

# SLAYER ACADEMY

**"A MOTHER KNOWS"**

**STARRING**

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**EMILY BOOTH**

**RACHAEL LEIGH COOK**

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**RACHAEL TAYLOR**

**WITH**

**BRADLEY COOPER**

**FAMKE JANSSEN**

**MIA WASIKOWSKA**

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**MAGGIE CHEUNG**

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**KATHERINE HEIGL**

**AND**

**KIRSTEN PROUT**

**MATT SMITH**

**MARY MCDONNELL**

**MELINDA CLARKE**

**DAVID ANDERS**

**GUEST STARRING**

**ZOE LISTER as 'Ellie'**

## TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. CAMPUS - HUANG'S ROOM - NIGHT

1

Darkness fills the strangely decorated room that we find ourselves in.

A large double-bed lies in the centre, surrounded by red sand in a circle around it. In each corner of the room is an unlit candle.

Against the northern wall are stacks of heavy tomes, some still dusty, others lying open on top.

On the opposite wall, weapons are lined on racks. STAFFS, SWORDS and BOWS - you name it, it's there.

Sleeping heavily in the centre of the bed is AREUM HUANG, looking anything but peaceful as she shifts in her sleep and clutches against the covers with long fingers.

Her hair is splayed out around her, sweat glistening on her pale skin.

She begins to mutter under her breath, but the words are inaudible. She begins to toss and turn even harder.

Slowly, certain objects around her begin to LEVITATE - books, a staff, a candle. They rise slowly and silently into the higher, going higher and higher until -

HUANG  
(panicked)  
Dade!

Huang springs awake, clutching her chest and eyes wide with fear --

CRASH! The items fall to the floor, rolling around, with all power over them gone.

The scared emotions in her eyes are obvious, as the beads of sweat roll down around them. Her heavy breathing starts to slow and she composes herself, dropping her hand from her chest.

She eyes the objects on the floor nervously, before shaking her head and running a hand through her dark hair. For a split second, she looks older than ever, the pain causing lines across her face that we've not seen before.

Slowly, she slips out from under the covers and carefully toes over the line of sand towards the fallen items, slowly and neatly placing them back into position.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

It's just as she places the last object, the staff, back onto its rack that there's a light KNOCK at the door. She frowns slightly - who would be calling at this time of night?

Silently, she paces towards the door and opens it a fraction so she can see who's outside -

It's DADE, his own worried expression mirroring her earlier one. He falters for a beat, wringing his hands and not meeting her gaze.

DADE

I'm sorry for waking you, it's just  
-- ah, don't worry, I was being  
stupid, thinking...

He trails off, looking conflicted. She opens the door further, smiling serenely.

HUANG

Come in, Dade.

He slowly steps inside, but he walks like an old man - rigid, hunched over and slow. The expression on his face is one of immense confusion.

Huang nods to herself, a sad expression on her face as she sees this.

DADE

I had - it was a dream, I guess. It  
just seemed, so real, you know,  
like it was actually happening - or  
going to.

HUANG

Dreams are as real as we allow them  
to be.

DADE

This one was different. It felt  
like a vision. There was a library,  
and some girl and --

Huang hushes him quiet, putting her hands on his shoulders and pulling him into a light hug. He looks confused at such a sign of affection.

DADE (cont'd)

(realising)

You had the vision too, didn't you,  
Mom?

Huang pulls back, keeping her hands on his shoulders.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

HUANG

Not every vision comes to pass, you  
should know that.

DADE

But it -

HUANG

Hush now, son. Think not of it. A  
cold drink and some more sleep is  
all you need.

Dade doesn't look so sure, but allows Huang to steer him  
towards the door. Once there, he pauses and turns to her.

DADE

Can I ask you something?

Huang nods slightly, keeping her eyes on Dade all the time.

DADE (cont'd)

When I was a kid... why did you  
leave me?

Huang stares at him long and hard, her eyes looking deep into  
his own as if studying him.

HUANG

(shaking her head)

Now is not the time.

(off his look)

You will know, Dade, I assure you,  
and it will be soon. But not now,  
for it is late and you need rest.

Opening the door for him, Huang regards him sadly. He turns  
to look at her and nods curtly before slumbering off.

Sighing to herself, she closes the door. When she hears the  
footsteps have gone she turns and rests her back on the door,  
tilting her head up.

And in that moment she looks so very human as her eyes begin  
to well up.

CLOSE IN on her tearful eyes and we:

FLASH TO:

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

There's a library, but it's more of a wreck than anything a  
real library. Charred books litter the floor, scorch marks up  
bookcases and unnaturally twisted decorate the floor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

In the background, a mound of books has been set alight like some kind of pyre, and in the distance moving shapes can be seen...

But in the centre of it all, is Dade, but he's not alone.

Because someone has their arms wrapped around him, pulling him away. He's reaching out to something in front of him, screaming.

He's terrified.

And then the light shines on his captor and we see why - it's JILHANDRA.

FLASH TO:

INT. CAMPUS - HUANG'S ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

And back on Huang as she lowers her head slightly so she's cast in light by the outside moon - and her eyes are full of unspoken fear.

After a few seconds, her expression shifts, and she looks more determined then ever.

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4

INT. CAMPUS - CAFETERIA - MORNING

4

The cafeteria is fairly empty as the morning light shines in through the windows. Handfuls of Slayers are scattered around the room, talking - but there's about twenty at most.

DANNY is tucking into his breakfast, dipping strips of toast into an egg. He looks up to see SKYE standing before him, tray of food in hand.

SKYE

Room for two?

DANNY

Be my guest.

She slots in opposite him, glancing at his plate and the awful mess he's made of his breakfast.

DANNY (cont'd)

If you were going to make a sly remark about my eating habits...

SKYE

Wouldn't dream of it.

DANNY

Just as well. I'm sure I could say a thing or two about yours.

SKYE

Hey, I only started eating again about eighteen months ago. Cut me some slack.

He grins - and so does she. If she used to dislike him, it's clear her opinion has softened somewhat.

DANNY

Something on your mind?

SKYE

Yeah, it's 'are you really gonna eat that?'

DANNY

I mean about Tori. We've hardly had much chance to speak since the soul merge, what with Frankie's dad, and Erika, and -

TORI (O.S.)

Don't let me stop you.

(CONTINUED)

They both wheel round to look at the newcomer - and Skye's shoulders sag as she sees TORI.

SKYE  
Look who it isn't.

TORI  
(mock gasp)  
Minnie Mouse?

SKYE  
(blinks)  
What?

Tori shrugs, fairly confused at her own words, before sorting herself out and looking at Skye perfectly seriously.

SKYE (cont'd)  
Guess you've got a good reason for  
crashing our date?

Danny COUGHS, quickly covering as Tori raises her eyebrows, looking between them.

TORI  
You call this a date?

SKYE  
Two people sitting together, having  
breakfast. What would you call it?

TORI  
(grinning)  
Clutching at straws.

Skye opens her mouth to respond, but Danny quickly interrupts her:

DANNY  
It's not a date. Skye's just  
practising for when she develops a  
sense of humour. Please, sit down.

Tori shrugs, and a small smile slips over her features.

TORI  
Romeo and Juliet all over again.

Frowning, Tori looks at Skye, who's also quite bewildered.

SKYE  
That's two in five minutes - you  
sure you're feeling alright?

Tori hesitates, as if not sure herself why she's being so snarky, but recovers with:

(CONTINUED)



TORI

Anyway, I wanted to ask about this soul-sharing thing. I need answers.

SKYE

(sighs)

Yeah, Tori, nice to see you too.

How am I? Oh...

Tori shoots her a look, and Skye HUFFS, motioning for her to continue.

SKYE (cont'd)

What do you want to know?

TORI

Why do I keep having thoughts about going to high school in Cleveland, and sex dreams about some guy with crappy peroxide blonde hair?

Now Skye COUGHS in surprise, and it's Danny's turn to look bemused.

SKYE

(quickly)

Perfectly normal side effect.

Nothing to worry about and

definitely nothing you should tell another living soul about.

(to Danny; pointed)

Ever.

DANNY

According to Kira this is all pretty normal - well, as normal as putting two souls in a jiffy bag and shaking it around a bit, but you get where I'm going with this analogy, don't you?

TORI

(beat; shakes head)

Not at all.

DANNY

Alright, how about -

SKYE & TORI

(simultaneous)

Zip it.

Danny pauses, eyes narrowing as he looks between them - before he starts to SMILE.

DANNY

Yeah, I think you've... yeah.

(CONTINUED)

TORI

What is it, Mister Muscle?

DANNY

I thought so.

(pauses for effect)

You're mimicking each other.

SKYE

No. No frickin' way.

TORI

Yeah, there's no frickin' way that...

Skye and Tori share a look - before tilting their heads the same way to gaze at each other!

SKYE

I'm getting a whole 'Freaky Friday' vibe here, and I am not pleased.

Danny attempts a smile at the two.

DANNY

At least we know the soul-merge worked!

THUNK. Skye and Tori's heads simultaneously flop, tired and annoyed, onto the table as we CUT TO:

Inside the library, things are more unorganized than we're used to under Frankie's rule. Piles on unsorted books are stacked on the tables, rubbish littering in the floor and bins full to the brim with discarded paper.

Leaning against the counter is Dade, giving the brunette Slayer in front of him the puppy dog eyes and a slight curve on his lips.

PANNING ROUND shows that the Slayer is BELLE, and she doesn't look too impressed, her eyebrows raised and arms crossed.

BELLE

Actually, I think that leaving this mess for Frankie to see would be a brilliant idea.

DADE

Even if I had no skin afterwards?

BELLE

Especially if you had no skin after. It'd make for a definite improvement.

Dade raises his eyebrows and gives her a seductive smile.

DADE

But you've barely seen any of my skin yet.

BELLE

And I don't need to see any more. I have a boyfriend, you know.

DADE

(sly)

He's not here right now...

There's a low COUGH from the doorway and both Dade and Belle turn to see GREG standing there, watching the two with a bemused expression on his face.

Belle blushes a deep scarlet colour, but Dade just smiles.

DADE (cont'd)

Belle here was just offering to help tidy this place up.

Greg looks around at the unruly mess and chuckles slightly under his breath.

GREG

(raising his eyebrows)

I'm sure she was. I'm also sure she was just about to get started on that.

He takes a few steps towards them and Belle mumbles something under her breath, moving to one of the piles of books and beginning to sort them out.

Dade looks after her sadly as if missing out on a great opportunity, but when he sees Greg's serious expression, he straightens up.

DADE

So what can I do for you?

GREG

I just got a call in from Paris, Frankie wanted me to deliver a message about a library.

Dade's eyes widen and he straightens - knocking a couple of the books stacked on the counter to the floor. They hit it with a BANG.

DADE

(wincing)

Don't tell her about the state of this place, please.

(CONTINUED)

GREG

(chuckles)

It wasn't about this library.

(beat)

A few weeks ago, she ordered some ancient texts to do with occult prophecies, and the library of Hemmingsworth have been kind enough to donate them. Unfortunately, with her still overseeing her father's affairs, she can't collect them. She's asked me to send you, and is sure you'll be able to live up to her request. Fitzgerald is off seeing Barbara again, but she's approved the mission.

Dade pauses, and for a second there's a flash of uncertainty across his features, before he shrugs.

DADE

(smiles weakly)

Shouldn't be a problem.

GREG

Just in case, we're sending one of the new Watchers with you. Ellie Newark, she's a former Slayer and she's going to be starting to help out in the library after she finishes her training.

Dade nods, and then after a pause -

DADE

She hot?

Greg just sighs and shakes his head, muttering something under his breath.

DADE (cont'd)

(shrugs)

A man's gotta know.

(off look; coughs)

When am I going?

GREG

Ellie's coming in from a training centre at eleven, so you'll be leaving around twelve.

DADE

(nods)

Right, I'll be there.

Greg nods back in return, before slowly backing away and walking out of the library.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (3)

5

CLOSE UP on Dade's face as it immediately drops and his eyes show the fear he's feeling.

FLASH TO:

6 INT. LIBRARY

6

Dade, standing alone in a library, holding a stack of BOOKS - and covered in blood. FLAMES rise up all around him, and as he lets out an agonised SCREAM:

BELLE (PRE-LAP)

Dade? You alright?

FLASH TO:

7 INT. CAMPUS - LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

7

Dade snaps out of his trance to find a concerned Belle standing beside him.

BELLE

Dade?

He closes his eyes and exhales. Puts a hand to his head, scratching it.

DADE

Yeah, just fine.

Mumbling something, he shifts out from behind the counter and slowly shuffles towards Frankie's office.

Belle watches him, concern written across her features. She bites her lip as we CUT TO:

8 INT. COUNCIL FACILITY - LIBRARY - MORNING

8

What would have once been a grand library for the Watchers has now been draped with black hangings splattered with dark red blood.

In the centre of the room is a long table. Several thick tomes in ancient languages lay open on it.

Seated in comfortable leather armchairs around the table are Jilhandra, CELESTE and a handful other MEN and WOMEN, some with occult tattoos and others wearing faded Cabal uniforms. There's about eight in the room in total.

Celeste sits with a slight smile on her lips, seated very comfortably in a large armchair at the head of the table.

Jilhandra is seated directly opposite her at the other end and the others are seated in chairs facing opposite so they can see both women.

(CONTINUED)

CELESTE

Aside from the unfortunate  
additions our Council friends made  
to the colour scheme...

She nods towards a spray of BLOOD across the wall.

CELESTE (cont'd)

... I think we can safely say this  
is an improvement on the shack we  
were operating out of, Rebecca.

JILHANDRA

(sarcastic)

Congratulations.

Jilhandra narrows her eyes and Celeste raises her eyebrows,  
challenging her. Neither says anything. The others hold a  
breath.

HAMISH (O.S.)

I dinnae what this is about, but it  
does nae look too fun.

The two wiccas turn in their seat to see HAMISH standing in  
the doorway.

HAMISH (cont'd)

Glamours outside are a nice touch,  
keeps this place looking  
respectable.

He steps over the body of a Watcher on his way to the table.

HAMISH (cont'd)

Needs a push round with a broom,  
though.

He takes an empty armchair next to Celeste. Jilhandra scowls  
slightly but no-one else notices. Celeste addresses the table  
- the new COVEN RECRUITS watching her.

CELESTE

As I was about to say, I hope you  
all realise that this is a very  
important time. I'm sure you all  
felt the shift in the balance  
recently.

There's a few murmurs and nods from those gathered.

CELESTE (cont'd)

Due to a recent misuse of power by  
someone other than us for a change,  
the dimensional walls have weakened  
and we will soon be able to tap  
into unimaginable resources.

(CONTINUED)

HAMISH

I've got even better news.

(off looks)

The package is en route.

A smile begins to curve onto Celeste's lips.

CELESTE

Excellent.

And for once, a smile begins to tug on Jilhandra's lips as we  
DISSOLVE TO:

INT. CAMPUS - DADE'S ROOM - MORNING

Seated on his bed, surrounded by photo albums is Dade. He  
leafs through one silently, his head down so we can't see his  
expression.

The photo album he's got open in his hands shows picture's of  
himself and a young Asian girl - ZOE SONG. They're hugging,  
having a laugh and just being good friends.

FRAN (O.S.)

Dade?

Quickly shoving the photo album under the quilt cover and  
knocking several other to the floor in the process, Dade  
looks up. His eyes are wet. He quickly rubs them away.

Fran frowns, moving further into the room to sit on the bed  
with him.

FRAN (cont'd)

(concerned)

You cool?

DADE

Just fine.

It's clear from his aggravated voice that he's not, however.  
Fran leans over and picks up one of the fallen photo albums.  
She opens it up on a page filled with pictures of him and  
Zoe. She looks up at him, smiling sadly.

FRAN

It's okay to miss someone, Dade.

You don't have to be embarrassed.

DADE

I'm not embarrassed!

FRAN

Why'd you hide these, then?

Dade opens his mouth to respond - and then closes it. He has  
no argument.

(CONTINUED)

Fran places the photo album neatly back on top of the bed.

FRAN (cont'd)  
Belle said you were kinda out of it earlier.

DADE  
She shouldn't be prying into other peoples business.

FRAN  
She's just concerned, Dade, and she's not the only one. Reiko says you've been avoiding her, too.

Sighing, Dade stands up and kicks the photo albums to a corner of the room.

DADE  
Unless you've got something important to say, maybe it's time you leave. I've gotta get ready.

FRAN  
(frowns)  
Is it about this 'mission' of yours? Come on, it's just a retrieval. Nothing dangerous or anything.

DADE  
Fran?

She looks up from the photo album she was leafing through, her eyebrows raised.

DADE (cont'd)  
(sharp)  
Get out.

Fran blinks several times, and her mood switches in a split second to one of annoyance and frustration, before standing quickly and glaring at the back of his head.

FRAN  
You really can be an ass, you know?  
And that's coming from me.

And with that, she storms out, SLAMMING the door behind her.

Dade collapses back onto the bed, running a hand through his hair.

He looks scared and lost. Just like a little boy. He lets out a heavy SIGH as we CUT TO:



10 EXT. CAMPUS - GROUNDS - MORNING

10

Walking down a light battered path towards the pond at the edge of the grounds is SOFIA. She's wearing her white robe that she usually wears whilst in training with Huang.

SOFIA  
(calling out)  
Sorry I'm late, I -

However, as she approaches, she see's that Huang's usual deck chair is EMPTY, and Huang is nowhere to be seen.

Sofia stops near the chair, hands on hips as she looks round. She glances at her watch and frowns.

Turning, she sees Huang walking slowly down the path at her. Sofia takes a few steps up the path to close the gap.

SOFIA (cont'd)  
And I thought I was late.

HUANG  
I am sorry, Sofia, but I must  
cancel our session today.

SOFIA  
How come?

HUANG  
I find myself with something known  
as exhaustion mixed with a common  
cold. Not a pleasant combination.  
It is a wonder I have made it this  
far out here.

SOFIA  
Why didn't you send anyone? You  
shouldn't be coming out feeling  
like that!

HUANG  
(smiles)  
I appreciate your concern, Sofia.

SOFIA  
Do you want me to help you up to  
the Academy?  
(grins)  
Or maybe you have something that  
needs bandaging? I've gotten plenty  
of compliments, you know...

HUANG  
(chuckles)  
No, I think I have enough energy to  
make it back to my room.

(CONTINUED)

Sofia looks at her for a few seconds, unsure. The concern is visible on her face, but Huang's calm and collected one is enough to keep her in check. And then:

SOFIA

(nods)

Right, I'll... see you later, I guess. Get well soon?

Huang just smiles and moves aside to allow Sofia to walk past and back up the path.

Dade walks past Sofia, not even looking at her, who frowns and watches him as he approaches Huang. She shrugs and continues to head up the path and out of sight.

Huang turns, not at all surprised to see Dade standing a metre or two away from her.

HUANG

Your vision is still troubling you.

DADE

I just can't shake it. Something bad's going to happen, I know it.

(beat)

And it's not just the dream - I keep having flashes of it, the same things over and over. It's got to mean something.

Huang rests a hand on his shoulder.

HUANG

You will be fine. I will make sure of it.

She offers him a smile, but it's not a gesture he returns.

DADE

They've sent me to a library to get some texts for Frankie.

(beat; stresses)

A library.

He waits for a reaction - there isn't one.

HUANG

Dreams can sometimes be just that, Dade. The mind's method of processing, sorting and storing information. One should not always expect the worst.

DADE

I'd rather expect it than have it sneak up on me, to be fair.

(CONTINUED)

She allows a little smile at his joke. They stand together, the moment awkward. Dade looks like he's on the cusp of speaking and then:

DADE (cont'd)  
Mom, why was I -

HUANG  
I know what you are about to ask,  
and now still is not the right  
time.

Dade's eyes glare at her, although she's seemingly not affected by it.

DADE  
But I'm awake now, I've rested,  
done everything you told me to do -  
I just want to know!

HUANG  
(nods)  
You have a right to know, yes, but  
I cannot allow it to trouble your  
mind further. Think not of it  
whilst you are at the library. You  
shall find out soon enough.

Dade watches her, the annoyance visible in his eyes, as she slowly walks past him, making her way slowly back up to the Academy. He sighs and shakes his head.

And then he freezes - his eyes WIDE in fear and we -

FLASH TO:

The ruined library, and a familiar scene of chaos.

Back to Jilhandra pulling Dade away and he's screaming and trying to reach something in front of him desperately...

Because on the floor in front of him is the limp form of a FEMALE BODY.

FLASH TO:

And back on Dade as he shakes his head, putting a hand to his forehead and trying to calm his trembling nerves as we:

BLACK OUT:

**END OF ACT ONE**

**ACT TWO**

FADE IN:

13

INT. CAMPUS - QUADRANGLE - DAY

13

The quadrangle is basically empty as we CLOSE UP on the small form of a young Japanese girl - REIKO. She walks along, headphones in her ears and silently rocking out.

Head down, Reiko wanders straight into the waiting form of Sofia. Reiko SQUEAKS in alarm.

SOFIA

You're going to go deaf if you keep playing your music that loud.

REIKO

(shouts)

What?

Sofia rolls her eyes, Reiko poking her tongue out as she pops the headphones out.

REIKO (cont'd)

I always thought signing looked pretty cool. What's up with the Sofes-meister?

Sofia just stares, unblinking.

REIKO (cont'd)

Yeah... I'm never saying that again. Ever.

(recovers)

So what's up? Aren't you supposed to be in one of your sessions with Huang? You're all dressed up for it, after all.

SOFIA

That's the thing. She says she's ill, but... I think something else is going on. Dade came to see her just as I was leaving. Do you know what's up with them? After Fran you're the nearest thing he has to a friend, so I thought maybe...

REIKO

(bitter laugh)

'Friend'. Right.

SOFIA

(frowns)

What does that mean?

(CONTINUED)

REIKO

Means he's been ignoring me, and he barely said two words to Fran before throwing a hissy and throwing her out.

The two start to walk back the way Reiko came, towards the dormitories.

SOFIA

Family issues?

REIKO

(shrugs)

Maybe, but Belle told Fran that Frankie's asked him to collect some books from a library and he only went weird after that.

SOFIA

You think it's nerves?

REIKO

Can't be - it's only getting books, after all. And he's got Ellie Newark - remember her? - going with him. Having an ex-Slayer is surely enough "protection". Not that he'll need it.

SOFIA

Maybe we should speak to Huang about it? She said she'd be in her room.

Reiko nods in agreement and the girls pull open the double doors leading inside as we CUT TO:

The room is empty. The bed made, the books closed and piled neatly, the weapons untouched and the candles lifeless.

But no Huang in sight.

There's a KNOCK on the door. Moments later, a second, then:

SOFIA (O.S.)

(muffled)

Lady Huang?

She knocks again - and then the door swings open, exposing Sofia with her hand on the handle and Reiko just behind her.

REIKO

Where do you think she is?

SOFIA

She told me she was going to spend  
all day here.

REIKO

Maybe she's still with Dade?

Sofia looks at the clock on the wall - half past twelve.

SOFIA

(shakes her head)

No, he'd have left by now.

She scans the room and her eyes fall on the bed - or more specifically, the ENVELOPE perched on top of one of the pillows.

Frowning, she approaches it, steps carefully over the sand circle and picks the letter up.

Reiko follows, but she's not so careful and accidentally scatters the sand and breaks the circle.

There's a BANG and suddenly things fall out of order - the weapon stands disappear and they clatter to the floor, the candles ROAR with flame, the books fall out of their organized pile.

After a second, the roaring flames die down, but they leave SCORCH marks on the wall and ceiling.

Sofia glares back at Reiko, who cringes.

REIKO

(wails)

Hey, I wasn't to know she had some  
psycho alarm system!

Sofia turns back to the letter - and has to double take when she realizes it's got her name on the front. Reiko peers over her shoulder at the envelope.

REIKO (cont'd)

Open it!

Sofia opens the envelope and begins to read the letter - when her eyes BULGE and she looks at Reiko, stunned, as we CUT TO:

Tall, majestic and filled to the absolute brim with rows and columns of books - this is the library from the visions.

It's lit everywhere and people walk around silently, looking at the books in the racks and reading. Nothing overly imposing.

Seated on a bench in the middle of a long, wide corridor in between bookshelves is Dade - but he's not alone.

Sitting next to him is ELLIE NEWARK, the depowered blonde Slayer in her late-twenties. She looks far more composed and calm than him, dressed in smart, casual clothes.

There's a rigid silence between them. Ellie's eyes dart towards him every now and then.

ELLIE

(beat)

The girls have been telling me things.

DADE

(not interested)

Oh, really?

ELLIE

About you and, well, I suppose you like to call them 'adventures'.

DADE

You wanting to see if the rumours are true?

It's clear from the tone in his voice that his heart isn't in it as he stares ahead, not even looking at her.

ELLIE

(scowling)

Absolutely not! I think what you're doing is not only stupid on your own part, but also damaging to these girls.

DADE

(quirks eyebrow)

Jeez, being a Watcher must have really put a stick up your ass.

(beat)

You're what, twenty-six at most and you're speaking like some kind of middle-aged mom.

ELLIE

(glares)

I'm serious, Dade. Getting rid of your own problems by giving young girls ones of their own is not going to help with this war.

DADE

(glaring back)

'My own problems'? You don't even know me.

(CONTINUED)

ELLIE

Your friends Reiko and Fran have kept me informed of the goings on at the Academy.

DADE

(laughs)

Okay then, what are 'my own problems'?

ELLIE

Trying to get over the death of your girlfriend by sleeping around.

An angry expression washes over Dade's face as he opens his mouth to respond -

ELLIE (cont'd)

(cutting in)

Feeling jealous because you feel your mother doesn't pay you enough attention.

DADE

(snaps)

Hey, leave my family out of this, okay? You've got no right to start judging me!

He glares back at her, his expression venomous.

ELLIE

And you have no right to treat girls like that! They've got enough problems right now, without -

LIBRARIAN (O.S.)

Excuse me?

They both turn to see a timid-looking female LIBRARIAN holding two very thick TOMES in her arms.

LIBRARIAN (cont'd)

I believe these were the texts you were looking for?

Ellie takes them from her, forcing a smile which the librarian can clearly see through, judging by her expression.

ELLIE

Thank you. We'll get out of your hair now.

LIBRARIAN

And, in case it had slipped either of your minds...

(CONTINUED)



She indicates the library behind her - full of stern-looking people GLARING at the noisy duo.

Ellie offers her best diplomatic smile, then turns round and glares at Dade.

ELLIE  
(whispers)  
We're done. Let's go.

She stands, already heading towards the door without looking back. Dade glares at the back of her head before standing and beginning to follow -

KA-BOOM!

The north wall of the library BLASTS OPEN, throwing RUBBLE and BODIES everywhere -

And through the fog, three figures appear, stepping over the rubble remains of the wall - and Celeste, Hamish and Jilhandra, backed by the new Coven members.

Both Dade and Ellie's expressions drop as their eyes widen in shock. Dade makes to say something, but can't find the words.

CELESTE  
I believe I have some overdue fines  
to pay?

And smiling sweetly, Celeste lights up a FIREBALL above the palm of her hand as we SMASH CUT TO:

Gathered in the briefing room are A-SQUAD and B-SQUAD (which includes RACHEL and MELA), talking amongst themselves with confused expressions. Greg and KIRA are also present, equally as puzzled.

Reiko and Sofia stand at the head of the room near the board. Sofia steps forward, the room falling silent.

SOFIA  
Thank you all for coming, I know  
this was short notice.

GREG  
For what, exactly? I've not seen a  
student call a meeting before, so  
I'm certainly interested to see  
what this is all about.

Sofia passes the letter to Kira.

SOFIA

Lady Huang has disappeared from the grounds and left me this message. Several of you have also noticed Dade behaving strangely, and this letter confirms what exactly is behind it.

Fran and Mela share a look. Mela bites her lip.

SKYE

So what does it say? He get a better offer or something?

SOFIA

The mission Greg sent Dade on was the subject of visions both he and Lady Huang experienced, and she's gone after him to make sure they don't come true.

(beat)

She left this letter telling us to follow them to the library to help if we didn't hear back from Dade.

KIRA

(reading)

By the looks of this letter, the visions concerned Dade being taken by the Coven -

(looks up; grave)

And Harry's never had a vision that didn't come to pass.

Nodding, Sofia turns back to the others, a look of urgency now written across her features.

SOFIA

Which is why we're needed. If the Coven are going to try and get Dade, we need to stop them.

GREG

(frowns)

We've got no intel on this. I'm sorry, but we can't just send our best Slayers out without any hard information.

TORI

What about Hamish? If the Coven are there, he'll be there, and much as I'd like to put my faith in this soul merge to keep me safe...

RIIING! Everyone scowls at Fran, who pulls her phone out of her pocket, looking a little sheepish.

(CONTINUED)

FRAN  
Sorry, forgot to turn it -  
(off phone; sits up)  
It's Dade.

Without wasting a second, she answers the call and puts it on loudspeaker.

DADE (O.S.)  
(muffled)  
Fran, you there? We need some serious help here - the Coven's showed up - they're killing everyone! We've got the books, trying to find a way out - not that way! Over here!

FRAN  
Dade, hang in there! We're on our way over to you!

DADE  
Good! Hurry the hell up and save my tight little ass before -

STATIC. Fran looks up at Sofia, eyes wide, who nods back in agreement before turning back to the general room.

SOFIA  
We need to leave now. If Hamish is there... then we'll just have to deal with him.  
(turning to Mela)  
Think you can Lightstep us there?

MELA  
Um, I can try, but this many people...

Sofia turns to Kira, cutting her off.

KIRA  
In my sleep, underwater and with the lights turned off.  
(off looks; rolls eyes)  
Yes...

SOFIA  
Good. Let's go.

And off the grim determination on her face we SMASH CUT TO:

The background lights up as an EXPLOSION sends a particularly large bookcase crashing to the ground and bursting up in FLAMES.

Cackling can be heard in the distance, but it's ringing round like an echo. Down each line of bookshelves, the shadows seem to be moving towards...

Dade and Ellie, who are running for their lives down the long corridor. Ellie has the books safely tucked under her arm.

Around them, the floor is littered with bodies, charred, crushed, mangled, all just limp and dead.

ELLIE

(calling back)

What do you think they're here for?  
The books?

DADE

That'd be my favourite option if I  
didn't know the right one...

ELLIE

And what's that?

DADE

(beat; darkly)

It's me.

Her eyes bulge and she speeds up a little. He follows as best as he can, but he's starting to lag behind, out of breath.

DADE (cont'd)

My lungs are gonna explode in a  
minute!

ELLIE

Can't be helped, we need to get out  
of here!

HAMISH (O.S.)

Didn't you listen, young lass?  
Now's no time to be leaving.

They skid to a halt as Hamish steps round a bookcase to block their path.

Taking a few steps back towards Dade, Ellie casts him a look before passing him the books.

DADE

What're you -

ELLIE

Just take the books and run. If  
it's you they're after, then you  
need to get out of here. I can buy  
you some time this way.

(CONTINUED)

DADE

I'm sorry...

ELLIE

There's no time, just go!

He goes to say something, but upon seeing the look of urgency on her face he nods and willingly takes the books before running as fast as he can down an aisle.

HAMISH

(calling out)

Don't be going far!

Ellie takes a few steps forward - before pulling a KNIFE out from her sleeve. He laughs at her, shaking his head.

HAMISH (cont'd)

Alright, you've had your little heart-warming moment. Let's see what you've got.

Letting out a BATTLE CRY, Ellie charges forward and swipes the knife. He backs away, laughing as she swipes again. He has a wide grin on his lips, enjoying every moment.

HAMISH (cont'd)

I'm getting the impression you were a distinctly average Slayer.

Ellie swings for a third time, but in doing so she leaves herself open - and Hamish closes a hand around her neck!

Her eyes bulge as he lifts her off the ground, choking her. Her feet dangle, kicking at him but he doesn't feel them weak attempts.

HAMISH (cont'd)

(sighs)

You know, you look like my Rachel.

And then, with an expression almost bordering sadness, he SNAPS HER NECK and she falls to the floor, limp. DEAD.

Shaking his head, he steps over her and begins to follow after Dade, as we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT TWO**

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

18

INT. LIBRARY - MOMENTS LATER

18

Open on Dade running as fast as he can, the books bundled in his arms when - BAM!

Books from the shelves fall down around him, one STRIKING him on the head hard. BLOOD trickles out from his hairline as he tumbles to the floor, tomes spilling around him.

Jilhandra rounds the corner, smiling wickedly.

JILHANDRA

Sorry - 'look out!'

He attempts to clamber to his feet, but Jilhandra wraps a long arm around him and in his weakened state, she's stronger than he is, and pulls him back to the central corridor.

Waiting for them is Celeste, who nods as Jilhandra drags the stunned Dade over.

Hamish and several followers round the corner, their eyes lighting up when they see Jilhandra and Dade.

CELESTE

It's a pleasure to meet you at last, Dade. I trust you know who I am by now?

DADE

Psycho bitch and her cronies, looks like.

Celeste raises her eyebrows at his comment, but Jilhandra BACKHANDS him to the floor. Dade spits blood out of his mouth.

CELESTE

Rebecca, please. We need him, you know that.

Dade glares up at her as Celeste walks forward -

BOOM!

Bits of the CEILING collapse inwards, almost crushing Celeste and several coven members - as Huang lowers from the hole in the roof, her arms splayed out and her hair whipping wildly about her.

CELESTE (cont'd)

(eyes lighting up)

Harry! Good to see you again.

(CONTINUED)

Huang reaches the floor, her feet touching the ground softly. There's a glint in her eyes we've never seen before.

HUANG

You should not have come here  
today, Celeste.

CELESTE

(laughs lightly)  
I'm afraid I have to disagree.  
We've got quite a bit out of it  
already, if I may say so myself.

Her eyes flick towards Dade, who's struggling against Jilhandra's grip. Jilhandra's left hand is CRACKLING with magical energy.

Glancing over as well, Huang quickly scans him, taking in his bust lip and bruises.

HUANG

(eyes narrowing)  
You cannot offer me anything,  
Celeste. My heart is not as tainted  
by the past as yours.

Celeste regards her with something bordering on interest, energy crackling around her hands. Huang does not flinch.

HUANG (cont'd)

Release Dade.

Raising her eyebrows, Celeste lets out a little laugh, looking at Huang as if she was mad.

CELESTE

Here's my counter-offer - come with  
us, and we'll let your son walk out  
of here unharmed.

She raises an eyebrow, so sure of her own victory. Huang's stony expression does not change.

HUANG

You never were the best liar,  
Celeste. You are bluffing. You need  
Dade for his magical immunity. For  
the power that was denied you.  
After all, that is why you killed  
Esme, is it not?

Celeste's eyes narrow and she clenches her hands into fists.

CELESTE

I suppose that's one advantage of  
your visions - you can always see  
these things coming.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CELESTE (cont'd)  
(composing herself)  
Very well. If you won't join us  
willingly - I'll just have to take  
that power myself!

Celeste fires off a massive BEAM of ENERGY, but Huang just waves her hand and it bounces off.

HUANG  
So be it.

There's a sudden bright FLASH and the Slayers arrive - although in quite a state as many fall to the floor, looking disorientated.

The only one who doesn't seem affected is Kira, whose hands are already CRACKLING. Beside her, the recovering Greg's even working a bit of his own magic.

CELESTE  
Evelyn?

KIRA  
(weary)  
Oh, shut up, you old hag!

And as she throws a BOLT of power at Celeste, the squads start to recover and get into the fight!

SKYE  
Fran, you and Mela, take those guys  
over there!

She points towards a group of the new Coven recruits, closing in fast.

MELA  
Got it!

SOFIA  
Reiko, find Dade! We'll keep the  
Coven busy!

B Squad split up and make for their targets, Fran and Mela DODGING around blasts of FIRE and ENERGY hurled their way.

Huang charges forward, blocking Celeste's attack and throwing one of her own. They're evenly matched, blocking each other's attacks and throwing their own in a vicious circle.

Face tight with concentration, Huang seamlessly blocks every incoming attack, sending her own back in reply.

Celeste's face remains composed, smiling sweetly at Huang whilst sending her own dangerous attacks.



TRACK OVER to Tori and Belle as they try and take on Jilhandra. She's keeping them both on their toes, firing BOLTS of energy at them and forcing them to dodge.

They're barely getting any attacks in, trying so hard to get out of the way of the searing heat of the energy bolts.

One clips Tori's shoulder and she skids across the floor, howling in pain as she clasps her shoulder.

Hamish suddenly appears out of nowhere, leering over her with a wicked grin across his features.

HAMISH

Hello, Victoria.

SMACK! Hamish suddenly SAILS across the room, exposing Skye standing above Tori.

SKYE

Yeah, she says 'hi'.

She reaches down and helps Tori to her feet with a curt nod that Tori returns with a slight smile.

Rachel, meanwhile, steps out before Jilhandra, staring her down as she draws a SWORD.

JILHANDRA

So you switched teams again, Rachel? You must be getting very confused by now.

RACHEL

Actually, I'm crystal clear.

She SLICES forward, her sword cutting through the air again and again, Jilhandra weaving with magically-assisted reflexes to keep clear.

With a sudden LUNGE, she wraps her long fingers around Rachel's neck and lifts her off her feet.

JILHANDRA

This almost feels like a mercy killing...

Rachel claws at the hands around her neck, slowly going blue as she starts to CHOKE -

SOFIA

Hey!

And Sofia sails into view, JUMP-KICKING Jilhandra around the face and forcing her to drop Rachel.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA (cont'd)  
You want to pick a fight?

She TWIRLS the Scythe round in her hands like a pro.

SOFIA (cont'd)  
Come and have a go.

Shaking the blow off, Jilhandra straightens and looks down on Sofia with a sneer.

JILHANDRA  
And I suppose you're meant to  
intimidate me?

SOFIA  
'Intimidate'? No. 'Humiliate'...  
perhaps.

Shrugging, Jilhandra throws an energy bolt at her, but Sofia ducks under it and does an UPPERCUT right to Jilhandra's jaw which connects with a crunch.

As Jilhandra stumbles back, Sofia reaches down and helps Rachel to her feet, Rachel rubbing her throat.

SOFIA (cont'd)  
Go off and help the others. I've  
got this one.

RACHEL  
Thanks, but I want to put this  
bitch down myself.

And grinning, the two surge forward to take on Jilhandra together as we TRACK OVER to Delaney.

She's surrounded by two of the new Coven mages, who are desperately trying to get an attack in, but she's simply too much of a handful, blocking and slipping under all their attacks.

DELANEY  
I'm assuming you're both new, so  
let me get you up to speed...

And she BACKHANDS one, sending him crashing to the floor just as the second races forward and she BLASTS him off his feet with a wave of her hand.

DELANEY (cont'd)  
... and that's basically it.

The first mage flips to his feet, sending an arc of fire towards her, but Delaney quickly CHANGES it into water, and it splashes uselessly against her midriff.

(CONTINUED)

DELANEY (cont'd)  
(grimaces)  
Dude. Really?

Smashing her hand forward towards the guy's face, he's  
BLASTED off his feet and several feet away.

DELANEY (cont'd)  
Where does she find you people?

THUD! Delaney's flung off her feet as something collides into  
her. She recovers quickly by rolling and spinning to her feet  
- only to find Celeste has done the same.

DELANEY (cont'd)  
That was you? Jesus, woman, you  
weigh a ton.

Celeste just laughs, shaking her head.

CELESTE  
I see the famous Pierce wit didn't  
skip a generation.

Delaney quirks an eyebrow, not ever dropping her guard with  
her fists raised, ready to attack at any moment.

DELANEY  
We gonna carry on cracking jokes,  
or are we gonna throw down before I  
get quip-lash?

CELESTE  
I believe a congratulations is in  
order.

DELANEY  
(frowns)  
For what?

CELESTE  
(laughs)  
You have no idea, do you?

DELANEY  
That's what 'for what?' meant.  
Idiot.

Celeste's eyes narrow, and she thrusts her hands forward as  
Delaney is BLASTED off her feet and slams into a bookcase  
behind. Heavy books collapse on top of her, trapping her.

CELESTE  
Hush.

BLOOD dribbles from her nose as she GROANS and tries to sit  
up - but just collapses back down.

(CONTINUED)

Celeste slinks forward, regaining herself and straightening her clothes. She looms over Delaney, features bathed orange by the FLAMES all around.

CELESTE (cont'd)

I wanted to congratulate you for  
being a fool just like your mother.

(beat; smiling)

Your trip to the Higher Realm did  
us wonders - in fact, you tipped  
the balance in our favour.

She lifts up her hand, where a massive ball made of FIRE,  
WATER and ELECTRICITY begins to hover and swirl around,  
gradually increasing in size by the second.

CELESTE (cont'd)

Meaning that I can do this.

She pulls her hand back, about to throw --

And is suddenly ripped off her feet, a BOLT of energy  
slamming into her and sending her sprawling.

Huang levitates in front of her, a shimmering aura of purple  
energy outlining her.

HUANG

Leave the girl alone, Celeste. This  
is between us.

Celeste picks herself up, smirk back in place.

CELESTE

Ever the persistent one, Harry.

And simultaneously, they launch STREAMS of ENERGY at each  
other, which collide and blast the two apart.

They fall back to the ground, landing unceremoniously on  
their backs.

Delaney tries to pick herself up again - just as Greg and  
Kira take an arm each to pull her to her feet.

DELANEY

(still dazed)

Whu...

KIRA

Yes, dear, you're welcome.

GREG

(off Huang)

Shouldn't we -

Kira shakes her head, urging Greg to keep moving.

(CONTINUED)

KIRA

Give them a minute. This one's been  
a long time coming.

As Greg and Kira help Delaney away, Celeste and Huang  
recover, quickly hurling BLASTS of power at one another.

Each one is met by its opponent, the evenly-matched witches  
filling the air with blazing energy.

Huang flicks her hand across the air in a slashing motion -  
and a long CUT appears across Celeste's midriff. She bites  
her lip to stop a cry, before glaring, her expression ugly.

She pushes both hands forward, blasting Huang off her feet  
and through a bookcase, leaving a Huang-shaped outline  
behind.

Second later, the entire bookcase SHOOTs towards Celeste, who  
dives through the outline with surprising agility and lands  
on her feet.

Huang rises to her feet, barely a cut on her, but her eyes  
are malicious and dark as the fight intensifies.

Sofia and Rachel are faring slightly better with Jilhandra,  
who is now strictly on the defensive and having to block the  
Slayers' attacks with both her hands and by magic.

However, seizing an opening, she blasts Rachel away, who hits  
a bookcase with a THUMP, falling still. Sofia's eyes go wide  
and she glances over at her friend - which of course allows  
Jilhandra to send her the same way.

As Jilhandra dashes forward, her hands crackling with energy -  
someone steps in the way.

It's Kira.

KIRA (cont'd)

I believe you mentioned something  
about an overdue fine?

JILHANDRA

(huffs)

Oh, come on, Kira, do you really  
think -

ZAP! She's knocked sideways by a blast she didn't see coming -  
and Kira looks across to Greg, lowering a smoking hand.

Kira smirks at him, then flicks her hand and BLASTS Jilhandra  
off her feet.

KIRA

It would appear that I do.

(CONTINUED)

Kira charges forward to take on Jilhandra again, as we track over to Skye and Tori, who are taking on Hamish.

Most of his attacks are aimed at Skye, but Tori is leaping to her aid whenever possible. The two are working in sync, proving quite a handful.

HAMISH

There's something different about  
you two...

Skye ELBOWS him round the face and he stumbles back. Within seconds, Tori gets behind him and flips him over her back and crashing to the floor.

SKYE

We're both getting sick of you.

But as Skye attempts to kick him in the face again, he rolls to the side and flips up to his feet, just as Tori moves forward to join her.

And as the two once again begin fighting in sync, Hamish grows increasingly frustrated. Even as he lunges for one girl, the other jumps in the way to stop it.

Snarling in frustration, he BLASTS Skye off her feet with an unexpected attack, and rounds on Tori.

HAMISH

That's better! I was starting to  
doubt myself for a second...

But that's when something catches his eye over Tori's shoulder - Rachel, unconscious on the ground by Sofia.

Seizing the moment, Tori SUCKERPUNCHES him and he hits the floor, unconscious.

TORI

Guess you were right.

ON FRAN as she KICKS one mage to the ground, then AGAIN across the jaw to keep him down.

REIKO (O.S.)

Dade? Dade!

Reiko hurries into view, almost tripping over the downed mages surrounding Fran and Mela.

REIKO (cont'd)

Where the hell is he?

FRAN

Switch. I'll go look, you stay and  
fight.

(CONTINUED)

Reiko nods, Fran hustling past her and turning a corner. Reiko glances at Mela - just as a SHOCKWAVE thunders past them, the girls turning to see a bloodied but unbowed MAGE heading their way.

WITH FRAN as she hurries down one of the few unwrecked aisles in the library, sounds of BATTLE all around as she turns:

And there's Dade, clutching onto Ellie's body, checking for a pulse he knows isn't there.

Fran reaches him, kneeling by his side and laying a hand on his shoulder. It takes him a beat to realise she's there.

FRAN (cont'd)

Are you hurt?

He shakes his head, but tilts his arms slightly so she can see Ellie's lifeless body. She curses under her breath, shaking her head.

REIKO (O.S.)

Dade!

Sofia and Reiko both run up, the signs of battle visible on them. Sofia's white training robe is stained with blood, dirt and mud and a few cuts litter her face.

Reiko isn't doing much better off, her hair dirty, her clothes ripped and her lip split.

REIKO (cont'd)

We need to get out you of here.  
This whole thing was a trap.

SOFIA

Rachel's out cold and Delaney's not looking good either. Doesn't seem to matter how many times we knock these slappers down, they just keep getting back up!

(to Fran)

Where's Mela?

FRAN

I thought she was with you?

REIKO

We got split up, I... I don't know where she -

SOFIA

I'll get her. You two make sure nothing happens to him, okay?

Reiko nods, she and Fran helping the dazed Dade up as Sofia jogs back to rejoin the fray:

(CONTINUED)

And finds Huang and Celeste still locked in battle, streams of ENERGY blazing from their hands and meeting in a magical tug-of-war.

SWEAT rolls down Celeste's head, but she grits her teeth and keeps pushing - every steps she takes forward pushes Huang one back.

Huang senses movement and turns - seeing Reiko and Fran carrying Dade between them.

Celeste follows her gaze, then look back to Huang - and grins wickedly.

Celeste starts to raise her other hand, ready to aim a blast at the fleeing trio!

Sofia's eyes bulge and she grips her Scythe, charging forward with a YELL:

HUANG

Sofia, no!

Sofia rushes Celeste, whose eyes glint as she shifts her building attack towards Sofia --

Sofia's eyes bulge and she skids to a stop --

Celeste's attack SCREAMS towards her --

And Huang DIVES in the way, taking the full blast!

She BLAZES green, her body pulled taut as the energy washes over her.

Sofia SCREAMS - and then the light fades, leaving a charred Huang behind who slumps limply to the floor.

Celeste sags, looking utterly spent as she breathes heavily. Her face and body are littered with cuts and bruises.

She glances round - sees Jilhandra and one of the two surviving mages heaving Hamish to his feet.

She looks back - the rest of the Slayers are closing in on her, with Greg and Kira not far behind.

With a last look down at Huang - Sofia SOBBING at her side - Celeste bows her head in defeat.

CELESTE

(exhales)

Time to go.

And in a FLASH, she and her coven disappear, leaving a ringing noise in the air.

(CONTINUED)



There's silence as the events fully sink in. Mela begins to cry, Tori covers her mouth with her hand and Greg's head is lowered in defeat.

A sudden, agonised WAIL makes everyone turn - it's Dade, eyes wide as he stares in disbelief down at Huang's body.

He pushes away from Reiko and Fran, stumbling to his knees before her and SHOVING Sofia aside.

Skye is there to pick Sofia up. The girls can only watch as Dade tries to SHAKE Huang back to life.

DADE  
(sobbing)  
Mom... mom! Mom, wake up!

Her eyes are closed and there's the slightest smile on her lips - she just looks like she's sleeping peacefully.

But she's cold, limp and most certainly gone. Dade gathers her up in his arms, rocking her and murmuring something into her ear.

And then something falls out of her robe - a LETTER. He stops, looking at it with wide eyes before lowering her carefully to the ground and picking it up.

He scans it over, and the tears just increase as the words cause him more and more emotional pain.

He throws the letter to the ground, letting out another frustrated SCREAM - when Sofia lays a hand on his shoulder.

DADE (cont'd)  
(snapping)  
Get off me.

SOFIA  
(weak)  
Dade...

He surges to his feet, PUSHING her away

DADE  
(screaming)  
I said get off me, you stupid  
bitch!

Sofia recoils in shock as Dade gets right in her face.

DADE (cont'd)  
This is all your fault! If you  
hadn't got in the way she'd still  
be here, no matter what she says in  
that stupid letter!

He kicks the letter and it rips slightly. His eyes just go wider, as if unable to believe what he's done.

Looking up with murderous eyes, he BACKHANDS Sofia. She collapses to the floor as Skye rushes forward to her side, glaring up at him.

SKYE

Hey! What the hell?

DADE

(dark)

You'll be wanting to hit her soon enough too.

SOFIA

What... what do you mean?

DADE

This whole prophecy she...

He points a finger down at the limp form of his mother. He pauses, his voice faltering as he forces himself to look away after just a second.

DADE (cont'd)

... was training you for, do you know what it is?

(off look)

No, you don't. Wanna know? Because I know!

(to others; pointing at Sofia)

In the end, it's her. When the Slayer line ends, it's her fault. Her destiny is to end the Slayer line forever!

And off his cold expression and these haunting words, we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

FADE IN:

19

INT. CAMPUS - GARDENS - EVENING

19

The sun is going down now over the Academy building, casting the Gardens in an orange sunset glow.

A makeshift stage has been erected just in front of the Academy's graveyard. The numerous headstones in the background seem to be almost endless.

And on the stage are another two coffins and in the middle a podium has been made with a microphone.

Greg stands at the podium, looking incredibly crestfallen, having changed into a black suit.

Gathered around the stage are slayers and faculty alike, all with their head bowed, showing respect.

GREG

Areum Huang was a kind and caring woman, who put her life on the line for those that she loved. She was a mentor to many, and a figure of comfort to even more.

Danny has his arm around Skye's back, who looks grateful for the sign of affection. Tori stands beside her, just as affected as anyone else.

GREG (cont'd)

Her sacrifice proves just how much she cared not only for others, but for the good of humanity. She will not be forgotten.

Belle stands a few paces away, her eyes red and puffy from crying.

Reiko slowly moves through the crowd, looking awkward as she moves towards the front and promptly stopping next to Belle. She looks up and flashes Reiko the ghost of a smile.

Reiko leans over, careful to keep her voice low.

REIKO

Have you seen Sofia?

Looking sad, Belle shakes her head. Reiko exhales, frowning, and then touches Belle's arm and nods her head towards the dorms.

(CONTINUED)

Belle nods and follows her as they make their way out of the crowd. People don't question them, and most don't even look up.

Skye, however, does and catches Reiko's eye. She nods sadly and Reiko flashes a small smile back before they disappear out of the crowd.

GREG

Eleanor Newark showed bravery  
typical of a Slayer, even though  
she no longer was one. Giving  
herself up in order to try and save  
another, even in the face of such  
tremendous danger is no easy feat,  
and Ellie proved that courage never  
leaves you.

(beat)

May we please have a two minute  
silence to remember the fallen.

The request wasn't even needed, as everyone continues their silence, their heads bowed, remembering Huang and Ellie.

DISSOLVE TO:

The A-Squad dorm looks larger than ever as we take in the curled form of Delaney on her bed, looking frail and gaunt as the wounds on her body are still healing.

Rachel sits on the end of the bed, a cold compress against her bruised forehead.

Delaney looks like death warmed up, and judging by her expression, that's how she feels, too. Silent tears roll down her cheeks, but she makes no move to wipe them away.

Rachel looks up - Kira is in the doorway, her eyes on Delaney. She glances at Rachel, who nods, then rises and heads out to give the Brogans a moment.

Kira swoops into the room, sitting on the edge of Delaney's bed. Delaney doesn't react.

KIRA

Something's troubling you.

Delaney lets out a bitter laugh, not even turning round.

DELANEY

Real 'Parent of The Year' stuff  
there, mom. That's the kind of  
dazzling insight that belongs on  
Dr. Phil.

(CONTINUED)

Kira doesn't react to the snarky comment, and instead reaches over and puts a hand on her shoulder. Delaney doesn't shrug it off.

KIRA

Celeste told you, didn't she?

Delaney just mumbles something and Kira exhales, looking upon her daughter sadly.

KIRA (cont'd)

Delaney, we all make mistakes in life. Mine got this whole mess started - and so did Huang's.

(beat)

I'm prepared to accept that you did what you did for the right reasons.

Delaney looks up, her expression unreadable.

DELANEY

But it doesn't matter, does it?  
Celeste's more powerful now because of me. Because I...

KIRA

Because you did something stupid believing it'd help you save me and your brother.

Delaney lowers her head, starting to tremble.

KIRA (cont'd)

I can only stay angry at you for that for so long.

Delaney finally breaks, letting out a SOB. Kira leans in and wraps her arms around her, delivering a rare hug.

KIRA (cont'd)

You aren't in this alone. This isn't your mess, it's mine. Mine, Huang's, Celeste's, Becky's... that you played a part isn't your fault.

Kira pulls her back to arm's reach.

KIRA (cont'd)

I would have done the same thing.

Kira flashes her a smile, and Delaney chuckles through the tears, wiping them away with the back of her hand.

DELANEY

Like mother, like daughter?

(CONTINUED)

KIRA  
(smiling)  
Exactly.

Delaney laughs again. Kira looks more motherly than ever as she regards her daughter with something verging on pride.

KIRA (cont'd)  
And that means that we have to step  
up our game, both of us.  
(beat)  
Because if it's our mess, then  
we'll be the ones to fix it.

Delaney nods, a look of determination crossing her features.

DELANEY  
I'm gonna break that bitch's nose  
and throw her into a bookcase, see  
how she likes it.  
(off look)  
It hurt, alright?

Kira just smiles and rests her hand on Delaney's shoulder. Delaney smiles back, appreciating the moment, before she laughs and puts her own hand over it.

KIRA  
Don't get too used to this  
sympathy, I want you back in  
training tomorrow morning.

Delaney just laughs, shaking her head. Kira stands and walks to the door. She looks back and satisfied, leaves.

Delaney turns back round on her bed to stare out of the window - and for now at least, she looks content.

21 INT. CAMPUS - DADE'S ROOM - EVENING

21

Dade's room is even more of a mess than before. But this time, it's messy for a different reason:

There's an open suitcase on his bed, and his wardrobe is open, with all the clothes strewn across the floor along with other personal items as he packs them away.

He picks up two of the photo albums from the floor and throws one in the suitcase whilst keeping the other one in his hand.

Opening it, we see it's a more recent one of him with several slayers - FIONA, CLARISSA, PATTY. The girls are all sitting on his lap or in certain other positions on him and he looks pleased with himself.

(CONTINUED)

Flicking over a page, he finds there's some of him and Reiko in front of landmarks in Japan, and some of him and Fran at a movie set.

He allows himself the faintest smile in the world.

As he flicks further back, we see that there's more of him and Zoe, and some other people in front of a graffitied wall.

A single tear rolls down his head and as he wipes it away, he closes the book and then throws it into the suitcase.

He reaches for some clothes on the floor when -

FRAN (O.S.)  
Going somewhere?

DADE  
I'm not wanted here.

Dade looks up to find Fran in the doorway, looking very young and innocent for someone covered in cuts and bruises.

FRAN  
You dropped quite a bombshell on us all, but that doesn't mean you're not wanted.

DADE  
(cold)  
Fine, then I don't want to be here.

He returns to his packing as Fran steps into the room, carefully tip-toeing over the clothes.

FRAN  
Dade, you know I'm the last person in the world to give good advice, but -

DADE  
Don't. Just don't. I don't need any advice. I can make my own decisions. I don't need you or anyone else telling me what to do.

Fran regards him sadly, before looking over the mess of a room - and spots the letter on the bed, salvaged and sellotaped together.

Dade spots her staring at it and smiles grimly.

DADE (cont'd)  
Go on, read it.

She looks at him, uncertain, but he nods at it again and she picks it up and starts to read.

FRAN

(reading)

Dade. If you are reading this, then the visions have come true, and I am no longer here. I am only sorry that I did not get to say goodbye to you.

(beat)

However, you have been asking for answers and I am not one to leave you without them. The true reason I gave you away was to protect you.

Fran looks up to see that Dade is watching her intently, waiting for her reaction. She looks back down and reads, her own voice fading away to be replaced by Huang's:

HUANG (V.O.)

(beat)

Celeste, myself and another Coven member known as Esme all fell pregnant at the same time, and all to the same man. It was part of a ritual, in order to give ourselves and our children great power. However, Celeste did not carry to term. Her rage was almost impossible to bear and as soon as our children were born, we sent you away. It was not a moment too soon either, as Celeste murdered Esme soon after.

(beat)

As for her child, Tyson, he eventually came to the very academy you're standing in, where Kira sought him. However, an associate of Jilhandra's murdered him, leaving only you with the power Celeste so desperately seeks. She wants to find you to use that power that was denied her. That is why you can never allow her to get close to you. That is why my death was necessary.

Fran looks up at Dade to find he's beginning to well up again. With an almost pained expression on her face, she continues reading.

HUANG (cont'd)

I foresaw the outcome of the day, and further. If we were to win this war, my sacrifice would be necessary.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



HUANG (cont'd)

It is no-one's fault but the Coven  
Di Fuoco's and those connected with  
it in its original forms. We must  
all atone for our mistakes.

(beat)

You will not find this easy, I  
understand, but I owe you the  
truth. My only regret is that I  
could never be the mother you  
deserved.

(beat)

My love for always, in this life  
and the next. Mother.

Stopping, Fran looks from the letter to Dade before placing  
it on top of the open suitcase and walking over to him.

FRAN

I'm so sorry.

She wraps him into a hug, but he does not respond, blankly  
staring ahead. When she pulls away, she looks deep into his  
eyes, but he just shakes his head.

DADE

That's why I've got to go.

FRAN

But what if Celeste finds you, what  
if -

DADE

I've got contacts. They'll keep me  
hidden.

He zips up the suitcase, pulling it off the bed and placing  
it beside him.

FRAN

If you need anything...

Dade just nods, pulling up the handle. He walks to the door,  
treading on discarded clothes and items without caring.

Fran watches him go, the sadness in her eyes clear.

He stops at the door and turns. His expression is that same  
as her own.

DADE

Tell Frankie and Reiko... tell them  
I'm sorry.

Fran just nods, biting her lip.

DADE (cont'd)

And, uh... I'll be seeing you.

(CONTINUED)

Raising a hand to say goodbye, Fran's eyes start to water.

Looking guilty, Dade flashes a smile before walking out the door, his suitcase trailing behind him.

Shaking her head, Fran wipes away the tears with the back of her hand and collapses on the bed behind her.

She winces as her head hits something hard and snaps up. Reaching up, she pulls back the quilt cover - to find that she hit her head on one of the photo albums Dade hid earlier.

She picks it up and opens it on a random page - and it's a rare photo of Dade and his mother, her arm wrapped protectively around him. He looks fairly sheepish stood beside her, but his smile is genuine happiness.

Fran smiles as we CUT TO:

The room is dark, the curtains drawn, the door closed and the lights are off.

However, it's easy to see the form of a young girl curled up on the double bed, holding her knees close to her face and sobbing quietly.

Holding on this sorry sight for several beats, we see that it is in fact Sofia on the bed, her dark hair covering her features.

Seconds later, we hear muffled voices from the other side of the door.

BELLE (O.S.)

You think this is the one?

REIKO (O.S.)

We won't know until we try.

There's a KNOCK on the door. Sofia does not react at all. Another knock. Sofia shifts slightly, only sobbing harder.

The handle turns and opens, casting light into the room, and showing Reiko and Belle standing in the doorway, looking concerned.

Belle rushes over to her friend and lays a hand on her back, whispering calming words to her.

However, Reiko looks around the room with more interest, as she sees that on one of walls is a large board with pictures of Sofia and Braeden pinned to it.

Everything's covered in a thick layer of dust, as if it hadn't been touched in a long time.

Looking at the wall with a mix of contempt and interest, Reiko shakes her head and joins Belle at the side of the bed.

Sofia unfurls, exposing her tear-stained cheeks and red, watering eyes. Her hair is a state, there seems to be more bruises than there were even after the fight.

REIKO (cont'd)

Sofia...

SOFIA

(pained)

Don't. I deserve it.

BELLE

You can't take Dade seriously. I mean, he was just saying it out of spite... right?

She looks over at Reiko, who winces slightly. This doesn't do any wonders for Sofia as she bursts into another round of tears.

REIKO

Sofia, Dade can be a jerk. I'm sure that wasn't everything. Huang wouldn't be training you for... that. She cared about you, and whatever your destiny was, it wasn't one to be ashamed of or she wouldn't have gotten involved.

Sofia wipes away more tears as Belle wraps an arm around her.

BELLE

Huang had faith in you, Sofes, and so do we. All of us.

SOFIA

But now she's gone and I don't - I don't know what to do.

Reiko smiles sadly at her, taking Sofia's hands in her own.

REIKO

She's not gone at all.

(off look)

Skye was telling me about Emma, the girl who spoke to you after she died? The one who helped you become a better person, even though you just wanted to die?

Sofia's eyes light up at hearing this, surprised.

REIKO (cont'd)

And hey, Alita herself said she watches over us when she's up there, so Huang's going to be doing the same, right? I mean, I still speak to Alita sometimes, and I'm sure you do too.

Sofia frowns, wiping away some tears from her eyes.

SOFIA

I don't follow.

Reiko looks over at Belle, who smiles at Sofia.

BELLE

What Reiko's trying to say is that our loved ones never truly leave us. If you need them, they'll be there. Huang'll still be guiding you.

(beat)

Do I always sound this corny?  
Please tell me it's a new thing.

Sofia laughs at this, smiling at her friends.

BELLE (cont'd)

And hey, you know what? Screw destiny. This time we make the choices.

Reiko nods, impressed. Sofia looks over at Belle and grins.

SOFIA

I like that.

Belle just laughs, pulling her into a hug and Reiko leans over and wraps her left arm over Sofia.

And as the trio start laughing and sharing knowing smiles:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF SHOW**

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