

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

"Embodied"

by

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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. CLEVELAND - NIGHT

1

The city is tranquil and peaceful. The only strange element is the moon, its full form bathing the ground in white light. Thick fog emanates above the ground. We're in cliché territory, folks.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. GRAVEYARD - NIGHT

2

SUSAN BIRKE (22) runs desperately across the grass. She could pass for the girl next-door, save for the tattered clothing and scraped face. With each step her balance becomes more erratic.

Terrified, she keeps trying to look at what's coming from behind. She's dangerously close to tripping as her worst fears begin to take hold.

We can only SEE bits and pieces of what's chasing her. It's a Demon, that much we know for sure. Two long spikes wrap around his form and connect at the front, leaving a trail of green acidic blood.

Susan turns to look at her attacker, and as she does so - She goes sailing head over heels over a tombstone! Susan lands in a heap on the ground. Time seems to slow as Susan tries to regain her senses.

Almost unconsciously, she rolls onto her side. She examines her wounds -- a nasty gash on her leg, another visible through torn jeans, and a laceration across her forehead.

There's a sudden, aggressive GROWL from the bush. Susan slowly manages to bring her head up as we get a first real glimpse at the monster charging towards her.

Illuminated eerily in the moonlight, a GLUNDARK DEMON stands with haunting crimson eyes. His flaky facial tissue manages to compliment his large spikes. He leaps onto her and pins her shoulders to the ground. Brings his face eerily close to hers.

GLUNDARK

You fool... you shall pay for your
sins... only fools cross into my
dimension!

Susan's eyes go wide as Glundark opens his mouth. What can best be described as demonic suction pump appears. It inches slowly towards the terrified girl... Tears fill her eyes...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

words can't escape her lips... the pump is a millimeter from her neck, prepares to latch on until suddenly --

A SWORD -- shoots out into the darkness and severs the pump. A dark viscous fluid flows from the stump. The pump tumbles to the ground as Glundark flies backward.

It's BUFFY holding the sword, laced with acidic blood.

BUFFY

Hi, I'm Buffy. I'm going to kick your ass, okay?

GLUNDARK

(pained)

Foolish mortal!

BUFFY

I get that a lot.

Glundark lunges for Buffy. She manages to parry and brings up the sword swiftly, slashing him across the chest. He takes a few steps backward, examining the brutal cut.

GLUNDARK

You fool!

BUFFY

I got that part already.

He brings another approach, rapidly losing blood. With a sudden change of tactic, Buffy slams the sword in a straightforward motion.

Instantly impales Glundark. He grabs the blade and begins to drive it in further, snarling at the Slayer.

GLUNDARK

You're... you're -- !

Buffy yanks the sword out and in one swift move splits the Demon in two.

BUFFY

Foolish?

The two halves fly in different directions and are quickly consumed by the acidic fluid. Susan cowers on the ground. JACKSON enters frame, kneeling beside her.

SUSAN

Wha -- What was that?

JACKSON

You'd better get going. We'll handle the clean-up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SUSAN
Who are you?

JACKSON
Me? I'm a Realtor.
(re: Buffy)
Her?

Buffy sighs, staring as the blood eats through her sword. She drops the blade-less hilt, disappointed.

JACKSON (cont'd)
She's something special.

Buffy and Jackson make intense eye contact and trade smiles. Seductive to the extreme.

BLACK OUT.

END OF TEASER

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3 EXT. SMOKEY AND THE BANDIT CONSTRUCTION - OFFICES - DAY 3

ESTABLISHING SHOT of the small-time construction companies point of residence. Capitalizing on their name - they have a Smokey and The Bandit posted just underneath their own sign.

MR. REYNOLDS (V.O.)

So, Mr. Harris, what makes you think you could be an effective member of Smokey and The Bandit construction?

CUT TO:

4 INT. SMOKEY AND THE BANDIT CONSTRUCTION - OFFICES 4

Two sharply dressed Executives sit behind a meticulously crafted oak desk. MR. REYNOLDS bears a strong resemblance a like named B-Film Star, and MR. MARSON looks like a big boned Dukes Of Hazard character. XANDER sits across from them, wearing his own spiffy suit and looking like an American 007.

XANDER

I have a lot of expertise in the construction field, having spent a significant period of time in Sunnydale...

He passes them a red dossier.

XANDER (cont'd)

... which required a lot of construction and reconstruction work. Seventy-five percent of which I helped to propagate.

Mr. Reynolds flicks through the dossier, and nonchalantly passes it to Mr. Marson. He looks through it with far more care.

MR. MARSON

What brought you to Cleveland, Mr. Harris?

XANDER

The long answer would involve a rambling story. The short answer... I'm sure you gentlemen are aware of the epidemic that hit Sunnydale.

Mr. Marson and Mr. Reynolds share concerned looks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MR. REYNOLDS

The one caused by a monkey.

XANDER

I think that was Outbreak.

Mr. Reynolds sighs.

MR. MARSON

We have heard of this epidemic. It caused terrible damage to that provincial little town. Led some folks to believe that Vampires and other mythological creatures were walking around like they owned the place.

(chuckles)

Didn't you hear that, Mr. Reynolds?

MR. REYNOLDS

I did, Mr. Marson. Have you ever heard such a ridiculous concept in your life?

(laughs)

I mean... Vampires. How can they be real?

Mr. Reynolds and Mr. Marson roar with laughter. They are not perceptive enough to note that Xander's laughter is a lot less illustrated than theirs.

XANDER

(mumbling)

You have no idea.

A beat while Mr. Marson and Mr. Reynolds compose themselves.

MR. MARSON

Why do you want to work at Smokey and The Bandit construction?

XANDER

First of all - I love the name

(taps chest twice)

I'm a big Burt Reynolds fan.

(clears throat)

Second - I believe that a man should do what a man likes to do. For a long time I was searching for who I was, where I belonged in this crazy world. That all changed the day I discovered construction work.

(grins)

It actually extends past that. I love creating habitats and homes for people to live in.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XANDER(cont'd)

That, and the buzz I get from destroying said properties when people leave - which was common in my former stomping ground of Sunnydale - allowed me to sleep easily at night, satisfied and complete.

MR. MARSON

Are you married, Mr. Harris?

XANDER

What?

(double-take)

What?

MR. REYNOLDS

Smokey and The Bandit construction is a family business. We pride ourselves on creating homes for families. Our employees must be representative of this, or at the very least in a stable relationship.

Beat.

XANDER

There was this one girl, a while ago. But things have gotten... complicated.

Mr. Marson and Mr. Reynolds nod in understanding. They stand up, and so does Xander. He shakes their hands.

MR. MARSON

It was nice meeting with you, Xander.

MR. REYNOLDS

We'll call you.

XANDER

Thanks. Uh... bye.

Xander EXITS.

MR. MARSON

He needs to get over her and move on.

MR. REYNOLDS

If only it were that easy.

CUT TO:

5

INT. SHAW RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

5

We're close on Susan. She lies on the sofa, motionless. Her clothes are tattered, and she has numerous SCARS over her body.

Into frame appears a wet cloth. It is applied to her wounds, and begins to wipe the excess dirt away. Susan stirs every once in a while from the pain it brings. PULL BACK to reveal:

Jackson is sat on the other sofa, staring at Susan. He's still trying to formulate the events in his head. The cloth is wrung free of the water, dirt, and blood, and it slinks into the bottom of a water bucket.

Jackson puts his head in his hands. Buffy joins him on the seat. She is concerned; but isn't so obvious.

JACKSON

How do you do it?

BUFFY

It's who I am. It's what I do. I don't think I'd choose it any other way.

(smiles)

Through time you get used to it.

JACKSON

I was a cop. I handled cases between humans that reduced me to tears.

(off her look)

Manly tears... of course.

BUFFY

It's the life we lead. Civil servants to the last. Sworn to protect the very people who take us to court. Metaphorically for me, because I'm the Slayer - and no-one can know that.

JACKSON

(as Buffy)

'Civil Servants to the last.'

(normal)

Until you become a Realtor.

(beat)

I don't regret what I do. I do it, because being a cop got too... when my partner...

(beat)

I saw things I would never wish upon anyone.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY

But sometimes you need to see those things, to put the broader picture into perspective.

Susan stirs, and her eyelids flutter.

BUFFY (cont'd)

You start.

Jackson nods in understanding. He gets off the couch, and walks over to Susan. He kneels by her. Her eyes pop open, and she turns to face Jackson. She looks weary.

JACKSON

It's okay. I'm here to help. Susan stares at him for a spell...

... before remembering who he is. She breathes a sigh of relief, and attempts to get to her feet.

She falls down, the gash on the left thigh causing too much pain for her to walk on. Jackson helps her up, and places her back on the sofa.

SUSAN

Thank you.

She breathes deeply, and after a while begins to calm down.

JACKSON

We need to ask you a few questions.

SUSAN

We?

Jackson nods. Susan follows his eyesight, and catches Buffy. She smiles to the woman.

SUSAN (cont'd)

Who is she?

JACKSON

Her name is Buffy.

SUSAN

Bunny?

BUFFY

(mouths it; slowly)

Buffy --!

(beat)

It is a name, you know!

Beat.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JACKSON

We're here to ask you a few questions, in the hope of getting some information.

SUSAN

Okay.

JACKSON

Why did you go to the graveyard?

SUSAN

To pay my respects to my ex-boyfriend Jeff...

JACKSON

Jeff...?

SUSAN

Atkins. He died last month... he was murdered.

Buffy walks around to Susan.

BUFFY

Do you know why you were attacked?

SUSAN

No. I was just praying by Jeff's grave, and all of a sudden this... thing attacked me. It was completely and utterly unprovoked.

JACKSON

Do you know what attacked you?

SUSAN

It looked like a man in a rubber suit of some description. The first hit scrambled my brains, so obviously I didn't get a very good look.

Buffy and Jackson share a look.

BUFFY

Here's the explainy, Susan. Something attacked you, did a number on your body. We're gonna keep you here under surveillance. To make sure you're safe.

Susan panics.

SUSAN

Who are you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BUFFY

It's best you don't know - because it leads to a lot of questions that you don't want to ask, and I don't want to answer.

She kneels by Susan.

BUFFY (cont'd)

All you need to know is that you're safe.

CUT TO:

6

INT. SHAW RESIDENCE - HALLWAY

6

Jackson shuts the door to the living room, turning to face Buffy, standing with her hands on her hips.

JACKSON

What do you think?

BUFFY

Well I think you should paint over the wallpaper for a start --

JACKSON

(interrupting)

I meant about Susan.

BUFFY

Oh... I think she's scared and confused. She doesn't know what attacked her. But she trusts us... or, you.

JACKSON

What did attack her?

BUFFY

I don't know. I'll phone Dawn, fill her in on what's happened. Maybe she can ascertain some information relating to that demon.

JACKSON

Why did it attack her?

BUFFY

That's usually what demons do. It's like a motto, "kill the humans. Yay us!"

JACKSON

It said something about its dimension. Maybe that's relevant...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACKSON(cont'd)

I don't know, I'm a bit new to this whole demon world thing.

BUFFY

Can you get your buddies down at the precinct to do a background check? Maybe they could dig something up on our "Dead Like Me" wannabe.

Jackson shakes his head.

JACKSON

Not a good idea. Seems not a lot of guys really wanna hand out information to a deserter... even if it was for good reasons...

(beat)

But if it's any use I could give Willow and Andrew some hints on the access codes for the police files.

(quietly)

... that never leaves this hallway.

Buffy nods, with a slight smile.

BUFFY

Hints? Check you out, Mr Bad.

There's a long beat as they exchange longing looks. Then --

BUFFY (cont'd)

I should... go... now.

Buffy turns to leave. Jackson gently grabs her arm. She turns around to face him.

JACKSON

You know, I may be new to this whole slay-ground thing... but seeing you kick demon ass, not something I hate.

Buffy smiles.

BUFFY

I always said that being a Slayer was the best way to release stress.

They get closer -- we're in the intense zone here people. It's getting hot, not sweaty hot, but we can almost feel the heat towards them.

JACKSON

I have another way.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY
Please. Do share.

JACKSON
Promise not to kill me?

BUFFY
I'm over that.

A beat.

They come incredibly close to each other until they can't move any more. They kiss, softly -- gently. Buffy's arms come round to hook around his shoulders. They pull away.

BUFFY
That was...

JACKSON
... like... God...

BUFFY
Right there with ya.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. WILLOW & KENNEDY'S APARTMENT 7

We slowly DOLLY down the corridor, ghost-like in terms of movement. Finally we MOVE THROUGH the keyhole and into --

8 INT. WILLOW AND KENNEDY'S ROOM 8

KENNEDY is tooling herself up with Slayer weapons (crossbow; stake; couple of holy water bottles). WILLOW has twelve candles set up in a circle. They are positioned around a bean-bag cushion.

Willow picks up a Magic Book from the shelf: SOLIDIFICATION FOR DUMMIES, and flicks through to the appropriate page. Kennedy walks behind Willow, and wraps her arms around her.

KENNEDY
Do you have to do this?

WILLOW
What? You mean bring Anya back to our plain, as a human?
(grins)
I guess.

KENNEDY
Always with the Magic, Red.

She kisses Willows neck.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW

I think we have to take a raincheck
on that kinda magic for a few
hours. Kennedy pulls away.

KENNEDY

Are you sure you'll be okay?

WILLOW

Yeah. I think I have the right
spell now. Shouldn't have any more
incidents.

KENNEDY

Like the bull-frog.

WILLOW

(what?)

Yeah... exactly...

KENNEDY

I just lost coolness points, huh?

Willow nods.

WILLOW

It'd work best if you stayed out
for a while. There's no way I could
concentrate with you here.

KENNEDY

Ain't that the truth.

Kennedy pulls her bag of tricks over her back, and takes
Willow's hand in hers. She pulls away, and walks off. Willow
sighs.

WILLOW

Okay. Magic-time.

CUT TO:

9

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

9

Kennedy is walking through the graveyard, lost in her own
thoughts...

... when she is jumped by a Glundark Demon. One of the
Glundark's spikes digs into Kennedy's back, and she rolls
around the floor.

Kennedy comes to a stop, and leaps to her feet. She has a
wound to her left should, but this just makes her more mad.
She faces the Glundark.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNEDY

Hey. I'm walking here.

The Glundark approaches.

GLUNDARK

You fool... you shall pay for your sins... only fools cross into my dimension!

KENNEDY

And what dimension would that be? Earth? Last time I checked, your kind wasn't welcome.

GLUNDARK

I sense your lies. Pretending that everything is okay, hiding what you truly feel.

Kennedy gets it.

KENNEDY

How do you know that?

The Glundark smiles.

GLUNDARK

In my dimension, the truth shall out.

The Glundark screams in pain, and flails around aimlessly, in an attempt to get the crossbow out. He lunges for Kennedy.

She effortlessly moves out of the way, and pulls the crossbow out from her bag. She kicks the Glundark in the knee, breaking his leg, and shoots him in the side with a crossbow arrow.

Kennedy grabs him by the top of his head with her right hand, and puts the crossbow back in her bag with her left hand.

KENNEDY

I've never seen you before and now I'm starting to get why that is.

The Glundark opens its mouth, and it's demonic suction pump inches closer to Kennedy's throat.

GLUNDARK

The truth is mine.

Kennedy leaps over the Glundark, landing on the other side. By the time he turns around, she holds the stake in her hand. She slams it into his throat, and kicks him backwards.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The Glundark Demon starts to cough up acidic blood, dissolving itself from the inside out.

KENNEDY
(grins)
A truth demon.

Kennedy shakes her head.

She looks across the graveyard, and sees a small girl (five, maybe six: pretty) looking at her. Kennedy smiles. The girl runs off, scared.

KENNEDY (cont'd)
Yeah. Whatever.

She walks off.

CUT TO:

10 INT. WILLOW AND KENNEDY'S APARTMENT - LOUNGE - LATER 10

We do a 360 spin around Willow (sitting in the meditation position) as she reads from the spell book. We stop on Willow, locked in concentration.

WILLOW
(in Latin)
The ghost who died. The unlawful death. The incorporeal resurrection. The one who came back for a purpose.

She takes a deep breath.

WILLOW (cont'd)
Release her corporeal body from purgatory.
(beat)
Bring her to the light.

A shimmering glow beings to form around the witch as she speaks with more power.

WILLOW (cont'd)
RELEASE...
(beat)
SET FREE...
(beat)
OPEN THE GATES...
(beat)
SOLIDIFY THE ONE THEY CALL....

Willow's eyes go pale white... and she floats three feet above the ground. But her concentration never wavers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW (CONT'D) (cont'd)
RELEASE...
(beat)
I COMMAND THEE...
(beat)
RELEASE!

The spell abruptly ends, leaving Willow sitting there -- confused. She looks down, the glow gone.

WILLOW (cont'd)
Well that's not good.

Willow looks around the surroundings -- but we don't see them.

WILLOW (cont'd)
Where am I?

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

11 EXT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - FRONT GARDEN - DAY 11

It's calm and peaceful, not a soul in sight.

XANDER (V.O.)
That's impossible.

ANDREW (V.O.)
Now who's been naive?

CUT TO:

12 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE 12

The room is set up like a Mini-Watcher's Council. DAWN is reading through Demonic volumes. ANDREW is on the Internet, using the hints Jackson suggested to try and search through the police records for Intel about Susan, and Xander is standing around, looking thoroughly baffled.

XANDER
It makes no sense.
(to Dawn)
How can there be a secret, secret I
tell you, Star Trek club?

ANDREW
The Vulcans -- of which I am a paid
member -- are the pure Star Trek
club. We get all the news two years
before everyone else.

XANDER
It makes no sense.

ANDREW
I saw Nemesis in 2001.

XANDER
What?

ANDREW
I knew its faults two years before
the lower level Trekkies.

Xander is stunned to silence.

XANDER
I think I'm going to go before I
lose my mind.

We TRACK ALONGSIDE Xander as he walks to the lounge door -- --
and STICK with him as he stops.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANYA (O.S)
(quietly)
I thought you already knew that.

Xander turns around and comes face to face with everyone's favorite Casper wannabe.

XANDER
(grins)
Anya. Just the person I wanted to see.

ANYA
Did you go for the job interview?
Cause, if you did, you should've got my advice about the suit. Makes you look like a chubby Mr. White.

XANDER
I didn't take your advice, but I went for the job interview anyway and...
(his phone rings)
Excuse me one sec.

He pulls out his CELL PHONE and brings it up to his head, beginning to speak into it.

XANDER (cont'd)
Hello.
(beat)
Thank you.
(puts phone down)
That was the Smokey and The Bandit construction company.

Andrew and Dawn look up with renewed interest.

XANDER (cont'd)
I got the job.

Anya's face beams with pride, and she turns giddy. She goes to hug Xander, and naturally falls straight through him. Despite the frustration on Anya's face, Xander has to smile.

XANDER (cont'd)
That's my girl.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. CLEVELAND STREET - DAY

13

Kennedy is walking back from her Slayerage duties, looking much the worse for wear and in desperate need of a shower. Xander walks towards her, they share a smile.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER

Hi.

KENNEDY

What are you doing here?

XANDER

Just on my way to see Willow. Going to tell her about my new job.

KENNEDY

You got the job. That's great.

XANDER

What are you doing here?

KENNEDY

Willow's doing a spell to try and solidify Anya. I thought I'd go for a walk, and, you know... Slay things.

XANDER

Sounds like a barrel of fun.

KENNEDY

I did find something interesting out. It turns out that a Glundark Demon can sense the truth.

(off his look)

Okay, maybe not that interesting --

XANDER

How does it... what?

KENNEDY

It knew things I didn't want it to know.

Xander looks at her quizzically.

KENNEDY (cont'd)

Anyway, I better tell the others. I'll see you later okay.

XANDER

Sure.

They go their separate ways.

CUT TO:

14

INT. SHAW RESIDENCE - KITCHEN

14

Buffy speaks on the phone to Dawn.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY
(into phone)
Are you sure?

DAWN (V.O)
Kennedy's description of the Demon
was the same as your one.

BUFFY
I haven't heard about Demon's with
these kind of abilities. Angel
mentioned something about a fortune
telling Demon... The Host, or
something equally bizarre.

DAWN (V.O)
Don't you find it strange that it
could read the truth?

BUFFY
No. I find it strange that it
chased Susan.

DAWN (V.O)
Are you thinking what I'm thinking?

BUFFY
We could use the demon to see if
Giles meant to send Andrew here in
hopes of annoying us?

DAWN (V.O)
Buffy, move on.

BUFFY
Okay, over it. I think we're on the
same wavelength, Dawn, but we have
to know the facts. Get Andrew to
call me when he finds out her
background. How is it going by the
way?

DAWN (V.O)
I have the Demon information
cracked. Apparently it's Dimension
is code for it's property.

BUFFY
Which is?

DAWN (V.O)
The truth. Those demonic suction
pump things you described, which,
by the way: "Ew! Graphic, much?",
are basically truth-extractors.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAWN(cont'd)

They feed off, of the truth of others.

BUFFY

Have you tried calling Giles? Maybe he knows about this kind of Demon.

DAWN (V.O)

Giles wasn't there. His secretary was real snobby --

BUFFY

What about Wesley? He was a poor Watcher, but last time I talked to Angel he had nothing but praise for him. And you know, with the resources those guys have!

DAWN (V.O)

Tried that too. Ended up talking to Harmony for like, ever, and when I woke up she'd hung up on me... the bitch. What about Suzie?

BUFFY

Susan? I think she has a little nugget of truth she doesn't want us to know.

DAWN (V.O)

Yeah.

(beat)

Oh. Xander got the job.

BUFFY

(grins)

That's Xander for you. Always surprising you.

DAWN (V.O)

Yeah. Anyway, got to go. Jody's coming over later on.

Buffy puts the receiver down as Jackson walks into the kitchen, looking straight to her.

JACKSON

Any news?

BUFFY

Yeah. Something about the demon that attacked Susan, it has to do with truth and... I think Susan is hiding something. I'm just not sure what.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

They stare at each other again. We could cut the sexual tension between them with a Butcher Knife.

CUT TO:

15 INT. SHAW RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

15

While Buffy and Jackson steam up the kitchen, Susan sits on the couch. She is watching television as the Six o'clock news Logo appears.

NEWS READER

Today it was announced that the cause of death for local Cleveland resident Jeff Atkins was poisoning. But so far the police have not ruled out the possibility of suicide.

Susan sighs -- somber.

On the TV, a picture of Jeff appears in the top right corner (pre-death of course). He strikes one as a well adjusted, decent looking twenty-three year old.

Susan's eyes turn away from the screen.

CUT TO:

16 INT. WILLOW & KENNEDY'S APARTMENT - LOUNGE

16

Willow gets off the floor, dazed and confused.

WILLOW

What happened?
(feels throat)
Why am I talking like this?

She walks over to the mirror.

WILLOW (cont'd)

Let's just see this...
(looks at reflection)
Holy crap!

Willow falls backwards, landing out of sight of the frame.

She reappears a moment later, bemused. She frantically tries to regain her composure.

WILLOW (cont'd)

What is happening?

Willow looks at her hands.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The color of the scenery has changed, it's toned down, as if all the colors have blended into the dull category. A beat.

WILLOW (cont'd)
I was dead.

On the coffee table, a newspaper lies face down. On the front page is a written copy of the news report from earlier on. Willow's hands yank it out of frame, and scan through the report. When she's finished reading it, she drops the report to the floor.

WILLOW (cont'd)
How did this happen?
(Cheshire Grin)
I came back from the dead.

Close on the newspaper, we're zooming in on Jeff's photograph. A beat. Then --

CUT TO:

17 INT. ATKINS RESIDENCE - DINING ROOM 17

JEFF ATKINS lies on the floor, drool coming out of his mouth, eyes wide open, dead to the world. Above him stand police officers. They snap pictures of him, and take fingerprints.

COP #1
Poor guy.

CUT TO:

18 INT. WILLOW & KENNEDY'S APARTMENT - LOUNGE 18

Willow looks forward. Since that little flashback she has gotten a completely different facial expression. Her face is coiled up in anger.

WILLOW
That bitch killed me.

She boils over in anger, and clenches her hands together as hard as she possibly can.

WILLOW (cont'd)
(angry)
Bitch is gonna pay!

The room starts to shake, much to Willow's surprise. It stops soon after, and Willow stands there, slack-jawed.

WILLOW (cont'd)
I'm a... witch?

She returns to the mirror, checking herself out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW (CONT'D) (cont'd)
 A female... red haired... kinda
 sexy... witch.
 (beat)
 I really don't get this
 resurrection thing.

She paces back and forth.

WILLOW
 I came back for a reason. I just
 need to figure out what it is.
 (beat)
 Like I care. It's vengeance time.

CUT TO:

19 EXT. WILLOW & KENNEDY'S APARTMENT 19

Xander walks along the floor. As he does so, he hums the tune of 'Can't Stop' by the Red Hot Chilli Peppers. He reaches Willow's door and knocks on it twice.

CUT TO:

20 INT. WILLOW & KENNEDY'S APARTMENT - LOUNGE 20

WILLOW
 Revenge...

Willow spins round, and looks at the door. She composes herself, and opens it, revealing Xander.

XANDER
 Willow.

Xander hugs Willow tightly. Willow shoots him a side-glance, and gently pats his back. She pulls away.

WILLOW
 Hey... you...
 (beat)
 What are you doing here?

XANDER
 I came to tell you the good news.

WILLOW
 Yeah?

XANDER
 I got the job.

WILLOW
 The job...?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER
The construction job.

WILLOW
(smiles)
Good for you. Kudos.

She lightly socks Xander in the arm.

XANDER
Yeah. Do you mind if I stay for a
bit? I was thinking major boozin'
it up session.

Xander notices the room is atypically messy.

WILLOW
No... I mean, yes. I'm busy, doing
something involving my... magic.

XANDER
Yeah, the Anya thing. How's it
going?

WILLOW
Anya? And she is...

She turns back to the mirror, looking at the reflection once
again.

WILLOW (cont'd)
(realizing)
I'm a lesbian.

XANDER
Um, yeah. We're over that.

Willow looks around at all the witchcraft items and finally
twigs. She smiles -- happy with herself.

WILLOW
(quickly)
Oh... the spell.

Xander nods.

WILLOW (cont'd)
Something happened. I'm just not
sure what.

XANDER
Are you okay?

WILLOW
What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XANDER

You seem a little different.

WILLOW

Yeah. I'm fine. It's the spell.
It's made me feel a little
different but it's something I
could get used to.

XANDER

Well take it easy. We don't want
Dark Willow back. I don't think I
have enough stories to talk you
down with again.

WILLOW

I will.
(smiles)
Congratulations about the job..

Xander returns her smile.

XANDER

Thanks.

He leaves. Willow breathes a sigh of relief.

WILLOW

Hard to believe I once had feelings
for him.
(quickly)
Okay... that was strange.

She looks around, disturbed.

WILLOW (cont'd)

I guess Ice Queen is still inside
this body... don't worry, Little
Red, once I'm done with the
revenge, you can have your life
back.

CUT TO:

21 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - HALLWAY

21

Dawn opens the front door to reveal Jody, looking as young
and handsome as ever.

DAWN

Hi.

JODY

Hey. Can I come in?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAWN

You're not a vampire, Jody. You're my buddy. You don't need an invite.

Jody smiles and enters.

CUT TO:

22 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

22

Andrew pops his head through the doors, and watches as Dawn and Jody walk up the stairs. Anya walks over to him.

ANYA

Stop drooling Andrew.

ANDREW

Okay, that is getting annoying.

ANYA

Hey. I died for you. A little respect isn't uncommon during that circumstance.

(beat)

Now hack into that database and bring that Demon summoning hussy to orbit.

ANDREW

(off-computer)

Why do you think she summoned the Demon?

ANYA

Hello. Girl-next-door running through a graveyard at night, clothes tattered and body covered in scars is code for 'I'm-A-Big-Slut-Who-Wanted-Some-Demon-Love-But-Couldn't-Handle-It.'

ANDREW

Buffy saved her.

ANYA

From her own urges?

Andrew shakes his head.

ANYA

That's what I never quite understood about humanity. You mostly keep your urges in check. Everyone does it, but no-one talks about it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANDREW
Stuff like that is private.

ANYA
I know... but is anyone really
doing anything that their friends
don't do?

Anya doesn't catch Andrew sheepishly smirk.

CUT TO:

23

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - DAWN'S ROOM

23

Dawn clicks play on the stereo. 'Complicated' by Avril
Lavigne plays. Jody flicks through A Little Book Of Dumb
Questions.

DAWN
You know what would be funny right
now? If we both got up and danced.

Jody smiles at her, but politely shakes his head.

DAWN (cont'd)
Ah, come on.

JODY
I can't dance to this music.

DAWN
It's Avril Lavigne. It's perky, and
bubbly - just like me. Besides,
she's cute: and people say I bear a
resemblance to her.

Jody smirks.

JODY
She's not really my type.

Dawn frowns.

DAWN
Oh. Who is?

Dawn sits on the bed next to him.

JODY
I like people who are funny. People
who don't try so hard to be
attractive. People who I genuinely
think are worth the time to get to
know.

Dawn shoots him a quizzical look.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAWN

People? Can't you be a little more specific?

Long beat.

JODY

I do like you Dawn.

DAWN

I like you too.

JODY

But it seems like we're getting our wires crossed a little bit. I mean, you're cool and everything. You rock, in fact. Like, totally awesome. But... it's just... some people are born with their ideals already in place, y'know?

DAWN

Yeah...
(then)
... no.

JODY

See, here's the thing... there are guys out there who like the cheerleaders. They're like completely falling over themselves to date one. Me? I was never like that and I guess I never will be cos while all eyes were on them, I was checking out the footballers.

Dawn nods her head in understanding, thinking she's got it, until she actually puts two and two together. Her face switches from a smile into pure shock.

She stares at Jody, confused. She laughs a little, thinking he's playing, but catches the straight-laced look on his face. She looks down at the ground, trying to put the entire situation into perspective. She smiles nervously.

DAWN

Wow.
(beat)
Um... okay.

Jody smiles.

JODY

Takes a while.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAWN
To say the least.

Beat.

DAWN (cont'd)
How long have you known? Jody
thinks it over.

JODY
I guess I always have... sounds
lame, I know. That's what they all
say. I never chose it but it's
something I've accepted... it's who
I am.

DAWN
This is going to take some getting
used to.

Jody puts his hand on Dawn's shoulder as she lowers her head.
Then --

DAWN (cont'd)
Okay, I'm over it. So who was your
first crush? It was George Clooney,
right?

JODY
Dayum, girl. How did you know?

DAWN
It's always the G-Man.

Long beat.

JODY
So... we're cool? She puts her hand
on his.

DAWN
We're cool.
(grins)
This doesn't mean you're gonna go
all Just Jack, does it? Cos, he's
great and all, but in small doses --

JODY
I'm more of a Will.

DAWN
So... um...

JODY
You really like Avirl? I figured
you for more of a Britney freak.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

DAWN
That "Oops I Did Him Again"
publicity bandwagon? I was so over
her in preschool.

JODY
(playfully)
Loser.

DAWN
Freak.

JODY
Avril wannabe.

He gently nudges Dawn on the shoulder, they both exchange a smile. Like anything could break their friendship! Then -- Dawn WHACKS him with a pillow!

DAWN
Oh, too slow!

As they play fight on the bed we --

CUT TO:

24 EXT. WILLOW & KENNEDY'S APARTMENT 24

Kennedy walks along the floor, still the worse of wear. She has a concerned look on her face as she approaches Willow's door. She knocks on it twice.

KENNEDY
Willow?

CUT TO:

25 INT. WILLOW & KENNEDY'S APARTMENT - LOUNGE 25

Willow opens the door... ... and Kennedy rushes in, embracing her.

KENNEDY
What caused the accident?
(beat)
Are you okay?

WILLOW
Uh... hey...
(it clicks)
Kennedy.

Kennedy looks at her strangely.

KENNEDY
What's wrong?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW

Nothing.

KENNEDY

There's something different about
you... your eyes...

Willow reaches for a still burning candle.

WILLOW

There isn't.

KENNEDY

Will... the accident. What
happened? We talked about this.
Magic shouldn't be obvious to the
residents. I just had Mrs. Main
tell me about a minor tremor they
had here. Someone could have gotten
hurt.

(beat)

You could have got hurt.

Kennedy is about to touch her shoulder, when Willow brings
down the candle quickly.

Kennedy catches it in her right hand, and looks up at her.

KENNEDY (cont'd)

I'm sorry. Willow isn't taking any
visitors today.

Kennedy pushes Willow back, and crushes the candle wax.

WILLOW

I need vengeance.

Kennedy walks over to Willow. She places her left foot on
Willow's neck, firmly holding her to the floor.

KENNEDY

No. You need to get the hell out of
my girlfriend.

(beat)

And believe me... you really don't
want disagree with me about this.

(beat)

Now who are you?

Willow stares at Kennedy, her eyes growing an intense RED. On
this we...

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

26 EXT. SHAW RESIDENCE - DAY 26

The sun is shining down on the street of Rockwell Avenue. A few kids ride up and down on their scooters.

27 INT. SHAW RESIDENCE - KITCHEN 27

Jackson opens the fridge. He pulls out a carton of milk, and drinks straight from it. Buffy enters. Jackson turns to face her.

BUFFY

Got milk?

He wipes his mouth and smiles.

JACKSON

Anything new?

BUFFY

No. They're working on a way to break through the police records. So far they haven't been able to.

JACKSON

They must have changed the passwords.

(beat)

Standard police procedure.

BUFFY

Is Susan okay?

JACKSON

She's just been there all day.

BUFFY

Do you think she knows something?

JACKSON

I don't know. Even if she does, we don't know what it relates to.

Beat.

JACKSON (cont'd)

Do you think it'll be this real for forever?

BUFFY

Huh?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACKSON

It's a line from a song. Foo
Fighters; Everlong. It's something
I've always been trying to
decipher.

BUFFY

Have you managed it?

JACKSON

I think so.
(turns to her)
I think I love you.

Buffy looks flustered.

BUFFY

Okay?

JACKSON

I think. No, it goes beyond want.
There's this feeling I get when
you're around. It's like, the whole
world just falls away and all I see
is you. No. I'm saying this all
wrong.

Buffy smiles.

JACKSON (cont'd)

I can't get you out of my head.
You're in me.

BUFFY

And you're in me.
(quickly)
Or, you will be... I mean... God.
Nerves, much?

He nears her.

JACKSON

So maybe tonight we could have some
alone time?

BUFFY

You mean...?

JACKSON

(nods)
I mean.

He catches a slight hesitation in her manner.

JACKSON (cont'd)

Don't you feel it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY
It's been a while since...
(blushes)
I'm just trying to work out what's
best for everyone.

Jackson laughs.

BUFFY (cont'd)
What's so funny?

JACKSON
Buffy. Unless you're into some
kinky stuff that I just didn't know
about, this is about us. Me and
you.

Buffy nods.

BUFFY
I get that but, you see, my
boyfriends usually end up either
trying to kill my friends or...
actually, Spike did kill a good
friend of mine... and Angel killed
Jenny.

She stops for a moment, remembering. It still hurts. Jackson
quickly puts his hands on her arms.

JACKSON
I'll never hurt you like that.

BUFFY
You can't know that.

JACKSON
I believe it.

A beat.

BUFFY
Then I do too. They lean in to
kiss.

CUT TO:

28 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

28

Willow has been tied to a chair with strong rope. Kennedy
finishes tying it up. Willow struggles in vain.

WILLOW
Oh come on. Haven't you ever wanted
vengeance?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNEDY

Problem is it doesn't end there...

Xander turns round and faces Willow.

XANDER

... because hate breeds hate.

Everyone looks at him funnily.

XANDER (cont'd)

Hey... aren't I allowed to have a deep-seeded sense of sociopolitical issues?

Dawn walks forward. As she does so, Jody nudges into Andrew. They share warm smiles and knowing glances.

DAWN

Who are you?

WILLOW

As I explained to Bruce Lee over there. My name is Jeff, and I died not long ago.

Andrew picks up the paper and passes it to Dawn.

DAWN

Jeff Atkins?

Willow nods.

DAWN (cont'd)

'Jeff Atkins: a local Cleveland Resident has been formally announced as dying of poison. Family members would not comment, and his girlfriend - whose name we cannot publish - has not, as of yet, been contacted.'

WILLOW

(dismissively)

What a crock!

DAWN

What do you mean?

WILLOW

Reverse the question and change it to this: Why can't she be reached for contact?

DAWN

I don't know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WILLOW
Because she murdered me.

Xander walks forward.

XANDER
That's a pretty harsh accusation,
bub.

Andrew smirks.

XANDER (cont'd)
Got any proof?

WILLOW
The DNA on my tongue. She put the
poison on my tongue while I was
sleeping. I woke up, feeling sick,
and staggered to the living room. I
died on the floor.
(to everyone)
Is that any way to go?

DAWN
So you came back for a reason?

WILLOW
Vengeance.

Anya walks through the wall.

ANYA
Ooh, where?

DAWN
Willow's been possessed, and the
possessor - Jeff - says his
girlfriend poisoned him.

Anya stares intently at Willow.

ANYA
No wonder. He cheated on her.
(to Xander)
Trick of the trade.
(to Willow)
Shame on you.
(beat)
I must say, the job she did doesn't
appear to be very thorough. If my
services were available, I'm sure
we could have thought up a much
more appropriate method of pain and
suffering for you.
(excited)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ANYA(cont'd)

Like letting a Moroch Demon lay its
eggs in your vital organs and
watch, one by one, as they hatch
and --

XANDER

(interrupting)

Let it go, honey.

The Gang stare at her. Xander shakes his head, amused. Andrew begins to type quicker and quicker at the computer. As he does so, he uncovers some interesting background information on Susan.

ANDREW

Guys. I think Susan isn't quite as
innocent as we'd all like to
believe. Take a look at this.

Everyone - except for Willow - hurries to the computer. Willow gradually works out the repercussions of what they said.

Her eyes focus tight. The ropes around her hands fall off her, and land in a heap on the floor. She climbs off the chair, and walks towards them. They turn to her.

KENNEDY

Oh, shi --

With a brush of her hand, Willow sends Kennedy flying across the room.

She smashes through a pillar, and lands in a heap of wood. Dawn is pushed backwards, sending her sprawling over the couch. Andrew and Jody are sent flying into the cupboard, and the door is locked firmly shut.

Xander is sent slamming into the wall, and lands in a heap on the floor. Willow next turns to Anya.

ANYA

It's time like these I love being a
ghost.

(beat)

You can't hurt me.

WILLOW

Maybe. But if you know this witch
as much as you think you do then
you'll know she's extremely
powerful. I'm extremely powerful.
So you'd better not piss me off.

ANYA

Oh, what are you gonna do? Torture
me with bunnies until I...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ANYA(cont'd)

(realizing)

Damnit!

(beat)

I won't tell. You deserved to die
for your crimes. You cheated on
her!

WILLOW

(taunts)

Bunnies...

ANYA

She's ten houses down the street,
just don't play the bunny card!

Willow nods and walks out. Xander slowly gets to his feet.

XANDER

Anya?

He falls over again.

ANYA

It's times like these that I hate
being a ghost.

Anya rushes over to Xander. He looks up at her, hurt.

XANDER

You told her where Buffy was.

ANYA

Yeah.

(beat)

Don't worry. Buffy is strong and
masculine. She can take care of her-
self.

XANDER

Remember the last time they fought?
Beat.

ANYA

And we're back to liking the ghost
part.

She smiles.

CUT TO:

29

INT. SHAW RESIDENCE - KITCHEN

29

Jackson and Buffy are kissing away, without a care in the
world.

CUT TO:

30

INT. SHAW RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

30

Susan is watching television -- still. Suddenly the front windows smash, and glass flies everywhere. Susan leaps off the couch in terror, and screams.

Buffy and Jackson burst in from the kitchen. Floating in the air is Willow -- an evil look in her eye. She is staring straight at Susan.

WILLOW
Hello lover. Miss me?

SLOW-MOTION SEQUENCE

-- Willow firing a blast of mystical energy. -- Buffy running into frame. -- Susan crying. -- Buffy diving onto Susan, and knocking her out of frame.

RETURN TO NORMAL

as the blast blows up the television. Buffy picks up Susan, and almost throws her to Jackson.

BUFFY
Get her out of here. Jackson heeds the advice.

Buffy turns back to Willow, and is nailed in the chest with a blast of mystical energy. The force of the blow causes her to crash into the wall. Buffy slumps on the floor, momentarily winded.

BUFFY (cont'd)
Willow? What hell is wrong with you?

WILLOW
I'm sorry. Willow's sold up. Jeff's moved in.

Buffy's confused.

BUFFY
You... what are you?

WILLOW
I'm dead. That bitch killed me. Now, it's payback time.

Willow fires another blast of mystical energy. Buffy gets up just in time, and leaps over it. While the door smokes she runs at Willow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Buffy goes for a flying kick, but Willow deftly side steps. She grabs Buffy around the neck, and tries to choke the life out of her.

WILLOW (cont'd)

All I want is vengeance. I have a right to it!

BUFFY

Sorry. Can't help you.

Buffy slams her head forward. It slams into Willow's with a resounding THUD, and she loosens her grip. Buffy pulls herself and Willow forward, and leaps off the wall in a somersault motion.

She lands on the other side, and kicks her Wicca friend in the back. Willow slams into the wall. Buffy darts at Willow. Willow spins round, and raises her hand in the air.

She pulls Buffy a few feet above the ground, and swings her hand round. Buffy crashes into the wall, and bounces off the floor.

WILLOW

I don't need your help.

(off-hands)

I have the power.

Buffy jolts up, and runs along the wall. She NAILS Willow in the face with a flying kick. Willow reels backwards. Buffy goes for some blows on Willow. She counters them all, and grabs Buffy's hand. She hurls Buffy through the glass door.

CUT TO:

31 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

31

All the others are recuperating. Andrew is the only one doing something. He is ploughing through Occult Texts online to look for a release spell. He perks up when he finds one,

On the computer monitor, "THE OSGAPHIA SPELL" is clearly highlighted.

ANDREW

Guys. Buckle up.

CUT TO:

32 INT. SHAW RESIDENCE - DINING ROOM

32

Buffy ROLLS along the floor and jumps to her feet, seeing Willow HOVER in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW
I never realized... how much power
she has... it's mine to wield now.

BUFFY
It's not yours.
(beat)
Willow, I know you're in there. I
know you can stop this.

Willow hesitates.

WILLOW
Oh, right. Why don't you start
telling me you love me? No, wait,
Xander's been there, told it over
and over.

Buffy curves a smile.

BUFFY
So she is still in there.

WILLOW
It makes no difference.

BUFFY
Well, we know not to kill you now.

WILLOW
"We?"

Her eyes look past Willow to see Jackson. He TACKLES her with
curtains, obviously pulled down for this task. They WRESTLE
on the floor for a moment but suddenly --

There is a blast of light, and Jackson and Buffy are THROWN
against the walls, knocked almost unconscious. Willow STANDS,
a dark GLOW. Her eyes formulating a sinister RED.

She starts towards Buffy but stops -- -- her hand TURNS to
see Susan watching from the doorway.

WILLOW (cont'd)
Found you!

CUT TO:

33 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

33

Xander, Dawn, Andrew, and Kennedy are standing in a CIRCLE.
Anya is watching from afar.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAWN

Gods of exile I summon you. Take
back what was once yours, reclaim
your stolen, and free the Sister of
the Circle. I command you to free
her.

A beat.

ANYA

"Sister of the Circle?"

XANDER

Anya!

DAWN

Bring down your magicks and take
the soul belonging to your realms.

CUT TO:

34 EXT. SHAW RESIDENCE - STREET

34

Susan RUNS out the front door and into the street, trying to
get away. But it's to no avail. WILLOW appears right in front
of her, a smile on her lips.

WILLOW

Can't run. Can't hide.

SUSAN

Please...

WILLOW

What? Don't kill you like you did
me?

SUSAN

Jeff, I loved you.

WILLOW

Didn't seem that way when you put
down my dinner and watched as the
poison took my life. In fact, I
think I remember a smile coming
from you when I was gasping for
life.

SUSAN

You cheated on me! I loved you and
you betrayed me!

WILLOW

I didn't deserve to die.

(beat)

You do, though.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Willow's hand GRABS Susan by the neck and pins her against a lamppost, squeezing the life out of her. Susan's flesh begins to go a very dead-like blue until -- -- Willow is THROWN back by an unseen force. She SLIDES along the pathway and CRASHES into the fence.

Jackson RUSHES to Susan's aid as he and Buffy come out of the house. Buffy looks at Willow, who's eyes have returned to their normal status. She looks afraid, TREMBLING.

WILLOW (cont'd)

B- Buffy?

A moment before Willow breaks down in TEARS. Buffy doesn't hesitate, she takes her friend in her arms and comforts her as the rest of the Scooby Gang come running down the street. Kennedy looks at them, sighs.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

35 INT. SHAW RESIDENCE - BEDROOM - NIGHT

35

Buffy is sitting on the bed, looking out as the moon glares through the window. She turns to the door, seeing Jackson walk in with a couple of mugs of coffee. He sets them down and joins her on the bed.

BUFFY

You okay?

JACKSON

Just dandy.

BUFFY

And Susan?

JACKSON

I took her down to the station and
she confessed it all.

(beat)

I don't know who to feel sorry for.

BUFFY

Willow. She didn't ask for any of
that but their sins brought it upon
her. She's the one I feel for.

Jackson's hand moves onto hers.

JACKSON

I was kinda hoping I was the one
you'd feel for.

BUFFY

(smiles)

I will.

JACKSON

When?

Buffy moves closer to him and they KISS. It takes a moment,
then they ROLL over onto the bed, getting into the PASSION.
Buffy is on top of him, her legs round his groin.

JACKSON (cont'd)

So now then, huh?

They KISS again.

DISSOLVE TO:

36

INT. WILLOW & KENNEDY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM

36

Willow is wrapped up in bed, looking pale. She's staring out the window, lost in her own thoughts. Kennedy ENTERS with a mug of tea and passes it to her, taking her place next to her.

KENNEDY

Rough day.

WILLOW

Yeah.

KENNEDY

Not your fault.

Willow nods but a tear falls.

KENNEDY (cont'd)

Will, it's not.

WILLOW

I know, it's just... it's proved it. That the darkness is still there, that it can be tapped into at any moment. I don't wanna be like that again.

(beat)

I just wanna be Willow.

KENNEDY

You are. You know, I've seen a lot of things since being with you, gone through stuff I wouldn't have imagined a few years back... and I wouldn't change it for the world.

(beat)

Will, I'll never let you lose yourself. I love you.

WILLOW

I know.

Pause. Willow turns over, leaving Kennedy to STARE after her. Finally she gets into the covers and wraps her arms around her.

KENNEDY

I don't know what I'd do if I didn't have you.

WILLOW

You'd be safe.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNEDY

Yeah, cos Slayers are never hunted
by demons and vamps or the forces
of darkness.

WILLOW

You'd be safe from me.

Kennedy lifts her head as Willow turns to face her. They both
look real serious.

KENNEDY

Are you breaking up with me?

WILLOW

No, God, no. Kennedy, I need you.
But I just wonder if being with me
is what's best for you.

KENNEDY

Well don't. I know what's best for
me. You're the one I think about
everyday. You're the one I love.

WILLOW

Promise?

KENNEDY

You shouldn't even have to ask.

They KISS as we...

DISSOLVE TO:

37 EXT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - PORCH

37

Anya stands, GAZING up at the blanket of stars surrounding
her. She doesn't turn as the door opens. Xander moves to her,
standing right beside her.

XANDER

Something up?

ANYA

No.

XANDER

C'mon, Anya. I know you. A beat.

ANYA

I'm scared, Xander.

XANDER

Of what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANYA

You. Us.

XANDER

Why?

ANYA

I don't know if there's any room
for me in your life anymore. You've
got this whole new life you're
heading towards and I don't think
I'm gonna fit in.

XANDER

What? You are. You're fitting.

ANYA

I'm a ghost.

(beat)

Well, there's a line that really
isn't something you'd use
everyday... unless you're me.

XANDER

Anya, I love you. I always have,
since the moment... when Andrew
told me about what happened to you
back in Sunnydale, I put on a brave
face because I knew there was
nothing I could do. But inside, it
tore me apart. An, I've been so
lost without you.

ANYA

And now you're finding your way.

XANDER

Because of you. You remember that
story about the three wise men who
follow the star?

ANYA

The Bible.

XANDER

It's like, I'm a less-wise-man
following that star. And you're it.
You're my guiding light.

(beat)

I wouldn't have had the strength or
will to go to that interview today
if I didn't know you were around.

Anya turns to him, teary.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANYA

I hurt you, Xander. When I slept with Spike, I hurt you... and although I didn't mean to do that, there was still vengeance in my mind. That can't be good. I can't be good for you.

XANDER

We fit together.

ANYA

What?

XANDER

We said it before. We fit together. There's no-one else in this world that I could imagine being with... okay, maybe Angelina Jolie.

Anya lets out a slight chuckle.

ANYA

She's a demon.

XANDER

What?

ANYA

Lips like that? They've gotta be used for something.

Xander raises his eyebrows - Anya gets it, but her smile fades back to the somber look before.

ANYA

What are we gonna do?

XANDER

Live. Or, whatever. Does it matter? Can't we just take each day as it comes?

ANYA

I guess. If you want.

XANDER

When did you become so selfless?

ANYA

Right about the time you became so responsible.

XANDER

I wish I could kiss you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ANYA
Me too. Uh, kiss you.

We ZOOM OUT, still fixed on them standing on the Porch,
staring at the sky.

DISSOLVE TO:

38 INT. PEACHY'S CAFE

38

Andrew's leaning on the counter, staring into space, bored
out of his mind. "Here Without You" by Three Doors Down
begins to play through the scene.

Andrew looks to the window and sees the familiar face of
Jody. Jody stops and looks to see Andrew. There's eye contact
for a long time. He moves to the door and enters. Jody walks
to the counter.

JODY
Hey, cowboy.

ANDREW
Hey.

JODY
You wanna come for a walk?

ANDREW
I can't. I'm working.

JODY
Is that the only reason?

Andrew hesitates, looks at the complete lack of customers,
then back to Jody.

ANDREW
I don't... a quick one.

JODY
(teasing)
Slow down, Andy, we're only going
for a walk.

They smile, moving to the door. Jody walks through it as we
HANG on Andrew for a moment as he locks the door and STARES
at his own reflection, thinking.

39 EXT. PEACHY'S CAFE - STREET

39

Andrew and Jody begin to walk but the music sounds out their
words. As they cross the road we catch a glimpse of someone
else --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dawn sees them walking together. There's a long beat, then a slight smile forms on her face. She STARES after them for a while, then continues on her way, wrapping her arms around herself.

DISSOLVE TO:

40 INT. SHAW RESIDENCE - BEDROOM 40

The music is now all we hear as we see Jackson and Buffy in bed, taking their relationship further. It's a big contrast from her previous one... it's GENTLE and TRUE.

DISSOLVE TO:

41 INT. WILLOW & KENNEDY'S APARTMENT - BEDROOM 41

It seems love is all around as Willow and Kennedy EMBRACE, kissing, and touching. Willow pulls back and GAZES into Kennedy's eyes, a hand lifting to wipe a strand of hair away.

She TENDERLY kisses her. Kennedy SMILES.

DISSOLVE TO:

42 EXT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - PORCH 42

Xander and Anya stand apart but are closer together than they've ever been. It's love, written all over their faces. There's moments when they take their eyes off the sky to look at each other - an exchange of solidarity.

DISSOLVE TO:

43 EXT. CLEVELAND STREETS 43

The darkness is beginning to get lighter as the morning looms. The camera looks back at Dawn as she walks through the streets, a comforting smile on her face, the music still carrying through.

She stops and takes a seat on a bench outside "CONNEX," the cyber cafe. She curls up and rests her head on her knees.

DISSOLVE TO:

CLOSE ON: BUFFY

She's beginning to STIR and as her eyes opens, a smile broadens on her face. PULL BACK to reveal:

44 INT. SHAW RESIDENCE - BEDROOM - MORNING 44

The light shines through the window as Buffy looks next to her... but there's no-one there. Her body shoots up as the music fades into the background. Her eyes scan the room.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY
(calls)
Jackson? Are you...

Nothing. Her eyes lower in doubt and confusion. On this we...

BLACK OUT.

END OF SHOW