

**SOMEWHERE INBETWEEN**

"Til Death Us Do Part"

by

Will A. & Lee A. Chrimes

(c) 2005 Monster Zero Productions

TEASER

FADE IN:

1

EXT. HILLTOP - MORNING

1

As God Lives Underwater's 'Happy' plays over the scene, fade up on a grassy knoll overlooking a city just waking up for the day far below.

It's overcast and misty, good vampire weather - and there's TWIST, wrapped up in a thick, long jacket as she sits on the hillside, staring out across the horizon.

She's been crying, her eyes red and her cheeks still wet, but she doesn't seem to have noticed.

DANYAEL steps into frame to join her, settling in to sit beside her. Twist doesn't look at him, but he doesn't seem to mind.

DANYAEL

Not a bad day, huh?

A long beat. Danyael glances at her.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

We've been talking about what to do next, and Chris reckons he's got a plan if you're interested.

No response. Danyael realises he's just going to have to carry on without waiting for her to answer.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

Now that Diego's skin's stopped peeling off - which was a pretty gross thing to have to wake up to every morning, by the way - Chris says we need to go back to Parker's lab for some answers. He's sure the doc knows more about what happened to you than he's letting on, and-

TWIST

Why are you here?

She turns to him, and Danyael is stuck for a long moment before he answers.

DANYAEL

Uh, I just wanted to tell you what was going on.

TWIST

No, you weren't. You wanted to see if I was okay.

(CONTINUED)

DANYAEL

Is that a bad thing?

TWIST

(looks away)

Right now, yeah.

(long beat)

You should've let me use that stake, Dan.

DANYAEL

(shakes head)

Couldn't let you do that.

TWIST

(sighs)

Look, it's sweet that you're still trying to see the good in me, or whatever, but-

DANYAEL

(interrupts)

If this goes into self-pity, I swear to God I'm gonna roll you down this hill.

She looks at him, and Danyael manages a small smile.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

I don't know about you, but I've started to learn that hanging onto the past is a sure way to stop yourself moving forward.

TWIST

That's easy for you to say, you've never killed anyone. Not even for food.

DANYAEL

True, but that doesn't mean I don't understand what you're going through.

TWIST

Do you?

DANYAEL

I'd like to think so.

There's a beat as she looks away from him again.

TWIST

There's a lot you don't know about me, Danyael.

DANYAEL

As I'm finding out.

TWIST

I just... I don't know what I'm supposed to do now.

DANYAEL

(shrugs)

Me neither. I've been walking round this world for years now, trying to find a reason for it all, and do you know what I found?

TWIST

What?

DANYAEL

Walking sucks.

That finally gets a smile out of her, but the light moment soon passes.

TWIST

It's never going to be the same again, you know. None of it is.

DANYAEL

I know.

TWIST

And... Danyael, about that kiss, we can't...

DANYAEL

(nods)

I know. I get it. And I don't think my fragile male pride could handle having it explained to me all over again, if that's okay.

TWIST

(lowers head)

I'm sorry.

DANYAEL

Don't be. Can't help who you fall in love with.

Her heart breaks to hear him speak, and she can't take her eyes off him as he looks down towards the city below.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

We should get back to the van, Chris wants to move out soon, and...

1 CONTINUED: (3)

1

He trails off as he looks to Twist, meeting her stare. For a long moment, neither one of them speaks...

... until Danyael starts to lean in to her, and she doesn't move away. Her lips part as he gets closer...

... and then with a sudden SCREAM of pain, Twist throws herself backwards, clutching her head!

DANYAEL (cont'd)  
(alarmed)  
Twist? What is it? Twist!

She writhes on the ground, still shouting in pain and pressing her hands to her head as he tries to restrain her.

DANYAEL (cont'd)  
Twist, come on! What's wrong?  
Twist!

Twist's eyes fly open, her expression one of total fear, as we WHITE OUT into:

2 TWIST'S VISION - MONTAGE

2

A) Looking through Twist's eyes, we're inside an underground cavern, looking towards the light as the walls CAVE IN around us, showering the scene with dirt.

B) A grey-skinned HAND places a ring carefully on top of a freshly dug grave, inside a moonlit graveyard.

C) A huge PORTAL opens up in a blaze of light, surrounded by thick forest on all sides.

D) Twist is looking at a young girl, who faces away from us, as the girl thrusts her hand towards two uniformed security guards - and the guards are HURLED backwards through the air.

E) Looking down on an unmarked grave - as two HANDS burst from beneath the surface with a spray of soil!

F) And a VAMPIRE, fangs bared, LUNGES for Julie's neck!

3 INT. BLACK VAN - NEXT

3

Twist JOLTS upwards with a final shout, blinking in confusion as she gathers her wits - she's in the back of the van now, with Danyael joined by an equally concerned CHRIS and JULIE.

CHRIS  
It's alright, you're safe. You're with us, Twist. Everything's alright.

(CONTINUED)

Gasping for breath, she leans forward and buries her face in her hands.

DANYAEL

What happened?

TWIST

I... I don't know, I think I just wiggled out or something... probably a side effect from, you know, what happened, and... how did I get in here?

JULIE

Danyael carried you.

CHRIS

He came running back up the hill with you in his arms, screaming blue murder - I'm surprised no-one called the police on us with the racket you two were making!

Twist sits back up, shuffling back to lean against the inside of the van.

DANYAEL

Are you okay now?

TWIST

(nods)

It'll pass. I'm just... well, I don't know what I am. Except possibly a few Pokemon short of a full set.

DANYAEL

(to Chris)

I'll stay with her. Let's go pick up Diego and go to Parker's lab.

With a last look towards Twist, Chris waits as Danyael climbs into the van before he slides the side door shut.

Twist watches as first Chris and then Julie get into the front of the van, and a shaken Twist can't take her eyes off Julie as Chris starts the van, and we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF TEASER**

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 INT. BLACK VAN - MORNING

4

TITLE OVER - Pittsburgh.

Chris and Julie are chatting as they weave through the city streets, their mood casual.

JULIE

I think I'm just going to have to accept that on that occasion, you were way more rock and roll than I was ever going to be.

CHRIS

I wouldn't class getting plastered on white wine at eleven on a Sunday morning in the Cuban bar in Camden Market as 'rock and roll,' Julie - I think the actual definition is 'brainless.'

JULIE

(smiles)

Yeah, but you did such a good job persuading those cops not to book us when they showed up!

CHRIS

Unfortunately, that comes from years of practice.

She chuckles, then cautiously glances over her shoulder into the back of the van.

Twist is fast asleep, curled up inside her sleeping bag with Danyael sitting protectively next to her. Sitting at the rear of the van is DIEGO, his Hispanic features still showing a few signs of battle damage from his high voltage exploits of a few days ago.

Julie leans across to whisper to Chris, taking advantage of the noise of the traffic outside to mask her conversation.

JULIE

Just so I know, what's the general plan when we get to Parker's?

CHRIS

I'm trying to focus on this one step at a time.

JULIE

Which means?

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

Which means I have no idea.

JULIE

Not even a witty opening remark?

Chris frowns at her, and she sighs as she settles back in her seat.

CHRIS

What was that sigh for?

JULIE

Nothing.

CHRIS

Julie, don't-

JULIE

(sharp)

No. I'm not going to spoil the relatively good morning we're having by getting into another argument with you.

CHRIS

(beat)

We're not arguing.

JULIE

We would be, if I let myself get pissy with you for once again leading us into the lion's den without any kind of plan.

CHRIS

We'll have a plan by the time we get there.

JULIE

Oh, right, your typical 'blaze in, fists flying' kind of plan?

Chris is silent for a beat, the casual mood destroyed all too quickly.

CHRIS

Just trust me.

Julie doesn't answer, and Chris turns to look at her.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Julie?

JULIE

What?

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

CHRIS  
 (beat)  
 Never mind.

He looks away, and the tense atmosphere between the two leads into:

5 INT. PARKER'S LAB - GARAGE - DAY

5

Chris' van bounces down the access ramp and speeds across the underground parking lot of the lab, passing rows of smart, clean executive cars on its way to a doorway set into a pillar in the middle of the floor.

Chris parks the van up and hops out, sliding back the door to reveal Twist, Danyael and Diego all ready to go.

CHRIS  
 Everybody ready?

DANYAEL  
 We don't know what for, but yeah.

DIEGO  
 Just point me at the bad guys.

CHRIS  
 Twist?

TWIST  
 Hmm?

She looks up, her thoughts obviously in a galaxy far away.

CHRIS  
 I asked if you were ready?

TWIST  
 Do I have to come with you?

CHRIS  
 You're the reason we're here, so yes, I'm afraid you do.

DIEGO  
 Do not be afraid. Nobody will hurt you again while we are here to protect you.

TWIST  
 (darkly)  
 It's not me who needs protecting.  
 It's everybody else.

DANYAEL  
 Hey, don't talk like that.

(CONTINUED)

Twist shoves past the two boys and gets out of the van. Diego and Danyael swap a glance before hopping out, and Diego slides the door shut behind him as Julie joins them.

CHRIS

We're just going to go inside and ask Dr. Parker some pertinent questions, that's all. No violence unless they force it on us.

DIEGO

Are we expecting that to happen?

Chris draws his katana in reply.

CHRIS

I believe in being prepared.

Chris leads the team over to the doorway, and as he braces himself to KICK it open, we cut to:

6 INT. LAB - PARKER'S OFFICE - NEXT

6

PARKER sits behind his desk, going over some reports, when his intercom BUZZES to introduce ANNIE, his PA.

PARKER

(into intercom)  
Yes?

ANNIE

(filtered)  
Er, sir, I think there's something you should- hey! You can't come through here! Stop!

PARKER

Annie? What's going on? Is everything-

WHAM! Diego KICKS Parker's door open, then steps aside to let Chris inside.

CHRIS

I'm sorry, we don't have an appointment.

Parker's face is a mask of cool as he leans back in his chair, watching the whole team file in. A frantic Annie is right behind them.

ANNIE

(to Parker)  
I'm sorry, sir, I tried to stop them but they all just-

(CONTINUED)

PARKER

It's alright, Annie. I'll take care of this.

ANNIE

Should I call security, or-

CHRIS

That would lead to a particularly black mark on your CV, miss.

Annie steps back, frightened by Chris' tone, and hustles back out of the office.

PARKER

I'd ask what I can do for you all, but your entrance suggests that me sitting and listening to whatever's on your mind first might be a better option.

CHRIS

We're here to talk about what you did to Twist.

PARKER

What are you talking about? I didn't 'do' anything to Twist!

Parker notices Twist at last, as she's half-hiding behind Danyael, her head down.

PARKER (cont'd)

I take it she's recovered from whatever was ailing her, so maybe I can help to-

SHINK! Chris' katana SLICES down through the air - and straight through the middle of Parker's desk!

Parker reels back as the two bisected halves of the desk collapse in on themselves, and Chris glares down at him.

CHRIS

I think if I don't hearing something resembling honestly coming from you in the next thirty seconds, you're going to find out how your desk feels.

PARKER

Violence won't solve anything here, Chris! I've told you I had nothing to do with whatever afflicted young Twist, and I stand by that!

(MORE)

PARKER (cont'd)  
 Barging into my office and  
 threatening me isn't exactly making  
 me want to give a damn about  
 helping you! Maybe if you-

Parker stops with a GULP as a steely-eyed Chris presses the point of his katana against Parker's throat.

Julie steps to Chris' side, concern in her eyes as she tries to pull Chris' arm back.

JULIE  
 Chris...

CHRIS  
 (ignoring her)  
 All I need to do is lean forward...

JULIE  
 (snaps)  
 Chris, stop it!

CHRIS  
 Not until I get some answers.

Julie angrily SHOVES him back, and Chris blinks, his composure momentarily shaken before he turns his gaze onto her.

CHRIS (cont'd)  
 Julie, get out of the way.

JULIE  
 Or what? You'll kill him? What the hell good will that do?

Diego raises an eyebrow to Danyaël, who is watching the heated exchange and not knowing what to do.

DIEGO  
 Should we...

DANYAEL  
 Uh...

Chris points his katana threateningly at Parker again.

CHRIS  
 He knows something, and I'm bloody well going to find out what it is!

PARKER  
 Then you'll be wasting your time!

CHRIS  
 Why don't you let me be the judge of that.

Chris starts towards him again, but Julie gets in front of him and stops him.

JULIE  
(taking no prisoners)  
All right, that's it! Back off!

Chris keeps his stony gaze on Parker for a beat - but then steps back. Julie spins to face the doctor.

PARKER  
Well, thank you for-

JULIE  
(stabs a finger at him)  
You shut up.

She turns back to Chris, keeping her fierce stare on him until he's backed right off, and then she finally turns back to Parker.

JULIE (cont'd)  
Here's how this is going to work. You say you had nothing to do with what happened to Twist, and as you can see we're all having a little trouble believing that. But, if you help us find out exactly what the hell turned her into a cold-blooded killer, then maybe we can start to trust you again, and I won't have to worry about stopping Chris from turning you into a shish kebab. Is that clear?

Parker can't resist a smirk at the plucky Julie's speech.

PARKER  
(nods)  
Aye. We're clear.

Parker reaches down to his broken desk and retrieves his intercom.

PARKER (cont'd)  
(into intercom)  
Annie?

After a beat, Annie pops her head through the still-open doorway.

ANNIE  
Yes, sir?

PARKER

Call Wilkes and tell him to get the lab warmed up, I'm bringing some guests down to run a few tests.

ANNIE

Right away.

She disappears again, and Parker stands, stepping round the remains of his desk.

PARKER

(to Chris)

Will my full co-operation go any way towards convincing you of my innocence?

CHRIS

(darkly)

We'll see.

PARKER

I'll have to take that as a definite 'maybe,' then. If you'd all like to follow me?

Parker weaves through the team and leaves the office, and the others start to follow. Julie holds Chris back, a mean look in her eyes.

JULIE

Chris, wait. We need to talk.

CHRIS

You're the one who just got things moving, don't you want to-

JULIE

What I want is for you to promise that's the last crazy stunt you're going to pull.

CHRIS

'Stunt'?

JULIE

Look, I'm prepared to admit that your moral compass doesn't point to the same North as the rest of us, and I know there isn't much I can do about that. But while I'm still around, I expect to see you behaving more like a human being than the monster inside of you. Is that too much to ask?

CHRIS

(incredulous)

I'm trying to find out some answers for why Twist felt the need to try to kill herself, and you're marking me down for my bedside manner?

JULIE

Let me make it real simple for you. Either you get your head out of whatever dark cloud it's been stuck in the past few months, or I walk.

She marches away from him, and a confused Chris calls out:

CHRIS

(hesitant)

You'll... you'd leave?

JULIE

I'd leave. I can't be around you if this is what I'm going to have to put up with every day, Chris. You just think about that. If you want me to stay... act like it.

With that, she turns and leaves the office, and we cut from Chris' moody expression to:

Parker leads the team down one part of the Lab, following one of the several coloured lines painted onto the floor.

PARKER

I thought it best to start at the scene of the crime, see if there's any way we can link up the bornium exposure she suffered to her later, more... aggressive symptoms.

Twist has stopped at one junction, looking down the corridor beyond, and Danyael steps back over to her.

DANYAEL

What is it?

TWIST

I just need to go check on something. I'll catch up, alright?

DANYAEL

Check on what?

She's already on her way, and a confused Danyael watches as we cut to:

8 INT. LAB - ROOM - NEXT

8

Twist opens the door to what used to be Lizzie's room - the young psychic who was helping Twist interpret her visions - but all signs of life have been removed.

The room is stripped back to its bare furniture - bed, wardrobe, desk - and it's clear that Lizzie doesn't live here any more.

Confused, Twist checks the room number on the door to make sure she has the right one, then with a frown she steps back outside and closes the door.

9 INT. LAB - CHEMICALS LAB - NEXT

9

Parker and the team are standing with WILKES, the head of the department, as they look over the blackened, sealed chamber that was the scene of the accident that Twist helped avert.

PARKER

Where would you like to start?

CHRIS

I want to know exactly what chemical compounds make up this 'bornium' element, and then I want to run a sample of Twist's blood through every single machine you have here to start identifying anything that shouldn't be there.

WILKES

Are you sure there's going to be a link between the two?

CHRIS

Until proven otherwise, yes.

PARKER

Wilkes, you'd better get right onto that.

The doctor leaves, and Parker turns back to the team. Chris is looking towards Twist, who has her hands pressed against the sealed chamber, reliving the accident.

PARKER (cont'd)

I have something else that will be of interest to you, however.

CHRIS

Do you now?

PARKER

Consider it a peace offering.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

Let me hear what it is before we start giving it any significance.

PARKER

I've managed to locate another part of the healing device.

That gets Chris' attention.

PARKER (cont'd)

I understand your recent trip to Shadow Haven sadly let a component fall into enemy hands...

CHRIS

Bad news travels as fast as ever, I see!

PARKER

... maybe this can make up for it.

CHRIS

(beat)

Alright, I'm listening.

PARKER

There's a network of tunnels buried beneath a graveyard about thirty miles east of here. As far as I've been able to gather, they were used to keep important magical artefacts out of the hands of evil, dating right back to the Middle Ages.

CHRIS

And there's a component buried down there too?

PARKER

So it would seem, aye. I was going to send a team out to recover it, but seeing as we're on somewhat frosty ground at the moment I thought it'd make for a good show of faith on my part if I let you lead your team out to get it.

CHRIS

Who gets it afterwards?

PARKER

You do. I'd still like us to pool our resources one day when we have all the parts, but-

DANYAEL

Sounds good to me.

They look round as Danyael steps over. He glances towards Twist, frowning as Diego moves in to talk to her.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

All I want to know is how can we trust that this isn't a trap?

PARKER

Honestly? That's up to you. Trust is a two-way street, after all. All I'll say is that if you find the device piece, it's yours. You have my word on that.

Chris rubs his chin as he considers this, and Twist heads over to join them.

TWIST

This looks serious... what's up?

DANYAEL

New job. We're going caving to find more bits of the healing machine.

TWIST

Shiny.

PARKER

I assume you'll want Twist to stay here while we run those tests on her?

Chris looks to Twist, who nods.

TWIST

I'll stay. I'm not ready to go back into action yet.

CHRIS

You're sure?

TWIST

Positive.

CHRIS

Alright then, it's settled.

(to Parker)

Point us to where we need to go, and we'll see what we turn up. I just hope for your sake this isn't a trick.

PARKER

Nothing could be further from my  
mind.

Chris waves Julie and Diego over, and with a last glance from Danyael to Twist, Parker leads them all away.

Twist solemnly watches the team go - she knows they're still not sure if they can trust her in the field again yet... and she's not even sure she trusts herself.

With a heavy sigh, she turns and looks back into the soot-blackened sealed chamber, and we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT ONE**

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

10

EXT. GRAVEYARD - ENTRANCE - NIGHT

10

A huge spiked gate, easily eight feet tall, towers over the diminutive figures of Chris, Danyael, Diego and Julie. Julie is RATTLING the gates, her bag over her shoulder.

Sighing, Julie steps away from the gate, shaking her head and looking up to the very top.

DANYAEL

No go again?

JULIE

No go. Same as the front. This place is like a fortress. It's like they upgraded because they knew we were coming! On the blueprints, it was nothing like this.

CHRIS

Did you perhaps get the wrong blueprints?

JULIE

No, just old blueprints.  
(shakes her head)  
I still can't believe how tight the security is for a cemetery.

CHRIS

It would suggest we have the right place, however. I can't think of many cemeteries that employ anything more severe than a nightwatchman unless they have something worth hiding.

DANYAEL

Well done us.

Diego narrows his eyes, looking at something off in the distance. Chris notices this and steps over.

CHRIS

What is it?

DIEGO

(still staring)  
There are guards.

CHRIS

(squints)  
Where?

(CONTINUED)

DIEGO

(points)

There. Three of them. Can't you see them?

CHRIS

Actually... no.

JULIE

Figures. This seems like a pretty upmarket place, so it makes sense they'd have guards as well as added security.

DIEGO

I mean, there are guards. So, we can get in.

Julie looks confused, taking a few steps towards him, looking up to the same spot where he's looking at as if she'll find the answer.

JULIE

You're saying because the place is guarded, we can get in?

DANYAEL

(scratches head)

Even I've got to say that sounds a little out there, doesn't it?

DIEGO

No, we lure the guards over here, get them to come close to the gate, and then use our natural charm to win them over, and let us stroll in at ease.

Diego looks round with a smirk, but sees that the others haven't followed his 'joke.'

DIEGO (cont'd)

(shakes head)

We beat them up.

DANYAEL

See, I should've thought of that.

JULIE

You want me to get the weapons from the van?

DIEGO

That won't be necessary.

(beat)

And I'm sorry.

(CONTINUED)

Julie frowns, not understanding - and DIEGO's hand snaps out and PINCHES Julie's neck!

She stiffens, then slumps to the ground, out cold. Chris is quick to catch her, glaring up at Diego.

CHRIS

What the hell did you just-

DIEGO

Nerve pinch. Non-threatening.

DANYAEL

(impressed)

Woah.

DIEGO

She'll wake up in a couple of minutes, and she will be fine. Don't worry.

CHRIS

(darkly)

Don't try anything like that again.

DIEGO

You two need to hide now.

CHRIS

I'm sorry?

Diego cups his hands round his mouth and YELLS over into the cemetery.

DIEGO

Help! Hey! I need some help!

Chris is still confused, but Danyael pulls him back out of sight as two uniformed SECURITY GUARDS approach the gate, their flashlight beams falling on Diego and Julie.

Diego is kneeling over her, supporting her head, and he looks up with relief as the guards arrive.

GUARD #1

What's the trouble?

DIEGO

(American accent)

It's my girlfriend, she just blacked out!

GUARD #2

Blacked out?

DIEGO

Yeah, we were just taking a midnight stroll, you know, and then pow! She drops. I need an ambulance or something!

The Guards swap a look, then one slides a keycard down an electronic lock on his side of the gate, and the tall gates slowly swing open.

DIEGO (cont'd)

Thanks, guys. My phone's dead and I'm kinda stuck without it!

GUARD #1

Anybody else know you're here?

DIEGO

Uh, no. Why?

The Guards glance at each other again - but this time they GRIN wickedly, and when they look back to Diego, he reacts as he sees the RED EYES and FANGS of a pair of VAMPIRES!

GUARD #2

'cause we prefer our meals to come with no strings attached.

The Guards start towards Diego and Julie - but Chris and Danyael CHARGE onto the scene, Chris' katana SLICING through the air and lopping off the first vampire's head.

Danyael TACKLES the second one to the ground, struggling with him for a few moments, stake in hand, before he manages to drive the stake into the vamp's chest.

Breathless, he pushes himself up off the expiring vamp, looking to the others.

DANYAEL

Okay, I'll admit it. That was a pretty sweet plan.

CHRIS

Doesn't explain why there'd be vampires pretending to guard a cemetery, however.

Julie GROANS as she starts to come round. Chris steps forward to help her up, but Diego beats him to it, gracefully lifting Julie to her feet.

DIEGO

I'm sorry I had to surprise you like that, *senora*.

JULIE  
(rubs neck)  
What happened?

DANYAEL  
(points to open gates)  
Plan worked.

JULIE  
Oh...

CHRIS  
Let's go.

Chris marches on ahead, and we cut to:

11 EXT. GRAVEYARD - EXCAVATION SITE - NEXT

11

Cresting a small hill, the team are looking down on a section of the graveyard covered by floodlights. Several tombs and mausoleums lie within the spread of the lights.

DANYAEL  
Looks like somebody beat us to it!

CHRIS  
And I bet I know who.

JULIE  
Vivian?

DIEGO  
Vivian is looking for this...  
component too?

CHRIS  
I'm afraid so.

JULIE  
Looks like some work's been going  
on here - see there? Pickaxes,  
pneumatic drills... somebody's been  
digging.

CHRIS  
Those guards we met makes me think  
they haven't finished yet. We'll  
need to be quick, they could return  
to finish the job at any minute.

The team start down the hill towards the floodlit area.

DANYAEL  
Wouldn't the owners of this place  
notice all this was going on?

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

Given that Vivian had already replaced the guards, it's a fair guess to say the owners are also victims of tonight's little scheme.

JULIE

Okay, I'm open to a plan.

CHRIS

Diego, Julie, you two search the crypts for any tell-tale signs, as I'm guessing that's where what we're after is most likely to be. Danyael, you head for that mausoleum.

JULIE

I'll take the mausoleum, actually, if that's alright?

CHRIS

Any particular reason?

JULIE

Vampire strength versus human strength. Heavy stone crypt versus mausoleum door with handle. Getting the picture?

DANYAEL

Picture got, scanned, sharpened and sent back as a greeting card.

CHRIS

(beat)

I think that meant yes.

JULIE

I think it did, too.

The team split up, Chris heading for the centre of the dig site as the others branch off to start their own searches, and we cut to:

Julie approaches the front door of the mausoleum but stops abruptly, turning around to see if anyone is watching her.

She shivers as the wind begins HOWLING between the roots of trees and the cracks of tombstones.

VOICE

(whispers)

Julie...

12 CONTINUED:

12

Julie GASPS, jumping out of her skin as she whirls around to see:

Absolutely nothing. She's at the edge of the floodlit area, so everything else around her is wrapped in shadows.

JULIE  
(whispers)  
Chris? Danyael?

Frowning, but satisfied there's nobody there, she carefully opens the mausoleum door with a faint CREAK...

And suddenly, a stream of BATS flies at her, attacking her wildly, whirling around her in a flurry of darkness!

Her agonised SCREAMS mix with their enthusiastic SQUEAKING as they nip and bite her all over, lunging at her arms and face as she desperately tries to bat them away.

JULIE (cont'd)  
Aah! Get off! Get off!

Covering her face, she charges away from the mausoleum to escape the swarm of bats as we cut to:

13 EXT. GRAVEYARD - CRYPT - NEXT

13

Diego and Danyael are stood on either side of a particularly large crypt, trying to lift the top of it off. There is no such luck, judging by the pained expressions on their faces.

On the top of the crypt there are a lot of scrawled Latin words, worn down and barely decipherable.

Danyael looks up as Chris walks over, his frown telling them he's also had little success so far. Danyael points to the Latin.

DANYAEL  
You reckon any of that can give us  
a clue as to where we should be  
looking?

Chris examines the inscriptions, but shakes his head.

DANYAEL (cont'd)  
No good?

CHRIS  
They're too badly worn to make  
anything out.

He looks round at the crypts arrayed around them, then turns back to the heavy crypt lid that Diego and Danyael are near.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

CHRIS (cont'd)  
 Damn this. Let's try pushing. You  
 two go that side.

Chris takes one end of the lid as Diego and Danyael come round to the end, then place their backs up against the crypt and start pushing.

CHRIS (cont'd)  
 (deep breath)  
 One... two... three!

They both throw their weight backwards, attempting to push it all the way as Chris pulls from his end. It moves only a few inches, sliding with a horrible SCRAPING sound as we cut to:

14 EXT. GRAVEYARD - NEXT

14

In a different part of the graveyard, Julie is hobbling forward, dozens of tiny cuts peppering her skin from the bat attack.

DANYAEL (O.S.)  
 (in the distance; muffled)  
 How much longer?

CHRIS (O.S.)  
 (in the distance; muffled)  
 As long as it takes.

Julie smiles as she hears them, following the sounds of their voices.

DIEGO (O.S.)  
 (in the distance; muffled)  
 Ready, amigos? One... two...  
 three... and push!

Julie quickens her pace, eager to catch back up with the team - when he catches her foot in a tree root and TRIPS.

Falling to the ground with a heavy THUD, she looks to see her foot is caught and HUFFS, frustrated. Wiggling her foot to get it free, she freezes as she spots something next to her.

A simple band of gold lies on a freshly-dug grave, just as it was in Twist's dream! Julie's jaw drops as she stares, shocked, and we cut to:

15 EXT. GRAVEYARD - NEXT

15

The boys are stood facing the crypt now, their hands on the edge as they continue to push. At least a foot has been pushed away, but there is total DARKNESS beneath and still a lot more to go.

(CONTINUED)

Julie hobbles up to them, looking pretty freaked out. She takes in the half-exposed crypt before turning to Chris.

JULIE  
Chris, something... something's wrong.

Chris turns to her, looking her up and down and taking in her war wounds.

CHRIS  
What happened?

JULIE  
(off cuts)  
Oh, I was looking in that mausoleum and I think some bats took offence to me... that's not the problem.

She holds up the gold ring.

JULIE (cont'd)  
This is.

CHRIS  
(studies it)  
What is it?

JULIE  
It's a wedding ring. Specifically, it's my wedding ring - or, at least, the one I gave my husband.

Chris and Danyaël swap puzzled glances as Diego continues to HEAVE against the crypt lid in the background.

CHRIS  
I'm not sure I understand...

JULIE  
Me neither - point is, something doesn't feel right about this.

Chris takes the ring off her and examines it.

CHRIS  
Are you sure it's yours?

JULIE  
Yes! See the inscription?

CHRIS  
(reads)  
'To Julie, forever the keeper of my heart, Brendan.'

DANYAEL

Wait - you were married?

JULIE

(sighs)

It was a long time ago. Look, I've had this weird feeling ever since we got here that something isn't right, and now-

DIEGO

*Bastardo!!*

There is a terrific CRASH as Diego finally heaves the crypt lid away, and a cloud of thick dust is thrown up as the crypt's contents are revealed.

Diego COUGHS, waving his hands to waft away the dust, but he turns to the others with a proud grin.

DIEGO (cont'd)

There. Now we can get started on-

WHACK! A rotting HAND suddenly grabs hold of Diego's shoulder, and before he can react, he's pulled back off his feet, disappearing into the crypt with a YELP!

There's a beat of stunned silence before Chris and the others race towards the open crypt.

CHRIS

Diego!

Chris gets to the crypt and looks inside - but all he can see is darkness.

DANYAEL

What the hell?

Chris frowns, then clenches his fist - and with a POP, a small ball of FLAME appears in his hand. He holds it over the darkness and DROPS it - and the trio watch as the fireball drops a long, long way down.

JULIE

O-kay...

CHRIS

We have to get down there.

He starts to climb over the edge of the crypt, but Julie grabs his arm to stop him.

JULIE

Are you crazy? We don't know what's waiting for us in there!

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

A seemingly average crypt actually opens onto a deep tunnel, which also appears to be populated by creatures that just abducted one of our team... and you don't think it's where we need to be?

Julie stares back at him, then with a scowl releases his arm. Chris holds himself out over the long drop below, trying to judge the distance.

DANYAEL

Uh, do you want me to come with you?

CHRIS

That won't be necessary.

DANYAEL

(relieved)  
Cool.

CHRIS

(to Julie)  
Call Parker, tell him we think we've found what we're after, but we might need-

And Chris is GRABBED by two more sets of hands, which pull him out of sight in an instant!

JULIE

Chris!!

Julie and Danyael look down - but there's nothing.

JULIE (cont'd)

Where did he go?

DANYAEL

Okay, this is getting bad now...

JULIE

Danyael, go back to the van and find something we can use to get down there with.

DANYAEL

You wanna go in there? Did you miss the evil hands of doom?

JULIE

(snaps)  
Danyael!

15 CONTINUED: (4)

15

He turns and races off screen, and Julie shouts back down into the abyss:

JULIE (cont'd)  
Hang on, Chris! We're coming!

She waits anxiously as we cut to:

16 INT. CRYPT - TUNNEL - NEXT

16

Down at the bottom of the tunnel, two flashlight beams pierce the darkness from above to show a square tunnel leading off into a long corridor.

A spool of rope drops into view, and after a few beats Julie and Danyael climb down to reach the bottom. They look a little disorientated, and Julie shines her light back up:

The entrance to the crypt is a little over ten feet above their heads.

DANYAEL  
Uh...

JULIE  
Some kind of cloaking spell, maybe?  
Something to put people off trying  
to come down here?

DANYAEL  
Well, it was working.

JULIE  
Come on. We need to find Chris and  
Diego and get out of here before  
anything else goes wrong.

Walking cautiously forward, their torch beams making out the smooth tunnel walls around them, the duo head forward.

Suddenly, there is a low MOAN from behind them, and they whip round to see:

ZOMBIES! Lots and lots of zombies! Grey, rotting flesh, crooked, yellowed teeth and blank, lifeless eyes, all focused on Julie and Danyael as the shuffling horde clamours to attack, slipping and sliding over one another.

Julie and Danyael's horrified looks are all we get chance to take in before we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT TWO**

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

17 INT. CRYPT - TUNNEL - NIGHT

17

Julie and Danyaël step back in alarm as the mass of zombies surges towards them.

DANYAEL

What do we-

JULIE

(urgent)

Run!!

She grabs Danyaël and turns and runs, their torch beams bouncing off the walls as they try to keep ahead of the advancing creatures.

DANYAEL

Please tell me those weren't actual zombies...

JULIE

What did they look like???

DANYAEL

But I hate zombies!

JULIE

Hey, it's not you they're gonna be after!

DANYAEL

(beat)

Good point.

They come to a t-junction, and Julie pulls Danyaël down the left passage - but they come to a dead end.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

Ah, crap!

Julie shines her torch up and all around, but there's nowhere to go.

JULIE

We need to double back, before-

She stops - the first few zombies are just making it round the corner of the junction. They're cut off.

DANYAEL

(panicked)

What are we gonna do?

(CONTINUED)

JULIE

Didn't you bring any weapons?

DANYAEL

We left them in the van, remember?

Julie's mind races as she tries to think of a way out, her torch highlighting the solid wall of flesh-eating monsters surging towards them. She takes a deep breath, trying to keep her fear down.

JULIE

We're gonna have to rush them.

DANYAEL

(incredulous)

'Rush them'? There's two of us and a hell of a lot more of them!

JULIE

We can make it. If we move fast enough, they won't be able to...

(gulps)

We'll make it.

DANYAEL

Julie, no. Bad idea.

JULIE

What's our alternative? Sit here and wait to get eaten alive?

(beat)

And I'm referring to me here!

DANYAEL

There's gotta be another way out of here! It's dark down here, maybe we missed something, or-

JULIE

No. This is our only way.

Julie braces herself, trying to spot any kind of gap in the army of zombies.

DANYAEL

Julie...

JULIE

Get ready! On three!

DANYAEL

We won't make it!

JULIE

One!

DANYAEL

There's too many of them!

JULIE

Two!

DANYAEL

Julie, wait!!

JULIE

Thr-

POW! There's a brilliant BLAST of green energy, and the zombies are flattened, spilling to the floor in a mass of heaving limbs.

Julie gapes - and her torch picks up a wounded Chris, one hand clutched to his chest and his other raised palm first towards the zombies. Green energy flickers round his fingers.

CHRIS

That won't keep them down for long!  
Come on!

Julie doesn't need telling twice. She grabs Danyael, and the duo quickly race through the fallen zombies, dodging a few arms that swing clumsily as they pass.

JULIE

Are you alright? What happened?

She takes his hand from his chest and grimaces as she sees his shirt is wet with blood.

CHRIS

Just because the walking dead don't  
have a taste for undead flesh  
doesn't stop them trying it once in  
a while.

The trio hurry away, back down the other corridor leading from the junction.

DANYAEL

You mean... you got bit?

CHRIS

(weary)  
Just a few times, yes.

Danyael pales, but Chris turns to him.

CHRIS (cont'd)

I'm not going to turn into one of  
those things, Danyael. It doesn't  
work like that.

17 CONTINUED: (3)

17

DANYAEL

Says you!

JULIE

What about Diego?

CHRIS

I haven't found him yet. He can't have gone far, but with all those things down here it's proven a little tricky to get a good look around.

The team hurry on through the darkness as we cut back to:

18 INT. LAB - INFIRMARY - NIGHT

18

Twist is dozing in one of the Lab's clean white infirmary beds, dressed in scrubs but this time by choice.

A shadow falls across her, and she stirs, her eyes fluttering open and turning to her visitor - and then her eyes go wide as she sees who it is!

TWIST

Wha-

A hand clamps over her mouth and a young, raven-haired girl leans into frame, finger held to her lips - it's LIZZIE.

LIZZIE

(whispers)

Don't make a sound. You promise?

Twist nods, and Lizzie slowly removes her hand.

TWIST

(whispers)

What's going on? I went to your room but it was empty, what did-

LIZZIE

It's a long story and I don't have time to explain it.

Lizzie glances over her shoulder, then scoops up Twist's clothes from the pile on a chair nearby.

LIZZIE (cont'd)

Get dressed. We've gotta get out of here.

TWIST

Say what now?

(CONTINUED)

LIZZIE

Twist! This is important!

TWIST

Tell me what's going on first.

Lizzie throws her a pleading look, and after a beat, twist reaches for her clothes.

TWIST (cont'd)

This had better be good.

LIZZIE

I'll explain everything, I promise.

Lizzie steps back to check that nobody else is in the ward, giving Twist a moment of privacy to pull her clothes on as we cut back to:

Chris, Julie and Danyael round another corner and find themselves in a long, narrow tunnel with a series of alcoves set into either wall.

Chris holds up his hand to slow them down, and the team slowly pace forwards.

JULIE

What is it?

CHRIS

This feels... something's not right here.

JULIE

(dry)  
Sounds familiar.

He shoots her a look, but then bows his head briefly.

CHRIS

I should have listened to you earlier, and I didn't. I'm sorry.

JULIE

Get us out of here and we'll call it even.

Danyael peers into one of the alcoves, seeing nothing but inky blackness inside it.

DANYAEL

What're these for?

CHRIS

They're burial sites. The people who worked on these tunnels would have been lain to rest down here when they died.

JULIE

Given the welcome party back there, I think it's safe to say some bad magic is at work round here.

CHRIS

Which again makes me certain this is where we need to be.

DANYAEL

Oh, yeah, running around in the dark with a bunch of Romero extras on our tail, that's my idea of-

YURK! A zombie's HAND lashes out from inside the nearest alcove, grabbing Danyael by the throat!

Julie runs to his aid, but another pair of hands sweep out from down by her feet, knocking her to the floor - and bringing her face to face with another ZOMBIE!

She SHOUTS in alarm as it lunges for her with a HISS - before Chris' boot STAMPS down, cracking its skull open.

Chris pulls her to her feet, jabbing his elbow down on the arm clutching onto Danyael to get him free.

CHRIS

Get a move on!

The trio race on as more zombies start to pull themselves from the alcove, before they come to a thick iron door.

Chris tries to push it open, but it won't budge. Julie and Danyael join in as the corridor behind them starts to fill with a fresh wave of zombies.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Push!

JULIE

We are!

They strain - and the door CREAKS open an inch.

DANYAEL

They're almost on us!

He looks back - the zombies are seconds away - but the door finally gives way, swinging open and into:

20

INT. CRYPT - ROOM - CONTINUOUS

20

The trio fall through into the room as the door opens, Chris back on his feet first to try to push the door shut again.

Danyael joins in, the duo heaving against the heavy door until it's almost closed...

... but a zombie's ARM manages to get past, trapped between the door and the frame and keeping it wedged open!

Julie PUNCHES the arm with a YELL, and after a few hits it snaps back, allowing Chris and Danyael to get the door shut at last.

The team take a beat to catch their breath and take stock of the situation - they're in a small, circular room, with a stone crypt in its centre. A beam of moonlight falls on the crypt from a shaft up in the ceiling.

JULIE

X marks the spot.

DIEGO (O.S.)

Glad you decided to make it...

They spin round - and their torch beams find Diego, slumped in one corner. Julie rushes over to him.

JULIE

Are you alright?

DIEGO

(weakly)

I've very definitely felt better.

CHRIS

I take it you got in here the same way we did?

DIEGO

(nods)

I wasn't as fast as you were, unfortunately.

He holds up his left arm - and Julie reacts at the bloody BITE MARK on his forearm.

JULIE

Oh, God...

Diego looks thoughtfully at the wound.

DIEGO

I'll admit, it's not how I thought I'd go, but-

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

It's not as bad as you'd think.  
There are ways we can reverse the  
process if we get you out of here  
in time.

DANYAEL

'Process'? I thought it was 'get  
bit, turn into zombie'?

CHRIS

The bite passes on an infection  
from the zombie's saliva. Like all  
infections, it can be cured if it's  
stopped in time.

JULIE

But we don't have long.

CHRIS

Exactly.

Chris moves over to the crypt.

CHRIS (cont'd)

So let's get this thing open and  
get Diego back to the Lab.

Chris plants his boot against the lid of the crypt and PUSHES  
- and this time it slides off with ease. He leans over and  
looks into the crypt - and nestled inside is a small,  
glittering COMPONENT, a golden cog wheel with a serrated  
outer edge.

Chris scoops it up, then look towards the shaft above the  
crypt, seeing a hole about twenty feet up that leads to the  
outside world. Danyael joins him in looking up.

DANYAEL

Are we gonna have to climb up  
there?

CHRIS

I'm afraid so.

JULIE

What about Diego?

CHRIS

I'll carry him. Vampire strength,  
like you said.

JULIE

And here was me thinking you didn't  
consider yourself a vampire.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

I'm not.

He walks over to Diego, taking one of his arms and hoisting him up over his shoulder, fireman's lift style.

CHRIS (cont'd)

But I'll admit my condition isn't without its... perks.

They look towards the door as it starts to SHAKE - the zombies outside are trying to pound their way inside.

DANYAEL

And how are we planning on climbing all the way up there, exactly?

Julie grins, unzipping her bag and reaching inside - and taking out her mini grapple gun.

JULIE

Who said anything about climbing?

She aims the gun up into the shaft, and as she FIRES and sends the hook and cable shooting into the air, we cut to:

Lizzie sneaks carefully down the white corridor, a fully dressed Twist close behind. Lizzie pauses as two lab-coated technicians walk past up ahead, then resumes her sneaking.

TWIST

Are you going to tell me what's going on any time soon, or should I just wait for the book deal?

Lizzie stops, glances at Twist and then sighs.

LIZZIE

Okay, short version. You want to know why I left?

TWIST

It'd be a start. Might explain this whole Metal Gear Solid thing we're doing.

LIZZIE

Do you trust me?

TWIST

You know I do. You're the only person I've told about... well, you know. The visions and stuff.

LIZZIE

Twist, Dr. Parker isn't what he seems. You can't trust him, no matter what he-

GUARD (O.S.)

There she is! Stop right there!

Lizzie's head snaps up - two armed SECURITY GUARDS are racing down the corridor towards them.

LIZZIE

Damn it! Come on!

She grabs Twist's hand and runs, but two more guards turn the corner up ahead, blocking her off.

Lizzie narrows her eyes and raises her hand towards them - and an invisible BLAST of energy sends them both hurtling back through the air!

Twist recoils in shock - it's just what she saw in her vision! She's still reeling as Lizzie turns and grabs her hand again.

LIZZIE (cont'd)

Twist!

Twist looks down at Lizzie's hand - then pulls away from her.

TWIST

I... I can't, I can't just...

Lizzie looks urgently back over Twist's shoulder and sees the other two guards closing in. She grabs Twist's shoulders, looking into her eyes.

LIZZIE

It's alright. If I were you, I don't think I'd believe me either. Not yet, anyway.

She steps away from Twist, looking towards a nearby emergency exit as the approaching guards yell for her to stop.

LIZZIE (cont'd)

Don't trust him. No matter what.

Lizzie races for the door - which flies open of its own accord, and in a moment she's gone. The two guards race past Twist and through the door after her.

Twist is left standing as the other two guards start to pick themselves up with a series of GROANS, and we DISSOLVE TO:

22 INT. LAB - GUEST ROOM - NIGHT

22

Julie is sitting on the end of the bed in the lavish guest room, staring down at the golden ring in her palm. There's a KNOCK at the door, and she looks up as Chris enters.

CHRIS

Just thought you should know,  
Diego's up in the lab at the  
moment. They're running a few viral  
antidotes through him, so fingers  
crossed he'll get through this with  
nothing worse than a few days of  
nausea.

JULIE

(distracted)  
Oh, right. Good to hear.

CHRIS

(eyes her)  
I'm not disturbing you, am I?

JULIE

No, come in.

He shuts the door and heads over to her. She starts to tuck the ring away but he notices, holding his hand out for her to pass it to him.

CHRIS

We've got a little more time now.  
You can tell me all about this.

With a sigh, Julie hands it over.

JULIE

It was a few years after you left  
Chicago.

CHRIS

What was his name?

JULIE

Brendan. We met in the ER - he was  
a patient brought in from a bad MVA  
one afternoon, and I was the  
attending who managed to restart  
his heart when he crashed on the  
way up to surgery. That's where the  
idea for the inscription came from.

Julie glances up at Chris, trying to read his reaction, but he's focusing on the ring.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

And he asked you to marry him after that?

JULIE

Pretty much. I said no at first, but he was persistent, in that way you guys can be sometimes.

CHRIS

(grins)  
Sometimes.

JULIE

It was all happily ever after for almost two years, but then...

She trails off, and Chris finally looks at her, placing the ring on the table next to him.

CHRIS

But then?

JULIE

He always knew there was somebody else I wished I was with.

She looks up at him, and there's a long, meaningful beat.

JULIE (cont'd)

It's not that I didn't love him, I did, but...

(shakes head)

I guess things have a habit of working out different to your plans sometimes.

Chris is silent for a beat - and there's another KNOCK at the door. Chris glances towards it.

CHRIS

I'll get that.

He heads over, and Julie curses silently - she obviously feels she should have phrased her last few comments a little differently.

Chris opens the door - and reacts as he finds himself staring at a handsome, well-groomed and well built MAN, who smiles back at him.

MAN

Hello. Is Julie here?

CHRIS

And you are?

22 CONTINUED: (2)

WHACK! The man PUNCHES Chris in the gut, then SMASHES his fist across his jaw, sending Chris to the deck.

Julie leaps to her feet, the colour draining from her face as the man steps over Chris and into the room.

MAN

I'm her husband.

JULIE

(dumbstruck)

Bre... Brendan?

He looks up at her and smiles again.

BRENDAN

Hello, darling.

From Julie's shocked look, we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT THREE**

**ACT FOUR**

FADE IN:

23 INT. LAB - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

23

Twist and Danyael are walking along a corridor in the accommodation block of the lab, the cold white of the usual decor replaced by warm, earthy colours.

TWIST

And then she just took off, and I swear she just looked at the doors and they flew open!

DANYAEL

Well, yeah, but she's a pretty powerful psychic, right?

TWIST

She's not that kind. At least, she wasn't last time I saw her. She could read minds and stuff like that, not throw people through the air!

DANYAEL

Weird.

TWIST

You're telling me. She was adamant that we can't trust Parker, either.

DANYAEL

Hey, I'd like to get on that train too, but you have to admit he's done a lot to help us since we met him.

TWIST

I know he has, but still... she just seemed so sure about it, you know? Something happened here, Spook, and we need to find out what.

DANYAEL

And we will. Let's just go tell Chris and Julie first, maybe they can...

He trails off as they reach:

24 INT. LAB - GUEST ROOM - NEXT

24

The door is still open and Chris is still sprawled on the floor as Twist and Danyael appear in the doorway.

(CONTINUED)

TWIST

Chris!

They rush over and help him to his feet. Chris' cheek is split from the force of Brendan's punch, and Danyael shakes him lightly to bring him round.

CHRIS

(bleary)

Julie... where...

TWIST

She's not here. What happened? Are you alright?

CHRIS

He took her...

TWIST

Who did?

Chris pushes away from them, staggering unsteadily to his feet.

CHRIS

This man, he burst in, asked for Julie and then laid me out cold.

DANYAEL

Yikes...

CHRIS

We have to find her.

He starts for the door, but Twist holds him back.

TWIST

Woah, wait! Do we even know who this guy is?

CHRIS

The man knocked me out with one good punch, Twist. I don't go down that easily, so that alone tells me he's trouble.

TWIST

(beat)

Alright, chief, lead on.

Chris hurries out of the room, as we cut to:

A manhole cover slides up and out, situated down a rainswept alleyway, allowing bright light to flood the alley.

Julie clambers up and onto solid ground, quickly turning and dragging the cover back before tearing off down towards the street.

She hasn't got far when the cover BURSTS upwards into the air, and she turns to see Brendan climbing up from the access tunnel below.

BRENDAN

Julie, wait!

She turns tail and runs again, but after a few moments a dark BLUR whips past her, knocking her off her feet.

She looks up as Brendan stands over her, extending a hand to her as THUNDER rumbles overhead.

BRENDAN (cont'd)

Why are you running away?

JULIE

Why do you think?!?

BRENDAN

I thought you'd be glad to see me again, ever since-

JULIE

You're dead, Brendan! You've been dead for ten years!

A beat. Brendan lowers his head - then nods.

BRENDAN

Yes, I am.

He raises his head again - and Julie GASPS as she sees his eyes have turned a deep blood RED.

BRENDAN (cont'd)

But I'm so much more than that now.

Julie starts shuffling back, away from him, and he doesn't move to stop her - he knows she's not going to be able to get away from him.

BRENDAN (cont'd)

Did you get my message?

JULIE

Your what?

He takes a step towards her. She starts looking around for something to fight back with - but nothing is to hand.

BRENDAN

When I found out you were here in Pittsburgh I followed you, and when I saw you going over to that cemetery, I...

(smiles)

I thought I should leave you a little memento.

JULIE

You left me that ring...

BRENDAN

It's been ten years, Julie. It's taken me a long time to find you again, but now here we both are. Together. Where we deserve to be.

JULIE

(shakes head)

No... no, you deserve to be in the ground after what you did to me!

BRENDAN

How can you say that?

JULIE

How can you stand there and act like it wasn't your fault?

Brendan reacts to her anger - Julie may be at a disadvantage but she's too furious to accept that just yet.

JULIE (cont'd)

You took away what I wanted, and you expect me to, what... forgive you?

BRENDAN

(uncertain)

I... I thought you loved me...

JULIE

I did. I used to. But that was a long time ago.

She gets to her feet, pressing her advantage.

JULIE (cont'd)

I don't know who did this to you, or what you thought you could manage by finding me again, but you can forget it!

(beat)

I didn't cry, you know.

BRENDAN

What?

JULIE

When they buried you. I didn't cry.  
I was glad.

BRENDAN

Julie...

He steps towards her and places a hand on her arm, but she angrily shrugs it away.

JULIE

No! Don't come near me! You know  
what I do to things like you, don't  
you?

Brendan pauses as Julie takes two steps away. She stares at him, shaking, the rain getting heavier and soaking them both.

JULIE (cont'd)

I'll give you ten seconds to get  
out of my sight.

BRENDAN

Or you'll what?

JULIE

I'll-

Brendan suddenly GRABS Julie, his fangs bared as he clutches her head in his hands, the advantage right back with him.

BRENDAN

Kill me?

She struggles, but his iron grip is too strong - she's trapped. He starts to chuckle.

BRENDAN (cont'd)

Nice speech. Very brave. Had me off  
guard for a while there, too. You  
probably should've turned and run  
when you had the chance, but that's  
not how you do things, is it? You  
like to get in people's faces. To  
shout them down.

(getting angry)

All I ever wanted was to make you  
happy, and you can't even let me do  
that!

Julie is suddenly in tears, years of emotion pouring out of her as she sobs, her whole body shaking.

(CONTINUED)

JULIE

You killed... my baby...

Brendan hesitates, but Julie's too far gone to get away this time. He releases her, and she sinks to her knees, BAWLING as she falls to the street.

JULIE (cont'd)

You killed her...

Brendan takes a step back, the memories of what he did to her flooding back. His mind reels as he tries to collect himself.

BRENDAN

I... I didn't... I never meant to...

JULIE

Why did you do it?

She looks up at him, helpless, too drained to run.

JULIE (cont'd)

Did you hate me that much?

He doesn't have an answer, staring down at her.

JULIE (cont'd)

Didn't you ever want me to be happy again?

Brendan closes his eyes - but when he opens them again, he sets his jaw defiantly.

BRENDAN

I still do.

He LUNGES for her, pulling her to her feet and yanking her head to the side, exposing her neck.

BRENDAN (cont'd)

And now we'll get to be together again so I can show you how much I love you...

He leans in for the bite...

CHRIS (O.S.)

Get away from her!

Brendan spins round - Chris is running down the street towards him, katana in hand, with Twist and Danyael climbing out of the sewer tunnel behind him.

Brendan narrows his eyes and looks back down at Julie - the fight has well and truly left her.

(CONTINUED)

BRENDAN

(to Julie)

Is this who makes you happy now?

Julie's lost in her tears. She watches Chris steaming towards her as though it's happening to somebody else.

Chris comes to a halt a few feet away, his sword twitching in his hand as he locks gazes with Brendan.

CHRIS

Let her go!

BRENDAN

(to Julie)

Is this what you want?

CHRIS

(points katana at Brendan)

You've got two seconds to let her go, or I'll-

Brendan's head snaps forward - and he BITES into Julie's neck!

CHRIS (cont'd)

No!!

He charges forward, his fist CRACKING off Brendan's head and sending his head back away from her. Julie collapses to the floor, blood trailing from her neck.

Chris is on Brendan in a flurry of kicks and punches, slamming the taller, heavier man to the ground again and again as Twist and Danyael make it over to Julie.

Chris keeps raining blows down on Brendan, but the heavy-set vampire just LAUGHS through the onslaught.

BRENDAN

You can't stop what we have!

Chris KICKS Brendan under the jaw, sending him cartwheeling back through the air to hit the street with a heavy THUD.

CHRIS

(cold)

You're going to take a long time to die for what you just-

POW! Brendan is on his feet, a heavy BACKHAND knocking Chris to the floor.

Brendan grabs his shirt and drags him up, HEADBUTTING Chris and driving his knee into his chest.

(CONTINUED)

Danyael races over to help, but Brendan turns and THROWS Chris into him, the duo clattering to the ground.

Twist looks up as Brendan heads back over to Julie, standing defiantly between them.

TWIST

Nu-uh, baumgartner. When she said she'd go to the ends of the earth for you, I think she was hoping you'd stay there, so just-

SLAM! Brendan knocks Twist out of the way without breaking stride, standing over the still-weeping Julie.

BRENDAN

Julie...

She looks up at him, and he holds out a hand to her.

BRENDAN (cont'd)

I'll always-

THUNK! Brendan stiffens, looking slowly down at his chest - and the point of a STAKE starts to push through his shirt.

He staggers forward a step, turning to see a bloodied Chris behind him, lowering his hand.

BRENDAN (cont'd)

You think she'll ever... love you... the way she loved... me?

Brendan's legs go from beneath him, and he CRASHES to the floor, still at last.

CHRIS

God... I hope not, you sick bastard!

He goes to Julie, extending his hand to her.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Come on. Let's get out of the rain.

He helps Julie to her feet - and she throws her arms round him, burying her face in his chest. Chris hesitates, then slowly wraps his arms back around her, holding her tight.

Danyael staggers woozily over to Twist, helping her up. She blinks, shaking her head.

TWIST

(dazed)  
Whu? Whuzzup?

25 CONTINUED: (7)

25

DANYAEL

(grins)

All done.

Twist looks at Brendan's motionless body, then to Chris and Julie - and she manages a smile at the two of them, as we slowly DISSOLVE TO:

26 INT. LAB - INFIRMARY - NIGHT

26

Parker is tending to Julie personally, fixing a bandage in place over the bite on her neck as Chris enters.

PARKER

Ah, just the man. She's all patched up and ready to go.

CHRIS

Thank you.

PARKER

No problem. It's the least I could do after letting a bloody vampire sneak into my laboratory! Do you know he's put six of my security staff in the hospital? Seems half of them were busy chasing some girl who broke in, so he just slipped right past them all... aye well, never mind. Damage done. I'll leave you two to it.

Parker pats Chris on the shoulder as he heads for the exit. He pauses and looks to Julie, who nods to him before he goes.

CHRIS

I won't bother to ask if you're alright.

JULIE

(raises eyebrow)

And why not?

CHRIS

Because I know you hate it.

JULIE

(grins)

So you do pay attention, then.

CHRIS

Sometimes.

There's an awkward beat.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS (cont'd)  
We've been told about a-

JULIE  
About what you heard...

Another beat as they chuckle. Chris motions for Julie to speak first.

JULIE  
It's about what you heard out in  
the alleyway, I...

CHRIS  
I didn't hear anything.

JULIE  
You didn't?

CHRIS  
(shakes head)  
Heavy rainfall doesn't help in  
those situations. Why? I take it  
there's something I shouldn't have  
heard...

JULIE  
(quickly)  
Oh, no, just... just stuff about me  
and Brendan. If you didn't hear it,  
then it doesn't matter.

Julie shuts up, and while Chris senses there's more to the story, he lets it slide.

JULIE (cont'd)  
What were you going to say?

CHRIS  
Oh, well, two bits of news. One,  
twist's been given a clean bill of  
health from Parker's lab people.  
Whatever was in her system that  
made her go like she did is gone  
now, and it's not left any traces  
behind. So, while we still don't  
know what it was, there's no danger  
of it happening again.

JULIE  
And the second thing?

CHRIS  
Parker's surveillance department  
have found an unusual energy  
signature popping up somewhere in  
Canada. They're trying to get a fix  
on it, but it seems to be coming  
from the Ontario region.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CHRIS (cont'd)

We were going to head out to investigate in the morning, when you and Diego are feeling a little better.

JULIE

Oh...

CHRIS

Is something wrong?

Julie lowers her head, then looks back up - but she doesn't look at Chris.

JULIE

I won't be coming with you.

CHRIS

What? But... why not?

JULIE

Parker's offered me a job here.

CHRIS

Oh. That's...

(beat)

I'm sorry, a 'job'?

JULIE

(nods)

Occult Research. My own department. I'll even have my own 'people.'

Chris is silent as Julie continues.

JULIE (cont'd)

He asked me when we first ran into him, but back then I said no.

CHRIS

(beat)

What changed your mind?

JULIE

(sighs)

Things aren't exactly working out between us, are they?

CHRIS

I'm not sure what you mean.

JULIE

We keep fighting, getting on each other's backs, arguing over decisions... we're not working like a team any more, Chris.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

No, it's not like that at all,  
we're just-

JULIE

Let me finish. Please.

Chris clearly doesn't like what he's hearing, but despite his deep frown he shuts up.

JULIE (cont'd)

Ever since I joined your team, all I feel like keeps happening is that I need rescuing from things. Vampires, monsters, warlocks, bounty hunters... the list goes on. I mean, I even asked to join your team when you were patching me up in a room just like this, remember?

CHRIS

I know you can take care of yourself out in the field, Julie!

JULIE

I'm a liability. We both know that.

CHRIS

Nonsense.

JULIE

Chris...

She steps forward, placing a hand on his chest.

JULIE (cont'd)

Chris, that's not the only reason.

CHRIS

What else is there?

JULIE

I can't... I can't be around you.

CHRIS

Why not?

JULIE

It's... look, I don't know how to explain it without making myself sound like a complete freak, so I'm just gonna have to say it.

(beat)

I still have feelings for you, Chris.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

(beat)

Oh...

JULIE

And I've been trying to work out how you feel about me these past few months, but I just can't, and it's driving me crazy. I can't think straight when we're out there together, because I keep finding myself analysing everything we talk about, trying to find some hidden clue that you feel the same way, and...

She trails off as she reads his dark expression.

JULIE (cont'd)

And I can see you don't feel the same way.

CHRIS

Julie, it's not that, I'm... we're... we can't-

JULIE

No, don't. Please. Look, it's okay. I understand. Things were never going to work out between us, I get that. Even when we met back in Chicago and I tried to get you to notice me... I knew.

Chris stares into her eyes - and then lowers his head.

CHRIS

(quietly)

I'm sorry.

JULIE

Don't be. You can't help who you fall in love with.

(sad smile)

I guess things have a habit of working out different to your plans sometimes.

He looks up, holding her gaze, and she leans forward to KISS him once on the cheek.

JULIE (cont'd)

Take care of Twist and Danyael for me, alright?

CHRIS

(frustrated)

Julie, there has to be something we can work out, you can't just go!

JULIE

(shakes head)

There's no other way. I'm just gonna keep getting myself into trouble and needing you to save me, and... and you're never going to be the hero I want you to be. You'll always save me from the monsters... but then you'll just go off to fight again.

She steps back. Chris is at a loss for words, desperately trying to think of something to say. Julie waits for a beat - and then heads for the exit. She pauses in the doorway.

JULIE (cont'd)

Promise me you won't forget me?

He turns to her - but still can't find the words. She manages a small smile, then steps out of the infirmary.

Chris is left alone, looking to the floor as he tries to process what just happened, and we cut from him to:

A thick, moonlit forest up in the hills, far from any towns or cities. Nothing but the starry sky and the distant calls of the forest's wildlife...

... until with a CRACK like thunder, a huge PORTAL opens up in the middle of the forest!

It swirls, sparks and snaking tendrils of electricity snapping away from it - and from somewhere on the other side, there is a deep, unearthly HOWL...

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF SHOW**