

Buffy The Vampire Slayer

Season 8

Episode 3

"Me Time"

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

BUFFY and WILLOW are sitting on a blanket in the graveyard. Buffy's playing with a stake in her hands.

BUFFY

I don't know why. I just never liked it.

WILLOW

How can you not love that movie?

BUFFY

I just said I didn't know why, so how would I know how?

WILLOW

But there's singing and dancing, and a cute dog and everything.

BUFFY

The bald guy always kinda freaked me out.

WILLOW

Daddy Warbucks?

BUFFY

Yeah. He was always so mean.

WILLOW

But he came around. He's like the Grinch. You know, with the heart growing three sizes.

BUFFY

Don't get me started on the Grinch. That's one fur ball that I'd have slayed the second I saw him.

WILLOW

Okay. Fine. You don't like Daddy Warbucks. So what about the rest of the movie? All the orphan girls singing and dancing. And- oh- "We love you Miss Hannigan." I love that part.

BUFFY

Why?

WILLOW

I'm not quite sure. It's always just struck a cord with me.

BUFFY

You're very strange sometimes.

WILLOW

C'mon. We could rent the movie and have popcorn. You know Xander could use the distraction. He's been scared to leave the house for the last week.

Buffy thinks about it for a second.

BUFFY

Fine, but we're renting **The Breakfast Club** too.

Willow smiles. She stands up.

WILLOW

Come on.

BUFFY

I'm coming.

Buffy stands up and grabs the blanket. The girls start to walk out of the cemetery.

WILLOW

You know, I never got why they called it the Breakfast Club. Did they even eat breakfast there?

BUFFY

It's one of life's big mysteries.

WILLOW

Ah.

(beat)

You know who always freaked me out in that movie?

BUFFY

The mean teacher guy?

WILLOW

Nope.

BUFFY

The grunge guy who was ahead of his time?

WILLOW

Nuh-uh.

BUFFY
 Okay, I give up. Who?

WILLOW
 Anthony Michael-Hall's character.

BUFFY
 The geek?

WILLOW
 Yup.

BUFFY
 Why would you be freaked out by that
 guy?

WILLOW
 I'm not exactly sure. Just creeps me
 out.

BUFFY
 Weird.
 (beat)
 You know what I'm wondering?

WILLOW
 What?

BUFFY
 Why were we sitting in the cemetery?
 Have we even seen a vampire since we
 moved here?

Both of them contemplate that question as they walk off.

As they leave, we PUSH IN on the shadows behind them. From
 the shadows, a HOODED FIGURE (not Bringer-y) steps out and
 begins to follow them.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. MOVIE STORE - NIGHT

DAWN and RYAN are standing behind the counter. Ryan is building a house out of DVD cases. Dawn is staring at the door.

DAWN

I get paid by the hour, right? This isn't a commission gig?

RYAN

Right.

DAWN

Good. In that case, I don't really care that there hasn't been a customer in here all night.

RYAN

We go through slumps. In a couple weeks, we might have a run on movie rentals. And when winter comes, people are gonna want to stay inside.

DAWN

Until then, what are we supposed to do to pass the time?

RYAN

Well...

Ryan puts the finishing touches on his house. He smiles and stands back.

RYAN (CONT'D)

There's always the exciting option of building things out of DVD cases. Oh, and sometimes, I use the cases like dominos and set them up all over the store.

He really seems interested in those things. Dawn tries not to be too sarcastic when she replies.

DAWN

That sounds like... fun.

Dawn walks out from behind the counter. She wanders around the store.

RYAN

So has Kirsty given you the speech about not standing behind the counter?

DAWN

Speech?

RYAN

You know. "Be approachable", blah
blah blah.

DAWN

I haven't gotten that one yet, but
she did give me a nice sit-down talk
about the evils of gas powered cars.

RYAN

Ouch. What did you say back?

DAWN

I just tried to smile and nod. I'm
really not into the political thing.

RYAN

She's like a caged lion. It's best
not to provoke her. The last guy
that worked here always got into
debates with her.

His story ends there. Dawn is curious.

DAWN

What happened to him?

RYAN

Not sure. She told him about this
cool place to hike in the woods and
we never heard from him again.

Dawn's eyes widen, but she doesn't want to say anything about
what she's thinking.

DAWN

So how's the football team around
here?

RYAN

Looks good this year. I'll probably
be out for a few games though.

DAWN

You play?

RYAN

Usually, yeah. I kinda twisted my
knee funny a few weeks back, so the
doctor wants me to sit out for part
of the season.

Ryan looks through his DVD cases and starts to sort them for
re-shelving. He picks one up and smiles.

RYAN (CONT'D)
Check it out. Best movie ever.

Dawn looks at the case.

DAWN
Attack Of The Killer Tomatoes?

The look on her face tells us that she is not amazingly impressed by his taste in movies.

RYAN
Ever seen it?

DAWN
Can't say that I have.

RYAN
Totally underrated.

DAWN
I saw the cartoon a couple times when I was a kid though.

RYAN
Agh. They totally didn't get the point of the movie when they made that show.

Dawn continues her wandering.

RYAN (CONT'D)
So what's your favorite movie?

DAWN
Not sure. Probably...

She looks out the front door and freaks out.

DAWN (CONT'D)
Crap!

RYAN
Never heard of it.

She rushes back to Ryan.

DAWN
I have to do something in the back room. Be right back.

She rushes into the back room just as the store's front door opens. Buffy and Willow come in. Ryan looks at them, and then back to the back room. He puts the pieces together.

RYAN
Can I help you ladies find something?

Buffy and Willow are already picking up their movies.

BUFFY
We got it, thanks.

After Buffy picks up her movie, she turns around and sees the snack rack.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
Ooh, yummys.

She grabs a package of popcorn and some candy, then she meets up with Willow on the way to the counter.

RYAN
That all for you?

BUFFY
Yeah.

WILLOW
We don't have a membership though.

RYAN
No problem. Everyone pretty much knows everyone here. You're in the old Acker place, right?

BUFFY
Give the boy a prize.

Ryan starts to ring them up.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
So what, exactly, are they saying about us?

RYAN
Not much about you two. Haven't seen you around much. But they say your guy roommate caused a little scene at the ice cream shop last week.

WILLOW
He's just...

BUFFY
Yeah, he was having a bad reaction to some...

WILLOW
Laundry detergent.

BUFFY
Right. Laundry detergent.

WILLOW
He's better now.

BUFFY
Much better.

RYAN
Good to hear.
(then)
That's eight dollars, fifty cents.

BUFFY
Wow. Cheap here.

Willow pays. Ryan bags the movies and the food, then hands the bag to Willow.

WILLOW
Thanks.

RYAN
You ladies have a good night.

WILLOW
You too.

Buffy and Willow leave. Once they're gone, Ryan looks back toward the back room.

RYAN
It's safe to come out now.

Dawn walks out.

DAWN
Hmm?

RYAN
Your sister and her friend are gone.

DAWN
Oh, I wasn't...

RYAN
You haven't told them about your job yet.

DAWN
Yeah.

Ryan looks at Dawn, then smiles.

RYAN
Wanna set the cases up like dominos?

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Buff and Willow walk in. XANDER is already sitting on the couch, watching tv. The girls sit and look at him.

XANDER

How'd it go? Kill anything?

BUFFY

Nope. I'm starting to think there aren't any vampires in this town.

WILLOW

Knock on wood.

BUFFY

Yeah.

WILLOW

No, seriously, knock on wood. Now.

Buffy knocks on the coffee table. Willow smiles.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Don't wanna take any chances.

XANDER

Given the choice between vampires or the things we've had to deal with since we got here, I think I'd take the vampires.

BUFFY

I kinda miss the way they'd go poof when I staked them.

WILLOW

Okay, when did memory lane become that weird little street that nobody wants to go down?

Xander notices the bag.

XANDER

What's in the bag?

BUFFY

Oh. We got ourselves a bag full of fun that's bound to take your mind off your problems.

XANDER

If **The Crawling Eye** is in there, I'm going to bed.

BUFFY

Nope.

Buffy opens the bag and pulls out the movies. She hands them to Xander. He looks at them.

XANDER

The Breakfast Club and **Annie**? You do realize that I'm a guy, right?

BUFFY

You can only watch **Apocalypse Now Redux** so many times before you go insane.

WILLOW

Plus, popcorn.

XANDER

Okay, things are looking up.

BUFFY

I got candy too.

XANDER

Tell me you have soda in there, and I'll kiss you like you've never been kissed before.

Buffy and Willow look at each other. Oops.

BUFFY

Soda?

XANDER

We're out. I told you to get some before you went out.

WILLOW

Right. And we were going to, but the very important slaying duties got in the way.

XANDER

You said you didn't kill anything.

WILLOW

We didn't. But that doesn't mean that we weren't patrolling like there was no tomorrow.

XANDER

Fine. I guess I can settle for water if I must. I'll just have to tell my poor ailing eye that it'll have to do without it's sugar rush.

Xander makes a puppy dog face. Buffy and Willow crumble.

BUFFY

We'll get soda.

XANDER

You sure? You don't have to.

BUFFY

Right. As though we had a choice.
You know, once this whole eye thing
is worked out, you're gonna be in
for some serious karmic payback.

The girls stand up.

WILLOW

(to Buffy)

There's no reason we should both go
back out.

BUFFY

What do you mean?

WILLOW

I mean, I'll go. You can stay here
and tend to the patient.

BUFFY

Are you sure?

WILLOW

Yeah, it's no problem. I'll be back
before you can say "The sun'll come
out tomorrow."

BUFFY

If you say so.

Buffy sits back down.

WILLOW

Be right back.

Willow walks out of the house. Once she's gone, Buffy grabs
the tv remote from Xander.

BUFFY

I don't wanna watch this. Let's see
what's on **Food TV**.

EXT. BEAR RIVER - MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Willow walks out of the food store with her bag of soda and
starts to make her way down the street. As she passes the
movie store, she glances inside. She stops and smiles.

WILLOW'S POV

Dawn is inside, talking to Ryan.

Willow is about to go into the store to say hi to Dawn, but she stops.

She sees Ryan hand Dawn a stack of movies and Dawn starts to put the movies onto shelves.

Willow is confused. She watches for a moment, and then sees Dawn look directly at her. She tries to pretend she didn't see Dawn, but Dawn knows she's been spotted. She runs out of the store and right to Willow.

DAWN

Willow!

Willow knows she's been caught, but still wants to try getting out of it. She turns around.

WILLOW

Dawn? What are you doing here?

(re: the movies)

Say, that's a lot of movies you have there. Browsing?

DAWN

I know you know.

WILLOW

Know? Me? What would I know?

DAWN

That I got a job at the movie store.

WILLOW

You did?

DAWN

I did.

WILLOW

But Buffy told you not to get a job. She wants you to focus on school.

DAWN

I know. Which is why you're not going to tell her.

WILLOW

I'm not?

DAWN

You're not. Because you know how important it is for me to have a life outside of school and demon killing.

WILLOW

I do?

DAWN

And you also know that it's good for a kid my age to learn what it's like to make their own money. And this way, we'll have a little extra around the house.

WILLOW

Those are all valid points, but...

DAWN

I know. You're thinking that Buffy told me not to, and she's in charge. And it's wrong for me to keep secrets like this from her and go behind her back.

WILLOW

I'm making some good points here too.

DAWN

I'll tell her. I promise. But you have to let me tell her in my own time, okay?

WILLOW

You know I'm not good with secrets. I get all crazy. She'll know.

DAWN

It's not for long. Just until I get paid and I can show her how good this is.

WILLOW

What if she asks where you are?

DAWN

Just tell her that I'm out. That's not a lie.

Willow's not sure about this. Finally, she gives in.

WILLOW

Fine. But only for a little while.

Dawn smiles.

DAWN

Thank you.

They stand there for a second, not saying anything else.

WILLOW

Dawn?

DAWN

Hmm?

WILLOW

You should probably get the merchandise back into the store.

DAWN

Right. Thanks again. See ya at home.

Dawn starts to walk away.

WILLOW

Oh, one more thing.

Dawn stops and turns around.

DAWN

Yeah?

WILLOW

See about getting reasonable hours. I don't want you working late on school nights.

DAWN

Don't worry. They close at nine-thirty.

WILLOW

Oh. Okay.

DAWN

Bye.

WILLOW

Bye.

Dawn goes back into the store. Willow takes a deep breath, not liking this. She starts to walk home again.

EXT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Willow walks up the front yard, carrying her bag of soda. Just before she walks up the porch steps, there's a NOISE on the side of the house. She stops and looks over there.

WILLOW

Hello? Buffy, is that you?

HOODED FIGURE (O.S.)

(whispered)

Willow.

Willow starts to walk toward the side of the house.

WILLOW

Who's there?

Willow finally reaches the side of the house and looks around. Nobody is there. She turns and starts to walk back toward the steps. Before she can get too far, the hooded figure steps out of the shadows and puts it's hands on Willow's head.

HOODED FIGURE

(still whispering)

Hands of time, hear my plea. Take
this soul in front of me...

THUNDER ROARS. The hooded figure's HANDS GLOW.

Willow's face fills with shock. She drops the bag.

In a FLASH, Willow and the hooded figure VANISH. The soda drops to the ground.

The night is left dark and quiet.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT

ANOTHER FLASH. WILLOW APPEARS on the sidewalk and falls to her knees. She gasps for air. Finally, she struggles to her feet, and groggily starts to walk down the street. She looks around.

WILLOW

Where...?

She doesn't finish the sentence because she's busy looking around. Something about this place is weird.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Wait a minute.

She continues to walk down the street, and finally sees something. She stops short. Her jaw drops.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Oh my God.

REVEAL what Willow is looking at.

Sunnydale High (the old version) is standing in front of her.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Buffy and Xander are still lounging in front of the TV. They're bored.

BUFFY

How long does it take to buy soda?

XANDER

Maybe she bumped into someone.

BUFFY

Who? We don't know anyone here.

Dawn walks in. Buffy and Xander look up to see if it's Willow.

DAWN

Hey.

BUFFY

Have you seen Willow anywhere?

DAWN

What? No. I didn't... Why?

BUFFY

She went out a couple hours ago, for soda, and hasn't come home yet.

DAWN

Did she call?

BUFFY

We haven't heard a thing.

Dawn struggles with herself for a moment and then finally decides to come clean.

DAWN

I did see her.

XANDER

But you just said--

DAWN

I know what I said. I forgot. I was on main street a while ago and saw her walking with a bag. I guess it was the soda. I thought she was coming right home.

Buffy starts to get more concerned.

BUFFY

So what happened to her?

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT

Willow is walking down the street, taking everything in. She's trying to figure this all out.

WILLOW

Okay, self. Think.

(beat)

It looks like home, but we know it can't be. Can it?

She stops walking and turns around. She looks back in the direction she came.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

I could go to the library. I could see if anyone is there.

(beat)

And then they could cut me to pieces with sharp things because I'm a weird version of Willow.

She turns back around and starts to walk again. After a few steps, she stops again. She turns around. She's trying to think of another way, but can't. Finally she decides to go for it. She starts walking back the way she came.

EXT. SUNNYDALE HIGH - NIGHT

Willow walks up to the school and stops. She looks at the school, taking it all in. She's not exactly thrilled to be back here.

EXT. SUNNYDALE HIGH - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Willow walks through the courtyard. She runs her hand along the stairway as she walks past it. Memories flood into her mind.

CORDELIA (V.O.)

Willow. Nice dress. Good to know you've seen the softer side of Sears.

XANDER (V.O.)

Which means I won't have to look at your pasty face again.

Willow closes her eyes as though to tell the voices to shut up. When she opens them again, she's more determined to get this situation resolved. She heads for one of the school's doors.

When she reaches the door, she reaches for the handle. Before she can grab it, the door swings open.

Willow suddenly finds herself face to face with... Willow
(early season 2 version).

We see our Willow's startled reaction.

EXT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Buffy, Xander and Dawn walk out of the house, each holding a flashlight. They start looking for Willow right away.

BUFFY

Willow!

When they don't see Willow, they look at each other.

Xander points down the road.

XANDER

I'll go that way.

Buffy and Dawn nod to him. He starts to walk off. Buffy heads in the opposite direction. Dawn shines her flashlight around, trying to figure out where to go. This is when she sees something on the side of the house.

DAWN

Guys!

Dawn rushes to the side of the house. Buffy and Xander rush to catch up.

Dawn leans down and inspects the bag of soda that Willow dropped. She looks up to Buffy and Xander.

DAWN (CONT'D)

She was here.

Buffy shines her flashlight around the area. She notices that there is a ring of burned grass around where Willow stood.

BUFFY

What happened here?

XANDER

D'Hoffryn? He leaves burn marks like this, right?

BUFFY

It doesn't make sense for him to be here.

XANDER

Maybe he wanted Willow to go all demony.

BUFFY

He wouldn't risk it. He knows Willow's too powerful for him.

DAWN

Then what is it?

Buffy looks around some more. She looks in some nearby bushes and notices something. She bends down and picks it up.

ANGLE ON BUFFY'S HAND

She holds a mystical charm.

BUFFY

It's a spell.

EXT. SUNNYDALE HIGH - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Willow is now sitting on the edge of the fountain with her past self (known as Past Willow from now on). There's an awkward silence. Neither one of them knows what to say. Finally, Past Willow speaks up.

PAST WILLOW

So you're me?

Willow nods.

PAST WILLOW (CONT'D)

But you're not evil, right?

WILLOW

Right.

(beat)

But you shouldn't always assume that other yours aren't evil.

PAST WILLOW

Is there gonna be an evil me?

WILLOW

That's a loaded question.

PAST WILLOW

Maybe we should talk to Giles.

WILLOW

Is Giles here?

PAST WILLOW

Well, no. But we could go to his house. He'd know what to do. He's smart like that.

WILLOW

Okay.

They stand up. Finally, Willow starts to walk, and Past Willow follows her.

PAST WILLOW
So, you're from the future?

WILLOW
Yeah.

PAST WILLOW
So that's what I'm gonna look like
in the future then?

Willow looks down at her clothes.

WILLOW
What's wrong with how I look?

PAST WILLOW
Oh. No, I didn't... It's just that
you look different. Not like me.
You're hair's all... And your clothes
are all... And your makeup is--

WILLOW
Let me guess. "All..."

PAST WILLOW
Well, it's weird being around me- or
you- or whatever the correct phrasing
would be. It's very much not the
norm.

WILLOW
Tell me about it.

PAST WILLOW
I guess hanging out with Buffy
eventually makes me a snazzier
dresser.

WILLOW
It's not Buffy that did it. It's me.

PAST WILLOW
Well, yeah. I just mean that Buffy
probably...

WILLOW
She didn't. I just got tired of
dressing like a five year old.

Past Willow is a little offended. She stops walking.

PAST WILLOW
Hey.

Willow keeps walking until she's out of frame. Past Willow looks down at her shirt.

PAST WILLOW (CONT'D)
I like the way I dress.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Buffy is holding onto the charm while talking into the phone and pacing. Xander and Dawn are sitting on the couch, watching her.

BUFFY
(into phone)
It's kinda silver-y, and has these weird markings on it.
(beat)
I don't know. One's kinda like this arrow looking thing, but not.

DAWN
Let me talk.

Buffy doesn't hear Dawn, she's too busy listening to Giles.

BUFFY
(into phone still)
I'm not a demonologist, Giles. Give me some slack.

As Buffy paces her way past Dawn and Xander, Dawn puts out a hand for the phone, but Buffy doesn't give it to her. Dawn rolls her eyes.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
Yes, I know I'm a Slayer.
(beat)
Since when? I thought it was the Watcher's job to do all the homework.

Buffy looks at the charm again.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
Okay... there are these markings that kinda look like they might be some weird letters from another place.

Dawn sighs and stands up. She walks to Buffy and grabs both the charm and the phone.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
Hey, Dawn...!

Dawn ignores her. She puts the phone to her ear and looks at the charm.

DAWN
 (into phone)
 Hey, Giles, it's me.
 (beat)
 Yeah. What I'm looking at is kinda
 like those Damroth charms you sold
 in the Magic Box, but silver. The
 markings kinda look like a demon
 language, but I think they've got
 Egyptian leanings too.
 (beat)
 A sub-language? Okay.
 (beat)
 Umm...

She looks closer at the charm. Buffy and Xander exchange
 looks. Buffy shrugs at him, defensively.

DAWN (CONT'D)
 Yeah. An hourglass and two snakes.
 (beat)
 Hold on a sec.
 (to Buffy and Xander)
 Giles says that the charm is from
 Egypt, from a subculture that lived
 there about six thousand years ago.
 They were big into the past.

XANDER
 So where's Willow?

Dawn listens to Giles for a minute, then looks back to the
 other two.

DAWN
 They used the charm to propel
 themselves into the past as a way of
 expanding their self knowledge or
 something like that.
 (to Giles)
 Slow down, I can only talk so fast.

BUFFY
 So Willow went into the past? That
 doesn't make sense. The place looked
 like a crime scene.

DAWN
 Someone might have sent her there.

XANDER
 Who?

Dawn listens to Giles for a moment. She's getting bad news.

DAWN
 Oh, that's not good.

BUFFY

What?

DAWN

Giles says that the spell has a side-effect.

BUFFY

Demonic?

Dawn nods.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Figures. So how do we get Willow back? Kill the demon?

DAWN

(into phone)

How do we get Willow back?

(beat, then to Buffy)

Yeah. Only the demon isn't going to be here with us. It's in the past with Willow.

XANDER

That helps.

BUFFY

So how do we stop this? We need to do something.

Dawn listens to Giles for a long moment. She's very intrigued by what he's saying.

DAWN

(to Buffy)

He has an idea.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

The gang has set up some candles for a spell. Buffy and Xander are sitting on the couch, waiting.

XANDER

Are we sure about this?

BUFFY

Are we ever?

XANDER

Good point.

Dawn walks in from the kitchen, holding a few herbs and spices in her hands. She's still on the phone.

DAWN

(into phone)

It's not like there's a magic shop anywhere in town. We pretty much have a few things that Willow brought with her, and a spice rack that came with the house. And by that, I mean originally.

Dawn puts the jars down on the table. Buffy looks up at her.

BUFFY

Let me talk to Giles.

Dawn puts up a finger.

DAWN

(to Giles)

Yeah, I get it. Hey, Buffy wants to talk to you, hold on.

Dawn hands the phone to Buffy.

XANDER

Man, we need speaker phone.

BUFFY

(into phone)

Hey. So explain this to me again. Why aren't we just doing the same spell that sent Willow back?

(beat)

Yeah, but I have to kill one of them anyway, right?

(beat)

Fine. Fine. Did you give Dawn all the info she needs.

Dawn nods at Buffy as she goes to a nearby shelf and grabs a notebook that she's taken notes in.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

(beat)

Okay. We will.

(beat)

You too. Bye.

(then)

Oh. Wait. Giles?

(beat)

You are paying this phone bill, right?

(beat)

Bye.

Buffy hangs up the phone.

XANDER

So are we really gonna do this?

DAWN

Got no choice. It'll take a few minutes for me to get everything organized, then me and Buffy will have to do the spell together.

XANDER

Right. What's my job again?

DAWN

Make sure we don't burst into flames and die.

XANDER

Oh yeah.

Dawn yawns.

BUFFY

Tired?

Dawn's busy reading her notes. She's not paying too much attention to Buffy's question, or her reply.

DAWN

I'm fine. Just been restocking movies all night at work.

After it's out, Dawn finally catches herself. Buffy is a little confused.

BUFFY

Work?

DAWN

Working on homework.

BUFFY

And you needed to restock movies for homework?

DAWN

Crazy small town we live in.

BUFFY

(not buying it)

Dawn, I told you that I didn't want you getting a job.

DAWN

Buffy, do we really have to talk about this now? I'm trying to get everything organized.

(beat)

I have to get something from Willow's room.

Dawn walks off. Buffy is left to think about this whole situation. She shakes her head and looks at Xander.

BUFFY

I can't do this. I can't keep going through this with her. I tell her something and she just doesn't listen to me. Ever.

XANDER

She's a teenager.

BUFFY

That's not an excuse. She can't focus on school, and work, and the reason we're in this town, all at the same time.

Buffy puts her head in her hands. She's exhausted. Xander puts a hand on her shoulder.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

It's just always a struggle. I'm 22 years old, and I'm trying to raise a teenager. On top of everything else I have to do. How am I qualified for this?

XANDER

You've always made it work.

BUFFY

Have I? I have enough trouble balancing my own life. How am I supposed to balance hers when she won't even listen to me?

(beat)

Sometimes, I just wish...

She stops herself.

XANDER

What?

BUFFY

Nothing. It's not important.

Dawn comes back with a jar of sand. She puts it on the table. Buffy watches her, not saying anything. Dawn avoids looking at Buffy, fearing the dreaded conversation. Buffy doesn't have the luxury of ignoring it.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Dawn.

DAWN

We'll talk about it after Willow's home, okay?

BUFFY

Fine. Let's do this.

Dawn looks at her notes. On the table in front of the couch, she pours four mounds of sand. One in each corner.

DAWN

Giles says this spell is kinda like an astral projection in some ways. Your body will stay here, but your mind will be projected back to wherever Willow is.

XANDER

How's she supposed to fight a demon when she's all ghostly?

DAWN

She won't be. That's the tricky part.

XANDER

Okay. I don't get it.

DAWN

Giles explained it to me. It's complicated.

XANDER

(to Buffy)

I think that's fancy Dawn-talk for "I don't get it either."

Dawn looks up at Xander and shrugs.

DAWN

The way I see it, I don't have to get it. We just have to do what Giles said.

Dawn reads over her notes again. She grabs a spice jar and pours some of it's contents in the center of the table.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Cinnamon. For those who don't have Morogram powder.

She pours a little bit of another bottle's contents on top of the cinnamon.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Oregano.

(MORE)

DAWN (CONT'D)

(to Xander)

That one was actually in the spell,
so I didn't have to substitute.

She pours a little bit of her last jar's contents out.

DAWN (CONT'D)

And a little bit of anise. Mix well
and bake at 350 for about an hour.

She smiles at her own joke, but sees that nobody else is, so she goes back to work. She takes a votive candle and places it on top of the spices. She lights it.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Okay, ready. Buffy, sit on the other
side of the table, and put your hands
out. Palms up.

Buffy sits across from Dawn and puts out her hands..

DAWN (CONT'D)

Close your eyes and focus on Willow.

Buffy does as she's told. Dawn reads from her notes again, memorizing her words, and then closes her eyes. With her hands, she pulls the sand from each corner, into the center of the table where the candle is.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Sands of time and those held dear,
draw us close and bring them near.
Through the flame, connect them.
Erase the walls that separate and
pull them together. Let this body be
your passage. Let these words be
your command.

Dawn puts her hands on top of Buffy's.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Ayala, propel her.

A GREEN ENERGY surges through Buffy, into Dawn. Dawn's eyes shoot open and CRACKLE with the energy. A SURGE shoots back into Buffy. Buffy falls backwards, but Dawn is still. Her eyes continue to crackle with the energy. Her lips move quickly, as though she is speaking some unheard chant.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT

The two Willows are walking down the street. Neither one is comfortable with the other.

Past Willow tries to break the tension.

PAST WILLOW

So... I guess you have all kinds of neat things to talk about. Do we have a boyfriend in the future?

WILLOW

That's a big "no".

PAST WILLOW

Oh.

(beat)

But we have had... I mean, we're not still a...?

WILLOW

(quickly)

No.

PAST WILLOW

Oh. Good.

There's another long pause. Past Willow is very curious, while normal Willow is all business. She wants to get out of here.

PAST WILLOW (CONT'D)

Tell me something.

WILLOW

Like what?

PAST WILLOW

I don't know. Something about the future. Where I go to school, or hey, I've been thinking of changing dentists. You could tell me if that's a good idea.

Willow doesn't respond. There's another long pause. Past Willow looks at her future self with all kinds of questions in her head. One of them seems to be the most important.

PAST WILLOW (CONT'D)

Is something the matter? I mean, did I do something to make you upset?

WILLOW

I'm just trying to think.

PAST WILLOW

About what? Maybe I can help.

WILLOW

You can't.

PAST WILLOW

But, I know things. I've read through a lot of Giles' books. Even some of the ones he keeps hidden in his office. Maybe I've read something about a demon...

WILLOW

You haven't.

Willow looks at Past Willow.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

This is beyond you.

Past Willow doesn't know what she's done to deserve this kind of behavior, but she decides to just stop trying. They continue to walk.

After a few seconds of tense silence, a car pulls up near them. We can't see who is driving it.

FEMALE VOICE (O.S.)

Willow?

Both Willow's look over. Past Willow waves and smiles a relieved smile.

PAST WILLOW

Hey.

Future Willow's eyes lock onto the driver of the car. She can't take her eyes off of this person.

REVEAL the driver. It's JENNY CALENDAR.

JENNY

Who's your friend?

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. SUNNYDALE CEMETERY - NIGHT

The night is quiet and still. That is, until PAST BUFFY flies through the air and crashes to the ground. She is from the same time as Past Willow. (Somewhere around the time of "Where's My Line") She wears a very short skirt, and a tank top.

She quickly recovers and gets back to her feet. She raises a stake.

PAST BUFFY

Okay, so you got one good hit.

REVEAL a VAMPIRE standing nearby in full vamp face. He GROWLS.

PAST BUFFY (CONT'D)

Which, by the way, I'd have blocked with an impressive kick if I'd planned on spending my night in the cemetery instead of at the Bronze, dancing with my honey, wearing my sexy dancing clothes.

The vampire charges at her. She punches him and gets ready to stake him, but he swings at her and knocks the stake out of her hand. They continue to exchange hits for a few seconds before she swings a leg around and kicks his legs out from under him. He goes down.

Past Buffy quickly picks up her stake and moves to stake him, but he returns the kicking and she falls on top of him. While she is trying to gather her senses, he rolls on top of her and pins her arms down.

PAST BUFFY (CONT'D)

You're gonna make me resort to some very unladylike moves here, aren't you?

He moves in to bite her. As he does, she moves her legs up, and uses them to push him off of her. He stumbles back.

She kicks off her shoes and flips up to her feet. She rushes at him, and kicks him in the chest. He returns with a punch. He tries to hit her again, but she blocks. She punches him in the face, sending him stumbling back.

At this moment, a jolt of GREEN ENERGY shoots through her. She's dazed and a little disoriented for a second.

(NOTE: Until further notice, this Buffy will be known as Buffy, even though she looks like Past Buffy)

The vampire looks up at her and smiles, seeing that she's out of it. He starts to walk toward her, teeth ready to bite. He gets closer and closer to the dazed Buffy. She's looking around, trying to figure out where and when she is.

The vampire is just about to grab her now. Still confused and asking herself a lot of questions, she looks up and stakes the vampire effortlessly. He TURNS TO DUST.

Buffy drops the stake and goes to where her shoes are. She picks them up and walks out of the cemetery.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT

The Willows are looking at Jenny in the car. Only a few moments have passed since we last saw them.

PAST WILLOW

You don't know her?

Jenny looks a little closer.

JENNY

Should I?

WILLOW

I'm Willow.

Jenny puts her car in park.

JENNY

Did I just hear you right?

PAST WILLOW

If what you heard was that she's me, and I'm her and we're... us, then yeah.

JENNY

How?

WILLOW

That's what we're trying to figure out.

PAST WILLOW

She's from the future.

JENNY

The future?

(beat)

And she's you?

Past Willow nods. Jenny takes a second to let this sink in.

JENNY (CONT'D)

Okay, get in. I'm guessing there's research to do.

Past Willow opens the passenger door and looks at her future self.

PAST WILLOW

You wanna sit up front?

Willow nods. Past Willow gets into the back seat.

As they get in, we see a SHADOW move along the ground behind them.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dawn is still in her trance. Xander is watching her.

XANDER

Dawn? You okay?

We can see Buffy's body resting on the floor. Her eyes suddenly shoot open and she sits up. This is Past Buffy in our Buffy's body. She looks around, freaked out.

PAST BUFFY

Where am I?

She sees Xander. She notices how different he looks.

PAST BUFFY (CONT'D)

Xander?

XANDER

You don't know where you are?

PAST BUFFY

Should I?

XANDER

Is this an amnesia thing? 'Cause we've kinda already been there.

PAST BUFFY

Xander, just tell me where I am. In detail, and maybe with pop-up pictures.

XANDER

You're in our house. Remember, the spell?

PAST BUFFY

Our house?

Buffy looks down at herself, touches her hair, and looks back to Xander.

PAST BUFFY (CONT'D)
What year is this?

XANDER
2003.

Her eyes widen.

PAST BUFFY
Oh, God. I'm in the future.

Xander's eyes widen.

XANDER
You're past Buffy!

PAST BUFFY
You think?
(then)
How did this happen?
(re: Dawn)
And who is she?

XANDER
We did a spell. She's Dawn.

PAST BUFFY
Is she a witch?

XANDER
No, she's a junior.

PAST BUFFY
So I'm here because of a spell that she performed?

XANDER
Yeah. I guess you're probably freaked to see your little sister in the Scooby game, huh?

Buffy's eyes widen again.

PAST BUFFY
Sister?!

EXT. BUFFY'S OLD HOUSE - NIGHT

Buffy walks up to her old Sunnydale home and looks at it. She never thought she'd see this place again.

She starts to walk away when the front door opens. JOYCE walks out. She sees Buffy.

JOYCE

Buffy?

Buffy looks back and is shocked to see her mother standing there, looking back at her.

BUFFY

(softly)

Mom?

Buffy fights to keep tears away.

JOYCE

Where are you going? It's a little late to be going back out, don't you think?

Buffy doesn't answer for a moment. Finally, she remembers her cover.

BUFFY

Yeah. I was just on my way to Willow's. I forgot a book.

JOYCE

Can't you pick it up tomorrow?

BUFFY

I really need it. Homework.

Joyce looks at her watch.

JOYCE

Fine. But just to Willow's and back. You still have a half-hour before curfew. I have to go to the gallery for a while. I forgot to file some papers before I left. Can I trust you to come straight home?

Buffy nods.

JOYCE (CONT'D)

Okay.

Joyce starts to walk to her car. She stops and turns around.

JOYCE (CONT'D)

Oh, Buffy. One more thing. I might have to go to LA for a few days on business. Think you can manage alone while I'm gone?

BUFFY

Yeah. I'll be fine.

Joyce smiles and notices the look on Buffy's face. She goes to her and puts a hand on her forehead, checking for fever.

JOYCE

Sweetie, are you okay? You look sick.

BUFFY

Yeah. I'm just tired.

Joyce brushes Buffy's hair out of her face.

JOYCE

Be sure to get some sleep.

BUFFY

I will.

Joyce turns to leave. Buffy can't let her go.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Mom?

Joyce stops and turns around. Buffy's finding it harder to hold the tears back.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I know I don't say it a lot, but I love you.

Joyce smiles.

JOYCE

I love you too, dear.

BUFFY

I also want you to know that I'll do my best to take care of Dawn when you leave. It might be hard, and I might make mistakes, but I'll do my best.

Joyce looks at Buffy, a little confused.

JOYCE

Dawn?

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Jenny leads the way into the apartment. The Willows follow.

PAST WILLOW

So much for Giles' apartment. He's probably out on Watcher business.

JENNY

I wouldn't know. I think I might be able to find something online though.

Willow follows Jenny to the computer.

WILLOW
Try the demon database.

JENNY
Demon database?

WILLOW
Isn't it out yet?

JENNY
I've never heard of it. Sounds cool
though.

PAST WILLOW
Yeah.

Willow ignores her past self.

WILLOW
I guess it's not online yet. It's
this really cool site that lets you
search for demons.

JENNY
Well, I'll have to do it the old
fashioned way. I'll send out a flash
to my coven and see if anyone knows
anything about this whole time travel
deal.

PAST WILLOW
I don't suppose we'll be needing any
hacking? 'Cause I'm good with that.

WILLOW
I think this is more witchy than
hacky.

PAST WILLOW
Oh. You'll have to show me some of
those sites sometime.

JENNY
Sure.

Past Willow just backs away and finds a nice place to sit.

WILLOW
If we can't find anything online,
maybe I could do a spell. Like a
declaro truth spell.

JENNY
There's another one I've read about.
German, I think.

WILLOW

The Wolderkot revelation spell.

JENNY

Yeah. Anything that'll explain this to us.

(beat)

So you're into magic now?

WILLOW

Yeah. I'm a pretty kick-ass witch these days.

JENNY

Dangerous stuff.

WILLOW

Yeah. It can get pretty ugly. There's this whole story with black eyes and nosebleeds that I probably shouldn't tell you about.

JENNY

Sounds interesting.

Past Willow just stays quiet, in her seat. Away from the conversation that doesn't include her.

EXT. SUNNYDALE HIGH - NIGHT

Buffy is walking across the school's lawn, still taking in her encounter with her mom. She stops and looks up at the school.

As she's about to start walking again, she sees the hooded figure walking away from her.

BUFFY

Hey!

She rushes to catch up to the figure. The figure runs.

Buffy finally catches up to, and cuts off the figure.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Nice hood. Mind if I take a peek underneath?

(beat)

Get it? Take a peek underneath the hood. It's a car thing.

Buffy moves to grab the hood. The figure pulls back.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I see you're not going to make this easy.

Buffy is about to punch the hooded figure when it waves one of it's hands. Buffy falls backwards.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Okay, that's just rude.

(beat)

You think I don't know who you are?
We only have so many witches out to
get us, Amy.

The hooded figure laughs. She pulls the hood off, revealing that it is AMY.

AMY

Good call. But I'm not out to get
you.

BUFFY

So you just decided to give Willow
an all expense paid vacation to the
past out of the kindness of your heart?

Amy looks closer at Buffy.

AMY

You're from the future.

BUFFY

You're quick. So what's the deal?
What kind of game are you playing
here?

AMY

No games. I have good reasons for
doing what I did.

BUFFY

And those would be?

AMY

I plan to stay here.

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Willow and Jenny are still sitting at the computer,
researching. Past Willow is flipping channels on the TV.

WILLOW

He's saying that the time travel
would create a demon that would attack
both versions of me.

JENNY

Yeah, so?

WILLOW

I haven't seen a demon.

JENNY
So where is it?

ANGLE ON : PAST WILLOW

Sitting on the couch, watching TV. She gets a slightly concerned look on her face.

PAST WILLOW
Umm, guys?

Willow and Jenny don't hear her.

WILLOW
It should be after us.

PAST WILLOW
Guys?

WILLOW
Maybe I could do a locator spell to track it down. Find it before it finds us.

PAST WILLOW
Hey!

Willow and Jenny finally look over at Past Willow. Past Willow points at the wall behind the TV.

PAST WILLOW (CONT'D)
That wouldn't happen to be our demon, would it?

Willow and Jenny look at the wall and see the SHADOW creeping along it.

JENNY
That's not good.

The SHADOW JUMPS off the wall, toward Past Willow.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. JENNY'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

Willow puts a hand up.

WILLOW

Confuto!
 (translation)
 Stop!

The SHADOW FREEZES in the air.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Run!

Both Willows and Jenny run out of the apartment.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Past Buffy and Xander are having a more relaxed conversation now. She's getting past the shock. Now, she's looking at Dawn.

PAST BUFFY

She's pretty.
 (beat)
 Are you sure I have a sister?

XANDER

Pretty sure.

PAST BUFFY

And I have to raise her?

XANDER

Yeah. Ever since...

PAST BUFFY

Mom died. That's a whole other pill
 for me to swallow. I don't even want
 to go there right now.
 (beat)
 So what's it like? Am I good at being
 grown up?

XANDER

As good as anyone is.

PAST BUFFY

And in English, that means?

XANDER

It means, you have your rough times,
but you get through them. Same as
you always have.

PAST BUFFY

And am I good at being all parental?

XANDER

As good as anyone can be when raising
a teenager. You don't always get
her. She doesn't always get you.

PAST BUFFY

Sounds like me and Mom.

XANDER

Sounds like everyone and their mom.

PAST BUFFY

What about Dad? Is he still alive?

XANDER

Alive, yes. The "dad" part is up for
debate though.

PAST BUFFY

So I really am in it alone?

XANDER

Not alone.

They share a warm look. Past Buffy looks back to Dawn.

PAST BUFFY

So she's doing all of this to save
Willow? That's pretty cool.

XANDER

She takes after her sister. Brave
runs in the Summers blood.

PAST BUFFY

Apparently, you should tell that to
my father.

Xander smiles.

PAST BUFFY (CONT'D)

One more question?

XANDER

Sure.

From underneath the couch, she pulls out the Scythe.

PAST BUFFY

What the hell is this?

EXT. SUNNYDALE HIGH - NIGHT

Buffy and Amy are still talking.

BUFFY

Why did you bring Willow into this?

AMY

Because, I needed her.

BUFFY

You needed a target.

AMY

More than that. I needed someone I knew could stop the demon. I knew that when she did that, she'd go home and I could stay here.

As Amy says that last part about staying, she rubs a ring she has on her right hand. Another charm. Nothing we need a closeup of, just a little side-note.

BUFFY

So you were willing to put her life on the line, so you could hitch a ride to making-up-for-lost-time land?

AMY

It's not like this isn't a good thing for her. The whole purpose of the spell is to help her work out her issues and you can't tell me she doesn't have those.

BUFFY

You don't have the right to do this to people.

AMY

Does she have the right to rip apart the Sunnydale Police Department? She's dangerous. Don't act like we don't all know it. This spell will help take away that risk.

BUFFY

By killing her?

AMY

Just the opposite, actually.

Just then, the Willows and Jenny come running up to Buffy and Amy.

PAST WILLOW

Buffy!

Once they stop running, Buffy looks at them.

BUFFY

Are you guys okay?

PAST WILLOW

There's a demon after us. This is me, from the future. Somehow, she got sent back here and now there's a demon out to kill us.

(then)

Hey, Amy.

BUFFY

I know. That's why I came back.

WILLOW

Buffy?

Willow looks at Buffy.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

But you look like...

BUFFY

Yeah, I'm astral projecting or something. Giles'll explain when we get home.

Buffy only then notices the fact that Jenny is standing right there. Her eyes lock on Jenny.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Ms. Calendar.

JENNY

We should get somewhere safe.

PAST WILLOW

The library.

AMY

School's locked.

WILLOW

(to Amy)

Did you do this?

BUFFY

We'll chat later, let's go.

Buffy leads the way up to the school's front door. She turns to Willow.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Will?

WILLOW

On it.

Willow waves a hand. The door UNLOCKS. Buffy leads the way inside.

INT. SUNNYDALE HIGH - HALLWAY - NIGHT

Buffy leads the way down the hall. She's looking very determined as she walks toward the library. Then she stops suddenly. Willow almost bumps into her.

WILLOW

Something wrong?

Buffy leans back to Willow, a little embarrassed.

BUFFY

Which way is the library again?

Past Willow points down the hall.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Right. Thanks.

Buffy continues walking. They turn a corner and Buffy stops again.

PAST WILLOW

You want me to lead?

BUFFY

Demon.

PAST WILLOW

Am not.

BUFFY

No.

(points)

Demon.

BUFFY'S POV

The SHADOW is moving in their direction.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Other way! Go!

The Willows, Jenny and Amy run in the opposite direction. Buffy rushes toward the demon. She leaps through the air, to kick it, but finds herself going THROUGH THE SHADOW and falling to the ground.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Crap. Willow, run!

(beat)

Willows.

Buffy gets up and runs in the same direction as the others.

ANGLE ON: THE OTHERS

PAST WILLOW

Where do we go?

JENNY

Classroom!

Willow jumps into the nearest classroom door. The others follow.

Buffy passes the shadow demon and gets into the classroom.

INT. SUNNYDALE HIGH - CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

BUFFY

Willow, barrier.

WILLOW/PAST WILLOW

On it./Huh?

Willow's eyes are already closed, and she's already focusing.

The shadow enters the room, but BUMPS INTO A FORCEFIELD.
Past Willow and Jenny step back a little.

PAST WILLOW

Whoa.

AMY

I could do that.

(beat)

If I wanted to, I mean.

WILLOW

That should hold for a while.

BUFFY

I can't kill this thing. I passed right through it.

JENNY

So how do we fight it?

AMY

We don't.

(re: Willows)

They do.

PAST WILLOW

Me?

AMY

It's your demon.

PAST WILLOW

My demon? That hardly seems fair.
Does that sound fair to anyone else?

WILLOW

Get over it.

PAST WILLOW

Easy for you to say, with the big
fancy witch-being. What am I supposed
to do, hack it to death?

(then)

Which sounds scary, actually. I
realize that. I meant in the computer
way, not the big heavy ax way, so
it's really not scary.

WILLOW

My goodness. Would you just be quiet
and let the grown-up figure this
out?

BUFFY

Will--

WILLOW

No. I'm just saying that the girl
could use a little quality time
getting to know her backbone.

PAST WILLOW

I have a backbone.

WILLOW

Coulda fooled me. Look at you. You're
backing away like a little kid. It's
no wonder nobody likes you.

JENNY

Hey.

The shadow is getting angrier. Slamming against the
forcefield. Amy smiles.

WILLOW

I know I can't be the only one who's
noticed it. I've only been here a
few hours and it's starting to grate.

BUFFY

Willow, enough.

(to the others)

She doesn't usually act like this.

(beat)

Unless she's evil.

(to Willow)

You're not evil, are you?

JENNY

Evil?

BUFFY

It's a long story.

WILLOW

I'm not evil. I'm just saying what nobody else would ever say to her. Everyone thinks it. She's such a boring, nothing of a person. It's not hard to see why everyone bailed on you for someone cooler. Even when you finally managed to convince someone you weren't a complete loser, you still needed mind control to keep her around.

PAST WILLOW

Her?

BUFFY

Tara. Your girlfriend.

PAST WILLOW

(eyes widen)

Girlfriend? But I'm not...

AMY

(grinning)

Well y'are now.

Past Willow looks at Buffy for confirmation. Buffy nods.

PAST WILLOW

Oh.

The shadow demon is getting stronger and stronger. The FORCE FIELD IS RIPPLING. It could go at any time.

PAST WILLOW (CONT'D)

So is this what I have to look forward to? Becoming someone that's so caught up in whatever everyone else thinks of her that she's afraid to just be herself?

WILLOW

This is me.

PAST WILLOW

I'm you.

WILLOW

No you're not. Not anymore. People change.

Past Willow smiles.

PAST WILLOW

Not into whole entirely new people.

WILLOW

They can if they want to.

PAST WILLOW

It's not a choice you have. Sure, you can wear fancy clothes and cut your hair in what I assume are all the latest styles, but underneath it all, you're still the girl who gets a giddy whenever she opens a new pair of Looney-Toons slippers on her birthday.

WILLOW

And where has that gotten you?

PAST WILLOW

Not far. But where has running away from it gotten you?

WILLOW

I'm powerful. I'm respected. I don't have to cower in the corner whenever a big bad comes to town. I don't have to sit in clubs, watching everyone get hit on but me.

PAST WILLOW

And if any of that was what really mattered, you're list would have started off with "I'm happy." I don't know what happened to you- what made you so bitter- but I pray that when it happens to me, I know better than to react the way you have.

WILLOW

Shut your mouth. You don't know. You don't know. You don't know what it was like to be thought of as nothing more than a geek, even by the people you knew.

BUFFY

I never felt that way. Not once.

Willow starts to tear up.

WILLOW

I've worked so hard to get away from this.

(to Past Willow)

To get away from you. Maybe it'd be better for all of us if I just let you die. At least then you wouldn't have to go through everything I went through.

The FORCE FIELD DROPS. The shadow heads straight for Past Willow. She screams and falls to the floor as the shadow covers her and cuts off her air supply.

Willow's eyes widen.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

I didn't mean it!

Buffy tries to help Past Willow, but she passes through the shadow, and can't pick Past Willow up off of the floor. Buffy looks up at Willow.

BUFFY

She's dying! Do something!

WILLOW

I can't!

BUFFY

You have to.

Willow waves a hand at the demon.

WILLOW

Back!

Nothing happens.

AMY

Magic won't work anymore. It has to be you.

Willow looks at Amy, then back to Past Willow, struggling for air.

She steps forward and reaches down. She grabs onto the demon and lifts with all of her strength, until she finally gets it off of Past Willow.

The shadow CLIMBS UP HER ARM and tries to devour her, as it did Past Willow. Willow struggles with it.

Jenny rushes to Past Willow's side and helps her.

Willow continues to struggle. She manages to keep the demon away from her face. She throws herself against a wall, trying to hurt the demon, but all she does is knock over a shelf full of books.

She falls to the ground. Buffy wants to help, but can't. She has no choice but to watch Willow fight for her life.

BUFFY

You can do this, Willow. Fight it.

WILLOW

I can't.

Past Willow rushes to where Willow is struggling, and picks one of the bigger books off of the ground.

PAST WILLOW

Yes, you can.

Past Willow swings with all of her might, hitting the shadow demon. She continues to beat it. Finally, Willow is able to help her, and begins pounding the demon with her fist.

After much beating, the SHADOW DEMON VANISHES.

The Willows look at each other. Both confused. Normal Willow also full of deep thoughts..

PAST WILLOW (CONT'D)

Is that it?

In a FLASH, WILLOW VANISHES.

Past Willow and Jenny look to Buffy.

BUFFY

I guess the spell's over.

AMY

Which means, I'm done here.

Amy starts to walk out. Buffy grabs her.

BUFFY

Where do you think you're going?

AMY

I got me some lost time to make up for. I figure I'll wait a year, then find a nice quiet town to finish high school in.

BUFFY

If you ever come near Willow, or any
of us again--

AMY

Don't worry. I'll be good. I promise.

Amy smiles and starts to walk out. Before she walks through
the door, she stops and turns around. She looks at Past
Willow and Jenny.

AMY (CONT'D)

Do the vending machines still sell
brownies?

(then)

Nevermind. I'll find out myself.

With that, she walks out of the room.

Buffy walks to where Past Willow is now standing with Jenny.

PAST WILLOW

What happens now? The future's been
kinda spoiled for us.

BUFFY

Don't you just hate when that happens?

(beat)

No worries. Giles says that when I
go back, everything will be right in
the world again.

JENNY

So we won't remember this?

Buffy shakes her head. She looks at Jenny.

BUFFY

But if there is a part of you
somewhere deep in the back of your
mind that does remember this, let it
know that I forgive you.

JENNY

Forgive me?

Buffy gives Jenny a knowing look. Jenny realizes what she
means.

BUFFY

I get that things can be complicated
sometimes.

Jenny is still dealing with the fact that Buffy knows her
secret. Something she's kept to herself for so long.

Buffy looks back to Past Willow.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I guess I'll be seeing you soon.

PAST WILLOW

I hope so.

BUFFY

Before I go, can I just ask you something?

PAST WILLOW

What?

BUFFY

What the hell was I thinking, dressing like this? I'm 16 years old, for crying out loud! Could this skirt be any shorter? Have I even heard of the word "subtle" before?

Past Willow smiles.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Dawn returns to normal. Buffy blinks a few times and shakes her head. (This is Buffy once again, not Past Buffy)

Xander looks at them.

XANDER

Are we done?

Dawn looks at Buffy. She speaks as though she was there in the past.

DAWN

We're done.

Buffy notices the tone in Dawn's voice.

BUFFY

You saw.

DAWN

All of it. Yeah.

(beat)

Kinda creepy at times, but yeah.

BUFFY

Yeah, creepy.

(beat)

But seeing what it was like to be 16 again, it reminded me of some things.

DAWN

I know.

BUFFY

I'm not saying you don't have to listen to me, or that you're not in serious trouble for going behind my back like you did.

DAWN

I know.

Buffy and Dawn share a long look. Finally, Buffy speaks again.

BUFFY

Does this mean we could have gotten an employee discount on our movies tonight?

DAWN

Free, actually.

BUFFY

Never keep things from me again.

They smile at each other.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I'm still not quite clear on the issue of past people not remembering. Giles said that the universe was set back on track naturally, but Amy's still back there. So how does that count as set straight?

XANDER

If my years of watching **Star Trek** have taught me anything, it's to not try to figure out time travel.

(beat)

Hey, I don't mean to kill the happy, but where's Willow?

Buffy looks at him, getting serious again.

EXT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

The front of the house, looking quiet and peaceful. We SLOWLY PUSH IN on the side of the house.

Finally, we see Willow. Sitting on the ground, leaning against the house. Expressionless. Staring into space. Filled with painful thoughts.

BUFFY (V.O.)

(responding to Xander's question)

She'll be here.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF SHOW