

**BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER**

"Blackout "

by  
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TEASER

FADE IN:

1

INT. WILLOW'S APARTMENT. EVENING.

1

We're outside, looking at the apartment block that houses Willow's little dwelling. A vicious storm is raging outside, old school El Nino style - trees are bowing under the force of the winds and the amount of rain lashing down, thunderclouds rumble overhead and flashes of lightning streak through the sky. The streetlamps flicker as the local power tries to deal with the interference.

We pan down a little to the building's entrance, to pick up XANDER and ANYA. XANDER is by his car parked next to the kerb, trying to rapidly extract several large boxes from the boot and getting drowned standing up in the heavy storm, while Anya watches him from beneath an umbrella, safely sheltered inside the building's entrance.

ANYA

(calls out)

Come on, Xander! All our things  
will be getting wet!

Xander squints over to her through the downpour.

XANDER

Well aware of that, honey! Kind of  
stuck with the only having two arms  
thing..

ANYA

Well.. carry more at once or  
something!

XANDER

You could always try helping me,  
you know!

ANYA

No, I couldn't. I'd get wet.

Xander blinks. Her logic is wrong and yet perfectly understandable at the same time. Xander sighs, shakes his head to try and get rid of the pools of water gathering on him and reaches back into the trunk of the car.

2

INT. WILLOW'S APARTMENT. EVENING.

2

Inside the apartment, looking out through one of the windows at the storm trying to bust its way in. There aren't many lights on inside, the gloom highlighted a little by a TV set on some nondescript lifestyle channel in the background.

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CONTINUED:

The camera pans slowly down and to the right to pick up WILLOW, huddled up and lying down on the sofa with a thick blanket wrapped around her. She stares vacantly at the TV, oblivious to it and the rest of the world around her.

Doodles the puppy dozes on the floor beneath her. The apartment looks a little untidy - as though someone just didn't feel like washing up dinner plates or putting anything back in its proper place for a few days.

There is a scraping sound off screen as someone tries to fit a key into the front door lock, and then we hear the door open and scuffled footsteps as someone stumbles inside.

Willow doesn't budge and Doodles only manages to look mildly interested.

XANDER (O.S.)

(sarcastic)

Gee, An, thanks for getting the door for me while my arms are full..

ANYA (O.S.)

Why? I didn't open it.

Xander mutters something and walks into frame, a large box loaded up to his chin which he manages to heave onto the floor near Willow. Xander jumps slightly when he spots Willow.

XANDER

Woah! Hey there, didn't see you blending into the couch down there, Will. You trying out for the chameleon squad or something?

Willow still doesn't move or look up. Xander sighs and sits down on the couch next to her. She shuffles slightly to let him sit, and he tenderly strokes the side of her face, folding her hair back behind her ear.

XANDER (cont'd)

How you holding up so far?

(beat; no reply)

Well, Anya and I are almost done moving our stuff in now, so you won't have to worry about being up here by yourself for the time being.

Willow looks up and into Xander's eyes, and manages a weak smile. He smiles right back.

XANDER (cont'd)

That's my girl.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Anya walks into the room, still carrying nothing, and peers out through the window.

ANYA  
Xander?

XANDER  
Yes?

ANYA  
The trunk of your car is still open. Everything's getting rained on.  
(beat)  
And I think I can see some of your comic books floating away, down the street. They look very pretty!

XANDER  
What colour box are they floating out of?

ANYA  
Um.. a beige kind of one.

XANDER  
(thinks)  
Ultimate Spider-Man. Eh, I can get those again. At least it wasn't the black one.

ANYA  
Oh, some kids are taking that out of the car now.

A beat as this sinks in, then Xander jumps up and joins Anya at the window.

XANDER  
What?!?

ANYA  
Yes, they took this little blue box first that I think had all your action figures in it, and now they're coming back for the black box.

XANDER  
Great. Perfect! What else could go wrong with today?

With a crash of lightning, the power goes out. The apartment is plunged into darkness, the only light coming from the window and the only sound coming from the storm.

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CONTINUED: (3)

XANDER (cont'd)  
Ah, heck.

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF TEASER**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ACT ONE

FADE UP:

3

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - BASEMENT. NIGHT.

3

We fade up on BUFFY, torch in hand as she stands in the basement before the fuse box, clicking switches up and down and frowning. She tries another switch.

BUFFY

Shazam!

(beat)

Nope, okay..

(tries another)

Alakazam!

(beat)

Huh. Alright, last one.

(tries another)

Flame on!

(beat)

Gah!

She bops the torch against the fuse box in frustration, but that only succeeds in putting the torch out. There is a beat, then Buffy sighs in the darkness.

BUFFY (cont'd)

Well, that just about sums things up, really..

GILES (O.S.)

Buffy? Are you still down here?

BUFFY

Yeah, could you keep talking or shine a light on the stairs or something? I'm kind of lost in the shadows at the moment.

GILES, standing in the doorway at the top of the stairs, responds by holding his torch on the foot of the staircase.

Buffy trips over something on her way across, and we hear her curse as she stumbles.

GILES

Is everything alright?

Buffy sighs in the darkness.

BUFFY

I'm fine, I just hit a.. thing.

She enters the light and starts to climb the stairs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GILES

No luck, then?

BUFFY

Nope. The whole grid must be out.  
We've got about as much energy as  
an Oprah audience.

GILES

I take it that's not very much,  
then.

BUFFY

(grins)

You really do need to watch more  
TV!

4

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - FRONT ROOM. NIGHT.

4

Buffy and Giles walk back into the front room, the light provided by an assortment of candles that ANDREW is busy lighting and carefully arranging on various surfaces, as well as a couple of torches held by MARIE, the new Watcher. Buffy raises an eyebrow at Andrew's efforts.

BUFFY

That's funny, I didn't know we were  
living in a medieval castle..  
what's with all the candles?

She looks round - there are far more than needed. Andrew stops lighting them and turns round sheepishly.

ANDREW

Um, I just thought that, given our  
current powerless circumstances,  
the place could use a little.. er,  
enlightenment.

Buffy takes in the sheer amount of candles on display.

BUFFY

A little would have been good.  
We've passed the fire hazard  
barrier and are cruising towards  
natural disaster at the moment!

ANDREW

(pouts)

Fine, well, um, I'll just start  
putting them out then, seeing as,  
you know, I've gone so out of my  
way and all..

Buffy raises a hand and can't stop a smile at Andrew's peeved reaction.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY

No, no, it's okay. Just make sure you don't burn the place down, alright? I'm just starting to get used to this house..

GILES

Marie, shall we get back to where we were?

MARIE

Oh, yes, yes of course.

The two of them head back towards the kitchen, and Buffy watches them go with another grin on her lips.

BUFFY

(to herself)

Hmm..

ANDREW

So, uh, Buffy..

BUFFY

Yes?

ANDREW

Shall we, uh, do something to pass the time? You know, till the power comes back on, and to keep our spirits up in these.. dark times.

BUFFY

(ignores the pun)

What did you have in mind?

ANDREW

Well, normally, I'd suggest a Playstation tournament, but because, ah, we don't have any power, why don't we play..

He pauses, grinning, and Buffy starts to look pretty suspicious..

5

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - FRONT ROOM. NIGHT.

5

Buffy and Andrew are sat either side of a table, looking down at something on it. Andrew is wearing his little red Dungeon Master cape, and Buffy looks bemusedly on.

As we pull back, we see the Dungeons & Dragons gameboard set out, little miniatures all in place.

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CONTINUED:

BUFFY

Okay. So. I'm just gonna march on in there and swing at the big dragon thingy with my magic sword, then, okay?

ANDREW

(smirks)

Okay then, feeble human, try if you dare to take on the might of Drak'hoth-en, the Invincible One, the mighty Demon prince on the Seventh Layer of Hell, who is feared throughout the-

Buffy rolls two dice. Her face lights up, and Andrew pauses mid-sentence.

BUFFY

Alright! Two sixes. Is that good?

Without a word, Andrew lifts up the rulebook and leafs through a few pages. He finds what he was after, looks at the board, checks the rulebook again and then quietly removes the figure representing 'the Invincible One.'

ANDREW

Lucky shot. Beginners luck. I mean, there's no way most people would take out Drak'hoth-en on their first game, it's just statistically-

Buffy's mobile phone rings, and she answers it, cutting Andrew off again. He frowns and re-reads the rulebook.

BUFFY

(into phone)

Hello? Oh, hi, Jackson. I was wondering when you were gonna give me a call! I thought you'd be hiding under your bed because of the thunder and lightning by now..

(beat; giggles)

Yes you would! You know you're scared of lightning.. after, well, you know, that thing that happened.

(beat)

Well, right now, I'm kicking Andrews ass at D&D and waiting for you to say you're coming over to see me.

(beat)

Okay! See you in a minute then.

She tucks the phone away and turns her attention back to the gameboard.

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CONTINUED: (2)

ANDREW

Um, you know what? Maybe we should stop now, if, you know, Jackson's coming over, I wouldn't want you to lose your air of Slayer cool by, um, being seen playing this..

BUFFY

(smiles sweetly)

Why, Andrew, are you afraid that I'm going to beat you?

Andrew pauses, torn between two options, before sighing and starting to move some figures around again.

ANDREW

Okay then, but no holds barred this time. You want to face the hordes of Hell, well now you got it, sister!

Buffy leans back as Andrew works at the board.

6

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - KITCHEN. NIGHT.

6

Giles and Marie are poring over a heap of books spread out over the kitchen counters, trying to read by torch and candlelight but not having much luck. Giles takes off his glasses and rubs his eyes wearily.

GILES

Oh, this is no good. I could barely make head nor tail of these translations when all the lights were on, so it's next to impossible in the dark like this.

MARIE

Really? I'm actually finding it easier when I can't see them properly.

She grins, and it takes Giles a moment to pick up on the joke before he grins back.

GILES

Point taken. Would you like a drink?

MARIE

I'd love one. Coffee, white, two sugars, please.

GILES

I'm afraid we don't have any electricity, remember?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARIE

Oh yes.. Alright then, a glass of  
whatever's still cold will be fine.  
Giles smiles and nods.

GILES

Coming right up.

Giles stands and turns the kettle on.

Looking over Marie's shoulder, taking in the kitchen doorway,  
there is a FLASH of lightning and DAWN is illuminated in the  
doorframe, glaring menacingly at the two of them. The  
lightning fades and she returns to the shadows, but we stay  
with Marie.

We're creeping up silently on Marie, who is lost squinting at  
a page full of particularly dense writing on the text before  
her.

Dawn's hand reaches out towards Marie's neck, and we see  
something metal glinting in her hands. Giles still has his  
back to us, and Dawn's hand is getting awfully close, when:

Giles turns round and sees Dawn.

GILES (cont'd)

Oh, hello, Dawn, I didn't see you  
there.

Marie turns, and Dawn steps backwards, trying not to look  
suspicious. She smiles warmly, hands behind her back.

DAWN

Oh, uh, hello. I just thought I'd  
come downstairs and see what you  
were all up to.

MARIE

Not much so far, I'm afraid, as  
Giles just said, this was slow  
going when we still had the lights  
on.

DAWN

Anything I can do to help?

Giles and Marie exchange a look, before Giles nods and  
motions for Dawn to take his seat.

GILES

Help yourself. We're still trying  
to find any kind of reference we  
can to this Source we're looking  
for.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Dawn sits down and pulls one of the books towards her. Marie watches her as she begins reading, and Dawn notices and looks up.

DAWN

Hmm?

MARIE

Oh, nothing, I've just.. you don't see many girls your age doing this kind of work.

DAWN

Well, I guess I'm just full of surprises these days.

She smiles and Marie smiles back, both returning to their books. Dawn glances up at her and Giles to make sure neither are watching her before she continues.

7 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - FRONT ROOM. NIGHT.

7

There is a knock on the door, and Buffy gets up from the table, leaving a slumped and defeated Andrew face down in front of a pile of figures laid on their side.

She goes to the door and opens it, to see JACKSON. They share a grin and hug before he steps inside.

BUFFY

Hey, sweetie.

JACKSON

'Sweetie'? I'm getting worried about you, you're starting to soften up.

BUFFY

Must be a bad influence somewhere in my life..

JACKSON

Well, I sure hope it isn't me..

The two smile again and kiss. Andrew gets up in the background and they stop to turn to look at him.

ANDREW

Um, I'm gonna go upstairs and, uh, leave you two to it. Maybe call Jody or something.

BUFFY

Okay Andrew. You can have your monsters back later. They belong to me for now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Andrew scowls at her and stomps off upstairs. Jackson throws a confused look at Buffy.

JACKSON  
Monsters?

BUFFY  
Long story. I have, however, found another thing I'm quite good at.

JACKSON  
Oh yeah?

BUFFY  
Yeah. But it can wait.

One mischievous smirk later, the two young lovers are quickly heading upstairs.

8 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - KITCHEN. NIGHT.

8

Dawn looks up at Buffy and Jackson dash past on their way upstairs, frowning as she sees Jackson. She checks to see what Giles is doing, then flips to a random page in the book and lets out a little gasp of surprise.

DAWN  
(surprise; pretending)  
Oh! Here it is!

GILES  
Here what is?

Giles and Marie head over and lean over to look down at Dawn's book. She allows herself a small smirk before she continues.

DAWN  
This passage. I didn't recognise the dialect at first, but then I thought it could be proto-Malaysian, which has that funny knack, you know, where..

MARIE  
Where the subject and object of each sentence are context-sensitive, yes. Makes it hard to know who's doing what to who half the time!

GILES  
So what did you find?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAWN

Well, this passage makes a direct reference to the Slayer, which is what made me notice it in the first place, and then it starts talking about foes and agents of the Apocalypse that the Slayer must face, yadda yadda.

GILES

Yes, we do see an awful lot of those, don't we..

DAWN

And then, I spotted this.. Dawn checks to make sure they're both watching.

Her finger traces down the yellowed page, past some indecipherable lettering and a sketch of a young girl holding a stake with a huge shadow-like creature looming large behind her.

DAWN (cont'd)

This section here refers to this Source thing, and says that when it is prophesised to return, it will do so in the form of someone known to the Slayer to disguise itself.

MARIE

Hmm, that's not good. That could mean it was any of us!

DAWN

But then, it says that the person won't be immediately known to the Slayer, it'll be someone new, someone who seems to be fighting for their cause but is actually just a shell for the evil to hide in until the right moment, when it'll strike.

Giles rubs his chin thoughtfully as Marie chews the end of a pencil.

DAWN

Do all you Watchers have that?

GILES

Have what?

DAWN

You know, a thing. Something you do when you're concentrating.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAWN(cont'd)

Giles always rubs his chin, I've seen you chewing a pencil every time you're thinking hard about something.. If I'm going to do this full-time, I definitely need a thing. Maybe I can chew my hair or something.

MARIE

Oh, you don't want to do that, dear. It gathers in your stomach over time, and you could end up in hospital having a two-pound hairball extracted if you're not careful.

Dawn pulls a disgusted face as Giles stares down at the book. He pulls it closer and holds a torch over it to look.

GILES

Well, I have to say, you're a better man than I am if you can read that, Dawn. I still can't make out a damn word.

DAWN

I guess you must've skipped that course at the Watcher's Academy.

She grins disarmingly and Giles smiles back.

GILES

So it would seem!

MARIE

Well, we need to start looking at who this could make the Source, then. New people in Buffy's life who are on our side. There's that Andrew boy out there..

GILES

Yes, and his, um, boyfriend, what's his name?

DAWN

Jody. I doubt it's him somehow.

GILES

You can never be too careful. Sherlock Holmes always used to say 'When you have eliminated the possible then whatever remains, no matter how improbable, must be the truth.' In this case I think we need to make a fully inclusive list of suspects and work through it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

GILES(cont'd)

There was that mature Slayer woman  
Buffy met, Ellen, and that little  
girl who said she was the 'Oracle',  
Emmily..

The two think over for another few moments.

MARIE

There's that demon woman you  
mentioned, Tammazel, was it?

GILES

I think it's safe to say the only  
side she's fighting on is her own  
at the moment. That leaves..

Giles and Marie share a look.

GILES & MARIE

Jackson.

Giles and Marie look troubled, not noticing Dawn who wears a  
triumphant grin on her face.

DAWN

Well, that's me done for the night,  
I think. I'm just going to slip out  
for a minute.

GILES

(distracted)

Right, right, yes.

Dawn stands and leaves the kitchen. Giles looks up and  
notices the storm outside and turns back to where Dawn  
disappeared to.

GILES (cont'd)

Oh, Dawn, what about the..

She's long gone. Giles rolls his eyes and looks back down at  
the books.

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT ONE**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ACT TWO

FADE UP;

9

WILLOW'S APARTMENT. NIGHT.

9

The place looks a little more homely now - what bits of it we can see, anyway. Torches are in force again as Xander puts on his Man Of The House hat to try to keep things moving.

Willow still hasn't left the couch, but she's sitting up now and sipping at a glass of water. Doodles is sitting on her lap, watching things and scratching his ear lazily.

Xander and Anya's soggy boxes of things are leaving damp patches on the rugs on the floor as Anya and Xander stand together near the window, watching the storm.

ANYA

(quietly)

Couldn't she do a bit more to help?

XANDER

Like what? She's been through enough lately, An.

ANYA

Well, couldn't she rustle up a little magic circle of candles or something? You know witches and their candle fetish. I'm surprised she wasn't stacking 'em up and lighting them the second the power went out!

XANDER

Be reasonable, honey, Will's just got to do what she needs to get through this right now, and we're here to keep her grounded while she does that.

Anya opens her mouth to reply, but Xander cuts her off with a raised finger.

XANDER (cont'd)

And that's exactly what we're going to do. Right?

Anya pouts, looking distinctly unimpressed with the whole situation.

ANYA

Fine.

(beat; mutters)

Just because you used to be in love with her..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER  
What was that?

ANYA  
(irritated)  
Oh, nothing.

WILLOW  
(distant)  
Do you ever wonder why it happens?

Anya and Xander exchange a look - Anya nods and Xander goes and sits by Willow on the couch, where she is still staring into space.

XANDER  
Why what happens?

WILLOW  
Why we're always alone. Why the people we love always get taken away from us.

XANDER  
That's not always true. Not everyone you love goes away.

Xander throws a look back to Anya, who smiles. Willow still hasn't looked at Xander as she sips her water.

WILLOW  
For me they do. I loved you, and then you stole my Barbie and we grew up, and that was it. Apart from that time just before Cordelia landed on those spikes.

Xander looks a little guilty as Anya pats her hands on her hips and glares at him.

Xander quickly goes into Damage Control mode, taking his arm from round Willow and shuffling ever so slightly away from her.

XANDER  
Uh, well, that was a long, long time ago, Will.. and besides, I never really went away. I've always been here. And I still love you.  
(grins)  
Saved the world with that line, remember?

WILLOW  
(not listening)  
And then there was Oz. Oz was nice.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WILLOW(cont'd)

I liked Oz a lot. I loved Oz. And then he went away. He went away.

XANDER

You know why he did that. He did it for you. But things don't always work out the way you want them to, I mean, when you met Tara by the time Oz came back and all.

WILLOW

He came back and it was too late. But he went away when I.. I still loved him. He went away when I loved him more than anything else in the world.

ANYA

Of course, you'd have to have built a kennel if he'd stayed..

XANDER

Anya!

ANYA

Okay, fine, I'm just going to go and disappear for a while then.

She stomps out of the room in a huff. Xander watches her go, and then turns back to look at Willow. He places one hand on hers and squeezes, but she's still unresponsive.

XANDER

I know she doesn't act like it sometimes, but Anya cares for you too, you know. And don't forget Buffy, and Giles. We all love you, Will.

WILLOW

Tara. I loved Tara too. I don't think I've loved anybody or anything as much as Tara in my life, she was.. she was just..

Xander pulls Willow's head onto his shoulder and she sighs, resting against him. He wraps a brotherly arm around her.

XANDER

She was something else, I know. Willow sits up suddenly and pushes Xander away.

WILLOW

And now Kennedy! Why, Xander, why? Why does everyone I love get taken away? What do I do that's so wrong?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

WILLOW(cont'd)

(tearful)

Haven't I been through enough? I know I did bad things.. I know I killed someone, but haven't I been punished enough for that yet? Why did Kennedy have to die too?

(sobbing)

Why does everyone always die?

She is lost to her tears, burying her face into Xander's chest and sobbing, as he holds her shaking body tight to try and soothe her.

Anya watches them from the kitchen doorway.

ANYA

Let's hope she doesn't cry herself up another demon this time..

10

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - BUFFY'S ROOM. NIGHT.

10

Buffy and Jackson lie in bed under the covers, eyes twinkling in the darkness as they gaze happily across at one another.

JACKSON

Well, I must say, your night vision is obviously a heck of a lot better than mine.. I couldn't see a damn thing just then!

BUFFY

Slayer.

JACKSON

Ah..

They grin, and Buffy snuggles up next to him.

BUFFY

Well, that killed some time.. How long till you reckon the power comes back on?

Jackson looks up and towards the bedroom window, sees the storm still ripping through Cleveland outside.

JACKSON

I'm guessing a while yet.

BUFFY

Looks like we'd better find something else to do, then..

Jackson smirks and kisses her, but at that moment Buffy's cell phone starts to ring. The couple groan as Buffy reaches onto the bedside table and grabs the phone.

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                  BUFFY (cont'd)  
                  (into phone)  
Hello?

                  ELLEN  
                  (filtered; through phone)  
Oh, Buffy, hey. Reception's been  
pretty crappy 'cause of the  
weather, I've been trying to call  
for a while.

                  BUFFY  
I might not have heard the phone  
ringing, I've been.. kinda tied up.

                  ELLEN  
Oh, boyfriend round, huh?

Buffy throws a look at Jackson, who can't hear Ellen, and  
grins.

                  BUFFY  
Guilty as charged.

                  ELLEN  
Well, I hate to drag you away from  
the warmth of your bed and all, but  
little Emmily says she needs to see  
you again. She seems kind of  
worried - I've not seen her like  
this before.

                  BUFFY  
                  (back to business)  
Right. I'll be over as soon as I  
can.

                  ELLEN  
Thanks, Buffy. See you in a sec.

Buffy hangs up, and then draws the topsheet around her and  
hops off screen, out of bed.

                  JACKSON  
You off? It's not exactly good  
sailing weather out there.

                  BUFFY (O.S.)  
Business. Emmily needs to see me  
again.

                  JACKSON  
                  (sighs)  
She always does this just after  
we've.. you know, doesn't she? Do  
you think she can tell?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY (O.S.)  
 God, I hope not! Hand me my shirt,  
 will ya?

Jackson grabs a black blouse off the bed and tosses it  
 towards Buffy.

JACKSON  
 You gonna be gone long?

Buffy leans back into frame, dressed, and kisses Jackson.

BUFFY  
 Hopefully not.

She leaves, and Jackson sighs and settles back down.

11 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - FRONT ROOM. NIGHT. 11

Buffy grabs her jacket off the stairs as she passes on her  
 way to the door. Giles steps out from the kitchen and calls  
 after her.

GILES  
 Oh, Buffy, could we have a word? We  
 think we've found-

BUFFY  
 Sorry, Giles, can't stop. Got a  
 call on the red phone and  
 Commissioner Gordon needs to see me  
 right away.

GILES  
 (puzzled)  
 Red phone..?

Giles opens his mouth to speak again but Buffy is already  
 out, the door slamming in the wind behind her.

GILES (cont'd)  
 I definitely need to watch more  
 television.

12 INT. WILLOW'S APARTMENT. NIGHT. 12

We're looking in on Willow, tucked up in bed and sniffing as  
 we pull back a little bit to see Anya and Xander watching  
 her. Xander pulls the door closed.

ANYA  
 Do you think one of us should stand  
 guard over her? In case she tries  
 to, you know, jump out a window or  
 something.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER

Willow won't do that. And besides, we're only a few floors up, I think she'd land safely. Most likely on my car, knowing my luck.

ANYA

So what are we going to do with her? Because, frankly, babysitting a potentially lethal and recently bereaved wicca only leads to bad things. Like the end of the world.

XANDER

That won't happen again.

ANYA

How can you be so sure?

XANDER

(long beat)

I just am.

13 INT. WILLOW'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

13

On the other side of the door, kneeling next to Willow in the bed, we can hear Anya and Xander's muffled voices as Willow stares out through the window, her eyes still wet with tears. She closes her eyes and pulls the bedclothes up tight around her.

14 INT. JUNGLE CLEARING. MORNING.

14

Willow finds herself back in the snow-covered jungle clearing where she first met Tattles and the other members of the Circle. A little way off is the village where she was told about the Circle and her possible destiny, and she can see signs of activity moving around inside it. The sounds of the jungle wildlife around her are particularly loud.

15 INT. WILLOW'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

15

Her eyes snap open, the sounds of the jungle echoing and fading away in the background. Willow shifts round to lie on her back, staring up at the ceiling, a thoughtful look on her face now the tears have stopped.

16 EXT. CLEVELAND - STREET. NIGHT.

16

Buffy struggles forward through the almost horizontal rain and howling wind, as she passes houses where trees have uprooted in the front gardens and mailboxes have been blown straight out of the ground. Pulling her jacket tight around her and scowling defiantly at the winds, she trudges on step by step towards Ellen's apartment block.

17 EXT. OUTSIDE APARTMENT BLOCK. NIGHT. 17

Buffy makes it as far as the entrance to Ellen's building, pressing the intercom buzzer as the rain lashes down around her. She presses it twice more, with no response.

BUFFY  
(exasperated)  
Ellen, come on!

She takes a few steps back and looks up to the fifth floor apartment she's buzzing.

Just like everywhere else around, there are no lights on, but noticeably two windows are open, the curtains inside flapping in the wind.

A concerned look crosses her face, and she tries the buzzer again. She waits a few moments, checks either side of her, then kicks at the door with a burst of Slayer strength.

18 INT. INSIDE APARTMENT BLOCK. NIGHT. 18

The door clatters open and Buffy hops inside, taking a moment to shake some of the rain water off herself like a soggy cat. Shivering, she starts up the staircase towards the fifth floor.

19 INT. OUTSIDE ELLEN'S APARTMENT. NIGHT. 19

Buffy reaches Ellen's room and goes to knock on the door when she sees that the front door is slightly ajar. She pushes it gently and it starts to swing open, and on instinct Buffy tenses up, ready for trouble.

20 INT. ELLEN'S APARTMENT. NIGHT. 20

Buffy steps into the darkened living room, her eyes scanning for movement. The wind howls in through the open windows, rattling them in their frames, but those are the only sounds as Buffy pads silently inside.

There's no-one in the kitchenette off the living room, and some of Emmily's toys and colouring books are scattered over the floor. The TV set has fallen backwards, and round the small dining table two of the chairs have been knocked over.

Buffy continues pacing, her fists clenching. She approaches the door leading to Ellen's room, pauses for a beat then kicks it open and jumps inside.

21 INT. ELLEN'S ROOM. NIGHT. 21

Ellen's bedroom is empty, but the rumpled bed sheets and disturbed furniture continue the theme from outside.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Buffy looks around for any sign of Ellen, but sees nothing. She steps back out.

22 INT. EMMILY'S ROOM. NIGHT. 22

Emmily's small box room is next door to Ellen's, and after a beat Buffy kicks the door open and hops inside. Again, signs of a struggle but no sign of either of the two girls.

Buffy turns to leave when she hears a faint scratching sound. She turns.

She looks towards the wooden wardrobe unit fitted into the opposite wall and heads slowly towards it, the room periodically lit up by lightning flashes outside.

Buffy takes a step towards the wardrobe but then we see a shadow dart past the open front door, and quick as a flash Buffy turns and runs back towards the doorway.

23 INT. ELLEN'S APARTMENT. NIGHT. 23

Buffy gets to the door in a moment, but after looking down both sides of the corridor outside, she sees no-one. She looks troubled, knowing something is wrong here.

24 INT. EMMILY'S ROOM - INSIDE WARDROBE. NIGHT. 24

Looking up from the ground at Buffy as she opens the wardrobe door and looks inside, lit up by a flash of lightning. She glances over the contents - clothes hanging up and a few boxes, and goes to close the door when a small voice calls out to her.

EMMILY (O.S.)

Buffy?

EMMILY pushes two of the boxes she was hiding behind aside and peeps out from behind them. Her face lights up when she sees Buffy, and she darts forward and into Buffy.

Almost knocked off her feet, Buffy hugs the little girl and stands, holding her protectively against her.

EMMILY (cont'd)

I'm sorry, I had to hide. Someone was here.

BUFFY

Who was here? And where's Ellen?

EMMILY

I don't know. I heard shouting, and I think fighting too. Then I hid. Haven't come out since.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY  
How long have you been in there?

EMMILY  
Not long, few minutes.

Buffy takes another look around the room.

BUFFY  
Alright, let's get you somewhere  
safe. You got a coat to wear? It's  
a little wet outside.

Emmily nods and points to a red raincoat hanging off one of  
the bedposts, which Buffy grabs.

25 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - FRONT ROOM. NIGHT.

25

Dawn opens the front door and steps inside, looking red-  
cheeked and a little out of breath as she tries to close the  
door without anyone hearing. She starts to creep up the  
stairs when Giles calls out from the kitchen.

GILES (O.S.)  
Buffy? Is that you?

DAWN  
Ah, no, Giles, it's Dawn. Just got  
back.

Giles steps out into the hallway, taking in Dawn's drenched  
appearance.

GILES  
Where on Earth have you been? You  
must be mad to go running around  
outside in this storm.

DAWN  
Oh, you know, around. Had some  
things to do.

GILES  
Well, I think it's best if you stay  
at home until Buffy returns now,  
just so we know where everyone is.

Giles steps back into the kitchen and Dawn carries on up the  
stairs.

A look of extreme annoyance takes over her face, as we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT TWO**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT THREE

FADE UP:

26 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - ANDREW'S ROOM. NIGHT. 26

Buffy tucks Emmily up in Andrew's bed, carefully smoothing her hair down as she wraps the bedclothes up around her. She smiles down at the little Oracle.

BUFFY

I remember how I used to do this for Dawn when I was younger.. She used to say she could only go to sleep when I'd tucked her in.

EMMILY

I say that to Ellen too.

Buffy grins and stands, revealing Andrew standing, arms folded, in the doorway, not looking best pleased as Buffy walks over.

ANDREW

So, why does she have to use my room? I mean, couldn't she uses Dawn's, or maybe yours, or-

BUFFY

(interrupts)

She stayed in Dawn's last time. And besides, your room has me on one side and Dawn on the other, she'll be safer there.

ANDREW

Well, um, where do I sleep?

BUFFY

Andrew, you spend half your life down on the couch watching zombie movies and the Sci-Fi Channel, one night sleeping there won't kill you.

Andrew huffs and heads downstairs as Buffy closes the door to Emmily's room. There is a knock at the door, and Buffy frowns - now who is it?

27 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - FRONT DOOR. NIGHT. 27

Buffy opens the door to reveal FAITH, soaked to the skin but not looking like she minds, her long black hair stuck to her skin.

FAITH

Hey, B, what's up?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY

Please tell me you didn't just come  
round here to ask me to go dancing  
in the rain with you..

FAITH

Heh, no, we got trouble.

BUFFY

(perks up)  
Trouble?

FAITH

Yeah, downtown. Just came by on my  
way over, the power's down at my  
place and I was bored, saw a bunch  
of vamps hanging around by a few  
shops just inside the city centre.  
Figured I'd best pick you up on my  
way back out. I'd have called,  
but..

She points upwards as lightning cracks overhead.

BUFFY

Let me get some things. Come on in.

Faith steps inside, shaking her jacket dry as Buffy kneels  
down by the weapons chest next to the sofa.

Andrew appears at the foot of the stairs with a sleeping bag,  
his Discman and a handful of CDs.

ANDREW

Oh, are you going out?

BUFFY

Trouble downtown. Vampire  
scavengers.

FAITH

Yeah, something to pass the time  
till the power comes back up.

ANDREW

Right.

(beat)

So can I sleep in your room till  
you get back?

BUFFY

Not unless you want to bunk up with  
Jackson!

(beat)

That means no.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANDREW  
Right, sure, okay.

Buffy heads back outside, axe in one hand, Faith follows holding a sturdy baseball bat and closes the door behind her.

28

EXT. CLEVELAND - STREET. NIGHT.

28

We're looking at the glass front of a sports gear store - as a trash can smashes through it, shattering it into a thousand pieces.

The VAMPIRE MOB gathered outside cheer as the glass spills out around them. There's around ten vampires, lapping up the heavy rain and eager to get started on raiding the alarm-less shops before them.

A pair of chunky black New Rock boots step into frame. Pan up to follow Faith's patent leather trousers, and finally the girl herself, bat in hand, a smirk on her face as she sizes up her opponents. Buffy stands next to her, not looking at all happy with the rain still.

FAITH  
You ready to play some ball, B?

BUFFY  
The only thing I'm ready for is a warm shower and my bed.. let's get this over with, okay?

Faith grins and strides boldly up to the closest vamp.

FAITH  
Hey, Fido!

The vamp turns round, a confused look on its vamped out features.

FAITH (cont'd)  
Fetch!

She clocks the vamp with the bat and it drops like a stone to the ground. Four of his buddies hiss and head over, fanning out to circle Faith, who doesn't look at all worried.

Four more vamps are coming for her, she's ready with her stake, eyes darting left to right.

BUFFY  
You got 'em, Faith?

FAITH  
Yeah, I got 'em.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As one, the two girls lunge forward, Faith producing a stake from a slip pocket sewn into her trousers and dusting one vamp as Buffy does the same.

Faith swings the bat again and drops another vamp, breaking it over her knee and using the two halves to stake the two stunned vamps on the ground.

Buffy she jumps into the air and spin kicks the nearest vamp, sending it spiralling to the ground, rain flying off the pair of them.

Buffy's on the vamp, staking him and rolling to avoid a kick from another as she gets to her feet. She trades a few punches with two vamps surrounding her, ending up back to back against Faith. Faith smirks.

FAITH (cont'd)

This is what it's all about, ain't it?

BUFFY

What, catching pneumonia while fighting vamps?

(beat)

You bet.

The girls dart forwards again, each catching and staking another vamp as they lunge out. The girls regroup - two against three.

One of the vamps looks like he's about to make a break for it, but Buffy's ready with the axe and sends it spinning through air after him, neatly slicing his head off.

His two colleagues exchange a worried look, backing up as Faith and Buffy advance slowly towards them.

VAMP #1

Now, uh, look, let's not be too hasty here, okay..

VAMP #2

Yeah, we were just in town to do some, you know, shopping.. can't we come to an agreement?

He grins, slowly fishing a wad of obviously stolen cash out of his jacket pocket.

They exchange an incredulous look, before throwing their stakes forward together.

We hear two screams as the vamps simultaneously dust, and Buffy sighs, wiping away some of the rain water streaming down her face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY  
Are we done?

FAITH  
Think so... you heading back?

BUFFY  
I most certainly am. You coming?

FAITH  
Sure.

The girls walk off screen.

29 INT. WILLOW'S APARTMENT. NIGHT.

29

Xander and Anya sit on the couch in the gloom, huddled together as Xander reads by torchlight. Anya looks thoughtful.

ANYA  
Xander?

XANDER  
Yeah?

ANYA  
Do you ever think about the future these days?

XANDER  
I try not to. As I learned from my time on the Sunnydale electoral roll, the future is never quite what you expected it to be. Besides, we've already had one creepy potential vision of our future show up and try to spoil the party, so by keeping all thoughts of it out of my head, I think we can stay safe from it!

ANYA  
I guess.

A beat.

ANYA (cont'd)  
Do you want kids?

Xander can't help himself gulping loudly, but he manages to put the book down and appear to remain calm.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER

Well.. one day.. and not anytime soon, if at all possible.. yeah, I think I do.

ANYA

With me?

XANDER

Well, I don't see any other ex-ex-vengeance demons around here that I'm in love with, so yes, with you.

(beat)

Something on your mind again, honey?

ANYA

Not really. Just girl talk. I've been practising it.

XANDER

Anya, when you start speaking in normal 'girl talk,' then I get all sorts of alarm bells ringing! Are you sure you're okay? I mean, since we made you human again you've seemed a little..

ANYA

A little what?

XANDER

Well, I'm not sure. Just not quite yourself. I mean, your sense of sarcasm is present and correct, as is your sex drive, so it's nothing major, just..

ANYA

(sighs)

I know. I can't describe it either. I just feel a little.. strange.

Xander kisses the top of her head affectionately.

XANDER

Whatever it is, it can't be serious. And even if it is, we'll get through it. I think we can safely say we've been through worse by now, right?

Anya smiles up at him and he smiles back, picking up his book again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANYA

Do you think Willow would mind if  
we had a little fun on her couch?

XANDER

I think that would be extremely  
disrespectful, An.

ANYA

Even just a tiny bit?

XANDER

Well..

He looks down at Anya, who is giving him her best puppy dog  
eyes.

XANDER (cont'd)

(grins)

Maybe just a little..

She grins back and leans up to kiss him. Xander throws the  
book over his shoulder, knocking the torch over as he does so  
and plunging the room into darkness.

We hear the two of them giggling as they shuffle around on  
the couch.

30 INT. WILLOW'S BEDROOM. NIGHT.

30

Willow in bed, staring up at the ceiling as before. She  
closes her eyes and takes a deep breath, focusing herself.

We zoom in closer towards her, the air seeming to fill with  
swirls of colour around her and the jungle sounds from  
earlier starting to fade up again.

She has a peaceful look on her face, seeming to lose herself  
in what she's conjuring up around her.

We can faintly hear the sound of Tattles laughing, and  
calling Willow's name, over and over..

31 INT. WILLOW'S APARTMENT. NIGHT.

31

With Anya and Xander in the darkness - so we can hear them,  
but not see them, save from what little light comes in from  
the window.

XANDER

Hey, wait.. do you hear something?

ANYA

Hmm?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER  
I definitely heard something. From  
Willow's room.

ANYA  
Should we go check?

XANDER  
Hang on a second..

A long beat while they both listen. No sound except the storm  
outside.

XANDER (cont'd)  
Huh, must've been the wind. Now,  
where were we?

Anya giggles again.

32 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - FRONT ROOM. NIGHT.

32

The front door opens and a soaking wet Buffy and Faith step  
inside, shuffling off their coats and attempting to wring out  
their hair. Faith looks invigorated by the weather, Buffy  
just looks exhausted by it.

FAITH  
Aah! A night like this makes you  
good to feel alive, don't it?

BUFFY  
A night like this makes me  
appreciate advances in the field of  
central heating..  
(beat)  
..which, of course, we don't  
actually have at the moment..

FAITH  
What you need is a good warm body  
to cosy up with.

BUFFY  
(smiles)  
Check.

FAITH  
(cheeky grin)  
Oho, the better half waiting  
upstairs, huh?

BUFFY  
Yeah.. but he can wait a little  
longer. I need food now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The girls head into the kitchen, not noticing Andrew who is asleep in his sleeping bag on the couch, Discman headphones lopsided on his head.

CONTINUOUS:

33

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - KITCHEN. NIGHT.

33

Giles and Marie stand as Buffy and Faith walk in.

GILES

Ah, Buffy. Oh, and Faith too.  
Hello.

FAITH

None other. How's it hanging,  
Giles?

GILES

(preoccupied)

Same as it ever was, I'm afraid.  
Buffy, you'd better take a look at  
this.

He turns round the passage Dawn pointed out earlier for Buffy to look at. She and Faith lean over, look it over for a few seconds, then lean back.

BUFFY

Killer shadow monsters?

FAITH

(snaps fingers)

I got it, it's warning us about an  
evil painting.

They smirk as Buffy turns the book round to face Giles.

BUFFY

You have to explain these things,  
remember? I don't speak Watcher.

Marie chuckles at the girls' reaction, and Giles looks a little embarrassed. He adjusts his glasses and starts to point to lines on the page.

GILES

We have your sister to thank for  
this one, actually. She recognised  
the writing on here when neither of  
us could.

FAITH

Mini-Me managed to outsmart you  
two? Man, I'm impressed..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY  
What did she find out?

GILES  
Not good news, I'm afraid. She  
found reference to an ancient  
prophecy, where-

BUFFY  
(interrupts)  
Oh great, here we go again..

GILES  
(sighs)  
A prophecy that states that the  
Source will try to disguise itself  
by sharing a body with someone  
close to the Chosen One, lurking in  
the shadows and waiting for the  
right moment to attack. Someone the  
Chosen One knows, but hasn't known  
for all that long.

BUFFY  
How long, exactly?

FAITH  
And don't forget there's more than  
one Chosen One out there these  
days. A helluva lot more, in fact.

Marie and Giles exchange a look - they know Buffy won't like  
what they're about to say.

MARIE  
Giles and I made a list of possible  
suspects, people close to you who  
haven't been on the scene all that  
long.

Marie hands Buffy a notepad.

BUFFY  
We should definitely add Gladys on  
here.

GILES  
Gladys?

BUFFY  
Crazy woman at work. Long story.

Buffy reads down the page, and stops when she gets to the  
bottom. She hands the book back to Marie, and stands there a  
moment, a blank look on her face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GILES  
Buffy, we-

BUFFY  
(interrupts)  
No.

Giles looks like he was expecting this reaction.

GILES  
It's just a list of-

BUFFY  
No.

She looks directly at Giles.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
No. It can't be Jackson. He's on  
our side.

GILES  
We have to consider every  
possibility, Buffy, no matter how  
unpalatable they may seem.

BUFFY  
(angry)  
No! It's not Jackson!

Buffy turns and storms out of the kitchen, and Giles sighs  
again and rubs his brow.

FAITH  
I'll handle this, G. Wait here.

Faith heads out after her. Marie throws a concerned look up  
at Giles.

GILES  
I had a feeling this wouldn't be a  
good night..

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT THREE**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ACT FOUR

FADE UP:

34

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - BUFFY'S ROOM. NIGHT.

34

Buffy stands in the doorway, looking down at Jackson who has dozed off again. Faith joins her, towel in her hand from the bathroom to dry off her hair.

FAITH

He is kinda cute, B.. and here was me thinking you'd gone off the big, brawny types after you got friendly with a certain punk rocker!

Buffy scowls at Faith, who raises her hands defensively.

FAITH (cont'd)

Just saying, is all.

BUFFY

(snaps)

Well, don't.

Buffy looks back at Jackson.

FAITH

Look, Giles is even less tactful than I am sometimes, but you gotta see the guy's point. If this Source thing has done a Quantum Leap with somebody we know, then we've gotta be extra careful about it, right?

Buffy looks down at the sleeping Jackson.

FAITH (O.S.) (cont'd)

And that means that sleeping with the enemy may not be a good idea right now.

Buffy sighs and closes the door. She turns to Faith, a heavy look in her eyes.

BUFFY

I know.. I just thought..

FAITH

You just thought you'd have it easy for a change. Believe me, sister, I feel your pain, but till we get this straightened out you need to be twice as sharp.

Buffy manages a weak smile at Faith, who takes a step back and grins.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FAITH (cont'd)

Woah there, you're not gonna try  
and hug me, are you? 'Cause I've  
already had a..

(beat)

Never mind.

BUFFY

Relax. That's one thing that's even  
less likely than us having a quiet  
life, ever.

Faith nods and grins, and Buffy sighs heavily.

BUFFY (cont'd)

Know something else though?

FAITH

What?

BUFFY

I really missed Kennedy out there  
tonight. We'd been training a lot  
lately, and it seems that just as I  
was getting somewhere with her,  
just when I was starting to feel  
like I could trust her to watch my  
back out in the field..

FAITH

Then she was gone.

BUFFY

Yeah.

FAITH

Occupational hazard, B, you know  
the deal.

BUFFY

Doesn't make it any easier to live  
with, though, does it?

Faith can only offer a smile and a shake of the head. Buffy  
heads for Andrew's room as Faith trots back downstairs.

35

INT. ANDREW'S ROOM. NIGHT.

35

Buffy opens the door just enough to peek in at Emmily, and is  
about to close it again when Emmily shifts round in the bed  
to look up at her.

BUFFY

Sorry, Em, didn't mean to wake you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EMMILY

Can't sleep. Too noisy outside.

Buffy enters the room and sits on the bed next to Emmily, looking down with almost sisterly kindness at her.

BUFFY

I'm afraid I can't do much about that, but storms never last forever. Sooner or later, they blow themselves out, and then everything becomes calm again.

EMMILY

There's still lots of things you need to be told.

Buffy cocks her head to one side.

BUFFY

(frowns)

Like what?

Emmily looks over to the window, seeming suddenly sad.

EMMILY

Too many for me. Not enough time now.

BUFFY

Why not?

EMMILY

The next Oracle will help you, though. Plenty of things still to tell you.

Emmily reaches up with her finger and pops Buffy lightly on the nose.

EMMILY (cont'd)

Chosen.

Emmily smiles, then snuggles back down and closes her eyes. Buffy looks perplexed, but automatically tucks Emmily back in again as she gets up and leaves the room, still frowning.

36

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - UPSTAIRS LANDING. NIGHT.

36

Buffy leaves Andrew's room and half closes the door, almost walking straight into Dawn. She gasps but smiles when she sees who it is.

BUFFY

Sorry, Dawn, I was miles away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAWN

Who were you talking to? I thought  
Andrew was asleep downstairs..

BUFFY

Oh, it's okay, look..

She holds the door open again and Dawn looks inside.

She sees Emmily, sleeping like a little angel.

Buffy pulls the door half shut again.

BUFFY (cont'd)

Emmily was in trouble, had to go do  
a little rescue mission. She's  
stopping here till the storm blows  
over and we can figure something  
out.

DAWN

Huh. Where's Ellen?

BUFFY

No idea. She wasn't there when I  
got round. I hope she's okay,  
looked like something had come  
after them both.

DAWN

She'll be okay. She's a Slayer,  
remember?

BUFFY

(wry smile)

If only it was that simple..

Buffy walks off, back downstairs. We stay with Dawn.

We can see Dawn's expression as she looks into Andrew's room  
at Emmily, and a wicked grin creeps across her face.

37 INT. WILLOW'S APARTMENT. NIGHT.

37

Xander has righted the torch, and we see Anya and Xander  
happily snuggled up on the couch, their hair ruffled as it  
looks like they got a little carried away trying to only have  
a little bit of fun!

A door opens and then shuts, startling Xander awake. He  
glances around for a few seconds as he comes to.

A figure stands at the end of the couch, wrapped in the  
shadows. A flash of lightning lights up the room and we see  
Willow, wrapped up in her bedclothes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Xander yelps as the sight surprises him, which wakes Anya up as well.

ANYA  
(sleepily)  
Hnuh? Okay, just one more time,  
honey..

XANDER  
Willow?

Willow is looking round the room, her features looking a million times happier than when we last saw her, as though observing the apartment for the first time.

WILLOW  
It's gonna be alright.

XANDER  
(sits up)  
What is? Are you okay?

WILLOW  
I'm fine.

She thinks about her statement and then laughs, still not looking directly at Xander.

WILLOW (cont'd)  
(broad smile)  
I'm just fine.

She wanders out into the kitchen as Xander sits up, looking after her, and Anya sits up, blearily rubbing her eyes.

ANYA  
Oh good, she's all better. Can we  
go back home now?

XANDER  
(distracted)  
Just a minute, honey.. He gets up  
and heads into the kitchen.

38 INT. WILLOW'S APARTMENT - KITCHEN. NIGHT.

38

Willow is humming to herself as she searches through the cupboards for something. She spots Doodles, nosing around on the kitchen counter, and scoops him up, cooing affectionately at him. Xander walks in, looking cautiously at her.

XANDER  
Uh, Wil? Is everything alright?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW

Hmm? Yes, Xander, everything's great. Why?

XANDER

Well, not wanting to dig up bad vibes or anything, but.. well, you were kind of a heck of a lot unhappier about an hour ago.

WILLOW

I said yes.

XANDER

What?

WILLOW

(turns to him; smiles)

They asked me, and I said yes. I said yes!

(broad smile)

So it's all going to be fine.

She finds a box of biscuits and starts absently munching on them as she speaks.

WILLOW (cont'd)

No more pain. No more broken hearts. No more death. It's all going to be just fine.

XANDER

(beat)

Willow, you need to tell me why you've gone all Stepford Wives on me or I'm gonna have to have you sedated.

Willow walks past him, biscuits in hand, and pats him on the cheek as she passes.

WILLOW

I will. All you need to know for now is that everything's going to be alright.

She leaves, and we see her head back into her bedroom and close the door again.

Anya enters the kitchen, yawning, as Xander still looks confounded by the whole thing.

ANYA

So is she okay?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XANDER  
Apparently.. yes.  
(beat)  
We need to call Buffy.

39 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - FRONT ROOM. NIGHT.

39

Buffy and Faith are sorting out her weapons collection, which is spread out on the carpet before them, torches illuminating the display of steel next to the open weapons chest when Buffy's cell phone rings.

BUFFY  
Hello?

XANDER  
(through phone; filtered)  
Hey Buff, it's Xand. Listen,  
something weird's going on with  
Willow, and we're not sure what to  
do about it. We were hoping you  
could head over when the storm gets-

He's interrupted by a loud CRASH from upstairs in Buffy's house. Buffy leaps to her feet, looking upstairs.

BUFFY  
Xander, gotta call you back.

She tosses the phone onto the couch as Faith stands up, sword in hand. The girls exchange a look.

FAITH  
You take point.  
(shrugs)  
It's your house.

Buffy nods and jogs up the stairs as Giles and Marie reappear from the kitchen.

GILES  
What's happened?

BUFFY  
Don't know yet. Stay here.

Faith follows Buffy upstairs.

40 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - UPSTAIRS LANDING. NIGHT.

40

Buffy reaches the top floor and looks round, alert for action. The storm is building to fever pitch outside, lightning illuminating the landing as Buffy takes a step forward.

The door to Andrew's room is ajar.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The colour drains from Buffy's face.

BUFFY  
Oh no.. Emmily!!

She darts towards the open door.

41 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - ANDREW'S ROOM. NIGHT. 41

Buffy bursts in through the door, but stops with a look of shock as she sees Emmily on the bed. Her hands go to her mouth and she drops the sword with a clatter.

Emmily lies still.. too still. A pillow lies just next to her head.

Buffy steps into frame and cradles Emmily in her arms, checking for a pulse.

Faith enters the frame, looking towards the bedroom window which is open and rattling in the wind, one of the panes shattered.

She leans out through the window, looking left and right for the intruder. There are large, muddy footprints on the windowsill but they disappear outside. Cursing, she leans back inside.

FAITH  
Nothing. Whoever it was, they're  
long gone, B.  
(beat)  
Is she..

BUFFY  
(tearful)  
She's.. she's dead..

Giles and Marie dash into the room, Marie lets out a little gasp of shock when she sees Emmily. Buffy is starting to cry, rocking back and forth with Emmily in her arms.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
I didn't save her.. I didn't  
protect her..

42 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - UPSTAIRS LANDING. NIGHT. 42

We pull back and out through the doorway as Jackson arrives, racing to Buffy's side when he sees her. Past them, and across to Dawn's room, where the door is slightly open.

We can see Dawn standing next to the door, listening to the commotion in Andrew's room.

43 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - DAWN'S ROOM. NIGHT. 43

A devilishly smirking Dawn takes off a pair of white cotton gloves and places them carefully back in her bedside drawer.

She heads over to the window and quietly slides it up, stepping out and onto the roof of the kitchen extension that stretches out below.

44 INT. OUTSIDE DAWN'S BEDROOM. NIGHT. 44

The storm is still howling as Dawn stands up straight outside, raising her arms and closing her eyes. Her hands begin to glow with a bright white light, and we see her lips moving as she mutters something under her breath.

Within moments, the storm has started to clear up, the wind dies down and the rain eases off.

The storm clouds disperse and break up in rapid time, revealing the glittering, starry night sky they were covering up.

Dawn slowly lowers her hands, the light fading from them as she opens her eyes. She looks up at the innocent and clear night sky and sighs happily.

Rubbing her hands together as if to dust them off, she steps back inside her room and pulls the window quietly shut again.

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF SHOW**