

SOMEWHERE INBETWEEN

"Lust For Afterlife"

by
Lee A. Chrimes

(c) 2005 Monster Zero Productions

TEASER

FADE IN:

1

INT. BLACK VAN - NIGHT

1

CHRIS is at the wheel, his eyes frantically scanning the rainswept streets as JULIE does the same from the passenger seat.

DANYAEL is in the rear of the van, talking rapidly into his phone and scribbling notes on a small pad.

DANYAEL
(into phone)
No, no, that's fine.
(listens)
Yeah, you've got my number, right?
Cool. Alright, speak soon.

He hangs up, shuffling closer to the front two seats.

DANYAEL (cont'd)
That's every rebel contact I've got
in the area, all of them either
haven't seen her or are out
looking.

CHRIS
We need more eyes out there.

DANYAEL
Hey, I've pulled in every name I've
got, alright?

CHRIS
It's not enough. She could be
anywhere, and we-

DANYAEL
(snaps)
Don't you think I know that?

JULIE
Boys!

Her stern tone gets their attention.

JULIE (cont'd)
Are we going to fight about this,
or keep looking?

CHRIS
That isn't really helping, Julie.

(CONTINUED)

JULIE

Neither is snapping our heads off every time we try to say something! Look, we're getting nowhere just driving around like this, even with all of Danyael's friends out there on the streets too.

CHRIS

So what do you suggest?

JULIE

(frustrated)

I don't know! I'm trying to think of something, but all I do know is that we have no leads, no direction and no clue at the moment, and unless we figure out what to try, that isn't about to change!

Chris stares back at her, then abruptly pulls the van over to the side of the road.

Chris unfastens his seatbelt and reaches under his seat for his katana, as a puzzled Julie and Danyael look on.

DANYAEL

What are you doing?

CHRIS

Trying something else.

He opens the door and ducks out into the rain. Julie and Danyael swap a confused look - then hear Chris clamber up onto the roof of the van!

2 EXT. STREET/VAN - CONTINUOUS

2

Jumping out of the van themselves, the duo look up to see Chris standing on top of the van's roof, his katana in his hand and his eyes closed.

The heavy rain is washing over him but he doesn't seem to notice, tilting his head back.

JULIE

Chris? What the hell are you doing?

He doesn't answer, but as Julie opens her mouth to speak again, Chris suddenly raises his katana to point it towards the night sky...

... and with a bright FLASH of yellow light, three small BALLS of energy burst from the tip of the sword!

(CONTINUED)

Julie and Danyael watch as they streak upwards into the sky at terrific speed, before they split formation and zip off, each heading out in a different direction.

Chris hops back down off the roof and heads back for the van's driver's side door.

DANYAEL

What did you do?

CHRIS

I sent out a few beacons. It's something I tried once before when Twist and I were separated in a Brazilian jungle - once one of them located her, she knew to follow it all the way back to me.

JULIE

You think it'll work now?

Chris doesn't answer as he climbs back into the van.

Chris starts the van up as Julie and Danyael take their seats, but he's only just pulled back onto the busy road when Danyael's phone RINGS.

DANYAEL

Hello?

(long beat)

Twist?

Chris SLAMS the brakes on, almost pitching Julie out of her seat, and he turns and SNATCHES the phone from Danyael.

CHRIS

(into phone)

Twist? Where are you?

TWIST

(filtered; through phone)

Chris... help me...

CHRIS

We're coming, Twist. We've got people looking for you, just tell me whatever you can about where you are.

TWIST

(quiet)

I don't know, I... I'm scared...

CHRIS

Don't be. I've sent out some beacons, so keep an eye out for them. Just like the last time, remember?

TWIST

Chris... I... I've got to tell you something...

CHRIS

Anything, just first tell me what you see around you, so I can-

TWIST

(snaps)
This is important!

CHRIS

(beat)
Go on.

TWIST

Well, it's like this... I...

There's the sound of a quick scuffle as someone else takes over the call on Twist's side.

VIVIAN

(filtered; through phone)
I can't listen to her beat around the bush like this any longer. Chris... she doesn't want to go out with you any more.

CHRIS

(shocked)
Vivian?

Julie and Danyael react in horror as Vivian continues.

VIVIAN

Yes, that's right. Me. Twist and I have got a long list of things we need to do, so we're gonna have to get on our way. She just wanted to check in and let you know she won't be home after curfew tonight.

Vivian SNICKERS, and Chris' expression turns to one of barely controlled fury.

CHRIS

If you've hurt one single-

TWIST

(interrupts)

Relax, boss man! I'm fine. In fact, I feel better than I have for years. It's amazing what a near death experience will do for a girl's moral compass.

VIVIAN

Yeah, so... it's real sweet of all the effort you're going to looking for her, but my advice is don't bother.

TWIST

Yeah. Thanks for everything, Chris, but, you know... you always knew I was going to fly the nest some day.

There's a round of cackling LAUGHTER from the two girls, before the line goes dead.

An ashen Chris slowly lowers the phone, with Julie and Danyael on tenterhooks as they wait for an explanation.

JULIE

What's going on?

Chris closes his eyes and lowers his head.

JULIE (cont'd)

Chris?

He doesn't answer for a long beat - then he SNAPS his head back up, his eyes suddenly full of fire and determination. He RAMS the van into gear and it lurches away, a chorus of angry honks coming from the traffic around them.

DANYAEL

Chris, dude! Why is Vivian calling us? What's happened to Twist?

JULIE

Chris, answer us!

Chris doesn't even look at them, his knuckles turning white as he grips the steering wheel even tighter, and as his foot floors the gas pedal, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 EXT. SERVICE STATION - NIGHT 4

The waterlogged forecourt of an off-freeway service station. There's a few cars waiting at the gas pumps but nobody is about.

5 INT. SERVICE STATION - KIOSK - NEXT 5

The kiosk itself is similarly deserted - all the lights are on but nobody is home. There's no attendant behind the counter, no customers and the only sound comes from a tinny radio sitting behind the desk, playing some scratchy country record.

The radio plays on for a few beats - until a blood-stained HAND reaches into frame, turning the frequency dial until the country is replaced by 'Psychobitches Outta Hell' by the Horrorpops.

VIVIAN (O.S.)

That's better.

A tall woman steps into frame - VIVIAN TAYLOR. She's spattered with blood but seems indifferent to it, as she selects a fresh packet of cigarettes from the shelves behind the counter, picking up a lighter on the way.

She lights the cigarette and turns to address someone off screen, blowing smoke into the air.

VIVIAN (cont'd)

You sure you don't want one?

TWIST (O.S.)

Actually, yeah. Hit me.

TWIST steps over, also spattered with other people's blood, and Vivian lights a second cigarette and passes it to her.

VIVIAN

You hungry yet?

TWIST

Sure. I'm thinking of starting on that pick 'n' mix counter over there.

VIVIAN

There's still a few live ones out back if you-

(CONTINUED)

TWIST
(quickly)
No.

VIVIAN
(rolls eyes)
Come on, girl! Live a little!
(beat)
Figuratively speaking. It's not
like you didn't help me take care
of the clients in here...

Vivian waves her hand across the kiosk - and several BODIES come into view. The attendant, his neck a mess of ugly red wounds, is slumped against the wall next to a selection of male and female motorists.

VIVIAN (cont'd)
... so I think you've earned
yourself a little bonus.

TWIST
Hey, roughing people up? No
problem. That I can do. And while
I'm still getting my sea legs I'm
gonna sit back and let you do the
killing for now But... it's just...

VIVIAN
I get it. Been too long since you
drank the real thing, hasn't it?

TWIST
It feels like it, yeah.

VIVIAN
This isn't an 'AA' meeting, Twist.
Nobody's going to report you if you
have a little taste.

Twist's eyes are drawn to the fresh blood glistening on the neck of the attendant.

For a moment, she stares hungrily at it... but she tears her eyes away, snapping them shut.

TWIST
Can't I just ease myself back into
this?

VIVIAN
(sighs)
Sure, fine. Whatever.

Vivian slides over the counter and marches over to the fallen attendant.

(CONTINUED)

VIVIAN (cont'd)
 But I'm not letting a good meal go
 to waste.

She drags the heavy body to its feet, and with a last smirk
 at Twist sinks her FANGS into the attendant's neck.

Twist watches as Vivian gulps greedily from her victim,
 obviously struggling to stop herself from joining in - but
 the sound of Vivian drinking seems to be getting louder, more
 deafening, until we cut to:

Vivian and Twist climb into an M-class Mercedes, Twist
 admiring the expensively-upholstered interior.

TWIST
 Nice.

VIVIAN
 Makes a change from slumming it in
 that crusty old van, doesn't it?

TWIST
 (grins)
 Sure does. You get the keys?

Vivian dangles them from her finger with a smile.

VIVIAN
 There was this sweet old guy in
 there who just begged me to take
 them.

TWIST
 Oh, I remember him. He was the one
 you gutted with the garden shears,
 right?

VIVIAN
 And who would have thought the old
 man had so much blood in him?

They share a laugh. Vivian starts the car and Twist finds the
 same song on the radio as they were just listening to.

VIVIAN (cont'd)
 You ready?

TWIST
 I'm ready. And...

VIVIAN
 And what?

TWIST

Thanks. You know. For all your help.

VIVIAN

What else was I going to do? I couldn't just leave you out in the street, frightened and alone now, could I?

TWIST

I know, it's just... look, the last year and a half may still feel like a horrible nightmare, but I want you to know I really do appreciate you taking me in like this.

VIVIAN

(grins)

What are friends for? Now crank that radio up. We've got a long drive ahead of us.

Twist obliges, as we cut to:

7

EXT. SERVICE STATION - NEXT

7

With a SCREECH of tire rubber, Vivian doughnuts the Mercedes once round the forecourt before SCREAMING back towards the freeway exit.

The Mercedes bounces down the off ramp and rejoins the flow of traffic at high speed, as we cut to:

8

INT. STREET/OLD BUILDING - NIGHT

8

The van is parked by a row of ramshackle buildings, with Chris pacing next to it as Julie looks on. Danyael is talking to RIFF, a scruffy-looking local vampire.

Danyael has a map in his hands, and Riff is pointing to areas of it as they speak.

RIFF

So my boys and girls have covered, like, a ten mile radius from here. So far, zip.

DANYAEL

Is there anywhere you might have missed? I'm thinking of hiding places, you know, somewhere that someone who wanted to disappear would likely find their way to.

RIFF

If she's here, we'll find her, man,
I promise, all I'm saying is that
it's looking more and more like
she's not anywhere round here any
more.

CHRIS

That's not good enough.

The two vampires look over - Chris is still pacing, and Julie looks suitably worn out by his impatience.

JULIE

They're doing what they can, Chris.

CHRIS

I don't think they realise how
important she is to us!

RIFF

Don't worry, man, I do!

CHRIS

Sorry to disagree with you, 'man,'
but I don't think you or your
people are looking hard enough.

RIFF

(getting angry)
Hey, we don't have to do this, you
know! It's a favour for Danyael!
He's helped us out before now so
we're doin' the same for him.
(stabs a finger at Chris)
You, I don't know, so you, I don't
owe a damn thing.

Chris steps menacingly towards Riff, but Julie gets between them both, holding Chris back.

JULIE

(sharp; to Chris)
Back off!
(to Riff)
We know you're going out of your
way to help, and we do really
appreciate it. We wouldn't have
asked if it wasn't serious.

Riff glowers at Chris, but finally sighs and nods, taking the map from Danyael and folding it up.

RIFF

I'll call you if we find anything.

DANYAEL

Thanks, man.

They shake hands, and Riff leaves. Once he's turned a corner, Danyael turns angrily to Chris.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

What the hell was that?!?

CHRIS

We're wasting our time with this, Danyael! Twist isn't going to be found by a dozen vampires taking an evening stroll around the city! She-

Danyael GROWLS and charges at Chris, SLAMMING him against the side of the van. Chris is too stunned to react.

DANYAEL

(furious)

She's alone, and scared, and in the company of one of our biggest enemies right now, and all you can do is bitch at the people trying to help us find her!

Chris SHOVES Danyael away from him, the two facing off as Julie desperately tries to pry them apart.

JULIE

How is this helping?

DANYAEL

Ask your boyfriend!

JULIE

My what?

CHRIS

Danyael, you are a long way out of line.

DANYAEL

Yeah? Big fricken whoop! The only woman I've cared about since...

(beat; closes eyes)

Twist's in big trouble. I get that you're freaking out about this - and we all are, in case you hadn't noticed - but getting in everyone's face is just going to make it harder to find her again. Now, you want to act like an asshole, fine. You can look for her yourself. But as for me...

(CONTINUED)

He steps back, straightening out his jacket.

DANYAEL (cont'd)
... I'm gonna go find my girl.

He turns and walks away.

JULIE
Danyael, wait! Danyael!

He doesn't turn round, and Julie whips back to face Chris.

JULIE (cont'd)
What is the matter with you?!?

CHRIS
He'll be back.

JULIE
That's not the point! How are we supposed to be a search party when there's only two of us?

CHRIS
(irritated)
I'm open to suggestions!

JULIE
Fine, I've got one. We go back to Parker.

CHRIS
No.

JULIE
What?

CHRIS
I said no!

Chris opens the van's door, but Julie SLAMS it shut again, her face like thunder.

JULIE
Why?

CHRIS
I don't need to give you a reason for everything I do!

JULIE
Normally? No. And normally I don't even want to hear a reason, but this time, I do. Why the hell don't you want to get Parker to help?

CHRIS

Because I don't trust him! This mess is all his fault to start with!

JULIE

He offered to help, doesn't that count for anything?

CHRIS

Not in my book.

JULIE

Well, screw your book! Unless you can find me a better plan in the next ten seconds, I'm gonna knock you on your ass, take this van and drive it right back to his Lab to get some more people on this.

CHRIS

(darkly)
Don't.

JULIE

Oh, what? You're gonna put me down if I try anything? Huh?

Julie's too mad to care right now - she gets in Chris' face, almost daring him to fight her.

JULIE (cont'd)

Come on! You want to lash out at someone, go ahead! Take it out on me!

CHRIS

That's not going to happen.

JULIE

Then get in the damn van and start driving!

They stay staring each other out for a few beats, until:

DANYAEL (O.S.)

Guys!

They break the stare to see Danyael racing back towards them, his phone pressed to his ear.

DANAYEL

Someone spotted her!

Chris and Julie swap a glance as we cut to:

9

INT. MERCEDES - NIGHT

9

The stolen car speeds down the road, the top down now the rain has stopped. Twist is sitting up in the passenger seat, smiling as she lets her long hair trail out in the wind.

VIVIAN

Having fun?

Twist sits back down in her seat, her hair blown out of shape by the wind. She tugs at it to try and get it back to normal, but descends into giggles as she only makes it worse.

TWIST

I bet Bridget Jones never has this trouble...

Vivian uses the Merc's cigarette lighter to get another smoke going, taking a drag and passing it to Twist.

TWIST (cont'd)

So where are we headed, anyway?

VIVIAN

We've got a job to run in Indianapolis.

TWIST

Oo, sweet! Is it gonna involve racing cars?

VIVIAN

No.

TWIST

(deflated)

Oh.

VIVIAN

But it does involve killing a whole lot of people.

TWIST

(perks up)

Groovy.

VIVIAN

My employer's made a request to me - they want me to take care of three mystical beings who live out there. Apparently, they're putting some kind of lockdown on the magical output my client needs, so all we have to do is eliminate the problem.

(CONTINUED)

TWIST

Sounds like a whole heap of fun so far.

VIVIAN

You sure you're up to this?

TWIST

Why wouldn't I be?

VIVIAN

Not wanting to sound too critical, honey, but you did get a little squeamish back at that gas station. The things you've told me you did back in your day, I'd have thought cleaning up a few civilians would be small potatoes for you!

TWIST

It was... I mean, it is.

VIVIAN

So the gas station thing was...

TWIST

A blip. It all started coming back to me just before you found me, all the stuff from the good old days... I'm getting a little anxious to turn back the clock and start over.

VIVIAN

So in other words...

TWIST

The bitch is back.

Twist grins, hands the cigarette back to Vivian, and as they speed on we cut to:

10 EXT. FREEWAY - NIGHT 10

Chris' black van tears down the freeway, passing a large sign that reads 'Welcome To Indiana!'

11 INT. BLACK VAN - NIGHT 11

Julie is catching some sleep in the back as Chris drives, a silent Danyael next to him.

CHRIS

Danyael, I...

He trails off. Danyael doesn't even look at him.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

CHRIS (cont'd)

Look, about what I said before, I think I should-

DANYAEL

Forget about it.

CHRIS

It's not something we can just brush away, Danyael. We almost came to blows back there, so I thought I should at least try to offer an apology.

DANYAEL

Why bother?

CHRIS

Excuse me?

DANYAEL

You won't really mean it and I won't really believe it, so what's the point?

Danyael shrugs, and Chris is stuck for an answer. With a frown, he turns his attention back to driving, as we cut to:

12 EXT. SUBURBAN HOUSE - FRONT DOOR - NIGHT

12

A plain white door, with coloured frosted glass set either side of it. A hand reaches into frame to rap its knuckles lightly against the door.

WOMAN'S VOICE (O.S.)

Just a moment?

There's the shuffling of slippered feet and the YAPPING of a small dog as somebody approaches the door - and after a few rattles of security chains, it opens to reveal a rosy-cheeked OLD WOMAN.

OLD WOMAN

Yes?

Vivian and Twist stand side by side in the doorway, both grinning.

VIVIAN

Eleanor Owen?

ELEANOR

Yes, that's me. Who are you two girls? Are you with the Youth Theatre group?

(CONTINUED)

Vivian and Twist swap a glance - before Twist steps forward and SHOVES Eleanor back into her house.

ELEANOR (cont'd)
Oh, goodness! What do you want?
Help!!

Her dog starts BARKING as Vivian glances over her shoulder, checking nobody is looking, before stepping into the house and closing the door.

The dog continues to bark as there are sounds of a fight from inside - things BREAK, doors SLAM and Eleanor SHOUTS for help.

With a high-pitched YELP, her dog falls silent, and Eleanor WAILS in distress.

Shapes can be seen moving around behind the front room curtains, with more THUMPS and cries for help - until Eleanor emits a final SHRIEK of pain...

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

13 EXT. ROADSIDE - NIGHT 13

Julie walks back towards the van, a shopping bag in her hand. The van's parked up in a residential area, and she looks round to make sure nobody's watching before sliding open the van door.

Chris sits in the rear, a large map spread out before him with candles at each corner and several small crystals lining the edges.

14 INT. VAN - CONTINUOUS 14

Julie steps carefully into the van, closing the door gently so as not to blow the candles out. Chris has his eyes closed and appears to be in deep concentration, so she leaves him to it.

Danyaël is up in the passenger seat, fiddling with his phone again as Julie climbs into the driver's chair, opening the bag and handing him a beer.

DANYAEL

No, thanks, I'm not-

Julie lifts out one for herself.

JULIE

I need something to take the edge off the night. And I'm pretty sure you do too.

A beat - then Danyaël nods, and the duo crack open their beers and take a swig.

CHRIS

I hope that's the only one you're both having.

JULIE

(scolding)

We're not all robots like you, Chris!

CHRIS

I'm just going to need you both focused when I find her. We can't take any chances, especially if Vivian's involved.

Julie turns back round, peering at Danyaël as he continues to mess with his cell phone.

(CONTINUED)

JULIE

What are you trying to do?

DANYAEL

The number Twist called us on was a pay phone, but I'm seeing if there's any way I can trace it back.

JULIE

Maybe Neuro can help?

DANYAEL

(shakes head)

I spoke to him already. He says I need to find the number in my phone's records first, and then give that to him before he can start tracing it.

Julie leaves him to it for a moment.

JULIE

What do you suppose has happened to her?

DANYAEL

(sighs)

I don't know.

JULIE

I mean, we both know that Vivian's bad news, right? So why would she and Twist be bestest girl pals all of a sudden?

DANYAEL

Something happened to her back at the Lab, that's all I can figure out. Something affected her memory, maybe, or blew a fuse in that hard-wired little blonde brain of hers, or...

Danyael suddenly trails off - and a TEAR rolls down his cheek. Julie quickly reaches forward to hold him as Danyael bursts into tears, his whole body shaking as he sobs.

Julie looks round to Chris, who is finally looking towards them. Chris looks genuinely sorry, but Julie's cold stare back at him tells Chris he should turn back round.

He reaches for a small jar of yellow powder and uncorks it, pouring some out into his hand and then sprinkling it across the map.

The candle flames FLARE brightly, and the yellow powder starts to sparkle, shifting around on the map as though being pulled by invisible magnets.

The map flutters slightly as the dust gathers over one location, starting to PULSE faintly.

Chris allows himself a small smile, leaning forward to make a note of the location where the dust has settled.

CHRIS

I think I've found her.

Danyael leans away from Julie, SNIFFING and dabbing his eyes. She keeps a hold of his hand, but he shakes his head - he'll be okay.

Julie tears herself away from him and steps into the back of the van, as Chris points to the map.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Basic locator spell. Pretty effective but limited in range, so we're lucky she didn't get too far.

JULIE

And that's where she is now?

CHRIS

The dust shows us where any vampires are in the immediate area. According to Danyael, there isn't a rebel base for many miles and Neuro's hack into traffic cameras pointed us in this direction anyway, so logically...

JULIE

Logically, that's her. Will Vivian be with her?

CHRIS

It seems that way. Which is why we need to take some extra precautions.

JULIE

Do we count grenade launchers as 'precautions'?

CHRIS

Normally, I'd always exercise restraint when it comes to the use of force, but on this occasion I think we can justify nuclear weapons if we get a clean shot.

DANYAEL

Yeah, but what about Twist?

CHRIS

We're not going to hurt her.

DANYAEL

I mean what if she hurts us? Let's face it, that's a pretty likely possibility.

CHRIS

My only plan so far is to find Twist, subdue her and keep her somewhere secure until we can reverse whatever's happening to her.

JULIE

And if we can't?

Chris meets her stare.

CHRIS

That's not an option.

Danyael's phone RINGS again, breaking the tense moment.

DANYAEL

(into phone)

Twist?

(deflated)

Oh, hey, Renee. No, no, sorry, it is good to hear from you, things are just kind of...

(listens)

Say that again?

Danyael turns to Chris and Julie, and we cut to:

Chris' van SCREECHES to a halt in the suburb where Eleanor lives. A few houses away, a police blockade has been set up outside her house. Officers and yellow tape keep the concerned residents back, as two paramedics wheel the unfortunate Eleanor Owen out in a body bag.

A short woman with long, blonde hair waits by the van as Chris and the others hop out. She and Danyael embrace, but it's all business - this is RENEE.

DANYAEL

Chris, Julie, this is Renee Ames. She's a friend.

Julie shakes her hand as Chris keeps his attention on the scene outside the house.

CHRIS

What happened?

RENEE

Somebody killed old Eleanor Owen.

CHRIS

Not wanting to sound heartless, but how is this any of our business at the moment?

DANYAEL

(cold)

You're right, man. That is pretty heartless. You can at least wait to hear Renee out, then you'll see why I asked to come here.

RENEE

Eleanor wasn't just an old retired lady - she was a former mystical being.

JULIE

A what?

RENEE

She was one of three people like her who had a lot of magical power back in their day - grey witches and wizards, the ones who are all about-

CHRIS

(interrupts)

Powers relating to the skies, yes, I'm familiar with all that.

RENEE

(to Danyael)

Is he going to let me finish?

Danyael throws Chris a look, and Chris takes a breath, motioning for Renee to continue.

RENEE (cont'd)

She made a pact almost forty years ago to be one of the three magic users guarding the, uh, 'keys' to a major untapped well of magical energy.

CHRIS

Are you referring to the *cadeado*?

RENEE

Yeah, that's the one!

JULIE

I've heard about that too.

DANYAEL

So one of these people dying is a bad thing, right?

RENEE

Dying, yes. But being murdered the way she was?

(shudders)

That's lots of bad things.

DANYAEL

You'd better tell him the rest.

RENEE

Two women were seen leaving the scene, and...

She trails off - the others can guess what she's going to say.

JULIE

Similar height and build, one with long, curly blonde hair and one with straight black hair?

RENEE

(nods)

Those are the two you're all looking for, right? Danyael's gotten word out to every rebel base in about eight states so far.

CHRIS

This can't be a random killing - Vivian must be carrying out some kind of plan.

JULIE

You think?

CHRIS

(eyes her)

Question is, if Vivian is meaning to wipe out all of these witches and wizards, where do we find the rest of them?

RENEE

That I can help with.

Danyael and Renee head back to the van, and Julie holds Chris back to speak to him.

JULIE

Do you think Twist... I mean, could she-

CHRIS

I honestly don't know. But if she has taken a step over to the other side, I just pray there's something left to save when we find her.

(looks to sky)

There's not long to go before the sun comes up. Chances are they'll go to ground during the day, so with a little luck we might catch up to them before they get to the next target.

Chris heads for the van, and from Julie's troubled expression we cut to:

Vivian drives again as she weaves the car lazily through the traffic. The sky overhead is starting to lighten - the sun will be up pretty soon.

Twist sits quietly in the passenger seat, staring out through the window. After a few moments, Vivian nudges her.

VIVIAN

What's wrong?

TWIST

Huh?

VIVIAN

You haven't said a word since we raided that old girl's liquor cabinet and made our classy getaway.

TWIST

I'm fine.

VIVIAN

No, you're not.

Twist turns to her, and Vivian pats her on the knee.

VIVIAN (cont'd)
 You're still having pangs of
 conscience, aren't you?

TWIST
 I don't know why, it just feels
 like-

VIVIAN
 I can tell you exactly why. You
 spent too long with Chris.

TWIST
 Huh?

VIVIAN
 You think he's this hero, right?
 Okay, so when it comes to helping
 the innocent he does need a good
 kick up the ass to get moving, but
 at is core he's a guy who does
 what's right. Is that what you
 think?

Twist rubs her eyes, clearly exhausted.

TWIST
 I... part of me thinks that, but
 part of me isn't so sure. Things
 got... well, things were starting
 to get a bit more hazy.

VIVIAN
 Let me tell you a few things about
 good old Chris. Did you know he's
 the reason I became a vampire?

TWIST
 (surprised)
 He is?

VIVIAN
 (nods)
 I was abducted by a serial killer.
 This guy thought if he gutted me,
 he'd be able to read message from
 beyond in my red and fleshy parts.
 Lucky for me Chris was on his
 trail, and he swooped in to the
 rescue just as Psycho Boy was about
 to turn me into a Damien Hirst
 exhibition.

TWIST
 But I'm guessing things didn't go
 to plan.

VIVIAN

You could say that. Chris was too busy trading smartass remarks with the guy when he should have been kicking his ass out the window, and so...

Vivian lifts up the bottom of her black top - and reveals a large SCAR running across her belly. Twist grimaces.

VIVIAN (cont'd)

This is what I got. This was my 'rescue.'

TWIST

Oh, God...

VIVIAN

Next thing I know, Chris is finally taking the guy apart and I get a mouthful of his blood - and, of course, the serial killer also happened to be a vampire.

Vivian pulls the car over to the kerb as she continues talking.

VIVIAN (cont'd)

Next thing I know, I'm waking up tied to a chair with a hangover from Hell and a sudden craving for human blood.

TWIST

What did you do?

VIVIAN

I found Chris and kicked his ass.

TWIST

(grins)

That'd what I'd have done!

VIVIAN

And then I became his partner.

TWIST

What?!?

VIVIAN

True story. But it gets better.

She steps out of the car, leaving the door open as she talks to Twist:

16 CONTINUED: (3)

16

VIVIAN (cont'd)
Come on inside and I'll tell you
the rest.

She shuts the door and walks off, and Twist follows:

17 INT. DINER - NEXT

17

A nearly deserted coffee house, with a few late shift workers grumpily sipping black coffee and a waitress who's too old to be able to flirt with her customers any more.

VIVIAN
I didn't have anywhere else to go.
Chris told me about the cure he was
looking for, promised me I'd be one
of the first to get to use it when
he found it, if I agreed to help
him. So I did.

(beat)
Sounding familiar yet?

They perch on two stools at the counter as the waitress slouches over.

WAITRESS
What'll it be?

VIVIAN
Two coffees. Black. Lots of sugar.

The waitress heads off as Vivian turns back to Twist.

TWIST
But... wait, I don't understand. I
mean, Chris never spoke about you.
Like, ever. First any of us heard
was when you ran into him in New
York a few months back, and even
then he didn't tell me for another
few weeks. After that thing at the
strip club.

VIVIAN
Don't you see why that is?

Twist shakes her head, looking confused as all heck. Vivian puts on a sympathetic face and rubs her arm.

VIVIAN (cont'd)
He was using you.

TWIST
He was?

(CONTINUED)

VIVIAN

When things went south between us, he dropped me like a bad smell and never bothered to find me again. He didn't want to apologise or try to make up for what he'd done to me, all he cared about was finding that cure.

TWIST

Yeah, but...

VIVIAN

Face it, Twist. Do you honestly think he's going to try and save you when he finds you?

TWIST

I'm pretty sure he'll try.

VIVIAN

Do you want to be saved?

TWIST

Do I want to go back to a life of being somebody's sidekick?

(scoffs)

Hell, no!

VIVIAN

Then you know what he'll do.

TWIST

(beat; nods)

He'll try to kill me.

VIVIAN

And when you're gone, he'll carry on with the rest of his team. When one of them turns on him, he'll put them down like a rabid pet and keep on going. There's only one person Chris cares about - himself. I'm just glad you've finally got me around to help you wise up about all this.

TWIST

(mind racing)

I never... I mean, I just never thought about it like that before!

Vivian grins, sipping her coffee and pouring around seven spoonfuls worth into her cup from a nearby dispenser.

VIVIAN

Of course you didn't! Sure, he'll let you get your own way now and then, and he'll help the odd person in need when it suits him, but deep down, the only thing he wants to do is find that cure.

Twist is silent, nodding thoughtfully.

VIVIAN (cont'd)

Haven't you noticed how much more hardline he's been since he started getting closer to finishing that machine of his? How the little people stop mattering to him? How the only missions you guys have been taking have been ones that directly benefit him?

TWIST

He...

Twist looks like the fog has finally lifted from her eyes as the Waitress finally brings over their coffees.

WAITRESS

Two black coffees. Sugar's on the counter. Anything else?

VIVIAN

Actually, yeah.

Vivian smiles at the Waitress - then LUNGES across the counter and sinks her FANGS into her neck!

The Waitress screams as blood SPURTS from her jugular, and as Vivian stays clamped down on her, pinning her wildly thrashing arms, the rest of the people in the diner finally catch on that something very wrong is happening, and with a chorus of SHOUTS of alarm they run for the exit.

Twist recoils as Vivian drops the waitress' quivering body down onto the counter with a THUD.

Twist stares, wide-eyed, at the fang marks in her neck, and the fresh, hot blood oozing out of them.

VIVIAN (cont'd)

What's the matter? Don't you want any breakfast?

TWIST

(stammers)

I-I... I didn't-

VIVIAN
Twist, Twist, Twist.

She leans in close, laying a hand on Twist's shoulder.

VIVIAN (cont'd)
You can't fight it forever. You've
made yourself go without for so
long now, I bet you can't even
remember how good it tastes when
it's fresh.

The Waitress COUGHS weakly, trying to move but finding her
strength fading.

VIVIAN (cont'd)
Go on. Make that fresh start.

Twist looks up to Vivian, then back at the Waitress, who
stares back with wide, pleading eyes.

WAITRESS
Help me... please...

Twist stares down at her as Vivian watches expectantly...

... until Twist finally LUNGES down, and with a grateful ROAR
of release buries her fangs into the Waitress' neck!

The Waitress manages to SCREAM, a shrill, high-pitched wail
that has Vivian wincing, putting her hands over her ears.

VIVIAN
Now that is a set of lungs! You go,
girl!

The Waitress tries to push Twist off, but as Twist pulls her
body in, blood running down her chin as she drinks hungrily
from her, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

18 INT. MESSY APARTMENT - DAWN 18

The morning sun filters through a battered set of blinds, highlighting a chaotic apartment - overturned furniture, smashed pictures, a broken TV.

There's a loud CRASH from the door, followed by another, and on the third the door flies open as Chris, Danyael, Renee and Julie burst into the apartment.

They survey the damage before them, before Chris darts towards the bedroom and Julie heads for the window leading onto the fire escape.

RENEE

Oh, God... we're too late!

DANYAEL

Any sign of him?

JULIE

Window's locked from the inside.
They didn't get out this way.

CHRIS (O.S.)

You'd all better come in here.

With worried look, the trio head into the:

19 INT. APARTMENT - BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS 19

The bedroom is in a similar state and lying on the bed, surrounded by most of his own internal organs, is what remains of Art Baxter, the next of the retired grey wizards.

Julie grimaces, putting a hand over her mouth at the smell, as Chris walks over to the body and examines it.

DANYAEL

Ah, damn! Did they have to do that to him?

RENEE

It's the only way to break the spell. It's a ritual thing.

CHRIS

And Vivian knows that.

JULIE

Chris, we can't let them do this again.

(CONTINUED)

DANYAEL

Well, that's kind of obvious...

JULIE

What if Twist did this?

Chris and Danyael snap round to look at her, but she meets their glares.

JULIE (cont'd)

You're both thinking it. I'm just the one saying it.

DANYAEL

No. No way. Twist could never... she just doesn't have it in her to-

CHRIS

I'm afraid there's a lot you don't know about her, Danyael.

DANYAEL

What, you're saying she's capable of splitting some old guy open and painting the walls with his blood?

CHRIS

Do you really want me to answer that?

Danyael staggers back, looking ready to throw up. Renee picks up on this and ushers him towards the door.

RENEE

Come on, Danyael. Let's go see if we can find any clues out there.

With a glance and a nod to Chris, she leads Danyael out into the main body of the apartment. Julie joins Chris at the side of the body.

JULIE

What happens if the last one of these people is killed?

CHRIS

Then whatever the *cadeado* was put in place to stop will be unopposed.

JULIE

Any ideas what that is?

CHRIS

I don't need to know what it is to know that it's something we can't let happen.

Chris closes his eyes and holds his palm out over the body, and after a beat a purple GLOW starts to form under his hands.

He frowns, moving his hand up and down the bed, but soon dispels the glow, shaking his head.

CHRIS (cont'd)
(to himself)
Clever, Vivian... very clever.

JULIE
Feel like sharing that comment?

CHRIS
She's used a masking enchantment on the whole room. It's the magical equivalent of wiping down a hand gun - it's basically scoured the room of anything we could use to track her. No skin cells, no blood residue, nothing.
(bitter laugh)
It's something I taught her.

JULIE
So that leaves us where?

CHRIS
Still one step behind.

Chris closes his eyes and takes a breath, and Julie moves to step closer to him - but Chris suddenly SLAMS his fist into the wall with a CRY of anger!

Julie jumps back in alarm, and seconds later Renee and Danyael pile into the bedroom.

DANYAEL
What is it? What happened?

Julie watches Chris as he rubs his bloody knuckles.

JULIE
Anger management.

With a last wary glance at Chris, she leaves the room with the two vampires, leaving Chris to his contemplation.

He steps back, sees an old chair in front of a writing desk and sits down, his eyes on the dead body on the bed.

CHRIS
(quietly)
I'm sorry.
(MORE)

19 CONTINUED: (3)

19

CHRIS (cont'd)
I shouldn't have let this happen. I
should have stopped her a long time
ago. Before-

CRASH! Something falls out in the lounge, and Chris leaps to
his feet, darting through the door and into:

20 INT. MESSY APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

20

Chris skids to a halt, startled by what he sees.

Renee, Julie and Danyael are all lying unconscious on the
ground, and standing over them is a tall, thin man with short
dark hair and a neatly trimmed goatee - and a bloody sword in
his hand.

He turns slowly to Chris, narrowing his eyes, as Chris
gathers his wits and draws his own katana.

MAN
(Spanish accent)
Who are you?

Chris doesn't bother to reply, and as he charges forward with
a battle cry, we cut to:

21 INT. ATTIC - MORNING

21

Twist is curled up inside a sleeping bag in one corner of a
large, dusty loft, the sloped roof keeping the sun pouring in
through the skylight a long way away from her.

Someone's footsteps tread across the attic towards her, and
she starts to stir - before JUMPING up as something lands
with a THUD next to her!

It's a young girl, no more than nine. She's unconscious but
still breathing, and Twist rubs her eyes as she stares at the
girl before her.

VIVIAN (O.S.)
Figured you needed something to
perk you up. We've got a long day
ahead of us.

TWIST
(off girl)
What... what is this supposed to
be?

VIVIAN
I'm not sure, but I guess it's
about the right time to call it
'brunch.'

TWIST
I'm not eating a kid!

(CONTINUED)

VIVIAN

Why not?

TWIST

Look, I know I'm a vampire, but even I have standards, alright?

VIVIAN

That's not what I heard.

TWIST

Excuse me?

Vivian kneels down in front of her.

VIVIAN

I heard you'd kill anything that took your fancy back when you were running with Boyce and his crew.

TWIST

And how in the name of holy friesacher would you-

VIVIAN

Because he told me.

Twist reels, and with a smirk, Vivian stands.

TWIST

He... what?

VIVIAN

Yeah, told me himself last time I saw him.

TWIST

(scarcely believing it)
Boyce is... he's still alive?

VIVIAN

And just as buff as he ever was. Mm-hmm! I can see why you stuck around with him for so long. That boy's got an ass you could make diamonds with.

Vivian turns and starts to walk away, and Twist scrambles to her feet, her mind racing.

TWIST

Hey! Hold up!

Vivian stops and slowly turns round, clearly relishing every moment of this.

VIVIAN

Yes?

TWIST

Where is he now?

VIVIAN

You want to meet him? Could be tricky...

TWIST

(firm)

Tell me where he is.

VIVIAN

On one condition.

TWIST

Name it.

VIVIAN

(points to girl)

You eat.

Twist looks down at the little girl, and suddenly seems less sure of herself. Vivian turns and walks away again.

VIVIAN (cont'd)

I'll leave you to decide which is more important to you. Meet me downstairs in five minutes.

Twist sinks back down to a sitting position, holding her head in her hands as she stares at the unconscious girl. She's torn between two impossible choices here, and from her look of desperation, we cut to:

The other man is a skilled fighter, and as his sword CLASHES with Chris' katana, it's obvious both men are about to have a real fight on their hands!

They push against each other, their swords crossed, neither one of them giving an inch.

MAN

I don't know who you are, *senor*, but you've made a big mistake.

CHRIS

Seeing my friends on the floor like that tells me you've made an even bigger one.

Chris KICKS the man back, and he staggers with a CRASH back into a cabinet.

He pushes off and charges at Chris, their swords SPARKING as they slice at one another.

Chris hops neatly over Danyael's body, ducking under a sword slice and SWEEPING his foot round - but the man is quick enough to jump over it.

Chris swoops in with another attack, but the man grabs his wrist and FLIPS him round, sending Chris careening head first into the apartment wall.

He recovers and ducks back just as the man's sword SLAMS into the wall, missing his scalp by less than an inch!

CHRIS (cont'd)

Maybe we should start with a few introductions?

MAN

I'm listening.

They're still fighting, making the occasional stab or chop with their swords, but the two opponents are circling each other now, sizing their respective foe up.

CHRIS

I'm Chris Berkeley. You are?

DIEGO

Diego Sicario.

CHRIS

(narrows eyes)

Sicario... as in Cieque Sicario?

DIEGO

Si. That monster is, sadly, my brother.

Chris hesitates, and Diego takes the chance to SNAP forward, ELBOWING Chris in the chest and BODYSLAMMING him to the floor.

Chris rolls to the side as Diego stabs his sword down towards him, leaping to his feet and fending off a round of fresh attacks from Diego, before balance is restored and the two men return to circling one another.

CHRIS

Cieque has a brother? So does that make you an assassin too?

DIEGO

No manera! I have honour. He only knows evil and lies.

It's Chris' turn to attack, but he and Diego are rapidly approaching a stalemate, both of them wise to the other's moves by now.

DIEGO (cont'd)

So my question to you is what are you doing in this dead man's apartment? Returning to admire your handiwork?

CHRIS

We didn't kill him!

DIEGO

And I suppose you'll tell me next that these two on the floor are not vampires?

CHRIS

(beat)

That part's right, I'll admit.

DIEGO

So you see my logic. I find this man dead, and his manner of death points to a pair of vampires being responsible. I go outside to look for clues and return to find people here - and two vampires are among them.

CHRIS

You've got it very wrong.

DIEGO

Have I?

Diego steps forward and he and Chris step to it again - their swords dance around each other, clashing together.

They find themselves in another clinch - each holding the other's wrist, struggling to sink their sword into their opponent's chest.

CHRIS

We're after the same people! The vampires who did this are-

Chris GASPS as Diego breaks the deadlock and buries his sword in his chest. He stumbles backwards and clatters to the floor, as a breathless Diego wipes his brow.

(CONTINUED)

DIEGO

If I had the time to listen to your story, I would have done so. But I'm afraid I have to make sure the final keeper of the *cadeado* is not in danger.

Diego walks up to Chris and places his boot on his chest, pulling his sword back slowly out of Chris. Chris collapses onto his back.

Diego neatly flicks the stray blood from his sword before slipping into a sheath at his belt. He bows to Chris, then turns and heads for a broken chair, scooping up a stake-sized piece of wood.

DIEGO (cont'd)

You fought well, *amigo*. *Vaya con dios*. Now I just need to find something to finish the-

Diego freezes as he senses Chris rising slowly to his feet behind him. He turns, raising a surprised eyebrow.

CHRIS

Clearly you don't take after your brother - he'd never have turned his back on me until he'd made sure I was dead.

Diego starts to open his mouth - and Chris BLASTS him square in the chest with a bolt of blue energy!

Diego is launched through the air, CRASHING straight through the wall and out into the corridor beyond.

Chris dashes to Julie's side, lifting her up. She groans, groggily clutching her head.

JULIE

What... what the hell...

CHRIS

We were attacked. Are you badly hurt?

JULIE

(shakes head)
No, I think I'm okay. He just knocked me out.

She glances over to Danyael and Renee - Danyael has a bloody sword wound in his chest but Renee seems otherwise unharmed. Danyael stirs with a GROAN as Renee also starts to come round.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (4)

22

CHRIS

Come on, we need to go. Something tells me that won't slow him down for long.

JULIE

Slow who down?

Chris doesn't answer, scooping Julie up in his arms, and we cut to:

23 EXT. STREET - MORNING

23

The car is parked in the shade of some old, derelict buildings nearby, and Vivian is busy blacking out the windows with paint to keep the two vamps inside safe from the sun.

24 INT. MERCEDES - NEXT

24

She gets into the car, checking that she can see out of a few thinner patches of the paint job as the side door opens, and Twist gets in.

Vivian raises an eyebrow as she waits for Twist to speak, but Twist keeps her eyes fixed ahead.

VIVIAN

Well?

TWIST

'Well' what?

VIVIAN

How was she?

TWIST

(beat)

Like warm honey.

Twist turns to Vivian - and SMILES, revealing a freshly bloodstained pair of fangs. Vivian grins broadly back at her.

TWIST (cont'd)

As if you'd ever doubt me.

VIVIAN

That's my girl!

Vivian starts the car, and as she floors the gas and screeches away, we cut to:

25 EXT. ATTIC - SAME TIME 25

Looking towards the small skylight window in the attic as the Mercedes tears away out of frame below - and the little girl's face appears in the window, peering down at the departing car.

26 INT. ATTIC - NEXT 26

The girl is standing on her tip toes on top of an old crate to be able to see out of the skylight.

Lying on the floor a few feet away from her is the body of a dead rat, a trail of its blood leaking out onto the floor.

27 INT. VAN - MORNING 27

Chris is driving at high speed through traffic, jinking around any cars in his way.

In the back, Julie is hard at work patching up Danyael and Renee - Renee isn't badly hurt but Danyael WINCES as Julie tightens the bandages round the wound in his chest.

Chris VEERS sharply to the left, prompting a chorus of honking car horns from outside, and Julie yells to him:

JULIE

For God's sake, Chris, drive in a straight line!

CHRIS

If everybody would get out of my way, then I could!

Julie turns back to Danyael, examining her handiwork before nodding, satisfied.

JULIE

You're done. Good to go.

DANYAEL

Who was that guy who attacked us?

JULIE

Chris said it was the brother of that blind assassin guy you all took on a while back.

DANYAEL

His brother? Aw, man, don't say that means there could be more of them...

Julie leaves Danyael as she heads up into the passenger seat. Chris is still weaving at speed through the traffic.

(CONTINUED)

JULIE

So what's our plan, beyond rushing blindly into another unexpected situation?

CHRIS

The plan is to protect the last one of those wizards, and then find a way to bring Twist back to normal.

JULIE

Right.

(beat)

Any ideas yet on how we actually go about doing that?

Chris gives her a look, and she shrugs.

JULIE (cont'd)

Because, you know... I do.

CHRIS

(sceptical)

Really.

JULIE

Yes, really!

CHRIS

And dare I ask what this brilliant plan of yours is?

JULIE

We set a trap.

CHRIS

(sceptical again)

A trap.

JULIE

And we use me bait.

Chris brings the van to a sudden stop, and as he turns to Julie with a dumbfounded expression, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

28

EXT. OLD FACTORY - DAY

28

A rusty old steelworks plant, in the heart of an industrial estate. A dirt road divides the site into two halves - one side is full of tall warehouses lined with empty shelving and racks, the other houses all the silent, complex-looking machinery.

A thick layer of rust covers everything that was once metal, as well as spatters of dirt from the surrounding environment. This isn't exactly a picturesque location.

Julie stands on the dirt road between the two sites, her bag over her shoulder, rubbing her arms for warmth as she looks around. She looks up at the sky - and a RUMBLE of thunder accompanies the storm clouds pushing their way across the sun.

Julie sighs as she sees what protection the sunlight would have given her fade away.

JULIE
(bitterly)
Great plan, Julie...

Somebody is watching her from high up in the factory itself, their viewpoint dodging between pillars and abandoned crates.

Julie paces up and down, keeping a sharp eye for any movement - and hears somebody drop almost silently to the ground behind her.

She pauses, then turns round very slowly - and her eyes go wide as she sees Twist before her.

TWIST
Hey, Jules. How ya doin'?

JULIE
Twist?

TWIST
One and the same.

Twist starts to circle Julie slowly, and Julie keeps a wary eye on the vampire.

JULIE
So you got my message?

TWIST
We did.

(CONTINUED)

JULIE

'We'?

TWIST

Me and Vivian.

JULIE

You do know she's a bad guy, don't you?

TWIST

Maybe. But she's also been the most honest with me out of anybody I've met for years. She told me everything. All about her and Chris, all the dirty little secrets he didn't want anyone else to know... and all about what really happened between you and Chris.

JULIE

I don't know what you-

TWIST

Don't, please. It's embarrassing. Jeez, Julie, you lot all managed to lie to me about a lot of things without thinking twice for over a year, so I think you're long overdue a bout of honesty.

JULIE

(beat)

Alright. What do you think happened? You know, seeing as you know all the answers already.

TWIST

You met Chris while you were still married. You were a med student and he was a doctor. Chicago, wasn't it?

JULIE

Right so far.

TWIST

Until one night, when you and Chris got a little too close to one another, and... oops! All that U.S.T. went out the window. Probably along with your clothes.

Julie looks like she's struggling to keep her emotions in check, but manages to reply:

(CONTINUED)

JULIE

'U.S.T.'?

TWIST

Unrequited Sexual Tension. There's a lot of that going around at the moment.

JULIE

You think I had... an affair? With Chris?

(chuckles)

Well, that's... I don't know what else Vivian's been feeding your head with, Twist, but I'd love to hear it.

TWIST

Alright, how about the fact that when your husband found out about the affair, he filed for divorce and got it pretty quickly, because you felt too guilty to even fight for him, and then when you tried to make a move on Chris at last, he dumped you too?

JULIE

(beat; cold)

That's not how it happened. He-

TWIST

(snaps)

Stop lying to me!! That's all anybody ever does!

JULIE

Twist, you're not thinking straight! Whatever's happened to you, it's just-

TWIST

It's the best thing that's happened to me since the day I became a vampire, Jules. I feel...

(sighs)

Free. For the first time since Chris dragged me back out of Hell, I feel like I haven't got to try and prove myself to somebody every day. That all those whiny innocents along the way who'd rather curl up into a little ball and cry for their mothers instead of standing up for themselves...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

TWIST (cont'd)

I don't have to worry about them any more. And what's more...

She CLICKS her fingers - and eight more VAMPIRES make their way out from the factory surroundings, encircling Julie.

She looks all around - but there's no way out. Twist steps forward as the sneering vampires stare hungrily at Julie.

TWIST (cont'd)

... I found lots of people who share my new point of view.

Twist walks right up to Julie, looking her up and down.

TWIST (cont'd)

Now. Let's talk about that deal you wanted to make.

JULIE

First tell me where Vivian is.

TWIST

She's close. Keeping an eye on things. She thought I should be the one to handle this face-to-face.

JULIE

Prove it.

TWIST

Make me.

Julie swallows her fear and looks Twist dead in the eye, as we cut to:

Chris and Danyaël, hidden from view, are looking down at the scene unfolding below. Both boys are obviously tense, Chris keeping his narrow eyes fixed on Twist's vampire lackeys.

DANYAEL

Where's the other one?

CHRIS

Hopefully nearby.

DANYAEL

And if she isn't? What if she's off taking out the last wizard while we're sitting here?

CHRIS

Then we'll have made a very big error of judgement.

DANYAEL

Chris, I-

CHRIS

I know Vivian, Danyael. We spent almost five years together. She'll want what we're offering. Trust me.

DANYAEL

I just hope you're right...

CHRIS

(quietly)
So do I...

They keep their focus on the scene below, which we rejoin:

EXT. OLD FACTORY - DAY

Julie reaches into her bag. One of the lackeys makes to grab it from her, but Twist holds him back with a wave of her hand.

Julie takes out a small, golden piece of metal, shaped like an antiquated pair of scissors. She hands it Twist, who looks blankly at it.

TWIST

That's it? This is the freebie you give us to try and convince us that you're on the level?

JULIE

You think I'd bring more than that? Guess Vivian really is rubbing off on you. I heard she was pretty stupid too.

Twist scowls, and Julie glares right back at her. Twist holds the stare - then starts to LAUGH.

TWIST

Good point. I guess I'm just having a hard time dealing with the concept that Chris would be willing to give up all of his parts of the healing device like that.

JULIE

For you.

TWIST

Oh, yeah, of course - for me.
(mock tears)
He's just so damn heroic!
(MORE)

TWIST (cont'd)

Like Captain America and Superman rolled into one little boy...

JULIE

That's our deal. If you and Vivian agree not to kill the last keeper of the *cadeado*, then you get all of Chris' parts of the machine.

TWIST

And you think we'll take this up because...

JULIE

Because that's what she wants. Vivian, I mean. Or didn't she make that clear to you yet?

TWIST

She-

JULIE

(interrupts)

That's all she wants, Twist. She wants to be the first to use the machine and make herself human. Get her life back. And then she wants to make sure Chris can't use it.

Twist is silent, watching Julie carefully.

JULIE (cont'd)

She'll trash the device and gloat about it the rest of her life.

TWIST

Yeah, but she'd use it on me, too.

JULIE

You sure about that?

TWIST

(hesitates)

I- she-

JULIE

Face it, Twist. Can't you see what's happening here? You're being used.

TWIST

(shakes head)

No. For the first time since I met Chris, I'm not-

30 CONTINUED: (2)

30

JULIE

As soon as she gets what she wants,
she'll leave you to your fate and
disappear.

Julie steps closer to Twist, pressing her advantage, reaching
out to lay a hand on her arm.

JULIE (cont'd)

So let us find a way to help you.
And I promise there'll be no more
lies.

Twist looks up at Julie, as her vampire lackeys start to
shift awkwardly, sensing things aren't going to plan.

31 INT. OLD FACTORY - TOP LEVEL - SAME TIME

31

Up above, Chris and Danyael start to creep out of hiding.

CHRIS

Let's move.

The duo start to steal quickly down towards the ground floor,
as we cut back to:

32 EXT. OLD FACTORY - NEXT

32

One of the vampire lackeys clears his throat to get Twist's
attention, and her head snaps round to him.

VAMPIRE #1

Uh, Vivian said we were coming
along to back you up, so... do you
need, uh... backing up?

TWIST

(snaps)
I'm fine. I've got this all under
control.

She turns back to Julie, looking down at the device piece in
her hand.

TWIST (cont'd)

(quietly)
He'd... he'd do this for me?

JULIE

You know he would.

TWIST

But there's so many things he never
told me, so many things I-

(CONTINUED)

JULIE

If you come with me, I promise you
we'll tell you everything.

Twist looks up at Julie, and starts to smile...

... and with a YELL, a figure drops down into the middle of
the circle of vampires - it's DIEGO!

Rammstein's 'Zerstören' kicks in as Diego draws his sword,
allowing himself a quick smirk at the startled vampires.

His sword flashes left and right in a blur of action - two
vampires lose their heads, and as three more swarm onto him,
he fights back furiously, pitching one off and THROWING him
into the other three vamps.

Twist whirls round to the stunned Julie, SHOVING her to the
ground.

TWIST

You lied to me again!!

JULIE

No! Twist, he isn't-

TWIST

Shut up!

Twist viciously KICKS Julie in the face and turns back to
Diego, who is quickly staking or decapitating the remainder
of her lackeys.

Twist's lip curls in a snarl - and she CHARGES towards Diego,
knocking him off his feet!

Chris and Danyael finally get to the ground floor, Chris
drawing his katana and Danyael quickly getting his own sword
ready as they rush towards the melee up ahead.

CHRIS

What the hell is he doing here?

DANYAEL

Don't ask me!

They join the fight - Danyael scoops up the stunned Julie,
pausing to fight off an attacking vampire, as Chris races
over to Diego and Twist but gets barged down by two more
vamps.

VAMPIRE #2

It's him!

VAMPIRE #3

Remember what the boss said we
could do to him if we found him?

The vamps GRIN and reach down, GRABBING Chris and hauling him to his feet.

Chris doesn't waste any time, pushing himself into the air and FLIPPING over their heads. Before either vamp can react, Chris' katana SLICES across them both.

The first vamp hits the deck in two halves as the second drops to his knees - his head sliding cleanly from his shoulders.

Over with Diego and Twist, a furious fight is in progress - Twist KICKS Diego's sword out of his hands and rains heavy punches down on him, but he's skilled enough to keep his defences up, holding her back.

Chris tries to find a way to join in, but as he sees Danyael go down, grappling with another vampire, Chris is forced to race over to help.

Twist dodges a kick from Diego and lands an UPPERCUT of her own, sending him staggering backwards.

TWIST

So who the hell are you supposed to be? Is there a Robert Rodriguez convention in town?

DIEGO

I am here to stop you. You and that demon you call a friend.

TWIST

(mocking)
Who, Vivian? Aw, but she's been so good to me!

Diego SNARLS as he jumps back up, and as he and Twist resume their fight, behind them Chris runs his katana through the chest of the vamp pinning down Danyael.

The vampire HOWLS, and Chris uses the distraction to reach forward and SNAP the vamp's neck.

As it drops limply to the floor, still moving, Chris deftly draws a STAKE from inside his coat and SLAMS it into the vamp's chest.

DANYAEL

(catches breath)
Thanks, man.

CHRIS
 (off Julie)
 Get her out of here!

Danyael hoists Julie up over one shoulder and hightails it back to the safety of the factory, as Chris stares down the last remaining vampire between him and the Twist/Diego tussle.

VAMPIRE #4
 Look, I can see you're a man on a mission here, so why don't I just-

FOOM! Chris flips his hand towards the vamp, who EXPLODES in a ball of flame!

Chris winces and drops to his knees - his hand is smoking and as he lifts his palm he sees it's badly burned, the skin already red raw.

CHRIS
 (mutters)
 Bloody fire spells...

He finally gets the chance to join in the fight as Twist rolls neatly away from Diego, scooping up his wayward sword.

TWIST
 Come on, gringo! I've fought six-year-olds that were more badass than you!

DIEGO
 (spits)
 I'm going to make sure you pay for your crimes, you murderer!

TWIST
 (smirks)
 Did I murder someone? I always forget that sort of thing.

DIEGO
 You know what you did.

TWIST
 Actually, the past twenty-four hours have been kind of a blur, so...

Diego SHOVES past Chris and charges forward - and Twist IMPALES him through the chest with his own sword, putting her weight against it and pinning him to the ground.

TWIST (cont'd)
 ... let me make my point and go.

She takes a few steps back, looking up to Chris as he looks from the stricken Diego to Twist.

TWIST (cont'd)
 What'cha gonna do, hero? Can't
 catch me and save his life... but
 can you really just let him die?

She grins wickedly - then turns and runs. Chris starts to follow, then hears:

DIEGO
 (croaks)
 Help me...

He turns - Diego's losing a lot of blood. If Chris doesn't help him, he'll be dead in moments.

Chris looks back to the rapidly escaping Twist - then back to Diego. A long beat as he tries to make his choice.

CHRIS
 Damn it!

He goes to Diego's side, putting one hand on the sword handle and using the other to keep Diego held down.

CHRIS (cont'd)
 Don't move!

DIEGO
 What... you...

CHRIS
 Advance warning... this is going to
hurt.

Chris grits his teeth - then WRENCHES the sword from Diego's stomach. Diego SCREAMS in pain, and Chris quickly presses his hand to the wound in his gut.

A soft white GLOW forms around Chris' hand, and Diego's struggles die down. His eyelids flutter as he mercifully passes out.

Chris takes his hand away - and the wound has stopped bleeding. It's not pretty, but it's no longer fatal.

Diego's still lost plenty of blood, however, and Chris' expression is grave as Danyaël hurries back into frame.

DANYAEL
 (frantic)
 Where is she? Where did she go?

32 CONTINUED: (5)

32

Chris just looks back in the direction Twist escaped, and as Danyael catches up, he shakes with barely suppressed rage for a beat before THROWING his sword through the air and yelling at the top of his lungs:

DANYAEL (cont'd)

Twist!!

He drops to his knees, and as Chris looks back at the unconscious Diego, we cut to:

33 INT. RETIREMENT HOME - BEDROOM - DAY

33

A quaint, peach-themed room inside an upmarket retirement home, all old-fashioned furnishings and ornaments - until the blood smeared across the walls comes into view.

There are people BANGING their fists against the door, along with raised voices shouting for attention, but the heavy cabinet pushed in front of the door is keeping them safely outside.

Vivian steps into frame, splashed with blood from head to foot, a bloody fire axe in her hands.

She looks to her feet - and the legs of a very dead old woman can be seen, a pool of dark blood running slowly away from her.

Vivian is out of breath, exhausted from a hard day's slaughter as she tucks the axe under one arm and fishes in her jacket pocket for her packet of smokes.

There's only one left, and with a grin she takes it out, lights it and takes a deep, grateful drag from it. She blows out the smoke and looks to the ceiling.

VIVIAN

Alright, mystery guy, whoever you are... that's it. I missed a hell of a party tonight to do this for you, so as far as I'm concerned, we're done. We're even.

She drops the axe down on the floor and turns to walk away, and as she strides boldly towards us, not caring about the mess she's left behind, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW