

**BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER**

"Hero Of The Day"

by  
Waylon Wyche

TEASER

FADE IN:

1

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

1

Just within the confines of a long stretching tree line, is a small, makeshift campsite, complete with a large, blazing fire. The distant glow of lights puts us a few miles past the city limits.

As we slowly move in on the seemingly vacant site, we come to rest on a small, green pup tent as it rattles in the breeze, shadows dancing across its surface.

The wind dies down and we can tell it wasn't the breeze that was rattling the tent, as it continues to creep oddly about in uneasy, sporadic gestures.

As the wind picks up again with a long, brawny gust, a sealed plastic bag of potato chips is thrust from a nearby log and into the open fire and after several seconds, bursts with a thundering POP.

A mere moment within the bag's explosion, the tent seems to implode as it falls inward. The fallen tent jumps along the ground as a zipper is being loudly undone.

After a few moments of silence, a head of short, brown hair sheepishly emerges from the ball of material, followed directly by a set of squinting eye lids that scour the grounds.

VOICE

(relieved)

It was just a bag of chips!

The guy, THOMAS, begins working himself out of the collapsed tent and stands half naked as he stretches overworked muscles.

Another head slowly works its way from within the dilapidated shelter and comes to reveal a scantily clad blonde, DEBORAH, who immediately begins brushing her hair.

DEBORAH

Thank god! I thought it might have  
been one of those llamas or  
something.

THOMAS

(dumbfounded)

Llamas?

She nods her head as Thomas stares on in dismay.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DEBORAH  
(annoyed)  
What?

THOMAS  
(smiling)  
Nothing. I just- Thank god that it  
wasn't... llamas.

Thomas continues his forced smile for a moment as he begins trying to fish the bag of potato chips from the fire with a sizable stick.

As he does so, however, a loud CRACK echoes throughout the woods. Thomas and Deborah snap around in unison, but even with the glow from the fire, there's nothing to be seen.

DEBORAH  
(whispering)  
What the hell was that?!

Though he appears more unnerved by the situation than does his girlfriend, Thomas takes the lead and begins walking slowly in the direction of the noise, holding the stick as though it was a baseball bat.

As he walks cautiously through his dismal surroundings, stepping as lightly as possible...

A SCREAM bellows out from behind him!

THOMAS  
Deborah!

Thomas sprints back towards the camp. As he hurries along, he sees nothing -- no sign of Deborah.

He stops and looks frantically around the camp, beginning to show signs of panic.

As he stares on into the darkness, Thomas nearly jumps out of his skin when a hand lays on his shoulder.

DEBORAH (O.S.)  
Did you see it?!

Thomas jumps off the ground as he spins around to see his girlfriend standing shakily behind him.

THOMAS  
(panicked)  
See what?!

DEBORAH  
The snake!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Thomas stares at her in disbelief for several moments.

THOMAS  
(breathing heavily)  
A snake?

DEBORAH  
Uh huh.

THOMAS  
You nearly exploded my heart over a  
snake?

DEBORAH  
(beat)  
It was a really big snake.

Thomas shakes his head before cracking a smile. She is quick to follow suit and the two begin laughing as they hug one another.

As Thomas pulls back to steal another kiss, however, the fire at their back is suddenly snuffed out, leaving them surrounded by infinite darkness.

DEBORAH (cont'd)  
(whispering fearfully)  
Thomas? What's going on?

Are we- Before she can finish, she SCREAMS loudly and hastily disappears from view.

THOMAS  
Deborah! Debbie! Oh my God, Debbie!

Thomas breaks into a dead run, but as he looks back, runs directly into a large, oak tree.

He tries frantically to pull himself from the ground, but all he's able to do is back himself firmly up against the tree. He stares in horror as he watches whatever it is come closer.

THOMAS (cont'd)  
(nearly crying)  
Debbie...

**BLACK OUT:**

A final SCREAM rings out.

**END OF TEASER**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

2

INT. DEMON LAIR - DAY

2

A dark, dungeon stairwell stands empty with just a hint of sunlight filtering onto one of the top steps.

We pan out to see that the entire room follows suit, a decaying remnant of medieval times. Dirt floors lie dormant and assorted weapons hang from the cold stone of the walls.

After a few moments, the sound of faint footsteps cry out to the silence as they descend the aching stairs, and XANDER slowly peeks around the bowed corner of the stairwell's entrance to the unoccupied room.

XANDER

(looking back)

I would say that the coast is clear, but situations of imminent doom tend to predictably follow that line. So instead, I'm going to go with the time honored, 'come see.'

Xander cautiously finishes the trek down the few remaining stairs and scours his surroundings for any signs of life.

Behind him, GILES slowly looms from the stairwell, followed by the IMMORTAL. They finish their descent of the stairs and come to stand alongside Xander in the middle of the room.

GILES

I had no idea that such places still existed in this area.

IMMORTAL

Officially, such places don't exist at all. It's the blissful ignorance of the general population that keeps it that way.

XANDER

So what is it exactly that we're looking for? Bad, moderate bad, or big bad?

IMMORTAL

(pointing)

Through that door lies the answer to your questions.

XANDER

(untrusting)

Yeah...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER(cont'd)

I kind of like to know what I'm getting myself into before I go breaking into places that appear to be, and most likely are, demon thresholds. Been through one too many closed doors, if you know what I mean.

(beat; smiling)

Funny story, there was this one time-

GILES

Xander!

XANDER

(sarcastically)

Fine. But if we die, you're going to wish that you'd heard one more joke before going to the snooty, old, English peoples hell!

IMMORTAL

As much as I love a good joke, and even the occasional saucy limerick, gentlemen, I'm afraid that time may be of the essence. Behind that door, you see, is quite a few lost little girls that require our immediate attention.

GILES

Lost little girls?

IMMORTAL

Lost little slayers, to be exact.

XANDER

What?!

GILES

(sternly)

What exactly is going on here?

IMMORTAL

It appears as though an underground association has been harboring an assortment of your slayers, for the purpose of commerce.

XANDER

And again with the cryptic messages.

GILES

(nods)

They're being sold.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

IMMORTAL  
Precisely.

GILES  
But to who? Or what?

IMMORTAL  
I'm not assertively positive. Your  
presumptions are as profitable as  
mine, Mr. Giles. However-

Xander begins rushing for the door.

XANDER  
Then what the hell are we waiting  
for?!

The Immortal grabs Xander by the shoulder before he can get  
very far.

IMMORTAL  
(calmly to Xander)  
One moment.  
(beat; to Giles)  
You must love his enthusiasm.

GILES  
(sarcastically)  
On a daily basis.

IMMORTAL  
We may need these.

He reaches underneath the collar of his shirt and pulls two  
swords seemingly out of nowhere to hand to Giles and Xander.

XANDER  
Right... thanks.  
(beat)  
Is that it? I mean, no more 'one  
moments'? We can charge in... you  
know, guns blazing.. death and  
mayhem o' plenty?

IMMORTAL  
(stepping aside)  
Charge away.

Xander nods and rushes the door. Behind him Giles and the  
Immortal follow shortly after.

A loud CRACK rings out as Xander is somehow able to remove  
the old and seemingly sturdy door from its hinges using his  
shoulder as a battering ram.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

IMMORTAL (cont'd)  
(to Giles)  
He is very passionate about his  
work, isn't he?

3 INT. DEMON LAIR - MAIN ROOM

3

As Xander bursts into the room, he takes a quick glance before smiling sheepishly as he takes in his surroundings.

After a moment's time, Giles and the Immortal come to stand in the doorway behind him.

GILES  
Oh, dear.

We swing around to find that the room is packed with various demons, as well as a few well dressed humans talking amongst themselves in small groups, apparently waiting for something - or someone.

After Xander's hasty intrusion, however, they've all turned to stare directly at us.

Silence overcomes the room as both parties stare at each other -- not necessarily knowing what to do.

IMMORTAL  
(to Xander)  
Your enthusiasm doesn't seem nearly  
as curved as it did moments ago.

XANDER  
Moments ago I didn't feel like an  
eight piece in a bucket!

IMMORTAL  
(happily)  
Come now. There can't be more than  
thirty of them. That's barely ten a  
piece!

The Immortal bypasses Xander and runs directly for the group of demons, before we cut to:

4 EXT. CEMETARY - NIGHT

4

BUFFY is walking casually alongside WILLOW as they 'patrol' the area. Buffy seems oddly upbeat as Willow walks apathetically alongside her, staring at the sky and in her own world.

BUFFY  
(adamantly)  
I love these boring nights.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW

(beat)

Me too. It's like we get a break from maiming things for once and just talk.

BUFFY

(nodding)

We maim too often. I've been thinking and since there are so many slayers now, we should form a union.

WILLOW

It's possible.

BUFFY

Yeah, huh? We could hold meetings and get cards. And whenever our Watchers take vacations to Italy, we could demand that we go along too or we'll strike.

WILLOW

Strike what?

BUFFY

Did I not word that right? I seem to be doing that more and more these days.

(beat)

Just one more thing a vacation would solve.

WILLOW

No, no. You'll go on strike... I get it.

BUFFY

(curiously)

You okay, Will?

WILLOW

Huh? Oh yeah. I'm great. You know me.

(smiling)

Sunshine... through and through.

Buffy stares back and forces Willow into confession mode. Willow sighs and gets ready to 'fess up.

WILLOW (cont'd)

Well, if you must know, I'm just still kind of in awe of the direction my powers seem to be taking after the other day.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY

I know what you mean. I'm still  
reeling a bit from the aweage  
myself.

WILLOW

I know that it must have been kind  
of scary looking from where you  
were...

BUFFY

...waiting for my untimely death to  
arrive? Willow, trust me, no one is  
happier that you sent Jerekov to  
Hell more than me. That bludgeoning  
thing he was about to do to my head  
wasn't something that I was looking  
forward to.

WILLOW

I know! See, things seem like  
they're finally starting to work  
themselves out and now. It's like I  
don't even have to worry about  
getting all veiny anymore. For the  
first time in... forever.

(happily)

It just feels right.

She stops and looks to Buffy.

WILLOW (cont'd)

I'm starting to feel that I'm  
senselessly babbling.

BUFFY

(smiling)

Not at all. I'm happy for you...  
and for me and the rest of the  
world. The less veins you show, the  
better for the rest of us.

WILLOW

Have I apologized for the whole  
'trying to kill you all thing'  
lately?

BUFFY

No. And don't start, because then  
I'd have to apologize for all the  
times I tried to kill you guys, and  
I'm way up on you so we'd be here  
for quite a-

Before she can finish her sentence, a loud CRASH rings out  
from somewhere nearby. Buffy looks apathetically to Willow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BUFFY (cont'd)  
(pouting)  
Great. There goes our boring night.

The girls take off in a dead sprint in that direction. Just as they round a large mausoleum, however, their dash comes to a screeching halt as they turn to stare at one another in disbelief.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
Is it just me, or does that look  
all too familiar in a very bad way?

Before Willow can answer, she's interrupted by a body being flung just in front of them.

As the body lands hard against a tree, it DUSTS.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
(turning to Willow)  
Well, if it's on our side-

WILLOW  
I don't think it's on our side!

The girls take a quick step back as the Demon flies into view.

As we take in the sight before us, a feeling of familiarity is most definitely present before the fact has time to set in. They have faced this demon twice before as it emerged from the Hellmouth.

They girls get safely out of the demon's path by jumping atop the mausoleum via a couple of headstones that seem like steps that were put there for the specific purpose. They stare down at the demon for a moment before looking confidently to one another.

BUFFY  
A little slayer/wiccan combo?

WILLOW  
Wouldn't have it any other way.

We watch the girls jump from the rooftop and stay behind for a moment before we cut to:

5 INT. DEMON LAIR - DAY

5

Demon bodies are flying boldly across the room as the immortal fights with an unbridled passion and certain degree of arrogance.

Though he appears to be enjoying himself, passionately, Giles and Xander seem to be a bit more worried.

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CONTINUED:

As Xander dodges a duo of attacks, he's able to land his sword into the gut of a tall, scaly demon.

While pulling his weapon from the being's corpse, he ducks behind a table to catch a quick breath.

Xander lets out a SCREAM as the Immortal taps on his shoulder from behind. Xander glares at him while trying to catch his breath.

XANDER

What the hell are you trying to do to me?!

IMMORTAL

(happily)

I think you may be slightly confused, mate.

(pointing across the room)

Our opponents are over there.

XANDER

I know that! I was just-

Xander has to duck to escape a swinging sword. As he prepares to attack, the Immortal hurdles him and goes back into the fight with renewed vigor.

Xander watches him for several seconds while he jumps over swinging swords, rolls across the ground, and slices through his enemies with ease.

XANDER (cont'd)

(in awe)

Now that's something...

Inspired, Xander springs to his feet and re-joins the fight alongside Giles who ducks an attack and amputates a ferocious looking demon's arm.

GILES

(short winded)

Nice of you to join us!

XANDER

Sorry about that. I was just a little...

6

EXT. CEMETARY - NIGHT

6

BUFFY

... pissed off, is what I am!

Buffy and Willow are running frantically through the cemetery. Buffy's shirt is torn extensively, bearing her stomach to the world and Willow is running with a limp.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY (cont'd)  
What is this, the third time that  
we've fought that thing?

WILLOW  
We didn't fight it so much the  
first time, as it just left.

BUFFY  
And yet here we are... retreating!  
I don't retreat.  
(beat)  
Why are we running again?

Both girls are beginning to breathe heavily as the run is  
getting to them.

WILLOW  
Because we just got our combined  
asses kicked!

BUFFY  
One thing I don't understand, while  
we enjoying getting the crap kicked  
out of us, why didn't you go all  
Jerekov on it?

WILLOW  
I don't know, it was kind of a spur  
of the moment type thing that  
happened, and I didn't even know  
that we would need it and-

BUFFY  
Will, from now on, let's just  
assume that we do need it.

WILLOW  
Okay.

BUFFY  
God, I wish I was in Italy right  
now.

We cut from the running girls to:

7

INT. DEMON LAIR

7

Giles and Xander are leaning against the stone wall, looking  
somewhat bored and talking amongst themselves.

Giles is examining the magnificent sword that the Immortal  
gave him.

GILES  
It really is a fine metal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER

It does have a certain ghastly glow  
about it in a 'striking fear into  
the hearts of the wicked' type way.

GILES

(beat)

Do you think he needs our help?

Before Xander can offer a response, a demon's body comes  
FLYING into view and lands at their feet.

IMMORTAL (O.S.)

You fight like peasants!

XANDER

I think he's doing okay.

The Immortal is faced off against a group of seven demons who  
are trying frantically to kill him.

As two of them swing a coordinated attack, he does a high  
flying flip over both swords and, in one fluent motion, spins  
around and slices through them both.

Before the dust has time to settle on the dirt floor,  
however, the other five demons rush him, weapons swinging.  
Giles and Xander nervously stand from their leaning positions  
as the Immortal is engulfed by the demons to the point where  
he is no longer visible and taken to the ground.

As they rush to his aid, however, a loud GROAN is let out and  
the Immortal pushes a hoard of dead bodies from atop him,  
smiles gleefully, and stands up.

IMMORTAL

That was invigorating!

XANDER

How in the-

IMMORTAL

(smiling)

Don't even try to understand it.  
It takes several lifetimes to  
achieve, and I think you're a  
couple short my friend.

GILES

So, what's the plan?

XANDER

Yeah, and where are the girls?

The Immortal begins walking quickly to a doorway on their  
immediate right.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

IMMORTAL

This way!

XANDER

Wait.

(pointing to another door)

What if they're through that door?  
Maybe we should split up.

IMMORTAL

No need. They're behind this door.

XANDER

How could you possibly know that?

IMMORTAL

Before I killed the last demon, I  
tortured him until he gladly told  
me all that he knew.

XANDER

You were down there for like three  
seconds!!

IMMORTAL

(laughing)

The world is still very much a new  
place to you isn't it? You have  
much to learn. Unfortunately, we  
haven't the time for a private  
lesson.

(beat)

There is something through this  
door. And that which awaits can  
only be undertaken by you. Mr.  
Giles and I must wait patiently  
until you return.

XANDER

Until I return?!

(to Giles)

Is it just me, or does this plan  
seem kind of Xander-centric?

As Xander finishes his question, a loud ROAR lets out from  
behind the door, sounding like a crowd applauding graciously.

Xander sighs, and looks reluctantly to the Immortal, who  
smiles back encouragingly, before we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT ONE**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

8 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE - NIGHT

8

The Summers Residence is unusually quite this evening. As we move through the empty hallways and past the eerily quite rooms on either side, we finally pick up on a subtle conversation coming from the lounge.

ANYA (O.S.)

(pouting)

I just don't understand why it  
won't come out.

ANYA and MARIE sit across from one another as we've apparently caught Anya in the midst of an unusually timid anger tantrum.

ANYA (CONT'D) (cont'd)

I've tried to will it, Marie, but  
nothing happens!

MARIE

The baby will come when it's ready,  
dear.

(beat)

Perhaps you've made such a great  
home for it that the baby is  
reluctant to leave?

ANYA

Sometimes I really do think you're  
insane. It's mostly the patronizing  
that does it.

MARIE

(apologetically)

Pardon. I don't mean to-

ANYA

(happily)

Maybe I could summon one of my  
former colleagues and wish it out!

MARIE

(uneasily)

I don't know that I would go that  
far. You're just-

ANYA

(rolling her eyes)

You're right. You're right. I'm  
sorry.

(beat; thinking)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANYA(cont'd)

Perhaps I could just start pushing really hard. It couldn't be much more than a bowel movement.

Marie shakes her head as she stares in disbelief at what Anya is saying.

ANYA (cont'd)

An ill placed bowel movement, no doubt, but I'm sure the same principals apply.

(beat; angrily)

Why did I ever let him do this to me?! They tell you, there is no sex without consequence, but you don't really know what they're talking about. I mean, there are all of these urges that I couldn't ignore. There was Xander with his biceps... and his plump behind.

(sincerely)

I couldn't help it Marie.

(quickly)

It was like a trap! Entrapment is exactly what it was, and now I'm fifty pounds heavier. I'll probably never get my body back and Xander will never want me again! I'll never have sex for the rest of my life. Nobody wants a fat, unattractive woman with excess baggage! My life is over. This-

MARIE

Anya!

Anya stops abruptly and stares curiously at Marie.

MARIE (cont'd)

You need to breathe.

Anya looks around quickly and suddenly realizes that she hasn't taken a breath in some time. She slowly begins to exhale as Marie calms her.

MARIE (cont'd)

(reassuringly)

Your life isn't over... it's just beginning! You've got a husband that loves you, for better or worse.

ANYA

But if worse comes to worst?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MARIE

You're missing the point, Anya. Xander loves you blindly. Your appearance isn't what drives him to love you. It's your soul that he is attracted to. I believe with all of my heart that the two of you are soul mates.

ANYA

(surprised)

Really?

MARIE

Of course. Don't you believe in the sort of thing?

ANYA

It's hard to say, really. I've reigned vengeance upon many men who claimed to be a woman's soul mate only to be found in bed with her sister or her mother... or both.

Marie stares oddly at Anya for a moment before continuing.

MARIE

Do you believe that Xander loves you?

ANYA

Yes.

MARIE

Then you've got to trust him and more importantly than that, trust in him.

ANYA

(reluctantly)

I suppose you're right.

MARIE

I absolutely am. We should all be so lucky as to have such an honorable man that is so innately in love with us.

Anya appears comforted by Marie's words, as we cut to:

9

INT. DEMON LAIR - DAY

9

We sweep back in on the emptied room that has been transformed into a makeshift grave for deceased demons.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Carcasses and body parts lie scattered throughout the room and flies have already begun swarming over them.

XANDER (O.S.)

This is insane!

We finally come to rest on Xander, Giles, and the Immortal standing near the same doorway that they had been earlier, except this time, Xander is dressed in an unusual fashion. He almost resembles a pirate with the loose fitting, ragged clothes that hang uneasily from his body.

XANDER (cont'd)

I still don't understand why I have to be the one to infiltrate the demon hoard!

(to Giles)

Do you want to trade places?

GILES

(back stepping)

We can't. The plan is very precise as to who must do the, ah, infiltrating.

XANDER

The plan was made like five minutes ago! It can be changed!

IMMORTAL

I'm afraid that it is imperative that you go ahead, Alexander. My face is well known by demons throughout...

(smiling)

...what with me being the scourge of the underworld and all. And Mr. Giles is too old.

GILES

Beg your pardon?!

IMMORTAL

(to Xander)

You're the only one of us who can save these girls, my friend. This is why I need you both to assist me in this mission!

XANDER

(beat)

Fine! But I'd better come back with every limb that I left with. I'll be damned if I'll be turned into the one thing I fear the most in the world!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GILES  
(confused)  
What?

XANDER  
(confessing)  
An amputee.

Giles stares in dismay at Xander.

XANDER (cont'd)  
Don't even try to tell me that they  
don't scare the bejesus out of you.

GILES  
(agitated)  
Just go!

Xander sighs, turns, and knocks on the door as Giles and the Immortal duck back into the other room, out of sight.

The cliched sliding panel opens from the other side of the solid oak door, to reveal a pair of ghastly eyes staring back at us and a strikingly deep voice to accompany it.

VOICE  
What's the password?

XANDER  
Please?

The panel closes. Xander looks around for a moment before knocking on the door again. The panel opens shortly thereafter.

XANDER (cont'd)  
I was only kidding. You see, I do  
that just to trick people into  
thinking that I'm not evil. Which I  
most obviously am.  
(beat)  
What else would I be doing at an  
evil auction to buy captured  
slayers?

The panel closes again and Xander seems discouraged. As he reaches up to knock again, however, the door lets out a long CREAK as it swings open.

XANDER (cont'd)  
(to himself)  
That was a long password.

The door opens as we meet the owner of the devilish eyes. The demon stands nearly a foot taller than Xander and bears a giant sword.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Xander stand uneasily for a moment, not knowing whether to run or enter.

DEMON

I hope you brought plenty of money,  
human.

XANDER

(patting his side)  
I didn't break out the big satchel  
for nothing.

The demon smirks as he steps aside to allow Xander passage.

As he steps past the demon, Xander's expression quickly changes from a forced smile to a sickened realization. Before him, dozens of demons are huddled up in front of a makeshift stage.

On that stage is the monstrosity that has Xander left speechless. A large, burly demon stands holding a chain in each hand. Behind him, attached to the chains, are two young teenage GIRLS that look underfed and severely beaten.

AUCTIONEER

Alright, my fellow bastards! What  
we've got here are the last of the  
Slayer batch that have been selling  
like sauteed Siamese kittens.

A deep row of demon boos ring out.

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

I know! I know... we're working on  
getting more, but this is the last  
of them you'll find in the  
supermarket for some time. So, if  
you're going to get your hands on a  
100% prime slab of Slayer... you'd  
better get off your ass and start  
bidding!

Xander still has yet to move, horrified by what he's seeing, but he hasn't time to think of a plan when the auctioneer starts going a mile a minute.

AUCTIONEER (cont'd)

Let's start the bidding out at one  
thousand should we?

XANDER

(to a nearby demon)  
Is he talking about dollars?!

A large demon with black, scaly skin roars at Xander before turning back to the stage.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

AUCTIONEER

Four thousand from the ugly bugger  
in the front! Do I hear... oh, five  
thousand! Thank you sir. Do I hear  
any more?

The auctioneer looks around cautiously.

AUCTIONEER (cont'd)

There isn't a beast here willing to  
pay more than five thousand for the  
blood of a slayer?

XANDER

(beat; yelling)

Twenty-five thousand for the pair.

AUCTIONEER

(excitedly)

Sold! To the badly dressed human  
for twenty-five thousand dollars!

The entire crowd turns around to stare grimly at Xander who  
is only able to manage his patented "Oh, hamburgers!" grin.

10 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - NIGHT

10

Anya and Marie are still sitting in the same positions that  
they were when we left them. Anya seems much more upbeat this  
time as she lays out across the chair as best she can.

ANYA

(cheerfully)

I am lucky, aren't I?

MARIE

Extremely.

ANYA

A child isn't a curse, it's a  
blessing... and Xander loves me no  
matter what. What would I do  
without you, Marie?

MARIE

I shudder to imagine.

ANYA

(beat)

What I don't understand, though, is  
that you speak so passionately  
about these things... and yet, you  
don't have them.

MARIE

Any-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANYA

I mean, you're with Max. Or at least, you've been having a lot of sex with him. We all know that by now.

(apathetically)

Woo hoo, but why settle for someone when you can have what you want... everything that I have. Well, not everything. I may be considerate, but I told Xander a long time ago that he could never have sex with another woman.

MARIE

(weary)

I'm trying desperately to find a point to this story...

ANYA

What I'm trying to tell you is something that everyone else knows, but for some reason you're oddly blind to. Gi-

Before Anya can get out the words, the front door FLIES open and Willow rushes in.

MARIE

Willow, are you alright?!

WILLOW

(breathing heavily)

We... help! Buffy-

ANYA

(to Willow)

We're trying to have a conversation here!

Marie frowns at Anya quickly before jumping to her feet and hurrying over to Willow.

MARIE

What happened?!

WILLOW

We got... we saw the demon from... the Hellmouth and-

ANYA

(annoyingly)

Which one? There are quite a few down there, you know!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MARIE  
Where's Buffy?

WILLOW  
We agreed to retreat, but Buffy got  
mad and went back after it. It's  
strong! We need your help. Buffy  
needs our help.

Marie grabs her coat from the coat rack.

MARIE  
Let's not waste any more time than  
necessary, then!

They hurry out the door as Anya sits idly in the lounge.

ANYA  
It's really rude to interrupt  
someone's conversation!

From Anya's pout, we cut back to:

11 INT. DEMON LAIR - DAY

11

Xander stands uneasily as the auctioneer pulls the two  
conceded slayers toward him. Their chains CLANG noisily along  
the ground as they stare downward, on trek to their new  
owner.

AUCTIONEER  
I present you with your new  
property, sir.

XANDER  
(nervously)  
Thank you?  
(beat; to the Slayers)  
So, uh, hi there, girls. What are  
your names?

AUCTIONEER  
Names? You humans worry too much  
with naming things. Your lives are  
too short to waste so much time on  
something so irrelevant!

Xander stares angrily at him, and the Auctioneer nods.

AUCTIONEER (cont'd)  
But I'm sure they've each got one.  
(to Slayers)  
Slaves! What are your names?

The first girl, KRISTIN, dark-skinned with unruly black hair,  
just stares at Xander, too weak to even speak.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The closest girl, SOFIA, stares disdainfully as she wearily raises her head to look at Xander with her long, brown hair hanging unevenly across her face.

SOFIA  
(British accent)  
Up yours!

AUCTIONEER  
Interesting choice. Her parents  
must have had issues.  
(beat)  
Now if you don't mind Mr...

Xander realizes that he's waiting for a name. After curiously looking around the room for any help, he mouths off the first name to come to mind.

XANDER  
... Spock.

AUCTIONEER  
Mr. Spock, there is the small  
manner of payment.

XANDER  
Huh? Oh, payment. You mean the  
money!

AUCTIONEER  
(unamused)  
Yes.

XANDER  
(reaching to his side)  
Let me just reach into my trusty  
satchel here and- Wait a minute!  
It's empty!

The auctioneer stares at Xander -- unimpressed.

XANDER (cont'd)  
(nervously)  
No big deal. I'll just get my...  
(yelling towards the door)  
... friends to go home and get my  
wallet to pay for the Slayers I  
just purchased!

AUCTIONEER  
(angrily)  
You're telling me you don't have  
the money?

XANDER  
Of course not! What I'm telling you  
is...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Xander sweats for another moment, before the door BURSTS open as the Immortal charges in, sword swinging, followed by Giles who follows suit with the swinging swords.

XANDER (cont'd)  
... you're all about to go back to  
Hell!

Xander throws a huge RIGHT HOOK and quickly grabs the chains from his hand as the demon lands hard upon the ground.

Xander smiles boldly at the girls in an effort to calm them before offering a few words.

XANDER (cont'd)  
Hello ladies, I'm Xander Harris and  
I'll be your hero for the evening.

Xander ushers the girls ahead of him and in between swinging weapons as they run for the door. The auctioneer quickly sits up from the ground to yell out orders.

AUCTIONEER  
Kill them! But keep the s-

Before he can finish the word, a sword swings quickly through the air and his head is dislodged from his body. The Immortal steps across his body and continues his assault on the hoard.

IMMORTAL  
Don't think they caught the tail  
end of that one, friend!

He jumps upon the stage and easily kills two demons with one fluent swing of his sword. A third, he slices through just as an arrow is released from his bow.

The arrow whizzes past Xander and STICKS in the wall just by his head. Xander quickly looks back to the stage to see the falling demon.

He sees that the Immortal is being rushed by the crowd. The Immortal notices that Xander is about to come back to help, but calls out against it.

IMMORTAL (cont'd)  
Just go! Get the girls out of here!

As soon as he gets the words out, he dives off the stage into the middle of the pack. Demons start to hit the floor with speed and Xander stares on for a moment.

XANDER  
(in awe)  
My God, that man is amazing...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

As he is admiring the immortal's skills, however, an axe barely misses his head en route to getting stuck in the door.

XANDER (cont'd)  
(screaming)

Ah!

Without thinking, merely reacting, Xander throws a massive UPPER CUT that lands to the demon's huge cranium that had swung the sword.

The demon falls to the ground as Xander forces a smile to the girls.

XANDER (cont'd)  
Shall we?

The girls, still distrusting, almost reluctantly follow him from the room.

As they round the corner and fade from view, a demon's body lands hard against the wall.

Within moment's of it hitting said wall, the Immortal FLIES on screen and shoves his sword through its stomach.

We cut from the mayhem to:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT TWO**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

12 EXT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE

12

As Marie and Willow run out from the house, they run straight into Buffy. Marie looks shocked as she takes note of Buffy's ripped clothes and cuts.

BUFFY  
(breathless)  
That thing can really move quick to  
be so damn big!

MARIE  
Are you alright?

BUFFY  
(nods her head)  
I'm just really, really pissed off  
now.

MARIE  
Why?

BUFFY  
How would you feel if you got  
outran by a two ton demon? As soon  
as Giles gets back and we go over  
the details of the union, we've got  
to get back to training properly.  
This is getting ridiculous!

MARIE  
Union?

BUFFY  
Long story.

WILLOW  
(to Marie)  
So much for that road trip.  
(beat; to Buffy)  
I take it that you did a little  
better, you know, with the ass  
kicking?

BUFFY  
Strangely enough, no. Just when I  
came across the demon and was  
preparing for said ass kicking, it  
ran off mid-pun.

WILLOW  
It must have been a really good  
pun.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY  
It had potential.

As the team hurries off screen, we cut back to:

13

INT. HOSPITAL - EVENING

13

Xander sits impatiently in a small chair in the lobby of an expensive-looking hospital as he nervously shakes his leg to and fro.

GILES (O.S.)  
How are they?

As Xander sees Giles and the Immortal walking speedily across the lobby, he quickly bounces from the chair and comes to meet them in the middle of the room.

XANDER  
(worried)  
They don't know yet. They're both severely malnourished and one of them had some internal bleeding.

GILES  
(quickly)  
Where's the doctor?

DOCTOR (O.S.)  
(Italian accent)  
Mr. Harris?

All three men whip around and rush toward the doctor, who takes a nervous half step back as the men come to stop within inches of him.

GILES  
How are the girls?

DOCTOR  
They are... I'm sorry. Are any of you actually related to the girls? Because we're not supposed to give out detailed information, otherwise.

XANDER  
Uh-

GILES  
Of course we are. They are my nieces.

DOCTOR  
They're sisters?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GILES

(unsure)

Yes!

(grabbing Xander)

And this is their cousin, my son,  
Alexander.

(motioning to Immortal)

And this is my brother...

(thinking)

... Bartholomew, who would also be  
their uncle.

The doctor stares at the men -- obviously not buying into the deception.

DOCTOR

Right...

(looking at a chart)

And what are the names of your  
nieces?

GILES

(quickly)

Jessica and Diane.

DOCTOR

(suspicious)

Says here that their names are  
Sofia and Kristin.

GILES

(angrily)

Those are their middle names, you  
insufferable twit! Now either you  
tell me how my nieces are doing, or  
I'll arrange a law suit on you that  
will leave this hospital wishing  
for a natural disaster, simply so  
it can pay my salary, let alone  
your own!

The Doctor nearly cowers down as he stares fearfully at  
Giles.

DOCTOR

They... they're-

(calming himself)

The first girl, Jessica, is going  
to pull through. She's strong.

Diane, I'm afraid, wasn't as  
fortunate. She's sustained heavy  
injuries to multiple vital organs.

(beat; hesitantly)

I don't think that she's going to  
make it, Mr. Harris.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Giles exchanges saddened looks with Xander and the three men are convincingly portraying the role of a mourning family as they take in the news.

DOCTOR (cont'd)  
I'm sorry. You should probably go  
see her right now, because you may  
not get another chance.

The doctor nods uneasily and apologetically before walking briskly from sight. The men exchange one more downtrodden look before reluctantly agreeing.

Xander begins walking slowly down the hallway as Giles and the Immortal walk wearily behind him.

14

INT. HOSPITAL - ICU

14

Xander pokes his head into the room to see Kristin lying peacefully in a typical, size too small hospital bed. If not for the sporadic beep of a heart monitor, one might already be led to assume the worst. Breathing can scarcely be detected by the uneven, occasional inflations of the chest.

Xander walks hesitantly into the room as he takes a deep breath. He leans restlessly against the wall across from the bed as Giles comes to stand next to the girl, with the Immortal on the other side.

GILES  
(lightly)  
Kristin?

The girl's eyes slowly flutter for a moment before opening to curiously take in the scene.

KRISTIN  
(weakly)  
You're one of the guys that rescued  
me.

GILES  
(forcing a smile)  
Yes. My name is Rupert Giles. I'm a  
Watcher.

The girl wearily lifts her head from the bed and looks around the room to see Xander and the Immortal as well.

KRISTIN  
And you were there, and you-

The girl laughs at her joke before wincing and grabbing her side. The guys all look to one another, not in the laughing mood.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KRISTIN (cont'd)  
Come on, 'The Wizard Of Oz'? No?  
You guys are way too serious.  
(beat)  
I'm dying, aren't I?

GILES  
(uneasily)  
Of course not. Everything's going  
to be fine.

KRISTIN  
That's what they always say when  
you're dying. I've seen 'ER.' I  
know how this works.

Kristin holds her eyes closed tight for a long beat as she is  
apparently fighting off pain.

KRISTIN (cont'd)  
How's Sofia?

GILES  
She's going to be fine.

KRISTIN  
Really 'going to be fine,' or the  
patronizing load of crap you're  
filling me with?

GILES  
(forcing a smile)  
The first one.

KRISTIN  
That's good. She's a good kid.

GILES  
Did you two know each other?

KRISTIN  
Not until we became cell mates.  
There were six other girls there  
when I got there, but...

GILES  
Do you have any idea where any of  
the girls were taken?

KRISTIN  
They're most likely 'going to be  
fine' already. You're a Watcher,  
work it out. We weren't being sold  
as novelty items.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GILES

How did they- How were you  
abducted?

KRISTIN

Trove of demons, assorted weapons.  
I would have taken them if it  
wasn't for that thing... what's it  
called? Oh yeah, reality.

GILES

(smiling)

You're in surprisingly good spirits  
for someone who is...

KRISTIN

(nonchalantly)

Dying?

GILES

(reluctantly)

Yes.

KRISTIN

Like the world needs another  
whining teenager with a undeserving  
sense of entitlement. We've all got  
to die some time.

The room stands quiet for several moments.

KRISTIN (cont'd)

Speaking of which... I don't mean  
to be rude, but could you guys  
leave?

All three men look surprisingly shocked.

KRISTIN (cont'd)

It's just... I don't want to die in  
a room with a bunch of strangers.  
It feels like I should be saying  
something all the time to break the  
awkward silence, and I'd just  
really like some alone time for  
self reflection before I go to...  
wherever I'm going to go.

GILES

(surprised)

Of course.

KRISTIN

You'll call my parents?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

GILES

Yes.

Giles, Xander, and the Immortal all exchange mournful looks before we cut to:

15 INT. HOSPITAL - HALLWAY

15

The guys are walking from her room in utter silence. Xander turns and looks through the window into the room one last time.

Kristin lies motionless on the bed, staring at the ceiling with a single tear running down her right cheek. Xander sighs and looks to Giles and the Immortal.

XANDER

(solemnly)

We've got to go back and make them pay. Every one of them.

The Immortal looks understandingly to Xander before resting his hand reassuringly on his shoulder and then turning to walk off.

IMMORTAL

It's already been done.

Xander watches the Immortal walk away with a saddened look on his face, before turning back to watch Kristin for another moment, until we dissolve to:

16 INT. HOSPITAL - LOBBY

16

The three men end up back in the lobby where they had started, talking to the same doctor that had encouraged Giles' wrath before. The doctor appears considerably more receptive than he did last time.

GILES

We will, of course, need to arrange that Jessica be released to her parents as soon as possible.

DOCTOR

(confused)

To her parents?

GILES

(intimidating)

Is there a problem?

DOCTOR

No. No problem, just... you don't know?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GILES  
Know what?

DOCTOR  
(hesitantly)  
The girl's parents, your...

GILES  
... sister.

DOCTOR  
They're dead.

XANDER  
Oh...

DOCTOR  
I'm sorry. I know I've said that more than once today, but I truly am. She told us before she fell asleep, when we asked for contact details.  
(beat)  
Do you know who will be taking care of the girl?

GILES  
(quickly)  
I will.

XANDER  
What?!

The doctor looks surprisingly at Xander's outburst.

GILES  
There's plenty of room in the house. Show some respect for your deceased aunt and uncle.  
(beat; to doctor)  
When will she be ready for release?

The doctor blinks for a moment, then checks his charts again before we cut back to:

17 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE - NIGHT

17

Buffy, Willow, Anya, and Marie are sitting restlessly along the various pieces of furniture in the lounge. Buffy is nodding her head constantly as she looks around the room.

Meanwhile, Anya is looking extremely bored and apparently talking to herself.

BUFFY  
I can't do this.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW

Can't do what?

BUFFY

Sit here and play the role of  
'everything's normal' girl, while  
that thing is out there terrorizing  
the city.

ANYA

(to herself)

It's not like I was saying anything  
important before I was so rudely  
interrupted.

WILLOW

How would we even go about finding  
it, Buffy?

BUFFY

Someone has to have seen it, the  
thing is huge! And I know Cleveland  
prides itself on its cultural  
diversity, but I don't see it  
blending in with people at the bus  
stop.

ANYA

(to herself)

I mean, who am I? It's not like  
I've died saving everyone in this  
room's life.

MARIE

Buffy's right. We shouldn't leave  
the city unattended. We should at  
least make a valid attempt at  
trying to find this thing.

BUFFY

Thank you.

WILLOW

Where should we start?

BUFFY

I'm thinking that-

ANYA

(to herself)

If Xander were here, he'd listen to  
me. I think that-

BUFFY

Any!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Anya nearly jumps out of her chair, and most likely would have, if not for the whole pregnancy thing.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
You know that we can hear you,  
right?!

ANYA  
I wasn't sure that you could. Maybe  
it's because you guys always ignore  
me! Are you treating me the same  
way you do Andrew now?

WILLOW  
(patiently)  
We don't ignore you, Anya. We're  
just... busy. Busy like bees and  
sometimes, bees don't have a lot of  
time to listen when they'd like to  
because of various monsters...  
(thinking)  
... and demons. We just have  
something that requires our  
immediate attention.

ANYA  
You know what I just heard?

Willow cocks her head to the side as though listening  
carefully.

ANYA (cont'd)  
I heard, 'We don't ignore you,  
Anya,' all pleasant and coyly the  
way that you do, but after all this  
time I've spent on earth, Xander  
has taught me that there is  
something called subtext. And do  
you want to know what that subtext  
said to me? 'Anya, you are fat and  
willful so we don't care to hear  
your comments. Therefore, I'm going  
to spin an intricate web of  
bullcrap that will work not only to  
get you to shut up, but also to  
impugn your intelligence.'

Everyone stares at Anya. Though used to her rants by now, she  
may well have overdone herself this time.

BUFFY  
Marie, if you and Anya have  
something you need to talk about,  
I'm sure Willow and I can take to  
the patrol with enough extreme  
prejudice to cover for you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

MARIE

(beat)

Thank you, Buffy.

(looking to Anya)

Perhaps I will stay behind.

ANYA

Show a hint of insanity and you  
finally get what you want!

As Buffy and Willow head for the door, we cut to:

18

INT. HOSPITAL - SOFIA'S ROOM - DAY

18

Giles, Xander, and the Immortal fall in line around Sofia's bed. She quickly opens her eyes and looks hurriedly around the room to see the men standing around her. She immediately tenses up.

GILES

(quickly)

It's okay, Sofia. We're the men who  
rescued you. I'm Rupert Giles. I'm  
a Watcher - Head Watcher, actually.

(motioning to Xander)

And this is...

SOFIA

(smiling warmly)

Xander Harris, my hero for the  
evening.

GILES

Excuse me?

XANDER

(uneasily)

I... may have thrown a joke or two  
in during the rescue.

IMMORTAL

Apparently it made a lasting  
impression.

GILES

I don't know how to tell you this,  
Sofia, but your parents-

SOFIA

I know.

(beat)

I saw them do it. I watched them  
kill my parents, when they came  
looking for me after they brought  
the plane down.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA(cont'd)

(tearing up)

I couldn't save them...

XANDER

(incredulous)

Brought a plane down? Who?

SOFIA

Whoever was running that auction.  
They knew we were coming, they knew  
I was a Slayer, so they made sure  
they got to me.

XANDER

Are we talking a whole plane here,  
or-

SOFIA

No, no, just a small light  
aircraft, you know, like the ones  
they do tours and stuff in. My dad  
is...

(beat; closes eyes)

My dad was a pilot, he was taking  
us all out to visit some relatives  
we have over here. One minute, we  
were up in the air, the next,  
something hit us, and...

Sofia stifles another sob, and Xander quickly squeezes her  
hand.

GILES

I'm extremely sorry for your loss,  
but we-

SOFIA

You said you're a Watcher?

GILES

Yes.

SOFIA

So... you're all Watchers?

XANDER

I work construction.

(beat; motioning to  
Immortal)

He's Immortal. It's his schtick.

Sofia stares oddly at Xander for a moment before returning  
another warm smile. She then turns back to Giles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SOFIA

(urgent)

Well, thanks for getting me out of there, but I'm afraid I don't really know what to do next. I don't have anywhere to go, and those demons-

XANDER

You don't have to worry about them anymore. We took care of them.

Giles and the Immortal stare back at Xander who most obviously had no part in it.

XANDER (cont'd)

(reluctantly)

It was a team effort.

GILES

We are going to help you. We've got more than enough room for you back home. A place where you'll be safe with people who will help keep you that way.

There's a pause while Sofia thinks and looks over to Xander.

SOFIA

Will you be there?

Giles looks curiously back to Xander for a moment, before we cut to:

19

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE - NIGHT

19

Anya is sprawled out across the chair once more with Marie sitting somewhat impatiently across from her.

ANYA

I thought they'd never leave!

(thinking)

Though, technically they didn't have to. They know about it too. I don't know why I threw such a raging fit over the entire ordeal. Hmm, must be the hormones.

MARIE

Anya?

Anya looks inquisitively at Marie for a moment.

MARIE (cont'd)

They know about what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANYA  
Oh, right! The thing is, Marie,  
that Gi-

As Anya speaks, the front door flies open and SLAMS against the wall as Buffy and Willow rush into the house, throwing the door closed behind them.

BUFFY  
We might have trouble...

ANYA  
(yelling)  
Why do you people hate me?!

BUFFY  
Not the time!  
(to Marie)  
We've got to-

ANYA  
Of course it's not the time when  
I'm talking, but if this was one of  
those times when you had to go on  
about a certain undead boyfriend,  
now would-

CRASH!

The front door flies from its hinges as an assortment of tentacles come wailing into view. Anya blinks as Buffy and Willow scatter away from the door.

ANYA (cont'd)  
Oh. It's really not the time.

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT THREE**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

20 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - NIGHT

20

Buffy grabs a sword and heads toward the demon. Several moments and a few well placed CLANGS later, she comes flying back into view, landing hard against the coffee table.

BUFFY  
(shaking her head)  
That didn't work out quite how I'd  
planned it...

Marie helps her up from the floor as Willow steps into the foreground, hand raised.

WILLOW  
*Puella portat exiium via portabo!*

The demon ROARS in pain, but is still able to knock Willow to the ground as it flails its strange limbs about in pain.

After a bit of struggling, the demon frees itself from the tight confines of the house and makes its getaway.

Buffy and Marie both begin helping Willow up from the floor.

BUFFY  
What kind of awesome wiccanography  
was that?

WILLOW  
(thinking)  
Uh-

MARIE  
It was a powerful spell used by  
ancient pagans when battling the  
most violent and elder demons.  
(suspiciously)  
Where did you learn it?

WILLOW  
(unsure)  
I- I don't know. When I stepped in  
front of the demon, the words came  
out of my mouth... it was like it  
was natural.

BUFFY  
(to Marie)  
Is she possessed?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANYA  
(rolling her eyes)  
She's not possessed. She's  
evolving!

Buffy stares curiously at Anya who simply nods her head  
sarcastically.

ANYA (cont'd)  
Witches tend to do that, you know.

BUFFY  
They... I mean- What?

ANYA  
I seriously do not know how you've  
saved the world so many times, when  
you know nothing about supernatural  
powers.

BUFFY  
The only thing I need to know about  
a demon is how to kill it.

ANYA  
(sarcastically)  
And that worked out well for you  
this time, didn't it?

BUFFY  
Okay, fine! Darwin me on witchcraft  
etiquette!

ANYA  
(excitedly)  
Okay.

Anya sits back down in her chair.

ANYA (cont'd)  
When a witch like Willow-

WILLOW  
Wiccan.

ANYA  
(ignoring her)  
When a witch like Willow comes into  
her own and begins to master her  
powers, it's only natural that she  
evolve when something new comes  
along. She's connected, you know,  
to everything. To you and me, to  
the world, and to witchcraft.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANYA(cont'd)

So when she stepped in front of a seemingly invincible demon, her subconscious tapped into what she already knows, but doesn't know that she knows.

BUFFY

So Willow is keeping secrets... from herself?

ANYA

No! She just hasn't learned to rely on it yet. That thing with the warlock... same thing. She's always had the power to place a demon back into the Hellmouth. Only she wasn't ready to know... that, or it would have killed her.

(beat)

I'm so thankful that I wasn't limited to a single lifetime. I would hate to be as naive as you people are.

BUFFY

You realize that you are making absolutely no...

WILLOW

She's right.

BUFFY

... or absolutely complete sense.

WILLOW

I can feel it. I mean- Ever since my stay in Europe, I've felt the world around me. I knew that I was connected to things, to everything, just like Anya said, but tonight when I played 'ancient pagan's bitch', it came from a place deep down and it felt like I had done it before.

(beat; smiling)

And even better than that, I know where the demon is.

Buffy and Marie exchange confused looks before we cut to:

21

EXT. STREETS

21

A busy shopping district is nearly jammed pack with people, carelessly bustling about in their own world.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

We focus in on a young mother and her child as they walk slowly across the street while the mother peers endlessly into an uncomplying shopping bag.

A low rumbling off screen leads to the mother's looking up just in time to see the demon FLYING in their direction.

The woman barely has time to let out a scream before --

Buffy sprints in out of nowhere and grabs them both just before they are trampled by the demon.

All three of them fall to the ground, and Buffy jumps to her feet and helps them to their feet before turning to run after the demon.

WOMAN  
What was that?!

Buffy reluctantly turns around and offers a dishonest reply before hitting full speed again.

BUFFY  
Everything's okay! It's just an  
escaped elephant from the zoo. It's  
under control!  
(beat; to herself)  
God, I'm starting to sound like  
Riley...

Buffy sprints on into:

22 EXT. PARK 22

Buffy stops to catch her breath as she quickly takes in her surroundings. Nothing seems out of the ordinary in the densely wooded area.

After a few moments, however, a loud ROAR rings out from the other side of a vast group of trees.

Buffy takes one last deep breath and begins running for the tree line.

23 EXT. PARK - MOMENTS LATER 23

As Buffy bursts through a wall of shrubberies, she stops and stares in amazement.

Willow is standing in the open with the demon suspended in mid air! The demon is growling ferociously, but Willow is unaffected. She nearly seems to be meditating as she stands with her eyes closed, and a firmly relaxed expression upon her face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Buffy slowly walks towards Willow as she holds the demon in the air. She looks around a couple of times, almost unsure if she should disturb Willow, but finally decides to act.

BUFFY

Willow?

Willow's head SNAPS around to see Buffy and when it does, the demon falls to the ground.

As soon as it touches the ground, the demon rushes for Buffy.

In all the haste, Buffy trips while trying to make a dash for it. She rolls over on her back, but can't get any farther before the demon is nearly right on top of her.

As it seems she is doomed, the demon stops, mere inches away from her.

Buffy breathes heavily, eyes widened, staring at the demon before it slowly begins ascending into the air, finally revealing Willow standing behind it.

WILLOW

(sincerely)

Sorry about that. You kind of scared me!

BUFFY

(wary)

I'll try to control my urge to ask questions the next time you've suspended a two-ton demon ten feet off the ground!

Buffy slowly stands up and stares at the helpless demon.

WILLOW

(smiling)

Isn't it cool?

BUFFY

(still freaked)

It's hard to say, really...

WILLOW

It can't move, well... unless someone sneaks up on me, as you may have noticed. I just can't break my concentration.

BUFFY

Cool.

(beat)

So... we going to suspend it to death?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WILLOW

Actually, I think I may know  
something that might prove more  
effective.

Willow closes her eyes and takes a deep breath. Moments  
later, the demon DISAPPEARS. Buffy quickly scours the  
location to make sure that it doesn't reappear.

BUFFY

You do know that it's gone, right?

Willow opens her eyes and smiles, lowering herself back to  
the ground. Buffy steps cautiously up to her.

WILLOW

All part of my secret, evil plan.

BUFFY

(raises eyebrow)

Evil?

WILLOW

(quickly)

Well, not technically, but it  
sounded better than a simple yes.

(beat)

It's back in the Hellmouth.

BUFFY

(confused)

Are you sure? You didn't even do  
your little glowy thing!

WILLOW

Uh, I hope so. Either that, or I  
just sent it back to town... but  
I'm hoping for the earlier of the  
two.

BUFFY

I'm going to go back to the 'how'  
one more time.

WILLOW

Oh, you know that whole evolution  
thing Anya was talking about  
earlier? I think it's got something  
to do with that. You know how you  
said that you knew that you were  
meant to have the scythe when you  
got it? That's how I felt when I  
poofed the demon. It's like I'm  
meant to have this knowledge,  
Buffy.

(happily)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

WILLOW(cont'd)

And it's awesome! Plus, the whole glowy light thing... I think it was a one time deal, kind of like an initiation. Everything felt the exact same as it did before with Jerekov.

BUFFY

(beat)

So, with all this new knowledge, you don't happen to have anything in there about fixing the front door, do you? Xander won't be home until tomorrow and I would really rather that we didn't have a giant hole in the house while we sleep.

WILLOW

We're two smart, sophisticated, cultured women in our prime. I'll be damned if we can't figure out how to fix a broken door!

24 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - AFTERNOON

24

The front door begins to slowly open, but after a moving just a couple of inches, it falls to the floor with a BOOM, leaving Xander staring at the fallen door.

XANDER

Hey! I just replaced that!

25 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

25

Buffy and Willow both jump up from their seats in the lounge and look nervously to the doorway.

BUFFY

You ready?

Willow nervously nods and follows Buffy into the hallway.

26 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - HALLWAY

26

Xander is still standing in the hallway with a bemused look upon his face, when Buffy rounds the corner.

BUFFY

Xander! What did you do?!

XANDER

Oh, no. This is not getting blamed off on me. I fixed this not more than a week ago, and it was a solid job as I've ever done!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY

(uneasily)

We didn't do anything! I came in through it just this morning and it was fine!

XANDER

Uh huh.

(looks to Willow)

Will?

WILLOW

No. Buffy's... Buffy turns to look at Willow too with a menacing look.

WILLOW (cont'd)

(reluctantly)

... lying. There was a demon. It got all...

(gesturing)

... 'grrr,' so we had to get all...

(gesturing)

... 'Aah!' And in the confusion, the demon mistook the door for a trans-dimensional portal.

XANDER

(beat)

Don't think that using a lot of big words is going to confuse me. I'm-

BUFFY

Xander... who is that?

Xander looks over his shoulder to see Giles helping Sofia out of the car.

XANDER

Oh. Ah. Her.

(grins; hopefully)

Your new roommate?

Xander leaves it at that and walks into the house.

27

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - GILES' ROOM - LATER

27

Anya and Marie have finally sat down to partake in their postponed talk. Anya sits uneasily on the bed, obviously uncomfortable from her stomach. Marie sits across from her, staring intently.

ANYA

(arrogantly)

I don't care if there is a new Slayer here, we're going to finish this conversation...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANYA(cont'd)

(sincerely)

... because I feel that I owe it to  
you after all you've done for me.

Marie smiles warmly at her.

ANYA (cont'd)

So I'm just going to come right out  
and say it. Giles is in love with  
you.

MARIE

(surprised)

What?!

ANYA

And not just in some puppy love or  
horny old man way either. The  
hardcore, without a doubt, the way  
Xander loves me type of love...  
except more disgusting because he's  
old and getting wrinkly.

Anya cringes as she imagines it.

ANYA (cont'd)

But that's something that you're  
going to have to live with! He  
can't help it that he's getting  
old. He's only human, Marie. What  
more do you want from the man?

MARIE

(dumbstruck)

I- But-

ANYA

I'm sure that if he could stay  
young forever, that he would, but  
that's just the way the world  
works. You get old. You get wrinkly  
and you just hope that your  
husband; your lover still finds you  
attractive when that time comes. I  
just-

Anya stops and looks around strangely for a moment.

ANYA (cont'd)

Oh great! Now I'm leaking. I have a  
weak bladder now?! Pregnancy is  
absurd!

Anya stands up and looks at a small puddle on the bed.

ANYA (cont'd)

Giles is going to love that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MARIE

(confused)

Leaking?

(beat)

Oh my God, Anya! Your water just broke!

ANYA

No. I'm pretty sure I must have just peed. I didn't mean to, but- My water?

(in awe)

The baby!

Quick cut from Anya's shocked look to:

28

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

28

The entire gang is gathered around Sofia, who looks wearily around to them all as she finishes her introduction.

SOFIA

And that's pretty much it. Xander, Giles and this other chap got me out of the dungeon, the hospital patched me up and now here I am.

BUFFY

(to Sofia)

So, uh, do you want or need something? Cause we've got... you know, stuff. Pretty much any kind of stuff to eat or drink.

(beat)

Except no alcohol. You don't look old enough to drink. It's not like-

Buffy looks down at Sofia's perplexed expression and stops herself.

BUFFY (CONT'D) (cont'd)

(smiling)

Let's try this. How are you? Are you okay?

SOFIA

(nodding uneasily)

It's okay. Long flight, few weeks locked up by demons who were about to sell me off to the highest bidder, but now I'm here, it's all sour apple Jolly Ranchers.

BUFFY

(blinks)

I don't think that we have-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA

Oh, no, it's just, uh, something  
that I say. It's like 'good,' or  
'fine,' because...

She looks around at the strange stares.

SOFIA (cont'd)

(hesitant)

I... just like sour apple Jolly  
Ranchers.

BUFFY

Oh.

(thinking)

I like pizza...

SOFIA

And I'm seventeen, by the way.

BUFFY

Huh?

SOFIA

So, you know, no alcohol. If I was  
back home in England, I'd be able  
to get away with it, but out here  
not so much.

Xander stands up from his spot across the room and begins  
walking toward Sofia.

XANDER

Okay... now that Sofia has gotten  
to know us and our eating habits  
all so well, I think we may need to  
give her some time to rest. The  
plane ride didn't leave much time  
for sleep between Giles' non-stop  
snoring.

GILES

(offended)

Beg your pardon! That was me  
grunting at the absurdity of your  
jokes which, by the way, have only  
managed to dwindle over the years.

XANDER

Take it back!

Buffy smiles uneasily at Sofia.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY  
It's not always like this. It'll  
quieten down soon. You'll see.

MARIE (O.S.)  
(yelling)  
The baby is coming!

XANDER  
(panicked)  
What?!

GILES  
Oh, good lord!

The entire room evacuates in seconds, leaving Buffy forcing  
an awkward smile at Sofia.

BUFFY  
Yup... It'll quieten down any  
second now.

Sofia raises an eyebrow to Buffy, before we:

**BLACK OUT.**

**END OF SHOW**