

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

"Cause And Effect"

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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. CONSTRUCTION YARD. NIGHT.

1

We fade up on a huge flaming triangle of dark magics, and a gigantic portal opening up in front of it. Lightning lances out from the lips of the portal, sparking off the construction equipment scattered around, latching onto overhead power cables and feeding off it to power itself.

Nearby lights start to flicker and die as they are drained of energy, and as we pull back, we pick up DAWN, arms raised, hair billowing out behind her in the wind, her head thrown back as she laughs, giddy with power.

With a crack of thunder and a white flash of lightning, the swirling vortex of the portal flashes once, and from deep within we hear an unearthly howl - something very big and just as nasty is on its way through.

Laughing as energy crackles all around, her face lit up by the flames dancing round her, a victorious smile on her face as she hears her new minion approaching.

DAWN

(dramatic)

Come.. come to me! A new world
awaits you! A haven of humanity,
ready for you to grind into the
very dust beneath your feet!
Millions upon millions of
sacrifices to your power! Come to
me, great demon, hear your master
and rise again!

Taking in Dawn and the portal as the silhouette of the head and shoulders of something damn big starts to emerge from it - a humanoid shape, but a long, reptilian head, covered with spines and scales. It throws its head back and HOWLS into the night air, almost free at last.

A thoughtful look crosses her face and she frowns. She looks to either side of her.

DAWN (cont'd)

And now, my side of the bargain.. a
little smokescreen for your first
steps into this new world.

Dawn snaps her fingers and instantly storm clouds begin to gather overhead, joining the tempest before her as heavy rain starts to fall over the scene, and a strong wind kicks up. Thick fog starts to form in the air over the construction yard, whipped up by the winds.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dawn spreads her arms out in front of her and the storm obeys, rushing out in all directions to fall over Cleveland once again.

The beast is half free of the portal now - we still can't see it fully, as the fog is now falling around it, but whatever it is, it's not looking happy at all.

2 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - FRONT ROOM. NIGHT. 2

As the storm starts to howl outside, WILLOW'S head snaps up into frame from where she'd been lying, asleep, on the sofa. She gasps as though waking from a heavy nightmare.

WILLOW
It's here.. it's here!

3 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - BUFFY'S ROOM. NIGHT. 3

BUFFY jolts awake as a thundercrack outside her window rattles the whole room. Bleary eyed, she sits up in bed and stares out through the window as the rain starts to pelt down on the streets below. She groans.

BUFFY
Oh, not again..

JACKSON stirs next to her and she shakes him gently.

JACKSON
Mmm.. no.. don't open the box,
Brad..

BUFFY
Huh?

JACKSON
(eyes flick open; beat)
Woah. Weird dream.
(sees Buffy's concerned
look)
Uh-oh, I know that look.. what's
happened now?

BUFFY
More trouble for the Weather
Channel.

A beat while Jackson takes in the heavy storm raging outside the house.

JACKSON
Another one?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY

And you know what the least one
spelt - trouble. With a capital
'troub.' Come on, get dressed.

Buffy hops off screen, out of the bed, and throws a pair of
jeans and a shirt at Jackson. He groans.

JACKSON

Look, I know we're jumping at every
little thing these days, but how do
you know this isn't just another
good old-fashioned storm?

As if to answer, the bedroom door is flung open by a frantic
looking Willow.

WILLOW

It's here, it's here!

Buffy throws a 'told you so' look at Jackson before heading
for Willow. Willow is looking all round, jittery.

BUFFY

Willow? Willow! Look at me, calm
down. What's here?

Willow's eyes are darting every which way but ahead.

WILLOW

It's.. it's.. Buffy, I don't know
what it is, but I just felt
something terrible come into our
world!

BUFFY

Sure it's not just Xander cooking a
midnight snack?

WILLOW

(grabs Buffy's arms)
No! No, Buffy, this is real.
Something's here. Now. And it's..

BUFFY

It's what?

WILLOW

It's looking for us.

Off Buffy's rapidly darkening look, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - FRONT ROOM. NIGHT.

4

Buffy is pulling her coat on as Jackson rummages through the weapons chest for some tools of the trade. XANDER and ANYA are up, in pajamas and dressing gowns, and a sleepy ANDREW yawns from the stairs as GILES steps down into the front room.

There's a beat as everyone takes in the Winnie The Pooh pajamas he's wearing.

GILES

(off everyone's reaction)
I borrowed these. My usual
nightclothes are in the wash.

BUFFY

Off who?

A cough and a 'who, me?' look from Andrew. Willow emerges from the kitchen, looking shaken, and the group is completed by Faith who is pulling a t-shirt over her head and rubbing her tired eyes. A moment as Buffy looks over all of them.

BUFFY (cont'd)

(smile)
I'd almost forgotten what it was
like having you guys all together..

GILES

(prompts)
Ah, Buffy..

BUFFY

Right. Sorry to wake you all up,
but something's going down and I
wanted you all to be ready for it.
Willow says she felt something just
claw its way into our world, and it
wasn't Barney the dinosaur looking
for some kids to have a sing-song
with.

ANYA

You still have dinosaurs?

BUFFY

(rolls eyes; ignores her)
That's not all. She says it's
looking for us, so Jackson, Faith
and I are going out to look for it
first.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY(cont'd)

If it finds its way back here, then there's hundreds of innocent people in this neighbourhood and we can't risk getting them mixed up in this.

(to Jackson)

You ready?

JACKSON

I guess so, yeah..

XANDER

Woah there, Marvel Girl, stop for breath and start again. A big what is on its way over here?

BUFFY

Well, it's a-

WILLOW

It's big, Xander.

Xander throws a raised eyebrow at Willow who gives him a serious and worried look back. The gravity of the situation starts to hit him.

XANDER

What should we do?

BUFFY

Stay here. But get ready to run and hide if we can't stop it.

ANYA

That's a plan? That's the worst idea you've ever had!

BUFFY

Oh, I suppose you have a better one?

ANYA

As a matter of fact, I do. You go and kill it and we wait here for you to come back.

A beat. Buffy sighs, then takes the scythe down from the wall and heads for the door.

BUFFY

If we're not back in an hour, pack and start running. And if you hear some 'Jurassic Park' style footsteps.. run faster.

She leaves, followed by Faith and Jackson. Giles is the first to speak once the door closes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GILES

I knew it was going to be one of
those years..

5

EXT. CLEVELAND CENTRE - STREET. NIGHT.

5

Struggling through the strong winds and horizontal rain, the trio march onwards, arms raised to protect themselves until Faith pauses and calls to the others.

FAITH

(points)

Hey! Over there.

A gang of four young guys, racing hell for leather down the street towards them. We can soon tell from their features that this is a pack of VAMPIRES, heading straight for our champions.

Buffy tightens her grip on the scythe as the other two take up stances.

BUFFY

Here they come, get ready to-

The four vamps run straight past them without stopping. Buffy and Faith exchange confused looks before whirling round.

Faith WHISTLES at the fleeing vamps to get their attention. They screech to a stop and turn round.

VAMP #1

What? Look, ladies, we really have
gotta bust a move here, we can't
stick around talking!

Buffy raises the scythe a little, and the vamps tense up as they realise who they're talking to at last.

VAMP #2

Oh, it's you..

VAMP #3

(urgently)

Guys, come on, let's split!

FAITH

(indignant)

Why are you running away? I mean
besides facing down two bad-ass
Slayer chicks.

The vamps exchange a look.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VAMP #1

Well, two things. We're gettin' the hell out of this one horse town for good. Things have been getting way too 'End Of Days' for us vamps round here lately. First, there's that Old One turnin' up and putting the spookies on us, and if that wasn't bad enough..

(points behind them)

Now we have that.

Buffy slowly turns round. We hear the dull thud of a very large FOOTSTEP falling close by.

Looking down on the trio as the vamps carry on escaping in the background, we dolly up into the air so that we're looking down on them from about fifty feet in the air.

A dark shadow starts to fall across them, accompanied by another footstep and a low, deep growl.

Looking up from behind the trio now, and between two large buildings in the skyline ahead, we can dimly make out through the rain the silhouette of whatever Dawn dragged out of the portal.

It pauses, its gigantic head looking this way and that before it takes another step, soon disappearing out of sight behind another building. We get an idea of its size this time (around fifty feet high) but we still haven't got a good look at the thing.

All three wear stunned, shocked faces, scarcely able to believe what they just saw. The creature's thunderous footsteps can still be heard.

BUFFY

(meekly)

Oh..

FAITH

(shakes head to clear thoughts)

Come on, come on! Let's go!

She races off screen, after the dragon. Buffy snaps out of her trance.

BUFFY

No, Faith, wait! We don't..

She's already gone. Jackson leans across to address Buffy, his eyes still locked on the space the dragon was just occupying.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JACKSON

Let me guess, you were going to say
'we don't know what we're dealing
with?'

BUFFY

Oh, no, I think I get the whole
'big dragon thing' angle. I was
about to say 'we don't have any
rocket launchers,' but either way..

She pauses for a moment, then without a word sprints off
after Faith. Jackson follows.

6

EXT. CLEVELAND CENTRE - ANOTHER STREET. NIGHT.

6

We're with Faith as she races through the rain, throwing
glances up and to her right as she runs parallel to the
beast.

Still largely silhouetted in the gloom, the dragon plods
slowly along, past the large buildings making up the city
centre, the rain and fog stopping us from getting a good look
at it.

Faith spots something and darts off to the left, just as
Buffy and Jackson appear in the background of the shot,
running to catch up with her.

BUFFY

Faith! Wait!

7

EXT. CLEVELAND - ROOFTOP. NIGHT.

7

She's climbing up a fire escape running along the outside of
a tall nightclub building, and we stay on her as she makes it
to the roof.

At first, there is nothing around her but more buildings, but
after a moment, with another booming footstep, the head of
the DRAGON finally looms into view.

As if on cue, a flash of lightning illuminates the beast for
us, and Faith stands, frozen to the spot despite the
adrenaline coursing through her, as the gigantic head draws
level with her on the rooftop.

The dragon's head is long and snouted, like a T-Rex but dark
green and scaly, with a thinner jaw and two huge eyes that
slowly swivel in their sockets to regard the Slayer, who
seems tiny by comparison.

The colour drains from Faith and she shivers with barely
contained fear as the dragon's head pulls in for a closer
look.

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CONTINUED:

It's almost twice the size of her, and she tries not to look at how large its teeth are as its huge nostrils sniff the air around her experimentally.

With a bassy GRUNT, the snout moves back out of frame, leaving the shellshocked Faith on the rooftop just as Buffy and

Jackson finally make it up onto the rooftop with her. They join her as we hear the dragon's footsteps pound away, off screen.

BUFFY
(watching the dragon)
Oh.. my.. God..

JACKSON
Faith, are you alright?

FAITH
(dazed)
I.. I.. I..

BUFFY
Faith! Snap out of it!

Buffy slaps Faith across the cheek. She blinks once, then turns to look at Buffy as she rubs her cheek and grins.

FAITH
Heh, thanks, B.

BUFFY
Are you okay? What happened? What did it do?

FAITH
It.. it sniffed me.

BUFFY
It what?

FAITH
Yeah.. good job I took a shower earlier, huh?

JACKSON
I thought Willow said it was looking for us? Why didn't it attack Faith?

We can see the creature from the back, a pair of long, leathery wings tucked against its broad-shouldered back as it walks away.

It suddenly stops, and lifts its head into the air, sniffing around, turning slowly back towards the rooftop trio.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Buffy raises the scythe defensively as we pull in close.

BUFFY

Maybe it's not after all of us..

It's eyes narrow and it lowers its head, peering directly back at us, its thick forearms ending in taloned claws that flex, glinting in what natural light there is.

The other two slowly turn to look at Buffy, who isn't taking her eyes off the dragon.

BUFFY (cont'd)

.. it's just looking for me.

As if to answer, the dragon rears its head back and ROARS, a deafening bellow that rattles every tile and window pane for half a mile around, accompanied by another flash of lightning.

We finally get our look at the creature - humanoid in shape, tightly bunched coils of muscles giving it a squat appearance, but as it bares its teeth and growls towards us we can tell it could chew through the Empire State before breakfast. A long prehensile tail whips round, rearing into the air like a snake behind it. The creature is still surrounded by clouds of thick fog and mist, almost as though they were following it around. Power starts to fail from the efforts of the storm as streetlights blink out all over.

Buffy starts to step slowly away from the other two.

BUFFY (cont'd)

Maybe I wasn't close enough for it to smell before.. guess I should have taken a shower earlier, huh?

FAITH

B, what are you fricken doing? Get back here!

BUFFY

(eyes locked on dragon)

Faith, get back to the house and warn the others. Get Willow and everyone else out of there. Jackson, go find Dawn and then meet up with the others too.

JACKSON

What? No, I'm not leaving you!

FAITH

It's okay, I'll get Dawn too.

(beat)

Good luck.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Faith scoots off the rooftop, knowing to trust Buffy's plans by now. Jackson joins Buffy at her side.

JACKSON

I said I'd never leave you, and I meant it.

BUFFY

That's sweet, but right now we have to make sure it doesn't-

SMASH! The rooftop suddenly erupts upwards, throwing Jackson and Buffy out towards us. We stay on Jackson as he hits the deck and looks back after Buffy.

The dragon's tail is what shattered the rooftop, and Buffy is clinging to it for dear life.

We follow the tail as it whips round again, crashing into another building opposite and knocking a deep trench in it. Buffy grits her teeth as the dragon's tail lashes back and forth through the air, trying to shake her off.

BUFFY (cont'd)

Hey! Watch where you're shaking that thing!

Another flick of the tail and Buffy is thrown off, landing with a grunt on the ground below.

8

EXT. CLEVELAND - STREET. NIGHT.

8

She's stunned, and we see the dragon start thundering towards her in the background as she picks herself up, bleeding from several cuts.

She looks round and leaps out of the way just in time as the dragon's jaws snap shut around the space she just left.

We follow Buffy as she runs along, the dragon in pursuit, its head down low to try and scoop her up as she turns a corner to dodge it again.

Buffy hoofs it down a main shopping row, the huge monster lumbering after her, its bulk tearing chunks out of the buildings it barges past as it zeroes in on her. Sensing it's getting too close, Buffy turns and leaps up into the air.

Buffy flies through the air, past the dragon's jaws to land on the side of its huge head, clinging onto one of its thick scales for grip.

As the dragon turns one eye to glare at her, Buffy raises the scythe, stake point out.

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CONTINUED:

BUFFY

Don't you know how rude that is?

She slams the scythe home, straight into the dragon's eye. It roars out in pain.

The dragon throws its head back, and we see Buffy lose her grip as the scythe slips back out of the dragon's bloody eye.

She starts to fall down towards a rooftop off screen as the dragon rears up on its legs, stretching its wings out and flapping them twice before leaping into the air, and we stay on it as it powers up into the night sky, disappearing into the clouds overhead as the storm covers its exit.

Local lighting and power starts to come back on once the dragon is gone.

Jackson races into frame, onto the same strip of street Buffy just fought the dragon on, looking panicked as he sees the piles of bricks and plaster that the dragon has ripped out of the buildings.

He runs a little further along before looking up and spotting something off to his left. His face drops.

JACKSON

Oh, no..

9

EXT. CLEVELAND - ANOTHER ROOFTOP. NIGHT.

9

Soaked from the rain, Jackson scrabbles up onto the rooftop we saw Buffy falling towards, half of it knocked to rubble by the dragon's efforts.

He runs towards the foreground and we see Buffy, lying half on, half off the rooftop, the scythe lying a few feet away from her.

She's out cold and looking bad, and as Jackson turns her over to face us, we see a deep gash from the rough landing on her chest, with blood soaking through her shirt.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

10 SUMMERS RESIDENCE - FRONT ROOM. NIGHT.

10

The door is kicked open and Jackson bursts in, carrying the wounded Buffy in his arms and the scythe in one free hand.

JACKSON

Hey, anyone! Everyone! Help!

Giles, Willow and Xander hurry into frame, take in the bleeding Buffy and help Jackson lie her on the couch.

WILLOW

Oh, no..

XANDER

What the hell happened?

JACKSON

Willow was right. That thing is big.

Giles disappears and comes back a moment later with several rolls of bandage, first aid being a regular occurrence in the Summers household.

He starts tending to Buffy, lifting up her shirt and starting to clean her wound as a frantic Jackson starts to pace nervously up and down.

XANDER

Jackson.. Jackson! Stay frosty, buddy, tell us what happened.

JACKSON

We found it, whatever 'it' is. Some kind of huge dragon, or something.. we chased after it, but Buffy realised it wasn't after us, just her, and then she managed to stick the scythe in its eye, but it threw her off, and.. oh man, oh man.. is she going to be okay?

GILES

(patiently)

She's sustained a serious injury, but fortunately Slayers are built to last. As long as we get this stabilised and bandaged, her natural healing ability will do the rest.

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CONTINUED:

ANDREW

Uh, yeah, she's sort of like Wolverine, except without the claws or mysterious past.. or the buff physique.

Anya smacks Andrew up the back of his head and glares at him to be quiet.

WILLOW

Where did it go?

JACKSON

It just flew off, it seems to have its own personal storm following it around so I don't know if anybody else saw it. I'm sure plenty of people heard it, and there's gonna be some pissed off shop owners when they see what a mess it made of main street in the morning..

GILES

Well, the phone lines went down for a little while, as did electricity, but they came back on again, which is probably linked to the appearance and disappearance of whatever it was you fought. I think I'm not making a huge leap of logic to suggest that Ulithios is behind this again.. or that it was behind the last big storm, which seemed to serve its purposes very well last time.

(starts wrapping bandages around)

Anya, could you help me, please?

ANYA

Me?

GILES

Yes, the others are busy, come on.

Anya steps round and lifts Buffy up so that Giles can start wrapping the bandage round the padding over her wound. Anya finds herself staring at the wounds, which Giles notices.

GILES (cont'd)

Is something the matter? I hardly had you down as the squeamish type..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANYA

What? Oh, no, it's just.. since I..
since I came back, it's the..
blood.

GILES

Blood?

ANYA

Blood. Death. Horrific battle
injuries. I can't help it, and I
don't know why, but they seem
almost.. interesting.

GILES

Well, please try and stay focused
for now, could you?

Giles finishes up and stands back as Willow lays a blanket
down over the still unconscious Buffy.

GILES (cont'd)

There. The bleeding had already
stopped, so I think her body's
starting to do the rest. Now we
need a chance to-

SLAM! The front door is kicked open again, this time with
Faith holding a bloody Dawn in her arms.

FAITH

Hey, little help?

CUT TO:

11 SUMMERS RESIDENCE - DAWN'S ROOM. NIGHT.

11

Similarly cleaned and bandaged, Dawn lies in her bed, many
small cuts and lacerations on her face and upper body. She's
awake but looks woozy as Giles, Willow and MARIE look over
her.

DAWN

It was some.. some thing, I'm not
sure what it was. I was in an
alleyway, making my way back from
the storm, when it just jumped out
and.. and..

WILLOW

Ssh, it's okay.

GILES

Dawn, what on earth were you doing
out there in this weather?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAWN

Uh, research?

MARIE

Research? Planning on becoming a meteorologist now, are we?

DAWN

A what? Oh, no, I was trying to follow a lead on Ulithios again. A local vampire who said he knew something.

GILES

By yourself? Dawn, that was very foolish of you.

DAWN

(raises a bandaged arm)
Yeah, benefit of hindsight, thanks, Giles.

BUFFY (O.S.)

Oh, soon as those come off, you are so in for a beating..

Everyone turns to the doorway to see Buffy, looking pale but upright and conscious as she steps into the room.

GILES

(smiles)
Ah, good, up and about again.
Excellent.

BUFFY

And still in an awful lot of pain, but thanks, yeah.

She sits on the bed next to Dawn and tenderly strokes the side of her face.

BUFFY (cont'd)

So what, you think you're tough enough to go out sharking for information alone now, do you?

DAWN

(snaps)
I was fine!

BUFFY

(patiently)
No, you weren't. Or is all that bandage just a new fashion? Off to see the Blue Man Group or something?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAWN
(trying to think of an
excuse)

I..

BUFFY
We'll talk about this later. Right
now, we have a bigger problem. A
much bigger problem. Giles, get
everyone in the front room. Team
meeting.

(to Dawn)
You, you stay right here. You're
too old to be grounded so consider
yourself under house arrest
instead.

Buffy stands and leaves, the others follow. We stay with Dawn
as she smirks once the door is closed.

DAWN
Humans.. so easy to fool.

12 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - FRONT ROOM. NIGHT.

12

The gang's all here once again as Buffy stands before them,
ready to outline her plan.

BUFFY
Right. In a few minutes, I'm
heading back out there.

Murmurs of disapproval, but she raises a hand to silence
them.

BUFFY (cont'd)
And before anybody says anything, I
know I almost just ended up as
pizza topping after my last
encounter, which is why I want to
approach this thing with a better
plan this time. Willow, that's
where you come in.

WILLOW
Uh oh.. is this gonna involve black
hair, and veins, and stuff like
that?

BUFFY
Giles, Marie, do I even need to say
'research' to you?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY(cont'd)

Look for weaknesses of dragons like the one out there, I can draw you a sketch if you like, that'll help identify it. Xander, Faith, Anya, you're my backup, you stay here till I call for you.

ANYA

Call? Won't it be a little difficult to call for backup if you're being eaten by a huge dragon?

(off Xander's cross look)

Well, it will! The reception round here is awful as it is..

BUFFY

And also, keep an eye on Dawn, make sure she doesn't sneak off again. I'm sure she's only trying to help, but right now I want everyone just where I can find them. Andrew, I'm probably going to regret this, but.. I need your help.

ANDREW

(brightens)

You do?

BUFFY

You watch a lot of movies with dragons in, right?

ANDREW

(warily)

I have been known to indulge myself..

BUFFY

Now's your chance to do something useful with your wasted youth. Dig deep into your nerd files and see what you can find out. Think possible battle plans to bring it down to size, but more along the lines of 'Return Of The King' than 'Road Runner.'

ANDREW

I'll try, but I'd say without Aragorn, son of Arathorn, and King Theoden's army, we're lookin' at the End Of All Things here..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY

Whatever you just said, forget it.
 Jackson, stay here with Dawn.
 Everyone else, get to work.

Everyone stands. Buffy takes Willow and leads her off for a quiet word in the kitchen, but nobody notices that Jackson seems to have dozed off, and seems to be having a rather interesting dream.

Peering down into the living room from the top of the stairs, she frowns and eyes Jackson coolly, wondering what he could be thinking of.

13

EXT. CLEVELAND - STREET. NIGHT.

13

Buffy walks down the street, another part of the city centre, the streetlights all active despite the howling wind and rain. She pulls her coat tight against her, the scythe glinting in her gloved hand as she looks this way and that.

We follow her for a moment until the street lamps start blinking out behind her, one by one, out of her vision.

A cloud of dark fog seems to be building up behind her, and as she walks we see one yellow eye glare balefully out of it, down on the back of the unknowing Slayer.

She suddenly breaks into a sprint, and the awesome head of the dragon lunges out of the clouds and snaps its jaws towards us, as good as swallowing the camera.

Buffy runs for her life, the now one-eyed dragon accelerating after her and outrunning its cloud cover in its efforts to catch Buffy. Its wings are tucked tightly against itself, and it drops to all fours to gain speed, looming impossibly huge behind her.

Buffy doesn't look back, she just keeps running, turning a corner and disappearing off screen to the right. The dragon barrels round the corner after her.

We come upon Willow, standing in the middle of the street, energy crackling round her hands, her hair standing on end and her eyes jet black as she harnesses some mighty spell.

The dragon roars and continues to race towards her, but Willow just raises her hands towards it as it bears down on her.

WILLOW

(dramatic)

Locum numque ex domicilus!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A huge green cloud rapidly forms in the air before Willow, and as the dragon starts to leap towards the lone wicca, it lands right in the green swirls before it.

The cloud acts as some kind of portal, and the dragon disappears bodily into it as though leaping down a hole. Once its long tail is fully inside, the clouds snap out

of existence, and an exhausted Willow crumples to the floor. Buffy is there in a flash to lift her up again.

BUFFY

You did it! Willow, you did it!

WILLOW

(breathless)

Yeah.. was kinda.. bigger then.. I expected..

BUFFY

(beams)

I knew you could do it. So.. where'd you send it?

WILLOW

(thinks)

Uh.. really not that sure.

BUFFY

(beat)

Well, it'll cool it off for a while, whatever happens. Give us time to find out how to kill it. Come on, let's get back.

14

EXT. ANTARCTICA. DAY.

14

We're looking down onto a peaceful arctic landscape - snow-covered ground, the glittering blue sea around us, and a small clutch of penguins honking to one another, before the serenity is shattered by Willow's green cloud blossoming out into the air, depositing one very angry dragon head first into the snow.

The momentum the dragon jumped through the portal with carries over and it burrows into the ground as though fired from a cannon.

The distressed penguins dive for the safety of the sea as the dazed looking beast shakes its head, claws itself upright out of the snow, then with a stretch of its mighty wings and another deafening ROAR it takes to the skies, flying up towards the sun.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WHITE OUT:

FADE UP:

15 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - KITCHEN. NIGHT.

15

We fade up onto an old book showing a sketch illustration of our dragon, next to a pencil drawing of Buffy's detailing what she fought.

We pull back to reveal Giles, nodding as he shows the page to Marie, who smiles and nods. They turn the book round and show it to Buffy.

BUFFY

That's him. I was thinking of calling him 'Bob.' Might make him a bit less terrifying.

GILES

As I thought. We've seen this kind of creature before - it's one of several, commanded by Ulithios back in the dark ages.

MARIE

And by that, we mean the very darkest of dark ages.

BUFFY

That's what people said about grunge.

(off Giles' confused look)

Sorry, carry on.

GILES

Well, ah, Ulithios, like all the Old Ones, kept an army of powerful creatures to enforce its bidding, and while they were normally seen in the command of the relevant Old One in huge numbers, there have been many reported incidences of one or maybe two of these creatures appearing in the service of earthly followers of the Old Ones. Almost loaned out, if you will.

BUFFY

I'd hate to see the library fine for that thing! So, it's like an advance party for more of them?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GILES

Sadly, yes. Whether it was Ulithios itself, still lacking enough power to summon them all at once, or one of its followers doing the dirty work, the fact remains we have a very dangerous adversary on our hands here.

BUFFY

You said there were other instances. When was the last time one of these things showed up?

GILES

(puts on glasses; reads)

Ah, it appeared off the coast of Tokyo, the Boso Peninsula to be precise, in 1954, and it seems it took quite a lot of effort to drive it off..

BUFFY

(suspiciously)

How much?

16

EXT. BOSO PENINSULA - NIGHT.

16

CAPTION: Boso Peninsula, Japan - 1954

We're in black and white for this scene, as we look down on a long road leading up to a dockyard and port, filled both with hordes of screaming citizens, fleeing in terror, and long lines of tanks and trucks filled with soldiers, trying to barge through the crowds to face whatever is off screen.

We see a GENERAL, riding in the back of one of the jeeps leading the military convoy, looking at whatever the crowds are running from through binoculars.

He lowers them, then turns to the tanks behind him and raises his arm to order them to fire.

With a roar, we see another version of the dragon Buffy has been fighting, its head back as it roars, spotlights from the land highlighting it as it stomps through warehouses and other buildings in the port.

Dozens of explosions from the tanks, artillery fire and gun shots arc through the air towards the creature as the combined might of the Japanese army tries to take the dragon down. It wades unaffected through the mighty fusillade.

17

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - KITCHEN. NIGHT.

17

Back with Buffy, who looks somewhat surprised.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

 BUFFY
 (quietly)
Oh..

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

18 EXT. SKIES ABOVE CLEVELAND. NIGHT. 18

We fade up to see the dragon, flapping its way back towards Cleveland and Buffy, the city lights glittering up from several hundred feet below us as the creature arcs to the left, starting its descent.

The thick cloud cover is still in place, occasional lightning flashes flaring inside the clouds.

19 INT> SUMMERS RESIDENCE - KITCHEN. NIGHT. 19

As before, with Buffy talking to Giles and Marie.

GILES

What we already know is that the dragons were bred to target the most powerful of their commander's enemies, wiping out army generals and champions first to allow the rest of the troops to be wiped out more easily.

BUFFY

And again with the confidence building.

MARIE

(irritated)

Buffy, Giles is doing his best here, the least you could do is listen instead of just making flippant comments!

Giles and Buffy share a look at Marie's outburst. Giles grins and Buffy nods, a little sheepishly.

BUFFY

You're right, sorry. Just trying to keep my flags flying, you know..

Marie nods and sighs, looking tired.

MARIE

I shouldn't have snapped, it's been a long few days for all of us so far.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GILES

I'm afraid that's all we've uncovered for now, and wherever Willow managed to send the creature to, it's doubtless on its way back by now.

BUFFY

(grins)

Relax. I have a plan. A plan so cunning, I could stick a tail on it and call it a fox.

Giles removes his glasses and rubs his eyes.

GILES

(wearily)

Against my better judgement..
alright then, let's hear it.

20

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - FRONT ROOM. NIGHT.

20

Buffy stands, speechifying mode activated as everyone else sits and waits for her to speak.

Dawn is in the front room too, one eye on Jackson, dozing lightly again but without anyone noticing. Dawn looks away just as Jackson stirs at last.

Jackson's eyes are a pure milk white for a moment, before he blinks once and they return to normal.

He stands and heads over to stand near Buffy.

BUFFY

That's going to be the plan, then. You're all an important piece of this puzzle, so I'm trusting you all to do your part. Willow knows the details, she'll be leading you out on this one.

Willow doesn't look too thrilled at this.

WILLOW

Wait a minute, me?

BUFFY

(beat)

I can't go with you this time.

ANDREW

Huh?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY

There's something else I've got to do, something important. And I can't be in two places at once, despite feeling like I've been trying for the past few years..

XANDER

Why not? You know, you managed to take one eye out of that thing last time, who's to say you won't get the other one this round?

BUFFY

Xander, trust me. All of you, in fact, I know you're going to take this thing out. Is everybody clear on what they're doing?

A beat as the Scoobies exchange looks, then gradually they start to nod as their trust of Buffy kicks in.

FAITH

B, I was born ready.

XANDER

Yeah, what she said.

ANDREW

Um..

BUFFY

I'll take that as a yes.

DAWN

(to get attention)
What about me?

BUFFY

(pretends to think)
Nope, still under house arrest.
Let's get moving, I don't think that thing's too far away, and I want-

Buffy notices that Willow suddenly looks pale, breathing faster as though stood inside an icebox.

BUFFY (cont'd)

Willow?

WILLOW

It's.. it's coming back. It's almost here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY
(smiles)
Perfect.

Xander turns and hugs Anya, who smiles bravely as he picks up an axe and heads for the front door, pausing to hug Buffy before disappearing outside.

Faith follows, heavy sword tied across her back and getting a hug off Buffy before she exits. Giles and Marie walk past, pulling on thick raincoats.

Giles smiles in his fatherly way down at Buffy before they step outside, leaving Andrew, Dawn and Jackson.

ANDREW
So, um..

BUFFY
Andrew, it's okay. Did you speak to Jody like I asked?

ANDREW
Yeah. We, um, we've been having a few problems lately, so, I had to promise a few things to get him to, ah, help.

Buffy raises an eyebrow, but Andrew just huffs.

ANDREW (cont'd)
I promised I'd go round after all this is done and.. talk. I haven't been doing much of that lately.

BUFFY
Really? Hadn't noticed.
(beat)
I'm kidding, Andrew. You all set?

Andrew nods, and walks out the front door as Jackson leans over and whispers something in Buffy's ear.

ANYA
So! I'm just going to wait here then, right?

BUFFY
Uh, no, Anya, remember what you have to do?

ANYA
(pouts)
Yes, I remember. I was just hoping for a moment that you'd forgotten.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

She walks out, pausing to hug Buffy awkwardly.

ANYA (cont'd)
(brightly)
Don't get eaten!

BUFFY
(beat)
Thanks. I think.

Dawn looks across at Buffy, then Jackson, then folds her arms and sits down on the sofa, looking like she doesn't plan on leaving Buffy and Jackson alone. The two exchange a look.

DISSOLVE TO:

21 EXT. CHARLESTON & SMYTHE - ROOFTOP. NIGHT.

21

Giles and Marie stand, battered by the winds and rain, scanning the skies. Marie is rummaging around inside a satchel bag as Giles keeps the lookout.

GILES
(shouting over wind)
Are you sure this will work?

MARIE
Oh, yes, definitely. Certain.
Absolutely.
(beat)
Well, not really. But it's almost
sure to work!

GILES
I think the general atmosphere of
uncertainty that seems to surround
Buffy is rubbing off on you at
last..

MARIE
Oh, hush. Ah, here we are!

Marie lifts out a palm-sized crystal ball from the satchel, and holds it up into the air. It immediately starts glowing a deep red colour, and a low humming noise can be heard.

GILES
(beat)
Is it working?

MARIE
Give it a moment..

From somewhere off screen, we hear a loud ROAR from the dragon. It's close by, still cloaked by the thick fog covering the city.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Giles and Marie exchange a look, then Marie places the ball down on the rooftop and the two quickly hurry off screen.

Still glowing the vibrant red, we stay on the ball for a moment before a shadow falls across it, and we hear the heavy breathing of the dragon as it comes closer.

Its huge snout pokes into view, sniffing the air around the crystal as though it was investigating a piece of meat.

XANDER (O.S.)

Hey!!

Wrapped up in a bright yellow kagoule, axe in one hand, megaphone in the other, he stares back across at the dragon from the other side of the long, thin rooftop.

XANDER (cont'd)

(through megaphone)

Yeah, that's right, fresh meat!
Right this way!

The dragon, perched against the end of the rooftop, gripping on with its powerful forearms, lifts its head and cocks it to one side as it peers down on the defiant Xander, who suddenly seems very, very small by comparison.

XANDER (cont'd)

(quietly)

That's right, chase after me and
remind me how this is, without
doubt, the stupidest thing I have
ever done in my long, stupid,
life..

The dragon suddenly throws its head forward and bellows out a mighty roar, almost knocking Xander off his feet.

The dragon lifts itself up and gets one leg up onto the roof, clearly making its way towards Xander, who starts to slowly edge backwards.

XANDER (cont'd)

Alright, come on.. come to Captain
Harris..

Still burning away, the ball is suddenly shattered as one of the dragon's feet lands squarely on it.

Xander suddenly breaks into a run, sprinting away as fast as he can from the dragon, which roars again and starts to power after him, smashing away air vents and aials as it barrels across the rooftop.

Xander races along a walkway linking the Charleston & Smythe building to the one next door, throwing a frantic look over his shoulder at the advancing beast.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

From his point of view, we see several hundred tons of angry dragon meat, closing fast.

Xander yells in fear and tries to run faster.

XANDER (cont'd)
Must go faster.. must go faster!

We can see that Xander is rapidly approaching the end of the roof, but he doesn't seem to be stopping.

With one last stolen look over his shoulder, he drops right off the lip of the rooftop and out of sight..

.. and down into the waiting safety cradle of the window cleaner's basket waiting below. He lands awkwardly, scrabbling back to his feet and heaving for breath. A hand reaches into frame to lift him up.

Beaming happily, similarly dressed in a yellow raincoat, Anya helps her man up.

ANYA
You did it! And you're not dead!

XANDER
(sarcastic)
Yeah, hi honey, and yes, I'm fine..

Xander looks past Anya and speaks to someone to his right.

XANDER (cont'd)
He's all yours!

We pan slowly to the right to see Faith, staring downwards, sword still across her back, her hair plastered to her face from the rain. We stay on her as a shadow falls on us from overhead.

The dragon, unable to slow its momentum down, skids clean off the edge of the building in pursuit of Xander, but after falling past the cleaner's basket unfurls and flaps its wings once, stabilising its fall and hovering in midair between the tall inner city buildings. It cranes its head left and right, looking for Xander.

She steps up onto the lip of the basket, looking down at the dragon hovering below.

XANDER (cont'd)
Any last words?

FAITH
(not looking round)
Ask me later.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

With that, she jumps off the basket. We snap round to follow her descent as she freefalls down towards the dragon, aiming for the back of its neck as she drops.

With a thud, she lands right where she needed, grabbing hold of a thick scale as a handhold to stop herself sliding right off its rain-soaked hide.

The dragon roars and takes off, swooping left and right sharply between the taller towers of the city, trying to shake Faith off.

22

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - FRONT ROOM. NIGHT.

22

Buffy is talking to Dawn as Jackson stands behind her.

BUFFY

So you're sure that's where the alleyway was?

DAWN

Very sure. You don't forget it in a hurry when something mean and demonic leaps out of a dark shadow to attack you.

Dawn glances at Jackson to check he's buying the story.

BUFFY

Then we're settled. I'm going to go and find this thing and see if it can lead me straight to Ulithios.

(beat)

And then ask him why his boss chose such a name lame..

JACKSON

Is there anything more you can tell us about whatever attacked you? You know, help us identify it, get an idea what we're expecting.

BUFFY

(still rambling)

.. and I mean, how do you try to get people to remember your name when you spell it like that? Is there some kind of demonic contest to have the most vowels possible in one name?

Jackson lays a hand on Buffy's shoulder to bring her out of her rant.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY (cont'd)

Ahem. Anyway, Dawn, you stay here
for when the others get back.
Jackson will be here too in case
anything happens. I'll be back
soon.

Buffy stands and turns to leave, but Dawn suddenly shoots up
to her feet also.

DAWN

Wait! You can't leave me with-
(beat)
I mean, don't leave me alone.
Again.

She shoots a look across to Jackson, who smiles warmly back
at her.

JACKSON

(nods)
Relax, I'm going to be down here
keeping a lookout, you can just
stay upstairs and rest.

Dawn looks back to Buffy, who nods as if to say 'it's okay.'

DAWN

(frowns)
Fine. I'll be upstairs, then, by
the looks of it..

She turns and walks up to her room. Jackson looks down at
Buffy when Dawn is out of earshot.

JACKSON

You be careful, okay?

BUFFY

I will. Hey, this is me, remember?
Careful's my middle name.

JACKSON

I thought it was 'Anne'?

BUFFY

I have lots.
(kisses him)
See ya.

She picks up her scythe, pulls on her coat and heads out
through the front door, leaving Jackson looking after her.

23

EXT. ABOVE THE STREETS OF CLEVELAND. NIGHT.

23

We're close on Faith, grunting with exertion as she tries to hold on to the dragon's back, losing her footing several times but holding on grimly.

She reaches one hand round to her back and draws the sword, a wicked-looking serrated blade. Using the long spines on the dragon's scales for leverage, she starts to push her way along towards its head, all the while buffeted by the strong winds and the dragon's attempts to unseat her.

The dragon is concentrating on its flying and doesn't really notice Faith getting closer to its head until she is able to sit just at the top of its neck, legs out either side of her to hold herself in place as she raises the sword up above her head.

FAITH

End of the line, Godzilla!

She SLAMS the sword down into the back of the creature's head with all her considerable might. It screams out in pain, writhing desperately in the air as Faith continues to push the sword down, dark green blood jetting out from it and spraying over her.

The dragon's wings start to fold up as it curls up in pain, and the dragon becomes about as aerodynamic as a house brick, starting to hurtle towards the ground at terrifying speed.

She looks up, and her eyes widen as she sees the ground rushing up towards her.

The dragon's head is in the foreground, still yowling in agony, as the concrete streets below race towards us.

She takes one last look and then closes her eyes and starts to brace herself for the impact.

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

24 EXT. ABOVE THE STREETS OF CLEVELAND. NIGHT. 24

Still screaming down through the rain with Faith and the dragon, the Slayer using the sword buried in the back of the dragon to hang on for dear life as the beast hurtles towards the ground.

25 EXT. CLEVELAND - STREET. NIGHT. 25

With an almighty SMACK it finally hits the deck, throwing Faith clear as it leaves a dragon-sized dent in the street below, shattering glass windows of the thankfully closed shops and setting off car alarms up and down the road.

With a yell, Faith flies into frame, crashing through the branches of a tree planted between two small shops and snapping every one on the way down to the ground.

She lands in an undignified heap and rolls onto her back, the wind knocked out of her but a grin on her face.

FAITH

(laughs)

Heh, that was kinda cool..

She hears the sound of falling bricks and leaps to her feet, looking behind her.

Pawing desperately at the back of its head to try and dislodge the sword stuck in it, hobbling from side to side and knocking chunks out of the buildings all around it in its efforts. The dragon suddenly pauses and stares straight towards the camera.

Getting to her feet and already tensing to start running as we hear the dragon's footsteps and its shadow starting to loom over her.

With a howling roar, the dragon bows its head and starts to race after the Slayer, who takes to her heels and runs down the street as fast as she can. Faith runs past a closed café and yells to someone off screen.

FAITH (cont'd)

Incoming! Big and mean at six
o'clock! Go, go, go!

Faith races off screen, and as the pounding of the dragon's footsteps becomes ever louder, we stay on the café as Willow steps out into the rain, staring the beast down. She gulps once and raises her hands.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW
 (quietly)
 Here goes.. again..
 (shouts)
Locum numque ex domicilus!

As before, the green tendrils of mist spiral from Willow's fingers and into the air, forming a thick green cloud in front of the dragon, which is now almost on top of Willow.

She closes her eyes and braces herself. We wait a long beat, before Willow carefully opens one eye.

She can just see the green cloud and nothing else. She breathes a sigh of relief and waves her hands once to dissipate the cloud...

... to reveal the dragon, standing just shy of the edge of the cloud, glaring down at her with its one good eye, not having fallen for the same trick twice.

The blood drains from her face as she stands, frozen to the spot in terror. The dragon's snout looms into frame, sniffing the air experimentally around the wicca.

Sensing her power, the head rears back a little and then roars at maximum volume right into her face.

Willow stumbles backwards, hands over her ears and yelling against the deafening noise as Faith quickly sprints back into frame, grabbing the dazed Willow and running back off screen, away from the dragon.

26

EXT. CLEVELAND - ANOTHER STREET. NIGHT.

26

Faith drags the senseless Willow along, round a corner and away from the dragon as it steps out from behind a building overshadowing them, watching the two humans scurry away from it down the street. It glares down at them as the fog and clouds start to build up around it again.

FAITH
 What happened? I thought you were going to zap it with that portal thing?

WILLOW
 (groggy)
 It.. it knew.. what I was.. trying..

FAITH
 Oh great, a smart two-hundred ton pissed off dragon. Just what we needed!

27

EXT. CLEVELAND - CENTRAL PARK. NIGHT.

27

Andrew stands, almost hidden by the foliage around him, camouflage paint smeared over his cheeks and forehead, urban cammo print clothes on and a helmet topped with leaves and twigs to complete the look.

He scans the still evening with a pair of binoculars, lowering them and frowning when he doesn't see anything.

JODY (O.S.)

Hey.

ANDREW

Woah!!

Andrew jumps out of his skin, and looks to his right. We pan across a little to pick up JODY, dressed perfectly normally in hooded top and jeans, hood up against the rain.

JODY

Sorry, did I scare you?

(beat; grins)

Captain Commando?

ANDREW

I'm making the best use of natural cover, um, to facilitate my part of the plan, actually.

JODY

Oh, cool. This what you called me out here for?

ANDREW

Yes it is, my friend, yes it is.

A beat as Andrew looks round with his binoculars again. Jody coughs once to get Andrew's attention.

JODY

So!

ANDREW

Yes..

Another beat, then both boys start talking at once.

ANDREW (cont'd)

(over Jody)

I've been pretty dumb..

JODY

(over Andrew)

I was kinda rough on you..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The boys pause, then grin as Jody bows his head to let Andrew speak.

ANDREW

I'm, uh, sorry I wasn't straighter with you.

(beat)

Uh, if you know what I mean.

JODY

I get it, no pun intended. I'm sorry I rushed you into things. I like you, Andrew, and I want to keep spending time with you. You're cool, in a geeky sort of way. And if you don't want it to be a full on relationship just yet, well.. well then that's cool too.

ANDREW

Really?

JODY

Yeah, man, you know how it is sometimes. Not a great amount of other gay guys round here, so me pushing away the first one I met that I actually liked wasn't a brilliant plan..

They share a smile, disturbed by the approaching sound of heavy, thunderous footsteps. Jody looks alarmed as Andrew grits his teeth and raises his binoculars again.

JODY (cont'd)

What the Britney Spears is that?

ANDREW

The final part of the plan..

28 EXT. CLEVELAND - ANOTHER STREET. NIGHT.

28

Faith runs past, supporting the hobbling Willow with one arm, frantically looking round for some way to outrun the dragon.

She throws her head round as we hear a roar from behind them. Willow raises a weak finger, blood dripping from her damaged ears.

WILLOW

That way.. park's that way..

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FAITH

(flustered)

Yeah, I know, but we're gonna end up as a Happy Meal if we don't start movin' faster.. damn it! We need some wheels. Will, you still too weak to just snap your fingers and zap us over there?

WILLOW

Yup.. I'm all zapped out..

Faith frantically looks round, then spots something off screen and manages a grateful grin.

29

EXT. CLEVELAND - MORE STREETS. NIGHT.

29

The dragon plods into view, bloody gashes all over its body from both the rough landing and ploughing through the inner city blocks of Cleveland, swinging its head from side to side to look for its quarry.

We suddenly hear the VROOM of a motorcycle engine revving.

As the dragon whips its head round, Faith and Willow burst out from an alley next to a boarded up biker's bar, riding a gleaming motorcycle. Faith rides, Willow hanging on for dear life behind her.

The dragon roars and sets off after the girls again, who this time can stay ahead of the monster thanks to the raw speed of the bike.

FAITH

Hang on, Will, this could get bumpy!

Faith plants one foot down and pulls a hard left, wrenching the handlebars to one side to make the sharp turn.

We stay and watch the bike power away from us as the dragon follows them awkwardly round the turn, still howling as it chases them.

30

EXT. CLEVELAND - CENTRAL PARK. NIGHT.

30

Andrew watches out from the foliage as we hear first the motorbike's engine, then the howls and crashing footsteps of the dragon as they come closer. Jody is backing away, looking pretty alarmed.

JODY

So.. this is still part of the plan?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANDREW

Um, I think Faith had to improvise,
but yeah, kinda.. come on, quick!

Andrew darts off screen, dragging Jody with him.

Looking towards the bike with the dragon gaining in the background, Faith throws one look behind her then accelerates again.

As we watch, she drives up a disabled access ramp and flies through the air, landing with a wobble on a path inside the park, kicking up clods of muddy dirt as the bike powers along.

Faith slows the bike to a stop and hops off, scooping up Willow as the bike crashes to its side. She jogs up to where Andrew and Jody are waiting, inside the cover of the thick trees of the forest.

ANDREW (cont'd)

Is she okay?

FAITH

She blew her batteries. Slight
change of plan but five by five
now. You guys ready?

ANDREW

Uh, yeah.

We hear the dragon roar off screen, and the group turn back round towards the park entrance.

FAITH

Good.. 'cause we're about to find
out if you spent your life watching
the right movies or not..

The dragon reaches the entrance to the park and takes one step forward, its mighty head swinging from side to side as it sniffs the air.

All is quiet except for the storm lashing down around us as the beast takes a few more steps forward, trying to locate its prey.

We stay with it for another beat, until we hear a distant yell:

FAITH (cont'd)

Do it!!

Standing next to some hastily rigged up cables, they hack at them once with axes, slicing the material in two and jumping clear as the thick cables whip up and out of sight.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The dragon raises its head as a thick pair of power cables suddenly swing down, cut loose from their restraints overhead.

It has enough time to register a vague look of surprise before FWIPP! The cables slice clean through the neck of the dragon.

It stands still for a moment, before a thick green line of blood starts to form across the base of its neck, and as we watch its head slowly slides forward, and the headless torso topples backwards.

Watching from the safety of the treeline as the dragon's huge head lands before them with a loud CRASH, shortly followed by another thud as the body hits the ground. Silence for a few beats.

JODY

Woah. Which movie did you get that idea from?

ANDREW

Um, actually, I was just kind of goin' with it..

31 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - FRONT ROOM. NIGHT.

31

Dawn suddenly looks round, as though hearing some distant call, and then looks crestfallen as she realises that her demon is dead. Jackson walks back into the room with a cup of coffee that he finishes off.

JACKSON

Hey. You okay?

DAWN

Yes. Yes, I'm fine.

Jackson looks outside as the storm starts to lift, its reason for existence now lying headless in the city's central park. Jackson grins.

JACKSON

I think that's a good sign!

Dawn, distracted, manages a fake smile as Jackson sits.

JACKSON (cont'd)

You know, Dawn, there's something I wanted to ask you.

DAWN

Me?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACKSON

Yeah, I need your help with it too.

Dawn sits, a curious look on her face.

DAWN

So what's up?

JACKSON

When I was dozing off earlier, when Buffy was doing her big speech thing.. I saw something.

DAWN

You did?

JACKSON

Yeah, I think.. I think it was one of those Powers That Be things that I hear so much about. At least, I think so, it didn't really have a form, you know? It was just.. there.

Dawn looks blankly at him and Jackson chuckles.

JACKSON (cont'd)

Yeah, I know, pretty random, huh. But it told me something, it told me how we can beat Ulithios.

DAWN

(tries to hide suspicion)
Really? It did?

JACKSON

Yeah, it said that apparently all we needed was this one passage from a book that Buffy left round mine, and this axe of hers too. Apparently, we put this spell on the axe, and it enchants it so that it can actually hurt Ulithios.

(grins)

Pretty nifty, huh? I mean, we should probably wait for Buffy to get back before we tell her..

DAWN

(quickly)
No, wait.. Wouldn't it be cool if we had it ready once she got back from shaking that demon down?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAWN(cont'd)

You know, the others are off fighting that dragon and probably winning, if the sudden change in weather is anything to go by, and here we are, doing nothing.. You follow me?

JACKSON

So.. we head to mine and do this spell, then just hand Buffy the axe when she gets back, right?

DAWN

(smirks)

Exactly.

JACKSON

Okay, cool. Come on, let's go, I don't live too far away.

Jackson stands and grabs his coat as Dawn gives him his best evil grin.

32

EXT. CLEVELAND - CENTRAL PARK. NIGHT.

32

Andrew stands proudly in front of the dragon's head as Jody takes a Polaroid of the two of them, and we see that Giles, Marie, Xander and Anya have joined the group.

Willow sits on a tree stump, gathering her breath while Faith stands over her.

FAITH

You back up to max again?

WILLOW

Easy, Faith, I'm not the Energizer bunny, you know!

The two girls share a smile as Faith points a thumb back towards the dragon's carcass.

FAITH

What do we do about that thing? It's still the middle of the night, but I doubt very much we can bury a whole headless dragon by the time the morning shift rolls in..

WILLOW

Well, I may be able to, uh, burn it up or something, or..

Before Willow can finish her sentence, the dragon's head suddenly hiccups once, and Andrew shrieks in fear and jumps away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As the group watch, the head and body slowly start to dissolve, oozing down and soaking into the muddy ground below. Willow grins.

WILLOW (cont'd)
Heh, biodegradable bad guys.. now
I've seen it all!

Anya snuggles up happily to Xander, who is looking relieved that everybody made it through this okay.

XANDER
Well! Another one bites the dust,
huh, An?

ANYA
Yes. I'm glad you're not dead.
(beat)
Xander, remember what we were
speaking about a few weeks ago?

XANDER
Well.. probably, why don't you
remind me?

ANYA
About kids. And us having them.

XANDER
Oh, that.. heh, I stick by what I
said then, honey, not for a long,
long time yet.

ANYA
Oh.. oh, okay.
(long beat)
Xander, I'm pregnant.

XANDER
(long beat; snaps head to
look at her)
What?!?

Anya smiles hopefully up at him, but the blood seems to be draining from Xander's face.

XANDER (cont'd)
But.. how.. when..

ANYA
Oh, and I've also worked out why
I've been feeling so funny since I
stopped being a ghost.
(beat)
That's because of the baby too.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Xander is lost for words for the first time in his life. He just stares blankly at Anya as she snuggles up against him again, squeezing him tightly.

33 INT. JACKSON'S PAD. NIGHT. 33

Jackson opens the door and heads inside, Dawn cautiously stepping inside as Jackson flicks a light switch on.

JACKSON
Ah, good, the power's back on. Come on in, the stuff's just in the front room.

Jackson walks off screen into his living room as Dawn steels herself, glaring at his back as she follows him.

34 INT. JACKSON'S PAD - LIVING ROOM. NIGHT. 34

Jackson is rummaging through a makeshift weapons chest behind his sofa, a thick red leather bound book next to him. Dawn looks down, reaches to grab something off screen and then creeps up behind him.

JACKSON
(without turning round)
The book's there, the axe is in here somewhere.. ah, man! Where is it?

We look at Dawn's back, and Jackson leaning into the chest in front of her, panning a little to the side to see Dawn holding the axe in question!

Jackson sits back, huffing as Dawn raises the axe to strike the killer blow.

JACKSON (cont'd)
Nope, it's not here. Hmm.. where did I leave it?

DAWN
(with venom)
Maybe you're not looking hard enough!

Jackson turns, and Dawn swings the axe down towards him. He's got no time to react, and no room to dodge..

SNAP! Buffy's hand streaks into frame and grabs Dawn's arm, holding the axe steady.

The axe has stopped inches from Jackson's forehead, and after his eyes boggle at it for a moment he leans carefully back and gets to his feet.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Dawn stares coldly into Buffy's eyes as the Slayer holds her sister's arm up, a cold, cold look in her eyes. There's no need for words.

The secret is out.

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW