

SLAYERS EAST SEASON TWO

Episode Seven

The Cabin

It's beautiful summer weather, but danger lurks in the woods as well as the streets. The Slayers East are separated as crisis rears on both sides...

In this episode the group splits in two, and things start building towards a climax as Tremis puts himself in the picture again. Candy, Cynth, Aggie, Chris, Andrew and Max head out to a cabin near a local summer camp. Aggie and Chris are the responsible elders, but they are trying to get both girls and boys set up. Unfortunately things run into trouble as the Spawn of R'Thiliach threaten a local summer camp where Ethan has ended up.

Meanwhile, Brian, Zak and Sophie get caught up in Tremis' machinations as the formula Brian seeks is apparently being concealed by Mr Madsen. Troy and Alister stand to be the first casualties of Brian's obsessive desire to solve the problems he is faced with, and Heather and Zak take tentative steps closer together.

These two stories should run in parallel, with back-and-forthing. In preparation, advise the people concerned that Zak and Brian should be separated from Cynth and Candy for the purposes of this story.

The Cabin (first story)

- Aggie and Chris are going to a cabin in the woods for a break. They intend to get some sun, walk in the woods, build a campfire, get stoned, and generally have a relaxing time. They invite Candy and Cynth too. Only after these two have confirmed do they say they've invited Max and Andrew too.
- The Lochley Cabin is located deep in the woods. It is near enough to a summer camp that the squeals and shouts of the lakeside campers are audible. As they set up, another tramper comes by. He stops for a chat, wondering if this is the Rufier Cabin. He's meeting a friend of his at the Rufier.
Tramper's name: Angus Fagan
Friend's name: Grant Leadley
- At dusk, Andrew and/or Max might make their move – gathering wood for a fire, maybe? There is chaos as the tramper returns, fleeing for his life. He may be killed against the window of the cabin. The cabin finds itself under siege to the walking Spawn of R'Thiliach.
- The first cabin must be visited to locate the source of the disturbance, and the spawn are heading towards the summer camp. The siege must be broken in two directions. If necessary Andrew will take the lead and say they should head up to the cabin where the tramper was going to rescue his friend. Andrew and/or Max might make a move in this run. Try and get a pause in the drama.

- The summer camp is being stalked at night by the spawn. There are some young people out and about in the darkness. If Cynth is there, it's Ethan. If Cynth isn't there, it's someone looking for Ethan. The spawn will chase some people on to the dock. One of the spawn will go into the water, the other will walk up the dockway. A good idea might be to wake the camp counsellors.
- The Rufier Cabin is also under threat. Leadley woke a R'Thilliach cyst. He is cowering inside, unscathed as of yet. He knows the way to the cyst, or, if he dies, the cyst is located *under* the cabin. Also sheltering in the cabin are a few campers, Ethan among them.
- The cyst is pulsing, yellow-pink, lightless. There are partially-formed Spawn within and a few fully-formed spawn without. There is an obvious pumping heart at the centre of the cyst which can be impaled and killed. Without a heart, the Spawn will weaken and die.

The Formula (second story)

- This is a more complicated story, and arguably more important. It is all brought about by the machinations of Tremis.
- Brian is researching something called the Beauchamp Theorem, something that will weaken and perhaps kill all the vampires on earth, or all of those in the area where it is cast, or some other variation depending on the text.
- Madsen is also researching the Theorem. He knows great supernatural power is needed to perform it successfully. He intends to use R'Thilliach's power, once harnessed like a dam, to empower the act. Of course, he doesn't intend to stop at this – he wants to rule the world. Or something.
- Zak visits Hubert and Sophie, who have taken it upon themselves to finish the place a bit more. There might be a play-fight (water?). All is sweetness and light.
- Brian contacts Madsen about getting access to the books. Madsen sniffs out the hunt for the formula. (Tremis ensures it.) He asks if Brian wants to discuss it.
- Zak knows something is going on. (Tremis ensures it.) But there's precious little he can do about it. He ends up at the mall (Tremis ensures it) where Troy and Alister are, and where Lolly and Stephi are treating Heather badly, as usual. Heather is having a milkshake, and someone leaves a Vogue on the next table. (Tremis ensures it.) She freaks, leaves. Lolly catches Heather puking in the bathroom and mocks her heinously.
- Sophie flirts too far with Hube. Hube responds. Sophie freaks and flees. Hubert is appalled at his own behaviour. He calls Brian, says he shouldn't go out after her.

- Sophie meets Heather. (Tremis ensures it.) They walk the streets, bonding. Sophie steals a small truck. (Tremis ensures it.) Sophie wants them to go beat up Lolly and Stephi. Heather balks at the last minute, but Troy and Alister are on the scene. They may well get involved. It doesn't help. Lolly may end up very hurt, but that just makes things worse.
- Sophie drives the truck away. She and Heather talk. The radio is playing weird sounds (Tremis makes it so) about demonic possession. They believe themselves possessed, although neither of them says it aloud. They make a suicide pact. They plan to drive off a hilltop. The radio says demons can reveal other demons by saying a power word: "balphyrictus". (Tremis makes it so.)
- Troy and Alister, and anyone else who comes to involve themselves, gets perceived as a demon. These people are subject to all kinds of vicious attacks. Sophie, at least, can handle herself. Heather will use the word. It causes pain to her target and her – they are both demons. Heather will become more convinced, and will become more consumed with darkness. This will not help her self-esteem.
- Tremis may make an appearance at the end, if he is called by name. He will not speak, and will walk swiftly towards whoever called him, then disappear.
- Wherever Tremis has intervened, St Aaron's Wort may be found by very astute searchers.
- At the conclusion of the night's events, Zak and Heather may have come together, or maybe Heather and Sophie are dead, or maybe just Sophie. Hubert will resign without explanation. Sophie will not speak of it but will be full of hatred for Hubert. Brian will have been offered an alliance with Madsen. Zak will be suspicious of his father.

Precredits

Two threads. In one, Candy is called by Cynth about an invite into the woods with Aggie and Chris. They can discuss this, but they got to accept. Elsewhere in the house, Brian receives documents describing Tremis. They come, according to Madsen, from a book called "Tempus Nocturne V folio". Brian reads them, and they're creepy, then he has a brainwave. He checks a note from his secret project files: "Brian – Bad news. You wanted me to look for Name name name Tempus Nocturne V folio, for your research. They are not available anywhere. The only copies I can find mention of, and they may be the only copies in existence, were bought as a bundle by an anonymous buyer at an auction in 1995. Sorry, buddy. Take care, Liam." His eyes focus on "anonymous buyer" as the viewers focus on "research"...

Next episode: Madsen moves, Tremis strikes

NOTES

Tremis

Tremis is now at the centre of a vast array of manipulations affecting the following:

- **Brian** – using his hatred of vampires to drive him into working with Madsen to empower R'Thilliach.
- **Madsen** – using his desire for power to drive him into empowering R'Thilliach
- **Zak** – using his suspicion of his father, his interest in Sophie and his attraction to Heather to drive him into disrupting the Slayers East
- **Sophie** – using her desperate need for love and her deep fear of being hurt or taken advantage of to drive her into eliminating Hubert from the scene, and using her consequent sense of guilt to drive her towards suicide
- **Hubert** – using his loneliness and self-doubt to drive him into quitting the role of watcher
- **Heather** – using her nonexistent self-esteem (manifesting in bulimia) to drive her towards suicide

Walking Spawn

The walking spawn are strong and deadly. They are six feet tall, humanoid, green-black slimy creatures. They have a mass of tentacles instead of a face, but the tentacles house a sphincter-like mouth. There is a circle of insectoid eyes around the base of the tentacles. They detect movement, but don't see too well really, as well as losing sight of their prey when they strike. They have long arms that end in grasping claws.

Their torso is a large vulnerable spot. Puncturing the torso will have a devastating effect on them. Their skin is tough, though, so it isn't *that* easy.

Nastiest thing is that, as long as the cyst exists, they regenerate. They don't burn, they don't drown, and they seem to be completely unstoppable.

A hand-written note, signed "Lex", identifies this as a reproduction of a page from Tempus Nocturne V folio. It is an excerpt from a collection of folk tales.

This tale, which is untitled, tells of two young paramours. They are apparently totally in love with each other, but the woman is betrothed to another. Their pain at their plight was a beacon that drew the attention of Tremis, a stunted and emaciated wizard who had sold his soul to the devil. Tremis went to each of the two. In the man's room he put a sword, and an invitation to drink with groom and his friends. In the woman's room he put a potion that would stop the man and woman from loving each other. Each item he put down was sprinkled with St Aaron's Wort.

The man went to the groom's house and as he stood outside he heard the groom describing to his drinking friends how he would love his bride on his wedding night. Enraged, the man waited for the groom to come outside to relieve himself and slew him with the blade. Then he fled back to his rooms.

The woman snuck into his rooms while he was gone and poured half the potion into his water; the rest she drank herself. Then she hid in his closet. He returned, shaken by his deed, and drank the enchanted water to calm himself. Then the woman emerged from the closet, naked, to test him. The two of them stared at each other, and found that their love had died.

The man guessed that the woman had ensorcelled him, and he despised the woman for taking away his love for her, which he regarded as a part of himself. He told her he had killed her husband, and she was devastated, for now she had no husband and no lover.

Then the dead husband's friends arrived, and found the woman naked and the man with bloody sword. Finding the situation clearcut, they slew both man and woman where they stood, and then wept, and Tremis drank deeply of their tears and sorrow.

From Brian's Notes, a printed-out email:

Brian - Bad news.

You wanted me to look for the Malayan Expedition documents, the Helsing Edition, the Juillard Formulae, Mysticks of the Occident, and Tempus Nocturne V folio, for your research. They are not available anywhere.

The only copies I can find mention of, and they may be the only copies in existence, were bought as a bundle by an anonymous buyer at an auction in 1995.

Sorry, buddy. Take care,
Liam