

SLAYER ACADEMY

"JUDGEMENT"

STARRING

EMILY BROWNING

EMILY BOOTH

RACHAEL LEIGH COOK

MILA KUNIS

PARIS HILTON

KATHERINE HEIGL

Q'ORIANKA KILCHER

KYOKO FUKADA

WITH

JACQUELINE MCKENZIE

BRADLEY COOPER

EVE MYLES

FAMKE JANSSEN

DAVID ANDERS

PAUL JAMES

JULIA LING

RACHEL TAYLOR

SPECIAL GUEST STAR

ALAN DALE as 'William Griffin'

GUEST STARRING

JEFF RICKETTS as 'Weatherby'

RONAN VIBERT as 'Roper'

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(C) MUTANT ENEMY, INC. AND FOX

PREVIOUSLY

SOFIA (V.O.)
Previously, on Slayer Academy...

INT. ICE CAVERNS - THE HUB CHAMBER - NIGHT

SOFIA lies on the floor, BLOOD pooling around her as BRAEDEN kneels over her, the ice cavern around them shaking itself to pieces.

BRAEDEN
My people can save you. You just
have to come with me.

SOFIA
I can't go with you. I won't.

BRAEDEN
Sofia... I love you. And if you
die here, now, then my world...
my world isn't going to feel
right. I need you with me.

SOFIA
If you... really love me...
(beat)
Ask me... again...

CUT TO:

INT. WAREHOUSE - MAIN FLOOR - NIGHT

Skye and ERIKA are facing Braeden within a dark warehouse.

SKYE
Enough talk. Let's do this.

BRAEDEN
That eager, eh? Can't say I blame
you. But there's someone I'd like
you to meet first.

Skye hears FOOTSTEPS behind her and whips round:

Someone is emerging from the shadows. Petite, pale, and
with long, black hair. It's SOFIA.

SOFIA
(grins)
Hello at last, Skye. Did you miss
me?

Skye's jaw drops, and Sofia draws her SWORD:

CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - AUDITORIUM - DAY

Sofia and ALITA are going at it all guns blazing, KO'd Slayers slumped nearby.

ALITA

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

SOFIA

No!

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

SOFIA (cont'd)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SOFIA (cont'd)

(eyes wide)

Alita...

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

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

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

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

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

SOFIA (cont'd)
Oh, God... Alita! Alita, I'm
sorry... I'm sorry...

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Sofia and XANDER make their way through a dense forest at the top of the cliffside, pushing away branches.

SOFIA
I've never... nobody else knows
that. The first time we all went
to the Arctic, after he'd opened
the Hub and he shot me...

One hand unconsciously rubs her side, right where Braeden put that bullet in her.

SOFIA (cont'd)
... he asked me to go with him.
He said he'd save me.

XANDER
Sofia, you were dying. You didn't
have a choice.

SOFIA
Of course I had a bloody choice!
He'd just unlocked every
Hellmouth on the planet, for
God's sake! When he asked me...

A long beat. She bows her head. Xander closes in.

SOFIA (cont'd)
I made him ask me.

She looks up, challenging Xander to react. To his credit, he stays quiet.

SOFIA (cont'd)
Because I knew if he did, I'd say
yes and we'd be together again.
And at that moment, that's what I
wanted. I just wanted to be with
him again.

Sofia lets out a SOB, emotions bubbling to the surface.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA (cont'd)
I hate what I've become! What he
made me become!

Tears flow freely as she lunges forward into Xander's arms,
WEEPING into his shoulder as he comforts her.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - FRONT ENTRANCE - DAY

Sofia struggles as she's hauled away by the OPERATIONS
TEAM. Xander is held back by WEATHERBY.

SOFIA
Xander, help!

XANDER
Sofia!

WEATHERBY
(to Xander)
Pleasure doing business with you.
Cheerio.

The Operative keeping Xander back SHOVES him to the ground,
and there's a CRUNCH as something breaks.

CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - DAY

With a final cry, DELANEY lets out:

DELANEY
Goddess, awaken this being, for
all to behold!

The purple light expand, covering the entire infirmary and
then there's a FLASH OF WHITE LIGHT and everything returns
to normal.

Delaney is straight to KIRA's bedside, looking for any sign
of life.

Kira's eyelids flutter open as she awakens. She sits up,
looking round, a hand pressed to her head.

KIRA
Where... where am I?

DELANEY
(quiet)
Mom?

Kira only blinks at her in surprise.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DELANEY (cont'd)
Are you okay? Mom?

GREG
Kira, is something wrong?

She frowns, turning on the bed to face them.

KIRA
Who are you? And why are you
calling me 'Kira'?

Delaney frowns, aghast. Something's gone wrong. Greg and Delaney exchange a worried look.

DELANEY
(meek)
Mom...

KIRA
Look, whoever you are, my name's
Evelyn.
(beat)
Evelyn Pierce.

Greg's face immediately changes - his eyes go wide and his jaw drops. He claps a hand to his mouth, taking a step or two back in shock.

Delaney's equally as shocked. She turns to Greg, her mind starting to connect the dots.

DELANEY
Wait a second... 'Pierce'? As
in...
(beat)
But that means... you... you're
my... my...

She can't finish the sentence, watching the world drop out from beneath Greg.

He STUMBLES back, clattering into nearby chairs as Kira watches him in bewilderment.

KIRA
Now is somebody going to tell me
what on earth is going on here?

Greg and Delaney's stunned expressions are matched by Kira's confusion as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TAG

TEASER

FADE IN:

1

INT. CAMPUS - STAFF ROOM - DAY

1

The various faculty members are sitting having a meeting - FITZGERALD, MANU and CERYs among them - when the door BURSTS OPEN:

XANDER stands in the doorway, chest heaving. An equally-frantic RACHEL and BELLE stand behind him.

FITZGERALD

Xander? What's -

XANDER

(gasping)

Sofia! They... men... they took her!

Fitzgerald rises, alarm rippling through the staff.

FITZGERALD

Who 'took' her? What's happened?

RACHEL

Council men. Said she was under arrest and they were taking her back to London.

Fitzgerald looks to Manu and Cerys.

CERYs

(nods)

An Operations team.

Fitzgerald is quickly into action, skirting round the table and approaching Xander.

FITZGERALD

Rachel, get everyone you can find from A and B Squads and have them ready to leave in the reception in ten minutes.

RACHEL

Got it.

She turns to leave, but is stopped by:

BELLE

Um... what about me?

FITZGERALD

Who's this?

(CONTINUED)

BELLE
(extends hand)
Annabelle. 'Belle.' New recruit,
apparently. Although this seems
like a bad time...

FITZGERALD
Rachel, could you...

Rachel nods, placing a hand on Belle's shoulder.

RACHEL
(to Belle)
C'mon. I'll get you set up.

The girls leave as Fitzgerald turns to Xander. The rest of
the staff are rising and gathering their things behind.

FITZGERALD
You're sure they said 'London'?

XANDER
(nods)
Who the heck were those guys?

CERYS
Hired thugs with cut-price
university degrees to give them
some faux semblance of authority.
The Council uses them to clean up
its dirty work.

FITZGERALD
And here I was thinking they used
our Slayers for that...
(exhales)
Alright. Xander, you'd better
come with us. If this is what I
think it is, we'll need you as a
character witness.

Xander blinks as Fitzgerald hurries past him:

XANDER
Sorry, a what?

A moment as Fitzgerald turns back to face him:

FITZGERALD
Sofia's going to be put on trial.

With that, she exits and we CUT TO:

2 INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - NEXT

2

GREG is still backing away from the fully revived KIRA, while DELANEY hangs back with her jaw to the floor.

KIRA

What's the matter with you? Didn't you hear what I said? My name is Evelyn Pierce, and if I'm at the Rupert Giles Academy, whatever that is, I demand to speak to the man himself right now, young man!

Greg just turns and runs from the room, BUMPING into other people, beds and anything in the way as he flees.

A bemused Kira turns to Delaney, whose own head is still spinning.

KIRA (cont'd)

Is anybody going to tell me what's going on?

Delaney holds her gaze for another beat - then cracks, turning and racing after Greg.

Left alone, Kira HUFFS and looks around the empty corner of the infirmary she's stuck in.

KIRA (cont'd)

Well. If nobody's going to be of any use here, I may as well sort myself out!

She slides off the bed, takes a moment to steady herself.

KIRA (cont'd)

Hmm.

Gingerly testing her weight on each leg, she starts to hobble off as we CUT TO:

3 INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - NEXT

3

SKYE and ERIKA look up as Rachel bursts in, the two girls sitting near a pile of luggage.

SKYE

(rising)

Hey, what's going on? I heard there was a tussle outside or something.

RACHEL

It's Sofia. Some men from the Council took her into custody.

(CONTINUED)

The colour drains from Skye's face - this is familiar ground for her.

SKYE

Oh, crap!

RACHEL

Fitz wants A and B in reception in ten. We're going after her.

SKYE

Cool, cool. Go, find the others. I think Delaney's still in the infirmary. Reiko's sleeping off her jetlag.

Rachel nods and dashes back out of the room. Skye turns to Erika.

SKYE (cont'd)

You weren't gonna leave just yet, were you?

ERIKA

If this situation means what I think it does...

She rises to her feet, exhaling.

ERIKA (cont'd)

... then my departure will have to wait a little longer.

Skye grins as we CUT TO:

Xander hovers nearby as Fitzgerald continues a heated phone call via her mobile:

FITZGERALD

(into phone)

No, I don't care what authorisation they had, you can't just snatch one of my girls off my campus without even giving me a warning!

(listens)

That's not the issue here, and you know it! Look, you just tell Griffin from me - I'll be there. If he starts that hearing without me... there'll be trouble.

She SNAPS the phone shut and seethes for a beat. Xander waits for her to continue.

XANDER

Kind of hard to slam a cell
phone, huh?

She ignores the attempt at brevity, looking up as Rachel
returns to the reception - followed by Skye, Erika, REIKO
and TSULA.

FITZGERALD

Is this everyone? Where are
Delaney and Frankie?

RACHEL

Couldn't find them, sorry.

REIKO

(yawning)

What's the emergency? I was
halfway into a really cool dream
when -

FITZGERALD

I'm sorry, girls, but your rest
is going to have to wait a little
longer.

(beat)

I'm afraid the rumours you've no
doubt all heard by now are true.
Sofia's been taken into custody
by the Council.

MURMURS of surprise ripple through the room as we CUT TO:

And a despondent SOFIA sits in shackles, awaiting her fate as
the van she's locked inside drives on.

FITZGERALD (V.O.)

I don't need to tell any of you how
serious this is. If Sofia's found
guilty of treason against the
Council for her actions when she
was with the Cabal... they'll send
her to Laneshead prison for the
rest of her life.

(beat)

If she's lucky.

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

6

INT. MINIVAN - DAY

6

Cerys drives, Fitzgerald shotgun as she talks to the Slayers arranged over the seats behind her.

FITZGERALD

We won't have a lot of time once we get there, so just follow my lead. I'll be going directly to the tribunal chamber to hold up proceedings and give us space to start preparing a defence. I'll kick the doors down if I have to.

(beat)

Although thinking about it, I may ask one of you to do that for me.

SKYE

What's gonna happen to her? I mean, what's the procedure for putting a Slayer on trial?

RACHEL

Yeah, has it ever happened before?

FITZGERALD

It almost happened with Faith several years ago, and since then there have been a few... incidents we're keen not to have to revisit.

(beat)

For now all we need concern ourselves with is that the Council will be looking to make Sofia into a scapegoat, blaming her for all the losses suffered against the Cabal over the last twelve months.

TSULA

Yeah, but they weren't all her fault... were they?

FITZGERALD

That's not the issue here, sadly.

SKYE

(to Tsula)

Remind me to teach you the meaning of the word 'scapegoat' when we get back.

(CONTINUED)

Cerys pulls sharply onto a main road, already driving at high speed.

CERYS

Sorry.

FITZGERALD

Just get us there in one piece, Cerys. I'm not concerned about breaking any speed limits along the way.

CERYS

And if we get stopped by the police?

FITZGERALD

Then I imagine I'll have to make a few phone calls, won't I?

She turns her attention back to the girls.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

Rachel, keep trying to get hold of Delaney and Frankie. They'll be a big help to us.

RACHEL

I've been trying, but they're not answering their cell phones.

FITZGERALD

Then keep trying. Do whatever you have to. As for the rest of you, what I'll most likely be needing are character testimonies.

ERIKA

You want us to speak in Sofia's defence, is that correct?

FITZGERALD

(nods)

What we have to do here is convince the tribunal that Sofia isn't culpable for much of what she'll be accused of.

REIKO

Except for killing Alita.

The van falls silent. Reiko fidgets, awkward.

REIKO (cont'd)

You know... 'cause she kind of did do that.

(CONTINUED)

FITZGERALD

Alita... we'll have to deal with that when we come to it.

TSULA

It's not something we can just gloss over!

SKYE

Grace is right, Tsula. Zip it.

TSULA

What, we're just gonna ignore the fact that she killed one of us? One of your best friends?

SKYE

I said that's enough!

TSULA

That doesn't make it alright!

RACHEL

Whose freakin' side are you on here?

TSULA

(exhales)

Look, I'm just saying that there's a big difference between being forgiven and atoning for the crimes you've committed. Because that was it was. A crime.

FITZGERALD

(over them)

Girls!

The girls lapse back into silence. Fitzgerald exhales.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

I can see we're going to have to handle this one very carefully.

(beat)

I suggest you all start thinking about your testimonies. We're going to need every point we can scrape together.

She settles back into her seat, running a hand through her hair. Cerys glances across.

CERYS

Do you think any of this will make a difference?

(CONTINUED)

FITZGERALD

I know I'm not about to let one of my girls be put on trial by a kangaroo court, no matter what she is or isn't guilty of.

(looks across)

Everyone deserves a chance.

Cerys doesn't reply, concentrating on her high-speed driving as we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - CORRIDOR - DAY

Delaney edges towards a door in another part of the school, pausing before it. She reaches out to knock, hesitates - then KNOCKS.

DELANEY

Greg? You in there? It's me. I've let you have an hour. That's long enough.

No answer. She SIGHS, knocking again.

DELANEY (cont'd)

C'mon, Greg. Open up.

She tries the handle - locked. She HUFFS, then keeps her hand gripped round the handle.

There's a brief GLOW of light - and the door UNLOCKS. She pushes it open:

INT. CAMPUS - GREG'S ROOM - CONTINUED

And steps inside. All the lights are out, the curtains drawn. No sign of Greg.

DELANEY

Greg?

She moves on, light from outside spilling into the room.

DELANEY (cont'd)

You think you're the only one spun out by all this? Even if what she's saying is true... look, we can sort this all out later. We don't know what the hell she's saying right now. Her brain's so Swiss cheese'd from whatever Hamish did to her, she probably can't even -

GREG (O.S.)

It all makes sense.

(CONTINUED)

Delaney JUMPS a mile. Greg emerges from the shadows.

GREG (cont'd)
What she said... it answers so many questions. So many things I didn't... couldn't understand.

DELANEY
Like what?

GREG
Like why my mother would ever kill somebody. Why Kira murdered her. All the little things that didn't add up...

He slouches past her, flopping down onto the edge of the bed. His stare's a thousand yards away.

GREG (cont'd)
But... how? How can they be... what could have happened to make them -

KIRA (O.S.)
Gregory?

Greg freezes - Delaney turns first. Kira's standing in the doorway.

KIRA (cont'd)
This... this is your room, isn't it?

Greg doesn't answer. Delaney looks from one to the other.

KIRA (cont'd)
Things are starting to come back, I think. At least... I found my way here. It seems... familiar somehow.

DELANEY
Uh... now isn't a good time, mom.
(beat)
You... do know you're my mom now, right?

KIRA
(beat)
I'm sorry, young lady, but I still have absolutely no idea who you are.

Kira steps into the room, but Delaney moves to block her.

(CONTINUED)

DELANEY
(shakes head)
Don't. Not now.

KIRA
Now look here, you can't just
order me about! I'm not -

GREG
(cold)
Get. Out.

A beat. He still hasn't turned round. Delaney tugs urgently
at Kira's arm.

DELANEY
You heard him. Let's go.

KIRA
(shrugging her away)
Gregory, please. Whatever it is
you're upset about, I'm sure it
can wait until you've shown me to
Rupert so he can -

GREG
I said get out!

He rises, whirling to face her. His face is twisted with
rage, muscles tensed tight.

DELANEY
Mom, come on!

Greg's SHAKING with fury now - and Delaney's attention is
drawn around the room as first the curtains RIPPLE, then
various items start to RATTLE in place.

GREG
You're not my mother! You can't
be! She... she'd never.. No! It's
not true!

KIRA
Gregory, listen to me!

Greg lets out a CRY of anger - and a lamp by his bed
EXPLODES!

GREG
(screaming)
Get out!

Delaney SHOVES a shocked Kira back - as the overhead light
SHATTERS in its socket!

(CONTINUED)

Delaney pushes her outside, SLAMMING the door behind them.

Greg collapses into a sitting heap on the floor, drained of energy.

He looks down at his hands - his nails have dug deep enough into his palms to draw BLOOD.

He stares at the slow trickle of blood as though it'll provide some answers.

And then his phone starts to RING. He looks over to it as we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - LIBRARY - NEXT

PAN THROUGH the quiet, empty library. Everybody has somewhere else to be right now.

INT. CAMPUS - LIBRARY - TOP FLOOR - NEXT

Up outside Frankie's office - as there's a CLICK from the door as it unlocks at last.

It slips ajar and FRANKIE peeks out, looking like she hasn't slept in days.

She steps out of the office, closing the door as quietly as she can behind her.

She exhales, head down, and is caught completely unawares when she hears:

ZOE (O.S.)

There you are.

She whirls round - but it's only ZOE, rising from a little den she's made herself near the door.

ZOE (cont'd)

I was hoping you'd come out on my watch.

FRANKIE

Pourquoi?

ZOE

Because it means I win five pounds from the sweepstake we put down.

Frankie's look darkens, but as she tries to hurry past Zoe she gets cut off.

FRANKIE

What do you want, Zoe?

ZOE

To make sure you're okay.

FRANKIE

It is no concern of yours.

Frankie tries to side-step her, but Zoe blocks her again.

ZOE

Actually, it is. Skye told a bunch of us to keep shifts out here until you finally came up for air.

FRANKIE

Then you can tell 'er I am fine. Now, if you please...

She PUSHES past Zoe and descends the staircase.

ZOE

They've gone, you know. The others. Something happened with Sofia, she got taken by some guys from the Council or something.

Frankie pauses, turning back to her with a frown.

FRANKIE

'Taken'?

ZOE

(nods)

Whole campus is buzzing about it. Miss Fitzgerald took most of A and B Squads and went off after her. From what the rest of us have found out, Sofia's been arrested. I'm guessing all that stuff she did last year that I've heard so much about really was that bad, huh?

Frankie hurries urgently back up the stairs, throwing the door to her office open and bustling inside.

ZOE (cont'd)

(calls into office)

Rachel came by a while ago, but you didn't answer your door so she had to leave you. If you're feeling up to the journey...

She trails off as Frankie re-emerges, pulling on her coat and stuffing several wads of PAPER into her satchel.

(CONTINUED)

ZOE (cont'd)
... I could come with. Make sure
you get there alright.

Frankie shuts the door, hair bobble in her mouth as she
starts pulling her hair back into a loose ponytail.

FRANKIE
I appreciate your concern, Zoe,
but I will be better -

ZOE
'Cause I can drive, like, really
fast.

Frankie hesitates - then tosses her satchel to Zoe.

FRANKIE
I will get 'old of the keys to
one of the minibuses.

ZOE
(smiles)
Cool. Hope you didn't eat a big
lunch, 'cause this could get
pretty interesting.

Zoe heads down the stairs first. Frankie pauses, waiting
until Zoe is out of sight before rolling back her sleeve:

GREEN VEINS stand out against her skin. Just a small patch,
but it's enough.

Frankie stares at them for a moment before covering up and
following Zoe again.

11 INT. OPERATIONS VAN - DAY

11

Back with the shackled Sofia, as the van finally comes to a
stop. She hears FOOTSTEPS outside before the rear doors are
opened:

And there's WEATHERBY, flanked by two more surly OPERATIONS
team members.

WEATHERBY
(off Sofia)
Bring her in.

Sofia doesn't try to fight as the two Ops men clamber into
the van. One unlocks her manacles, the other takes her by
the arm and leads her out.

12 EXT. WATCHERS COUNCIL - SIDE ENTRANCE - NEXT 12

It's a grim, overcast day in the heart of the nation's capital as Sofia steps out of the van.

The Council building itself is a blocky, antiquated grey structure, nondescript amongst its surroundings.

The Ops van is parked up a side alley, keeping Sofia and the team out of sight as she's marched in through a door:

13 INT. WATCHERS COUNCIL - CORRIDOR - NEXT 13

And down through a long, dark corridor full of supply boxes, crates and other signs of a tradesman's entrance.

Waiting for the Ops team are three WATCHERS, two men and one woman, all middle-aged and clad in the stern, dark suits that are their organisation's trademark.

The first WATCHER steps forward, looking Sofia up and down as she's brought to a stop before him.

WATCHER
(to Weatherby)
Did she give you any trouble?

WEATHERBY
Quiet as a mouse the whole way
here, sir.

WATCHER #2
They do say the most vocal
prisoners are generally the most
innocent, don't they?

WEATHERBY
I'm sure 'they' do, sir.

The lead Watcher takes another moment to study Sofia. She finally looks up, meets his gaze.

WATCHER
I'd say it was an honour to meet
you at last, Miss Romero, but I
think we both know that's far
from the case.

SOFIA
Nothing I say or do is going to
make any difference here. We both
know that. So let's skip past the
forced attempts at civility and
get on with this.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

The Watcher grins, nodding to Weatherby. They start to lead her away again as the Watcher follows.

14 INT. WATCHERS COUNCIL - HALL - NEXT

14

Sofia is brought into a wide, empty hall, its brightly polished mahogany walls and floor a contrast to the murky corridor she left behind.

In the middle of the room sits a long table, with a line of WATCHERS seated behind it. To one side sits a STENOGRAPHER, ready to start transcribing.

Sofia blinks, confused, as the Watchers who met her move to take their places behind the desk.

SOFIA

Wait a moment... is this... is this it? Now?

WATCHER #2

What did you think was going to happen?

He sits, shuffling through the papers before him as Sofia is guided to a single chair placed in front of the table.

SOFIA

I suppose it was too much to expect even a couple of minutes to gather my thoughts, wasn't it?

WATCHER

You had plenty of time to 'gather your thoughts' during your journey here, Miss Romero.

SOFIA

Why now? I've been back at the Academy for months. Why wait until now?

WATCHER

We were... debating our best course of action. A consensus was finally reached to take you into custody when we received evidence that your memories had returned enough to justify this hearing.

SOFIA

(beat)

I see.

WATCHER #2

Now then, Miss Romero -

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA
Oh, stop it.

A beat. The assembled Watchers exchange surprised glances at her sharp tone.

SOFIA (cont'd)
Drop all this 'Miss Romero' bollocks, will you? I know a jury when I see one. You're not here to put me on trial at all.
(beat)
You're here to sentence me.

WATCHER
We're here to evaluate the severity of your crimes against this Council... Sofia. Any sentencing will only follow after a thorough hearing.

SOFIA
Do I at least get to know who I have the honour of addressing?

WATCHER
My name is William Griffin. I believe you're familiar with -

SOFIA
'Griffin'? As in... Barbara Griffin?

GRIFFIN tenses as the mention of Barbara's name.

GRIFFIN
That's correct. She's my ex-wife. I believe you were part of the Cabal team that led the mission where she was abducted and subsequently tortured to a state she still has yet to fully recover from.

A surprised Sofia stays silent, staring at him.

GRIFFIN (cont'd)
If you have nothing else to add?

He glances at the Stenographer, whose fingers begin to RATTLE across her keypad as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

15 EXT. WATCHERS COUNCIL - DAY

15

The imposing building stands before us, city traffic rumbling past in the near distance:

Until the Academy minivan SCREECHES To a halt outside, bumping two wheels up on the pavement.

It's parked on double yellow lines, but those inside are already climbing out and heading for the front gates.

Their path is blocked by two beefy SECURITY GUARDS, one muttering into his walkie-talkie.

GUARD

Authorised personnel only, miss.

FITZGERALD

My name is Grace Fitzgerald, and I'm a member of this Council. Let me inside.

The Guard glances over her shoulder at Cerys and the gathered Slayers.

GUARD

So who are all this lot, then?

FITZGERALD

My personal bodyguard.

The first Guard glances back at the second, who lowers his walkie-talkie and shakes his head.

GUARD

I'm sorry, miss, but we've been instructed to not let anyone inside without the proper -

SHINK! Cerys suddenly has a KNIFE pressed to the guard's throat!

CERYS

I believe we have the proper authorisation.

The second Guard takes a step forward, reaching for the HANDGUN on his belt:

But the Slayers get in his way, ready to draw their own half-concealed weapons.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

Do you love your job that much?

The Guards exchange nervous glances as we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - DAY

Delaney ushers a protesting Kira back into the infirmary, pushing her to sit on one of the beds.

KIRA

I keep telling you, I'm fine.
There's no reason to keep me here
any longer.

DELANEY

You're not 'fine,' mom! You're
babbling like a crazy person!

KIRA

Please stop calling me 'mother.'

DELANEY

(beat; seethes)
If you had any idea what I went
through to get you back...

KIRA

Get me back from where?

DELANEY

You were captured. By the Cabal.
Heard of them?
(no reaction)
You were shot by Hamish
McFanchon. Your former apprentice
turned wannabe Big Bad.
(still nothing)
Look, you found your way to
Greg's room, so you must be
getting something back in there.

Kira looks away, frowning. Struggling to remember.

KIRA

I... it's all very... it's as
though there's a black veil over
everything before I woke up a few
moments ago. Details aren't
exactly being forthcoming.

DELANEY

Maybe I can help with that.

Delaney CRACKS her fingers, shaking them loose.

KIRA
By doing what?

DELANEY
I can try a few spells. Give your
memory cells a little nudge, help
you remember everything.

Delaney reaches her hands for either side of Kira's head,
but Kira swats them away.

KIRA
You will do no such thing!

Kira jumps to her feet imperiously.

KIRA (cont'd)
Now. If you won't take me to
Rupert, I'll have to find him
myself!

DELANEY
(losing patience)
Alright, fine! You want to see
Rupert Giles? Follow me!

She grabs Kira's hand and yanks her away, leading her out
of the infirmary as we CUT TO:

Sofia sits before the assembled Watchers.

GRIFFIN
Now then, let's start right at
the beginning. Your first day on
campus. I understand you were
present at the death of one of
your team mates?

SOFIA
That's correct.

GRIFFIN
The official report into her
death alleges that a sonho demon
was responsible, and that the two
of you were trapped inside an
artificial dreamscape while it
killed her.

Sofia nods, glancing at the stenographer as her machine
CLICKS and RATTLES away.

GRIFFIN (cont'd)

So what evidence do we have,
exactly, that you weren't
responsible for Emma Preston's
death yourself?

SOFIA

(blinks)

Excuse me?

GRIFFIN

You were the only two trapped by
the demon at that point. Miss
Preston's physical death was
witnessed by several individuals,
but the events within the demon's
dreamscape are based on your
testimony only.

SOFIA

Are you saying... actually, what
are you saying? That it's my
fault some bloody demon stalked
and killed her?

FEMALE WATCHER

We're just trying to establish
the events leading up to your
defection to the Cabal, Sofia.

SOFIA

(voice rising)

That wasn't one of them!

GRIFFIN

Sofia, please. You'll do no more
good by shouting.

SOFIA

Well, I can hardly sit back and
let you people accuse me of
killing somebody I considered a
friend, now, can I?

MALE WATCHER

You spent a handful of hours in
each other's company. Are you
telling me you two became
'friends' so quickly?

SOFIA

(dark look)

Clearly, you've never had to
forge friendships in the field.

(CONTINUED)

GRIFFIN

Alright, that's enough.

(beat)

Moving on. I believe there was an
incident during your
Cruciamentum, where:

WHAM! The doors at the end of the hall FLY OPEN as a
furious Fitzgerald leads the charge of the Academy team.

Griffin rises as the other Watchers turn to each other in
surprise.

Sofia looks round, sees the others. Her eyes widen in
surprise.

GRIFFIN (cont'd)

What's the meaning of this?

(beat; recognises her)

Grace?

FITZGERALD

Hello, Bill. Are you surprised to
see me?

Griffin turns to one of the other Watchers.

GRIFFIN

Call security, Have them -

FITZGERALD

William Griffin, I hereby declare
this hearing illegal under rule
two hundred and twenty-one b,
paragraph nine, sub-section
eleven of the Watchers Codex.

GRIFFIN

(beat)

These are exceptional
circumstances.

FITZGERALD

Oh, aren't they always.

She turns to address the other Watchers at the table.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

He hasn't made any formal
announcement to me or my staff
about the detainment of Sofia -
which was also carried out
without my authorisation - and
attempting to start this hearing
without Sofia having an adequate
defence present is also illegal.

(CONTINUED)

Fitzgerald walks up to Sofia, placing a hand on her shoulder.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)
Are you alright? Have they
mistreated you?

SOFIA
No more than usual.

FITZGERALD
(to Griffin)
As per my student's rights, I'm
demanding a two-hour break in
proceedings so that I can
assemble my defence. I need
copies of every charge she's here
to answer for, along with any
evidence collated by the
prosecuting counsel.

Griffin stares Grace down - but knows she's right.

GRIFFIN
Two hours. Hearing adjourned.

He turns and strides briskly back out of the room, the
other Watchers gradually following.

FITZGERALD
(calling after him)
Rupert would never have let this
happen, you know.

Griffin doesn't even look back, and Fitzgerald sighs. It
was a parting shot, but it needed to be said.

Skye and the others join Sofia and Fitzgerald. Sofia
manages a half-smile.

SOFIA
I must admit, I'm impressed you
got here so quickly.

SKYE
What, you think we'd just leave
you here?

Sofia glances at Reiko.

SOFIA
The thought had crossed my mind.

Reiko looks away as Fitzgerald steps back into frame.

FITZGERALD

Come on. Two hours isn't anywhere
near as much time as I'd like for
this, so we'd better get to work.

The reunited team head back out of the hall, as we CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - MEMORIAL GARDEN - DAY

Kira stands by Delaney out in the tranquil, colourful
gardens. Kira's looking up at something just out of view.
TEARS are in her eyes.

DELANEY

He's where he'd want to be. Right
where the action is, keeping his
eye on things.

REVERSE ANGLE to show they're looking up at the statue of
RUPERT GILES that stands in the centre of the garden.

KIRA

(voice breaking)
When... how did this happen?

DELANEY

Few years ago. He was helping
Buffy Summers get ready to go
take out this demon called Syn,
when he was assassinated by a
rogue Watcher.

Kira bows her head - tears rolling down her cheeks.

DELANEY (cont'd)

He was a good man, by all
accounts. And he made sure this
place was already set up before
he died. Like he knew something
was going to happen to him one
day, and he wanted us all to be
protected.

Kira steps closer to the statue, tracing her fingers across
Giles' name on the plaque.

KIRA

(soft)
Oh, Ripper...

DELANEY

He also had a son he never knew
about.

Kira looks up at the statue, then round to Delaney.

(CONTINUED)

DELANEY (cont'd)
You met him earlier.

Kira looks away, mind racing to process this.

KIRA
Greg... oh, my God...

DELANEY
Now do you remember?

Kira closes her eyes, bows her head and nods. She's devastated. Delaney waits a beat before stepping closer:

DELANEY (cont'd)
C'mon. Let's go finish the job.

She lays a hand on Kira's shoulder. Kira rises, silently following Delaney back out of the garden as we CUT TO:

19 INT. WATCHERS COUNCIL - ROOM - NEXT

19

Fitzgerald, Cerys and Sofia are now gathered in a small study room. The door opens as Skye enters.

SKYE
Got the girls watching all the exits. If they try anything, we've got it covered. Well, anything else, I mean.

FITZGERALD
Good. Thank you, Skye.

Skye takes a seat next to Sofia as Fitzgerald places a briefcase on the table they're sitting round.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)
I gathered as much as I could before we left, but obviously we didn't have much time.

She opens her case, taking out a handful of thick folders.

SOFIA
What's all this?

FITZGERALD
Your personal file.

Sofia blanches. Skye WHISTLES at the size of it, then reaches across and opens it, starting to leaf through.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)
This is their main source of ammunition against you.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FITZGERALD (cont'd)
Every mission, every lesson,
every... offence, all documented
for evidence.

SOFIA
Something tells me they're going
to have plenty of bullets to send
my way.

SKYE
Yeah, because that attitude
helps.

SOFIA
How the hell am I supposed to be
reacting here, Skye? We all know
what those records are going to
say about me!

She SNATCHES the files away, flicking rapidly through them:

SOFIA (cont'd)
That I basically cheated on my
Cruciamentum. That I may have
been responsible for Emma's
death. That I had to start seeing
a counsellor after I was killed
in action. That my subsequent
behaviour led to the death of
another Slayer. That I managed to
shag my way into the Cabal all
thanks to -

Skye GRABS Sofia's wrist. Glares her down.

SKYE
Do you want them to send you
away?

Sofia sags back in her chair, SIGHING.

SOFIA
I just... I want to make amends
somehow. Maybe... what if this is
the only way?

FITZGERALD
(shakes head)
This isn't the only way. You make
amends in my book by getting back
out there and doing your job.

SKYE
And you can't do that if you're
locked up, can you?

Sofia stays quiet. Fitzgerald starts gathering up the scattered paperwork.

FITZGERALD

I'm still waiting on the rest of the evidence Griffin's going to be using against you, and once I have that I'm going to be using whoever I can get my hands on as a character witness. Hopefully I can go some way towards dispelling all the allegations they're going to be throwing at you.

SKYE

How come you know so much about this stuff?

FITZGERALD

I used to be married to a lawyer.
(off looks)
Not the time or the place.

SKYE

(checks watch)
Alright, that's half an hour gone already. Where are we at?

FITZGERALD

I'm going to need to go over Sofia's personal file with her, and try to re-establish the testimony behind each and every event.

SOFIA

That could take longer than ninety minutes...

FITZGERALD

We need to anticipate their attacks and be ready to counter them. Skye, you need to go and chase up that evidence we're waiting on.

(to Cerys)

Can you get the girls together and start organising their statements?

CERYS

(nods)

Skye, with me.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

But I want to stay with -

SOFIA

No, Skye. Go. It's alright. I've got a lot to do in here.

Skye reluctantly rises, following Cerys back out of the room. She throws a last look at Sofia as she exits.

Back with Kira and Delaney. Kira sits on the bed, subdued compared to her previous mood.

DELANEY

Don't worry, this won't hurt.

KIRA

I know. You're going to perform a Moulder incantation to stimulate the relevant areas of my brain...

(sniffs)

... so that the jolt snaps my memories back to where they're supposed to be.

(off look)

I'm bloody good when it comes to magic, Delaney.

DELANEY

Yeah, I know. Where do you think I got it from?

Delaney smirks - and Kira manages a smile back.

KIRA

Before you start this...

DELANEY

Yeah?

KIRA

How much do you know about... me? Evelyn?

DELANEY

(exhales)

Up until about an hour ago, I thought Evelyn Pierce was some rookie Watcher my mom killed after she tried to infiltrate her coven. Although as it turns out...

KIRA
I'm Evelyn Pierce.

DELANEY
And also Kira Brogan. My mom.

KIRA
(bows head)
I... I can't begin to explain how
that could have happened.

DELANEY
For where your brain's at right
now, it hasn't happened yet.
That's why.

KIRA
I'm sorry.

DELANEY
For what?

KIRA
For everything I must have put
you through. You seem like a
good, decent girl.

DELANEY
(snorts)
Okay, we really need to get on
with this before you say
something even more stupid.

Delaney reaches for Kira, but Kira takes her hands.

KIRA
I mean it. You genuinely care
about Kira - or rather, me - and
I sense you've done a great many
things to try and rescue her. I
just hope that when I'm... gone,
she appreciates it.

DELANEY
Yeah... me too.

Delaney places her hands either side of Kira's head, both
of them closing their eyes.

Delaney lowers her head, concentrating hard, and Kira as
she frowns, Delaney's magic getting to work as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

21 INT. WATCHERS COUNCIL - HALL - LATER

21

With the sun lower in the sky outside, a few hours have passed as the hearing reconvenes.

Griffin and the other Watchers are waiting behind their table as Sofia is led back inside.

A second table has been set up to seat Cerys, Skye and the others - but there's also a single chair with a microphone to the side of the Watchers' table.

FITZGERALD

Ladies and gentlemen, fellow
members of the Council...

Fitzgerald is now standing before Sofia, facing the Watchers, looking very much like a defence lawyer.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

... the defence are ready to make
their opening statement.

GRIFFIN

Go ahead.

FITZGERALD

Thank you.

(beat)

Sofia Romero is not a perfect
Slayer. She's made mistakes. Some
of them big, some not. Coming
from the background she has -
losing both parents to demons and
spending time incarcerated in a
dungeon, destined to be sold to
the highest bidder - it's
understandable that she took long
to adjust to her responsibilities
than others.

Fitzgerald takes a few steps back, standing behind Sofia.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

Is she guilty of some crimes
against this Council? Perhaps.
But are there reasons,
extenuating circumstances,
alibis, testimonies and evidence
to support her in the face of
each and every one of these
accusations?

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FITZGERALD (cont'd)
Yes. And I intend to show to you
that Sofia is not only a brave,
selfless Slayer, she's also
somebody who was manipulated and
controlled by powerful forces for
evil, and that she's doing
everything in her power now to
make amends for those misdeeds,
and try to claw back some of the
ground she lost whilst under the
Cabal's power.

Fitzgerald paces right up to the desk, addressing Griffin
more than anyone else.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)
She's one of my best Slayers. And
she deserves to be given a chance
to explain herself.

She turns and heads back to join the others, offering Sofia
a comforting smile as she passes.

GRIFFIN
And now the prosecution's opening
statement.

And to everyone's surprise, it's Griffin himself who rises,
ready to deliver his speech!

FITZGERALD
But... you can't do that! It's a
conflict of interest!

GRIFFIN
I'm the senior ranked official in
attendance, Grace. It's my job.

Fitzgerald is appalled as Griffin fixes his attention on
Sofia.

GRIFFIN (cont'd)
When Sofia Romero cut down Alita
Kagemura, it was the defining
point in a long list of criminal
actions against this Council and
her fellow Slayers...

Sofia slumps, the weight of past deeds weighing heavy on
her again. Griffin continues as we CUT TO:

Frankie and Zoe race down the road that leads to the
Council building, red-cheeked and breathless.

ZOE

How was I supposed to know what it's like trying to park a damn minivan in this town?

FRANKIE

Quiet! We are 'ere.

They come to a stop - confronted by the same two security guards as before.

GUARD

Don't tell me. Rupert Giles Academy, here for the hearing?

FRANKIE

Oui. Stand aside, please.

The first Guard looks back at the second, who holds up his hands.

GUARD

(sighs)

Follow me. Just don't try anything, alright? We had enough of that with the first batch.

He unlocks and opens the main gate, letting Zoe slip through. Frankie hesitates, noticing something back out on the street.

FRANKIE

(frowns)

Isn't that...

ZOE (O.S.)

Frankie, c'mon!

Frankie hurries to catch Zoe up, and we CUT TO:

Back with the hearing. Griffin is still speaking:

GRIFFIN

... and not only did she willingly provide the Cabal with information that lead to the murder of dozens of Slayers, she also assisted in the sabotage of countless Council and Academy missions, either through the supply of classified information or direct involvement.

Fitzgerald looks grim - this isn't going well.

GRIFFIN (cont'd)
She is a calculating, merciless
killer, and we intend to prove
that today at this hearing.
 (beat)
And so, with the opening
statements delivered, it's time
to call on the prosecution's
first witness.

Sofia looks up, curious. She glances back at the others.

 GRIFFIN (cont'd)
The prosecution calls Gregory
Giles.

Sofia's eyes bulge as the chamber doors open - and a stony-
faced Greg marches into the room!

Sofia's jaw hangs, and as she looks back at Fitzgerald,
it's clear this is a surprise to her as well.

Sofia looks back to Greg - who makes eye contact for one
chilling moment.

Sofia's gaze drops to the floor - she's screwed.

Kira is lying asleep on one of the beds when she wakes with
a start, sitting up.

Delaney's sitting near by, watching her. She raises a hand
to ease her.

 DELANEY
It's alright. You're alright.

Kira winces, pressing a hand to her forehead.

 KIRA
What happened?

 DELANEY
You passed out while I was
sparking your memories off. Guess
there was a lot of stuff for you
to process after all. You've been
sleeping it off in here for the
last...
 (glances at clock)
... hour and a half.

Kira sits up fully, rubbing the back of her neck.

DELANEY (cont'd)
How much do you remember? Do
you... do you remember me?

KIRA
Of course I do. You're not
exactly easy to forget.

DELANEY
(beat)
'kay, taking that as a
compliment...

Kira pauses, then grimaces as she remembers:

KIRA
Oh, Lord... Greg.

DELANEY
Yeah, you screwed him up pretty
good.

KIRA
Delaney, you can't begin to
comprehend what I've just done to
the man.

DELANEY
To both of us, you mean.

Kira looks up. Delaney shrugs, matter-of-factly.

DELANEY (cont'd)
Just saying. That was a pretty
big bomb you dropped on us both
back there.
(pointed)
Now that we're apparently brother
and sister.

KIRA
You seem to have managed with it
well enough.

DELANEY
I've gotten used to who my mom
is. Greg only found out Giles was
his dad a coupla years ago, and
then to find out that it wasn't
you who killed his mom, but that
you are his mom...

She WHISTLES to emphasise her point. Kira rises.

KIRA
Take me to him.

DELANEY

Can't. He's not here.

KIRA

Well, where is he? I need to speak to the poor boy before his little head pops with everything he must be struggling to understand.

DELANEY

Hey, I hear you, but I don't know what to tell you. He's not here. Nobody knows where he went.

KIRA

Fine. I'll locate him myself. I just need to -

She raises a hand - then stares at it as if expecting something to happen. Concerned, she looks to Delaney.

DELANEY

Sorry, you're out of juice. Side effect of the incantation. You'll need a few more hours to recharge before you can go spellcasting.

Kira hesitates, then sits back on the bed, SIGHING.

KIRA

Then we shall just have to wait.

Delaney settles back down, ready for the long haul as we
CUT TO:

Greg watches as Griffin paces towards him, ready to start his questioning.

Greg doesn't look across to either Sofia or the rest of the Academy girls, who are watching his every move.

GRIFFIN

Mr. Giles, you've been operating as Sofia's Watcher since the start of her first term, is that correct?

GREG

That's correct.

GRIFFIN

During that time, how many examples of...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

 GRIFFIN (cont'd)
questionable conduct would you
say you encountered?

Before Greg can respond:

 SKYE
Objection!

She leaps to her feet - then realises everyone is staring
at her.

 SKYE (cont'd)
Uh... please?

 FITZGERALD
(hisses)
Sit down, Skye!

 SKYE
Why? He's totally putting words
into Greg's mouth. Isn't that
called 'leading the witness'?

 GRIFFIN
This isn't a court of law, Miss
Underwood. We'll hear statements
from every witness, with a chance
for both prosecution and defence
to ask any relevant questions.
Once I've assisted Mr. Giles in
delivering his statement, then
Miss Fitzgerald may call a
witness, and so on.

Skye scowls, but Fitzgerald tugs sharply on her sleeve to
get her to sit back down.

 GRIFFIN (cont'd)
Please continue, Mr. Giles.

Greg takes a moment before:

 GREG
There were several occasions
during the time I spent as
Sofia's Watcher that she
displayed suspicious behaviour.
Her aggressive approach towards
the arrival of the Initiative at
the Academy, her initial refusal
to attend compulsory psychiatric
counselling sessions, her illicit
relationship with Braeden
Donovan, who -

(CONTINUED)

GRIFFIN

(interrupts)

The original *necromus*, is that correct? The Slayer killer?

GREG

(nods)

Her defection may have come as a shock to us all, but her actions afterward left me in no doubt that she'd chosen her side.

GRIFFIN

Sofia was also part of an assault on the Academy that left many Slayers and faculty staff injured, and casualties in the form of Aiden Gorman and Alita Kagemura, is that also correct?

Greg finally looks at Sofia. She almost shivers under his fierce gaze.

GREG

That's right. Sofia was the one who killed Alita.

GRIFFIN

And I believe Mr. Gorman died attempting to save the lives of other wounded Slayers, those left injured by the attack?

Greg bows his head, rubbing his eyes.

GREG

Aiden gave his life for them.

Sofia looks back to Fitzgerald - who is glaring sternly back at Greg.

GRIFFIN

Thank you, Mr. Giles.

Griffin nods to Fitzgerald as he returns to his seat. She marches over to him, trying to keep her cool.

FITZGERALD

I'm sorry, Greg, but you've left me no choice here.

She straightens, glancing at Griffin and the others before continuing.

(CONTINUED)

FITZGERALD (cont'd)
Greg. How long have you been a
member of Academy staff?

GREG
Since August two thousand and
five.

FITZGERALD
With no breaks in service during
that time?

Greg hesitates. Fitzgerald raises an eyebrow.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)
Please answer the question.

GREG
I... had to take some... time.

FITZGERALD
How much time?

GREG
(beat)
Three months.

FITZGERALD
For what reason?

GREG
Personal reasons that have
nothing to do with this hearing.

FITZGERALD
I'm afraid they have every reason
to be part of this hearing if
they affect your credibility as a
witness, Greg.

GRIFFIN
Is this train of questioning
leading somewhere, Grace?

FITZGERALD
What led you to take this time
away from your duties?

Greg holds her stare for a long beat.

GREG
I'd come into possession of
some... troubling information.
About... about my parents.

FITZGERALD

Namely your mother Evelyn's involvement with Coven di Fuoco back in the early nineteen-eighties?

GREG

(snaps)

What does that matter?

FITZGERALD

Didn't you also illegally break into several Council properties searching for information on your parents?

GREG

I had to, I couldn't...

Greg quickly reigns in his anger - but one glance at the Watchers tells him that just lot a lot of points.

FITZGERALD

You also say you feel Sofia displayed 'suspicious' behaviour on more than one action. Tell me, Greg - what was said of your own behaviour subsequent to your return to active duty?

GREG

I fail - again - to see how that's relevant.

FITZGERALD

You've also been in charge of interrogating captives held at the Academy on numerous occasions, is that correct?

GREG

It's part of my duties, yes.

FITZGERALD

And you were the chief interrogator of Sofia following her capture?

GREG

(beat)

Yes.

FITZGERALD

If I were to produce, for this hearing, video logs of your...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FITZGERALD (cont'd)
interrogation techniques, would
they show you using a reasonable
amount of force to get the
results you desired, or would
they show you taking out your own
frustrations on a prisoner?

GRIFFIN
(stern)
Careful, Grace.

FITZGERALD
And what about your own personal
relationship with Aiden Gorman?

Greg's taken aback by this, prompting Griffin to speak:

GRIFFIN
Alright, that's enough.

FITZGERALD
Do you hold Sofia personally
responsible for his death?

GRIFFIN
(louder)
I said that's enough!

FITZGERALD
My apologies. I'm just trying to
demonstrate to my esteemed
colleagues here that Gregory is
perhaps not the most reliable
witness you could have called.

GRIFFIN
No, you're trying to discredit
the witness. You're finished.
(to Greg)
Thank you, Greg. You may leave.

Greg nods, rises from his seat and walks away to a row of
chairs set back against one wall. Other WATCHERS fill some
of these seats.

GRIFFIN (cont'd)
Grace? Do you have anyone to call
to deliver their statement at
this time?

FITZGERALD
(beat)
Skye Underwood.

SKYE
(looks up)
What?

Skye blinks, looking to Fitzgerald, Griffin and back.

GRIFFIN

Either approach the bench and sit down, Miss Underwood, or stop wasting our time.

Skye blinks, looking up at Fitzgerald, then rises to her feet and paces cautiously across to the chair.

Fitzgerald waits for Skye to be seated before she approaches her.

FITZGERALD

Skye, you've been part of the same team as Sofia for the majority of your time at the Academy, correct?

(Skye nods)

And that you've been her squad leader since your second term?

SKYE

Yep.

(glances at Griffin)

Uh, yes, ma'am.

FITZGERALD

During that time, has she exhibited any examples of what you would class 'suspicious behaviour'?

SKYE

Can't say that she has. I mean, sure, her head was a little out of place after Braeden defected and showed us who he really was, but come on - they were an item. In this business, that doesn't happen often anyway. Of course it affected her.

FITZGERALD

During scheduled missions?

SKYE

Nah, she was always focused during those.

FITZGERALD

And since her reinstatement at the Academy?

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

She's just wanted to get on and do her job. The more she remembers about...

(glances at Sofia)

... about the bad stuff she did, the harder she tries to make it right. And let's not forget she was also a big part of the operation that took out the Cabal's main headquarters, as well as re-sealing the Hub and all the Hellmouths still open.

FITZGERALD

(smiles)

Thank you, Skye.

(to Griffin)

If there's anything else you'd like to ask?

Griffin rises as Fitzgerald heads back to her seat.

GRIFFIN

Tell me, Miss Underwood, weren't you accused of murdering a fellow Slayer two years ago this month?

Skye's eyes bulge, and Fitzgerald turns sharply round with a look of horror as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

26

INT. WATCHERS COUNCIL - CORRIDOR - LATER

26

Frankie and Zoe are waiting outside a set of double doors. Frankie is tapping her feet restlessly.

ZOE

When are they gonna let us in there?

FRANKIE

If they do not open this door in the next...

(checks watch)

... ten seconds, I am going to kick it open.

ZOE

Hey, you and me both. Pretty sure I got zapped by a half dozen of those speeding camera things on the way here, so I want to know I did all that for a reason.

The girls look over as the doors suddenly open - Griffin and his colleagues are the first out.

Frankie and Zoe rise as Fitzgerald and the others are next out, approaching them.

FRANKIE

Miss Griffin?

FITZGERALD

Frankie? What are you doing here?

ZOE

I told her what was going on. We wanted to come help out.

FITZGERALD

I have a feeling we're going to need all the help we can get. We're adjourned for lunch for now, but still...

Fitzgerald looks round - just as Greg exits the chamber. They make eye contact before Greg heads off, away from the rest of them.

SKYE

(shakes head)

That rat bastard. How could he?

(CONTINUED)

ERIKA

Greg has never forgiven Sofia for the loss of Aiden, whether it was her fault or not.

TSULA

(to Reiko)

Yeah, like with you and Alita.

REIKO

Who says I haven't forgiven her?

(off looks)

Okay, 'forgive' isn't the right word, but still...

FRANKIE

I 'ave brought as many documents as I could find that may 'elp.

FITZGERALD

Excellent. Thank you.

(to Rachel)

Any luck contacting Delaney?

RACHEL

No. I tried, you know...

She taps the side of her head.

RACHEL (cont'd)

... but got nothing. I know that if she's using a lot of magic, that can throw out the signal, if you see what I mean. Maybe she's still working with Kira.

FITZGERALD

Alright. Keep trying anyway, she may still be able to get here in time to help us.

ZOE

What's happening in there so far?

SKYE

Witness statements. They've gotten through Greg, me, Cerys, Tsula and Erika so far.

RACHEL

And managed to dredge up every single mistake any of us have made since we were born, too.

(CONTINUED)

ERIKA

It was suggested that the loss of my sight to save Skye was an 'error of judgement.'

SKYE

Yeah, and that when she pulled that fake defection to Kira's team to get the Codexes back, she was planning on staying with Kira all along.

(beat)

We can't let them do this.

FITZGERALD

Don't worry, we're going to fight this. I'm not lying down and letting Griffin and his archaically-minded cronies have their way with this Council.

A beat of silence falls, broken by:

REIKO

They got anywhere to get food or drink in here? 'Cause I'm thinking we could all use something.

ZOE

I saw a canteen back there. Sound like a plan?

FITZGERALD

(nods)

You girls go on ahead. Get Frankie and Zoe up to speed. I... I just need a minute.

Skye takes point, leading the others away. Fitzgerald sits down, leaning forward and sighing heavily.

VOICE (O.S.)

Er... Grace?

She looks up - it's one of the WATCHERS forming part of Griffin's hearing committee.

FITZGERALD

I don't really have the time for this, Douglas.

DOUGLAS glances round to make sure no-one's about, before taking a seat beside her.

(CONTINUED)

DOUGLAS

I... I was moved by what you said
in there. About Rupert.

FITZGERALD

It's a little late to agree with
me now.

DOUGLAS

William's been running this place
like a... well, ever since what
happened with Barbara, he...

FITZGERALD

(waiting for the point)
Yes?

DOUGLAS

Look, I just wanted you to know
that not everyone is in support
of his move back towards the...
old ways of doing things around
here. And that some of us support
young Sofia after what she did to
help us bring down the Cabal.

(beat)

I may have something that'll help
your case.

Fitzgerald waits, curious, as we CUT TO:

EXT. CABAL BASE - DAY

A military-style compound, fenced off and patrolled,
situated deep inside a thick forest.

A lone figure stands on the roof of one of the base's many
subsections, facing away from us.

PAN ROUND to reveal JOSH, hands behind his back as he
stares critically out across the landscape.

HAMISH (O.S.)

Waiting for inspiration to
strike?

Josh doesn't turn as HAMISH joins him.

JOSH

Something's out there.

HAMISH

There's always something out
there, lad.

JOSH

No, I mean something... new.
Waiting.

Hamish squints across the trees. Cities can be glimpsed but they're some way off.

HAMISH

Whatever it is, it can wait till
after dinner. And besides,
nothing's getting in here without
a fight.

JOSH

Whatever's out there feels like
it's ready for a fight.

Hamish quirks an eyebrow, then chuckles.

HAMISH

I think the isolation here's
getting to you. Come on, we'll
eat and then take a patrol out to
ease your mind. Alright?

JOSH

Perhaps.

HAMISH

And anyway, we've still got to
keep researching that theory of
yours about the Scythe's reaction
to Slayer blood. Now that we've
lost our primary source of
information, we're gonnae haveta
find new means of extracting the
things we need.

Josh looks across at last, then with a final sweep back
across the forest turns away.

As he follows Hamish back through an access door, PUSH OFF
the roof and out into the open:

And down into the trees below, passing over the security
fence surrounding the compound.

All is still in the dense foliage, stray beams of sunlight
piercing to the floor...

... until MOVEMENT can be seen, shadows snaking and weaving
through the trees towards us!

FIGURES are darting between patches of shadow, careful to stay out of the sunlight.

Until one starts to walk directly towards us, emerging from the shadows with a handful of other figures following:

It's VICTORY, flanked by a well-armed group of SLAYER-VAMPS. They're looking to her for further instruction.

VICTORY

This is the place.

SLAY-VAMP

You're sure?

VICTORY

This is where she brought me.
When I heard her calling out...

She shakes the thought away and turns to her team.

VICTORY (cont'd)

There's enough of us here to get through their defences, into the base and down to the sub-levels. Once we're there, you just need to keep any Cabal grunts off my back while I find her.

SLAY-VAMP #2

And what if 'she' was just leading us into a trap?

VICTORY

Then she went to a lot of damn effort.

(beat)

Look, I know some of you - probably most of you think I'm nuts, but... I can't explain it, but I just know she's here.

Victory closes her eyes, inhales - and VAMPS OUT. On cue, the girls around her do the same.

VICTORY (cont'd)

So let's go search and rescue.

And as she strides forward INTO CAMERA, the others falling in step behind, we CUT TO:

The reconvened hearing. Frankie is being questioned:

(CONTINUED)

FRANKIE

Sofia is a good person who 'as
made mistakes. We all 'ave.

GRIFFIN

Yes, Miss DuCont, for example...

He leafs through a folder, referring to it as he speaks:

GRIFFIN (cont'd)

You had an affair with one of the
Initiative commandoes stationed
at the Academy in your first
term, is that correct? A
Sebastian Dunstall?

Frankie bristles at the mention of his name.

FRANKIE

(tight-lipped)

Oui. C'est vrai.

GRIFFIN

And this led to you becoming
pregnant, only to lose the baby
during an attack on the campus?

FITZGERALD

(stern)

How the hell does any of this
have any bearing on the case?

GRIFFIN

(smoothly)

I'm merely trying to establish
the credibility of the witness.

FRANKIE

Miss, Fitzgerald, please. I am
fine.

(to Griffin)

*Oui, I lost our baby. And your
file should also show that I
recently 'ad to assist in the
euthanasia of Sebastian after an
infection 'e was carrying spread
out of control. So do not lecture
me about my 'mistakes,' monsieur.*

Griffin makes eye contact with her for a long beat, then
heads back over to his desk as we DISSOLVE TO:

Rachel now sitting at the single chair.

(CONTINUED)

GRIFFIN

Tell me, Miss Adams, what is your official capacity within the Academy?

RACHEL

I'm part of B Squad.

GRIFFIN

Despite the fact that you are not a Slayer.

RACHEL

(beat)

That's right.

GRIFFIN

So how, exactly, do you justify your place on the team?

FITZGERALD

How is this relevant?

GRIFFIN

Grace, please.

(beat; to Rachel)

Answer the question.

RACHEL

I've got plenty of experience where it counts. I've run missions against human, demon and vampire opponents, and I've got a stack of non-combat skills to aid and assist the team.

(beat)

Plus, there was... I underwent a procedure to host the soul of another Slayer a while ago while she was recovering from serious injuries. There's evidence to show that a few of the added extras stayed with me after her soul was returned.

GRIFFIN

(nods)

All valid points. Tell me, Miss Adams, weren't you a member of Kira Brogan's team up until about a year ago?

Rachel hesitates, glancing at the other Watchers.

RACHEL

I was.

(CONTINUED)

GRIFFIN

And during that time, you ran several missions against the Academy? Many of them directly opposing several of the Slayers sitting just across from you?

Rachel glances their way, not liking where this is going.

RACHEL

Yeah, but -

GRIFFIN

And during one mission where you tracked Sofia and her team whilst attempting to rescue the dangerously psychotic former Slayer Dana Wells, you personally observed Sofia's part in the deaths of no less than four other Slayers, is that not also true?

RACHEL

She didn't kill any of them!

GRIFFIN

But did she try to stop them?

Rachel pauses. No answer for that.

GRIFFIN (cont'd)

Did she show any evidence to you that she was fighting her alleged brainwashing and conditioning?

Rachel looks helplessly to Sofia.

GRIFFIN (cont'd)

I see. No further questions.

Griffin returns to his seat. Rachel sags before getting up and slouching back towards the others.

She flops dejectedly into her seat, head in her hands.

RACHEL

I'm sorry...

FITZGERALD

Don't be. He's just trying to discredit all of your testimonies. You all need to be aware of him trying to do that.

(CONTINUED)

GRIFFIN
 (calls over)
 Next witness, Grace?

Fitzgerald rises, setting her jaw once again.

 FITZGERALD
 The defence calls Reiko Kimusume.

And that gets some shocked looks - not least of which from Reiko herself, as we CUT TO:

INT. CABAL BASE - CORRIDOR - DAY

Two squads of CABAL GUARDS pace past one another, pausing to check in. They natter for a moment or two, until:

KA-BOOM! The wall of the corridor EXPLODES, spraying them with FLAMES and DEBRIS!

The Guards hit the deck, stunned, ALARMS wail up and down the corridor:

And a swarm of SLAY VAMPS flood into the base, splitting off down both directions!

As more GUARDS race onto the scene, they're met head-on by the vamps - some are TACKLED, some GRAPPLED, others just plain BITTEN.

GUNFIRE goes off as the guards manage to get some bullets in the air:

One Guard gets his rifle up and BLASTS the Slay Vamp before him - but she takes a full clip of ammo, still standing!

Peppered with bullet holes and blood, she SNARLS before POUNCING on the Guard, whose CRIES for help ring out.

 INTERCOM
 (filtered)
 Emergency. Intruders on level
 seven. All available units to
 east corridor, level seven,
 immediately.

The scene is soon a bedlam of bodies, blood and bullets - the Guards are no match for the Slay Vamps.

Back on the hole left in the wall, SMOKE billowing into the corridor - as Victory strides through and into the base.

Two Guards charge towards her, so she turns to face them - ducking a NIGHTSTICK swing from the first.

WHACK! She drives her palm up into his chin, SNAPPING his neck from the brute force of the blow.

He drops as the other tries a KICK, his leg SMACKING into Victory's gut and knocking her back.

She whips round to face him, SNARLS and LUNGES for him, grabbing him and pinning his arms down.

The Guard can only let out a final CRY of terror as she sinks her FANGS into his neck, arterial blood SQUIRTING.

Dropping the Guard after a few moments feeding, she's quickly flanked by more Slay Vamps. She turns to address them:

VICTORY

(counts off)

You three, follow me. Everyone else, stay here and keep the diversion going.

She marches off, three vampires following her as those left in the corridor keep up the assault, and we CUT TO:

Reiko is now at the stand, not looking at all happy as Griffin paces slowly up and down before her.

GRIFFIN

Miss Kimusume, your relationship with Sofia has been... strained since her return, wouldn't you agree?

REIKO

Uh... I, uh... I'm not sure how you'd know that. Unless you've started wearing drag to hide out at the Academy.

Skye SNICKERS loudly. Sharp glares from other Watchers make her control her giggles.

Griffin smiles, letting the comment pass as he returns to the main table - picking up a few sheets of paper.

GRIFFIN

These are e-mails you sent to various people - Slayers at the Academy, friends back in Tokyo. Can you confirm that you are the author?

He hands her the papers. She looks over them, eyebrows rising.

REIKO

Yeah... yeah, I did these, but...
how did you get them?

FITZGERALD

That's a very good question,
William.

He glances her way, but that amiable, defensive grin is already in place.

GRIFFIN

It's part of the Council's remit
to carry out random, unscheduled
checks on the flow of information
to and from the Academy.

REIKO

That includes spying on personal
e-mail accounts?

GRIFFIN

Sent using our computers and via
internet connections we paid for,
so yes - that makes them our
property.

Reiko looks helplessly to Fitzgerald - who is seething.

FITZGERALD

That's a direct breach of data
protection, William. She has a
right to a reasonable degree of
privacy. You can't possibly
justify -

GRIFFIN

(over her)

In these e-mails, Miss Kimusume
details - at length - precisely
what she loathes, if I may use
that word, about Sofia Romero.
She highlights Sofia's behaviour
around the Academy and on
missions, draws attention to what
she perceives to be the 'lie' of
Sofia's alleged amnesia, and also
makes the following statement.

Griffin takes the e-mails back off Reiko, reading aloud:

GRIFFIN (cont'd)
 'I'll never forgive her for what
 she did to me - to all of us -
 when she took Alita away. And I
 know plenty of people who feel
 the same way. All we need is an
 excuse to prove she's been lying
 to us, and I'll be first in line
 to get rid of her once and for
 all.'

He lays the papers back on the table, the other Watchers
passing them along and scrutinising them.

 GRIFFIN (cont'd)
 I think your written statements
 speak for themselves, Miss
 Kimusume.

 REIKO
 (panicked)
 But... they were just... I didn't
 know anybody else was gonna see
 those! I was... I was angry!
 Upset! I said... I didn't mean
 all of that!

 GRIFFIN
 No further questions, thank you.

Griffin takes his seat, and a flustered Reiko rises and
heads back to join the Academy team, head down.

 REIKO
 I'm so, so sorry, Miss
 Fitzgerald, I... you've got to
 believe me, I had no idea -

 FITZGERALD
 Never mind that now, Reiko.

Reiko flops miserably back into her seat, as Fitzgerald
rises and approaches the main desk.

 GRIFFIN
 Do you have any further witnesses
 to call, Grace? I believe we've
 heard from everyone present.

 FITZGERALD
 Actually, yes. I do have another
 witness.
 (glances at Douglas)
 The defence calls Tobias Roper.

Griffin frowns, then turns as the doors at the back of the hall open.

A PRISONER is led inside by two security guards - it's ROPER, Sofia's old Cabal handler!

He's dumped unceremoniously into the chair, his dishevelled appearance showing what kind of treatment he's received.

GRIFFIN

What's the meaning of this?

Fitzgerald looks to Sofia - who's recognised Roper with wide, surprised eyes.

FITZGERALD

This is Tobias Roper, William. He acted as Sofia's handler and contact with the Cabal. He was arrested as part of the cleanup operation following the destruction of their Arctic headquarters... and he has some very interesting things to say.

Roper exhales, far from happy to be there, as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

FADE IN:

32

INT. CABAL BASE - SUB-LEVEL - DAY

32

ALARMS keep ringing, more Guards hurrying past on their way to join the battle raging upstairs.

As they clear the scene, PAN ACROSS to an access door, which CLICKS open a fraction.

Victory peers out from within, checking the coast is clear before she and the other Slay Vamps step out.

VICTORY

(beckons)

This way.

The foursome hurry on, passing large glass partitions - CELLS are behind them, plain and white.

Most are empty, each marked with legends like 'HYBRID JHCD 005' or 'RES-M SUBJECT A.'

Victory comes to a stop by a cell marked 'RES-M SUBJECT J,' turning with a smirk to her colleagues.

She steps out before the partition, looking into the cell. A SHIMMER of energy ripples beyond the glass.

Inside, a slim, dark-skinned and raven-haired WOMAN looks up, late twenties and dressed in plain blue overalls.

She smiles when she sees Victory, rising - even though she's clearly very weak.

WOMAN

I knew you'd find me.

VICTORY

Yeah, well, don't thank me yet...

Victory gingerly presses a hand against the glass - and gets a SHOCK from some kind of current!

VICTORY (cont'd)

Ah! Son of a...

(to Slay Vamp)

Find me a way past that.

The vampire looks round, finds a CONTROL PANEL on the wall and starts searching for a way to disable it.

SLAY VAMP #2

Okay, okay, I have to ask - who the hell is she?

(CONTINUED)

VICTORY
I'll explain everything later.
Right now, we need to get her out
of here before -

JOSH (O.S.)
Get away from the cells.

Victory turns - and there's Josh, with a full squad of
Cabal Guards behind him!

VICTORY
(grins)
Ah, the replacement. Was
wondering when you'd show up.

JOSH
(to Guards)
Cover them.

The Guard's weapons snap up, red LASER SIGHT beams falling
on the four vampires.

VICTORY
You really think that'll stop me?

JOSH
I guess we'll find out.

SLAY VAMP
We need a keycard to access the
grid, otherwise I can't shut it
down.

VICTORY
Well, then... we're just gonna
have to take one of theirs.

She grins wickedly - and the Guards OPEN FIRE as we CUT TO:

Fitzgerald stands before Roper. He looks begrudgingly up at
her - she's waiting for him to continue.

ROPER
I'd meet with Sofia if she was
ever out on a solo mission,
providing her with information on
our enemies movements.

FITZGERALD
Did Sofia ever provide you with
direct access to Academy
information?

ROPER

We didn't need her for that. Any intel we wanted, we had quicker ways to get it.

(beat)

She was Braeden's pet. She'd do anything for him. We all knew it.

Sofia stiffens at that, but Fitzgerald keeps it moving:

FITZGERALD

And how was Sofia's compliance with Cabal operations?

ROPER

She spent two months in an isolation unit undergoing intensive reconditioning and brainwashing after Braeden brought her to us. She wasn't to be let out of there until the bosses were convinced she wouldn't just turn on us.

FITZGERALD

And how often did she undergo further brainwashing after that?

ROPER

Every few weeks. It'd started to get more regular not long before the raid where your people captured her. We suspected she was starting to resist the treatment, but we couldn't increase the strength much more without turning her into a vegetable.

Roper throws Sofia a look - he'd have enjoyed seeing that.

FITZGERALD

One final question. Did you, at any time, hear or see Sofia directly attack, injure or kill another Slayer?

ROPER

(shakes head)

Not ever. Nobody was allowed but Braeden. Those were our orders. She never even raised a hand to anyone as far as I know.

Fitzgerald looks triumphantly towards Griffin.

(CONTINUED)

FITZGERALD

And you can back up all of these claims, is that correct?

ROPER

Cabal files I still have access to, personal information, surveillance tabs you people kept on us... yeah, it's all there.

FITZGERALD

Thank you, Tobias.

ROPER

(sneers)

Don't thank me. Your people have had me locked up for months in here, and two days ago I found myself shipped to a maximum security hole in the ground.

FITZGERALD

Is that right?

(looks to Griffin)

Just before Sofia is arrested and brought to a hearing, the one material witness who could exonerate her is taken away?

GRIFFIN

(bristles)

I don't know what you're implying here, Grace, but it had -

FITZGERALD

(over him)

No further questions.

She heads back to her seat. MUTTERINGS start to fill the room - Fitzgerald just served an ace. Everyone knows it.

Griffin looks down at his papers, mind racing to process this new development, before he rises again.

GRIFFIN

(stiffly)

This hearing will now adjourn to decide their verdict.

The others Watchers are surprised by this, but start to get up. Fitzgerald also stands.

FITZGERALD

Aren't you going to cross-examine my witness, William?

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

33

CONTINUED: (3)

33

FITZGERALD (cont'd)
Or have you finally come to
realise there wouldn't be much
point in continuing this... sham?

Griffin doesn't answer, his filthy look her way saying it all. Fitzgerald sits, confident, as Griffin leads the Watchers away.

Guards move over to take Sofia, but as she stands she catches Fitzgerald's eye - and smiles gratefully.

Sofia is lead away, Fitzgerald and the other Slayers starting to talk amongst themselves as we CUT TO:

34

INT. CABAL BASE - SUB-LEVEL - DAY

34

Josh steps forwards - over the bodies of one Slay Vamp after another, with Victory the last. They're sprawled on the ground, riddled with bullets.

Josh NUDGES one with his boot, then turns the girl onto her back. She's barely sixteen.

JOSH
Such a waste.

He motions to the Guards to join him.

JOSH (cont'd)
Clean this mess up. Get them all
out of here.

He turns to look into the cell at the Woman.

JOSH (cont'd)
Sorry. Looks like the daring
rescue won't be taking place
today after all.

She just SMILES back, shaking her head.

WOMAN
You have a lot to learn.

Josh frowns - and suddenly Victory ROARS, springing up behind him and BITING into his neck!

Around them, the other Slay Vamps jump up, attacking the Guards and literally tearing their way through.

Josh manages to snap his head back, knocking Victory free. He drives an ELBOW into her chest and SPIN-KICKS her.

She's knocked back, but his blood DRIPS from her fangs as she smirks back at him.

(CONTINUED)

VICTORY

Boo.

Josh staggers back, hand clutching his neck as more Guards finally show up.

JOSH

Kill them! Stakes and fire!

Some of the Guards draws STAKES from their belts and head in, the Slay Vamps ready to meet them.

Victory moves quickly, snatching a KEYCARD from one of the fallen guards and swiping it through the control panel.

She turns and scoops up another Guard - this one missing half his arm and WHIMPERING with shock.

VICTORY

What's the code?

GUNFIRE rattles past as the Guards and Slay Vamps get back into it. Victory doesn't flinch.

VICTORY (cont'd)

Tell me the code, and I'll make it quick.

GUARD

(stuttering)

Th-three... three four... four... seven.

She turns and hits the numbers - and with a soft CHIME, a light flashes GREEN.

VICTORY

Thanks.

CRACK! She snaps the Guard's neck and drops him, turning back to the panel and hitting another button:

And the glass partition starts to SLIDE OPEN!

She's straight inside, getting to the Woman and supporting her as they head back into the corridor.

Outside, Josh STAKES one of the Slay Vamps and they DUST with a final SHRIEK, but he stumbles and drops to his knees, weak from blood loss.

VICTORY (cont'd)

Girls! Plan 'B'!

(CONTINUED)

On cue, the remaining vampires draw SMOKE GRENADES from their belt and drop them, the corridor quickly filling with thick white smoke.

Victory and the Woman head for the access door, but a Guard gets in their way, weapon raised.

He takes aim at the Woman, finger on the trigger - but she suddenly SURGES forward and PUSHES him backwards!

WOMAN
(to Victory)
Make sure we can leave this
place!

Victory nods and turns, racing to the access hatch and throwing it open.

She hears a strangled CRY of pain from behind her, then a THUD - and turns to see:

The Woman standing over the dead body of the Guard. She turns to Victory and nods.

VICTORY
(impressed)
Oh, we are gonna get along just
fine.

She hurries back over, helps the Woman through the hatch and then WHISTLES back to the other vamps.

As more SMOKE wafts across frame, the last thing we see are the vampires slipping through the door as we CUT TO:

The Academy team are waiting anxiously outside the hall.

SKYE
What's keeping them? It's been,
like, an hour already.

FRANKIE
I think we 'ave given them a lot
to consider.

Zoe looks to Reiko, who sits with her head bowed.

ZOE
Hey, Reiko?

Reiko looks up, pouting miserably.

REIKO

It'll be my fault, won't it? If they lock her up for good? It'll all be because of those stupid e-mails...

CERYS

Considering your initial reaction to her return, I think you and Sofia have come a long way.

REIKO

Yeah, well... Alita would have wanted me to forgive her. Eventually.

RACHEL

What do you think'll happen?

FITZGERALD

I honestly can't say. William's been trying to throw this whole thing from the start, but I think we've shown up enough of his failings to follow procedure to help us, as well as provide a key witness.

TSULA

Yeah, how did you know about that guy, by the way?

FITZGERALD

Let's just say that not everyone in the Council is so hostile.

She turns - the security guards are opening the doors again. Fitzgerald turns back to the girls.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

Remember, whatever happens, I'll take full responsibility for it.
(to Skye)
That means no vaulting over the table to attack.

SKYE

Not even a little?

Fitzgerald doesn't answer, heading back into the room. The girls follow her inside, and we CUT TO:

Hamish stands in the middle of the aftermath of the breakout, BODIES below and BLOOD spattered all around.

(CONTINUED)

JOSH (O.S.)
We should get after them.

Hamish turns as Josh steps into frame - BANDAGES over his neck wound.

HAMISH
Believe me, I understand. We should consider the possibility that if our superiors had known what they were doing, we wouldnae be in this mess right now.
(beat)
Maybe it's time for a change in careers.

Josh frowns, puzzled as we CUT TO:

INT. WATCHERS COUNCIL - HALL - NEXT

With everyone seated and arranged, Sofia now stands before Griffin and the Watchers.

GRIFFIN
Miss Romero, the crimes for which you are under investigation today are very serious. Murder, collusion, treason... not events that can be easily swept under the carpet.

SOFIA
Do I have to answer that?

GRIFFIN
(beat)
We've heard evidence today that implicates you in a wide variety of offences, both against this Council and your fellow Slayers...

He hesitates, glancing to his side. Douglas has a stern gaze fixed on him.

GRIFFIN (cont'd)
... and also evidence to the contrary.
(beat)
My fellow Council members and I have deliberated the correct course of action to follow, and our findings are...

He pauses again. Really not comfortable with this.

GRIFFIN (cont'd)

Our findings are that you are to be released back into the protective custody of the Academy.

CHEERS and WHOOPS ring out from the Academy girls - quickly silenced by Cerys and Fitzgerald.

GRIFFIN (cont'd)

(sharp)

Before anyone begins to celebrate, I should point out that this is far from an official pardon or acquittal for your crimes. It's merely a...

DOUGLAS

(over him)

You're to be kept under close observation at the Academy, supervised by Headmistress Fitzgerald. Weekly performance and evaluation reports, regular psychiatric counselling sessions, and the eyes of your comrades upon you at all times.

(beat)

Are you prepared to accept this decision?

Sofia, head bowed, is silent for a long moment.

SOFIA

(quiet)

Yes.

DOUGLAS

Then we, the Council, hereby release you back into the care of the Academy as per the terms I have just outlined.

(beat)

Good day to you all.

He rises, as do the other Watchers - all except Griffin, the last one to stand. Fitzgerald approaches him.

FITZGERALD

This won't end here, William. You crossed plenty of lines today to try and make an example out of this girl, and don't think for a second that I'll stand for any of it. This isn't over.

Griffin doesn't dignify that with a response, turning and marching smartly out of the room.

Fitzgerald smirks as she returns to Sofia, laying a hand on her shoulder.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)
Don't let me down, Sofia.

SOFIA
I won't. I promise, I won't.

Fitzgerald smiles, then heads off as Skye and the others bound over, Sofia getting a warm reception.

Fitzgerald spots Greg sneaking out from the seats over by the doors - but he doesn't stop to talk.

ON SOFIA as Skye and the others crowd her.

SKYE
So! You're a free agent once again, huh?

SOFIA
I wouldn't say that, Skye. I'm going to have to keep looking over my shoulder for a long time yet.

ERIKA
You have been given time to prove you are still a part of this Academy. That is what you wanted, correct?

SOFIA
Well, yes, but -

REIKO
Sofia...

The others go quiet as Reiko shyly stands before her.

SOFIA
Reiko, I'm not angry. You've still got every right to hate the sight of me after what I did -

REIKO
I don't 'hate' you. I'm just...
(sighs)
I'm glad you're not in prison.
Okay?

Sofia smiles, and as the other girls get back to congratulating Sofia.

ON FRANKIE as she stands to one side, happy with the result - before she steps away, out of sight.

She rolls up her sleeve again - the GREEN VEINS have spread further, criss-crossing up and down her arm now.

She SIGHS, knowing full well what this means - and then she COUGHS, just once, as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT FIVE

NEXT WEEK

FITZGERALD (V.O.)
Next week, on Slayer Academy...

EXT. DESERT - DAY

FRANKIE stands in the middle of a desert as the air shimmers with heat.

Across from her is a SHADOW MAN.

FRANKIE
Why am I here?

The Shadow Man grins, exposing cracked but sparkling white teeth.

CUT TO:

INT. BATHROOM - DAY

Frankie stands in front of a mirror. She pulls down on the collar of her shirt and stares in numb emotion at the GREEN VEINS across her collar bone in the mirror.

SHADOW MAN (V.O.)
Time has already taken you to
this point.

CUT TO:

INT. BANQUET ROOM - DAY

SKYE and ERIKA look tense and awkward, talking in a corner while a PARTY happens around them.

A banner reads: WE'LL MISS YOU ERIKA!

SHADOW MAN (V.O.)
Everyone is subject to the
consequences of their actions.

CUT TO:

INT. ABANDONED APARTMENT - DAY

Sunlight is blocked by blacked out windows in the basement of an old apartment building.

VICTORY and the DARK SKINNED WOMAN stand on a platform in front of the assembled SLAYER-VAMPIRES.

Two of the vampires carry a terrified looking CABAL GUARD and drop him in front of the two women.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SHADOW MAN (V.O.)
The steps and missteps that have
been made are sealed within the
past.

CUT TO:

EXT. CAVE ENTRANCE - EVENING

Frankie, REIKO, and a HANDSOME MAN stand in front of an
ominous looking cave.

SHADOW MAN (V.O.)
You must look onward with renewed
perspective at the present.

CUT TO:

EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

ZOE, GABRIELA, FRAN, and a PUNK SLAYER patrol the streets
of a deserted village.

They are all on edge, constantly looking around them in all
directions.

SHADOW MAN (V.O.)
As the present will never allow
any of us to escape its
perspective.

CUT TO:

INT. ACADEMY - NIGHT

TSULA and BELLE fight each other in the middle of a circle
of other SLAYERS who cheer them on loudly.

SHADOW MAN (V.O.)
And whether this is a victory...

CUT TO:

INT. CAVE - NIGHT

Frankie props herself up on the ground of the cave, as an
impossibly tall DEMON covered in white, shaggy hair looms
over her, roaring loudly.

SHADOW MAN
... or a defeat...

CUT TO:

EXT. DESERT - DAY

Frankie listens to the Shadow Man talk. As she does, GREEN VEINS begin to spider web up her body, beginning to cover her face.

Once her face is nearly covered, BLACK begins to darken through the veins in the same pattern, as Frankie's skin begins to pale.

The Shadow Man looks at Frankie with interest and curiosity, but without any noticeable concern.

SHADOW MAN
... know that your destiny is
finally upon you.

BLACK OUT:

END OF TAG