

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

"What May Come"

by
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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. WATCHERS COUNCIL - LONDON - NIGHT 1

The building towers above anything else in the vicinity. In the streets below cars drive up and down the road, with mostly black cabs being all we see.

2 INT. COUNCIL - CORRIDORS 2

GILES is standing in the corridor, looking through a glass window into another room.

The camera slowly pans and we see BUFFY is sitting on a bed, being tested by a DOCTOR. But our Slayer seems more distant than she has ever been. The door opens and MARIE walks out, turning to Giles, passing some files to him.

GILES
How is she?

MARIE
She is more responsive. Her reflexes are a little slow but it is to be expected.

GILES
She's been through a lot.

MARIE
Yes. She has. Being comatose for three months is quite a chore.

GILES
Waking from it and discovering your life for the past three months has been a lie is even worse.

MARIE
You shouldn't let this distract you, Rupert.

GILES
(snaps)
Distract me?

Marie almost jumps back, unnerved by his outburst.

MARIE
I just mean... you are head of the Watchers Council. Other people need you as well.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GILES

They can wait. Postpone everything,
just like you have done all week.

MARIE

But, Rupert --

GILES

Enough. I will be taking leave
until my Slayer is... until Buffy
is on her feet.

MARIE

With all due respect, that could be
a long time.

GILES

Then it'll be a long time before
I'm back as Head Watcher.

Marie nods, not saying another word. He passes the files back
to her as she walks away. Giles pushes the door --

3 INT. COUNCIL - EXAMINATION ROOM

3

-- and enters the medical bay. He looks to the Doctor who
beams an assuring smile.

DOCTOR

She is improving, sir. Another week
and she will be tip top.

GILES

Fine.
(beat)
You're excused.

The Doctor obeys his command and quickly EXITS. Giles slowly
approaches Buffy, who doesn't look at him.

GILES (cont'd)

Buffy, I must say it is good to see
you out of the white room. I was
starting to worry that the other
Watchers might make you pay rent.

He sees she isn't amused at his attempt at a little humor. He
sits beside her on the bed.

GILES (cont'd)

I know this is hard for you, Buffy.
You were lost in a world where Dawn
didn't exist, and you were happy
with the knowledge that she didn't
die. That, everything you did last
year, resulted in good.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GILES(cont'd)

(beat)

But sooner or later, that lie would
have consumed you. And you knew
that. Even in this fabricated
reality, you sought the truth.

Buffy snaps her head to him, a tear visible in her eye. But
still, she says nothing.

GILES (cont'd)

Buffy, Dawn is dead.

BUFFY

I know.

Giles turns to her.

GILES

Good. Because if you ignore that,
you cannot move on.

He wraps an arm around her but she just continues to stare
ahead, as if not even seeing him.

GILES (cont'd)

You should eat something. Build up
your strength.

BUFFY

(distracted)

Because a weak Slayer is a useless
Slayer.

GILES

(concerned)

Yes, well... we should get you some
food then.

Buffy nods as Giles goes to the door. He looks back to see
she hasn't moved an inch. She finally turns to him, coming
out of her trance.

BUFFY

Giles?

GILES

Yes, Buffy. It's me.

She looks down at herself and almost chokes on a tear. She
quickly regains herself and follows him to the door.

4

INT. COUNCIL - CORRIDORS

4

Giles leads Buffy out where they come to the Doctor, who has
been watching.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GILES

Would you please take Buffy to the cafeteria.

DOCTOR

Right away.

(to Buffy)

This way, Ms Summers.

Buffy looks back to Giles as he nods, letting her know it's safe to go. Buffy and the Doctor then head off down the corridor. Giles pulls out his CELL PHONE and dials.

GILES

(into phone)

Willow, is that you?

5

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE - DAY

5

WILLOW is on the phone, which she takes out of the room as XANDER and ANYA come through in mid-conversation.

WILLOW (O.S)

It's me, Giles, go ahead.

ANYA

I didn't mean that, Xander. Why would I turn you into a midget anyway? I hate midgets!

XANDER

Well, gee, An, I don't know. Why would you turn one of your ex's into a troll?

ANYA

He cheated on me! You only went out for one night and didn't invite me.

XANDER

Wait, so now it's not a big deal?

ANYA

No! I mean, yes! I mean...

(sees)

Ooh, cartoons!

She quickly takes a seat on the sofa and watches the TV. Xander sighs, seeing ANDREW enter.

ANDREW

Uh, is the war zone neutralized yet cos the original Star Wars is on and I can't record it cos the dog chewed up all my blank tapes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

And on that note, DOODLES, Willow's dog, comes running through with MR. GORDO (which some of you might remember as Buffy's stuffed pig) in his mouth.

XANDER

Bad dog!

Xander gives chase.

ANDREW

Anya, we have to turn it over.

ANYA

I'm watching Daffy.

ANDREW

(whimpers)

But... Star Wars.

ANYA

Andrew, it's not just a myth that some pregnant women hunt men down to cut off their penis' in hopes of fulfilling vengeance.

Andrew's jaw drops in horror.

ANYA (cont'd)

Now you think about that while you're getting me a jar of gherkins and honey.

She motions for Andrew to obey her but as he stands, Willow comes back through, setting the phone down, just as Xander appears with Mr. Gordo.

WILLOW

I've got news.

ANYA

I'm going to die!

WILLOW

No.

ANYA

Oh... hormones.

Everyone exchanges a look. Does that justify it?

WILLOW

Buffy's awake.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XANDER

Oh God, is she okay? I mean, what
did Giles say? Did he say she was
okay? Did he?

6

INT. COUNCIL - CAFETERIA

6

The camera swoops down from the ceiling and zooms in on
Buffy, who's sitting alone by the window, having not touched
a thing on her plate. She GLARES into the darkness outside
the window.

WILLOW (V.O)

Giles said she was distant... that
she hasn't seemed like she's really
here.

Zoom in closer to fit her sullen expression.

WILLOW (V.O) (cont'd)

He doesn't know if we'll really
ever get her back.

BLACK OUT.

END OF TEASER

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

7

EXT. COUNCIL - BUFFY'S BALCONY - NIGHT

7

Buffy is standing on the balcony, overlooking the city of London below. She's staring at the nightlife, people walking, cars driving... normality.

BUFFY (V.O)

Dawn. I know you're not in the place where you can forgive him for what happened but you've got to realise that without Mom, he's the only parent we have.

DAWN (V.O)

I got you.

The Slayer closes her eyes, fighting back a tear. She turns and sees Giles come out to the balcony.

GILES

It's been a long day for you.

BUFFY

I suppose.

GILES

(beat)

You'll get through this, Buffy.
You're strong.

Buffy raises a brow, as if to question that statement.

GILES (cont'd)

And I'll always be here to help you, in any way I can. Just tell me how.

BUFFY

I guess... I could use another pillow.

Giles turns to her, confused.

BUFFY(cont'd)

It's hard to sleep.

GILES

(nods)

I was thinking that maybe I should refer you to the counselor. We have one here, he's probably the best in the country.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY
I used to be a counselor.

GILES
You still can be, Buffy. Your life isn't over. It doesn't have to end with...

BUFFY
(continuing)
I had a job, a home, a sister that loved me.

GILES
Yes, you did. But, Buffy --

BUFFY
Giles, you don't understand. You could never understand.

GILES
(beat)
I lost Jenny.

She turns to him, almost in rage.

BUFFY
That doesn't compare!

GILES
No. I don't suppose it does. But I loved her and I never had the chance to tell her that.
(beat)
You did. Dawn knew how you felt. And she --

BUFFY
She was gone. All that time and I didn't even know some demon had taken control of her. What kind of a sister wouldn't notice something like that?

Giles goes to speak but she cuts him off.

BUFFY (cont'd)
I was so wrapped up in my own life that I failed to notice hers slipping away. Giles, she was dying and I was... I was with Jackson.
(beat)
Even when we knew, I fooled myself into thinking it was still Dawn, that she was still inside. And it wasn't because I wanted her so...
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY(cont'd)

it was because I couldn't bear the thought that I had let her down.

GILES

If you blame yourself for not noticing than we are all to blame. Nobody saw this coming, Buffy.

BUFFY

Jackson did. I'm guessing he didn't know the full scale but he tried to kill Dawn before any of this happened.

(somber)

I should have let him.

Giles closes his eyes, thinking this over. He rests a hand on her shoulder but she pulls away.

BUFFY (cont'd)

So what happens now? Do I go back to Cleveland, get over it, get on with my life?

GILES

That's up to you.

BUFFY

I can't. I can't ever go back there.

She leaves the balcony and goes into her room. Giles takes a deep breath before following.

8

INT. COUNCIL - BUFFY'S ROOM

8

Buffy rests her head in her hands as Giles enters.

GILES

Buffy, I know that's how you feel now but trust me when I say --

BUFFY

There's nothing you can say that will make this better, Giles. Believe me, I wish there was but I... I can't pretend this never happened.

(teary)

When she died... when those bullets ripped her apart, I wanted to be dead too. Dawn was the only reason I got so far. Without her, what am I?

GILES

You're still Buffy Summers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY

When I got that job at Charleston and Smithe, you know what I thought? I didn't think, 'this is gonna be great for my future' or 'this is really gonna settle the bills and we won't have to worry about money anymore.'

(beat)

I thought, finally, Dawn's gonna be proud of me. I'm not the older sister who flips burgers for a living, or the sister who hangs in cemeteries all the time. I had a real purpose, besides slaying, and I knew she was proud of me. I could feel it.

(beat)

And that was the happiest time of my life. My sister was proud of me and I was something.

(beat)

What am I if I don't have that feeling? What's the point in working, or slaying, or...

GILES

Living?

Buffy turns to him, her eyes welling up.

BUFFY

These past eight years I've done nothing but fight. I killed Angel to save this world. I embraced the slaying and lost Riley.

(beat)

I gave my life for the cause and was ripped out of heaven, where I was happy. Sometimes I wish I had never been brought back... sometimes...

(sullen)

Everything I've loved has been taken away from me. Angel, Riley, Mom, Dawn... I've lost so much because I'm the Slayer and I can't help but wish I would just die.

(crying)

I want it to end, Giles. Please. Make it stop. Please make it stop.

Giles watches on as Buffy slides down the wall, covering her tears from him.

9

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - WILLOW'S ROOM - DAY

9

Willow is sitting on the bed, legs crossed, arms by her side. There's a KNOCK at the door. She opens her eyes to see Xander standing on the threshold.

WILLOW

Hey.

XANDER

What you doing?

WILLOW

I was... with the Circle.

Xander looks around, a little confused.

WILLOW (cont'd)

Astral projection... kind of. It's hard to explain.

XANDER

So you're really going ahead with this?

WILLOW

With what?

XANDER

Working your way up. Ascending.
(beat)
It's hard to think that one of these days you won't be around anymore.

WILLOW

Xander. I'll always be with you, no matter where I am.

XANDER

I know. I guess, but I want you here, like, so I can touch you. I'd never even thought that you and I wouldn't be together. I guess I always figured we'd grow old and bitter together. Like my parents.

WILLOW

I did too. But this, it's like everything I've done before is for something bigger, you know? That it's not just some hobby or...
(beat)
It kinda makes it better to think of some of the bad things I've done.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER

(thinks)

Warren?

WILLOW

It's horrible to think that killing him was the right thing to do, but if I'm gonna ascend one day, then it means it wasn't evil... that I'm not evil.

XANDER

Will, you could never be evil.

(off her look)

Or, okay, so you went evil for a couple of days. No big. We've all been there.

WILLOW

Not you.

XANDER

No doubt I'll have my time to kick your butts.

(beat)

I might even get a cape.

WILLOW

(smiles)

Or a utility belt.

XANDER

And I should have a symbol. Maybe just an "X."

Willow smiles again as he takes a seat next to her on the bed. But her expression turns serious.

WILLOW

Sometimes when I think about ascending, I think, maybe I'll have a chance to see... maybe I could contact some people.

XANDER

Tara?

WILLOW

And Kennedy.

(beat)

I don't know. My mind seems to be all over the place.

Xander nods, knowing how she feels.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XANDER

I miss Dawn. Sometimes when I come here I expect to see her looking over some books... I remember the way she'd look at me. So warm... caring.

WILLOW

Out of everyone here, you were the one she respected the most.

XANDER

You don't know that.

WILLOW

Oh, I do. On the verge of higher being-ness remember.

XANDER

(beat)

I just wish Buffy was here.

WILLOW

Me too. We'll get her back. There's nothing we can't face if we're together, right?

Xander smiles as she places her hand on his.

The camera's zoomed in on a polaroid of XANDER. We slowly pull back to reveal another next to it, but this one is of ANYA. As purple dust is sprinkled onto them --

DISTORTED VOICE (V.O)

Powers of light and dark I seek
your might. Do my bidding and
fulfill this transposition. Eyes
and heart, tongue and hand. Make
the change so he can comprehend...

(beat)

He will understand.

The photographs EXPLODE in PURPLE FLAMES. On this we...

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ACT TWO

FADE IN.

10

INT. HARRIS RESIDENCE - BEDROOM - MORNING

10

The first sign of daylight bleeds through the closed curtains. Xander begins to STIR as Anya finally awakes. She doesn't look at him, just rolls out of bed. With a yawn and a stretch, she heads out of the door as Xander takes a glimpse.

He pulls himself up and suddenly realizes something. He looks down at himself and SCREAMS! Anya comes rushing back through.

ANYA

An, what's wron --

She stops, covering her mouth with her hands. Her eyes peer down to see she is ANYA... which wouldn't be strange at all, but...

XANDER

Xander, what the hell is going?

ANYA

(panicked)

This is a dream! I have to go back to sleep!

She JUMPS in the bed but Xander pulls the covers back.

XANDER

Xander! This isn't a dream.

He hits her across the head.

ANYA

Ow!

XANDER

See!

Anya gets back up and paces the room, glancing at Xander every so often.

ANYA

(horrified)

We've... swapped bodies.

XANDER

I know. You have breasts.

Anya looks down at herself and feels them.

ANYA

(giddy)

I have breasts!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER

Stop touching me! Xander, I think we should call Willow.

ANYA

No. I've gotta go to work.

Xander shoots her (him?) a look.

XANDER

Xander, you can't go to work. You look like me!

ANYA

Oh yeah. No! Wait, I can't take the day off. I'm supposed to be negotiating a very important deal with --

She JUMPS back, startled by something. She feels her stomach, eyes wide.

ANYA (cont'd)

What was that?!

XANDER

What?

ANYA

I think... I think the baby kicked.

XANDER

It did?

(soppy)

Oh my God. Let me feel.

He quickly rushes to her and puts his hands on her stomach. They stay like that for a while until Anya swats him away.

ANYA

Anya, we need to fix this! If I'm not at that meeting, I'll lose the job... and you won't get the pretty things you like.

XANDER

Oh. Oh, that's not good. Okay, we need a plan.

ANYA

Yes. A plan. Now, how can I fool the boys at work into making them think my fiance is now running the show?

(realizing)

I've got it. You go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XANDER

What now?

ANYA

You have to do it. You look like me, the boss. You have to negotiate the contract.

XANDER

No. Absolutely no way in hell am I pretending to be you. I don't know anything about construction!

ANYA

It's easy. I'll teach you. We have...

She checks her watch.

ANYA (cont'd)

Okay, so we have less than an hour. There's not much to it, really, it's easy. Anyone can do it. All you've gotta know is...

She stops speaking, seeing Xander pulling his pajama bottoms wide and looking down at himself.

ANYA (cont'd)

Any?

XANDER

Sorry! It's just... I've never had one before.

(thinks)

Xander. Ever wondered what it's like to have an orgasm as a woman?

ANYA

(huh?)

I don't...

XANDER

We could do it in less than an hour.

ANYA

Any! I can't believe you're thinking about having sex with each other! I mean, in each other's bodies! I can't have sex with myself!

XANDER

(deflated)

You're so boring lately.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ANYA

Right, this is the plan. You go to work. Or, my work. And I'll go to Willow, see what the hell happened here and try to fix it.

(beat)

Okay?

XANDER

Fine.

He rolls his eyes and heads to the dresser, taking a seat and beginning to put on some lipstick.

ANYA

(shouts)

Anya!

She points to the lipstick.

XANDER

What?

(realizing)

Oh, right. Sorry.

Anya shakes her head as Xander gets dressed.

11 EXT. COUNCIL - GARDENS - AFTERNOON

11

Buffy is slowly walking through the brightly lit gardens, but not taking any of it in. She takes a deep breath before turning and seeing --

JOYCE! The Slayer almost screams. She looks her over.

BUFFY

Mom?

JOYCE

Buffy.

(beat)

You look tired.

BUFFY

I've been hearing that a lot.

JOYCE

It's to be expected.

(beat)

Are you eating enough fruit?

BUFFY

(weary)

Mom...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JOYCE

I know, I know. You're all grown up now. You can take care of yourself.

BUFFY

I wouldn't say that.

JOYCE

Something wrong, honey?

BUFFY

Everything.

JOYCE

Oh, come on. It can't be that bad, can it?

BUFFY

Dawn is...

JOYCE

Yes. We all saw that coming. I warned her, that you wouldn't choose her.

BUFFY

I had no choice.

JOYCE

Of course you did, Buffy. You always have a choice.

BUFFY

(somber)

Do you blame me for her death?

JOYCE

No, don't think that. Buffy, you did everything you could to keep Dawn here... but it just wasn't meant to be. She wasn't a part of the world's plan, she should never have existed.

BUFFY

But she did. And I loved her. How could they give her to me and then take her away?

JOYCE

Everything happens for a reason, Buffy. You have to trust that what was before and what may come, is all a part of some greater plan.

Buffy shakes her head.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY

I can't believe that. I can't trust that the higher powers would put me through so much pain because of a greater good.

(teary)

I keep thinking that I must be an awful person for them to do this to me... to keep doing it to me.

JOYCE

Buffy... I know at the moment you can't see the light at the end of the tunnel but there is one... it's just a little clouded right now.

Joyce places her hand on Buffy's cheek.

JOYCE (cont'd)

I love you, Buffy. I will always love you no matter what. Trust in that.

BUFFY

I do. But what am I supposed to do now? Where do I go from here?

GILES (O.S)

Buffy?

Buffy turns to see Giles approaching. She looks back to see Joyce has disappeared.

GILES (cont'd)

Are you all right?

BUFFY

(disturbed)

Yeah.

GILES

I heard you talking.

BUFFY

Just getting some things out in the open. So I can actually hear myself saying it before telling you.

GILES

What's that?

Buffy starts walking and he follows suit.

BUFFY

I can't go back to Cleveland, Giles. I won't.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

GILES

But, Buffy --

BUFFY

I remember the last time I felt like this. The darkness, the void. And I hurt so many people. I don't want to do that to my friends and they wouldn't understand.

(beat)

So I've made a decision. Something I've realized I have to do.

GILES

And that is?

BUFFY

I'm moving. I don't know where and I don't know how long I'll be there for. I've got a plane booked, it'll take me to LA. I'll say goodbye to Angel and I'm just gonna go.

GILES

Buffy, running away isn't the answer.

BUFFY

I'm not running away. I'm moving on. Cleveland is where I was the Slayer. I can't be that anymore. I give up. I throw in the towel and it's time I did something else... something that doesn't involve all the people I love being killed.

GILES

This is your solution? You drop your friends, the ones who have been there for you from the very start?

BUFFY

Don't make this any harder, Giles.

GILES

Oh, you think this is easy for me to listen to? To hear my Slayer... the girl I have tried to teach... just throw everything she's worked for away?

BUFFY

And what have I got?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

GILES

People who care about you. Friends
you are lucky to have.

Buffy thinks this over.

BUFFY

Don't matter. Everything's done. I
leave tonight.

GILES

If you were really going to go
through with this, you would have
gone without telling me.

BUFFY

I was hoping you'd understand.

GILES

Then I guess it's clear you really
don't know me at all. How could you
think I would understand or support
you like this? I did not raise you
to run from your --

BUFFY

From what? The pain? The hurt and
torture? Giles! I can't do it
anymore. I won't be the victim for
the higher powers, I'm not playing
their game anymore.

GILES

So don't! Take a stand.

(beat)

But what I can't comprehend, is why
you would leave everyone who loves
you. You do that and you will fall.
You'll have no one.

BUFFY

I'll have myself.

(beat)

That's all I need.

GILES

(disappointed)

Then I wish you luck. But I won't
give you my blessings.

BUFFY

I don't need them.

Giles shakes his head and instead of retorting, he simply
walks away. Buffy looks on, saddened.

12

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE - MORNING

12

Andrew is lounging on the sofa, flicking through the channels on the TV. Suddenly he stops.

ANDREW

Ooh, Beyblade.

The door opens and Anya ENTERS. She looks around, then sees Andrew.

ANYA

Where's Willow?

ANDREW

Uh... I think she went out.
Somewhere... or she's upstairs.
Wait...

(thinks)

Nope. She's out.

ANYA

Andy, you're gonna turn into a big fat slob if you lay there anymore.

ANDREW

I know... I should move... but I ate too much.

(beat)

Hey, you wanna play that game where we list all the things about Xander's body we like?

ANYA

Not right --

(realizing)

You do that? I mean... we do that?

ANDREW

Uh, yeah, it's like our best past time.

ANYA

I can't believe you'd --

(then)

Okay!

She takes a seat next to him.

ANDREW

Okay. I like his arms. They're big, like, manly big.

ANYA

(smiles)

Manly, huh?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANDREW

Yeah. You go.

ANYA

Oh, right. Um... I like my... um, his... penis. It's big. Really big. I mean, wow! I've never seen a man so big.

ANDREW

Really?

ANYA

Totally.

ANDREW

Whoa... okay, I like his butt. It's perky and firm but still has a softness --

ANYA

Okay, this just got disturbing.

She quickly stands.

ANYA (cont'd)

I need to find Willow so she can change me back before Anya stuffs up my meeting.

ANDREW

Um... what?

ANYA

(beat)

I'm Xander.

ANDREW

(laughs)

Get out.

ANYA

No really. Ask me anything.

ANDREW

How many fingers am I holding up?

He holds up three.

ANYA

Three.

ANDREW

Oh my God, it is you! How did this happen?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANYA

I don't know. That's why I need Willow.

ANDREW

So, where's Anya?

ANYA

She's pretending to be me in a meeting. Which, when you think about it, is very, very bad.

Andrew can't help but let a giggle escape his lips. Anya shoots him an icy look.

ANYA (cont'd)

This isn't funny, Andrew.

ANDREW

I know, it's just... you look so pretty.

ANYA

That's not the issue.

But then she looks down at herself.

ANYA (cont'd)

I do have great legs though. And perky --

She stops, looking down at her stomach.

ANYA (cont'd)

Oh no.

ANDREW

What is it?

ANYA

The worst thing about being a pregnant woman.

She dashes up the stairs as Andrew peers up. We hear some really horrible VOMITING.

ANDREW

(calls)

Anya always says that pickled raisins cure it.

ANYA (O.S)

(disgusted)

Oh God!

13

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE

13

Workers go about their business, working away, nothing unusual. Three figures come our way. One of them is Xander, the others are OSWALD BALE, Xander's right hand man, and PERRY MCLOOS, the man who wants some construction work done.

PERRY

So you see, Mr. Harris, the work would be long but the paycheck would be worth it.

XANDER

Yes. Money, I like it.

Perry smiles and hands him a slip of paper. Xander looks it over, his eyes widening at the figure.

XANDER (cont'd)

Whoa! Do you know how many pairs of shoes I could buy with this amount of money?

(off their looks)

Um... manly shoes, of course. Cos us men are big... and strong.

(lion impression)

Grrrrr.

Oswald and Perry exchange bemused looks.

OSWALD

Anyway, Mr. McLoos, I think you'll find that our work here is above average. Right, Xander?

He looks to him but Xander's still staring at the piece of paper. Oswald nudges him.

XANDER

Huh?

OSWALD

I was just saying, our work is the best out there.

XANDER

It is? It is! And you know why? Because my finace drives me to ambition. She is the rock. And she's beautiful and a vixen in the sack.

Oswald is stunned. Perry smiles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PERRY

I know exactly what you mean, Mr. Harris. My wife and kids are the only reason I'm as successful as I am.

XANDER

Maybe if you told Xander that he might be more sympathetic towards me and...

(realizing)

What am I saying? I'm Xander. I'm Xander! Don't listen to me, I skipped breakfast this morning and when I don't have breakfast, I'm a loon!

(quickly)

Not a crazy loon! I mean, when I do a job I'm serious. It's all work and no play Anya --Xander! My name... is Xander.

(beat)

I know that because I have a penis.

The other two stare at him in disbelief, confusement, and mostly shock. Xander looks at them, worried.

XANDER (cont'd)

Okay. I need to go to the little girls room.

(beat)

Oh crap! Boys room!

He quickly rushes off and when he rounds a corner he pulls out his CELL PHONE. He dials and puts it to his ear.

XANDER (cont'd)

(into phone)

Xander! I can't do this. It's too hard. I keep forgetting who I am and we haven't even got to the contract yet.

(beat)

Oh fine! But if I babble about penises anymore, I think he might get the wrong idea!

14

EXT. ROCKWELL AVENUE - EVENING

14

Willow walks along the sidewalk, carrying a brown paper bag with the words "ENCHANTED ACCESSORIES" imprinted on it.

She looks across the street before crossing the road, where she sees --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACKSON. He immediately stops upon noticing her, unsure of whether to engage in any kind of communication. He doesn't.

He keeps walking.

WILLOW

Jackson?
(calls)
Jackson?

She quickly heads after him. He finally stops, turning to face her.

JACKSON

Willow. Hey.

WILLOW

Hi. Didn't hear me, huh?

JACKSON

No. I did.

WILLOW

Oh.
(beat)
We haven't seen you for a long while.

JACKSON

No, I've been busy. You know, getting back into the police force and all.

WILLOW

You're a cop again?

JACKSON

Detective. It's... better. I help people now.

WILLOW

Jackson... are you all right?

JACKSON

Yeah, I'm fine. I just... I'm busy is all. You know.

WILLOW

Okay. Well, it was good seeing you.

She turns, a little uneasy, ready to walk away.

JACKSON

How's Buffy?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WILLOW

Buffy? She's... awake. I mean, not catatonic anymore. She's still in England.

JACKSON

Right. Will you, um... will you just tell her...

(beat)

Never mind. It doesn't matter.

WILLOW

Tell her what?

JACKSON

Nothing. Don't worry about it.

(beat)

Uh, I'll be seeing you.

He walks away, leaving Willow saddened about his obvious dejection. She watches him walk for a moment, before turning and entering the house...

15 INT. COUNCIL - BUFFY'S ROOM

15

Two suitcases are propped up on the bed as Buffy stuffs them full of clothes and various items. She closes one of the cases, staring into space, contemplating everything, before zipping it up.

KNOCK! She turns to see Giles standing at the door, looking in at her.

BUFFY

I don't wanna fight, Giles.

GILES

No. I shouldn't think you do. It's not what I'm here for actually.

BUFFY

Wanted to have the last word, huh?

GILES

No. Of course not.

BUFFY

So... what?

GILES

I've been doing some things with Marie --

BUFFY

Whoa! I don't wanna know about you and Marie!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GILES

No! I mean, we've been looking for
a passage --

He notices her look of disgust and quickly finishes before
she can say anything.

GILES (cont'd)

In an old book, it was often used
by the Council when the active
Slayer lost her way.

BUFFY

You think a book is gonna make all
the pain go away?

GILES

No, Buffy. When the text is read
aloud by the Slayer, she is taken
on a quest within her own mind.
It's all very complicated, I
wouldn't want to bore you with the
details.

BUFFY

No. Last time I went on a quest I
was given a glimpse of hundreds
Turok-Hans, waiting to devour us.
That vision haunted me for weeks.

GILES

This isn't... Buffy, I don't ask
much of you. And I know you are set
on leaving this life behind you
but... I'm not asking you as your
Watcher.

BUFFY

(beat)

What do I have to do?

GILES

Read the text.

He hands her the book, which she eyes, curiously.

GILES (cont'd)

If anything, it'll give you a
little perspective.

BUFFY

Is this how you plan to make me
stay?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GILES

No. I just want to make sure if
you're not around, I know you're
safe.

Buffy nods, getting it.

BUFFY

Thanks.

GILES

Buffy --

BUFFY

Giles, don't. I'll do this one
thing for you, but after this I'm
gone. I mean it. This life is over.
It's time to start again.

Giles doesn't say anything, just looks at her with a
downhearted expression, then EXITS.

Buffy breathes a sigh before opening the book to where a
small piece of paper marks it.

16

INT. COUNCIL - CORRIDORS

16

Giles walks through the corridor, almost BUMPING into Marie,
who's carrying stacks of books.

MARIE

Rupert! You made me jump.
(beat)
How is she?

GILES

Stubborn.

MARIE

Wonder where she gets that from?

GILES

Are you implying I'm stubborn? I'm
not stubborn. I'll have you know
I'm extremely far from --

MARIE

Rupert! I was making a joke.

GILES

Oh, yes. Well, I suppose I'm not in
the most light hearted of moods
right now.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARIE

I imagine not. Buffy's still
adamant about leaving her friends?

GILES

More so. I just hope this quest
helps her.

MARIE

You think it will change her mind?

GILES

I don't know, Marie. I really don't
know.

17 INT. COUNCIL - BUFFY'S ROOM

17

Buffy looks over the book, her finger tracing the imprinted
text on the page.

BUFFY

(dubbed in Latin)

For guidance, for help. For paths
not yet taken. For the mind, body,
and soul. Hear my plea, show me
that which I am yet to know.

She waits. Nothing... ... until the room begins to shake. A
light starts to shine from the book until the room is filled
with BRIGHT WHITE.

DISSOLVE TO:

18 EXT. DESERT - DAY

18

The BRIGHT WHITE fades away and Buffy looks around, bookless.

BUFFY

Huh.

(beat)

Is someone supposed to be here?

VOICE (O.S)

Only you.

Buffy turns to see the figure -- IT'S HERSELF!

On Buffy's bemused expression we...

BLACK OUT.**END OF ACT TWO**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

19 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE - AFTERNOON

19

Willow, Anya, Xander, and Andrew are sitting around the lounge, each exchanging expressions.

ANYA

Say something, Will.

WILLOW

I'm just... confused. It's not a glamor, obviously... who would do this?

XANDER

Bunnies!

WILLOW

Xander --!

ANYA

Um, over here.

WILLOW

Right. Sorry, I keep getting muddled. I don't understand how this could happen.

XANDER

Well, we don't need to understand, we just need to fix it. You're a witch. Get witch-y!

WILLOW

I'll try but I've never done anything like this before.

XANDER

Yes, and you never gave the whole line of potential Slayers the power until you did it. So do this. Now.

WILLOW

Um, Andrew... I'll need your help to look it up. Maybe there's some references in the beginners guide... this kinda spell doesn't seem like a pro's work.

(beat)

Xander, Anya, you're just gonna have to hold tight for a while, until we figure out how to swap you back.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANYA

No! Will, you have to do it quick.

WILLOW

Xander --?

ANYA

This baby is making me uncomfortable! I don't think I can take it anymore!

XANDER

Ha!

ANYA

Ha?

XANDER

Now you know how I've been feeling for the past three months. All the times I complained to you and you just shrugged it off... it's finally come back to bite you in the ass.

(beat)

I hope you're stuck like me forever!

ANYA

Yeah? Well... me too! Cos... I'm getting back hair!

Xander GASPS! His hand covering his mouth as his free hand checks his back.

XANDER

Well... I've got hairy toes!

ANYA

I get cramps in my legs at night and every time I do, you think it's cos I'm getting randy but it's not because my sex drive is seriously decreasing!

She points her finger in a "HA! HA!" fashion, but then realizes exactly what it is she's said. She looks around at their uneasy expressions.

ANDREW

So... research?

WILLOW

Yeah!

They quickly scatter off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XANDER

I've had enough. I need some air!

ANYA

What? You can't leave.

XANDER

Well tough, Xander, because you can't stop me. You're just a pregnant woman.

He gets up and EXITS. Anya looks on after him, knowing the pain. She slumps down on the sofa.

20

EXT. DESERT - DAY

20

Buffy is still standing, this time a little less confused. The SECOND BUFFY is sitting on a rock, dragging a stick through the sand.

BUFFY

So, what happens here? Do you give me so lecture on what the right thing to do is?

BUFFY #2

(smiles)

That would just be weird, don't you think?

BUFFY

Yeah, cos this is all so normal.

BUFFY #2

What is normal these days? God, you act like you could actually have a normal life.

BUFFY

No reason why I couldn't. I'm not needed. I'm not the only slayer anymore.

BUFFY #2

Wrong. You are the only Slayer. All the others... they have no idea what it takes, they're only just finding out.

(beat)

You're the only one who can save them.

BUFFY

From what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY #2

(smiles)

I can't tell you that. You just have to know that when the fight comes, you have to be there.

BUFFY

What if I'm not?

BUFFY #2

Then everything you've worked for these past eight years will come crumbling down.

BUFFY

They already have.

BUFFY #2

Ah. Dawn. Yeah, it's a loss. You know there was no other way.

BUFFY

That's what I keep telling myself.

(beat)

I guess I am right now. I mean, I'm talking to myself.

BUFFY #2

Yeah, a part of you you've kept quiet for a long time now. It's time for that to stop. It's time for you to start listening to yourself.

BUFFY

Seems to me I haven't exactly got a whole lot of choice in the matter.

BUFFY #2

Ugh, listen to you! God, it's frustrating. Dawn is dead! You're not!

BUFFY

But I... I just let her die.

BUFFY #2

(beat)

Get over it.

BUFFY

What?

BUFFY #2

You have friends. They're your family.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY #2(cont'd)

They'll always be there for you, no matter what happens, and you're willing to just walk away from them?

BUFFY

I have to.

BUFFY #2

Why? Really, tell me.

BUFFY

What --?

BUFFY #2

You go on about all these sacrifices you make. Well, boo hoo! There are people out there who've made bigger ones than you and they're still standing.

(beat)

You never give up the fight. That's what makes you human.

BUFFY

But... how could the powers that be do this to me? Take everything away like I'm not worth anything. I'm supposed to be a champion. Don't I get a reward? Shouldn't I be allowed to have my sister? My... Mom?

BUFFY #2

That's not how it works. When it's their time, it's their time. The Powers have a hand in it, sure, but they can't bend things to your will.

(beat)

There is a design, Buffy. And trust me, you will get yours. But not if you give up. Losers never get anything.

BUFFY

But I'm tired... and I don't think I can take this anymore.

Buffy #2 STANDS, wielding the stick.

BUFFY #2

I can see this is going to take more than words.

The stick slowly begins to transform into the SCYTHE. Buffy #2 holds it close to Buffy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BUFFY #2 (cont'd)
Have at thee!

She attacks!

21 INT. NO MAN'S LAND - EVENING

21

The camera pans the bar to see Xander propped up, taking a huge gulp of beer, clearly drunk. He looks to his side to see a handsome young guy, we'll call him GRAHAM. The song LET'S GET IT STARTED" by THE BLACK EYED PEAS plays in the background.

XANDER
Hey.

Graham looks at him, tilting his head, as if that were a 'hello' back.

XANDER (cont'd)
Would you tell me something? It's quite personal.
(beat)
Do you think I'm sexy?

GRAHAM
Uh --?

XANDER
I mean, I know I'm a man right now but... I'm really a woman, see... trapped in a male body.

Graham shoots him a weird look before quickly walking away. Xander frowns.

ANYA (O.S)
Hey!

Anya quickly strides over.

ANYA (cont'd)
You're getting me drunk?

XANDER
I haven't been able to have alcohol in months! I miss it.

ANYA
Anya, we have to get back, Willow's got a spell.

XANDER
(un-enthused)
Hoorah.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANYA

What's wrong? Don't you wanna be you again?

XANDER

Hm, let's see. I could be a normal average guy, who has great stamina and also a lot less hornier than I thought you would be...

(off his look)

Or I could be Anya. The girl who died, came back as a ghost as punishment by the higher powers, made solid... couldn't find her soul, then got pregnant. No one ever pays me any attention. Soon I'll be a big inflated baboon and they'll just go 'oh look, that girl's pregnant. Let's ignore her till she goes away.'

ANYA

An... how much you had to drink?

XANDER

Not enough!

ANYA

Look, that's not what they say. It's not how we feel.

XANDER

It's how it feels to me. Ironical, huh? I finally thought that by conceiving a child I would be all right. For the first time in a long while, I felt whole... but now, it's as if I don't exist... that my feelings don't count.

ANYA

Anya, I love you. I do. I want to marry you, I want us to have loads of little kiddies running around the yard, getting into mischief. I want you to be there when I get home from work.

(beat)

You and me... it's what I've dreamed of for so long. I'm sorry if I made you feel like you didn't matter, but you do. You matter to me more than anything or anyone in this whole world.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XANDER

I do?

ANYA

Of course... and I'm hurt you'd even doubt that.

XANDER

I just... I feel fat a lot of the time. I'm just a fat, moaning old woman.

ANYA

You're the most beautiful thing I've ever seen. Even now.

XANDER

(smiles)

That's so...

(then)

Xander, you're looking at yourself.

ANYA

I mean... symbolically.

XANDER

Right.

ANYA

So, can we kiss and make up now?

XANDER

Um... yes please.

They KISS. Xander gets up, almost stumbling. He quickly covers his mouth.

XANDER (cont'd)

(muffled)

I need to throw up!

He rushes off as Graham comes back on the scene. He pulls Anya aside.

GRAHAM

Hey... um, I'm not sure if I should really be telling you this but... your boyfriend just came onto me.

ANYA

What?

GRAHAM

I'm sorry, I think he's gay.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ANYA
No he's not! He's perfectly
straight! And...
(loudly)
Xander Harris is the best lover
I've ever had!

She shoots Graham a look and quickly rushes off.

22

INT. DESERT - DAY

22

Buffy #2 is circling our Slayer, wielding her weapon in an attacking way.

BUFFY
You expect me to fight myself?

BUFFY #2
Isn't that what you've been doing
for all this time. All these years
you've been fighting yourself,
fighting what you are.

BUFFY
I'm not defined by my slaying.

BUFFY #2
You'd rather be defined by your
running away?

BUFFY
Stop doing that!

BUFFY #2
You forget, I know you better than
anyone else. You can't fool me like
you can the others.

BUFFY
Look, I came here because Giles
asked me. It's the last thing I'll
do for him before I go... so just
give me what I came for.

BUFFY #2
As you wish.

Buffy #2 DRIVES THE SCYTHE into Buffy's gut, who GASPS on impact. A whiteness begins to emerge from her eyes until the screen is completely filled again.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

23 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE - DAY

23

Willow, Xander, Anya, and Andrew are sitting in a circle on the floor, with a small pot of smoldering yellow liquid in the middle. A map of Cleveland lies next to it.

ANDREW

So, what happens?

WILLOW

Um... the Eagosphos Root acts as a catalyst and it should pull Xander and Anya's souls out of them and return them to their normal vessels.

ANYA

Vessels?

WILLOW

Bodies. And the liquid will immediately trace who did the spell on the map.

(beat)

Now, nobody say anything, okay? It could completely alter the process.

XANDER

Okay.

Willow gets into position, closing her eyes, readying herself for a meditation stance.

XANDER (cont'd)

Are you doing it?

WILLOW

Anya!

XANDER

Sorry.

WILLOW

Okay. I'm doing it now.

(chanting)

Eyes and mind, body and soul. Hand and tongue, see and know. She repeats it over and over.

XANDER

Um, Willow?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW
Anya! I'm working here!

XANDER
But I think I should --

He stops, seeing the pot begin to SHAKE. Everyone looks to it as the smoke envelopes them all. A beat.

Willow looks down at herself.

ANYA
I'm me again! It worked!

WILLOW
I don't think so.

ANYA
Why, Willow?

ANDREW
Because I'm Willow!

ANYA
(to Willow)
Andrew?

WILLOW
Nope. Xander.

ANDREW
I think we can say for sure that
Anya messed up the spell. God, you
always do this!

XANDER
I'm Xander! I have muscles.

Xander runs his hands along his arms but Willow quickly hits him.

WILLOW
Off my arms!

XANDER
Okay, let's do it again. No
talking!

ANYA
Wait, I have to --

XANDER
Anya! Sh!
(beat)
Eyes and mind, body and soul. Hand
and tongue, see and know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

He repeats again. Suddenly the cloudy dust surrounds them all once again, filling the entire screen.

As it begins to fade we are left on Willow.

WILLOW
I'm back. It's me.

She turns to Xander, who is running his hands all over himself. Confirming his existence.

XANDER
It worked! I'm back in my body!
God, it's good to be me again!

ANDREW
Damn.

WILLOW
Anya?

ANDREW
No, I'm Andrew. But I liked the muscles.

XANDER
Oh God.

WILLOW
What?

XANDER
(points)
Anya.

We finally see Anya... who is covered in the yellow liquid. She SHRUGS.

ANYA
Oops.

24 INT. COUNCIL - GILES' ROOM - EVENING

24

Giles is standing by the window, staring into the coming darkness. He turns as the door CREAKS open, seeing Buffy.

GILES
Buffy.

BUFFY
Hey.

GILES
How are you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY

I'm... I thought I should come say
goodbye.

GILES

(deflated)

You're still leaving then?

BUFFY

Yeah.

(beat)

Giles --

GILES

No, Buffy. No need to say anything.
If you really feel this is the best
course of action, then I suppose I
should trust your judgment.

BUFFY

Yeah, you should.

GILES

I can't help but feel you're wrong.
This isn't the best course of
action... and you're being a fool.

BUFFY

Well, gee, if the friendly
parenting doesn't work, why not
throw in the insults?

GILES

I'm sorry, Buffy, I am, but I can't
keep these feelings locked inside
anymore. I was chosen as your
Watcher and it's my job to put you
on the right path, and --

BUFFY

You did.

GILES

But that's not what I --
(realizing)
Excuse me?

BUFFY

Giles, whatever that was that you
put me on, it opened me up to a few
things.

(then)

Literally.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY(cont'd)

I know you want what's best for me and you think you know, but you don't. I'm twenty-three years old, it's time you stopped treating me like I'm still fifteen.

GILES

(nods)

It's just, sometimes I can't help but intervene when I see you making mistakes.

BUFFY

But if you keep stopping me, how will I ever learn? You left once because you knew that.

(beat)

Still, I know there's a lot you can teach me, and a lot more you can show me. That vision quest... or whatever the hell it was, it helped.

GILES

It did?

BUFFY

Yeah. I was given something. It wasn't a vision, it wasn't a glimpse of the future... or not like you'd think.

(beat)

It was a feeling. A feeling of happiness... completion. I haven't felt like that since I died. And I know if I keep going, I'll feel like that again... maybe even when I'm alive. Which would kind be a bonus.

GILES

So... you'll be...

BUFFY

Going back to Cleveland. For good. Or at least, until we destroy that Hellmouth too. I managed to get my flight transferred, I leave tonight. Now... kinda.

GILES

There's a lot of people there who need a Slayer like you.

BUFFY

I'm going back to my friends. Who I'm lucky to have.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Giles smiles as she quotes his own words. Buffy comes closer to him, kissing him gently on the cheek.

BUFFY (cont'd)
I guess... I'll be seeing you.

GILES
Yes. We'll be in touch.

BUFFY
Don't call me, I'll call you?

GILES
Something like that.

She heads to the door, picking up her suitcases, but before leaving she looks back at him. The only father she's come to know.

BUFFY
Thank you.

GILES
You're welcome.

And she's gone. Giles takes his glasses off, staring off after her. Smiling. Proud.

25 EXT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - PORCH - DAY

25

Anya is sitting on the bench outside the house. Xander comes out and takes a seat beside her. "MADE OF GLASS" by TRAPT begins to build up from the background as the dialogue goes on.

XANDER
You did the spell?

ANYA
I wanted you to know how I felt.

XANDER
Right.

ANYA
I'm sorry I --

XANDER
I'm glad you did.

ANYA
What?

XANDER
Because I've realized that I have
been putting you aside.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER(cont'd)

I've been working so much cos I wanted to get the money in for you and the baby but I guess I kinda forgot to spend time with you.

ANYA

But I do like money.

XANDER

(smiles)

So, I'm taking some time off.

ANYA

You can do that?

XANDER

I'm the boss, baby!

Anya KISSES him. For a moment, it's a beautiful scene.

ANYA

But what about the money?

Xander laughs, wrapping his arms around her.

26 INT. AIRPLANE - NIGHT

26

The camera pushes up the aisle until we see Buffy, sitting by the window, staring out into the night sky, flying high above the clouds.

She closes her eyes, thinking, remembering. Her hands are tight together, as if she were praying.

Maybe that the feeling she had would never leave.

FADE TO:

27 EXT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - PORCH - DAY

27

Anya lies on her back, with her hands behind her head, resting on Xander's lap as they both stare into each other's eyes. Peace and unity, as a relationship should be.

Willow opens the front door, seeing the pair. Anya doesn't notice her. Xander looks up to his friend, who shares a knowing smile.

FADE TO:

28 INT. AIRPLANE - NIGHT

28

We're back on Buffy, who's looking around her at all the various people. Not one of them know the sacrifices she's made.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Not one of them will ever know the inner war she wages every day. Slowly but significantly, she begins to form a reassuring smile.

FADE TO:

29

EXT. SKY

29

The airplane shoots past the camera as we look on above the world, seeing the horizon, the stars, the moon. The airplane is heading for Cleveland.

And so is our Slayer.

BLACK OUT.

END OF SHOW