

SOMEWHERE INBETWEEN

"Strays"

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Teleplay by
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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT. 1

A quiet city centre, a few shops and businesses closed for the night and an occasional car rolling by.

TITLE OVER - Seattle.

Pedestrians stroll along the sidewalk, minding their own business - when a YOUNG WOMAN blasts out of an alleyway, bowling two people over!

Ignoring their protests, the woman scrambles back to her feet and keeps running, throwing a panicked glance over her shoulder - and three MEN run out of the alley after her.

The woman GASPS and doubles her speed, turning into another street to try and shake them.

The woman's running out of places to go - she's approaching an elevator train bridge, and beyond that is a sheer embankment leading down to a river.

She looks round - the men are still gaining - and with a desperate CRY of fear she dives into another alleyway:

2 EXT. ALLEYWAY - CONTINUOUS. 2

The woman races to the end - but finds it blocked off by a tall wire fence. She leaps up and starts to climb it, but she's only made it a few feet up when she hears the men run into the alley behind her.

She stops, turning slowly round to see them - the three men fan out, covering all possible escape routes, as the lead pursuer steps under a security light overhead to reveal himself - short, dark hair, intense, burning eyes and a broad, arrogant smirk.

PURSUER #1

If you were better at climbing,
we'd still be running. As it is, we
both know you've got no chance of
making it over that fence before we
get to you, so be a good girl and
come down.

He CRACKS his knuckles as he strides towards her, KATE's eyes flicking left and right for some way out.

PURSUER #1 (cont'd)

Don't make me drag you down here
like an animal, Kate.

(CONTINUED)

KATE

You've chased me like one, why should this be any different?

PURSUER #1

(chuckles)

Oh, that's good. Sass me now, when you're cut off and cornered. Yeah, that really makes you look tough.

He steps closer, lowering his voice to sound almost casual - friendly, even.

PURSUER #1 (cont'd)

I don't want to hurt you. I just need you to give me what I want, you know that.

He offers his hand out to her, and she looks cautiously down at him.

PURSUER #1 (cont'd)

Come on, Kate. Come back home.

Kate looks back at his hand, and for a moment looks like she's going to comply as she reaches out her hand...

KATE

(shouts)

Terso mi shin tugo!

ZAP! A bolt of blue ELECTRICITY streaks from her outstretched hand, shocking the man and blowing him off his feet.

Kate uses the diversion to start clambering back up the fence again, as the other two men go their fallen comrade.

They help him up, smoke rising from his clothes, but he gestures angrily towards the escaping Kate.

PURSUER #1

Get her!!

They head for the fence, just as Kate drops to the other side. They start climbing as she races up the other side of the alleyway, into:

Kate runs out onto a busier street, but there still aren't many places she can go to for help. She scans the street desperately.

KATE

Please! Somebody help me!

3 CONTINUED:

3

That gets a few glances - but the few people around look away and hurry past, not wanting to get involved.

KATE (cont'd)
(scowls)
People...

She glances over her shoulder as she hears the shouts of the men after her, and decides to race across the street.

She runs into the middle of the road - just as a set of huge headlights fall on her!

Kate looks up - a cargo truck is SCREECHING towards her, its horn BLARING as its driver stands on the brakes.

4 INT. TRUCK CABIN - NEXT.

4

The horrified DRIVER starts to turn the wheel to avoid Kate, standing like a deer in his headlights, but there's nowhere for her to go.

She disappears from view, and as the truck finally skids to a stop with a HISS of air brakes, the driver throws open the truck door and jumps down to the street.

5 EXT. CITY STREET - CONTINUOUS.

5

He runs round to the front of the truck as a few onlookers head over, dropping to his knees to look underneath the truck's wheels.

There's no sign of Kate, and with a confused expression he stands back up, turning to the onlookers.

DRIVER
Did you see here? Did I hit her?

ONLOOKER #1
Hit who?

DRIVER
The girl! Young girl, long, dark hair, ran right out in front of me... Didn't anybody see her?

ONLOOKER #2
No, man, I heard you stopping but I didn't see anybody in the road.

ONLOOKER #3
Well, I thought I saw someone, but...

The driver looks back to the front of the cab, confused to all heck.

(CONTINUED)

He doesn't see the small black CAT dart out from underneath the truck's cab, scampering across the street towards a familiar black van waiting nearby.

The van's side door is open, and quick as a flash the cat leaps up and into the van - just as JULIE steps into frame, sliding the door closed. CHRIS joins her, ticking items off on a checklist.

CHRIS

And I think that's everything,
we're just waiting for Twist and
Danyael now.

JULIE

Which seems to happen a lot.

Chris grins as the duo head for the front of the van.

JULIE (cont'd)

Have you noticed those two being a
little... off lately?

CHRIS

'Off' how?

JULIE

Hard to say, they just both seem a
little jumpy round each other since
last week. I'm thinking something
must have happened back when Twist
got herself brainwashed by that
Chad guy.

CHRIS

Whatever it is, I'm sure it's none
of our concern yet. If it starts
affecting our performance as a
team, then it becomes my problem.

JULIE

Oh, you're all heart, you know
that?

CHRIS

When you've been around Twist as
long as I have, you learn that if
she wants to talk about a problem,
she physically can't shut up about
it until it's sorted out. So far,
I've heard nothing, so I'm not
going to ask if she isn't going to
tell.

Chris opens the passenger side door for her, and she steps into the van.

(CONTINUED)

JULIE

But what if it does start affecting
the team?

CHRIS

If that happens... you'll have to
talk to her about it.

Julie starts to protest, but Chris is already heading round
to the driver's side, and with a shake of her head, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

6 INT. VAN - NIGHT.

6

Chris is flicking through a university prospectus as Julie fiddles with the van's radio, trying to settle on a station she likes.

CHRIS

(without looking up)
You're as bad as her for doing
that, you know.

JULIE

Doing what?

CHRIS

Not being able to find anything you
like on the radio. I've lost count
of the hours of potential airtime
I've missed through just hearing
the static of Twist cycling
endlessly through stations.

JULIE

I happen to have excellent taste in
music!

CHRIS

That's what she says.

JULIE

You wouldn't understand. You're too
old fashioned.

CHRIS

She says that as well.

Julie looks to Chris, who smirks, and as Julie starts to grin back, the van's side door is dragged open as TWIST and DANYAEL climb inside.

CHRIS (cont'd)

The wanderer returns. Are we ready
to go at last?

TWIST

Hai! I just needed to get some last
minute girl's stuff.

JULIE

Which means 'candy.'

Twist proudly holds up a handful of assorted sweets and candy bars.

(CONTINUED)

TWIST

When you're as sweet as me, your
sweet tooth is extra sweet!

CHRIS

Danyaël? Everything alright?

Danyaël nods, keeping his head down. Chris glances at Twist - who is noticeably not looking at Danyaël. Sensing that now's not the time to ask what's wrong, Chris turns back round.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Right! Time we were on our way,
then. Next stop, Seattle
University.

Chris starts the van and pulls away, heading down the city streets and handing Julie the prospectus.

JULIE

Which part am I looking for?

CHRIS

The Medieval Studies section.
Seattle University is one of the
largest independent educational
institutions in the US Northwest,
and has a library to match that.

JULIE

Why do you get that faraway look in
your eye whenever you say words
like 'medieval'?

TWIST

(icily)
He's looking forward to finally
being around people his own age.

Julie chuckles, but Chris is used to ignoring Twistisms like that by now, concentrating on his driving.

CHRIS

I know a few people who are still
on the faculty staff, so getting in
is no problem. Finding what we're
looking for may be a little harder.

JULIE

Well, given that we don't know what
this book you're after is called,
who wrote it or when it was made...
I'm gonna have to go with a 'yes'
on that one.

TWIST

Shall I make my 'Wild Goose Chase
Alert' alarm sound now?

CHRIS

It may take us a while, but it'll
be worth it. We'll be able to crash
on campus, it's a good, upscale
place so we'll all be able to get
some rest afterwards.

Twist settles back, sitting down facing Danyael in the rear
of the van. He still hasn't looked up, focusing instead on a
book he's reading, and Twist studies him carefully.

She glances towards Chris and Julie, but they're deep in
their own conversation, so she looks back at Danyael. Biting
her lip, she cautiously reaches out with a boot and nudges
him. He looks up, and she tries a hopeful smile.

TWIST

Hey.

DANYAEL

Uh... hey.

TWIST

(beat)
So, whatcha readin'?

DANYAEL

Oh, you know... a book.

TWIST

Yeah, got that much already,
Captain State The Obvious! What's
it about?

DANYAEL

Not sure. Only just started it.

Twist waits for more, but Danyael falls silent again. Twist
gets the hint and looks away, leaving him to it - but now
it's Danyael's turn to look awkward.

He looks down at his book, but with a sigh tucks it back into
his jacket, leaning forward to address her.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

Look, Twist...

TWIST

Yeah?

DANYAEL

Are we... I mean, is everything cool between us?

TWIST

Why wouldn't it be?

Danyael raises an eyebrow, and Twist lowers her eyes, shaking her head.

TWIST (cont'd)

Sorry, Spook. It's just... I still feel really bad about what happened with Chad, you know. And I mean besides the whole crowning you with my bat thing.

DANYAEL

Bruises heal.

TWIST

Yeah, but people take longer.

She leans forward, closing the distance between them.

TWIST (cont'd)

What you said, I mean... I know you told me you didn't mean it, but...

DANYAEL

But what?

TWIST

(beat)

Did you?

Danyael stares back at her for a long beat, then finally opens his mouth to reply - just as the cat leaps up into his lap!

Danyael SHOUTS in alarm and throws himself to the side, and Chris briefly loses control of the van, startled.

CHRIS

What the bloody hell are you two doing back there?

TWIST

It wasn't me! We've got a cat!

JULIE

A what?

TWIST

A cat! A big old black cat's in the van with us!

Danyael and Twist start searching the rear of the van for the cat. Chris and Julie swap glances before Chris pulls the van over to the roadside.

DANYAEL

Where did it go?

TWIST

I don't know! You probably scared it.

DANYAEL

I scared it? The damn thing attacked me!

TWIST

No, it didn't! It just jumped onto your leg, Dan, that's hardly what I'd class as an 'attack.'

CHRIS

Stop moving around, both of you.

Twist and Danyael stay still, and Chris' keen eyes sweep the inside of the van, before he points over to one of the raised wheel arches.

CHRIS (cont'd)

It's hiding under there.

Twist carefully steps over, leaning down and peering under the arch.

Sure enough, there's the cat, its green eyes glittering out at Twist. She grins and reaches a hand out towards it.

TWIST

It's okay, little guy, come on out... you're among friends here.

DANYAEL

(mutters)

Speak for yourself...

TWIST

(snaps)

Spook! Enough with the bad vibes, cats can sense these things.

She turns back to the cat, which cautiously pads out into view, sniffing at Twist's outstretched hand.

TWIST (cont'd)

They can always tell a cat person when they smell 'em.

Twist scoops the cat up, settling back down and stroking it as Danyael edges over to the other end of the van.

JULIE
Something wrong, Danyael?

DANYAEL
I don't like cats.

CHRIS
There's nothing-

DANYAEL
I really don't like cats.

Twist glares at him, hugging the cat protectively to her.

TWIST
Ssh! You'll frighten her!

DANYAEL
'Her'?

TWIST
Yeah, she's a 'she.'
(to Chris)
I'm keeping her.

CHRIS
Twist, we can't exactly go around
adopting every stray that comes our
way!

Twist throws a meaningful glance at Danyael, then Julie, and with a sigh Chris backs down.

CHRIS (cont'd)
Just for a few days. Until we can
find her a proper home.

TWIST
Deal.
(to cat)
See? Everybody loves you already!

Danyael doesn't look too convinced as Chris starts the van up again, and we cut to:

The van is parked up outside the main administration building, a tall, neat square block with a clock tower mounted on top.

8

INT. SEATTLE UNI - ADMIN BUILDING - NEXT.

8

Chris, Julie, Twist and Danyael stroll down a corridor inside the cleanly-decorated building, led by a night porter. A grey-haired professor steps out of one of the offices, locking it as the porter calls to him.

PORTER

Mr. Beardsley? These people are here to see you, they said they have an appointment.

BEARDSLEY

It's a little past closing time now, Stan! Ask them to-

CHRIS

Hello, Geoff.

The professor looks round, squinting through his glasses at Chris, before breaking into a broad smile.

BEARDSLEY

Christopher!

Beardsley steps over and laughs as he and Chris embrace warmly, before Chris steps back to indicate the others.

CHRIS

Geoff, these are my colleagues Julie Kingston, Danyael Norton and Twist McFadden.

Julie steps forward and shakes Beardsley's hand, while Danyael and twist just wave and nod - Twist's focus is entirely on the cat in her arms.

JULIE

So how do you two know each other?

BEARDSLEY

Christopher was briefly a lecturer here about ten years ago. Taught Anatomy and Biology, plenty of fans among the students and the faculty. That is, until he upped and left one day with nothing but a hastily-written letter of resignation. Haven't seen him since.

(to Chris)

Which, I might add, means it's high time for an explanation.

CHRIS

(nods)

All in due time, Geoff.

(CONTINUED)

BEARDSLEY

(to Twist)

Ah, I'm afraid I'll have to ask you to leave your little friend there outside, Miss McFadden. We don't allow pets in the main campus buildings.

TWIST

Oh, Danyael won't hurt anyone. He's fully house trained.

Beardsley grins, but motions towards the cat, and Twist throws a pleading look to Chris.

CHRIS

Just go and wait in the van. We're not doing any work tonight.

He tosses Twist the van's keys, and she heads back off towards the entrance.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Danyael? Coming or staying?

Danyael throws a look back towards the departing Twist, then turns back to Chris.

DANYAEL

Staying. If that's cool?

Chris nods, and as the porter heads off Beardsley leads the group into another part of the building.

Julie walks alongside Chris and Beardsley, as Danyael hangs back to study the various photos and displays on the walls.

JULIE

You never told me you taught anywhere, Chris!

CHRIS

I've done a lot of things, Julie. It gets a little hard to keep track.

BEARDSLEY

I see your attitude hasn't changed much.

CHRIS

Geoff here gave me a job a while after I left Chicago. I'd spent a few months up in Canada after...

Chris trails off and glances at Julie - and she remembers the history there.

CHRIS (cont'd)

After what happened. I came back down into civilisation, found myself in Seattle and applied for a temporary lecturer's post.

BEARDSLEY

He was here until the Spring of 1993, then poof! Vanished. You left a lot of upset in your wake, you know, among your students and the faculty.

CHRIS

(beat)
Something came up.

BEARDSLEY

Yes, I seem to remember hearing you say that a lot back then as well.

Chris's looks has darkened, so Beardsley decides to shift the conversation away from troubling memories.

BEARDSLEY (cont'd)

So what can I help you with?

CHRIS

First thing is somewhere to stay for a night. We're somewhat nomadic these days, so we don't have an actual bed to call our own for this evening.

BEARDSLEY

(off Julie)
Oh, so I take it you two are...

CHRIS

What? Oh, no, no, Julie's just a friend.

Chris misses Julie's face drop a little at that remark - but Beardsley doesn't. With a cough, he carries on.

BEARDSLEY

Well, accommodation's no problem, we've got a few spare rooms I can put you and your friends up in the Xavier Residence Hall.

JULIE

Does that have internet access,
just out of interest?

BEARDSLEY

Yes, full cable internet and an on-site computer lab. Are you two planning on doing some research?

CHRIS

Hopefully, yes. We're trying to track down a volume or two that I'm led to believe is somewhere in your campus library.

BEARDSLEY

Really? What about?

CHRIS

Er...

JULIE

It's a Medieval Studies thing. Chris is helping Danyael there write a paper on it.

BEARDSLEY

Ah, I see.
(to Danyael)
Interested in running your own fiefdom, are you?

DANYAEL

(blank)
Uh... sure, sounds good.

Beardsley chuckles, and as he leads the trio on we cut to:

10

EXT. CAMPUS GROUNDS - NIGHT.

10

Twist is taking a stroll round the campus, cooing over the cat in her arms.

She passes a few students as they exit a four-storey building marked up as the 'Xavier Residence,' and she pauses to study it, whistling appreciatively.

TWIST

(to cat)
Wish they had places this nice at NYU, huh, kitty?

She looks down at the cat, which stares back up at her.

(CONTINUED)

TWIST (cont'd)

You're gonna need a name. I can't go about calling you 'cat' all day, can I? How about... Gabriella?

The cat MEOWS, and Twist takes that as a 'yes.'

TWIST (cont'd)

That's settled, then. C'mon, Gabby, let's get back to the van before Chris...

She trails off, something catching her attention on the halls of residence building.

A soft, orange GLOW starts to form around the front entrance, hazy like mist, and as Twist stares the mystery glow makes its way up through the building, ending on the roof before fading away.

Twist is still staring in confusion up at the building when she realises there's a young STUDENT standing next to her.

TWIST (cont'd)

(blinks)

Huh?

STUDENT

Uh, I was just asking if that was your cat? She's a real sweetheart, isn't she?

TWIST

(distracted)

Uh, yeah, whatever...

Twist strides past the student, lost in her own thoughts, leaving the student looking a little put out as we cut to:

Two stacks of cages line each side of the pound's main corridor, with a wide cross section of noisy, yapping dogs spread out along the cages.

A WARDEN, overweight and rubbing his temples as he nurses a headache, walks into the corridor and grimaces at the ruckus the dogs are making.

WARDEN

What? Come on, you guys, it's late! Settle down!

The Warden starts to walk down the corridor, checking on the dogs, but as far as he can tell they're all just worked up for no reason, setting each other off.

He completes his circuit and heads back into his office, shutting the door behind him.

He hasn't been gone long when a second figure steps into view, hiding out of sight behind a stack of supply crates. The dogs' barking gets more intense as he steps beneath a light - it's one of the men last seen following Kate!

He kneels down by the closest kennel and looks in at the dog inside, a frantically barking Alsatian. Smiling, the man presses his palm against the front of the cage.

The dog's barking starts to quieten down as a blue GLOW starts to form around the cage, and in moments the entire cage is bathed in the neon blue light.

The man steps back and stands, watching as the blue glow spread to the cages next to it, and as each cage is filled with light the dog inside stops barking.

Every dog is silent in seconds, and as the man surveys his work, the door to the office opens and the warden enters.

WARDEN (cont'd)

Well, it's about damn time! I was thinking I'd have to call the-

He freezes as he sees the man standing in the corridor.

WARDEN (cont'd)

Hey! Who are you? How'd you get in here?

The man SNAPS his fingers - and the door to every cage flies open!

As one, the dogs leap free from their cages - and race towards the warden! He throws his hands up to defend himself, but he's knocked down and swamped by the army of canines.

He starts to SCREAM as the dogs attack him, biting, scratching and tearing, and the man watches the mayhem with that same, simple smile across his features as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

12 INT. XAVIER RESIDENCE DORM ROOM - MORNING.

12

Chris and Julie are already up and dressed as Twist yawns her way into the morning, sitting up and looking round.

TWIST
Where's Gabby?

CHRIS
Who?

TWIST
My cat!

CHRIS
The cat. Not your cat.

Twist shoots him a dark look, and Chris points towards the other corner of the room - 'Gabriella' is curled up, fast asleep, on top of the wardrobe.

CHRIS (cont'd)
She's busy doing what cats and you seem to do best.

TWIST
Be practically perfect in every way?

CHRIS
Sleeping.

JULIE
Right, I'm ready.

Julie has her bag slung over one shoulder, her hair tied back and her glasses on.

TWIST
Check you out, Little Miss Sexy Librarian!

Julie grins and glances at Chris - and catches him giving her a look up and down.

JULIE
Chris?

CHRIS
(caught out)
Huh?

(CONTINUED)

JULIE

I said 'I'm ready to go,' once you've quite finished having whatever fantasy you were just wrapped up in.

CHRIS

I wasn't...

With a smirk, Julie heads for the door, opening it and waiting for Chris.

CHRIS (cont'd)

(protests)

I wasn't!

JULIE

'Course not.

(to Twist)

Are you and Danyael going to find some safe and non-flammable ways to amuse yourselves while me and Chris go be bookworms?

TWIST

I think so. Given the choice between frolicking round the campus and spending all day searching through a library... I'm picking the chance to skip through the fields any day of the week.

(looks round)

Hey, where is Paleface anyway?

JULIE

Oh, he stepped out earlier, said he wanted some air. He should be back any minute.

TWIST

Oh... okay.

Chris steps past Twist and pauses in the doorway.

CHRIS

Whatever you get up to today, just behave. I know people here.

TWIST

Hey! It's me, remember?

Chris leaves it at that, and he and Julie leave as Twist stands, yawning and stretching, heading over to scoop Gabby up from the wardrobe.

TWIST (cont'd)
Looks like it's just you and me,
kitty. Want to go exploring?

Gabby YAWNS, and Twist wrinkles her nose up at the gosh darn adorable cuteness of the little black cat.

TWIST (cont'd)
Me too. Just need a sec to make
myself look more beautiful first.

She puts Gabby down and steps into the bathroom, shutting the door after her.

Gabriella paces across the bed, looking round the room - then freezes, as though hearing something.

The distant BARKS of dogs can be heard, and Gabriella tenses up, retreating to one corner of the room and hiding behind a bedside cabinet.

The door handle starts to turn, and the cat's eyes turn to it - but it's only Danyael, slurping a soft drink as he nudges the door open.

A black blur shoots out between his legs, and before he's had time to register what it was, Twist is stepping out of the bathroom - wearing just a towel. The shower is running.

There's a long pause as she spots Danyael and freezes, who himself pauses mid-slurp.

TWIST (cont'd)
Uh...

DANYAEL
I was... I just got...

He holds up a big bag of Haribo sweets.

DANYAEL (cont'd)
Thought you might, you know, be
hungry.

TWIST
(grins)
A vampire that has to live off
candy. Makes for kind of a sad
story, doesn't it?

Twist realises Danyael isn't sure where to look, and she self-consciously tugs at the towel as she looks round.

TWIST (cont'd)
Hey, where's Gabby?

DANYAEL

Who?

TWIST

(rolls eyes)

The cat! Doesn't anybody listen to me any more?

Danyael frowns - then realises what that blur he saw escaping a moment ago was.

DANYAEL

Uh...

Twist registers his guilty expression and works out what's happened.

TWIST

Spook! You didn't!

DANYAEL

Didn't what?

She hurries over and leans past him, looking out into the corridor beyond.

TWIST

You let the cat out!

DANYAEL

Hey, I didn't mean to, okay? I just opened the door, and, like, fwipp! It was gone!

Twist does not look happy.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

Look, we'll go find her, alright? We don't have anything major to do today, so let's go find the cat.

Twist scowls at him for a few more beats, then leans over to snatch up some of her clothes before stomping over to the bathroom, SLAMMING the door behind her.

Chris and Julie follow Beardsley as he leads them through the foyer of the grandiose library building, a hive of student bodies at this early hour.

BEARDSLEY

This place has improved a bit since you were last here, Chris, as I think you can tell!

CHRIS
(impressed)
It certainly has...

BEARDSLEY
Four floors, well over two hundred thousand volumes, online journals, research aids and a fully computerised catalog system.

JULIE
Two hundred thousand volumes?
(to Chris; sarcastic)
Won't that be fun to look through...

CHRIS
(quickly)
We'd better be getting started, then. We're not entirely sure what it is we're after, you see.

BEARDSLEY
That's what the card catalog system is here for. Miss Kingston, if you'd like to take a seat?

Beardsley motions for her to sit down at one of the terminals, and Beardsley's fingers rattle across the keys as he sets up the library database.

JULIE
Oh, I get it. Just a case of running a few searches and seeing what comes up, right?

BEARDSLEY
Exactly.

Julie gets to work as Beardsley takes the opportunity to talk to Chris.

BEARDSLEY (cont'd)
So how the devil are you, anyway? I tried to track you down a few times but you're a very hard man to locate.

CHRIS
I haven't really stayed in one place for too long for many years now.

BEARDSLEY
And I must say, you haven't aged a bit.

(MORE)

BEARDSLEY (cont'd)
 You always did look pretty
 youthful, but you haven't gotten a
 day older since you left! What's
 your secret?

CHRIS
 (beat)
 Good grooming.

BEARDSLEY
 (chuckles)
 Creature of the night, more like!

CHRIS
 (blinks)
 I'm sorry?

BEARDSLEY
 Just my little joke. Goes with your
 pale skin and taste in dark
 clothing.

CHRIS
 Oh... I see.

JULIE
 Okay, I've got a few possibles
 here.

Chris is glad of the change of subject as Julie starts to
 print off a list of book titles.

CHRIS
 That was quick!

JULIE
 Just a case of knowing where to
 look. If these all turn up blank, I
 can widen the search. I figure if
 we keep striking off the dead ends
 we can narrow this down in no time.

BEARDSLEY
 I'd better leave you two to it,
 then! Classes start in about an
 hour and I'm a long way behind the
 curve on my daily coffee intake so
 far.

Chris nods as Beardsley leaves the library, and Julie tears
 off the printout of book titles.

JULIE
 How d'you want to work this? Take a
 page each and split up?

CHRIS

Given the size of this place, yes. I get the feeling people might start to ask too many questions about why I left and where I've been if we stay here too long, so the sooner we can find this book and get out of here, the better.

JULIE

And here was me thinking you'd lap up the chance for a spot of hero worship!

CHRIS

Believe me - heroism is overrated.

Julie hands him a sheet and they head off to different sides of the library, as we cut back to:

14 EXT. CAMPUS GROUNDS - DAY.

14

Steering carefully between trees and the shadows of the many tall buildings, Twist searches for any sign of Gabriella as Danyael follows.

TWIST

(calls out)

Gabby? Gabby! Where are you?

DANYAEL

Uh, hate to point this out, but you only just named her, I doubt she'll recognise you calling for her!

TWIST

Do I need to remind you how this is not helping?

DANYAEL

Plus, cats can't exactly answer you back.

Twist glares at him - just as she hears a faint MEOW from somewhere nearby. With a triumphant smirk, Twist turns and hurries towards the source of the sound.

15 EXT. LOWER MALL - CONTINUOUS.

15

Twist darts between trees to get closer to one of the small shopping malls on the campus, listening out for the sound of the cat.

She spots a black shape hiding furtively by the side of the building, and she dashes across and into the shade of the mall to get to it.

(CONTINUED)

TWIST

There you are!

Twist reaches for Gabby, but the cat starts to make a break for it, slipping away from Twist's hands.

Luckily, Danyael heads the cat off, scooping her up off the floor. The cat struggles in his grip, and he quickly passes it to Twist.

DANYAEL

What's the matter with her?

TWIST

She's scared, is what's wrong! She knows you don't like her.

DANYAEL

Twist, it's just a damn cat!

Twist turns her nose up at him, focusing on the cat.

TWIST

Are you alright, Gabby? The mean old goth didn't hurt you, did he?

DANYAEL

(mutters)

Not yet, I didn't...

TWIST

C'mon, Gabby. Let's go exploring properly, and no more running off this time, okay?

Danyael watches as Twist starts walking past him, knowing that he's several chapters along in her bad books by now.

He starts to follow her, but spots that she's frozen to the spot, staring at something ahead of her.

DANYAEL

Twist?

He follows her gaze - and sees a huge Alsatian staring back at her, its eyes locked on Twist and drool spilling from its lips.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

Woah. Now that's a big dog!

TWIST

(nervous)

Danyael...

DANYAEL
Dogs, I can handle.

He steps past Twist and towards the dog, squatting down.

DANYAEL (cont'd)
Hey there. Are you lost?

The dog is still staring directly at Twist, who starts to back away.

TWIST
(more urgent)
Danyael, I think we should go.

DANYAEL
What for?

TWIST
Spook! Come on!

DANYAEL
There's nothing to worry about,
Twist, it's just a-

WHAM! The dog LEAPS forward, pinning Danyael to the ground as it explodes into a vicious, snarling animal, GROWLING and BARKING right into his face.

Danyael is caught off guard and struggles to push the animal away from him as Twist hurries over. Gabby starts to kick frantically to be free of Twist, and she drops the cat.

TWIST
Ow!

Gabriella scurries away, but Twist is already diving to Danyael's aid trying to drag the heavy dog off him.

DANYAEL
Get him off me!

TWIST
What does it look like I'm doing?

Danyael HOWLS in pain as the dog sinks its teeth into his forearm, and Twist steps back, seeing she's having no luck.

TWIST (cont'd)
May the Humane Society forgive
me...

WHACK! She KICKS the dog in its side, and it releases Danyael's arm, running off in the same direction Gabriella escaped in.

Twist pulls Danyael to his feet as several concerned students start to gather round them. Danyael's arm is cut quite badly, and he winces as he clutches the wound.

TWIST (cont'd)

Are you okay?

DANYAEL

I'm good. My faith in stray animals took the worst of it.

TWIST

We'd better get you back to... where's Gabby?

DANYAEL

Oh, man...

TWIST

Oh, no! That dog!

Twist starts racing after the escaping dog, dragging Danyael with her.

TWIST (cont'd)

Come on, that thing'll tear her to pieces if it catches up to her!

The two hurry off in pursuit as we cut to:

Julie is snoozing on one of the third floor room's two beds, stirring slightly as the door opens.

There's a soft THUD as a heavy book drops onto the bed next to her, startling her, and she sits up, blinking.

CHRIS

Taking a break, are we?

JULIE

(yawns)

Sorry, I was just... I couldn't keep my eyes open in there, so I thought I'd take five minutes, and-

CHRIS

Okay, okay, I get it. But we're all good here.

JULIE

You found it?

Chris points to the book, and Julie eagerly opens it up and starts leafing through.

16 CONTINUED:

16

JULIE (cont'd)
How did you manage to find it?

CHRIS
Good old-fashioned hard work.

JULIE
(eyes him)
You cheated and used a spell,
didn't you?

CHRIS
(beat)
Nobody saw me.

Julie chuckles and carries on looking through the book, as we cut to:

17 EXT. CAMPUS GROUNDS - DAY.

17

Gabriella streaks through the grounds, weaving through the legs of startled students - the huge Alsatian in hot pursuit, knocking anybody in its path to the ground.

Twist and Danyael are struggling to keep up, following the trail of downed bodies, when Twist spots more dogs joining the chase - dobermans, Labradors and spaniels.

TWIST
What in the... where are all these
fricken dogs coming from?

Danyael glances at a map of the campus as they pass it, and with a GULP realises where they're heading.

DANYAEL
It's where they're going that
worries me... look!

He points - and Xavier Residence is up ahead. Twist looks to her left and sees another pack of dogs tearing across the campus towards them, splashing through a water fountain.

TWIST
Okay, new plan! Short cut!

She darts to the left, and Danyael follows - just.

18 EXT. XAVIER RESIDENCE - NEXT.

18

Gabriella dashes towards the front entrance, leaping up onto a window ledge and getting some height - just as the first wave of BARKING dogs pile onto the scene.

(CONTINUED)

The cat looks down at the heaving sea of angry canines below, who start leaping over one another in their attempts to reach her.

Twist and Danyael appear from round the other side of the building, and Twist starts looking for another way in.

DANYAEL

How are we gonna get past that many dogs? There's too many to-

There's a faint SMASH of breaking glass from off screen - and Danyael turns to see Twist has broken into the nearest ground floor dorm room.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

What are you doing?

TWIST

Short cut. Come on!

She clambers through the window and into the building, and with a glance round to check the coast is clear, Danyael follows suit.

Twist races towards a window and barges it open - Gabby is on a ledge a few feet below her, and Twist is able to reach down and scoop up the cat, yanking the window closed just as a dog LEAPS for her outstretched hand.

She falls back as the dog SLAMS into the glass, and Danyael is there to help her up.

The duo step cautiously back over to the windows and look out - and more and more dogs are joining the horde surrounding the building, the baying mass trying to barge the front entrance down through sheer weight of numbers.

Twist looks at Gabby, then Danyael, concern etched into her features.

TWIST

I think we may have a slight problem.

Danyael looks just as worried as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

20 INT. XAVIER RESIDENCE DORM ROOM - DAY.

20

Chris is sitting on his bed, watching Julie with a wry smile as she flips through the book.

CHRIS

You're getting quite used to this, aren't you?

JULIE

Having you watch while I do all the hard work?

(grins)

Yeah.

CHRIS

I have a sneaking feeling part of you enjoys it.

JULIE

Yes, I love spending many, many hours translating and researching books hundreds of years old, looking for clues to answers we don't even know the questions for. I can almost feel my medical degree fading away with each page I turn.

Chris laughs, and she stops what she's doing, looking across at him.

CHRIS

What?

JULIE

Nothing, just don't get to see you laugh all that often.

CHRIS

Occupational hazard, I'm afraid.

JULIE

Didn't say I didn't like it.

A beat as Julie smiles warmly at him, before she reaches round into her bag.

JULIE (cont'd)

Oh, and before I forget, I got you something too.

CHRIS

Really?

(CONTINUED)

She takes out a large, wrapped gift and hands it to him.

JULIE

Just something you looked like you
were missing.

Chris raises an eyebrow as he unwraps the gift - and it's a brand new black fedora!

JULIE (cont'd)

After I snuck out of the library, I
saw one by itself in a mall I
passed, and it just said 'buy me.'

CHRIS

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

JULIE

There's plenty of ways you could
show me your gratitude.

CHRIS

Such as?

JULIE

(grins)
Well...

She's interrupted as the door is thrown open, and a breathless Twist and Danyael pile inside.

CHRIS

Twist? What is it?

TWIST

(panting)
Dogs... thousands of 'em!

CHRIS

Dogs?

Chris gets up and heads over to one of the room's windows, looking down to the ground floor - and sees that an ever-increasing circle of dogs has completely surrounded the building.

CHRIS (cont'd)

What on earth...

DANYAEL

One of them was chasing Twist's
cat, but when we tried to catch it,
dozens more started showing up.

TWIST

Before we knew it, it was like a hundred and one fricken dalmatians out there - only replacing 'dalmatians' with 'crazed, killer dogs from Hell!'

JULIE

What could they want? Dogs don't just gather in those kinds of numbers and attack for no reason!

Everyone is looking out through the windows - except for Chris, whose eyes have fallen on the cat.

CHRIS

Well, I may have a theory...

Twist catches his look and backs away, clutching Gabby protectively to her chest.

TWIST

Oh, no! Don't be that guy.

CHRIS

Twist, I'm afraid it's a logical possibility that your feline friend has something to do with this. Danyael, you said the dogs were chasing it?

DANYAEL

Like it was a mobile buffet.

CHRIS

And they ignored everyone else?

DANYAEL

(holds up arm)
Well, one went for me when I got in its way, but-

He stops as he hears SCREAMS from outside. The group rush to the windows again - two students have fallen foul of the dogs, literally dragged out of their room through the windows.

Chris' expression darkens as several dogs start clawing their way into the unfortunate students' room.

CHRIS

They're inside...

TWIST

Baumgartner! We can't let them get up here, Chris!

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

That had crossed my mind.

DANYAEL

There's fire doors on each level,
maybe we can seal the place off,
stop them getting past the first
floor?

Chris nods, racing for the door and motioning for Danyael to follow.

CHRIS

(to Twist and Julie)

You two, stay here and lock this
door. If anyone but us tries to get
inside, you know what to do.

TWIST

Scream and wait for you to rescue
us?

Chris throws her a look as he and Danyael dash off towards the stairwell, and Twist takes a moment to look down at Gabby.

TWIST (cont'd)

What's so special about you, kitty?

Gabby looks back up at her and blinks, as we cut to:

The BARKS and HOWLS of the horde of dogs reverberates throughout the building as several groups of panicking students shove past Chris and Danyael, racing up the stairs. Chris grabs one as she passes.

CHRIS

How many are there?

STUDENT

(shaken)

W-What-

CHRIS

The dogs! How many are inside?

STUDENT

Uh, I don't know, maybe a dozen?
I... they...

CHRIS

Get to safety, we'll take it from
here.

Chris pushes the girl towards Danyael.

CHRIS (cont'd)
Take her and anyone else who comes
past up to the top floor.

DANYAEL
Will do. Hey, wait - you're not
going down there by yourself, are
you?

Chris reaches into his jacket - and draws his katana with a
quick SWISH.

CHRIS
I'll have a close friend to hand.

He bounces down the stairwell as Danyael starts shouting for
the incoming students to carry on up the stairs.

22 INT. XAVIER RESIDENCE - FIRST FLOOR - NEXT.

22

Chris hits the bottom of the stairs - and there are already
several bodies littering the floor. No sign of any dogs, but
distant CRASHES and SHOUTS of alarm tell him they're nearby.

Sword at the ready, he paces towards a large set of fire
doors that will seal off the first floor if locked.

His footsteps are almost silent as he pads over, another CRY
for help echoing down the hall towards him.

He reaches up for the fire doors, carefully pushing the heavy
bolts into place. The first slides into its home with a loud
CLICK, and Chris winces, checking that nothing heard that.

After a beat, he starts to slide the second - just as another
huge DOG throws itself at the door from the other side!

Chris shouts in alarm and stumbles backward - and the door
begins to buckle as the dog launches itself again.

Chris jumps to his feet and tries to seal the lock - but the
dog is shaking the door too much, and Chris can't line up the
bolt!

With a final GRUNT of effort, he slams the lock into place
and the door stands firm - despite more dogs joining the
first, throwing themselves again and again against it.

Chris stands back, breathing a sigh of relief - and hears a
low GROWL from behind him.

He slowly turns round - and there are two huge DOBERMANS
staring at him. They're side by side, about ten feet away,
their eyes locked on Chris as they snarl at him.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

Now's not the time to try 'good
dog,' is it?

The first Doberman advances a step, and Chris tenses up, raising his sword.

He narrows his eyes, sizing them up - and he looks like he feels he can take these two.

The second Doberman starts to trot forward - but as Chris advances a step to meet it, three more dogs round the corner behind him.

He's looks from one group of dogs to the other - and sees that he's cut off from the stairwell.

CHRIS (cont'd)

(mutters)

Bollocks.

He stays put as the dogs close in, keeping his eyes on the dobermans. He crouches, ready for their attack...

TWIST (O.S.)

Chris! Look out!

He spins round - and Twist is standing at the foot of the stairwell, a burning MOLOTOV COCKTAIL in her hands!

Chris just has enough time to DIVE out of the way as she THROWS it towards the nearest pack of dogs.

The cocktail EXPLODES into flames as it hits the ground, driving the dogs back to a chorus of angry BARKS.

Chris gets to his feet as Twist races over, swinging her bat and knocking one of the dobermans out of the way.

CHRIS

What the hell are you doing here? I told you to stay upstairs!

TWIST

Yeah, but when Spook said you'd come down here by yourself, I did a little math and worked out you were almost definitely in trouble.

She glances from the spreading flames to the dobermans.

TWIST (cont'd)

Was I wrong?

Chris saves his retort for another day as the duo run back towards the stairwell.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

Twist looks alarmed as she sees the fire she started rapidly spiral out of control, as the flames spread along the dorm room doors and across the ceiling.

TWIST (cont'd)
Uh, Chris?

CHRIS
Not now!

They race up the stairs - and are soon followed by more dogs, led by the remaining Doberman!

23 INT. XAVIER RESIDENCE - THIRD FLOOR STAIRWELL - NEXT. 23

Danyaël paces anxiously outside the fire doors, a crowd of shivering, terrified students gathered nearby.

He looks up as Chris and Twist barrel towards the doors, holding them open.

TWIST
Spook! Close the doors! Close the doors!

DANYAEL
What?

CHRIS
After we're through them!

Danyaël leans back as Twist and Chris dive through the open doors - and his eyes widen as he sees an army of dogs barreling up the stairwell towards him.

DANYAEL
Oh, crap!

He SLAMS the door closed, and Chris adds his weight to keep it closed as Twist reaches up and bolts it shut.

All three are knocked back by the force of the wave of dogs SLAMMING into the door, and the students huddle further away for safety, some SOBBING with fear now.

DANYAEL (cont'd)
What happened to 'sealing them off at the first floor?'

CHRIS
That plan hit a slight hitch.

The FIRE ALARM goes off, the siren wailing throughout the entire building. Twist looks sheepishly to Danyaël.

(CONTINUED)

TWIST

Actually, better make that two hitches...

CHRIS

Come on, let's get back to Julie and try to figure a way out of here.

Chris gets up and marches towards their room, as Twist and Danyael hang back to speak to the scared students.

TWIST

Uh... everybody just stay here and be cool, okay? We're gonna sort something out.

STUDENT #2

Who are you people?

DANYAEL

Animal control.

STUDENT #3

What's going on down there? Where did all those dogs come from?

STUDENT #4

Is there a fire? Shouldn't we be, like, getting out?

DANYAEL

Once we find a way out that skips the packs of killer dogs, then... yeah.

That doesn't help the student's mood, and Twist pulls him back.

TWIST

Oh, way to ease their minds!

DANYAEL

What? We can't have them thinking they can get out that way, one of them could open the door and then we're all dog food!

He's right. Twist pouts, then points towards Chris' room.

TWIST

Come on. We need a new plan.

DANYAEL

Yeah, that seems to be happening a lot lately.

23 CONTINUED: (2)

23

They glance back at the huddle of students, then step into:

24 INT. XAVIER RESIDENCE DORM ROOM - NEXT.

24

Chris paces up and down as Twist peers out through the windows - the sun is now setting outside. The fire alarm is still ringing as Danyaël crouches in one corner, lighting a cigarette.

JULIE

Can't that wait?

DANYAEL

To be fair, it's not like I'm gonna set off any more alarms.

Gabby is on the bed, sniffing at the book from the library.

CHRIS

Are there any buildings nearby we can get to from the roof?

TWIST

Not without being able to leap tall buildings in a single bound.

(sighs)

Where's a good rooftop chase when you need one?

CHRIS

Can we contact the emergency services? Maybe they can get an air ambulance to the roof?

Julie looks up as distant SIRENS can be heard.

JULIE

Sounds like they're on the same wavelength as you. They'll probably get to that before too long.

CHRIS

We don't have much time. That fire on the first floor's going to spread to this floor very quickly. We only managed to close one set of fire doors between us and the blaze itself.

TWIST

Alright, let's start with what we know.

A beat. She looks around at the others.

(CONTINUED)

TWIST (cont'd)

That's a hint for somebody to make a better suggestion.

DANYAEL

Fire's spreading up from the first floor, and we're on the third, right?

TWIST

Guilty as charged. In my defence, I was trying to help. Plus, fire is kind of cool.

CHRIS

I may be able to do something about the fire, but I'd need time to prepare a spell, and that's not exactly on the agenda if I'm going to be fighting off rabid dogs along the way.

DANYAEL

There's dogs between us and the fire, who are gonna be waiting for us even with the fire behind them. Right?

CHRIS

Looks that way. Whatever's influencing these dogs to act in this way isn't giving them much pause for thought concerning their own safety.

TWIST

Heh, 'pause' for thought!

Everyone turns to her, and she rolls her eyes.

TWIST (cont'd)

Pause. Paws. Chris made a pun.

(beat)

Humour helps at times like this, you know!

DANYAEL

So... we've got no way to go down, nowhere else to go up and nowhere to go once we're on the roof... is that everything?

CHRIS

I'm afraid so.

Danyael nods, taking a deep drag of his cigarette.

JULIE

Is a brilliant plan following that little brainwave?

DANYAEL

Hell, no. Far as I can see, we're screwed. I just wanted to make sure I wasn't forgetting anything.

Chris steps over to the bed and lifts the book.

CHRIS

And all for this... I'm beginning to wonder if this was worth the trip.

JULIE

Well, you will have us go-

There's a sudden FLARE of light, and everyone stumbles backwards, raising their arms against the glare as the room is filled with brilliant light.

It fades quickly away - and standing in the middle of the room is Kate! She SNATCHES the book out of Chris's surprised hands and SHOVES him to the ground.

KATE

Thanks. Couldn't have found this without ya.

She darts towards the door - Julie gets in her way but is PUNCHED for her trouble, and Twist is too slow to catch her as she races out into the corridor.

TWIST

What the hell just happened?

CHRIS

(getting up)
I think things just became a little clearer...

Danyael helps the winded Julie back up.

DANYAEL

Where did she come from? Did she zap herself in here or something?

Julie looks round and notices that the cat has gone - and closes her eyes, cursing as she puts the pieces together.

JULIE

She was the cat, Danyael. It was her all along.

DANYAEL

Oh.

(beat)

Wait, what?

CHRIS

Twist, Danyael, get after her!

Twist nods and grabs Danyael as she tears out of the room.

JULIE

That girl was the cat... right?

CHRIS

(nods)

Whoever she is, I'm willing to bet she's the reason those animals are attacking us. If we stop her, maybe they'll leave.

JULIE

Yeah, but that still leaves us the problem of the Towering Inferno sequel we're stuck in!

There's a loud CRASH from off screen, and the sounds of the barking dogs suddenly becomes much louder - followed by the anguished CRIES of the gathered students.

CHRIS

(darkly)

I think that just became a secondary problem.

He steps over to the doorway - and sees a pack of dogs racing down the corridor towards him.

Chris grits his teeth and draws his sword again - and as the closest dog LEAPS into the air towards him, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

25 INT. XAVIER RESIDENCE - STAIRWELL - EARLY EVENING. 25

Kate rounds a corner, heading for the last flight of stairs before she hits the roof, and as she clatters out of frame Twist and Danyael turn into view, in hot pursuit.

TWIST

What kind of thief disguises herself as a damn cat?

DANYAEL

A cat burglar?

Twist shoots Danyael a glare and he wisely shuts up.

TWIST

D'you bring my bat?

DANYAEL

I thought you had it!

TWIST

(scolds)
Danyael!

DANYAEL

Hey, you're the one who dragged me out after this chick! I can't think of everything!

Twist scowls as she concentrates on the pursuit, reaching the final set of fire doors and shoving through them.

26 INT. XAVIER RESIDENCE - THIRD FLOOR CORRIDOR - NEXT. 26

Chris is fighting his way through the horde of dogs, trying to keep them from getting to the dorm room where Julie is, his katana flashing left and right as the frenzied animals throw themselves at him.

One latches onto his arm as its powerful jaws clamp down, and Chris SHOUTS in pain.

A Second dog gets close enough to sink its fangs into his leg, and Chris stumbles backwards, trying to get his sword up as the wall of dogs rushes towards him...

VOICE (O.S.)

Stop!

As one, the dogs freeze. Chris carefully opens one eye and sees they've all stopped, inches away from him.

(CONTINUED)

VOICE (O.S.) (cont'd)
Release him.

The two dogs biting into Chris dutifully let go and step back, and a disbelieving Chris rises slowly to his feet.

Standing a little way back down the corridor is the man who was pursuing Kate earlier, the Doberman Chris ran from standing obediently at his side.

Chris winces as he checks his injuries, blood already dripping from his arm.

CHRIS
I'd offer you my thanks, but I have
the feeling you didn't call them
off because you were feeling
charitable.

The man shakes his head, and Chris takes one slow step back, away from the dogs. The dorm room door opens a crack and Julie peeks out.

JULIE
Chris?

CHRIS
Stay inside, Julie. It's not safe
out here.

PURSUER #1
Actually, you're both perfectly
safe. As long as you give me the
book.

Chris and Julie swap glances as we cut to:

Twist kicks open the door leading onto the roof, peering out to make sure the sun is safely down before venturing outside.

She looks out across the campus - the flashing red and blue lights of incoming emergency service vehicles light up the horizon, and smoke rising from the lower half of the halls itself has attracted a crowd of anxious students.

The rooftop is empty, however, as Twist and Danyael look round for any sign of Kate.

DANYAEL
Where'd she go?

TWIST
I don't know...

DANYAEL

Well, we're dealing with somebody who appears to be able to hide herself by turning into an animal, I guess it's a fair bet to assume she can fly. Or at the very least, glide.

KATE (O.S.)

Oh, I can do more than that, sweetheart.

Danyael spins round - just as a bolt of blue energy SLAMS into him, blasting him off his feet!

Kate steps into view from behind one of the rooftop's several ventilation shafts, her palm raised and the book tucked safely under her other arm.

TWIST

Oh, shooting my boy in the back, now? You're just a bad little kitty, aren't you?

KATE

Please. As if today hasn't been bad enough, now I've got to put up with more of your jokes? I think I'd rather still be a cat.

The two girls start to circle each other, Twist glancing down at Danyael as he groans and tries to pick himself up.

TWIST

So how does that work, anyway? You sneak into our van so we'll take you in and hide you from whoever's sending those dogs after you, just so you can steal that book?

KATE

Pretty much. I'd say you're quite the detective, but to be fair, my six-year-old brother could have worked it out by now.

TWIST

Oh, so I see you actually want me to find a way to insert your hands into your face. Keep up with the insults, friesacher, I'm gonna enjoy turning you into modern art.

Kate grins and SNAPS her fingers - and a ball of FLAME forms around her hand! Twist looks understandably less confident.

TWIST (cont'd)

Uh...

Kate THROWS the fireball at her, and Twist DIVES out of the way as it slams into the rooftop - narrowly missing the recovering Danyael!

He stumbles backwards, away from the pool of flames - and very nearly staggers right off the rooftop!

He has a brief Vertigo moment as he looks down to the drop below, before turning back to see Twist and Kate still circling each other.

TWIST (cont'd)

So how's this going to end, exactly? You don't have an escape route that I can see here.

KATE

There's ways I can go. I could drop the book off the roof, turn into a bird, fly down and snatch it back before it hits the ground, leaving you and your buddies to either burn or get eaten by those dogs.

(grins)

I'll probably stick around to see that. You've had it coming. I mean, come on... 'Gabriella'? What kind of a name is that for a cat?

Twist CRACKS her knuckles and takes a step forward. Her eyes flick to Danyael, who is quietly circling round behind Kate.

TWIST

So you've got your spells and your magic to hide behind. That's cool, must've taken you a long time to learn all that, so I respect your dedication. But have you ever been in a real fight?

KATE

I don't see why I should-

TWIST

Here's the deal. Won't it make you feel so much better if you take me on without your fancy magic tricks? If you beat me, you can feel even more smug than you obviously already do.

Kate narrows her eyes - and hasn't spotted Danyael creeping up behind her yet.

KATE

What if you win?

TWIST

Hey, I'm gonna feel smug and superior either way. It's a natural talent. Therefore, I have nothing to lose. So whaddya say?

Twist rolls up her shirt sleeves and beckons for Kate to step up to the plate.

TWIST (cont'd)

Wanna prove to me you can win this without magic?

Kate hesitates - then starts to lower the book as a grin spreads across her face.

KATE

Alright, you've got-

TWIST

Now!!

Danyael LUNGES forward and gets his hands on the book, but Kate spins round, plants a hand on his chest, and with a thunderous BOOM Danyael is launched backwards...

... and he sails cleanly over the edge of the roof!

TWIST (cont'd)

Danyael!!

KATE

Still trying to trick me? That was dumb. I hope your boyfriend lands-

POW! A furious Twist lands a punch across Kate's jaw, splitting her lip.

Kate doesn't bother with a retort, KICKING back, and she and Twist go toe to toe - Twist is a good fighter but Kate is using her magic to balance things out, hurling short blasts of red, crackling energy at Twist.

Kate finally connects with one of the blasts and Twist stumbles backwards, looking up as Kate stands over her with a fresh fireball in her hand.

KATE (cont'd)

You know what? I don't care if you could beat me hand to hand. Using magic is just so much... better.

She grins down at Twist, as we cut to:

28

INT. XAVIER RESIDENCE - THIRD FLOOR CORRIDOR - NEXT.

28

Julie steps out of the dorm room, her modified handgun raised as she steps to Chris' side.

The Pursuer WHISTLES and the dogs back off, allowing the man to walk forward. He offers his hand to Chris.

ASTON

My name's Aston Wood. I've been after the girl who just stole that book from you for some time. Sorry you had to get caught up in the chase.

Aston motions for Chris to look over his shoulder - and he sees that the cluster of students who escaped to the third floor have been left unharmed by the dogs.

ASTON (cont'd)

I managed to keep the people you'd herded up here safe and sound. I hope you appreciate that.

CHRIS

(icily)

Tell that to the people your dogs killed on their way up here.

ASTON

Collateral damage. I'm truly sorry for them, but as I'm sure you can imagine, a pack of unruly animals like that tend to get a little... excitable.

Julie glances at Chris, but his eyes are locked on Aston.

CHRIS

So you just want the girl?

ASTON

She took something from us. Power that isn't hers. She's a thief, and we can't let her keep what doesn't belong to her. Once we have the girl, we'll be on our way.

CHRIS

What makes you think we're just going to let you walk out of here after all you've done?

Aston GRINS - and the Doberman by his side starts to SNARL on command.

(CONTINUED)

ASTON

Because we both know what's going
to happen if you get in my way.

Chris stares Aston out for a few beats - then steps to the
side, gesturing towards the stairwell behind him.

CHRIS

She went for the roof.

ASTON

Thank you. See how easy that was?

CHRIS

Don't make me regret standing
aside.

Aston flashes that same cool smile at him as he walks past
Chris, leaving the dogs where they are.

Julie keeps her gun trained on the dogs as Chris watches
Aston start to climb the stairs.

JULIE

Uh, Chris? What about the fire?

CHRIS

Go back into the room. In my bag,
there's a bag full of spell
components along with a small,
black book. Find the best water
spell you can with the ingredients
I have and do what you can about
the fire.

Chris starts to walk away - towards the stairs.

JULIE

What about- hey, wait! Where do you
think you're going?

CHRIS

To get my book back.

JULIE

Chris, wait! Chris!

Julie watches helplessly as Chris reaches the stairs, and we
cut to:

Kate steps back from Twist, reaching down to calmly scoop up
the book, keeping the fireball ready in her free hand.

KATE

Well, I'd say it was a pleasure doing business with you, but it really wasn't.

She glances down at the book, and Twist takes the chance to quickly scan the rooftop for any kind of weapon.

KATE (cont'd)

(off book)

I've been looking for this for some time now, ever since I tricked those dumbass warlocks, so I guess I should thank you and your friends for doing the hard work for me.

(chuckles)

I mean, can you imagine me trying to go through the whole damn library here to find that-

With a ROAR of fury, twist leaps up and LAUNCHES herself at Kate - but Kate's too quick, and hurls the fireball at Twist!

The flames engulf her, and Twist SCREAMS in pain, falling backwards as Kate starts to turn and run:

ASTON (O.S.)

Incendire negatum!

FWOOSH! The flames go out, leaving a lightly smoking but unharmed Twist lying on the rooftop.

Kate freezes and slowly turns round - to see Aston walking calmly across the rooftop towards her. He TUTS.

ASTON (cont'd)

Kate, Kate, Kate. What am I going to do with you?

KATE

(sneers)

Not much, unless you fancy taking a swan dive down to the pavement!

She creates a blaze of blue energy around her fist and snaps it towards Aston - but he dodges it, darting towards her before she can ready a second shot.

He GRABS her by the throat and lifts her into the air, Kate's legs kicking as she tries to struggle against him.

KATE (cont'd)

No... no!

Aston starts to CHANT something under his breath, and as he does a haze of purple light starts to surround him, gathering round his eyes and mouth.

Similar light begins to appear around Kate, and despite her struggles, the misty energy streams from her mouth into Aston's!

KATE (cont'd)

Stop! Please! You can't...

Her struggles die down as the last of the energy leaves her, and as her body goes limp Aston drops her to the floor.

Twist is panting for breath, still recovering from her near incineration, and can only watch as Aston steps over to the fallen book, picking it up.

ASTON

Hmm. This should be a good way to pay back the cost of what she-

THUNK! Aston CHOKES - and looks down to see Chris' katana sticking out of his throat.

Twist whips round and sees Chris standing at the entrance to the roof, a cold look blazing in his eyes.

Aston GURGLES as he tries to pull the sword out, but sinks to his knees and then slumps to the ground.

INT. XAVIER RESIDENCE DORM ROOM - NEXT.

Julie is rifling frantically through Chris' bag when she suddenly hears a commotion outside.

She heads for the door and sees that the dogs are leaving - they're racing en masse towards the stairwell. Confused, she looks back towards the stairwell as we cut to:

EXT. XAVIER RESIDENCE - ROOFTOP - NEXT.

Twist is horrified as Chris steps over to her, holding out a hand to pull her to her feet.

TWIST

What- why did-

CHRIS

I did what I had to. I couldn't let him leave with that book... or after what he did to the people here.

Twist eyes Chris warily for a beat, then reaches out and lets him help her up.

TWIST

Danyaël, he-

CHRIS

He'll be alright.

TWIST

'Alright'? Chris, she threw him off the fricken roof!

CHRIS

Takes more than a fall like that to kill a vampire, Twist. You of all people should know that.

TWIST

But-

CHRIS

I saw him fall and I saw where he landed. He's fine.

TWIST

What about the girl?

CHRIS

No longer our problem.

Chris walks over to Aston and pries the book from his dead hands, turning and striding back towards the doorway off the roof.

TWIST

I thought I wasn't going to see the old you any more.

Chris pauses, keeping his back to her.

TWIST (cont'd)

Killing that guy in cold blood? That's something you'd have done before I came along.

CHRIS

(beat)

Sometimes, the old ways are the only ones you can rely on.

With that, Chris exits the roof, and after staring at his departing form for a beat, Twist races to the edge of the roof and looks down...

... and four floors down is Danyaël. He landed in one of the tall, thick trees lining the halls, and is waiting for one of the fire crews to rescue him as they extend a ladder towards him.

31 CONTINUED: (2)

31

Fire trucks and ambulances are surrounding the halls now, spraying the blazing floors with water, with the crowd of students scattering as dogs start to pour out of the building, tripping over each other as they disperse across the campus.

Twist manages a smile, and we DISSOLVE TO:

32 EXT. SEATTLE UNI - ADMIN BUILDING - NIGHT.

32

Beardsley stands with Chris and Julie as the last of the fire crews can be seen packing away in the background.

Xavier Residence Halls is now just a blackened shell, but the crowd of huddled students outside shows that almost everyone got out alive.

BEARDSLEY

Well...

(beat; sighs)

Actually, I can't think of a single thing to say right now. A pack of wild dogs storming into the halls and causing a fire? I've never heard anything like it.

JULIE

It's a new one on us as well.

BEARDSLEY

I'm just thankful nobody else was killed. I have you to thank for that.

CHRIS

Me and the Seattle Fire Department.

BEARDSLEY

(chuckles)

I suppose so... Did you manage to find what you were looking for, at least?

Chris glances at Julie, who grins back at him.

CHRIS

We certainly did.

BEARDSLEY

Than let's shake on this and seal the deal, and hope that the next time we meet it's both sooner than ten more years away, and also in less dramatic circumstances.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

Chris shakes Beardsley's hand, and Julie does the same before she and Chris head over to the van.

33 INT. VAN - NEXT.

33

Danyael is stretched across the inside of the van, surrounded by blankets as he cushions his injuries. He's bandaged up but otherwise in one piece as Twist looks back at him from the passenger seat.

TWIST

So how are you feeling?

(beat)

And I know that's kind of a redundant question, what with your graceful landing and all, but...

DANYAEL

Every single square inch of me hurts. I actually think I've discovered new parts of me through the pain.

TWIST

Hey, at least you're not dead.

Danyael raises an eyebrow, and Twist chuckles.

TWIST (cont'd)

You know what I mean. Chris explained it to me once that whatever it is in our blood that turns us into vampires is also what heals our bodies so quick, so if you weren't dead, you'd be dead. If that makes sense.

DANYAEL

A little.

There's a beat as Danyael rests his head back, closing his eyes. Twist looks a little awkward as she speaks up again:

TWIST

You know, when you...

DANYAEL

Yeah?

TWIST

When you fell, I... well, I had a moment there where I didn't know if you were okay or not.

Danyael turns to look at her, and Twist hesitates again.

(CONTINUED)

TWIST (cont'd)

And, well...

DANYAEL

Twist, I'm fine. I mean, I'm in a lot of pain, but I'm still here.

TWIST

I know, I know, it's just... For a second, I thought you might be gone, and I...

She trails off and looks up. Danyael smiles, and she smiles back, nodding and leaving the rest of it unsaid.

Chris opens the driver's side door and climbs inside, as Julie slides open the side door and carefully steps over Danyael.

CHRIS

Are we ready to go?

TWIST

Yep. F.A.B. for launch, or whatever the Thunderbirds used to say.

DANYAEL

So was me getting thrown off the roof worth it?

JULIE

Oh, definitely. Aside from the photo opportunity, we got ourselves something we've been needing.

DANYAEL

Group therapy?

TWIST

(to Chris)

A clearer conscience?

Chris looks back at Twist as Julie holds up the book from the library, holding it open at a double page spread.

JULIE

Better. A lead.

The pages show a diagram of what looks like an ancient temple, and as we close up on this, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW