

SOMEWHERE INBETWEEN

"Bring Me Home"

by
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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. CANADA - WOODLAND - NIGHT 1

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...

A lone wolf pads out of the shadows, its attention drawn by the energy, and it sniffs the air experimentally.

The wolf starts to GROWL, its hackles rising as it backs up, snarling at the portal.

A dark SHAPE whips past on the other side of the portal, and the wolf BARKS menacingly, clearly not taking any crap from whatever's lurking within the portal.

The white and purple maelstrom of energy darkens as the shape returns, blocking out the view through the portal as it looms closer to our world...

... and a huge CLAW sweeps out of the vortex, slicing down towards the wolf and snatching it up before it can blink!

The wolf YELPS as it is dragged back into the portal, vanishing in an instant.

A long beat passes...

... and there is another, much louder HOWL from within the portal - and this time it is joined by several more, the chorus of unearthly voices rolling around the forest as we cut to:

2 INT. PARKER'S LAB - GARAGE - DAY 2

TWIST and DANYAEL are waiting by the van, sitting inside the belly of the vehicle as they chat.

DANYAEL

So then the other guy says 'hey,
I'm not talking to you! You broke
my fridge!'

Danyael GUFFAWS with laughter, but the joke only gets a faint smile out of Twist.

(CONTINUED)

DANYAEL (cont'd)
Hey, I'm doing my best here.

TWIST
Sorry.

DANYAEL
Least you could do is pretend to
find me funny.

TWIST
I do, it's just... and that was
sarcasm, wasn't it?

Danyael grins as he lights up a fresh cigarette.

DANYAEL
Yup.

They look up as the elevator doors before them open - to
reveal DIEGO, a bag slung over his shoulder.

TWIST
Hey there, gringo.

He nods to them, but then starts to walk away - not towards
the van. Twist and Danyael exchange a puzzled glance.

TWIST (cont'd)
Diego!

He stops and turns.

TWIST (cont'd)
Aren't you coming with us?

DIEGO
I'm afraid not, *senora*. I have a
business matter to attend to, and
the man I've been working with
needs to see me urgently.

TWIST
(disappointed)
Oh. Well, maybe we'll catch up with
you later?

DIEGO
(nods)
Si. Maybe later.

He gives them a quick bow before turning and walking away.
Danyael doesn't seem too impressed with how sorry Twist was
to see him go.

DANYAEL

That's the thanks we get, huh? Stop him turning into a zombie and he's just off on his way again.

TWIST

Eh, he's not so bad.

She notices his dark expression and NUDGES him.

TWIST (cont'd)

(teasing)

Are you jealous?

A beat - Twist's smile drops as she realises yes, he is and no, he doesn't want to talk about it.

TWIST (cont'd)

Oh. Uh, sorry, I didn't-

CHRIS (O.S.)

Are you two ready to go?

CHRIS is now heading over. Twist scoots over to allow Chris to toss some bags into the back of the van, before he heads for the driver's seat.

TWIST

Hey, wait - where's Julie?

CHRIS

(flat)

She isn't coming with us.

DANYAEL

Say what?

CHRIS

She's staying here. At the lab.

TWIST

Why?

Chris sighs wearily, obviously not wanting to have to go over the details again.

CHRIS

Parker offered her a job, and she said yes.

TWIST

And you didn't tell her to stay with us?

CHRIS

It's her decision.

The vampires exchange a surprised glance.

TWIST

Since when did you ever let any of
us do what we wanted to do?

Chris shoots her a dark look, and she backs down.

DANYAEL

Seriously, man - what's going on
here? Is there something we don't
know? Did you two have a fi-

CHRIS

(sharp)

It's very important that you don't
finish that sentence, Danyael. Now
get in the van, both of you. We
have a long trip ahead of us.

Chris SLAMS the driver's side door, and as he starts the
engine Twist and Danyael exchange a last confused look before
we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3

EXT. HILLSIDE - EVENING

3

TITLE OVER - Fraserdale, Ontario - Canada

A lush green hillside, with a lake reflecting the last rays of evening sun in the distance and mist-covered mountain ranges off beyond that.

The silence is rudely interrupted as Danyael sails back into frame, landing on his ass with a heavy THUD.

He groans, rubbing his sore back as Twist reaches a hand into frame to pull him to his feet. She shakes her head and grins.

TWIST

Come on, Spook, that's a basic suckerpunch move! Haven't I taught you anything?

DANYAEL

You really want me to answer that?

She hauls him up to his feet, and after allowing him a moment to gather himself, they both assume a fighting stance.

TWIST

Looks like we both need the practice, huh?

DANYAEL

Chris hasn't had much time to spar with me since... well, pretty much ever.

TWIST

Good. Gives me something to focus on.

They start circling one another, throwing lazy jabs and dodging.

DANYAEL

Kicking my ass is something worth focusing on?

TWIST

Don't sell yourself short, Spook. You've come a long way, baby. Like the song says.

DANYAEL

Which song? I don't-

(CONTINUED)

WHAM! Twist clocks him square on the nose, and Danyael staggers backward.

TWIST

There it is again! See how easy you get distracted?

Danyael glares at her, clutching his nose and glancing over his shoulder at the fading rays of sunlight stretching out behind him.

DANYAEL

(off sunbeams)

Lucky I wasn't any more distracted, I'd be doing a great impression of a flambe right about now!

TWIST

Stop complaining. Come on. Hit me again.

DANYAEL

You mean try to hit you.

Twist starts hopping from foot to foot, Ali style.

TWIST

No, I mean hit me. You haven't got to go easy on me because I'm a girl. And so very, very pretty.

DANYAEL

(mutters)

I'm not going 'easy'...

They spar again, but Danyael's heart doesn't appear to be in it, and Twist lands a few good punches to his gut.

Danyael reels back, winded, but as Twist hops forward to knock him down again, he suddenly GRABS her leg and twists, and the two crash to the ground, Danyael pinning her!

There's a moment as the adrenaline finishes pumping - and then Danyael blushes and lowers his head when he realises he's holding Twist down.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

Uh, sorry, I, ah...

TWIST

(awkward)

Um, yeah, maybe we should...

Danyael quickly gets off her, letting Twist sit back up. They're not sure where to look for a few moments.

DANYAEL

Maybe we should tone down the sparring for a bit, huh?

TWIST

Sorry. I don't mean to...

(sighs)

Look, I'm just trying to get things back to normal as much as I can, you know?

DANYAEL

And by 'normal,' you mean...

TWIST

That flirting thing we do so well.

DANYAEL

We don't 'flirt.'

(beat)

Do we?

TWIST

(smirks)

Yeah, we do.

DANYAEL

Well... okay, maybe a little. But you know I'm not going to-

TWIST

(quickly)

I know. It's just... it helps me keep one foot on the ground, you know? It's something comfortable. Safe.

DANYAEL

(teasing)

Oh, so now I'm 'safe'?

TWIST

No, I didn't mean that, it's-

DANYAEL

(laughs)

Twist, relax. I get it. Listen, as far as I'm concerned, you're back and that's all there is to it. Anything you need me to do to help you feel settled down, I'm cool with it.

She smiles - that means a lot to her. She keeps her eyes on Danyael as he lights a post-training session cigarette, and she chuckles.

(CONTINUED)

DANYAEL (cont'd)

What?

TWIST

Exercise, then smoke. You're not about to win any athlete of the year awards, are you?

DANYAEL

It helps me relax.

TWIST

You're not meant to relax! A good workout's supposed to get the blood pumping!

(beat)

Figuratively speaking.

DANYAEL

Half an hour of you making origami shapes out of my distinctly non-toned man ass, and I'm thinking I'll need a few more smokes yet before I can start approaching 'calm,' let alone 'relaxed.'

She grins again, looking up as a shadow falls across them.

CHRIS

We need to get moving.

Twist's smile soon fades - Chris' straight to business face always has that effect on her. He heads back to the van, and with a nudge to Danyael she stands and follows.

Over by the van, Chris has the side door open and is checking through his weapons and supplies as Twist joins him.

TWIST

So are you going to tell me what happened yet?

CHRIS

Happened with what?

TWIST

Don't get cute with me.

(beat)

I mean, not that I think you are 'cute' or anything, but-

CHRIS

(interrupts)

Is this possibly going somewhere, Twist? I have a lot to think about.

(CONTINUED)

She watches him focus on packing his supplies away for a beat, then with a roll of her eyes she steps back.

TWIST

Fine. Whatever. Be all Vincent Valentine. That's what you're good at, after all.

CHRIS

Thank you. I will.

TWIST

(annoyed)
Hey, don't pretend like you get my references either, just to get rid of me!

CHRIS

(dry)
As if I'd do a thing like that.

Twist stabs a finger towards him, getting angry.

TWIST

Alright, *friesacher*, listen up. Either you start telling me why in the name of N'Sync we don't have Julie with us, or I'll-

She's cut off as there is a sudden FLASH, and Twist stumbles backwards, clutching her head. Chris notices and steps over to her, concerned.

CHRIS

Are you alright?

TWIST

Oh, now you care...

CHRIS

Twist, please. What's wrong?

TWIST

I'm not going crazy again, if that's what you're worried about.

(beat)

I think.

She winces, rubbing her temples as Danyael heads over.

DANYAEL

Is she alright?

CHRIS

I think so...

TWIST

(snaps)

I'm fine! I just got a... I don't know, a static shock or something.

She leans her forehead against the cool side of the van.

TWIST (cont'd)

And now I have a headache, so let's just pack up and ship out so I can get some rest, 'kay?

Chris and Danyael head into the:

4 INT. BLACK VAN - FRONT SEATS - NEXT

4

Chris climbs in to drive and Danyael rides shotgun, glancing round to Twist as she pulls her sleeping bag around her.

Chris starts the engine and pulls away, the van rattling down a dirt road before heading on to something more solid.

CHRIS

We're a few minutes out from Fraserdale, it's the closest town to the energy disturbances Parker told me about so it seems like the best place to start.

DANYAEL

What do we know about these 'disturbances'?

CHRIS

Not a lot. That's why we're here.

TWIST

It's not like that thing in New York again, is it?

CHRIS

Not from what I could understand. Parker's men got a little... technical when they were explaining it to me.

TWIST

(sarcastic)

Boy, sure would be nice if we somebody brainy like, say, Julie around to help out, huh?

CHRIS

Well, we don't.

The van falls into awkward silence as we cut to:

5

EXT. FRASERDALE - HIGH STREET - EVENING

5

The sun is just setting over the mountains in the background as Chris' van pulls up in the modest high street of downtown Fraserdale.

The doors open and the crew get out, Twist a deep lungful of the fresh air.

TWIST

Man, that makes a change after all the time I've spent stuck in that damn lab!

She grimaces again, rubbing her forehead.

TWIST (cont'd)

And yet, ironically, my headache is worse now than ever...

CHRIS

Let's see if there've been any local reports that will help lead us to what we're looking for.

He marches off towards a nearby newsagents, but Twist and Danyael hang back, watching him go.

DANYAEL

Is this what he's gonna be like now?

TWIST

Detached, cold and business-like?
(nods)
'Fraid so, Spook. This is Old School Chris you're seeing now.

DANYAEL

Something must have happened between him and Julie. You think maybe she told him...

Danyael trails off as he realises Julie probably wouldn't like being spoken about while she wasn't there.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

Never mind.

He starts off after Chris, leaving an expectant Twist behind.

TWIST

Told him what? Hey!

She chases after him as we cut to:

6

INT. NEWSAGENTS - NEXT

6

Chris is already browsing through the local papers as Twist enters the store, casting her eye over its less than glamorous choice of snack foods.

She scoops up a few candy bars and turns her nose up at them, addressing the TEEN behind the counter.

TWIST

You got anything here with actual
flavour?

TEEN

Uh...

CHRIS

(stepping in)
Ignore her, she's American.

TWIST

Hey!

Chris holds up a paper and points to an article on the page - it also has a shaky photo of woodland with strange balls of light hovering in the air above it.

CHRIS

Can you tell me where to find the
offices of this paper? I have some
more information about this story
that I should probably pass on to
their reporters.

TEEN

Oh, yeah, that's the Fraserdale
Herald, just two streets down from
here. Big building, can't miss it.

TWIST

(dry)
Yeah, 'cause I noticed you have a
lot of those.

CHRIS

Thank you.

He lays the paper back down and exits the shop. After a beat, Twist lays down an armful of headache pills and painkillers.

TWIST

To go.

The Teen raises an eyebrow at the pile of medication before him as we cut to:

7

INT. FRASERDALE HERALD - RECEPTION - NEXT

7

Chris taps his fingers against the reception desk, waiting impatiently as a few clerical staff wander past. The night DESK CLERK is watching a small TV, not paying Chris any attention.

An elevator door opens and out steps SALLY, a slim, pretty brunette reporter. She spots Chris and heads over, shaking his hand.

SALLY

Hi, you must be Mr. Berkeley?

CHRIS

I am.

SALLY

Sally Swift, I'm the reporter who covered the story of those weird lights up in the hills. Apparently you have some more news about them for me?

CHRIS

Well, yes... and no.

SALLY

(puzzled)

I don't follow.

With a glance to Twist and Danyael, who are nosing around the foyer, Chris moves Sally over to a quieter part of the room.

CHRIS

You see, Sally, I think I can help explain what those lights are, but I'm going to need a little help to do it.

SALLY

Like what?

CHRIS

Somebody to show me exactly where they were seen, for one thing. I have a theory on what's causing them, but I'll need to go up there myself to know for sure.

Sally thinks about this, sizing Chris up.

SALLY

Well, it's getting kind of late, maybe we should wait until morning?

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

I'd rather we didn't. If this is what I think it is, we'll need to get it cleared up as soon as possible. It could be a... environmental issue.

SALLY

Oh. Right. Like, what? A chemical spill?

CHRIS

Something like that.

SALLY

Let me make some calls. I'll get a driver to take us all up there. Wait here, okay?

He nods and she dashes back into the lift as Twist and Danyael step over.

TWIST

So...

DANYAEL

Plan?

CHRIS

That reporter's going to show us to the disturbance, and then we're going to investigate it.

TWIST

What do you think it is?

CHRIS

Lots of things.

TWIST

(o-kay...)
Helpful...

CHRIS

I don't have time to go into them all. It's quicker to just see for ourselves.

TWIST

(mutters)
Right, because sharing information would really be bad for the team, huh?

Chris scowls at her, and she scowls right back as we cut to:

8

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL - NIGHT

8

Riding inside a small Jeep as it bounces up a trail into the hills, Chris and Sally ride in the front with the driver.

SALLY

Officially, there's not any kind of development going on up there, legal or otherwise. My first thought was some kind of faulty power generator, or maybe another one of those woodland raves we get a lot of, but nothing I found out pointed to that.

CHRIS

What did you find out?

SALLY

People living nearby, mainly a few small farms and things up there, said they heard strange noises late at night, followed by flashing lights appearing and disappearing within the woods. The wildlife seemed pretty spooked by the whole thing, I got reports of trails of animals leaving the area like there was a forest fire.

TWIST

This is all starting to sound like a bad episode of 'X-Files' at the moment...

SALLY

Hey, I don't make the news. I just tell people about it.

CHRIS

Anything else? No... disappearances?

SALLY

(suspicious)
Why? Would there be?

CHRIS

Hopefully not.

SALLY

Look, if you don't mind me asking, where are you guys from? You don't look like government people, and you're sure not with the forestry service dressed like that.

(CONTINUED)

DANYAEL

We're... free-lancers.

TWIST

And we love trees. More than people, actually.

SALLY

(eyes her)

Right...

CHRIS

(points)

Is that what you saw?

Sally looks out through the windscreen - a HAZE of purple light is glowing within a thick section of the woodland up ahead.

SALLY

Yeah... yeah, that's it.

(to driver)

Get us there fast as you can.

The driver nods and puts his foot down, as we cut to:

A fresh PORTAL has opened up, swirling and crackling with energy in the night, sparks spitting from it.

This time, however, it's not alone - standing before the portal is a small crowd of PEOPLE, all shapes and sizes, staring intently into the vortex before them.

They all slowly raise their hands - and start to CHANT, intoning a rhythmic set of words over and over, before we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

10

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL - NIGHT

10

The Jeep is parked up and the driver stays with it, as Chris and Sally lead the way with flashlights, hiking up the incline towards the thick woods up ahead.

Twist and Danyael follow close behind, Twist already looking far from happy with the situation.

TWIST

All I was saying was 'why can't we take the Jeep all the way there?'

SALLY

The trees get too thick past here. There's no way we could get the Jeep through this forest without taking a big detour to the next road, and your friend here's got me kind of anxious to find out what's going on!

Sally catches up to Chris, glancing back at Twist.

SALLY (cont'd)

Don't those two need flashlights too?

CHRIS

They see well in the dark. Lots of vitamins.

SALLY

Oh...

Chris notices her hesitant expression.

CHRIS

Having second thoughts?

SALLY

No, I... well, actually, I'm just now finally starting to wonder what the hell I'm doing hiking in the woods with a bunch of people I just met. I've seen too many bad horror movies that started like this.

CHRIS

If you want to go back to your Jeep, you're welcome to-

(CONTINUED)

SALLY

(firm)

No. I want to know what's going on,
and something tells me staying with
you is the best way to do that.

Chris manages a small smile.

CHRIS

Alright, then.

The team continue their hike, ending up on:

11 EXT. HILLS - TRAIL - NEXT

11

Chris heads up a steep slope, flanked on either side by tall
hillsides as the others try to keep up.

Sally has fallen further back and is joined by Twist and
Danyael, Sally looking enviously towards Chris.

SALLY

Okay, I've lived round here my
whole life, and even I can't move
through the woods that fast. What's
his secret?

TWIST

He's British.

SALLY

Oh.
(beat)
Huh?

DANYAEL

Don't bother asking her to explain
herself, you'll just end up more
confused.

SALLY

Okay... so what do you two do,
anyway?

TWIST

'Do'?

SALLY

Well, I'm still trying to figure
out what kinds of free-lancers you
are, 'cause...

(looks them over)

... you don't exactly dress how I'd
expect people who do a lot of this
sort of thing to.

(CONTINUED)

TWIST

No sense losing your sense of style
just because you have to get your
hands dirty.

DANYAEL

We investigate weird stuff like
this all the time. You know,
helping people with problems,
clearing up messes, stuff like
that.

SALLY

Oh, I get it. You're with the CIA,
aren't you?

Twist and Danyael exchange a glance, before Chris calls out:

CHRIS

Twist? Danyael? Come and take a
look at this.

Sally follows as they reach Chris, who has stopped on the
slope, shining his torch down on a set of tracks pressed into
the muddy ground.

TWIST

What'cha got?

CHRIS

What sort of animal would make
tracks like those?

SALLY

(studies them)
Nothing I can think of.

CHRIS

Exactly.

Chris looks up, shining his torch at the woods around them.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Ever since we got here, I've been
sensing something... off about this
whole area.

SALLY

'Sensing'?

DANYAEL

(quiet)
He thinks he's a Jedi.

CHRIS

We should split up. We need to cover more ground to get to the bottom of this, before-

A screeching HOWL rips through the trees around them, and the team spring to alertness.

TWIST

Before that happens?

CHRIS

That's what I was aiming for...

Chris draws his katana, not noticing Sally's eyes bulge at the sight of the sword.

SALLY

(scared)

Uh... okay, maybe I'll just go back to the Jeep now and leave you guys to-

Something DROPS down and lands before her!

SALLY (cont'd)

Aah!

She stumbles backwards and lands on her ass - and sees the MONSTER before her at last! It's on all fours with a thin, wolf-like body and dark, smooth skin.

The creature SNAPS its jaws towards Sally, but Twist charges into frame and SMASHES her baseball bat across its jaw.

Twist pulls Sally to her feet as the stunned creature rolls back down the hillside, and several more creatures drop down from the hills overhead to surround the team.

CHRIS

Stay back to back! Don't let them drag you out into the open!

DANYAEL

What are they?

Chris stares at one of the fiends as they encircle the group, gripping his katana tightly.

CHRIS

Another part of the puzzle. Watch out, in case they-

Two of the creatures LEAP to the attack, but Chris' sword SLICES through the air at dizzying speed, neatly cutting both creatures in two.

Twist and Danyael are also in action, kicking and hitting anything that gets too close, keeping Sally safe behind them.

DANYAEL

Alright, I've got a new plan.

TWIST

I'm all ears!

DANYAEL

We run.

TWIST

We what?

DANYAEL

You got a better idea?

Twist glances at him, then marches boldly forward, heading straight for the nearest wolf-creature.

CHRIS

Twist? What are you doing? Get back here!

TWIST

Here, boy...

She tenses up as the first wolf bounds towards her, her fingers tightening around her bat.

TWIST (cont'd)

(narrows eyes)

Fetch.

It leaps towards her - but with a mighty POW she knocks it straight out of the sky.

Two more creatures charge at her, one from each side, but Twist quickly snatches one out of the air and swings it into the second, dropping both to floor - and STAMPING on their necks with a loud CRUNCH.

She stares down the final monster as it GROWLS at her, and she pats her bat into her palm with a grin.

TWIST (cont'd)

You really want to do what you're thinking about doing?

The creature starts to pad slowly backwards - then, with a final BARK of anger, it turns tails and runs.

Twist turns to the others with a victorious grin, but that soon drops as Chris charges angrily towards her.

CHRIS

What the bloody hell was that?

TWIST

That was me killing the monsters.
Did I miss a memo? That's still
what we do, right?

CHRIS

You could've been killed!

TWIST

I know what I'm doing.

CHRIS

(stern)

No. You don't.

Chris stares her down, and Twist is obviously taken aback by his statement.

TWIST

Hey, just because I-

CHRIS

I understand you've been through a lot, Twist, and you obviously still feel some need to prove yourself to me again, but charging blindly into one-sided fights isn't going to impress anyone.

TWIST

(angry)

I'm not looking to 'impress' anyone, you helmet! I'm doing what I'm supposed to do!

CHRIS

And when did punching above your weight become something you were 'supposed' to do?

TWIST

(scoffs)

I could handle those things.

CHRIS

That's not the point and you know it.

DANYAEL

Guys!

He steps between them, trying to cut through the thick, tense atmosphere.

(CONTINUED)

DANYAEL (cont'd)
 Can we argue about this later?
 (to Chris)
 What were those things?

Chris and Twist continue to glare at each other for a beat, before Chris takes a breath and continues.

CHRIS
 They were kyoten. Magically-mutated
 descendants of mountain wolves.

Chris starts to walk back up the trail - nobody has even looked at the shocked Sally since the creatures attacked.

CHRIS (cont'd)
 They're also a long way from their
 indigenous habitat.

DANYAEL
 Which means what?

CHRIS
 One of two things. Either someone
 brought them here specially, or
 they were drawn here by some other
 force, and my bet is the magical
 essence in the DNA drew them to
 whatever's in those woods like a
 moth to a neon-

SALLY
 (yells)
 What the hell just happened?!?

She shakes with a mixture of fear and frustration, and Twist steps up to her and places a hand on her shoulder.

TWIST
 I'll explain everything on the way.

The trio continue up the trail, and as Sally takes a moment to try and process what she just saw, we cut to:

Weaving through a dense patch of trees now, the group can hear the distant sounds of chanting voices filtering through to them, carried on the wind that rustles the tops of the tall trees.

SALLY
 Can you all hear that?

DANYAEL

Sounds like voices... what are they saying?

CHRIS

They're chanting.

TWIST

(to Sally)

Which is never good.

SALLY

Chanting? Oh, I suppose now there's gonna be some kind of coven of devil worshippers out there, right? And more of those things that attacked us?

CHRIS

Hopefully neither, but something tells me we are about to run into a little trouble.

He points - the purple HAZE of light is starting to shine again through the trees.

CHRIS (cont'd)

We need to get to higher ground. Observe what's going on without being seen.

SALLY

I, uh, think there's a path over this way.

CHRIS

Lead on.

SALLY

Answer me something first.

CHRIS

(beat)

All right.

SALLY

Is anybody going to tell me what's going on out here?

The team swap glances.

CHRIS

Later. I promise.

He motions for Sally to lead the way, and with a HUFF she starts on her way, and we find ourselves on:

13

EXT. HILLS - SLOPE - NEXT

13

The team creep slowly to the edge of a small crest overlooking a clearing down below - and sure enough, they see the portal and the crowd of chanting people before it.

SALLY

What in the...

TWIST

See? Chanting. Bad.

DANYAEL

What are they all doing here?

CHRIS

They're either the ones keeping that thing open, or they're waiting for whatever's coming through it.

TWIST

So we need to go and break up the party.

CHRIS

We certainly do.

He steps back, and the team form a circle.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Miss Swift, it'll be best if you stay up here with me.

SALLY

Not arguing.

CHRIS

Twist, Danyael, I want you two to get down there and mingle.

TWIST

'Mingle'? What is this, a frat party?

DANYAEL

You mean mix with the crowd and find out what's going on, right?

CHRIS

Exactly. You're two vampires, so you'd arouse less suspicion than two regular humans showing up. While you're doing that, I'll be-

(CONTINUED)

SALLY
 (interrupts)
 Wait a second - vampires?!?

Twist SIGHS, laying an arm round Sally's shoulder.

TWIST
 We all are, but we're good
 vampires, and you know this because
 we haven't killed you. That make
 sense?

Sally doesn't look convinced as Chris motions for Twist and Danyael to head down into the clearing.

CHRIS
 Join in with the chanting if you
 have to, just find out everything
 you can.

TWIST
 Roger roger.

DANYAEL
 (to Chris)
 What are you going to do?

CHRIS
 Cook up a spell to seal that thing
 before anything drags itself into
 our world.

Twist and Danyael head back down the slope, and Chris shrugs off his bag and opens it, starting to lay out a series of spell components on the ground. Sally picks up one jar and examines it.

SALLY
 So...

Chris takes the jar back and puts it with the others.

SALLY (cont'd)
 Uh... do you... people... do this
 sort of thing a lot?

CHRIS
 More and more, it seems.

SALLY
 And that big electrical thing down
 there, that's a-

CHRIS
 A portal. A gateway to another
 world.

(MORE)

CHRIS (cont'd)

And most likely somewhere we really don't want a portal opening into.

SALLY

Huh. But you can, you know... close it, can't you?

CHRIS

I imagine we'll find out.

Chris concentrates on putting his spell together as a nervous Sally looks on, and we cut to:

Twist and Danyael pace carefully up to the back of the crowd of chanting people - which has grown considerably since we last saw it. New people are drifting towards it all the time.

A middle-aged MAN turns to them both with a severe glare as they step closer - the vampires' clothes make them stand out.

MAN

What are you two-

Twist smiles - showing off her FANGS.

MAN (cont'd)

Oh.

TWIST

Sorry we're late.

(nudges Danyael)

He isn't built for outdoor travel.

MAN

Just get in position. The Dark One will be arriving soon.

TWIST

Wouldn't want to miss that!

They try to blend into the crowd, picking up enough of the words of the chant to stop people staring at them. Danyael isn't having much luck until Twist nudges him again, getting him to recite the correct words.

DANYAEL

(whispers)

'The Dark One'?

TWIST

(whispers)

Maybe it's a Black Sabbath secret reunion gig?

(off his look)

Or not...

DANYAEL

I don't like this, Twist. This was a bad idea.

TWIST

Yes, but it wasn't our bad idea, so we can escape any blame later.

DANYAEL

I just think we ought to-

He stops as there is a deep RUMBLING sound, and the chanting grows in intensity to keep up with the noise.

Alarmed, Twist and Danyael look on as the ground all around the portal starts to GLOW a deep red, and then suddenly burst into FLAMES!

The chanting is at fever pitch as the flaming ground starts to shake, and with a series of CRASHES, chunks of STONE start to push their way to the surface.

What appears to be the foundations of some large building are literally rising out of the ground, with the portal as its centrepiece.

As the flames burn more brightly, illuminating the newly-excavated structure, Danyael grabs Twist's arm.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

Alright, that's it. We're leaving and going back to-

He's cut off by a loud HOWL from within the portal. The chanting crowd CHEER and start to APPLAUD.

A dark SHAPE again appears inside the portal, but this time the vortex of swirling energy seems to stretch and distort - something is coming through!

TWIST

There's no language on the planet where this is a good thing...

First, a colossal CLAW tears through the energy and into our world, then a second - and finally, with a deep, guttural ROAR that echoes round the hills, a gigantic, hideous CREATURE barges its way through...

Twist and Danyael gape at the horrifying, demonic monster as it BELLOWS into the night sky, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

15 EXT. HILLS - CLEARING - NIGHT

15

The chanting crowd fall to their knees in rapture as the house-sized monster finally drags its entire body out through the portal.

Twist pulls the dumbstruck Danyael down before they're spotted, but the two vampires look back up at the creature towering over them.

Looking like a a giant, twisted scorpion, the monster's front half stands upright, with a fang-filled mouth stretching down almost half of its front and two large, clawed arms snapping at the air. A barbed tail rises up from its rear, swinging agitatedly from side to side.

MAN

Hail the skorpione!

CROWD

Hail! Hail! Hail!

The SKORPIONE tilts its head back and HOWLS defiantly, and Twist and Danyael take advantage of the melee around them as the enraptured crowd swoon in worship of the beast, quietly slipping away into the shadows.

16 EXT. HILLS - SLOPE - NEXT

16

Chris and Sally are staring at the monstrous skorpione - Sally looks scared out of her wits, but Chris' face is a mask of quiet determination.

They whip round as they hear someone coming, and Chris draws his katana - but relaxes when Twist and Danyael emerge from the treeline.

TWIST

(urgently)

Can you see it? Can you see it?

CHRIS

I'm afraid so.

They all gather at the edge of the crest to look down at the creature below.

SALLY

What is it?

DANYAEL

I heard some guy call it a 'skorpione.'

(CONTINUED)

TWIST

(thinks)

Why does that sound familiar?

CHRIS

Because we very nearly ran into one of these things before, remember?

TWIST

I seem to recall you not letting me keep a perfectly good severed claw from one of them, yes.

SALLY

Wait... you mean there are more of those things?

DANYAEL

Knowing our luck, lots more.

TWIST

How do we stop it?

CHRIS

I don't know yet.

TWIST

Figure something out!

CHRIS

I can't just snap my fingers and get a solution to bring down something like that!

TWIST

Chris, look at that thing! We need an answer now, before it...

She trails off, staring in horror down into the clearing. The others follow her gaze - and see the skorpione lumbering towards the lights of Fraserdale at the foot of the hills.

SALLY

Oh, my God...

DANYAEL

Okay, big scorpion monster plus town full of civilians equals bad, right?

Chris doesn't answer - he turns and races back down the slope, and the others are quick to follow:

17 EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL - NEXT

17

The monster's trail is easy to follow - it's barging a house-shaped path through the thick woodland.

The group return to where they left the Jeep - but as they pass a row of trees torn from the ground, they also find that the Jeep hasn't escaped the skorpione's rampage.

Both the Jeep and its driver are flattened beneath fallen trees, smoke pouring from its ruined engine.

Chris doesn't stop running, but a horrified Sally goes to the dead driver, hands over her mouth. Danyaël runs back into frame and grabs her, dragging her away.

DANYAEL

Worry about him later! Come on!

Sally can't tear her eyes away from the fallen driver as we cut to:

18 EXT. FRASERDALE - SUBURB - NEXT

18

The trail leads out onto a road at the edge of a small housing estate, and the team race down the street, following the path of trampled cars and crushed buildings.

They turn a corner and are greeted with a terrible sight - the skorpione has flattened several houses and left a number of people scattered across the street, dead or dying.

Sally runs up to the nearest one, a bloodied WOMAN, as the approaching wail of ambulance sirens can be heard.

SALLY

Don't worry, we're going to get you some help!

WOMAN

(coughs; weakly)
The... children...

SALLY

What?

WOMAN

It took... it took them...

SALLY

Took them where?

The woman groans, then with a last SHUDDER her head lolls to the side. She's gone.

(CONTINUED)

A tearful Sally gets unsteadily back to her feet as Chris and the others survey the mayhem around them.

TWIST

We have to help these people!

SALLY

She said it took some kids... oh, God, what if it's going to-

CHRIS

We have to find it and stop it.

TWIST

Yeah, still waiting on a 'how' for that great plan!

CHRIS

Twist, we can't save these people!

He looks over as a line of ambulances tear into the street, skidding to a halt at various disaster areas.

CHRIS (cont'd)

We're the only ones here who stand a chance at killing that creature.

Twist looks helplessly back to the wrecked houses - she knows he's right. Chris looks around, his eyes falling on a rugged-looking 4x4 truck that luckily escaped the carnage.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Come on.

He heads for the truck, and as the distraught Sally stays with her shattered town, we cut to:

The 4x4 bounces along the trail, weaving around rocks and between trees, following the wide trail of destruction the skorpione is leaving in its wake.

It's soon managed to catch it up, the tall, black shape of the lumbering beast barging through the thick trees as though they were matchwood.

Twist stares at the huge beast, her mind racing as Chris concentrates on catching up to it and not hitting anything.

TWIST

What's the plan when we catch up to this thing?

CHRIS

Distract it while I work out a way
to kill it.

DANYAEL

'Distract it' how?

Chris narrows his eyes, putting his foot down - and the other two realise that he's aiming straight for the creature's hind quarters!

TWIST

Wait... wait a minute... wait!!

They brace themselves as:

EXT. MOUNTAIN TRAIL - NEXT

SLAM! The truck powers into the back of the creature, catching its leg and knocking it off balance. The skorpione teeters, then CRASHES to one side, knocking down a sizeable chunk of forest as it falls.

The team stagger out of the ruined 4x4, drawing their weapons and advancing on the huge creature as its arms flail, trying to push itself back up.

DANYAEL

(gulps)

Okay... I'm open to suggestions...

TWIST

Hit. Avoid being hit back.

DANYAEL

That's not a plan!

TWIST

It's more of a strategy.

Chris rushes past them, a ball of red energy already starting to build in his hand.

CHRIS

Keep moving and keep attacking!
Don't let it get away again!

The team run round to face the creature as it finally rights itself. It HOWLS at them, its deafening roar shaking the forest around them.

In its left claw, the team can see several small CHILDREN desperately screaming for help.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Aim for its eyes! Don't hurt the children!

Twist marches forward, bat raised in the air.

TWIST

Alright, you hellish beast of hell, I'm going to send you back to hell where you belong.

(beat)

In Hell!

She rushes forward, but as the skorpione's massive CLAW swoops down towards her, Danyael TACKLES her out of the way.

Chris takes advantage of the diversion to launch the bolt of energy at the skorpione, and it EXPLODES in the monster's face to a ROAR of pain.

Chris DIVES out of the way as the skorpione's barbed tail SLAMS down into the earth, missing him by inches.

Twist manages to get close enough to swing her bat at the creature's thick, scaly body - but her bat SHATTERS on impact!

She gapes at the remains of her bat, narrowly avoiding being flattened again as its legs skitter round towards her.

Danyael pulls her back, watching as Chris throws more fireballs of energy at the skorpione, but they don't seem to be having much effect.

DANYAEL

How the hell are we supposed to stop this thing?

TWIST

I don't know! Maybe we...

She trails off, a thought striking her as she watches the creature's tail snaking through the air.

TWIST (cont'd)

Cover me.

She pushes away from Danyael and races towards the skorpione.

DANYAEL

What?!?

Chris rears back to throw another fireball, but the skorpione's free claw SWATS into him, lifting him off his feet and sending him hurtling back through the air.

The creature turns its attention on Danyael, who pales in fear as it takes one massive step towards him.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

Oh, *crap*...

The skorpione ROARS, raising its claw to crush him...

TWIST (O.S.)

Hey! Baumgartner!

The creature turns - Twist is standing by its tail, the sharp chunk of wood that used to be her bat in one hand.

TWIST (cont'd)

I think I found your weak spot.

She turns and RAMS the bat into a pink, fleshy piece of exposed skin between two of the armour-like scales covering the creature, and it SHRIEKS in pain.

Forgetting all about Chris and Danyael, it scuttles round in a circle to face Twist, but she keeps moving, staying close to it and not letting it get a fix on her.

The skorpione GROWLS in frustration, and Twist jumps onto one of its legs, hopping up onto its back.

She looks up behind her - the barbed tail is streaking down towards her. She narrows her eyes, timing her next move...

... and at the last possible second, she LEAPS clear and misses the tail, which SPEARS into the creature's back.

The skorpione arches its back and YOWLS, and Twist races back over to Danyael, snatching his bag.

DANYAEL

Hey! What the-

She opens the bag - and reveals a cluster of GRENADES!

DANYAEL (cont'd)

What are those?!?

TWIST

I, uh, stole 'em from Parker's lab.
There wasn't any more room in my
bag for them.

She pops the catch on one grenade and turns back to the creature, swinging the bag round her head by the strap.

TWIST (cont'd)

(yells)

Fire in the hole!

She THROWS the bag - aiming for the monster's open, screeching mouth. The bag sails past its rows of huge teeth and disappears down its throat.

There's a beat - and then a huge EXPLOSION punches a hole through the skorpione's chest. A torrent of red blood sprays out as the creature wavers from side to side...

TWIST (cont'd)

Get out of the way!!

She grabs Danyael and they run for cover as the huge monster falls forward, pitching face first into the ground with a colossal CRASH.

The dust takes a moment to settle, as does the reverberating sound of the creature's final impact. Twist turns to Danyael as they stare at the fallen monster.

DANYAEL

Uh... timber?

TWIST

Let's go get those kids.

They hurry over towards the monster.

As the duo pry open the creature's claw and help the half dozen bawling kids down from within the car-sized sections of its claw, a bloodied Chris staggers back into frame.

TWIST (cont'd)

You alright?

Chris doesn't answer, stumbling forward to flop down onto the ground.

TWIST (cont'd)

Right. Redundant question.

DANYAEL

What are we gonna do about these kids?

Twist thinks, then turns to the group of frightened children.

TWIST

Okay, guys, here's the plan. You're all going to go back to town with your Uncle Danyael here, alright? He'll make sure there aren't any more monsters.

Danyael doesn't look like he likes the thought of this, but manages a smile as the kids all turn to look at him.

DANYAEL

Uh... that's right.

(beat)

Hi.

The kids shuffle over to him as Twist crouches down by the winded Chris.

TWIST

System nil, revolution one, right?

CHRIS

(shakes head)

No. Before...

(wheezes)

... before we left, I could sense something... something else was on its way here.

TWIST

Through the portal?

CHRIS

I didn't even get a chance to start my spell to try and seal it.

Twist glances wryly at the dead skorpione.

TWIST

Funnily enough, I'd managed to work that much out.

CHRIS

We need to get... back up there, before...

Twist helps him to his feet, dusting him down.

TWIST

Before it gets here, yeah, I get it. Spook's taking care of the kids, so it's just you and me.

(smirks)

Just like the good old days.

She helps him limp back up the trail, and we cut to:

The crowd of supporters are still waiting before the portal, mostly staring expectantly at the wide path the skorpione bashed through the trees on its way to the village.

MAN

It's been gone longer than I was expecting...

WOMAN

It's probably just taking its time.
The skorpione haven't walked on
this earth for thousands of years,
after all!

MAN

Heh, yeah. Probably just getting
carried away with its freedom!

WOMAN

Do we know when-

She stops as the portal suddenly BLAZES for a moment with
bright light, and the followers quickly reassemble back
before it.

They begin their CHANTING again, but this time the portal
starts to shrink, contracting in on itself and floating
closer to the ground as we cut to:

Twist is still having to support the wounded Chris as they
make their way back up the slope, which is slowing their
progress right down.

TWIST

You know, I seem to remember a
story you told me, where once upon
a time vampires were supposed to
heal faster than humans...

CHRIS

(coughs)
Well, as somebody who isn't
technically a vampire, you have my
apologies...

Chris winces, and grabs hold of a tree to steady himself.
Twist unhooks his arm and lowers him to the ground.

TWIST

Okay, let Dr. McFadden take a look
at this.

She notices his shirt is damp with blood in several places,
and starts to unbutton it.

CHRIS

What are you doing?

TWIST

Believe me, it's not for my own
amusement.

CHRIS

I'm telling you, I'm fine...

TWIST

And I'm telling you to shut the hell up, while I-

She SNAPS his shirt open - and GASPS at what she sees. There's a large chunk of WOOD sticking out of Chris' chest, perilously close to his heart!

CHRIS

What...

(looks down)

Oh.

TWIST

Don't move, okay? I'm gonna get this out of there!

CHRIS

No, Twist, don't...

TWIST

(stern)

Listen, you wanna do an impression of Dracula after Van Helsing got him, be my guest, but you don't do it on my watch, alright?

She places her palm against his chest and grabs the chunk of wood with her other hand.

TWIST (cont'd)

This... this is gonna hurt.

A beat - then she YANKS the wood free with a wet SQUELCH, and Chris ROARS in pain! He doubles over, and she quickly presses his shirt to the open wound.

TWIST (cont'd)

Sorry! Sorry, I did it the best I could...

CHRIS

(shakes head)

It's... it's fine... it just... hurts...

Twist looks anxiously up the trail ahead of them.

TWIST

You good to walk again?

He nods, and as Chris pushes himself to his feet through sheer force of will, we cut to:

24

EXT. HILLS - CLEARING - NEXT

24

The portal is now hovering just over the remains of a stone staircase from the unearthed ruins, and the rhythmic chanting is building up again.

MAN

The Dark One approaches... praise
to the Dark One!

CROWD

Praise to the Dark One!

Everyone's attention is on the small, human-sized portal, as Chris and Twist stagger up onto the hillside overlooking the clearing.

A dark form appears inside the portal, and the followers start to build up their chants, the energy FIZZING more violently around the vortex itself.

The figure steps closer to the barrier separating our world from the other side of the portal - and a HAND pushes its way through!

The followers CHEER as another hand pushes through, before the whole figure steps neatly through the portal with another BLAZE of light.

It's a tall figure, its head covered by a hooded, crimson cloak. A huge sword is strapped across its back.

The followers fall to their knees again, murmuring their praises as the figure paces leisurely down the steps.

The figure reaches the final steps, then raises its arms to invoke a rapturous CHEER from the crowd before it. Its hands reach back towards its hood, and the followers fall into silence.

The hood is slowly drawn back - still facing away from us, all we get is a bald, scarred head, before we pan round to get a good look at the new arrival at last as he raises his head to the crowd.

The hair may be gone, and the Gallic features have taken a battering, but there's no mistaking who this is.

It's MANON.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

25

EXT. HILLS - CLEARING - NIGHT

25

The followers part as Manon makes his way down the last of the steps, finally placing his feet on terra firma.

He looks over his shoulder - and the portal seals at last, shrinking away to nothing and vanishing with a POP.

He grins and looks back across the crowd before him, before getting to his hands and knees and KISSING the ground.

The middle-aged Man steps forward, wringing his hands together nervously.

MAN

You... you've returned to us! We all heard your call, every one of us, the voices, the messages, the-

He stops as Manon raises a hand. He reaches into his cloak, and the crowd hold their breath - but Manon takes out a CIGAR. He plants it between his lips and grins.

MANON

Does anybody have a light?

The crowd erupt back into CHEERS and LAUGHTER, surrounding Manon as he shakes the sea of waiting hands warmly. Somebody offers him a lighter and he gets his cigar started.

WOMAN

We thought you weren't coming back!

MAN

It'd been so long, we hadn't heard from you in weeks, and we thought...

MANON

You thought you were all going crazy? That the 'voices' you 'eard were just the first signs that you were halfway to the sanitorium?

MAN

Well... yeah.

Manon grins and pats the man on the shoulder, squeezing the shoulder firmly.

MANON

As you can see, you 'ad nothing to worry about.

(CONTINUED)

The man nods and smiles back - but then his smile starts to fade. He grimaces, his legs starting to buckle - and Manon keeps his hand on the man's shoulder.

MANON (cont'd)

But I am afraid, *monsieur*, that I take great personal offence to anyone who doubts what I say.

SMOKE is starting to rise from Manon's hand - and from the Man himself! He turns a bright red, and the crowd quickly scatter away from him.

MANON (cont'd)

So, as a penalty, you will get to be the first demonstration of what I 'ave learned in the other worlds.

The man finally SCREAMS in pain, and there's a GASP from the crowd as the Man's body goes up in FLAMES!

Manon releases his hand, and the man's flaming body staggers from side to side, flailing desperately through the air, before collapsing in a heap on the floor.

There's a shocked silence as the body disintegrates into ashes, and a gust of wind sweeps the remains up and into the air, carrying them off into the night.

Manon claps his hands together to signify a job well done, before turning to the rest of the crowd.

MANON (cont'd)

Now... did anybody else 'ave any fears about my return that they wish to share?

Nobody says a word, not surprisingly, and Manon grins broadly, chewing on his fat cigar.

Up on the hillside, a stunned Chris and Twist can't quite believe what they're seeing.

TWIST

That's...

CHRIS

(darkly)
Yes.

TWIST

But he...

CHRIS

He did.

TWIST

And we...

CHRIS

We did.

She sags, clearly a long way from understanding what the heck is going on.

CHRIS (cont'd)

We have to stop him, we can't let
him-

Chris tries to stand, but his legs give way and he stumbles back to the ground. Twist manages to catch him, helping him back up to lean against a tree.

TWIST

You're in no state to do anything.
You wait right here. I'll fix this.

She starts to walk away, but he calls out to her:

CHRIS

No!

She stops, turning back to him with an annoyed glare.

TWIST

Don't tell me what I can and can't
do, Chris!

CHRIS

(shakes head)
Don't go. We don't know what kinds
of powers he has now.

TWIST

Then I'll find out! I can handle
it!

She starts to walk away again, but this time Chris shouts out more fiercely:

CHRIS

Twist, get back here, now!

She spins to him, finger to her lips.

TWIST

Shush! You want the whole damn cult
to hear us or something?

He holds her gaze, and after a beat she sighs and steps back over to him.

(CONTINUED)

TWIST (cont'd)

Okay, so give me a better plan.

CHRIS

I just need a minute... we'll wait for Danyael, we'll follow Manon and then we'll deal with him when we get the right opportunity.

TWIST

And if we don't get one?

CHRIS

Then we make one.

Chris uses his katana to push himself to his feet, one hand pressed to his wounded chest. He's still a little unsteady, but grits his teeth and takes a step forward.

CHRIS (cont'd)

But for now, we wait.

He takes a few steps closer, his eyes on Manon and his followers up ahead, as we cut to:

Danyael walks into frame and approaches the ruined cluster of houses as fire and ambulance crews swarm over them, a child on each arm and the others gathered around him.

Sally spots him first and rushes over, several relieved parents close behind her. Danyael smiles as he lowers the kids to the ground, letting them run into the waiting arms of their families.

SALLY

You... how...

(shakes head)

Never mind. Something tells me I don't want to know what happened to that thing.

DANYAEL

No. But you might want to consider getting some photos of it before the Cleaners show up to take it away.

SALLY

The who?

DANYAEL

Long story.

(beat)

(MORE)

DANYAEL (cont'd)
So, uh, Chris and Twist need me to
get back, so I should, you know...

She nods, and there's an awkward beat - then Sally grabs him,
pulls him close and KISSES him!

DANYAEL (cont'd)
(surprised)
Woah! Uh... what was that for?

SALLY
On behalf of the kids.

DANYAEL
(blushes)
Um... they're welcome.
(beat)
I should, uh...

SALLY
Yeah. We've got a lot to do here.
The whole town's come out to help,
so...

DANYAEL
Yeah.

After a last beat, they turn and hurry away out of frame, and
we cut up to:

Danyael is making his way back up to the hills as fast as he
can, but he hears a noise off to his right and pauses.

Looking through the trees, he notices what look like car
headlights moving along, and with a relieved expression he
heads closer to investigate.

He's only a few trees away when he pauses, noticing that
along with the off-road vehicles making their way up the
trails, there are many men and women walking alongside the
convoy - and they're all armed.

Keeping up with the convoy, he gets in for a closer look,
making his way towards the front of the group to see who's
leading the charge - and his eyes widen at the figure riding
on top of the lead truck.

It's VIVIAN.

DANYAEL
(groans)
Aw, man...

She looks back across the motley crew behind her and grins, a
sword in her hand as she leads her troop onwards.

27 CONTINUED:

27

Danyael breaks away, disappearing back into the shadows and leaving Vivian's convoy to their trek as we cut to:

28 EXT. HILLS - CLEARING - NEXT

28

Manon is standing on top of the small staircase, looking out across the ruins arrayed below him. Several anxious followers stand nearby.

MANON

(off ruins)

This used to be an incredible temple, you know. A glittering palace of worship fifty feet high, visible for miles all around.

MALE FOLLOWER

How do you know that?

MANON

Because I came 'ere when it was still standing.

The followers murmur their awe at that fact.

MANON (cont'd)

I 'ave been to many places, many worlds and many times... but now that I 'ave made it back 'ere at last, this is where it begins. 'ere and now.

He stamps his foot on the stairs and turns to face the crowd.

MANON (cont'd)

Where is my skorpione?

MALE FOLLOWER

We, ah... we don't know. It went down into that town at the bottom of the trail and hasn't come back yet.

MANON

(beat)

No matter.

He heads back down the steps, getting back on the same level as his followers.

MANON (cont'd)

I trust everything is arranged as I 'ave instructed?

FEMALE FOLLOWER

Yes, sir.

(CONTINUED)

MANON

Good. We 'ave a lot ahead of us,
and I would 'ate for there to be
any setbacks before we-

He stops as the sounds of approaching vehicles wash towards him, and the group look round as the headlights of Vivian's truck fall on them!

Up on the hillside, Chris and Twist look round as Danyael rushes towards them, breathless and looking like he's run the whole way up the trail.

TWIST

Spook? What is it?

He tries to speak but can't get his words out - and as Vivian's truck leads the rest of its convoy out onto the clearing beneath them, he settles for just pointing.

Manon's followers unconsciously group protectively around him as Vivian's line of vehicles spills out into the clearing, the swarm of armed escorts close by.

The vehicles form a circle around the ruins, blocking off any means of exit, and as the armed escorts step into view, Manon's followers gasp as they see the FANGS that each one grins at them - they're surrounded by VAMPIRES!

Manon pushes his way through his people, standing defiantly out in the open as Vivian signals for the parade of vehicles to stop.

She looks down on Manon, and with a wry grin she hops down from the roof of her truck, strolling casually towards him.

Chris frowns as he watches the scene, trying to second guess what's going on.

CHRIS

Why is Vivian here?

TWIST

I think the question should be
'where did she get all that stuff?'

DANYAEL

(panting)
I was trying... to get here...
before they did...

TWIST

You sure they didn't see you?

He nods, and they turn their attention back to the clearing, as Vivian walks right up to Manon.

(CONTINUED)

She's carrying a sword, turning it round in her hand as she sizes the Frenchman up.

VIVIAN

You're taller than I was expecting.

MANON

And what were you expecting,
Miss...

VIVIAN

Taylor. Vivian Taylor. Got a
message to come out here and bring
a few friends along. Apparently,
there'd be some guy with a bad
accent that I had to kill.

(shrugs)

Nothing personal. Orders are
orders, after all.

They start to circle one another as their two respective groups look on. The vampires are eyeing up the terrified followers greedily.

MANON

'Orders,' you say? From whom?

VIVIAN

Well now, that's the twist, isn't
it? I'm not sure. But he's given me
enough help to make sure I stay one
step ahead of the pack a few times
now, so I figure if the guy wants
some random dude killed, then I can
manage that.

She twirls her sword round as she raises it, striking an offensive pose.

VIVIAN (cont'd)

So how about it?

Manon grins, reaching for his own sword - and Vivian's eyes bulge as he draws out a huge, ferocious sword several feet long, its blade a deep, blood red and CRACKLING with magical power.

He spins it round in the air above his head, and it sends off a shower of sparks that illuminate the entire clearing.

Vivian lets her confidence drop for a beat, before recovering and quickly plastering her trademark smirk back into place.

VIVIAN (cont'd)
 Alright, so Santa thought you were
 a good little boy. Doesn't mean you
 know how to use it, or-

Manon's sword moves in a blur of motion - and Vivian's sword
 falls away, sliced in three places. She stares down at the
 handle that remains as Manon CHUCKLES.

VIVIAN (cont'd)
 (mutters)
 Damn...

MANON
 After all the creatures I 'ave
 faced, and the monsters that I 'ave
 slain, do you really think you and
 your little pack of vampires will
 be able to stop me?

Vivian narrows her eyes, tossing away her sword and taking
 off her jacket, putting her fists up.

VIVIAN
 I think we should find out. Hows
 about you lose the toy and we go at
 this the old fashioned way?

Manon looks her up and down, then with a shrug tosses his
 sword away - it SPIKES into the ground a few feet away,
 starting to GLOW with a baleful light that covers the scene.

MANON
 I'll admit, it 'as been a long time
 since I fought-

SMACK! Vivian gets the first jab in, and grins as Manon dabs
 a spot of blood from his nose.

He SNARLS and charges back in, and though Vivian tries to
 dodge the punches and chops he rains down on her, she can't
 avoid them all.

One SNAPS down onto her elbow, another THUDS into her chest,
 and he drops a HEADBUTT on her that sends her reeling, before
 a powerful roundhouse KICK knocks her off her feet.

He charges over to her as she tries to flip back up, grabbing
 her and lifting her effortlessly into the air, yelling in
 victory towards Vivian's pack of vampires.

The concerned vampires aren't sure what to do, looking to one
 another for some kind of guidance as Manon PILEDRIVES Vivian
 face first into the ground.

She COUGHS as she tries to push herself upright, but he GRABS her by the throat, lifting her up into the air. Her feet dangle, kicking at him but having no effect.

MANON (cont'd)

Not bad! Not bad at all. I've killed things less powerful than you, for sure.

VIVIAN

(struggles)

Is that.. a compliment?

MANON

Mais oui.

Manon suddenly DROPS her to the ground. He steps back, giving her time to get to her feet, before offering her his hand.

MANON (cont'd)

So I should offer you my congratulations.

VIVIAN

(rubs throat)

Oh yeah? And why's that?

MANON

Because you 'ave passed.

VIVIAN

Passed what?

MANON

The final test!

(grins)

I knew I was right to pick you to 'elp me.

Vivian's jaw drops as the pieces start to fall together.

VIVIAN

You mean...

He nods - and we quickly switch over to Chris and the others, listening in from up on the hillside. Chris has worked it out as well.

CHRIS

He's Vivian's boss...

Down below, Vivian doesn't know what to do - but then reaches out and takes Manon's hand. As he shakes it, she starts to grin, and Manon quickly embraces her, turning to show their partnership off to the vampires surrounding them.

(CONTINUED)

On the hillside, Chris has to sit down, knowing that things just became a lot more complicated.

TWIST

So... so Vivian's what, Manon's bitch now?

DANYAEL

How? I mean...

CHRIS

I don't know. We'll have to work all that out later. The first thing we have to do is-

He stops as a twig SNAPS behind him. He spins round, one hand on his katana handle as he gestures for Twist and Danyael to fan out.

Approaching the dark canopy of trees at the foot of the hillside, Chris keeps his eyes focused dead ahead.

He steps silently into the trees, his body hunched and ready to spring - and as something moves to his side, he suddenly LEAPS into action!

He TACKLES a shadowy figure and the two stumble back out onto the hillside, but as Chris is thrown over the figure's head and SLAMMED onto his back, it's clear he's still far from his best.

A sword blade digs into his throat - but is then quickly withdrawn and replaced by a helping hand. Chris blinks in surprise as he sees his attacker clearly at last.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Diego?

Diego grins as Chris takes his hand, pulling Chris to his feet.

DIEGO

Apologies for sneaking up on you, *senor*. I wasn't sure it was you, and with all the vampires round here I had to be certain before I-

TWIST (O.S.)

Hold it right-

He spins round as Twist and Danyael finally burst out of the treeline - but the duo stop when they see Diego.

TWIST (cont'd)

... there?

DANYAEL

Diego? What are you doing here?

VOICE (O.S.)

He's with me.

The group turn as a new figure emerges from the forest - a tall, handsome man with short, dark hair.

It's SANCTUS.

SANCTUS

And it looks like we got here a little too late.

CHRIS

You knew about this?

SANCTUS

I knew something was happening, yes. I didn't know what. I contacted Diego here to assist me, but he neglected to tell me who he was with at the time until it was too late to come back for you.

DIEGO

(sheepish)

I'm afraid I got a little carried away.

TWIST

So where the hell were you?!? Do you two have any idea what we've had to kill by ourselves tonight?
(beat)

I mean, we managed just fine, but that's not the point. A little help would have been nice.

Sanctus strides forward, the concern clear on his face.

SANCTUS

I am truly sorry. But right now, we have a bigger problem. More specifically, two of them.

The rowdy celebrations of Vivian's vampires below can be seen over the edge of the hill, and Sanctus glances down at them before continuing.

SANCTUS (cont'd)

Vivian's alliance is a complication, that's true, but it's not our major problem.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

Manon is.

SANCTUS

Exactly. The power of his arrival sent a shockwave throughout the world, for anybody of the right senses to feel it.

CHRIS

Why is he here? What's this 'plan' he seems to have?

SANCTUS

(grave)

I'm afraid the simplest answers are always the best. Manon has access to power now, extraordinary levels of it, and if we don't find a way to bring him down... then he'll plunge the entire world into darkness.

Chris and Twist exchange a dark look, before we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW