

SLAYER ACADEMY

"GIRL, INCOGNITO"

STARRING

Emily Browning

Emily Booth

Rachael Leigh Cook

WITH

Jacqueline Mckenzie

Bradley Cooper

Naveen Andrews

AND

Olesya Rulin

GUEST STARRING

Lhakpa Tsamchoe as 'Kim Ho-Shang'

Jetsun Pema as 'Hariti'

CREATED BY

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WITH

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(C) MUTANT ENEMY, INC. AND FOX

PREVIOUSLY

ON BLACK:

SOFIA (V.O.)
Last season, on Slayer Academy...

INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - DAY

MANU checks the charts of several sick Slayers as he speaks:

MANU
From what we've managed to confirm,
every single one of these girls has
some level of what I can only
describe as a... mystical poison in
their blood.

CUT TO:

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

SKYE and ERIKA are facing BRAEDEN:

BRAEDEN
There's someone I'd like you to
meet first.

The girls turn round - and a raven-haired SOFIA emerges from
the shadows behind them!

SOFIA
Hello at last. Did you miss me?

CUT TO:

INT. ACADEMY - INFIRMARY - NIGHT

Skye is getting patched up as she talks to FITZGERALD and
BARBARA:

FITZGERALD
Skye, if Sofia has really gone
rogue... I'm afraid the Council
policy is quite clear in this
current climate.

SKYE
Meaning?

BARBARA
(grave)
Zero tolerance.

CUT TO:

INT. ACADEMY - CELL - NIGHT

Barbara and Fitzgerald face KIRA, who stands within the prison cell.

BARBARA

The situation is quickly turning into 'the enemy of my enemy is my friend.'

KIRA

Are asking me to... work with you?

CUT TO:

INT. ACADEMY - AUDITORIUM - DAY

With fierce battle raging around them, ALITA and Sofia are fighting:

ALITA

We can still end this without bloodshed, Sofia.

SOFIA

It's too late for me...

Alita lands a KNEE and two PUNCHES to knock Sofia back, but hesitates as she raises her sword to strike...

... and Sofia grabs her discarded SCYTHE, GUTTING Alita with it as she rams it into her chest!

CUT TO:

As before, with Sofia WEEPING as she cradles Alita's lifeless body in her arms.

CUT TO:

EXT. CABAL HQ - GLASS ROOF - DAY

On the top of the cabal's Arctic HQ, deep within the ice itself, Sofia and Braeden duel to the finish:

BRAEDEN

Are you understanding at last that you can't kill me... because you still love me?

Sofia lowers her head - then surges up and PUSHES her Scythe right out through his chest!

Braeden GASPS as she leans in close, whispering into his ear:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA
Love hurts.

CUT TO:

INT. CABAL HQ - CARGO BAY - NEXT

Kira lands a magical blast on JILHANDRA, sending the Cabal witch sprawling.

JILHANDRA
This isn't over yet...

KIRA
(laughs)
Sorry to argue, but -

BLAM! Kira suddenly JOLTS forward, hands dropping to clutch her belly. BLOOD pools through her fingers.

KIRA (cont'd)
What...

She turns - and there's Hamish. Lowering a smoking GUN.

CUT TO:

INT. ICE CAVERNS - CHAMBER - NEXT

Sofia faces the HUB, a pedestal with several spinning discs of stone, each with symbols carved into it.

She RAMS her Scythe point-first into the Hub, the TURNS, flooding the chamber with brilliant WHITE LIGHT.

She steps back, disengaging the Scythe and closing her eyes as the cavern starts to RUMBLE, huge hunks of ICE falling from the ceiling:

... until Delaney WARPS in right next to her, GRABS her and WARPS back out - just as falling ice SLAMS into the ground!

CUT TO:

INT. CABAL HQ - CELL BLOCK - NEXT

Skye is battling a green-skinned MOHRA DEMON, before Erika WHACKS it with her staff and sends it flying.

The demon is DECAPITATED as it lands neck-first on a jagged shard of glass.

Skye takes her sai dagger and CUTS along her palm, pressing her hand against the demon's oozing blood:

CUT TO:

INT. CABAL HQ - LAB - NEXT

Frankie, helping Erika and MARIA shoulder the woozy Skye between them, pauses as the trio rush through a packed laboratory:

FRANKIE
(shocked))
Il ne peut pas être...

It's DARCIE'S BODY! Frankie breaks from the girls, tearing a HARD DRIVE from one of the nearby PCs.

CUT TO:

EXT. ARCTIC - CRATER - DAY

Sofia, still bearing the Scythe, faces Delaney, standing near the edge of a huge pit.

SOFIA
You realise they're just going to
throw me right back in prison,
don't you?

DELANEY
Ain't up to me to -

WHACK! Sofia SUCKERPUNCHES her with all she's got.

SOFIA
(winces)
Sorry.

Sofia quickly steals away, out of frame, as we hear:

MANU (V.O.)
We need to find the Scythe. That's
where the poison started, and
that's where we can find a cure.

FITZGERALD (V.O.)
Then there's only one thing we can
do.
(beat)
We have to find Sofia.

BLACK OUT:

END OF TAG

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - DAY 1

Snow-capped mountains, crisp blue sky and fluffy white clouds. A brisk WIND sweeps across the landscape.

PAN ACROSS the crags and peaks until a small VILLAGE scrolls into view, nestled snugly in a valley.

2 EXT. VILLAGE - NEXT 2

PUSH THROUGH the front gates to enter the modest, simple village proper:

Wooden shacks and huts are scattered around, with thickly-dressed VILLAGERS milling between them.

Shop fronts display their wares - fresh food, bubbling pots of soups and livestock clucking nearby.

An OX CART trundles past, the oxen letting out a low MOO as they pass by, carrying a wide, straw-filled cart.

TITLE OVER: SASUAM VILLAGE, SHANNAN PREFECTURE, TIBET

SMOKE rises from most of the buildings - some large, some small, all based around a large central hall.

Men, women and children, young and old alike, make their way as we PUSH THROUGH the village, rolling down the central pathway.

The heckling calls of the shopkeepers mix with the general chatter of the villagers. Animals add their own comments.

Passing by a BLACKSMITH, busy forging a new set of horseshoes with a series of CLANGS and HISSES.

A group of CHILDREN race past, laughing and cheering each other on as they weave through the adult bodies.

SWEEP ALONG the veranda of one building, where a row of wizened OLD MEN sit and watch the life buzzing around them.

PUSH PAST to find their opposite numbers, a gathering of middle-aged WOMEN fussing over children, sorting through clothing or preparing food.

A larger OX CART comes into view, the oxen straining to heave along the over-stacked bulk in the cart behind them - several TREE TRUNKS, freshly felled.

The cart driver shouts a few calls of encouragement to get the ox moving, but they're not having much luck.

(CONTINUED)

He waves to several villagers, a few able-bodied men hurrying over and bracing their shoulders against the cart.

With a group HEAVE, they roll the cart a few feet forward, and then another:

But the left-hand wheel is starting to BUCKLE, and emits an ominous CREAK as the pack of men push the cart further.

Finally, with an agonised CRACK the wheel BREAKS, pitching the cart sharply to the left!

The villagers scatter as the cart tips over, the tree trunks CRASHING to the floor and rolling along.

SHOUTS of alarm ring out as people hurry to avoid the avalanche, the oxen BELLOWING in complaint as they're dragged along with the cart.

PULL BACK as the cart driver starts bickering with the men who helped - everyone looking for someone to blame.

A pair of thick, furry BOOTS step into frame, watching the argument from the shelter of a shade alleyway.

The boots' owner waits a few more moments, and then heads towards the cart.

The arguing villagers are no closer to resolving the mess - but as they see the new arrival approach, wrapped up in a hooded coat like the others, they move aside.

The newcomer pauses, surveying the wreckage. The angry voices fade away as everyone waits, watching for their next move.

Crouching by the buckled wheel, the newcomer tests the weight of the cart - which still holds several tree trunks.

They then place their hands beneath it and LIFT - hauling the cart upright again!

After a few gawking looks, the villagers quickly hurry to action - some move to help take the weight while others quickly brace and repair the wheel.

The restored wheel is quickly slotted back into place, and the villagers release the cart - which holds firm.

The newcomer then paces over to the errant tree trunks, DRAGGING one solo back over towards the cart.

Villagers follow suit - although it takes two, even three to lift the same weight as the newcomer.

Some trunks go onto the old cart, some onto a new one, spreading the load more effectively.

2 CONTINUED: (2)

2

Soon, all the trunks are back where they should be, and there's a CHEER from the surrounding village.

Hands are shaken, bodies are embraced, and the whole mess is quickly forgotten.

As the two carts set off, the crowd of villagers gradually disperse and get back to their days, the incident soon forgotten.

3 EXT. VILLAGE - FRONT GATES - NEXT

3

And just outside the main entrance, two more FIGURES have had a grandstand view of the whole affair.

Sporting large backpacks, both wrapped up in thick, hooded coats and boots, they turn to one another.

FIRST FIGURE

(female)

So?

SECOND FIGURE

(also female)

I'd say that just about confirms it to me. Let's go say 'hi.'

They head through the gates:

4 EXT. VILLAGE - NEXT

4

The newcomer is busy dusting wood chips and snow from their gloves, back to the new arrivals as they approach.

FIRST FIGURE

Uh... hello?

The newcomer turns, features hidden beneath the heavy hood.

The figures reach for the scarves covering their faces and pull back the hoods...

... and it's SKYE and DELANEY, jet black shades on against the bright mountain sun, hair tied back in braids.

DELANEY

Quite a show there.

The newcomer looks from one to the other, not replying. Skye and Delaney swap a quick glance.

SKYE

So... we thought we'd better come say hello. You know. It having been a few months and all.

(CONTINUED)

Still no response. The newcomer finally reaches for their hood, slowly pulling it back:

And there's SOFIA at long last. She stares quizzically at Skye and Delaney. There's a beat of silence.

SOFIA

I'm sorry... do I know you?

Skye blinks, and Delaney frowns in confusion as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

5

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

5

Sofia walks up to a small WELL, nodding and smiling to several villagers as she passes them.

A bemused Skye and Delaney follow her, observing her friendly interaction with the locals.

Sofia reaches for an old metal LADLE and scoops up a supply of the water, sipping it gratefully.

SKYE

So you're telling us you have no
idea who we are?

Sofia SPLASHES a handful of water across her face, wiping it dry as she turns back to the others.

SOFIA

No. Sorry.

DELANEY

Delaney Brogan. Skye Underwood. The
Rupert Giles Academy. None of these
mean anything to you?

SOFIA

Should they?

She steps away from the well, heading back across the village.

SOFIA (cont'd)

I'm sorry if you've come all this
way looking for this 'Sofia' girl,
but you've come to the wrong
village.

SKYE

Right, because there's another
village where a ninety-pound
English girl is lifting entire tree
trunks with her bare hands just
round the corner.

SOFIA

(shrugs)

I've always been able to do that.
Ever since I got here.

DELANEY

Which was when?

(CONTINUED)

Sofia pauses, staring at her.

DELANEY (cont'd)
Hey, simple question.

SOFIA
I'm... I'm not sure. The story goes
I was found wandering out in the
snow, and the villagers took me in.
Nobody's exactly sure when that was
- some say it was a few years, some
say longer. Needless to say, I've
been here a while.

SKYE
Actually, more like a couple of
months. Tops.

SOFIA
(frowns)
I... don't understand, Skye.

DELANEY
(changing tack)
So if your name isn't 'Sofia,' what
is it?

SOFIA
They call me 'Shechen.' I'm not a
hundred per cent what it means,
you'd have to ask at the monastery.

SKYE
Monastery?

SOFIA
(nods)
That's where I spent the first few
days of my time here, so I'm told.

DELANEY
You don't remember?

SOFIA
(shakes head)
Things are a little... fuzzy.

SKYE
And that doesn't bother you at all?
That, and the question as to why
you're speaking perfect English in
a village full of native Tibetans?

SOFIA
Why should it? Lots of Tibetans
speak good English.

(CONTINUED)

Skye stares at her for a beat - almost as if she's looking for a tell that Sofia's lying.

She then pulls Delaney away, leaving a bemused Sofia as a pair of village women head over to speak to her.

SKYE

Okay, so I could handle the fact that we spent two weeks trekking up here to find Sofes in the middle of the training montage from 'Rocky IV,' but now this?

DELANEY

They don't exactly put situations like this in the rulebook...

SKYE

What are we gonna do?

DELANEY

Stick with her. See if there's something causing the amnesia - a spell, enchantment maybe. Something we can tackle.

SKYE

And if there isn't?

DELANEY

Then we come up with a new plan.

SOFIA (O.S.)

Er, hello? Skye? Delaney?

They turn to see Sofia waving to them. The girls head over.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Are you two planning on staying long?

Skye starts to reply, but Delaney interrupts:

DELANEY

Just overnight. Before we get back on with our search.

SOFIA

Good. Why don't you come and have a rest round my place, then? I've got food, hot water, clean clothes...

DELANEY

Sounds great.

(CONTINUED)

She offers a warm smile, which Sofia returns as she heads away.

SKYE

(hisses)

We should just grab her and worry about what to do later.

DELANEY

If she's enchanted, moving her could be dangerous.

SKYE

'Dangerous' how?

DELANEY

Some are set to trigger an explosion if the subject is taken too far out of range.

SKYE

(beat; to Sofia)

Hey, wait up!

Skye hurries after her, with Delaney smirking as she follows:

Sofia opens the door and gestures for Skye and Delaney to enter.

Stamping the snow off their boots, the girls look around - it's a cosy, animal-skin lined wooden hut with an open fire built into a stone chimney.

They hear footsteps and turn to see a matronly village woman emerge from the kitchen, hugging Sofia warmly.

They exchange a few words in their own language, Sofia giggling as the woman ruffles her hair.

SOFIA

Skye, Delaney, this is Hariti.

HARITI nods a greeting, which the girls return.

SOFIA (cont'd)

She's the one who found me and brought me to this village, and since then I've been living here in her house.

Hariti and Sofia exchange a few more words, before they clasp hands for a beat. Hariti exits, the girls watching her go.

Sofia shrugs off her coat, heading into a makeshift kitchen as the girls sit on oversized wicker chairs.

SOFIA (O.S.) (cont'd)
(from kitchen)
We haven't had any proper tea since the last trade caravan passed by a few weeks ago, but I should be able to rustle up something to warm those bones.

Skye keeps one eye on the kitchen as Delaney closes her eyes, bringing her hands together until they almost touch.

SKYE
Anything?

DELANEY
Ssh.

Skye scowls, and Delaney waits another few moments before opening her eyes and exhaling.

DELANEY (cont'd)
Nothing. Not in here, at least.
This place is clean.

SKYE
What about that Hariti woman?

DELANEY
(shakes head)
Didn't get anything off her either.
I'll try a quick sweep on Sofia when she comes back.

SKYE
Be subtle.

DELANEY
Hey. It's me!

SOFIA (O.S.)
Here we are!

Sofia returns, carrying a tray with three china cups and a kettle, settling down by a knee-high table.

SOFIA (cont'd)
(pouring tea)
So tell me about this friend of yours, the one you're looking for.

Skye glances to Delaney - who nods as she starts to edge round behind Sofia.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

Well, she's British, like you,
about five-two, twenty years old,
brunette...

SOFIA

I can see how you got us confused!

SKYE

Mmm.

She looks at Delaney - who indicates that Skye should keep talking to keep Sofia distracted.

SKYE (cont'd)

Uh, she's, uh... she's somebody we
work with. Part of the team, you
know?

Sofia passes her a cup of tea, turning to Delaney and handing her another. Delaney takes it with a smile - which reverts to seriousness as soon as Sofia's back is turned.

SOFIA

What is it that you do?

SKYE

I guess you could call us... pest
control. We jet around, finding
people's problems and helping fix
them.

SOFIA

Oh, like the Red Cross? UN? That
kind of thing?

SKYE

Yeah, that's -

WHAP! Delaney suddenly clamps her hands onto Sofia's shoulders:

And there's a bright FLARE of light around them both!

Delaney is sent staggering backwards as a startled Sofia jumps to her feet, whirling round:

SOFIA

What the hell are you doing?

SKYE

Delaney!

Skye rushes to her side, Delaney still reeling as she clutches her head.

(CONTINUED)

DELANEY

Too much... couldn't... couldn't
break through...

SOFIA

Hey! I said, what the hell do you
think you're doing?

SKYE

Look, I can explain, we -

SOFIA

I want you to leave. Right now.

SKYE

Sofia, come on! We -

SOFIA

How many times? That's not my name!
Now please leave!

She points to the door. Skye helps Delaney back up, then the
duo head across the room.

Delaney is first out, gathering their coats. Skye pauses in
the open doorway as Sofia glares at her.

SKYE

Sorry. In advance.

Tight-lipped, Sofia stays silent. Skye exits:

Skye rejoins Delaney, who is sitting on the bottom step with
her head in her hands.

DELANEY

What were you sorry in advance for?

SKYE

For whatever lame-ass plans I'm
gonna cook up between now and
getting her back home.

(beat)

You okay?

DELANEY

(exhales)

Whatever's locking her memories
down, it's thick. Gave me a shock
just for trying to look at it.

SKYE

Who around here has access to that
kind of mojo?

DELANEY

Can't say. But we figure that out,
we're halfway towards lifting the
spell and going home.

Skye waits as Delaney stands - taking a second to steady
herself - before the girls head off.

Sofia watches them from the window for a beat, before drawing
the curtains shut.

SKYE

The sat phone still charged up?
We'd better call home.

Delaney reaches into her backpack and roots around,
withdrawing a bulky SATELLITE PHONE.

Skye takes it, switching it on and typing in an international
phone number. She holds it to her ear:

8

EXT. ACADEMY - GROUNDS - DAY

8

And back on the other side of the world, FLYING OVER swathes
of green and pleasant land.

PULL UP to bring the ACADEMY into view - the Tudor-styled
building standing proudly against the verdant countryside.

A distant RINGING can be heard as we CUT TO:

9

INT. ACADEMY - CORRIDOR - NEXT

9

PUSH THROUGH a busy corridor - SLAYERS of all ages pass on
both sides. Some look fresh as a daisy, others appear weaker,
paler than their friends.

The RINGING is getting louder as we take a left turn into:

10

INT. ACADEMY - RECEPTION - CONTINUOUS

10

The main foyer, passing by the framed photographs on the wall
- one of RUPERT GILES, the school's founder, several more of
the campus population year by year.

PUSH THROUGH a set of double doors by the reception desk,
into:

11

INT. ACADEMY - STAFF CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS

11

Down the sloping, stepped corridor which holds the main
offices, before arriving outside:

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

GRACE'S OFFICE

Where the plaque 'Grace Fitzgerald: Headmistress' faces us.
The RINGING is loudest now.

12 INT. ACADEMY - GRACE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

12

And behind her desk sits GRACE FITZGERALD, the head honcho.
She closes an e-mail on her PC screen and picks up the phone:

FITZGERALD
(into phone)
Hello?

INTERCUT:

13 EXT. VILLAGE - NEXT

13

Skye and Delaney are back in the village square, sitting by
the well and watching the villagers wander past. Delaney rubs
her temples, still sore from her attempted spell.

SKYE
It's us. We've found her.

FITZGERALD
(sits up)
You have? Are you sure? Is she -

SKYE
It's her, alright. This isn't like
Berlin all over again - it's Sofia.

FITZGERALD
(exhales)
Oh, thank God. I was starting to
lose hope, I thought we'd never -

SKYE
Yeah... we got a new problem.

FITZGERALD
(sighs; deflated)
Let's hear it.

SKYE
She can't remember us.

FITZGERALD
What?

SKYE
Nothing. She's a blank slate.
Thinks her name is...
(to Delaney)
What was it?

(CONTINUED)

DELANEY

Shechen.

SKYE

'Shechen.' Says she was taken in by these villagers but can't remember when that was. Seems to have some major league magic keeping her memory box screwed down tight, too. Delaney tried to bust it open and almost gave herself an aneurism.

FITZGERALD

That's not good enough, Skye. I don't need to remind you how important it is that Sofia tells us where we can recover the Scythe from.

SKYE

Hey, I got a bunch of sick friends in the infirmary to remind me of that, thanks. I don't need any added incentive.

Fitzgerald turns to her PC, rapidly opening up an internet browser window and typing something in.

FITZGERALD

What's your next step?

SKYE

Come up with a plan. I got something forming, but I need to do some legwork to put it in place.
(beat)

Also, it could go horribly wrong, in a 'wailing and gnashing of teeth' kind of way.

FITZGERALD

You know you both have *carte blanche* here. Whatever it takes.

SKYE

Kinda hoping and not hoping you'd say that...

Fitzgerald reads down her screen, finger leading the way.

FITZGERALD

I can offer you one piece of information - 'shechen' comes from 'Dukyi Shechen,' one of the twelve manifestations of Guru Rinpoche in Tibetan mythology.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

That's... massively irrelevant.

FITZGERALD

Shechen was also known as the
'Slayer of Demons.'

SKYE

(catching up)

So whoever put that spell on
Sofia...

FITZGERALD

Knew exactly who and what she is,
and probably knows where the Scythe
is being held too.

SKYE

Got it. We'll put a plan into
action and call you in a few hours.

FITZGERALD

Alright. Good luck.

END INTERCUT:

Skye disconnects the call and passes the phone back.

SKYE

You good to move again?

DELANEY

Just a sec...

Delaney suddenly turns and RETCHES violently, VOMITING into a
nearby bucket.

Ignoring the disgruntled looks she's getting, she wipes her
mouth and rises to her feet.

DELANEY (cont'd)

Now I'm ready.

The girls head off as we DISSOLVE TO:

All is quiet. The various huts and shacks have closed their
doors and porches for the evening.

Lamp and firelight glows behind the curtains and shutters on
the various buildings.

Animals scratch around within their pens, making a few quiet
noises as they fuss around...

(CONTINUED)

... until a black SHADOW falls across one hutch filled with CHICKENS, who go beserk!

The shadow moves on, leaving the panicked, clucking chickens behind as it paces on.

Heavy footsteps THUD along the ground, and deep, raspy breathing accompanies it.

More animals start making noise - dogs BARK and HOWL, cattle restlessly STAMP their feet and MOO in distress.

The shadow moves on as villagers start leaving their homes, light spilling across the paths as doors and windows open.

The cart driver from earlier stumbles out of his home, muttering as he stomps over to where his oxen are penned in.

He BELCHES, a little worse for the wear as he grunts at them to shut up - not seeing the SHADOW rise behind him.

He turns - and freezes as something inhumanly tall towers over him! His eyes bulge and he lets out a SHOUT:

And the thing in front of him ROARS back as moonlight bathes the scene:

It's a DEMON! Tall, thin and with huge, compound yellow eyes, its mouth a mess of mandibles and fangs!

The cart driver stumbles and falls, scrambling backwards to get away as the demon takes a step forward.

The cart driver gets up and runs, yelling his head off as more villagers start to leave their homes.

As more and more light floods the village, the demon is revealed in more of its glory - eight feet tall and with an extra set each of arms and legs, like a giant preying mantis.

As villagers run from the sight of it, the enraged creature SMASHES its way through the ox pen, splintering wood into fragments!

Sofia finally exits her home, bleary eyes blinking as she takes in the mayhem - panicking villagers rushing by.

SOFIA

What is it? What's going on?

She grabs the cart driver as he runs by:

SOFIA (cont'd)
(Tibetan; subtitled)
<What's happening?>

CART DRIVER
(Tibetan; subtitled)
<A demon! A demon is here! Run! Run
while you still can!>

She releases him as he flees, another ROAR echoing towards her as her head snaps round.

She hesitates - then reaches back into her house, grabbing a large STAFF before shutting the door and rushing off:

Back in the centre of the village, and the demon has a wide circle of the braver male villagers surrounding it.

With pitchforks, flaming torches and shovels they keep it at bay, but nobody dares get too close.

Sofia arrives on scene, pushing her way to the front of the crowd. She boggles at the sight of the demon.

It HOWLS again as it SMASHES its way through the well, stones and water spilling to the ground.

Sofia finds herself next to Hariti, the woman bearing an AX but not looking like she knows how to use it.

SOFIA
<Stay back! Let me handle this!>

HARITI
<Shechen, no! It's too dangerous!>

Gritting her teeth, Sofia CHARGES forward with a YELL, her staff whirling in her hands to SLAM into the demon!

Startled, it takes another few hits before it retaliates, SMACKING her with a two-handed strike.

Sofia reels, cheek cut and bleeding, but with a glint in her eye she SWEEPS the demon's legs away.

It lands heavily on its back, limbs flailing, and Sofia quickly SNAPS her staff over her knee.

Twirling one section round in her hand - now jagged and sharp like a STAKE - she RAMS it into the demon's chest!

It SCREECHES, mandibles gnashing and limbs convulsing, before it finally slumps. Dead.

Breathing hard, Sofia steps back, looking down at her hands as if she wasn't in control of them...

... before a mighty CHEER rings out from the villagers, APPLAUSE following! Hariti leads the rousing cheers.

Sofia is mobbed by ecstatic people, shaking her hands and embracing her, even as she still looks shocked.

She looks up - and finds Skye and Delaney watching her. They approach, gently moving villagers out of their way.

Skye holds Sofia's gaze for a beat, the crowd falling quiet as they sense the change in atmosphere.

SKYE

So now do you believe us?

Sofia's jaw hangs in shock as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

17

INT. SOFIA'S PLACE - NIGHT

17

Skye and Delaney are seated, looking for all the world like naughty schoolchildren as a furious Sofia paces up and down before them.

SOFIA

What were you thinking? Were you even thinking at all? Do you have any idea of the carnage that thing could have caused?

DELANEY

Yeah, but it didn't. You stopped it.

SOFIA

That's not the point and you know it! What if you'd been wrong? What if someone else had tried to take it on instead of me?

SKYE

We were on hand in case things went wrong. We had the situation under control.

SOFIA

'Under control'? Half the bloody village is wrecked!

SKYE

That's an exaggeration.

DELANEY

Yeah, more like about twenty per cent.

SKYE

Fifteen, even.

They realise Sofia is glaring murderously at them.

DELANEY

Look, we'll stay to help clean up the damage.

SOFIA

I'm not sure we even want your 'help.'

SKYE

Ah, would you give it a rest?

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

Can't you understand why I'm so angry?

SKYE

Yeah, but like I said - the situation was in hand. You dealt with it and nobody got hurt.

(beat)

Okay, so maybe we lost a coupla chickens, but still, overall I'd say we came out of this with a win.

Sofia flops down onto one seat, head in her hands. Skye and Delaney exchange a concerned glance.

SOFIA

Maybe you'd better tell me...

She looks up - her eyes suddenly wet with tears.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Tell me everything. Tell me who I'm supposed to be.

SKYE

There's, uh... there's a lot to get through.

SOFIA

(wiping eyes)

Skye, I just killed a... a monster with little more than my bare hands. I'm not sure what scares me most - that I took it on without even thinking, or that my body seemed to know what it was doing long before my brain could catch up.

(beat)

What am I?

DELANEY

That's... also complicated.

SOFIA

You said earlier something about... 'pest control.' About helping people with their problems. Is that what you meant? Do I... kill monsters?

Skye rises, approaching Sofia and laying a hand on her shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

SKYE

Go make some more tea. We're gonna need it.

She pats Sofia's shoulder, and as Sofia's mind spins with recent events, we DISSOLVE TO:

18 INT. SOFIA'S PLACE - LATER

18

About a dozen empty cups litter the tabletop - along with a half-empty bottle of whiskey and three shot glasses.

It's later still, with several candles around the room supplementing the dying embers in the fireplace.

Skye and Delaney both look a little worse for wear - Delaney HICCUPS drunkenly - but Sofia is just staring distantly past them both.

SOFIA

So... this 'scythe' thing you need... I had it last?

SKYE

(slurs)

Yup. Walked off with it, nobody knows where.

DELANEY

Hid it, we think.

SKYE

Maybe you dropped it? Lost it down a crevasse?

She SNIGGERS at the word 'crevasse.'

SOFIA

I... I just don't remember any of what you've told me. Being a 'Slayer,' this 'Cabal,' the Academy back in England, that 'Buffy' girl... is that even a name?

SKYE

C'mon. I drew you a picture. You're saying that doesn't help?

Sofia picks up a scrap of paper - a good, if slightly erratic impression of the Scythe has been scrawled onto it, with the stake end stabbing a cartoon vampire.

SOFIA

(sighs; off drawing)

Not really.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

Okay, so I was kinda wasted when I
drew it, but still...

Delaney sits up - pausing as the sudden movement makes her a
tad dizzy.

DELANEY

Okay. So. We try something else.

She rises, approaching Sofia and kneeling before her.

DELANEY (cont'd)

I'm gonna try what I did before,
only this time you're gonna relax
and let me do my thing. Okay?

Delaney extends her hands. Sofia hesitates, then reaches out
to take them both.

DELANEY (cont'd)

Close your eyes. Focus. Clear your
mind.

SKYE

Which shouldn't be hard.

(off look)

Well, it won't! She's the one all
amnesia-y here.

DELANEY

(to Sofia)

Try and picture the Scythe. Doesn't
matter if you can't remember it -
your subconscious mind is the part
I'm asking this time.

Sofia exhales, closing her eyes. Delaney does the same.

DELANEY (cont'd)

Concentrate...

Sofia bows her head a little. A gust of WIND disturbs the
room, sending candle flames flickering.

PUSH IN on Sofia, her breathing slow and regular, her
HEARTBEAT booming louder and louder...

FLASH! A quick image of Sofia with the SCYTHE, down in the
depths of the Cabal's Arctic base.

Sofia GASPS, yanking her hands away from Delaney.

SOFIA

I... I saw something, I don't...

(CONTINUED)

Delaney rises, CRACKING her knuckles.

SKYE

Well?

DELANEY

It's in there, somewhere, but there's a pretty big lock on it. We need to find out who did this and get them to reverse it.

SKYE

Can't you do it?

DELANEY

Every spell has an imprint of the caster on it. Think of it like needing the right key for a lock. If I try to undo someone else's spell, I need to get all the little details and frequencies right, or we get feedback, and then -

SKYE

Boom. Yeah, got it.

(to Sofia)

You said you went to that monastery when you first got here, right?

(Sofia nods)

Then let's go ask them.

She stands - but the alcohol hits her and she quickly sits.

SKYE (cont'd)

Tomorrow.

Delaney STRETCHES, weary after their long day, and as Sofia rubs her temples, still processing, we DISSOLVE TO:

It's the next day, and Sofia is the first to emerge from her house, wrapped up for a trek. Skye and Delaney follow her.

SOFIA

It's about a two hour walk at least to get up there.

DELANEY

It took us two weeks to get here. We can manage two hours.

SKYE

Speak for yourself!

SOFIA
(grins)
Let's go.

They set off, Sofia turning to wave to Hariti, who watches them depart from one of the windows as we CUT TO:

The trio, bundled up tight in boots, coats and scarves, are heading up a steep path winding round the mountainside.

Elegant, sweeping scenery is all around them - the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas, and the craggy terrain in all directions down from that.

SKYE
Can I ask something?

SOFIA
Go ahead.

SKYE
Why Tibet?

SOFIA
I'm sorry?

SKYE
Just saying - it always seem to be the destination of choice for people running from some big trauma and stuff like that.

SOFIA
(shrugs)
I'm not sure.

DELANEY
(out of breath)
Next time, make sure you pick somewhere flatter.

Sofia grins as the trio move on, and we CUT TO:

The girls stand at the crest of a hill, leading down to a small valley where a large MONASTERY awaits.

The monastery itself is like a small town, a complex of buildings in a large circle surrounded by a high wall.

Decked out in reds, oranges and browns, it stands out against the snow and rock but also looks perfectly at home.

SOFIA
Samye Monastery. This is the place.

SKYE
(dry)
You don't say.

SOFIA
Let me do the talking, alright?
We'll need to speak to the head
monk.

She leads the way as the girls descend into the valley.

EXT. MONASTERY - PATHWAY - NEXT

A tall white TEMPLE rises from the centre of the complex,
dozens of smaller buildings all around.

Red-robed BUDDHIST MONKS pass by, nodding to the newcomers as
they make their way along the main promenade.

The ground underfoot is neatly paved - patches of grass and
trees are dotted around to add to the cosy atmosphere.

SKYE
Nice place.

SOFIA
It was founded in the eighth
century, the first Buddhist
monastery set up in Tibet. It's
famous for its sacred *mandala*
design - the central temple
symbolizes the legendary Mount
Meru, center of the universe.

DELANEY
(eyes her)
Since when did you become such an
expert?

SOFIA
(beat)
You know, I've never really thought
about it before. It's just
something I've picked up.

She approaches an older MONK in a yellow hat, bowing
respectfully as Skye and Delaney hang back.

SKYE
So what's the plan once we meet the
guy in charge?

DELANEY

Ask him to lift the spell. If he says no, we make him lift it.

SKYE

Dude, these are Buddhist monks. I think we can go to Hell just for thinking about hurting them.

DELANEY

It's either that or we go home empty handed and watch everyone in the Academy die.

SKYE

(beat; calls out)

Hey, Sof - Shechen! We good?

Sofia heads back over.

SOFIA

We've got an audience. We need to head for the *utse*.

(off looks)

The main temple. There's a chapel in there where we'll meet Master Kim Ho-shang.

DELANEY

Lead on. You seem to know what you're doing.

Sofia waves for them to follow, the girls approaching:

23 EXT. MONASTERY - TEMPLE - NEXT 23

The girls pass large STATUES on their way into the atrium of the temple:

24 INT. TEMPLE - ATRIUM - NEXT 24

Sofia takes a left turn, leading the way. Skye and Delaney take in the elaborate paintings, murals, statues and other ornaments decorating the walls and surfaces.

25 INT. TEMPLE - CHAPEL - NEXT 25

The girls pass beneath three large DOORWAYS and enter a smaller room, this one dominated by a huge BUDDHA statue at the far end.

A wizened old MONK kneels before the statue, hands clasped in silent prayer. INCENSE smoke wafts from burners nearby.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE
(whispers)
Is this the guy?

SOFIA
(nods)
I'll introduce us.

She heads over. STAY ON Skye and Delaney.

SKYE
Reckon you can take that guy if it
comes to that?

DELANEY
Don't see why not.

SKYE
Just saying - it's always the
little, oldest ones who end up with
the mad kung fu skills.
(off look)
Yoda. Episode Three.

ON SOFIA as she reaches the monk, MASTER KIM, kneeling next
to him and bowing her head towards the statue.

SOFIA
(Tibetan; subtitled)
Greetings, Master Kim.

KIM
(smiles; in English)
Hello, Shechen.

SOFIA
(blinks)
You know who I am?

KIM
(nods)
I have been waiting for you.

He rises, a bewildered Sofia taking a moment to rise and
follow him.

Kim approaches Skye and Delaney, bowing to them. They return
the gesture.

KIM (cont'd)
You must be her friends?

SKYE
That's us.

DELANEY

Do you know who we are?

KIM

I know why you must be here.
Please, this way.

He motions for them to follow as he leaves the room. Sofia joins the others.

SOFIA

This... is a little creepy.

SKYE

(pats her arm)
Hey, we're making progress, right?
As long as we don't have to beat
him in single combat or anything,
then I'm good.

They exit, passing through:

Skye's eye is caught by a row of golden PRAYER WHEELS, mounted on spindles against one wall.

SKYE

Oo! I always wanted to do this...

She steps over, placing her hand on one - and rolling it back and forth like a DJ scratching a record as she speaks:

SKYE (cont'd)

I - I - I want the knife...
(beat; rolls wheel)
Please!

A beat. Delaney and Sofia stare blankly back.

SKYE (cont'd)

'The Golden Child'? Anyone?
(beat; sighs)
Never mind.

She rejoins them as they catch up Master Kim.

Kim opens a door and steps into a modest room, sparsely furnished and holding little more than books and scrolls.

The others enter, Sofia keeping her eye on Master Kim while Delaney is drawn to the overstocked bookshelves.

DELANEY

Woah...

She traces a finger across the various spines, impressed by some of the titles on offer.

Master Kim roots through a small desk, producing a sealed LETTER which he presents to Sofia.

KIM

This is for you. To be opened on the occasion you returned here.

Sofia looks down at the letter as Skye joins her.

SKYE

Hey... that's your handwriting!

The letter is addressed to 'Sofia - and probably Skye.' Sofia glances at the others before she opens it.

Unfolding the letter within, she scans down it and begins to read aloud:

SOFIA

'Dear Sofia, this is a letter to you from yourself. If you're reading this, it probably means the Academy sent someone to find you - most likely Skye. They'll have been asking you all sorts of questions that you can't answer - things like 'where is the Scythe?' - so I know this must be a confusing time for you.'

Sofia pauses, looking to Skye. Skye nods - keep going.

SOFIA (cont'd)

'What I can say to you is that you don't remember these things for a reason. Some things need to stay forgotten, no matter how hard people try to make you remember, and so I left this letter for you should you ever come looking for answers.'

SKYE

Man. Even in a past-tense letter you manage to sound self-righteous.

SOFIA

'It's important that you don't go through with whatever you're being asked to do.'

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA (cont'd)

The memories I went to such great lengths to bury need to stay that way. I just hope now that you'll listen to me - or you, rather - and turn around and walk away. Believe me, it's for the best. Sofia.'

She lets the letter hang, Delaney snatching it to read it.

DELANEY

(to Sofia; off letter)

You can't listen to this. When you - she - wrote this, you didn't know what was at stake. How many lives are at risk if you don't remember.

SOFIA

But -

DELANEY

But nothing! Damn it, Sofia - this is serious! If you don't remember, then hundreds of girls are going to die! Do you want that on your conscience? Do you want their deaths to be on your hands, when you had the chance to do something about it?

She **SHOVES** the letter back into Sofia's hands.

DELANEY (cont'd)

I know this sucks, I know this is hard and I know you're scared, confused and don't know what to do, but trust me - we have to do this.

Sofia looks at the letter, then to Master Kim.

KIM

The choice is yours alone, child. Only you can walk the true path.

SKYE

Come on, Sofes... you save people. That's what you do. What we do.
(beat)

Help us save the world.

Sofia looks back to Skye and Delaney, and then the letter again. Turmoil rages across her expression, the dilemma twisting through her mind as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

28 INT. ACADEMY - INFIRMARY - DAY

28

PUSH THROUGH the swing doors and into the infirmary - and right into a heaving mass of bed-ridden SLAYERS, others loping around as they COUGH and WHEEZE.

Glancing to either side as we advance, taking in the varying states of illness on display:

Some Slayers are pale, lifeless and clammy, others doubling over as they VOMIT or COUGH violently.

In the midst of the chaos stands DR. MANU CAIRNS, looking like a battlefield medic from the Somme amongst all the walking wounded and dying Slayers.

His face is solemn as he draws a sheet over the body of one unfortunate Slayer, letting out a heavy sigh.

GREG (O.S.)

I was going to ask how you were doing...

Manu turns to be greeted by GREG, whose gaze is fixed on the covered body of the Slayer.

GREG (cont'd)

... but I think I just got my answer.

Manu offers a half-hearted smile as he heads for his desk.

Along the way, they pass MARIA, Erika's younger sister, who appears to be operating as a makeshift nurse - she's checking the IV drips on a row of Slayers.

GREG (cont'd)

Oh, did Grace pass on the news? Skye and Delaney found Sofia.

MANU

Yes, she did. Although she also told me how Sofia appears to have no memory of them, or the location of the Scythe.

GREG

(exhales)

Yeah... that kind of negates the point of actually finding her, doesn't it?

(CONTINUED)

MANU

I don't need to stress the vital importance of recovering the Scythe, least of all to anybody here at the Academy.

Manu sits at his desk, opening a file on his PC and starting to type as Greg perches on the edge.

GREG

I know part of me was hoping they'd find the Scythe but not Sofia. After what she did...

He lets it hang. Manu pauses, looking up at Greg.

MANU

Gregory. I'm not insensitive to your pain - I understand the loss of a loved one all too well - but now is not the time to hold a grudge. Not when the lives of over fifteen hundred girls are at stake.

GREG

(darkly)

I'm not just going to forget what happened. Aiden deserves better.

MANU

What Aiden would want is for you to move on with your life, and help in the effort to save the Slayers from premature extinction.

Greg rises, glancing at Manu's screen - he's writing up the death report on the Slayer who just passed away.

GREG

What's the current state of play with the virus, anyway?

MANU

At my last estimate, we still have less than six months before every Slayer in the world is incapacitated by the virus. The fatality rate will already be in the sixty to seventy per cent range by that point.

GREG

(heavy)

Over a thousand dead.

(CONTINUED)

Manu finishes the report, lingering for a beat before he closes the file and switches his monitor off.

MANU

You'll have to excuse me. I still have much to do.

GREG

Yes, yes, of course.

Greg stands aside to let Manu return to his rounds. He watches the doctor go as Maria joins him.

MARIA

He doesn't mean to be rude. It's just... this is a lot for him to deal with every day, you know? It never ends. Every day, more of the girls fall sick, and none of them get any better.

GREG

I know, I know. I just hope Skye and Delaney have made some progress.

PULL BACK to take in more of the diseased Slayers.

GREG (cont'd)

Or this could be it.

PULL BACK further - yet more sick Slayers can be seen filling the infirmary before we CUT TO:

PAN ACROSS a dark, crowded chamber deep within the temple. The walls house glass cases with RELICS inside - skulls, possessions and other items.

More STATUES and PAINTINGS hang on the walls, with incense burners and candles adding to the ambience.

Sofia kneels on a cushion in the middle of the room, Master Kim and a handful of other old monks surround her.

Sitting on a bench by the wall are Skye and Delaney, watching as the monks CHANT, daubing symbols on Sofia's skin with dark paint.

SKYE

Okay, we're moving into your territory now. What are they doing?

DELANEY

Preparing her for the ritual.

Delaney watches closely - one monk keeps CHANTING, swinging an incense burner, while the others finish the painting.

DELANEY (cont'd)

Sofia's mind's under the influence of a powerful spell. They can't just snap it open without preparing her first, or her head could pop like an egg.

SKYE

Which would be bad.

DELANEY

(nods)

Which would be bad. The problem is that these guys may have made the original spell too heavy to actually be lifted.

The monks edge back, leaving only Master Kim to face Sofia.

DELANEY (cont'd)

If that's the case... then we'll have to try something more forceful.

SKYE

And by 'forceful,' you mean magics that could hurt Sofia?

Delaney stays noticeably quiet. Perturbed, Skye's attention returns to the ritual in progress.

KIM

The journey will not be an easy one. Your memories were buried beneath many protective layers of our most ancient magics - spells passed down from Padmasambhava himself to his followers.

SOFIA

It's alright. You heard what they said - lives are at stake. I can't go back to the village knowing that people may have died because of me.

KIM

Truly, your soul is a brave one, Shechen.

SOFIA

It's 'Sofia.'

(grins)

Apparently.

(CONTINUED)

Kim nods, glancing at his comrades. The CHANTING begins anew, with Kim holding his hands just over Sofia's head.

Delaney sits up, fidgeting in her seat.

SKYE

What's up?

DELANEY

The air, it's... it's getting charged up. I can feel it.

Skye looks back - Kim closes his eyes, Sofia doing the same.

The CHANTING rises in volume as Kim joins in, and Sofia frowns, her eyes flicking round beneath her eyelids.

FLASH! Sofia facing a room full of VAMPIRES, alone inside a run down house.

FLASH! And now, Sofia GASPS as DANA lunges for her, HACKING at her gut with a huge sword!

FLASH! Sofia is in bed with an older BOY, kissing and fumbling - though his features are fuzzy, indistinct.

FLASH! ALITA, the Scythe plunging into her chest as she GASPS, wide-eyed.

FLASH! Within the Arctic base, Sofia HACKS DOWN a male figure, whose face is again obscured.

FLASH! Sofia, trekking alone up the treacherous mountain path through a flurry of snow.

FLASH! She stands at the mouth of a deep, dark cave, the SCYTHE in her hand.

FLASH! She THROWS the Scythe down into the abyss, the blade quickly disappearing from sight:

And we're back in the chamber as Sofia GASPS loudly, lurching backwards and hitting the floor.

Skye and Delaney jump up, racing to her side, helping the woozy, breathless Sofia back up.

SKYE

Sofia! Are you okay?

DELANEY

What did you see?

SOFIA

I... I don't know, there was... there was so much...

(CONTINUED)

She turns to Master Kim, wiping the sweat from her face - and smearing the paint there in the process.

SOFIA (cont'd)
Was that it? Was that everything?

KIM
We could only break the dam. You must manage the waters that flow through the cracks.

SKYE
I think he means 'no.'

DELANEY
He means we made a start. The rest will follow.
(beat)
Did you see the Scythe?

SOFIA
I... yes, yes... I threw it into a cave. I just wanted it to be as far away as possible, I didn't care where it went. Why... why would I hate it so much?

SKYE
(quickly)
Great power, great responsibility. You just wanted shot of the weight on your shoulders, I reckon.

Skye and Delaney swap a quick, conspiratorial look.

SOFIA
I know where to go. I know where it is now. I can take us there.

She tries to sit up, still light-headed.

SOFIA (cont'd)
We have to hurry.

Skye and Delaney help her up.

SOFIA (cont'd)
(to Kim)
Thank you.

He nods, clasping his hands in acknowledgment. She does the same, bowing her head.

The trio head for the exit, the gathered monks watching them go as we CUT TO:

30 EXT. MONASTERY - PATHWAY - DAY

30

It's later in the day, but the monastery still has plenty of movement - monks, pilgrims and the odd intrepid tourist.

Sofia is hurriedly pulling on her coat, getting the straps tangled up in her haste.

SKYE

Hey, hey, hey! Slow down!

Skye pulls her to a stop, detangling the straps for her.

SKYE (cont'd)

I get that you're anxious to move on, and God knows we've waited long enough for this, but we don't know what's out there. We can't go steaming in all half-cocked.

SOFIA

It's just a cave, Skye.

SKYE

It's never 'just' a cave.

DELANEY

Yeah, remember that demon last night? We found that in a cave.

Admonished, Sofia relents. Skye finishes strapping her into her coat, pulling the hood up.

SKYE

Now. Here's the plan. You take us to the cave. We go in, we find the Scythe, we come out.

SOFIA

What happens after that?

SKYE

We'll worry about that later. Right now, focus on the Scythe. Okay?

Sofia takes a deep breath, nodding.

SOFIA

Let's go.

She sets off, the girls following as we CUT TO:

31 EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - DAY

31

The girls are hiking up another steep path, Sofia leading the way with renewed purpose.

(CONTINUED)

Behind her, a weary Skye hauls herself up the last few steps to a plateau overlooking the valley below.

SKYE

Please say it's just up ahead...

SOFIA

It's just up ahead.

She points as Skye and Delaney join her - and there it is. The CAVE ENTRANCE, a gaping black hole in the side of the mountain, just as in Sofia's flash of memory.

Delaney looks around, down into the valley, and taps Sofia on the arm.

DELANEY

I think I figured out why you
picked your village as the one to
settle in.

They follow her gaze - Sofia's village is the first landmark below them.

SKYE

Alright, let's get this done.

She roots through her backpack for a large FLASHLIGHT, Delaney doing the same.

SOFIA

Before we go in...

They turn to her. Sofia shifts awkwardly.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Some of the things I saw...

DELANEY

We'll tell you more once we're
safely back home.

Anxious not to have this conversation now, Skye and Delaney manage a few more steps before:

SOFIA

There was a boy. I think.

The girls stop, turn to face her.

SOFIA (cont'd)

I couldn't see his face. I think...
I think we were in love. And a
girl, an Asian girl, she... she was
killed. By that Scythe.

(MORE)

31 CONTINUED: (2)

31

SOFIA (cont'd)
(beat; uncertain)
Did I... did I kill her?

SKYE
(firm)
No.

Sofia looks to her with pleading eyes, but Skye sets her jaw.

SKYE (cont'd)
Come on.

The girls head forward, a troubled Sofia behind:

32 INT. CAVE - ENTRANCE - NEXT

32

The trio are framed in the entrance, looking back towards them from within the murky depths.

Flashlights are snapped on, the beams swallowed by the inky blackness.

SKYE
Hello?

Her voice ECHOES around the cavernous chamber.

SKYE (cont'd)
Echo!

And again, the sound reverberating around them.

DELANEY
Knock it off.

SKYE
(grins)
Sorry.

They head forward, carefully negotiating the jagged, craggy interior as they make their way down.

33 INT. CAVE - TUNNEL - NEXT

33

Wandering through a human-sized tunnel, flashlights sweeping the gloom as the girls proceed.

SKYE
You say you just threw the Scythe down into here, right? You didn't follow it to see where it went?

SOFIA
I didn't want to. I just wanted it out of my sight forever.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE
(to Delaney)
You thinking what I'm thinking?

DELANEY
That we should have found it
already by now?

SKYE
(nods)
Must've been moved after she threw
it down here.

SOFIA
By whom?

And a sudden, bubbling GROWL rings out from the darkness.

SKYE
More like by what.

Delaney clenches her fist - a halo of LIGHT sparking around
it - while Skye quickly pulls her SAI from inside her coat.

The girls cautiously advance, Sofia looking like she wishes
she had a weapon too.

SKYE (cont'd)
How're those Slayer fighting skills
of yours doing?

SOFIA
I still don't think I have any real
control over them. Hopefully
they'll kick back in once the
monsters start coming.

DELANEY
Demons. There's no such thing as
'monsters.'

The girls hear RUMBLING noises from up ahead - things are
moving in the darkness.

SOFIA
Are you sure about that?

Delaney shoots her a look as they enter:

A wide, high-ceilinged chamber, beams of LIGHT lancing down
from small holes up in the roof.

Water DRIPS from up above, falling across the cavern as the
flashlight beams sweep over it:

And they fall on the SCYTHE, lying on a stone pedestal right in the centre of the chamber!

SOFIA

That's it! That's it! I recognise
it now!

She breaks past the others, hurrying forward.

SKYE

(hisses)
Sofia, wait!

Sofia's halfway across the room when something BLURS out of the shadows:

WHAM! The creature barrels into her, knocking her flying - out of the light from the flashlights!

SKYE (cont'd)

Sofia!

She charges forward, beam sweeping the gloom for any sign of Sofia - while CHITTERING noises can be heard, along with the FOOTSTEPS of more creatures moving around.

Delaney strides boldly out into the open, raising her fist above her head - and a BLAZE of light flares from her hand!

It illuminates the chamber like a rescue flare - and Skye catches glimpses of several dozen DEMONS cowering from the light! They're covered in shaggy black fur, eyes large and milk white.

SKYE (cont'd)

Holy crap...

DELANEY

Get the Scythe and let's get out of
here!

SKYE

What about Sofia?

SOFIA (O.S.)

Skye! Help me!

Sounds of a FIGHT can be heard - a demon's GRUNTS and Sofia's desperate struggles against it.

SKYE

Light it up again, quick!

DELANEY

I can't! I need a second to charge
it up...

(CONTINUED)

Skye rushes for the Scythe - just as three demons loom up out of the shadows before her!

Without breaking stride, she snaps her sai left and right, launching a KICK at the third to fell all three at once.

Snatching up the Scythe, she ducks back as another demon SWIPES at her with a clawed, furry arm.

SKYE

Sofia? Sofia! Where are you?

SOFIA (O.S.)

I'm here!

Sofia stumbles into view - clothes ragged and torn, scratches peppering her skin.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Did you -

Skye quickly twists and WHACKS the Scythe against an attacking demon.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Never mind...

DELANEY

Let's go!

Delaney lets loose another BLAST of light, the girls regrouping and racing for the exit:

35 INT. CAVE - TUNNEL - NEXT

35

The girls sprint down the tunnel - but the demons are now chasing them, a sea of black bodies surging onward!

36 EXT. MOUNTAINSIDE - NEXT

36

The trio burst out of the cave, stumbling and slipping down the hillside as they speed from the cave:

And the demons are right behind them, pouring out of the cave like a tidal wave!

Skye risks a look back - boggles at the incoming horde of creatures - and pushes the other two to move faster.

The enraged HOWLS of the demons ring out around the mountainside as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

37

EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

37

Back to the village, the setting sun creeping across the mountain range in the distance.

The village itself is winding down for the day again - the general hubbub is dying down as people settle in...

... until Sofia, Skye and Delaney tear into view, running like the Devil was chasing them!

SOFIA
(waving arms)
Everybody inside! Now!

Delaney glances over her shoulder:

DELANEY'S POV:

And there they are - the DEMONS, bounding across the distance at high speed, keeping to the shade.

ON SCENE:

The trio race through the village's front gates, Sofia grabbing the first VILLAGER she meets:

SOFIA (cont'd)
(Tibetan; subtitled)
<Tell everyone to get back inside,
quickly! More of those creatures
from last night are coming!>

The villager's eyes bulge, and he half-falls as he turns to run and spread the word.

Skye looks back to the gates, seeing that they can be closed and sealed with a long wooden barrier.

SKYE
Help me with this!

As the wide-eyed villager grabs anyone and everyone in range, sounding the alarm, Delaney and Sofia join Skye.

They HEAVE, pushing the gates closed, and then as one they carry the heavy wooden beam across the gates to shut them.

DELANEY
That won't keep them out for long.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

Long enough for us to come up with
a better plan?

CRASH! The first wave of demons hit the gates, the wooden
fence surrounding the village RATTLING as they hammer it!

DELANEY

Probably not...

SOFIA

This way!

She takes off, the other two following:

INT. SOFIA'S PLACE - NEXT

Bursting into her home, Sofia almost collides with Hariti,
who is talking rapidly in Tibetan, clearly alarmed.

Ignoring her, Sofia flings a rug from over a large CHEST,
quickly throwing it open:

To reveal several WEAPONS within! Skye peers over her
shoulder, raising an eyebrow.

SKYE

I thought you said -

SOFIA

I don't know why I kept all these,
I... I just knew it might be
important one day.

Delaney picks up a SWORD, testing the weight.

DELANEY

(nods)

Good call.

More SHOUTS of alarm can be heard outside - along with the
awful HOOTING call of the demons!

SOFIA

(to Hariti)

<Lock the door when we're gone.
Stay inside, no matter what you
hear. Do you understand?>

HARITI

<Shechen, what is - >

SOFIA

(firm)

<Do you understand?>

Hariti reluctantly nods, and Sofia turns to the girls.

SOFIA (cont'd)
We have to try and drive them off
somehow - these people can't fight
those things!

SKYE
They don't have to. We will.

SOFIA
But - I... I'm not even sure I know
how to fight...

SKYE
Trust me. It's like riding a bike.
Only with this bike, you'll get
skinned alive and eaten if you fall
off, so think of that as an
incentive to learn quicker.

She grabs Sofia's arm, YANKING her away as we CUT TO:

The village seems deserted now - people are barricading
themselves into their homes.

The main gates are still RATTLING, the demons outside
pounding and hammering at them.

Sofia, Skye and Delaney form a line, weapons at the ready,
eyes on the increasingly fragile gates.

Skye realises she's still holding the Scythe and passes it to
Sofia.

SKYE
I think this belongs to you.

SOFIA
I...

SKYE
Just trust me on this.

The gates BUCKLE, looking ready to splinter open at any
moment.

DELANEY
Why aren't they just climbing over
the walls? They're not that high.

SKYE
Let's be thankful they're stupid
demons, okay?
(MORE)

SKYE (cont'd)
Fast, tough and smart ain't a
combination I ever like to meet in
the field.

But as the girls watch, sure enough - several demons appear
over the walls, clambering over one another as they claw
their way up and over!

SKYE (cont'd)
(scowls; to Delaney)
You just had to go and say it,
didn't you?

SOFIA
Here they come!

The first wave of demons surge towards them - just as the
gates BURST OPEN, unleashing the floodgates!

Black, furry bodies rush by on all sides as the girls lay
into the demons:

Skye DUCKS one clumsy attack, UPPERCUTTING the demon before
her before turning and KICKING another.

Delaney swings her sword left and right, cutting two demons
down before she thrusts her open palm at one:

And a BLAST of energy sends it hurtling back through the air!

The demon SMASHES into the side of one house, and Delaney
winces at the mark it leaves.

Sofia, however, is faring less well - holding the Scythe
awkwardly, she clumsily swings at the incoming demons but
can't seem to hit anything.

Skye gets mobbed by two creatures, struggling to get out of
their grip as more close in.

She manages a SNAP KICK back into the face of one, writhing
out of the other's grip to sink her sai into its eye socket!

Delaney DODGES as more of the demons try to crowd her,
FLIPPING neatly back and up onto a row of steps.

Her sword is a blur of motion as she cuts down more of the
monsters, using a quick KICK to launch a heavy BUCKET into
another demon!

SOFIA (cont'd)
Skye, I - I don't know what to do!

SKYE
Hit back!

Skye's got problems of her own - she's being backed up against the side of another house by the onslaught.

Ducking and weaving, she takes a solid PUNCH to the gut, doubling over.

Two of the demons leap on her back, trying to push her to the floor.

She lurches forward, sending them all to the ground, but she's up first to KICK one across the face.

DELANEY

Skye! You okay?

Skye's winded, but alert enough to snap her ELBOW back into another demon as it lunges for her.

SKYE

I'm managing...

DELANEY

Why don't you just vamp out or something? Won't that help?

A beat - Skye's expression flashes with guilt.

SKYE

Uh... hey, look over there!

Delaney glances round - and Skye quickly runs to join her, STEPPING on several demons along the way.

Back to back, the two Slayers hold off the tide of demons - but all around them, more are invading the village!

Sofia is at the centre of a wide circle of enemies, each erratic swing of the Scythe keeping them back - just.

Demons start bashing down doors, dragging villagers out into the open and descending ravenously on them.

SOFIA

We have to do something!

SKYE

(to Delaney)

You got anything in that hat of yours that'll clear this?

DELANEY

Not without blowing half the village up with it...

SCREAMS sound from off screen - the demons have claimed another victim!

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

We wait much longer, there won't be
a village for them to trash!

Delaney grits her teeth - then draws her hand towards her, sparks of GREEN ENERGY gathering round her closing fist.

She then quickly PUNCHES her hand onto the ground - and a SHOCKWAVE of energy flies out in all directions!

Demons caught in its path are stunned, some thrown back through the air while others are knocked flat.

The energy also CRASHES through several homes and buildings, however, adding to the destruction.

Sofia, meanwhile, flails blindly with the heavy Scythe and is overbalanced as one demon SWIPES at her:

The claws RAKE across her arm, opening a deep gash that sends her stumbling back in pain!

The demons close in a little, ready for the kill - but something switches on inside Sofia's mind.

She slowly lifts her head, expression darkening as she grips the Scythe like she means it...

And with one almighty SWING after another, she hacks down demon after demon, sending limbs and sprays of BLOOD flying!

SKYE (cont'd)

Woah... looks like Little Miss
Sunshine got her groove back!

Sofia is SNARLING, lost in the rage of battle as she lays into the demons - who don't seem so confident now!

As more and more go down to the whirling dervish of mayhem that Sofia has become, the demons start to retreat.

SKYE (cont'd)

That's it... that's it! Keep it up!

Skye PUNCHES her nearest opponent, twisting to THROW her sai at a demon trying to haul a screaming villager away.

The dagger THUDS into the demon's chest, knocking it down and freeing the villager to scramble back into her home.

Sofia is now spattered with thick, dark BLOOD as she keeps hacking away, leaving a trail of felled demons in her wake.

Skye and Delaney run out of targets, watching as Sofia routs the remaining demons.

(CONTINUED)

She chases the stragglers out of the village, breathless but still fired up as she tries to catch them.

The last few evade the Scythe's blade, scampering back to the safety of their cave, leaving Sofia at the gates.

She sinks to her knees, panting, as Skye and Delaney join her.

SKYE (cont'd)

Looks like you remembered all the steps to the dance pretty well.

SOFIA

Is this... that can't be what I - what we do... is it?

DELANEY

'Fraid so. It normally goes a bit better than that, though.

They help Sofia up, turning round:

And Sofia's heart sinks at the state the village has been left in.

People are emerging from their homes, weeping and wailing at the carnage of the attack.

Some slump over the bodies of family left in the street, others clutch their heads at wrecked sections of properties.

The paths are awash with demon bodies and blood, along with the rubble of ruined buildings.

Sofia soon notices many accusing glares coming her way - and at the forefront is Hariti, her expression a mix of disappointment and fear as she stares across.

Sofia looks down, unable to meet their eyes. Skye sighs as she tucks her daggers away.

SOFIA

This is all my fault...

SKYE

We kind of ran out of options there.

Sofia looks at the Scythe, wet with demon blood.

SOFIA

Was this really worth it? All this death... does getting this back make up for any of what we've done?

She makes to throw the Scythe away, but Delaney clamps a hand on her arm.

DELANEY

If we don't have this, hundreds more will die.

SOFIA

That doesn't make this right.

DELANEY

No... no, it doesn't. But it's the only answer I can give you.

Sofia looks back across the village, TEARS in her eyes.

SKYE

I'll, uh... I'll grab your things.

SOFIA

What?

DELANEY

You'd better come with us. Back to the Academy in England.

(beat)

Back home.

SOFIA

I... I can't leave, these people, they're my...

She looks back - but the cold stares still remain. Hariti turns and starts to walk away.

Sofia's face quivers as the grim truth sinks in - she can't call this village her home any longer. Skye lays an arm round her shoulders.

SKYE

C'mon, Sofes. Time to go.

Skye glances to Delaney, who nods - she leads Sofia away from the village, allowing Skye to head back to Sofia's place.

PULL BACK AND UP to look down on Sofia and Delaney as they trudge back across the snow.

The lengthening shadows of the oncoming dusk stretch across them, highlighting them against the white all around.

DISSOLVE TO:

40

INT. ACADEMY - GRACE'S ROOM - NIGHT

40

A cell phone BUZZES as Grace reaches up to switch on a bedside lamp - she's just been woken up.

Bleary-eyed, she fumbles for the phone, pressing it to her ear:

FITZGERALD

Hello?

SKYE

(filtered; through phone)

It's Skye. We did it. We found her,
and we got the Scythe.

(beat)

We're coming home.

Fitzgerald sits up in bed, her expression breaking to one of relief and surprise.

FITZGERALD

You are? How is she? Sofia?

SKYE

She'll... be alright. Eventually.
We've got a lot to get through.

FITZGERALD

I'll have a jet waiting to bring
you back to the Academy.

SKYE

Thanks.

A beat. Fitzgerald manages a smile at last.

FITZGERALD

Good work, Skye. Really good work.

SKYE

Just doing what you people pay me
for, Grace. We'll be back home
soon.

She hangs up, and Grace lays her phone back down. She looks out through her window at the moonlight night.

She blinks - now she has tears in her eyes - and as she laughs, halfway between euphoria and tears, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

NEXT WEEK

EXT. ROAD - DAY

A leering VAMPIRE looks up from the body of a MAN in its arms, BLOOD drooling down its chin!

SKYE (V.O.)

Next week, on Slayer Academy...

CUT TO:

INT. ACADEMY - RECEPTION - DAY

FITZGERALD joins a large crowd of SLAYERS waiting in the Academy reception area. She finds herself by FRANKIE.

FITZGERALD

What's going on?

FRANKIE

'Ave you not 'eard? She's back.

CUT TO:

INT. ACADEMY - RECEPTION - NEXT

ON SOFIA, looking up from behind her as she faces a sea of Slayers, staring silently back at her.

CUT TO:

INT. ACADEMY - DORM ROOM - NEXT

Sofia is faced by REIKO, who glares coldly at her.

REIKO

You may have fooled Skye and the others, but you don't fool me.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Sofia is creeping alone through a thick wood.

GREG (V.O.)

Last night, we had a probable vampire hit on a coach travelling between the nearby villages.

Sofia hears a quick SNICKER of laughter behind her! She spins round, alert, STAKE in hand.

SOFIA

Hello? Who's there?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She turns: SMACK! Something SLAMS into her, knocking her flat on her back.

GREG (V.O.)
The coach was going to make a stop
at the Academy. It was dropping off
two new Slayers.

CUT TO:

INT. SHACK - EVENING

Another VAMPIRE, young and female, hauls Sofia up towards her, SNARLING:

VAMPIRE:
You Slayers always travel in teams,
so where are the others?

CUT TO:

INT. SHACK - HALLWAY - NEXT

Skye spins round just as two more VAMPIRES emerge from the shadows!

SKYE
Ah, crap! We've got -

She turns - and finds DELANEY and ERIKA backing away from SIX MORE VAMPIRES!

SKYE (cont'd)
(beat)
... company.

The trio fall back into a triangle as the sneering vamps surround them, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF EPISODE