

SOMEWHERE INBETWEEN

"Sound of Loneliness"

by
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TEASER

FADE IN:

1

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - NIGHT

1

Right where we left them. TWIST gapes down at the lightly smoking and unconscious form of CHRIS on the ground before her.

Yelling for her to move is DIEGO, the stunned NAOMI over his shoulder. Next to him is JULIE who holds the wilted SYREN up with one arm.

Twist stares down at Chris in something halfway between shock and awe, the FIRES raging all around her from the Trinity's last round of attacks going unnoticed.

DIEGO

Twist, come on! We have to go!

TWIST

But... but...

Diego races over - he still hasn't noticed Chris in all the melee.

DIEGO

Twist, snap out of it! We can't-

He sees Chris. Stops.

DIEGO (cont'd)

Chris...?

There's an EXPLOSION to their right, and the duo snap round to see:

CHARLOTTE, literally blazing with rage as she marches towards them, FIREBALLS gathering in her outstretched hands!

TWIST

Oh, crap...

She scrambles to her feet, instinct taking over as she scoops Chris up, slinging him over her shoulder.

TWIST (cont'd)

Let's book!

She pushes Diego to get him moving, the two clearing out just as a huge FIREBALL smacks into the ground after them.

Julie frowns as the duo race over, trying to work out who or what Twist is carrying.

(CONTINUED)

JULIE

Twist? What's-

Her eyes bulge as she spots Chris at last. Her jaw drops, but Twist keeps moving and starts to pull her along.

TWIST

Fire bad! Running good!

With Syren still woozy from her last attack, the foursome are moving much too slowly for Twist's liking.

TWIST (cont'd)

Where the frack is Danyael?

Diego looks round and spots DANYAEL, recovering from his last beating several feet away.

TWIST (cont'd)

(yells to him)

Spook! We are leaving!

He gets unsteadily to his feet, shakes his head and then sees the foursome escaping.

DANYAEL

(narrows eyes)

What the...

He's seen Twist carrying Chris, but hears a SHOUT to his left that spurs him to action, racing to catch the others up.

A group of TRINITY SOLDIERS are on the move, nimbly zig-zagging through the heaps of rubble and burning debris in hot pursuit.

Staggering a little, JACQUELINE walks into view on the other side of the site, approaching a prone ISABELLE.

Isabelle is still skewered to the floor by the sword through her leg. She grabs the handle, grits her teeth and PULLS, wrenching the sword free with a CRY of pain.

ISABELLE

(snarls)

That sneaky vamp bastard! I'm gonna-

JACQUELINE

He's gone.

ISABELLE

What?

JACQUELINE

Charlotte took care of him.

ISABELLE

Oh. Shoot. What about the others?

Jacqueline wearily turns to see Twist's group heading for the nearest way out.

JACQUELINE

(flat)

Looks like they're getting away.

Isabelle shakily gets up, using her sword as a crutch.

ISABELLE

And I take by our lack of forward motion that we're not following?

Jacqueline lifts her hand - and she's holding the QUAERO. It's blackened and singed, but otherwise intact.

JACQUELINE

No need. We got what we came here for.

CHARLOTTE (O.S.)

No, we didn't.

The two girls turn as Charlotte walks back into view, a last few wisps of energy still trailing over her skin.

CHARLOTTE (cont'd)

The vampire used the Quaero to bring somebody else back before I could stop him.

JACQUELINE

Who?

CHARLOTTE

I couldn't tell. In case you didn't notice, things got a little hectic.

Jacqueline looks round, taking in the carnage left all around the site. She shrugs.

JACQUELINE

We've done worse.

(holds up Quaero)

So what about this thing?

CHARLOTTE

It's useless.

ISABELLE

Come again?

CHARLOTTE

One use only. Its power's been exhausted.

Isabelle GROANS, but Jacqueline suddenly snaps from weariness to burning fury in a heartbeat, SLAMMING the Quaero to the ground!

She points after Twist's group, literally shaking with anger as she roars:

JACQUELINE

Get after them!

Isabelle scowls, walking awkwardly on her wounded leg, holding her sword high above her head.

Following her signal, the remaining Trinity soldiers quickly assemble in neat lines behind her, following Isabelle and Charlotte as they march INTO CAMERA, forcing a:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

2 EXT. STREET/CONSTRUCTION SITE - NIGHT 2

Danyaël leads the way, hurrying towards the parked van as he fumbles for the keys in his pocket.

Julie can't take her eyes off Chris, who's still out cold over Twist's shoulder - until Twist SLAPS her lightly.

TWIST

Hey! Focus.

JULIE

(stutters)

Ju- he... we... but-

TWIST

I know. There's a big portion of my brain screaming the place down about all this right now, but my finely honed survival instinct is in charge now, and it says 'run away.'

Danyaël yanks the van's side door open, and the team deposit their wounded inside - Syren, Naomi and Chris.

Julie stands and stares at Chris as we hear the engine START UP, and as the door slides shut again we force a CUT TO:

3 EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - NEXT 3

Isabelle and a large pack of Trinity soldiers pour out of the entrance to the site - just as the van SCREECHES away.

Isabelle aims at it with her sword, and a fusillade of KNIVES, ARROWS and DAGGERS streak through the air!

4 INT. BLACK VAN - NEXT 4

Julie FLINCHES as a barrage of weapons SLAM into the back of the van, DENTS poking through the walls from the impacts.

JULIE

Faster!

Up front, Danyaël is driving and struggling to stay in control, wrenching the steering wheel left and right as he speeds towards safety.

DANYAEL

This doesn't go any faster!

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

TWIST

Well, we ain't gonna start throwing
dead weight out the back, so just
floor it already!

She STAMPS down on his foot, forcing the accelerator pedal
down.

5 EXT. STREET - NEXT

5

The van's engine REVS, the van itself snaking from side to
side as Danyaël fights to stay in control.

Diego winds down the passenger side window and peers back out
down the street:

Several GLIDERS are weaving through the night sky towards
them - more Trinity warriors!

6 INT. VAN - NEXT

6

Diego curses, reaching for his sword again.

DIEGO

They're right behind us!

DANYAEL

(exasperated)

What are they driving, Indy cars?

TWIST

Spook! Talking does not equal
getting away!

Diego glances round and sees Julie's HANDGUN poking out of
her backpack.

DIEGO

May I?

Julie blinks as he SNATCHES the gun up and returns to the
window:

7 EXT. STREET - NIGHT

7

We're overhead, looking down on the van as it jinks through
the light highway traffic.

The first GLIDER sails into view, followed by two more as the
Trinity warriors descend on the vehicle.

ON DIEGO as he takes aim with Julie's gun, lining up the
nearest glider.

ON GLIDER as something GLINTS in the light - and a trio of
DAGGERS dart down towards the van!

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

Diego DUCKS BACK as the daggers SLICE across the door, separating the wing mirror from the van!

Danyaël SWERVES violently, veering round a slow-moving car whose horn BLARES at the van.

Diego quickly leans back out and SHOOTS.

Bullets RIP through the glider's wafer-thin, jet black canopy, and the glider LURCHES to the side as its aerodynamics go the way of the housebrick.

Diego watches as the glider spirals rapidly down to earth, landing with a THUD on the freeway and BOUNCING across the asphalt.

8 INT. VAN - NEXT

8

He coolly leans back inside as another round of DAGGERS strike the van, sending SPARKS into the cabin.

DIEGO

One down.

TWIST

We need a safe house, and fast.

DANYAEL

I know somewhere.

TWIST

Can you get us there in one piece?

He shoots her a look, then pulls the wheel sharply to the left.

9 EXT. HIGHWAY - NEXT

9

The van's tires SQUEAL as Danyaël takes a sharp left, speeding round an intersection.

A moment later, the two gliders whip round, still hot on the van's trail.

10 INT. VAN - NEXT

10

Diego leans back out and FIRES at the pursuing gliders again, as Julie starts to rummage through her backpack, her eyes glancing to Chris every few moments.

DANYAEL

Alright, everybody hang on! This part's a little bumpy!

Twist frowns, then looks out through the windscreen.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

TWIST

Oh, sh-

She holds the syllable as we SMASH TO:

11 EXT. STREET/SHOPPING MALL - NEXT 11

Danyael BOUNCES the van across two lanes of traffic, to a chorus of HONKS from cars that SKID to avoid it.

He's heading for the main entrance of a huge shopping mall, aiming the van squarely at a staircase leading down to the mall itself.

As the gliders SWOOP overhead, the van RATTLES its way down the staircase, SPARKS flying from its undercarriage.

The entrance to an underground car park looms dead ahead, passing under the mall's entrance.

The gliders are forced to break off, streaking either side of the huge mall complex as the van races on.

12 EXT. SHOPPING MALL - BASEMENT CAR PARK - CONTINUOUS 12

Danyael pulls the van over to the right, almost tipping it onto its side as he speeds down the exit ramp of the underground car park.

The van ROARS across the car park, dodging round a few awkwardly-parked vehicles before SKIDDING to a halt, the van drifting to its left and CRUNCHING against the wall.

Danyael is the first out, grabbing the side door handle and yanking the door open.

DANYAEL

Come on, come on! Everybody out!

TWIST

Say what?

JULIE

Danny, where are we?

DANYAEL

About thirty seconds from somewhere safe! Come on!

Diego hops out of the cabin, tossing Julie's handgun back to her as he hefts Naomi up over his shoulder. Julie helps the dizzy Syren down.

SYREN

(head spinning)
Where are we?

(CONTINUED)

JULIE

Just hang on, honey.

DIEGO

What about the van?

DANYAEL

We'll come back for her. It's us they want.

He jogs over to a nearby PAY PHONE on the wall, running his hands over its surface as if searching for something.

TWIST

Spook, this isn't 'Alias'! What are you looking for, a fricken secret room?

There's a CLICK - and a section of the wall beside them starts to SLIDE back!

DANYAEL

(grins)

Yep.

(to others)

Let's go! This way!

The rest of the team quickly hurry inside, Twist going back to heave Chris up over her shoulders again.

Danyael presses whatever he pressed before, and the wall starts to slide back into place as the team scurry into the darkness beyond.

The wall seals back into place with another loud CLICK - and it's as though the entrance was never there.

STAY on the scene for a few beats - until first two, then three more, then several more Trinity soldiers come racing down the ramp and into the car park.

They fan out, operating like a well-oiled machine as they search for any sign of the team.

A few of them gather round the van, checking inside and underneath - but finding nothing.

As we PUSH PAST some of the warriors and focus on the patch of wall where the team made their escape, we CUT TO:

Danyael leads once again, with Julie producing a FLASHLIGHT for the benefit of the non-vampires.

They're heading down a tunnel that looks to have been tunnelled straight out of the rock itself, angled slightly downwards.

JULIE

Alright, Danny, I'm lost. Where are we?

DANYAEL

Local secret. Well, secret to anyone but the rebels who work round here, anyway. There's a safe house at the end of this tunnel. We're basically on the next level down from the bottom of the mall overhead.

DIEGO

And how do you know of this place?

DANYAEL

Went to some kick ass parties down here. Back in the day, you know.

There's an opening up ahead, and Danyael steps into:

14 INT. SAFE HOUSE - ENTRANCE - NEXT

14

He flicks on the LIGHT - and flickering neon strips illuminate an area about the size of an average sitting room.

DANYAEL

This way.

He walks through a doorway and into:

15 INT. SAFE HOUSE - MAIN ROOM - NEXT

15

There are a few old sofas, some rickety cupboards and not a whole lot else. Other, closed doorways lead out of the room.

Danyael turns back to help Twist ease Chris down onto one sofa, then watches as Diego gently lays Naomi down.

Julie eases Syren into another seat, then lets out a breath. Seems like she's been holding it for a while.

JULIE

Okay...

She turns to face Chris.

JULIE (cont'd)

... what the hell?

They gather round him, looking Chris up and down.

(CONTINUED)

TWIST

Is it really him? I mean...

Chris' hair and beard are much longer, and there appear to be a few light SCARS on his skin, but otherwise he's the same.

JULIE

I don't know.

DANYAEL

How do we find out?

JULIE

(beat)

I don't know.

DIEGO

Whatever we decide, we can't stay here. It will not take long for the Trinity to track us.

DANYAEL

You sure? Even with-

DIEGO

Even with the concealed entrance, yes.

Julie steps back, pulling her bag round.

JULIE

I may be able to help with that.

She holds up two small POTION BOTTLES.

JULIE (cont'd)

I can cook up a cloaking spell with these, should keep us off any radar mystical or otherwise for a few extra hours.

Diego nods, and Julie steps back towards the door, her eyes again flicking back to Chris.

TWIST

Shouldn't we, you know, try to wake him up?

DANYAEL

Twist, we don't even know if he's asleep, unconscious, in a coma or what.

A beat. Twist suddenly YELLS:

TWIST

Chris! Wake up!

Beat. No answer. She turns to Danyael and shrugs, ignoring his scowl.

Naomi GROANS, and Danyael steps over to her as she sits up, rubbing her temples.

NAOMI

What happened?

DANYAEL

Easy. We're safe. You took a bad hit, but you're okay.

NAOMI

But what about the-

Her eyes fall on Chris. She looks to Danyael, puzzled.

NAOMI (cont'd)

Who's that?

Danyael sighs - long story.

DANYAEL

That's Chris.

NAOMI

What, the Chris? The one you guys have all been...

Danyael nods. Julie returns from the door, where lines of YELLOW FLUID now stain the door frame.

NAOMI (cont'd)

So... what happened? Did Sanctus' spell work?

Heads are bowed. Naomi puts a hand to her mouth.

NAOMI (cont'd)

Oh, God...

DIEGO

Sanctus was killed by the Trinity. He managed to rescue Chris before he died.

NAOMI

Oh, Diego, I'm so sorry.

DIEGO

He died a noble death. He gave his life for that of his friend.

TWIST

Yeah, about that...

Twist suddenly marches up to Diego, POKING her fingers into his chest.

TWIST (cont'd)

Time to start talking again.

DIEGO

About what?

TWIST

Start with what the Trinity could've wanted with that thing and go from there.

DIEGO

I've already told you, I don't know!

DANYAEL

We used it to get Chris back. Stands to reason they were trying to find someone too. Question is... who?

DIEGO

If I had any idea, I swear I would tell you. You must believe me.

TWIST

I'd be more open to believing you if you'd been straight with us in the first place! Now, how about-

SYREN (O.S.)

Chris?

They turn to see Syren has made her way over to Chris, and is currently running her hands slowly across his face. She's trembling, scarcely able to believe it.

SYREN (cont'd)

(tearful)

When... how did this happen?

Twist looks to Diego, then sighs - this'll have to wait. She looks back to Syren as we DISSOLVE TO:

Syren is asleep, curled up on the sofa next to Chris. Julie sits opposite them both, studying the scene as if still trying to work it all out.

Danyael is pacing, with Naomi, Twist and Diego gathered nearby. They're holding a conference of sorts.

DIEGO

One of us should check the surface.

TWIST

What, and give the All Blacks up there a guest pass down into our hidey hole? Nuh-uh.

DANYAEL

Diego's got a point. We can't stay here forever.

TWIST

I'm voting for staying here until we figure this out. All those in favour?

She raises her hand, glancing round at the others expectantly. Nobody else raises their hand.

TWIST (cont'd)

(huffs)

You all suck.

NAOMI

Let's focus on what we know. Somehow, Chris is back. That's a positive. We're not all dead and we seem to have shaken off this Trinity for now. Another plus.

DANYAEL

Sanctus is dead. Minus one. Actually, minus several.

TWIST

And we all saw first hand just what the Trinity are capable of.

NAOMI

Diego, will they bother with us now we've escaped, or will they leave us alone and get back to whatever it was they were doing?

DIEGO

I'm afraid tradition would demand our heads, to redeem themselves for allowing us to beat them.

TWIST
 (throws up hands)
 Great. An army of assassins who
 hold grudges. Perfect!

Diego reaches for his sword, stepping towards the door.

DIEGO
 I'll check the surface.

DANYAEL
 I'd better come with.
 (off his look)
 I'm the one who knows how to open
 the door in and out, remember?

Diego nods, the two boys heading for the door. They pause as
 Twist calls out:

TWIST
 Guys?
 (they turn)
 Be careful.

Diego holds her gaze for a beat, then turns and leaves.
 Danyael manages a grin as he follows.

Twist exhales, turning back to the others - Julie still
 staring at Chris, Syren curled up next to him and Naomi
 wincing as she rubs her shoulders.

TWIST (cont'd)
 Alright then, girls...

She flops down into a seat.

TWIST (cont'd)
 ... let's get ourselves a plan.

We PUSH IN on Chris, who hasn't moved a muscle since they
 found him, closing up on his features until we CUT TO:

We're plunged into a hellish, post-apocalyptic landscape,
 everything tinted GREEN from the sickly-coloured skies.

Buildings stand in tatters, leaning at crazy angles or just
 disintegrating into rubble. The ground itself is littered
 with debris - burned out cars, heaps of rubble and fires.

Everything is coated with thick layers of DUST, coating every
 available surface and kicking up as a wind HOWLS through the
 scene.

Lightning FLASHES as distant storm clouds RUMBLE overhead, the churning skies always on the move.

PUSH IN on one heap of rubble dead ahead as distant CRIES for help drift past on the wind. SCREAMS float by.

There's a figure lying face down on the ground, faint wisps of WHITE LIGHT drifting up from his body.

It's Chris, just how he looked when the others last saw him in Manon's base, before he was lost.

PUSH IN closer as the sounds of FIGHTING filter in, followed by a piercing, high-pitched SCREECH that echoes through the ruins.

UP CLOSE on Chris' face, the man himself out cold, as the sounds start to build in intensity and volume, until we hear:

WHISPER

This isn't what I wanted...

And Chris' eyes SNAP OPEN!

Chris suddenly STIRS, and the girls all jump back - but he's still unconscious. His head rolls to the other side and he settles back down.

The girls glance at one another, not sure what that meant, until Twist plants her hands on her hips.

TWIST

Well... that's a start.

Off her wry expression, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

19 INT. BASEMENT CAR PARK - NIGHT

19

Diego paces into view, eyes narrowed and senses alert to any sound or hint of movement.

There's a CLICK to his right that seems to echo round the whole car park, and he winces before turning to face:

DANYAEL as he calmly lights a cigarette. He's very obviously not on duty right now.

DIEGO

Must you do that?

DANYAEL

Diego, man, we've been patrolling up here for...

(checks watch)

... two hours straight now. I know corpses that aren't this patient. Literally.

DIEGO

We have to be sure-

DANYAEL

We are sure. I mean, I'd have said the message they left kind of hints at them not being here any more.

He jerks a thumb towards the van - the Trinity symbol has been etched on the side, a red eye with 'III' in Roman numerals behind it.

DIEGO

(off symbol)

That is a warning.

DANYAEL

That is also the kind of thing any would-be assassin would do when he got tired of waiting around.

Danyael takes a drag off his cigarette and slaps Diego lightly on the arm.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

C'mon. If they jump us on the way back, you can' I told you so' all you like. Until then, I'm tired and I want to just sit down and chill.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

Diego doesn't look happy with this plan, but as Danyael heads over to the pay phone again he eases up a little.

Danyael fumbles round the casing until he finds the trip switch, and as the hidden panel in the wall slides back, he strolls into the darkness.

Diego hesitates, scanning the car park one last time before turning and stepping inside.

20 INT. SAFE HOUSE - MAIN ROOM - NEXT

20

Down in the safe house itself, everyone has finally dozed off. Twist lays a blanket carefully over Julie, then turns and notices Syren shivering in her sleep.

With a roll of her eyes, Twist shrugs off her jacket and drapes it over Syren's sleeping form.

TWIST

And don't get saying I never do anything for you.

She glances round - Naomi's dropped off too. Twist stretches, sliding into the seat alongside Chris.

She looks him up and down for a moment, a smile gradually creeping across her features.

TWIST (cont'd)

Welcome back, chief.

She reaches across, takes his hand and gives it a squeeze.

TWIST (cont'd)

You had us all going for a while there. Thought this was really it this time, you know?

She releases his hand, sitting up and running her hands through her hair.

TWIST (cont'd)

I thought... we all thought you weren't coming back.

(glances at Syren)

Except her. But between you and me, she's a little...

Twist makes the classic 'she's crazy' gesture, circling her finger round her temple.

TWIST (cont'd)

I just hope she doesn't get all smug now she's been proven right, is all.

(CONTINUED)

Twist tries to laugh at her own joke, but the smile fades.

TWIST (cont'd)

You probably don't know this, or don't want to know this, but Sanctus, he... he's gone. He made sure you came back before the Trinity killed him.

She leans back in her chair.

TWIST (cont'd)

Oh, yeah, the Trinity. New bad guys. Girls, even. Three redheads, heapum big trouble. Kind of hoping you're gonna wake up soon, 'cause it looks like we could use you.

She falls silent for a moment, then leans close to Chris, looking him up and down again.

She pauses - then lightly KISSES him on the cheek, quickly settling back down.

TWIST (cont'd)

You tell anyone about that, I'll kill you.

Her eyes fall on him again.

TWIST (cont'd)

(softly)
Where did you go?

She SIGHS, and we PUSH IN on Chris again, no flicker of movement across his body until we force a CUT TO:

Chris awakens with a start - back in his nightmare world. He's huddled up against the wall inside the shell of a wrecked building, heaps of trashed furniture piled around.

He stiffly gets to his feet, stretching out and looking out through one of the empty window frames.

His view of the landscape beyond doesn't offer much encouragement - more desolate terrain, smashed buildings and ominous storm clouds.

With a sigh, he turns away from the view and takes a step towards the doorway opposite - and then freezes.

SOMETHING is standing in the doorway looking right back at him, shrouded in darkness.

21 CONTINUED:

21

Chris tenses, his hand instinctively going to where his sword should be - but of course it isn't there.

The figure in the doorway HISSES, a throaty rattle that definitely does not sound human.

Chris' eyes flick from side to side - there's no other way out except through the window, and he's several storeys up.

We hear FOOTSTEPS as whatever's in the doorway pads slowly into the room, and as Chris' eyes widen, we CUT TO:

22 INT. TUNNEL - NIGHT

22

Danyael and Diego are heading back to the safe house, the orange glow of Danyael's cigarette the only real source of light.

DANYAEL

I say we catch an hour or two's sleep and then ship out. With any luck, those Trinity goons just kept on going trying to find us.

DIEGO

They're thorough.

DANYAEL

And we're well hidden.

DIEGO

Very thorough.

Danyael abruptly stops, spinning round to face him.

DANYAEL

Yeah, see, here's what I don't get. How come you know so much about the way they work?

DIEGO

I told you, I've fought against them before.

DANYAEL

(shakes head)

No, this is more than that. You either spent a damn long time studying how they work, or there's a few little details you've neglected to tell us so far.

A beat as Danyael takes a final drag from his cigarette, flicking the stub away.

(CONTINUED)

DANYAEL (cont'd)
 So while it's just you and me,
 let's hear it. What's the big
 secret?

DIEGO
 There is no 'secret.'

DANYAEL
 You can't really see it 'cause it's
 dark, but I'm making my 'I call
 bull' face right now.

Diego steps past him, a little curtly, and Danyael calls
 after him:

DANYAEL (cont'd)
 What's she gonna think when she
 finds out, huh?

Diego stops. Doesn't turn round.

DANYAEL (cont'd)
 You know one thing she hates?

He walks back up to Diego's side.

DANYAEL (cont'd)
 Secrets. Especially from those
 rare, lucky few she lets get as
 close as you have.

DIEGO
 We're not-

He stops himself. Danyael quirks an eyebrow, but Diego walks
 on, silent. Danyael sighs, shaking his head and following.

Twist is curled up herself now, her eyes on Chris as her
 eyelids start to droop. Exhaustion is catching up at last.

As she starts to drift off, she misses Chris STIRRING again,
 his eyes starting to move rapidly beneath his eyelids.

As the sound of RUNNING fades in, we PUSH IN slowly on Chris
 again and CUT TO:

CLOSE on Chris' feet as he tears across the landscape,
 hopping over obstacles in his path - fallen signs, downed
 street lights and heaps of bricks.

Something EXPLODES to his right as we PULL BACK, and Chris shields himself with his arms.

Without looking back, it's clear something nasty is close behind by the speed he's running.

That same SCREECH rings out again, and the twisted, scorched husk of a POLICE VAN to his left DETONATES, arcing up into the air!

Chris veers to the side, avoiding the van as it CRASHES back to earth, but he STUMBLES and falls.

Throwing a quick glance over his shoulder, we're UP CLOSE as what sounds like FLAPPING WINGS can be heard.

In the reflections on Chris' EYES, the shadow of some kind of FLYING CREATURE can be seen for an instant:

And he's off again. The landscape BLURS past as Chris regains his speed, the SCREECHING still close behind.

His foot suddenly SINKS into the ground, and before he can react the whole area around him starts to CRUMBLE!

Chris scrabbles for grip, but as the ground gives way and falls into a huge PIT below, he's got nothing to hold on to.

Chris FALLS, hands flailing through the air as he plummets down into:

Two sections of freeway have collapsed against each other, causing this rift in the earth, and Chris SMACKS painfully from surface to surface on his way down.

He hits the deck with a THUD, the wind knocked out of him as he rolls onto his back with a grimace.

BLOOD is on his lips, and as he tries to sit up he suddenly CRIES OUT in pain.

Looking down, he sees a huge chunk of STEEL sticking out of his side, a souvenir from his trip down.

Clearly in agony, he grabs hold of the twisted hunk of metal and PULLS - but all he gets is another ROAR of pain.

Weakly pushing himself up as far as he can, he quickly looks round for some place he can crawl to:

And a SHADOW falls over him. He slowly looks up:

SILHOUETTED against the pale green skies is whatever was pursuing him, but all we can see is a huge black SHAPE blotting out the light.

ON CHRIS as the SCREECHING sound rings out again, and as the creature closes in on him, Chris has nowhere to run.

His hands find the piece of steel in his side again, and deciding it's the only weapon he's got he PULLS at it again, letting out another YELL:

SMASH CUT TO:

And Chris wakes with the same YELL!

He lurches up on the sofa, with Twist jumping out of her skin and the other girls snapping awake in an instant.

Chris gulps in deep lungfuls of air, hunching over and letting out a low GROAN as he remembers the agony he felt.

Twist looks to Julie, who looks back - she doesn't know what they should do either.

With the wide-eyed Syren's gaze fixed on her, Twist gingerly reaches out a hand to Chris' shoulder...

SNAP! His arm jerks up and GRABS her wrist, and Twist freezes as Chris slowly turns to face her.

TWIST

Chris! Chris... it's me. It's
Twist.

Chris blinks, his iron grip still on her wrist.

TWIST (cont'd)

Do you remember? It's me! I'm here.
Everybody's here.

Chris' head snaps round, taking in Naomi, Syren and then Julie. He holds his gaze on Julie.

JULIE

(wary)
Ch... Chris?

Chris looks down, slowly starting to realise where he is. He releases Twist's hand, looking down at his own hands.

SYREN

Chris? Do you know who we are?

CHRIS
(whispers)
Where...

TWIST
What?

CHRIS
(looks up)
Where am I?

Twist exhales, starting to grin.

TWIST
Somewhere safe.

Chris looks round at them all again.

CHRIS
Twist... Syren... Julie...

He looks to Naomi, frowning.

NAOMI
Oh, uh, you don't know me. I'm, er,
I'm with Danyael. Sort of.
(beat)
Hi.

Twist shuffles a little closer as Chris runs a hand through his hair, feeling for his beard.

TWIST
You've been... actually, we have no fricken idea where you've been, but you've been gone for over eight months.

CHRIS
(seems surprised)
Eight months?
(beat)
'Gone'? Gone where?

TWIST
(snaps fingers)
Poof! Don't you remember? Manon?
The fight in the oil tanker?
Stabbed in the heart? Falling into the portal o' doom?
(beat)
Bueller? Anyone?

JULIE
Chris...

She reaches out and takes his hands. He flinches at first, but doesn't pull away. Julie smiles.

JULIE (cont'd)
It's you. It's really you!

Chris looks up - and she LAUNCHES herself forward to embrace him!

JULIE (cont'd)
It's really you!

TWIST
Hey, hey, hey! I was here first,
sister!

Twist gently prises them apart, then cracks into a broad grin and HUGS Chris herself. He seems bemused by the attention.

Syren's up next, beaming from ear to ear as her arms slide round him, pulling him close. She closes her eyes and nuzzles her head against his shoulder.

SYREN
I knew you'd come back. I just knew
it. You wouldn't leave us. You
can't.

Chris absently pats Syren, turning to Naomi.

NAOMI
Oh, it's okay. I think we can skip
the hugs.

Syren releases him, and Chris leans forward in his chair, taking another deep breath.

CHRIS
Alright, as I'm sure you can
imagine, it's all a little... fuzzy
up here at the moment.

He taps the side of his head.

CHRIS (cont'd)
I think you'd better tell me
exactly what's been going on since
I was... what was it you said?

TWIST
Uh, tanker, stab, portal.

CHRIS
Right, yes. That.

JULIE

We can get to that - first, tell us where you've been!

CHRIS

I...

TWIST

And don't cop out on us, either. We put bets down on this and everything.

Julie shoots Twist a look. Not the time for jokes.

CHRIS

I don't remember.

Twist deflates a little.

CHRIS (cont'd)

At least... not properly. Flashes, sounds... snatches of memories.

He presses his hands against his head and lapses into silence again. Julie glances at Twist, and is about to speak when:

DANYAEL (O.S.)

Chris!

Chris looks up as Danyael bounds over, and before he can react he's engulfed in another HUG.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

You're awake! You're back!

Danyael steps back, grinning broadly.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

Good to see you, man. Damn good to see you.

Chris stares at him, as though trying to recall who he is.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

It's me! Danyael! You remember?

(to Twist)

He does remember... right?

TWIST

He's getting there. The hugs are helping. We think.

Diego steps over, laying a comradely hand on Chris' shoulder.

DIEGO

Welcome home, Chris.

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS
Di... Diego?

DIEGO
(nods; grins)
Si.

CHRIS
So that means... where's Sanctus?

The smiles fade. It doesn't take long for Chris to figure out what that means. He bows his head.

CHRIS (cont'd)
How did it happen?

TWIST
Finding you.

Chris snaps round to look at her.

TWIST (cont'd)
He showed us this thing, said it might bring you back, so we went to find it, only we had to fight these people called the Trinity-

CHRIS
(snaps to attention)
The Trinity? They're here? Now?

TWIST
Uh... yeah.

Chris suddenly jumps to his feet.

CHRIS
We have to get out of here.

JULIE
Woah, woah, hang on! Chris, you just came back from God only knows where, and we all just got our asses kicked! Slow down!

CHRIS
Julie, the Trinity is one of the oldest and most dangerous organisations on the planet. If they're involved in my return, then-

BOOM! Something EXPLODES in the next room!

The team snap round and look into the next room, as SMOKE billows in through the entrance.

26 CONTINUED: (5)

And then, stepping through the smoke - and straight through the doorway with Julie's protective markings, come Jacqueline, Isabelle and Charlotte!

The team scramble to their feet, grabbing for weapons as more Trinity warriors filter in through the entrance behind the three girls.

JACQUELINE
(wicked grin)
Ding dong.

PUSH IN on Chris as he narrows his eyes, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

27

INT. SAFE HOUSE - MAIN ROOM - NIGHT

27

The team back up a little, reaching for their weapons as yet more Trinity warriors pile into the room before them.

DANYAEL

How did you-

DIEGO

I told you they would find us.

He draws his sword with a flourish.

DIEGO (cont'd)

They always do.

ISABELLE

(off Chris)

That him? The one all this is about?

JACQUELINE

Looks like.

Twist steps before Chris, Duggan back in her hands.

TWIST

I'm sorry, sounded awfully like you were asking - no, begging me to come over there and turn your faces inside out!

DANYAEL

(joins her)

Yeah, I heard that too.

JACQUELINE

(rolls eyes)

I don't have time for this...

She takes a step forward, and as one the horde of Trinity warriors SURGES forward:

POW! They hit some kind of BLUE FORCEFIELD, blocking them from entering the room.

Twist whips round to see Chris has his arm outstretched, his brow knitted in concentration.

CHRIS

Go!

(CONTINUED)

JULIE

But we-

CHRIS

I'll hold them back! Just go!

JULIE

We're not leaving you!

CHRIS

And I don't plan on staying behind,
but if you don't get moving we
won't have that luxury!

Danyael races to one of the doors, trying to open it - but it's locked. He takes a step back and BARGES into it, smashing the door open.

DANYAEL

C'mon! This way!

He waves the others through the door.

Chris backtracks a little, arm still raised, as the forcefield keeping the Trinity out starts to waver.

JACQUELINE

Charlotte, do you mind doing
something about that?

Charlotte lifts her hand, and beams of RED ENERGY snake out and SLAM into the forcefield.

Chris' knees wobble, and the field flickers for an instant - he can't hold it for long.

Danyael finally reaches forward and grabs him, dragging him back through the doorway:

There's a loud HUM as the field falls, but Chris and Danyael are already racing back up the stairs.

CHRIS

Where does this lead?

DANYAEL

Back to the surface. The van's
waiting.

Chris hears a faint SNIKT sound and quickly pushes Danyael's head down:

Just as several DAGGERS whip past and slam into the staircase wall!

28 CONTINUED:

28

Chris looks round and sees that Trinity warriors are closing in. He pushes Danyael to speed up, as we CUT TO:

29 INT. BASEMENT CAR PARK - NEXT

29

Twist is the first up, BARGING through a fire door and back out into the car park. The van is about twenty feet away.

She starts to run towards it - but more Trinity soldiers spring into view, cutting her off!

TWIST

Oh, for the love of... how many of
you guys are there already?

Diego charges past her, sword swinging.

DIEGO

Always too many!

CHOP! He downs one soldier and KICKS another, turning to SLAM one out of mid-air and into a car windshield.

Julie, Naomi and Syren are the next out, Julie fumbling to reload her gun as more soldiers pour towards them on all sides.

NAOMI

There's too many of them!

As if to answer, Julie gets her gun up and FIRES several rapid bursts, each one taking out another warrior.

JULIE

And now there's a few less. Keep
moving!

The trio head for the van as Twist and Diego get stuck into the Trinity, and we cut to:

30 INT. SAFE HOUSE - STAIRCASE - NEXT

30

More DAGGERS and SHURIKEN fly past Chris and Danyael, some SLICING across them while other THUNK into the brickwork.

Chris hears a FWOOSH and turns to see a FIREBALL spiralling up towards them!

CHRIS

Get down!

He SHOVES Danyael to the floor, the fireball streaking past them and out into:

31 INT. BASEMENT CAR PARK - NEXT

31

With ROAR, the fireball scorches out through the fire door, followed moments later by Chris and Danyael.

And then by about thirty more Trinity warriors, gaining on the pair with every step!

Twist has almost fought her way to the van, BLASTING one soldier out of the air with her bat.

She takes a KICK, staggering back, and quickly defends as two SWORDS descend on her.

Struggling to fight back, she's driven away from the van as two warriors bear down on her.

TWIST
Guys! Little help?

She SHOVES both warriors back and glances round - Diego is busy fighting four soldiers at once, while Julie is laying down suppressing fire for Naomi and Syren.

Twist turns to attack again - and a SWORD drives straight into her gut!

TWIST (cont'd)
Aagh!

She looks down at the sword, following it back to its owner, her fury increasing.

TWIST (cont'd)
Bad move.

POW! She nearly breaks Duggan in half as she CRACKS it across the warrior's jaw, pausing to painfully DRAG the sword back out of her belly.

TWIST (cont'd)
You see this shirt? Huh?

WHACK! She hits the stunned warrior again.

TWIST (cont'd)
Do you have any idea how hard it was for me to find this?

CRUNCH! The warrior's head is knocked to an awkward angle. He isn't getting back up.

TWIST (cont'd)
Freakin' goons, no respect for style...

(CONTINUED)

She makes it to the van as we rejoin Diego, a whirlwind of swordplay as he dances from side to side.

He's fending off attacks from all sides, but for every soldier he cuts down or wounds two more take their place.

Isabelle and Jacqueline stride out into the car park, surveying the chaos before them.

JACQUELINE
(points to Chris)
Him! Get that one first!

Isabelle bounds forward, bearing down on Chris - who has his back to her!

Julie spots her closing in and manages to yell:

JULIE
Chris, behind you!

He turns as Julie aims and FIRES, but Isabelle's sword FLASHES and deflects the bullet!

Julie CRIES OUT - the ricochet has hit her in the arm! She drops the gun and stumbles, but Naomi quickly sweeps her out of harm's way as more soldiers steam in.

Chris turns in time to block Isabelle's first attack, the two locking swords.

Danyael gets into the van, pausing to SLAM the driver's door into one warrior before climbing into the front seat.

Fumbling with the ignition keys, he has to stop again as another warrior tries to get into the cabin after him.

KICKING, Danyael tries to grab one of the many weapons hidden around the van.

The warrior draws a STAKE and tries to pin Danyael down for the kill - but he's suddenly YANKED back out of view!

Danyael looks up to see Twist HURLING the warrior away with one hand.

TWIST
Well? Get this damn thing started!

Danyael manages to insert the keys and turn as Twist jumps off to tackle another soldier.

33

INT. BASEMENT CAR PARK - NEXT

33

Chris is still locked in a duel with Isabelle, his Trinity opponent fast and deadly as she spins round him.

ISABELLE

So, what, are you their leader or something?

CHRIS

What?

ISABELLE

I mean, you have to be someone pretty important given all the trouble they've gone to.

Isabelle SWEEPS her sword for his legs, and Chris neatly BACKFLIPS, landing on the bonnet of a car.

CHRIS

What difference does it make?

ISABELLE

I just like to know who I've killed, is all.

CHRIS

Getting ahead of yourself a little, aren't you?

ISABELLE

Maybe a little.

Isabelle pauses - then DRIVES her sword down into the ground, creating a SHOCKWAVE of magical energy that BLASTS Chris straight off the car!

ISABELLE (cont'd)

Not much, though.

She dives to attack again as we return to Twist, swinging her bat to fend off another warrior as she tries to pull the van door open.

TWIST

Let's go! Move, move, move!

Naomi and Syren bundle into the van, but the others are still stuck in the melee.

Julie nurses her wounded arm, trying to dodge the warrior homing in on her.

TWIST (cont'd)

Ah, damn it...

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

Twist breaks off, racing to Julie's aid as Diego SLAMS back against the van, still knee deep in warriors.

34 INT. BLACK VAN - NEXT

34

Danyaël REVS the van's engine and starts to pull away, but finds Charlotte standing in the vehicle's path!

DANYAEL

Oh, crap...

NAOMI

Danny, floor it! Knock her down!

Danyaël seems to know this can't be a good idea, but accelerates all the same...

35 EXT. BASEMENT CAR PARK - NEXT

35

The van ROARS towards Charlotte, who stands passively, waiting for it to close in.

It's seconds away from impact when she throws up one hand, and the van SLAMS into an invisible wall of energy!

36 INT. BLACK VAN - NEXT

36

The trio inside are bounced around as the van rebounds off the wall, SKIDDING wildly to the left. The engine cuts out as the van slides to a halt.

37 INT. BASEMENT CAR PARK - NEXT

37

Twist sees the van in distress, grabbing Julie and SMACKING her attacker down in one fluid motion.

TWIST

You hurt bad?

JULIE

My arm! It's-

TWIST

Not hanging off, so that's not 'bad.'

She pulls Julie towards the van, but Danyaël is still trying to restart the engine.

Diego, now covered in cuts and wounds, is clearly running out of steam as he tackles another three warriors.

He takes a sudden KICK to the back and stumbles forward, turning to see Jacqueline advancing on him. She draws a long, curved sword with a grin.

(CONTINUED)

JACQUELINE
 (off sword)
 Look familiar?

DIEGO
 (narrows eyes)
 You have no right to hold that.

JACQUELINE
 Wrong. I have every right to hold
 this. I just wanted the added irony
 of using it to kill you!

She attacks with a SHOUT, Diego managing to block but not having the strength to push her back.

He sidesteps and attacks, but she neatly WHIRLS round his clumsy swing, her blade SLICING across his chest. He dodges back but takes another bad CUT.

JACQUELINE (cont'd)
 You picked the wrong time to start
 screwing with us, Diego!

She feints with one attack, SWEEPING him off his feet.

JACQUELINE (cont'd)
 We have a lot of very important
 things to achieve, and you're just
 going to be in our face every step
 unless we take you down!

She STABS down but he manages to roll and avoid.

JACQUELINE (cont'd)
 Why don't you just give up? You
 know you'll never beat us! We're in
 every corner of this godforsaken
 planet!

Diego bravely pushes himself to his feet, one hand pressed to the fresh wound on his chest.

DIEGO
 As long as just one of your slaves
 remains...
 (raises sword)
 ... I'll be there to fight you.

JACQUELINE
 (tuts)
 You still have that talent for
 macho cliches, huh?

She ATTACKS, driving Diego back again.

38 INT. BLACK VAN - NEXT

38

Danyael is still trying to start the van when Naomi yells:

NAOMI
(eyes wide)
Look out!

Danyael looks up and sees a warrior DIVING straight towards the windshield, sword outstretched!

He's half a second from spearing Danyael when there's a SCREAM, the windshield SHATTERING!

The warrior is BLASTED backwards, hurtling across the car park and CRUNCHING against a stone pillar.

Danyael turns to see Syren, gasping for breath but now back in the fight.

DANYAEL
Found your voice at last, huh?

SYREN
What's happening?

JULIE
Just stay down, honey, unless
you've got more where that came
from!

Syren shakes her head, and as Naomi throws Danyael a desperate look he finally gets the engine started!

DANYAEL
Yes!

He looks up - and Charlotte unleashes another FIREBALL straight at the van!

DANYAEL (cont'd)
No!

He DUCKS, grabbing Naomi and pulling her down as the fireball SLAMS into the van, FLAMES splashing across its front!

39 INT. BASEMENT CAR PARK - NEXT

39

Twist sees the fireball impact, marching towards Charlotte.

TWIST
Hey! Baumgartner!

Charlotte turns as Twist raises her bat.

(CONTINUED)

TWIST (cont'd)
 You got a problem with the van, you
 take it up with me first!

Charlotte gets an energy field up as Twist swings, the bat
 HITTING another wall of magic.

TWIST (cont'd)
 Aw, come on! Gimme a straight fight
 already!

CHRIS (O.S.)
 Twist?

She turns, seeing Chris still battling Isabelle but making
 his way back towards the van.

CHRIS (cont'd)
 Leave her! Get into the van!

Twist turns back to Charlotte - and narrowly dodges another
 FIREBALL as Charlotte swings a long stream of FLAMES round at
 her!

TWIST
 Woah!

Twist stumbles backwards, getting up and making for the van.

With Diego and Chris still visible outside in their
 respective fights, Twist clambers into the van.

A Trinity soldier tries to follow her in, but she turns and
 PUNCHES him back to the ground.

TWIST
 Forward gear, Spook, stat!

DANYAEL
 What about Chris and Diego?

TWIST
 Swing round and pick 'em up!

More warriors try to get into the van, and as Twist tosses a
 sword to Naomi, we CUT TO:

The van gets moving again, FLAMES still licking across its
 cabin and now several Trinity warriors clinging onto it!

It swings round, RAMMING into a few parked cars along the way
 to try and shake off the attackers.

41 CONTINUED:

41

Chris rolls back into frame, the van bearing down on him as Isabelle LUNGES to attack again.

Seeing his ride closing, Chris allows himself a quick grin - and then JUMPS up into the air!

Isabelle watches, distracted for a beat - then her head snaps round as the van bears down on her!

She just manages to FLIP back out of its path, but Chris lands neatly on the roof, perfectly placed to KICK another soldier away.

42 INT. BLACK VAN - NEXT

42

Danyael hits the brake and pulls the wheel round, aiming for Diego next, another warrior TUMBLING from the roof through the sharp turn.

A SWORD BLADE pierces the roof of the van, followed by TWO MORE - the warriors are trying to cut their way inside!

Naomi tries to attack, but spots Julie's gun and grabs that instead.

NAOMI

Fire in the hole!

Closing her eyes, she aims up and FIRES indiscriminately!

43 INT. BASEMENT CAR PARK - NEXT

43

Chris is about to CHOP another warrior off the van when BULLETS start punching through the roof!

He almost loses his balance, throwing himself to one side as bullet holes appear perilously close to his hands!

CHRIS

(yells into van)

Whoever that is, stop it!!

One bullet hits its mark, catching a warrior under the chin. He jerks back and falls from the van.

More warriors jump up, grabbing onto any surface they can and using their daggers to cling to the van's sides.

Diego is reeling as Jacqueline rains blows down on him, neither one noticing the erratic path of the van and its external passengers behind them.

(CONTINUED)

JACQUELINE

You're pathetic! You couldn't do this when you were on our side of the game, and you're still just as useless now!

DIEGO

Maybe... but at least I still have my soul!

He tries to attack - but Jacqueline's sword PUNCHES through his chest!

JACQUELINE

(sneers)

Souls are overrated.

She KICKS Diego off her sword and he hits the deck, coughing up BLOOD as he clutches the wound.

Jacqueline stands victoriously over him, the van now bearing down on her at a rate of knots.

JACQUELINE (cont'd)

Maybe now you'll-

ISABELLE (O.S.)

Look out!

Isabelle suddenly TACKLES Jacqueline out of the way, missing the van by inches!

Naomi and Twist are hanging out of the van, GRABBING Diego as they whip past and hauling him up inside.

On the roof, Chris clenches his fist, a ball of BLUE ENERGY forming before he PUNCHES it down.

A wave of BLUE MAGIC sweeps over the whole van, SCATTERING the remaining warriors and freeing the van at last.

Jacqueline pushes Isabelle off and gets to her feet, watching as the van BOUNCES up the exit ramp to freedom.

JACQUELINE

No! No!!

She seethes, a trail of downed warriors between her and the van as it SCREECHES out of sight, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

44

INT. BLACK VAN - NIGHT

44

Danyaël drives on, the van making a chorus of unhealthy RATTLING sounds. Chunks of bodywork are missing or damaged inside and out, with holes punched in the roof and sides. The windshield is missing, and the front of the van is SCORCHED.

Chris has now joined the others in the rear of the van, but Twist is having to keep the side door closed with one hand.

Diego is getting bandaged up by Julie, who has already seen to her own injury. Diego's head rests on Syren's lap, and she clings to him for support.

The others keep glancing at one another, then at Chris, but they all seem a little nervous of actually speaking, until:

CHRIS

You can ask me, you know.

SYREN

Ask you what?

CHRIS

Whatever it is you keep looking at each other about.

He looks up, surveying their faces.

CHRIS (cont'd)

I can't promise I'll be able to answer, but...

JULIE

How did you know about the Trinity?

CHRIS

I've been around a while. I'd heard of them before tonight, but I'd never faced them before now.

TWIST

What else can you remember about where you were?

Chris pauses, stroking his beard in thought.

CHRIS

It was somewhere full of chaos... and death.

TWIST

Seattle?

(CONTINUED)

CHRIS

I don't know where it was... but I do know it was a place where humans were no longer the dominant species.

JULIE

Another dimension, maybe?

CHRIS

Perhaps. It's... it's hard to tell. All I have are a few very vivid memories, nothing concrete.

He rubs his eyes wearily.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Could we change the subject?

TWIST

It's a pretty big subject!

CHRIS

I just know I'm not going to remember anything else by sitting here, giving myself a headache over it. There must be something more... useful we should be doing.

Twist throws a look to Julie.

TWIST

And if we had any lingering doubts that he wasn't the real deal...

DANYAEL

Uh, guys?

Twist starts to get up, but as she releases the door handle it starts to slide open. She taps Naomi on the shoulder and gets her to take over, before moving up to join Danyael.

TWIST

What is it?

DANYAEL

Well, apart from the fact that we're almost out of gas and I don't think there's a station anywhere near, I've got a few warning lights coming on the dashboard here.

JULIE

How many?

44 CONTINUED: (2)

44

DANYAEL
 (checks)
 Uh... all of them.

CHRIS
 Pull over. We may need to change
 vehicles.
 (to Diego)
 Are you able to walk?

DIEGO
 Not very quickly, but yes.

Danyael indicates and pulls to a stop.

45 EXT. STREET - NEXT

45

The van parks up on a quiet, dark stretch of road. The bright city lights are several miles behind.

Naomi releases the handle and lets the door slide open, and the team gradually disembark.

Twist and Syren support Diego between them, the injured warrior limping along as Julie and Chris follow.

Danyael exits the cabin, looking over the battered van's bodywork and sucking his breath in through his teeth.

DANYAEL
 They really did a number on this,
 didn't they?

DIEGO
 The Trinity are known for their
 perseverance.

TWIST
 Yeah, and I heard they really hate
 the GMC.
 (off looks)
 Oh, come on. Lighten up!

Danyael pushes the door closed - and as it SLAMS shut, the van suddenly COLLAPSES on its axles!

The team jump back as the van sags to the floor with a HISS and several CRUNCHEs from its internals, the slide door finally coming loose and CLATTERING to the floor.

A beat as the team stare at the now deceased hunk of van.

DANYAEL
 So... alternative transport, yeah?

They head O.S. as we CUT TO:

46

INT. ABANDONED BUILDING - NEXT

46

Twist helps Diego down into a chair covered by a dust sheet, the team having found an old squat to hide out in.

TWIST

Now stay here, and no gung ho heroics, okay? Even Chuck Norris'd have to take a day off after the beating you took.

DIEGO

Chuck who?

TWIST

Chuck Norris? You know, as in 'there is no theory of evolution, just a list of animals Chuck Norris allows to live'?

(off his blank look)

No?

Chris is peering out through the windows, checking the escape routes. The room they're in is on the third floor.

JULIE

Are you cooking up a plan?

CHRIS

Actually, I was trying to remember when my birthday was.

He turns to her with a wry grin.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Yes, that was a joke.

JULIE

(grins back)

Always hard to tell with you.

She glances over to the others, then gently leads Chris away a few steps.

JULIE (cont'd)

We, uh... look, I just want you to know that I-

CHRIS

Julie.

He lays a hand on her shoulder.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Whatever you're about to apologise for, don't.

(CONTINUED)

She manages a nod, and Chris returns to the others.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Right. We can't just keep running. The Trinity will catch us, and we'll have another fight on our hands.

TWIST

So what do you suggest?

CHRIS

We give them an incentive not to follow us.

DANYAEL

I'm thinking asking them politely to not kill us is out...

CHRIS

I can lure them into a trap.

Twist snorts at the suggestion.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Twist?

TWIST

Uh, did you miss the re-enactment of the Alamo back there? The only 'trap' we could manage with them would be to fool them into only killing us once.

CHRIS

You misunderstood. I said I can lure them into a trap. You can all stay here. Recover.

JULIE

What?

He takes a step towards the door, but Julie gets in his way.

JULIE (cont'd)

Are you out of your mind?

CHRIS

Possibly.

JULIE

No! No, you can't do that! Chris, we didn't... Sanctus didn't give his life to bring you back only for you to throw it away again a few hours later!

CHRIS

Who said anything about 'throwing
lives away'?

And now Syren joins in, grabbing Chris' other arm.

SYREN

Chris, you can't come back only to
leave us again! You... you just
can't!

NAOMI

She's got a point.
(off his look)
Um, I mean, you know, they did kind
of kick our asses.

CHRIS

I know what I'm doing.

He turns to Julie again, but she isn't moving. He holds her
gaze, lowering his voice:

CHRIS (cont'd)

Trust me.

She stares into his eyes - but knows she can't question him.
Reluctantly, she lowers her head and steps aside.

He turns to Syren, gently prising her fingers from round his
arm, but Julie notices he gives her hand an extra squeeze
before releasing it.

CHRIS (cont'd)

I'll be back soon. If I'm not,
well... just keep moving. At the
very least, I'll slow them down.

He takes another few steps, when:

TWIST (O.S.)

Hey, Chris?

He turns - and Twist tosses his KATANA to him. He catches it,
staring at it for a beat until he remembers what it is.

TWIST (cont'd)

(grins)
Kept it warm for you.

He nods, calling out as he exits:

CHRIS

Give me an hour.

And he's gone. Julie SIGHS heavily, and we CUT TO:

47

EXT. STREETS - NIGHT

47

With more of their warriors darting between the shadows, the three Trinity leaders reconvene in the middle of the street. This is a quiet part of town - all businesses are closed for the night.

JACQUELINE

Anything?

ISABELLE

Nada. That heap they were driving must've made it further than I gave it credit for.

CHARLOTTE

I could try some more tracking spells, maybe-

JACQUELINE

(sharp)

The last half dozen didn't work, why should the next be any different?

Charlotte backs down, stung by the criticism.

JACQUELINE (cont'd)

(huffs)

Alright, we'll spread out and keep looking.

ISABELLE

For how much longer?

JACQUELINE

Until I'm satisfied.

ISABELLE

Yeah, and how long will that be?

Jacqueline eyes her - unlike Charlotte, Isabelle clearly isn't afraid to stand up to Jacqueline.

JACQUELINE

Just do it. I'll say when we're finished.

Isabelle sighs, then turns and stomps out of frame. Several Trinity warriors follow as she leaves. Jacqueline looks Charlotte up and down.

JACQUELINE (cont'd)

Can I trust you not to try anything stupid?

(CONTINUED)

CHARLOTTE

If I find them, I'll call you first.

JACQUELINE

Good girl. Now go make yourself useful.

Jacqueline leaves, more of the soldiers following her.

PULL BACK to see Charlotte is now alone on the street, save a handful more soldiers, and as she looks around for a beat, we CUT TO:

An old children's playground, with rusty merry-go-rounds and swings CREAKING in the soft evening breeze.

Charlotte walks into frame, tracing her hands over the metal frames. We can hear distant LAUGHTER and sounds of kids at play - the vibrations Charlotte's picking up.

CHRIS (O.S.)

You always did love to watch children at play.

She spins round - and there's Chris. She starts, looking left and right, but he shakes his head.

CHRIS (cont'd)

I've cloaked the area. Your troops won't see us, or hear you if you try calling for them. It's just you and me.

He walks forward, starting to circle her.

CHARLOTTE

So can I take all this effort to mean you think you can take me down by yourself?

CHRIS

You know me better than that. Of course, your two colleagues don't know that, do they?

Charlotte stiffens - he's hit a nerve there.

CHRIS (cont'd)

How much do they know?

CHARLOTTE

Enough.

Her hand SNAPS UP and she quickly conjures a small FIREBALL - but with a wave of Chris' hand, it's dispelled. Charlotte looks down at her empty hand, surprised.

CHRIS

No cheap tricks, thank you. I thought we'd do this the old fashioned way.

He slowly and deliberately draws his katana, pausing to slice it through the air a few times.

Charlotte's mouth twists into a wry grin, and she holds out her hand. There's a brief GLOW of white light, and a moment later a SWORD has formed in her hand!

CHARLOTTE

Don't I get a head start? Or are you going to put one arm behind your back?

CHRIS

I'll see how I get on.

He closes in, and the two start to circle one another.

CHARLOTTE

You look different.

CHRIS

I've been away. Apparently. Memory's a little foggy.

CHARLOTTE

I like the beard.

CHRIS

I don't. Couldn't tell you why I grew it.

CHARLOTTE

Then maybe...

She suddenly DARTS forward, and though Chris BLOCKS her strike she seems to connect with something.

They return to their positions facing each other - and Chris realises she's sliced off most of his beard!

CHARLOTTE (cont'd)

... I could help you out?

Chris chuckles, allowing her that small victory.

CHRIS

Alright, then. No more games.

A beat - and then they LEAP towards one another, blades CLASHING in mid air!

PULL BACK as the two fight, SPARKS glinting from their swords as they dance, MOONLIGHT highlighting the scene as they weave and twist around the playground.

Chris hops up onto one swing, SOMERSAULTING over her head but she's ready as he lands, BLOCKING his attacks again.

She scurries back, hopping up onto the merry-go-round, but as Chris steps on she quickly jumps off, KICKING it to send it spinning round.

Off balance, Chris almost falls and has to ROLL to avoid Charlotte STABBING down with her sword.

He gets to his feet, katana up as they duel once more, kicking up dust as they push against one another.

She SAILS up into the air - more by magic than by jumping - and lands neatly on the top tier of a climbing frame.

Chris quickly rattles up the frame to reach her, DUCKING as she SLICES towards him.

The duel is resumed, the two balancing carefully on the narrow struts of the frame as they chop, parry and feint back and forth.

CHRIS (cont'd)

We can't do this all night, you know.

CHARLOTTE

You think? I'm kind of enjoying it.

CHRIS

Been using too much magic in the field?

CHARLOTTE

A girl can get used to that kind of power.

CHRIS

Yes, I remember.

He SLICES towards her legs, and she FLIPS back and into thin air. Chris watches as she sails slowly down to land daintily on the ground.

He takes a step back and LEAPS down after her, their swords meeting as he lands.

It seems to be a stalemate - but Chris appears to be fighting more defensively, not trying to hit her. Charlotte is obviously getting frustrated with his tactics.

CHARLOTTE

What's the matter? Aren't you supposed to try and hit me?

Chris just grins, parrying her next few attacks and keeping her at arm's length.

CHARLOTTE (cont'd)

Come on! You wanted to fight like this, so show me what you've got!

Chris ducks back, not even trying to attack now. He dodges and weaves around all of her swipes as she grows clumsier, more agitated.

CHARLOTTE (cont'd)

Damn it, Chris! What about the-

He suddenly steps forward, past her outstretched arm, and lays a hand against her neck.

CHRIS

You mean this?

There's a quick FLASH of white light, and she crumples. He catches her, scooping her up in his arms.

CHRIS (cont'd)

You always did fall for that one.

Chris glances up as he sees several Trinity warriors closing in - his masking spell is down.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Sorry, chaps. Must dash.

Chris is enveloped in a BLUE HAZE, and as the warriors charge in to attack he simply FADES AWAY, disappearing into the blue haze of energy.

The confused warriors skid to a halt, scanning the playground for any sign of him, as we CUT TO:

Chris re-materialises in another HAZE of blue light, but as his feet touch the ground he loses balance, almost collapsing.

Charlotte tumbles from his arms, but Danyael manages to catch her as Julie gets an arm under Chris and helps him up.

CHRIS

Thanks.

JULIE

What happened?

(off Charlotte)

Is that-

Chris takes a seat, inhaling deeply.

CHRIS

I think I pushed my luck with my magic a little.

SYREN

Are you alright?

CHRIS

I'm fine, I just think I've run my batteries down a little.

DANYAEL

Uh... Chris?

He motions to the unconscious Charlotte in his arms.

DANYAEL (cont'd)

Can I get a 'what the?'

CHRIS

Ah, yes.

He stands, the room's attention on him - clearly, they're all as lost as each other right now.

CHRIS (cont'd)

Everyone, I'd like you to meet Charlotte Walker.

(beat)

My ex.

The others snap round to gape at Charlotte with stunned looks, and we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW