

SOMEWHERE INBETWEEN

"Hard Headed Woman"

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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. WHITE ROOM - NIGHT.

1

We fade in from brilliant white to make out what appears to be a hospital bed, with somebody lying peacefully on it.

As the whiteness starts to fade away, we can make out the features of the person on the bed - and it's TWIST, her long, blonde hair neatly combed and her sleeping expression telling us she's deep in dream land at the moment. She's dressed in a typical plain white hospital gown.

The whiteness continues to fade around her, and as we push in on Twist we begin to make out details in the room around her - other beds lined up either side of her, all empty.

We push right up to Twist as the whiteness disappears, and we can clearly see now that we're in some kind of otherwise deserted hospital ward, and also that what skin of Twist's we can see is covered with scratches and marks.

Suddenly, Twist's eyes FLICK OPEN!

She sits bolt upright with a GASP, gulping down deep breaths of air on reflex as her hands grip the edge of the bed for support.

Twist looks round the empty ward with wide eyes - we can hear the sound of heavy wind and rain rattling the windows, but the only other sounds are Twist's gasps of breath and the heart monitor.

She tries to swing her legs off the bed but winces, looking down at her arm.

An IV drip is in her arm, a yellow powder sprinkled liberally over it. She follows the IV tube back up to a fresh packet of blood hanging above her.

Confused to all heck, Twist yanks the IV out of her arm with a YELP, and with unsteady feet she tries to stand off the bed.

She has some difficulty walking - it's clearly been a while since she last used her legs, and she pushes against the beds around her for support as she struggles along.

Pausing for a moment, she runs a hand back through her hair - and freezes as she feels something there.

Spotting a small vanity mirror on a bedside table nearby, she staggers over and lifts it up, parting her hair to get a better look.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

There's a long scar running along her head, as though she suffered a particularly bad head wound.

Agitated, she drops the mirror and heads towards the only door in the room as the noise of the storm outside kicks up a gear.

Rattling the handle, she finds that the door is locked. Frustrated, she takes a step back, lines up and KICKS the door - promptly knocking herself flat on her ass!

She pouts as she sits on the floor for a beat.

TWIST

(mumbles)

Yeah, real smooth, Twist...

Pushing herself back to her feet, she reaches for the handle again when she hears FOOTSTEPS approaching on the other side of the door.

Twist quickly ducks to one side, waiting as we hear a key turn in the door.

It swings open, and she tenses as she watches somebody step into the ward.

It's a young DOCTOR in his white coat, fairly unassuming looking with his glasses and short black hair - but that doesn't stop Twist YELLING a battle cry and SHOVING the man to the ground!

As the doctor sprawls on the floor, Twist dashes outside.

2 INT. CORRIDOR - CONTINUOUS.

2

Twist barrels out into a long, plain corridor, looking like the basement of some kind of building. In her bare feet, she hustles down the corridor, putting as much distance as she can between herself and the ward, despite not exactly being able to run.

She turns as she hears a voice behind her.

DOCTOR (O.S.)

Hey! Wait!

The doctor has recovered and followed her out of the ward, gaining quickly on her.

Twist tries to pick up speed, approaching a pair of swing doors up ahead, and barging through them into:

3

INT. OVERHEAD WALKWAY - CONTINUOUS

3

Twist finds herself in another long corridor, but this one is suspended over a series of open-plan rooms below her, visible through large glass panels set into the corridor walls.

Twist slows and frowns, the scene triggering something in her memory, but as she hears the doctor push through the doors behind her, she starts up her escape again.

The corridor splits into a T-junction ahead, and Twist tears round it to the right - and barrels straight into somebody!

As both figures are knocked to the ground, twist lands heavily on her back, what little wind she did have knocked out of her.

The doctor skids into the scene, looking down on her as she blinks, trying to focus again.

TWIST

Alright, look, I don't know who you are, baumgartner, but you stick one more thing in me, and I'll stick-

CHRIS (O.S.)

Twist?

Twist blinks and sits up - and sees that the person she just ran into is none other than her partner CHRIS!

He stares at her with a mixture of relief and surprise as he stands, holding out a hand to help her up.

Twist hesitates, but then lets Twist pull her to her feet. His hair is a little neater and shorter, but this is obviously still the same guy.

Chris takes off his long leather coat and wraps it round her as the doctor starts to reel out an apology.

DOCTOR

I'm so sorry, Mr. Berkeley, I was just going in to check on her, same way I always do, when she just attacked me and started running, and I-

CHRIS

(interrupts)

It's alright, Sean. Get back to the ward, I'll bring her along in a moment.

The doctor nods, and with a last glance at Twist heads back down the corridor.

(CONTINUED)

Twist turns to Chris, the old fire back in her eyes.

TWIST

Alright, two words. 'What' and
'the?'

CHRIS

(smiles)

It's good to see you on your feet
again, Twist.

TWIST

Yeah, yeah, you too. Can we get
back to the 'what the?'

CHRIS

Don't worry, you're safe. Let's get
back to the ward and I'll explain
everything that you've missed.

TWIST

Woah, hold up - 'missed'? How long
have I been out?

CHRIS

(beat)

Almost three months.

A long beat as Twist's jaw drops.

TWIST

(quietly)

Oh...

And from her dazed expression, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 EXT. NEW YORK - OUTSIDE TOWER BLOCK - NIGHT. 4

Back in the closing moments of the last time we joined Chris, we're looking at the entrance to a tall inner city tower as heavy rain lashes the scene before us.

An abandoned police barricade has cordoned off the area, and a news crew van is parked alongside two large police vans. There isn't another soul in sight.

Chris stumbles out into the open air, the storm abating and the rain thinning out as he looks up to the sky, gratefully opening his mouth to catch a little rainwater.

He doesn't spot the person approaching him, pacing casually across the abandoned barricade. His eyes closed, Chris is startled by a sudden voice:

VOICE (O.S.)

Despite everything I loathe about him, there's the one thing I always admire about Malkuth.

Chris looks across - and facing him is CIEGUE, the blind assassin who Chris only just managed to defeat last time they met. He smiles at Chris, his dark sunglasses reflecting the emerging moonlight overhead.

CIEGUE

He always has another backup plan.

Ciegue draws his sword with a rapid SWISH, and he takes a step towards Chris, who stands his ground.

CIEGUE (cont'd)

So I guess there's only one question we need to answer now, Chris.

Chris closes his eyes, knowing he's about to enter another fight he may not walk away from.

CIEGUE (cont'd)

Do you really think you can beat me a second time?

Chris opens his eyes, gripping his katana blade tightly, and Ciegue smiles broadly.

CIEGUE (cont'd)

Let's find out.

(CONTINUED)

Ciegue snaps into a fighting stance, and a clearly already exhausted and weary-looking Chris does the same.

CHRIS

I don't have time for this, Ciegue. You'd save both of us a lot of trouble if you just walked away.

CIEGUE

I'm afraid I can't do that. I don't know what you did to Malkuth up there, but he brought me in as his backup. If anything happened to him, it became my duty to make sure you never leave this city.

The two old enemies start to circle one another, their gazes locked on each other.

CIEGUE (cont'd)

Just out of interest, what did you do to Malkuth?

CHRIS

Used his own magic against him. I converted the energy he'd summoned up there into a transportation portal, and then just threw him into it.

CIEGUE

(nods)

Very neat and tidy. Where did you send him?

CHRIS

(shrugs)

Haven't a clue.

Ciegue grins - and then suddenly CHARGES forward, trying to catch Chris off guard.

Chris' reflexes are still razor sharp, and he raises his katana to block Ciegue's serrated sword with a loud CLANG of metal.

They push against each other for a beat, before there is a sudden BOOM from some distant explosion, and both men are thrown off their feet.

They flip back up to recover, Chris looking alarmed as he flicks his eyes left and right, searching for the source of the explosion.

CIEGUE

Was that anything to do with you?

CHRIS
Most likely yes.

CIEGUE
So I suppose you'll be wanting to finish me off quickly and go and investigate, right?

CHRIS
That's the idea.

CIEGUE
(smiles)
So take your best shot.

Chris waits a beat - then LUNGES forward again, and as the sparks fly from the two clashing swords, we cut to:

5 INT. TUNNELS - NIGHT.

5

We're locked inside the grim, earthy tunnels with Twist and DANYAEL, their only way out sealed off by a solid slab of stone that has fallen over the exit.

Danyael heaves against it, trying and failing to move it, while a dejected Twist stares down at a child sized shop dummy, seated on a chair in the middle of the room. Twist is still wearing Chris' fedora.

Barred cell doors line the tunnel, with flickering lamps embedded into the walls offering little light for the two captive vampires.

Twist looks up as Danyael grunts, his muscles straining as he tries to lift the slab again.

TWIST
Forget it, Spook, we're stuck.

Danyael stands, wiping the sweat from his brow and throwing an angry scowl at Twist.

DANYAEL
So what? So we just sit here and rot? Forget it! Until we figure something else out, I'm gonna keep trying to open this door, or slab, or whatever the hell it is.

TWIST
There's probably another way out somewhere. Sitting here and watching you get a hernia isn't exactly something I'd class as a 'plan.'

(CONTINUED)

Twist looks down at the shop dummy again, and Danyael heads over, his expression sympathetic.

DANYAEL

(off dummy)

What would you have done if that actually was your sister?

TWIST

(distracted)

Huh? Oh. I don't know. I'm just pissed that I let Malkuth use it to trick me into coming down here.

With one last look at the dummy, she KICKS the chair over with some force, almost breaking it and the dummy in two.

Danyael watches her for a beat - and Twist suddenly tears up, trying to hold in a sob of frustration but failing. Danyael quickly throws his arms round her, holding her tight as she starts to cry.

DANYAEL

(soothing)

Ssh. Come on. It's nothing.

Twist pushes herself away from him, wiping the tears away and trying to shake off the emotions.

TWIST

No, it isn't. That stupid half demon baumgartner pushed the wrong buttons on me this time.

(darkly)

Nobody screws with me when it comes to my family.

Twist's suddenly fierce look makes Danyael take a step back. He can sense the fury radiating off her.

DANYAEL

Okay, point taken. Let's find that other way out of here you were so sure about, huh?

Twist nods, and starts pressing her hands against the walls, feeling around for some kind of hidden entrance.

Danyael retrieves a packet of cigarettes from his jacket, and pops one in his mouth before getting his lighter. After a few clicks, he gets a flame - only for a drop of water to land on it, putting the flame out.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

Huh.

He looks up - and a second drop of water lands in his eye. He winces and steps back.

As Danyael wipes the water away, he becomes aware of more drops - many more, in fact! The ceiling is beginning to drip with water from several points.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

Uh, Twist?

She turns round, and a drop of water lands on her head. She looks up and sees the water pooling on the ceiling of the tunnel, then looks back to Danyael.

TWIST

Oh, fu-

FWOOSH! Water erupts from the ceiling, drenching the two vamps in seconds. The flow doesn't stop, quickly starting to pool on the tunnel floor.

Twist splashes over to Danyael, dragging him over into one of the cell doorways to get a little cover.

TWIST (cont'd)

(shouting over noise)

Great! First we get stuck down here, and now this?!?

DANYAEL

Uh, guess now's not a good time to mention I can't swim, huh?

TWIST

Swimming's gonna be the least of our problems if we don't find a way out of here, Dan!

DANYAEL

Hey, it's not like we can drown, right?

TWIST

You wanna spend the rest of your life stuck in this tunnel in eight feet of water?

Danyael pauses - he hadn't thought of that.

TWIST (cont'd)

Exactly! Come on, we need to find that way out, and fast!

As Twist steps out of the doorway and yanks Danyael out of frame, we cut back to:

6

INT. WARD - NIGHT.

6

Twist is back in her bed, watching the doctor as he pushes the heart monitors out of the way and takes the blood bag from the IV down. Chris sits in a chair by the bed.

DOCTOR

We've been keeping you on this since you came here, Chris enchanted the IV to make sure it got the blood round your whole body.

TWIST

(smirks at Chris)
Well, gee, doesn't he just think of everything!

DOCTOR

(off blood bag)
If you like, I can warm this up and bring it round for you? It's all off registered donors, so it's perfectly legal.

Twist throws a hopeful look at Chris, who nods, and Twist beams back at the doctor.

TWIST

That would be fan-fricken-tastic.

With a nod, the doctor heads out, and Chris waits until the door closes and the two are left alone.

CHRIS

How are you feeling?

TWIST

Like I've been lying on my back for three months, how'd you think I feel? Kinda weak, a little dizzy, and very, very hungry.

Twist grabs a comb from the bedside table and starts to drag it through her hair, noticing after a few beats that Chris is still staring at her.

TWIST (cont'd)

What's with you? Anyone'd think you never saw me before!

CHRIS

I'm just glad to see you're alright, that's all.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS (cont'd)
 You took a pretty heavy beating, so
 when your body shut itself down to
 try and make some repairs, I...

He trails off, and Twist rolls her eyes.

TWIST
 Aw, man. You're not gonna get all
 'I never thought I'd see you
 again!' on me, are you? You know I
 hate that.

CHRIS
 (chuckles)
 I know. I suppose it's not
 surprising, given the stress you
 put your body under.

TWIST
 (suspicious)
 'Stress'? What 'stress,' exactly?

Chris is quite for a beat, and as Twist twigs that this is
 going to continue to be a long story, we cut back to:

Ciegue and Chris are still fighting, water flying off them as
 they dance around each other, swords sparking in a furious
 display of swordsmanship.

Chris blocks Ciegue's attacks, darting left and right and
 trying to land a few hits of his own, but Ciegue's just too
 damn quick.

Chris SHOUTS in pain as Ciegue slices his sword into Chris'
 arm, and as Chris stumbles Ciegue lands two more cuts, one to
 Chris' leg and another across his back.

Chris drops his sword and clatters to the floor, gasping for
 breath, as Ciegue coolly flicks the blood off his sword and
 grins down at Chris.

CIEGUE
 You're letting me down here,
 Christopher! I know you've been
 through a lot tonight already, but
 the least you could do is give
 yourself a fighting chance!

Chris reaches for his sword, and Ciegue doesn't stop him.
 Chris stands again, swaying a little, trying to focus his
 battered body again.

CHRIS
 I'm only going to ask you once
 more, Ciegue. Stand aside!

CIEGUE

(laughs)

Or you'll do what? Bleed on me?
Don't misunderstand me, I paid a
lot of money for this suit and I'd
hate to get your bodily fluids all
over it, but still...

(raises sword)

Some stains are worth it.

Ciegue leaps forward to the attack again, and as he and Chris continue to spar, the rain still falling heavily as they pirouette and dodge around each other, we cut back to:

INT. TUNNELS - NIGHT.

Twist is looking frantically round for an exit - the cascading water from the ceiling has already filled the tunnel up to their knees.

Danyaël is taking shelter in one of the cell doorways, soaked through as he tries to pull the barred cell door away, hoping it'll lead somewhere.

TWIST

C'mon, Spook! Help me!

Twist sloshes through the water, carrying what's left of the chair.

DANYAEL

Help you do what?

TWIST

Tunnel out of here!

DANYAEL

Have you lost it? We're about ten feet underground! You got a Thunderbird stashed in your back pocket or something?

TWIST

No, stupid, watch!

Twist starts to use the chair as a makeshift shovel, scooping away the sodden dirt surrounding the stone slab sealing them in the tunnel.

Danyaël watches her for a beat, then the penny drops.

DANYAEL

You reckon you can dig us right past the door?

(CONTINUED)

TWIST

You got a better idea? I don't plan on growing gills and starting a new life under the sea, so grab something and help me dig us out of here!

Danyaël nods, looking around for some kind of tool he can use. Spotting a second chair, an old, rusted metal one on its side in one corner, he splashes over and grabs it.

Joining Twist, he uses the chair legs to scoop out dirt from the other side of the slab, the two working with feverish speed to try and break out. We cut back to:

EXT. OUTSIDE TOWER BLOCK - NIGHT.

Chris and Ciegue are still in their fight, but as Ciegue BOOTS Chris to the floor, sending him sprawling, it's clear where the advantage lies.

Ciegue rotates his neck, loosening himself up, and hops from foot to foot as Chris slowly starts to get back to his feet yet again.

CHRIS

You're really enjoying this, aren't you?

CIEGUE

Absolutely. I don't want it getting around that you beat me, Chris, I have a well-maintained reputation that leads me to many very expensive clients, and our last meeting went some way to endangering that!

Chris scoops up his katana, but doesn't take up a fighting stance, taking advantage of the relief from the fight.

CHRIS

Doesn't it strike you as somewhat dishonourable to fight a man who isn't at full strength?

CIEGUE

If I had any honour, then yes, I imagine it would. Thing is, once a man starts selling himself and his sword to the highest bidder, the whole warrior's code of conduct tends to get filed away somewhere and forgotten about.

CHRIS

So that's how this ends? You beat me, no matter what the situation, and you walk away with a clear conscience?

CIEGUE

(grins)
Exactly.

Chris nods - and then quickly steps up to the attack. Ciegue is ready, the two starting their battle again as we cut back to:

INT. TUNNELS - NIGHT.

Twist and Danyael are still frantically shovelling away the dirt surrounding the slab, already making visible progress.

After a few moments, Twist pauses and gives the slab a SHOVE with all her strength - and it moves! Only very slightly, but they're definitely making progress.

TWIST

That's it! That's it, we're doing it! Keep going!

DANYAEL

What does it look like I'm doing?

TWIST

The water pressure's gonna help us out, sooner or later we'll unbalance it enough so that it just...

She trails off as there is a loud GROANING noise from the slab. It starts to rock back and forth a little, and Twist and Danyael exchange a look.

DANYAEL

Is that good?

TWIST

I dunno. Keep digging, and let's hope the water in here doesn't-

FWOOSH! The water pouring from the ceiling suddenly doubles in intensity, and Twist and Danyael are engulfed by a fresh wall of water.

Pressed against the slab, they're pinned down and unable to move, twist doing her best to keep her head above the rapidly rising water level.

There's another GROAN, and she looks up to see the slab shifting again. The extra water now has a place to build up, thanks to the duo's hurried digging work, and the difference in pressure is starting to unsettle the slab.

TWIST (cont'd)
(yells)
Hang on!!

With a final CREAK, the bottom of the slab starts to give way, and as the force of the water finds a way out, the slab is pushed up and away, almost flipping over as the water floods down the rest of the tunnel, blasting Twist and Danyael down and out of their prison.

Twist, managing to stay above the surface, spots the hole they climbed down quickly approaching, and manages to reach her arm up, grabbing the edge of the hole just as she's swept past it.

Gasping for breath, she looks round and sees Danyael, and streaks out an arm towards him.

TWIST (cont'd)
(frantic)
Danyael!!

Spluttering, he reaches out - and manages to grab hold, a fraction away from being swept off.

Her face contorted with effort, Twist slowly pulls herself up towards the hole, the rising water level making things somewhat easier, her other hand firmly clamped round Danyael's wrist.

And in a sudden BURST of water, Twist and Danyael are thrown up into the air and out onto the hard concrete floor of the deserted car park.

Landing heavily, they stay there for a few beats, panting with exertion, as we hear the sound of the rushing water echoing up from the tunnel entrance.

Soaked to the bone, Twist pushes herself upright, shaking her head to clear it, as Danyael stays on his back, out of gas and in no state to move.

TWIST
Well, looks like those physics
lessons paid off, huh?

DANYAEL
Guess so...

TWIST

C'mon, Spook, no time for sleeping
on the job. We've got to find Chris
and-

Twist is cut off as a HAND streaks into frame, grabbing her
by the hair and dragging her onto her feet.

TWIST (cont'd)

Yow! What the-

Twist's eyes bulge as she sees who's attacking her - it's VAN
LEWIN, the bounty hunter! His eyes burn with hatred for the
vampire before him, his bald head showing a few more scars
but his muscular body still obviously at its peak.

VAN LEWIN

Payback time, little girl!

Van Lewin PUNCHES Twist hard across the jaw, and as the blow
connects, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

12 INT. SAFE HOUSE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT. 12

Chris and Twist are walking long another one of the wide, glass-walled corridors, Twist now wearing a dressing gown and her New Rock boots - unlaced, of course.

TWIST

Wow. So he was really paling you, huh?

CHRIS

I'm afraid I wasn't in much of a state to fight at that point.

TWIST

Yeah, couldn't help but notice the hundred or so vamps and demons you fought your way through to get to the top of that tower! So where was Julie in all of this?

CHRIS

Why don't we ask her?

Chris pauses at a doorway set into a wall ahead of them, and motions for twist to enter. As she opens the door, we follow her into:

13 INT. SAFE HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT. 13

Twist steps into a small, motel-like room, plainly furnished with a bed, a wardrobe, a desk and a TV. Lying on the bed, propped up by pillows and flicking through the TV channels, is JULIE.

Twist lights up when she sees her, and bounds across the room to wrap her arms round her.

TWIST

Jules!

Julie smiles as Twist squeezes her. Twist releases her and sits on the bed as Chris shuts the door, staying over by the doorway.

Julie looks a little pale, and her face is peppered with small cuts and scratches like Twist's, but she's otherwise in one piece.

JULIE

Hey, Twist. I heard you'd woken up, figured you'd be round to bug me soon enough!

(CONTINUED)

TWIST

Guess that sass of yours didn't get
knocked out of you, huh?

JULIE

(smiles)

No, I guess not.

TWIST

So what happened to you? Last I
saw, you were heading off with that
Osbourne guy's team. I've got a few
blanks I still need to fill in.

Julie suddenly falls quiet, and Twist frowns, looking over to
Chris. Chris heads over and takes a seat next to the bed,
squeezing Julie's hand.

CHRIS

Julie and the others found a series
of bombs hidden all around the
city, all part of Malkuth's plan.

TWIST

Yikes! What did you do?

Julie starts to speak, but it's obviously still a painful
memory for her.

JULIE

We, uh, we found some of them, and
David, he, er... he-

Chris interrupts her, picking up on how difficult it is for
Julie to tell this part of the story.

CHRIS

Part of what I did to get rid of
Malkuth shorted out the power
across the whole of New York City
for a few moments, and that was
enough to disable all of the bombs.
(looks at Julie)
Except for one.

Twist bites her lip as things start to fall into place.

TWIST

What happened?

Chris and Julie exchange a look, as we cut to:

14

INT. OFFICE BLOCK - BASEMENT - NIGHT.

14

We pan across a scene of utter devastation - concrete and steel pillars lie in ruins around us, the scene covered with rubble.

The explosion we heard earlier obviously started here, ripping through the entire basement and caving in several of the levels above it.

Sparks fly off shattered electrical circuits, a few small fires burn away and a thick cloud of dust coats the scene.

We pan across to one end of the basement, picking up the blackened shell of what used to be an air conditioning unit, thick cables and sections of metal ventilation shafts in pieces all around us.

We can make out a few bodies in amongst all the mess, covered with dust and unmoving.

After a beat, one piece of the vent shaft moves, and with a COUGH we can make out somebody trapped beneath it, trying weakly to push it away.

With a heave of effort, the large, square piece of metal rolls to one side, and DECADWAY is revealed, several deep wounds visible across her arms and chest. She coughs again, trying to stand and wiping the dust from her face.

She looks around the wrecked basement in horror, calling out with a dry, croaky voice.

DECADWAY

Hello? Hello, is anyone here?
David? Julie?

DeCadway spots another body to her left, and quickly tries to lift the tangled mess of insulated cables off them. She reveals the body of KAY - and the large shard of metal embedded in her chest tells us that she is, sadly, dead.

DeCadway's hands go to her mouth in shock, and as her gaze stays locked on Kay's body, she doesn't spot somebody else pushing themselves up out of the rubble behind her.

It's Julie, badly injured but still in one piece, which is more than can be said for CHESTERTON - the unfortunate technician's body was covering Julie's, and the array of wounds on his back show us that he is also deceased.

DeCadway turns round, stumbling over to Julie and helping her up. Tearful, DeCadway throws her arms round Julie, starting to sob.

(CONTINUED)

DECADWAY (cont'd)

Oh, God! Oh, my God, Julie...

JULIE

Are you okay?

DECADWAY

I- I think so, but Susan, she's...

Julie looks across, and closes her eyes when she see's Kay's body. Julie rubs a weary hand across her brow, then see's Chesterton's body at her feet.

JULIE

Oh, no... Terry!

She rolls him over, but it's clear that he's dead. It looks like he shielded Julie from the worst of the blast, but it cost him his own life.

DeCadway continues to sob as Julie bows her head, before she looks up again and scans the rest of the basement.

JULIE (cont'd)

Where's David?

DECADWAY

Uh, I don't know, he- he was right next to me, I can't- oh, God, Julie, what if he's dead too?

JULIE

Then there's nothing we can do. Come on, Hannah, we've got to work together to get out of here.

Julie takes DeCadway by the shoulders, looking into her eyes. DeCadway takes in Julie's serious expression and manages to hold back the tears.

JULIE (cont'd)

We can't help them. This whole place could fall in on us at any second, we've got to get out of here!

DeCadway nods, and Julie scans the basement again.

JULIE (cont'd)

Okay, here's the plan. I'll find David, you look for some way back to the surface. Don't disturb anything else, this whole place is like a badly-stacked house of cards at the moment.

(MORE)

JULIE (cont'd)

One wrong move could bring the whole thing crashing down. You got that?

DECADWAY

I've got it.

The girls stand, Hannah carefully stepping through the rubble as she looks for a way to get clear as Julie peers around, looking for Osbourne.

She spots a pair of legs sticking out from beneath a large, dislodged ceiling panel, and with a GRUNT of effort she manages to push it to one side, coughing in the dust it kicks up.

Osbourne is there, not looking too badly injured, but his eyes are closed and he isn't moving. Julie listens at his chest and checks his pulse, then breathes a sigh of relief.

DECADWAY (cont'd)

Have you found him?

JULIE

I've got him, he's alive. We need to get him out of here, he may have internal injuries! Any luck on a way out?

DECADWAY

Not yet...

Julie looks down on Osbourne again, and we cut from her desperate expression back to:

Tears are rolling down Julie's cheeks as Chris pauses the story, and he reaches out to grab her a tissue. Twist is sympathetic, holding both of Julie's hands.

JULIE

Terry gave his life to save mine. There was nothing I could do for him.

CHRIS

You got out alive, Julie. That's what he would have wanted.

JULIE

Yeah, well, how about what I would have wanted?

TWIST

Hey! Julie, don't you go blaming yourself. It was his choice, you have to respect that.

Julie bows her head, and Twist glances at Chris.

TWIST (cont'd)

Why don't we change the subject for a second? You said that Danyael told you Van Lewin showed up just after we'd got out of the tunnels, what happened after that?

CHRIS

Well, right after that, I think you showed exactly why you've lasted so long...

Twist cocks her head to one side, curious, and we cut to:

INT. EMPIRE STATE - BASEMENT CAR PARK - NIGHT.

SLAM! Twist lands heavily in frame, reeling from the last hit she took. She starts to push herself to her feet, but Van Lewin steps into view, KICKING her in the chest.

Twist flips over, winded, and Van Lewin takes the opportunity to leer down at her.

VAN LEWIN

Thought you'd taken care of me, didn't you? Thought you'd gotten rid of old Van Lewin, never to be seen again?

TWIST

Wishful thinking...

Van Lewin scowls and STAMPS down on Twist's chest.

VAN LEWIN

Damn right, wishful thinking! See, that's one thing you didn't figure about me, girly. You can take bits off of me, but I just keep on coming back.

Van Lewin reaches down and starts to roll up his left pants leg, and Twist boggles at what she sees there.

The whole of Van Lewin's left leg is cybernetic! Coated in chrome panelling, but every bit as thick and muscular as his other leg, he flexes it a few times with a HISS of hidden hydraulics.

VAN LEWIN (cont'd)

See that? State of the art. They tied the thing right back into my nerve endings, feels just as good as my old one did. Difference is...

He KICKS her again, sending Twist rolling across the floor with a bloody nose.

VAN LEWIN (cont'd)

They make 'em much heavier!

Van Lewin chuckles and stomps over, grabbing the stunned Twist by her shirt collar and lifting her up in the air, her feet dangling.

VAN LEWIN (cont'd)

Malkuth paid me to take care of you two if you made it out of there, and that's exactly what I'm gonna do. I figure I can show you how it feels to lose a leg or two, see if you can get an idea of what you did to me before I put you down.

TWIST

Sounds great... just one thing you forgot...

VAN LEWIN

And what's that?

Twist grins - and then KICKS Van Lewin hard in the groin. Van Lewin's eyes pop, and he drops Twist, staggering backwards. She rears back and PUNCHES him in the face.

TWIST

You don't...

Another PUNCH, sending out a spatter of blood from Van Lewin's split lip.

TWIST (cont'd)

Hit...

And the third PUNCH sends Van Lewin reeling backwards, landing on the floor with a THUD.

TWIST (cont'd)

Girls!!

Twist dashes over to Danyael, pulling him to his feet as the stunned Van Lewin starts to get back up.

TWIST (cont'd)

Spook! Time to go, before he-

Van Lewin GRABS Twist and throws her to the floor, pausing to KICK Danyaël before he turns back to Twist.

He stomps towards her, blazing with anger.

VAN LEWIN

You little bitch! I'm gonna make you watch while I tear your boyfriend inside out!

TWIST

Oh, give it a rest!

Van Lewin swings with a punch, but Twist flips neatly to her feet, blocking it.

The two begin to spar, Van Lewin's slower but heavier blows giving Twist time to duck, dodge and block, chopping and kicking back faster than he can react.

Twist's face is a mask of anger as she lays into Van Lewin, beginning to get the upper hand through sheer rage.

TWIST (cont'd)

You picked the wrong girl to mess with this time, you crap-bashing ass midget!

WHACK! She kicks him in the face, leaving a boot print there. She tries to press the advantage, but Van Lewin recovers enough to grab her foot, spinning her round and SLAMMING her onto the floor.

He tries to grab her again, but Twist spins her legs round, knocking him off his feet, and as Van Lewin hits the ground she leaps onto his chest, pinning his arms down with her knees and PUNCHING him repeatedly in the face.

Three heavy punches and Van Lewin's almost out, Twist's face still a snarling mess of pure rage as she raises her fist one last time, SCREAMING with anger.

Danyaël suddenly lunges into frame, grabbing Twist's blood-stained fist before she can land the killing blow.

DANYAEL

Twist, no!!

She throws him a killer stare, but he doesn't back down, keeping a firm grip on her wrist.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

(shakes head)

Don't kill him. You'd be no better than he is. You said that to Lucinda once, remember?

(CONTINUED)

Twist, breathing heavily, looks back down on Van Lewin - his face is a mess of blood and bruises, his breathing shallow and ragged. There's no fight left in him.

Twist lowers her fist, slowly starting to calm down - and Van Lewin starts to SNICKER, wheezing with pain.

VAN LEWIN

I knew it... I knew you couldn't do it... You're too weak, vampire! You haven't... got the balls... to do it...

Twist narrows her eyes and stares down at him.

TWIST

You ever hear that saying, 'life's just one big joke'? I always liked that. But you know something I just realised?

Van Lewin blinks - and with a final SMACK, Twist knocks him cold with one last punch.

TWIST (cont'd)

I'm the punchline.

She stands up, still breathing heavily as her system calms itself down, before she sees Danyaël throwing her a raised eyebrow.

TWIST (cont'd)

What? I didn't kill him, did I?

He chuckles and shakes his head.

DANYAEL

Never mind. C'mon, let's go find Chris and Julie and get out of here.

TWIST

Yeah. Wonder how they're doing?

As the duo walk away from Van Lewin's sprawled, unconscious body, Twist rubbing her sore knuckles, we cut to:

The sword fight is still going on, Chris able to keep up the battle even in his weakened state.

Chris SHOVES Ciegue back into the abandoned news van, stabbing with his katana but just missing Ciegue as the wily assassin rolls out of the way.

Chris lunges again, but Ciegue jabs his elbow up into Chris' outstretched arm, and Chris YELLS in pain as we hear the CRUNCH of a bone fracturing.

Chris clutches his arm and staggers back, letting his sword fall. Ciegue swings for his neck, but Chris dodges back.

On the back foot, Chris dodges several steps backwards as Ciegue takes several swings at him, ending up at the first of the police cars on the scene.

Chris rolls across the bonnet, narrowly avoiding getting skewered to it as Ciegue stabs his sword down.

Chris smirks as he sees Ciegue is getting frustrated with how long the fight is taking.

CHRIS

What's the matter, Ciegue? Am I messing up your schedule? Should you have finished me off by now?

CIEGUE

Enough!

Ciegue LEAPS over the bonnet, and Chris has to roll out of the way to avoid him.

CIEGUE (cont'd)

When I rip out your heart, I'm going to mount it in a museum as an example to others!

CHRIS

I was never one for museums, myself...

Chris KICKS out, knocking Ciegue off his feet.

CHRIS (cont'd)

... they stay in the past too much for me.

Ciegue FLIPS back to his feet, and as he charges towards Chris with a SNARL, we cut to:

Julie has Osbourne in the recovery position, rolled onto his side, as we see Decadway in the background checking up what used to be the stairway leading up to the ground floor of the building overhead.

She turns and calls to Julie, one hand on a displaced cinder block next to her.

DECADWAY

Hey, Julie! I think I found something! Looks like we can-

DeCadway suddenly stumbles to one side as Julie looks round - the cinder block she'd been leaning on falls to the side, and as it lands it unbalances a large section of semi-collapsed roofing overhead.

DeCadway looks up in horror as the several hundred pounds of concrete above her starts to shift, moments away from burying her.

Julie is already on her feet, racing across the rubble as fast as she can.

JULIE

Hannah! Move! Get out of there!

DeCadway is transfixed, her eyes locked on the blocks above her as they shift further, dust cascading down from them as they start to GROAN, stone grinding against stone.

She throws one arm up as the first chunk of roofing starts to drop down towards her...

... until with a SLAM, something blurs past her and knocks it out of the way.

DeCadway blinks, looking around, but a moment later the blur streaks past again, scooping her up and carrying her rapidly out of the way as the blocks CRASH down into the space she just left.

DeCadway finds herself on the ground several feet away, coughing in the dust as Julie finally reaches her, helping her up.

JULIE (cont'd)

Hannah? Are you alright?

DECADWAY

I'm fine, I'm fine - what the hell just happened?

SANCTUS (O.S.)

You had a lucky escape, my dear...

The girls SPIN round - and facing them in none other than SANCTUS, the elegantly-featured vampire who first Turned Chris!

Sanctus's neat, receding hair is a little wild from his daring rescue, and his long, lavish dark red coat is caked with dust, but as the vampire grins and bows slightly for the ladies, it's clear he's lost none of his style.

(CONTINUED)

JULIE

Who the hell are you?

SANCTUS

My name is Sanctus. I'm a friend of
Christopher's... and I'm here to
get you out of this tomb.

Julie and DeCadway exchange a look, and from that, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

19 INT. SAFE HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT.

19

Twist is watching Chris with rapt interest as he continues the story, leaving Julie to sit quietly, when there is a KNOCK at the door.

JULIE
(calls out)
It's open.

The door opens and in steps Danyael, a brown paper grocery bag in his hand. He's peering into it, so doesn't see Twist sitting on the bed.

DANYAEL
Uh, they were all out of that soda
you asked me for, so I got you-

TWIST
Spook!!

Danyael looks up, pausing for a beat as he sees Twist - and then with a huge grin he jogs over to her. Twist jumps up to meet him halfway, the two wrapping their arms round each other and squeezing tightly.

Julie and Chris exchange a sly grin, before turning back to the two vampires.

DANYAEL
(happily)
You're up!

TWIST
(nods)
That I am. Good as new, pretty
much.
(looks into grocery bag)
Whatcha got?

Danyael makes a jokey show of moving the bag away from Twist's prying eyes.

DANYAEL
Things for Julie. She's been
recovering as well, you know!

TWIST
Yeah, but she doesn't mind helping
a fellow hero recover with the aid
of a few sugary treats...
(to Julie)
... do you?

(CONTINUED)

JULIE

(chuckles)

Help yourself, Twist. The doctor said I'm about ready to leave here, so I asked Dan to go out and buy me a big bag of junk food to celebrate.

Danyaël grins and holds the bag out to Twist, who snatches it away and empties it out onto the bed. Danyaël sits next to Twist, and as she and Julie make a start on sorting through the snack foods on offer, Chris allows himself a smile - the team is reunited at last.

Twist takes a grateful bite out of a candy bar, then remembers something, and parts her hair to show Danyaël the scar she found there earlier.

TWIST

Oh, hey, check this out.

DANYAEL

(impressed)

Wow.

(to Chris)

Is that where she...

Chris nods, and Twist throws him a look.

TWIST

Where I what?

CHRIS

There's still a bit of the story to tell.

TWIST

So tell! I've got junk food and my posse all back together. I'm in the zone.

Chris smiles, and we cut to:

Chris, still holding his wounded arm, tries to get some distance between himself and Ciegue.

The lightning-fast assassin jumps up onto a police car roof, leaps across onto the nearby police van and then soars through the air, landing right in front of Chris - and STABS him with his sword, right in the gut.

Chris YELLS and slides backwards, landing heavily on the ground again.

Ciegue steps over him, retrieving a stake from inside his jacket and twirling it in his fingers.

CIEGUE

You know, I've often wondered if one of these things would kill you or not, Chris. Shall we find out?

CHRIS

Be my guest...

Chris tries to spring to his feet, but Ciegue is too quick, and with a lunge of his sword, he IMPALES Chris through the shoulder, driving his sword blade into the ground.

Skewered in place, Chris can't move as Ciegue grins, raising the stake and standing victoriously over him.

CHRIS (cont'd)

So this is it? This is the great victory you always wanted over me? Kicking a man while he's down, taking advantage of other people's hard work?

CIEGUE

(shrugs)

A kill's a kill when you're in my line of work, Chris. Oh, I know there'll be nights when I look back on this and wonder what would have happened if you'd been fresh, and if we could have had a real fight...

Ciegue stops smiling, gripping the stake tightly and preparing to strike.

CIEGUE (cont'd)

... but I can't allow you to live a moment longer.

Ciegue rears back, and Chris closes his eyes.

He stabs down with the stake - which is suddenly KNOCKED out of the way as Twist's boot sails into frame!

Startled, Ciegue looks across and sees Twist, now with only one boot, striding towards him through the rain.

TWIST

Hi, honey! Did you miss me?

Ciegue GROWLS, places one foot on Chris' chest and presses down, drawing his sword back out of Chris' shoulder. This naturally causes Chris a lot of pain, and he HOWLS.

(CONTINUED)

CIEGUE

I'll kill you in a second, Twist!
Don't be a fool! This is between me
and Chris, if you value your life,
walk away!

TWIST

Oh, don't get me wrong, I value my
life as much as I value my
'Firefly' DVDs, but there ain't no
way some no-eyed reject hitman's
gonna take out my partner!

Ciegue looks down at Chris, who is too weak to move, and
KICKS him with a sneer.

CIEGUE

You'd give your life for this...
thing? I can't even call him a man,
he's not human enough for that.

CHRIS

(weakly)
Twist... no...

TWIST

You're damn right I would! He'd do
the same for me.

(beat)

At least, he'd better, or I'm gonna
kick his ass once I finish showing
you what the inside of yours looks
like.

Ciegue stares at her for a beat - then grins. He looks down
and sees Chris' katana lying on the floor, so he strides
over, flicking it into the air with his boot and catching it
with his free hand.

CIEGUE

Very well. It's only fitting that
you fight me with his sword, it'll
give your death an almost poetic
denouement.

TWIST

(beat)

Okay, I don't know what that last
word meant. I'm still gonna have
you on your knees in about thirty
seconds, begging me to stop showing
the world what a whiny little
crapbucket you really are.

Ciegue smirks again at Twist's bravado, and strides forward,
tossing her Chris' katana.

She catches it, giving it a few twirls and swings, showing that she knows how to use it.

As 'Rise' by The Cult starts to play, Twist lifts the katana up, aims it at Ciegue and grins.

TWIST (cont'd)

Ladies first.

Ciegue chuckles - and then launches into his attack, leaping into the air and spiralling round, his spinning sword forcing Twist to block a succession of hits.

Hopping back out of the way, Twist is ready for him as he lunges forward, the two fencing with one another with as much intensity as Chris and Ciegue's duel, sparks flying from the blades as they clash, rainwater spinning away from them as they feint and attack.

Chris is trying to push himself to his feet when Danyael appears in frame, helping the woozy Chris to his feet. Chris has lost a lot of blood from his wounded shoulder, and seems almost delirious.

CHRIS

No... we have to help her!

DANYAEL

She can handle it, Chris, come on!
She told me to get you out of here
before coming back to help her.

Chris watches as Ciegue and Twist duel, Twist's face a mask of concentration as she holds the skilled assassin at bay.

CHRIS

(quietly)
Twist...

Chris is helped to his feet, Danyael throwing an arm round his shoulder and carrying him away as we move back over to Twist.

She's still fighting off Ciegue's attacks, but she's playing to defend, not to kill, and Ciegue soon takes advantage of this, increasing his attacks and finally SLICING his blade across Twist's arm.

She SHOUTS in pain and staggers back a little, and Ciegue takes the opportunity to laugh.

CIEGUE

I knew it! You're just playing to
break even here, aren't you? Hold
me at bay until reinforcements
arrive?

(CONTINUED)

TWIST

I don't have any reinforcements,
Shades, I'm all the backup I need!

CIEGUE

Oh, that's touching. I'll be sure
to tell them to put that on your
tombstone.

He attacks again, but the injury is slowing Twist down, and it isn't long before he slices across her cheek, her stomach and her leg in rapid succession.

Twist staggers back, her advantage slipping away, and Ciegue steps forward, his blade flashing through the air. It's all Twist can do to keep him at bay, and when he stabs forward and sinks the blade into her gut, she CRIES OUT in pain and stumbles to the ground.

He steps back and sneers at her as she pushes herself up.

CIEGUE (cont'd)

Oh, come on! This is too easy! I've
been paid way too much for how this
fight has gone so far - haven't you
ever heard of value for money?

Twist's expression is defiant as she stands again.

TWIST

You know something? You talk way
too damn much.

She ATTACKS, catching him off guard and starting to push him back a few steps.

TWIST (cont'd)

And do you know what I always find?

Ciegue GROWLS and tries a low swing with his sword, but Twist hops neatly over it, catches Ciegue on his back foot and SLAMS her blade into his throat, piercing straight to the other side.

Ciegue COUGHS, pressing a hand to the sword blade embedded in his neck as Twist coolly puts her hands on her hips.

TWIST (cont'd)

It becomes kinda hard to make
snappy remarks with two foot of
sword sticking out of your throat.
Mostly, you'll just gurgle.

(beat)

And bleed.

Twist turns her back on him and starts to walk away.

(CONTINUED)

What she doesn't see is Ciegue reach a hand up for the katana's hilt, and with a slow, agonising pull, he draws the blade back out of his throat, coughing but still very much alive and kicking.

With his expression one of unadulterated fury, he hefts up the sword, takes aim at the departing Twist, and THROWS it towards her.

Twist is unsighted as the blade spears past her, slicing across the side of her head.

She YELPS and drops to the floor, pressing a hand to the wound which comes away bloody.

Stunned, she rolls onto her side, looking up as Ciegue steps slowly towards her, the ugly red wound on his throat also red with blood.

With some difficulty, he speaks, his voice hoarse and raspy.

CIEGUE

You turn your back on me? Ciegue
Sicario, the finest assassin in the
world?

Ciegue retrieves the stake he was going to use on Twist and stomps over to her, kicking her onto her back and clamping one boot down on her throat.

CIEGUE (cont'd)

(furious)

Nobody turns their back on me!

He raises the stake, ready to take care of Twist once and for all - but suddenly, a sword blade BURST through his chest from behind!

Ciegue GULPS and drops the stake - and we pull back to see Sanctus on the other end of the sword, with Julie and Decadway standing a few feet away.

SANCTUS

You're getting sloppy, Ciegue! When
we last met, you'd have already
killed her by now. I guess you're
just not as good as you used to be,
eh?

Ciegue makes a choking sound, and a thin trickle of blood runs from his lips. Sanctus draws the sword back out of him, and Ciegue drops to his knees, then crashes face down onto the floor.

Sanctus steps over to Twist and holds out a hand to help her up.

(CONTINUED)

She's shaking now, her system going into shock from the damage she's taken, but she tentatively reaches her hand out to him.

SANCTUS (cont'd)

My apologies for not getting here sooner. I literally had to burrow my way out of the ground to get your friend Julie to safety!

TWIST

J-Julie? Is s-she...

SANCTUS

She's fine. So is Chris, and so is Danyael. Thanks to you.

Twist glances across and sees Julie, who manages a wave to her, her other arm round the still woozy DeCadway.

TWIST

Well... that's j-just dandy. Now, can you give me a min-minute? I n-need to slip into s-something more comfortable, l-like toxic shock...

And with that, Twist wilts and faints away, but Sanctus catches her, scooping her up in his arms and turning to Julie.

SANCTUS

She's very weak. We need to get her some help quickly or her body will slip into a coma.

JULIE

Do vampires do that?

SANCTUS

If we're hurt badly enough, yes. Let's move.

DECADWAY

We've got another base, few blocks away. Should be good to go there.

Sanctus nods, and as he walks towards us, the unconscious Twist in his arms, we cut to:

And we find ourselves in the same hospital ward Twist woke up in, with Chris, heavily bandaged and still looking pale and weak, seated next to Twist's bed.

Twist herself has had her wounds cleaned up, but she's also heavily bandaged, the IV drip plugged into her arm supplying her with fresh blood.

Julie hobbles into frame, also looking like she should be in bed, and she lays a tender hand on Chris' shoulder as he stares at Twist.

JULIE

It's just a matter of time now,
Chris. When her body's ready to
wake her up, then she'll wake up.

CHRIS

I want to be here when she wakes
up. I owe her that, she saved all
our necks tonight.

JULIE

I know.

Julie leans down and KISSES the top of Chris' head.

JULIE (cont'd)

You should be proud of her. She's a
hero because of the things you've
taught her.

CHRIS

'The things I've taught her' are
also what put her in that bed in a
coma, Julie.

He turns to look up at her - and there's a tear in his eye.

CHRIS (cont'd)

What if she doesn't come back?

JULIE

Chris, honey, she'll be fine, she's
a tough kid, and besides, she's
been through worse already. Like,
you know, the whole 'going to Hell
and back' thing. I'm pretty sure
that helps toughen you up a little.

Chris turns back to Twist, and Julie gets the message - he isn't leaving her side any time soon.

JULIE (cont'd)

I'd better get back to bed. Doctor
Maher came to see me, he said that
David's also in a coma but they've
taken him to the nearest hospital.
He's up in ICU over there.

(MORE)

JULIE (cont'd)

We couldn't move Twist from here on account of what people might say when they found that she didn't have a heartbeat.

Chris doesn't acknowledge her, and with a sigh, Julie turns and walks slowly away.

We stay on Chris for a beat as he rests his chin on his hands, looking over at Twist's sleeping form.

CHRIS

Don't leave me, Twist.

(beat)

Since you came into my life, I've started to see the world a different way - as somewhere full of life, instead of death. You made me realise that there were people out there who deserved saving besides myself, that there was always going to be some kind of trouble we needed to fix, and bad guys to bring down.

He takes a deep breath, reaching out to squeeze one of her hands.

CHRIS (cont'd)

I don't want to go back to how things were without you. You've opened my eyes to things again, reminded me of the way I used to see the world.

(beat)

I can't survive without you any more.

We stay with Chris for another beat, before we push in on Twist, forcing a DISSOLVE TO:

We're still looking down on Twist's sleeping face, but as we pull back we quickly see we're no longer in the ward of the safe house.

We're back in the Garden, and Twist is lying, in her usual outfit instead of the hospital scrubs we just saw her wearing, in the middle of a patch of tall grass.

As we pull back further, we see the tree and bench where she first met Peter, with the lines of trees and lake visible just next to that.

Twist's eyelids flutter and she stirs, slowly coming round. She sits up, blinking her bleary eyes as she looks round, finally registering where she is.

Twist GROANS and presses her palm against her forehead.

TWIST

Oh, great.

And from that, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

23 INT. SAFE HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT.

23

Back with the foursome, as Twist and Julie sit side by side on the bed, munching on doughnuts and flicking through the TV channels, as Danyael sits at the foot of the bed, swigging from a beer.

Chris is over by the door, making a cell phone call.

CHRIS

(into phone)

Yes, hello, it's Chris here. I was just checking that those packages I'd ordered had arrived.

(listens)

They have? Excellent. I'll be right over to pick them up.

Chris tucks his phone away and steps over to the others, as Julie and Twist debate the choice of show.

TWIST

Damn it, change it back! I wanna watch 'Veronica Mars'!

JULIE

And I want to watch 'CSI'! Twist, you've probably downloaded all this stuff onto Chris' laptop by now, can't you let me pick what to watch?

TWIST

How could I have downloaded anything? I've been in a fricken coma!

JULIE

(beat)

Good point.

TWIST

Exactly. So...

She SNATCHES the remote away and changes the channel.

TWIST (cont'd)

Now sit back and watch. You might learn something.

Julie shakes her head and grins, looking up as Chris steps closer.

(CONTINUED)

JULIE
Everything okay?

CHRIS
Yes, I just need to pop out for a few minutes. You'll all be alright here, won't you?

DANYAEL
Assuming the girls don't start fighting, then yeah.

TWIST
Quiet, slave boy.

Twist bounces an empty soda bottle off Danyael's head, but his scowl back at her just makes her giggle.

TWIST (cont'd)
Aw, look! He got all angry. Isn't he cute?

Chris smirks and heads for the door.

As he opens it, he's startled to see Sanctus there, his hand raised as he was about to knock. He smiles as he sees Chris.

SANCTUS
Ah, Christopher. Just the man. I heard young Twist was awake, is she here?

Chris points over his shoulder to her.

CHRIS
She's just settling down to watch some television, if you wanted to intercept her, now's the chance to do it!

Sanctus nods and steps into the room as Chris leaves. Twist looks up as Sanctus walks over, giving him a wave.

TWIST
Well, well, if it isn't the Lone Ranger! How's everybody's favourite hero doing today?

SANCTUS
I'm just fine, Twist. It was you I came here to see, actually. Do you have a few minutes so we can talk?

TWIST
Uh, I was kinda about to watch something... Is it important?

SANCTUS

It'll only take a few minutes.

TWIST

Well... alright.

She hands the remote back to Julie.

TWIST (cont'd)

Okay, Miss Fancy Pants, have what you want on 'till I get back.

JULIE

(sarcastic)

As always, your generosity astounds me, Twist.

Twist pokes her tongue out at her, then slides off the bed and walks over to Sanctus. He motions towards the door, and holds it open for her as the two leave the room.

Twist and Sanctus walk along, a few other staff of the safe house passing them.

TWIST

So what was so important that you had to drag me away from my bed, my Oreos and my TV?

SANCTUS

I just wanted the chance to get you to myself for a few minutes.

TWIST

(wry)

But I'm just not that kind of girl, Mr. Sanctus!

SANCTUS

(grins)

Don't worry, my intentions are honourable. I wanted to ask you about the Garden.

Twist freezes, and Sanctus pauses to wait for her.

TWIST

How did-

SANCTUS

You're far from the first of us to visit that place, Twist. The Higher Place is well known amongst the vampire community.

(MORE)

SANCTUS (cont'd)

There just hasn't been a recorded instance of a visit for many years, so I'm intrigued as to what you were told.

Twist looks back at Sanctus for a beat, thinking things over, then with a SIGH she nods her head and starts again.

TWIST

I'm guessing I went up there at some point between passing out in the rain and waking up in the ward back there.

SANCTUS

What did you see?

Twist throws Sanctus a look, and from that, we cut to:

Twist is back in the tall grass, a hand over her eyes to shade them against the bright sun overhead.

A shadow falls across her, and she looks up to see PETER, the tall, dreadlocked man she met her last time. He's wearing shades and a wide-brimmed hat, and he smiles down at her as he offers her his hand.

PETER

Hey there, toots. What's up?

Twist takes his hand and pulls herself up, looking round at the scenery around her.

TWIST

Me, by the looks of things. How come I'm back here? Do I need my fortune told again or something?

PETER

Technically, no. I'm just taking advantage of your bodily situation to-

TWIST

My what with the what now?

PETER

(beat)

It's not important. Point is, it's a lot easier for me to bring you up here to have a quick word, so here you are.

25 CONTINUED:

25

Twist opens her mouth to speak, but Peter is already walking away from her, heading towards the large wooden shed he took her into last time she was here.

Knowing that it's better to go along with things up here than to try and figure them out, she sets off after him.

26 INT. HIGHER PLACE - WORKSHOP - DAY.

26

Twist opens the door with a CREAK and steps into the large workshop that Peter calls home. The stone-walled room is still packed to the rafters with various unusual artefacts, objects and devices, but Peter is standing over by something hidden under a sheet.

He beckons Twist over, and with a few glances at the varied kinds of divining, scrying and fortune-telling objects crammed into the workshop, she joins him.

TWIST

What's under the sheet?

PETER

A vision of the future.

TWIST

Huh?

With a grin, Peter WHIPS the sheet away - revealing an elaborate black chair, carved out of some kind of wood that almost seems to sparkle in the workshop's dim light.

The chair is high backed, covered with ornate carvings and designs, looking like a Gothic interior decorator's wet dream. Peter beams proudly at Twist, but she looks blankly back at him.

TWIST (cont'd)

Very pretty.

(beat)

So, uh... what is it?

PETER

Don't you recognise it?

TWIST

(shakes head)

No, should I?

PETER

Ah, I'll bet Chris never showed you the plans, did he.

TWIST

What plans?

(CONTINUED)

Peter sits in the chair, and as Twist looks it over she sees there are several bulky, box-like compartments fixed to the back of it, full of round holes.

PETER

This, Twist, is the cure. Or, at least, one of the cures.

TWIST

The cure for what?

PETER

For what Chris has been searching for. This chair has the power to cleanse the soul of any impurities, and restore the humanity of whoever uses it.

Twist boggles, doing a circuit of the chair to examine it more closely.

TWIST

But... it's just a chair!

PETER

To the untrained eye, yes. But this chair is actually a magical conduit. It can channel all kinds of energies, as long as it's fuelled the right way, and if you know what you're doing it'll turn a vampire back into a human quicker than you can polish off a bag of M&Ms.

Twist blinks, trying to take all this in.

PETER (cont'd)

Remember those plans Chris took some photos of back in Rengler's mansion, and the little doobries he took from there? This is one example of the finished article. I don't think there's any complete versions still in existence, but if you look hard enough you could still find the parts to build at least one.

TWIST

Okay, so, a magic chair that can make you human again. Swell. Why tell me?

PETER

Because we need you to make sure Chris finds the pieces and builds it, and then to make sure he uses it appropriately.

TWIST

Do you think he wouldn't?

PETER

It's not him we're worried about, so much as other, less moral people getting their hands on it. See, what you put into the chair decides what comes out. Just like it can make a vampire into a human...

TWIST

(catching up)
... then someone could use it to turn a human into a monster.

PETER

Precisely.

Twist nods, taking another look round the thing.

TWIST

Okay, I'm sold. Help Chris build the chair doohickey and then stop the bad guys getting their hands on it. Anything else?

PETER

For now, no. We just want to make sure you keep Chris on the path to getting this thing built.

TWIST

(nods)
No problem.

Peter smiles, and from that smile, we DISSOLVE back to:

Twist and Sanctus have come to a stop, standing by one of the glass panels overlooking the workshops below.

SANCTUS

And that's all he said?

TWIST

Yup. Seemed important. Now, why don't you tell me how you know about my little field trip?

SANCTUS

(grins)

I have my ways.

There's a beat as Twist waits for a further explanation.

TWIST

(rolls eyes)

Being cryptic's just a whole heap of fun for you guys, isn't it?

SANCTUS

(shrugs)

Makes life more interesting. One of the wisest things I was ever told is 'never know more than you need to.' You've been told everything you need for now, it's up to you to use that knowledge responsibly.

TWIST

Yeah, see, me and responsibility don't go together all that well. It's kinda like the Bush administration and sensible foreign policy.

Sanctus steps forward and places his hands on Twist's shoulders, the sudden serious look in his eyes keeping her attention.

SANCTUS

I have faith in you, Twist. You have a lot of inner strength, more than you realise, and it'll see you through what's to come.

TWIST

Okay... so why don't you tell me what's to come?

SANCTUS

(smiles; shakes head)

I'm afraid I can't. There are some rules, you know.

TWIST

(sighs)

Figures.

SANCTUS

I have to depart now. Give Chris my best wishes, and tell him we may well meet again one day.

27 CONTINUED: (2)

27

TWIST

I will.

Sanctus nods, then steps past Twist and walks away, she watches him go for a beat, before we cut back to:

28 INT. SAFE HOUSE - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT.

28

Twist steps back into the room to find Julie, Chris and Danyael all waiting for her.

CHRIS

How did it go?

TWIST

Eh, you know. Old school vampires like to do things the old fashioned way. He just thanked me for helping you out, then took off.

CHRIS

(nods)

Sounds about right.

Chris and Julie exchange a sly look, which Twist picks up on. She steps over, frowning suspiciously.

TWIST

What was that look for?

JULIE

(innocently)

What look?

TWIST

Hey, come on, don't play a player. I know a sneaky look when I see one - God knows, I do enough of them with Danyael whenever Chris says something wacky.

DANYAEL

It's true, she does.

CHRIS

Don't worry, it's all good. We just got you a few things for when you recovered, so we wanted to present them to you.

Twist beams, clapping her hands together excitedly.

TWIST

Presents? For me? Ooo!! Gimme!

(CONTINUED)

Julie laughs as Chris reaches behind him on the bed, retrieving a small, wrapped up box. He hands it to Twist, her eyes glittering.

CHRIS

Now, I know I'm no expert on what's what with these things, but-

Chris pauses as Twist tears the wrapping paper off in a frenzy, and Chris' sideways glance at Julie just makes her keep laughing.

Twist reveals the present - it's a plain cardboard box. She glances up at Chris and then opens it, taking out a brand new, top of the range digital camera, her face lighting up as she examines it.

CHRIS (cont'd)

I got someone in the surveillance division here to recommend me a good make and model.

JULIE

We were talking about the sorts of things we could do to make you happy, and Chris remembered you were a photography student before you became a vampire, so...

CHRIS

So we decided to get you started on that again. I'm pretty sure there'll be things you'll be able to photograph that the average student wouldn't get the chance to see, so it should make for an interesting portfolio!

Twist leaps forward, hugging both Chris and Julie.

TWIST

(excitedly)

OhmyGodthisissocoolyouguysthankyouthankyouthankyou!

CHRIS

Danyael got you something as well...

Danyael reaches behind him and brings out a baseball bat, dyed jet black with red streaks and topped off with a little bow.

DANYAEL

You know, what with your last bat getting broken up when you killed that freaky vampire chick, I figured...

Twist takes the bat from him, grinning wickedly as she swings it from side to side.

TWIST

Now this is what I'm talking about!

She leans forward and KISSES Danyael on the cheek, not noticing him blush as she goes back to swinging the bat around.

Chris and Julie notice, however, and Chris stands to make sure he covers Danyael's awkwardness.

CHRIS

Well, we'd better get moving.

TWIST

How come? Is Julie well enough to move again yet?

JULIE

Pretty much. It's more of a legal thing.

CHRIS

With David Osbourne in a coma and two of his head staff members dead, things have gone a little haywire in the administration for his organisation.

TWIST

Oh, yeah. Of course.

JULIE

I asked Chris if I could tag along with you guys, 'cause I figured it's going to get pretty messy round here while they try and sort everything out.

TWIST

(nods)
Sounds good to me!

CHRIS

We'll be heading off in a few hours, so you've got time to get dressed and ready.

Twist nods and heads for the door when Chris calls out to her.

CHRIS (cont'd)
Oh, two last things, before I forget.

TWIST
Hmm?

CHRIS
What happened to my hat?

TWIST
Your hat?

CHRIS
Yes, you remember, I gave you my fedora just before we all got stuck into our various messes with Malkuth. I asked you to get it back to me in one piece when everything was over?

Twist thinks, biting her lip - in all the mayhem, she honestly has no idea where the hat is!

TWIST
Um... I think I kinda lost it.
Sorry.

CHRIS
(sighs)
Never mind. You came back in one piece, that's what's important.

TWIST
What was the other thing?

CHRIS
Oh, I was just curious as to what else Sanctus spoke to you about. You two were gone a while, so if he was just thanking you for your help, you would have been back much sooner!

TWIST
Boy, nothing gets past you, huh?

Twist swings her new bat around a few more times, then smiles at Chris.

TWIST (cont'd)
He told me the plan. It's all under control.

28 CONTINUED: (4)

And with that, she turns and heads for the exit.

Chris turns to Julie and Danyael, who shrug, and Chris turns back to the door just as Twist leaves - and he grins to himself. Some things don't need an explanation.

Off his satisfied look, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW