

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

"Little Girl Lost"

by
Lee A. Chrimes

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. CLEVELAND STREET. NIGHT.

1

Buffy is out on patrol, eyes scanning the streets and alleyways as she listens out for trouble. She passes a fenced off tennis court, and hears the noise of running feet. Her head snaps round.

She sees figures moving at the far side of the court, it's dark but the floodlights overhead illuminate most of the ground.

Buffy looks up at the wire fence surrounding the court. It's pretty high.

BUFFY

Up, up and away...

She hops up and grabs hold of the fence and climbs over. She's down on the other side in moments, but as her feet hit the ground, the door leading in to the courts next to her swings gently open - it wasn't locked. Buffy rolls her eyes and races over to the other side of the court.

2 EXT. TENNIS COURT. NIGHT.

2

We see a small girl, EMMILY, about six years old, in a tattered dress and covered with cuts and scratches, as she rattles the door on the other side of the court, trying to get out.

There is a snarl behind her, and she spins round to see two DEMONS, green skin, fins running along the tops of their heads and mouths filled with fangs, dressed in black hooded robes.

The first demon chuckles as he takes a step towards the trapped girl, who seems oddly calm despite the impending doom.

BUFFY (O.S.)

Hey!

The demons spin round to see Buffy facing them down, hands on hips.

BUFFY (cont'd)

Now I know I don't need to tell you
boys to go pick on someone your own
size..

Demon #1 growls and leaps to the attack, Buffy blocks his swinging punch and spins to elbow him in the gut. He wheezes and is knocked to the floor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Demon #2 charges in with a kick, Buffy ducks underneath it and jabs him twice in the fast, dazing him and sending him stuttering backwards.

Buffy looks down at Emmily, keeping one eye on the demons.

BUFFY (cont'd)
Hang on! I'll get you out of here!

The girl nods, and Buffy steps over to the locked door to the courts, and with one punch of Slayer strength blows the lock out.

She swings the door open and Emmily runs out, but as Buffy turns back to the demons she's hit by one of them, stunning her for a few seconds while they run out after the girl.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. CLEVELAND STREET. NIGHT.

3

Emmily keeps on running but the demons are gaining on her. Emmily turns a corner and round the side of a building, as Demon #1 closes in a rubbish bin lid swings out from round the corner and CLANG! Straight into the demon's face.

He stumbles to the ground as ELLEN steps out, a middle-aged woman with shoulder-length dark hair. She drops the lid as the second demon catches up.

ELLEN
(smirks)
Sorry, just taking out the trash.

The demon growls and takes up a fighting stance, Ellen does the same, blowing a stray lock of hair out of her face. We can tell she's not a fully trained fighter, but she's doing her best.

Buffy is still racing to catch up.

The demon feints to the left then punches out from the right, hitting Ellen across the jaw. She staggers back but spin kicks back at the demon, catching it in the upper chest.

She follows this up with a flurry of jabs, finally shoulderbarging the thing to the ground. Jumping on top of it to pin it down, she grabs its robes and lifts its head up to her.

ELLEN (cont'd)
Chasing after little girls is..
(punch)
not..
(punch again)
nice!!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Her third punch knocks the monster out. There is a growl behind her as Demon #1 gets back up.

Buffy turns a corner and up to the street where the demons were, in time to see Ellen putting the smackdown on the first demon. She's yelling, as though she isn't sure how she's able to fight, but the speed and power of her attacks are taking care of the opponent.

In a few moments, she's punched and kicked him to the ground, picking Demon #1 up by the front of his robes and slamming his head down to knock him out. Buffy runs up to them both, breathless. Ellen is looking down at her hands in disbelief.

BUFFY
Are you okay?

ELLEN
Yeah.. yeah, I'm fine.
(beat)
Always does surprise me when I do
that.

Buffy looks down to Emmily, who has poked her head back round the corner, and Emmily nods and smiles at Buffy, looking up at Ellen.

EMMILY
(off Ellen)
Chosen.

Buffy looks confused, then looks back to Ellen, and the penny drops.

BUFFY
Hey, wait a minute.. you're a
Slayer!

ELLEN
I'm a what?

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF TEASER

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4

EXT. ROCKWELL AVENUE. NIGHT.

4

Buffy and Ellen walk down Buffy's street, Ellen is carrying the sleeping Emmily in her arms while Buffy looks after the shopping.

BUFFY

So in a nutshell, Ellen, that's the way it works round here.

ELLEN

Monsters and vampires and things run amok around the city unless you stop them?

BUFFY

Not just me, I have a posse. Well, they're more like my A-Team, really.

ELLEN

Would that make you Hannibal?

BUFFY

Yeah. Except without the cigars. Or the cool truck.

The girls share a smile. Ellen takes a deep breath - she's having to take a lot in.

ELLEN

I've been feeling.. strange for a few months now, I wasn't sure what to put it down to. I got a clean bill of health last time I was at the doctors, which I knew was weird because I smoke and I can barely run half a mile without needing a ventilator, and now..

(looks at the sleeping
Emmily and sighs)

One day, I found little Emmily here. She'd been kidnapped from her family and was being chased by two more of those things we bumped into tonight. As soon as I saw them after her that first time, something inside my just told me I had to stop them, and told me that I had the power to do it. Was that what it was like for you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY

Kinda. The frantic feeling of panic followed by a brief bout of violence.. yeah, sounds about right.

They arrive at Buffy's place. She gets her keys out and looks round at Ellen.

BUFFY (cont'd)

You'd best come inside for a bit, meet the rest of the guys. We can help fill you in.

Ellen shifts the weight of Emmily round and examines the knuckles on one of her hands.

ELLEN

Thanks. I skinned my knuckles a bit too so I should probably get that looked at.

BUFFY

Nah, we Slayers heal fast. You'll be okay.

ELLEN

'Slayer' huh? I've been called a few things in my life, but that's a new one on me..

She opens the door and they step inside.

5 INT. SUMMERS' RESIDENCE. NIGHT.

5

Buffy and Ellen walk in and head for the kitchen, where we find Dawn, Xander and Andrew.

ANDREW

And so that's why we know that Childs wasn't a monster at the end of 'The Thing.'

XANDER

Andrew, my friend, despite your constantly irritating presence around here, you certainly have your uses.

DAWN

(sees Buffy)

Oh, hey! We have guests!

BUFFY

Everybody, this is Ellen. She's playing for Team Slayer.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELLEN
(bemused)
Hello..

Xander throws her a mock salute.

XANDER
Xander Harris, the artist formerly
known as 'One-Eye,' at your
service, ma'am.

BUFFY
That's our live-in repair guy
Xander, that's my little sister
Dawn and this.. well, that's just
Andrew.

ANDREW
Uh, hi. Is that your daughter?

ELLEN
(looks at Emmily, smiles)
No, this is the damsel in distress
who, in a roundabout sort of way,
introduced me to Buffy here. We
ought to get her a bed somewhere
till we can find out where her
parents are.

BUFFY
Dawn, your bed's the best in the
house.

DAWN
I wouldn't know, I never get to use
it!

Ellen turns and heads out the kitchen. As she does, Emmily's
eyes flick open and fix Dawn with a stare. Dawn blinks, not
sure if she just saw that happen or not.

XANDER
What's the skinny on the new girl
then? Or new woman, even.

BUFFY
Her name's Ellen, she's a local who
started feeling 'strange' a few
weeks back..

DAWN
Which would fit in with when Willow
did the Goddess of Mojo thing,
right?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY

Uh-huh. I'm not sure yet why
someone older than usual would
still get upgraded to Slayer power,
but I'm sure we'll figure it out.

ANDREW

Are you sure she is one? A Slayer,
I mean. She is kind of.. well, old.

BUFFY

She took down two tough demons in
about six seconds flat, short of
being a major league kickboxing
champion I think it's safe to say
she's one of us.

(beat)

Or, one of, er, me.

CUT TO:

6

INT. DAWN'S ROOM. NIGHT.

6

Ellen tenderly lays Emmily down in Dawn's bed and tucks her
in. Emmily wakes up and looks up at Ellen with sleepy eyes.

EMMILY

Thank you.

ELLEN

That's okay, honey, that's what I'm
here for, remember?

EMMILY

Knew you could protect me.

(pops Ellen lightly on the
nose with her finger)

Chosen.

Ellen hasn't realised the significance of the word yet.

ELLEN

(sighs)

Yep, so it would seem.

(beat)

Emmily, honey, you told me that
your parents were here in
Cleveland, that's why we came here.
Can you tell me where I can find
them now?

EMMILY

(shakes her head)

Gone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELLEN
Gone? Gone where?

EMMILY
Lost. A long time ago. But it's
alright again now.

ELLEN
And why's that?

EMMILY
You came to save me. Ellen isn't
sure what to make of this.

ELLEN
Emmily, sweetheart, why did you
tell me your parents were here if
they're..
(beat)
If they're gone?

EMMILY
Needed to keep moving. From the bad
things.

ELLEN
You didn't have to lie to me,
Emmily.

EMMILY
I know. I'm sorry.

Ellen sighs, smiles and kisses Emmily on the forehead. She
can't stay mad at her angelic face for long - not after
they've been through so much together already.

ELLEN
Now get some sleep, we'll talk
again in the morning.

Emmily nods and turns on her side to curl up and go to sleep.
Ellen walks out, stops in the doorway to throw a last look
down at her and then heads out and back downstairs.

We stay watching the sleeping Emmily for a few more moments.

CUT TO:

7 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - KITCHEN. NIGHT.

7

Ellen walks back into the kitchen to join the others. Buffy
is sat up on the kitchen surface, eating a slice of toast
while Dawn throws a few packs of food in the microwave.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY
(to Ellen)
Oh, hey. You hungry?

ELLEN
(rests against the
surface)
I think I need a drink.

DAWN
We have juice and lemonade?

ELLEN
(grins)
Something a little stronger than
that, honey.

ANDREW
Sunny Delight?

ELLEN
Could someone get me a gin and
tonic or something? I just need a
little kick to try and pull all the
different bits of my brain back
together.

XANDER
Coming right up.

Xander heads for the drinks cabinet in the front room.

ELLEN
So, you live here?

BUFFY
Yeah. We just moved. We used to
live in Sunnydale, but there was a
bit of a situation down there, and
we had to pack up and move out.
(beat)
Very rapidly.

ELLEN
Oh yeah, that epidemic, I heard
about that.

Buffy and Dawn exchange a knowing look.

BUFFY
Yeah, that's the one. We moved up
here and got a good deal on this
place.

ANDREW
Because of the ghosts.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Ellen raises and eyebrow. Buffy sighs and glares at Andrew.

BUFFY

Thank you, Andrew.

(to Ellen)

Yes. We had a slight alternate dimensional ghost problem, but Willow fixed it.

ELLEN

Have I met Willow?

BUFFY

Not yet, I'll get her over later. Willow's our resident Charmed One, she does all the magicky stuff.

DAWN

(smiles proudly)

And I'm her apprentice.

BUFFY

(big sister voice)

You're Watcher Junior, Dawny, you're not Willow mark two.

Dawn opens her mouth to retort but one look from Buffy cuts her dead. Ellen chuckles as Xander walks back in with the drink, which Ellen gratefully takes and knocks back in one shot.

With an intake of breath, she puts the glass back in the sink and turns to the others.

ELLEN

That's much better. Now, keep talking, I can tell I've got a lot to catch up on.

CUT TO:

8

INT. WILLOW & KENNEDY'S ROOM. NIGHT.

8

Willow is sat on the bed in their modest apartment bedroom, typing away on her laptop. The door opens and Kennedy walks in from work, throwing her coat off as Willow guiltily closes the laptop. Kennedy notices.

KENNEDY

Hey, whatcha doin?

WILLOW

Uh, nothing, I was just, uh, doing some, uh, typing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNEDY

(grins)

Oh yeah? Typing what?

WILLOW

Oh, it's nothing, really, just, uh,
Scooby stuff, you know.

Kennedy joins Willow on the bed, still grinning.

KENNEDY

Willow Rosenberg, you are without
doubt the worst liar in the whole
world. Now lemme see!

Kennedy grabs for the laptop and opens it with a half-hearted
effort from Willow to stop her. Kennedy reads what's on the
screen.

KENNEDY (cont'd)

A wicca chat room?

Willow nods and manages half a smile, trying not to look as
guilty as she feels.

WILLOW

(guiltily)

It's just, uh, something to pass
the time till you get home from
work, you know, and when I don't
have any, uh, proper things to be
doing..

Kennedy smiles at Willow and kisses her on the forehead.

KENNEDY

Nothing to be ashamed of, Wil. If I
could find a gay Slayer chat room
when you're out and I'm home alone,
I'd be on that all the time!

Willow smiles as Kennedy heads for the bathroom.

WILLOW

Oh, you had a phone call while you
were out.

KENNEDY

(from bathroom)

Yeah?

WILLOW

Yeah, I think it was your uncle,
uh, Uncle Keith?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Kennedy steps out of the bathroom, a blank look on her face. Willow looks up and sees it and twigs that something's up.

WILLOW (cont'd)

Kennedy?

KENNEDY

Huh?

WILLOW

What is it? Is something the matter?

KENNEDY

Oh, nothing, nothing. It's fine. Did he say what he wanted?

WILLOW

(forgets suspicion)

Yeah, he's coming by to visit tomorrow with your dad. I think your dad's remembered about that trust fund you're owed.

(smiles)

And I think it's about time we got chance to splash out a little!

KENNEDY

(still distracted)

Yeah, yeah..

She heads back into the bathroom and closes the door. Willow looks puzzled, but then opens up the laptop again and starts typing.

CUT TO:

9

INT. SUMMERS' RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM. NIGHT.

9

Ellen is sat on the sofa next to Buffy. Xander, Dawn and Andrew occupy the other chairs.

ELLEN

It was about six weeks ago when I found Emmily. She was running through the streets on the other side of town late at night, I'd just come back from an evening out with my girl friends, and then there's this six year old kid running across the road with two ugly looking guys in black hoodies after her. Something just clicked.

(snaps her fingers)

I still can't explain it, it was like some kind of Spider Sense or..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY

I prefer 'Slayer Sense.' The two share a smile.

ELLEN

I took off after her, took down the two things after her without realising I had any control over it, and then there she was. She told me she'd lost her parents and these men were after her, so I wrapped her up and brought her back to my apartment. I'm fairly new here myself.

DAWN

This is a pretty strange town at times..

ELLEN

I'm finding that out. So, the past few weeks I've tried everything to find her parents again - missing persons, library records, heck, I'd use satellite surveillance photos if I could get them.

ANDREW

I could probably-

A sharp look from Buffy tells him to stop talking.

ELLEN

(changing the subject)

So anyway, to recap, this Hellmouth place went boom and took your hometown with it, right?

XANDER

Fire, brimstone and lots of smoke. It looked great as we watched through the back window of the bus we were rapidly escaping in.

ANYA (O.S.)

Someone mention the Hellmouth?

Anya walks through one of the walls and into the room. Ellen jumps, but Buffy puts out a hand to relax her.

BUFFY

It's okay, that's Anya. She's, uh..

ANYA

I'm a ghost. Hello. I'd shake hands but I can't, because I'm dead.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANYA(cont'd)

(points to Andrew)

I died saving him.

ANDREW

Uh, yeah, she did.

ELLEN

Sounds like a regular little Addams family you've got here.. any more monsters I should know about? You don't keep a crocodile in the basement, do you?

BUFFY

No, we don't. Although there was that time in our last house with the demon I left in the basement..

ELLEN

You did what?

XANDER

Long, long, long, long, LONG story.

ANYA

Well, nice to meet you anyway, strange new person, I'm going to go walk through some more walls now until they find a way to make me solid again.

(beat)

Although.. it does make me tingle in all sorts of interesting places..

Anya walks out. Ellen throws a look at Buffy who just shakes her head.

BUFFY

Dawn, why don't you go grab some books, we need to identify tonight's goons and find out what they're doing here, and what they wanted with that little girl.

Dawn nods, gets up and heads upstairs to fetch the reference books Giles left behind for them all.

ELLEN

They're pretty persistent, they've been showing up every few days since I found Emmily. They don't seem to want to kill her, they're just trying to take her away.

ANDREW

A sacrifice, maybe?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BUFFY
Could be... Dawn!

DAWN (O.S.)
Yeah?

BUFFY
Cross reference the demons with
cults, anything that makes a
mention of needing children for
anything.

DAWN
(walks back into the
living room with an
armful of books)
No problem. One night of trawling
through barely readable arcane
books, coming right up.

ELLEN
What about Emmily?

BUFFY
What do you mean? Dawn looks up.

ELLEN
I asked her where her parents were
again, but this time she just said
they were 'gone, lost a long time
ago.' Do you think those things
killed them?

BUFFY
Maybe. We'd better keep an eye on
her till we know more. Those things
might have tracked us.

ELLEN
I've been doing that by myself for
six weeks so far, a few more hands
on deck can only be a good thing.

Ellen and Buffy share a smile.

ELLEN (cont'd)
Well, I'll leave you to it.
(gets up)
I'll sleep in Emmily's room
tonight. There's only a cat waiting
for me back home, and Jones can
take care of himself for one night.

BUFFY
No problem, we'll see you in the
morning.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Ellen heads upstairs.

XANDER

She seems okay, in an ass-kicking
hot older woman kind of way.

ANDREW

Yeah, very, er, motherly.

BUFFY

She saved that kid tonight. If she
hadn't been there, I wouldn't have
caught them before they got to her.

XANDER

Now all we need to do is figure out
why they wanted her, and make sure
that you and Ripley up there can
take care of them before they make
an entree out of the kid!

CUT TO:

10

INT. DAWN'S ROOM. NIGHT.

10

Closing shot of Ellen curled up on the bed next to the
sleeping Emmily.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

11 INT. WILLOW & KENNEDY'S ROOM. MORNING.

11

The girls are in bed when there is a knock at the door. Willow is asleep but Kennedy is wide awake. She carefully gets out of the bed, pulls on a dressing gown and heads over to the door, putting her eye to the peephole.

Fish-eyed through the peephole we see Kennedy's UNCLE KEITH and her father, JED. Both respectable looking middle aged men, Jed in a smart suit and tie and Keith in an old college baseball jacket and jeans.

Kennedy takes a deep breath and reaches a hand out for the lock on the door. She notices her hand is shaking and closes her eyes, trying to steady herself.

Looking in from the outside, Kennedy opens the door with a smile and makes to give her father a hug, but he shakes her hand instead. Kennedy sighs a little - it's the level of emotional involvement she's come to expect with her dad.

KENNEDY
Morning, dad.

JED
Hello there, Kennedy. Is everything alright?

KENNEDY
I'm good. Still in bed but otherwise okay.

JED
You never could get up in the morning..

KEITH
Hello there, possum.

Keith smiles at Kennedy and reaches out for a hug. She doesn't look at all happy about it as he wraps his arms round her.

JED
Can we come in?

KENNEDY
Just give me a minute to wake up Will.

JED
(raises an eyebrow)
Will?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNEDY

Willow, my, uh, room-mate. We're sharing the bed till we can get somewhere a bit bigger!

JED

Okay, honey, we'll wait here.

Kennedy shuts the door and gets back into the bed. Willow stirs and shifts over in the bed, looking up at Kennedy with a smile as her eyes open. She yawns once and speaks.

WILLOW

(sleepily)

Someone at the door?

KENNEDY

My dad's here, Red, time to get up.

WILLOW

Mmkay, jus' give me a minute..

Kennedy fidgets, looking towards the door, as Willow yawns and pulls herself up out of the bed.

CUT TO:

12 INT. SUMMERS' RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM. MORNING. 12

Buffy comes downstairs in her pyjamas to find Dawn asleep on the living room floor, surrounded by the books she's been looking through. Buffy smiles and gently shakes her to wake her up. Dawn jolts upright.

DAWN

Wass'matter?

BUFFY

Breakfast time.

DAWN

(yawns)

Yeah, good, breakfast, right.

Dawn stands and follows Buffy into the kitchen, her hair sticking up.

13 INT. SUMMERS' RESIDENCE - KITCHEN. MORNING. 13

Dawn follows Buffy into the kitchen as Buffy rustles up two bowls of cereal for them both. Dawn plops the pile of books on the kitchen counter, one of them is bookmarked and open.

BUFFY

Did you find anything out?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAWN

How about these guys?

She holds up one of the books, an illustration shows one of the demons from earlier.

BUFFY

That's them. I never forget a face.
Especially when it tried to kill
me.

DAWN

(reads)

They're wynn demons, they're kind
of like special agents for the
underworld. Do a lot of cleaning up
for whoever they're working for,
removing people with power or
obstacles to their plans.

BUFFY

So what do they want with Emmily?

DAWN

That I don't know. I'll see if it
mentions any kind of prophecy or
something.

(peers down at the books)

This could take a while. These wynn
demon guys have a long rap sheet of
demonic underworld jobs, from
assassinations and kidnappings to
ritual sacrifices and conjuring.

(takes a gulp of O.J.)

Not nice people.

BUFFY

Does it say anything about
preferred base locations?

DAWN

(reads)

Oh, like it'd be that easy..

(beat)

Uh, yeah, actually.

BUFFY

(eating cereal)

Mm?

Dawn reads a little more of the section of the book.

DAWN

They like to pick places with the
right sorts of energy for them.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAWN(cont'd)

Wynn demons feed on humans but they like a certain kind of humans, especially with high levels of these certain chemicals in their system.

BUFFY

Which would be?

DAWN

Uh..

(grabs a piece of paper with some notes on it)

Endorphins.

BUFFY

(nods)

Sports people. Or 'jocks' to anyone who went to high school.

DAWN

Exactly. Find the jocks and the spookies will be nearby. And where do we find the biggest cluster of jocks in this town?

CUT TO:

14

EXT. CLEVELAND STREET. DAY.

14

We're looking across the street at the Fitness World gym complex, a large building with tall windows looking out onto the street, displaying the exercising citizens within - treadmills, rowing machines, exercise bikes and other keep fit equipment, all in use by rows of sweaty men and women.

We look down as Kennedy, Willow, Jed and Keith pass by beneath us, picking them up and following them down the street.

JED

So then your mother says 'no, that'd mean I'd have to wash it front and back!'

Jed laughs at the joke, Kennedy manages a half-hearted smile. Keith is hanging back a little to talk to Willow.

KEITH

So, you two girls stay together, right?

WILLOW

(trying not to give too much away)

Uh, yeah, we met last year and we've become good, er, friends.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KEITH

Sounds like fun. Bet you two must
get up to all sorts of mischief,
eh?

WILLOW

Uh, no, no, we're very well behaved
really. Kennedy works nights and I
just do this and that, you know..
(laughs nervously)

JED

(turns round)
Drinks, everyone?

KEITH

Drinks sounds good.

WILLOW

Yeah, that'd be great.

Kennedy makes eye contact with Willow. Kennedy's dark look
doesn't help ease the nerves Willow's picking up on.

JED

Let's try in here.

He points his thumb towards a diner they're stood outside.
Kennedy nods and the group head inside.

CUT TO:

15 INT. DINER. DAY.

15

Willow hangs back and grabs hold of Kennedy's arm to whisper
a few words into her ear. Jed and Keith walk on ahead, Jed
snapping his fingers towards a waiter to get some service.

WILLOW

What's the matter?

KENNEDY

Huh?

WILLOW

Kennedy, my hair's almost standing
on end with the amount of negative
energy pinging off you at the
moment. I can pick up on these
things, you know.

KENNEDY

It's nothing, trust me. Okay?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW
(nods, but looks
concerned)
Okay.

The girls take a seat at a table with Jed and Keith. Willow notices that Kennedy seems very reluctant to sit next to Keith so she gets between the two of them. Willow watches Kennedy as Jed calls a waiter over.

JED
Thanks. Two beers and two cokes,
please.

CUT TO:

16 INT. SUMMERS' RESIDENCE. LIVING ROOM. DAY.

16

Ellen heads downstairs to see Buffy suiting up, grabbing an axe from the weapons chest behind the sofa. Xander is watching the TV.

ELLEN
(yawns)
Got some news on our bad guys
already?

BUFFY
Dawn found some information on
them, says they like to make their
nests in places near places where
humans can be found exercising.
They have a thing for sweat socks
and communal showers, apparently.

ELLEN
Sweat socks?

BUFFY
(grins)
Just kidding. There's a big gym in
the centre of town, that's where we
think they'll be.

ELLEN
Yeah, Fitness World, I know the
place. I have a membership there
which I've left gathering dust in
my wallet.

BUFFY
You up for some field work?

ELLEN
Hey, slow down, Buffy, I only found
out I was a Slayer last night!
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELLEN(cont'd)

You told me it takes months of training to be ready for these sorts of things.

BUFFY

Wanna be my wingman then? You can back me up if I need it. And hopefully get a bit of payback on these demons too.

ELLEN

(beat)

Deal.

Buffy tosses a sword towards her, which Ellen catches in mid-air without thinking. As she stares at the sword, surprised by her own reflexes, Buffy grins.

XANDER

It's all in the reflexes.

BUFFY

Besides, half of this job is instinct anyway.

ELLEN

(grins)

Let's go!

BUFFY

Dawn, Xander, watch Emmily. Anyone comes round for her, let me know.

XANDER

Will do. Go burn some calories.

Buffy and Ellen leave. Dawn watches them go, then turns back towards the kitchen. She freezes when she sees Emmily standing at the top of the stairs, looking down on her without blinking. Dawn stares back for a few moments, then walks away, unnerved, into the kitchen.

17

INT. SUMMERS' RESIDENCE. KITCHEN.

17

Dawn heads back for the reference books spread across the tabletops, but as she goes to close one she notices a passage in it. She leans in closer to read it.

The passage has an illustration next to it of a human torso covered with claw marks and wounds like the ones Dawn has been seen sporting.

Dawn stares at the book, a panicked look starting to cross her face. She slams the book shut as Xander walks in to the kitchen behind her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER

Still up to the eyeballs in the old
necronomicons, Dawny?

DAWN

(trying to appear calm)
Uh, yeah, all good over here.

XANDER

And yet, I still can't resist those
eye jokes.

Xander grabs something from the fridge and heads back into
the living room as Dawn tries to hide her distress.

CUT TO:

18 INT. DINER. DAY.

18

As before. Jed and Keith talk to Willow and Kennedy. Kennedy
still looks uncomfortable.

JED

So where's this place you're
working at, Kennedy?

KENNEDY

It's called No Man's Land, it's a
club for, er..

(beat)

They have bands and things,
standard kind of place.

JED

(missing the point
entirely)

Sounds good, what about you,
Willow?

Willow gulps down her Coke nervously, and tries to think of a
convincing cover story.

WILLOW

Well, I was a Sunnydale College
student but, what with the, uh,
epidemic and all, I had to move out
and I never finished my degree, so
I'm going to look for some work
round here once I'm settled in.

KEITH

Which hopefully won't be too much
longer!

KENNEDY

What do you mean?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JED

That's why I came out here,
Kennedy. It's about your trust
fund. I know you didn't part on the
best of terms with your mother, but
you're still our daughter and we
love you.

He delivers that last line without a hint of emotion.

JED (cont'd)

And as your parents, we're here to
help you in any way we can. Which
includes the large sum of money
sitting in the bank with your name
on it.

Kennedy looks across to Willow, who smiles brightly. Jed is
still talking, not really paying any attention to Kennedy.

JED

You're a grown woman now, old
enough to be able to take
responsibility for your life, and
your mother and I agreed that it
was time we gave you access to that
money to help you make your own way
in the world.

KENNEDY

Dad, I..

Jed holds up a hand to stop her talking.

JED

No strings attached. It's been your
money since the day you were born,
now it's time to give you the key
to the bank, so to speak.

Kennedy smiles, the first time she has since she was told her
father and uncle were visiting. She reaches across the table
to give her dad a hug.

KENNEDY

Thank you, daddy.

JED

(awkwardly pats her on the
back)
Uh, not a problem, Kennedy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Uncle Keith reaches over to give Kennedy a hug as well, but the smile drops from Kennedy's face in an instant. Before anyone notices, the waiter arrives with their drinks.

CUT TO:

19 INT. SUMMERS' RESIDENCE. DAY.

19

Xander sits watching the TV with his feet up. Anya pops through the wall behind him, but noiselessly so Xander doesn't notice. He jumps half a mile when she speaks after watching him for a few moments.

ANYA

Well! Don't just sit there, Xander, why aren't you helping people make me corporeal again?

XANDER

(jumps)

Yow! Honey, I told you not to do that!

ANYA

It's the best way to get your attention!

Anya paces up and down the room in front of Xander, who leans from side to side as he tries to keep watching the TV.

ANYA (cont'd)

I'm just having a hard time getting used to this whole being dead thing. I used to be able to slap people around, and hitting things with swords and clubs, that was always invigorating and now.. now look at me. I'm a wisp of air. A phantom. A reflection. Reduced to getting a cheap thrill by walking through things all day long! I mean, what do I have left in this stupid world anymore?

XANDER

(shrugs; patiently)

You're still my Anya.

ANYA

I'm your..

(realises what he said)

Your what?

XANDER

You're my girl. Dead or alive, physical or all floaty and light.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER(cont'd)

I prefer to think of this as the diet version of you, till we get you all fixed up again.

ANYA

(smiles)

You mean that?

XANDER

(beat)

Anya, you didn't see me when I heard you'd died. I wanted to run back into the school, even as the Hellmouth was eating it up, just so I could try and get you out of there. I didn't want to never see you again.

ANYA

I was very messy. And bloody.

(points to visible wounds)

As you can see, I was sliced open from here to..

XANDER

(puts up a hand to stop her)

Yeah, thanks, honey, I can see. The point is, I'm glad you're back.

(beat)

I guess it's not until you lose something that you realise how precious it was to you.

ANYA

Even with the leaving me at the altar thing?

XANDER

(sighs)

We've been over that..

ANYA

Yes, yes we have, sorry. I can't wait to be solid again. First I'm going to slap Andrew, then I can get back on with the sex again. Xander's head snaps round.

XANDER

The what?

ANYA

(matter-of-factly)

Well, if we're going to be a couple again, we've got to get started with all that sex again, silly!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XANDER

(grins)

I guess we have..

She sits back, and forgetting herself for a moment, Anya makes to sit down next to him, succeeding only in falling straight through the sofa, leaving her legs sticking out. Xander looks down at her and sighs.

ANYA

(muffled from inside sofa;
sarcastic)

Right, yes, still a ghost. How forgetful of me.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

20

EXT. FITNESS WORLD - REAR ENTRANCE. DAY.

20

Buffy and Ellen are at the back of the large gym we saw earlier, near the bins and staff car park. Buffy looks around on the ground for anything leading down into the basement level.

ELLEN

You sure they'll be underground?

BUFFY

Oh yeah. If it's a toss between warm and fuzzy and cold, dark and gooey, demons go for the gunge every time.

ELLEN

Great. Good job these are my old clothes then.

BUFFY

(finds a rusty window)

Here.

She gives it a shove but it's rusted shut. She wipes some of the dirt from the windows and peeks in.

It's the basement level of the complex, with boilers, pipes running to and fro and many large containers with spare parts for the exercise machines and food for the cafeteria. No sign of any demons.

ELLEN

Are we heading down there?

BUFFY

There's another gym a few miles from here, but this place is closest to where we saw those first two demons, so we start here.

Buffy reaches back and punches the window open, holding it up so Ellen can climb through.

21

INT. FITNESS WORLD - BASEMENT. DAY.

21

Dark and cold, the basement isn't the cosiest place in the world. The girls pace forward slowly, eyes scanning the floor for any signs of activity.

ELLEN

So what are we looking for?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY

The usual. Signs of a base, like
clothes, empty food wrappers,
beds..

With a ROAR, a large wynn demon jumps out in front of them both.

ELLEN

Will that do?

BUFFY

Works for me!

The girls leap in to the attack. This demon is tougher than last night's goons - it swats Buffy to one side and lunges at Ellen, who bashes her sword handle down on its forearm.

The demon howls in pain and kicks out at her, but she manages to dodge it. Buffy swings in with an axe strike that catches the monster on the back, and as it yowls Ellen punches it squarely in the face. It gurgles once and then drops to the floor.

ELLEN

(panting with exertion)

Whew! Quite a rush, isn't it?

BUFFY

(smiles)

It has its moments. Come on.

The two follow the path the demon came from, past several large boiler units until they reach a corner. They press themselves against the wall and Buffy peers round as they hear voices coming from up ahead.

Up ahead, the basement opens up into a small walled area which eight wynn demons have made their home. Pentagrams and other symbols adorn the walls and floor, as one demon lays and lights candles at set point on the floor. The hooded demons are chanting as one reads passages from a book in an unintelligible language.

Buffy turns to Ellen.

BUFFY (cont'd)

Eight of them, three left, three right and two centre. We move in and split them up, try to force them into each other. Don't let them box you in. Got it?

ELLEN

(grips sword)

Got it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY

Follow me.

Buffy heads round the corner, using the shadows cast by the flickering candlelight to creep in closer. She manages to sneak right up behind one of the chanting demons, and then knocks him out with an axe blow to the head.

The other demons turn and growl as they see her. Buffy hefts up her axe and looks round, unflustered by the posse of demons as usual.

BUFFY (cont'd)

Department of Safety, we've had reports of naked flames down here?

The demons growl again and rush her.

She leaps in to the attack as one of the demons rushes into frame towards her.

CUT TO:

22

EXT. CLEVELAND STREET. DAY.

22

Willow, Kennedy, Jed and Keith are walking back to the apartment. Jed's mobile phone rings and he stops to answer it.

The other three stop but he waves at them to carry on, but as Willow turns to go he lays a hand on her arm to stop her.

JED

Mind if I just have a word?

WILLOW

Uh, yeah, sure.

KENNEDY

Is everything okay?

JED

Just fine, you and your uncle go on ahead, we'll catch you up in a minute.

Kennedy doesn't look very thrilled about being left alone with her uncle but carries on walking.

WILLOW

What's the matter?

JED

Nothing at all, Willow.

(beat)

I'm not stupid, you know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW

Sorry?

JED

(matter-of-factly)

I know that my daughter is.. well,
that Kennedy's gay.

WILLOW

(taken aback)

Oh.

Jed nods once and carries on.

JED

Her mother doesn't, but I doubt
she'd understand. I always half
knew, and from the little I'd heard
from her I'd gathered that she'd
met someone down here. Seeing the
way you two have been looking at
each other gave it all away.

WILLOW

(smiles; relieved)

I wasn't sure what to say..

JED

No need. I can see you're happy
with her. My daughter's always been
loyal to her friends, so I guess
it'd go even further for someone
she cared about.

WILLOW

Yeah, Kennedy's.. Kennedy's
special.

JED

So I just wanted to let you know
that I approve of it all, and it
doesn't affect anything I've said
today.

Willow wasn't aware she needed anyone's 'approval' to be gay,
but she can tell that Jed means well, despite his clunky way
of getting the point across.

WILLOW

Oh, right. Er, yay!

They start walking again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JED

If Kennedy's mother had come along, she'd probably have tried to talk me out of giving over the money, which is why I brought my brother along instead. Kennedy's always been a little..

(beat)

Excitable. She used to make all sorts of stories up about things when she was a child, and if I know my wife, and after twenty-five years of marriage I think I do, then she'd have put you down to another of Kennedy's 'phases.'

WILLOW I think we can safely say it's the real thing this time. Jed nods and starts walking again, the conversation was all business for him.

CUT TO:

23 INT. WILLOW & KENNEDY'S ROOM. DAY.

23

Kennedy unlocks and opens the door and steps inside. Keith follows her. Kennedy leaves the door open, looking out for Willow and her father, but they're nowhere in sight. Keith pushes the door shut, and Kennedy jumps as it slams.

KEITH

Alone at last, then, possum.

KENNEDY

(cold)

Don't call me that.

KEITH

Why not? You used to like it.

KENNEDY

I never liked it. Any of it.

KEITH

Then how come you never told anyone?

KENNEDY

They never believed me. You made sure of that, didn't you?

KEITH

Why Kennedy, whatever do you mean?

She stares him down. This is going to turn nasty very quickly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KEITH (cont'd)

Your problem, Kennedy, is a basic lack of respect for your elders. You think you and your little love-in piece of stuff are going to make anything of yourself in this world?

KENNEDY

I've already done more with my life than you ever will.

KEITH

(angry)

You're not going to get anywhere in life, Kennedy! You're a loser, just like your mother, and I intend to tell her all about your dirty little life down here.

KENNEDY

(indignant)

I'm not dirty! I'm not... I'm not!

KEITH

You are, always were. Why do you think I chose you?

(laughs)

Did you think you were special? That you were mine because you were the most important? It was you because you were nothing. Just another dirty little girl.

KENNEDY

(teary)

You hurt me.

Kennedy is upset, she's struggling to hold back the tears. Keith keeps advancing on her, looming ever bigger in front of her.

KEITH

Once I tell your mother about this -

KENNEDY

Don't!

KEITH

Your father may think it's fine, but I know that your mother won't let you anywhere near that money when she knows what you've become.

25 INT. WILLOW & KENNEDY'S ROOM. DAY.

25

As before. Keith is backing Kennedy into a corner. We're not used to seeing Kennedy seem so vulnerable like this.

KENNEDY

(tearful)

She wouldn't understand.. she never did..

KEITH

Oh, sweet, sweet Kennedy..

He pushes her against the wall and runs a hand slowly down the side of her face. Kennedy is almost weeping.

KEITH (cont'd)

I think I need to catch up on lost time with you..

His hand comes crashing down on her face, knocking her down. He reaches a hand up again to hit her, but like lightning Kennedy's hand streaks out and grabs it, holding it fast in a grip of Slayer strength. Keith looks back down at Kennedy.

Her eyes gaining the strength. She's suddenly looking like she's ready to kick some ass.

KENNEDY

A lot's changed since then.

26 EXT. WILLOW & KENNEDY'S APARTMENT - WILLOW'S FLOOR. DAY. 26

Willow is fumbling in her jacket for the room keys.

WILLOW

Heh, must have lost them, they're in here somewhere..

JED

Why don't we just knock?

WILLOW

Oh, yeah, I suppose that'd work too..

Jed grins and reaches up to knock on the door.

27 INT. WILLOW & KENNEDY'S ROOM. DAY.

27

We see Keith fly backwards through the air with a yell, slamming into the far wall and collapsing onto the floor.

Kennedy vaults the bed and leaps after him, looking furious with rage, stake in hand.

28 EXT. HOTEL - OUTSIDE THE ROOM. DAY.

28

Willow and Jed look at each other as they hear the yell and thud, then Jed bangs his fist on the door as Willow tries to find her keys. They hear Keith shouting from inside, there's obviously a fight going on in there and he's losing.

JED

Kennedy? Kennedy! Open up! What's going on?

After what seems like an eternity, as more shouts and crashes come from inside the room, Willow finds her keys and tries to open the door. She fumbles first time and drops them, but manages the second time to throw the door open.

29 INT. WILLOW & KENNEDY'S ROOM. DAY.

29

The place is a mess, the way it would look after Kennedy had spent a few minutes throwing someone around it. Kennedy has Keith in an arm lock, he's face down on the floor with her knee buried in the back of his neck.

She twists his arm back some more and he shouts with pain. She hardly notices Jed and Willow standing, shocked, in the doorway.

JED

Kennedy! What the hell are you doing?!?

KENNEDY

I have to finish it... he has to pay..

Keith howls in pain as Kennedy cracks his arm back another notch.

WILLOW

Kennedy, what are you -

KEITH

Jed, get her away from me, she's gone crazy!

KENNEDY

(to Jed; screaming)

Why are you listening to him? You always listened to him! Never to me!

JED

You're about to kill him!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNEDY

Because he hurt me! It'd be all he deserves!

(to Keith; tearful)

Tell him what you did to me! When I was still at home. Tell him how you used to stay over and sneak into my room. How you'd-

She can't take this. She cracks his arm back again and Keith yowls in pain.

KENNEDY (cont'd)

(to Keith, furious)

Tell him the truth.. or I swear I'll kill you right now!

Before anyone can react, she flips him round and raises the stake, ready to attack him with it. Willow comes to her senses and lets a hasty defensive spell fly.

WILLOW

Dispersum!

Kennedy is knocked backwards, landing on her ass. Keith slumps against the dresser, his face bloody. Kennedy sits, tears rolling down her cheeks as Willow starts to tear up as well.

Jed looks from Keith to Kennedy, his face a mess of confusion. Willow's hands are over her mouth as she tries to stay in control.

WILLOW (cont'd)

(also in tears)

Kennedy?

KEITH

(dazed)

I did it.. I did it.. I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I did it..

Jed stares in shock. Keith is bruised and beaten, and Kennedy lowers her head, majorly hurt, very angry... but mostly just in pain. Jed looks down to his brother, the awful truth slowly starting to dawn on him.

JED

Keith?

KEITH

(sobbing)

I'm sorry.. I'm sorry..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JED
(trying to keep control)
Keith.. what did you do?

KENNEDY
(sobbing)
I always tried to tell you.. but
you never listened.. it was always
your stupid business over me, or
the dinner party mom wanted to go
to.. anything except your own
daughter! Mommy never wanted
anything to spoil her perfect
little life.. You just used to say
I was making up stories.. but it
was all true! All of it!

Jed looks ashen - she'd always tried to tell him but he'd
never listened. Kennedy leaps up and races past him, heading
outside. Willow jumps up and runs after her.

Jed looks down at the battered form of Keith, not sure
whether to speak or start kicking him himself. His fists
bunch up, but despite shaking with rage he stays in charge.

JED
(to Keith)
You.. to my own daughter..

30 EXT. OUTSIDE THE ROOM. DAY. 30

Kennedy is sitting at the foot of the stairs that lead up to
their apartment's floor, curled up and sobbing. Willow runs
up to her and stands helpless for a moment, not knowing what
to do. Her instinct takes over and she crouches down next to
Kennedy, putting her arms round her.

Kennedy leans across and buries her face in Willow's chest.
Willow closes her eyes and holds her as tight as she can, her
own eyes wet with tears.

WILLOW
(softly)
Ssh. Baby, it's all okay now. I'm
here. I've got you. You're safe.

CUT TO:

31 INT. FITNESS WORLD - BASEMENT. DAY. 31

As before - Ellen and Buffy in pitched battle with the wynn
demons. Only three are left - Buffy on two and Ellen on the
other.

As we watch, Ellen gets a good swipe in with her sword and
her demon falls to the floor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She leaps over to help Buffy, as Buffy is shoved to the floor and her two demons make a run for it.

ELLEN

Buffy!

BUFFY

(picking herself up)

I'm fine, don't let them get away!

Acting on instinct, Ellen grabs Buffy's axe from her hand and throws it towards the escaping demons. It hits one square in the back, and as he falls to the ground he hits the second and they hit the deck together.

Buffy whistles appreciatively - for a newbie, Ellen's proving she's got the right stuff to be a Slayer.

ELLEN

(mock sympathy)

Oops, sorry!

BUFFY

You sure you've never done this before? You've even got the one-liners down.

ELLEN

(still not used to her new powers, but liking it)

I'm a quick learner.

Ellen reaches out a hand and helps Buffy up. They walk over to the last demon, struggling to shift the weight of his dead comrade. Buffy puts her size six shoe down on his neck to pin him to the floor.

BUFFY

Start talking. Who are you, what are you doing here, and why do you demon cults always have that candle and pentagram fetish?

The demon grins and coughs beneath her foot.

DEMON

(coughing)

You're too late, Slayer..

ELLEN

(grins)

Which one?

DEMON

We know where you've hidden the Oracle, and my brothers will be there soon..

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DEMON(cont'd)

(chuckles)

We'll shut that interfering girl up
for good!

BUFFY

Girl?

Ellen's face drops as she realises who he means.

ELLEN

Emmily!

(grabs demon by his
throat)

What is the 'Oracle'?

BUFFY

Ellen, come on, we've got to get
back! If more of those things are
on their way to the house, we've
got to get back now!

ELLEN

Tell me!

DEMON

(laughs)

Never..

Ellen punches the demon, knocking him out. She gets up as
Buffy is already moving back towards the window.

ELLEN

Are we just gonna leave them here?

BUFFY

We'll clean up later, come on!
Ellen follows her over to the
windows.

CUT TO:

32 INT. SUMMERS' RESIDENCE. DAY.

32

There is a knock on the door. Xander goes to open it, but
hears Emmily calling him from the top of the stairs.

EMMILY

(frightened)

Those teeth..

XANDER

(puzzled)

It's okay, sweetie, it's just the
door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He opens the door to be faced by four wynn demons, who grin and show their teeth.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

33 EXT. ROCKWELL AVENUE. DAY. 33

Buffy and Ellen race along the street and up to Buffy's house. The front door is wide open, and Buffy dashes inside.

34 INT. SUMMERS' RESIDENCE. DAY. 34

Buffy screeches to a halt as she sees Xander, flat on his back and out cold, on the living room floor. Anya is standing over him, waving her arms helplessly.

ANYA

Help him! I can't wake him up
because I can't slap him!

BUFFY

(kneels by Xander)
Xander. Xander!
(slaps him lightly)
Wake up, Xander!

Ellen enters the house and races upstairs.

ELLEN (O.S.)

Emmily? Emmily!

XANDER

(sits up and groans)
Ow..

BUFFY

Xander, what happened?

XANDER

(groggy)
Four of those demon boys showed up
and did a Van Damme on me.. where's
Dawn?

DAWN (O.S.)

I'm here.

Buffy turns to see Dawn emerging from the cupboard underneath the stairs.

BUFFY

Are you okay?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAWN

(nods)

I heard them coming in and laid low in here, I knew I couldn't help Xander by myself so I was trying to call Willow and Kennedy, but they're not answering their phones.

ELLEN

(running back downstairs,
panicked)

She's gone.

BUFFY

They took Emmily?

ELLEN

I'm going after her.

BUFFY

Ellen, wait!

Ellen's already out the door and running as Buffy helps Xander back up.

BUFFY (cont'd)

Anya, what happened?

ANYA

They laid out Xander and then went looking for that little girl. She was surprisingly quiet, considering she was being kidnapped by four very angry looking wynn demons. They like to eat babies, you know.

BUFFY

(snaps)

Anya!

ANYA

(indignant)

What? They do!

XANDER

You'd better get after her, Buffy, those guys were pretty tough.

BUFFY

Stay here. Don't move. If they come back.. Well, hopefully they won't.

Buffy jumps up and runs out of the house after Ellen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANYA

That's just like her. Always
running around when there's wounded
people to look after!

CUT TO:

35 EXT. CLEVELAND STREET. DAY.

35

Sticking to the shadows, the four demons and the captive
Emmily weave their way down along alleyways and back towards
the Fitness World centre.

ELLEN (O.S.)

Hey!

They stop and turn. Ellen is standing at the end of the
alleyway they've run down, sword in hand.

ELLEN (cont'd)

(coolly)

Let her go.

Two of the demons snarl and break off towards her. Poised to
fight, she takes them both on, felling one with her first
sword chop and trading punches with the second till he falls.
Buffy catches up.

BUFFY

Where did they go?

ELLEN

That way, back towards the gym I
think.

BUFFY

Let's go!

They run after the demons.

CUT TO:

36 INT. FITNESS WORLD - BASEMENT. DAY.

36

The two remaining demons are hastily trying to put the
ceremony back together, relighting candles and kicking the
dead bodies of their brothers to one side. They lay Emmily
down in the centre of the pentagram, one of them drawing
arcane symbols on her skin as he chants.

37 EXT. FITNESS WORLD - REAR ENTRANCE. DAY.

37

Buffy and Ellen arrive at the window entrance to the basement
and leap down. Weapons ready, they race across the empty
floor and towards the demon's base they discovered earlier.

38

INT. FITNESS WORLD - BASEMENT. DAY.

38

One demon chants and reads from the same book as last time as the other raises a large knife above Emmily. She still seems oddly calm about it all. The knife-wielding demon is poised, ready to strike, when WHAM - Ellen's sword shoots through the air and straight into his chest.

With a gasp he keels over backwards. The last demon looks up and stops reading.

The two girls are here just in time, Buffy grinning as she pats the recovered axe in her hand. Buffy throws a look of mock sympathy at the demon.

BUFFY

Oh, I'm sorry, did we break your concentration?

The demon gets up and runs for it. Ellen goes to chase after him but Buffy holds out an arm to hold her back.

BUFFY (cont'd)

Let him go. Not worth it.

Ellen heads for Emmily, picking her up and carrying her back over.

EMMILY

I knew you'd come.

ELLEN

I promised, didn't I?

BUFFY

(deep breath)

Emmily? Are you the Oracle?

Emmily nods. Ellen looks across at Emmily, not sure what to make of it all.

BUFFY (cont'd)

What does that mean? And why were those demons trying to kill you?

EMMILY

Ice cream.

ELLEN

Huh?

EMMILY

Back home for ice cream. Then talk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELLEN
(smiles)
Whatever you say, honey.

Buffy returns the smile as the trio leave the basement.

CUT TO:

39 INT. WILLOW & KENNEDY'S ROOM. DAY.

39

The girls sit on the bed, Kennedy is half lying down with her head in Willow's lap, as Willow strokes her hair. Jed is pacing up and down the room, making a call on his mobile phone.

JED
Yes, that's right, officer. Okay,
thank you.
(hangs up)
Well, they're keeping him down at
the station now. He's being charged
in the morning.
(looks guilty)
I guess that's that. As much as
that can change anything that
happened.

KENNEDY
(muted)
Just go.

JED
What?

KENNEDY
Please, daddy, just go.

Jed kneels down next to Kennedy, squeezing her hand. Kennedy's face is blank - she's just poured out years of emotion and rage in one go, and it's taken the fight out of her.

Willow has gone into damage control - not saying anything, just cradling Kennedy's head and stroking her hair comfortingly.

JED
I'm know I can't ask you to forgive
me for not listening to you all
those years ago, Kennedy. But at
least he's going to pay for it all
now.

Kennedy nods.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW
Are you gonna be okay, baby?

KENNEDY
Someday.

Jed nods sadly and gets up. He looks awkward, but Kennedy reaches a hand up to him.

JED
I'm so, so sorry, honey. I'd better go. I'll come back again soon.

Lacking anything else to say, Jed turns and goes, shutting the door and leaving the two girls to it.

WILLOW
Why didn't you ever tell me?

KENNEDY
I was never sure any of it really happened. I was so young... it was like a really bad dream that would happen every so often and I... I knew that if I thought it wasn't a dream then it would be real, and it really happened...

Willow looks tearful as Kennedy continues.

KENNEDY (cont'd)
... and if it really happened then that makes me a victim. That makes me... dirty. Just another dirty girl.

WILLOW
Oh, baby..

Willow starts to cry as Kennedy sits up and holds her. Time for her to be strong again.

KENNEDY
But I know I'm not dirty, Willow.
(beat)
Not with you.

They embrace.

CUT TO:

40 INT. SUMMERS' RESIDENCE - KITCHEN. DAY.

40

Emmily sits at the kitchen counter, eating a big bowl of ice cream as Ellen and Buffy watch. Dawn is washing dishes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ELLEN

Hard to think such a little angel
would have so much trouble
following her.

BUFFY

(looking at Dawn)

Trouble always follows the ones you
least expect it to. The sisters
share a smile.

ELLEN

So, Emmily, I think we've fulfilled
our side of the bargain..

Emmily nods and grins as she finishes the last of the ice
cream.

ELLEN (cont'd)

So now why don't you tell us what
the Oracle is?

(beat)

Or, I mean, what you are.

Ellen is clearly struggling with the concept of Emmily being
anything other than a little girl.

EMMILY

Vessel of information. From the
Powers That Be down to the Chosen
One.

Ellen and Buffy look at each other - these aren't the kind of
words your average six year old uses! Dawn's eyes widen.

EMMILY

Lots of Chosen Ones now. Maybe too
many. Balance is tilting too far.
Change must come. Will come soon.

BUFFY

Change?

EMMILY

It is free. It is here.

Buffy shivers, as do Ellen and Dawn - all three felt a cold
air just pass through the room.

ELLEN

Whew, felt like someone just walked
over my-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY

Ellen! No. Bad luck to say that.
(to Emmily)
What is free?

EMMILY

Can't say now. Maybe soon.

DAWN

Emmily, are you human?

BUFFY

Dawn!

DAWN

What? It's a valid question! I mean, is she like me, something magical made into a human, or is she something else?

EMMILY

Not quite like you. Human body, not human soul. Will always need protecting.

ELLEN

Lots of people out to get you, huh?

EMMILY

(nods)

Lots and lots. Want to stop me telling Chosen Ones things they need to know.

ELLEN

Well then, I guess you're still going to need someone to look after you, aren't you?

Emmily looks over to Ellen and smiles. Ellen smiles back.

EMMILY

Sorry I never told you.

ELLEN

(sighs)

That's okay. I guess I wouldn't have understood until now. So your parents..

EMMILY

Don't have any. Have people like you, who look after me. Changes a lot. Made sure you'd fine me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Ellen grins as a lot of things that have happened recently start to make sense - bumping into Emmily, meeting Buffy - all part of Emmily's plan.

ELLEN

(ruffles Emmily's hair)

You can expect me to stick around for a while yet, honey. Emmily smiles.

EMMILY

I know I'll be safe now.

DISSOLVE TO:

41 INT. SUMMERS' RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM. NIGHT.

41

Ellen walks in, her coat on and a bag over her shoulder. Buffy stands up from the sofa to greet her. Emmily is walking alongside her. Dawn, Anya, Xander and Andrew are in the room too, watching the new arrival set off on her way again.

ELLEN

All set.

BUFFY

Are you sure about this? I mean, while you're here, you've got all of us to call on, if you keep moving you'll only ever have yourself.

ELLEN

It's the best thing to do. If I stay in one place, they'll just keep sending people after me. If we keep moving, we have a better chance. I figure we'll stay in town a little while longer so I can set up somewhere else for us, then we'll head on.

EMMILY

(proudly, off Ellen)

Chosen.

ELLEN

(smiles)

Absolutely. Little Emmily here needs someone to keep an eye on her, and who better than a brand new Slayer?

Andrew looks as though he needs to speak.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANDREW

How come you're a Slayer, though?
We never did find that out, because
they're normally, like, all, uh..

ELLEN

What?

ANDREW

(tries to choose right
word)

Young.

Ellen throws a sideways look at Andrew's lack of tact.

ANYA

The spell, you silly little man.
The one that made Willow go all
spooky.

ANDREW

No, I mean, she's, well, older than
any of the others.

ANYA

Oh, that.

EMMILY

She missed her turn.

BUFFY

Huh?

EMMILY

Meant to be a Potential when
younger, but the Slayer she was
meant to take over from lived
longer. When that Slayer went away,
a new one was chosen.

ELLEN

I've felt like the odd one out my
whole life so far, guess that means
things never change!

BUFFY

You know how to contact us if you
need anything?

ELLEN

By phone, and by her.

(looks down at Emmily)

She says she can contact you tele-
what was it, honey?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EMMILY
Telepathically.

ELLEN
That's it.

There is the beep of a car horn outside. Ellen looks out through the front window and sees a pair of headlights waiting outside.

ELLEN (cont'd)
Sounds like our cab is here. Thanks for everything, Buffy. I know it was kind of brief, but..

BUFFY
It's okay.

They hug.

BUFFY (cont'd)
Don't be gone long, Ellen.

ELLEN
Come on, Em.

Ellen lifts Emmily up to carry her, but as Emmily wraps one arm round Ellen's neck she beckons to Dawn with her free hand. Dawn leans in as Emmily whispers something in her ear.

Dawn looks a little startled and steps back as Ellen heads for the door. Xander opens it.

ELLEN
Well, so long you guys, hope this whole Hellmouth thing works out better for you than last time.

BUFFY
Yeah, the whole of Cleveland falling into the earth might be a little harder to explain.

XANDER
Goodbye, Ellen.

Ellen heads out the door. Emmily throws one last look at Dawn as she leaves, and Dawn is startled again. Buffy closes the door, and we hear a car door shut outside and Xander's taxi drive away.

ANDREW
She seemed nice.

Dawn isn't so sure.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DAWN

That little kid was creepy.

BUFFY

Oh, Dawn, come on, she was just a kid.

(beat)

Who, admittedly appears to be a messenger from the higher powers and said some very creepy things about us..

ANYA

Well, if the worst comes to the worst, then this town gets eaten too and we move on to the next one, right?

Everyone looks at Anya, then leaves the room.

ANYA (cont'd)

Right? Hey!

Buffy closes the kitchen door, blocking Anya from view. There is a thud as Anya hits the door.

ANYA (cont'd)

Ow!

(beat)

Ow? Ow! Hey! Hey! I said 'ow'! I could say 'ow'! I can-

She steps through the door as usual. She looks round, realises she's still non-corporeal and pouts.

ANYA (cont'd)

Rats.

CUT TO:

42 INT. DAWN'S ROOM. NIGHT.

42

Dawn sits on her bed, looking spooked out as she remembers what Emmily said to her.

CUT TO:

FLASHBACK - In the living room earlier as Ellen was leaving. Emmily beckons to Dawn, and Dawn leans in to listen. CLOSE ON Emmily's lips next to Dawn's ear, whispering so noone else can hear.

EMMILY

I'm sorry about your life, how it's been, how it'll end. It wasn't supposed to be this way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dawn looks at Emmily, confused and startled, as Ellen heads for the door, taking Emmily with her.

We pull back from Dawn as we hear Emmily's last words echo around us.

EMMILY (V.O.) (cont'd)
(whispered)
It wasn't supposed to be this way.

CUT TO:

43 INT. WILLOW & KENNEDY'S ROOM. NIGHT.

43

As Sarah McLachlan's "Perfect Girl" plays through the scene, Willow and Kennedy lie on the bed, Willow's arms wrapped around her girl. Their eyes are open, both thinking. No more tears. Kennedy's fingers trace Willow's as they interlock.

Willow lifts her head, then lowers it closer to Kennedy as they lie - peacefully. Together.

CUT TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW