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72 Ways to Die:

Episode Four: Scheduled to Die

Team HQ - Root is heading out. Zero72 is about to go into the TV room.

Zero72: Hmm, going out I see. Don't you want to watch "The Fish Files" with me?

Root: Didn't you hear?

Zero72: Hear what?

Root: "The Fish Files" got cancelled.

Zero72: (screaming) NOOOOOOOOOOOO! But we were *SO* close to learning I.C Salmon's terrible secret! (Pause, sighs) I'll just have to wait till later and watch "The Smithsons"

Root: Um...

Zero72: (with a tear in his eyes) Not...not... "The Smithsons"?

Root: The whole freaking schedules up the creek. All the good programs are getting cancelled these days.

Zero72: Why? WHY? WHY? (Pause) What's replacing them?

Root: "This Program isn't Funny - No we're not Joking" and "Turn off your sets, you FREAKS!" for starters.

Zero72: Hmm, something's up.

Root: You mean?

Zero72: Yes, this looks like the work of an EVIL TV Scheduler.

Root: (sighs) I'm not going to get to go to the opera tonight am I?

Zero72: Not on your life.

Cuts to TV scheduler room. An old geezer sits at the head of a long table. Another guy sits in a chair nearby him.

Bob: I'm just saying Steve, I think the recent schedule you approved won't gain us any new viewers. In fact, It's likely to cause the whole country to switch their TV's off.

Steve: Hmmph, Relax. This is all building up to something big, I'm no idiot.

Bob: (sighs) I hope you're right, Steve. I hope you're right. (he leaves)

Steve: (once he has gone) Big for me, puny human. Big for me. (his eyes glow blue)

The camera pans down revealing the dead body of the real Steve lying on the floor. Ominous music plays. Cuts to titles.

Title Music Lyrics

*I'll teach you a story about a town called Scorched,
A legend about a team,
Their leader was the Slayer called Zero,
Their history learnt through a dream.*

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*There are but 72 ways to die,
The Slayer knows them all,
There are but 72 ways to die,
If you run – you may trip and fall.*

*Evil aplenty came out of the dark,
To challenge the saviours back then,
If you listen to what people say,
Then the legend may live again.*

*There are but 72 ways to die,
The Slayer knows them all,
There are but 72 ways to die,
Be it vampire – werewolf – or ghoul.*

*The strange thing about this tale,
Is that it exists in tomorrow,
The ending is not written yet,
Be it full of joy or of sorrow.*

*There are but 72 ways to die,
The Slayer knows them all,
There are but 72 ways to die,
So don't dive in an empty pool.*

Cast

The Team

Zero72 is the Slayer,
Nutter is the Mentor,
Root is the mysterious one,
Count Ferrell-Envelope is the normal one,
Pillow is the hyperactive annoying one,
Casket is the grumpy half-demon one.

Other Important Characters

Spare-Ribs is the psychotic vampire,
Bracket is the team-member wannabe,
Susan Smiles is the model student (and Spare-Ribs' vampire girlfriend)

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Cuts to Street. Zero72 and Root are walking along.

Root: I still don't see why you couldn't have looked for this TV-Scheduler on your own. (Pause) Or with any one of the other Team members help.

Zero72: Well, this is a classic Root character-building episode and a classic Root and Zero friendship-building episode so my hands were tied.

thomasp: (walking around the corner, seeing Zero72) Zero? Zero72?

Zero72: Why if it isn't my old friend thomasp from "17's Company"! (he goes up to thomasp and slaps him on the back) How you been buddy?

Root: (under her breath) Looks like a guest-appearance/crossover-with-related-series episode to me.

thomasp: (to Zero) Oh, this and that. The "Big Apple" flopped at retail and I gambled away all my money but it ain't so bad. (Pause) Anyway, how you been?

Zero72: Killing evil supernatural creatures from one day to the next.

thomasp: Oh, yeah. I heard about that Slayer-deal. How's that working out?

Root: (grumpy) It's working out just fine. As a matter of fact we're tracking a dangerous supernatural force right now... or at least we would be if you weren't distracting us.

thomasp: (smiling, surprised) Whoa! Who's the chick? (Pause) Your girlfriend, Zero?

Zero72: Nah, we're just friends. (Pause) Hey, do you want to give us a hand tracking down this evil presence?

Root: (angry) Zero! He'd get in our way! We don't have time for your old friends to bustle around us with their inane comments. We've got work to do!

MtlAngelus' Ghost: (appearing from nowhere) Evening all!

Zero & thomasp: MtlAngelus!

Root: I don't know why I bother.

Cuts to Spare-Rib's mansion. Spare-Rib is sat at a table pouring himself a glass of blood, Sarah Smiles walks in (her hair is now jet-black and she is wearing some gothic clothes). Spare-Rib spills the blood and curses.

Spare-Ribs: (angrily) Damn it! (Pause) What happened to you?

Sarah Smiles: Oh, the look. Don't you like it? I just wanted to get in touch with my vampire blood.

Spare-Ribs: (angrily) In case you hadn't noticed, I'm trying to keep my location a secret and if people start to realise you're a vampire then they may extract information from you that will lead them to me. (Pause. Shouting) SO FOR GOD'S SAKE, ACT INCONSPICUOUS!

Sarah Smiles: (moodily) You know I'll leave you if you take that attitude with me, Tony. I've only stayed with you thus far because you've been in the business longer than me.

Spare-Ribs: It's not a business, Ms.Smiles, It's a matter of life and death. (Pause) And if you ever tried to leave, I would kill you so fast that the Slayer wouldn't even have time to find you. (Pause) Anyway, why aren't you in class?

Sarah Smiles: It's a weekend, Tony.

Spare-Ribs: Another one? There seems to be a weekend every week these days! And stop calling me Tony! That's not my name anymore, my name is Spare-Ribs and don't you forget it.

Sarah Smiles: Awfully stupid name if you ask me.

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Spare-Ribs: Well, I didn't and anyway a vampire named "Smiles" seems stupider to me.

Sarah Smiles: (walking out of the room) I didn't ask to be a vampire, jackass.

Spare-Ribs: (taking a sip from his glass) Nobody does.

Cuts to outside GLOBO-TV HQ. Root and Zero are standing outside wearing camouflage gear.

thomasp: (arriving from around the back of the building) Sorry, Zero. There's no back way in.

Zero72: What do you mean "no back way in"? There's always a back way in. (Pause) Look again and this time, look for doors.

thomasp: Hmm, Okay. (he walks off)

Root: (picking her mobile up which rings) Hello? Yes? (Pause) That's terrible. We'll try our best. Bye now.

Zero72: Who was it?

Root: Envelope. He said that they keep showing the same beer commercial on every channel endlessly and it's not even funny.

Zero72: Hmm, looks like we're going to have to go with Plan R.

Root: You mean my plan?

Zero72: Yes. Your Plan.

Cut to inside the building. Zero, Root and thomasp walk in. They are dressed in suits and ties and their hair has been neatly smoothed back. They all carry briefcases.

Zero72: (to the receptionist) Good Morning, Madam. We have an appointment with the head of GLOBO-TV.

Receptionist: (chewing a piece of gum) Names?

Zero72: Oh, I'm Mr. Steven Tito and this is Mr. Peter Thompson and Ms. Ruth Briar. (Root and thomasp nods)

Receptionist: Can't see you down here.

thomasp: Then perhaps that's because you're using a Microsoft computer. Our records must have been lost. If your organisation used Apple Macs, this would never have happened.

Receptionist: This **is** an Apple Mac.

thomasp: (shocked) It is? (Pause) I...uh...mean – It is!

Root: Well we're not leaving until we see the GLOBO-TV's president and top TV-scheduler so you'd best make us an appointment.

Receptionist: (looking more closely at them) Is that camouflage paint on your face?

Zero72: (shouting) Damn! I knew we should have washed that stuff off! (Pause) I mean...p..please let us in?

Cuts to Nutter's room in Team HQ. He is sitting asleep.

Bracket: (walking in) Uh, Mr.Nutter, sir?

Nutter: (waking up) What? Who? Where? No Betong, those tomatoes aren't for sale. (coming to his senses) Bracket? What do you want?

Bracket: A job in The Team.

Nutter: No.

Bracket: Oh... (indicating mug) Can I at least have this mug?

Nutter: No.

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Bracket: Um...Please?

Nutter: No.

Bracket: Well, I tried my best. That's worth something, isn't it?

Nutter: No.

Cuts to lift inside the GLOBO-TV HQ. Zero72 and Root are inside it.

Root: I can't believe they let us in just because you flashed at that receptionist.

Zero72: Well, to be fair, they didn't so much "let us in" as us 'sneak past'.

Root: Well, we're on our way to the Evil TV-Schedulers office now at least.

Zero72: Yes (Pause) But I can't help think we've forgotten something.

Cut to room inside prison. Two policemen are interrogating thomasp.

thomasp: But I keep telling you – it wasn't me who flashed at that receptionist. It was my friend!

Policeman #1: Yeah, your friend who was conveniently also wearing camouflage paint on his face I suppose?

thomasp: Yes!

Policeman #2: Shut yer yap, liar, you'll be doing time for the next five years.

thomasp is taken away.

Policeman #1: Makes you sick, doesn't it Mac?

Policeman #2: It sure does, Bill, it sure does.

Cuts to TV-Scheduler room.

Impostor-Steve: (looking at a chart showing viewing figures) Excellent, soon there will be nobody left watching the Telly. Then all I have to do is absorb the excess power and I'll become... A GOD!!!

Zero72: (breaking down the door with Root) Not so fast, Steve.

Impostor-Steve: Gah! What's this? A hero come to stop my plan moments before its completion?

Root: That's right, Hell-Scheduler, time for you to say goodbye!

Impostor-Steve: And who could this be but his plucky assistant? (yawns) This is so cliché.

Zero72: Give up, Steve. It's over.

Impostor-Steve: (laughing) Steve? He's been dead for days. In fact, your friend just stepped on the poor man.

Root: (looking down) Ewww... Haven't you psychopaths got any sense of dignity... or hygiene for that matter?

Impostor-Steve: Oh, I'm sorry. I've just been awfully busy what with all the evil and everything. (Pause) Anyway, I suppose you're wondering what I am. Well, I don't want to disappoint you so here goes.

The Impostor-Steve bursts into blue-flames. After the flames has dissolved, a hideous blue wraith is revealed. Her hair waves madly in the air. And her empty eyes stare into nothing.

Wraith: I am Screaminella, Princess of the Wraith Kingdoms. (Pause) And rather than wait to inherit my throne, I came here – to take yours.

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Root: By messing up the TV-Schedules? Pretty screwy way of gaining power in my book.

Screaminella: That was only part of the plan. Once the TVs were all off, I would have absorbed the unused electrical power and used it to make myself invincible. Then I would have revealed myself to the public and took control of the world! (Pause) And I still shall. You will die!

The wraith flies at Zero72 who dodges out of the way. He pulls out his sabre and attempts to strike the wraith but it passes through her.

Screaminella: Hah! That puny weapon is powerless against me.

Root: Maybe so, but what about this?

She holds up a mirror to the wraith.

Screaminella: (screaming) NOOOOO! I'm hideous! I'll never know true love! NOOOOO! (she bursts into flames and dissolves)

Root: That was fun although her screaming has given me a mild headache.

Zero72: Wha..How did you do that?

Root: Thought you were the only one who could kill supernatural beings, eh? (Pause) Well, those books you were ridiculing yesterday (see Ep3) may have been useless when it came to demon-proofing our house but I did find out that if a wraith sees his or her reflection, it dies. So they came in handy after all.

Zero72: Hmm, I guess they did. (Pause) I was wrong about you, Root. You're smarter than I gave you credit for. (Pause) Now let's go home.

Root: (indicating Steve's body) What about him?

Zero72: (as he walks away) Oh, I'm sure Victor will deal with it.

Root: (following him) Who's Victor?

Zero72: I have no idea.

They both laugh. Cut to The Team watching TV. The camera zooms in on the TV.

TV Guy: And now the return of "The Fish Files"...

I.C Salmon: (walking into screen) It's true, Mackerel. I can't hide it anymore.

Y.U Mackerel: Oh, Salmon. You mean you're not really a fish?

I.C Salmon: What I mean, Mackerel... is that I'm not really your husband.

Dramatic music plays. Fade to black.

Zero72's Creature Feature

Creature Name: Wraith.

Appearance: When not in disguise - Spooky, blue, malnourished, floating, wavy hair, transparent.

Comes Out during: Anytime but usually in disguise.

Diet: Electrical Energy and Doughnuts.

Comes from: The Wraith Kingdom somewhere in The Spectral Plains below the Earth.

Allegiance: Evil.

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Population: Unknown. They rarely visit the Earth's surface so little study has been carried out.

Can be killed by: Seeing their own reflection.

Zero72's Comments: "Creepy geezers. If you see one, shove a mirror in its face and hope it dies. If not – run."