

**BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER**

"Prelude To A Kiss"

by  
Waylon Wyche

TEASER

FADE IN:

1

EXT. WOODED AREA - NIGHT

1

In a small clearing within what appears to be a vast wooded area stands a man -- a watcher named MAX along with his slayer -- SIERRA. Max is a tall, slender man in his late thirties and dresses in typical watcher fashion.

He is preparing a circle on the shadowed ground as Sierra is lighting a series of candles at his side. She looks somewhere around sixteen -- definitely not of age yet. She places the candles, one by one, within the circle's circumference. The candles are placed strategically in the circle with precise distance from one another.

As she finishes and the last candle is in its place, Max kneels down within the circle and places a book on the ground by his side. Though he appears utterly calm, his slayer doesn't appear to be nearly as confident and he takes note; speaking with a British accent.

MAX

Things are going to be okay,  
Sierra.

SIERRA

I know.

MAX

You're nervous?

SIERRA

(quickly)

No...

Her watcher is obviously not buying it.

SIERRA (cont'd)

Okay. A little bit.

MAX

That's perfectly understandable,  
but you have nothing to fear. This  
is just one of the many trials that  
you'll have to face as a slayer and  
it will be by no means the worst.

SIERRA

(hesitantly)

Is this thing worse than a vampire?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAX

Considerably. But you are an extremely capable slayer and I'm fully optimistic that you will reign victorious.

SIERRA

(nervous)

Okay...

MAX

Now, if you'll hand me the talisman?

Sierra hands him a small talisman from within her pocket. He holds it tightly within his hand as begins the ritual.

MAX (cont'd)

Lokane, I beseech thee. Please hear my plea. I humbly beg you to appear before me.

He pulls a small container from within a nearby bag and pours it's contents - blood - upon the ground. Sierra watches with fear as Max continues the ritual.

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

I offer you blood. I offer that your will may be done. Lokane... now you will come.

Max stops and Sierra looks nervously at her surroundings, clenching the swords in her hands more tightly -- nothing. She spins several times around, but still nothing.

SIERRA

(fearfully)

Max?

(BEAT)

Is it here?

LOKANE (O.S.)

Fools!

Sierra quickly whips around to see her watcher lying unconscious on the ground.

Above him hovers LOKANE -- a hideously vile demon with a severely disfigured face. What could almost be mistaken as scars on its face seem to possess more of an ornate value. He stands well over six feet tall and is wearing a sort of black battle gear over his muscled body.

He stands, glaring at Sierra.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

LOKANE  
You've summoned me for a training  
exhibition?

SIERRA  
I... we...

LOKANE  
(walking towards her)  
Do you even know what I am, little  
girl?

SIERRA  
You're Lo... I mean I know that...

Lokane smiles boldly, revealing a set of exquisitely horrific  
fangs.

LOKANE  
I'm going to have fun with you...

Max is slowly beginning to come around as we hear the  
beginning of Sierra's fight. Several scrapes of the sword and  
a hiss later -- a SCREAM rings out.

Max's eyes quickly burst open and he watches in horror.

From Max's ground level and sideways view, all we see is  
Lokane's massive feet.

Several seconds later, however, Sierra's body lands on the  
ground with a THUD. She lays motionless -- dead.

Lokane stands, licking his fingers and chuckling merrily to  
himself.

LOKANE (cont'd)  
I love the taste of innocence.  
(turning to Max)  
Don't you?

As he turns back, however, the circle is empty. Max is gone.  
Lokane scowls and mutters some curse under his breath - this  
is far from over.

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF TEASER**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

2

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE - MORNING

2

XANDER, ANYA, and ANDREW lounge around the lounge in the early morning hours. Xander and Anya sit together on the couch with Andrew laid out across the floor, watching television. Xander appears to have dozed off.

ANYA

Honey?

(beat)

Xander?

No response. Anya sighs and takes a deep breath.

ANYA (cont'd)

(yelling)

Xander!!

Xander jumps from his place on the couch.

XANDER

Wh-what? Is it the baby? Are you okay? Are you in labor?!

ANYA

(holds up an empty jar)

No, but now that you're up, I would like an extra pillow, and that glamour magazine I caught Andrew reading earlier, so I can try and curse all the people in it who look prettier than I do.

XANDER

Magazine?

Anya gives him the look of a vengeance demon and he realizes that now is not the time to ask questions.

XANDER (cont'd)

(forcing a smile)

Yes, dear...

As Anya's face clicks unnervingly quickly back into sweetness and love, Xander begins to walk toward the kitchen, before having a pearl of wisdom for Andrew.

XANDER (cont'd)

(to Andrew)

You should thank God daily for the gift of homosexuality.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANYA (O.S.)  
Xander? Still a definite pillow  
shortage in here!

Xander sighs again and exits the room.

3

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - BUFFY'S ROOM

3

BUFFY and WILLOW sit quietly on Buffy's bed, meditating. They sit, legs crossed and hands held, as Willow works to help heal the still-injured Buffy.

BUFFY  
(mock war movie speak)  
Give it to me straight, Doc... How  
bad is it?

WILLOW  
(playing along)  
I'm sorry, son - the leg's gonna  
have to go.

The girls share a laugh for a moment - but the moment soon fades. Willow picks up on Buffy's defeated expression and lets go of her hands, looking sympathetically back at her.

WILLOW (cont'd)  
Are you okay?

BUFFY  
Huh? Oh, yeah, 'course I am. I just  
got my little behind kicked around  
by a new and possibly unstoppable  
demon that we have to stop, and to  
cap it all I keep running into my  
ex.  
(sighs)  
Yup, things are sure looking up  
here on Walton's Mountain.

WILLOW  
Hey, this is just a temporary  
setback, right? I mean, we've  
bounced back after you getting much  
bigger beatings than this before,  
no reason we can't do it this time  
with a hundred per cent more  
success.

Willow closes her eyes with a smile and reaches out for Buffy's hands again to carry on the meditation.

Buffy takes her hands - but doesn't share Willow's look of quiet confidence one bit.

4

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - KITCHEN

4

GILES and MARIE are sitting at the kitchen table, doing research, as Xander walks in from the lounge.

XANDER

(sarcastic)

Have you ever felt the uncontrollable urge to kill your fiancée and eat your young?

Giles and Marie share a look, before Marie chuckles and pats Xander on the head.

MARIE

It does get easier, Xander, trust me.

XANDER

You got kids of your own?

MARIE

Me? Oh, goodness, no, can't stand the little monsters, but I raised plenty of them. My sister's a one woman baby factory, I've got five nieces and nephews back in England, last time I checked.

GILES

I'm sure Xander's choice of sarcastic comment was just for effect. This time, anyway.

XANDER

(sarcastically)

I'll try to control myself in future.

Xander begins rummaging through the cabinets.

GILES

(cleaning his glasses)

How are Buffy and Willow getting on upstairs?

XANDER

I think she's getting better. Willow's using a healing spell to try and coax out some of the left over badness from her little Caretaker incident.

(beat)

Hey, do you guys know if there are any more pickles, or any more yams for that matter?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GILES

I know for a fact that there are no yams, and as far as pickles, your guess is as good as mine.

MARIE

There are no pickles.

Xander turns around with a look of fear placed firmly upon his face.

XANDER

(direly)

You guys have got to be kidding..

GILES

Xander, there is an entire refrigerator full of food! I'm sure you can find something else!

XANDER

No. It wasn't for me. It was for Anya. See, I'm trying this new thing where I anticipate her food cravings, and tonight's experiments rests solely on me having pickles and yams in the next ten minutes...

GILES

Oh, dear...

XANDER

(solemnly)

Yeah. That's right. I can't go back in there without one or the other readily available. She'll have the uncontrollable urge to curse her fiancée. - and for once, that is not sarcasm.

Xander peers back around the corner and into the lounge.

5 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

5

Anya sits with Andrew at her side. They appear to be going over plans for the wedding. She laughs heartily at something that Andrew says.

6 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - KITCHEN

6

Xander pulls back from the corner and presses his back up against the wall -- petrified.

XANDER

And she's looking at wedding plans!  
You guys haven't seen me, okay?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Xander rushes towards the back door and makes his escape.

MARIE

(smiling to Giles)

To be young again, eh, Rupert?  
Makes me wonder why we made such a  
fuss of it all when we were their  
age.

GILES

(grins)

It wasn't that long ago, was it?

They share a reciprocal smile.

GILES (cont'd)

Yes, well... back to research?

MARIE

Of course.

Marie gets back into her books, but Giles takes another long look at her - his attraction to her as clearly on show as a big old flag waving over his head.

7

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - BUFFY'S ROOM

7

Buffy and Willow still sit motionless on the bed. Finally Willow opens her eyes while Buffy's remain closed. She appears to be almost in a state of euphoria.

WILLOW

Feel better?

BUFFY

(sly grin)

Does a girl enjoy sex after  
slaying?

Buffy quickly opens her eyes to see Willow staring back with her eyebrows intriguingly raised. She squirms.

BUFFY (cont'd)

Did I just say that out loud?

WILLOW

'Fraid so.

BUFFY

Well, not that it's out, the answer  
to that question is yes.

WILLOW

(smiling promiscuously)

Good to know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY

You should open up shop, Will.  
People would pay good money for...

She begins to stand, but winces and quickly sits back down.

BUFFY (cont'd)

... pain!

WILLOW

(helping her back down)  
You're not totally healed yet.

BUFFY

I noticed.

WILLOW

It's not a miracle. It's magic.  
It'll help, but it won't cure it  
altogether without pulling power  
from some high up forces and I  
don't really feel like having a  
snake slither from my mouth this  
morning, so... this is the best  
you'll get for now. But, still,  
better than a kick to the ass!

BUFFY

Agreed. It beats being in a lie  
induced coma.

(beat)

I'm still hurting from the  
Caretaker, obviously, but... I'm  
gonna be fine.

Willow senses the lack of sincerity in Buffy's voice towards  
the end.

WILLOW

But...?

BUFFY

(forcing a smile)

But I'm kind of freaked.

(beat)

You know that after I woke up, I  
was going to leave.

WILLOW

(understanding)

Yeah?

BUFFY

I just wanted to leave this life  
behind. I'm just sick and tired of  
feeling sick and tired. You know?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Willow nods.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
I thought that it would be great to  
maybe be able to lead a quasi-  
normal life for once.

(beat)

And I almost did. The only thing  
that kept me from doing so, was you  
guys...and that almost wasn't even  
enough. I know that sounds  
terrible...

(motioning to a bruise on  
her face)

... but it was because of things just  
like this. This Caretaker came  
along just like the rest of the Big  
Bads always have. And after I kill  
him there will be another, and  
another. I just...

(tearing up)

I don't know that I can handle this  
again!

Breaking Benjamin's 'Rain' begins playing in the background  
as Buffy breaks into tears. Willow takes Buffy into her arms  
and begins trying to console her.

WILLOW

Ssh... It's okay. Everything's  
going to be okay.

Though unbeknownst to Buffy, tears begin to slowly roll down  
Willow's face as well.

We linger around for several seconds watching Buffy and  
Willow share an outpour of emotions before we cut to:

8

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE - AFTERNOON

8

Buffy enters the lounge to find most everyone pitching in for  
research mode. She pauses for a moment to make sure there are  
no tears showing on her face before she steps into everyone's  
view.

BUFFY

Any luck?

ANYA

(mouth full of food)

Be int bind nthng. norry.

Buffy stares at her in confusion.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER

Roughly translated... that means 'we ain't found crap.'

BUFFY

(disbelief)

Nothing?

GILES

Sorry, Buffy. I'm afraid not.

MARIE

While we've been able to start locating references to the Caretaker in our books, now we know who we're looking for, we've turned up nothing on how to stop or even wound him.

(sighs)

I'd settle for giving him a limp or a bloody headache at the moment...

BUFFY

Why is it that every time something big comes along, we have no idea what it is? We need to write this stuff down for future generations.

ANDREW

(raising his hand)

I could-

BUFFY

No.

ANDREW

You don't even know what I was going to say!

BUFFY

You were going to try to break out your skeezy little camcorder and play documentary time with the slayer again.

ANDREW

Hey! That's a very expensive and well crafted camcorder. But aside from that, yeah... that's what I was going to say.

(thinking)

Do you have ESP?

BUFFY

(ignoring Andrew)

So what's the plan?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XANDER

Plan?

BUFFY

Okay. What's not the plan?

XANDER

We do have a lot of those.

ANYA

(mouth still full)

Abey ee cud ooz a dentinl mrtal oo  
kill t.

Everyone stares at her for several seconds before she  
swallows her food.

ANYA (cont'd)

What I said, was that maybe we  
could use a dimensional portal to  
kill it, or to trap it anyway.

GILES

That's actually not a bad idea!

Anya has already gotten another bite of food before  
answering.

ANYA

(nodding)

Ank oo.

XANDER

That is a great idea, hon, but we  
still don't know where to find it.

MARIE

Or any of its weaknesses.

BUFFY

So we're still planless?

WILLOW

Well, we've got an outline of a  
plan. That's a start, right?

GILES

It's a start. We'll keep searching.  
I'm confident we'll find something  
before long.

Buffy looks like she wishes she could share their optimism,  
and leaves the room again.

9 EXT. STREETS OF CLEVELAND - NIGHT

9

Max steps into the crowded streets of Cleveland from the depths of your typical taxi cab. He cautiously inspects his surroundings as he takes his bag from the trunk and tips the cabbie.

Satisfied that no imminent danger is present, he starts his trek across the street and disappears into the sea of people.

10 EXT. ALLEYWAY

10

As the taxi pulls away, we can barely make out a FIGURE standing in the alleyway just across the street. The eyes quickly glow red and fade slowly away as the figure fades into the shadows.

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT ONE**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

11 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - KITCHEN - MORNING

11

The gang huddles around the kitchen counter, trying to get breakfast before going about their Monday morning business. Buffy and Giles stand alongside one another at the counter, preparing their respective plates.

BUFFY

So I guess you didn't find anything more after I went to bed?

GILES

Nothing, I'm afraid. And I've exhausted every resource that this particular Head Watcher has at his disposal.

BUFFY

So it's hopeless?

GILES

Not hopeless. Just frustrating. Something will come about, I'm certain.

BUFFY

(doubtful)

Yeah, because we're just lucky like that. The Caretaker is more likely to show up again before any information on him does!

Giles acknowledges her statement with a subtle look of disclosure.

MARIE (O.S.)

Hello?

BUFFY

In here!

Marie enters the kitchen.

MARIE

I should have known that you would all be in the kitchen.

XANDER

You know us. We can't get through a day without-

The doorbell RINGS. Everyone looks to one another curiously -- who could it be? Buffy exits the room to answer the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Max is waiting on the doorstep for her and she blinks in surprise at him as he nods a greeting to her.

MAX

Buffy Summers? Maxwell Sherman. I was hoping that I might have a word with you.

BUFFY

(untrusting)

About what?

MAX

You are Miss Buffy Summers, I presume?

BUFFY

It really depends on who's asking. What is this about? Because if you're here about the phone bill, we paid it yesterday.

MAX

No, no. You've got me confused. I'm here on professional business, but not that of a phone company. More along the supernatural lines.

BUFFY

Okay. I'm not so good with riddles or euphemisms, so if you've got something to say you should just come out and say it.

MAX

I'm a Watcher.

BUFFY

Oh. Why didn't you just say so?  
(stepping aside)  
Giles! There's a Watcher here.

MAX

(impressed)

Giles? Rupert Giles is here?

BUFFY

(confused)

Yeah. He stays here when he's in town. I know, he sounds pushy, but it's kind of the watcher-slayer code of conduct. Teach you to slay... stay in your house. I'm sure you know all about that, though, being a Watcher, you're... wait.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY(cont'd)

You're not another evil Watcher,  
are you?

MAX

I assure you, my intentions are  
honorable.

Giles comes to stand alongside Buffy at the door.

GILES

Yes?

MAX

Mr. Giles! It's an honor to meet  
you. My name is Maxwell Sherman.

GILES

Maxwell... oh, you're in South  
Dakota. You're Sierra Goldman's  
Watcher.

MAX

(beat; smiling boldly)  
Yes. I am. I'm honored that you  
know who I am!

GILES

Yes, well, I've tried to make  
certain that I familiarize myself  
with most every Watcher-Slayer  
relationship. With the overwhelming  
number of girls there now are,  
however, it's proven to be quite  
difficult.

MAX

Yes. I suppose it has.

There is an awkward beat - Giles looks the new arrival up and  
down, and Max shifts nervously from foot to foot before Buffy  
interrupts.

BUFFY

I really hate to break up the old  
people party here, but is this just  
a social call or are we in some  
kind of grave danger?

(looking out the door)

And where is your Slayer?

MAX

(hesitantly)

That's why I've come. I fear the  
worst has happened Mr. Giles.  
Sierra was killed last night.

Buffy and Giles trade troubled looks before we cut to:

12 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - KITCHEN

12

The entire group is now together in the kitchen, gathered around the table -- waiting for story hour. Max is seated at the head of the table, but seems reluctant to tell of the happenings with so many people around.

MAX

(quietly)

Mr. Giles, are you sure that we should discuss such private matters in front of such a large group?

Giles, who was talking softly to Marie, pops his head up.

GILES

Pardon? Oh, yes, by all means. I trust everyone at this table with my life.

(pointing to Andrew)

Except, perhaps, for him. But he's mostly harmless.

ANYA

He is?

(to Max)

Don't mind me. I'm pregnant. Hormones are popping in and out of places that they shouldn't be. Yesterday morning, I found myself-

Anya stops her story abruptly and springs from the table as fast as a pregnant woman can and thunders up the stairs.

XANDER

(to Max)

And the answer to that story was morning sickness.

XANDER (cont'd)

(to everyone else) )

I'd better go check on her.

Xander exits the room behind his fiancée.

GILES

(to Max)

Please continue.

MAX

Sierra and I were attacked last night by a demon called Lokane.

MARIE

Lokane?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAX

You've heard of him?

Giles and Marie share bemused looks.

GILES

Yes, of course. A particularly ruthless warrior demon, known to hold quite severe grudges.

MARIE

Not overly powerful as far as supernatural powers are concerned, but an exceptional fighter.

GILES

And if he were to perish in body, he is able to possess anyone in the near vicinity.

MAX

(confused)

I didn't find that in all of my readings...

GILES

Yes, well... you wouldn't. Lokane is almost comparable to a cult classic in cinema. He's part of the underground lore in demonology. He is only referred to in a few obscure texts. The rest has been passed down by way of mouth throughout the ages.

WILLOW

So, long story short, he's bad news?

MARIE

Extremely bad news. I have no doubt that Buffy can defeat him, but even then we have to be extremely careful that he she's not possessed.

MAX

(warmly to Marie)

You seem to really know your demonology.

MARIE

(flattered)

Thank you.

Giles stares uneasily at Max for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY

Why can't we ever just focus on just one Big Bad at a time? Every time we get knee deep into a new one, here comes another to kill!

ANDREW

Luck of the draw.

BUFFY

(sarcastically)

Thank you, Captain Motivator.

ANDREW

Glad to be of service.

BUFFY

So where do we find this guy?

MAX

I think he's following me.

GILES

Following you? That's extraordinary. What would he want with you?

MAX

(evasive)

I don't know, but I think the fact that I survived our encounter means he wants to finish the job.

MARIE

How did you come across Lokane anyhow?

(looking to Giles)

As far as I know, his presence in this dimension has been nonexistent for the past three hundred years.

GILES

No, I concur. That's the general presumption.

MAX

We were on a routine training mission last night, and he came out of nowhere... directly out of the forest.

GILES

(shaking his head)

Simply amazing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BUFFY

Well, if he's after you like you  
say he is, we caught a break.

MAX

A break?

BUFFY

Yeah. We won't have to find him.  
He'll find us.

Buffy gets up and leaves the table. Max watches in confusion.

MAX

(to Buffy)

Where are you going?

BUFFY

To work.

MAX

(confused)

Work? You have a job?

BUFFY

I do. I'm a Slayer and I have a  
job. What a happy, happy life.

WILLOW

(smiling)

Some would say.

Buffy and Willow walk out of the room leaving Andrew an open  
seat around the table. He begins trying to hit on Max.

ANDREW

(to Max)

So I couldn't help, but notice that  
you're British...

GILES

Andrew!

ANDREW

(leaving the table)

Sorry.

Giles and Marie exchange embarrassed looks.

GILES

I'm terribly sorry. He's...  
different.

MAX

(confused)

I see.

13 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - FRONT DOOR

13

Buffy has made her way from upstairs and adorns a nice, professional businesswoman's suit. She apathetically opens the door as she searches her purse for her keys.

She starts to step out the door, but stops abruptly as she feels as though she's hit a brick wall.

JACKSON stands steadily in the doorway as Buffy jumps backwards -- startled.

BUFFY

Jackson! Holy crap, you scared me!

JACKSON

I'm sorry, I wasn't aware that standing innocently in the open could be taken as a threat...

BUFFY

And I see you've got your wit about you this morning.

JACKSON

As always.

BUFFY

What are you doing here?

JACKSON

(nervously)

Uh... I was actually headed out towards the station.

BUFFY

(sarcastic)

You didn't come to take me in did you? I swear, he said he was eighteen!

JACKSON

(smiling)

I see I'm not the only one with his wit about him this morning.

BUFFY

(not smiling back)

See, I'd find that funny, if I wasn't wondering how in the world the police station moved overnight so it's now between my house and your house.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jackson stutters - he's been caught out. Buffy steps past him and starts to walk down the street. Jackson jogs to catch up with her.

JACKSON

There was a reason for my visit.

BUFFY

(tetchy)

I was beginning to wonder.

JACKSON

I was hoping that maybe... we could hang out later on today. That is, unless you have something planned?

BUFFY

Nothing's planned. I'm completely free.

(sarcastic)

Oh, well I wouldn't say completely, there's this demon that's supposed to stop by sometime in the next few days to kill us all. We're not really sure when. You're welcome to hang though!

JACKSON

And aren't you just full of razor sharpness this morning! Let me guess, last night was another of Andrew's 'Will & Grace' marathons?

Buffy stops and takes a breath, and Jackson braces himself for Buffy to take out whatever's on her mind on him.

BUFFY

Look, Jackson. A few days ago, we fought that demon, remember? The big guy, knocked me cold? I'm still kinda sore about that, so yes, I am feeling kind of tetchy today. Second thing, how am I supposed to react when you just show up on my doorstep first thing in the morning, like a lost puppy or something?

JACKSON

I was just trying to-

BUFFY

Yeah, I get it, you know? Just trying to take things one step at a time. Well, today I don't want to take any steps.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY(cont'd)

I just want to go to work, get through the day, come home and hope that Giles and the others have found me a way to kill that damn thing before I run into it again. And you showing up is really not helping that!

Jackson watches her, half braced against her outburst, but still a little hurt by it. Buffy sighs and runs a hand through her hair, obviously frustrated.

BUFFY (cont'd)

Look, I'm sorry. Today's just not a good day for us to try and do our dance around each other.

JACKSON

So I see. Maybe I'll take the long way round to work today.

BUFFY

Yeah. Listen, Jackson, it's not that I don't-

XANDER (O.S.)

So this is where you keep rushing off to so early! And here was me thinking it was work related...

Xander walks into frame, two brown paper grocery bags under his arm. Buffy groans as she realises how her meeting with Jackson must look, while Jackson just scratches the back of his head awkwardly.

XANDER (cont'd)

Glad I caught you two together at last, we were starting to take bets on whether it'd snow again before we saw you speaking.

BUFFY

(looking to Jackson)

We're standing innocently in the open. Not doing anything.

Xander stares inquisitively at the two for a moment before splitting them with his hands and walking through them.

XANDER

Anyway... I'm running late for work, and I've still got to run to the grocery store and back here again before I can even go. I know I'm the boss, but if I keep this up, I'll have to let myself go!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

JACKSON

(to Xander)

Not that it's any of my business,  
but don't you and Anya have a house  
of your own?

XANDER

I don't like leaving An alone, what  
with the being insanely insane from  
the pregnancy and all.

(beat)

And on that note, I'm off to get  
the biggest tub of mustard known to  
man.

Xander heads back towards the house. Jackson chuckles and  
starts to turn to make a comment to Buffy - but she's already  
walked off screen. Jackson slaps his forehead and mutters.

JACKSON

Smooth as ever, Shaw...

Jackson takes a breath and walks off screen in a different  
direction, before we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT TWO**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

14 EXT. CLEVELAND - PARK. NIGHT.

14

Buffy, Giles, Max and Willow are all out on patrol, keeping an eye out for Lokane.

Everyone but Willow is armed, and the redhead herself is carrying what looks like a small pendant, holding it out in front of her like a pendulum. It pulses a faint yellow, and she frowns, holding it out to her left and then her right.

BUFFY

Anything?

WILLOW

Not yet, I'm picking up his aura but he could be anywhere between here and two miles away at the moment.

The girls lead on as Max hangs back with Giles.

MAX

Look, I'm really sorry about all of this, Rupert, I didn't think he'd follow me as far as-

GILES

You didn't think he'd follow you? Max, let me ask you something - do you know anything about Lokane at all?

MAX

Well, I know a little, enough to know that he's danger-

GILES

Lokane once spent four years tracking a man who'd wounded him in battle, then crept into his house while he slept, murdered every living thing inside except his victim and then left - and then waited four more years before coming back to finish the job, just so his target would spend as long as possible at the edge of despair, never knowing when his end would come.

Max GULPS - that wasn't something he wanted to hear.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MAX

So what are you saying, should we-

GILES

I'm saying we'd better hope Buffy finds and kills this creature quickly, because otherwise we're all in a very great deal of danger!

Giles throws a cursive glance at Max and jogs to catch up to the girls. Willow has stopped, and is holding the pendulum over her hand as it pulses more rapidly. She looks alarmed, and Buffy is looking round anxiously.

BUFFY

Don't tell me, that means he's close, right?

WILLOW

Yeah, only it just went from nothing to happy firefly in a second, like he just popped in out of nowhere!

GILES

Lokane was said to have some kind of limited teleportation skill, he's quite likely spotted us and-

LOKANE (O.S.)

(chuckles)

So, the cowardly insect brings some friends along to help do its dirty work?

Everyone freezes, looking around. The park is deadly still and silent, but Lokane's booming voice seems to echo from several places around them.

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

I might have expected such action from one who let his charge die so easily by my hands...

MAX

(defiant)

Show yourself! This is something we must finish!

LOKANE (O.S.)

Oh, I will, mortal, I will... I spent a good night feasting on the marrow of that young whelp's bones after you'd fled, and I trust your companions will bring me the same enjoyment!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Willow nudges Buffy and points to a huge old tree about twenty feet away, and Buffy nods as Willow aims the pendulum towards the tree - it pulses more rapidly when she does so. Target acquired. The girls pace forwards as Lokane continues his 'Hulk Smash!' Speech.

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

It has taken me some time to track  
you to this gaudy land of  
artificial light, but I see now I  
will have plenty of sport to make  
up for my efforts...

Buffy and Willow pause a few feet away from the tree. Buffy grips her scythe, but tenses when she realises Lokane has stopped talking. She glances at Willow.

WILLOW

Buffy? What's wr-

CRASH! The tree is uprooted, torn clean in two, and smashes to the floor, Buffy and Willow diving out of the way on one side, as Giles pulls Max to the floor, out of sight.

As the gang stand to catch their breath, Lokane strolls confidently out from behind the still-rooted half of the tree. The demon eyes Buffy and Willow up and down and snorts derisively.

LOKANE

Where is he?

BUFFY

Let me guess... Lokane?

LOKANE

Where is he?!

BUFFY

Look we were trying to have a nice  
quiet walk here, so if you could  
just...

Lokane SMASHES his hand into the tree, sending a shower of chunks of bark into the air.

LOKANE

I'll ask you one more time, little  
girl! Where is he?

BUFFY

I can't tell you if you don't say-

MAX (O.S.)

Lokane? I'm here!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Buffy and Lokane look round - Max has stood from behind the tree and is walking slowly over towards the demon, gripping his sword tightly.

Buffy rolls her eyes - this wasn't part of her plan. She takes a step back, waiting for Lokane to give her an opening, but the burly demon keeps both of them in his sights.

MAX (cont'd)

I's me you want, not these others.  
Let's settle this in the only way  
you understand.

Max raises his sword, and Lokane grunts and starts to laugh. Max's eyes flit across to look at Buffy.

LOKANE

Commendable attitude. When I crack  
open your skull to find out what  
your brain tastes like, I'll have  
to remember to make it into a mug  
afterwards, in your honour.

BUFFY

Max, what are you-

MAX

No, Buffy! I have to do this. It's  
only right, so I can-

THWACK! A huge punch from Lokane catches them off guard and sends Max flying back through the air.

Willow watches him land, then raises her hands to try and get a spell working to stop the demon, but as she murmurs an incantation, runes on Lokane's black armour GLOW a fierce red, and with a YELP Willow is knocked off her feet by some invisible wicca repellent force.

Max recovers and takes to his heels, waving his arms and shouting.

MAX (cont'd)

Follow me! Leave them, it's me you  
want!

Lokane growls and starts to race after Max, his heavy frame shuddering the ground as he runs after the retreating Watcher.

Buffy dashes into frame as Giles helps a stunned Willow to her feet.

BUFFY

Will, are you okay? What happened?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

WILLOW

I don't know... Some kinda  
antiwicca spell... In his armour...

GILES

You must hurry, Buffy, Max won't  
last five seconds against Lokane.  
He's brave now, but that won't last  
him long.

BUFFY

I'm on it. Get Willow somewhere  
safe then follow me with some  
backup.

Giles starts to carry Willow away as Buffy runs after Max and  
Lokane, but pauses as Giles calls out to her.

GILES

Who should I bring?

BUFFY

I don't know! What about...  
(beat; sighs)  
Call Jackson, okay?

Giles nods and helps Willow away as Buffy runs again.

15

EXT. ABANDONED CONSTRUCTION SITE - NIGHT

15

Buffy runs into frame and skids to a halt, catching her  
breath and looking round. Scattered equipment and large  
machinery line the whole of the lot and make the search just  
that much more difficult.

She paces carefully through the darkness, alert for any  
sound, and freezes when she hears footsteps.

Seeing a shadow approaching from round a dirt lifter, she  
raises her scythe and gets ready to attack...

And as the figure rounds the corner she LUNGES forward with a  
yell, narrowly missing Jackson, who shouts as he dives out of  
the way, an axe in one hand.

JACKSON

Woah! You greet all your  
reinforcements like that?

BUFFY

Jackson? How did... How did you get  
here so fast?

Without taking his eyes off her, Jackson holds up his cell  
phone and waggles it for her to see.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACKSON

I was already out. Giles called,  
said which way you were headed, I  
thought I'd see if I could catch  
you first.

BUFFY

Oh... Well, good. Come on.

She walks on, clicking back to Business Mode, and Jackson  
allows himself a bemused smile. The duo pace through the  
construction yard, still deathly silent, their eyes scanning  
the darkness.

JACKSON

So... I don't see anything.

BUFFY

Me neither.

JACKSON

Do you think it could have doubled  
back?

BUFFY

Could have.

JACKSON

(beat)  
Buffy...?

BUFFY

Yeah?

JACKSON

Why is this so awkward?

BUFFY

(sighs)  
I don't know.

JACKSON

Is it because we're trying not to  
talk about all the things we should  
have gotten out of the way by now?

BUFFY

Maybe. I don't know.  
(beat)  
Okay, yeah... it is.

JACKSON

That's what I thought. But why?

BUFFY

Why?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

JACKSON

Yeah. Why?

BUFFY

I guess...

JACKSON

Maybe we're just waiting for the right moment to do it, when you and I know that there is no right moment.

Buffy looks understandingly at him.

JACKSON (cont'd)

(stepping closer)

So I was thinking... that maybe we should stop waiting for time to work its magic and take matters into our own hands.

BUFFY

Maybe...

Their eyes meet - and suddenly the mood changes between them. Buffy looks like some old feelings are starting to return, and Jackson smiles warmly at her.

He opens his mouth to speak - but Buffy's eyes widen, and she suddenly SHOVES him out of the way as Max sails through the air, slamming into Buffy and knocking them both to the floor.

JACKSON

What the...

He looks up as Lokane strides into frame, not a scratch on him and still in the mood for a fight.

LOKANE

Fools! You're all fools! After I'm done with you, I'll follow your stench back to your dwelling, and take back what's rightfully mine!

He raises both hands into the air to begin a great double fisted attack, but, Buffy rolls her and Max over and Lokane hits the ground - hard.

Buffy swings the scythe at him, but it just DINGS off Lokane's armour with a flash of sparks, and she leaps back out of the way as he takes a swing at her.

Buffy awaits the next attack as Max drags himself to his feet, panting with exertion.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MAX

Be careful, the armor that covers  
his body is impenetrable!

BUFFY

Yeah, I noticed, what with the  
stabbing and all...

MAX

Aim for the head!

BUFFY

That was plan 'B'!

Lokane takes a step forward but pauses as we hear a soft  
'thud' sound. Lokane blinks, reaches over his shoulder and  
pulls Jackson's axe from within his back.

He turns around to see Jackson standing there. Jackson peers  
around the demon at Buffy in confusion.

With a low growl, Lokane drops the axe on the ground and  
starts towards Jackson. He gets an arm raised in the air,  
prepared to strike, but out of nowhere comes a chain. The  
chain wraps around him and Buffy grabs the hook and completes  
a circle around his legs.

BUFFY (cont'd)

(shouts)

Max, now!!

Before Lokane can turn around and fight, a machine quickly  
pulls the chain tight and drags him from his feet -- leaving  
him dangling upside down in the air.

Buffy stands, smiling, and looks across to the bruised and  
battered Max, who is holding a wired remote control.

BUFFY (cont'd)

Guess you didn't see that coming  
did you? You know what they say,  
the dumber the beast...

Before Buffy can finish her pun, Jackson comes flying in with  
his axe and LOPS Lokane's head off.

BUFFY (cont'd)

No!

Lokane's head falls lifelessly to the ground. Buffy rushes  
over to Jackson as Max drops the remote and hurries over.

JACKSON

What?!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

MAX

You weren't supposed to kill him!  
He's supposed to be able to possess  
someone if they're around when he  
dies!

Buffy and Jackson both turn and look curiously at their  
surroundings.

BUFFY

(suspicious)

Are you possessed?

JACKSON

What? No!

BUFFY

Prove it.

JACKSON

What do you want me to do? Buffy...  
we were about to kiss and this  
demon pops out of nowhere! What do  
you want me to say to prove that  
it's me?

BUFFY

(walking away)

Okay.

JACKSON

Okay?

BUFFY

That works for me. Hurry up. Let's  
get back to the house. They'll be  
worried.

Buffy turns to Max, who winces as he presses a hand to his  
side - there's a lot of blood on his shirt.

BUFFY (cont'd)

How are you doing?

MAX

Well, that's easily the worst  
beating I've ever had in the line  
of duty, but I'll survive.

Max looks round the yard, spooked.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

MAX (cont'd)

We should go. I don't know how his  
ability to possess people works,  
but demons normally need time to  
gather their essence before they  
can attempt something like that, so-

BUFFY

So point taken, Columbo, let's  
split. Come on, Jackson.

Buffy lends an arm to Max as they head off screen.

As Jackson begins to follow Buffy, he pauses for a moment -  
and his eyes GLOW a quick red before they fade back to  
normal.

With a brief grin, Jackson follows Buffy out of frame.

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT THREE**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

16 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

16

Buffy, Max and Jackson stroll back into the house. Giles and Marie quickly stand upon Buffy's entry, the two Watchers taking Max off Buffy and laying him carefully down onto the sofa. Xander clears some things off the sofa as Max is laid down.

BUFFY  
Score one for Team Slayer at  
least...

GILES  
You killed Lokane?

BUFFY  
Of course. Piece of cake.  
(beat)  
Speaking of which, do I smell cake?

XANDER  
Anya got a craving.

MARIE  
What happened with Lokane?

BUFFY  
(happily)  
We killed him. I think you guys may  
have been wrong about the  
possession thing, though, because  
we were the only ones around, and  
nothing happened.

GILES  
(confused)  
Really?

BUFFY  
Yep.

MARIE  
This wouldn't be the first time  
that an ancient text was less than  
accurate, Rupert!

GILES  
Yes, I suppose you're right...

Marie presses a hand against Max's temple and turns to Giles,  
looking concerned.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARIE

He's pretty banged up, Rupert, we should put him somewhere comfortable upstairs - perhaps Buffy's room?

BUFFY

My room?!

GILES

You do have the largest bed, Buffy... Not to mention the most medical supplies in the house at the bottom of your wardrobe! Max has had a rough couple of days, I'm sure another night won't-

BUFFY

He could have had a rough couple of days in one of the spare bedrooms!

MARIE

(scolds)

Buffy, really!

Buffy pouts - but then nods and motions towards the stairs.

BUFFY

Alright, I guess. Does make sense to put him up there. Where's Willow?

GILES

She's in her own room, you'll be glad to know. She just said she wanted to rest.

MARIE

(to Max)

Come on, Maxwell, up we get...

With a GROAN, Max is helped to his feet by Marie, and Giles joins in to help carry the wounded Watcher upstairs. Jackson watches them go, then turns to Buffy.

JACKSON

Uh... I'm gonna head home, then, I think that's enough excitement for one night for me.

BUFFY

Okay, cool.

Jackson starts to leave, but Buffy reaches out and grabs his arm to stop him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY (cont'd)  
Jackson, wait, I....

He turns and looks back at her, raising an eyebrow. Buffy manages a quick smile.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
Thanks.

JACKSON  
(beat; grins)  
Don't mention it!

He turns and leaves as Xander steps up next to Buffy.

XANDER  
An evening in action with Captain  
'I Have A Mysterious Destiny' then,  
huh? Just like old times.

BUFFY  
Xander, I didn't-

XANDER  
Hey, nothing to do with me. Just  
glad to see you're moving on at  
last.

Xander starts to head upstairs, leaving Buffy staring thoughtfully after Jackson.

XANDER (cont'd)  
Oh, uh, Anya was feeling kinda  
fragile tonight, so I put her to  
bed upstairs. Is it alright if we  
spend the night here?

BUFFY  
(distracted)  
Huh? Oh, yeah... Sure.

Xander disappears upstairs as we stay with Buffy.

After a beat, she shakes her head and turns towards the stairs herself. It's been a long night.

17

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - BEDROOM. NIGHT.

17

Someone is asleep in the bed, the covers hiding them from view as the soft CREAK of a window opening and closing can be heard.

Jackson comes into view in front of the bed and stands, prepared to kill, over the body.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACKSON

(in Lokane's deep voice)

You foolish mortal. By summoning me, you've sealed not only your own doom, but your Slayer as well. I will take great pleasure in killing you... almost as much as I did with your precious Slayer!

Jackson leans in for the kill, his hands out to throttle the unfortunate victim in the bed - but as his hands grab them and start to squeeze, it's not Max whose head pops up and starts thrashing around - it's Xander!

XANDER

(gasping)

Guys! A little help... in... here!

The door SWINGS open and the room's light flicks on.

BUFFY

What's going on in-

Buffy freezes as Jackson turns to her, his eyes blazing an angry red and Xander rapidly turning blue, Jackson's hands clamped round his throat.

In a flash, Buffy dives across the room towards Jackson, but he kicks out at her and knocks her to the ground.

Jackson turns back to Xander and notices at last he's got the wrong guy, his face registering surprise.

JACKSON

Wrong... room?

(curses)

Confound these mortal brains, they muddle their thoughts like swamplands!

Buffy quickly spots a baseball bat lying on the floor of the room next to some other weapons, and scoops it up with one foot as she jumps to her feet again.

Jackson turns his head just in time to see a baseball bat flying toward him. We BLACK OUT just as we hear the CRACK!

18

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - KITCHEN

18

In the middle of the kitchen floor, Jackson is tied up and unconscious. The Scoobies are huddled on the other side of the kitchen, just out of kicking distance.

His neck sore and red, Xander gratefully gulps down a glass of water that Buffy hands him, before she goes to stand by Giles and Marie, busy consulting their books.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY

Quick question though, how do we  
get the demon out of my boyfriend?

ANYA

Jackson is your boyfriend again?

Everyone stops to stare at Buffy, as she blinks, realising  
her Freudian slip. She quickly goes on the defensive.

BUFFY

What? Oh, no. We're... I mean. Things  
are...

(quickly to Giles)

Could we focus on more important  
things?

GILES

Right. How to go about getting  
Lokane out... we're not precisely  
sure how.

BUFFY

What?!?

GILES

(uneasily)

We will hopefully know soon enough,  
however.

BUFFY

How? Twenty questions with the  
demon?

XANDER (O.S.)

Nope. Twenty questions with the  
watcher.

Xander comes through the hall, pushing Max in front of him.  
Max is far from recovered but his guilty expression tells  
half the story already.

BUFFY

Okay. I'm lost. Why do you guys  
always plot these little 'ol  
schemes while I'm not here?

XANDER

While Jackson, or..

(confused)

... Jackson's shell, tried to kill  
me, he said that I'd summoned him.  
Doesn't take a genius to figure out  
he was talking about Max, and  
luckily for everyone, I am no  
genius.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GILES  
(to Max)  
Is this true?

MAX  
(sighing reluctantly)  
Yes, I'm afraid so, we were-

GILES  
(angrily)  
You idiotic fool! Why in the  
heavens would you summon one of the  
most ruthless demons of-

MAX  
I didn't know! Just like you said.  
There was no mention of him in  
standard texts, so I assumed he was  
low power and summoned him for  
Sierra's training, and...

GILES  
This is unacceptable. You should  
consider yourself removed from the  
Council. If you-

MARIE  
How did you summon him?

GILES  
What?

MARIE  
Lokane, how did you summon him?

MAX  
With his talisman.

GILES  
Marie, what does any of this...

Giles stops and stares at Marie in realization.

GILES (cont'd)  
Oh.

There's a beat as Buffy looks from one to the other.

BUFFY  
'Oh' what? We're not all Watchers  
here. What does 'oh' mean?

ANYA  
It means that his talisman is the  
only thing that can be used to  
exorcise his spirit from Jackson.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MARIE

And can also be used to trap him in  
an alternate dimension.

BUFFY

(beat)

Am I the only one here who doesn't  
know random demon trivia?

XANDER

(raising his hand)

I don't.

ANYA

And you both should! You're a  
Slayer, kind of goes with  
territory.

(to Xander)

And you're marrying one!

XANDER

(to Anya)

An... not the time. Anya reluctantly  
gives in.

GILES

(to Max)

The talisman. Where is it?

Max reaches into his pocket and retrieves the talisman and  
hands it to Giles.

MAX

(grimly)

I didn't know.

GILES

I shouldn't expect so.

Carelessness, however, is no  
substitute for ignorance.

Everyone follows Giles out of the room. Max sits down at the  
table and suddenly breaks into tears -- saddened by the  
thought of his deceased Slayer.

Giles watches him solemnly for a beat, before examining the  
talisman carefully.

GILES (cont'd)

This will take a little while,  
we'll need to trap Lokane's spirit  
as we remove him, so it's best if  
everyone but Marie and myself leave  
the room so we can make sure  
everyone is protected.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

XANDER

You heard the man, let's close the  
blast doors and leave Dempsey and  
Makepeace to it.

Everyone files out of the kitchen - and Buffy throws a last  
look at the restrained Jackson before the kitchen door shuts,  
and with a sigh she turns and walks off frame.

19

EXT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE - MORNING

19

Buffy and Jackson sit on the couch -- alone in the house.

BUFFY

And then, about an hour later,  
Giles comes out with the talisman  
wrapped up in two packets of  
clingfilm, saying that Lokane was  
stuck inside it - and that the  
clingfilm had been found to work  
great for stopping demons  
teleporting through things.

(beat)

You think Martha Stewart could use  
that as a selling point?

JACKSON

(rubbing his head)

I still wish you hadn't used the  
baseball bat, though...

BUFFY

Hey, you didn't leave me much  
choice, you were about to leave  
Anya without a fiancée! And anyway,  
I could have picked up something  
sharp instead, so you should be  
thanking me...

JACKSON

(sarcastic)

Yeah, thanks for the blunt trauma,  
Buffy, just what I always wanted.

(beat)

So is that the end of...

BUFFY

Lokane? Yep. After we got it out of  
the house, Giles and Willow busted  
the talisman up into tiny pieces  
and buried it with fresh blood,  
frog's eyes, and yak urine.

(beat)

And sadly enough, that's not an  
exaggeration.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY(cont'd)

But they said that it will keep him  
from being summoned ever again.

JACKSON

Good.

BUFFY

My thoughts exactly.

JACKSON

(beat)

So...

BUFFY

(shakes head)

Don't do it.

JACKSON

What?

BUFFY

Take us back into awkward mode  
again. Just because we're not  
kissing or trying to kiss doesn't  
mean that we should feel awkward  
around each other.

JACKSON

You're right. That's why I'm going  
to do this.

Jackson suddenly leans in to kiss her, but as soon as he does  
-- BAM!

Buffy and Jackson jump in shock, and look up to see Andrew  
has tried to sneak into the house without disturbing them,  
tripped over a table and landed face-first on the floor,  
spilling two full bags of groceries around him.

ANDREW

Um... I think we're gonna need some  
more kitchen roll.

Buffy and Jackson look to each other and smile. It seems  
hopeless.

20

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - FRONT PORCH

20

Buffy opens the door and Jackson steps outside, turning back  
to face her again as he fishes out his car keys.

BUFFY

Maybe it just wasn't meant to be.  
(quickly)  
Not today, anyway.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACKSON

Maybe we were supposed to wait for the perfect moment.

BUFFY

(smiles)

Yeah. Jackson, we've still got a lot to get through, I've got this new thing in town that I can tell is gonna cause me plenty of trouble, and-

Jackson presses a finger to her lips to stop her. To his relief, she doesn't bite back, but closes her eyes and nods.

JACKSON

Nothing bad's happening right now, is it? So just enjoy the sunshine for a minute. Morning like this'll help keep you sane when you're crawling through a catacomb somewhere later tonight.

Buffy manages a chuckle as Jackson smiles, turns and switches off his car's alarm.

BUFFY

This isn't going to happen overnight, you know. It's gonna take us both a lot of time.

JACKSON

That, I have plenty of. I don't want to see you get hurt again, by me or anybody. Willow said you had a 'moment' the other day, she sounded worried about you.

BUFFY

Oh, that. Listen, I'm fine, really. I was just having a rare girlie moment. In a way, it's reassuring to know I can still have them now and again.

Jackson nods, smiles again and takes a step away before turning back to her.

JACKSON

You know where I am if you need me, right?

BUFFY

Sure do.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

With a last look back at her, Jackson heads down the pavement and up to his car, as Buffy hangs in the doorway, starting to remember what she liked about him before everything came between them.

Jackson jumps into his car, and Buffy watches him leave before she heads back inside.

As the front door closes, we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF SHOW**