

SLAYER ACADEMY

"COUNTERSTRIKE"

STARRING

EMILY BOOTH

PARIS HILTON

MILA KUNIS

RACHAEL LEIGH COOK

KATHERINE HEIGL

WITH

JACQUELINE MCKENZIE

BRADLEY COOPER

NAVEEN ANDREWS

OLESYA RULIN

JESSY SCHRAM

TANIA RAYMONDE

JULIA LING

AARON YOO

SPECIAL GUEST STAR

MELINDA CLARKE as 'Jilhandra'

GUEST STARRING

LACEY MOSLEY as 'Tia'

CHIAKI KURIYAMA as 'Patty'

KIRSTEN PROUT as 'Belle'

ALUN ARMSTRONG as 'Douglas'

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(C) MUTANT ENEMY, INC. AND FOX

PREVIOUSLY

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

INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - NIGHT

ERIKA sits with SKYE, the two girls weary after another long, hard day.

ERIKA
I had better get some rest. I have
a long day of traveling tomorrow.

SKYE
You're still going to leave? Now?
After everything that's happened?

ERIKA
Skye, there is always going to be
another threat. There's always
going to be another reason to stay.
If I don't leave tomorrow, then I
am afraid that I never will.

Skye looks suitably despondent as we:

CUT TO:

INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - DAY

Erika enters the bedroom of her apartment in Moscow, familiar with the layout as she navigates round.

She leans over and checks the sleeping MARIA's temperature. She removes her hand quickly - it's that hot!

Despite this, however, Maria's sleeping pretty peaceful and even YAWNS, turning over in her slumber. Erika smiles at this and then exits.

However, as she leaves, Maria's face turns to one of discomfort as her fever starts to take a toll on her.

INT. APARTMENT - KITCHEN - NEXT

Erika heads over, feeling her to the kitchen and manoeuvring her way to a set of BOOKS, obviously recipes. She flips one open and starts tracing her hands over the Braille writing.

She makes her way over to the FRIDGE and starts to feel various sized items. She grabs a container of CHICKEN and carries it to the counter when she COUGHS.

Erika doesn't even register this as she starts to cut the chicken with a CARVING KNIFE. She smiles a little, HUMMING a tune - even as she coughs, a little more violently.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She stops cutting and then starts RETCHING, coughing so violently she's almost knocked off-side! Then when it stops for a beat, it hits her.

ERIKA

<No... please, God, no!>

Erika drops to her knees as the coughing continues, her abdomen racked with unbelievable pain as she continues to COUGH, and we:

CUT TO:

INT. CABAL FACILITY - SAME TIME

PUSH THROUGH a wall to find a handful of CABAL OFFICERS. One - ASAKA - is speaking to the others.

ASAKA

As of fifteen hundred hours yesterday, our scientists have managed to perfect the virus bomb using the required blood sample.

PULL BACK to find a single figure, sitting away from the others. Long red hair and a killer smile. JILHANDRA.

ASAKA (cont'd)

Right now, we're about to begin the control testing of the bomb.

The WALL SCREEN behind Asaka CHANGES, revealing shaky camera footage of a SMALL VILLAGE.

The screen SPLITS, revealing hidden cameras inside the homes of the peaceful RESIDENTS. Asaka pulls his CELL PHONE from his pocket, opening it and hitting speed dial.

Jilhandra watches, eyebrows raised as the call gets through.

ASAKA (cont'd)

(into phone)

Cabal clearance 47-9-alpha-romeo-niner.

(beat)

Commence firing at test subject immediately.

The screens don't change for several beats - normal life going on...

... until two CABAL FIGHTER JETS appear in the sky and begin to launch BOMBS!

The bombs land, aimed perfectly and EXPLODE several houses, INCINERATING those inside!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Another two bombs drop, killing dozens on impact. But that's not the worst part.

Survivors scramble, calling out, SCREAMING - just as GREEN GAS starts to pour out of the craters of the bombs!

The survivors start to CHOKE, clutching at their throats. BLOOD trickles from their eyes.

The people drop to their knees, straining to breath before they collapse altogether. They're all DEAD!

On the large screen, a CABAL TEAM, wearing hazmat suits appear, speaking INTO CAMERA:

TEAM MEMBER

Confirmed dead, base. Test subjects are all dead. Will confirm.

Jilhandra lets loose a wicked smile as the officer pushes something in front of her - a CHART.

JILHANDRA

I'm very impressed, Asaka.

ASAKA

Thank you ma'am. But I'm afraid I have some bad news.

JILHANDRA

You know I don't like bad news, Asaka. In fact I don't like bad news so much, I remove people's testicles if they give me it.

ASAKA

It's... it's the blood used in the bombs. We used up our one and only piece of DNA on the trial bombs and I'm afraid we need more people with this particular blood type.

(beat)

The same person.

(beat)

They're the key for the virus bombs. And we haven't got enough for what we're planning for.

JILHANDRA

Oh, is that it?

She looks at the chart - and smirks as she looks back up.

JILHANDRA (cont'd)

(smiles)

I know just the girl for the job.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Jilhandra exits - but not before she touches the PC TERMINAL, sending ELECTRIC WAVES shooting up it and displaying an image on screen.

Asaka and the other Cabal officers look up to see who it is.

Smiling, pale-skinned and with a group of her Slayer friends is none other than:

MARIA NEMEROV.

BLACK OUT:

END OF TAG

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. CABAL HQ - MEETING ROOM - MORNING 1

A darkened meeting room, with a SLIDE-SHOW PRESENTATION being shown to a group of people gathered round the meeting table.

JILHANDRA stands at the head of the table, which is filled with DEMONS and other CABAL GRUNTS and AGENTS.

JILHANDRA
And so, to summarise...

She switches the slide over on the presentation she's giving to the final page, reading "DO NOT FAIL." The lights come back on automatically.

JILHANDRA (cont'd)
Is that clear?

The demons nod, clearly afraid of Jilhandra, but Jilhandra isn't sold.

JILHANDRA (cont'd)
I said, is that clear?

There's a chorus of affirmation from the room.

JILHANDRA (cont'd)
(smirks)
Good. You all have your orders. Get out there and make it happen.

And with that, she confidently strides across the room and out. The Cabal grunts share a few glances at each other before following.

2 INT. CAMPUS - STAFF ROOM - MORNING 2

Inside the Academy staff room, the entire FACULTY and A SQUAD have gathered, an almost identical scene to the one before, yet all of the people gathered are human, not demon.

FITZGERALD stands at the head of the table, her hands resting on the desk. She has a serious face on, and everyone around her is silent.

FITZGERALD
To scotch any rumours that may be flying around, I can now confirm that Reiko and Sofia are returning from Japan - and you'll all be glad to hear they managed to defeat the monster plaguing Alita Kagemura's village.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE grins and SNAPS her fingers loudly.

SKYE
Alright, Sofes!

DELANEY shoots her a look, sitting next to RACHEL.

DELANEY
How are they doing? I mean, was it
a big demon? Or something more like
a kitten?

FITZGERALD
Let's just say they've both taken
plenty of bumps along the way.

RACHEL
Man, they're gonna be really
lording it over us with this one, I
can tell.

FITZGERALD
However...

Everyone freezes. They turn back to Fitzgerald, registering
her serious expression.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)
(sighs)
There's no easy way to say this,
girls.
(beat)
Sofia has shown confirmed symptoms
of the Virus.

Skye pushes her chair away, standing up abruptly.

SKYE
(shocked)
No!

FITZGERALD
Skye, she -

SKYE
She... she can't! Not now!

Rachel places a hand on Skye's shoulder to comfort her. Skye
shrugs it off, sitting back down and sulking in her chair.

RACHEL
Skye, it's gonna happen to all of
us.

SKYE
It's not gonna hit you.

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL
(a little stung)
It might, actually.

Rachel realises she's the new centre of attention. Shifts.

RACHEL (cont'd)
Dr. Cairns said that when I carried
Dana's soul, you know, and I picked
up the Slayer memories... even
though they're gone now, it may
still have left enough of a link in
my system to make me vulnerable.
(beat)
We think. Look, it's just a theory,
alright? Can we get back to this
not being about me?

Skye turns back to Fitzgerald.

SKYE
If she dies...

FITZGERALD
(solemn)
I'm sorry Skye, I truly am.

She addresses the rest of the room:

FITZGERALD (cont'd)
That will be all.

With a last glance towards Skye, Fitzgerald follows the
others as they depart, leaving A Squad behind.

SKYE
First Erika, now Sofia. This can't
be happening!

DELANEY
Chill, Skye. As Rache said, you
know Sofia. She'll pull through.

SKYE
(not sold)
Yeah... right.

Delaney casts a quick, wary glance at Rachel as we CUT TO:

Fitzgerald enters her office, sinking down in the chair. She
sighs, and turns her COMPUTER on.

COMPUTER VOICE
You have mail.

(CONTINUED)

Fitzgerald brings up her INBOX, and a live VIDEO FEED begins to play.

On it is a WOMAN, dressed in CABAL UNIFORM. She looks frantic, her dark hair all around her. She has sharp features, with high jawbones and her lips pursed.

WOMAN

(nods)

Grace.

Fitzgerald leans in closer, seeming more amazed than alarmed by this sight.

FITZGERALD

My word! It's... it's remarkable!

WOMAN

(all business)

We haven't got time for that.

FITZGERALD

(sighs)

No... no, I suppose we haven't.

WOMAN

Something serious is going on here.
Lots of big players moving around,
getting ready to ship out.

FITZGERALD

(frowns)

Why? What's happening?

WOMAN

I have bad news.

(beat)

Erika and Maria Nemerov are in
grave danger. They've been marked
for extraction by the Cabal -
tonight. If you can't get a squad
to them in time...

She lets the comment hang, letting Fitzgerald take in this information as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4

INT. CAMPUS - BRIEFING ROOM - MORNING

4

DADE and FRANKIE are poring over pages of notes and diagrams. There's a buzz of success about them both.

DADE

C'mon. Admit it. I am he. He who is the man. The man... is me.

FRANKIE

I will do no such thing.

DADE

Aw, come on, Frankie! We have kicked ass and taken names with this. Can't I get just a little bit of props over here?

FRANKIE

(raises eyebrow)

'Props'?

DADE

Yeah, you know... reward. Thanks. Respect. A bigger room. More allowance.

FRANKIE

(beat; half smile)

I could tell Patty Tojikawa 'ow you 'ave been making eyes at her every day this week...

DADE

(blanches; quickly)

You, uh... you could, or you could also -

He's cut off as the door opens - Fitzgerald bustles in, followed by Greg and what's left of A Squad - Skye, Delaney and now Rachel too.

FITZGERALD

Ah, Frankie. Dade. Good. This'll concern you too.

The others take their seats as Fitzgerald brings down the video screen, activates the projector and boots up the connected laptop.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

I have a new mission for A Squad, but with current...

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

Losses?

FITZGERALD

(shifts)

That's not quite what I was going to say. Basically, we may well need B Squad as support, so Frankie, if you could pass this back to them I'd appreciate it.

FRANKIE

Of course.

Fitzgerald nods to Greg, who brings up a satellite map, which quickly zooms in to show Moscow.

SKYE

Wait a second...

GREG

We've received reliable intel that Erika and Maria are going to be taken by the Cabal.

DELANEY

'Taken' for what? They're both half dead by now, right?

She winces, looking to Skye - who scowls.

DELANEY (cont'd)

Uh... sorry.

SKYE

This 'reliable intel,' where'd it come from?

Greg looks at Fitzgerald.

FITZGERALD

A source. That's all you need to know.

Greg waits for more - but that's it. Seems he doesn't know what this source is either.

GREG

We believe a Cabal squad will be moving into their district of Moscow later tonight, so we need to be there before then to get in the way and generally make a nuisance of ourselves.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

And bring Erika and Maria back,
right?

GREG

That's the most logical option,
yes.

SKYE

(satisfied)

Cool.

FITZGERALD

I've got a jet standing by at
Salisbury Airfield, it'll have you
in the air inside an hour if you go
now.

DELANEY

(rises)

As in, 'girls, get packed and run
for the plane,' right?

Skye and Rachel rise too, but Rachel adds:

RACHEL

Shouldn't we pull in a fourth
member for this?

(off looks)

I'm just saying. I'm covering for
Erika, so who's gonna cover for
Sofia?

GREG

Do you have someone in mind?

RACHEL

Actually, yeah.

(beat)

Mallory.

FITZGERALD

No.

RACHEL

But -

FITZGERALD

I can't clear her for field duty
yet, I'm sorry. We're still keeping
her under house arrest until I'm
sure I can trust her outside the
campus.

DELANEY

We'll be fine, Rache.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

We've done missions with three
before. Don't sweat it.

Rachel doesn't look convinced as the trio head for the door -
only for FRAN to burst in!

FRAN

Oh! Crap.
(sees Fitzgerald)
Uh, sorry.

FITZGERALD

What is it, Francesca?

FRAN

You haven't heard?

She heads for the TV in one corner, switching it on. She
finds a news broadcast and raises the volume.

NEWSCAST

... and we're receiving more
reports of the explosions that took
place in Trenan last night, with
sources saying -

FRAN

This is just the cover story.
Council had to move fast to stop
the truth getting out.

FITZGERALD

Which is?

FRAN

Victory and her Slayer... vamp
thingies took out the whole town
last night. Council's got satellite
footage of the whole thing.

FITZGERALD

My God...

FRANKIE

'ow many dead?

FRAN

Don't know. Lots.

DELANEY

So... what do we do?

Fitzgerald looks away from the screen, mind racing.

(CONTINUED)

FITZGERALD

Frankie, pull B Squad together.
You're going out to this town.
Reconnaissance only.

FRANKIE

Understood.

She bustles quickly out of the room, Dade getting the hint to follow.

FITZGERALD

Skye, your mission goes ahead as planned. I'm afraid you won't have the luxury of backup.

SKYE

Hey, either way, works for me.

A Squad finally exit, leaving Fitzgerald, Greg and Fran to look back at the TV as we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY - NEXT

MANU sits at his desk, pouring over test results. His expression is one of confusion, and he checks the results multiple times, as if to make sure he's reading things right.

In front of him is a small VIAL, filled with a yellow SERUM. Behind it is a CASE filled with others of the same serum. This seems to be what's troubling him.

TIA walks past behind him with another girl - a slender Asian girl - PATTY.

TIA

Dr. Cairns? Are you alright?

He doesn't reply, his gaze locked on the serum, but Tia hasn't seen it yet.

TIA (cont'd)

Dr. Cairns?

Manu's head snaps up and he turns to look at her, startled.

TIA (cont'd)

I said, are you alright?

MANU

No. Yes.

(sighs)

I don't know. I'm a little tired.

(CONTINUED)

TIA

Yeah, I get that. Why don't you get some sleep? I can keep this place running for a few hours.

Patty holds up a TOOLBOX, giving it a quick rattle.

PATTY

Oh, and your gas chromatograph is fixed now too. Just needed some new wiring.

Manu nods, but keeps in front of the serum, as if making sure the girls can't see it. There's something seriously up with him, and Tia's a little wigged.

MANU

(quick)

Excellent. Thank you, Patty. And to answer your question, I'm fine. I have... work to do. Why don't you two go see your friends for a bit? You've been working hard.

TIA

Are you sure?

MANU

(forced smile)

Go have some fun.

Tia nods, she and Patty exiting. Manu sighs, turning back to the serum. He picks it up, studying it before placing it back into the case and sealing it as we CUT TO:

Zoe is busy jogging on the spot when Dade approaches. She doesn't even register his appearance. Music blares from her iPod headphones.

DADE

Uh... Zoe?

She almost jumps a mile at his voice! She turns, sees him, scowls and pops the headphones out.

ZOE

This had better be worth interrupting my Muse mix.

DADE

It is. B Squad's shipping out, Frankie told me to come get you.

(MORE)

DADE (cont'd)
Oh, and she says that with Reiko
still on her way back, you get to
be in charge this time out.

ZOE
Oh. Right. Uh... thanks.

Zoe isn't really sure what to say - it's quite awkward
between them right now. Dade starts to walk away, when:

ZOE (cont'd)
Sorry. I'm fine, really.

Dade turns back. Zoe sighs, walking closer.

ZOE (cont'd)
Just a bit on edge, I guess. What
with everything that's going on
right now... it's a lot for me to
take in.

DADE
If you say so. But hey, it's not
like you've never been the leader
before, right?

ZOE
Yeah... guess not.

He offers a half grin before walking away. Zoe watches him go
- as GABRIELA approaches from off screen.

GABRIELA
What's going on?

ZOE
We're scrambling. Apparently.

GABRIELA
Without Reiko?

ZOE
(nods)
Frankie's put me in charge.

GABRIELA
(raises eyebrow)
Oh.

ZOE
'Oh'?

GABRIELA
(back-peddalling)
Uh, yeah, you know... oh, as in
'oh, great. Good for you.'

ZOE
(frowns)
Anyway... we're still a body down.
We'll have to grab somebody from C
Squad to fill the gap.

Zoe looks around - a few other Slayers are working out -
until her gaze rests on BELLE. Gabriela follows.

GABRIELA
Belle? Really?

But Zoe's already marching over to her. Belle looks up as she
sees her approaching.

BELLE
Oh, hey, Zoe. Did you hear about -

ZOE
Get changed and ready. You're
shipping out with my squad in
twenty.

BELLE
(blinks)
'Out' where?

ZOE
Long story short, we're on a
mission to some town Victory and
her cronies captured. You're
coming.
(off look)
Field mission, Annabelle. You're on
B Squad for now.
(beat)
So? What are you waiting for? Go!

Alarmed, Belle quickly scurries towards the changing rooms.
Gabriela throws a curious glance towards Zoe - but her mind's
made up as we DISSOLVE TO:

OPEN on LITTER sprayed across the pavement. Sweet wrappers,
flyers, half eaten McDonald burgers... you name it, it's
there.

PULL BACK to reveal a bin that lies across the floor, the
source of all the rubbish. It rolls in the harsh wind,
spraying more rubbish around.

PULL BACK even further to reveal a discarded BIKE and several
OVERTURNED CARS. NEWSPAPERS and LETTERS blow around in the
wind.

But that's not the worst of it. BODIES are strewn across the floor, BLOOD seeping from wounds, noticeably lots of ones from neck punctures. Vampires. More importantly - Slayer Vampires.

There's not a single trace of life anywhere in sight. Not any more, at least. It's a ghost town.

That is, until Zoe steps into frame, Fran, Gabriela and Belle backing her up. The girls all carry WEAPONS, and STAKES tucked into their belts.

Frankie is last in, hands on hips as she surveys the devastation. Her long hair blows in the breeze.

FRANKIE

(sighs)

Merde. Look at this mess.

They look at the scene in disdain - another city lost. Zoe turns to her team, looking grim.

FRANKIE (cont'd)

I will look for the town 'all, see
if I can access any security camera
recordings to see what 'appened
here. Zoe, you 'ave point.

Zoe steps up as Frankie heads off down the street.

ZOE

Alright, split up. Check for any
signs of life.

Fran nods, heading off up an alleyway and Gabriela up another. Belle looks less confident, but starts to approach some of the bodies.

Zoe, looking sour, continues upon the path she's on, merely glancing at the chaos around her as she strains her ears for any noise.

ON BELLE as she crouches down beside a BODY. She rolls him over, checking his wounds. There's a lot of blood. She reaches out, closing his petrified eyes.

BELLE

(soft)

Sorry.

She grimaces, standing up and moving on to another body. She has respect for these people, even though she has no clue who they are.

(CONTINUED)

ON FRAN, who is checking all around her as she walks down the dark alleyway. She's on edge, and SPINS when she hears a CLANG - but it was only a RAT knocking over a TUNA CAN.

FRAN
(exhales)
Stupid rats.

ON GABRIELA as she walks down the other alleyway. She's much more calm and reserved than Fran, but she's focused on the job and it shows - her eyes are sharp and she's trying to be as silent as possible to attract less attention to herself.

ON ZOE as she silently walks down the path. She glances into the windows of some shops - the glass smashed and the things that should be in them scattered across the road.

She sighs, frustrated - she'd obviously been hoping her first mission as stand-in leader would be better than just searching a dead city for fight -

BELLE (O.S.)
Guys!

Zoe spins round immediately at the sound of Belle's voice, weapon raised.

BELLE (O.S.) (cont'd)
I've got a live one!

Zoe starts to jog back over to Belle, who is cradling a dying MAN in her arms. He'd be cute if it wasn't for all the blood.

ZOE
Fran! Gabriela!

Fran and Gabriela obviously hadn't gotten too far - they're jogging back over to Belle and Zoe now.

The cute guy is rambling, not even looking at Belle as he speaks.

CUTE GUY
Came out of... nowhere.

His eyes drift up to Belle's and they meet.

CUTE GUY (cont'd)
The teeth.... vampires? But no.
They can't. They don't...

Belle shoots Zoe a desperate look - what does she do?

BELLE
Just... just stay still. Everything
is going to be alright.

(CONTINUED)

CUTE GUY

Laura, my... they killed her... ate
her, like she was...

The girls look taken aback by this. Belle looks up at the others - they're more experienced in this kind of stuff.

BELLE

What do we do?

Zoe crouches beside her, checking the man for injuries - finding two BITE MARKS on his neck.

ZOE

There's nothing we can do.

Belle turns back to the cute guy, worry obvious on her face.

BELLE

The vampires? Are they gone?

CUTE GUY

I... I don't -

But it's too late. His eyes roll into the back of his head - he's DEAD.

BELLE

But... won't he change now? I mean,
didn't they -

FRAN

(shakes head)

They just drained him. If he was
gonna turn they'd have taken him
with them.

Belle sighs, lowering him to the ground as she closes his still eyes for him. She stands, grim.

GABRIELA

(looking around)

Victory did all this?

FRAN

Guess she's been on some
recruitment drives.

GABRIELA

What about that other one? Jendayi?

FRAN

(shakes head)

No sign of her on the footage.
Either she wasn't here or she's
keeping a real low profile.

(CONTINUED)

ZOE

We need to look for evidence of non-human deaths. Ash, dust, anything like that.

BELLE

How big an army would someone need to wipe out a town like this?

ZOE

That's what we're gonna have to find out.

The squad share a look, before they start to move:

And something catches Belle's eye. She turns, and she can clearly see, in a gap between the BOARDED WINDOWS of a pub, the BARREL of a SHOTGUN!

Belle's eyes widen as she sees it and she begins to duck down, yelling:

BELLE

Everyone down!

BLAM! Zoe winces as the noise of the shot echoes around her, and looks around to check the others are okay:

And notices Belle clutching a BULLET WOUND in her SHOULDER! It looks serious, blood flowing quickly down her arm.

BELLE (cont'd)

(dazed)

What...

ZOE

Take cover!

The girls scatter, Fran and Zoe grabbing Belle as she wilts and hauling her clear.

Another BLAST from the shotgun chews up the ground near the girls, kicking up dirt as we:

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

8 EXT. AIRFIELD - DAY

8

A Squad are heading away from a JET which stands on the runway behind them, powering down. And it's damn cold - the team wrapped in thick coats and scarves.

They pass through a security gate and reach a road - they're a few miles outside the city itself.

RACHEL

What now?

Delaney looks around, and with a flick of her hand, a TAXI appears down the road.

DELANEY

Taxi?

GREG

I'm meeting one of our Council agents out here to start sorting out your transport back home.

SKYE

(nods)

We'll head straight for Erika's place. Get in, get them out. We don't have much of a head start on that Cabal team.

GREG

Alright. Keep in touch, I'll have your getaway cars outside with the engines running as soon as you give the word.

Delaney hails the taxi by waving her hand towards it and it stops before them. The girls clamber inside, Greg heading off the other direction as we CUT TO:

9 INT. BARRICADED PUB - DAY

9

Inside, TWELVE VILLAGERS cower behind stools, whilst ONE has hit SHOTGUN aiming out of the boarded windows. All is silent.

VILLAGER

I think they've -

BANG! The doors fly off their hinges, revealing a really pissed off Zoe.

VILLAGER (cont'd)

Gone?

(CONTINUED)

ZOE

Obviously not, dumbass.

Zoe charges forward, SMASHING the scout's head against the barricaded window and knocking him out cold.

Gabriela and Fran rush in, the former carrying the injured Belle and the latter getting stuck in, trying to restrain rather than attack the villagers.

ZOE (cont'd)

We're not here to hurt you!

Zoe turns to another of the villagers, dodging a PUNCH and SHOVING him back. He goes down, smashing his head over a bottle. Two WOMEN scream and back away.

ZOE (cont'd)

We're not vampires! We're here to help!

One of the WOMEN, seemingly the leader of the survivors, CHARGES Fran. Fran easily DECKS her and then quickly places a hand to her throat and hoisting her up. She pins the woman against the wall.

ZOE (cont'd)

All of you, stop!

Everyone around her freezes. Fran allows herself a smirk before getting back to business. She nods towards Gabriela and Belle.

FRAN

Help her.

(off looks)

You shot her. So help her!

Two of the villagers take the barely conscious Belle, laying her gently on the floor.

VILLAGER

We're sorry, we... we didn't know,
we thought you were more of -

PACK LEADER

You...

Zoe raises an eyebrow, as if daring her to attack or do something that would give Fran a reason to beat her up.

PACK LEADER (cont'd)

You aren't with them?

(CONTINUED)

ZOE

The vampires? Nope. Notice how we didn't burst into flames walking around in all that handy sunlight out there?

The pack leader glances around at the other survivors. She has a point.

GABRIELA

No. We're your rescue, apparently.

PACK LEADER

We could have done with you sooner.

FRAN

See, we'd be sympathetic, but then there's my friend down there with a bullet in her arm, so I'm not really feeling it.

ZOE

(scolding)

Fran.

FRAN

What? They started it!

At that moment, a panting Frankie appears in the doorway. There's a brief moment of alarm from the villagers.

FRANKIE

What 'appened? I 'eard a gunshot and ran back as fast as I -
(sees Belle)
Annabelle!

Frankie stomps towards the survivors, snarling:

FRANKIE (cont'd)

Which of you did this?

Zoe steps in front of her, easing Frankie back.

ZOE

It was an accident.
(to pack leader)
Right?

PACK LEADER

We're sorry. Those... those things that ripped this town to pieces, they were all young women, like you lot.

(beat)

And it's Wendy, by the way.

(CONTINUED)

FRANKIE

Pardon?

WENDY points to a sign over the bar - displaying her name, and a generously-proportioned caricature of herself.

WENDY

This is my pub. Safest place in the village to be when those monsters turned up.

Frankie steps over to Belle - she's out cold, but her arm's bandaged up now.

VILLAGER

She'll be alright. The pellet went straight through, didn't hit anything serious.

FRANKIE

Bon. I would 'ave to 'ave to lose my temper with you.

Her tone gives the woman a little SHIVER as Frankie turns back to Zoe and Wendy.

WENDY

So... who are you girls, if you don't mind me asking? Not that we're not glad to see you, only -

ZOE

Vampires.

(off Frankie's look)

What? It's not like they need a cover story at this stage.

WENDY

(laughs)

Vampires? As in...

She mimes a very amateurish vampire - fangs and all.

FRAN

Not quite that goofy, but yeah.

FRANKIE

The woman 'ho lead this attack, 'er name is Victory. She is taking an army of vampires from town to town, wiping out those in 'er path.

MURMURS of alarm ripple through the survivors.

(CONTINUED)

WENDY

Can you stop her? I mean, you must be... what, police? Army?

GABRIELA

Something like that.

FRAN

You still haven't told us what happened.

Wendy sighs, settling back on a bar stool.

WENDY

They came in and just wrecked the place. No mercy, nothing. When I realised what was happening, I gathered as many people in here as I could and barricaded the doors. We're the only villagers left, I'm afraid.

ZOE

Did they say anything about where they're going next?

WENDY

(nods)

Yes, I heard them.

(beat)

London. They're heading for London.

Zoe's eyes widen in shock - she wasn't expecting that! And as the pack leader offers a sorry look, before turning back to her fellow villagers, we CUT TO:

10 INT. ERIKA'S APARTMENT - DAY

10

The door CREAKS open, revealing Skye, who looks incredibly nervous. She crosses the threshold and quickly rushes inside. Rachel and Delaney not far behind.

SKYE

Erika? Erika!

She hurries into the next room, the girls following:

11 INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - NEXT

11

And they find ERIKA and MARIA lying in their beds - sound asleep and with DARK GREEN VEINS standing out against their deathly pale skin.

Skye is already trying to rouse Erika, gently shaking her as Delaney and Rachel check on Maria.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE
(urgent)
Erika? Erika, c'mon. You've gotta
wake up now!

Erika GROANS, stirring at last. Every movement seems a great effort as she finally comes round.

ERIKA
(weak)
Skye?

Skye lets out a sigh of relief, squeezing her hand.

SKYE
It's me. Hey.

ERIKA
What are you... what time is it?

SKYE
Time we got you out of here.

She starts to sit Erika up, but Delaney puts a hand on her shoulder to stop her.

DELANEY
We can't move them.

SKYE
Why the hell not?

DELANEY
Uh, I don't know, have you tried
maybe looking at them?

Skye holds her gaze - then looks back at Erika. And Delaney's right - she looks terrible. Her skin's so pale it's almost transparent, the veins running rampant all over her.

SKYE
But... we, we can't -

RACHEL
Delaney's right. If we put them
under too much stress, we could
just speed up the virus and finish
them off even quicker.

SKYE
We can't stay here! What if the
Cabal goons get past us? We need to
get them out of here!

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

DELANEY

What we need right now is a new plan.

Skye's look darkens as she wracks her brain for a new plan. She pulls out her cell phone and dials:

SKYE

Greg? It's me. I need you to get a message back to Grace for me.

(beat)

We're gonna need some help.

Of Skye's grim expression, we CUT TO:

12 INT. CAMPUS - FITZGERALD'S OFFICE - DAY

12

Fitzgerald is at her desk, working on her computer. She's accessing a secure FTP link, waiting for it to connect.

A new window pops up, loads - and then displays a live video feed with the same CABAL OFFICER as before.

WOMAN

(nods)

Grace.

FITZGERALD

Can you talk?

WOMAN

(glances round)

For a little while. My security clearance gives me the luxury of time to disappear without anyone asking questions.

FITZGERALD

I... I still can't quite believe what you're doing. The risks involved...

(beat)

I think most people would have given up by now.

WOMAN

(smirks)

I have not, nor will I ever be 'most people.'

(beat; sober)

I'm just trying to make amends, Grace. That's what it all comes down to.

Fitzgerald nods, understanding. And then she's straight into business mode:

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

FITZGERALD

A Squad have found Erika and Maria,
but they're too sick to be moved
far.

(beat)

Skye needs you to leak some new
intel.

WOMAN

(intrigued)

What kind of 'intel' were you
thinking?

Fitzgerald hesitates as we CUT TO:

13 INT. LIBRARY - DAY

13

Meanwhile, behind the facade of this innocent looking local
library...

Actually, it's just a quiet, plain old library. It's pretty
big, however, with many aisles and tall shelves stretching
off in both directions.

Pushing a trolley loaded with books and magazines comes
LAWRENCE, a typically mild-mannered, pasty-faced young
assistant.

He slots a few titles back onto their shelves before noticing
the door to one of the reading rooms is open.

With a TUT, he approaches it, opening the door fully and
stepping into:

14 INT. LIBRARY - READING ROOM - NEXT

14

A small, quiet room with a few tables, wall displays and a
dusty old TV/VCR combo.

And a WOMAN, her back to him as she looks out through the
window. Lawrence pulls up, surprised.

LAWRENCE

Oh! Sorry, I, er, I didn't -

WOMAN

Is this really the kind of menial
labour my followers have been
reduced to?

She turns - it's JENDAYI! Lawrence's eyes bulge as she pads
softly across the room towards him.

He backs up, pushing the door closed and pressing himself
against it, trembling with fear as she approaches.

(CONTINUED)

JENDAYI

I know I was never one to preach the kinds of insane promises of power that my brother used to, but still, after all this time I did expect to find my legacy a little more...

She presses one hand against the wall, looming over him. He SHIVERS as she slowly looks him up and down.

JENDAYI (cont'd)

... impressive.

LAWRENCE

I - I- I didn't, I... I mean, I -

JENDAYI

Ssh.

She gently traces a finger down his cheek.

JENDAYI (cont'd)

I am not angry. I am here to deliver a message. To you and all those like you.

She leans in close, WHISPERING:

JENDAYI (cont'd)

It is time.

She leans back, PULLS the door open (dislodging Lawrence in the process) and leaves without another word.

Once she's gone, Lawrence sinks to his knee, resting against the wall - and then he starts to LAUGH.

Unrestrained, joyful laughter bellows out of him, TEARS rolling down his cheeks as we CUT TO:

All is silent, as we face the door of the apartment - and it's KICKED off its hinges as a team of CABAL AGENTS flood inside, armed to the teeth!

The WINDOWS SMASH as more agents swing in on ropes, all aiming their guns - at nothing.

Because the Slayers aren't here any more. And there's no sign of them ever being here. Everything is squeaky clean.

AGENT #1

Are you sure this is the right apartment?

AGENT #2

Positive. They haven't left this place for weeks.

Agent #1 signals for the rest of his team to spread out and search the apartment.

It doesn't take long - there's only a few rooms to kick the doors open to, cries of 'Clear!' soon coming back.

AGENT #1

The Slayers must've gotten here first. They won't have been able to get far, so fan out and find them or we're all dead!

The agents start to pile back out through the open door - but we STAY ON one of the shattered windows, PUSHING THROUGH:

16 INT. APARTMENT BLOCK - CONTINUOUS

16

And right into the apartment directly opposite in the adjacent building, as the thick curtains TWITCH slightly.

17 EXT. APARTMENT BLOCKS - NEXT

17

Two JEEPS are parked outside, some of the agents clambering into them as they speed off, others staying on foot.

STAY ON the alley between the two apartments as the last of the agents disappears from view:

And a FIRE DOOR swings slowly open to reveal Delaney, glancing round to check the coast is clear.

Satisfied, she steps out and motions for the others to follow - Skye carries Erika, wrapped in her bedclothes, with Rachel doing the same for Maria.

SKYE

Remind me never to say anything bad about Fitzgerald's sources ever again.

RACHEL

That won't fool them for long. We need to go. Where's Greg with our transport?

DELANEY

He'll be here.

Delaney heads for the end of the alley, peeking out - and sees that the Cabal team have left a third JEEP behind.

(CONTINUED)

DELANEY (cont'd)
(wheels turning)
But just in case...

She glances back at the others as we CUT TO:

Boots crunching through the snow underfoot, two pairs of agents meet up from opposite directions.

AGENT #1
Anything?

AGENT #2
No, sir. Biometric scanners are getting thrown by the weather, and the snow means we can't rely on following any tracks for long.

AGENT #1
(sighs)
Alright, double back, maybe they tried to -

An engine suddenly ROARS to life close by, the grunts spinning round:

And they see their Jeep SCREAM out of a side street, the Slayers clinging on for dear life as Delaney SKIDS it into the street!

AGENT #2
It's them!

He raises his weapon - but Agent #1 PUSHES the barrel up as he fires.

AGENT #1
We can't hit the package!
(into radio)
Targets are heading west down Smersh Prospect in a stolen Cabal vehicle. Pursue but do not engage until the package is clear.

RADIO
(beat; filtered)
Please tell me they didn't get my Jeep...

AGENT #1
Get a message to Ops Control - initiate reserve plan Sprengja.

Another Jeep SCREECHES to a halt, the agents on the street jumping onto the rear before it speeds away, and we CUT TO:

Fitzgerald is speaking into her phone:

FITZGERALD

I know, Greg, but you should have tries to get there a little faster!

(listens; rubs eyes)

Look, we both know Skye's the resident hothead, but if she felt she had to move ahead of schedule to avoid capture then we have to trust her judgement. Can you at least track where they're heading?

She sits down at her desk, bringing up a satellite image of Moscow city centre. RED DOTS are flashing urgently.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

Good. Then try to catch them!

More BEEPING gets her attention - a 'New Mail' message flashing insistently in one corner of the screen.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

Alright, Greg. Keep me posted.

She hangs up, taking a breath - this isn't going well. She finally clicks on the message:

And another VIDEO FEED window pops up. Fitzgerald frowns, checking her watch as though this is off schedule.

JILHANDRA (O.S.)

Grace? Are you there?

Fitzgerald's eyes widen - and the camera is adjusted to bring Jilhandra into view on screen!

JILHANDRA (cont'd)

(smiles)

Ah. There you are. Modern technology - never good for us witches.

FITZGERALD

Jilhandra? What... why are you contacting me?

JILHANDRA

You have someone I want. Someone I will have.

A sickening smirk starts to form on Jilhandra's lips, and Fitzgerald notices. She isn't liking this at all.

JILHANDRA (cont'd)
Maria Nemerov.

FITZGERALD
(beat)
What makes you think I'm going to say anything to that? If that was a threat, then you should really -

JILHANDRA
Oh, I'm sure my 'threat' will speak for itself any moment now.

And suddenly the door BURSTS open and in steps Tia, out of breath. Fitzgerald spins round to face her.

FITZGERALD
Tia, please -

TIA
(quick)
Bomb!

Fitzgerald blinks. Tia is definitely freaking out. Fitzgerald glances back at the screen - where Jilhandra shrugs casually, still smirking.

Fitzgerald turns back to Tia, almost hopeful as she asks politely:

FITZGERALD
Excuse me?

TIA
(frantic)
There's a bomb. Here. In the Academy! Patty was putting some stuff away in the workshop, and she found it, and she says it's on a remote detonator kill switch or something, and I don't know what that means, but she says -

JILHANDRA
And there we go.

Tia comes to a stop, and Fitzgerald turns slowly back to face Jilhandra.

JILHANDRA (cont'd)

Hand the Nemerov girl over to my
agents in the next thirty minutes,
or the bomb I've placed inside your
Academy will detonate, leaving a
crater roughly the size of Monaco.

(beat)

Thirty minutes.

And with that, Jilhandra cuts off the feed and disappears
from the screen.

Fitzgerald looks back to Tia, the gravity of the situation
starting to kick in as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

20

INT. CAMPUS - CORRIDOR - DAY

20

With Fitzgerald as she marches hurriedly down a corridor - DOUGLAS, MCKENZIE and HAROLD are either side of her.

ALARM BELLS blare loudly as various Slayers rush urgently back and forth either side of them - the campus is on high alert.

FITZGERALD

I need to get every Slayer evacuated and transported to the beta site within the next ten minutes. Harold, you're in charge of that - we won't have enough room in our buses so you'll need to source any other vehicles you can find.

HAROLD

(nods)

We can use personal staff vehicles if we have to.

He veers off down a corridor.

MCKENZIE

Do we have any ideas yet as to how the Cabal managed to sneak a bloody bomb past us?

FITZGERALD

Not so far. Alison, I need you to supervise the emergency download of the campus servers to the secure Council backup. Mallory's already down there.

MCKENZIE

The Spencer girl? Isn't she -

FITZGERALD

Yes, but she's also the best qualified girl still on site who can do this, so you're to help her.

Mckenzie looks less than pleased, but also veers off. Fitzgerald and Douglas have almost reached the end of the corridor - double doors marked 'Workshop' stand just ahead.

(CONTINUED)

FITZGERALD (cont'd)
Once we've evacuated the girls,
locked down the campus to minimise
blast damage and secured our data,
we'll have to see what we can do to
disarm or at least divert the blast
of the bomb itself. But if we can't
do either of those things...

DOUGLAS
(nods)
Then we'll be needing someone to
stay in contact with the squads in
the field. I'll get caught up.

He starts to leave, but stops when she lays a hand on his
arm.

FITZGERALD
Douglas...

DOUGLAS
(smiles)
It's alright, Grace. We'll get
through this. We've managed worse.

And with that, he leaves. Fitzgerald takes a deep breath
before pushing the doors open and stepping into:

21 INT. CAMPUS - WORKSHOP - NEXT

21

The workshop area is more like an extended garage and
maintenance space - equipment in various states of repair
lies scattered across several surfaces.

A space has been cleared out against one wall, a small group
of Slayers standing around a larger cabinet.

They step aside as Fitzgerald approaches - revealing a large
BOMB set inside the cabinet.

It's made up of two large yellow cannisters, wired to a
central unit stuffed tight with wires and circuitry.

A large TIMER is counting down on the front of the unit -
twenty-five minutes and counting.

FITZGERALD
You girls all need to leave.

SLAYER
But -

FITZGERALD
Mr. Fiske is organising the
evacuation transports outside.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

FITZGERALD (cont'd)
(beat; firm)
And I will not ask again.

Several of the Slayers hurry away - but two remain in the form of Tia and Patty.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)
Did you two hear me? I said -

PATTY
(off-hand)
Yeah, I heard.

She leans forward, staring intently at the bomb - and ignoring Fitzgerald's shocked expression.

FITZGERALD
Patty, do not speak to me like that! I gave you a direct order!

TIA
(urgent)
Patty, come on! Stop screwing around!
(to Fitzgerald)
She's been like this since she found it! She won't leave it!

Fitzgerald takes Tia to one side, starting to head back towards the doors.

FITZGERALD
I've already got Karen and Neela closing the fire doors and barriers to seal off any explosion, so I want you to take Patty and -

PATTY
It won't matter.

They turn as Patty straightens, turning to face them.

PATTY (cont'd)
This isn't explosives. It's gas.

FITZGERALD
What are you saying?

PATTY
I'm saying that when this detonator trips, it's gonna pump out enough gas to cover a five, maybe six-mile radius.

TIA
What kind of 'gas'?

PATTY

("duh")

It's a bomb put here by the Cabal.
Who are behind the Virus we're all
dying of. So what kind of gas do
you think it is?

Fitzgerald blanches as she races several steps ahead.

FITZGERALD

Oh, my God...

PATTY

If this goes off, it'll kill
everything within its range inside
an hour. No way any of us can get
far enough away in time, not with
the way the wind'll carry it.

TIA

Oh, crap! What are we gonna do?

PATTY

I reckon I can stop it.

FITZGERALD

(shakes head)

It's too risky. If it goes off now,
it'll kill everyone on campus in
seconds. At least if the timer
counts down, we may be able to get
enough girls out of its range -

PATTY

Seriously. I think I can stop it.

TIA

Since when are you a bomb disposal
expert?

PATTY

Since I spent enough time taking
things apart to see how they worked
and then putting them back together
to be pretty sure I can disarm
this.

Fitzgerald is torn - she looks to the exit, then to Patty.

FITZGERALD

If you stay...

But Patty is already getting to work - she squats before the
bomb, reaching for some nearby tools.

(CONTINUED)

PATTY

Then I won't be able to get clear
before it goes off, yeah, I know.
Now be quiet. I need to think.

Tia shoots Fitzgerald a desperate look - is she really going to allow this?

Fitzgerald stares at Patty, who is sorting through a toolbox and tossing things into her lap.

FITZGERALD

(exhales)

Good luck.

She turns and heads for the doors, a disbelieving Tia hurrying to catch up.

TIA

We can't leave her here!

FITZGERALD

Patty says she knows what she's doing. I have to trust that. My main responsibility is to get as many of you to safety as possible...

She reaches the doors and opens them, a hand on Tia's shoulder.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

... including you.

Fitzgerald casts one look back at Patty as she exits, the doors closing behind her:

And as a tearful Tia hurries away, Fitzgerald digs her phone from her pocket.

FITZGERALD

(into phone)

Greg? I need you to get a message to Skye. There's been a change of plan.

Off Fitzgerald's sober expression, we CUT TO:

PAN DOWN to find Skye talking on her cell phone. The glittering city lights are in the distance, the stolen Jeep parked by a thick, black forest.

SKYE
(into phone)
I don't care whether she thinks
this is a good idea or not! I'm
squad leader, we're in the field,
so it's my call. End of discussion.

She looks up as Maria approaches her, offering a smile. Skye doesn't return it.

SKYE (cont'd)
(into phone)
And anyway, you just swing by and
pick her up, like I asked. That's
all you have to do.

Maria comes to a stop before Skye, who looks her up and down.

SKYE (cont'd)
(into phone)
Alright, Greg, we're moving out.
I'll keep my cell on. Track us from
a safe distance, and do not get
involved unless I tell you.

She SNAPS her phone shut before she can hear a reply.

SKYE (cont'd)
Sure you're up for this?

Maria COUGHS, taking a moment to recover.

SKYE (cont'd)
Point taken.

MARIA
I'll be fine. I mean, you've got my
back, right?

SKYE
I just want it on the record that
this whole plan was your idea.

MARIA
Right, because that'll win people
over if it goes wrong.

Skye tries to grin, but the frown she's wearing kind of kills it in its tracks. And that's when they hear:

DELANEY (O.S.)
We've got company!

Skye turns - HEADLIGHTS in the distance, bounding over the uneven ground towards them.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

Let's go!

Delaney jogs back into shot, leaping onto the back of the jeep alongside Erika.

ERIKA

I thought people only said 'we've got company' in the bad movies
Maria insists on watching?

DELANEY

Someone's feeling better.

Erika grins - as Skye STAMPS on the accelerator, the Jeep grinding dirt as it tears out of frame!

Delaney and Erika have the best seat in the house as Skye drives like the devil's chasing her:

The two CABAL JEEPS, gaining all the time as Skye swerves along the winding forest road.

DELANEY

(shouts)

Can we make this go any faster?

SKYE

(yells back)

Sure, let me put it into another gear - oh, wait, there aren't any!

ERIKA

Skye, this road we are in will take us back into the city. Follow the next left and keep going.

SKYE

We're supposed to get away from the city! This has to look good, remember?

ERIKA

Trust me, it will be much harder for them to follow us!

Skye looks ahead - an intersection is coming up. Skye leaves it pretty late:

Then yanks the wheel to the left, the Jeep lurching alarmingly as it takes the turn.

Moments later, the two Cabal Jeeps race past, both SKIDDING wide round the corner as we CUT TO:

25 INT. CAMPUS - WORKSHOP - DAY

25

CLOSE ON a timer, ticking down - only eleven minutes are remaining now!

In front of the bomb, dark hair tied back, her face tight with concentration, sits Patty.

She's opened the casing of the bomb and has wires and parts spilling out around her as she hunts for the 'off' switch.

She pauses, chewing her lip, eyes tracing several coloured wires as they weave in and out of the inner workings.

She rifles through one of several toolboxes nearby and finds a pair of WIRE CUTTERS.

Kneeling close over the bomb's workings, she peers inside and tries to locate the wires she was following.

PATTY

There you are...

She reaches into the machinery, cutters poised around a red wire as she starts to squeeze...

And the countdown starts to SPEED UP! Patty jerks her hand back, mind racing - before she GROANS loudly.

PATTY (cont'd)

Stupid pressure sensitive dummy
trigger wire!

She KICKS one of the toolboxes angrily, before rolling her sleeves up and getting back to work as we CUT TO:

26 INT. JEEP - NEXT

26

Skye's now driving down a long, wide road that will eventually get them back to the city.

She's weaving past the occasional car and truck - the Cabal vehicles still close behind.

Erika feels for Maria's hand, gripping it tight.

ERIKA

Are you alright?

MARIA

I'm fine. Really.

The Jeep JINKS sharply from side to side.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE
(yelling at traffic)
Out of the way!

ERIKA
Maybe keeping to the right would
help?

SKYE
Blind girl doesn't get to give me
driving tips, 'kay?

DELANEY
Hey, that's my thing!

SKYE
What?

DELANEY
Saying 'kay.'

Skye shoots her a look - before having to SWERVE again.

ERIKA
I'm sure I could do a better job of
not killing us.

SKYE
How do you even know we're on the
wrong side?

ERIKA
because all the traffic I can hear
is moving towards us.

SKYE
(beat)
Oh.

Once more she swerves, a cacophony of HONKING sounding out in
response. She grits her teeth as a sports car just about
avoids hitting them.

She looks round - the others giving her filthy looks. She
shrinks a little.

SKYE (cont'd)
Oh, come on. Wasn't that close.

Her phone RINGS again and she answers, pressing the phone
between her ear and shoulder as she steers.

SKYE (cont'd)
(into phone)
A little busy, Grace, if you could
make it quick.

(CONTINUED)

Whatever she hears causes her to lose control. She lets go of the wheel for a second and only recovers it just in time to save them from hitting nother car.

SKYE (cont'd)
(into phone)
What? How long left?

She glances back at Maria, who raises her hands - what?

SKYE (cont'd)
(beat; into phone)
Alright, we'd better do our thing.
I'm gonna have to call you back.

She shuts the phone, eyes back on the road.

DELANEY
What is it?

SKYE
We're moving to plan 'B' a little
sooner than I planned.

DELANEY
Like when?

Skye suddenly SLAMS on the brakes, the Jeep SCREECHING and buckling across the road!

SKYE
Like now.

The Cabal Jeeps are on them in moments, also SKIDDING to a halt a few feet away.

Cars HONK angrily as they swerve round the sudden roadblock, the three vehicles stuck out in the middle of the road.

ERIKA
(wary)
Skye...

SKYE
Relax, Erika. We can do this.

Skye keeps a tight grip on the wheel as the Cabal Agents climb down from the Jeeps and approach.

AGENT #1
Out of the vehicle, hands in the
air!

ERIKA
(panicking)
Skye?

(CONTINUED)

MARIA

Ssh. It's alright.

The Agents surround the Jeep, weapons trained on the girls.
Erika wraps her arms around Maria.

ERIKA

No... no!

SKYE

(soft)

I'm sorry.

Two Agents GRAB Maria, manhandling her out of the back of the Jeep - tearing her from the weakened Erika.

ERIKA

Get away from her! Do not touch
her, any of you!

She tries to follow, but Delaney holds her back - they're all at gunpoint.

Agent #1 comes round to Skye, who still sits in the driver's seat.

AGENT #1

Looks like you finally saw some
sense, huh?

SKYE

Let's just say your boss gave us an
incentive to change our plans.

The Agent smirks, checking back to his men - they're busy dragging Maria towards the other Jeeps.

SKYE (cont'd)

What, you're not gonna take the
chance to put a few bullets in us
while you're here?

The Agent steps back, keeping his gun on her.

AGENT #1

Not in my mission brief. I think
Jilhandra wants to watch you
Slayers die all by yourselves.
She's a little twisted like that.
Besides, we got what we wanted.

POLICE SIRENS can be heard wailing - the dramatic chase has attracted the wrong sort of attention.

SKYE

Looks like you'd better get going.

(CONTINUED)

He darts away, rejoining the rest of his team as they prepare to move out.

Erika struggles in Delaney's arms, howling in despair as Maria is hauled onto one of the Jeeps.

ERIKA

Please! What are you doing? We
cannot let them take her! Please!

Skye keeps her eyes on the Cabal teams as their Jeeps start up and race past them, speeding into the night, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

27 INT. CAMPUS - WORKSHOP - DAY

27

Patty is still hard at work - she's stripped away many different parts of the bomb casing by now.

The two cylinders have been exposed to reveal dark GREEN LIQUID bubbling within, sloshing around more urgently with each passing second.

The timer itself is still ticking down at an increased rate - it's reading seven minutes but she's got more like four.

Patty wipes her brow, one hand over her mouth as she ponders her next move:

TIA (O.S.)

Oh, God...

Patty spins round - to see Tia hurrying towards her!

PATTY

What the hell are you still doing here!

TIA

Making sure you have some backup.

Patty GRUNTS, turning back to the bomb as Tia slots in next to her.

PATTY

I don't need backup, what I need is nobody bothering me so I can do this!

TIA

Save all that borderline autistic crap you normally pull for when there isn't a bomb in front of us, alright?

(beat; calmer)

I couldn't leave you here.

Patty glances across - before a loud BEEPING from the bomb grabs her attention back.

TIA (cont'd)

What does that mean?

PATTY

It means we're three minutes from detonation.

(CONTINUED)

TIA

But the timer says -

PATTY

It's wrong! Will you shut up?

Patty frowns, staring into the depths of the control box.

PATTY (cont'd)

I need to think...

And as she does just that, we CUT TO:

Back in Moscow, as a remarkably calm Erika rides shotgun next to Skye. They're speeding back through the capital.

DELANEY

You honestly think they bought it?

ERIKA

I think I could have been an excellent actress, if only my calling had not come first.

SKYE

Yeah, well... we're about to find out if you were Oscar material.

Her phone RINGS again, and she snatches it up:

SKYE (cont'd)

(into phone)

Yeah?

INTERCUT WITH:

Greg stands by two minivans, a small team of Council operatives milling around him. He speaks into his phone:

GREG

We've got her. How's your side of the plan going?

IN THE JEEP, Skye glances at a GPS UNIT perched on the dashboard - a beeping RED DOT is on screen.

SKYE

On our way back to you. Is she alright?

Greg looks across as somebody is led past, a blanket draped round their shoulders:

(CONTINUED)

It's MARIA! She looks pale and weak, but manages a nod and grin towards Greg.

GREG
She's fine. Well, comparatively speaking, I mean.

SKYE
Any word from the Academy?

GREG
(beat)
Not yet. Skye, Grace said that even if they can't -

END INTERCUT:

SKYE
(interrupts)
Yeah, I know what she said. I don't like it... but I get it.
(beat)
See you in ten.

Skye hangs up, glancing at the others as we CUT TO:

We're down to our last minute now. Tia hangs back, growing more frantic with every second.

TIA
Patty, come on!

Patty's elbow-deep in the bomb's workings, wire cutter clutched between her teeth.

PATTY
(through mouthful)
Almost got it...

The timer starts to BEEP shrilly - ten seconds to go!

TIA
Patty!

She GRABS Patty's arm - who does well not to slip!

PATTY
There!

She snatches the cutters from her mouth and reaches into the machine:

And the timer STOPS with seconds to go!

(CONTINUED)

Patty leans back, exhaling. She grins, satisfied.

PATTY (cont'd)
I thought as much. They'd given the
disarm wire a different colour to
throw me. Soon as I scrubbed some
of the paint off, I got it.

She looks to Tia - who is white as a sheet, wide eyes fixed on the timer. Patty chuckles, amused. She pats Tia lightly on the arm.

PATTY (cont'd)
Better go tell Grace that they can
all come back now.

Tia nods, still shellshocked. She rises and glides out of frame, leaving Patty to look back at the bomb.

PATTY (cont'd)
There. See? All better.

She DUSTS her hands with a flourish, as we CUT TO:

A BEEPING sound leads Agent #1 to take a small device from his pocket - a RED LIGHT flashes on the surface.

AGENT #2
Sir?

AGENT #1
The bomb's offline.

AGENT #2
What? But how could they -

AGENT #1
Doesn't matter.

He looks into the back - Maria sits there, flanked by two more armed agents.

AGENT #1 (cont'd)
As long as we've got you, eh?

MARIA
Actually...

Maria smiles - and her features start to SHIFT, her body MORPHING to the agents' surprise - into RACHEL!

RACHEL
... you don't.

She SWINGS left and right, attacking the surprised agents before making a GRAB for the wheel!

The Jeep LURCHES to the side, RAMMING into the second and sending it veering across the road:

And straight into oncoming traffic! It hits a TANKER head-on and EXPLODES into a bright fireball!

Rachel keeps grappling for control, but with the element of surprise gone it's four on one now.

She starts taking hits, fighting back against the grunts as they try to overpower her, as we CUT TO:

Maria - the real Maria, that is - sits in the open side of one of the minivans, parked off the street. Greg sits next to her, rubbing her across the shoulders:

As Skye's Jeep SCREECHES to a halt, Erika quickly jumping off and hurrying forward.

ERIKA

Maria? Maria!

MARIA

I'm here!

Both sisters are so weak they can only hobble, but they soon find each other and embrace.

SKYE

(to Greg)

Any news?

GREG

(grins)

They're clear. Managed to defuse the bomb before it could go off.

Skye exhales, relieved, then shouts to the sisters:

SKYE

Warm fuzzies can wait, ladies!
Rachel bought us enough time to
pull this off, but they'll be back
on us before we can say -

A SEARCHLIGHT suddenly falls on the scene, everyone looking up - to see a HELICOPTER swooping towards them!

SKYE (cont'd)

Helicopter?

DELANEY

It's them! Go!

SKYE

How do you -

GUNFIRE chews up the ground around the vehicles!

DELANEY

(to Erika and Maria)

Get your asses in the Jeep, now!

Delaney stands, a wave of her arm casting a BLUE HAZE of energy around the Jeep - deflecting some of the bullets.

Erika shields Maria as they clamber into the Jeep. Skye throws Greg a last look, then floors it.

The helicopter stays with them, following the Jeep as it tears back down the road.

The two Council minivans start to turn in the road so they can join the pursuit.

Skye keeps accelerating, jinking and weaving through the increasingly busy traffic.

SKYE

How the hell did they find us so fast?

DELANEY

Maybe because we're still in one of their Jeeps, and they most likely fit all these things with tracking devices?

SKYE

(beat)

Oh, yeah.

ERIKA

Skye...

SKYE

Hang on to something solid, ladies!

MARIA

What about Rachel? Is she okay?

Skye glances at Delaney, their dark looks betraying their anxiousness as we CUT TO:

34 EXT. WOODS - NEXT

34

Bloodied, beaten and unconscious, Rachel is DUMPED onto the floor from the side of one of the Jeeps. Agent #1 scowls down at her.

AGENT #1
(to others)
Let's go. We have a pursuit to join.

The Jeep pulls away, leaving Rachel behind as we CUT TO:

35 EXT. STREETS - NEXT

35

Skye keeps glancing over her shoulder - the helicopter is still right on top of them. There's nowhere to lose it.

DELANEY
We have to get off the road!

SKYE
And go where? There's nothing but road out here!

DELANEY
(to Erika)
Where can we go? We need to get some buildings for cover between us and that thing!

MARIA
Left! Go left!

Skye does so, the Jeep SLIDING clumsily around a junction. It cuts off several other cars to a chorus of angry HONKS.

MARIA (cont'd)
The business district's this way.
Lots of big buildings.

Skye looks around - she's right. They're entering a block stuffed full of large buildings - when the Jeep's engine SPLUTTERS, and Skye looks at the dashboard:

They're almost out of fuel!

SKYE
Oh, come on!

She looks back to the road, risking a glance in the rear-view mirror:

Just as the other two Cabal Jeeps swing into view from side roads, right on their tail!

(CONTINUED)

She looks over her shoulder just in time to see the offending vehicle SLAM into their rear end, jolting everyone forward.

Their Jeep veers off to one side, CLIPPING a parked car and sending SPARKS flying into the cabin.

DELANEY
(eyes bulging)
Look out!

Skye can't wrestle control back in time, and the Jeep PLOUGHS into a slow-moving van!

The van's rear CRUMPLES at the impact, SKIDDING sideways - and blocking the path of one of the Cabal Jeeps.

The other GUNS its engine, fishtailing the out-of-control Jeep and pitching it into a wide, lazy spin.

SKYE
Ah, crap... hang on!

SMASH! The Jeep CRASHES into a row of parked cars, almost tipping onto its side before it comes to rest.

The Cabal Jeep SKIDS to a halt further down the road, the agents on board quickly jumping off.

Bleeding from a bad cut, Delaney presses a hand to her head as she looks round, climbing out.

DELANEY
Everyone alright?

Skye's out cold, but Erika is already pushing Maria out of the Jeep - into Delaney's arms!

ERIKA
It is not me they want - go!

DELANEY
But -

And the SEARCHLIGHT falls on them again, forcing Delaney and Maria to take off into the maze of paths and streets.

Erika watches them go as the first group of Cabal Agents get to her. They grab her and HAUL her out of the Jeep, and she can't do anything to stop them as we CUT TO:

Delaney races ahead of Maria for a few seconds before she realises her charge has slowed down.

Turning away, Maria RETCHES, and when she turns back she looks like death warmed up - without the warmed up part.

DELANEY

You okay?

MARIA

(grim)

I'm fine. We should...

A disturbance nearby startles them, footsteps, fast and heavy. They're close by too - and so is that helicopter.

DELANEY

Come on.

She puts her arm around the Russian girl and helps her to walk, picking up the pace a little as we CUT TO:

The two Council vans pull up by the ruined stolen Jeep, Greg one of the first out to rush over.

Skye is just coming to as Greg reaches them, Erika left sprawled on the ground.

GREG

What happened? Are you all alright?
Where are Delaney and Maria?

Greg notices the two abandoned Cabal Jeeps.

GREG (cont'd)

Oh, no...

He turns to the Council team behind him - five men like himself, lightly armed.

GREG (cont'd)

We can't let them get Maria! Fan
out and call in once you've found
them!

The team hurry off, Greg staying to help Erika sit back up.

GREG (cont'd)

Easy, easy. You've all taken a
beating tonight.

SKYE

(slurred)

Rachel... where's Rachel?

GREG

(grim)

We haven't found her yet. We'll keep looking, but we have to make sure Maria is safe first.

ERIKA

She will be.

(smiles)

Delaney is with her.

Greg rises, feeling a little helpless as we CUT TO:

Two Cabal Agents troop past, the whirr of the helicopter still loud overhead as its searchlight sweeps past.

A moment later, Delaney peeks out from round a corner, making sure the coast is clear.

She steals out, keeping to the shadows - Maria is following close behind her.

MARIA

(whispers)

How are we gonna get out of here?
There's too many of them!

DELANEY

There's always too many. The trick is creating a diversion big enough to cover our tracks.

MARIA

Can you do that?

DELANEY

I could probably -

She's cut off by a loud ROAR - a huge DEMON is towering over them, one mighty paw swinging to SWAT Delaney aside!

She CRASHES into a heap of trash cans, sliding to the floor and flailing for grip as the demon STOMPS towards her.

Maria SCREAMS, stumbling backwards into the arms of two agents, who begin to drag her away!

MARIA

No! Delaney, help me! Help!

Dazed, Delaney registers the agents grappling Maria and tries to get up - but has to DUCK as the demon PUNCHES a hole through the wall, narrowly missing her head!

(CONTINUED)

She deftly weaves around the demon, closing in on the two agents as a blazing ball of ENERGY builds in her hand.

DELANEY

(snarls)

Get away from her, you b -

SMACK! The demon CHARGES into her again, this time tackling her out of the way!

She dodges a punch, returns with one of her own, but gets an UPPERCUT to the jaw as a reward.

She staggers back, reeling - and the demon grabs her in a BEAR HUG! It lifts her up off the floor, squeezing tight.

MARIA (O.S.)

Delaney!

DELANEY

(gritted teeth)

Hang on!

Try as she might, this thing's stronger than your average bear and she can't break free. It SNARLS, drool running from its mouth.

DELANEY (cont'd)

Ah, to hell with this...

(beat)

Incurso!

A bright green BLAST of energy pulses from her body, sending the demon hurtling backwards and Delaney flying back through the air!

The demon bursts into FLAMES, whining desperately as it tries to beat down the magical fire:

While Delaney shoots back against a wall, her head CRACKING painfully off the bricks.

She slides to the floor, stunned, and as she tries to stand she just collapses face down.

DELANEY'S POV:

Everything is out of focus and the sound is also muffled, but we quite clearly hear the sound of Maria's CRIES as she's dragged away by dark, fuzzy figures.

FADE TO BLACK:

RUSTLING. Indistinct VOICES. CRYING.

(CONTINUED)

We JOLT back to the land of the living, ON SCENE as Delaney stirs. There's no sign of the Cabal, or Maria for that matter.

DELANEY (cont'd)
Maria?

SKYE (O.S.)
(subdued)
She's gone.

Delaney turns - the sudden movement making her wince with pain - to see Skye crouching nearby.

In the background, Greg stands with the battered Rachel, the other Council operatives nearby.

DELANEY
She... she can't be 'gone,' where
did she go? They took her, I saw
them take her, I tried to -

ERIKA (O.S.)
This is your fault.

Delaney looks round - and there's Erika, Facing away from her, arms crossed against her chest.

DELANEY
What... what happened?

Skye looks back to Greg, their heavy expressions only making Delaney more agitated.

DELANEY (cont'd)
Somebody tell me, right now!

Skye looks back - and Delaney is stunned by the TEARS in her eyes as we CUT TO:

The sun rises over the city as the Academy minivans drive back out of the city. There's no sound through the following scenes.

JILHANDRA (V.O.)
(filtered)
I just thought I should call to let
you know that we're done with her.

As the vans pass beneath us:

PAN ALONG the bruised and defeated Slayers huddled together.

JILHANDRA (V.O.)

You can come and get her, if you're not too busy? I'll even give you the full address, since you did me such a big favour today.

Rachel sits with Skye, who is checking over her wounds. No-one speaks. Delaney sits by herself - as does Erika.

Delaney can't take her eyes off Erika, sorrow etched into her features as we CUT TO:

INT. CABAL FACILITY - EVENING (FLASHBACK)

Though a little unfurnished and lacking any and all personnel, the sterile, cold environment makes it all too obvious where we are.

Skye, Rachel, Erika and Greg march down a corridor, Erika breaking into a run towards the doors at the far end.

JILHANDRA (V.O.)

And to think, we could have avoided all this trouble if you'd only been more... civil.

Erika throws open the doors, and sees Maria lying peacefully on an operating table in the next room along.

Though their team mate dashes inside, sensing her sister's presence, the others stop and turn to each other.

SKYE (V.O.)

(threatening)

If you're lying to me...

JILHANDRA (V.O.)

You have my word, Miss Underwood...

INT. OPERATING ROOM - CONTINUOUS

PUSH IN on Maria as Erika tries to wake her. She's cold and grey and not moving, but Erika tries anyway.

There are puncture marks all over her body, traces of blood sat on the skins surface and nearby equipment sports tubes with traces of blood inside.

Skye walks up to Erika, pulling her away from her sister whilst Rachel checks her vitals. She shakes her head.

JILHANDRA (V.O.)

She is in perfect health.

She's gone.

JILHANDRA (V.O.) (cont'd)
Goodbye, Skye. I'm sure I'll be
seeing you soon enough.

Pull back as a SOBBING Erika cradles Maria's body, the others
able to do nothing but watch as we DISSOLVE TO:

Sound has returned, but there's an odd sense of quiet here.
Manu sits at a cluttered desk - clutching a small photograph
of Maria laughing with a group of younger Slayers.

PAN ROUND to reveal Fitzgerald stood not too far away from
him. She looks just as distraught as he is - her red eyes
give away the tears she's shed.

MANU
(quiet)
Did they find anything? Anything
that can make this...

FITZGERALD
No. Nothing. We're back to square
one.

Fitzgerald looks away - and sees an empty bed, the sheets
sitting there waiting to be removed.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)
(sighs)
Such a waste... such a terrible,
awful waste. She was so young...

MANU
I've seen plenty of death, Grace.
Both here and before I entered this
world. But this...

He slowly lowers the photo, placing it face down on his desk.

MANU (cont'd)
We cannot let this stand. The Cabal
must answer for Maria's murder.

FITZGERALD
They will. I can promise you that.
The other girls, they're... they
need a little time. But they'll be
ready.

Fitzgerald starts to leave, when Manu adds:

MANU
I'm done with my research.

Intrigued, she turns. He hands her a piece of paper with test results printed on it. She scans it but is none the wiser.

FITZGERALD

What am I looking at?

MANU

I believe I've found a serum, a cure to the virus.

FITZGERALD

(gapes)

You... you have? Manu, that's -

She registers his stoic expression, and realises there's another side to this news.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

What is it?

MANU

The cure will work, that much I can guarantee. But it comes at a cost.

Preparing for the worst, Grace pulls up a chair.

MANU (cont'd)

The cure will only work on the girls showing the signs of the depowering process.

(beat)

Once we administer the serum, the girl will lose her powers. Permanently. The girls get to live...

FITZGERALD

But they'd no longer be a Slayer.

(sighs)

We'd still be wiping out the entire line.

With a nod he presents to her the hardest question of her career. As Fitzgerald tries to come to terms with the impossible decision she has to make, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR

NEXT WEEK

VICTORY (V.O.)
Next time, on Slayer Academy...

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - NEXT

All of the students are standing in shocked awe as we PULL BACK to see what the emergency is.

Nestled around the hills surrounding the town are VAMPIRES. More specifically, the SLAYVAMPS we've all come to know.

Snarling and waiting for blood but not moving as the townspeople gape at them.

A figure moves to the front, with another figure at either side. The FEMALE on the left is CHANTING while purple energy flows over her and into the sky.

The clouds, completely blocking out the sun CRACKLE with the same energy.

The figure in the forefront steps out into the natural, non-lethal light - and it's VICTORY.

She SMILES, surveying the veritable feast before her and turns to JENDAYI, who smiles as well.

VICTORY
(devilish)
I say we have a banquet on our hands.

CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - SAME TIME

Delaney is busily packing, a large CASE open and becoming rapidly full of clothes, spellbooks and other items.

She stops, wiping a TEAR from her eye before cramming another book in. The doors open and Skye and Rachel enter.

RACHEL
Delaney, please. Stop what you're doing.

DELANEY
(shakes head)
I can't, I can't stay here.

SKYE
You did what you could! It's what any of us would have done!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DELANEY

None of you would have sacrificed a young girl to the frickin' Cabal! You all would have fought and died for her!

RACHEL

You fought, Delaney. But running away from the fight, from us isn't going to do anything, is it?

SKYE

I've done my fair share of running, girl. And Maria wouldn't want you to do this. She'd want you to keep fighting.

DELANEY

I killed her, Skye. I may as well have placed a gun next to her head and pulled the trigger.

(beat)

You and I both know that. And I...
I just can't stay here.

CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - INFIRMARY

FITZGERALD walks over to MANU, his desk littered with NOTES, FOLDERS and REPORTS. She shakes his shoulder and he looks up.

MANU

Grace.

FITZGERALD

Manu. How is the... serum coming along?

TIA (O.S.)

Pretty good, from what I hear.

Fitzgerald SPINS AROUND - as a surprisingly cheery TIA enters, a folder of notes under her arm.

FITZGERALD

(to Manu)

How many Slayers did you tell about the serum?

MANU

Just Tia. I needed someone to help me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIA

Don't worry, I'm totally on the 'o-nay, alk-tay bout-ay the erum-say.'
I mean, it's only a more advanced version of the antigen you made, isn't it?

Fitzgerald looks at Manu as Tia moves off, continuing to check Slayers' vital signs.

FITZGERALD

(quiet)

You mean you haven't told Tia that the serum is...

MANU

A Slayer deprogrammer? No, of course not.

(beat)

I only told her it was an experimental serum to try and alleviate some of the Virus' symptoms.

FITZGERALD

I thought you said that lies never led to anything good.

MANU

Sometimes, it's safer to lie than to tell the truth. And I think these girls need some safety in their lives.

(beat)

I've managed to run up a test to determine whether the serum is necessary.

FITZGERALD

I think it's pretty damn obvious that it's necessary, Manu.

MANU

No, it's a stress test. If we release this, then any and every Slayer will probably want to take the serum just to be free.

(beat)

Imagine being free of the Slayerdom, the responsibilities, the Virus... any girl would want it desperately.

FITZGERALD

You seem to know a lot about what a Slayer wants.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MANU

(beat)

The serum will start to deactivate the Slayer within a matter of hours, but we can only use it if she's already Depowering. If she's losing her Slayer powers.

FITZGERALD

(long beat; sighs)

I'll have to think about this, Manu.

MANU

What is there to think about, Grace?

(beat)

I suspect that you're going to lose your girls one way or another. The only question is how.

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW