

# SLAYER ACADEMY

**"DARKEST DAYS"**

STARRING

**EMILY BROWNING**

**RACHAEL LEIGH COOK**

WITH

**FAMKE JANSSEN**

**MIA WASIKOWSKA**

AND

**DAVID ANDERS**

GUEST STARRING

**KAY PANABAKER as 'Olivia'**

## TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. DARK ROOM - UNKNOWN 1

A PAINTING. Stark under a bright spotlight, it shows a dour looking man in a suit.

The rest of the room is pitch black. The silence is palpable. The spotlight shifts a few inches, and suddenly the silhouette of a sitting FIGURE can be seen in front on the painting.

The figure in profile: a younger DELANEY, hair cut tomboyishly short and shoved underneath a baseball cap. Just beyond her, in a second chair, is another young woman.

Dark hair, cherry red lips, pale and weedy but otherwise beautiful. Quietly angry. Though we've only met her once before, most of us will remember OLIVIA, Delaney's long-dead schoolyard friend.

OLIVIA  
(American accent)  
Do you know what it means?

Delaney shifts the glasses that weren't formerly sitting on the bridge of her nose and sighs.

OLIVIA (cont'd)  
Art can mean anything, Laney. It's  
all in how you read it...

And HANDS grope around Delaney's throat, we CUT TO:

2 INT. HELICOPTER - DAY 2

Delaney JOLTS awake in her seat. She's riding in the passenger section of a HELICOPTER, sweeping across picturesque countryside below.

Her rude awakening catches the attention of MELA, in an adjacent seat, who removes her earbuds and leans forward.

MELA  
You okay, boss?

Delaney sits up, blinking herself awake. She waves Mela off.

DELANEY  
Quiet, pipsqueak. M'sleeping.

MELA  
While your commitment to resting is  
admirable, I'm pretty sure we're  
here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Delaney groans, tossing her book over her face.

MELA (cont'd)

Why are you so uptight about this?  
It's just an all girls' school with  
some wonky magic business. Aren't  
you happy to not be fighting yet  
another massive army of demons?

DELANEY

(dark)

It's not just any school.

Delaney stands, looking out the window to reveal a building  
we've seen before - a massive fortress of red stone and green  
flora. We haven't seen it since Tyson took a trip into  
Delaney's subconscious a few years ago.

DELANEY (cont'd)

It's my old school. The one where I  
grew up.

Mela peers out of the window eagerly, curious about the  
massive redstone building.

As it looms on the horizon, the helicopter banking across the  
grounds to make a landing outside:

DELANEY (cont'd)

(mutters)

I hope Sofes is enjoying her  
adventure more than I am...

CUT TO:

EXT. WILDERNESS - NIGHT

A crackling FIRE against the dark night sky, filled with  
stars. A hand tosses pebbles in amongst the flames.

SOFIA

Sits close to the fire, her eyes distant. She wears a thin  
leather coat and gloves, her hair pulled back into a low  
ponytail. A longbow is strapped to her back.

Beside her, sitting on the ground, are scattered NEWSPAPERS.  
Their headlines bemoan the disappearance of travelers, with  
an entire plane vanished in one case.

FEMALE VOICE

You still up?

Sofia glances up and fixes the unseen arrival with an unhappy  
look.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

Can't sleep. Still thinking about her.

The unseen woman ruffles through a pack in the darkness.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

We'll get them back, pintsize, so stop freaking out and get some sleep. We've got a long way to go tomorrow. You'll need to be awake in case we get jumped.

SOFIA

You haven't slept since we got out here either.

The woman crosses into frame, looking down on Sofia with a smirk.

It's FAITH.

FAITH

Get some sleep.

As the older woman lies down, Sofia lays out near the fire, staring up at the night sky.

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF TEASER**

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4

EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY

4

Sofia sits on the plain, sipping from a thermos and watching the sun rise. She works in a notebook.

Nearby, Faith lies on a blanket. She stares up at the sky, playing with a JADE NECKLACE around her neck.

FAITH

Alright, kid. Grace put you in charge of this journey into the unknown. What next?

Sofia looks up from her notebook.

SOFIA

We're not far from the nest. Maybe a couple of hours' walk.

FAITH

Sounds like a plan. Let's get going.

Faith jumps to her feet and looks to the distance, where a MOUNTAIN looms over them.

SOFIA

I'm going to check in.

FAITH

Knock yourself out.

Sofia taps a HEADSET in one ear.

SOFIA

Hello, Academy? Sofia to Academy.

KIRA (O.S.)

(filtered; through headset)

Sofia?

SOFIA

Kira? Where's Grace?

KIRA

Liaising with another team. What's your status?

Sofia tosses a glance at Faith's back as she walks up ahead.

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA

Faith and I are making our way to the nest. According to the pattern, we've got six hours before the hostages start dying.

KIRA (V.O.)

How close are you?

Sofia eyes the mountain up ahead.

SOFIA

Close.

KIRA

Good work.

Kira signs off, leaving the two in silence. Sofia eyes Faith's back, distrust clear in her eyes as we CUT TO:

Delaney makes her way through the gates, Mela in tow. Mela's eyes are wide, looking around at the large school.

MELA

Wow. This place is... expensive.

DELANEY

(smirk)

If you're Kira Brogan, you abandon your kid in style.

MELA

Ah. Sore subject.

DELANEY

One that belongs in the past. Shouldn't there be someone here to greet us? "Hey, ghosts keep killing our students, please help us"?

Mea shrugs, looking around them at the students - VOICES, COLOUR and BUSTLE in all directions.

MELA

I don't feel anything weird.

Delaney shudders against the cold, though it's a sunny day.

MELA (cont'd)

Why are we here, anyway? I mean, I doubt the Coven's behind a few ghosts popping up at some school.

DELANEY

Kira thought it would be a good idea. God knows why.

In the flood of students, one catches Delaney's eye. A FLASH of red hair.

DELANEY (cont'd)

(under her breath)

What?

She moves to follow the girl, sending Mela following after her and into:

INT. KENSINGTON SCHOOL - FRONT HALL - DAY

Delaney follows one particular student, mouth curled into a worried frown. Things have turned SEPIA toned as she moves through students whose fashions are suddenly a touch retro - think the 1990's.

Up ahead, she catches sight of OLIVIA as expected - walking alongside a younger DELANEY!

Delaney's eyes widen. She knows this time and place - this exact conversation. She falls into step behind the two girls, listening in.

OLIVIA

(stressed)

Laney, don't make me worry about you.

YOUNG DELANEY

(sharp)

I don't decide what you worry about, Liv.

OLIVIA

Come on. You wake up screaming, you puke every couple hours -

Young Delaney turns, blocking Olivia's path.

YOUNG DELANEY

I'm just trying to live my life here.

OLIVIA

Just tell me. I can help you, if you need to, I don't know... take care of it, or -

YOUNG DELANEY

I'm not -

Young Delaney pulls Olivia aside.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

YOUNG DELANEY (cont'd)  
(sharp whisper)  
I'm not pregnant.

OLIVIA  
Then what's going on?

YOUNG DELANEY  
(shrugs)  
Who knows. Mental breakdown? Maybe  
I'll snap and kill you in my sleep.

Olivia smiles and pecks Delaney on the cheek.

OLIVIA  
Just don't do anything I wouldn't  
do.

Olivia moves past her, and Younger Delaney calls after her:

YOUNG DELANEY  
You mean everything?

Young Delaney crosses her arms and pouts. Delaney steps up beside her.

COLOUR returns to the scene, as Delaney is sent back to the present. She turns.

Mela stands behind her, looking worried.

MELA  
Um... are you okay? You zoned out  
on me for a moment there.

Delaney shakes it away, focusing her attention again.

DELANEY  
Yeah, whatever. Let's do this.

Delaney heads into the crowd, Mela tentatively following.

EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY

The light floods over the stark landscape, making Sofia and Faith seem like shadows walking across it.

The space stretches out around them for miles, seeming like forever. Sofia regards Faith with suspicion, keeping a few paces behind her.

FAITH  
So. What do you Academy gals do for  
fun? Movie nights, cuddled around  
the TV watching *30 Days of Night*?

(CONTINUED)

SOFIA  
(chuckles)  
Not exactly.

FAITH  
Please don't say 'Sex And The  
City'. Or 'Twilight'. Swear to God,  
I'll stab you myself.

SOFIA  
The usual things for Slayers.  
Training, meals. The younger girls  
sometimes get an afternoon off, but  
A Squad barely sees the campus  
these days.

FAITH  
That's gotta wear you out some.

SOFIA  
(shrugs)  
It's fine. Life of a Slayer.

FAITH  
Got a boyfriend?

Sofia glances out past Faith, and sees two figures dancing  
across the landscape.

It's Sofia and BRAEDEN. He twirls her, laying her on one arm  
and sweeping her across the barren landscape. A gust of wind  
kicks up dust, and both FADE TO MIST.

SOFIA  
(beat)  
I'm mostly about the job these  
days.

Faith nods, then turns to look at her.

FAITH  
You gotta be careful. This job will  
swallow you if you let it.

Sofia speeds up, waking past her.

SOFIA  
And what's so bad about that?

Faith watches Sofia move ahead of her, and frowns.

FAITH  
Because even though I get the sense  
you don't like me much, I like you,  
and I'd hate to see you lose  
yourself.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SOFIA

(quiet)

Thank you for your concern.

The two walk in the silence, letting it stretch put between them. A branch CRACKS, and the girls freeze.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Was that you?

FAITH

Nope.

The two slowly move back to back, staring out at the unending wilderness. Nothing is in view except for the mountain.

SOFIA

Get ready.

FAITH

Darlin', I was born ready.

Sofia raises the Scythe expectantly. Faith hold a sword aloft, both battle-ready in an instant.

With a CLANG, Sofia raises the Scythe against an invisible force. It pushes back on her, but she braces herself against Faith.

SOFIA

We can't -

FAITH

See them? Just figured that out myself.

They both WEAVE around incoming blows, sharpened senses moving them on instinct.

FAITH (cont'd)

Tune the world out. Let them tell you where they are.

The two enter an intricate dance with their foes, tossing their packs aside and fitting back to back. The two rotate from the centre, deflecting the blows of the enemies' unseen blades.

Sofia and Faith twist with the circle of foes, striking out as if they can see the enemies. The demons SCREECH and MOAN, blood visibly pouring from invisible wounds.

FAITH (cont'd)

Blade!

Sofia, without looking, tosses a knife from her belt to Faith:

(CONTINUED)

Who grabs it and STABS one beast, blood SPURTING from a vein accompanied by a hideous SCREECH.

SOFIA

Nice shot.

FAITH

(smirks)

Wasn't even looking.

As the fight continues, we pull back:

The demons have faint shadows, visible from far above, and they are coming from ALL ACROSS the wasteland. A long fight is ahead as we CUT TO:

The campus grounds are gorgeous - stone sculptures fill the grounds, extending from the walls of the school. Trees filled with green leaves surround the fountain, an intricate marble mermaid shooting water from her mouth.

On the edge of the fountain, Delaney sits, deep in thought. Mela sits beside her, forgotten, reading from a notebook.

MELA

We've got three particularly notable incidents in the past week. One girl was drowned to death in the bathroom sink on the fourth floor, another left hanging for hours from a braid when one of those statues grabbed her outside the library...

Mela frowns at the page.

DELANEY

What?

Mela hands her a PHOTO: a girl, pinned to the wall by a handful of pens, COVEN DI FUOCO tattoos covering her skin.

MELA

Those are -

DELANEY

Yeah, I know what they are.

(sighs)

Guess we found why we're here.

Which one is this?

MELA

This girl has no connections to the Coven. The tattoo was done in india ink.

DELANEY

Not liking this, padawan. Not at all.

MELA

Double that for me.

The two are startled by a BURST OF GREEN LIGHT from above them!

DELANEY

What the -

MELA

(points)

Up there!

Both look up to see a STUDENT rocketing from a fourth-floor window and CRASHING into the courtyard floor!

The girl SLAMS onto the ground with a CRACKING sound, skidding along the grass for a moment. She stops.

The air is still, silent. Everyone looks to the body.

Delaney steps closer, looking down at the girl - and then she jerks back, eyes bulging.

It's OLIVIA!

DELANEY

No...

MELA (O.S.)

Delaney?

Delaney glances at Mela, then glances back. It's not Olivia at all, just another dead young girl.

MELA (cont'd)

Do you... know her?

DELANEY

Nothing. Let's... let's check out the room.

She looks up at the girls' dorm, worried.

Delaney enters the empty dorms, looking disturbed. Mela follows, looking around.

MELA

Where is everyone?

(CONTINUED)

DELANEY

Quiet!

Delaney is running her hand along a crack in the wall, frowning - searching for something.

MELA

I don't see anything.... Delaney?

DELANEY

This is my old dorm. Me and my best friend lived in this room for two years.

She follows the crack for a few moments, as Mela watches her, worried.

MELA

You're starting to scare me. Are you okay?

DELANEY

Mel, I've never been 'okay'.

Delaney turns, ducking down and reaching under the bed. After a few moments, she grins.

DELANEY (cont'd)

'Cept for right now.

UNDER THE BED, she's popped up an old wooden plank, and has got her hands on something underneath.

She pulls it out:

It's a mahogany BOX, filled with trinkets and photos. Delaney looks down on it, suddenly cautious as she opens it.

DELANEY (cont'd)

I... left this here so I could forget.

Mela kneels down, picking up a PHOTO from the box. It's Delaney and Olivia in happier times.

MELA

You guys look like you were close. Like sisters.

DELANEY

(quiet)

Like Cain and Abel, maybe.

This merits an odd look from Mela.

MELA

What do you mean?

(CONTINUED)

Delaney looks down at a photo from years ago - her arm thrown around Olivia's shoulders in front of the fountain.

DELANEY

I killed her.

Mela's face drops as we CUT TO:

Sofia nurses a wounded arm as she and Faith trudge through the empty badlands, their clothes drenched in drying green blood.

Sofia pours some water from a bottle onto her hand and wipes the blood from her face.

SOFIA

They're trying to distract us. Keep us fighting, keep us weak, so we miss the auction.

FAITH

Auction?

SOFIA

Execution.

(beat)

That's what I said.

The sun BEATS down on them, and it's beginning to wear them down, Sofia especially. She takes a swig from her bottle and rubs her eyes.

SOFIA (cont'd)

You're sure this is important, Faith? It's kind of a crucial time for the Academy, and for me to be off on a wild goose chase -

FAITH

(annoyed)

You think I'd have gotten you loaned out if this weren't important? Trust me, I've been at this way longer than you.

The two walk in silence for a moment, Sofia tossing a glance at Faith.

SOFIA

What happened to you?

Faith turns around, confused.

FAITH

Meaning?

SOFIA

I mean... what happened to make you... to make you play for the other side?

FAITH

(frowns)

I don't have to explain myself to you, Sofes. Buffy may have given you her blessing to be the Next Big Thing, but we're not that warm and fuzzy yet. You've gotta earn it from me, and I don't impress easy.

Sofia's face falls and Faith turns away from her, looking up at the mountain looming over them.

FAITH (cont'd)

Ever feel like you're spending your whole life waiting?

SOFIA

(sighs)

Every bloody day.

(beat)

Let's make camp. Here's as good a spot as any to -

Sofia stops, seeing something in the distance. A number of forms surrounding the mountain's base:

DEMONS

She pulls out binoculars from her back and looks through them, her eyes widening.

FAITH

What is it?

SOFIA

Bad guys. Two o'clock, a few hundred metres away.

FAITH

They our bad guys?

Sofia slowly lowers the binoculars and turns to Faith, looking like she's been punched in the gut.

FAITH (cont'd)

What? Did you hear me?

SOFIA

It's them...

FAITH

'Them' who?

(CONTINUED)



She reaches for the binoculars, but Sofia SNATCHES them away.

FAITH (cont'd)

(grunts)

Would you quit freakin' out and  
tell me what's going on?

SOFIA

Those are the same demons that  
killed my parents.

FAITH

(long beat)

Oh...

Sofia looks at the mountain, her mind racing, as we

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

11 EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY 11

Sofia and Faith walk through the dust, now not far from the mountain.

FAITH  
We have to go deep.

SOFIA  
Sorry?

FAITH  
She's using old mining tunnels underneath the mountain. She's got a base down there, where she's sacrificing the hostages.

Faith nods to a ROCK OUTCROPPING nearby.

FAITH (cont'd)  
That's our way in.

The two make their way over. Sofia ponders.

SOFIA  
Is it just me, or is this mission particularly video-game-y?

FAITH  
Wouldn't know. Noa keeps my Xbox in her safe. Says it 'makes me aggressive' or something.

Faith KICKS a rock out of her way - a little too violently - as we CUT TO:

12 EXT. WILDERNESS - ROCK OUTCROPPING - DAY 12

The two make their way in among the rocks, enjoying the shade. Faith sits down, taking a swig of water.

SOFIA  
We can't stop, come on!

FAITH  
I need a break. There's probably a ton of nasties down there and we'll need our strength.

SOFIA  
(sighs)  
Fine. If you want to nap, I can keep an eye out.

(CONTINUED)

FAITH

Nah, I can't sleep while she's still out there. We need to deal with this.

SOFIA

Yeah.

The two sit in silence for a moment. Sofia twiddles her thumbs.

SOFIA (cont'd)

(sudden)

Were you... hurt?

Faith's head shoots up; puzzled.

SOFIA (cont'd)

(awkward)

When Buffy named me her successor?

(beat; off look)

I mean, I've thought about it over the years and technically, she wasn't even the active Slayer at the time. You were.

Faith thinks it over, but doesn't answer.

SOFIA (cont'd)

I'm more like you than I ever was like her, anyway. It's a pity we never got to work together.

Faith gives her a sideways grin.

FAITH

Until now.

SOFIA

Until now, yes.

Faith looks Sofia over, picking her words carefully.

FAITH

It's... hard, working next to her. She was so perfect all the time, and you can't help but feel like...

SOFIA

(quiet)

A failure. Like you could never match up.

FAITH

(smiles sadly)

Yeah.

SOFIA

And it's like, you work with Buffy!  
You get to lead A Squad! Front and  
centre and...

(chuckles)

If I'm honest, Skye's a better  
squad leader, Alita was better at,  
well, everything, and Frankie was  
so filled with confidence...

FAITH

And they dumped four hundred pounds  
of leadership on you, and expected  
you to carry it.

SOFIA

And I did.

(smile fades)

For a little while.

Sofia falls silent, thinking it over.

SOFIA (cont'd)

I like not leading. I like being  
part of the team.

FAITH

Yeah, but seems to me like when you  
give orders, people listen. Squad  
leader or not.

After a moment, Sofia rises, exhaling - ready for action.

SOFIA

Let's get going. What are we  
looking for?

FAITH

There's a wooden door that leads  
down, bypassing the mining trails.  
It'll get us in quick and quiet.

SOFIA

We should find it, then.

Sofia stands, but Faith just POINTS.

It's there, a couple feet away from them. Faith grins. Sofia  
chuckles and helps Faith up, opening the door as we CUT TO:

Delaney and Mela make their way down the hallway, dwarfed by  
the many girls around them. The school suddenly seems very  
busy and noisy.

Mela eyes Delaney, still concerned.

(CONTINUED)

MELA

At the risk of sounding incredibly boring... are you okay? Still, I mean?

DELANEY

Mostly. So, what's our next move?

MELA

(thinks)

Isolate the spirit, get in contact with it?

DELANEY

There we go!

MELA

(looking o.s.)

Or...

DELANEY

Or?

Mela nods to a room where many GIRLS are going. It's a large hall, MUSIC thumping inside. Posters outside advertise the 'Enchantment Under The Sea Dance'.

MELA

There's a dance. I'd like to go.

DELANEY

You have a girlfriend, and we have a mission.

MELA

(smirks)

Live a little.

DELANEY

Alright, who are you, and what have you done with my meek churchmouse apprentice?

MELA

(laviscious)

She got stuck in a boarding school on a cakewalk mission surrounded by hot teenage girls.

Mela walks off. Delaney grumbles.

DELANEY

What, the ones at home aren't good enough for you?

Sighing, she follows Mela into the dance hall as we CUT TO:

14

INT. KENSINGTON SCHOOL - GYMNASIUM - DAY

14

The gymnasium has been converted to a massive DANCE FLOOR, with practically the entire population of the school having a great time dancing to Lady Gaga.

Delaney stands away from the party, looking at it with what could best be described as distaste.

DELANEY

People are dying, and they're still  
dumb enough to hold a dance? Why?

MALE VOICE (O.S.)

Because people just want to be  
happy.

Delaney turns to see the rakishly handsome DANIEL WINSTONE standing behind her, offering a smile.

WINSTONE

Hey, babe.

DELANEY

We agreed that was a banned word.  
And how the hell are you here?

Winstone steps up to her. He leans down, and they share a passionate KISS.

WINSTONE

(grins)  
I'm not.

He gestures to the crowd, where everyone's dancing with someone - and Mela is in the middle of dirty dancing with FRAN!

DELANEY

Wow. This is... unexpected.

Winstone slips one hand into hers, and she rests her head on his shoulder.

WINSTONE

I think it's kind of beautiful.  
We're not here, but we're here.

DELANEY

(sarcastic)  
Yeah, real beautiful. I may weep  
openly.

Winstone looks her in the eyes, puzzled.

WINSTONE

What does it mean to you?

(CONTINUED)

DELANEY

That even when someone's with  
someone...

Delaney looks at Mela and Fran dancing, but for a moment,  
Mela is left dancing ALONE.

DELANEY (cont'd)

Even then, you're alone. What else  
could it mean?

Winstone kisses the top of Delaney's head.

WINSTONE

I like to think it means that even  
when we're alone, the ones we love  
are always with us.

Winstone squeezes her hand.

WINSTONE (cont'd)

You've got lots ahead of you,  
Brogan. Lots of death, lots of  
sadness, lots of grief.

Winstone eyes Mela, his expression inscrutable.

WINSTONE (cont'd)

It's going to hurt. But just know,  
even if you don't believe it,  
you're a hero. And you're never  
alone.

Delaney, not looking at him, breaks into a small smile.

The lights suddenly GO OUT, causing YELLS and chaos. Shouts  
of alarm and the bustle of dozens of bodies jostling.

A few seconds later, the lights return:

Winstone's gone. Delaney's alone. She wraps her arms around  
herself, not sad at all as we CUT TO:

Sofia and Faith make their way down through the tunnels.

FAITH

So, Sofes. Ever been to  
Czechoslovakia?

A RUMBLING surrounds them. In the beams of their flashlights,  
indistinct FORMS are moving closer.

Sofia puts a finger to her lips - quiet - and Faith readies  
her sword as they edge closer:

As they enter the light, it's clear that they are the human HOSTAGES!

Sofia and Faith both breathe easier as the terrified men and women bump and jostle past them, crowding round the duo.

FAITH (cont'd)  
Guess that takes care of phase one  
of our non-existent plan.

Sofia looks round at the cowed, frightened faces, features grubby and indistinct.

SOFIA  
What does this mean?

Faith counts them up:

FAITH  
There's two missing, Sofes.

They share a significant look.

SOFIA  
You get them to safety, I'll go  
ahead on my own.

FAITH  
I'll catch up.  
(calls after her)  
And be careful!

Sofia nods as Faith leads the hostages back down the tunnel.

FAITH (cont'd)  
I sure as hell ain't explaining to  
Buffy what happened if you get your  
ass killed...

Sofia walks along, as the walls of the cavern move farther and farther apart along the tunnel.

Finally, it opens out into:

Sofia stands on a ledge before a massive chasm, completely surrounding her. Her only way out is a hanging wood-plank BRIDGE with rope handles.

SOFIA  
(mutters)  
And suddenly I'm Indiana Jones,  
apparently...

She moves forward to the bridge, and sees something on the other side:



Standing on the other side of the bridge is ALITA. Sofia's face falls, her body tensing up.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Oh, no...

As she moves forward, so does Alita. The two slowly walk toward one another. Alita copies Sofia's movements - stops, starts, speed.

Finally, at the middle of the bridge, they come face to face.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Alita... why are you here?

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

(subtitled; Tibetan)

<She's here because of you.>

Sofia turns around, and standing before her is her Tibetan surrogate mother, HARITI. She offers her a kind smile.

HARITI

<Shechen, come home. She isn't worth it.>

SOFIA

(subtitled; Tibetan)

<She has to... I can't live like this any more, Hariti! I need to face her!>

HARITI

<Alita is gone, you don't need to apologise to her.>

SOFIA

(shakes head)

<Not Alita. Her.

(beat)

I have to face her.>

HARITI

(frowns)

<Shechen...>

SOFIA

(back to English)

I can't come home, and you don't even want me.

HARITI

<We can go back to how it was.>

(smiles)

<Do you remember the dances I taught you? We can start again. Hariti and Shechen, like it was.>

(CONTINUED)

Sofia turns to Alita, who stands unmoving.

SOFIA

Allie...

ALITA

In order to move forward, Shechen,  
you must kill me. Otherwise there  
is no point.

SOFIA

But -

ALITA

I have said my piece.

Sofia stands, caught between the two of them. She looks to  
Hariti, then to Alita.

Her eyes welling up with tears, Sofia turns to Hariti.  
Reading her expression, Hariti shakes her head, pleading.

SOFIA

I have to do this.

HARITI

<No! Please!>

In one smooth motion, Sofia takes her Scythe and GUTS Alita,  
who falls to her knees.

Alita falls sideways, straight off the bridge and plunges  
into the abyss without a sound.

Sofia turns:

Hariti is GONE. Sofia holds back a sob, but keeps moving.

Mela and Delaney sit in an empty classroom, the desks pushed  
against the walls on all sides. A magic CIRCLE surrounds  
them.

MELA

So... you killed your best friend.

DELANEY

Yeah.

MELA

Here.

DELANEY

Yeah.

Mela nods, worried.

MELA

And you're going to do a big piece of magic while at the school where you killed your best friend? With all of those guilty, sad, grief-y feelings spinning your stomach around?

DELANEY

I got over it. I moved on.

MELA

Your hands are shaking.

Delaney looks down. They are.

MELA (cont'd)

I've seen you do magic. Your hands never shake. This isn't a recipe for good things, Brogan.

DELANEY

Don't call me that.

MELA

Why? You are a Brogan, right?

DELANEY

I'm not my mom, any more than you are your family, Mela. Your mom was what, an accountant, a lawyer?

MELA

A magic addict who killed herself when I was fifteen.

Delaney winces. Ouch.

DELANEY

I'm sorry.

MELA

Why do you think I just started studying it? My grandmother went crazy from wanting power, and my mom became this... thin, sickly thing because of it.

DELANEY

You're not your family, Mel. You're good, really good, and you have someone who loves you.

Mela nods, but it's not convincing.

(CONTINUED)

DELANEY (cont'd)  
I believed for so long that my  
family history, my mom being a  
bitch and my dad being god knows  
who, I thought that made me evil.  
That I couldn't grow beyond it.

Delaney reaches out, squeezes Mela's leg and smiles.

DELANEY (cont'd)  
It wasn't until I got to the  
Academy that I realised that there  
was hope for me.

MELA  
Delaney.

DELANEY  
Yeah?

Mela nods to Delaney's hands, which are no longer shaking.  
Delaney grins, flexing her fingers.

DELANEY (cont'd)  
Let's do this before I change my  
mind.

Mela grins.

DELANEY & MELA  
(chanting in unison)  
*Vatosh. Is alica est non verus. Is  
est intus suus mens. Nocens vir est  
in suus via...*

Delaney trails off, Mela stopping a few words later. She  
shakes her head, disturbed.

MELA  
What is it?

DELANEY  
I don't feel it. My magic, it's...  
it's gone again.

MELA  
That's a shame.

Delaney blinks; what? Mela stands, crossing her arms.

MELA (cont'd)  
I was hoping we could have some fun  
yet.

DELANEY  
You... huh?

Mela's face begins to SHIFT, her whole body rippling as she grows in size, features blurring and morphing until:

HAMISH

Stands before her! He looks down on Delaney with a sneer.

HAMISH

Daddy's home.

And Delaney doesn't even have time to shout as we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT TWO**

**ACT THREE**

FADE IN:

18 INT. KENSINGTON SCHOOL - EMPTY CLASSROOM - NIGHT 18

Delaney scrabbles to her feet, grasping for any weapon at hand, but comes up empty.

Hamish reaches down and GRABS Delaney by the hair, TOSSING her across the room. She hits the wall hard.

HAMISH

While you've been gallivanting around, I uncovered your little friend. Needless to say, she won't be bothering us for a while.

(cracks fingers)

Now, time to be the father I never was to you.

Hamish KICKS Delaney in the stomach. Again. Again.

HAMISH (cont'd)

I hope you're taking notes, lass - there'll be a test on this later.

Finally, she grabs his leg and TWISTS, sending him lurching awkwardly to the floor.

Delaney's up and running, adrenaline and fear coursing through her as she runs:

19 INT. KENSINGTON SCHOOL - CORRIDOR - NIGHT 19

Delaney stumbles through the hall, eyes wide. She's alone, except for the CORPSES of slain students littering the path, skewered to the walls and covering the floor.

DELANEY

No...

She turns - Hamish is at the entrance, taking a moment to look back over his handiwork with a sly grin.

He follows behind, walking slowly as she runs. He CHUCKLES, the laugh ECHOING all around her as she stumbles.

HAMISH

You won't get out that way.

Delaney turns the corner:

20 INT. KENSINGTON SCHOOL - FRONT HALL - NIGHT 20

Delaney enters the front hall and looks around the bloodstained room:

(CONTINUED)

The front doors are blocked by a line of HANGING BODIES, their eyes bulging out in death.

Delaney hustles over, then hesitates - she'll have to push her way through the bodies to get out.

She takes a breath, steeling herself - then starts to shove her way through.

Limbs BUMP against her, Delaney's nerves pulled taut as she tries not to lose it...

And finally, she's free, BURSTING out of the doors to:

Delaney exits the school, but finds the front gates LOCKED, the helicopter SMASHED outside their limits.

DELANEY

(blurts)

Oh, come on!

She turns, seeing DEMONS patrolling the grounds. Scaly, angry-eyed messes of muscle and fur, long arms hanging in the grass.

DELANEY (cont'd)

Okay... officially half past  
screwed now.

Delaney stares out at the chaos surrounding her, overwhelmed, as we CUT TO:

Sofia makes her way through the tunnels, shivering against the cold.

FAITH (O.S.)

Wait up!

Sofia turns to see Faith following, breathing hard.

SOFIA

I thought you had hostages to take  
care of?

FAITH

It's done. I ran. You mighta  
noticed me being out of breath.

She rests her hands on her knees, gulping down some air, then straightens.

FAITH (cont'd)

We doing this?

SOFIA  
Yeah, let's go.

Sofia turns back around, only to find a swarm of DEMONS making their way toward them!

Shaggy-haired, milk-white eyes over mouths full of jagged, misshapen teeth, they lumber forwards in the gloom.

FAITH  
Damn it...

Faith tosses a look at Sofia. She shrugs.

FAITH (cont'd)  
For what it's worth, I second  
Buffy's thing.

SOFIA  
(smiles)  
You do?

FAITH  
You're one hell of a fighter. Now  
let's see which of us can kill the  
most of these goons, yeah?

SOFIA  
You're on.

The two LUNGE forward, perfectly synchronised, hacking and slashing away at their foes. There's an otherworldly grace to them, darting in amongst the demons to kill.

Blood SPATTERS, the demons MOANING in low, rumbling voices as the girls cut them down. The creatures move too slowly to even resist.

Fighting their way through the stream of demons, the two are a back to back fighting machine.

One demon gets in a lucky shot, PIERCING a large claw through Sofia's shoulder. She lets out a YELL of pain.

SOFIA (cont'd)  
Ow! You... come here!

She GRABS the demon and drives a KNEE into its gut, TWISTING its head as she connects with a meaty CRUNCH.

Another demon SLASHES across Faith's stomach, causing her to GASP. Sofia turns, seeing the demons surrounding them.

SOFIA (cont'd)  
Faith, look out! They're -

(CONTINUED)



A demon grab's Sofia's weapon hand and SLAMS it into the wall, forcing her to drop the Scythe. He STABS a blade towards her chest:

SLOW MOTION

Faith catches the Scythe and SWINGS her body in an arc, cutting through six or seven demons, before stopping right in front of Sofia:

And the demon's blade JUTS through Faith's chest, coming out the other side.

Faith GASPS in pain, eyes going wide as the blade pierces her, Sofia's eyes bulging in shock.

SOFIA (cont'd)

No!!

RESUME SPEED

As Sofia comes to her senses, hooking the Scythe with one foot and kicking it up into her hands:

Where she CHOPS down at an angle, cutting the demon into two ragged pieces.

The top chunk slides away and hits the floor with a wet THUD, as Faith slides back off the blade still in its hand.

She slumps to the floor but Sofia catches her, dropping to her knees to gently lay her down.

The heap of demons Faith just cut down gives the girls some space in the narrow corridor - but more are coming, shuffling slowly over the corpses of their fellows.

Faith COUGHS, frothy blood on her lips as she SHUDDERS - the blade hit something vital.

Sofia's breathing rapidly, mind frantic as she tries to press a hand to the wound.

SOFIA (cont'd)

Oh, God, Faith, please... please  
don't die...

Sofia lifts her hand - it's wet with BLOOD. Faith CROAKS, her breaths becoming weaker.

Emotion overriding her senses, Sofia lets out a SOB, wiping her eyes with the bloody hand and leaving a smear behind.

SOFIA (cont'd)

(tearful)

No... no! Faith, you can't!  
Faith...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SOFIA (cont'd)

(sobs)

It's not supposed to be you... it's  
not supposed to be you!

Faith, face wrenched up in pain, reaches up to the jade  
necklace around her neck.

FAITH

(with effort)

Willow... made this... for me. It's  
a one ticket... teleport...

Sofia shakes her head as Faith drops it around Sofia's neck.

FAITH (cont'd)

(fading)

Close your... eyes, Sofia. Close...  
your eyes and... think... of her...

Sofia closes her eyes, tears pouring from them. A TAPPING  
noise, underneath the chaos of the demon horde--

WHITE OUT:

EXT. KENSINGTON SCHOOL - COURTYARD

Delaney walks across the courtyard, holding her mouth against  
the stench of the bodies. She moves toward the fountain:

It's FROZEN, the clear ice threaded with blood. Delaney  
shivers.

DELANEY

Oh, Jesus...

That does it. Delaney turns, looking back toward the school.  
Her fists bunch up as she calls out:

DELANEY (cont'd)

Hamish! Come on out here! Face me  
like a man!

She waits - nothing. Several packs of the demons patrolling  
the ground spot her and start to head over - casual,  
unhurried. She doesn't even register them.

She turns - and Hamish stands before her. If Delaney's  
startled, she does well not to show it.

HAMISH

Ready, then?

Delaney just folds her arms, defiant.

DELANEY

No. Because I'm not going to fight  
you.

(CONTINUED)

A beat - then he shrugs.

HAMISH  
Alright, fine by me.

Hamish steps up closer, one hand outstretched, but Delaney tosses away her sword and stretches out her arms.

DELANEY  
Riddle me this. Would you kill your  
own daughter... Dad?

Hamish stares at her, hand CRACKLING with deadly energy. He's frozen in place.

CLOSE ON Delaney's face, as a RUSH of adrenaline rushes through her.

DELANEY (cont'd)  
Should've taken the shot.

She reaches out and clamps a hand across his cheek - and FLAMES burst from one hand, ENVELOPING his head!

Hamish SCREAMS, body writhing as Delaney keeps a tight grip, the flames cascading over his body.

Delaney grits her teeth and watches his face blister, peel and BLACKEN, her eyes cool.

Finally, as his screams fade away to a sickening, choking RATTLE, she releases him.

The flames stop, and his body falls to its knees, skin CRACKING as his head lolls.

Delaney calmly stoops to pick up her sword, returning to Hamish. Still alive (just), he SHUDDERS, trying to speak.

DELANEY (cont'd)  
I may be your daughter... but  
there's nothing of you in me.  
You're a monster...

She CHOPS her sword down onto his black head, and it BURSTS into ashes.

DELANEY (cont'd)  
... and I kill monsters.

They curl into the air as she turns, looking at the destroyed school and the demons encircling her:

And as one, they all fall to the ground as if pole-axed. DEAD. In seconds, there's nothing around her but bodies.

23 CONTINUED: (2)

23

Delaney stands alone amongst the wreckage, lit only by moonlight. She moves through the campus, now eerily SILENT.

24 EXT. KENSINGTON SCHOOL - FRONT GATES - NIGHT

24

Delaney approaches the gates, which have swung open completely.

She stops.

Behind her, from within the doors of the school, a BLUE LIGHT glows. Delaney frowns, turning and opening the door, and we:

WHITE OUT:

25 EXT. KENSINGTON SCHOOL - ROOF - NIGHT

25

Delaney steps out onto the roof, her face pensive. She looks across the roof at:

OLIVIA, standing on the edge of the roof. Delaney steps up beside her.

DELANEY

Hey.

Olivia looks at her, sad.

OLIVIA

Hey. I missed you.

(sideways smile)

Not like I was expecting a postcard or anything, but hey.

Delaney turns away, looking out over the rooftop.

DELANEY

I miss you so much. I think about you almost every day.

OLIVIA

I'm still angry at you. Furious, even.

DELANEY

Yeah, I know.

OLIVIA

I was just trying to help you.

DELANEY

Everyone's always trying to help me, Liv, and nobody ever asks what I need.

(sour)

They just go on and help anyway.

(CONTINUED)

Olivia chuckles at that. The two watch:

A SEPIA Olivia stands on the roof, waiting. Arms crossed, face caught in worry. Hoping for something to happen, or not happen.

A HAND reaches up onto the roof from over the ledge. Watching, Olivia's heart drops through her chest.

From under the ledge, YOUNGER DELANEY hauls herself up onto the roof, a PAINTING clutched underneath the other arm.

It's the same one she and Olivia were looking at earlier on, although now liberated from its former home.

Her baseball cap falls from her head as she straightens, fluttering away as she makes a grab for it.

YOUNG DELANEY

Damn it!

She turns - and sees Olivia, waiting for her.

We see the confrontation from between our Delaney and the ghost of Olivia, sitting together on the ledge:

Young Delaney steps forward, face ugly with anger.

YOUNG DELANEY (cont'd)

What are you doing here? Were you following me? You've got no right, you judgemental -

SEPIA OLIVIA

(off painting)

Laney, what the hell is this? First the things from the other girls, now this?

YOUNG DELANEY

You're not my mother.

SEPIA OLIVIA

(sharp)

What happened to the girl who didn't need one? Who could make her own choices?

YOUNG DELANEY

(off painting)

What the hell does this look like?

SEPIA OLIVIA

A mistake.

Young Delaney scowls, stepping back.

(CONTINUED)

YOUNG DELANEY

It's mine to make.

SEPIA OLIVIA

(vicious)

And then you'll get kicked out,  
right? And your mom will finally  
have to show up?

YOUNG DELANEY

Maybe, yeah! Maybe she can face  
what she's inflicted on the world!

Olivia steps up to Delaney, pressing a hand to her cheek -  
but Young Delaney SLAPS it away!

SEPIA OLIVIA

I feel sorry for you.

YOUNG DELANEY

Good to see you've finally caught  
up with the class. Well done.

Olivia reaches out, GRABBING the painting.

SEPIA OLIVIA

I'll take it to the Headmistress  
right now, if you want. Your mom  
can be here by morning.

YOUNG DELANEY

Let go!

Young Delaney PULLS it from Olivia's grasp. Olivia, angry,  
SHOVES Delaney over and begins pulling it from her hands.

SEPIA OLIVIA

You want to destroy your life, I'll  
help! That's what a best friend's  
for, right?

Young Delaney, scowling, viciously KICKS at Olivia's abdomen:

And an audible CRACK can be heard as she stumbles back.  
Olivia's eyes widen as she stumbles back onto the ledge.

Young Delaney's eyes widen:

Olivia FALLS from the roof, plummeting out of sight!

YOUNG DELANEY

No!

Young Delaney scrabbles to the edge, but it's already late.

Floors below, Olivia's body lies on the grass, broken and  
still. BLOOD pools around her.

(CONTINUED)

Delaney steps back from the ledge, eyes wide with fear.

YOUNG DELANEY (cont'd)  
(stunned)  
Olivia...

PULL BACK

Our Delaney and Olivia watch from the side. Olivia looks to Delaney - who can't meet her gaze.

GHOST OLIVIA  
You just left me there.

DELANEY  
I was so afraid. I just... ran.  
(sighs)  
They blamed the groundskeeper. Said  
the force of the blow to your  
stomach needed a fully grown man's  
strength, and they arrested him.

Delaney looks into Olivia's eyes.

DELANEY (cont'd)  
You had a whole life ahead of you,  
Liv, and I took that. And his.  
(beat)  
I spent years after that hating  
myself, thinking I was evil,  
thinking I was going to hell.

Delaney lowers her head. TEARS fall.

DELANEY (cont'd)  
Thinking I was my mother's daughter  
after all...

Olivia rests a hand on Delaney's back. Delaney looks to her, eyes red and wet with tears now.

DELANEY (cont'd)  
Can you forgive me?

GHOST OLIVIA  
(chuckles)  
I never blamed you in the first  
place! I was being a cow, and you  
had Slayer powers kicking in you  
didn't know about. You just wanted  
me to leave you alone. You didn't  
mean to hit me that hard.

Olivia takes Delaney's face, looking into her eyes.

(CONTINUED)

OLIVIA  
(firm)  
It wasn't your fault.

Delaney, beneath her tears, smiles. And the world around her begins to MELT AWAY. Delaney blinks, realising:

DELANEY  
Wait a second...

CUT TO:

Delaney JOLTS awake at a plain desk, sat across from KIRA, who closes the book she was reading.

DELANEY  
(recovering)  
Whuh... mom?

KIRA  
Welcome back.

Delaney stares around at the room, reality beginning to settle in.

DELANEY  
That was... woah.

KIRA  
I'll spare you the torturous, philosophical explanation, because I'm sure you've already figured most of this out.  
(beat)  
Harry knew that you and Sofia were still haunted by things from your pasts, and she wanted you to have a chance to face them. Call it her last request.

DELANEY  
Where's Sofia?

KIRA  
Still caught up in hers. And if she doesn't complete her vision quest soon...  
(frowns)  
She's been asleep for two days, and I couldn't wake either of you until your psyches were satisfied.

DELANEY  
Will she be alright? I mean... two days? She'll starve to death!

(CONTINUED)



KIRA

Or her body will merely give up  
under the weight of the unresolved  
memories. If it looks like it's  
coming to that, then I'll have to  
intervene.

Kira eyes Delaney, the cold facade cracking just a little as  
she smiles.

KIRA (cont'd)

I was worried about you, Delaney.

DELANEY

(warm smile)

Alert the press.

Kira looks over to another desk, where SOFIA sleeps, hooked  
up to an I.V. Her smile fades again.

KIRA

I don't know how long she can do  
this for. I hope she's close.

As they stare at her:

Sofia appears in a lit area within the mountain, stone walls  
around her. She opens her eyes.

She stands on a massive stone RING around a pool of LAVA.  
Hanging from the ceiling is a covered CAGE, big enough for  
several people.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

So glad you could join us...

From across the ring, a woman steps into view, directly  
across from Sofia. It's SOFIA herself, sporting her look from  
the Cabal days - dark colours, hair cropped to shoulder-  
length. She offers a cruel smile.

Last time we met her, she branded herself SONYA, so we'll  
call her that.

SONYA

Welcome to paradise, Shechen. Stay  
a while.

As Sofia stares, mind blown:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

FADE IN:

28 INT. MOUNTAIN - THE LAIR - NIGHT 28

Sofia stands on one end of the stone circle, Sonya on the other. Both stare, rage etched on Sofia's features, a cool sneer on Sonya's.

Sofia stares at her doppelganger, remembering:

A FLASH of Sofia and Delaney sitting in the magic circle, casting a spell:

29 EXT. KIRA'S CASTLE - BALCONY (DREAMSCAPE) 29

Sofia appears on the balcony, looking out at the view. She's confused, completely and utterly.

SOFIA? (O.S.)

Hey.

Sofia turns around to see... SONYA. Sofia looks at Sonya, utterly confused.

SOFIA

Who the hell are you?

Sonya smiles, moves forward and touches Sofia's cheek.

SONYA

I'm you, baby. The girl, corrupted.

Sofia looks over her alter ego and scoffs.

SOFIA

Thank god I don't remember much of being you. Did I really look that bad with short hair? Or speak like a bloody American?

SONYA

Cut the BS, Sofes. I was the best time of your life. Carefree, in love...

(sideways grin)

Hands were a little bloody, but that was the team's prerogative. We mostly stood there and looked evil.

(beat)

And hot.

SOFIA

Please say this isn't me 'facing my demons.' If it is, I've clearly been worried over nothing.

(CONTINUED)

SONYA  
(chuckles)  
No demons. Just little pieces of  
you. I've always been here, when -

SMASH CUT TO:

SONYA  
(finishing)  
... you needed to look inside.

Sonya smirks, as Sofia looks around the ring, confused.

SOFIA  
What is this, you magnificent cow?  
Are you upgrading from minor mental  
pest to a full-on villain? Because,  
and I can say this with some  
confidence, I've faced down an  
actual dream demon before, and I  
distinctly recall kicking its arse.

Sonya smirks, turning back to the stone leading into her side  
of the ring.

Shackled to the wall, scowling as if feral, is BRAEDEN. He's  
adorned merely in rags; a pet, or a plaything. He GROWLS,  
pulling at the chains holding him.

Sonya slinks over to him and Braeden quietens, softens, like  
a tamed animal at the sight of her.

Sonya presses her hands to his cheeks and kisses his  
forehead, before turning back to Sofia.

SONYA  
We have business to attend to.

SOFIA  
I'll say. You have something that  
belongs to me.

Sonya glances at Braeden and smirks devilishly.

SONYA  
We can share...

SOFIA  
(rolls eyes)  
Not him. My parents.

SONYA  
(chuckles)  
Oh. Right. You mean...

(CONTINUED)

She CLAPS and the cloth wrapped around the cage falls into the pit, revealing two figures:

SONYA (cont'd)  
... these guys?

A man and a woman, slumped up against each other. A BULLET HOLE in each one's head!

Sofia GASPS, staring at the sight in horror as Sonya laughs.

SONYA (cont'd)  
They were in the way.

Sofia SNARLS, running and LEAPING towards the cage:

Grabbing it with one hand, she SWINGS around the cage, twisting it on its rope, and LAUNCHING herself across the ring, Scythe first:

And launches herself at Sonya! Sonya sidesteps, but Sofia lands on her feet, skidding only a little on the stony ground.

SOFIA  
I'm going to put you down once and  
for all, you bitch!

Sonya smiles and produces the BLACK SCYTHE from behind her back.

SONYA  
Bring it, sister. Always wanted  
another chance to take you on.

Sofia LUNGES towards her, and the two Scythes clash with a righteous CLANG!

The two duel, Sofia charging Sonya down around the ring, her face a mask of cold rage.

SONYA (cont'd)  
Come on! Entertain me! Are you  
trying to kill me or rehearsing  
your dance moves?

SOFIA  
Screw you! I'm going to cut you  
into so many pieces, my mind will  
never put you back together.

Sonya easily SLIPS around Sofia's blade, knocking her attacks away but never moving on the offensive.

SOFIA (cont'd)  
I'm going to bury you so deep, you  
won't even know you exist!

(CONTINUED)

SONYA

Why are you so angry at me? I'm  
you, you stupid slag!

SOFIA

(raging)

You are not me. You're the part of  
me I can't stand! The bloodstained  
brat who responded to losing squad  
leadership by screwing the enemy  
and defecting!

Sonya SLAPS away an attack with the Scythe and smirks.

SONYA

You'd prefer we stay you, the  
little girl who ran away from her  
life the moment things stopped  
going her way? Twice? Who built  
herself a life where she'd never  
have to grow up, inside her own  
mind?

SOFIA

You're disgusting.

SONYA

And you're soft! Guess that makes  
us two for a pair, doesn't it?

Sofia SWINGS, narrowly missing yet again. Her frustration  
builds.

SOFIA

You're nothing but the parts of me  
I left in the cellar! The bits too  
useless to make into a real person!

She STABS, scoring a hit on Sonya's shoulder, and swings  
again. CLANG. Deflected.

SOFIA (cont'd)

When I cleaned my head out of you,  
I should have gone deeper. Wiped  
out every trace, every thought,  
every impulse.

SONYA

(laughs)

If you did that, there'd be nothing  
left of you!

Sonya stands up straighter, KNOCKING away a hit from Sofia's  
Scythe and PLUNGING towards her, forcing Sofia onto the  
defensive.

(CONTINUED)

SONYA (cont'd)

What are you without me, hmm? The sobbing child, playing in the bathroom with a knife? The sickly invalid too weak to join her comrades in the most important fight of their lives?

Sofia ROARS with anger, unleashing a new flurry of attacks that push the momentum back her way.

SOFIA

I'm me! I'm Sofia Gabriella Romero!

She keeps going, a new fact in between every attack:

SOFIA (cont'd)

I was born in Verona on September sixth, nineteen eighty-seven... moved to Kensington when I was two... I went to St. Mary Abbots primary school...

She's in TEARS now, Sonya starting to buckle under the onslaught as Sofia keeps swinging the Scythe:

SOFIA (cont'd)

(sobbing)

My best friend in Year Nine was Sally Leese... I learned to play guitar when my dad taught me 'Sweet Home Alabama'... my first kiss was with a boy called Luke...

She falters, emotion finally making her clumsy, and Sonya KICKS her hard in the ribs. Sofia stumbles back, coughing.

SONYA

(icy)

You're nothing. You're what was left behind when Sofia tried to kill herself, wipe out everything in her mind that made her a person.

SOFIA

I am a person!

SONYA

You're a Real Doll.

Sonya ducks and KICKS at Sofia's feet, tripping her up. Sofia falls backwards, landing on her ass. She raises her Scythe to block another attack.

Sofia grits her teeth, trying to keep Sonya's murderously jagged Scythe from cutting her in two as she pushes against it with all her might:

(CONTINUED)

SONYA (cont'd)  
There is so much I can teach you,  
if you'll just listen -

Sofia stands, KNOCKING the Black Scythe from Sonya's hands  
and into the lava!

Sonya backs away as Sofia rises, fury filling her with  
confidence again as she advances.

SOFIA  
No, you listen! You caused  
everything! It's your fault I've  
been so depressed, so angry and  
lost!

She SLASHES at Sonya, who raises her hands to protect  
herself.

SOFIA (cont'd)  
(sneering)  
If you weren't so strong and brave.  
If you weren't so loud and  
obnoxious, more like!

She SLASHES again, cutting Sonya deep down the arm!

SOFIA (cont'd)  
If you didn't want to be a hero so  
badly, if you'd just be small and  
quiet like a good little girl, my  
parents would still be alive!

Sofia CUTS across Sonya's face, and she gives a small SCREAM.

SOFIA (cont'd)  
They didn't want me. Those demons  
who took me all those years ago. I  
was just a girl, a normal girl.  
They wanted you, they wanted the  
Slayer for their auction, not a  
little girl, and if you weren't  
there, they would have left me  
alone!

Sofia KICKS Sonya in the gut, and she coughs up blood.

SOFIA (cont'd)  
They wanted you! They wanted you!  
(screams)  
You ruined my life!

Sonya looks up as Sofia raises the blade, ready to stab down  
and end it...

And she stops. She looks down at Sonya, crumpled up in fear,  
cowering beneath Sofia and her raised blade.

(CONTINUED)

Sonya blinks, realising the blade hasn't fallen. She looks up at Sofia, wide-eyed and terrified:

SONYA

What... what are you doing?

SOFIA

(realises)

You're not the evil part of me.

You're... the Slayer part.

SONYA

What's the difference?

Sofia exhales, and though she's emotionally spent, almost smiles.

SOFIA

(shakes head)

The difference is, the anger isn't yours. The sadness isn't yours.

It's mine.

Sofia offers Sonya a hand.

SOFIA (cont'd)

You're not a burden. You're a tool.  
And I'm not going to toss you away  
because of... because of something  
you couldn't have stopped.

(beat)

I forgive you.

Sonya takes Sofia's hand, and a LIGHT bursts between them, enveloping them.

When it disperses, Sofia stands alone. No Sonya, no Braeden, no cage.

She breathes a sigh of relief, closing her eyes.

SOFIA (cont'd)

And I'm ready to wake up now.

And as the cave around her starts to WHITE OUT:

Sofia awakens, a small smile on her lips, as Kira looks on, Delaney at her side. Kira sighs in relief, a hand to Sofia's cheek in an oddly tender gesture.

KIRA

I thought we'd lost you.

Sofia smiles back, Kira remembering herself and pulling her hand away.



SOFIA  
(shakes head)  
Nope... I found me.

Kira and Delaney share a sideways look as we CUT TO:

Now in a less-bland room, we're able to see this is a Council Base. Lavishly decorated and comfortable, with a beautiful view of the Adirondacks.

Kira, Sofia and Delaney sit on a couch with tea. Sofia looks to the other two, her drink untouched by her side.

SOFIA  
I'd never realised before how angry  
I was at myself. I'd realised that  
I'd created my Shechen self from my  
memories from before I was a  
Slayer, because it was the perfect  
way for me to hide from herself,  
but...

(beat)  
I was still just so angry at myself  
for merely being a Slayer, and I  
didn't even realise.

DELANEY  
Hey, I had some baggage too.

She falls quiet, and Sofia frowns: *Don't hold out on me now.*

DELANEY (cont'd)  
I just... I've been so afraid of my  
life being determined by where I  
came from, first from...

(off Kira)  
Well, first from you, and then  
Hamish. I let that fear drive me  
for so long, and even though I'd  
buried it since I got here...

(beat)  
I needed to see it. To face it.

Sofia reaches over and takes her hand. Delaney glances at it, ready to pull away - but relents, giving Sofia's a squeeze.

SOFIA  
Huang was right. I needed that.

DELANEY  
Me too.  
(to Kira)  
You, however, I'm still pissed at.

Kira waves it away.

KIRA  
You'll get over it.

Delaney LAUGHS at that, genuine and relieved, as Sofia rises and heads towards the balcony:

Sofia stands on the balcony, looking over the mountains. She doesn't turn as Delaney joins her.

DELANEY  
I suppose I should ask you how you feel?

SOFIA  
Like I want to throw up, but also remembering I'm far too proper to do that in front of polite company.

Delaney laughs, relief filling her eyes.

DELANEY  
Me too.  
(off look)  
Maybe not the vomiting thing.  
(beat)  
It was powerful, but... it hurt, to dig into that stuff again. I'm glad we did it, but...

Delaney looks out over the mountains, letting it trail off.

SOFIA  
(thoughtful)  
No, we needed to. If we didn't face our demons...

Kira sits on the couch, looking at a photo of her past: EVELYN PIERCE, her arm thrown across the shoulders of young apprentice HAMISH MCFANCHON.

SOFIA (V.O.)  
... they would've destroyed us. And we've got too much up against us now to hold onto those thoughts any longer.

Kira SIGHS, tossing a glance at Delaney, standing on the balcony.

As Delaney leaves her on the balcony, Sofia thinks.

SOFIA (V.O.)  
Even if nothing else changes, even  
if we don't go back to the days  
when you had a skateboard and I  
loved Sour Apple Jolly Ranchers...

Sofia on screen takes out her PHONE and types in a number.  
Breathing heavily, she awaits an answer.

WOMAN'S VOICE (V.O.)  
Hello?

SOFIA  
(quiet)  
Is James there? James Romero?

WOMAN'S VOICE  
May I ask who's calling?

Sofia breaks into a nervous grin.

SOFIA  
His niece, Sofia.

As the conversation continues, we PULL BACK:

Delaney, a bouquet of flowers in hand, walks in amongst the  
graves.

SOFIA (V.O.)  
... things are different now. We're  
different. Things that would have  
destroyed us... they'll still hurt.

Delaney KNEELS in front of a grave and places the flowers  
down. It's marked OLIVIA CRAINE.

SOFIA (cont'd)  
But maybe, for the first time... a  
little less.

Off Delaney, smiling a little at the grave:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF SHOW**

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