

SOMEWHERE INBETWEEN

"Sleepwalking"

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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. HOSPITAL WARD - NIGHT 1

A quiet ward, lights down low as a solitary young NURSE strolls along, pausing to check the occasional chart.

TITLE OVER: Carson Tahoe Regional Medical Centre, Carson City, Nevada.

The nurse arrives back at her station, settling down in her chair and taking out a magazine. She flips to the back - and finds the crossword filled in already.

With a SIGH, she shuts it again and glances at her watch - another one of those nights.

She hears something SCRAPE off screen, and her head snaps round. Squinting, she peers down the ward, but can't see anything moving.

Shrugging it off, she leans back in her chair and reaches for her bag, fishing out a dog-eared novel and leafing through to her place, when she hears something SCRAPE again.

This time she stands, and with a frown peers down into the darkness of the ward beyond.

ANGLE ON: WARD

PUSH IN slowly on the gloom spread over the rest of the ward, over beds occupied by sleeping patients, as we cut to:

2 INT. HOSPITAL WARD - CORRIDOR - NEXT 2

The nurse pokes her head out of the ward and into a long corridor, checking either way for the source of the noise.

Hearing the SCRAPING again, sounding like somebody dragging a chair along the floor, she decides to go and investigate.

She paces slowly down the corridor, rubbing her arms as she suddenly goes cold, shivering a little.

She glances over her shoulder, but there's still no-one in sight. Turning back, she heads on.

3 INT. HOSPITAL WARD - T-JUNCTION - NEXT 3

Rounding a corner, she hears the SCRAPE again, very close by this time, and she visibly tenses up.

Glancing round, she spots a BROOM leaning against the door to a store room, and she instinctively grabs it.

(CONTINUED)

Taking a few meek steps forward, clutching the broom tightly, she calls out:

NURSE
Hello? Who's there?
(beat)
Hello?

SCRAPE again, this time just up ahead - whatever's making that noise, it's about to round a corner in front of her!

The nurse rears back, raising the broom and getting ready to defend herself, as a SHADOW falls on the opposite wall...

... and as something starts to step round the corner, the Nurse suddenly YELLS to surprise it!

The JANITOR jumps a mile, TRIPPING over his mop and bucket and clattering to the floor!

JANITOR
Yow! What in the...

The Nurse grimaces, wincing as the cleaner hits the floor with a painful THUD, his mp3 player headphones popping out of his ears.

JANITOR (cont'd)
What the hell are you doing?

NURSE
Sorry! Sorry, I'm so sorry...

She reaches down to pull him to his feet, the janitor now dripping wet from the murky water splashed over his clothes.

JANITOR
(off spilt water)
Ah, woulda look at this mess?

NURSE
(winces again)
Sorry. I heard noises, I thought-

JANITOR
Lemme guess. New here?

NURSE
(nods)
First night shift.

JANITOR
Word to the wise, lady. Hospitals make noises. Well, technically, the patients make noises.
(MORE)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

JANITOR (cont'd)
The staff just haveta train
themselves not to hear 'em.

To back up his point, the janitor pops his headphones back in.

JANITOR (cont'd)
Any way they can.

With a last scowl, the janitor rights his bucket, gathers his mop and starts on his way again.

The nurse turns to leave - but when she hears the SCRAPE again, she spins round:

It's the janitor's bucket, scraping as he kicks it along the floor. With a relieved chuckle at her own nerves, the nurse heads back to the ward.

4 INT. HOSPITAL WARD - NEXT

4

Returning to her station, the nurse glances over the sleeping people in the beds - and we can now see that they're all PREGNANT WOMEN, just waiting for the big day.

She takes a seat, retrieving her novel and preparing to dive back in:

And somebody SCREAMS!

She nearly falls out of her seat, scrambling back to her feet and racing towards one of the beds as the WOMAN in it continues to SCREAM at the top of her lungs.

This wakes up plenty of the other patients, who shift round to watch as the nurse reaches the woman's side.

NURSE
Ma'am? What is it? What's wrong?

WOMAN
(breathless)
It... it was trying to kill my
baby! It wanted to hurt me, wanted
to hurt us both...

One hand protectively clutching her stomach, the near-hysterical woman rocks back and forth as the nurse presses a hand to her forehead.

NURSE
It's alright, you're safe. You're
at the medical centre. You're fine.

The woman looks up at her with wide, fearful eyes.

(CONTINUED)

NURSE (cont'd)
(reassuring)
It was just a bad dream.

The woman nods, still spooked as the nurse gently helps settle her back down.

She glances round at the other beds, seeing that the other women are losing interest and trying to get back to sleep.

ANGLE FROM FLOOR:

We watch as the nurse leaves the scared woman and heads back to her desk...

... as a drop of BLOOD falls from the sheets of the next bed along and SPLASHES on the floor before us.

ON SCENE:

The nurse is halfway back to her bed when somebody else SCREAMS, and with a resigned sigh she turns round:

But this time, she sees several woman are all up and shouting, pointing at one of the beds - which the nurse sees, to her horror, is soaked with BLOOD!

She races over, reaching the bed and throwing back the sheets as more women cry out in alarm:

And the mutilated BODY of one of the patients lies spread out before her.

Some women SCREAM, some VOMIT, some CRY OUT and try to clamber out of their beds, but the nurse just stands frozen to the spot, staring with wide eyes at the grisly scene before her.

The woman's body has been SPLIT OPEN across her belly, her limbs twisted and broken.

The nurse's gaze is drawn to the wall just above the dead woman's bed...

... where the number '1' has been daubed on the wall in the victim's own blood!

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

5 EXT. CONVENIENCE STORE CAR PARK - NIGHT 5

The BLACK VAN is parked at the far end of a car park outside a 7-11, with the occasional car SLOSHING past on the road alongside in the falling rain.

6 INT. CONVENIENCE STORE - NEXT 6

TWIST is browsing the shelves, grabbing various sugary snack foods and tossing them into a basket held by the waiting DIEGO.

Diego takes a bag of jelly sweets out and peers at them, bemused.

DIEGO

Explain to me again why you wanted to get more of these... things?

TWIST

I told you, sweet tooth.

DIEGO

And yet, you do not need to eat.

TWIST

I'm a complicated girl.

DIEGO

So I'm discovering.

Twist tosses yet more candy into the basket, and Diego looks up over the shelves to see DANYAEL stocking up on booze.

TWIST (O.S.)

Diego?

DIEGO

Hmm?

He turns back to see Twist staring at him with a raised eyebrow.

DIEGO (cont'd)

What?

TWIST

I hope you're not thinking about asking Danyael any more questions about... stuff.

(CONTINUED)

DIEGO

Don't worry, I think I already know what his answer would be.

TWIST

Good. Because talking about stuff only leads to more... stuff. And before you know it, everybody's talking about stuff, and everyone knows everyone else's stuff, and more... stuff happens.

(beat)

You get me?

DIEGO

Only very occasionally.

TWIST

Near enough.

(nods toward counter)

Let's go.

She steers towards the counter, passing SYREN, who seems entranced by the aroma wafting off a self-service hot dog dispenser.

TWIST (cont'd)

You okay there, diva?

SYREN

This smell, I've... I've never known anything like it. What kind of animal are they cooking here?

TWIST

Depends which state you're in.

Twist heads on to the counter, nodding for Diego to start unloading the basket full of goodies. The bored SALES CLERK starts running the items through the register as Danyael joins them. Diego reacts at the haul of booze Danyael has collected.

DIEGO

You can't possibly drink all that, Danyael!

DANYAEL

Not all at once, no. This is gonna last me at least a couple of-

DIEGO

Weeks?

DANYAEL

Days.

(CONTINUED)

Diego shakes his head disapprovingly.

TWIST

Never mind him. He's all Zen when it comes to luxuries.

DIEGO

I just don't understand the obsession you two seem to have with polluting your bodies.

TWIST

Because we know we can get away with it.

Twist hands over a wad of one-dollar notes to pay for her stash, which the clerk SIGHS at exasperatedly before laboriously starting to count them out.

Danyaël sets down his basket with a series of CLINKS, and as Twist tears open a packet of gummi bears he a handful for himself.

DANYAEL

Besides, who the hell else is going to take care of our needs? Maybe you ought to try letting your hair down once in a while?

DIEGO

My hair is fine just the way it is.

Twist rolls her eyes, still chewing as she collects her bags and heads for the automatic doors, and we cut to:

7 INT. BLACK VAN - NEXT

7

JULIE is asleep in the driver's seat, dozing as rain washes down across the windows.

PUSH IN on Julie as she starts to shift restlessly, her brow creasing - she's having some kind of bad dream.

Her head moves round for a few more beats, whatever dream she's having getting worse:

And a KNOCK-KNOCK on the van's window wakes her up with a jolt!

JULIE

Chris! No!!

She blinks, startled, and looks round to see a soaking wet Twist frantically gesturing for her to open the door.

(CONTINUED)

Rubbing her eyes, Julie leans across and opens the passenger door, letting Twist clamber in as the others pile into the back of the van.

TWIST

Man! It's coming down like the Last Flood arrived early out there!

She SHAKES herself dry, trying to wring her hair out.

TWIST (cont'd)

Were you asleep?

JULIE

No, no, just... just dozing.

Still waking herself up, Julie rubs her eyes again as Twist gets started on her second bag of candy, picking up a Walkman-sized object on the dashboard.

TWIST

What's this?

JULIE

(snatches it back)
Fragile, is what it is.

TWIST

Jeez, I was only asking!

JULIE

(sighs)
Sorry. Didn't mean to snap. It's an EMF receiver.
(off Twist's look)
Electromagnetic frequencies. It's something I've been working on to help us locate sources of magical energy, kind of like tuning in a radio station.

TWIST

Huh. Cool. Does it work?

JULIE

(beat)
Not yet.

Julie's cell phone RINGS, and it takes her a moment to locate it and fish it out of her pocket.

JULIE (cont'd)

(into phone)
Hello?
(listens)
Jane! How are you doing?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JULIE (cont'd)
 Yeah, it's been, what, six years?
 How are you?
 (listens)
 A reporter? That bad, huh?
 (laughs)
 Sorry. Couldn't resist.

Julie listens to the other side of the call, her smile fading at what she hears. She turns to glance at the others.

JULIE (cont'd)
 Uh, yeah, yeah, we could probably
 get there in a few hours, I don't
 think we're too far away.
 (listens)
 Okay, right. See you soon.

She hangs up, tucking her phone away and starting the van.

JULIE (cont'd)
 That was Jane Nouvelles, old friend
 of mine from back when I was still
 living in Chicago. Says she needs
 my help with something.

TWIST
 And by 'my' help, you mean 'our'
 help, right?

Julie shoots her a look to say yes, that's what she means.

TWIST (cont'd)
 So where are we headed?

JULIE
 Carson City.

Julie drops the van into gear and pulls away, and we cut to:

EXT. CARSON CITY - NIGHT

With the STORM still rumbling overhead and pelting the city below with rain, a quick bird's eye view of downtown Carson City before we cut to:

EXT. CARSON TAHOE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTRE - NIGHT

The front entrance to the hospital is a hive of activity - as well as the standard traffic of ambulances and vehicles, there are several POLICE CARS parked up here.

The van is parked across the street, with Julie and Danyael sheltering beneath umbrellas as they head towards a woman waiting on the corner, also holding an umbrella.

JULIE

Still hanging around on street
corners at three am?

WOMAN

(without turning round)
Takes one to know one.

She turns to face them as they walk up, and Julie greets her with a smile - this is JANE. A glamorous-looking black woman with long, curly hair, she leans forward to embrace Julie.

JANE

Good to see you again, Kingston.

JULIE

You too, Nouvelles. This is my
friend, Danyael.

Jane offers her hand, and Danyael shakes it.

JANE

One of the vampires, right?

Danyael and Julie exchange a surprised look.

JANE (cont'd)

I'm a reporter, remember?

DANYAEL

Yeah, but...

JANE

Don't take it personal. I just did
a little checking up on Jules
before I called her. Wanted to make
sure she was the right girl for the
job.

JULIE

Seeing as I'm standing here, I'm
guessing I am.

JANE

You wanna go somewhere out of the
rain so I can fill you in on what's
going on?

Julie motions for Jane to lead the way, and we cut to:

In a cafe across the street from the Medical Centre, Twist, Diego and Syren are in the background ordering drinks as Danyael and Julie sit at a table with Jane.

She pushes a crime scene photograph discretely across the table, and Julie peers at it.

JULIE

How'd you get this?
(off Jane's look)
Right, never mind.

DANYAEL

Yikes. Looks like whatever did this wanted to make sure it left an impression.

JANE

It also butchered a healthy, twenty-eight year old woman in the middle of a prenatal ward without making a sound.

JULIE

Angry spirit?

JANE

Could be. That's less my area of expertise.

JULIE

Come on, Jane, we've both seen enough together to know what kinds of things are hiding out there.

DANYAEL

You have?

JULIE

Jane got swept up in my big crusade to learn more about the paranormal when we were working together.

JANE

Used to be a nurse at Cook County.

JULIE

She got jumped by a vampire one night, I saved her, and ever since then we've been on the same road.

JANE

Not exactly. You're the one roaming the country taking out the bad guys. I just write the news.

JULIE

Jane also helps out people like us when they pass through town, keeping them in the loop and doing some freelance researching on the side.

DANYAEL

A regular Veronica Mars of the supernatural, huh? That why you left the hospital?

JANE

That, and... other stuff.

They pause as Twist and the others return, distributing coffees and drinks across the table and sitting down. Twist, naturally, has herself a slice of lime pie.

TWIST

So! What are we here to kill, and how many tentacles does it have?
(off Jane's look)
There's always tentacles.

Twist sips her drink as Jane glances round, making sure nobody's listening before leaning closer.

JANE

Earlier this evening, some time around eight o'clock, a girl named Kelly Parker was found murdered in her hospital bed. She'd been cracked open like a walnut, half the bones in her body broken... and her unborn baby ripped straight out of her.

Danyael COUGHS, spraying foam over Twist, who scowls.

SYREN

(pales)
What would do that?

DIEGO

Plenty of creatures consider human infants a delicacy. In fact, the younger, the better.

Twist glances down at the slice of pie before her - then s pushes it away.

JANE

All we've got so far is this.

She points to the photo again, tapping her finger on the number painted on the wall.

JANE (cont'd)

Don't know the significance yet,
but I'm hoping this doesn't mean
she was the first of many.

DIEGO

Not while we're here.

JANE

(raises eyebrow)
Handsome and focused?

TWIST

And taken.

Jane chuckles, taking out her notepad and scribbling down some details.

JANE

Here's my cell and home phone, and
the number for some guys I know who
help me out with this kind of
thing.

JULIE

Anyone we know?

JANE

Doubt it. They're kind of low-key.

Jane drains the last of her drink and gathers up her bag.

JULIE

Off already?

JANE

I'm gonna try and get back into the
hospital ward again.

SYREN

To look for more clues?

JANE

(nods)
There's got to be something that'll
help us work out what's behind this
in there. Something the regular
police wouldn't know to look for.

Julie looks out the diner's windows as an AMBULANCE roars past, siren blaring.

10 CONTINUED: (4)

10

JULIE

Actually...

(turns to others)

... I think I have a plan.

She grins, and we cut to:

11 INT. MEDICAL CENTRE - MORGUE - NIGHT

11

BOOM. The swing doors to the morgue are pushed open by an ORDERLY, wheeling in a gurney. A BODY in a zip-up white bag lies on the gurney, and the orderly is followed by a second, pushing another gurney.

They approach the MORGUE ATTENDANT, a chubby middle-aged guy, who peers at the approaching orderlies over his glasses.

ATTENDANT

I wasn't expecting anyone down here.

ORDERLY

These two just came in. Students, found dead in their digs from carbon monoxide poisoning. DOA.

ATTENDANT

Hmm. That's one faulty heater they won't have to worry about any more...

The Orderly passes over a clipboard with the paperwork, and as the Attendant peers down it, he approaches the first body bag, UNZIPPING it.

He pulls the flaps back to reveal Twist, her eyes closed and looking to all the world like a standard dead body.

The Attendant heads to the second and unzips it to show Danyael, playing possum as well.

ATTENDANT (cont'd)

Who signed for this?

He scans down the clipboard, reading:

ATTENDANT (cont'd)

A Doctor... Isobel Stevens? Never heard of her.

ORDERLY

Someone in a white coat points to the gurneys, says to bring 'em down here, then that's what I do. They don't pay me enough to ask questions.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

The Attendant doesn't look too happy about the intrusion, but with a nod dismisses the two orderlies. He heads back into his office, closing the door behind him.

A beat - and then Twist slowly rises from the gurney, checking round to make sure she's not being observed.

TWIST

Psst! Spook! Wake up!

DANYAEL

(still lying down)

I'm not asleep.

Twist swings her legs round and hops off the gurney, NUDGING him to get him moving.

TWIST

Same diff. C'mon, let's go before that morgue guy comes back.

Twist heads for the exit, poking her head out into the corridor to check the coast is clear as Danyael disentangles himself from his body bag.

12 INT. MEDICAL CENTRE - CORRIDOR - NEXT

12

Leaving the morgue behind, the two make tracks for the main part of the hospital, pausing as they reach a stack of SIGNPOSTS, each one pointing towards a different department.

TWIST

What do you reckon?

DANYAEL

I'll take security. May be able to find some CCTV feeds of the attack.

TWIST

Won't the cops have those?

DANYAEL

Maybe, hopefully there's a backup.

TWIST

Ah, good thinking, Batman! I'll head for the ward and take a sniff around.

The two split up and head their separate ways, and we cut to:

13 INT. MEDICAL CENTRE - MORGUE - NEXT

13

The Attendant heads back out of his office, clipboard in hand as he sips a cup of coffee with the other - and then he freezes.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

His coffee slips from his hand and SMASHES on the floor as he stares, dumbfounded, at the two vacant gurneys, and from his look of shock we cut to:

14 INT. MEDICAL CENTRE - SECURITY ROOM - NEXT

14

Two bored GUARDS sit at a desk, facing a wall of CCTV monitors. One reads a newspaper, the other noodles away on his PSP.

PUSH IN on the monitor looking in on the prenatal ward, POLICE TAPE still cordoning off one section, as we cut to:

15 INT. MEDICAL CENTRE - PRENATAL WARD - NEXT

15

Looking up at a security camera, a blinking RED LIGHT showing that it's active - but that doesn't stop Twist, who deftly reaches up into frame and disconnects it.

16 INT. MEDICAL CENTRE - SECURITY ROOM - NEXT

16

As the relevant monitor turns to STATIC, one of the Guards lets out an exasperated SIGH as he rises from his seat.

GUARD

I'll go check that camera out.
Don't fry your brain on that thing
before I get back.

His PSP-playing colleague nods, and as the Guard exits we cut outside to:

17 INT. MEDICAL CENTRE - CORRIDOR - NEXT

17

The Guard exits through the door marked 'Security,' and as he passes us on his way back towards the prenatal ward, Danyael steps from round a corner. Checking down both ways, he slips into the Security Room:

18 INT. MEDICAL CENTRE - SECURITY ROOM - NEXT

18

Danyael pauses when he sees the second Guard before realising he hasn't heard him come in.

He takes a step forward, debating what to do - then settles for TAPPING the guard on the shoulder.

He turns, sees Danyael - and WHAP! Danyael lays him out with a right hook. The guard slumps forward, and Danyael gingerly steps round him and approaches the monitors, his eyes following the screens round until he finds the one marked 'Pre-Natal.'

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

The screen is numbered, and Danyael heads over to a large, black server on the far side of the office, switching on the monitor and starting to scroll through the marked folders of stored camera footage, looking for the evening's tapes.

19 INT. MEDICAL CENTRE - PRENATAL WARD - NEXT

19

Stepping out into the ward itself, Twist approaches the cordoned off area, noticing that all the beds are empty - the patients must have been moved elsewhere.

She stops before the grisly murder scene, numbered evidence markers littering the floor. She SNIFFS deeply, trying to pick up a scent - and her head WHIPS round!

Standing at the far entrance to the ward is a WOMAN dressed from head to foot in black, with long, raven black hair!

TWIST

Hey!

The woman bolts, disappearing off down the next corridor, but as Twist starts to run after her the doors behind her are pushed open - and the Guard steps in!

GUARD

(goes for his gun)

Stop! Hold it right there!

TWIST

Ah, for the love of...

She puts her head down and RUNS, and as the Guard jogs after her, Twist BURSTS out the other entrance in pursuit of the mystery woman, and we cut to:

20 INT. MEDICAL CENTRE - CORRIDOR - NEXT

20

Twist looks up and down the corridor but the woman is gone, and as the incoming Guard YELLS for her to stop again, Twist has no choice but to take off, making her escape as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

21 INT. JANE'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

21

The team are gathered around the front room of Jane's modest place, listening as Twist and Danyael recount their findings.

TWIST

... but then when I chased after her, she was gone. Just like...
(snaps fingers)
Fwipp! *Vamos*.

JANE

Huh. Weird.

DANYAEL

I didn't get much chance to check the CCTV footage while I was there, so I just burned off a copy to check out later.

He draws a CD from his pocket and passes it to Julie, who wrinkles her nose as she turns it over.

JULIE

Couldn't you at least have found a case to put it in?

DANYAEL

Well, I was kind of in a hurry...

JULIE

(sighs)
Alright, I'll see what I can get. Hopefully these fingerprints aren't over anything important.

She gets up and heads into the next room.

DANYAEL

(disgruntled)
'Thanks, Danyael. You're welcome, Julie.'

Twist nudges him as Jane paces up and down thoughtfully.

TWIST

So... any of that ringing any bells?

JANE

Any strange women in black seen hanging around, you mean?

(CONTINUED)

TWIST

She had this thing, round her neck.
It glowed, kind of a golden colour.
Oh, and looked like she had all
kinds of weird jewelry in her hair.

DIEGO

I thought you only had a brief look
at her?

TWIST

I'm very observant.

JANE

Hmm...

She heads for her desk, sifting through some papers as Twist
shrugs at Danyael.

JANE (cont'd)

I think you might be on to
something there, Twist.

TWIST

Well, obviously.

Jane turns back, reading from a notebook.

JANE

When I was grabbing a few
statements, asking if people had
seen anything weird or out of the
ordinary in the days leading up to
the attack.

TWIST

Like, oh, I don't know, knife-
wielding murderers?

JANE

Several people said they'd seen a
woman dressed all in black lurking
around, and from what you've just
told me the descriptions match up.

DANYAEL

Not like you'd get a lot of strange
goth chicks hanging around
hospitals.

SYREN

So is she the person responsible
for the murder?

JANE

Could be. We'd better keep an eye out for her, now we know what we're looking for.

Julie leans back in from the next room.

JULIE

Guys? You'd better come take a look at this.

The team rise and head into:

Julie is sitting at another desk with her laptop open, the CCTV footage from the hospital paused on her screen.

As the others gather round, a clear shot of the mystery black-clad woman is showing, a little fuzzy but good enough to make out her features.

JULIE

Is this the woman you saw?

TWIST

That's her. New Age-y stuff in her hair, Lacuna Coil chic.

JULIE

I'll see if I've got enough to pull up an ID on her.

DIEGO

(points to screen)
What is that?

The woman has something strapped to her back, a long, thin object like some kind of walking cane.

JULIE

(squints)
Can't tell. Nothing I recognise.

Twist leans in, peering at the screen.

TWIST

Diego, it's a stick.

DIEGO

It could be a weapon.

TWIST

I repeat... stick.

JULIE

Guys!

(beat)

Alright, let's get set up. If she's still hanging around, then she could try to attack someone else tonight, so we need to be ready. Diego, you're on guard duty. Keep your eye on the hospital, and if you spot out girl, do what you do best.

TWIST

She means fighting.

DIEGO

(dry)

Yes, thank you, I understood.

JULIE

Jane, reckon you can get Syren inside? Maybe pose as a visitor or something?

JANE

Shouldn't be too hard.

JULIE

Okay. Syren, see what you can pick up. You're good at sensing magical energy, so keep your... whatever you need to keep open, open.

DANYAEL

What about us?

JULIE

You and Twist are on research duty.

TWIST

(shoves Danyael)

Oh, nicely volunteered, jackass.

JULIE

You're going to help me see if we can identify this girl, give us a heads up on what she can do.

DIEGO

Killing people extremely quietly appears to be one of her skills.

JULIE

So let's hope that's all she's got.

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

Dismissed, the team leave the room, and as we PUSH IN on the flickering still image of the woman on the laptop screen, we DISSOLVE TO:

23 EXT. ROOFTOP - DAY

23

As we pan across the rooftop of a building overlooking the ambulance bay of the medical centre below, Diego scrolls into frame. His eyes are glued to the centre below - if anything comes or goes, he'll be there to spot it.

We continue to pan across until we pass behind another building, which forces a CUT TO:

24 INT. MEDICAL CENTRE - CORRIDOR - NEXT

24

Jane leads Syren down one of the hospital's long corridors, Syren clutching a bouquet of flowers. Jane checks a stack of signposts on the wall, heading for the prenatal clinic.

JANE

Now, they've moved most of the patients into the next ward along, so your cover story is that you're just here to visit a friend but you're not sure where they've moved her to.

SYREN

Alright.

JANE

Just ask around, see what you can pick up. A friendly young face like yours is bound to get more out of them than a cop.

SYREN

I'll try my best.

Jane looks Syren up and down, studying her.

JANE

Mind if I ask you something?

SYREN

Oh, please. Go ahead.

JANE

How'd you get into all this?

SYREN

'All this'?

JANE

You know... Julie's stuff. Hunting things, saving people. You're the one member of her team I couldn't find anything out about.

SYREN

(thinks; smiles)
I'm just a lost girl looking for her place, I suppose.

Syren leaves it at that, and as Jane tries to read her enigmatic smile, we cut to:

INT. JANE'S APARTMENT - DAY

With a handful of research texts spread across the front room, Julie is once again connected to her laptop as Danyael flicks through one of the thick volumes.

Twist, on the other hand, SNORES softly, having fallen asleep long ago. Julie turns and sees her, sighing.

JULIE

Danny, could you wake her up?

DANYAEL

I could, but we both know she'll just go right back to sleep.

JULIE

Just do it, please.

Danyael gently KICKS Twist, who wakes with a SNORT.

TWIST

(startled)
Wha? Whussamatter?

DANYAEL

Are you actually going to do any work, or just sleep all day?

TWIST

(yawns)
You know me and these books, Spook. Kryptonite. If kryptonite just made Superman really, really sleepy.

Julie picks up a wad of printed paper, dumping it into Twist's lap.

JULIE

Here, try these instead.

TWIST

What are they?

JULIE

Hospital records. See if there've been any more attacks like last night's over the last few years. There could be a pattern we're not seeing.

With a weary groan, Twist picks up the first sheet of paper and scans it through, as we return to:

As Jane talks to some nurses in the background, Syren wanders into another ward, and laid out in the beds before her are the displaced women from the prenatal ward.

She pauses in the doorway, listening to the background noise of chatter between the women, not sure where she should start until a young lady steps into frame beside her. She's barely in her twenties and petite, with long, straight blonde hair.

YOUNG LADY

Hello. Are you, uh, looking for someone?

SYREN

Oh, yes, my friend... Sophia. She was moved out of her ward last night, I was hoping I could find her here.

YOUNG LADY

Ah, that explains the lost expression, then. They've split us girls up all over the place while they figure out what to do with us, so I'm afraid your friend could be anywhere.

SYREN

Oh, oh, right.

YOUNG LADY

Come on, come take a seat with me and we'll wait for one of the nurses to come by. Maybe she'll know.

SYREN

(smiles)
Thank you.

The girl starts to walk away, then twigs at last that Syren can't see where she's going.

YOUNG LADY

Oh! Oh, I'm sorry, are you... I mean, can't you-

SYREN

See? No, sorry.

YOUNG LADY

Oh, God, don't apologise! That's my bad. Totally insensitive of me.

SYREN

It's fine, really.

YOUNG LADY

Okay, now you have to come sit with me. I have too much candy to eat by myself, and I now have someone to share it with!

Syren smiles as the girl starts to lead her back towards her bed, passing a few other expectant mothers as they waddle around.

YOUNG LADY (cont'd)

I'm Lucy, by the way.

SYREN

I'm Sy- Lyra. Lyra Morley.

LUCY

That's a pretty name.

SYREN

It is, isn't it?

Lucy blinks at Syren's odd reply, but carries on towards her bed as we cut to:

Twist DUMPS another stack of paper down next to Danyael.

TWIST

Finished.

JULIE

Already?

TWIST

(shrugs)
Vampires must be able to speed read.

DANYAEL

(mutters)

When it suits them...

JULIE

And you didn't find anything?

TWIST

Nada. Whatever's doing this, it's new. No deaths that match our MO in that place within the last ten years.

JULIE

That's what I was afraid of.

DANYAEL

Any luck finding our mystery girl?

JULIE

A handful of references in passing, but no name. Just descriptions.

She leans back so the two vampires can see what's on her screen. Julie scrolls through some website pages.

JULIE (cont'd)

I keep seeing the name 'Azamantika,' which as far as I know is an arcane reference meaning 'Death,' and that always links to images of stuff like this...

She scrolls up an image that looks suspiciously like the cane that the mystery girl was wearing.

TWIST

Ah, the Stick o'Doom!
(off looks)
It's a stick, people!

DANYAEL

What does it do?

JULIE

I don't know for sure. But what I can tell you is that whoever has this is very, very powerful. We're up against something with access to tremendous amounts of magical power here, guys.

TWIST

Well, then, time we introduce it to tremendous amounts of our ass-kicking power. Right?

Julie and Danyaël swap a look that shows they don't share Twist's confidence.

JULIE

Luckily...

TWIST

Ah, how I love to hear that word.

She scrolls down the page a little further.

JULIE

According to this, the kinds of people who are involved with this sort of magic give off a very specific energy signature.

Julie reaches across her desk, picking up her EMF device.

JULIE (cont'd)

I should be able to rig my EMF receiver to home in on any sources of it within a few block radius.

DANYAEL

Reckon that'll be enough?

JULIE

Hopefully, the girl we're after stays close to the hospital.

TWIST

So what are we waiting for?

Twist is on her feet and heading for the door, glad of the distraction as we cut to:

Syren sits at Lucy's bedside, Lucy sitting up in bed as she gulps from a bottle of water. Both girls have a handful of candy, courtesy of a gift basket on the bedside table.

SYREN

So why are so many of you ladies in here? I mean, aren't you supposed to wait until your baby's ready to be born before coming here?

LUCY

In theory, yes. However, the lucky ones, meaning us, have what's known as 'complications.' Basically means we have to wait here on emergency standby until we're ready to drop, just in case something goes wrong.

SYREN

Oh, dear. That doesn't sound very good.

LUCY

(shrugs)

I'm on enough medication to take it in my stride at the moment.

A beat. Lucy smirks, but Syren doesn't get the joke.

LUCY (cont'd)

I was just kidding, Lyra.

SYREN

Ah. Right. Sorry.

LUCY

(rolls eyes; grins)

You apologise a lot, you know that?

SYREN

I've got things to be sorry for.

LUCY

Like what?

Syren looks away, and Lucy senses she shouldn't push the question. She waits a beat, then moves on:

LUCY (cont'd)

Hey, did you hear anything about what happened the other night?

SYREN

You mean the murder?

LUCY

No, the changing of the bedpans. Yes, the murder!

SYREN

Nothing much. I was actually hoping someone in here could tell me more.

LUCY

Won't your friend Sophia be best qualified to tell you? She would have been here too!

SYREN

Yes, but... I'd just like to know a little more before I speak to her. She can get details mixed up sometimes.

LUCY

Ah, gotcha. Blonde, huh?

SYREN

(not getting it)

Yes, she is.

LUCY

Say no more.

Lucy glances up and down, making sure nobody's listening before leaning in closer.

LUCY (cont'd)

Well... you want to hear a few weird things I noticed last night?

Syren leans closer, and as Lucy gets ready to continue, we cut to:

Julie, Twist and Danyael pace slowly down a run down, dirty corridor in a ramshackle old apartment complex. The muffled WAIL of a crying baby can be heard, along with the BLARE of TV sets and SHOUTING voices.

Twist and Danyael are both armed - baseball bat and sword respectively, tucked just out of sight - and Julie holds up her EMF device, which is BEEPING loudly.

TWIST

So that thing's really working, and not just leading us to some crack den?

JULIE

We're about to find out. According to this, there's a bucketload of the energy we're looking for behind the second door along.

Twist and Danyael take point, positioning themselves on either side of the door as Julie hangs back, drawing her bulky, modified HANDGUN.

A silent count of 'three' is followed by Twist KICKING the door open, the trio bursting inside and into:

The MYSTERY WOMAN is looking out through a broken window, her back to the door as the trio burst in. She doesn't even flinch.

TWIST

Don't move!

(beat)

Or... stay where you are!

The woman slowly turns to face them - it's the girl from the hospital, all right. She's about twenty-five with long, braided black hair filled with tied in pieces of otherworldly jewelry, pale skin and goth chic makeup, topped off by a very unfazed expression.

MYSTERY WOMAN

(British accent)

Oh, good, you got here. At last.

(beat)

What kept you?

Our trio exchange puzzled looks as we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

31 INT. DISUSED APARTMENT - NEXT

31

The team stand before the Mystery Woman, still with their weapons raised. She makes no move to attack.

MYSTERY WOMAN

Er... is something the matter?

TWIST

Why don't you tell us?

MYSTERY WOMAN

(beat)

Is that a trick question?

JULIE

Keep your hands where we can see them.

MYSTERY WOMAN

(quirks eyebrow)

Because...

DANYAEL

Uh, guys?

TWIST

Not now, Spook.

MYSTERY WOMAN

'Spook'? That's never your name...

DANYAEL

No, it's...

(shakes head)

I'm not getting the whole 'ghostly mass murderer' vibe off of her.

MYSTERY WOMAN

Well, I should hope not!

A beat. Twist and Julie look at each other, but as the woman takes a step forward, they both bring their weapons to bear on her again.

MYSTERY WOMAN (cont'd)

Woah! Okay, take it easy.

JULIE

Maybe you should let us do the talking.

(CONTINUED)

MYSTERY WOMAN

(dry)

Yes, because that's working so well
thus far.

DANYAEL

Seriously, guys, I don't think we-

TWIST

Would ya shut up already?

The woman looks from person to person, genuinely surprised.

MYSTERY WOMAN

You don't know who I am, do you?

TWIST

Can't say we care.

MYSTERY WOMAN

I'm Michelle.

(beat)

Michelle Hawkes.

(no reaction)

The Michelle Hawkes? From
Ravenshill?

(beat)

Nothing?

Julie frowns, as though dimly recalling something, but Twist decides it's time to wrap this up.

TWIST

Not interested in who you are,
lady, all I care about is putting
you down before you hurt anybody
else.

MICHELLE

(sighs)

I don't have time for this...

Twist takes a few steps forward, and the crystal hanging from
Michelle's neck GLOWS...

... and with a SWEEP of her hand, Twist is picked up and
THROWN through the air, SMASHING into an old wardrobe and
blasting int into splinters!

DANYAEL

Woah!

Michelle takes another step as Julie aims her gun and FIRES,
but with a casual wave of her hand, an ENERGY FIELD shimmers
before Michelle, deflecting the bullet.

Danyaël steps back, but as Julie FIRES again with no result, Michelle reaches behind her back - and draws her Cane.

Looking like a normal walking cane that's been crossbred with the Necronomicon, jet black and studded with precious stones and charms, topped by what looks like a carved SKULL.

Michelle expertly spins the Cane from hand to hand, holding it out and aiming it at Julie and Danyaël.

MICHELLE

Don't let this thing fool you.
Skulls do not automatically mean
'one of the baddies.'

Julie glances over to Twist, who GROANS as she picks herself out of the wreckage of the wardrobe, before snapping her gun back round to Michelle.

MICHELLE (cont'd)

Look, I can see you're all
experiencing a bad case of 'jumping
to conclusions-itis' at the
moment...

(mutters)

... typical bloody Americans...

(normal voice)

... so I'd better head off and let
you work this out for yourselves.

DANYAEL

Wait! Don't-

But in a SNAP and a FLASH of SMOKE and LIGHT, she's gone.
Danyaël heads for Twist as she pushes herself to her feet.

TWIST

(dazed)

The hell hit me?

JULIE

I... I don't know.

DANYAEL

I'm sticking to my 'not the bad
guy' angle. Most villains don't cut
and run when they're clearly in a
position to hand us our asses.

Julie lowers her gun at last, brow creased in concentration.

JULIE

Ravenshill...

TWIST

That mean anything to you?

31 CONTINUED: (3)

31

Julie turns to look at Twist, still struggling to remember something as we cut to:

32 INT. MEDICAL CENTRE - WARD - DAY

32

It's a little later in the day now, and Syren stands outside the ward as she talks to Jane.

SYREN

It's the same story. A girl dressed in black seen hanging around, but Lucy also thinks she heard something just before the first woman's body was found. Heavy breathing, she says. Just for a second.

JANE

What about the other patients?

SYREN

The same - the ones I asked, anyway. But...

Syren SHIVERS involuntarily, rubbing her arms.

JANE

You alright?

SYREN

Something bad's going to happen here again. Tonight.

JANE

Stands to reason whatever did this would come back. You don't leave the number 'one' above a victim unless you're planning on adding a second.

SYREN

No, I mean here.

She motions back towards the ward with her head.

SYREN (cont'd)

When I'm around Lucy, I can feel... I don't know what it is. There's just something terrible hanging over her. I think she's in danger.

Jane's cell phone RINGS, and she reaches to answer it.

JANE

(into phone)
Hello?

(CONTINUED)

JULIE

(filtered; through phone)
We've made some progress on our
woman in black. Anything with you
and Syren?

JANE

Syren reckons she's got a good vibe
on who the next victim could be.

JULIE

Good start. Meet us back at yours.

JANE

What about Syren?

SYREN

Can I stay here? Diego's just
outside if I need him, and... I
don't want to leave Lucy.

JANE

You heard the girl. See you in ten.

Jane snaps her phone shut and turns back to Syren.

JANE (cont'd)

You sure you'll be okay here?

SYREN

(nods)

Diego'll be here right away if
anything goes wrong. He's very good
like that.

Jane manages a smile, turning and heading off as Syren looks
back towards the ward, listening for the sound of Lucy's
voice as we cut to:

Jane opens her front door and steps back in to find Julie,
Twist and Danyael clustered round her laptop.

JANE

I'm here. Whatcha got?

JULIE

Come take a look.

Jane heads over as Julie displays her findings - an aerial
shot of a town and a blurry school photograph.

JANE

What am I looking at?

JULIE

That's Ravenshill. Small town in south east England that just happens to be a national hot spot for supernatural activity. Demon worshipping, witches, vampires, werewolves, warlocks... you name it, they had it.

TWIST

And this is our girl.

She taps the screen, pointing out a sullen-looking, younger version of Michelle in the school photo.

TWIST (cont'd)

Michelle Hawkes. Former student, went walkies a few years ago and dropped off the radar. Oh, and she just so happens to be a witch.

JANE

So... She's our girl?

DANYAEL

No.

TWIST

Ignore him. His weakness for goth chicks stopped him attacking her. Even when she was throwing me into a damn wardrobe.

DANYAEL

I just don't think it's her.

JULIE

Either way... she used magic to stop us attacking her, then teleported away without us even getting a scratch on her.

TWIST

So if she was to, say, warp into a prenatal ward and butcher somebody in the dead of night, I'm betting she'd do it real quiet like.

JANE

Then it's settled. We lay a trap, wait for her to show, then bam. Stop this thing.

TWIST

Okay, rewind to the 'used magic to stop us' part of this, will you?

JULIE

Twist's right. We can't just tackle her head on, we need to catch her with her guard down.

JANE

Then we use Syren.

DANYAEL

Sorry?

JANE

She's staying at the medical centre, remember? If she's right about the next victim, then she can distract this Michelle girl, while the rest of us sneak up on her.

TWIST

Where'd you get this plan from, Mad magazine?

JULIE

No, Jane's right.

DANYAEL

We're not using Syren as bait.

JULIE

She won't be 'bait,' she'll just be... a distraction.

Twist and Danyael swap a glance - they are not happy with this plan, but as Julie turns back to the laptop screen, we PUSH IN on Michelle's school photo before a DISSOLVE TO:

A night nurse paces down the ward, glancing over the sleeping mothers-to-be as she makes her rounds.

As she passes one part of the room, Syren pokes her head out from round a corner, safely out of view but with a line of sight to Lucy's bed.

She leans back and closes her eyes, concentrating and stretching her senses out, searching for anything that confirms her earlier bad feeling.

For a long moment, all she hears is the soft breathing of the sleeping women...

... and then something SNORTS in the darkness, a gruff, animal sound. Syren's eyes SNAP OPEN.

She waits - then hears heavier BREATHING, and she slowly starts to poke her head back out to scan the ward...

... but there's nothing there. She frowns - she can still just about hear the unusual breathing, but even if she could see, there's nothing in sight.

She leans back, then closes her eyes and takes a deep breath, exhaling slowly.

Opening her eyes again, she looks back round - and has to stifle a GASP!

A huge, SHADOWY FORM is standing in the middle of the ward, and it's obvious that Syren is now able to sense it, whatever the heck it is.

It's tall and powerfully built, its hind legs curved like a dog's and its shoulders hunched, hiding its head. It rotates slowly from left to right, SNIFFING the air.

Syren hears FOOTSTEPS as the night nurse walks back round, and Syren feels her way back round the corner to make sure she's hidden.

The nurse is heading straight for the shadowy creature, but doesn't seem to know it's there - and she walks STRAIGHT THROUGH it without stopping!

The nurse pauses and SHIVERS, looking back round - but there's nothing to see.

She continues on her way, and as Syren meekly peers back into the ward, the creature STOMPS its way over towards Lucy's bed!

Syren waits, listening, as the creature looms over the sleeping Lucy - and there's a HISS as the creature raises its hands to show long, gleaming CLAWS.

Syren is picking up on the creature's urge to kill, starting to tremble as the powerful backwash of emotions hits her.

The creature reaches out with one hand - and CLAMPS it down onto Lucy! She struggles, trying to scream, but the creature's touch SILENCES her, its strength pinning her down to the bed.

As the creature raises its other hand, ready to slice her open just like the last victim, the fearful Syren finally bursts out of her cover, yelling:

SYREN
No!! Get away from her!

The creature WHIPS ROUND, two baleful RED EYES gleaming out the pure darkness that makes up its body, but Syren defiantly stands her ground.

A handful of the patients come to, awoken by Syren's shout of alarm, but nobody can see the hulking creature as it SNARLS menacingly at her, turning away from Lucy and advancing on Syren instead!

She takes a step back, clenching her fist and taking a deep breath...

DIEGO (O.S.)

Now!!

And Diego and Twist LEAP OUT from behind a stack of unused equipment, LAUNCHING themselves at the creature!

They sail CLEAN THROUGH it, however, landing on their feet but clearly having no clue where this thing actually is.

TWIST

Where is it? Syren! What are we looking for?

SYREN

(points)

There! It's right... it's right behind you!

Twist spins round, going back-to-back with Diego - but as the creature starts to circle them, they still can't see it.

DIEGO

Syren, there's nothing here!

SYREN

(frantic)

It's right in front of you!

TWIST

How the hell can she see it?

The commotion has now attracted the nurse, who clatters back into frame, sees the trio and runs for a PHONE on the wall.

Danyael and Julie appear, Julie holding up her EMF device to find it going crazy - WHINING and SQUEALING with urgency.

JULIE

There's something here, all right...

SYREN

Why can't any of you see it? It's right there!

(CONTINUED)

TWIST

What about if we-

WHAM! The creature SLAMS one heavy fist into twist's gut, knocking her off her feet.

She CRASHES over several beds, hitting the deck with a painful CRUNCH.

Diego SPINS round, SLICING his sword and connecting with the shadow creature - but to no effect!

Resuming a combat stance, he desperately tries to find his target - but gets a KICK across the face, then a powerful HAMMER PUNCH on the back of the neck, knocking him face-first to the floor.

He tries to stand, but another KICK sends him spinning back through the air, almost bowling Syren over as Danyael SHOVES her out of the way.

An ALARM starts to sound - the nurse has called for security, and the team are still in the dark as the shadow creature bounds back over to Lucy's bed!

SYREN

No! Lucy! Help her!

Danyael races forward, skidding to a halt before Lucy's bed - right in the creature's path.

SYREN (cont'd)

Danyael, look out!

He starts SWINGING his sword wildly, attacking thin air - and the creature calmly waits a beat before PUNCHING him square in the face!

Stunned, Danyael sinks to his knees, and he's roughly THROWN to the floor by the beast.

Lucy's awake and terrified, scrambling to get out of her bed before she's suddenly PINNED DOWN again, and she SCREAMS!

LUCY

Help me!!

JULIE

Get down!

Pulling her gun, she FIRES three times at where she thinks the creature is - and it's three direct hits. But again, the creature is unaffected.

(CONTINUED)

SYREN

It's just going straight through!
We can't touch it!

SECURITY (O.S.)

Freeze!

Julie turns - three SECURITY GUARDS have appeared in the doorway, drawing guns on Julie and Syren.

LUCY

Please! Somebody help me!

The beast RAKES its claws across her face, and Lucy SCREAMS again:

ZAP! A bolt of ENERGY streaks through the air and BLASTS into the creature, which HOWLS in pain as the energy courses over its body.

Julie and Syren spin round - and there's Michelle, lowering her cane.

There's another ROAR from the creature - and it suddenly looks a lot more tangible.

The security guards all see the thing at last, jaws dropping in horror, and Lucy SCREAMS again as she finally sees the thing towering above her!

The creature turns to face Michelle, and as the security guards OPEN FIRE their bullets just RICOCHET off the thing's hide.

Julie turns back to Michelle, who is aiming her cane at the creature again, her crystal GLOWING brightly.

JULIE

Wha-

MICHELLE

Get down!

Julie DROPS, pulling Syren with her - and another BLAST of energy shoots from the cane, SLAMMING into the creature's chest.

It lets out a piercing SQUEAL of pain, staggering back a step, and Michelle keeps her cane levelled as more BOLTS of energy hit the thing, every step forcing it back.

The beast stumbles to its side, SWATTING a huge paw across the guards and bowling them over, and as Michelle prepares to zap it again, it lets out a final ROAR - and fades away in an instant.

(CONTINUED)

The alarm is still ringing, the ward's patients are all crying hysterically, and more SHOUTS echo round from the corridors nearby as Michelle calmly walks over to the prone Julie and Syren.

MICHELLE (cont'd)

Still think I'm one of the baddies?

Julie looks up at her, and as Michelle offers her hand with a wry grin, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

35

INT. DISUSED APARTMENT - NIGHT

35

Michelle stands at the window, watching as several POLICE CARS race past on the street below.

She steps away, turning to the rest of the team who are waiting in the shabby apartment. Twist is demonstrating to Diego how she was thrown into the smashed wardrobe earlier.

MICHELLE

They won't find us up here.

JULIE

How can you be so sure?

MICHELLE

Cloaking spells. That, and I'm very picky about where I make my hideouts.

DANYAEL

Okay, so...

MICHELLE

This'd be the part where you apologise for not believing me earlier?

DANYAEL

Hey, I never said you were the bad guy.

MICHELLE

True. That's sweet. Thanks.

She flashes him a smile, and Twist spots this, scowling.

JANE

So who are you? Or should I say what?

MICHELLE

Nicely put.
(beat)
I'm the necromancer.

Michelle lets the surprise settle on the room, enjoying the theatrics.

JULIE

The necromancer? Don't you mean 'a' necromancer?

(CONTINUED)

MICHELLE

(scoffs)

Amateurs. Wouldn't know a real
summoning spell if it kicked them
up the arse.

TWIST

Wait a minute - you're saying
you're the only 'proper' one or
something?

MICHELLE

That's right. As appointed by
Azamantika himself.

DANYAEL

That's Death, right?

MICHELLE

He prefers 'Azamantika.'

(off their looks)

It's a thing - he thinks Terry
Pratchett stole his credibility or
something.

(waves it off)

Anyway. Next question?

DIEGO

What were you doing at the
hospital?

MICHELLE

Trying to find that bloody big
shadow monster thing and stop it
killing anyone else. Halfway there
so far.

JULIE

Any ideas what it is?

MICHELLE

(shakes head)

I'm stuck at 'bloody big shadow
monster' so far. It's not something
I've seen before, but what I do
know is that the boss isn't happy
about it being there.

TWIST

Meaning what?

MICHELLE

Meaning somebody's mucking about
with the balance.

(MORE)

MICHELLE (cont'd)

Life and death are very carefully maintained forces in this world, and anybody who starts tipping the scales one way or another needs to be stopped pretty sharpish.

SYREN

Do you know how to stop it?

MICHELLE

The plan is, I find who's behind summoning that beastie, then zap it 'till it goes away. You lot are welcome to help.

TWIST

(dry)

Gee, thanks.

MICHELLE

Oh, don't sass me. I can do this without your help if you'd prefer?

JULIE

No, no, we're with you. We had no effect on that thing before you showed up, so we'll follow your lead on this one.

Danyaël is examining Michelle's cane with interest, but as he reaches out to touch it she quickly SLAPS his hand away.

MICHELLE

(wags finger)

No touchy-touchy.

DANYAEL

Just wondered how you made it, you know...

He mimes the zapping energy bolts it was producing earlier, and Michelle grins as she picks it up.

MICHELLE

Ladies and gentlemen, the Cane of Tiltha. Primarily used to help control the dead in whatever wonderful shape or form they take, as well as being a pretty nifty weapon when needed. That, and it helps me travel between this world and the realm of the dead. Saves on travel expenses. All I need now is an Air Miles scheme and I'm sorted.

She smirks at her joke, but it passes over the team's heads.

MICHELLE (cont'd)

Right! So. Let's get back to the hospital, and then-

JANE

Nu-uh. Bad idea.

MICHELLE

I'm sorry, and you're in charge now because...

JANE

If that thing comes back, more innocent people could get hurt.

MICHELLE

That's why we're going to kill it before it can do that, genius!

JULIE

Jane's got a point. Isn't there some way we can draw it away from there?

SYREN

It's going to go back for Lucy no matter what we do.

MICHELLE

(suspicious)

How do you know?

SYREN

I could just tell.

DANYAEL

She picks stuff up like that.

TWIST

Yeah, she's like our very own *deus ex machina*.

Michelle strokes her chin thoughtfully.

MICHELLE

Perhaps... If I can recreate the summoning ritual that brought it here, I may be able to trick it into manifesting, giving us chance to zap it nice and cleanly.

(to Syren)

But we'll need to do it at the hospital to make it buy the bait, otherwise it'll know we're trying to pull a fast one.

Syren frowns, not enthused with the idea, but as Michelle slips her Cane back into the strap across her back, she CLAPS her hands once to signal she's done talking.

MICHELLE (cont'd)

Let's go. Oh, and this may make you feel a little dizzy.

TWIST

Wha-

POP! The team VANISH in a billowing cloud of BLACK SMOKE, and we cut to:

POOF! And they're back, the team staggering slightly as the after-effects of the spell hit them.

TWIST

-t will?

She blinks, then shakes her head to clear it.

MICHELLE

Alright, here's what we'll do.
(to Julie)

You're the one who knows the most about magic round here, right?

JULIE

Apparently.

MICHELLE

You're with me.
(to Diego)

Er... you, hot boy. You're with the goth and the blonde on patrol duty. When we summon this thing, I expect you there like a shot to help kill it. I'll be able to make it corporeal but that won't last long, so we'll have to take it down quick.

TWIST

(crosses arms)

Since when do you get to boss us around?

MICHELLE

Since I became the only person who could do anything about the pregnant woman-killing demon thing, alright?

Twist pouts, but concedes the plan as Michelle turns to Jane and Syren.

MICHELLE (cont'd)

You two, you're on standby. We may need to distract some staff, or otherwise cover our tracks. That's your job. Got it?

SYREN

(nods)

Okay.

MICHELLE

Right! Places, everyone. This'll take us a few minutes to set up.

Twist nods to Diego and Danyael, leading the boys outside as Jane and Syren follow. Julie watches as Michelle reaches round and produces a small leather pouch from her belt.

Reaching inside, she draws out a series of spell components one by one - candles, chalk, small phials of powder - every item bigger than the pouch it's coming from!

JULIE

(off pouch)

How does-

MICHELLE

Perk of the job.

(holds out chalk)

Rustle me up a good summoning circle, will you?

Julie pauses, not used to being ordered around, but with a little sigh gets to work, crouching and starting to etch a large CIRCLE onto the floor as we DISSOLVE TO:

Two nurses walk past, chatting as they sip their vending machine coffees. As they pass out of sight, Twist and Diego peer out from round a corner, looking towards the door to the room holding Julie and Michelle.

TWIST

How much longer are they gonna be?

DIEGO

I do not know much about magic, but these things do take time, *chica*.

TWIST

(blinks)

Did you just call me '*chica*'?

DIEGO

Er... yes. Is that... was that wrong of me?

TWIST

No, no, it was... sweet.

With a grin, she leans up and PECKS him on the cheek. The moment is spoilt as Danyael COUGHS from behind them.

DANYAEL

Eyes on the job, guys. Not each other.

Twist rolls her eyes, but as Diego turns to look at Danyael he sees something simmering in Danyael's expression.

Diego opens his mouth to speak, when there's a sudden FLASH of light from within the empty room up ahead.

The trio exchange looks.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

Do you reckon that's-

CRASH! The shuttered window EXPLODES outwards as Michelle HURTLES through it, rolling to a halt on the floor!

TWIST

Yep.

She takes off, heading straight for the door as Diego pauses to hoist the sprawled Michelle to her feet.

She's covered in cuts from the glass, but as something GROWLS from within the room, she breaks out of Diego's grip and races after twist, into:

And there it is - the SHADOW CREATURE stands in the centre of the circle, restrained by the binding spell within but looking dangerously close to breaking out!

It HOWLS with anger, PUSHING at invisible forces holding it in place as the others take their places around it. Michelle has her Cane ready.

MICHELLE

Alright, get ready! Soon as I make this thing solid, it'll drop the barrier spell and let it loose.

TWIST

It'll do what?

MICHELLE

Hey, I don't make the rules,
sunshine! Just pull your finger out
and get ready to kill it!

She takes aim with her Cane, just as Jane and Syren appear in the doorway.

The creature focuses its snarling rage squarely on Michelle, who grins as she lines up her shot.

MICHELLE (cont'd)

Yeah, same to you, you ugly git...

ZAP! She BLASTS the creature, and it lets out a WAIL of pain - and a brief FLARE of yellow light signals the end of the circle's barrier spell.

MICHELLE (cont'd)

Now!

The team charge forward, weapons flying. Diego's sword SLICES across its arm, Danyael's sword STABS into its leg, and Twist CRACKS her bat across its back.

The creature ROARS, swinging its arms round and knocking the boys over, but Twist DUCKS the swing and SMACKS it again.

Covering the door, Julie draws her gun and FIRES several shots in quick succession, the bullets THUDDING into the beast's thick hide.

Over by the doorway, Syren's focus is all on the creature, tense and ready to attack it if she has to, but Jane keeps glancing outside to look for any inbound police or security.

MICHELLE (cont'd)

Hit it!

TWIST

I'm trying!

Twist SWINGS, but the creature GRABS her bat in one hand, and with a CRUNCH crushes the bat into fragments!

TWIST (cont'd)

Oh, sh-

POW! One mighty PUNCH sends her sailing across the room, where she collects Julie and sends them both CRASHING to the floor.

Diego intercepts the creature as it tries to follow up, HOPPING up and bouncing off the wall from one foot, JUMPING from a bed and into the air to CHOP down at the thing.

(CONTINUED)

He manages to land on its broad shoulders, the creature ROARING as it tries to reach back and pull him off.

Danyael charges back in with another attack, CUTTING across the creature's chest and DUCKING its return attack, but as the creature finally gets hold of Diego's leg, it YANKS him free and SWINGS him straight into Danyael!

Michelle aims her Cane and ZAPS the beast again, but with a BELLOW of anger it charges straight past her, heading for the door!

Syren moves to meet it, sucking in her breath and preparing a scream, but as she lets fly with a deafening SHRIEK, the creature nimbly JUMPS into the air, sailing over her!

The energy from Syren's scream BLASTS across the room and hits the far wall, SHATTERING the windows in a whirlwind of broken glass!

Michelle has to duck for cover, looking up just as the beast pounds towards Jane!

MICHELLE

Get out of the-

She stops - the creature has come to a stop before Jane, staring down at her, while she looks it right in the eye - and starts to SMILE.

MICHELLE (cont'd)

Wait a minute...

The beast turns to Michelle and SNARLS, and as the battered team pick themselves back up, Jane follows the beast as it lumbers back towards them.

MICHELLE (cont'd)

I should've known. These things never travel far from their masters. Or, in your case, mistresses.

JULIE

Jane? What... what are you...

JANE

I'm sorry, Jules. I really am.

Twist, Diego and Danyael form a first line of defence, Twist grabbing Danyael's sword from him and pushing the biggest chunk of her bat into his hands instead.

JANE (cont'd)

I'd have expected you to understand, though.

JULIE

Understand what? Jane, what the hell is going on?

JANE

(off creature)

This is an *enfan'voler*. Do you know what one of those is?

MICHELLE

Child Thief. This thing collects the souls of unborn kids, in return for-

JANE

In return for giving the gift of one human life to its master. I ought to thank you, Michelle. You gave me the perfect cover story. Until now, that is.

Julie can't believe what she's hearing, her gun flicking between Jane and the advancing creature.

JULIE

You were behind this?

JANE

It was the only way! Do you have any idea what I've been through? Do you know how many unfit, stupid or just plain undeserving mothers I had to see every day when I was still a nurse? How many children's lives I saw flushed down the pan, just because their mothers couldn't give a crap about them?

MICHELLE

So you summoned a demon that'd sacrifice other unborn lives just to give you one of your own? And you're okay with doing that?

Jane purses her lips - for a moment, uncertainty flickers across her face, but she quickly shakes it off.

JANE

It was the only way.

The demon ROARS again, and now ALARMS are going off again all around the hospital.

JANE (cont'd)

They made me a deal, they said I could-

(CONTINUED)

MICHELLE

Oh, shut up!

And Michelle quickly takes aim and BLASTS Jane with a bolt from her cane!

Jane is flung backwards, CRASHING into the far wall, and as the demon LEAPS towards the team, Julie is there with her gun, FIRING a bullet - straight into its open mouth!

JULIE

Get down!

The team duck for cover - as the beast's head EXPLODES! The team are spattered with GORE as the headless creature SLAMS to the ground, SMOKE rising from its stump.

TWIST

(revolted)

Oh... gross!

The team look up as POLICE and SECURITY pile into the room, but before they can yell for the team to freeze, Michelle quickly BANGS her Cane on the floor - and they're gone in a BLAZE of light.

The smoke settles on the scene, some officers standing, dumbfounded, over the body of the demon as others haul the limp body of Jane to her feet, and we cut to:

39 EXT. STREET - LATER

39

Watching from their high vantage point, the team see Jane's body loaded into the back of a meat wagon, the paramedic pausing to zip her body bag closed.

40 INT. MEDICAL CENTRE - NEXT

40

Julie watches sadly from the window as the ambulance closes its doors and drives away, past the waiting cluster of police cars and press vehicles outside the centre.

JULIE

I can't believe it. Jane... I just don't understand why.

MICHELLE

She said you'd understand her. Any idea what she meant?

A beat. Julie lowers her head as the penny finally drops.

JULIE

She knew I lost my baby.

Michelle watches, waiting for her to finish.

(CONTINUED)

JULIE (cont'd)

That's why she quit nursing. Said she couldn't stand to watch people like me suffer any more, when she had to sit and help people with kids who just didn't want them. But this... this I can't get behind.

MICHELLE

Kids'll do that to a girl. Or the lack of having them will, anyway.

Julie turns to Michelle, and catches a look of something in her eyes - Michelle can understand this just as well.

Michelle turns back to the others before Julie can speak, scooping up a bottle of wine from the floor.

MICHELLE (cont'd)

Alright, let's shake off the bad atmosphere. Who's for a toast?

TWIST

To what?

MICHELLE

To saving the day. Little ritual of mine. Always sink a glass of vino when I vanquish something nasty.

DANYAEL

(shrugs)

Works for me.

Diego looks round, spots a cabinet over a small kitchen sink and opens it to find several dusty glasses. He cleans them as best he can before offering them to Michelle, who fills them up one at a time.

MICHELLE

Alright. Let's drink to-

SYREN

To absent friends.

A beat - and then one by one, the team raise their glasses into the air. A silent toast is made, and as they all knock the wine back, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW