

**BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER**

"Payback"

Written

by

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**SHOOTING DRAFT**

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

"Payback"

1

TEASER

1

FADE IN:

2

EXT. PARK - DAY

2

The camera pans from the light in the sky to WILLOW, sitting on a bench, reading from a book. She looks transfixed, that is until XANDER takes a seat next to her, NUDGING her.

WILLOW

These books Giles left are just...  
useless.

XANDER

Uh, Will... I've been through that  
one already.

She SHOOTs him a look, then closes it, dropping it down on the bench.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Maybe Dawn's having more luck.

WILLOW

She does seem quite the Watcher-  
wannabe.

XANDER

Well, she's good at it.

WILLOW

(sighs)

It's just, Emmily showed Buffy a  
vision of what it was like back  
then and that's what it could be  
like right now, unless we find  
something on what's going on.

(beat)

It's just so exhausting.

BUFFY (O.S)

(muffled)

Yeah. I'm getting that!

3 ANGLE: WILLOW

3

Turns to see Buffy fighting with a big blue-ish demon, with tentacles. It's obvious they've been wrestling for some time now.

XANDER

You wants some help with that?

The demon gets Buffy in a headlock and she struggles to break free, her eyes dart to the axe leaning against the wall.

BUFFY

Weapon... now... please.

Xander lazily moves to it. He picks it up and THROWS it to Buffy, who manages to LEAP up into the air, breaking loose of the demon's grip, and grabs the axe. She lands on her feet, turning to face it.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Loser.

She SWINGS it, decapitating the demon. The camera looks up at Buffy and then Willow and Xander as they come into frame. They wait for a moment.

WILLOW

He's not a "poof-y" demon, is he?

BUFFY

Don't think so. We'll have to bury him.

XANDER

And the fun keeps on coming.

The trio return to the bench, with books stacked up and papers lying about everywhere.

BUFFY

So we've still got nothing on the new evil-a-brewing?

WILLOW

No. A big fat nothing.

XANDER

Makes ya kinda wish Angel was still around. He was old enough to remember a lot of nasties.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

XANDER (CONT'D)

(beat)

You know, with him being one.

Buffy lowers her eyes to the ground.

BUFFY

I don't think we can really trust  
Angel at the moment.

XANDER

Why, cos he's boss of an evil law  
firm that is planning its very own  
apocalypse and could destroy us all?

He doesn't continue.

WILLOW

(to Buffy)

So what are you gonna do if he  
wants to contact you or... something?

BUFFY

Until we know for sure that he  
hasn't been turned to the dark  
side, we'll do whatever it takes to  
put him off track.

A beat.

WILLOW

Ice cream?

BUFFY

Oh yeah!

XANDER

Give it to me.

Willow pulls out a tub of ice cream and three spoons. They  
all begin to dig in as the camera slowly pulls away.

4 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - BASEMENT

4

Dark and dusky, just as it always is. We are facing the  
wall, where a rectangle is still visible from when Xander  
drew it on. We just stare at that for a moment until  
suddenly --A FLASH of red crackling energy runs along the lines of  
chalk, creating what looks like a portal.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

And as it begins to grow stronger - it dissipates. On this  
we...

BLACK OUT.

5

END OF TEASER

5

6

ACT ONE

6

FADE IN:

7

EXT. DOWNTOWN - DAY

7

The streets are busy with eager shoppers and people on their way to places we have no way of knowing. Amongst the crowds are DAWN and JODY, strolling along the sidewalk.

JODY

What about him?

Dawn turns to see a young, good looking guy walk past them. She shrugs.

DAWN

Not bad.

JODY

Not bad? Dawn, you're way too picky. Just grab a guy and... grab his...

DAWN

Okay, enough.

They share a smile.

DAWN (CONT'D)

I'm just not in the guy mood at the moment, you know? It's like I'm a non-guy-magnet. Or, they're not the magnets... and I'm not metal...

(beat)

Or I could come up with a better analogy if you gave me more time.

JODY

I get it. I do. But you don't wanna be alone forever, Dawn. I've been there and it's not good for the soul.

DAWN

I'm not alone.

JODY

Right. You got family.

DAWN

And friends. And a whole lot of --

She stops, seeing something up ahead. Jody doesn't see it though, and looks puzzled.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

JODY

What is it?

DAWN

Anya.

They continue forward until they come to ANYA, staring ahead through a shop window at a bridal dress. She doesn't turn to Dawn and Jody or even notice their existence at all, she just stares at the dress.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Anya?

Anya slowly comes out of her gaze and turns to Dawn. It takes a while for her to regain herself but she does, forcing a smile.

ANYA

Whoa. Must have drifted off there.

DAWN

Yeah. Are you okay?

ANYA

Absolutely... yes, yes. I'm fine.  
Great even. Top of the world.

(beat)

You?

DAWN

(wigged)

Same.

ANYA

Great. Great. Good.

(sees Jody)

Oh, it's the gay boy.

DAWN

Yeah, we don't actually call him that.

JODY

We like to call me Jody. It's a  
whole thing where my parents gave  
me a name and we tend to use that.

Anya doesn't respond, just looks at him with an inquisitive expression.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

DAWN

So you're not with Xander? I mean,  
I would have thought you'd be  
getting in as much quality time as  
you could now that you're solid.

ANYA

(distracted)

Things aren't always what they seem.

A long beat.

ANYA (CONT'D)

I have to go... away... now.

She walks off down the sidewalk, leaving Dawn and Jody  
staring after her.

JODY

That was weird.

DAWN

Yeah...

(beat)

We'd better get those books.

JODY

Right. Now, you're gonna have to  
run me through this whole thing  
again cos I'm not getting the basics.

DAWN

In a nutshell? Before humans, there  
were demons, we call them the Old  
Ones. They ruled the world, blah  
blah, and were pushed back as man  
came to take it over.

(beat)

Since we moved to Cleveland we've  
been getting a lot of strange  
things happen cos, well we do all  
live on a Hellmouth, but Giles  
seems to think one of the Old Ones  
is trying to make its return.

(beat)

And that would be a bad thing. So  
we have to find out which one it  
is, how it plans to return, and how  
we can stop it before we're all  
killed.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (3)

7

JODY

Right.

(beat)

But I'm still not clear on the  
Hellmouth thing.

DAWN

Just walk.

She ushers him forward with a roll of the eyes.

CUT TO:

8 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

8

The door opens to reveal Buffy stepping through. She sets  
down the axe by the wall and continues through to the lounge  
where she's startled to see JACKSON.

BUFFY

Hey, I didn't know you would be --

She stops, seeing something wrong. She goes to him, noticing  
his troubled expression.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

What is it?

JACKSON

I don't know. I can... feel  
something. Buffy... I don't feel  
right.

BUFFY

Are you sick?

JACKSON

No.

(beat)

It was you.

She tilts her head, unsure of what he's talking about. She  
moves him to the sofa and they both take a seat.

BUFFY

What was me?

JACKSON

You did this. When we made love,  
you woke something inside of me.

(CONTINUED)

BUFFY

I did...

JACKSON

I saw it, when I touched you. I saw what you saw.

(beat)

The world when The Source ruled over. Or at least, that part of the world. Fire. That's all there was. Immense, consuming fire.

(beat)

We can't let that happen again, Buffy. We have to stop what's coming.

BUFFY

We will. We always do.

(beat)

And you saw what Emmily showed me? How is that possible?

JACKSON

I don't know.

(beat)

Kinda creepy, huh?

BUFFY

I guess we're connected.

Jackson turns to her with a faint smile. He takes hold of her hand and keeps it in his.

JACKSON

Everything's been a little crazy lately and I haven't been able to talk to you the way I've wanted.

BUFFY

I know. We'll get around to it. We really need to get on the research wagon though.

JACKSON

Already there.

He points to a stack of books and she smiles.

BUFFY

Ever feel like you're getting way too old, way too soon?

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (2)

8

JACKSON

The research does put a dampener on the evening.

(beat)

You've got everyone working on this, right? I mean, Giles is back in England digging up stuff, and the rest of the gang is all reading and researching?

BUFFY

Yeah.

JACKSON

Okay.

He STANDS, dropping his book.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

I'm gonna go.

BUFFY

What? You're leaving me?

JACKSON

Meet me back at my place in an hour or two, okay?

BUFFY

What are you planning?

JACKSON

Just do it, okay?

BUFFY

Okay.

Jackson leans in and kisses her on the cheek. He holds in that position for a moment, then heads out of the door. Buffy looks on after him and sighs.

ANDREW (O.S)

He's so romantic.

Buffy turns to see Andrew leaning in the other doorway. He's staring after Jackson, muttering to himself.

BUFFY

It's you.

He quickly snaps out of his daze and smiles, carrying in a pile of books.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: (3)

8

ANDREW

I got bored up in my room all by myself and I heard voices so...

BUFFY

You found anything? Or, just a mention of this Source?

ANDREW

I found something but it was spelt the different kind of sauce... and I think the page was from a cooking book.

BUFFY

(sighs)

We can't let this thing free.

ANDREW

We won't. We'll always stop it, right?

Buffy runs her fingers through her hair and rubs her eyes, tired, exhausted.

BUFFY

I can't wait for this thing to attack. We have to stop it at the beginning, before anymore lives are lost.

ANDREW

Okay, I get it. We'll stop, we'll party, we'll do a little dance of the tribal kind and then... we'll feast.

Buffy looks at him with a "what the hell are you talking about" expression.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

And now I'm gonna research.

He dives back into his book as Buffy turns to the window, gazing out into the daylight, thinking things over.

CUT TO:

9 INT. MAGIC STORE

9

Willow and Xander push the door open and walk into the old and dusky shop. They look around at all the exotic pieces, ingredients, skulls.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

Willow is like a kid in a toy shop, gleefully bouncing from one display to another.

Xander looks at a bottle of yellow fluid, pulls the cork out and takes a sniff.

XANDER  
Hey, what's this?

Willow moves to him and reads the label, which is in Latin. She smiles.

WILLOW  
Yak's urine.

XANDER  
Oh dear God!

He puts it back and wipes his nose. He follows Willow to the books section of the shop where they see someone else browsing. She is FIONA DELUCA, a pretty and young girl.

XANDER (CONT'D)  
Why urine?

WILLOW  
Don't be a wuss, Xander.

Fiona notices Willow and edges closer, curious.

FIONA  
You're her.

WILLOW  
Huh? Hi. Huh?

FIONA  
You're Willow, aren't you?

WILLOW  
Yeah. Do I know you?

FIONA  
No, God no. There's no reason you would, but you...

She searches in her pocket and pulls out an amulet. She passes it to Willow, who's looking real wigged.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

FIONA (CONT'D)

I offer you this as a gift. You  
don't need to keep it of course,  
you're beyond gifts.

WILLOW

No. Liking gifts but... who are you?

FIONA

My name is Fiona and I practice the  
arts.

WILLOW

(enthused)

You do?

XANDER

Oh boy.

FIONA

I'm nowhere near as gifted as you  
but we can try. We can follow.  
That's what I do, I follow, and I  
pray to you.

XANDER

You what now?

WILLOW

Pray? To me?

FIONA

Yes. You are beyond the normal  
limits, beyond mortals. You are  
with them now.

WILLOW

Oh, right, I'm with them.

(beat)

Who them?

FIONA

The higher ones.

(beat)

You are a Goddess.

A long beat.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (3)

9

XANDER  
(to Willow)  
I'm not bowing.

CUT TO:

10 INT. SHAW RESIDENCE - BEDROOM

10

The lights are off, the only thing making this room nothing but darkness are candles scattered around everywhere. Jackson places the last one down and looks around at his creation.

He's pleased with it and begins to turn but is stopped by a shadow crossing the wall. He steps back, knowing this kind of thing can only lead to badness and clichés of horror movies.

His eyes scan the room and sees a couple of newly carved stakes sitting on the table by his bed. He moves to it, never keeping his eyes on the same place for more than one second. His hands reach out to take the stake, then he SPINS on his heels to face --

11 EMMILY

11

She looks up at him with those big blue eyes but nothing about this is cute. She's in serious mode and he knows it.

JACKSON  
What is it?

EMMILY  
You're not ready.

JACKSON  
For what?

She turns around and goes to the mirror but there's no reflection of herself.

JACKSON (CONT'D)  
You're not really here, are you?

She shakes her head with a faint smile.

EMMILY  
Astral projection. Another gift.  
(beat)  
If only they would grant immortality.  
That way I wouldn't be...  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

EMMILY (CONT'D)

that doesn't matter. It's how it is.  
For thousands of years there's  
always been an Oracle. One being  
who would be born to be a vessel of  
information, to help the champions.

JACKSON

So why are you only now coming to  
Buffy?

EMMILY

You must understand that not too  
long ago, she wasn't considered  
their top priority. She had never  
really proved herself. But things  
have changed. She is special to  
them, to the Powers That Be.

(beat)

And you are special to her.

JACKSON

Okay. I get it. What is happening  
to me?

EMMILY

You were chosen thousands of years  
ago in a time when your existence  
was predicted. That ring is yours.

Jackson looks down at the ring on his finger, the one Giles  
had brought back from England.

JACKSON

The ring of the Guardian.

EMMILY

(smiles)

That's what you are. But you need  
to be ready to do whatever it takes  
to fulfill your destiny.

JACKSON

How do I do that?

EMMILY

They become weary that she will not  
perform. In her absence, you will  
be the one.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

JACKSON  
Emmily, you have to tell me more.  
You have to --

EMMILY  
(panicked)  
I have to go.

JACKSON  
What is it? What's wrong?

EMMILY  
Nothing for you to worry about. It  
all is as it is supposed to be.  
(beat)  
Have faith in yourself. Soon you'll  
wake.

Emmily's form begins to fade into the background. Jackson  
stares in disbelief, dropping the stake. His eyes peer down  
to the ring.

CUT TO:

12 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - BEDROOM

12

Buffy is checking herself out in the mirror, applying some  
makeup, when someone KNOCKS on the door.

BUFFY  
Come in.

The door opens and Dawn walks in, with some more books. She  
sets them down on Buffy's bed.

DAWN  
We got them from the library so the  
betting is, they're not exactly  
that helpful, but we can try.

BUFFY  
Yeah.

There's an atmosphere of awkwardness between the two sisters  
and Buffy finally caves.

BUFFY (CONT'D)  
Dawn, I'm sorry.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

DAWN

No. I am. Well, I'm not but you shouldn't be sorry. Not your fault you're in love with the guy that tried to hurt me.

Buffy moves closer to Dawn.

BUFFY

It's not...

(beat)

I would do anything for you. You know that, right?

DAWN

It's okay. Really. I guess the adult way of thinking is really starting to set in.

BUFFY

You're quite the woman.

DAWN

Besides, there's bigger things to think about. Like the complete destruction of the world.

BUFFY

Yeah.

She turns back to the mirror.

DAWN

Are you going out?

BUFFY

Just... over to Jackson's.

DAWN

Oh. Right.

(beat)

So you get everyone on this research gig, then you bail to have super-sex with your now special boyfriend?

BUFFY

And we're back with the bitterness.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

DAWN  
He's been given the title of  
Guardian, sure. But did you ever  
stop to think that maybe that's not  
a good thing? What exactly is he  
the Guardian of anyway?

BUFFY  
Dawn, don't do this.

DAWN  
(angry)  
You're a fool for trusting him. God  
knows you'll pay for it.

BUFFY  
What's that supposed to mean?

Dawn stops dead in her tracks, turning to face Buffy. She  
raises a brow, unsure.

DAWN  
Just leave me alone. I have some  
work to do.

She EXITS. Buffy looks real pissed. She looks back to the  
mirror, then heads out the door.

13 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

13

Andrew and Jody are engrossed in their books, sitting on the  
sofa together. Their attention is turned to Buffy coming  
down the stairs.

ANDREW  
Wow.

JODY  
Check out the hott mama!

Andrew nudges him.

JODY (CONT'D)  
Well dude, look at her.

Buffy turns to them.

BUFFY  
I'm going out. I won't be gone long.  
When Xander and Willow get back,  
tell them to get started on the  
research.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

ANDREW

Okay, but where are you going?

She doesn't answer him. She leaves the house, almost SLAMMING the door on purpose as she does. Andrew turns to Jody.

ANDREW (CONT'D)

So, you wanna play D&amp;D online?

JODY

And again with the geekiness.

ANDREW

I'm just --

He stops. Both of them look to the door leading down the basement as a noise emanates from it.

JODY

What was that?

ANDREW

Uh... nothing?

JODY

I hope so.

CUT TO:

14 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - BASEMENT

14

The red energy withdraws from the room and crackles of what looks to be electricity dissipate into thin air. The camera follows a trail of blackish liquid until we come to a figure --

15 JEREKOV

15

His eyes glow and eerie red as he checks himself over, his cloak still intact.

JEREKOV

Free at last.

BLACK OUT.

16

END OF ACT ONE

16

17 ACT TWO 17

18 INT. SHAW RESIDENCE - HALLWAY - EVENING 18

The door is already ajar and Buffy slowly pushes it open. She closes it behind her and turns to see candles lighting the way. She smiles softly, then proceeds up the stairs.

19 INT. SHAW RESIDENCE - BEDROOM 19

Buffy comes through, now holding a rose that had been left for her. She begins to talk --

BUFFY  
If I'd have known we were being  
more romantic here I would have --

She stops, seeing Jackson motionless on the bed. She edges closer to him.

BUFFY (CONT'D)  
Jackson?  
(worried)  
Jackson are you...?

She quickly rushes forward and checks his pulse. She looks for any wounds but there are none. Then --

JACKSON  
(shouts)  
It's inside me!

He SPRINGS forward but Buffy is there to catch him. She looks as shocked as he is, wiping the sweat from his forehead.

BUFFY  
Jackson?

JACKSON  
Whoa, I must have fallen asleep or  
something... God that was a horrible  
dream.

BUFFY  
What was it?

JACKSON  
(thinks)  
Uh... I can't really remember. But  
it felt like I was being... violated.

BUFFY  
So much for the romantic evening, huh?

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

JACKSON

No. It was just a dream, Buffy.  
Lets not read too much into it.

BUFFY

Dreams normally mean something. Or  
at least, they do if your us.

JACKSON

Us?

BUFFY

People who are... different.

JACKSON

I'm not different. I'm just called  
something I don't understand. I'm  
not anything special.

Buffy lifts her hand and strokes his face, a smile forming  
on her tired face.

BUFFY

You are to me.

Jackson's hand reaches up and takes hers in his. He moves in  
to kiss her on the neck and she lets him. Both their hands  
are interlocked, lowering themselves down their sides as he  
massages her flesh with his tongue.

They fall back and the kissing becomes more intense. Buffy's  
hands reach for his shirt, ripping it off his back, clawing  
her nails into his skin.

20 ANGLE: BUFFY

20

Staring up at the ceiling as Jackson kisses her neck. She  
can see something forming, a darkness. Then Jackson is in  
her face, looking down at her as he VAMPS OUT. He lunges for  
her neck and BITES her, feeding off of her.

She doesn't cry out, she can't move. The darkness above is  
enveloping them both. Jackson lets Buffy slip through his  
arms, her motionless body lying limp on the bed. He turns to  
a figure emerging.

EMMILY

(haunting voice)

Look inside. Fulfill your destiny.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

Jackson's eyes WIDEN as he turns back to Buffy and sees her body turn to ash. He SCREAMS --

SMASH CUT TO:

21 INT. SHAW RESIDENCE - BEDROOM

21

Jackson LUNGES himself forward in a startled panic.

JACKSON

It's inside me!

Buffy catches him from falling off the bed and looks as shocked as he is.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Is this real?

BUFFY

Yeah.

He grabs her hand and looks her in the eyes, a serious tone coming over him.

JACKSON

Something's happening to me, Buffy.  
I'm seeing things, hearing things.  
It's like I'm being shown something  
and I don't know what it is.

BUFFY

Don't fight it. Whatever it is,  
don't fight it. Go with it.

JACKSON

What if it's telling me to do  
something bad?

BUFFY

What are you...?

JACKSON

Emmily came to me... I think.  
Everything's a little fuzzy now.  
She told me I was chosen thousands  
of years ago, that my existence was  
predicted. She told me you were  
special to the Powers That Be and  
that I was special to you.

BUFFY

She wasn't lying then.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

JACKSON

She told me to look inside, fulfill  
my destiny... I don't know, Buffy.  
Things are like Tina Turner's hair  
in my head.

Buffy forces a smile, stroking his cheek.

BUFFY

We'll figure it out. I promise.

JACKSON

I know. I trust you.

CUT TO:

22 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

22

Jody and Andrew are reading through the books, as before.  
Dawn is sitting in the armchair, doing the same. The front  
door opens and in walks Willow and Xander, who are in mid-  
conversation.

XANDER

I'm telling you, Will, she was  
checking you out.

WILLOW

Yeah, right, and that whole thing  
she was talking about was just one  
big hit on, right?

XANDER

Hey, don't ask me how the lesbian  
mind works.

Willow playfully hits him on the arm.

DAWN

What's going on guys?

XANDER

Willow's a Goddess.

WILLOW

I'm not a... okay I am.

ANDREW

Frickin' mashed potatoes!

DAWN

You're a what?

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

WILLOW

It's no big deal, I just had a follower approach me and give me a gift. I'm not sure what it is really.

Willow pulls out the amulet and hands it to Dawn, who inspects it carefully.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

See what you can find out?

DAWN

As always.

Dawn heads on upstairs with a couple of books under her arms. Xander hangs his coat up and looks around.

XANDER

Where's Buffy?

ANDREW

She went out. She wouldn't tell me where but I have a sneaky suspicion she's with Jackson.

XANDER

Why?

ANDREW

Because I heard him invite her over there earlier.

XANDER

That's a great power you've got there, Andy.

ANDREW

I know.

Willow rubs her eyes and heads to the armchair, taking a seat. Xander picks up a book and reads the title.

XANDER

"Dissection of the Cause: reasons and motives of demon awakenings."

WILLOW

There's a thousand other books like that. Better get stuck in.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: (2)

22

XANDER

What about Kennedy? Shouldn't we wait for her until we get stuck into the whole researching?

WILLOW

She'll be at work all night.

XANDER

Right, okay. I've got my reading cap on. All systems go.

The gang get stuck into their books as darkness begins to fall.

CUT TO:

23 INT. SHAW RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

23

Jackson is sitting in the armchair, with Buffy sitting on his lap in a sideways fashion. They are both reading their books in the most unusual way possible.

JACKSON

Did you know in the K'C'Lai Tribe, their Guardian has the power to destroy all the oceans in the world.

BUFFY

Huh.

JACKSON

You think I could do something like that?

BUFFY

Lets not try it.

JACKSON

I must be evil.

Buffy turns to him, confused.

BUFFY

You're crazy.

JACKSON

I'm serious. Buffy, we've been through almost all these books and in each one, there's a reference to a Guardian.

(CONTINUED)

BUFFY

Doesn't mean you though, there are a lot of Guardians in a lot of other demon religion and --

JACKSON

Each one we've read about has been evil. What are the chances I'm not?

BUFFY

Because I'm here, with you.

JACKSON

Don't you fall the evil ones?

BUFFY

It's not untrue... but I know you're not. There's something about you, something I'm drawn to, and I can't put my finger on it but it's not evil. It's beautiful.

JACKSON

You're quite the speech machine.

BUFFY

You think that's bad? Should have heard me last year. Nothing but long winded speeches all the --

JACKSON

(shouts)

Buffy!

She looks at him, his eyes gone a crystal blue. Something catches her eye, the ring, GLOWING. She looks spooked, but is THROWN off of him by an unseen force, that also THROWS Jackson against the wall.

Buffy rushes to his side.

BUFFY

Are you alright?

JACKSON

Something's wrong.

BUFFY

Not arguing with you there.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (2)

23

JACKSON  
No. I saw something.  
(beat)  
Someone dying.

BUFFY  
Who?

JACKSON  
I can't remember.

CUT TO:

24 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE - NIGHT

24

Anya walks through the front door and quietly closes it behind her, noticing that everyone in there is asleep. She looks to the stairs to see Dawn coming down, all dressed to go out.

DAWN  
Hey, Anya. Haven't seen much of you today.

ANYA  
No. No, I've been, around.

Dawn accepts this but seems too distracted to care. She opens the front door.

DAWN  
I'll see you later.

ANYA  
Yeah. Whatever.

The door closes. Anya stares at Xander sleeping in the armchair, then looks at everyone there. A somber look grazes her face as she turns and continues into the...

25 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - KITCHEN

25

Anya closes the door behind her and leans against it, facing the window and the darkness outside. She looks down at her hands and the BURN SCARS.

ANYA (CONT'D)  
What is this?

She moves to the work surface and pulls out a knife. She eyes it, the blade reflecting the light.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

Slowly she begins to move it down to her arm, pressing it against the skin, almost cutting --

XANDER

Anya?

Anya quickly drops the knife and turns, covering it from his view. She forces a weak smile.

ANYA

Hi. Nice to see you, again. Up and awake.

XANDER

Are you okay?

ANYA

Peachy.

(beat)

I've just been... doing things.

XANDER

I get that. It must be amazing to be able to do loads of things you haven't been able to do before. Like, you can go down a slide without falling through it... or you can eat things and drink things... you can have sex again.

(beat)

Bet you feel like you're the luckiest former demon in the world.

Anya stares at him, an uncomfortable silence. She turns away from him.

ANYA

(lies)

That's exactly how I feel.

XANDER

Speaking of, do you wanna maybe go upstairs and... you know?

Anya looks down at herself, at the scar on her hand. She closes her eyes.

ANYA

I'll meet you up there.

XANDER

Okay.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

He turns and rushes through the door, whistling as he does so, oblivious to Anya's pain. She pulls out the knife again but this time sets it back in the drawer.

ANYA

(somber)

I'm the luckiest former demon in the world.

Her hands come up to cover her eyes as she quietly begins to weep and she is so consumed in her emotions, that she doesn't see Jerekov appearing from behind her, expressing a sinister grin.

CUT TO:

26 INT. SHAW RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

26

Jackson is pacing the room, Buffy is standing nearby, watching him.

JACKSON

I can't do this anymore. I have to know what's going on.

BUFFY

We're trying, Jackson. Just sit down and --

JACKSON

No. I'm becoming more irrational, it's like I'm slipping away. I won't go. I won't do that. There's nothing I can't stop. There's nothing I can't --

He stops, looking down at the ring. He brings it up to his eyes as Buffy helplessly listens to his rant.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

I know this, I do. It's in my mind somewhere but it's not, cos it's not my mind. It's something else, something different. Merging. Conflicting.

(beat)

Destroying.

BUFFY

Jackson. What are you --

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

JACKSON

(angry)

Don't you dare interrupt. I am  
above you.

Buffy steps back, shocked. Jackson looks himself over in a  
confused way.

JACKSON (CONT'D)

Infestation. This is what this is.  
We can't win like this. It was all  
put in motion thousands of years  
ago and I can't stop it.

BUFFY

What can't you stop?

JACKSON

(beat)

I don't know. Buffy, I don't know  
what's happening to me.

BUFFY

Try to concentrate on what you saw.

JACKSON

Someone dying... someone... I don't  
know who it was.

(beat)

Your house. There.

BUFFY

I have to get there.

JACKSON

I'm coming with.

BUFFY

You're not up to it.

JACKSON

I am. I have to be there. Buffy, I  
can help you.

BUFFY

(hesitates)

Okay. First sign of trouble, you  
get whoever you see to safety.

JACKSON

Always prepared.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: (2) 26

She smiles at him, then they both EXIT the house.

CUT TO:

27 EXT. DOWNTOWN 27

The full moon is shining, glimmering on the streets below as a small amount of rain begins to trickle down on the path. Dawn carries on through, wrapping her coat around her some more.

DAWN  
Just what I need.

She comes to an alleyway and heads down it. She pulls out a small necklace, with a glowing PEARL on the end of it. It is shining a line in front of her and she follows it.

Coming to a stop, she notices a door. She pushes it open. Takes a look around before entering.

28 INT. TUNNELS 28

Dawn finds herself in cave-like tunnels. She looks around, extremely cautious, but continues through, the pendant shining the way.

CUT TO:

29 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - KITCHEN 29

Anya is wiping a stray tear from her cheek, readying herself to turn around and go upstairs but as she does turn --

JEREKOV  
I never realized just how beautiful  
you actually are.

ANYA  
Who are... oh, it's you. You're him.

JEREKOV  
I'm free.

ANYA  
Oh.  
(realizing)  
Oh. One of the most powerful  
mortals to walk the Earth is free  
from the dimension the white hats  
put him in. Right. Great.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

JEREKOV

All because of you. I must thank  
you for that.

ANYA

Me? Why me?

JEREKOV

You instructed your lover to seek  
me out, to make you mortal again.  
And in return, I got something I  
needed.

ANYA

And you needed freedom.

JEREKOV

(laughs)

No, I got out because you never  
closed the portal correctly. First  
mistake.

ANYA

And the second?

JEREKOV

Letting him trade his soul for your  
mortality.

ANYA

Xander didn't trade his soul.

JEREKOV

He said he would give his life for  
yours. His soul is his life. I have  
that now.

ANYA

You can't do that. It's not fair.

JEREKOV

The funniest thing? I get his soul,  
and I get to kill everyone here...  
so it makes his little expedition  
kind of pointless, doesn't it?

ANYA

So, you're gonna kill me?

Jerekov nods, a malicious grin forming.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: (2)

29

ANYA (CONT'D)  
Well let me just say something first.

JEREKOV  
(thinks)  
Go ahead. I don't have a problem  
with final last words.

ANYA  
Good. Because, firstly...

Anya suddenly SCREAMS out to anyone who will listen. Jerekov  
stares at her, curious.

JEREKOV  
Is that it?

ANYA  
Okay, wait.

She SCREAMS again but this time Jerekov lunges for her,  
grabbing her by the neck and pinning her against the kitchen  
work top. He smiles as his hand presses against her chest, a  
light beginning to form.

JEREKOV  
Nighty night, sweetness.

As Anya's eyes FLICKER, we...

BLACK OUT.

30

END OF ACT TWO

30

31 ACT THREE 31

FADE IN:

32 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - KITCHEN - NIGHT 32

As before. Anya is struggling with Jerekov but he suddenly PUSHED away from her. We turn to see Xander lying on top of him. He turns back to Anya.

XANDER  
Get out of here!

ANYA  
Xander, wait --

Xander turns back to see Jerekov has disappeared. He STANDS, looking spooked.

XANDER  
Who's the Houdini?

ANYA  
You've forgotten already?

Xander thinks for a moment.

XANDER  
That was the warlock?

The doors open to reveal Willow, Andrew, and Jody all rush through brandishing weapons.

ANDREW  
(shouts)  
We're here to save you!

The three of them stop, looking around, only seeing Anya and Xander.

ANDREW (CONT'D)  
Or not.

Suddenly the door SWINGS open again and in come Buffy and Jackson, each prepared for a battle. They see what the other three saw -- nothing.

BUFFY  
Is everyone okay?

WILLOW  
We heard Anya scream and...

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

Xander looks at them all, realizing he'd have to tell them all the truth. His eyes move to Anya, who is looking equally bleak.

CUT TO:

33 INT. CAVES

33

Dawn exits the tunnels and comes into some prehistoric looking caves. She shrugs, expecting nothing less. In the middle of the rocky area is a fire. She nears it.

VOICE (O.S)

You come in search of truth.

Dawn stops in her tracks, looking around, but there's nothing.

DAWN

I do.

VOICE (O.S)

You are but a girl. What do you expect from us?

DAWN

Exactly what I seek.

A beat.

DAWN (CONT'D)

The others, they're too consumed in their lives to look for the flaws. Something's going on and I need to find out what.

VOICE (O.S)

The balance has tipped.

DAWN

Yeah. The spell Willow did, that's what it is, right? When she gave all those girls their power.

VOICE (O.S)

It was the witch. And now The Source will act upon the advantage.

DAWN

So it really is coming.

VOICE (O.S)

No, child. It is already here.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

Dawn takes a moment to consume the information. She pulls out the amulet Willow gave to her.

DAWN

I looked this up. It is of great importance to some.

VOICE (O.S)

True. The D'hora Amulet was once the greatest creation of the demons. But now its energy wavers.

DAWN

Because it has been put in the hands of the mortals.

(beat)

I will give you this back. But only if you tell me more.

A beat.

VOICE (O.S)

We have a deal.

(beat)

What do you want to know?

DAWN

Tell me about Jackson Shaw.

CUT TO:

34 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - DINING ROOM

34

The gang are sitting around the table, all looking at Xander and Anya. There's a long silence before --

JODY

(to Anya)

And you knew about the dangers?

ANYA

I didn't know he would try to take Xander's soul.

XANDER

Yay?

(CONTINUED)

BUFFY

Great. So, we have an amazingly powerful warlock out there somewhere who will try to take Xander's soul and in the process wants to kills us all too.

ANYA

I didn't know that would happen. I just wanted to be... human again.

WILLOW

I can't believe you summoned that kinda power. Magic's dangerous. Hello, turned me evil.

ANYA

I keep saying, I didn't know --

WILLOW

I wasn't talking to you.

She turns to Xander, who gets it. He lowers his gaze, looking ashamed of himself.

BUFFY

Doesn't matter how he got here, we have to get him back. I mean, those wiccans put him in that dimension for a reason, right?

ANYA

Because they feared his power.  
(beat)  
And he was a bit evil.

BUFFY

Willow, you think you can put him back?

WILLOW

I'll try. I'll need some help though.

ANDREW

Enter Andrew.

WILLOW

Fine. That'll do.

Willow and Andrew stand, head towards the door but stop to hear the final piece of the objective. Buffy turns to Jackson.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (2)

34

BUFFY

Are you sure you saw someone dying  
in this house?

JACKSON

I'm not sure of much, Buffy.

XANDER

Wait. You're getting premonitions now?

JACKSON

Apparently so.

Buffy looks around and GRABS the Scythe off the wall.

BUFFY

We can't leave the house. We have  
to all stick together.

(beat)

Where's Dawn?

XANDER

She...

ANYA

She went out. I saw her earlier.

BUFFY

(rolls eyes)

I can't look for her and protect  
everyone here.

JACKSON

I'll find her.

(to Willow)

You can do one of those locator  
spells, right?

WILLOW

Yeah but...

JACKSON

What?

WILLOW

Well, it's just... I mean...

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (3)

34

ANYA

What she means is: Last time you were alone with Dawn, you tried to break every bone in her body. Which doesn't exactly fill us with happy thoughts.

(beat)

Or some of us anyway.

JACKSON

I won't harm her... I was... I won't.

BUFFY

I know.

(to Willow)

Find her.

Willow nods.

CUT TO:

35 INT. CAVES

35

Dawn is standing still, almost motionless, contemplating what she has been told. She looks down at the amulet in her hands and throws it in the fire.

VOICE (O.S)

You must leave now.

DAWN

But I... I don't believe you. How could that be right?

VOICE (O.S)

It is how it is.

DAWN

I can't watch that happen. I won't.

VOICE (O.S)

You cannot stop it, child. By hearing this you have already altered the progress of events.

DAWN

So what now?

VOICE (O.S)

Now, you leave.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: 35

Dawn's expression is a painting of shock. But she doesn't argue. She turns on her heels and heads back to the tunnels in which she came.

36 INT. TUNNELS 36

She continues through the damp tunnels, her concentration lost in what she has heard.

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

CUT TO:

37 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - BASEMENT - LATER 37

Willow is holding a book open in front of the rectangle on the wall. Andrew is sprinkling some kind of dust around it.

Buffy, Xander, Anya, and Jody all come down the steps.

BUFFY  
How long now?

WILLOW  
I don't know. Closing a portal is  
as hard as opening one and... I  
don't know how much it's going to  
take.

ANYA  
Well you have to do it.

WILLOW  
Yeah, I figured that one out all by  
myself.

BUFFY  
(sighs)  
Well, looks like Mr Warlock isn't  
coming back tonight so I guess  
we've got enough time to --

JEREKOV (O.S)  
Think again, Slayer.

38 ANGLE: BUFFY 38

Turns to see Jerekov appear from the shadows. She rolls her eyes with another sigh.

(CONTINUED)

BUFFY

Why did I have to say that?

JEREKOV

You can't protect the boy. He is my property now.

XANDER

Me? But you were so nice last time we met.

(beat)

Okay so you made me choose between my life and my girlfriend's but still, not the grand schemer of evil.

JEREKOV

Foolish children. Playing your games. You think you know love. You think that's love in your blood? Each and every one of you is tainted.

ANYA

Leave us alone, Jerekov, or we'll put you back in that dimension.

(beat)

Well, we're going to anyway so you might as well back down now.

JEREKOV

Ah, yes. The witch.

He turns to Willow, who steps back, a little nervous in his presence.

JEREKOV (CONT'D)

You have power.

(beat)

I have more.

He THROWS Willow against the wall with a crackling red energy. Andrew rushes to her, heaped in the corner. Buffy is suddenly in his face.

BUFFY

Wanna see mine?

She takes a SWING at him, Scythe in hand, and wallops him across the face. He JERKS back, then turns to her, impressed.

JEREKOV

Not enough.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: (2)

38

Buffy FLIES back, landing right next to Willow, but she doesn't stay down. She JUMPS to her feet and CHARGES at him, impaling the spiked end of the Scythe in his leg. He ROARS in pain. She takes this moment to swing round and kick him in the back, sending him CRASHING to the ground.

BUFFY

You want more?

She bring the Scythe down and lands it into his back. She doesn't pull it out, just looks to the others with a smile.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Guess we don't need to open that portal after all. He was easier to kill than I thought.

XANDER

Uh... Buffy...

BUFFY

Yeah?

Xander motions for her to look behind and she does, seeing Jerekov holding the axe -- angry.

JEREKOV

Bring it, bitch.

He THROWS the Scythe down as Buffy charges him again. He knocks her back with ease. Buffy, on lying the ground, turns to Willow.

BUFFY

Get it open!

Willow nods and starts chanting as Andrew cautiously sprinkles the dust again. Buffy ROLLS and rushes the warlock once again.

CUT TO:

39 EXT. DOWNTOWN

39

The place is a big contrast to what it was earlier. When night falls, the people scatter. Dawn walks through the streets, not paying any attention to anything around her.

As she crosses the road we see a car pull up and Jackson hops out. He sees her immediately.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

JACKSON  
(calls)

Dawn.

No response. She continues across the road and doesn't see the headlights flash on her body.

JACKSON (CONT'D)  
(shouts)

Dawn!

40 ANGLE: JACKSON

40

He heads towards her but a car KNOCKS her into the air. She almost does a somersault, then comes CRASHING down to the ground. Jackson stops, his eyes widening in fear.

He rushes to her side, his hands crawling along her wrist, searching for a pulse.

JACKSON (CONT'D)  
Oh, God, no. No... Dawn, get up...  
Dawn, please...  
(shouts)  
Somebody call an ambulance!

The camera zooms out on Jackson frantically trying to revive her as a crowd of people, who have come from nowhere at all, start to gather.

CUT TO:

41 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - BASEMENT

41

Buffy SMASHES into the wall and slumps down, a groan escaping her lips. Jerekov comes towards her with a menacing form. He GRABS her by the throat and pins her against the wall.

JEREKOV  
You have power, it is true, but you  
do not understand its source.

BUFFY  
(muffled)  
A little help here people!

Xander comes to her aid but Jerekov uses his other hand to send him FLYING through the air.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

JEREKOV

You challenge me with children,  
killers, and weak mortals.

(beat)

I was once a God to mortals.

BUFFY

Yeah?

She kicks him in the GROIN. He winces in pain as she spin-kicks him back.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I've fought a God. She lost. And  
you know what? You're gonna lose to.

She goes to him but he uses magic to push her body to the ceiling, sticking it in place.

JEREKOV

I do not lose. I will have his soul.

(beat)

We have deal for pity's sake!

He heads towards Xander but is suddenly JUMPED by Anya. She WRAPS her arms around his neck, refusing to let go. He tries to shake her off but she clings with determination.

ANYA

You can't have his soul!

(beat)

Not when you haven't even given me  
mine!

Jerekov finally throws her off and she FALLS to the ground. He looks down at her.

JEREKOV

You have a soul. It's just too  
buried beneath to be found.

Xander's eyes dart to Anya as her pain has finally come out. He starts towards her but Jerekov snaps his body round and pushes Xander back with a hell of a lot of force.

JEREKOV (CONT'D)

Yours, is mine.

His hand presses against Xander's chest but suddenly a ray of RED LIGHT attaches itself to the warlock.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: (2)

41

He turns to see the portal has been opened and is sucking him in.

JEREKOV (CONT'D)

No. This isn't how it's supposed to go.

ANDREW

Deal with it.

As he and Willow step back, the portal sucks Jerekov back in and closes behind him, the rectangle erasing itself from the wall. Buffy comes CRASHING back down from the ceiling.

Xander looks to Anya, who is lying on the ground, wallowing in her own misery.

BLACK OUT.

42

END OF ACT THREE

42

43

ACT FOUR

43

FADE IN:

44

INT. CLEVELAND HOSPITAL - DAWN'S ROOM - MORNING

44

Dawn is lying motionless in the hospital bed, her eyes open, and transfixed on Jackson, who is sleeping in the armchair beside her. The door opens and Buffy walks in, with two cups of coffee.

BUFFY

You're awake.

DAWN

(groggy)

Just.

BUFFY

Quite a ride you had last night.

DAWN

I wouldn't call it a ride.

Buffy leaves a cup next to Jackson and sits with Dawn on the bed, taking her hand.

BUFFY

What were you doing?

DAWN

Last night? I went to the seek the truth, about everything, about what is going on here.

BUFFY

How did you know where to go?

DAWN

I'm research girl, it's what I do. I came across a passage on these beings that could give us information but I couldn't go without a trade.

BUFFY

(concerned)

What did you give them?

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

DAWN

The pendant Willow got from one of the girls who follows her magic. It used to be a conductor of power, it would channel a being's essence and amplify it but it's been dormant too long. They can't do anything with it.

BUFFY

Quite the knowledge girl.

DAWN

Like I said, it's what I do.

BUFFY

So what did they tell you?

DAWN

(shakes her head)

I don't remember. It's like... that part of my brain has been wiped.

BUFFY

You and Jackson finally have something in common then.

Dawn turns to the sleeping Jackson with an icy stare. Buffy catches it.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

He saved your life.

DAWN

No... he didn't. He was just there to get someone to call an ambulance.

BUFFY

You're wrong.

(beat)

It's called CPR, Dawnie. I guess it works best on us Summers girls.

DAWN

He did that?

BUFFY

(nods)

He's not a bad guy.

Dawn looks at Jackson once again, confused. She turns back to see Buffy stand.

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED: (2)

44

DAWN  
Where are you going?

BUFFY  
I'm gonna see when we can get you  
out of here. I'll be right back.

She exits. Dawn eyes the man next to her.

CUT TO:

45 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - ANDREW'S ROOM

45

Jody is sitting on the windowsill, staring out into the  
light of day. Andrew comes in with two ice creams.

ANDREW  
You okay?

JODY  
Yeah. I'm cool.  
(beat)  
It's just... wow.

ANDREW  
What?

JODY  
I don't get it. How you guys can  
keep doing this stuff.

ANDREW  
It's what we do.  
(beat)  
Buffy once told me it was all about  
the fight, and whether you're ready  
to give your life for it, cos in  
the end that's what it could come  
down to.  
(beat)  
Are you ready to jump in?

JODY  
I am. I really, really am. But how  
can you keep this so hidden? People  
should know about it, people should  
know what you fight for, how you  
fight... how you save them.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

ANDREW

That's what I used to think. But you grow to understand that it's not about recognition or... it's about the fight. Everything is about the fight.

(beat)

As much as we say we do it because we have to, it's not. We do it because we can, and we help.

JODY

It's like you're super heroes or something.

Andrew forms a smile.

ANDREW

We're not the heroes. Buffy, Willow, Xander... they are.

(beat)

I'm not a hero.

Jody raises his hand to touch Andrew's face.

JODY

Your my hero.

Andrew's face lights up like a flash of light. He takes comfort in Jody's words and on them, we...

CUT TO:

46 INT. HOSPITAL - CORRIDORS

46

Buffy walks aimlessly through the corridors, thinking everything over. She stops, seeing Jackson exit Dawn's room. She heads towards him.

BUFFY

You're awake.

JACKSON

Looks that way.

BUFFY

You okay?

JACKSON

Yeah.

(beat)

What did the Doctors say?

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

BUFFY  
She's gonna be fine. Minor injuries.  
She's gonna be all right, thanks to  
you.

JACKSON  
Right time, right place.

BUFFY  
I think she forgives you for trying  
to kill her before.

JACKSON  
Always a bonus.

They exchange a smile as background music begins to play.  
Nelly Furtado's "Try". Buffy takes him by the hands.

BUFFY  
You saved her. I don't know what I  
would have done if I'd have lost her.

JACKSON  
Hey, I saved the world, remember?  
This is nothing.

BUFFY  
This...  
(beat)  
Is everything.

They lean in for the kiss.

FADE TO:

47 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - KITCHEN

47

Anya is standing, gazing out of the window [it's like a  
theme!], with the background music carrying through to this  
scene. Xander enters, comes up behind her and takes her hands.

XANDER  
I love you.

ANYA  
I love you too.

XANDER  
We'll get through this. You know  
that right?

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

ANYA  
I do... I just wish I felt it.

She turns around to him, her eyes weepy.

ANYA (CONT'D)  
I don't know how to feel.

XANDER  
It doesn't matter. Cos I'm gonna be  
right here with you, forever.

ANYA  
Promise?

XANDER  
Always.

Xander wraps his arms around her, holding her in her moment  
of weakness.

ANYA  
We should go.

XANDER  
In a minute.

He doesn't let go of her, keeping her in his arms, for always  
and forever.

FADE TO:

48 INT. HOSPITAL - DAWN'S ROOM

48

Dawn is still in the bed, staring up at the ceiling. She's  
as motionless as she would be if she had died. The music  
comes out from the background and it's all we hear now, the  
words ringing through, taking over the scene.

49 INT. HOSPITAL - DAWN'S ROOM - LATER

49

Buffy and Jackson are sitting beside Dawn, looking through  
magazines. Every so often, Dawn looks to Jackson, and they  
share a look of sincerity.

50 INT. HOSPITAL - DAWN'S ROOM - LATER

50

Almost as before, but Jackson and Buffy have switched sides.  
The door opens. Willow and KENNEDY walk in, brandishing a  
couple of balloons saying: "GET WELL SOON."

51 INT. HOSPITAL - DAWN'S ROOM - LATER 51

Willow and Buffy are acting out the fight with Jerekov to the amused Dawn, Jackson, and Kennedy. The door opens to reveal Xander, Anya, Andrew, and Jody. They stand for a moment, then all walk in.

52 CLOSE ON: DAWN 52

She sees everyone around her, her friends, her family. Xander and Willow are playing "rock, paper, scissors," with Xander always being "scissors" of course. And every so often he shakes his hand, almost getting a cramp. Jackson is showing Andrew and Jody one his home made stakes, to which Kennedy scoffs at, showing him one of hers... which is way better.

Dawn turns to see Buffy by her side, holding her hand. She smiles at her sister and Dawn returns it.

53 INT. HOSPITAL - DAWN'S ROOM - NIGHT 53

Dawn and Buffy are now alone. Buffy kisses the sleeping Dawn on the forehead and goes to the door. She takes one lasting look back, then softly closes it behind her.

The camera returns to Dawn's peaceful expression as she loses herself in slumber land. Then --

Her eyes SUDDENLY SHOOT open, cutting the music off. The camera stays on those widened eyes, then, at a paced speed, zooms in on her, right into her pupils.

BLACK OUT.

54 END OF SHOW 54