sighs)

We should get some work done. Good evening, Dr. Cairns.

MANU

See you.

Fitzgerald and Greg leave him to his work, and Manu sighs as he looks around at the crowded infirmary.

41 INT. CAMPUS - CELLS - NEXT

41

Drinking from a cup of water, Sofia listens intently as Skye sits opposite her, telling her about today's events. She lowers her head sadly as the conversation turns to Anna.

SOFIA

She did the right thing in the end.
I'm glad.

SKYE

I know. But all this time, she's been giving them information. We knew there was a mole, but... one of us?

(beat; realizes)

You knew, didn't you?

SOFIA

(nods)

I knew.

SKYE

Why didn't you -

SOFIA

I wanted to give her the chance to come clean.

SKYE

'Come clean'?

SOFIA

I said if she didn't own up by the end of the week, I'd tell you about her anyway.

SKYE

(sighs)

How can we trust you, Sofia?

(CONTINUED)

Pushing her chair back, Skye gets to her feet and turns to leave, caught between disappointed and disgusted.

SOFIA

Skye, you have to -

The door of the cell flies open, and Erika quickly enters the room, carrying the Scythe in her hands.

ERIKA

We have a problem.

SOFIA

(frowns)

What?

ERIKA

An Operations team just arrived on campus. They are going to take Sofia away into custody.

SKYE

What?

ERIKA

Miss Fitzgerald is trying to distract them, but I do not think she will succeed for long.

Sofia jumps to her feet, getting as close as her shackles will allow.

SOFIA

Skye, you can't let them take me! I can still help you if I'm here, but not if I'm locked up in some dungeon!

Skye turns back to her, trying to decide what to do.

SKYE

Sofia -

SOFIA

Skye, please! You know me.

(beat)

I can help us finish this. But you can't let them take me away.

Skye stares hard into Sofia's pleading eyes, completely torn as to what to do, before we CUT TO:

42 EXT. ACADEMY - ROOFTOP - NEXT

42

Stood on the rooftop of the academy, Skye and Erika, both sporting new facial BRUISES, look out over the crowds as a number of COUNCIL VANS speed away into the night.

SKYE

How many is that now? How many have we lost?

ERIKA

I try not to keep count. It hurts to think of it.

SKYE

(nods)

We did the right thing.

ERIKA

Yes. Because you are a good person.

(smiles)

I would like to think you have finally accepted that.

SKYE

(smirks)

Not quite. But I'm getting there.

Erika offers Skye a one-armed hug, and the two Slayers look out into the darkness as we CUT BACK TO:

43 INT. ACADEMY - CELLS - FLASHBACK

43

Skye looks to Sofia, then back at Erika, before finally making her decision.

SKYE

(to Erika)

I'm sorry. I have to.

ERIKA

I know.

And with that, Erika doesn't even try to stop Skye, as she PUNCHES her hard in the face, knocking her out cold and sliding down the wall behind her.

SKYE

(to Sofia)

You need to get out of here.

SOFIA

Thank you.

Skye hurries over, looking down at Sofia's shackles.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

Stand back.

Skye raises the Scythe, and Sofia winces as Skye CHOPS down - slicing clean through the chains!

SKYE (cont'd)

(impressed)

Woah. I gotta get me one of these.

Sofia shrugs out of the bonds as best she can, hurrying towards the cell entrance to check the coast is clear.

SKYE (cont'd)

What did Anna mean? When she said to say you were right?

SOFIA

(thinks; smiles)

I told her about my theory. That we had to cut out the elements of our life that lead us down the wrong paths.

Skye looks at her thoughtfully for a moment, before looking down at the Scythe - and thrusting it into Sofia's hands, who looks back in surprise.

SKYE

It's time to take your own advice.

Giving her a supportive smile, Skye opens her arms in a "do it" gesture.

Sofia responds quickly, SLAMMING the side of the Scythe into Skye's face and sending her sprawling!

With one last look at the people who finally gave her trust, Sofia sprints out of the cell and disappears, the Scythe in her hand, as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW