

# SLAYER ACADEMY

**"HIGHER GROUND"**

**STARRING**

**EMILY BROWNING**

**EMILY BOOTH**

**RACHAEL LEIGH COOK**

**KYOKO FUKADA**

**RACHAEL TAYLOR**

**PARIS HILTON**

**WITH**

**JACQUELINE MCKENZIE**

**BRADLEY COOPER**

**FAMKE JANSSEN**

**KATHERINE HEIGL**

**MIA WASIKOWSKA**

**JESSY SCHRAM**

**MAGGIE CHEUNG**

**AARON YOO**

**AND**

**MICHELLE FORBES**

**OLIVIA WILDE**

**MATT SMITH**

**GUEST STARRING**

**ANNA ABREU as 'Amelia'**

**RICH FULCHER as 'Eddie'**

**DAVID ANDERS as 'Hamish'**

**TEASER**

FADE IN:

1 INT. CAMPUS - CORRIDOR - NIGHT 1

DELANEY heads towards us, walking down a corridor within the dormitories block.

She approaches a door guarded by AMELIA, the petite Scandinavian Slayer.

DELANEY

Hey. Fitzgerald call you off your normal guard duty or something?

AMELIA

I go where I am needed. Miss Fitzgerald requested I keep watch over Miss Adams while she stays here.

DELANEY

(nods)

Fair enough. Okay, well... you can go now.

AMELIA

Excuse me?

DELANEY

You're relieved. I'll take over.

AMELIA

(shakes head)

No, I'm not off duty for another few hours.

DELANEY

Oh, didn't you hear? Fitzgerald said I could take over for a bit. You know, what with you being here all day and all.

AMELIA

I have only been here a few hours.

DELANEY

That's 'all day' to some people.

Amelia narrows her eyes suspiciously, and Delaney SIGHS.

DELANEY (cont'd)

Look, I just need a few minutes to speak to Rachel, okay?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She steps towards the doorway, but Amelia places an arm across it to block her.

AMELIA

I'm afraid I can't allow that  
without written authorisation.

Delaney pauses, then waves her hand before Amelia's face.

DELANEY

You don't need to see my  
authorisation.

AMELIA

(blinks)  
What?

DELANEY

(shrugs)  
Worth a shot.

She turns and takes a step away, then pauses.

DELANEY (cont'd)

Oh, and Amelia?

AMELIA

Hmm?

She turns - WHAP! Delaney lands a SUCKERPUNCH that floors her, Delaney quickly catching her and laying her down on the ground.

DELANEY

Sorry, kid. Got a schedule to keep.

She checks up and down the corridor, then produces a small SYRINGE from a pocket, carefully injecting Amelia.

She then reaches for her belt and extracts a small leather pouch, opening it to reveal a set of LOCK PICKS.

DELANEY (cont'd)

(mutters)  
Time to see if I still remember how  
to do this old school...

She crouches before the locked door, getting to work as we  
CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - RACHEL'S ROOM - NEXT

RACHEL is lying on the bed, flicking through a magazine. This place isn't exactly a prison cell, more like a stripped down dorm room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She looks up as a series of CLICKS sound from the door, before it opens to allow a grinning Delaney inside.

RACHEL

How did you -

DELANEY

Some magic never goes away.

RACHEL

What about Amelia outside?

DELANEY

Persuaded her to leave.

(off Rachel's look)

Alright, I knocked her out and drugged her. She won't remember the last few hours, she'll think she just fell asleep on duty.

RACHEL

(smiles)

Appreciate the visit, but you're not supposed to be in here.

DELANEY

Oh, that's right, I forgot. Silly me for not always following instructions and obeying the rules like I normally do.

RACHEL

Point taken. What's going on?

DELANEY

Situation needs your unique abilities and experience. You game?

RACHEL

Are we going to get in trouble?

DELANEY

You, probably not. Me... most definitely.

RACHEL

(beat)

I'm listening.

Delaney grins as we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - DORMS - NEXT

Over in the A Squad dorm, SKYE and SOFIA enter, mid-conversation.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE

... but then, right, get this,  
turns out that all happened after  
they died, and all that other stuff  
was just them 'finding' each other  
again.

SOFIA

(shakes head)

I don't think it matters how many  
times you explain it to me, I'm not  
going to get it.

They head for their respective beds - before Skye pauses,  
noticing an ENVELOPE on top of Tori's bed.

SKYE

Huh. Tori got an admirer we don't  
know about?

Sofia steps over, picking the envelope up.

SOFIA

It's addressed to us.

Skye frowns, joining Sofia as she opens it. Inside is a  
single sheet of paper, from which Sofia reads aloud:

SOFIA (cont'd)

(reading)

'Sorry guys, but after the  
conversation I had with Skye a few  
days ago, I've decided it's going  
to be better for all of us if I get  
as far away from this place and all  
of you as possible.'

(to Skye)

What did you say to her?

SKYE

(thinks)

Uh... I don't know, I spoke to her  
up on the roof a few nights back,  
she was still down about that last  
tussle with Hamish, but I tried to  
tell her...

Skye realises what's going on with a GROAN.

SOFIA

Tell her what?

SKYE

I told her she could either carry  
on feeling sorry for herself or she  
could keep moving - away from  
Hamish.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

Ah.

SKYE

'Ah' exactly. I also added something like 'end of the day, only thing standing between him and the Slayer power is you. Not any of us.'

SOFIA

Normally, I'd congratulate you on being so profound...

SKYE

Except for the fact that she's gone and done exactly what she thinks I told her to do.

Skye takes the letter, scanning it over, while Sofia quickly checks the bedside dressers.

SOFIA

She's taken most of her things.

SKYE

What are we gonna do?

SOFIA

Go after her, of course!

SKYE

What do we say when they ask us why she left?

SOFIA

(beat)

Show them the letter. No point anyone thinking you told her to leave on purpose.

SKYE

(exhales)

The one time somebody listens to me...

SOFIA

Come on. The longer we wait...

And as the girls hurry out of the room, leaving Tori's vacated part of the dorm behind, we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF TEASER**

**ACT ONE**

FADE IN:

4 INT. CAMPUS - BRIEFING ROOM - NIGHT

4

Skye and Sofia have been joined by REIKO, FRAN, MELA and MALLORY.

At the head of the room, hastily compiling dossiers and setting up the video screen projector, are GREG, MADISON, FITZGERALD, FRANKIE and DANNY.

FITZGERALD

Mallory, you understand why you're here?

MALLORY

Advisory capacity only due to inside knowledge of Hamish's operation, yeah. Got it.

GREG

Where the hell is Delaney?

SOFIA

Don't know. I left her a message and a voicemail.

FITZGERALD

We'll have to start without her. Skye, you can get her up to speed later.

She nods to Frankie, who cues up the video screen - it's an overhead map of the immediate area around the Academy.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

Here's what we know. Tori has taken it upon herself to vacate the premises and disappear into the wilds of rural Wiltshire.

A red circle overlay appears on screen.

GREG

Assuming she's on foot and left the moment the sun went down tonight, we've got a radius of around nine miles to cover.

Frankie steps in, using a laser highlighter to indicate areas on screen as she continues:

(CONTINUED)



FRANKIE

We 'ave several roads where she could 'ave 'itched a lift, so we may be looking at a much wider search grid.

GREG

The A303 is the quickest road if she wanted to make it to the motorway, and if she heads for Portsmouth she could be on a ferry out of the country pretty soon.

FRANKIE

'Er most likely course of action is to make it to mainland Europe, where she could go to ground in no time at all and we would never be able to track 'er.

REIKO

Can't we get an APB put out on her? I mean, we have people in the police, right?

MADISON

(shakes head)

Too risky. If we start putting her name and face out there for the authorities, we run the risk of either members of the public trying their hands at a citizens arrest, getting hold of her and Tori fighting back, or worse -

FITZGERALD

Or worse, Hamish finding out and taking advantage of the fact that she's left our custody.

Skye and Sofia exchange a quick look - Greg notices, but nobody else does.

MADISON

I'm going to put the word out via a few confidential sources I know I can trust, but I'm afraid there's little we can do outside of tracking her down ourselves, unless you want half the country to be out looking for a runaway Slayer.

FRAN

So glad to see you still have something to do around here.

(CONTINUED)

MADISON  
(narrows eyes)  
I manage.

FITZGERALD  
Madison's just on loan to us for  
now, she's heading back to London  
as soon as we finish this briefing.

MADISON  
Believe me, I'm grateful of any  
excuse to take a break from dealing  
with the PR tidal wave that hit in  
the wake of 'Tale Of The Slayer'.

DANNY  
The current plan of action is that  
Frankie and myself will run as  
comprehensive a search as we can  
from the library, using the access  
we have to national GPS tracking  
and some of the toys and favours  
the Initiative still owe us.

FRANKIE  
*Oui*, so this means I will not be  
out there with you, Reiko.

REIKO  
No worries. We can handle it by  
ourselves.

FITZGERALD  
Skye, you're the one who's spent  
the most time with Tori since we  
brought her here. What can you tell  
us about where you think she might  
have gone?

Skye shifts a little under the scrutiny - something else Greg  
makes a mental note of.

SKYE  
Uh... hard to say. My best guess is  
she'll look for a way to get as far  
away as possible as quickly as  
possible.

SOFIA  
She'll be limited by having to  
travel by night, at least.

MELA  
What if she tries to get on a  
plane?

(CONTINUED)

FITZGERALD

She doesn't have a passport. So that's one thing in our favour.

REIKO

So... where do we start?

Greg and Fitzgerald explain a look.

FRAN

(sighs)

I don't think anybody knows.

MELA

I'll try a tracking spell.

GREG

No, no magic. Hamish'll pick up the trail and follow it to her before we do.

MELA

Not even a technopagan spell?

GREG

Do you know any of those?

MELA

Um... no.

MALLORY

So what are we supposed to use? Hot air balloons?

FITZGERALD

Single-person units, all in constant contact, fanning out in organised search grids.

SOFIA

That's going to take a while.

FRAN

Yeah, and by 'a while' she means 'until the day after Doomsday'.

FITZGERALD

I'm afraid we don't have a better option. We have to keep our efforts off the radar. We absolutely cannot afford to let Hamish get his hands on Tori.

MALLORY

Maybe... maybe not.

The others turn to her, Mallory smirking back as we CUT TO:

5

INT. CAMPUS - RACHEL'S ROOM - NEXT

5

Delaney is pacing up and down, Rachel set up on her bed. There are several sheets of paper spread before her - Delaney's plans, given the way she keeps glancing at them.

RACHEL

That... that's pretty big. Even by your standards.

DELANEY

Yes, it is.

RACHEL

And you haven't told anybody else about this? Greg? Kira?

DELANEY

Who am I gonna tell any of this to, Rache? 'Oh, by the way, remember that prison break a few weeks ago? Well, I snuck off for a quiet word with Celeste Rourke, you know, public enemy number one, and she told me how to get my magic back.'

RACHEL

(off one sheet)

But they know about this prophecy already?

DELANEY

Mom knows, Greg's got the Clift notes. I think. And there's...

(shakes head)

Never mind.

RACHEL

Who?

DELANEY

(quickly)

Nobody.

Rachel eyes her, but Delaney isn't forthcoming. Rachel takes a beat to muse on what she's heard so far, eyeing the papers again.

RACHEL

How do we get out of here to even try? I can't exactly walk out of here right now.

DELANEY

I told you - nobody's gonna care if you help me. I'm the one going off book for this.

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL

Delaney, I can't risk making my situation any worse. I'm on thin ice here as it is.

Delaney shakes her head, taking a seat beside her.

DELANEY

We both know that's not true. Fitzgerald'll bend over backwards to keep you here. You'd already be in the back of an Operations team van if she couldn't.

RACHEL

I'm still under house arrest.

DELANEY

Like that ever stopped Mallory? Or, far as I can tell, anyone else ever locked up in this place?

(beat)

Look, worst comes to it, I'll say I forced you to help me.

Rachel looks away, her brain processing every angle.

RACHEL

Okay, so go over the bullet points again. Just so I'm clear.

DELANEY

Celeste, my mom, Hamish and everyone else connected to the Coven di Fuoco by blood - which includes me - are subjects of one of those big crazy apocalyptic prophecies we love so much.

RACHEL

But not Greg.

DELANEY

No, he was born before everything got started. Dade... I'm not sure. I don't think he counts, thanks to the whole 'immune to magic' thing.

RACHEL

And you think this ritual Celeste told you about can get your magic back and, what, put you back in the firing line?

DELANEY

It'll give me a chance to make a difference.

(CONTINUED)

Rachel stays quiet, and Delaney is up and pacing again, growing more animated.

DELANEY (cont'd)

Think about it. Way things are right now, I'm a spectator. Whatever blows up between Celeste's side and ours, I can't do much to help. If my mom or Greg are about to take a magic bullet...

RACHEL

Yeah, I get that part. I just don't get how we're supposed to do this.

DELANEY

(grins)

You said 'we'.

RACHEL

(beat; grins back)

So I did.

DELANEY

I've gotta do this, Rache. I'm sick and tired of feeling like I'm only half the person I'm supposed to be. If there's even a slim chance this'll work...

Rachel stands, nodding decisively.

RACHEL

You had me at 'you game?'

DELANEY

That's my girl.

RACHEL

However...

Rachel indicates the room around them. Delaney taps the side of her nose.

DELANEY

You leave that to me.

She grins impishly as we CUT TO:

Mallory is at one of the terminals, rapidly entering commands as the others from the briefing room cluster behind her.

She brings up a few maps, an overlay placing several red dots and lines over them.

(CONTINUED)

GREG

What are we looking at, exactly?

MALLORY

This is every Cabal base and supply route in the area.

REIKO

Hamish's network, or what's left of it by now.

MALLORY

Exactly. See here?

She points to where they match several main roads.

MALLORY (cont'd)

These are the main ways Tori can travel by night to head for the coast.

(beat; off looks)

Think about it. Tori knows where all these bases are too, so she won't be going anywhere near any of these.

MELA

(catching on)

So she'll end up...

(taps the screen)

Here. She's got no other way to get to the coast, and any other way she has to come too close to Cabal property.

SKYE

Yeah, but most of those bases are abandoned, or destroyed, or both.

MALLORY

But we still don't know which are and which aren't. Not completely. So she can't take that chance either.

FITZGERALD

So once she's on this path down to Portsmouth, then what?

MALLORY

Then, we make sure we're all waiting down there, and we just work our way back up until one of us grabs her.

Fitzgerald steps back, mulling over the plan.

(CONTINUED)

MALLORY (cont'd)

It's either this, or we all hit the trail with our best hiking boots on and hope somebody accidentally finds her.

GREG

(to Fitzgerald)

Don't forget, we've got Frankie and Danny running satellite surveillance.

SOFIA

If they have a smaller target area to look in...

Everyone waits for her decision, until finally:

FITZGERALD

(nods)

Do it. Greg, you're lead Watcher. Reiko, Skye, we'll be operating as one large team out there but you both have your usual seniority. Mela, you'll be point of contact for Frankie.

MALLORY

What about me?

FITZGERALD

(beat)

Temporarily reinstated, on probation only.

Mallory suddenly looks less certain, glancing at Reiko.

REIKO

We could really use your help...

Mallory chews this over - then bows her head and NODS.

MALLORY

Alright.

GREG

Alright ladies, we all know our assignments. Meet at the front entrance in five minutes.

The Slayers nod, scattering and heading for the exit, as Fitzgerald calls after them:

FITZGERALD

And somebody find Delaney!

CUT TO:



7 EXT. ROADSIDE - NIGHT

7

PAN DOWN from a long and lonely stretch of road, town and city lights in the distance. Well-spaced streetlamps cast pools of orange on the road below.

A lone figure paces next to the roadside, sports bag slung over their shoulder.

CAR HEADLIGHTS approach, going the opposite way, and the figure turns as they pass - it's TORI.

She pauses for a moment, then adjusts her bag strap and walks on, head down.

After a few more beats, she's illuminated from behind by bright HEADLIGHTS, and she turns towards them, sticking out a thumb in classic hitchhiker pose.

REVERSE ANGLE to show a large TRUCK starting to slow, indicating and pulling just off the road as it comes to a halt a short distance behind her, airbrakes HISSING.

Tori heads over, waiting by the cabin until the driver throws the side door open:

The TRUCKER inside is a portly, middle-aged man with bad skin and messy hair, but he offers a comradely smile.

TRUCKER  
Where you heading?

Tori takes a beat to size him up.

TORI  
(points)  
Anywhere that way.

TRUCKER  
Out here by yourself?

TORI  
Best way to travel.

TRUCKER  
Okay, so long as you don't mind  
hitching a lift with a greasy old  
boy like myself...

Tori clambers up into the truck's cabin in response.

8 INT. TRUCK - CABIN - CONTINUOUS

8

She flops down on the wide passenger seat, closing the door and turning to the Trucker.

(CONTINUED)

TRUCKER

Alright then...

Satisfied, he disengages the handbrake and starts to pull away, rejoining the road ahead.

TRUCKER (cont'd)

I'm Eddie.

TORI

Victoria.

TRUCKER (EDDIE)

Nice to meet you, Victoria.

TORI

You too, Eddie.

EDDIE

Is that a South African twang to your accent?

TORI

Don't hold it against me. I'm really an okay girl.

EDDIE

(chuckles)

No complaints over here. You heading anywhere in particular on your journey 'that way'?

TORI

If you can get me to Portsmouth?

EDDIE

No problem.

(beat)

Mind if I put the radio back on?

TORI

Be my guest.

He reaches for the truck's radio, Tori noticing what a tricked-out system it is.

EDDIE

Custom made. Keeps me sane on the long-haul treks, you know?

TORI

Depends what you listen to.

To answer, the opening bars of 'Blockbuster' by The Sweet start to play.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Eddie grins, head already bobbing as the guitar line starts, to which Tori just raises an eyebrow.

EDDIE

Planet Rock all the way!

ON TORI as she looks away, out the window, her casual demeanour fading. She now looks like somebody who hasn't got the first clue what the hell they're doing, as we:

**BLACK OUT:****END OF ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

9

INT. TRUCK (MOVING) - NIGHT

9

Tori leans against her door, staring out into the night as Eddie drives on.

EDDIE

So whereabouts in South Africa are you from?

TORI

Hmm?

She turns, roused from her thoughts.

EDDIE

I said, whereabouts are you from back home?

TORI

Cape Town.

EDDIE

Huh.

TORI

(beat)

You don't know a thing about Cape Town, do you?

EDDIE

Can't say I do. That's the magic of this thing called 'conversation'. I raise a point, you elaborate on it.

TORI

What if I don't feel like talking?

EDDIE

Then I keep turning the radio up.

He cranks the volume up a few notches, filling the cabin with a painfully bad hard rock song - Tori smiles despite herself, comedically covering her ears.

TORI

Alright, alright! I surrender!

EDDIE

That's more like it.

He turns the volume down with a grin.

(CONTINUED)

EDDIE (cont'd)

You must be new to the whole  
'hitchhiking' concept. See, the  
noble art of conversation between  
driver and passenger forms the  
currency with which the hitchhiker -  
that'd be you - barter for their  
journey from the man or woman  
behind the wheel.

TORI

You're oddly philosophical for...

EDDIE

(smirks)

A minimum wage truck driver? Don't  
you believe it. We're a rare breed,  
each and every one.

TORI

I don't know, I've heard plenty of  
horror stories about hitchhiking.

EDDIE

You can hear plenty of horror  
stories full stop if you turn the  
news on these days. Those riots in  
Los Angeles a few years ago, that  
whole business down in London this  
last year...

TORI

Yeah. Guess so.

EDDIE

You read much about that?

TORI

(beat; cautious)

Here and there.

EDDIE

I tell you this - those reporters  
want to find some real stories,  
they want to start talking to  
people like me.

TORI

Truckers?

EDDIE

Absolutely. The kinds of weirdness  
we see out on the roads, in the  
dead of night and the middle of  
nowhere... it'd make your head  
spin.

(CONTINUED)

TORI  
(aside)  
I doubt that...

EDDIE  
What was that?

TORI  
I said 'like what'?

Eddie glances her way - double-takes for a second - then returns his eyes to the road.

EDDIE  
Like, a friend of mine works for a security firm who were brought in to manage that big vampire slayer film premiere last month. Did you hear about that?

TORI  
I caught the highlights.

EDDIE  
He told me some agents for whoever runs those slayer girls took over the security booth, and there was some kind of fight backstage between two different groups of young girls.

Tori is silent - watching what she says.

EDDIE (cont'd)  
Anyway, he says one lot made it out into the car park but their van blew up. Whether they did it or the slayers got 'em... who knows.  
(beat)  
And then, this other guy I know who works for a coach company, he told me about when a whole coachload of people were killed a few years ago...

His voice FADES AWAY as Tori goes back to staring absently out the window, the rolling countryside lit by flashes of passing lights as we CUT TO:

Delaney slips into the library, looking all around to check the place is empty.

She gets one foot on the stairs when she hears VOICES. She pauses, checking her options, then creeps forward to see:

KIRA, HUANG and DADE, gathered round one table in the centre of the main floor. Delaney keeps back, out of sight.

An array of magical paraphernalia is spread out before them, with Huang mixing an ingredient using a pestle and mortar while Kira flips through a spellbook.

Many more are stacked beside them, with Dade YAWNING at the centre of it all.

KIRA

I appreciate that you'd place a few more hours' sleep above the safety of everybody on the planet, Dade, but do try to stay on task here.

DADE

Sorry. Just... late night.

HUANG

Perhaps if you spent more time actually sleeping at night, you would not be so tired?

She offers one of those maddeningly benign smiles, which only serves to darken his mood.

DADE

I can't help being popular. It's the curse of being so gorgeous.

Huang passes him the mortar bowl. Dade SNIFFS the contents - and recoils in disgust.

DADE (cont'd)

Please say I don't have to -

HUANG

You must ingest this quickly, while it is still potent.

DADE

(sighs)

Of course I do.

Dade grimaces - then knocks the bowl's contents back. If he could turn green after painfully SWALLOWING, he would.

DADE (cont'd)

What the hell was -

Kira SMACKS him lightly across the back of his head.

KIRA

Focus, Dade.

She slides an old photograph of CELESTE ROURKE before him.

(CONTINUED)

KIRA (cont'd)  
That stuff'll help you zero in on  
Celeste's unique magical energy  
signature, but only if you stop  
whining and get on with it.

DADE  
Alright, alright. Give me a minute.

He closes his eyes, exhaling and extending his arms. He  
shifts his head left and right, rolling his shoulders.

KIRA  
And without the theatrics.

DADE  
Ssh. You'll disturb my mojo. It's  
very sensitive to skeptics.

Dade lowers his head, his hands falling onto Celeste's  
photograph, as we PULL BACK to rejoin Delaney.

Satisfied she's remained unnoticed, she creeps back out of  
frame.

Kira frowns, looks up and round - but Delaney is long gone.  
Shaking it off, Kira returns her attention to Dade.

11 INT. LIBRARY - MEZZANINE FLOOR - NEXT

11

Delaney edges forward, towards the Restricted section of the  
library - several rows of bookshelves guarded by a security  
scanner.

She slips a note from her pocket and consults it, rapidly  
scanning up and down the shelves.

Locating a certain book, she takes it down, flips through the  
pages and then produces a DIGITAL CAMERA to start taking a  
few photos, as we CUT TO:

12 INT. ROADSIDE DINER - NIGHT

12

Tori waits at a booth as Eddie heads over to her, two mugs of  
steaming coffee in his hands.

The cafe they're in has a few other patrons - families on an  
overnight haul stopping for food, other truckers - but  
nobody's paying them much notice.

Eddie slides into the booth opposite her, handing her one mug  
and taking a GULP from his own.

TORI  
I don't know how anybody can drink  
this stuff black.

(CONTINUED)



EDDIE

You develop a taste for it. And by 'taste', I mean drinking hot, black coffee often enough strips away your taste buds as quickly as a bad smoking habit, so you only get to savour the stuff when it's just like this.

He grins, taking another swig. Tori manages a half-hearted smile back.

TORI

Are we gonna be stopped for long? I kind of have... an appointment.

EDDIE

Union rules, my dear. Regular, scheduled breaks.

(raises eyebrow)

You really don't get out into the world much, do you?

TORI

Let's just say I'm a little out of touch.

He starts to answer, but stops as a WAITRESS appears, brandishing a plate full of greasy food.

EDDIE

Aha! Road food.

She deposits the plate and wanders off, Eddie's eyes glistening at the feast before him.

He reaches for the sauce, knocking the plate and sending the silver cutlery sliding onto Tori's hand.

She YELPS as the metal SIZZLES on contact with her skin, quickly yanking it back.

She glances round - nobody else seemed to notice. She looks back to Eddie - who is regarding her with sudden awe.

EDDIE (cont'd)

I knew it.

He reaches for the shiny metal paper towel dispenser, angling it at Tori so she can see what he sees.

No reflection.

EDDIE (cont'd)

You're a vampire.

Tori sags - busted - as we CUT TO:

13 INT. MINIBUS (MOVING) - NIGHT 13

Greg drives Skye and Sofia, talking on a hands-free mobile phone:

GREG  
Yeah, we're on the A338, just  
passing the District Hospital.

INTERCUT WITH:

14 INT. CAMPUS - IT SUITE - NIGHT 14

Where Danny and Frankie have set up shop, running four terminals at once with MAPS on screen.

DANNY  
(into phone)  
Alright, good. There's no real  
turning off there until  
Fordingbridge, so keep going.

GREG  
Anything from the others?

FRANKIE  
Reiko and Mallory are on the A36,  
taking the route around the New  
Forest.

DANNY  
They'll hit the motorway first.

GREG  
Right. I'll check in when we reach  
Fordingbridge.

END INTERCUT:

Greg disconnects, turning to Sofia and Skye - and catching them in the middle of a hushed conversation. They both try to look innocent - and fail.

GREG (cont'd)  
Alright, girls. Out with it.

SKYE  
Out with what?

SOFIA  
We were just -

GREG  
You were just continuing whatever  
it was you weren't talking about at  
the briefing. Let's hear it.

(CONTINUED)

The girls exchange a few glances, communicating silently and urgently, until Sofia blurts out:

SOFIA

Skye thinks Tori's gone because of something she said.

SKYE

(alarmed)

Sofes!

SOFIA

Nothing bad! She was actually trying to help!

GREG

What did you say? Exactly?

Skye shoots Sofia a filthy look, then exhales and continues:

SKYE

I told her the only way to stay safe from Hamish was to keep moving, and that in the end the only person between him and the Slayer power was her.

GREG

I see.

SKYE

She was shaken up from that near miss at Laneshead, and I... I dunno. Maybe I just wanted to stop her moping.

(off look)

She was in my spot. That's my moping place.

GREG

Seems she took you at your word, then. Why didn't you mention this at the briefing?

SKYE

I know how everyone thinks. I say that, first thing on people's minds is gonna be that I told her to go.

Greg is silent for a beat, considering this.

SKYE (cont'd)

(sighs)

Like you're thinking right now.

Greg glances back at her via the rearview, and we CUT TO:

15

INT. ROADSIDE DINER - NIGHT

15

Back with Tori and Eddie. Her guard is now well and truly up, but he doesn't seem all that scared.

EDDIE

Thought I noticed something on the way here, when I coulda sworn you weren't casting a reflection...

TORI

(shaking head)

Don't make a scene. Don't cry out. I'll just... I'll just go.

EDDIE

'Go'? Why would I want you to 'go'?

TORI

You said it yourself. I'm a vampire.

EDDIE

Yeah, who's had plenty of chances to rip my throat out already, if she was so inclined.

(beat)

I've heard stories. Some vampires just want a quiet life, and the current media spotlight... well, it's the last thing they want.

Tori narrows her eyes, leaning back.

TORI

You're not scared?

EDDIE

Are you joking? I'm fascinated. The questions I want to ask you...

TORI

(wry)

Can I finish my coffee first?

EDDIE

Yep, there's one, straight away. Do you need to eat or drink, like, proper food?

TORI

I can. Don't taste much, and it doesn't really 'do' anything, but yeah. If I wanted.

And to prove her point, she drains the still piping-hot coffee in one long gulp.

(CONTINUED)

EDDIE  
(amazed)  
Fantastic...

TORI  
Alright, Eddie. If I answer your questions, will you still get me to Portsmouth and then forget you ever laid eyes on me?

EDDIE  
(grins)  
You bet.

Tori manages a grin back, then looks to her side.

TORI  
Damn it. Left my bag back in the cabin. Can I...

He holds out a KEY, which she takes.

EDDIE  
Won't start the truck, I'm afraid.  
Just opens the door.

TORI  
Wouldn't know how to drive one of those things anyway.

She slips out of the booth and walks away, Eddie watching her every step as we CUT TO:

16 INT. CAMPUS - IT SUITE - NIGHT

16

Danny is flicking through some printouts when one of the PCs starts to BLEEP. He and Frankie examine the screen, then swap a glance.

FRANKIE  
Call 'im.

Danny reaches for his phone, speed-dialling:

INTERCUT WITH:

17 INT. MINIBUS (MOVING) - NIGHT

17

Where Greg's mobile RINGS again. He hits 'Connect':

DANNY  
Greg? We've got her.

GREG  
Where?

(CONTINUED)

17

CONTINUED:

17

Danny looks to his monitor - it's a grainy CCTV picture of the service station Tori and Eddie are at, with a clear shot of Tori disembarking his truck.

DANNY

Truck stop about twenty miles from you. Picture's half an hour old, better step on it.

GREG

Understood.

Greg HITS THE GAS, the minibus barrelling on as we CUT TO:

18

EXT. ROADSIDE DINER - CAR PARK - NIGHT

18

Tori makes her way across the forecourt to where Eddie's truck stands, climbing up and opening the door:

Only for a BODY to collapse across her!

She YELPS and jumps back - and her eyes bulge as she sees it's EDDIE who lies dead in the cabin!

She whips round - and 'Eddie' stands behind her, the joviality replaced by menace in an instant, and we CUT TO:

19

EXT. MAIN ROAD - NIGHT

19

As Greg's minibus approaches the turning for the diner, pulling sharply across the road. We CUT TO:

20

INT. CAMPUS - IT SUITE - NIGHT

20

Frankie and Danny watch as a fresh capture from the diner's CCTV comes in, loading painfully slowly.

FRANKIE

(tuts)

Allons-y! What are we waiting for?

DANNY

Next set of CCTV stills. They download in batches.

Frankie GRUNTS impatiently as we CUT TO:

21

INT. MINIBUS (MOVING) - NIGHT

21

The bus approaches Eddie's parked truck, Sofia consulting an image on her phone.

SOFIA

There, there! That's it!

Greg brings the bus to a halt beside it, Skye and Sofia leaping out and racing into the diner. We then CUT TO:

22 INT. CAMPUS - IT SUITE - NIGHT 22

ON DANNY as the new image finishes downloading, and his face falls at what he sees. He reaches for his phone:

23 EXT. ROADSIDE DINER - CAR PARK - NIGHT 23

Greg looks into the truck's cabin - empty - as he answers his phone.

GREG

Hello?

DANNY

(filtered; through phone)

We're too late, Greg.

Greg looks to the diner as Skye and Sofia emerge, Sofia shaking her head.

GREG

What do you mean? We've found the truck! Where is she?

24 INT. CAMPUS - IT SUITE - NIGHT 24

Danny leans back, affording us a look at the screen:

'Eddie' faces Tori; then 'Eddie's entire body starts to BLUR and DISTORT:

And HAMISH is revealed in his place!

Tori starts to run - the delay between frames causing the 'action' to jump - but several DEMONS surge out of the shadows and grab her.

She struggles against them, but they succeed in hauling her off into the darkness, out of sight, and it's on that chilling image that we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

FADE IN:

25 INT. CAMPUS - RACHEL'S ROOM - MORNING 25

Rachel is asleep in her bed - when she hears a faint TAPPING. She sits up, looking around, realising the sound is coming from her window.

She heads over to investigate, throwing open the curtains - and there's Delaney, hanging upside down outside!

DELANEY

Morning. Wanna let me in?

RACHEL

I can't, it's locked.

DELANEY

Yeah, from your side.

Delaney reaches down, fiddles with the lock and with a CLICK, the window swings open.

RACHEL

Is this safe?

DELANEY

Everybody's away on business. Don't know what, though the seventeen missed calls on my phone might tell me, if I'd bothered to check it. Now let's go, I've had enough blood rush to my head for one day.

Rachel grins, poking her head outside:

26 EXT. CAMPUS - OUTSIDE RACHEL'S ROOM - NEXT 26

And sees that Delaney is suspended from a length of rope secured around a ledge on the roof, the rope fixed to a rappel device on her belt.

RACHEL

Why upside down?

DELANEY

I slipped on the way down. It rained last night.

With a few GRUNTS of effort, Delaney hauls herself round right way up, then offers her hand to Rachel.

Rachel takes it, allowing Delaney to pull her up and out of the room, and she retracts the rope to lift them both to freedom as we CUT TO:



27

EXT. ROADSIDE DINER - CAR PARK - MORNING

27

Greg's minibus has been joined by two more, the search team assembled around Eddie's abandoned truck.

The area around the truck has been cordoned off, though not by the police - the Academy are hoping nobody passing by notices the difference.

GREG

Here's what we know. Tori hitched a ride on this truck with a person she assumed to be its registered driver, one...

Greg checks a DRIVER'S ID in his hand.

GREG (cont'd)

... Edward Lewis. However, as we have since been able to ascertain, Edward Lewis was murdered at some point earlier this evening.

SKYE

Basically, we think Hamish killed the trucker, shifted to look like him, then picked Tori up along the way.

SOFIA

And no, we don't know how he found her so fast.

FRAN

Any idea where he is now?

GREG

That's where Mallory comes in.

Mallory steps up, holding a GPS device.

MALLORY

Based on how far he could have gotten since she was snatched, we've got three Cabal properties in range.

REIKO

So we're back to the same teams as before to check each one out, right?

MELA

Assuming he's taken her to one of those. She could be anywhere.

(CONTINUED)

GREG

We don't have a better lead right now.

Greg reaches for his phone, stepping away.

MALLORY

Danny and Frankie are working on tasking some satellites to keep an eye on the possible locations. Soon as something turns up, we'll know where to look.

SOFIA

In the meantime, we'd better get moving. We might get lucky and run into them on the way.

Reiko and Mallory head for one minibus, Fran and Mela the other. Skye and Sofia rejoin Greg, who is mid-call.

GREG

(into phone)

No, we still haven't heard from her.

He mouths 'Delaney' to Skye and Sofia.

GREG (cont'd)

(into phone)

If anybody manages to track her down, we could really use an extra pair of hands.

He hangs up, then nods towards his minibus. The girls follow him over to it as we CUT TO:

Delaney leads Rachel through the increasingly thick trees and woodland to a remote part of the Academy grounds.

Rachel looks back - the campus itself isn't even visible from this far out.

RACHEL

Where are we?

DELANEY (O.S.)

X marks the spot.

Rachel turns - Delaney has drawn an 'X' on the ground with her boot. Rachel rolls her eyes as Delaney crouches, laying down a BACKPACK.

RACHEL

What do you need me to do?

(CONTINUED)

Delaney hands her several PRINTED PHOTOGRAPHS and a box of CHALK. She indicates a MAGIC CIRCLE in the photos.

DELANEY

Draw that, there.

She points to a patch of the clearing.

RACHEL

And this'll do what?

DELANEY

Open a door somewhere I need to go.

Rachel hesitates - but then steps away, crouching and consulting the photographs.

Delaney continues unpacking things from her bag - some SPELLBOOKS, small JARS and other magical equipment, echoing Kira and Huang's earlier setup.

DELANEY (cont'd)

Once that's done, I've got to mix up a bunch of these ingredients and infuse the ground in and around the circle.

RACHEL

And after that?

(off look)

You said this was complicated. So far, even I could figure this out.

Delaney exhales, hefting up a weighty spellbook.

DELANEY

There's a painfully long incantation in here I have to read out. There may also be... a sacrifice. Or two.

RACHEL

'Sacrifice' of what?

DELANEY

Um... just a few drops of blood. I think.

(beat; guilty)

Maybe an animal.

RACHEL

Delaney...

DELANEY

Rache, if you want to walk away... I won't hold it against you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DELANEY (cont'd)

This is just gonna be a lot harder on my own, if what I think is waiting on the other side of that door is waiting for us.

RACHEL

Sacrifice is dark magic, Delaney.

She rises, suddenly not as co-operative.

RACHEL (cont'd)

You know that's what brought me back. I... I can't have any part of this if it's going to be something -

DELANEY

It's not. I swear. We just need a lot of power to break through. To get the door open. That's all.

Rachel hesitates, watching Delaney as we CUT TO:

INT. VEHICLE (MOVING) - DAY

Tori is bound and gagged, a BRUISE on the side of her head indicating what's keeping her unconscious.

She's on her side in what seems to be the back of a large van or truck of some kind.

She stirs, eyes fluttering, and starts to move - discovering her bonds and waking up much more quickly.

HAMISH (O.S.)

Don't worry, you're in tight.

She jolts upright, alarmed - and finds herself facing Hamish, who sits calmly opposite her.

She squirms, trying to scrabble away from him, but there's no room to move. She's soon up against the wall - trapped.

HAMISH (cont'd)

And I'm afraid there's nowhere to go right now.

She starts straining at her gag, trying to free her mouth - her features VAMP OUT as she uses her fangs to TEAR it.

TORI

(spits gag away)

Where are you taking me?

HAMISH

Somewhere quiet, so I can work.

(CONTINUED)

TORI

'Work' on what? Ripping my soul out?

HAMISH

Aye. If I have to, that is.

His calmness unnerves her - she pulls at the bonds a little more, but something HISSES, and she GRIMACES in pain.

HAMISH (cont'd)

Silver. Woven into the ropes. The more you try to break free, the more it'll burn you.

Tori gets the hint and her struggles subside.

HAMISH (cont'd)

You see, when we last met, back at Laneshead, I discovered something.

He reaches for her - she tries to pull away, but his hand gets close enough to touch her:

There's a SNAP, a sharp burst of ENERGY crackling between them. Tori SHOUTS in pain, and Hamish sits back, shaking the shock out of his hand.

HAMISH (cont'd)

Whatever's been done to you isn't something I can just work around so easily. Seems I cannae even touch you without potentially killing us both.

TORI

Lucky me.

HAMISH

So, I need to keep you where I can see you while I try to find a way past all of that.

He leans forward, his grin darkening.

HAMISH (cont'd)

I will have that power. Neither you nor any of your so-called allies back at the Academy can stop me.

He leans back, smirking triumphantly.

HAMISH (cont'd)

Just a matter of time now.

He watches Tori, her mind racing as we CUT TO:

30

EXT. CAMPUS GROUNDS - CLEARING - DAY

30

Back with Rachel and Delaney - the MAGIC CIRCLE is complete now, its complex design marked out in chalk on the ground.

DELANEY

Nice job. Here.

She hands Rachel several small JARS.

DELANEY (cont'd)

Sprinkle a pinch of this on every point of the circle.

Rachel gets to work - though she seems less happy about this now - as Delaney does the same, opening a larger JAR and shaking its contents out around the circle.

DELANEY (cont'd)

Alright, now comes the tricky part.

She withdraws a DAGGER, rolling up her sleeve.

RACHEL

Delaney...

DELANEY

Trust me. I got this. Magic or not, I can do this kind of thing in my sleep, underwater and with the lights turned off.

She opens up the spellbook - and Rachel sees the pages are BLANK.

RACHEL

Where's the -

She freezes as Delaney SLICES along her arm, wincing at the cut. Delaney holds her arm over the book, letting dark red blood DRIP onto the pages.

As each drop lands, indistinct SHAPES start to form on the page. Rachel watches, eyes wide, as the blood drops start to form WORDS and DRAWINGS.

RACHEL (cont'd)

Oh, my God...

DELANEY

(clenched teeth)

Like I said... just a few drops...

Grimacing with effort, Delaney then flips the page - and drips more blood onto another pair of blank pages, more words and pictures starting to form.

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL

How many pages are there?

DELANEY

Hopefully not many more...

Rachel's trepidation is growing with every drop of blood, as we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - LIBRARY - DAY

Where Dade is dozing in a chair, Kira and Huang poring over several pages of scribbled NOTES.

KIRA

His handwriting is appalling.

HUANG

Yes, I fear he inherited that from his father.

KIRA

What is that? An 's'? A 'k'?

HUANG

(looks)

A 'seven'.

Kira HUFFS, tossing the notes aside.

KIRA

This is ridiculous. We had him roaming the ether for hours, and the best he seems to have come up with resembles a badly-translated TV instruction manual.

HUANG

Perhaps we should...

She trails off, head rising as if hearing a distant sound. She turns to Kira - who wears the same expression.

KIRA

Did you -

HUANG

(nods)

I did.

KIRA

That wasn't us, was it?

HUANG

No. Something... close by.

KIRA

Don't suppose you've had a vision recently to suggest what this whatever it is we're feeling is?

HUANG

No. I... I have not dreamt for some time.

Kira reaches for her jacket, slung across a nearby chair.

KIRA

Come on. Let's go take a look while Rip Van Dade over there catches up on what passes for his beauty sleep.

Kira marches towards the exit, Huang glancing back at Dade with a smile before following, and we CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS GROUNDS - CLEARING - DAY

Rachel is bandaging Delaney's arm up, the girl herself now looking rather pale.

Before her, the spellbook's once-blank pages are now filled with thick blocks of text and elaborate diagrams.

RACHEL

I don't like this plan any more.

DELANEY

(light-headed)

All good... all good. My blood was enough. Thought we'd have to... kill a deer or something.

Rachel stands, looking over to the magic circle - the ground around it has changed colour, the soil now an inky BLACK.

RACHEL

Let's just hurry up and do this. If I had Slayer Sense, it'd have started sounding the alarm a long time ago.

With effort, Delaney rises, picking up the spellbook.

DELANEY

Alright. All I need to do is read out the incantation, the door opens, and we go through.

RACHEL

And here's where you tell me where we go through to.

(MORE)



RACHEL (cont'd)

I'm starting to see you left out a  
lot of details when you pitched all  
this to me earlier.

DELANEY

(beat)

You probably wouldn't believe me.

RACHEL

Really? You use that line now?

DELANEY

Just... trust me. It's nowhere bad.

(beat)

Too bad.

Rachel steps back, shaking her head.

RACHEL

No. No, I'm not doing this. And  
neither are you.

She steps towards the circle, raising a boot to start  
scrubbing out the chalk, when:

DELANEY (O.S.)

Rachel.

She turns - Delaney is giving her best - and most honest -  
pleading look.

DELANEY (cont'd)

Please.

Rachel hesitates. Delaney heads over, lowering the book to  
take one of Rachel's hands.

DELANEY (cont'd)

I can't do this without you. And I  
have to do this. We have to do  
this. To save my mom, Greg...  
everybody.

Rachel stares back into her eyes - then SIGHS.

RACHEL

Damn it.

DELANEY

(grins)

Thank you.

She faces the circle, lifting the spellbook, and reads:

DELANEY (cont'd)

*Starý duchy nešťestí pretvorit tato  
hynout brloh do urcity jákkoli...*

32 CONTINUED: (2)

32

Rachel looks up as the skies overhead DARKEN in an instant - thick CLOUDS blot out the sun.

33 EXT. CAMPUS - PAVILION - NEXT

33

Kira and Huang emerge onto the playing fields from the walkway running through the pavilion, both looking up.

KIRA

That is not a good sign.

HUANG

We must hurry.

The women hustle out across the fields as we CUT TO:

34 EXT. CAMPUS GROUNDS - CLEARING - NEXT

34

The dark skies start to RUMBLE, and Rachel feels a TREMOR pass through the ground as Delaney reads on:

DELANEY

*Una Infinitas, Abominatio Nascitur  
Autumno hic est tuum temptamen quod  
temptat tua potentia viginti tres  
gradus ad summam potestatem...*

RACHEL

Did you just switch languages?

Delaney GASPS - her eyes suddenly BLAZE with white light!

DELANEY

(rapidly)

*Kuunnella jotta juttu koska me  
aivan järkeistää Meidän elämäntapa  
ardor aseet vapahtaja Haalistuttava  
aivan koetus ja ahdistus...*

Now THUNDER rolls overhead, and the ground SHAKES, making Rachel stumble!

She looks down at the circle - goutts of FLAME start to spring up from the points where she sprinkled the powder!

RACHEL

Delaney!

There's a loud CRACK, and POTHOLES start to sink into the earth around the circle, thick puddles of BLACK OOZE bubbling forth from them!

Rachel snaps back to Delaney - and sees trails of the same OOZE dribbling from Delaney's brighter-glowing eyes!

RACHEL (cont'd)

That's it, game over!

(CONTINUED)

She reaches for the book - but as she grabs it, there's a FLASH of light:

And Rachel is hurled back off her feet, landing on the ground with a THUMP!

Winded, she puts her hands out to steady herself as the ground SHAKES again, more violently than before - and puts a hand right into the OOZE!

Something SIZZLES and she YELPS, tearing her hand away - to see the ooze has BURNED her skin!

Rachel looks back to Delaney, still babbling at inhuman speed, ooze now running from her nose and ears, as we CUT TO:

Kira and Huang fight their way along, loud RUMBLING overhead and TREMORS rolling the ground under their feet.

KIRA

What the hell is going on?

HUANG

Somebody is trying to open a passage...

KIRA

To where, the middle of a bloody volcano?

Huang peers through the trees, the dim light making it seem like evening:

Until she spots a LIGHT shining through the trees up ahead. She grabs Kira's arm, pointing, and the women stumble on:

Rachel stands by Delaney, helpless - until Delaney suddenly GASPS and LURCHES backward, dropping the book!

Rachel dives to catch her, Delaney blinking and wiping at her eyes, alarmed to find the ooze on her fingers.

DELANEY

What in the...

A brilliant LIGHT suddenly shines over them, and the girls look round:

To see a PORTAL, a crystal-clear shimmering pool like liquid, hanging in the air above the circle.

And that's when Kira and Huang burst onto the scene, the two witches surveying the scene in a heartbeat.

KIRA

My God...

(sees Delaney)

What have you done?

A fresh TREMOR hits the clearing, bowling Kira over and leaving Huang fighting to steady herself. Delaney manages to rise to her feet.

DELANEY

Don't try to stop me, mom!

KIRA

(off portal)

Do you even know what that is?

DELANEY

(beat)

A second chance.

And she breaks into a run, racing for the portal!

HUANG

Rachel... Rachel, stop her!

They're too late - Delaney DIVES through the portal, vanishing in a FLASH of light!

KIRA

(howls)

No!

Rachel hesitates - and another, even more violent TREMOR ripples across the clearing. She glances at Kira:

KIRA (cont'd)

Don't you dare!

Rachel desperately looks from Kira to the portal and back - then takes off after Delaney!

KIRA (cont'd)

Rachel, no! She's opened a portal  
to the -

Rachel doesn't hear the rest, leaping into the portal in another FLASH of light, and we:

**WHITE OUT:**

**END OF ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

FADE IN:

37

EXT. CAMPUS GROUNDS - CLEARING - DAY

37

Back with Kira and Huang, staring in horror at the portal - which starts to CLOSE!

KIRA

No... no!

Kira scrambles to her feet, racing for the portal - but it shrinks to nothing before she can reach it.

KIRA (cont'd)

Damn it!

Panting with exertion, she looks around - taking in the magic circle, the scattered magical ingredients - before another TREMOR shakes her off her feet.

KIRA (cont'd)

(enraged)

That stupid, stupid girl!

She KICKS Delaney's bag away and turns to Huang, who makes her way carefully over.

KIRA (cont'd)

What are we going to do?

HUANG

I do not know. Yet.

Kira looks down at her dress - MUD spattered all over it.

KIRA

And I notice you didn't get knocked over by these tremors.

HUANG

(beat)

We must move quickly. If she has attempted to access the realm we both fear, then the repercussions will be swift and powerful. The balance will not stand for -

Another TREMOR hits, but this time it's the strength of a small EARTHQUAKE!

KIRA

Look out!

Huang hears a CRACKING sound and looks up - to see a TREE falling towards her!

(CONTINUED)

Kira TACKLES her out of the way just as the tree CRASHES to the ground.

Huang rolls and looks back - to see Kira pinned beneath the fallen tree! She grimaces, bruised but otherwise unhurt.

HUANG

Kira!

KIRA

Don't just sit there gawping, get me some bloody help!

Huang hurries back over, placing her hands against the tree and PUSHING - but it won't budge.

HUANG

It is too heavy. Brace yourself.

Huang closes her eyes and inhales, bringing her palms in towards her chest, focusing her energies...

But as she hears several CRACKLING sounds from behind her, rapidly increasing in volume and number, she turns:

And sees dozens more PORTALS are opening up all over the clearing!

Some at ground level, some in the air, some at crazy angles, but every one identical.

HUANG (cont'd)

We are too late...

She looks down to Kira - who is struggling beneath the tree, trying to heave it off herself.

KIRA

Alright, that does it. Stand back!

She raises a hand, magical energy starting to GLOW around it:

HUANG

No!

She GRABS Kira's wrist, pointing back to the clearing:

Where more PORTALS are springing to life!

HUANG (cont'd)

They are feeding off our magic. If we use it to free you, we will only create more of these portals.

KIRA

Oh, well, that's just bloody marvellous, isn't it?

(CONTINUED)

Huang rises, looking around - and with a KICK, she snaps off a sturdy BRANCH from the tree, twirling it in her hands like a BO STAFF.

KIRA (cont'd)  
What are you doing? We can't just -

She freezes as something GROWLS, an unearthly roar that seems to sound from every portal at once!

KIRA (cont'd)  
(beat)  
Ah.

HUANG  
I will defend you for as long as I  
can. You must continue trying to  
free yourself.

Kira GRUNTS, heaving against the tree again.

KIRA  
Easy for you to say...

More ROARS, HOWLS, SHRIEKS and other noises join a growing cacophony coming from every direction at once, courtesy of the portals.

And finally, SHAPES start to appear in each one, the surfaces of the portals RIPPLING like water as things on the other side start to PUSH THROUGH:

A TENTACLE from one, a TAIL from another - the ARM of something large and demonic from a third.

Huang bravely stands between Kira and the ever-increasing tide of portals, as we CUT TO:

A TRUCK pulls into the small compound, pulling to a halt outside the main building.

Several uniformed TROOPERS head for the cargo compartment, opening the doors and heading inside.

After a few beats, they exit - carrying between them a large, thick SACK. Something inside the sack is kicking and struggling frantically:

TORI  
(muffled)  
Let me out of here!

Smirking, Hamish hops down out of the truck.

HAMISH

It's a little bright out, Victoria.  
Probably best to stay undercover,  
eh?

He PATS the sack, which only produces a fresh round of  
struggling and CURSING from Tori, as we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - IT SUITE - DAY

Danny stands by the window, looking out over the  
THUNDERCLOUDS that have rolled in.

DANNY

Where on earth did this storm come  
from?

He turns to Frankie, who is operating the multi-PC setup.

DANNY (cont'd)

And did you feel those tremors? If  
I didn't know better, I'd say we  
had ourselves a little mini-  
earthquake, even though -

FRANKIE

Zut! Daniel, 'ere!

He moves over to join her - she brings up a closer look at  
one of the several SATELLITE FEEDS on her screen.

FRANKIE (cont'd)

Look.

The top-down aerial view shows a small cluster of buildings -  
with a small truck pulling in and stopping.

Frankie enters some commands and the picture zooms in - sure  
enough, there's Hamish, overseeing the bagged-up Tori's move  
into the complex.

FRANKIE (cont'd)

That is 'im.

Danny takes out his phone and speed-dials:

DANNY

(into phone)

Greg? We've got them.

He looks to Frankie with a grin as we CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS GROUNDS - CLEARING - NEXT

Huang stands in place between Kira and the portals, watching  
as more indistinct FIGURES start to drop from them.

(CONTINUED)



Something hits the ground with a heavy THUD close by, and she turns:

It's a huge DEMON, unlike anything we've ever seen - humanoid, green skin, gladiator-style body armour.

It turns its gaze down on Huang, towering over her, and lets out a fearsome BELLOW.

KIRA

Harry, you're going to get yourself killed! Get me from under this tree and at least we can make a stand together!

HUANG

No, Kira! It is too dangerous!

KIRA

At this point, a few more portals isn't going to make any bloody difference!

Huang hesitates - and then has to WEAVE to her left as a hail of THROWING STARS whizz past her!

She looks round - a group of six-armed demonic NINJAS have emerged from one portal.

She looks up as a dinosaur-sized FLYING DEMON emerges from one of the airbourne portals with a SCREECH.

A hideous, guttural sound from her right makes her glance across - and she grimaces as a vile sludge of mobile, malformed limbs is vomited forth from another portal.

That's all the evidence Huang needs - she turns, pushes her hand out and barks a word of command.

A gust of WIND blows her hair back - and the tree pinning Kira SHIFTS back a foot, enough for Kira to slip free.

She rejoins Huang, the duo turning to face the still-growing tide of unearthly demons trudging towards them.

KIRA (cont'd)

She is in for a hiding when I get my hands on her...

Huang lifts her staff and Kira raises her hands, FIRE blazing around them, as we CUT TO:

Dade wakes from his slumber with a SNORT, blearily looking around and wiping away a spot of drool.

DADE

Mom?

He scans the library - empty. With a groan, he rises, pressing a hand to his forehead.

DADE (cont'd)

Great. Magic hangover. Why can't I be immune to those?

He stumbles forward, but happens to glance out one of the tall windows on the far wall:

Where he sees the DARK CLOUDS over the forest beyond the grounds starting to SWIRL like a huge vortex.

Within the forest, flashes of LIGHT can be seen, like some kind of ground-level firework display.

DADE (cont'd)

What the...

Something EXPLODES, felling several trees and catching more alight, and Dade jumps back in alarm!

DADE (cont'd)

Woah!

He takes off for the exit as we CUT TO:

A door opens into a pitch black room, the still-bound Tori SHOVES roughly inside by two Troopers.

She slides across the smooth floor to a halt, struggling back to her feet only to get ZAPPED by a taser-wielding Trooper.

She slumps, her knees giving way, and Hamish appears in the doorway. He nods for the guards to leave.

HAMISH

Believe me, Victoria, the quicker and more painless we do this, the better for all of us. We worked well together once, I've no reason to hurt you if I don't have to.

Tori SNARLS back at him, features twisted in anger.

TORI

Go to hell.

HAMISH

(beat; grins)

They wouldn't want me. But I'll send them your regards.

(CONTINUED)

42

CONTINUED:

42

He steps back, swiping a KEYCARD to close the door. Just before it shuts and plunges us into darkness, Tori yells:

TORI

Hamish!!

CUT TO:

43

INT. MINIBUS (MOVING) - DAY

43

Mallory drives (at frightening speed), Reiko rides shotgun. Her phone BEEPS, and she checks it.

REIKO

(reads)

Huh.

MALLORY

More news on Tori?

REIKO

No, it's from Dade. He says... something about an explosion outside the campus?

MALLORY

Not our problem. Clarissa's team should be back from that mission to Pakistan any minute, let them sort it out.

Mallory narrows her eyes, gripping the wheel tight.

MALLORY (cont'd)

We've got business to finish.

She puts her foot down a little harder as we CUT TO:

44

INT. CAMPUS - CORRIDOR - DAY

44

Dade pelts along, rounding a corner and almost colliding with Fitzgerald and Madison.

FITZGERALD

Dade! What on earth -

DADE

Something's happening! Get anyone you can and follow the explosions!

And he's off. Fitzgerald and Madison swap a concerned glance as we CUT TO:

45

EXT. CAMPUS GROUNDS - CLEARING - DAY

45

Where Kira and Huang are now knee-deep in attacking DEMONS on all sides!

(CONTINUED)

Huang DUCKS an axe meant for her head, her staff CRACKING off the chin of her opponent.

Kira pushes her hands up to DEFLECT an incoming hail of arrows, a flick of her wrist driving them back towards their owners!

She's got no time to think, having to turn and drive a flame-drenched UPPERCUT into a gibbering, spider-like demon that LEAPS towards her.

She glances towards the magic circle - more of the thick, bubbling BLACK OOZE is rising from the ground, a huge pool of the stuff now forming.

Huang nimbly hops up onto another of the fallen trees - of which there are now several - using her makeshift staff as a brace with which to SPIN KICK several incoming warriors.

KIRA

How many is that for you?

HUANG

Am I meant to be counting?

KIRA

For each one we kill, Delaney is grounded one more day when she gets back.

Teeth bared, Kira viciously PUNCHES her fist into another demon's head - which EXPLODES on impact!

Cursing, she withdraws her ichor-spattered hand, shaking the worst of it away.

KIRA (cont'd)

We can't keep this up, there's too many of them!

HUANG

There are always too many.

KIRA

So what do you suggest? At this rate -

She pauses, driving her hands forward to send a WAVE of energy into an attacking group of skeletal demons, scattering them like bowling pins.

KIRA (cont'd)

... we won't last another five minutes out here!

She looks up - more portals are opening every second! She looks to Huang, her face grim with resolve.

(CONTINUED)

HUANG

Then we must hope the Academy has  
become aware of our struggle.

They hear a SHRIEK overhead and look up - a pteradon-like  
demon is DIVEBOMBING them, razor-sharp beak first!

Huang throws a hand forward, a blast of FIRE bursting forth  
and engulfing the demon!

It HOWLS in pain, its flight disrupted as it cartwheels into  
a nearby tree - and promptly EXPLODES, felling the tree with  
a mighty CRASH.

KIRA

Let's hope somebody heard that!

Kira looks back - just in time to see and dodge a SPEAR that  
hurtles past her, as we CUT TO:

CLARISSA leads her squad (BELLE, PATTY and TIA with HAROLD)  
back in through the front doors, the four girls looking  
exhausted.

BELLE

(yawning)

Did I mention yet how I hate  
jetlag?

PATTY

In the last few minutes? No. Every  
few minutes before then? Yeah.

BELLE

Sorry, I'm just feeling -

TIA

(looking ahead)

Dade?

BELLE

(blinks)

I'm feeling Dade?

The girls follow Tia's gaze - to see Dade hurrying towards  
them, armed to the teeth!

A SWORD is across his back, GRENADES at his belt and an AXE  
in his other hand.

CLARISSA

You the welcoming committee?

DADE

We're under attack.

PATTY

Where? Who by?

DADE

Out back, past the fields, and  
don't know. But I think my mom and  
Kira are out there.

He hesitates, waiting for a response.

DADE (cont'd)

Well?

CLARISSA

Oh, uh... let's go?

He nods, leading the way. The weary foursome head back  
towards the main doors.

BELLE

At least we don't have to fly  
anywhere...

And as they exit, we CUT TO:

And in another room in another base, JILHANDRA opens the door  
to see CELESTE, hard at work over a bewildering sprawl of  
scrolls and open books.

JILHANDRA

What's the news?

Celeste looks up with a devilish smirk.

CELESTE

She took the bait.

JILHANDRA

Now what?

CELESTE

Now, we get ready to move. We won't  
have much of a window to take  
advantage of this.

JILHANDRA

Are we bringing the new recruits?

CELESTE

Bring everybody.

Jilhandra nods, stepping away, and as Celeste returns to  
studying her documents with an increasingly pleased smile, we  
CUT TO:

48

EXT. CAMPUS GROUNDS - CLEARING - DAY

48

With Kira and Huang, back to back - surrounded by the growing army of DEMONS. They're both wounded, exhausted by the fight.

KIRA

Looks like... this is it, then...

HUANG

There is still time.

KIRA

Not for us. Soon as this lot decides to charge...

HUANG

Giving up so easily?

KIRA

'Easily' was about a hundred demons ago. Right now, I'm quite comfy with the idea of giving up.

She WINCES, lifting her shirt to reveal an ugly WOUND in her side.

KIRA (cont'd)

Looks like I'll have to find some way to tan Delaney's hide from the afterlife.

The first line of demon warriors, armed with shields, start to HAMMER their weapons against them.

HUANG

They are ready to attack.

KIRA

Alright then...

She raises her fists, taking several moments to muster the willpower to have them BLAZE with magic again.

KIRA (cont'd)

... let's die on our feet.

The demons let out a BATTLE CRY and start to advance - before something BLURS across them, bowling them over!

Startled, other demons look around - before a petite figure clad in orange robes DROPKICKS one of the huge hulks!

It topples backwards, landing with a CRASH on a squad of smaller demons.

KIRA (cont'd)

What?

(CONTINUED)

The new arrival zips from demon to demon, BLADES in its hands cutting chunks out of its opponents.

Several demons fall, others stagger back, wounded, and the momentum of the demons' attack is halted.

The figure BACKFLIPS several times, coming to a halt before Kira and Huang, weapons raised.

ON HUANG as her eyes bulge, her jaw dropping at the person before her.

HUANG

It can't be...

The figure turns - pale skin, long black hair, fire in the eyes.

It's ALITA KAGEMURA.

But before the stunned women can react, Alita yells:

ALITA

Run!!

**BLACK OUT:**

TITLE OVER: TO BE CONTINUED...

**END OF SHOW**



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