

# SLAYER ACADEMY

**"MAGNA CUM LAUDE"**

**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**

**OLIVIA WILDE**

**AARON YOO**

**ADRIENNE PALICKI**

**KIRSTEN PROUT**

**CHIAKI KURIYAMA**

**LACEY MOSELY**

**MATT SMITH**

**SPECIAL GUEST STAR**

**ZHANG ZIYI as 'Alita'**

**GUEST STARRING**

**IMOGEN POOTS as 'Olivia'**

**DAVID ANDERS as 'Hamish'**

## TEASER

FADE IN:

1

EXT. CAMPUS GROUNDS - CLEARING - DAY

1

KIRA and HUANG, back to back - surrounded by a growing army of DEMONS, spilling forth from dozens of PORTALS open all around. They're both wounded, exhausted by the fight.

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

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.

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!!

And they run.

2 EXT. CAMPUS - MAIN ENTRANCE - NEXT

2

DADE leads out C SQUAD (CLARISSA, TIA, PATTY, BELLE and HAROLD), the Slayers looking exhausted as they follow.

Overhead, STORM CLOUDS lash the campus with rain, the chilled girls pulling their coats tight around them.

Dade himself is armed to the teeth - A SWORD is across his back, GRENADES at his belt and an AXE in his other hand.

CLARISSA

So you said we were under attack.  
From what?

DADE

And I told you, I don't know.

HAROLD

Dade, I appreciate your...  
enthusiasm, but we can't just walk  
out into -

A TREMOR suddenly ripples across the ground, setting off every CAR ALARM in the parking area!

Dade turns to Harold and raises an eyebrow. Harold nods, digging his MOBILE PHONE from his pocket.

HAROLD (cont'd)

(exhales)

Lead the way.

Dade grins, resting his axe over one shoulder as he rushes off, and we CUT TO:

3 EXT. CAMPUS GROUNDS - NEXT

3

Alita leads Kira and Huang through the trees, branches WHIPPING at them as they push their way past.

KIRA

Alita... Alita! Slow down!

ALITA

We do not have time to slow down!

KIRA

Yes, and the army of demons behind  
us makes me agree, but in case you  
haven't noticed, I'm half dead back  
here! I can't run this fast!

ALITA

Then heal yourself and keep moving!

(CONTINUED)

KIRA  
(blinks; furious)  
Now you just listen here -

HUANG  
Kira! She is right.

KIRA  
And I suppose there's also no time  
for her to explain how she's come  
back from the dead after almost  
three years?

Alita comes to an abrupt halt, the two witches almost  
colliding with her.

Alita stands silent for a long moment, and Huang lays a  
tender hand on her shoulder.

ALITA  
Has it... has it been so long?

HUANG  
There is time for explanations  
later.

An ear-splitting SCREECH sounds from the forest behind them,  
and the trio turn:

To see more PORTALS and RIFTS are starting to tear open all  
around, fresh waves of creatures not far behind!

HUANG (cont'd)  
Much later.

And the trio are off again, as we CUT TO:

Where DELANEY lies face down in the tall grass, a gentle  
breeze wafting through the scenery.

She stirs, pushing up onto her elbows and blinking blearily  
at the landscape around her.

PULL BACK to see the shimmering grass stretches out in all  
directions. Tall, elegant trees line the field.

DELANEY  
Huh.

A SHADOW falls across her, and Delaney looks up:

DELANEY'S POV:

A silhouetted FIGURE looms over her.

FIGURE

Get up.

ON DELANEY as she shields her eyes to see who's there - before a HAND reaches down to her.

She takes it, and is pulled to her feet by RACHEL, who does not look at all pleased.

DELANEY

How -

RACHEL

Ah! Before you say one word, I want to know where the hell we are, right now.

Delaney does a three-sixty, surveying the scene fully. She takes in the MOUNTAINS in the distance, clear blue sky, and distant CHIRPS and WARBLERs of insects and animals.

DELANEY

Honest answer?

RACHEL

I think I'm owed one, after I jumped through this portal after you even when your mom was yelling at me not to. She wouldn't have said that for nothing.

Delaney takes a deep breath, scratching a hand back through her hair.

DELANEY

We're in... the Higher Plane.

RACHEL

The what?

DELANEY

You know, it's where they live.

RACHEL

Who? For God's sake, Delaney, did you tell me anything about this mission in the two hours you spent telling me about it?

Delaney hesitates, trying to find the right words:

DELANEY

The Powers That Be.

Rachel's jaw drops, and Delaney squirms a little.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RACHEL

No. No way. This is...

DELANEY

Surprisingly awesome of me?

RACHEL

It's the stupidest thing you've  
ever done, is what it is!

DELANEY

(beat)

Look on the bright side - you're  
getting pretty worked up about  
this. Guess your emotions aren't so  
dead in the water after all.

That comment doesn't look like it helped Rachel's mood much.  
She opens her mouth to retort:

And a pair of PORTALS suddenly rip themselves to life behind  
the duo!

The girls turn, puzzled, as the shimmering vortexes hang in  
the air...

... before a DEMON WARRIOR stumbles out of one of them,  
landing with a THUD at Delaney's feet!

It's dark-skinned, chitinous armour making it look like a  
monstrous, bipedal BEETLE. With added claws.

She jumps back, Rachel pulling her further away - and more  
DEMONS start to emerge from the portals!

DELANEY (cont'd)

What do we -

RACHEL

Run!

And the girls take off, the disorientated demons GROWLING at  
their retreating backs as we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF TEASER**

**ACT ONE**

FADE IN:

5

EXT. CAMPUS - GROUNDS - DAY

5

Dade leads his group forward, with Harold now on his phone:

HAROLD

(into phone)

No, I don't know what the situation is just yet, but it's clear we have some kind of attack on the campus.

Up front, Clarissa catches up to Dade, jogging briskly.

CLARISSA

Maybe you ought to let us take point now. We've got it from here.

DADE

My mom's out there. I'm not moving.

CLARISSA

Nobody's saying you have to, but we're the Slayers. You're...

DADE

I'm what? I'm just a guy? For your information, princess, I happen to be the son of one of the most powerful witches on the planet, so don't think you can tell me when and where I get to fight!

Surprised, Clarissa slows and lets Dade keep going.

DADE (cont'd)

There!

He points at plumes of SMOKE rising from the woods beyond the campus playing field.

Dade breaks into a jog, with Clarissa emitting a GRUNT of annoyance as she tries to catch him up.

HAROLD

(into phone)

Alright, understood.

He hangs up, turning to Tia.

HAROLD (cont'd)

Grace knows what's going on, she's going to alert A and B Squads and try to get us some reinforcements.

(CONTINUED)



TIA

What do we do until then?

HAROLD

The best we can.

And as they hurry after the others, we CUT TO:

EXT. MEADOW - DAY

Delaney and Rachel hurry through the tall, swaying grass, Rachel looking up and around as Delaney stays fixed ahead.

RACHEL

How can we even be here? You told me we were going to speak to some powerful beings about restoring your magic, but...

She points to the THREE SUNS that hang in the sky, each a different size and colour.

RACHEL (cont'd)

... this is impossible.

DELANEY

Says the dead girl.

Delaney winces, turning back to face Rachel.

DELANEY (cont'd)

I didn't mean -

RACHEL

I'm used to your sense of humour by now...

She glances over her shoulder - DARK SHAPES can be seen pushing through the grass behind them. More PORTALS hang in the air that weren't there a moment ago.

RACHEL (cont'd)

... but now really isn't the time.  
(points ahead)  
Getting a good vibe off that way?

She points - an opening leads into the thick forest at the edge of the meadow.

The girls take a step forward - only for a TREMOR to shake through the meadow, the girls pausing to steady themselves.

They exchange a concerned look - before GRUNTS from the pursuing demons snap them out of it.

The girls keep moving as we CUT TO:

7 INT. MINIBUS (MOVING) - DAY 7

GREG drives (at frightening speed) while SKYE rides shotgun, answering her RINGING phone. SOFIA sits behind.

SKYE  
(into phone)  
Hello?

INTERCUT WITH:

8 INT. CAMPUS - FITZGERALD'S OFFICE - DAY 8

Where FITZGERALD is on her phone, her PC screen flashing up all manner of alarm messages.

DANNY and FRANKIE have joined her, consulting a bay of CONSOLES and PANELS in the far wall.

FITZGERALD  
Skye, I need you three to return to the campus immediately.

SKYE  
Back? What for?

FITZGERALD  
We're under attack, and we're severely undermanned. I don't know what's out there yet, but I need you to turn around and head back here on the double.

SKYE  
What about Tori? Hamish?

FITZGERALD  
Reiko will have to take point. We don't know what we're up against here yet, but from what these alarms are telling me...

She glances towards Frankie, whose concerned expression finishes that sentence for her.

SKYE  
Is that a good idea? I mean, we need every hand on deck if we're gonna stand the best chance of busting into Hamish's base!

FITZGERALD  
I'm aware of that, but we don't have another choice right now! Tell Greg to put his foot down!

END INTERCUT:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Fitzgerald hangs up, approaching Danny and Frankie.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)  
So what's going on out there?  
Harold couldn't tell me much.

FRANKIE  
*Je ne sais pas.* Every magic sensor  
we 'ave is going 'aywire right now.  
There is some kind of massive  
energy build up in the woods, that  
is all I can say.

DANNY  
Not just one, either - dozens of  
smaller ones. If I had to take a  
guess, I'd say the energy  
signatures we're reading suggest  
transport portals of some kind.

FITZGERALD  
An invasion, in other words.

DANNY  
More than likely.

FRANKIE  
What is more, they 'are spreading,  
multiplying outwards from a point  
of origin within the woods.

FITZGERALD  
Alright. Frankie, put the campus on  
full alert and lock it down. Danny,  
get back to the library and co-  
ordinate Reiko's team's approach to  
the Cabal compound.

Danny nods, scampering out of the office. Fitzgerald heads  
back to her desk and lifts her phone.

FRANKIE  
What if this is a diversion? A trap  
by 'amish to keep us busy?

FITZGERALD  
The thought has crossed my mind,  
but we can't take the risk it's for  
real.

She starts to dial as we CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS GROUNDS - NEXT

Back with Alita and Huang, Kira moving ever slower behind  
them. Kira finally stumbles and FALLS, and Huang darts back  
to help her back up.

(CONTINUED)

KIRA

I can't keep going...

HUANG

You can and you will. We are almost at the edge of the forest.

KIRA

Then what? We'll just be out in the open so that lot behind can pick us off at their leisure!

ALITA

Then we must hope the battle has been noticed, and reinforcements are on their way.

KIRA

I see you haven't lost your optimism while you've been away...

Alita hesitates again, as Huang puts one of Kira's arms over her shoulder and starts to half-carry her forward.

HUANG

Just a little further.

Alita snaps out of her reverie as a CRASH rings out behind them - something HUGE is barging its way through the trees.

She runs to Huang's side, taking Kira's other arm, and as the trio limp onward, we CUT TO:

10

EXT. FOREST - DAY

10

Delaney and Rachel make their way through the thick, ethereal forest, beams of sunlight piercing the canopy overhead.

DELANEY

(looking behind)

Think we lost those things?

RACHEL

For now. We'd better keep moving.

She looks round - the PATH below winds through the trees, marked by STONE MONUMENTS along the way.

RACHEL (cont'd)

Looks like we've walked onto the set of 'Lord Of The Rings'.

DELANEY

Doesn't look too bad. I liked those movies.

They head on, Delaney seeming more confident with every step.

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL

So what are you expecting to find  
at the end of this yellow brick  
road under our feet?

DELANEY

Absolutely no idea.

RACHEL

Which is encouraging.

DELANEY

If this place stays true to form,  
I'm expecting some kind of temple.  
Big stone reject from 'Tomb  
Raider', maybe even a little tribe  
of pygmies guarding it.

RACHEL

Pigmy guards?

DELANEY

Could happen.

Another TREMOR rumbles through the forest. Dislodged leaves  
flutter down from the trees. Rachel EXHALES.

RACHEL

Let's look at our situation. We  
entered a portal to God knows  
where, following a path to God  
knows where to encounter some  
beings that nobody's ever seen  
before, all because some grandma  
witch - who also happens to be the  
most dangerous thing on the planet  
right now - told you to.

DELANEY

What do you want me to say, Rachel?  
That this is a bad idea? You think  
I don't know that? You think I  
would be doing this if there were  
any other way?

RACHEL

I get why you're doing this. What  
concerns me is how.

DELANEY

Meaning?

RACHEL

Meaning, why would Celeste Rourke  
of all people help you do this,  
especially as she orchestrated a  
prison break on the same day?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL (cont'd)

(beat)

What if she wants you to do this?

DELANEY

She just wanted to help me out. She told me it was the only way to save my mom, and I... I believed her.

RACHEL

Are you sure about that?

Rachel walks on, leaving Delaney to chew on that point. Delaney suddenly looks much less confident as we CUT TO:

Dade's group reach the treeline at the edge of the playing fields.

CLARISSA

Alright Action Man, now what do we -

A deep, demonic HOWL sounds from within the forest.

DADE

(blanches)

Did you -

CLARISSA

We all did.

Dade looks down at his axe, then to Clarissa.

DADE

I changed my mind. You're right. You should go first.

CLARISSA

(rolls eyes)

Whatever.

(to C Squad)

Alright, we're the first line of defence until backup arrives, so let's make up a four-point defensive pattern until -

BELLE

Something's coming!

Clarissa turns - sure enough, MOVEMENT can be heard. Something is making its way towards them.

CLARISSA

Brace for impact!

In a practised move, the four Slayers fan out, weapons ready, covering every angle of possible attack.

(CONTINUED)

They wait, nerves tight and adrenaline flowing, as they can make out flashes of COLOUR through the trees ahead, along with a growing LIGHT from somewhere further back.

CLARISSA (cont'd)

Steady...

THUNDER breaks overhead, before a FLASH of LIGHTNING illuminates what's coming:

Kira, slung between Huang and Alita's arms, frantically pushing through the muddy ground!

TIA

What the...

ALITA

(yells)

Get down!

The trio drop with a SPLASH - and reveal a FIREBALL racing towards them!

CLARISSA

Scatter!

The team dive to avoid the fireball as it BLASTS through the trees and out across the field, revealing the smoking HOLE it's burned through the forest behind!

Clarissa looks up from the ground - and sees the first wave of DEMONS pouring through the trees, battle cries and shouts rising in volume as they charge!

Some run, some slither, some fly, some gallop - in every shape, size and species imaginable.

What's more, fresh PORTALS are springing into existence throughout the forest now, more every second!

Kira, Huang and Alita reach the group, Dade rushing forward to his mother - but freezing at the sight of Alita.

DADE

You... you're...

ALITA

Whoever you are, this must wait. We have to get back to the Academy and seal it before these creatures catch us up!

Alita glances at C Squad - and realises they're all staring at her. Like they've seen a ghost, in fact.

ALITA (cont'd)

Why are you...

(CONTINUED)

KIRA  
It's like I've been telling you,  
dear. You're dead.

Alita hesitates again - but shakes the thought away, trained  
reflexes taking over.

ALITA  
(to Harold)  
Are you their Watcher?

HAROLD  
Er... yes, yes, I am.

ALITA  
Has the Academy been alerted?

HAROLD  
Grace raised the alarm. It'll be  
secure before we get there.

ALITA  
Grace? Grace Fitzgerald?

HUANG  
She is the Headmistress now.

ALITA  
What happened to Miss Griffin?

Kira and Harold exchange a look - before Belle shouts:

BELLE  
Oh, God... look!

Several large FLYING DEMONS are inbound, rising above the  
treeline and SCREECHING hideously.

C Squad step up as Alita, Huang and Kira hurry past them,  
Harold helping support Kira.

CLARISSA  
Alright, defensive pattern 'Red  
Sonja'.

She moves into place, as do Tia and Patty - before Clarissa  
snaps at Belle, who stands uncertainly:

CLARISSA (cont'd)  
What are you doing?

BELLE  
Um... which one's 'Red Sonja'?

PATTY  
Heads up!



11 CONTINUED: (3)

11

The first band of demon warriors BURST out of the forest, surging across the open ground towards them.

The Slayers are quick to react, weapons HACKING and SLICING through the invaders. BODY PARTS are sent flying, the ground quickly filling up with CORPSES.

Dade suddenly remembers the weapons he's carrying, and lobs a GRENADE into a pack of demons, sending them flying with a fiery EXPLOSION.

TIA

How many of these things are there?

As if to answer, a HIGH ANGLE shows the rest of the rampaging HORDE of demons thundering through the trees, seconds away!

And to add to that, a clutch more PORTALS burst open nearby - they've spread outside the forest now!

As several slithering SNAKE DEMONS slip from one, and a waterfall of tiny, metallic SPIDERS pour from the next, C Squad start to close ranks and pull back.

BELLE

Anybody else think we should -

CLARISSA

Fall back! Get back to the Academy!

Alita leads the way, the others following and C Squad watching their backs as the group start to run across the playing field, and we CUT TO:

12 INT. MINIBUS (MOVING) - DAY

12

Now with MALLORY at the wheel and REIKO shotgun, talking into her phone:

REIKO

No, Miss Fitzgerald, it's not a problem, I just thought we were -

INTERCUT WITH:

13 INT. CAMPUS - FITZGERALD'S OFFICE - DAY

13

Where Grace is on her phone, ALARMS in the background.

FITZGERALD

The plan's changed, Reiko. I need to know you can do this. Can your team secure Tori?

REIKO

(beat)

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

FITZGERALD

Alright, then. As soon as I can send backup, you'll have it. Until then... I can only wish you good luck.

END INTERCUT:

Reiko glances at Mallory, concerned, as we CUT TO:

INT. CABAL BASE - ROOM - DAY

Where TORI lets out an agonised SCREAM of pain, while HAMISH has his hands clamped around her head!

She's bound to a chair, arms behind her back, while Hamish stands over her, teeth grinding with effort.

ENERGY SPARKS from his hands, Tori CONVULSING against the force of whatever magic he's using on her.

Finally, he releases her, stumbling backwards as Tori sags in the chair, SMOKE rising from her.

Hamish chuckles as he shakes the shock out of his hands, circling her as Tori SHUDDERS with pain.

HAMISH

I can see this is gonnae take a while!

A KNOCK at the door gets his attention, and he looks round as a CABAL TROOPER leans in.

HAMISH (cont'd)

What is it?

TROOPER

Long-range scans are indicating there's some kind of magical disturbance at the slayers' Academy, sir.

HAMISH

(frowns)

One of ours?

TROOPER

I don't think so, sir. We've contacted Jilhandra, she confirmed there's no Coven offensive taking place either.

HAMISH

(shrugs)

Ah, well. Stroke of luck for us then, eh?

(CONTINUED)

The trooper nods and exits. Hamish turns back to Tori.

HAMISH (cont'd)  
Lucky us. We get to spend even more  
time together before your pals back  
at school catch up!

Tori manages to SPIT in his face, but it's an empty gesture.  
Hamish laughs as he wipes it away.

HAMISH (cont'd)  
I suppose a more eloquent insult  
was too much to ask.

He steps away from her, over to a wide bookcase and nearby  
desk covered with SPELLBOOKS.

Hamish picks one up, leafing through it as he walks back over  
to her.

HAMISH (cont'd)  
Shall we try again?  
(off book)  
I think I'm on to something with  
this particular volume.

He extends a hand, and Tori tenses up, knowing she's trapped  
but trying to squirm in her chair anyway.

A BOLT OF ENERGY lances from his palm onto her chest, and  
Tori SCREAMS again as we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

15 EXT. CAMPUS - QUADRANGLE - DAY

15

Fitzgerald heads across the quad towards the steps leading out onto the playing field, AMELIA and a retinue of Slayers following behind.

FITZGERALD

Once they're back, I want you to organise the girls on campus into teams and secure every defensible point, we have no way of knowing...

She trails off as she and the others get a look out across the field at last:

And see Alita's group running for dear life, a TIDAL WAVE of demons covering every scrap of open ground behind them!

Overhead, the light aircraft-sized flying demons SWOOP down, forcing the group to duck to avoid their talons.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

Amelia?

AMELIA

Already on it, Miss.

She leads the other Slayers down the steps and out onto the field, ready to cover Alita's group as they close in.

FITZGERALD

(squints)

Who's that with them?

The chased group are just moments away now - and Fitzgerald's eyes BULGE at the sight of who's out front:

As Alita, Huang, Harold, Kira and Dade make it up onto the steps, passing Amelia's line of Slayers - who hurry forward to cover C Squad, hanging back to meet the demons.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

(dumbstruck)

What... how...

Alita catches her staring and nods a quick greeting.

ALITA

Miss Fitzgerald. It is good to see you again.

Fitzgerald can only stare back in stunned silence.

(CONTINUED)

ALITA (cont'd)

I... understand seeing me must be a shock to you, but -

A chorus of ROARS from the demons outside breaks the moment - the fastest pursuing demons have just hit Amelia's Slayers, and are engaged in a bloody melee with them.

FITZGERALD

Where did those things come from?

KIRA

(darkly)

My daughter.

HUANG

More are coming. Something has happened to cause a series of -

There's a TEARING sound from behind, and Fitzgerald turns - to see a fresh PORTAL hovering in the air behind her!

KIRA

Here we go again...

ALITA

Everybody, get inside! Now!

Fitzgerald stutters, trying to overcome her shock as she waves the Slayers back inside.

Amelia's group and C Squad extract themselves from the advance pack of demons - the rest of the horde is closing fast. Fitzgerald snaps open her phone and speed-dials:

FITZGERALD

Frankie, it's me. Close every security shutter on campus, now!

She weaves around the portal - looking up as SHADOWS pass over her to see the flying demons soaring over the campus.

A series of GRINDING noises are followed by heavy steel SHUTTERS starting to lower themselves over doorways and windows, blocking off access in or out.

The reunited group make for the nearest set of double doors to enter the campus, another shutter lowering over the door and closing after them with a decisive CLANG as we CUT TO:

Delaney and Rachel continue to follow the path through the quiet, peaceful forest. BIRDSONG fills the air, and small groups of INSECTS flutter in the sunbeams.

RACHEL

What are you going to say when - or  
if - you get to meet these Powers?

DELANEY

No idea. I figured I'd wing it.

RACHEL

Delaney...

DELANEY

No. I don't need another speech  
about what a bad idea you think  
this is right now. I get it. I'm  
sorry I dragged you into it.

RACHEL

No. Not that. Look.

Delaney turns to see Rachel pointing, and follows her gaze to  
see a strange sight:

A STATUE set several feet away from the path, with moss and  
vines having long since claimed it back for the forest.

It's of a YOUNG GIRL, hair flying as she leaps into the air,  
axe-like weapon in her hands ready to slay a MONSTER below.

The two girls approach, peering closer - until Delaney's eyes  
widen as she recognises:

RACHEL (cont'd)

Who is it?

DELANEY

That's... Rache, you'd better pinch  
me, 'cause otherwise I'm staring at  
a statue of Buffy Summers killing a  
vampire with my own eyes.

Rachel looks harder - and she's absolutely right. It's a  
stylised depiction of BUFFY SUMMERS, the SCYTHE in her hand  
and the monster below revealed as a VAMPIRE.

DELANEY (cont'd)

Still think we're in the wrong  
place?

Rachel doesn't have an answer to that, and the girls head on  
as we CUT TO:

The group have moved to the cafeteria, Tia checking Kira's  
wounded side as Fitzgerald addresses the gathered Slayers:

(CONTINUED)

FITZGERALD

Amelia, rendezvous with Frankie in her office to co-ordinate the campus security countermeasures.

AMELIA

Yes, miss.

She scurries off, taking her Slayers with her, as Fitzgerald turns to the blood-spattered C Squad:

FITZGERALD

Clarissa, round up every Slayer on site and man all the usual points in case those things find a way past the barriers. We don't have many girls on site so we'll need to watch our backs. Take Dade with you to help.

DADE

Wait a minute, I'm not leaving -

FITZGERALD

Now, Dade.

Belle nods, taking Dade's arm, and they head off with Clarissa and Patty following.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

I think I'm entitled to ask this now we're all secure - Kira, tell me exactly what you think Delaney has done.

KIRA

There's no 'think' about it, Grace. I saw her conjure up a portal like the ones outside currently vomiting an unending tide of demons onto our campus, then jump through it to God only knows where. And then Rachel followed her through.

FITZGERALD

(shakes head)

I've got someone watching Rachel, she's still under protective custody, she couldn't...

Kira fixes her with a look. Fitzgerald sighs.

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

Alright, Rachel too. So these portals springing up all over, where do we think they lead to?

(CONTINUED)

ALITA

To my home.

(off their looks)

After I... after I died, I found myself in a peaceful land, governed by beings of a higher power, who told me my duty was now to help them protect their realm from those who would seek to use its power for their own ends.

(beat)

I believe Delaney has travelled to this... higher plane of existence, for want of a better explanation, and in so doing she has massively upset the natural balance.

FITZGERALD

That doesn't explain how you're here, Alita.

ALITA

I believe I am here because of what Delaney has done. Her actions have created a rift, a tear in the walls between the many dimensions, and until we undo the damage, the demon army outside will only continue to grow.

Fitzgerald stares at her a moment longer - then pulls her into a quick HUG, much to Alita's surprise.

FITZGERALD

We all thought you were... I mean, you were...

KIRA

How are we supposed to stop it?

ALITA

We must locate Delaney and return her to this world. That will seal the many portals you saw, and the creatures outside will be destroyed once their links with their own worlds are severed.

HUANG

What can you tell us about these 'beings' you now serve?

ALITA

They go by many names, but I believe we would have known them as The Powers That Be.

(CONTINUED)



FITZGERALD

(frowns)

The Powers? I mean... I've heard of them, seen them in prophecies, occult texts, but... they're real?

ALITA

As real as anything can be said to be in this world.

FITZGERALD

Oh, Alita... I'm so sorry. After everything you went through, I... well, I liked to think you were somewhere you could see your mother again, at least.

ALITA

(smiles)

I see my mother.

A beat. Kira takes this moment to rise to her feet.

KIRA

Alright, this was a deeply moving and touching reunion while it lasted, but I think we should concentrate on the matter at hand - namely, how we're supposed to get back to this 'higher plane' when there's an army of multi-dimensional demons between us and any way off the campus.

(beat; winces)

Because if you were looking to me or Harry for a quick teleport, you're out of luck. We're both knackered after that lot outside.

FITZGERALD

So how do we stop it?

ALITA

I can open a portal here.

She rolls back the sleeves of her robe - her forearms are covered with elaborate TATTOOS.

ALITA (cont'd)

The balance is already upset - I can't really make things any worse by doing this.

FITZGERALD

Alright. I've got Greg, Skye and Sofia on their way back, they should be here soon.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

17

CONTINUED: (4)

17

FITZGERALD (cont'd)

We'll have to... I don't know, find  
some way to hold off those  
creatures outside until we can...

She trails off, registering Alita's wide-eyed expression.

ALITA

Sofia...?

KIRA

Looks like you have some debriefing  
to cover, Grace.

Fitzgerald shoots her a filthy look, before we CUT TO:

18

INT. MINIBUS (MOVING) - DAY

18

Mallory is at the wheel, Reiko shotgun, reading a message on  
her phone. A MAP lies across her lap.

MALLORY

What's it say?

REIKO

(consults map)

Keep on ahead. Next turning, take  
it. We're not far then. Fran and  
Mela are a few minutes behind us.

Reiko glances at Mallory, taking in her merry expression.

REIKO (cont'd)

You're enjoying this, aren't you?

MALLORY

Yeah, you know, chasing down the  
bad guys, squaring up for a face  
off with my old boss, and...

(beat; exhales)

And you're taking great pleasure in  
proving me wrong about wanting to  
stay off the team, aren't you?

REIKO

You know this is where you're  
supposed to be, Mal.

MALLORY

For today, aye. Ask me again  
tomorrow.

She manages a grin, however, as we CUT TO:

19

EXT. FOREST - DAY

19

Back with Rachel and Delaney.

(CONTINUED)

RACHEL

Feels like we've been walking for hours.

DELANEY

We haven't. And anyway, I think I see light up ahead. Almost there.

Rachel looks round - they've reached an opening in the forest, a wider clearing just beyond.

The girls exchange a look, then step out of the forest at last and into:

A wide, circular area, dominated by what appears to be a sizeable SCHOOL sitting at its centre!

DELANEY

Okay, so... not a big stone temple.

RACHEL

Looks like... the Academy?

DELANEY

No. Not exactly.

(beat)

It's my old boarding school.

Delaney swaps a concerned glance with Rachel, before they hear a door CREAK open:

They look back - the main double doors of the building have opened, invitingly.

Delaney pauses another beat - and another TREMOR ripples through the clearing, stronger than the last one.

RACHEL

They're getting worse.

They hear a CRASH from the forest behind them and turn - sounds of MOVEMENT and inhuman VOICES echo through the trees.

DELANEY

We should get inside before those demons figure out where we are.

She starts forward, Rachel falling in behind as we CUT TO:

Delaney cautiously steps into the old, dark hallway of the school building, Rachel behind her.

DELANEY

Hello?

Her voice ECHOES around the room. She looks round, taking in the faded PHOTOGRAPHS on the wall.

DELANEY (cont'd)

This is weird. This is exactly like that Swiss hellhole I was stuck in.

RACHEL

I've got a bad feeling about -

DELANEY

Do not say that.

She walks on, trying to read the lettering on the plaques and boards on the walls.

Rachel finds another set of doors and pushes them open, revealing a long corridor lined with doorways.

RACHEL

Guess we go this way.

Delaney follows her through as we CUT TO:

INT. CAMPUS - LIBRARY - FRANKIE'S OFFICE - DAY

Where Frankie is manning the station of consoles and TV screens that monitor the campus.

On several of the SCREENS, the attacking demons can be seen - with new PORTALS continuing to form, surrounding them.

She hears a BUZZ and turns - to see Greg on one of the screens, frantically waving for attention!

FRANKIE

*Chiant!*

She hits the 'Speaker' button as we CUT TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - MAIN ENTRANCE - NEXT

Where Greg's minivan is on its side, ragged HOLES torn in it as smoke rises from the ruined engine!

Greg is waving frantically up at the CCTV camera over the entrance - which is covered by the shutters - shouting:

GREG

Somebody open the bloody door!

Nearby, Skye and Sofia are battling a cluster of skittering demons, six-legged creatures that LEAP through the air to attack!

(CONTINUED)

Skye PUNCHES an incoming demon out of the air, but another gets a lucky hit and RAKES its claws across her back!

She YELPS, but Sofia covers her and SKEWERS the creature with the Scythe.

SOFIA

Greg!

GREG

I'm trying! I don't know what's going on, but if we can't -

The shutter CLICKS, and starts to ratchet up a few notches.

GREG (cont'd)

Come on!

Sofia and Skye extract themselves from the growing horde of demons scuttling towards them, slipping beneath the door.

Greg follows, narrowly avoiding a STINGER that punches into the ground after him - the shutter SLAMMING back down a moment later as we CUT TO:

The trio burst in, taking a moment to breathe out at last. Danny hurries towards them, motioning for them to follow.

DANNY

You all made it! Excellent.

(beat)

As you can probably tell, we've got a lot to catch you up on.

Skye and Sofia exchange a bemused look as they follow:

Danny opens the door for them into the main hall, before nodding to Skye and then hurrying back out. Sofia sees Kira, Huang and Fitzgerald waiting up ahead.

SOFIA

I can't wait to hear how we got ourselves into this...

Sofia freezes as Alita steps out from behind Huang. Sofia GASPS, her eyes bulging.

Skye and Greg join her, all three staring in utter amazement at Alita - who offers a SMILE back.

SKYE

No... no, this isn't right, this can't be right...

GREG

I don't understand, how... how is this happening?

ALITA

I will explain everything. For now, I just need you to trust me.

SKYE

Prove you're here.

GREG

Skye?

SKYE

I mean it! How do we know this isn't another trick?

HUANG

It is no trick.

SKYE

Yeah, but we all know what's out there, and what they know about us, and ways they'd try to get under our skin, and... and this...

KIRA

Trust us, Skye - she's real.

Skye looks back to Alita as she approaches, taking her time. She takes Skye's hands in her own and nods.

Skye stares back - then breaks, throwing her arms around Alita, a LAUGH of pure release coming from her as she whirls her friend around.

Skye releases Alita, who takes her chance to HUG Greg. He can't believe it either, but hugs her right back.

ALITA

It is good to see you all again... but I'm afraid our work is only just begun. We have a journey ahead that will not be an easy one.

Alita looks back to Sofia - who still hasn't moved. Alita walks up to her, taking the stunned Sofia's hands.

ALITA (cont'd)

I know this is a shock to you. Believe me, I was not expecting to see any of you again, and definitely not under these circumstances.

Sofia's lip starts to tremble, her eyes filling with tears.

(CONTINUED)

ALITA (cont'd)  
Sofia...

Sofia bursts into TEARS, sinking to her knees, her hands still held by Alita. Alita drops to her knees, wrapping her arms tightly around the sobbing Sofia.

ALITA (cont'd)  
Ssh. Sofia... please. It's alright.

SOFIA  
(wails)  
I'm sorry... I'm so, so sorry... I  
never told you... I never...

ALITA  
This is not the time.

She leans back, looking into Sofia's eyes.

ALITA (cont'd)  
(firmer)  
This is not the time.

Sofia stares back, then finally manages to nod. Alita turns back to the others, focusing on Kira and Huang.

ALITA (cont'd)  
I'm going to need your help.

Greg looks to Kira, still astounded, as we CUT TO:

Delaney PUSHES OPEN a set of swing doors to find herself in a large, cathedral-like hall, with rows of chairs lined up to face a raised STAGE at the far end.

She makes her way down the central aisle, Rachel behind her. Delaney's gaze is fixed dead ahead:

There's a YOUNG WOMAN sitting in the chair at the end of the first row, facing away from them.

Rachel grasps Delaney's arm to slow her, but Delaney shrugs it off and keeps walking, picking up speed.

When she's a few paces away, the woman finally TURNS - and Delaney pulls up sharply, GASPING in shock.

The 'woman' is actually a GIRL in her late teens, with long blonde hair and big blue eyes. She smiles warmly.

GIRL  
Hello, Delaney.

RACHEL

Who are you?

GIRL

Rachel. It's nice to meet you.

RACHEL

Answer the question. Who are you,  
where are we and what the crap is  
going on here?

GIRL

(to Delaney)

Why don't you tell her?

Rachel looks to Delaney - who is white as a sheet.

DELANEY

That's... that's Olivia Palmer.

(beat)

The Olivia.

Rachel's eyes widen, and she looks back to OLIVIA as she  
rises and offers her hand. Delaney cautiously reaches out,  
hand trembling - so Olivia takes her hand and SHAKES it.

DELANEY (cont'd)

(shellshocked)

You can't be here. You're... I...

OLIVIA

I'm here because this place has  
been constructed out of your  
memories. It doesn't have a  
permanent way of looking, and  
neither do I. It's all dependent on  
who's seeing it.

(beat; sadly)

And I'm afraid I don't have good  
news for you.

DELANEY

What do you mean?

OLIVIA

Oh, Delaney... you've made a  
terrible, terrible mistake in  
coming here. And everyone you know  
is going to suffer because of it.

Delaney blinks, trying to process this news as we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT TWO**



**ACT THREE**

FADE IN:

27

INT. CAMPUS - ASSEMBLY HALL - DAY

27

Alita talks to Kira and Huang, the beginnings of a MAGIC CIRCLE drawn on the floor of the hall.

Frankie enters and walks over, carrying an armful of books which she dishes out to them.

PULL BACK to find a shellshocked Sofia unable to take her eyes off Alita, Greg and Fitzgerald talking nearby.

She JUMPS as something CRASHES into the shuttered windows outside - the noise of the restless demons lurking just beyond muffled but still audible.

GREG

You can understand why I'm cautious about this.

FITZGERALD

I would be too, but Kira and Huang both vouch for her. Alita came to their rescue in the forest, and they assure me they can't sense anything about her that suggests she's not who she says she is.

(turns to Skye)

A lot's going to be resting on you... but I trust you know what you're doing.

SKYE

(off Alita)

She does. Or she wouldn't be here.

Fitzgerald nods and steps away, leaving Skye with Sofia.

SKYE (cont'd)

Hey. How you holding up?

SOFIA

How should I be 'holding up'?

SKYE

I get that this is weird, but you've gotta look at the flipside here - she's back. Maybe not for long, but she's here. The four of us, together again.

Skye looks round as Alita joins them.

(CONTINUED)

SKYE (cont'd)  
(grins)  
Just like old times.

Sofia still can't bring herself to look at Alita.

ALITA  
The magic circle is almost  
complete. From here, I can open a  
temporary portal to the Higher  
Plane so we can start looking for  
Delaney.

SKYE  
What about those things outside?

ALITA  
Once the balance is restored, they  
will be dragged back to their home  
dimensions.  
(beat)  
I think.

Skye SNORTS a laugh, shaking her head.

SKYE  
Good enough for me. Let's go.

Alita nods, leading them back over to the magic circle, where  
Skye and Sofia join Greg and Frankie.

ALITA  
Once the portal is open, we will  
have to move quickly - the longer  
Delaney remains there, the worse  
the effects down here will get.

FRANKIE  
Bon. So less talk, more action.

Alita rolls back her sleeves - revealing the tattoos - and  
stretches her arms out over the circle.

Closing her eyes, she bows her head as her lips begin to  
move, reciting an incantation under her breath.

The circle starts to GLOW, a RUMBLING sound rising as CRACKS  
spiderweb out across the floorboards from the circle.

GREG  
I'm going to assume that's  
perfectly normal so far...

SKYE  
Ah, quit complaining. It's not like  
it's bursting into flame, is it?

(CONTINUED)

FWOOSH! Gouts of FIRE burst from the six points within the circle. Skye offers a sheepish look at Greg, before:

SNAP! A thin sliver of light slices through the air before Alita, which then POPS open, widening into a circular PORTAL.

ALITA

(exhales; opens her eyes)

That's it.

KIRA

That was considerably easier than the havoc Delaney caused trying to open one of those things. How come yours worked so well?

ALITA

(shrugs)

Maybe I'm just better at it than she is.

A beat - then Alita GRINS. Kira LAUGHS despite herself, as Fitzgerald stands before the reunited original A Squad:

FITZGERALD

Good luck, all of you. We'll be secure down here for a while yet, but -

SOFIA

Don't be too long. Right?

Fitzgerald smiles, nods, then steps aside to let the five of them face the portal.

FRANKIE

I am not convinced I will be as much 'elp as I would like.

ALITA

(smiles)

You will, Frankie.

Alita faces the barrier, back to business.

ALITA (cont'd)

The walls between our many dimensions are growing thinner every moment - we must move quickly.

Alita looks to Sofia, smiles, and takes her by the hand.

ALITA (cont'd)

Take a deep breath. This will feel a little strange.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

Wha -

And Alita JUMPS through the portal, pulling Sofia through with her! Sofia lets out a SHOUT as she vanishes.

SKYE

(smirks)

Yeah, just like old times...

And as she JUMPS through, we SMASH CUT TO:

EXT. CABAL COMPOUND - DAY

Some distance back from the Cabal base, a fenced installation with woodland behind and open ground in front.

B Squad have regrouped, their minibuses parked off road as Mallory scans the base through binoculars.

REIKO

So? Is it one you know?

MALLORY

Yeah...

(lowers binoculars)

It's a tough one, though.

She heads back over to the others. Fran and Mela are organising weapons and equipment within their minibus.

MALLORY (cont'd)

Going off what I know and the maps Danny sent over, there's access via the drainage pipes, but we'll have to climb up through about fifty feet of industrial-strength sludge to get to the recycling chamber.

(beat)

Then all we've got to do is fight our way past whatever security Hamish has put up, and then we just have to find Tori and get her out before he catches up to us.

FRAN

Piece of cake. Now we're back to full strength, I mean.

MALLORY

Appreciate the sentiment, but I'm not 'back'.

FRAN

(smirks)

Course you're not.

(CONTINUED)

REIKO

Okay, enough chat. Let's go.

She picks up one of four bags full of gear, looking back towards the base as we CUT TO:

EXT. MEADOW - DAY

And with a SPLASH as if passing through a waterfall, Skye is deposited in the same meadow Delaney touched down in, landing in the grass and rolling expertly to a stop.

She rises, Sofia and Alita before her, as Frankie and Greg soon follow suit. The portal closes up behind them.

SKYE

So that's what going through a stargate feels like...

She stops, seeing the same thing that has Sofia and Alita standing stock-still:

DEMONS. Dozens of them, all around the meadow, slowly turning to face these new arrivals, their portals clustered overhead!

SKYE (cont'd)

Uh -

ALITA

Go!

She breaks into a SPRINT, dragging Sofia behind her, as the demons snap out of their surprise and HOWL as one!

The nearest demon warriors are on the team in moments - but they've picked the wrong fight.

Skye's SAI DAGGERS are out in a flash, one in each eye of a hulking, troll-like creature that SWINGS clumsily for her.

Frankie elegantly DODGES and WEAVES past axe slices and chops from three skeletal warriors, using her rapier pommel to CRACK their exposed skulls!

Thinking quickly, Greg rattles through a spell and CLAPS his hands together - a burst of ENERGY pulsing out from where he stands, bowling over anything inhuman in its path!

With this opening, the trio are off, chasing Sofia and Alita as they race through the tall grass.

Behind them, the stunned demon army is starting to pick itself back up, GROWLS and ROARS chasing the team.

FRANKIE

Run! Faster, faster! *Maintenant!*

(CONTINUED)

The closest demons SHRIEK excitedly and rush them, several LEAPING through the air, weapons poised:

But the team is ready, their own weapons at hand in a flash as they HACK INTO the incoming creatures.

Frankie's rapier SPEARS one in the throat; Skye flicks her sai daggers round and STABS them into one creature's eyes!

Sofia DRIVES the stake point of her Scythe into one demon's gut, before WRENCHING it free and SLICING the blade across the chest of another.

Alita pauses, a smile crossing her lips as she watches her friends fight - before a GIBBERING demon rushes her, and she expertly drops, SWEEP KICKS and then CRACKS her elbow across its jaw, knocking it flat.

A mighty SHOUT rises from the demon ranks, the army pushing forward again in a tidal wave of bodies, right behind them!

SKYE

Crap, crap, crap!

ALITA

Don't look back! Keep running!

Greg manages to twist round, hurling a few small FIREBALLS back at their opponents.

The EXPLOSIONS scatter a few handfuls of creatures, but where one falls, three take its place!

SOFIA

How much further?

ALITA

This way!

She's heading for the FOREST just past the meadow, and as the others put their heads down and run, we CUT TO:

Delaney and Rachel follow Olivia up a long circular staircase, passing floor after floor lined with BOOKSHELVES.

DELANEY

I don't understand... why have I made a mistake? You know why I'm here, right?

OLIVIA

Of course I do.

RACHEL

What are you, anyway? Some kind of messenger for the people in charge?

OLIVIA

Something like that. Like I said, my appearance was determined by Delaney's own memories.

DELANEY

I want it on record that I think my memories suck.

A fresh TREMOR shakes the building, dislodging books from shelves and RATTLING through the furniture.

Olivia waits for it to pass, then continues. Delaney and Rachel swap a glance before we CUT TO:

INT. CABAL BASE - RECYCLING PLANT - DAY

Inside a dark room filled with WHIRRING machinery, pipes and bubbling VATS.

A GRILLE pops open and a filthy Mallory clambers out, reaching back in to help pull Reiko out after her.

REIKO

(pale)

You weren't kidding about the smell...

She looks round as Fran and Mela exit the tunnel behind the grille, Fran examining her dirty outfit in disgust as the others take a moment to check their bags of gear.

FRAN

Because, of course, I pick today to wear my new Melody Ehsani shorts...

MALLORY

Alright, ladies, here's where it gets difficult. From here, it's an easy walk to Level 3, which is where he'll be keeping Tori.

MELA

So the difficult part is...

MALLORY

Whatever's outside that door between us and Level 3.

REIKO

But you said -

But Mallory's already at the door, ready to open it.

(CONTINUED)

MALLORY

Three, two, one...

She opens the door - and an ALARM goes off! Mallory hangs her head, CURSING.

FRAN

Hey, maybe they'll get a whiff of us and think better of trying to fight?

The girls hear SHOUTS and RUNNING FEET from the corridor outside. Fran turns to Mela, who grins, raising a hand which CRACKLES with magic.

MELA

You still smell okay to me.

Mela's first out the door, the others following as we CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST - DAY

Another DEMON drops into frame, dead, as Alita steps into frame. She's a little cut and injured, nothing too bad.

Around her, the others are scrapping with various demons in all shapes and sizes - the forest is crawling with them!

A larger TREMOR shakes the forest - and this time, a CREVASSE breaks open in the ground under their feet!

SOFIA

Is it supposed to be like this?

ALITA

The Plane is in turmoil - the shift in balance is tearing this whole realm apart!

SKYE

Then look lively, kids!

Skye CHARGES one, nimbly sidestepping and running up a nearby tree, FLIP-KICKING off it to nail her attacker.

She lands and STABS her daggers down into the demon's throat, tearing them free and rising - before something catches her eye. She squints, trying to identify it:

It's one of the STATUES - a tall, proud warrior in a long jacket grappling with a man in a business suit.

SOFIA (O.S.)

Skye! Don't just stand there!

She tears her gaze away and jogs to catch them up.

(CONTINUED)



SKYE

Sorry, just... I'm sure his  
forehead never used to be that big.

She rejoins them, leaving that last pack of demons behind as they hurry on along the winding path.

SKYE (cont'd)

So just to make sure I understand  
this, since we...

(glances at Sofia)

... lost you, you've been up here,  
working for the Powers?

ALITA

(nods)

They told me they often select  
champions who still have the  
potential to do much more good.

SKYE

Have you seen any others while  
you've been up here?

ALITA

Sometimes. There are monuments  
built to many champions throughout  
this land.

(grins)

You'll recognise some of them.

Alita slows, turning to look behind:.

They've cleared out enough demons to give themselves a  
moment's breathing room - but a moment is all they have.

ALITA (cont'd)

Before we approach the temple, I  
have to just explain something - we  
will not all see the same thing.  
Its appearance is moulded from your  
own memories and experiences. Some  
of you may see -

A fresh chorus of SHOUTS come from the forest - more trouble!

FRANKIE

We can 'ave the lecture later!

Alita nods, leading the girls onward as more SCREAMS ring out  
and we MATCH CUT TO:

Where Tori SCREAMS once more as Hamish keeps a hand clamped  
on her head, ENERGY coursing off her body as she WRITHES.

(CONTINUED)

He releases her and steps back, clearly frustrated. Tori slumps in the chair - her skin is cut, bruised, bleeding and even blackened in places. She looks like hell.

The door opens as another TROOPER steps in, and Hamish hears the ALARMS ringing at last.

HAMISH

What's going on?

TROOPER

Intruders, sir! We don't know how they got access, but they're heading this way!

HAMISH

Slayers?

TROOPER

We don't know. They, ah... nobody's had chance to report in after encountering them yet.

Hamish looks back to Tori, who COUGHS weakly. TEARS roll down her cheeks. She's not going anywhere.

Hamish steps out as the Trooper jogs to catch his team up. Hamish looks from side to side, weighing his options:

Before there's an EXPLOSION, and the bodies of the troopers are HURLED back down the corridor!

Hamish quickly slips back into his room, keeping the door open a fraction to peek out:

As Mela leads the others along, the girls looking like they've been through the wars already.

MELA

Is this level three?

MALLORY

Yeah, yeah. This way.

They hurry on. Hamish pauses - then steps out of his room, lifting his hand and calling out:

HAMISH

Ladies?

Reiko turns - ZAP! She's SHOCKED by a bolt of ENERGY that flies from Hamish's hand, and she drops to the floor!

FRAN

Reiko!

The girls tighten ranks as Hamish strides towards them.

HAMISH

(motions to room behind)

If you're looking for Tori, she's in there. However, you'll have to get past me first.

MALLORY

I'll keep him busy. You two get Tori.

FRAN

Mal, don't be an idiot! You can't take him on solo!

HAMISH

Aye, Mallory, pay attention! Your friends are right, for a change!

MALLORY

(sneers)

Oh, keep talking, Haggis. All the more reason for me to beat that accent outta you.

She CRACKS her knuckles, bravely facing Hamish as Mela pulls Fran reluctantly back a few steps.

FRAN

We can't just -

MELA

Ssh. I've got this.

Mela presses her hand against the wall - and she starts to PHASE right through it! With a YELP, Fran is pulled through the wall after her.

HAMISH

So! Looks like your self-imposed exile from active duty is over, then?

MALLORY

(narrows eyes)

How did you -

HAMISH

Do yourself a favour, Mallory. Stand aside. I'll not lift a finger. For old times' sake.

Mallory hesitates - before her lips curl into a SMIRK.

MALLORY

Dream on.

(CONTINUED)

HAMISH

Suit yourself.

She breaks into a SPRINT, charging towards him - but Hamish WHIPS a hand up and round in a blur:

And Mallory is lifted off her feet and SLAMMED into the wall, DENTING the panel with the force of her impact!

She hits the ground hard, WHEEZING - but with another gesture, Hamish lifts her up and SLAMS her into the ceiling!

She stays pinned there, grimacing against the pressure, as Hamish stands just beneath her.

HAMISH (cont'd)

Last chance. Walk away now.

MALLORY

(gritted teeth)

Get bent.

Hamish shakes his head sadly - and Mallory DROPS, landing HARD on the ground.

She tries to push herself up... but wilts, SLUMPING across the floor, a few feet away from the still-stunned Reiko.

Hamish steps calmly over her prone form, striding back towards the door to his room.

PUSH IN on Mallory's cut and bleeding face, the alarms still ringing, before we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

FADE IN:

35

INT. SCHOOL - HALL - NEXT

35

Another church-like hall, this one with tall stained glass windows framing the walls, and an altar at the far end.

The girls look up at the windows - more depictions of champions fighting evil, like the monuments in the forest.

Olivia circles the altar, where a PEDESTAL holding a single, thick BOOK stands. She opens it and leafs through.

Delaney starts to lean over for a look at the pages, but Olivia shields the writing with a grin.

OLIVIA

Ah, ah. Spoilers.

DELANEY

Can you give me a straight answer for once?

OLIVIA

Sure. Ask me what you came all this way to do.

DELANEY

Can you restore my magic?

OLIVIA

Yes.

RACHEL

But there's a catch, isn't there?

Olivia nods, looking down at the book.

OLIVIA

Everybody's story is written within this book. Some are epics that run for decades, some mere footnotes that are cut short all too soon.

(looks up)

Yours could be an epic... but what you're asking for means rewriting what has already passed.

RACHEL

She's not asking for time travel.

OLIVIA

She's asking for a change to be made the way things were -

(CONTINUED)

DELANEY

Were written, yeah, yeah, I get that. Do you know why?

OLIVIA

You want to be able to influence the prophecy of the Coven di Fuoco again.

DELANEY

I want to be able to save my mom. Greg. Everyone else I'm grudgingly prepared to admit I care about. I can't do that with no spark in my battery.

RACHEL

Are the Powers willing to do this for her or not?

OLIVIA

If she asks... it'll happen. All I'm trying to do is make her realise what's going to happen if they change the balance for her.

DELANEY

So tell me.

Olivia raises an eyebrow as we CUT TO:

A Squad finally make it into the clearing with the temple, where the girls pull up to a halt:

The TEMPLE remains in the form of Delaney's boarding school, at odds with the forest surrounding it.

GREG

What's that doing here?

ALITA

Something's wrong, it's not supposed to stay fixed like this...  
(turns to others)  
She must already be inside.  
Quickly!

Alita breaks into a jog, the others swapping confused glances as they follow, but they don't make it far before:

Three huge FIGURES drop from the sky, landing in the team's path with a trio of THUDS.

They rise, each easily ten feet tall - colossal DEMON SAMURAI, their swords alone as big as the Slayers!

(CONTINUED)

GREG  
Friends of yours?

ALITA  
The Guardians...

Alita bravely steps forward to face the three GUARDIANS.

ALITA (cont'd)  
Do not oppose me. I am here to  
restore the balance.

GUARDIAN #1  
The balance has been set.

GUARDIAN #2  
The one who bears the blood tattoo  
of the Coven di Fuoco must fulfil  
her destiny.

GUARDIAN #3  
The End of All Things will come.

ALITA  
(getting angry)  
The safety and defence of this  
realm is my duty! Stand aside!

The Guardians draw their KATANA in unison.

GREG  
Alita...

ALITA  
It's alright, Greg.

The three huge warriors take one step forward...

ALITA (cont'd)  
They won't attack.

They raise their swords...

ALITA (cont'd)  
(less certain)  
They're forbidden...

Another step, drawing ever closer...

Alita's eyes finally widen as the samurai start to bring  
their swords down:

And in a BLUR, Sofia TACKLES her out of the way as the  
massive katanas CHOP down into the ground where Alita stood!

Skye, Greg and Frankie go straight to the offensive, as Sofia  
quickly checks over Alita.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA  
Are you alright? Are you hurt?

ALITA  
I'm fine.  
(beat)  
You saved me.

SOFIA  
(beat; surprised)  
Yes, I... I suppose I did.

The girls share a quick smile before springing to their feet, weapons ready, and as A Squad face the Guardians, we CUT TO:

Delaney stands before Olivia, arms crossed.

OLIVIA  
You're sure you want to know?

DELANEY  
You heard me.

OLIVIA  
Very well...

Olivia glances up at the windows, the girls following her gaze - and as they watch, the images depicted start to CHANGE, colours and shapes shifting and flowing to form new images.

One shows a woman dressed in white, struck by a bolt of green lightning; another shows what looks awfully like the Academy in FLAMES, one has a circle of silver covered with markings, which as they watch seems to darken and fall away, as if opening to reveal a great chasm beneath it.

RACHEL  
Delaney...

DELANEY  
Let them finish. They want me to see this.

More windows show scenes of combat and destruction, the images moving, rippling and changing faster now - one has tall towers crumbling to rubble; another shows two women locked in combat as FIRE rises all around them; one more shows a heap of bodies, all YOUNG GIRLS with weapons fallen around them.

DELANEY (cont'd)  
How am I supposed to be 'warned' by any of this? None of this means a thing to me right now!



OLIVIA

It will.

DELANEY

Stop trying to scare me. It's not going to work.

(narrows eyes)

You know what? I think you just don't want me to get my magic back, because the Powers want me to stay weak. Powerless. Ineffectual. They want me out of the game.

OLIVIA

And maybe the path ahead of you isn't the one you think it is? Are you really prepared to risk the lives of everyone you know for the sake of your own selfish desire?

Delaney hesitates at last, caught by Olivia's words. She looks back to Rachel, who shakes her head.

RACHEL

Don't do this, Delaney. This can't be for real.

Delaney opens her mouth to respond, but a loud CRASH from somewhere outside grabs her attention.

DELANEY

The hell was that?

With a glance at Olivia, Delaney heads over to one of the windows looking out into the clearing:

And PULL BACK from the building as one of the Guardians pushes away from it, having hit hard enough to leave a DENT in the walls!

A Squad are still hard at work battling the colossal warriors, the three giants keeping up the offensive.

Frankie DIVES to one side as one SWEEPS his katana towards her, slicing through the air.

She tucks and rolls, coming up just in time to have to FLIP backwards as another tries to SKEWER her!

Sofia is trading blows with another, each mighty swing of its sword almost knocking the Scythe out of her hands!

SOFIA

How are we supposed to beat these things?

ALITA

I don't know! They're not supposed  
to be fighting us!

SMACK! One of them CLOCKS Skye, and she sails through the air  
to land with a THUMP between Sofia and Alita.

SKYE

Somebody better tell them that...

Sofia snaps back to the nearest, narrowing her eyes and  
waiting for it to try and chop her in two:

As its wide blade SLAMS into the ground, she jumps, lands on  
the flat of the blade and darts a few steps along it, LEAPING  
into the air, Scythe raised:

And with a terrific CRACK, she brings the Scythe down and  
cleaves the Guardian's head in two!

It releases its katana, lurching backwards and CRASHING  
heavily into the side of the school as we CUT TO:

Where Delaney jumps back from the window, stunned.

DELANEY

What are they doing here? And who's  
that chick in the orange with them?

OLIVIA

Why do you think they're here?

RACHEL

They've come to stop you.

Delaney looks back, torn - then turns to Olivia.

DELANEY

They're wrong. They don't  
understand. They can't understand.

She marches towards Olivia, eyes blazing.

DELANEY (cont'd)

Set it up. We're doing this.

Olivia nods, that enigmatic smile still in place, and as an  
increasingly worried Rachel hears another CRASH outside and  
turns to look, we CUT TO:

Two Guardians are still a match for the squad, and one lands  
a BOOT in Frankie's gut, lifting her up and back through the  
air to land in a heap several feet away.

SKYE

We're getting our asses kicked  
here! Don't these things have weak  
spots or something?

Greg looks towards the fallen Guardian - and its huge sword,  
still embedded in the ground.

GREG

Maybe we have to make our own...

He dashes over to it, the girls scattering as the Guardians  
attack again.

Reaching the sword, Greg tries to pull it out of the ground  
but it's too big and heavy. He takes a step back, closes his  
eyes and exhales, focusing his energies...

Extending a hand towards it, the sword is suffused with a  
GLOW, starting to TWITCH as Greg pushes his magic!

With a POP it comes free of the ground, hanging in the air as  
Greg starts to turn it on the spot - towards the Guardians!

He PUNCHES his hand forward, sending the sword hurtling  
forward like a javelin:

And it SPEARS through one Guardian's chest, sending it  
stumbling back!

Alita and Sofia are quick to move, attacking the backs of the  
Guardian's legs to bring it CRASHING to its knees.

Skye leaps in, sai daggers going into the Guardian's head  
right up to the hilt. It lets out a GROAN and falls forward.

The third and final Guardian steps back, facing the squad,  
who circle it, the odds now firmly in their favour.

They exchange a few looks - and smiles - before CHARGING to  
the attack as we CUT TO:

Rachel looks back to Delaney and Olivia - and sees that a  
corona of orange light is now rising from around them.

Olivia's hair is rising as if in the wind, and as she takes  
Delaney's hands, Delaney GASPS, power flooding through her.

OLIVIA

This will take a moment.

DELANEY

(gritted teeth)

Got all the time... in the world...

CONTINUED:

Rachel, looking more desperate now, checks left and right for something, anything to help her before this gets worse.

Olivia closes her eyes, the energy rising from her intensifies - and the whole room starts to RUMBLE and SHAKE!

Rachel stumbles, BRICKS falling from the ceiling as CRACKS start to snake up the walls!

RACHEL

Delaney!

Delaney can't hear her - her head lolls back, eyes and mouth open as LIGHT spills from them.

ALITA (O.S.)

Rachel!

She spins round - and her jaw drops as she sees the bloodied but unbowed Alita leading the others into the hall!

RACHEL

What...

But Alita surges past her, straight for Delaney and Olivia - and with a SHOVE, she pushes the two of them apart.

The contact broken, the light FLARES and then fades, Olivia recovering quickly as Delaney slumps, dazed, to the floor.

Rachel goes to her side as the others catch up, Alita staring down Olivia with steel in her gaze.

ALITA

I don't know why you're doing this,  
but it has to stop.

OLIVIA

You know better than to question  
us, Alita.

ALITA

I've seen the damage this is  
causing already! You can't expect  
me to believe what you're about to  
do here will change that!

DELANEY (O.S.)

Alita?

Alita looks down - Delaney gets to her feet with Rachel's help, staring in disbelief at Alita.

DELANEY (cont'd)

You... you're alive?

(to Olivia)

Is this -

(CONTINUED)

ALITA

(off Olivia)

Don't bother asking her. She's just a face they have to put on to speak with anyone foolish enough to claw their way up here.

Delaney's jaw hangs as Alita approaches her.

ALITA (cont'd)

Whatever you think you can achieve by doing this... you're wrong. Some things happen the way they are meant to happen, and there's nothing we can do to change that. For whatever reason, something wants you to do this, and I can't for a second believe that anything good will come of that.

DELANEY

(beat; hackles rising)

Oh, you're her, all right. Same old sanctimonious BS as always!

(noticing the others)

And what's this? My intervention?

SKYE

Hey, you tell us. She won't say what's going on either.

FRANKIE

All we know is that the moment you jumped through that portal, a flood of demons started pouring out and attacking the Academy. They will not stop until you come back.

DELANEY

I ain't coming back until I get what I came here for.

She turns back to Olivia, **SHOVING** the book off the pedestal. She looks Olivia in the eye, and we **FLASH TO:**

Back to Delaney's encounter with HOPE HARRIS back at the Wicca Convention. Hope grabs some of Delaney's fingers:

HOPE

Don't say 'yes'.

DELANEY

(suspicious)

'Don't say yes' to what?

(CONTINUED)

HOPE  
When you get the chance...  
(shakes head)  
Don't say 'yes'.

Delaney opens her mouth to reply as we FLASH TO:

Delaney SLAMS her hands down against the pedestal.

DELANEY  
Finish it.

OLIVIA  
Are you -

DELANEY  
Yes, I'm sure! Do it!

OLIVIA  
(beat; nods)  
Very well.

ALITA  
Delaney, no!

She rushes forward, reaching for Delaney - as Olivia takes Delaney's hand, and there's a FLASH of light as we WHITE OUT:

And they're all back in the meadow where they first landed. The team look round, startled - a fresh PORTAL hangs in the air a few feet away. The demons from earlier are gone.

Olivia releases Delaney's hand, and she stumbles backwards, suddenly woozy. Rachel is there to steady her.

DELANEY  
What...

OLIVIA  
You're back to the way you were.

Alita closes her eyes and hangs her head.

OLIVIA (cont'd)  
But know this - people will die  
because of what you've done.

Delaney BLINKS - and Olivia is gone. She turns to the others, who regard her suspiciously.

DELANEY

Okay, before any of you say anything, hear me out. I just wanted to -

ALITA

It's not us you need to explain your actions to. Not yet.

She turns away, Delaney left floundering for a retort as Alita approaches the others.

ALITA (cont'd)

We'd better head back.

GREG

Isn't there anything else we need to do while we're here?

ALITA

(looks to Delaney)

The damage has been done.

Delaney HUFFS, looking away from their accusing stares. Alita steps towards the portal, but Sofia suddenly grabs her arm.

SOFIA

Wait! I...

ALITA

What is it?

SOFIA

You... you can't just go! Not after all this time, not after... after what I did to you!

Alita smiles, reaching back to lay a hand on Sofia's arm.

ALITA

I'm not going just yet. But in order to banish the rest of the demons, we need to close the portal I made down there, which means...

She nods towards the portal. Sofia hesitates, then nods, releasing Alita.

Alita walks up to and steps through the portal as Skye and Frankie join Sofia.

SKYE

C'mon, Sofes. Time to go finish saving the day.

Sofia manages a weak smile, the trio walking back towards the portal. Behind them, Delaney calls out:

(CONTINUED)

DELANEY

Doesn't anybody want to hear my  
side of the story?

Rachel pats her on the arm, offering a friendly smile. She motions towards the portal. Delaney HUFFS again, trudging after her as Rachel follows the others, and we CUT TO:

Mela and Fran finish phasing through the wall, stumbling out to see the sorry state of Tori, still tied to her chair.

FRAN

Oh, God...

MELA

Quick! Help me with her!

They get to work untying her, the limp Tori sinking forward into Fran's arms - just as Hamish steps coolly inside.

HAMISH

Can't let you walk out of here with  
her, girls.

MELA

(smirks)

Who said anything about walking?

She grabs Fran's arm and CLENCHES her fist - but her smile soon falls. She looks at her hand, disbelieving.

HAMISH

Sorry, didn't I mention?  
(points to roof)  
Personally-attuned magic  
suppressor. Only I can cast a spell  
in here.

His hands start to CRACKLE with building energy, his smug expression turning into a victorious leer.

HAMISH (cont'd)

Now. Put Victoria back and I won't  
have to -

WHAM! Hamish crumples - revealing Mallory, clutching the same piece of panelling she was hurled into!

MALLORY

Who needs magic?

She tosses it aside, staggering, as Mela rushes over to her.

MELA

Let's go!



MALLORY  
(off Hamish)  
What about him?

Hamish GROANS from the floor, stirring. Mallory produces a FLICK-KNIFE from her belt.

MALLORY (cont'd)  
We could end a lot of our problems,  
right now, if we just -

Mela clamps a hand down on her arm, lowering the knife.

MELA  
That's not how we do this.

She drags Mallory outside, Fran following:

Only to find Reiko with her hands up - and a team of Cabal troopers holding them at gunpoint!

The girls look round - they're cut off, the sound of more reinforcements closing in.

Fran shifts Tori's weight in her arms, leaning in to whisper to Mela:

FRAN  
He said that suppressor worked  
inside the room, right?

Mela glances at Fran - and then grins. She carefully pulls the others closer, the group huddling together:

And the girls GLOW for a beat before VANISHING from the corridor!

The dumbstruck guards exchange startled glances - as Hamish staggers unsteadily out of his room, pressing a hand to the back of his head. He looks round, realising the girls have gone, and yells:

HAMISH  
Damn it!

He POUNDS a fist against the wall angrily, and we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT FOUR**

**ACT FIVE**

FADE IN:

47

EXT. CAMPUS GROUNDS - CLEARING - DAY

47

Alita hops out of the portal first, swiftly followed by the others - but their faces fall as they see:

The DEMON ARMY, circling the clearing, every bit as mean and impassable as it ever was.

The team close ranks, covering each other's backs as the hideous horde waits, staring them down.

SOFIA

What are they waiting for?

ALITA

I believe they were waiting for me.

SKYE

You some kind of celeb?

ALITA

No, but I am somebody they would all like to kill.

Delaney looks down at her hands - and starts to grin, flexing her fingers and looking back up at the demons.

DELANEY

Leave this to me.

She thrusts her fist over her head, LIGHT starting to gather in a sphere around her hand.

DELANEY (cont'd)

Alright! This is more like it! Time for -

She stops as the army starts to shift, bodies stuttering, twitching...

... and the horde begins to MELT before their eyes, HISSING and BUBBLING as each and every creature dissolves into a puddle of GOO!

Delaney blinks, puzzled, looking at her hand. Alita's eyes widen, and she looks up and around - the portals are closing!

ALITA

It worked! We did it!

FRANKIE

We did?

(CONTINUED)

GREG

Apparently so...

The smiles turn to grimaces - watching an army of warrior demons dissolve is never a pleasant experience.

Within moments, all that's left of the horde are pools of sizzling black ichor, with stray WEAPONS littering the ground.

SKYE

(wrinkles nose)

O-kay... I'm gonna vote for us moving away from the pools of ick before they stink us all to death.

SOFIA

Agreed.

And the team carefully step over the puddles, making their way out of the clearing as we CUT TO:

Where Kira, Huang and Fitzgerald are waiting at the edge of the woods. Puddles of GOOP litter the field around them.

HUANG

(spots something)

There!

The women look through the trees - and see Alita leading the team back towards them.

Huang EMBRACES Alita warmly as they reach them, Fitzgerald going to Greg with a relieved smile.

SOFIA

The demons and portals, are they...

KIRA

They're gone. My ears popped a few minutes ago, which I'm taking to mean the portals all closed up. That, or I'm getting vertigo in my old age.

FITZGERALD

(relieved)

I'm glad you're all back.

ALITA

(nods)

It was not without its trials, but...

She turns to the others, a proud smile on her face.

(CONTINUED)

ALITA (cont'd)  
... it felt good to be with you all  
again.

SKYE  
(grins)  
Feeling's mutual, kiddo.

Skye and Frankie step over for another group hug - Sofia  
still stands apart.

DELANEY  
Not wanting to spoil the moment,  
but you guys would not believe the  
day I've had...

She trails off, realising Kira and Huang are glaring at her.

DELANEY (cont'd)  
What?

Kira stomps up to her, GRABBING her wrists.

DELANEY (cont'd)  
Hey! What the - you're hurting me!

KIRA  
What did you do? You stupid,  
ignorant little girl!

Delaney angrily SHOVES her away, her hands FLARING with  
magic! Kira's eyes bulge at the sight.

KIRA (cont'd)  
Your magic...

DELANEY  
I did what I had to! What nobody  
else could fix for me!

Kira SNARLS again, grabbing her by the shoulders.

KIRA  
Something's changed in the world  
because of your actions, Delaney.  
Harry and I both felt it. Whatever  
deal or pact you think you made up  
there... trust me, we're all going  
to feel the consequences of it soon  
enough.

DELANEY  
But I can fight now! I can help!

HUANG  
You have made a grave mistake,  
Delaney.

DELANEY

(snaps)

You won't be saying that when I  
cram a lightning bolt up Celeste  
Rourke's ass!

Kira burns daggers down into Delaney, who finally SQUIRMS a little under her fierce gaze.

Finally, Kira turns and walks away, the sight of her mother turning her back affecting Delaney more than words could.

She looks to Huang, who can only bow her head before following Kira.

Delaney opens her mouth to call out, but Fitzgerald steps before her.

FITZGERALD

Don't.

(glances at Kira)

Something tells me you'd better  
give her some room for a while.

DELANEY

But... but I did this for her, I  
did this so I could save her, I...

She SNIFFS - a rare show of TEARS are in her eyes.

FITZGERALD

Nobody can tell you what the right  
thing to do is, Delaney.

(beat)

I just hope it turns out to be the  
right choice for all of us.

Fitzgerald offers a reassuring smile, but it doesn't lift Delaney's mood. Fitzgerald steps away to join Alita and the others, and as Delaney watches the group's happy reunion, we  
CUT TO:

Where Tia and MANU are on duty as the doors CRASH open, Fran and the still-woozy Reiko carrying Tori between them. Mela follows with the battered form of Mallory.

FRAN

Hey! Need some help over here!

Tia and Manu hurry over as Fran lies Tori down on the nearest bed, Mela helping Mallory into a chair.

MANU

What happened?

(CONTINUED)

Tia double-takes at Reiko's scorched appearance.

REIKO  
(waves it away)  
I'm fine. Seriously. Them first.

Mallory WINCES as she's set down, clutching her side.

MELA  
Stay here. You're gonna be fine.

MALLORY  
Why didn't you let me kill him?

Mela freezes. Nobody else heard that, luckily.

MELA  
I... we just can't. Not like that.

MALLORY  
Mel, I had the guy dead bang. I'd  
have made it quick. Clean.  
(snorts)  
Better than he deserves.

MELA  
(firm)  
No. Just... no.

She steps away. Mallory watches her go, eyes narrow.  
Suspicious. She COUGHS, grimacing and pressing a hand to her  
chest, pain interrupting her thoughts.

Manu checks Tori's pupils, tearing at ragged strips of her  
clothing to check her body for injuries. He frowns.

FRAN  
What is it?

MANU  
She isn't healing.

He moves around the bed, continuing the examination.

MANU (cont'd)  
What happened to her?

MELA  
Hamish.

He looks up - that one word tells him everything.

MANU  
Whatever he was doing to her, these  
injuries are mystical. Her natural  
vampire-based regenerative ability  
isn't acting on them.

FRAN

Meaning what?

MANU

Meaning, unless I can find some way  
to stabilise her...

He doesn't finish the sentence. Fran and Mela exchange an  
alarmed look - the moment broken as Mallory lurches forward,  
COUGHING violently.

Tia presses a wad of tissue to Mallory's mouth - which comes  
away BLOODY.

TIA

Oh, God...

MANU

She may have internal injuries -  
get her on a gurney and start  
cleaning her up, quickly!

Tia helps Mallory to her feet and walks her over to a nearby  
gurney, as Reiko steps back to join Fran and Mela, the trio  
watching helplessly.

They look up as Dade enters the infirmary. He spots Reiko and  
makes a beeline towards her:

DADE

There you are!

(blinks)

What happened to your -

REIKO

Dade, what is it? Kind of in the  
middle of something here!

Dade just reaches out and grabs her hand.

DADE

Trust me. You're gonna want to see  
this.

He drags her away, Fran and Mela more confused than ever as  
they look back to the action in the infirmary:

Manu is dabbing Tori's ugly, exposed wounds with gauze, and  
as she MOANS and writhes with pain, his suitably grave  
expression tells the story as we CUT TO:

Following somebody as they approach a set of double doors and  
PUSH them open:

(CONTINUED)

Stepping into a wide, circular chamber buzzing with activity. MAPS and WHITEBOARDS on the walls, rows of COMPUTERS and BOOKSHELVES, a ring of MAGIC CIRCLES drawn on the floor.

Unfamiliar faces are working around the room - some at the PCs, others reading from books - but they all turn to face the new arrival:

CELESTE ROURKE, who smiles proudly at the occupants.

CELESTE

I have good news, everyone.

(beat)

She did it.

Smiles, handshakes and general jubilation all round.

CELESTE (cont'd)

But this isn't cause for celebration just yet. Our work begins now, to maximise the opportunity Delaney Brogan has given us. Let's be sure we make the most of it. As the newest incarnation of the Coven di Fuoco, it's up to all of you now to make sure our plans remain on schedule.

(beat)

However... I think we can safely say 'mission accomplished' for this first step.

A round of APPLAUSE breaks out, and Celeste feigns embarrassment before a quick bow, then she exits.

Once she's gone, JILHANDRA emerges from behind one of the bookshelves, her narrowed eyes showing her displeasure at Celeste's triumph as we DISSOLVE TO:

Where Alita and the others remain.

DELANEY

Look, I know you're probably pissed at me right now, but -

ALITA

You did what you did for honest reasons, Delaney. Out of love for your mother and your friends. I can't be angry at you for that.

DELANEY

(sighs; grins)

Always the moral high ground. You know I hate that about you, right?

(CONTINUED)



Alita grins back as the others step forward.

GREG

You're sure you can't stay?

ALITA

(shakes head)

I'm afraid I'm already in trouble  
for staying down here this long.  
The incursion you saw today was far  
from the only attempt there has  
been to manipulate the powers of  
the Higher Plane.

SKYE

Least you know where we are if you  
ever need backup, right?

Alita smiles - but they both know it's an empty promise.

FRANKIE

Per'aps we will find another way to  
come and see you without worrying  
about an 'orde of demons coming  
after us, *non?*

ALITA

(grins)

Perhaps.

She takes her time hugging each one of them in turn, before  
coming to Sofia. She still can't bring herself to look Alita  
in the eye, head down as she speaks:

SOFIA

I... I don't know what to say.

ALITA

Then say nothing.

Alita steps forward and takes Sofia's hands.

ALITA (cont'd)

You fought by my side when it  
mattered. When you needed to. You  
overcame your grief and fear to do  
what was right.

Sofia looks up, trembling. TEARS ready to fall.

ALITA (cont'd)

For that alone, I would forgive  
you, but in truth I forgave you the  
moment you took my life.

That does it - Sofia lets out a SOB, tears streaming, and we  
FLASH TO:

52 INT. CONVENTION HALL - BALCONY - EVENING 52

Where Sofia sits with Hope Harris, back at the Convention.

HOPE

She knows you didn't mean it.

FLASH TO:

53 EXT. CAMPUS - PLAYING FIELD - DAY 53

Alita gives Sofia a moment, then gently lifts her head back up to restore eye contact.

ALITA

I may have missed many of the other events at this Academy, but you and I remain linked. Our souls will always be connected.

(beat)

I have seen everything you have been through since that day. Every battle, every trial... what you did for my village. Those are not the actions of somebody with no remorse for their actions.

SOFIA

I just... I wish I could take it all back, I wish it'd been me who died that day and not you, I can't ever -

ALITA

You can make it right, Sofia. Every day you face the enemies of this world and live to face them the next day.

Sofia manages to nod, but she's still crying as Alita pulls her close for a tight embrace.

SKYE (O.S.)

Uh, Allie?

She looks round - Skye points a thumb over her shoulder.

SKYE (cont'd)

I think somebody else here needs to see you.

Alita looks past her - and sees Reiko with Dade. Reiko's hands are over her mouth in shock, wide eyes staring in disbelief at Alita.

Alita smiles, gently releases Sofia and heads over to meet Reiko. Dade nods to her, then starts back to the campus.

(CONTINUED)

ALITA  
Reiko, I -

REIKO  
(blurts)  
Is it you? Is it...  
(beat; meek)  
Are you real?

Alita takes one of Reiko's hands to prove her point. Reiko looks like she's about to burst.

REIKO (cont'd)  
Oh, God, oh, God...

ALITA  
Reiko. I wish I had more time to tell you how proud I am of you. Of everything you've done for this Academy and your friends.

REIKO  
(shakes head)  
No... no, don't be proud of me. I'm a mess. I can't keep my team in line, everybody thinks I'm a joke, and I couldn't even...  
(hangs head)  
I couldn't even save your village. Like I was supposed to.

ALITA  
You did everything you were meant to do. I believe that.

REIKO  
But does it matter? Really? Does anything I do mean anything to anybody?

Alita smiles again, and we FLASH TO:

INT. CONVENTION HALL - BALCONY - EVENING

Now it's Reiko before Hope, who starts with:

HOPE  
She wants you to know...

FLASH TO:

EXT. CAMPUS - PLAYING FIELD - DAY

Where Alita finishes the sentence:

ALITA  
... you're doing great.

(CONTINUED)

Reiko lets out a GASP, relieved and overwhelmed all at once, and she sinks into Alita's arms. Alita holds her close.

ALITA (cont'd)  
I have to go now... but before I  
do, there is one thing I need to  
tell you.

She leans closer, WHISPERS something into Reiko's ear. Reiko frowns, leaning back, but Alita just nods.

She steps back, Sofia and the others gathering round as Alita regards them all.

ALITA (cont'd)  
There is much still before you, and  
plenty for me to do, so all that  
remains is for me to say goodbye.

A beam of LIGHT breaks through the clouds, shining down on her. Alita seems to GLOW brightly, wisps of LIGHT rising from her body.

GREG  
At least we know they're keeping  
you busy up there, right?

ALITA  
(laughs)  
You can be sure of that.

FRANKIE  
I will make sure I keep an eye on  
them all for you.

ALITA  
I know you will.

SOFIA  
Thank you. For everything.

SKYE  
And don't forget about us, alright?

ALITA  
I couldn't even if I tried.

Alita looks to Sofia and Reiko, smiling as she starts to FADE SLOWLY AWAY.

ALITA (cont'd)  
Sofia, Reiko... when the time  
comes, remember the choice.  
Remember destiny.  
(beat)  
It will guide your decision.

REIKO

Wait... what?

But Alita's gone, the light fading out to nothing. The team are left on the field. A beat, then:

SKYE

So! Who wants a beer?

DELANEY

Me.

GREG

I do.

SOFIA

I'm thinking lots of beers.

REIKO

I don't drink.

(beat; wipes away a tear)

But I'm thinking about starting.

FRANKIE

*Moi aussi.*

SKYE

Cool. Just so happens I got a crate in the fridge that just ordered us to drink it. Be rude not to obey a direct order like that.

(beat)

To old friends.

SOFIA

(smiles)

To old friends. May they continue to show us up at every opportunity.

Skye, Greg, Frankie and Delaney head back towards the campus. Sofia and Reiko wait for a moment, exchanging a look...

... then with a smile, they turn and follow, catching up to the rest.

PULL BACK on the group making their way back towards the Academy, until we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF SHOW**

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