

**BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER**

"Beneath The Surface"

by  
Joel R. Marshall

TEASER

FADE IN:

1                   EXT. CABIN - LAKE EERIE - NIGHT                   1

The wind slightly blows across the snow-capped treetops as the moon glimmers down on the lake below. The night sky is lit with stars and a blanket of black cascades across.

In the middle of this tranquil state of bliss is a lone CABIN, chimney in full use, provides a aura of pure heaven for anyone.

YOUNG WOMAN (O.S.)  
We need to take the dog out.

YOUNG MAN (O.S.)  
But it's cold.

2                   INT. CABIN - NIGHT                   2

A YOUNG COUPLE (20's) throw on their coats, and hat as their DOG stands idly around with a TOY in its mouth.

YOUNG WOMAN  
Do you really want to go around the  
cabin cleaning up his sh-

YOUNG MAN  
Where are my gloves. Have you seen  
my gloves?

They lift up various objects around the living quarters. The Young Woman finds them and picks them up.

YOUNG WOMAN  
They're right here.

She flaps them around seductively. She licks her lips as she sashays towards him.

YOUNG WOMAN (cont'd)  
You owe me one.

The Young Man smirks and walks over to her, grabs the gloves and leans into her. They kiss passionately. The Dog comes between them. The couple acknowledges the dog.

YOUNG MAN  
If we didn't have to walk this dog,  
I'd have you in that bed right now.

YOUNG WOMAN  
It's our honeymoon. We have all  
week to be in that bed. Come on.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The three walk out.

3

EXT. WOODS - LAKE EERIE - NIGHT

3

The Dog spiritedly wags about, playing with the snow and what not. The Young Man throws his arm around his wife and they take off down the path.

YOUNG WOMAN

I can't believe we're finally married.

He kisses her on the cheek.

YOUNG MAN

I told you I'd get you one way or the other.

YOUNG WOMAN

Yeah I was thinking more like impressing me with gifts or a trip somewhere. Not marrying me.

YOUNG MAN

Okay fine, I'll take it back right now and give you a box of chocolates instead.

The Young Woman playfully pushes him away. They squirm with each other. They don't notice that something has caught the dog's attention.

The dog perks up its ears, turns its head this way and that. It sniffs the ground, curious as all heck. The dog looks up at the couple but they are too into themselves to worry. The dog runs off into the woods barking.

YOUNG MAN (cont'd)

Jonah, get back here!  
(to wife)  
Be right back.

He takes off after the dog. The Young Woman is left alone.

YOUNG WOMAN

Don't leave me alone!

She rushes after them. She beats through the branches and broken stems of bushes.

YOUNG WOMAN (cont'd)

Charlie! Jonah!

In the distance, the Young Woman can hear the dog bark and the Man shout.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

YOUNG WOMAN (cont'd)  
Slow down you guys!

In fact she slows down to a near stop. She perks her ears and listens.

Silence.

YOUNG WOMAN (cont'd)  
Charlie?

She surveys her surroundings. First she's a little amused but then as she slowly furthers herself into the woods the more and more agitated she gets.

YOUNG WOMAN (cont'd)  
This isn't funny anymore.

She continues her search through the woods and comes to a clearing. LAKE EERIE lays out before her. Immediately she knows something isn't right.

YOUNG WOMAN (cont'd)  
Charlie?

Nothing. She does a once around and comes to a stop facing the lake. Broken chunks of ice floats about, the freezing water beneath is still.

Then something strange happens. It ripples.

Her face contorts to confusion. The ripples become rougher and rougher.

Like a bat out of hell, a CREATURE, with slimy, scaly skin and gills on the neck with a grotesque face, the arms are attached to fins and the feet and hands are webbed, leaps out from the water and slams into the Young Woman.

Before she has a chance to scream the Creature is on her and bites into her jugular. In the lake, Charlie's body as well as the dog's float, atop.

The water turns red, staining every white thing in sight as the Creature drags her back beneath the surface, and we:

**FADE TO BLACK.**

**END OF TEASER**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

4

ANDREW and ANYA stand before JACKSON as he sleeps on the couch. Their faces just millimeters from his. The two look at each other, scheming a plan.

ANDREW

Do you think he'll remember this  
when he wakes up?

ANYA

I don't know. That's why we need to  
find out. Do it.

ANDREW

OK.

Andrew lifts up a BUCKET of water, pauses for a second. Looks at Anya, she excitedly shakes her head. He tips the bucket--

SPLASH!

Jackson's face is soaked. He jumps up and:

JACKSON

What the hell!

Anya and Andrew book it out of there. Anya disappears through a wall, Andrew right behind her and slams into it. He panics and looks for another way out. The bucket in his hand flings this way and that as he doesn't know what to do with it and doesn't know where to go. Jackson comes after him.

JACKSON (cont'd)

Why'd you do that?

ANDREW

She made me do it. I had no choice.  
Please. Don't hurt me. Just think,  
you won't remember this. No memory,  
remember?

Andrew cowers down the wall and balls up into fetal position.

ANDREW (cont'd)

In the name of the Father, the Son  
and the Holy moley he's gonna kill  
me.

Andrew covers his head ready for the first blow. Jackson bends down and picks him up by his shirt.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACKSON  
I have amnesia, Andrew. That  
doesn't mean I instantly forget  
things from now on.

Andrew stops fidgeting and opens an eye.

ANDREW  
Oh. Yeah. Sorry.

Jackson lets him go. Andrew's relieved.

BUFFY (O.S.)  
What's going on?

Jackson and Andrew face BUFFY. She eyes how wet Jackson is.  
The bucket and Andrew, cowering again.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
Hey!

Andrew darts out of there. Buffy approaches.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
Are you okay?

JACKSON  
Yeah. I'm fine.

BUFFY  
You look wet.

JACKSON  
It's a new look.

She takes him by the hand and leads him to the couch. They  
sit. Buffy jumps up and looks at her spot on the couch. It's  
drenched with water. She sits on the other side of him.

BUFFY  
I'm gonna kill them.

They stare at each other for a moment, bashful-like.

JACKSON  
I slept like a baby last night. No  
dreams, no weird images. Just empty  
sleep.  
(beat)  
It was great.

BUFFY  
That's nice. Been worried about you  
with the sleep.

She reaches over and touches his hand.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JACKSON

Thanks. I just wish I knew what's wrong with me.

BUFFY

There's nothing wrong with you, just a mental block. And who hasn't got one of them?

JACKSON

But... a lightening bolt brought me back! Something happened and it's really got me pissed that I don't know why.

BUFFY

Hey, you're talking to the Slayer here. I had no idea when I became the Chosen One what my life was going to turn into. Just learn to move on with it. Don't go against it. It will win every time. Believe me, I've tried.

He ponders this for a moment.

JACKSON

That's some good advice.

BUFFY

I'll send an invoice.

They chuckle.

5 INT. XANDER'S ROOM - SAME

5

XANDER lays on his bed staring off into space. He turns on his side and looks at a portrait of him and Anya - the once happy couple. He reaches for the frame and grazes his fingers along Anya's face. He smirks.

XANDER

(to picture)

I can still feel you.

ANYA (O.S.)

Yeah? Well I don't.

Xander jumps up with a YELL. He stands on the other side of the bed, shocked to see Anya in his room.

XANDER

How long have you been listening?

ANYA

Long enough.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER

You can't just creep up on people.  
It's... creepy. And not fair. And  
it violates a persons right to  
priva-

ANYA

Oh ,shut up you big dope.

Xander cools down and walks over to the window. He peers out,  
looking beyond anything his eyes fall upon. Anya's face  
exhibits her longing for him. Xander looks her way and:

XANDER

I miss it.

ANYA

What?

XANDER

Your touch.

Anya liked hearing that and smiles.

XANDER (cont'd)

It's like, I know that we can't  
physically touch each other and I  
know Will and Dawnie are trying to  
figure a way out to get you solid  
or whatever. But it's just not  
happening fast enough. I need to  
touch you now. I need to have you  
wrapped in my arms. To feel your  
lips again. Just to even have you  
hit me because I'm being stupid or  
something.

ANYA

God! See.

Anya throws her hands up and stomps her feet.

XANDER

Okay, what's with the fit? I would  
think that you would feel -

ANYA

That's just it. I don't want these  
feelings. You and me will never  
happen again. I told you Xander,  
you need to move on. Forget about  
me. Be a man damnit!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XANDER

Kinda hard with you here. But, not the man part, the part you being here to forget about.

ANYA

I tried to get out of here. I was half way out the city and BAM! I'm back in this God-forsaken house.

XANDER

Nice to know that you miss me too.

ANYA

(voice starts cracking)

Yeah I don't miss you Xander Harris. I don't miss you. I don't -

Anya tears up. Xander reaches for her. Anya steps back, shooing him away.

ANYA (cont'd)

See. You can't even comfort me. It's stupid, Xander. What kind of a relationship would we have, huh? What, are we gonna pretend to have sex?

XANDER

We should try and figure -

ANYA

Stop it. I can't handle this anymore.

Anya runs off, past a wall. Xander now stands alone.

6

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

6

WILLOW and DAWN are at it with the books and the researching. Dawn is just about to plant her face in a book while Willow punches away at the computer. Both ladies are very tired.

WILLOW

You know what I was thinking -

DAWN

That we should stop now before our eyeballs fall out.

WILLOW

Yuppers.

They get up from their posts and stretch their bodies like they never have before.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAWN

How about some cereal with a bowl  
of ice cream chased down with a cup  
of coffee?

They head out of the room.

WILLOW

Ooo, can I have hot cocoa with the  
little tiny marshmallows instead?  
The real ones. The dried freeze  
ones are kinda sick.

They head into the:

7

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - KITCHEN. CONTINUOUS

7

Dawn starts at the items on their "wake me up" meals. Willow  
sits at the table, exhausted.

DAWN

You know, if Giles were here, he'd  
totally have a spell or something  
for Anya.

WILLOW

I know. It's so hard. I mean, I can  
find demons and cast spells to  
almost end the world but I can't  
find a simple solution on how to  
get Anya solid again. It should be  
easy.

DAWN

Yeah and watch the answer be right  
under our nose.

They chuckle.

WILLOW

Or even be something really simple.  
Like, I don't know...

Anya at that moment in a depressive state walks in, head  
drooped and arms crossed.

DAWN

Hey Anya. How you feeling?

ANYA

Why do you people keep asking me  
that? I have no feelings. I don't  
care about you. You guys are  
annoying and too emotional. And I  
hate that I'm stuck here.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANYA(cont'd)

It's like in that movie where Michael Keaton was harassing the dead couple in their house after they stupidly crashed their car over the bridge cause a dumb dog got in their way. Run it over!

(Willow didn't like hearing that)

And they came back and thought they were alive but they were really dead. And another couple moved in with some hideous looking girl. And made the adults dance to that dumb song.

WILLOW

You mean Beetlejuice?

ANYA

Yeah. This house, is my Beetlejuice and I'm Wynona Ryder. Desperate to end it all. I'd rather face that ugly worm then deal with feelings.

WILLOW

Well you're doing a great job dealing with the feeling of anger.

ANYA

Cause it's my favorite right next to vengeance.

She storms out of there.

DAWN

Well she's doing better today then yesterday. She didn't pretend to beat us up.

WILLOW

I wonder how Xander took it?

DAWN

Is it me or is everyone having couples' issues?

WILLOW

(proudly)

Kennedy and I don't.

Dawn finishes preparing their dishes and walks over to the table. She hands Willow her share of the food and they munch away.

DAWN

Well good for you and Kennedy. You gals are the coolest.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAWN(cont'd)

I wish I had a girlfriend. I mean not a girlfriend like that. I want a girlfriend that's well, a guy. Kennedy is so sweet and tough at the same time. Two traits a guy should have. Sucks that a woman has to carry that burden too. Willow chuckles.

WILLOW

What about Jody? He seems totally dreamy.

DAWN

Oh yeah. He's a total Brad with those hypnotizing eyes and that cute Tom Cruise smile. Oh, and don't get me started with his Ryan Seacrest hair.

WILLOW

Okay Pop Idol Queen. I get it, he's hot. So why don't you go for him? Girls do ask guys out all the time, you know.

DAWN

I know but I can't.

WILLOW

Why not? What, is he gay or something?

Dawn chokes on her food and nearly spits it out.

DAWN

Uhh, no. He, um, has very strict catholic parents.

WILLOW

Bummer.

DAWN

Yeah well...

She throws a spoonful of food in her mouth.

WILLOW

After this, we're back on those books.

Dawn whimpers.

8

EXT. PARK - DAY

8

Just like out of a movie, the snow blankets the fields of the park, scattered people walk their dogs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A family here and there tread along gleefully. JODY sits idly on a bench as he watches the people go by. Soon it's just him and the quietness of the park.

He looks down one side of the park and then looks down the other. No one in sight. He checks his watch and patiently waits. He twiddles his thumbs. Hums something that bares no resemblance to any song.

ANDREW pops up from behind the bench, Jody turns around startled.

JODY  
Geez. You scared me.

ANDREW  
Did anybody see me?

JODY  
You're hiding. Who's gonna see you?

Andrew wears all white gear including sunglasses and a hat. He comes around the bench and sits down next to Jody all paranoid-like.

ANDREW  
I can't believe I agreed to do this.

Jody wraps his arm around Andrew's shoulders.

JODY  
Oh lighten up will ya. There's no one here.

Jody leans in and sneaks a kiss. Andrew hesitates, his eyes wide open checking to see if anyone sees them. Soon he falls into the kiss. Andrew jumps out of his seat, startling Jody again.

ANDREW  
What am I doing?

JODY  
Enjoying it I hope.

ANDREW  
Oh yeah. It's nice. The kissing. But I never thought of myself as gay. Just a sensitive, very well dressed, very handsome guy who is confused about how I'm feeling right now. Oh and I like to wear cologne. You know those little samples that you get at the mall. Those are cool.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Jody stands up and walks towards him but Andrew takes a step back.

ANDREW (cont'd)  
What are you doing?

JODY  
Gonna kiss you again.

Andrew holds his hand out to stop him.

ANDREW  
Let me say something.

Jody stops and waits for what Andrew has to say. Andrew trails off into some place only he can see. After a moment Jody snaps his fingers in front of Andrew's face.

JODY  
Hel-lo.

Andrew comes back and looks at Jody. He smiles but not too sure if he's smiling at Jody or where he went in his head.

ANDREW  
That was a happy place.

JODY  
(smiles)  
Yeah. So what were you going to say?

ANDREW  
About what?

JODY  
Are you okay?

ANDREW  
Yeah, why?

JODY  
Stop answering with a question.

ANDREW  
What are you talking about?

Jody grabs Andrew by the arms.

JODY  
Okay let's start over.

Jody leans in for another kiss.

ANDREW  
Stop. I have to say something.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Jody can't win. He steps away and readies himself again for Andrew.

ANDREW (cont'd)  
You know when Richard Gere couldn't  
decided if he wanted Julia Roberts  
to stay or go because of what her  
job is, in Pretty Woman?

JODY  
(wondering where this is  
going)  
Yeah?

ANDREW  
Well that's how I feel right now. I  
don't know if I like this because I  
really am gay or because you're  
like the first person EVER to show  
interest in me.

JODY  
You mean no one's ever told you how  
hot you are?

Andrew giggles and smiles like a shy little girl.

ANDREW  
You think I'm hot?

JODY  
Yeah. You're like the best thing to  
happen to Cleveland since, I don't  
know... the point is, you're cute.  
I like you. And from the way you  
kiss me, you like me too.

Andrew contorts his face that acknowledges Jody's statement  
to be true. They look at each other.

Andrew throws himself on top of Jody and they fall into a  
thick blanket of snow. They make out.

KENNEDY jogs down the pathway of the park. She has her  
headphones on, warm jogging gear and approaches the two guys.  
She doesn't even notice them. She jogs right by the guys and  
continues on her way.

ANDREW (O.S.)  
What cologne are you wearing?

CUT TO:

Dream sequence:

9

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

9

EVIL PRESENCE - P.O.V

It's chasing a set of FEET as they flee through wheat fields, heavy breathing is heard. Everything around is overgrown and not manicured. This Presence is close on the person's heels.

The person, a young girl about six or so falls into view she screams. She's quick to jump up so we do not get a good look at her face. The Presence nearly nips her feet. The Little Girl runs amuck, pushing her way through the field.

She gets more and more lost as she tries to distance herself from the Presence. She trips and falls again. The Presence creeps up on her and soon on top of her.

CUT TO BLACK.

In QUICK FLASHES of SCREAMS AND VISIONS: - BEAM OF LIGHT flows from out of a persons mouth - What looks to be some kind of ritual. - Someone fights with this Evil Presence - Some of the Scoobies are in a dilemma. Not too sure what but it's not good - Various shots of other creepy, evil things. People dying, power forces, all flashing before our eyes.

In a cloud of confusion and visions it comes to a climatic end with us - Staring at the Little Girl's back. She turns around to reveal it to be EMMILY. She reaches her hand out to someone we cannot see.

EMMILY (V.O.)  
(haunting voice)  
I will show you.

PERSON'S P.O.V

The Person reaches for her hand and allows her to take him away. Emmily takes him deeper into the woods. They stop. Emmily turns around, ugly rotten teeth, skin gray and eyes white, and attacks.

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

10

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

10

Jackson shoots up from the couch. Sweat percolates on his forehead and his breathing is labored. He shakes his head and gets up to stretch his body. The doorbell rings. No one answers. Someone knocks on the door. Still no one answers. Jackson walks out of the living room and into the:

11

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS

11

JACKSON  
Guys.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He checks into any room he comes across as he heads for the front door. The doorbell rings a few more times. He stops at the stairs.

JACKSON (cont'd)  
Buffy? Want me to answer it?

More knocking and ringing.

JACKSON (cont'd)  
Guys?

He continues down the hallway and to the front door. He reaches for the door knob and turns it. The door swings open and standing before him is GILES. He is in mid knock.

GILES  
Oh hello. Is this the Summers residence?

JACKSON  
Yes. Who are you?

GILES  
Rupert Giles.  
(smiles)  
You must be Jackson.

Giles holds out a hand for a shake. Jackson grabs him by the shirt, yanks him into the house and slams him up against the wall. Jackson lays his forearm on top of Giles' chest.

JACKSON  
Who are you? How do you know my name?

Giles is mortified.

**BLACK OUT.**

**END OF ACT ONE**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

12 EXT. STREETS - LATE AFTERNOON 12

Anya wanders the streets holding herself as if she's cold. She passes by a couple that seem to enjoy each other very much. They notice her and smile.

ANYA  
Yeah. I'd just love to punch all  
your teeth in.

Their smiles disappear and they rush off.

ANYA (cont'd)  
(to self)  
Stupid happy people.  
(whiny)  
Oh look at us, we're a happy couple  
that likes to have lots and lots of  
sex. God, get me outta here. With  
their touchy feelings.

She steps off the sidewalk and into the street. She slips on a sheet of ice and falls to the ground.

ANYA (cont'd)  
Son of a -

She picks herself up and dusts off broken pieces of broken tree limbs off her knee. She does a double take and looks around.

13 EXT. WOODS - LAKE EERIE - SAME 13

ANYA  
What the hell?

She's in the middle of the woods. Nothing but bare trees and lots of snow. Anya walks around as she grows more and more confused.

ANYA (cont'd)  
How did I get here?

She digs further and further into the woods. She comes to a clearing and before her is Lake Eerie. Now she's really confused.

14 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - DINNING ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON 14

Giles and Jackson sit at the table across from each other. They are a little uncomfortable right now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACKSON

I'm sorry for nearly choking you to death.

GILES

Oh that's quite alright.

(more odd silence)

Oh, I'm sorry that I kicked you in the groin but, you were choking me.

JACKSON

Don't worry about it.

(to self)

I think I'll still be able to have kids.

GILES

I'm sorry. I didn't catch that.

JACKSON

Nothing.

Another moment of oddness.

GILES

So the gang isn't here I see.

JACKSON

I would assume so, yes.

GILES

And what is it that you do again?

JACKSON

I'm a Realtor.

GILES

Ah yes. Very nice.

JACKSON

I got Buffy this house. Of course that was before I knew it was, whatever, and that she is a Slayer and her good friend is a witch and they have a ghost that can annoy just about the hell out of anyone.

GILES

Ah yes Anya. No one does it best. At the annoying.

JACKSON

You got that right.

They both go to say something but stop short.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JACKSON (cont'd)  
You first.

GILES  
What are your intentions with  
Buffy?

JACKSON  
I'm not sure I understand your  
question.

GILES  
She maybe a Slayer but she's still  
very much a vulnerable woman. She's  
had her share of heart breaks and I  
just want to make sure that your  
intentions with her romantically -

BUFFY (O.S.)  
Hello? Jackson? You here?

The two guys stand.

JACKSON  
I'm in here.

A door closes and footsteps echo through the hallway. Buffy enters to see Giles and Jackson there. Giles and Buffy warmly smile at one another.

BUFFY  
(pleasantly surprised)  
Oh my God, Giles!

She goes over and they embrace tightly. They let go.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
What are you doing here?

She taps him on the arm. Giles winces and rubs it.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
Sorry.

GILES  
It's alright. There's been a lot of  
that lately.

BUFFY  
(grabs Giles' hand)  
Oh I'm sorry. Manners. Giles, this  
is Jackson.  
(she grabs Jackson by the  
hand)  
Jackson, this is Giles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

She brings their hands together and they shake.

GILES

We've met.

Buffy sighs gleefully at her two boys. She's radiating. The two guys look at her. She looks at them both. Her smile disappears and gets serious. She turns to Giles and

BUFFY

So what's up? I know you don't miss the States that much.

GILES

Get right into it. That's certainly new.

BUFFY

Yeah well.

(they all sit)

Jackson doesn't have much memory of what happened to him and I need to get to the bottom of that. I need to know who or what took him away and how they did it?

JACKSON

Don't forget why.

BUFFY

Oh yeah. Good one. And why.

GILES

Yes, I understand the urgency in the matter in which you bring.

BUFFY

Well I didn't bring it, you did. You're the one that's here. So what's the dilly?

GILES

There is some evil energy that's emerging. That's why you may have noticed a surge in demons. I can't exactly figure out what the energy is but I intend on finding out. Now I've read through some of the volumes pertaining to this situation -

BUFFY

Wait. This evil thing is an energy?  
(Giles shakes his head)  
How am I supposed to fight it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

GILES

That's why I'm here. And I brought something with me.

Giles digs into his bag and fishes out a RING. A BLUE SAPPHIRE enclosed by a wicked looking band. Totally looks all mystical and stuff. Buffy's eyes bug out and she takes it. She puts it on her finger and admires it.

BUFFY

(glowing)

Thank you so much Giles. It's gorgeous!

Giles calmly reaches over and takes it off her finger.

GILES

This is not for you.

BUFFY

(feels stupid)

It can be, can't it? It's so pretty and blue.

GILES

And ancient. This ring belongs to The Guardian.

Jackson shoots Giles a look when hears this.

JACKSON

"He who is born to be".

Jackson grabs the ring out of Giles' hand and stares at it.

GILES

What does that mean?

Buffy is alarmed. She turns to him and lays a hand on his shoulder.

BUFFY

What is it?

JACKSON

This ring...it's mine.

Off of Buffy's and Giles' surprised expressions.

15 EXT. WOODS - LAKE EERIE - SAME

15

Anya walks around the lake.

ANYA

(up to the sky)

Is this more punishment, huh?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANYA(cont'd)

(down to the ground)  
Why here? If I'm supposed to  
freeze, well guess what...I'm dead.  
Ha ha on you.

Something RUFFLES within the confines of the woods. Anya spins in the direction of the noise.

ANYA (cont'd)

Hello.

SOMETHING sprints from one side of thick brush to another. She YELPS and jumps back.

ANYA (cont'd)

(walks towards the brush)  
I don't want any trouble, okay. I'm  
having a real crappy day. The last  
thing I want is to scare you. So  
don't make me.

She walks over to the brush and Sees nothing.

The Sea Creature leaps out from behind her and knocks her down on her back. Anya screams a bloody scream.

They fight - viciously. The Creature claws at Anya's face, her stomach cutting her. She gouges at its eyes, she digs her fingers in its gills and YANKS. The Sea Creature YELLS in pain and she pushes it off.

Anya turns to her stomach and no more than two feet from her face is an EGG about the size of a football. Her mouth drops open in shock.

She looks behind her at the wounded Sea Creature then at the egg, making the connection.

ANYA (cont'd)

(to self)

She's protecting her egg.

The Sea Creature leaps for her again. Anya kicks her foot and knocks it away. Anya bolts to her feet, she goes to run and trips again.

Her hands land on top of SKELETAL remains. She freaks and books it out of there.

ANYA (cont'd)

Buffy. Gotta tell Buffy.

She dares a look back. The Sea Creature is at its egg. It BELTS out a hideous cry, grabs the egg and dashes for the lake. The Sea Creature splashes into it. And with that we...

CUT TO:

16

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - DINNING ROOM

16

Jackson adorns the ring on his finger and seems to be transfixed by it. Giles takes his glasses off and rubs his temples, Buffy stands about.

GILES

It makes perfect sense that the Guardian would somehow find you.

BUFFY

Yeah, nothing is ever normal for Buffy. But he didn't find me. Just happened to be around. He didn't even know he was something more. I didn't think he was something more. Just an average Joe. Well not average. Tall, dark and handsome - that's not average. The "I have a regular job and no special powers" is not average.

(off Giles expression)

Sorry, drifted.

GILES

Yes, it seems the powers that be have had their ways on placing those that you need within range of wherever you are. I just wish I knew what him being the Guardian means. I've looked back at all my books and I can't find one thing mentioning anything about it.

BUFFY

Dawn's got some nifty books that you might want to look at.

GILES

Oh really?

BUFFY

Yes, she's really taking her research serious. I mean she's the one that told us how to kill the Masheim demon.

Giles looks at her in surprise.

GILES

She did? All alone?

BUFFY

Yup. Who knew that kicking someone, in this case a demon, in the groin was going to kill you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The two guys look at each other at that moment.

GILES

She sure has grown into her own,  
hasn't she?

BUFFY

Perfect little Watcher Junior.

DAWN walks in just in time. She sees Giles and the biggest grin comes across her face.

DAWN

GILES!!!

She runs and throws herself into his arms. He tries his best to restrain himself from moving but he stumbles slightly.

GILES

Hello Dawn.

He oddly pets her on the head.

DAWN

What's going on? Why are you here?  
Can I ask you a few questions? All  
boring "I don't have a life so I'll  
research things all night" Watcher  
kinda stuff.

GILES

Sure.

BUFFY

I'll leave you two alone and take  
Jackson to his place. He should  
rest.

GILES

Good idea.

She takes Jackson by the arm and they head out. Dawn drills Giles left and right. A flush of harsh wind blows suddenly, papers fly, pages in the books flip, a vase here and there tumble over.

Everyone stops in their tracks to see this spectacle. Anya POPS up in the dining room. She eyes her surroundings and is relieved.

ANYA

Beetlejuice. Good.

Anya sees Giles and runs to him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANYA (cont'd)  
(panicked)  
It's bad. Real bad.

She grabs for Giles' arms but she goes right through him.

BUFFY  
What is it?

ANYA  
(turns to Buffy)  
I'm bleeding.  
(shows blood and cuts)  
It touched me. Look. And it hurts!

BUFFY  
Calm down. What are you talking about?

ANYA  
(urgently)  
I was cursing a couple cause you know, they were like Barbie and Ken, so happy. Okay, so, I get ready to cross the street cause I was leaving again. You know, not wanting to be here and hurting Xander -

BUFFY  
The point Anya. Get there quick.

ANYA  
I slipped and POOF I was in the woods. And this "thing" attacked me. Have I mentioned how much it hurts?

DAWN  
Excruciating.

Anya turns to Dawn and slaps her, only nothing happens, she goes through Dawn. She slaps her own hand.

ANYA  
It was working before.  
(back to reality and the group)  
I got away but not before finding its egg and human bones. It's killing and breeding.

Giles steps up and grabs Anya's attention.

GILES  
What did it look like?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ANYA

Ugly. Kinda fishy. Gills and horny thing on it's head, fins everywhere. It jumped into the lake.

Dawn listens very carefully.

BUFFY

Do you know where this lake is?

ANYA

No. I just showed up.

DAWN

Sounds like a Bohgore Demon. It's the right time of year. The water's icy.

(off their looks)

What? When I'm bored, I read. Been reading a lot.

GILES

Amazing.

Dawn proudly smiles at Giles.

DAWN

(anyway)

It breeds by eating human reproductive organs and that's not good 'cause once it starts breeding, it breeds an Army.

GILES

It can fertilize itself.

ANYA

Well that's just gross.

DAWN

Oh and their intention is to rid everything living.

Buffy steps up to the plate.

BUFFY

You two, get me information on how to kill this thing. Anya, I want you to try your best to remember where this lake is.

ANYA

But I can't.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BUFFY

Try. I'm going to take Jackson home, call the others and tell them to meet us here. If this creature is breeding, we're gonna need everything we got.

Everyone now stands around, the three wait for further instruction from Buffy. Beat.

BUFFY (cont'd)

Nope. That's it.

Everyone breaks and does their thing.

17

EXT. CAFE - NIGHT

17

Willow and Xander sit at a table. Xander looking blue as ever and Willow being the good friend she is, listens intently.

XANDER

She's just playing with my emotions.

WILLOW

Xander, sometimes you just have to learn to let go. If she was able to do it maybe you should too. It's for the best I'm sure.

XANDER

Is it? She never considered how I might feel or what I think we should do. She should have asked before doing something so drastic.

(sigh)

It's my Atari system and my mom wants to throw it away. Do you have any idea how valuable it must be right now? It's in mint condition. In it's original box.

WILLOW

I think you need to get help.

Kennedy comes to the table and sits next to Willow. They take each others hand and smile.

KENNEDY

The bathrooms are so disgusting here.

XANDER

You guys are so lucky.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW

Xander, don't.

KENNEDY

Yeah. We were just there five minutes ago.

WILLOW

Anya loves you. She just doesn't like not touching you. She's scared, lonely.

KENNEDY

Probably horny like no other.

Willow's eyes bug out. Xander chuckles.

KENNEDY (cont'd)

It's the truth.

WILLOW

It's more than that Ken. She's confused and lost. She's feeling hopeless. I understand her longing. You just have to be patient, Xand.

XANDER

I don't know how much longer I can be. You know maybe she's right. She's accepted what she is now. Maybe I should too.

Andrew comes by with a tray of food. He sets it on the table and sits next to Xander. Everyone looks at him as he digs into their food.

ANDREW

What are we talking about?

KENNEDY

Nothing you know anything about.

ANDREW

I know plenty of that. The everything that turns into something and before you know it becomes a -- thing.

He cowers back. Slides off the seat and stands at the table.

ANDREW (cont'd)

Would you like catsup with your fries?

MAN VOICE (O.S.)

Andy, you gotta call.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANDREW  
Ooo. Popular.

He takes off to answer it. The gang takes their plates and start to eat.

KENNEDY  
Maybe it's a good thing that --  
Andrew comes running back out of breath.

ANDREW  
It was Dawn.  
Everyone grows concerned.

WILLOW  
What is it?

ANDREW  
They need us at the house. Didn't have time to explain.  
They all bolt up out of their seats and rush for the door.

MAN VOICE (O.S.)  
Hey! You gotta pay for that!  
Andrew stops and turns to the Man.

ANDREW  
Put it on my tab.

MAN VOICE (O.S.)  
You're fired.

ANDREW  
I'll double shift tomorrow.

MAN VOICE (O.S.)  
Fine.

Andrew leaves.

18 INT. JACKSON'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

18

Jackson lays on the bed still wearing the ring. Buffy walks in with a glass of water and a pill.

BUFFY  
Take these. You'll be able to sleep.

She walks to the bed and sits next to him. He sits up and takes them. He swallows the pills and the entire glass of water. He sets the glass down.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACKSON

What's wrong with me, Buffy?

BUFFY

I've got a group of amazing friends  
and family -- they'll find the  
answer. Right now you need to rest.

JACKSON

All this stuff about evil energy  
and self breeding demons -- that is  
gross.

BUFFY

Yeah. Enough talk. Lay down and let  
the pills do its thing.

Jackson abides.

BUFFY (cont'd)

(gets up)

I'll check on you later.

He grabs her arm and stops her.

JACKSON

Don't leave me.

Buffy gently smiles. She goes around the bed and lays down.  
They are face to face. Jackson brushes a strand of hair from  
Buffy's face.

JACKSON (cont'd)

No matter what happens to me, I'm  
glad I met you. I guess this is the  
part where I compare you to things  
in my life before but with the  
newfound memory loss... not gonna  
happen.

BUFFY

You were a cop.

JACKSON

Being with you is so much better  
than that!

BUFFY

You don't remember what it was  
like.

JACKSON

Can't be as good as this.

He presses his lips against hers. She accepts and before they  
know it, they are in a full blown make out session.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Jackson places himself on top of her. The passion is strong and intense.

She rips his shirt off, he grabs her hands and pins them down. With his other hand he unbuckles her belt, all this as they still kiss. Jackson kisses her neck down to her chest, further down to her stomach. Buffy moans soothingly, they both fall into ecstasy.

FLASH!

Jackson throws his head back in a painful motion. He grabs at his hair and rolls off of Buffy. Buffy sits up - concerned.

                    BUFFY  
            Jackson, what is it?

FLASH!

Jackson falls off the bed, another shot of pain. Another FLASH. Jackson YELLS from all this pain, he can't handle it. Buffy steps down and holds him in her arms.

                    BUFFY (cont'd)  
            Tell me, what is it? Long beat.

                    JACKSON  
            I remember.

                                    SMASH CUT TO  
  BLACK.

END OF ACT TWO

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

19

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

19

Willow, Xander, Kennedy and Andrew all barge into the living room ready for a fight. All of them have various STAKES, SWORDS and AXES in swinging position. Dawn, Giles and Anya all look up at them.

XANDER

Die you evil vermin!

ANDREW

Feel the wrath of the Slayerettes!

They all bring down their weapons and look at Andrew.

XANDER

Way to kill the momentum, man.

ANDREW

I try.

WILLOW

Giles.

(why)

You're here.

They all set their weapons down and crowd around the coffee table. Xander notices Anya.

XANDER

What happened?

ANYA

I was attacked.

XANDER

How?

DAWN

A Bohgore Demon in the woods.

XANDER

(to Anya)

What were you doing in the woods?

GILES

If we don't locate It, it will breed an Army.

KENNEDY

It will cause mass chaos. All demons do.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They grab a book and start searching.

ANDREW  
What are we looking for?

GILES  
A way to kill it.

The crew go into research mode.

XANDER  
(softly to Anya)  
Does it hurt?

ANYA  
(sheepishly)  
Yeah.

Xander sighs deeply, he longs to hold her. He concentrates on his book.

WILLOW  
(softly to Giles)  
I know you're not here to fight an  
everyday demon.

Giles motions his head for them to leave. They both discreetly get up and walk into a corner of the room. Dawn sees them with a look of curiosity. She idles between them and the book before her. Whispers the dialogue.

GILES  
I've gotten word about this evil  
energy strengthening in its power.  
It's not what we first assumed...  
not just an energy.

WILLOW  
Does Buffy know this?

GILES  
No. I didn't want to discourage  
her. The fact of the matter is,  
Willow, that there's no history of  
this threat. No written documents.  
With that said...

WILLOW  
It's unstoppable. Off the subject a  
little - last week, Dawn, something  
really weird happened after she was  
mugged.

GILES  
God, is she okay?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WILLOW

She's fine. But somehow she cut off  
the city's power.

GILES

Are you sure about that?

WILLOW

Yeah. She wasn't anywhere near the  
power plant.

Giles and Willow look over at Dawn. She feels them looking at  
her and she diverts her attention to them. The two quickly  
look away. They converse for another moment and go back to  
the circle of research.

ANYA

I GOT IT!

Xander flies off the couch, the book shoots up in the air.

ANYA (cont'd)

Sorry.

XANDER

Warn people.

ANYA

Lake Eerie.

She proudly smiles at the group.

ANYA (cont'd)

That's where I was.

GILES

Are you sure?

ANYA

Yeah. See.

She points to a newspaper on the coffee table. Kennedy picks  
up the paper and reads it.

KENNEDY

Newlyweds missing since last week.

WILLOW

That could have been anyone, Anya.

ANYA

One of the bones I saw was a finger  
and it had a ring on it. A wedding  
ring.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BUFFY (O.S.)

He remembers.

Everyone turns to Buffy. She frames herself in the doorway and leans against it, arms crossed. Giles stands and walks to her.

GILES

Is he alright?

BUFFY

Not really. He's really shaken up.

(deep sigh)

So what's the skinny?

ANYA

We know this thing lives in Lake Eerie.

Buffy awaits for more info. Everyone just kinda idles around.

WILLOW

That's it.

BUFFY

So grab your books, Xander load up the weapons. We're killing this thing now.

Everyone gets up and starts to prepare. Buffy stops Dawn.

BUFFY (cont'd)

You're staying. With him.

She grabs Andrew by the arm. They both whine.

ANDREW

Oh come on.

DAWN

Yeah. If it wasn't for me, you wouldn't know what to look for. So I deserve to go.

(beat)

I'm your sister.

ANDREW

And I'm the goof ball that supposed to get into danger and be saved. What's the point of me being around if I don't have that?

BUFFY

My point exactly. You're both staying.

(the two leave pouting)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BUFFY(cont'd)

Will, give me the keys. I'm driving.

Everyone stops dead in their tracks and stare at the Buffster.

ANYA

You have a license?

BUFFY

Yes I do. I might not always drive... okay, I never drive but I can you know.

(beat)

I'm the Slayer.

She spots the keys and picks them up. Kennedy walks by and snatches them.

KENNEDY

You're a Slayer. You're not driving.

She tosses Giles the keys.

GILES

You're good at the slaying. Leave the driving to someone else.

Everyone moves on.

Anya follows Xander around as he puts all the necessary weapons in a duffel bag.

ANYA

You're not going to try to fight this thing are you?

XANDER

That's what I do Anya.

ANYA

I'm going too.

XANDER

How? You can't sit in the car.

ANYA

Yeah, well I can run there. It would be good exercise.

XANDER

Are you for real?

ANYA

What is your mood cause you have been acting really weird lately.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

Xander stops and turns to Anya.

XANDER

I've been acting weird?!

(lowers voice)

Who's the one that's been running away? Telling me to forget about the four years we had together. Act like none of that ever happened.

ANYA

Xander...

XANDER

No, don't Xander me. Regardless of what you may FEEL or think An, I still love you. I will always love you. And somewhere deep down inside that narcissistic, cool, shallow heart of yours, knows that you love me too. Yeah things may never be the same again but isn't it MY choice on whether or not I want to continue a relationship with you. Corporeal or not.

ANYA

I was just trying -

XANDER

I have a demon I need to pretend to kill.

He leaves, duffel bag dragging on the floor.

ANYA

Well.

BUFFY (O.S.)

Let's move out!

Everyone heads out the front door. Dawn and Andrew are left sitting on the couch, still pouting away. The room is silent for a moment.

DAWN

This sucks.

ANDREW

I know.

(beat)

So...

They look at each other and smile.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

ANDREW (cont'd)  
How's school?

DAWN  
Educational.

ANDREW  
Yeah. I heard that's what it's for.

DAWN  
Yup.  
(beat)  
How's work?

ANDREW  
It was actually quite interesting.  
I had this one patron who requested  
for a...

Jody walks into the room. Both Andrew and Dawn stand. Glad to see him.

DAWN  
Jody, what are you doing here?

ANDREW  
(fidgets)  
Yeah. I thought you were supposed  
to be at -

Dawn throws him a confused look. He backs down.

ANDREW (cont'd)  
That thing you were suppose -- I'll  
shut up now.

He sits. Dawn throws her arms around him.

DAWN  
I'm so glad you're here. I was  
getting bored.

Jody looks at Andrew and flirtatiously smiles and winks at him. Andrew smiles back.

DAWN (cont'd)  
Let's go up to my room. I've got  
something that I think you'd  
totally love.

Jody contemplates for a second.

JODY  
Why don't we stay down here and  
chill.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

DAWN

Oh come on. It's just Andrew. He won't care if we went upstairs. Will you?

They look at Andrew.

ANDREW

Oh. Go. Yeah. I've got things to do. Yeah, um, like this book. It needs to be read.

He picks it up and flips to a random page.

ANDREW (cont'd)

See. Fun.

DAWN

What'd I say?

JODY

Um, you sure?

ANDREW

Yeah. Go see what she has that's so exciting.

Dawn drags Jody up the stairs as he keeps his eyes on Andrew the entire time.

20

INT. CAR - SAME (TRAVELING)

20

Giles is in the drivers seat, Buffy front passenger. Everyone else is in the back.

GILES

So he remembers everything.

BUFFY

I think so. He was really freaked out Giles.

GILES

Did he say what he remembers?

BUFFY

No. Just, "he who was born to be".

WILLOW

I found something.

Everyone diverts their attention to Willow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW (cont'd)

It says here that this Bohgore Demon needs to feed on as many reproductive organs as possible. Their preference -

KENNEDY

Humans.

WILLOW

They have been known to eat large animals as a substitute.

XANDER

With the mass groups of people that visit Lake Eerie in the dead of winter. Why would it pick Lake Eerie?

GILES

Because it's a popular attraction. You, yourself Xander know of this lake yet you've never been.

XANDER

Yeah and?

GILES

Others are just as likely to know it as well.

BUFFY

Great history lesson guys but how do we kill it? That's all I want to know.

KENNEDY

Yeah. I got a little pent up aggression in these fists. Could use a good workout.

WILLOW

(surprised)

You do?

Kennedy smirks at her and gives her a quick peck on the lips.

KENNEDY

Keep digging.

21 EXT. LAKE EERIE - SAME (UNDERWATER)

21

The Sea Creature dives deep into the waters and swims down to the bottom. It sets the egg down gently in a small opening just below the sand. It nestles the egg into place.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Sea Creature looks about and finds a ROCK and places it over the egg.

MUMBLES echo down through the waters and the Sea Creature throws its attention to the surface.

The Creature swims up and spots a GROUP of ROWDY TEENAGERS trying their damndest to light a fire. They are totally oblivious to the Creature behind them in the water.

22 INT. JACKSON'S BEDROOM - SAME

22

He tosses and turns in his sleep. Nothing violent. He starts to panic. His breath shallow and restless.

Slowly his tossing and turning does become more and more agitating. He shoots up in bed calm as calm can be.

JACKSON  
(transfixed)  
The Guardian is a killer.

He gets out of bed.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

23 INT. DAWN'S ROOM - NIGHT

23

Jody lays on Dawn's bed as she stands before him with an outfit pressed against her body.

DAWN  
Isn't it just the honey-ist thing  
you ever saw?

JODY  
Yeah. Tell me again why you would  
think that I would find that  
exciting?

DAWN  
Because you know...

She sets the outfit down a little ashamed.

JODY  
Look Dawn, I really do like you as  
a friend and yes I am gay but come  
on, do you really think I'm THAT  
gay?

DAWN  
You mean there's more then the  
obvious?

JODY  
Yeah. We come in different  
varieties.

Dawn sits down next to Jody still a little ashamed.

DAWN  
I'm sorry. I didn't know there were  
different, you know... 'types.' I  
should have figured.

JODY  
We live and learn babe.

He gets up and kisses her on her head.

DAWN  
Where you going?

JODY  
Bathroom.

He walks out the door.

24 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM.

24

Andrew looks at the way of the stairs and sees Jody descending them. He sits up, straightens himself and awaits.

ANDREW

What are you doing down here?

JODY

Seeing you.

ANDREW

But... Dawn...

JODY

Is not you.

Jody takes Andrew's hand and on this we cut to:

25 EXT. LAKE EERIE - SAME

25

Buffy slams to the ground and bangs her head against a tree. Kennedy punches the Sea Creature in the face and it stumbles back. Xander rushes in with his weapon at the ready and swings down.

The Sea Creature blocks Xander's hit and punches him in the chest. Xander flies into the air and smashes into a tree. Buffy gets up and runs back in.

BUFFY

How you comin' with the info?

She jumps on its and they wrestle.

WILLOW

Still looking!

Willow and Giles frantically look through all the books they have.

KENNEDY

Hurry it up guys. This thing is strong.

Buffy's knocked off. The Sea Creature grabs her by the throat and picks her up. Kennedy creeps up slowly behind the Creature, sword ready to strike. The Sea Creature kicks Kennedy in the gut, she falls with a GRUNT.

The Creature wraps its other hand around Buffy's neck and starts to squeeze. Buffy pounds her fists on this thing but it's not really affected by them.

Xander swings his weapon and it breaks over the Creature's head. It tosses Buffy aside and turns to Xander.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He's in trouble now. Both Slayers are dazed and out of commission for the moment.

XANDER

Will, a spell or something please.

Willow sets the book down. Her mouth opens. The Sea Creature rears its head at her and spits a gooey substance in her mouth. Willow is disgusted and digs the stuff out.

GILES

Oh good God, that's disgusting.

Xander is backed into a tree. Nowhere else to go.

26

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM

26

Andrew and Jody are heavy into the making out. Without notice, Jackson slips into the house and up the stairs. Something is off about his walk, robotic like. He walks down the hallway and stops outside Dawn's room.

He knocks. Dawn opens up the door all bubbly like.

DAWN

Jody, you don't have to knock - oh Jackson, hey. Buffy's not here, she's out killing a demon.

JACKSON

Oh okay. That's cool.

He peers into her room inspects it.

DAWN

What is it?

JACKSON

"Born to be".

DAWN

What?

Jackson grabs her throat and shoves her into the room. Dawn SCREAMS!

DAWN (cont'd)

ANDREW!!!

She struggles with Jackson as he throws her on the bed.

DAWN (cont'd)

Jackson, what are you doing?! Stop it!

He starts to choke her. Their eyes meet, the intensity is so strong. Her fear obvious, his rage blaring.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dawn's face turns red, her temples pulsate. She scratches for his face but just can't reach.

JACKSON  
I'm a killer.

Andrew and Jody barge in.

JODY  
Get off her.

He runs in and jumps on Jackson's back. Andrew rushes in and pulls Dawn out of the way. Jackson knocks Jody off and he slams into the wall.

Andrew attacks but of course that doesn't go very far. He's knocked against the wall as well. Both guys down for the count.

JACKSON  
They don't know.

He charges for her. Dawn runs out of the room and down the hallway.

27

EXT. LAKE EERIE - SAME

27

Anya arrives in the middle of combat. The Creature has Xander pinned, just about to bite into his neck. Anya grabs a ROCK along the way and charges after.

Giles is on the ground, out cold. Buffy and Kennedy are just about out of their daze.

Anya smashes the rock over the Creature's head. Kennedy springs into action and takes over the fight. Anya bends down to Xander's side. He's hurt his hand.

ANYA  
Are you hurt?

She takes his hand and inspects it.

XANDER  
Yeah, right around -  
(she twists it)  
THERE!

He yanks his hand away.

XANDER (cont'd)  
That hurt.

Buffy and Kennedy go at it with this demon. They are fighting an intense fight. Willow digs the remaining of the goo out of her mouth. She goes back to the books.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Willow suddenly stops, her eyes turning a glowing white. She drops the books. Anya and Xander notice.

XANDER (cont'd)

Willow?

Buffy stops and turns Xander's way.

BUFFY

What's wrong?

ANYA

Willow's got her glow on.

WILLOW

Dawn's in trouble.

(beat; released)

The back of the neck. Punch it in  
the back of the neck.

Kennedy does a wrestling move and elbows the Creature to the ground. She positions her foot on top of it.

KENNEDY

Pent up aggression. Need to  
release.

She jabs a powerful punch into the back of the neck. The Creature is toast. Motionless. Xander slaps Giles across the face. He comes to.

GILES

What happened?

XANDER

The demon put you down. Dawn's in  
trouble.

She helps him up as they all rush out of the woods.

BUFFY

What happened to you in there?

WILLOW

I don't know. She was calling for  
me and it just took a hold. I can  
see them struggling. He's... he's  
gonna kill her.

BUFFY

Oh god.

Xander trips, Anya catches his fall. In that moment, they realize they have been touching. Their surprise is astounding. They look at their grasping hands then at each other. They fall into a much needed hug.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Tears fall, they grab each other's faces and kisses. Their joys and sorrows all encompass this.

ANYA

It can't be.

XANDER

Shut up will you.

They go at it again. Making out like no other. The car horn BLARES a honk. Then just as quick as it came, Anya falls through Xander.

ANYA

No! This isn't fair! Why?! Haven't I been punished enough?

She breaks down and balls her eyes out.

XANDER

Anya.

ANYA

I need you Xander. I need you so badly. I pretend and pretend that I don't care. I don't need you but I do. Beneath the surface of all this annoyance is the simple fact that I love you so much it hurts. And it kills me that I can't hold you. Go.

XANDER

Anya please. Not again.

ANYA

Dawn needs your help. Go help her.

XANDER

Oh right. But how are you -

ANYA

I don't know. Just go. I'll be okay.

Xander reluctantly does so.

28

INT. DAWN'S ROOM - LATER

28

Jody comes to. He picks Andrew up as he supports the both of them against the wall.

ANDREW

I've done this ride three times already. I want to go on the tea cups now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JODY  
Andrew, snap out of it!

ANDREW  
Where's Dawn?

JODY  
I don't know.

ANDREW  
Dawn?!

They walk out of the room.

29 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM

29

It is a total mess. It looks like a tornado hit it.  
Everything is wrecked.

JODY  
Holy -

ANDREW  
Dawn?

They sneak around the place, grab anything that can resemble  
a weapon. Close to each other, they look out the windows,  
behind doors, in closets.

Up ahead, something RUFFLES. The guys stop and look at one  
another. Jody nods his head for Andrew to go. Andrew doesn't  
agree with that idea and nods for Jody to go first.

JODY  
(mouths the words)  
Just go.

Andrew does so but he goes one little step at a time. Jody  
pushes him just enough so to startle Andrew.

Buffy and the gang jump out at them. The two guys jump back.  
Everyone YELLS and SCREAMS.

BUFFY  
Where's Dawn?

JODY  
I don't know. But your boyfriend's  
gone mad.

BUFFY  
We gotta find her. Any idea where  
he might have taken her?

ANDREW  
No.

(CONTINUED)

30 EXT. NEIGHBORHOOD STREETS 30

31 INT. JACKSON'S PLACE 31

BUFFY  
Dawn?! Jackson?!

JACKSON  
I'm sorry.

DAWN (O.S.)  
I'm here.

BUFFY  
Jackson... what happened?

FADE TO BLACK.

**END OF SHOW**