

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

"Beyonders"

by

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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - MORNING 1

The morning sun tops the trees, sending glittering rays of light dancing across the dew covered lawn. Childish banter followed quickly a collective laughter rings throughout the neighborhood as a hoard of kids run past the front lawn, with the gleeful chirping of birds in the background. There's an indubitable feeling of perfection and security in the air, declaring that all is well in the residential suburbs of Cuyahoga County.

Slowly moving in from our panoramic view of the neighborhood, we move in through the yard and toward the front door.

2 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 2

Sweeping through the hallway, we peer in on the lounge to find XANDER fast asleep with HOPE nestled protectively within his arms.

Continuing along toward the staircase, we find nothing more as we peer into the kitchen. From the view of the empty kitchen, we cut to:

3 EXT. FIELDS - EVENING 3

WILLOW is walking lazily through a vast field, ripe with tall sunflowers and exotic plants. She runs her hands through the waist high greenery as she stares into the cloudless sky.

She exhales deeply as an obvious expression of comfort takes her face. She takes several more steps before:

VOICE (O.S)
It's time, you know.

Willow abruptly stops, smiling to herself - the voice is familiar. She turns around to see TARA standing before her, dressed just as she was the day that she died and looking almost angelic as she gracefully walks to Willow, a warm smile upon her face.

WILLOW
(smiling)
I knew that it would be you.

TARA
I was getting a little bored up there, so they gave me a short vacation to see a girl about an ascension.

The two girls share a long smile.

(CONTINUED)

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WILLOW
It's really good to see you.

TARA
I know.
(beat)
I mean... I didn't mean that in an
arrogant way, more of in the
agreeing sense that I was glad to
see you too.

WILLOW
(smiling)
I know.

Willow takes Tara's hand and they begin walking into the
field as we fade to:

4 EXT. FIELDS - LATER

4

The girls are sitting underneath the only tree in sight,
hiding in the shade from the warm sun.

TARA
Wow. That is a lot of... stuff.

WILLOW
(quickly)
You're not mad, are you?

TARA
No. Of course not. It's not like I
wanted you to become a hermit
because I died. You still had your
life, and I'm glad that you were
strong enough to live it.

WILLOW
(hesitant)
You know that after you died, I
didn't think I could keep going.

TARA
I know.
(beat; almost reluctantly)
I saw.

WILLOW
What's it like?

TARA
The afterlife?

Willow nods.

(CONTINUED)

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TARA (cont'd)

Well, we all sit on clouds, playing our harps and singing 'Kum by Ya, My Lord'.

(beat; laughing)

No, it's really kind of what you'd expect... white light, feeling of complete harmony. The ride there was kind of rough, but it was worth it... especially this moment.

WILLOW

(sincerely)

I don't know how I ever survived without you.

TARA

You're the strongest person I've ever known, Willow.

(beat)

You not only survived, but defeated things that people can't even bring themselves to see in their nightmares. And it's that inner strength that's going to give you the courage to say goodbye to all your friends, and take the next step in the story.

WILLOW

I can't believe it's time already. I'm not ready to leave everyone. Xander just lost Anya and then became a father, he needs me right now. He needs all of us, and I've got to abandon him.

TARA

(understanding)

You're not abandoning him. You're going to help in protecting him and every other person in the world.

WILLOW

(beat)

So what should I do?

TARA

You should live today like it was your last... because it kinda is.

WILLOW

(forcing a smile)

I still can't believe that this is what I'm meant to do. I mean really... me, a goddess?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TARA

You've always been a goddess.
You'll just be living on a
different plane of existence.

Willow smiles boldly at Tara's declaration. After a moment, the girls move closer into one another and finally come to kiss.

Several moments pass as white light begins to build around them, eventually consuming the whole of the screen and forcing us to cut to:

5

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - WILLOW'S ROOM - MORNING

5

Willow raises her head from the pillow and quickly glances around the room before that familiar warm smile crosses her lips. She slowly rubs her fingers across them, remembering the kiss.

As she starts to get out of bed, something catches her attention.

Red lipstick is on her fingers... the same color that Tara was wearing.

Off of Willow's broad smile, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

6 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE - MORNING 6

BUFFY, ANDREW, and Xander are gathered around Hope as she sleeps peacefully upon the couch. Buffy smiles, as does Andrew, but Xander's expression is halfway between happy and dazed - like he still hasn't been able to process all that's brought him to this point.

Finally, Buffy turns away from the couch and taps Andrew on the shoulder, motioning for him to follow her.

They walk from the lounge with Xander soon to follow, looking back and checking on Hope several times before we cut to:

7 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - KITCHEN 7

Buffy plops down in a chair at the kitchen table while Andrew heads straight for the refrigerator. Xander slowly comes into the kitchen and sits down opposite Buffy at the table.

As he sighs heavily and stretches out, Xander is obviously physically exhausted.

BUFFY

Fatherhood not all they claimed it was in pre-marital sex class?

XANDER

Oh, don't get me wrong, the hood of fathers is absolutely amazing.

(yawning)

It's also entirely exhausting. I haven't slept a more than an hour at a time since she's been born. I'm always worried that she's going to choke on something, or that she's going to get a really big booger stuck in her tiny little nose and clog up her breathing.

(beat)

And even without the thought of unlikely death scenarios running through my head all hours of the day, I still don't think I could sleep after... what happened.

ANDREW

To Anya?

XANDER

(forcing a smile)

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Xander ducks his head and eyes the table at the mention of her name. Buffy immediately gives Andrew a menacing look and begins mouthing the words 'Shut up' before Willow ENTERS the room.

WILLOW

Hey, guys.

A collective 'hey' is released as she comes into the room, but none more enthusiastic than Xander's, who manages to nearly perk up upon Willow entering the room.

WILLOW (cont'd)

Where's Hope?

BUFFY

Sleeping. Couch. Sofia's still in bed.

Willow comes up from behind Xander and hugs his neck, placing her head on his right shoulder.

WILLOW

And how are you?

XANDER

Me? I'm great. I've slept a total of two hours in three days and I can't eat.

WILLOW

Things will get better.

XANDER

(apathetically)

Says who?

WILLOW

That little girl asleep on the couch.

Xander looks over to Willow and actually manages a smile.

XANDER

What would I do without you, Will?

WILLOW

(quickly)

Why? Who said that I was leaving?

XANDER

What? Nobody. It was a rhetorical question, meaning that I didn't really require an answer from you.

(beat; confused)

It was well intentioned?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

He and Buffy exchange looks of perplexity.

BUFFY
(to Willow)
Are you okay?

WILLOW
Yeah. I'm fine. I've just got to-

With that, Willow bolts for the door, leaving everyone to curiously eye each other.

XANDER
Willow did just freak out, right?

BUFFY
With a capital 'freak'.

XANDER
Good.
(off look)
Not good that she freaked, but good that I'm not seeing things again.
(beat; off look)
I saw a leprechaun, but it was only for a second!

Buffy cracks a smile, but Andrew isn't in on the joke as we cut across to:

8 INT. GILES' APARTMENT. DAY.

8

The door opens to reveal MARIE standing in the hallway, a worried smile up on her face. GILES puts on almost exactly the same smile as he sees her.

MARIE
Rupert.

GILES
Oh, Marie. Hello.

MARIE
(beat)
May I come in?

GILES
(stepping aside)
Yes, of course. Please accept my apologies. I was up virtually all night doing research. Hasn't left me the most perceptive person this morning.

Marie ENTERS the room as Giles closes the door behind her.

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GILES (cont'd)

Where's Max?

MARIE

He's out getting some supplies. I told him that while he's living off your hospitality, the least he could do is buy a few groceries now and then! So, this research - anything I can help you with?

GILES

No. I've got it under control, thank you.

MARIE

Oh come now, Rupert. I've got nothing, but time and-

GILES

(suddenly cold)

That won't be necessary.

MARIE

But-

GILES

As Head Watcher, I must insist that you respect my wishes and not allow a personal relationship to intervene with the fact that I am in charge.

MARIE

(tetchy)

My relationship with Max has no place in this conversation and, most certainly, does not affect my sense of following chain of command.

GILES

(beat; reluctantly)

I was talking about our relationship.

MARIE

Oh...

GILES

Now, was there anything I can help you with? Because if not, I really should get back to my work. I have a lot to put together ahead of my presentation to the Council next week.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MARIE

Oh, no, nothing important.
Although...

GILES

Yes?

MARIE

Can I just stay round here for a while? I needed to be somewhere else, if that makes sense. And besides which, watching you work is always good for helping me feel relaxed.

Giles hesitates, then nods and steps away from the door. He manages a warm smile - despite his attempts to stay distant, his feelings for Marie are still painfully obvious.

He heads into the kitchen, and off of Marie's guilty expression, we cut to:

9

EXT. CEMETERY - AFTERNOON

9

Willow is standing in the center of the cemetery, staring down at a headstone.

WILLOW

(waving)

Hey. It's just me again. I thought about what you said about living today as my last day on earth, and I've decided that this is how I'm going to spend it... tying up loose ends.

(beat)

I don't know if I mentioned it earlier, but I had your headstone put here. It's an exact replica of the one back home. If I had known that the Hellmouth would swallow the city, I probably would have saved it...

(sheepishly)

... and your body.

(beat; nearly tearing up)

I just didn't want there to be nothing that reminded the world that you were here.

Willow stops and wipes her eyes.

(CONTINUED)

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WILLOW (cont'd)

I put you on the opposite end of the cemetery from Kennedy, because I didn't know how you'd feel about being buried somewhere near the girl that came after you. As it turns out, though, I don't think you'd mind. And it would have saved me a long walk.

(beat)

That was a joke. I'm still not very good with those.

(tearing up again)

I just want to say that I've missed you every day for the past three years, and that your memory has been what has kept me going. And it's what makes me think that I can do this.

As she begins to cry, we fade to: Willow is standing on the opposite end of the cemetery, looking down at another headstone.

WILLOW (cont'd)

And I know I went and saw Tara first, but that doesn't mean that you're any less important to me.

(beat)

I know I haven't been out here as much as I should have been. I've been keeping really busy. I'm ascending to a higher plane!

(beat)

I know that you weren't into that kind of stuff unless it was to support me, so I'll spare you the boring details. I just wanted to tell you goodbye in case I don't get a chance to. I don't really know the rules on being a higher being and traveling, so I'm not sure that they'd let me get out and visit people.

(beat; happily)

If they do, though... hey. I swear I'll be there soon.

Off of Willow's smile, we cut to:

10

EXT. LARGE HOUSE. DAY.

10

Willow steps into frame, looking across at the large, expensive-looking home opposite her, and immediately begins looking worried.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW
Here goes nothing.

She slowly walks to the front door and rings the doorbell. After a few moments the door creaks open, and we stay on Willow as she smiles hopefully at whoever's opening it.

WILLOW (cont'd)
Hey, Mom.

We cut from Willow to:

11 INT. OZ'S ROOM - LATER

11

We find DANIEL OSBORNE throwing clothes into a bag in a chaotic room. Clothes and scattered debris line the floor as he hurries back and forth between the bed and the floor.

As he bends down to pick up another piece of clothing, however, a FLASH of light overtakes the scene. He shields his eyes and when he opens them, Willow is standing in front of him.

WILLOW
Hey.

OZ
(beat)
Whoa. You just kind of appeared out of nowhere.

WILLOW
Sorry. I'm kind of on a schedule today.

OZ
No. That's cool. I just didn't know that you could appear from nothingness, but it suits you, if that helps.
(beat)
Not to sound like I'm not happy to see you, because I am, but what are you doing here?

WILLOW
Kind of a long story. You should sit.

OZ
I was actually running out the door.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW
(bummed)
Oh. Well, I can make it the short
version.

OZ
(quickly)
I can reschedule.

Willow smiles as we dissolve to:

12

INT. OZ'S ROOM - LATER

12

Oz is sitting on the bed alongside Willow, listening
intently.

OZ
I was wondering why there was a big
hole in the ground where Sunnydale
used to be.

WILLOW
That was us.

A cell phone on Oz's bed begins ringing.

WILLOW (cont'd)
Do you need to get that?

OZ
It can wait.
(beat)
And now you're evolving into a
goddess?

WILLOW
Ascending, actually.

OZ
Five years ago, that wouldn't have
been much of a shock, but now...

WILLOW
I know.

OZ
That life just seems so far back
that it's unreal.
(beat)
I mean, I'll dust the occasional
vamp after a gig, but other than
that, nothing. I haven't even seen
the wolf in five years. Ever
since...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW

Tara?

OZ

I didn't know if you were cool with saying her name or-

WILLOW

I wasn't for a long time, but I've had time to cope. You should have seen me when I tried to destroy the world, though.

(beat)

My hair was black.

OZ

(impressed)

Really?

WILLOW

Yep. I also wore this really cool black 'karate kid' outfit.

(happily)

I was a rock star for a few days. You would have been proud.

OZ

(smiles)

I don't think I'd want to remember you any other way than you are right now.

The phone rings again as Oz shuts it off.

WILLOW

Are you sure-

OZ

(interrupting)

So you're really leaving?

WILLOW

I really am.

OZ

I wish we wouldn't have waited so long to say goodbye. There were a few times that I really could have used the friend.

WILLOW

I should have called you.

(whining)

Oz... you've got me feeling bad on my big day!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

OZ

Don't. I never called you either.
We'll call it even.

WILLOW

(beat)

Do you ever wonder-

OZ

I don't think we should go down
that road.

WILLOW

(uneasily)

Okay.

OZ

No use in bringing up the past,
right?

Willow smiles as she stands up.

OZ (cont'd)

That time?

WILLOW

Fraid so.

OZ

Look, I'm really flattered that you
would come see me, especially
today.

WILLOW

I'm just really sorry that I didn't
do it sooner.

The two hug for several moments before finally releasing one
another.

OZ

Look me up when I die.

WILLOW

(surprised)

Okay.

OZ

Maybe we'll finally have time to
catch up properly.

(beat)

Wait, should I stand back? This
isn't dangerous to stand so close
when you do your flash thing is it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

WILLOW

It's all in the concentration.

Oz closes his eyes as she kisses him on the cheek and when he opens them, she's gone.

He smiles as his cell phone rings again, and he finally answers it.

BANDMATE

(filtered through phone)

You better be in the hospital!
They're threatening to rip the
contract up without the guitarist
here! Where the hell have you
been?!

OZ

(smiling)

Talking to an angel.

From Oz's satisfied expression, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

13 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

13

Xander is sitting on the couch once more, watching Hope sleep on the couch and nearly dozing off. As his head occasionally bobs, the room is suddenly bathed in WHITE LIGHT.

Xander blinks, shakes his head and starts to wake up, just in time to see a warmly smiling Willow step into frame.

She kisses him lightly on the top of his head, and Xander grins, instantly more at ease with her around.

XANDER

Hey, you.

WILLOW

Hey. Sorry I had to dash off earlier, it's... it's a long story.

XANDER

Do we have any other kind?

WILLOW

Heh, I guess not.

Willow looks down at Hope, wrapped in a blanket and wriggling slightly in her sleep.

WILLOW (cont'd)

I wonder what she's dreaming about?

XANDER

Hopefully, her mom. It breaks my heart to think that she's never going to know her.

Xander pauses, a sudden wave of emotion starting to well up inside him, and Willow quickly sits opposite him, taking his hands in her own.

WILLOW

(softly)

Hey! Come on, Xander, focus. There'll be plenty of time to feel sad when you're old. Right now, you've got a new girl to take care of!

XANDER

I know, it's just... I never saw this coming, Will. I always thought that when Hope was born, then it'd be me, her and Anya.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER(cont'd)

For good this time. After all the false starts and breakups we had, I just knew in my heart that this time, this was the one that was going to work, no matter what.

(beat)

I just wish I knew what she meant.

WILLOW

Who?

XANDER

Anya, just before she died, she whispered 'I'm sorry' to me. I don't know what she meant by it, but it was just a few seconds after saying it that she...

(beat; deep breath)

Do you think she knew?

WILLOW

Maybe she did. I mean, she may have been all human, but she was a demon for a thousand years, that's gotta leave a few marks on the old DNA, right? Maybe she just knew it was her time?

XANDER

Yeah, maybe... So, where'd you go?

Willow sits back on the sofa, looking thoughtful.

WILLOW

Catching up with a few old friends. I went to see Oz.

XANDER

(surprised)

Really? How is he?

WILLOW

Oh, you know him, he's just... Oz. Same old. Man of few words, I had to do most of the talking.

XANDER

I used to think of it as having a limited but carefully selected vocabulary.

WILLOW

(chuckles)

Yeah, that's right...

Willow looks down at Hope again, a sad look in her eyes, and Xander picks up on it, leaning forward.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XANDER

Is everything okay?

WILLOW

(evasive)

Huh? Oh, uh, yeah, everything's fine. Just went a bit 'woah' for a second there.

XANDER

(not convinced)

Uh-huh. You know better than to test the patented Harris Lie Detector, Miss Rosenberg! Is there something you're not telling me?

Willow looks up at Xander, then sighs heavily, looking all around, trying to gather her thoughts. She sits up, her chin resting on her hands, and she opens her mouth a few times before she gets round to actually speaking.

WILLOW

Xander, I have to go.

XANDER

Oh, that's okay, I'm good with Hope here for an hour or two. I May not be all that experienced with kids, but i figure I can look after her by myself for a bit without burning the house down, and-

Willow takes one of Xander's hands, not looking at him. Xander twigs that this is something serious, and his expression shows his growing concern.

XANDER (cont'd)

Will?

WILLOW

(hesitant)

Xander, I... it's just that, it's time that I...

(sighs)

Xander, I have to go. Tara came to see me, she said it's time for me to go join the Circle.

(beat)

For good.

XANDER

The Circle? I thought you said they'd gone missing? Didn't the Caretaker kill them?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

WILLOW

No, they were just hiding. I found them again yesterday, that's where I went off to while we were still all at the hospital.

XANDER

Oh.
(penny drops)
Oh, now wait a minute-

WILLOW

They asked me to join them a long time ago, Xander, and I decided I would, and now... now, it's time for me to keep my promise.

XANDER

What? Well, tell them you can't! They've waited this long, they can wait a while longer!

Willow sits back, looking close to tears as Xander continues to react badly to the news.

XANDER (cont'd)

You can't go, not now! Willow, I can't lose you too. You're the only person I've got left!

WILLOW

That's not true, there's Buffy, and Giles, and-

XANDER

But I need you.

A tear rolls down Willow's cheek as she shuffles closer to Xander, running a hand down the side of his face.

WILLOW

I'm sorry, Xander, you know I really, really am... but I can't change things. It's time for me to ascend, I have to go and help people now. It's where I'm meant to be.

XANDER

(getting angry)

No! No, you're meant to be here! My daughter doesn't have a mother, but she's got you. That's all anyone could ask for! You can't take that away from her - from me!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

WILLOW

I can't, I have to go, I have to-

XANDER

What? You have to do what?

Xander takes Willow's hands, staring deep into her eyes.

XANDER (cont'd)

Willow, if you're as powerful as people keep saying you are, if you really are on the edge of becoming a Goddess at last... then you know you've got the power to change this.

WILLOW

No, I can't do that, I can't change what's been destined, it'd be-

XANDER

It'd be what? Wrong? Bad? Are you trying to say that going and joining the Circle is more important to you than me and Hope?

Willow stands, obviously very close to breaking down, pacing away from Xander.

After a beat, he sighs, stands and goes to her, wrapping his arms round her.

XANDER (cont'd)

I'm sorry.

WILLOW

It's okay, I know, you must hate me, I'm being-

XANDER

Ssh.

(kisses top of her head)

It's okay.

They stay there for a few moments, not saying a word, Xander's arms holding her tightly.

XANDER (cont'd)

When do you have to go?

WILLOW

Today.

Xander closes his eyes, trying to keep his emotions in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

XANDER

Right now?

WILLOW

No, I've got the day, that's why I
was gone this morning.

She steps away from him, looking up at him with a tearful
smile.

WILLOW (cont'd)

Before Oz, I went to see Tara and
Kennedy's graves again. I wanted to
make sure I said all my goodbyes.

Hope GURGLES as she wakes up, and Xander looks round. Willow
smiles at him as he looks back at her.

WILLOW (cont'd)

See? You've got someone important
to look after now. And so do I.

She prods him gently in the chest.

WILLOW (cont'd)

You think just because I'm
ascending, I won't be keeping an
eye on you?

XANDER

(smiles)

I guess not.

WILLOW

They way I see it, you've only made
it this far because somebody's been
up there, watching out for you -
and now, it's my turn.

Xander grins and hugs her tightly again.

XANDER

Who else do you need to go and see?

Xander releases her and steps back, both having to pause to
wipe tears away from their eyes.

WILLOW

I think it's just Buffy and Giles.
Are they both out?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

XANDER

Buffy took Sofia out, said she wanted to go and chase up some leads, find out why it's been so quiet round here lately. Giles is back at his place still.

WILLOW

Okay. I can wait.

Willow looks down at Hope again, crouching down and tracing a finger tenderly across her little head.

Xander watches her for a moment, the smile fading from his face.

XANDER

Don't go.

WILLOW

(sighs)

Xander...

XANDER

Please don't go.

Willow looks up at him, and the look in his eyes makes her heart break. She can't find any words to say to him, so the two just share a long look at each other.

We cut away from them to:

14

INT. THE DIVE. DAY.

14

Buffy strolls into Tammazel's demon bar, the place now in much better shape than when she last saw it. SOFIA follows her in, the young Slayer trying to look tough as she eyes up the patrons inside.

The blaring heavy metal music and demonic clientele lurking in the shadows are still present and correct, but the bare walls and half-built furniture is now all in place - vibrant fresco paintings adorn the walls and ceilings, and the tables, booths and chairs have an intriguing organic look to them. Tammazel's clearly been hard at work!

As Buffy approaches the bar, pausing to soak up the new environment, she spots TAMMAZEL herself, the tall, blueskinned demon hard at work mixing up two cocktails at once.

When she sees Buffy approaching, her concentration slips for a second and she drops both cocktail shakers, which crash to the floor below.

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CONTINUED:

TAMMAZEL
(hostile)
You!!

BUFFY
None other.

TAMAMZEL
Don't you even start to think about
wrecking this place, Slayer, I've
been sweating blood the past three
months to get things just how I
want them!

BUFFY
(looking round)
Actually... it looks pretty good!

TAMMAZEL
(blinks)
Huh?

Buffy pulls up a bar stool and sits. Some demons at the bar
start to shuffle away from her, and Sofia pulls up a seat
next to her. Tammazel eyes Sofia warily.

TAMMAZEL (cont'd)
Who's the kid?

BUFFY
She's with me. I mean it about the
new look, though. I like the
paintings on the wall, what are
they?

Tammazel eyes Buffy suspiciously, then scoops up the stray
cocktail shakers before she starts talking again.

TAMMAZEL
Landscapes of my home dimension. I
thought they'd brighten this room
up.

BUFFY
They do. The Giger thing you've got
going on with the furniture really
works, too.

TAMMAZEL
(suspicious)
Alright, Slayer, what do you want?

BUFFY
(innocently)
Me?
(turns to Sofia)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY(cont'd)

Does it look like we want something?

SOFIA

(playing along)

Absolutely not, we're just two girls here to see the sights, aren't we, Buffy?

BUFFY

Absolutely.

TAMMAZEL

(chuckles)

Right, and I'm in line to be the next President. What do you two really want here?

BUFFY

What you serve best. And it's not the drinks.

TAMMAZEL

Looking for some information?

SOFIA

Buffy told me you have a knack of knowing what needs to be known around here, and with things being so quiet since they took care of that Caretaker chap I've heard so much about-

TAMMAZEL

(interrupts)

You figured you'd come rough up Tammazel and see what she knows, eh?

BUFFY

Did we mention roughing?

SOFIA

I certainly didn't use the phrase 'rough up' at all.

The girls smile innocently back at Tammazel, who GROWLS quietly, then looks up and down the bar, making sure no-one is listening in before she leans forward.

TAMMAZEL

You're right, it has been quiet round here recently. But I did see someone I wasn't expecting in here the other day.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BUFFY
Really? Who?

TAMMAZEL
(leans back)
Oh, no, that's not how this works,
Slayer.
(beat)
Slayers, even. You want to know
more, you have to do a little
something for me.

BUFFY
(sighs)
Alright, what is it?

TAMMAZEL
Simple little job. Killing a demon
who's been hassling some of my
regulars. I think we can both agree
it's something you can handle.

BUFFY
And if we kill this thing, you'll
tell us more.

TAMMAZEL
(crosses heart)
Demon's honour.

Buffy raises an eyebrow at Tammazel, then turns to Sofia.

BUFFY
What do you say, fancy going
hunting?

SOFIA
(smiles)
I'd love to.

BUFFY
(to Tammazel)
Alright. Point us at the problem.

Tammazel grins, and off that smug look we cut to:

15 INT. CHARLESTON & SMITHE - KANE'S OFFICE. DAY. 15

IRWIN KANE sits behind his wide, executive desk, flipping
through the morning's papers when his phone RINGS.

KANE
(answering it)
Hello?
(beat; frowns)
A call from where?
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KANE(cont'd)

(listens)

Alright, put it through.

(beat)

Irwin Kane.

We can hear the other end of the conversation - whoever is talking to Kane is having to shout over a HOWLING wind, almost as if they were in a small phone booth in the middle of a hurricane!

VOICE

(filtered; through phone)

Kane!! You said you'd get me out of here, where the hell are you?!!

KANE

(smiles)

Ah, I was wondering when I'd be hearing from you again.

VOICE

Don't play games with me, Irwin! We had a deal, remember?

KANE

Don't worry, I haven't forgotten. Be patient, I'll come and find you when the time comes.

VOICE

(incredulous)

'When the time comes'?!? How about right now, damn it!

KANE

Patience, all things come to those who wait.

Kane is already leaning forward, ready to hang the phone up.

VOICE

Kane... Kane! Don't you leave me here another second! Kane!!

Kane hangs up, chuckles to himself, and then gets back to reading his papers, and from that, we:

BLACK OUT:**END OF ACT TWO**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

16

INT. THE DIVE. NIGHT.

16

It's later in the evening now, and Tammazel's bar is more lively, the tables and booths full of laughing and joking humans, demons and the odd vampire. The front doors suddenly CRASH open, and everyone stops what they're doing and looks round.

Buffy and Sofia walk in, both covered with cuts and bruises, dragging the very dead body of a huge demon in after them, each girl taking an arm.

The demon, about six foot six with two huge, curled horns sticking out from its red-skinned head, has the Scythe protruding from its chest. It's very dead.

Buffy drops her arm, and the bar falls absolutely silent as the patrons look from the dead demon, to Buffy and Sofia, and back.

Over by the bar, Tammazel allows herself a satisfied grin.

BUFFY

(to room)

Bar's closed. Go home.

Without needing another prompt, the demons inside quickly gather up their things and hurry out through the doors, and in seconds the bar is deserted except for Tammazel and the two Slayers.

Buffy marches up to the door, as Sofia plants one foot on the demon's chest in the background, heaving at the Scythe and trying to remove it.

BUFFY (cont'd)

There you go. One dead demon.

TAMMAZEL

(nods)

I'm impressed. I was hoping he'd at least take an arm off you, give me a little something extra.

BUFFY

(not amused)

Har har. Now start talking.
Who did you see in here that you thought was strange?

Tammazel takes a moment to carefully wipe clean a beer glass, then replaces it in the overhead racks and looks back at Buffy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TAMMAZEL

Your boss, Irwin Kane.

BUFFY

(disbelief)

What?

TAMMAZEL

(nods)

He's started coming in here a lot.
I see him talking to all kinds of
people - mercenaries, usually.
Demon's who'll sell their claws to
whoever'll pay them the most.

BUFFY

But...

TAMMAZEL

Yeah, Kane's already got his own
little army, with tanks and guns
and everything. I know.

BUFFY

You do?

TAMMAZEL

Wealthy businessman who likes to
cruise round in armoured cars,
blasting demons for fun? It's the
sort of thing that gets you
noticed.

Sofia joins Buffy at the bar, the Scythe finally free from
the demon. She drops it onto the bar, and Tammazel takes a
beat to stare at its blood-stained but still extremely sharp
edge.

TAMMAZEL (cont'd)

So what you should be asking
yourself is 'why would a man who
has that kind of firepower be
looking to hire a bunch of lowlife
demons, and what's he going to do
with it all anyway?'

Buffy frowns, trying to process this new information.

SOFIA

Can I get a drink?

(off dead demon)

We're quite thirsty after getting
rid of that big old thing for you.

TAMMAZEL

Are you twenty-one?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SOFIA
 (rolls eyes)
 I just want some ice water.

Tammazel reaches behind her and fills a glass with cold water, but as she goes to hand it to Sofia, Buffy snatches it away, drains it in one gulp and then scoops up the scythe.

BUFFY
 Come on. We need to go.

SOFIA
 But what about-

BUFFY
 It's Tammazel's mess now. Let's get moving.

Buffy heads towards the doors, and after a beat Sofia hops off her bar stool and follows.

As Tammazel looks down at the large and very messy body of the dead demon, lying in the middle of her once clean floor, she sighs and we cut to:

17 INT. GILES' APARTMENT. NIGHT.

17

Marie is fast asleep in one of the chairs in the small apartment's front room, and as she dozes Giles steps into frame, gently laying a blanket across her.

As he returns to his chair, he spends a moment watching Marie sleep, a smile on his features before the apartment door opens, and MAX steps inside.

Giles stands, not looking pleased as the new arrival lays two brown paper grocery bags down on the ground.

GILES
 Where on earth have you been? Marie told me you went out shopping hours ago - the last time I checked, it didn't take four hours to walk down to the store and back!

MAX
 I'm sorry, Rupert, I just thought I'd take the opportunity to have a little stroll before I bought any-

GILES
 (annoyed)
 'A little stroll'? You're under house arrest, Max, you're not on bloody holiday!
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GILES(cont'd)

Why I let you leave my sight at all continues to escape me, but if you continue to flaunt the-

MAX

Rupert, calm down. Marie was with me all last night, up until she came over here earlier. I'm under a strict curfew.

Giles falls quiet, staring coldly at Max as he walks over to the sleeping Marie and kisses her once on the forehead. Marie stirs but doesn't wake up, and Max smiles down at her.

MAX (cont'd)

She's quite something, isn't she?

GILES

(cold)

Quite. Max, I have a lot of work to do, and I don't want to disturb Marie, so I suggest you-

MAX

I understand, I'll stay in my room like a good little boy.

With a smirk, Max heads towards the spare room he's been sleeping in, closing the door behind him.

Giles sits back down, clearly wound up by Max's presence, so lost in his thoughts that he doesn't notice the soft glow of WHITE LIGHT that heralds Willow's arrival. She looks across to Giles, who still hasn't seen her.

WILLOW

Ahem.

Startled, Giles jumps to his feet - then sighs as he sees Willow, who heads over to him with a grin.

GILES

I must say, Willow, I'm far from comfortable with this new method of transport you've been using.

WILLOW

You'll get used to it.

Willow pauses as she realises the implications of her last remark - Giles won't have time to get used to it if Willow's ascending!

She sits on the sofa, her expression suddenly very sombre, and as Giles sees the change in her he sits as well.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GILES

Is everything alright, Willow? You look rather-

WILLOW

(quickly)

Giles, I'm leaving.

GILES

(beat)

I'm sorry?

WILLOW

Sorry. I thought if I just came out and said it, it'd be easier to get started, when I was talking to Xander, I didn't know how to start, and we just-

GILES

I'm sorry, you've lost me. Leaving where?

WILLOW

It's the Circle, Giles. They're not dead, I found them again, they'd been hiding out from the Caretaker, and... and they sent somebody to tell me it was time.

GILES

Time for what?

WILLOW

Time for me to join them. To ascend.

Giles leans back in his chair, his hand over his mouth. He stares intently back at Willow, trying to figure out what he should say to her.

WILLOW

(nervous)

Um, so I just came to say goodbye, because, you know, pretty soon I'll be moving on upstairs, I guess, so-

GILES

(calm)

It won't be the same without you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

WILLOW

(beat)

Well, I won't really be gone, I mean, I'll still be able to keep an eye on everyone, and I'm pretty sure they'll let me visit, so it's not like I'm gone for good!

GILES

(sincerely)

I mean that, Willow. We both knew this day was coming, ever since the Circle first made contact with you a year ago.

Giles sits forward, smiling at last as he takes Willow's hands.

GILES (cont'd)

I should know more than anyone how powerful you can be, I had the rare opportunity to find out first hand, remember?

WILLOW

Yeah, kinda hard to forget the whole 'Dark Willow' thing. Did I ever say sorry enough times for that?

GILES

I saw you emerge from the darkest, most desperate time of your life and return to the light, Willow. When everyone had given up on you, I always knew in my heart you'd recover, that you'd be able to rejoin us and continue to help us, and there's never been a day when I've doubted you.

Willow smiles, and Giles reaches forward to hug her.

WILLOW

(smiles; tearful)

Okay, uh, wasn't expecting that! Xander didn't take it too well, but I can't blame him for that.

Giles sits back in his chair, his expression serious again.

GILES

I'll admit, the timing of events could be better.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

Willow sighs and leans forward, running her hands through her hair.

WILLOW

I don't know what to do with him,
Giles. I mean, I promised myself
I'd do this when the time came, no
matter what, but now...

GILES

But now, you don't want to go.

Willow shakes her head, and Giles nods sagely.

GILES (cont'd)

It's perfectly understandable. You
feel as though you're leaving us
all when he needs you the most, but
no matter what he may say in anger,
I'm positive Xander would never
want to consciously stand in your
way.

WILLOW

You think so?

GILES

He's only ever wanted what's best
for you. Xander loves you like a
sister, he's always done anything
for you, and I think in his heart
he'll see that this doesn't mean
goodbye forever.

Willow smiles hopefully.

GILES (cont'd)

Have you spoken to Buffy?

WILLOW

Not yet, she's out with Sofia.

GILES

Well then, I have a suggestion.
Let's drive over to Buffy's and
wait for her together. That way,
you can say goodbye to me, Xander
and Buffy all at the same time.
It's only fitting.

WILLOW

(smiles)

That sounds great. But I can just,
you know, 'poof!' And have us over
there in-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

GILES

(quickly)

Impressive as that new talent of yours is, I'd personally feel safer just driving.

WILLOW

(chuckles)

Okay, whatever you say.

(glances at Marie)

Will she be okay?

GILES

(darkly)

Max is here. I'm sure Marie will be quite well looked after.

Giles stands and heads for his jacket, and Willow senses Giles' mood rapidly turning for the worse, so she jumps up and follows him, as we cut to:

18

INT. JACKSON RESIDENCE - KITCHEN. NIGHT.

18

Inside the dark and empty kitchen of Jackson's home, nothing stirs as moonlight filters gently in through the kitchen window.

The silence is rudely disturbed as the back door CREAKS open, and after a moment, SHANNA creeps slowly into the kitchen trying to make as little noise as possible.

She pads across the kitchen, heading for the stairs, but halfway across the room she stumbles and bumps into some dishes piled up next to the sink, which CLATTER loudly, the sound echoing through the otherwise silent house.

Shanna mutters a curse, waits a few moments and then starts walking again, but she's startled by:

JACKSON (O.S.)

Shanna? Is that you?

She freezes and spins round - and JACKSON is standing in the doorway, dressed for bed and rubbing his eyes blearily. The kitchen light is still off.

SHANNA

Uh, yeah, yeah, it's me.

JACKSON

Where did you go?

SHANNA

(evasive)

Huh? Oh, you know, just for a walk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

JACKSON
(suspicious)
A 'walk'? It's kinda past your
bedtime, isn't it?

SHANNA
(changing subject)
How come you're up, anyway? And how
did you get down here so fast?

JACKSON
Huh? Oh, I couldn't sleep so I was
on the couch, trying to watch some
TV. No matter what I do, I keep
feeling like it's thirty degrees in
here!

SHANNA
Huh. Okay, well, I'm just gonna fix
myself a drink and then head
upstairs, okay?

Jackson nods and heads back into the front room.

Shanna heads over to the fridge, grabs a can of soda from
inside and darts furtively out, heading upstairs.

19 INT. JACKSON RESIDENCE - SPARE ROOM. NIGHT. 19

Shanna flops down on the end of the bed and switches the
bedside lamp on. Despite the dim light that the small lamp
throws on, we can see why Shanna was so eager to stay in the
dark downstairs - she's got a nasty wound on her forearm,
with other cuts and scratches leading all up the one side of
her body.

She presses a towel to the wound, wincing at the pain as it
stings, before lifting her shirt a little to examine the
damage. Whatever she got into a fight with, it looks like she
only just came off best.

Shanna lies down on her bed, staring up at the ceiling for a
few moments, obviously running through the events that left
her like this, before she reaches out for the bedside lamp,
and as she clicks it off, we cut to:

20 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE. NIGHT. 20

The front door opens to reveal a tired-looking Buffy and
Sofia, who file in and close the door behind them.

Buffy doesn't notice Giles, Andrew, Xander and Willow all
sitting in the front room waiting for her, at least not at
first. Sofia spots everyone and blinks, surprised.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SOFIA

Oh! Hello, what are you all doing up?

BUFFY

Huh?

Buffy scans the room, raising an eyebrow as the others all look back at her.

BUFFY (cont'd)

(suspicious)

Alright, what's going on? I didn't get to my birthday and forget it, did I?

GILES

No, no, it's nothing like that.

XANDER

Willow has something she needs to say to you. Well, to all of us, really, but we wanted you to be here when she did.

Very suspicious by now, Buffy shrugs off her coat, gingerly testing one arm, still injured from Tammazel's dirty work earlier, before making her way round to the sofa.

She and Sofia sit next to each other, looking expectantly at the others.

BUFFY

Well?

ANDREW

Um...

XANDER

See, the thing is...

GILES

It's, ah, rather complicated, so maybe-

WILLOW

(interrupts)

I'm leaving, Buffy.

BUFFY

(blinks)

Huh?

Buffy looks to the others for some kind of explanation, but when none is forthcoming she looks back to Willow, who looks almost embarrassed as she smiles hopefully back at Buffy.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Buffy glances at Sofia, who shakes her head - she doesn't know what's going on either. Buffy looks back at Willow.

BUFFY (cont'd)
Is this a long story?

WILLOW
Uh, I guess it is.

Buffy slumps back on the sofa, exhausted.

BUFFY
Alright, let's get this over with.

As Willow tries to think of the best way to start, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

21 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE. NIGHT.

21

Back with Buffy as she stares at Willow. Willow has obviously just finished her long story, and Buffy's dazed expression tells us it was a pretty enlightening one!

The others watch Buffy as she starts to get a reply together at last, Xander holding baby Hope tightly in his arms.

BUFFY

So... if I get this right...

WILLOW

Yeah?

BUFFY

All that time we spent looking for the Circle, they weren't actually dead, they were just hiding.

WILLOW

Yeah, up in some caves they showed me.

BUFFY

And now that the Caretaker's gone and they're safe, they want you to ascend and join them, like you told me you wanted to last year?

WILLOW

Uh-huh!

BUFFY

And... And you've spent all day telling everyone goodbye... and now you're going?

Willow nods, and Buffy blinks, trying to take it all in. Willow's face drops, and she crouches before Buffy.

WILLOW

Buffy, I'm sorry, I should have told you all earlier, but... I didn't want to miss anyone out. I figured if I saw everyone but you guys first, then I could spend more time with you at the end.

BUFFY

Uh, yeah...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW

You're not mad at me, are you?

BUFFY

What? Oh, no, it's just...

(shakes head)

I found out something else tonight
that's giving me bad Slayer Sense
vibes, and it's driving me crazy
trying to work out why!

GILES

What was it?

BUFFY

It was something about Kane, it
seems that he's been...

Buffy looks at Willow, and with a smile shakes her head,
dismissing the subject.

BUFFY (cont'd)

Never mind.

(to Willow)

We have more important things to
talk about.

Buffy hugs Willow warmly, chuckling as she starts to get
tearful.

BUFFY (cont'd)

Oh... now look!

Sofia hands Buffy a tissue, then discretely makes her way
into the kitchen, sensing that this is a family moment and
she should leave the others to it.

Willow stands, facing the assembled gang as Buffy dries her
eyes, blowing her nose loudly.

WILLOW

Okay, uh, I've been trying to
rehearse some big' so long, and
thanks for all the fish' speech all
day, but I kept getting stuck after
the first line.

She stops. There's a beat before Xander speaks up.

XANDER

So... was that as far as you got?

Willow nods, wringing her hands.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WILLOW

I'm sorry, I'm no good with
goodbyes, I just-

ANDREW

Um, can I make a suggestion?

Willow motions for Andrew to carry on.

ANDREW (cont'd)

Okay. Uh, picture the last scenes
of 'Return Of The King.' You know,
the big goodbye sequence that goes
on for far longer than it should,
even though it lasted for way
longer in the books, but still,
even with artistic licence they
could have tried to cut it do-

GILES

(interrupts)

The point, Andrew. If you'd be so
kind.

ANDREW

Okay, yeah. So, um, just think of
this as the last scene in your own
film. But it's not the last film,
because, you know, you're going to
go off to do bigger, better things,
so it's probably more like the
middle film of a trilogy, you know,
where you set up things for the
last installment.

Willow blinks - not following him at all.

ANDREW (cont'd)

What I mean is, if they were making
a film about you, saying goodbye to
us now, how would you want it to
sound?

Willow thinks, then starts to smile, catching up.

WILLOW

Okay, I think I've got it.

Buffy stands, so that she's facing Willow alongside Xander,
Giles and Andrew.

WILLOW (cont'd)

Right. Buffy. Buff, you've been my
number one friend since the day we
met.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Xander coughs, and Willow rolls her eyes.

WILLOW (cont'd)
Number one girl friend.

Xander nods, satisfied.

WILLOW (cont'd)
You always looked out for me, let me and Xander help you out when you didn't know anyone, back when you first came to Sunnydale and you just had this big old responsibility hanging over you. I can't count how many times you saved me from a vampire, killed a demon before it could get to me, dragged me out of danger or just generally saved my skin! Without you, I'd be dead a lot of times over. We all would.

Buffy smiles, and Willow takes her hand.

WILLOW (cont'd)
You're my her, Buffy. You always will be, no matter what I'm supposed to be changing into now, or what kinds of powers I end up getting when I'm on the other side. I just hope that other people can learn as much as I did from you about what it takes to be a hero.

Willow glances over to Sofia, who's watching from the kitchen doorway, and nods to her.

WILLOW (cont'd)
(off Sofia)
Looks like she's your new student now, you take care of her!

BUFFY
I will.

Willow turns her attention to Xander.

WILLOW
Alexander LaVelle Harris. My best boy friend since the first day we met. The first guy I ever really loved - in fact, one of only two guys I think I've ever loved!

XANDER
Exclusive membership. Works for me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

WILLOW

You've been the big brother I never had my whole life. If I didn't have you to keep pulling me up when I was down, giving me some kind of reason to keep on fighting the bad guys, and to always be able to make me laugh, no matter what was going on, then I don't think I'd be here right now.

Xander is now starting to get quite emotional, but he's hiding it well.

XANDER

(smiles)

What can I say? Somebody's got to look out for you!

WILLOW

And now I've got to look after you! It's a tough job, but I guess somebody's got to do it...

Willow looks down at baby Hope and tickles her chest. Hope squeals happily, and Willow beams at her.

WILLOW (cont'd)

And as for you, little Miss Harris, you get your very own fairy godmother! Bet you that's gonna be something to tell the kids at kindergarten, huh?

XANDER

Kindergarten? Oh no. If you think she's leaving my sight until she turns twenty-one, then you are very much mistaken.

The gang manage a laugh, trying to keep their spirits up. Willow leans forward and kisses Hope on the forehead - and there's the tiniest glitter of light as her lips connect.

WILLOW

She's going to grow up to be somebody really special, Xander. You make sure you take good care of her, because one day she'll do the same for you.

Willow turns to Giles.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

WILLOW (cont'd)

Giles, you've been the closest thing any of us have had to a dad for the past nine years. Gosh knows, my own mom and dad stopped worrying about me when I went to college, so I've got you to thank for the way I turned out.

GILES

(warm)

I was just doing what came naturally.

WILLOW

Yeah, well, you saved my life, mister. Without you, I don't want to think about how I could have ended up.

(beat; grins)

You remember all that stuff I said to you earlier?

Giles nods.

WILLOW (cont'd)

Yeah, all that, again.

Giles chuckles and reaches out to hug Willow, before she turns to Andrew, who manages a nervous smile.

ANDREW

Um, I know I'm not really part of the gang, so if you just wanna skip this bit, then I can-

Willow hugs Andrew, interrupting him. He stands stock still for a moment, then allows himself to relax a little, going so far as to pat Willow lightly on the back.

WILLOW

Andrew. Where do I start with you?

ANDREW

Um, if we could miss out the bit where you tried to kill me, that'd be great...

WILLOW

(matter-of-fact)

Oh, Andrew. You know you kind of deserved it back then.

Andrew freezes, and Willow laughs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

WILLOW (cont'd)

But since then, you've come a long way. Whether you believe it or not, you're a hero now. You've helped save the world, you fought side by side with us against the bad guys, and no matter what you think about yourself, that counts for something in my book.

Andrew manages a smile, and Willow takes a few steps back from them all. She closes her eyes and sighs, taking a deep breath with a broad smile.

BUFFY

Willow?

WILLOW

I can feel it... it's almost time, guys.

She opens her eyes and looks at them - and the gang are all startled as Willow starts to GLOW with a pure white light.

Willow looks down at herself, surprised, as a beam of light seems to shine down on her from out of nowhere

WILLOW (cont'd)

(impressed)

Huh! Check me out...

XANDER

Willow...

Willow looks across - Xander has a sudden look of fear in his eyes, but as he goes to speak again, she reaches out and places one finger on his lips to stop him, her entire body now swathed in glittering white light.

WILLOW

Ssh. It's okay. I know. I've always known.

(smiles)

And I do too.

Xander doesn't know how to answer, but as the glow around Willow starts to intensify, he and the others have to shield their eyes.

WILLOW (cont'd)

Buffy!

BUFFY

What?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

WILLOW

Tell Jackson... tell Jackson I'll
figure it out, okay?

BUFFY

Figure what out?

Willow starts to answer, but as the light surrounding her gets even brighter, Buffy and the others have to look away.

WILLOW

Okay, cover your eyes, guys, this
may get a little-

There's a loud SWOOSH as a gust of wind blows across the room, rattling the furniture and making everyone take a step back.

We stay looking at Buffy and the others as the white light starts to fade. Xander is the first to lower his arm, his spirits plummeting as he sees that Willow is gone.

XANDER

(softly)

Will?

Buffy lays a hand on his shoulder, close to tears now.

BUFFY

She's gone, Xander. She's got to go
keep an eye on us all now.

Buffy bursts into tears, and Xander instinctively throws an arm around her, still staring at the spot where Willow disappeared.

Giles is emotional now too, and Sofia hurries over to hug him, everyone in the room now either in tears or on the verge of tears.

XANDER

I just hope it's worth it... I just
hope wherever she's gone, whatever
she's doing... I hope it was worth
it.

Xander is the first to turn away, leading Buffy away as Sofia, Andrew and Giles also all start to move away, Giles rubbing his eyes.

As the gang all head off screen, we dissolve to:

22

INT. CLEVELAND PD - GROUND FLOOR. NIGHT.

22

We're inside the police station at the end of a shift, with just a handful of uniformed officers milling around.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

As the departing shift says its goodbyes, we pan across to an unwatched side door as it creaks open, and Irwin Kane steps into the station.

He tucks a small electronic gadget back into his pocket as he pulls the door shut, and it locks behind him. Checking that no-one is around, he heads off screen.

23

INT. CLEVELAND PD - BASEMENT. NIGHT.

23

A door opens and Kane steps into the basement level of the police station, looking down a long corridor filled with heating pipes and wiring.

Still checking around to make sure no-one can see him, Kane heads down the corridor, pausing at a locked door halfway down.

Taking the small gizmo from his pocket, he holds it over the lock and presses a button on its surface.

A green light flashes on the box, and with a CLICK, the door opens. Kane steps through.

24

INT. CLEVELAND PD - BASEMENT ROOM. NIGHT.

24

Kane enters a familiar-looking room in the station, the tiled floor looking like something exploded beneath it, with handfuls of dirt pushing up through the floor.

This is where Willow condemned Jerekov to the Hellmouth after their fight, and Kane walks out into the centre of the large, square room, looking down at the floor as it checking for something.

When he's in the dead centre of the room, he crouches down, pressing a hand to the floor. Then, he grins.

KANE

There you are...

Kane takes a few steps back, then calls out some words with a loud, authoritative voice.

KANE (cont'd)

Grash kosa zuul gorgo, hojo kaiju
nash helper!

Quietly at first, and then increasing in volume, the whole room starts to SHAKE and RUMBLE, the tiles beneath Kane's feet rattling and popping loose, some skidding across the room and clattering against the walls.

Kane takes a few more steps back as something large starts to literally force its way through the floor, dislodging large amounts of dirt and soil, as well as chunks of concrete foundation blocks.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Within moments, the CLEVELAND HELLMOUTH has made a reappearance, bursting through the floor of the police station, its elaborate silver design catching the limited light overhead.

Kane waits for a beat, then with a series of GRINDING sounds, the opening of the Hellmouth starts to fold away, quickly revealing a simple, inelegant hole in the ground.

Distant shouts and noise can be heard from within the hole, but loudest is the sound of running feet - a single pair of footsteps, getting louder.

Kane glances over his shoulder, then back at the Hellmouth as the footsteps get closer - whoever's approaching is almost here!

With a YELL of freedom, the rogue warlock JEREKOV leaps from the Hellmouth, crashing to the floor, panting for breath. Kane smirks, and looks over to the Hellmouth again as it starts to close up, the silver metal seal locking back into place.

With another series of RUMBLES, the Hellmouth tunnels its way back down into the ground, the dislodged floor tiles falling roughly back into place, just about covering the entrance up as the rumbling dies down.

Kane crouches by the shaking form of Jerekov, laying a hand on his shoulder. Jerekov is still tall and well built, but his long hair has grey streaks in it, and his face is covered with scars and scratches that weren't there last time we saw him.

KANE (cont'd)

There, see? I told you I'd get you out.

JEREKOV

(breathless)

You... took... your time!

KANE

Be sensible for a moment, Jerekov! I'm a respectable businessman, I can't just sneak away whenever people want to drag their sorry asses back out of Hellmouths! It's your own damn fault for letting that witch put you down there in the first place.

Kane stands and steps towards the door, as Jerekov slowly pushes himself into a sitting position.

JEREKOV

The... witch... where... is she?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

KANE

(grins)

She's out of the way. And my
insider now has access to all the
information I need.

Kane offers a hand, and Jerekov gratefully accepts it. Kane
pulls the warlock to his feet, dusting his filthy clothes
down.

KANE (cont'd)

Look at you... You're a mess! You
spend a few weeks down there and
you really let yourself go, don't
you?

JEREKOV

(still dazed)

I had to fight... to survive! They
don't take kindly... to my kind,
not down there.

KANE

Well, maybe you just made your
introductions all wrong.

Kane grabs Jerekov by the shoulders, looking into his eyes
with a mischievous grin on his face.

KANE (cont'd)

When we open that thing for good,
things are going to be a lot
different!

Jerekov tries to look enthusiastic, but Kane concedes that
it's a losing battle. He leads Jerekov towards the door.

KANE (cont'd)

Come on. Let's get you back to
base, get you cleaned up and ready
to get back to work. We have a lot
of things to get ready before we
come back down here!

Jerekov pauses as Kane opens the door to the room, checking
that the corridor outside is empty.

JEREKOV

What... what about the Slayer?

Kane looks back round at Jerekov, a wicked grin creeping
across his face.

KANE

You leave her to me. The Slayer's
not going to know what hit her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Kane starts to LAUGH, and as Jerekov finally manages a smile,
we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW