

**Buffy The Vampire Slayer**

**Season 8**

Episode 2

"No Worries"

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. HOTEL GYM - NIGHT

It's pretty late. The gym is empty, save for one WOMAN (early 20's) who is on the treadmill. She watches herself in the mirror on the wall in front of her and wears headphones as she runs.

Unseen to her, a VAMPIRE (in vamp face) walks into the room through the door behind her. Since she's looking in the mirror, she does not see him.

The vampire smiles and slowly creeps closer.

The woman on the treadmill hits the button to stop the machine. She senses something in the room with her.

She takes the headphones off and scans the room in the mirror. Not seeing anything, she turns around. Suddenly she's face to face with the vampire. She screams and tries to run out of the room, but he blocks her path.

VAMPIRE

C'mon, sweetheart. I promise it won't hurt for long.

WOMAN

What are you?

VAMPIRE

You really should know that, don't you think?

She doesn't know what else to say. She tries to hit him, but he blocks her. He grabs her arm and throws her across the room, into the mirror. It SHATTERS and covers her in glass as she falls to the ground.

The vampire walks to her and sits on top of her. He shows his fangs.

VAMPIRE (CONT'D)

I always wanted me a Slayer.

WOMAN

(clueless)

What?

He pins her arms by her side. As he bends down to bite her, she finally reacts to him. She uses all of her strength to flip him over her head and she ends up on top of him. He grins at her.

## VAMPIRE

Nice.

She punches him in the face, not knowing where this fighter's instinct is coming from, but not questioning it. She reaches for a nearby dumbbell and hits him over the head with it several times. He goes limp. She checks for a pulse, but finds none.

With the fight finally behind her, the woman gets up and tries to catch her breath. She races to the phone on the wall and hits a button.

## WOMAN

This is Angie Newman in the fourth floor gym. I need help. I've been attacked.

(beat)

He's... He's dead.

Behind her, the vampire gets back to his feet. She has no clue.

He walks up behind her and grabs her, putting a hand over her mouth and using it to snap her neck. The phone drops.

## ANGLE ON THE PHONE

It's dangling. All we can see of the woman or the vampire are their feet. All we can hear is a SLURPING SOUND.

## BUFFY

(prelap)

It's nice. Relaxing.

## EXT. BEAR RIVER MAIN STREET - NIGHT

BUFFY and DAWN are walking down the street. There aren't many people, but then again, there probably never is.

## DAWN

What?

## BUFFY

This. Being here. Even last week when we fought those mini-demon things, I got out of it without actually killing anything.

## DAWN

But we had to burn them.

## BUFFY

Technically, you, Willow, and Xander did the demon killing.

(MORE)

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I only did the being attacked and struggling for my life. I don't even think I killed any when I was swatting at them.

DAWN

Okay. Fine. But you do realize that at some point, you will have to slay again, right?

BUFFY

I guess.

Buffy thinks about her answer as they keep walking.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Then again, I could always leave it to another Slayer. Maybe I won't have to kill anything ever again. It could happen.

As Buffy and Dawn move out of the shot, we see something behind them. It's hidden by shadows, but it looks almost like a bear.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF TEASER

## ACT ONE

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

XANDER is up on a ladder, working on ceiling repairs. He's still got red spots all over him from the mini-demon attacks. WILLOW walks in from the kitchen with a plate of fruit and sits on the couch.

WILLOW

How's it goin'?

XANDER

All things considered? Fine.

WILLOW

What's that mean?

XANDER

It means that this was a lot easier when I had two good eyes.

WILLOW

We're working on it. Maybe you'll have two good eyes again soon.

XANDER

Thanks, but I think it's time we just admit it.

He comes down the ladder and sits next to her.

XANDER (CONT'D)

We've been working hard all summer on this healing spell of yours and it hasn't gotten us anywhere.

WILLOW

You're not giving up, are you?

XANDER

Is it still considered giving up when what you're trying to do is impossible?

WILLOW

Well when you think like that, it's no wonder the spell isn't working. You have to believe in it.

XANDER

I've been believing in it for months.

(beat)

Y'know, I'm happy we stopped the First's plans and all, but part of me feels like I lost. Sometimes I can't help but wish...

He stops himself before he finishes that thought. He doesn't want to upset Willow.

WILLOW

You wish what?

XANDER

It's nothing. Mind if I take one of your strawberries?

Without her responding, he grabs one from her plate and eats it. Willow's worried about him, but before she can say anything, Buffy and Dawn come down the stairs. They're in the middle of a conversation of their own.

BUFFY

He said he'd send some, but with all the red tape that he's been dealing with, it's not easy.

DAWN

So what are we supposed to do?

XANDER

What's wrong?

BUFFY

I just spoke to Giles. Looks like it might be a while before he can send us any money.

WILLOW

But I thought he said it wouldn't take long.

BUFFY

That's what he thought. With the Watcher's Council pretty much gone, he's the only one left to handle their accounts. On the one hand, we finally get paid for what we do. On the other hand, it would seem that Quentin Travers was into the lifestyle of the rich and snobby.

WILLOW

So what do we do now?

BUFFY

Giles thinks he'll have things cleared up soon. Until then, we'll have to make due with what we have.

XANDER

A bag of Cheetos and spatula?

Buffy just shrugs.

DAWN

I could get a job.

BUFFY

Or you could go to school. That works too.

DAWN

I mean after school. Someone must need some help.

BUFFY

Dawn, no. You need to focus on school.

XANDER

I've made a few calls, but nobody seems to want a one-eyed construction worker. Something about operating heavy machinery and killing people or something like that.

Willow looks at Xander and can see that he's still hurting.

WILLOW

You'll find something soon.

BUFFY

I guess I could see if they need a counselor at Dawn's school. It'll be just like old times.

DAWN

Fun.

Willow looks at her watch.

WILLOW

Speaking of school. Aren't you a little late, Dawn?

Dawn looks at the clock and jumps up.

DAWN

Oh no.

She grabs her bag off the floor and runs out of the house. Buffy, Willow and Xander remain sitting. There's a moment of silence. Nobody has anywhere to go.

BUFFY

Remember when we were still in school? Didn't things seem so much easier back then?

WILLOW

Hellmouth. Annual apocalypse. Demon attacks.

XANDER

Snyder.

BUFFY

Okay, so maybe "easier" wasn't the right word. It was just...

WILLOW

Way less boring.

BUFFY

Exactly.

XANDER

Anyone up for Scrabble?

EXT. ALFRED P. VANCE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

STUDENTS are walking all around the school. Dawn makes her way to the front walkway and stops. She takes in the sight.

It's a smaller school than she's used to. Older. Other than that, it looks like a typical high school. She takes a deep breath.

DAWN

Another new school. Great.

She begins to walk toward the door. As she gets closer to it, she hears LOUD LAUGHING. She slows down her pace, but continues to walk as she looks over to one side of the lawn.

DAWN'S POV

THREE GIRLS (well dressed in a non-Californian way) are laughing at a TOUGH LOOKING GIRL (darker clothes, less stylish, but pretty). One of the girls throws a twinkie at the tough girl. Tough girl stands up, looking as though she is about to kick the twinkie girl's ass, but then just walks away.

Dawn is curious, but shrugs it off. She continues into the school.

INT. ALFRED P. VANCE HIGH SCHOOL - OFFICE - DAY

Dawn walks into the office. Behind the counter, PRINCIPAL SHAW (female, mid-40's) is using the receptionist's computer. The receptionist is nowhere to be seen.

DAWN

Excuse me?

Principal Shaw looks up.

PRINCIPAL SHAW

Yes?



DAWN

I was told to come here. I'm new.

Principal Shaw stands up and smiles.

PRINCIPAL SHAW

Oh. Right. You're Dawn Summers.

DAWN

That's me.

PRINCIPAL SHAW

Welcome to Bear River. How are you liking it so far?

DAWN

It's... Very different than what I'm used to.

PRINCIPAL SHAW

I can imagine. It's a quiet town though. I think you'll like it here.

(beat)

I'm Principal Shaw, by the way. In case you were wondering.

Dawn straightens up when she realizes that this is the principal.

DAWN

Oh.

PRINCIPAL SHAW

Don't worry. I'm not one of those mean principals who takes pleasure in yelling at people. I'm just the only teacher who didn't have a good excuse when the job came up.

DAWN

What happened to the last principal?

PRINCIPAL SHAW

Eaten.

DAWN

(blankly)

What?

PRINCIPAL SHAW

He was hunting in the woods. There was a bear. He made a couple mistakes and... Well, I won't go into details.

DAWN

Are you supposed to be telling me this?

PRINCIPAL SHAW

I wouldn't tell you if I didn't think you'd hear about it from a less tactful source eventually.

DAWN

Thank you for that?

PRINCIPAL SHAW

That's one thing you should learn if you want to live around here. How to handle the wild animals. We teach a class on Tuesday afternoons after school if you're interested.

DAWN

Yeah. Maybe.

PRINCIPAL SHAW

Anyway, let's get on with this tour.

Principal Shaw leads the way out of the office with Dawn following her. As they walk out, they pass RYAN CRANE (17 years old, jock type). He watches Dawn as she passes without seeing him.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Willow is sitting at the dining room table. Her laptop is open in front of her and she's staring at the screen.

Xander walks in.

XANDER

Doin' some big internet searching?

Willow looks at him with a frown.

WILLOW

Nope. Playing Pong. Internet connection still isn't up.

XANDER

Say what you will about Sunnydale, but between evil mayors and secret government agencies, the place was wired.

WILLOW

Sometimes when I'm asleep, I still dream of walking down Main Street, grabbing a mocha from the Espresso Pump and heading into the magic shop.

XANDER

Homesick?

WILLOW

A little. Who would have thought I'd actually miss that place.

XANDER

It's where we grew up. This is the first time we've ever lived someplace new. On the bright side, at least we don't have to chart new territory by ourselves. We have a whole support group between the four of us.

WILLOW

Remember how the movie theater was gonna have a horror movie marathon in June? They advertised it since Thanksgiving and I was like "Hey, I should be done with the end of the world by then" and so I thought I might go. But then the theater got sucked into the ground.

XANDER

So you have to imagine the seats weren't very comfortable.

She smiles at his attempt to make her smile. Then she closes her laptop.

WILLOW

How are you doing?

XANDER

I managed to pull the car out of the driveway without bumping into anything so I'm calling it a good day.

WILLOW

Wanna go work on the eye healing?

XANDER

Nah. I think it's time to give up that dream.

WILLOW

C'mon. You said there was some change.

XANDER

Yeah. Now instead of no eye, I have one of the California Raisins living in my socket.

Willow scrunches her nose at the thought.

WILLOW

But see? It's working. It's just taking some time.

Xander doesn't respond.

                                WILLOW (CONT'D)  
                                 Just try it a little while longer?  
                                 For me?

She makes a cute puppy-dog face. He crumbles.

                                XANDER  
                                 Fine.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Buffy is walking through the woods. Not on any mission, but just out for a hike. She's taking in the scenery and the fresh air.

She stops for a moment, and leans against a tree. She takes off her shoe and searches for a pebble in it.

                                BUFFY  
                                 I can face all the demons they throw  
                                 at me, but one little pebble stops  
                                 me in my tracks.

She finally gets rid of the pebble and puts her shoe back on. She starts walking again, but soon stops. Something isn't right.

She looks back, but sees nothing behind her. She takes a few more steps, while still looking back. When she turns around, she sees it standing in front of her.

It looks like a LARGE BEAR, but it's face is very demonic. Buffy's eyes widen as she gets ready for a fight.

The bear takes a swipe at her, but she avoids it. She kicks it in the gut, but the bear demon isn't phased. Her eyes widen.

INT. ALFRED P. VANCE HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

Dawn is now sitting in class, doodling in a notebook. OTHER STUDENTS go about their usual lives, chatting and playing around before the teacher gets there.

Ryan is sitting a few desks behind her, watching her. He takes a couple of deep breaths and finally gets up. He starts to walk toward her.

Just as he's about to reach her, SHELLY FOWLER (pretty, popular type) sits in the desk right in front of Dawn. She turns around with a smile.

Ryan deflates and sits back down.

SHELLY

Hi.

Dawn looks up. She's not impressed by the popular girl coming to talk to her.

DAWN

Hi.

SHELLY

You're new.

DAWN

Thanks, I already knew that.

Shelly laughs.

SHELLY

Right. I guess that makes sense.  
Anyway, I'm Shelly. What's your name?

DAWN

Dawn.

SHELLY

Welcome to our school, Dawn.

DAWN

Thanks.

SHELLY

It must be so weird for you. I mean,  
we've all been going to school  
together since we could talk, and  
you're new. Don't worry though, most  
people are pretty nice.

DAWN

Thank. I'll remember that.

SHELLY

So where are you from?

(then)

No. Wait. Let me guess.

Shelly looks at Dawn.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

California?

Dawn looks down at her clothes and then back to Shelly,  
wondering what gave it away.

DAWN

How did you...?

SHELLY

(smiles)

My neighbor is the lady that rented  
you your house.

DAWN

Oh.

SHELLY

I've always wanted to move to  
California.

A nerdier girl, EMILY, walks into the classroom. She sits in  
the seat next to Shelly. Shelly looks over at her, and then  
back to Dawn.

SHELLY (CONT'D)

That's Emily. She's really smart.  
She's actually two years younger  
than us. She skipped.

(to Emily)

Emily, this is Dawn. She's new.

Emily looks back at Dawn. She's not impressed by Dawn's nice  
clothes or fancy makeup.

EMILY

Hi.

Emily turns back toward the front of the class.

SHELLY

(to Dawn)

Don't mind her. She's always off in  
her own world. I guess she has a lot  
to think about.

DAWN

I know the type.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Buffy is still up against the bear demon. She has a large  
branch in her hands that she's using as a weapon.

She swings the branch at the bear, but it jumps over it.

BUFFY

Oh.

She tries to swing again, but the bear grabs the branch and  
swings Buffy right into a tree. She falls to the ground.  
When she looks up, the bear is coming toward her.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Willow and Xander have cleared a spot on the floor and are now sitting across from each other. Their eyes are closed (though all we can see is his one eye, since the other is covered with the patch). They're focusing.

WILLOW (V.O.)

Focus on the sound of my thoughts.  
Clear your mind of all your problems  
and picture a river running through  
your body.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Buffy flies through the air, landing in a river. She gets up and looks back. The bear is coming after her.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

WILLOW (V.O.)

The river is your energy. It's  
powerful. But there's something  
blocking it's flow. A dam that is  
preventing you from achieving your  
goal. Try to break through the dam.  
Let the energy flow into your eye  
and fill the void with it's power  
once again.

Xander is focusing.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

Buffy and the bear are in the water, still fighting. She kicks the bear, sending it stumbling backward. It stumbles right into a small dam that's been made out of rocks and branches. Probably something done by local kids.

The bear demon crashes through the dam, but gets back up quickly. It starts toward Buffy again.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

WILLOW (V.O.)

Can you feel the energy flowing?

XANDER

Yes.

WILLOW (V.O.)

Now let the energy heal you. Let it  
repair your eye.

Xander focuses as hard as he can. His breathing is heavy.

And then his concentration is broken. He opens his eyes and scratches one of his demon bites. It's itching pretty bad.

Willow opens her eyes.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

What happened?

XANDER

It's not working. Just forget about it.

WILLOW

Xander, c'mon. You said you could feel the energy.

XANDER

Yeah. Then again, it could have been the doggy bag I was picking at this morning.

EXT. WOODS - DAY

The bear demon swings at Buffy and catches her in the arm. She is sent flying backwards, out of the water, and onto the ground. Her arm is bleeding where the bear's claws got her.

She looks up at the bear as it starts to come closer. A sudden grogginess comes over her. Finally, she shakes it off. She manages to get up and run.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - BATHROOM - DAY

Xander walks into the bathroom and closes the door behind him. He goes to the sink and turns on the water.

CLOSE ON THE SINK

The water runs. We can see Xander put his patch down on the side of the sink, and cup his hands under the faucet. He splashes some water on his face and then puts his hands on the side of the sink. We can tell he's looking at his reflection in the mirror and from the tensing of his hands, he doesn't seem to like it.

Then something changes. We can hear him GROAN IN PAIN. He weakens and has to hold himself up with his hands. His in a great deal of pain.

PAN UP SLOWLY. As he groans and moans. Finally he stops. The pain has ended. He's still breathing heavily. His head is down as we see his reflection in the mirror. Finally, he looks up and sees himself. His jaw drops as he sees his reflection.



And his new eye.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Willow is putting the furniture back in place. Buffy walks though the front door, holding onto her wounded arm. Willow sees her and goes to her.

WILLOW

Buffy, are you okay?

BUFFY

I got attacked.

WILLOW

By what?

BUFFY

It looked like an "if they mated" featuring a bear and some kind of pully-skinned demon.

(beat)

Or maybe that creepy cat-lady who's had way too much plastic surgery. Either way, it got me.

WILLOW

Is it serious?

BUFFY

I've had worse.

WILLOW

Considering you've been dead twice, that's not comforting.

BUFFY

I'll be fine. I just need to clean up. Where's Xander?

WILLOW

Bathroom. We had another healing session.

BUFFY

Any luck?

Willow shakes her head.

WILLOW

I think he's starting to lose hope.

BUFFY

Can you blame him?

WILLOW

I just wish there was something more  
I could do.

BUFFY

You're not a doctor, Will. Don't put  
it all on yourself.

Xander comes down the stairs. He sees Buffy's arm.

XANDER

Ouch. You okay?

BUFFY

I'll be...

Buffy and Willow both look at Xander at the same time. They notice that he's not wearing a patch and he has an eye. They're shocked.

WILLOW

Xander, your eye.

XANDER

Yeah, I noticed that too. Weird,  
huh?

Both girls smile and hug him. He can hardly breath.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Whoa. If I'd know that growing a new  
eye would get me some lovin', I'd  
have done it sooner.

They keep hugging.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Okay. Can't breath. Buffy?

BUFFY

Hmm?

XANDER

I think you're bleeding on me.

The girls back off.

BUFFY

Sorry.

WILLOW

But I thought it didn't work.

XANDER

Me too.

(MORE)

XANDER (CONT'D)

Then something happened and all the sudden I can judge distance again. Which actually led to some whacky fun upstairs, but I'm getting used to it.

(beat)

And a little sea sick, but I'll deal.

WILLOW

This is so great. Congratulations.

XANDER

I could say the same to you, magic gal. You pulled it off.

WILLOW

We pulled it off.

There's a moment of silent smiles. Finally Buffy starts toward the stairs.

BUFFY

I think I should probably get a bandage. I'm starting to get a little dizzy.

XANDER

'Kay. But hurry. After that, what do you say we pick up Dawn from school and go to the ice cream shop. On me.

BUFFY

If it's on you, I say okay.

(beat)

Or we could head to the mall and go on a shopping spree, also on you. That'd work too.

XANDER

Or not.

BUFFY

A girl's gotta try. I'll be back.

Buffy heads upstairs. When she's gone, Xander pulls his eye patch out of his pocket.

XANDER

Meanwhile, I say we have us a celebratory burning of the patch.

Willow smiles.

EXT. BEAR RIVER MAIN STREET - DAY

Dawn and Shelly are walking down the street, still carrying their backpacks.

DAWN

So what do you do for fun around here?

SHELLY

We have lots of fun. There's always a festival of some sort going on. Last year, I was queen of the row boat during the fourth of July festival.

DAWN

Row boat? I don't think that's really "me".

SHELLY

Okay. Well, we always have the movie store, school dances, parties. Don't worry. Once you get used to this place, it's really not so bad.

DAWN

I guess it'll just take time.  
(then)  
Where's the Chinese restaurant? I've seen the Bait-N-Breakfast and the pizza place, but I haven't seen the Chinese place.

SHELLY

Oh. We don't actually have one of those.

Dawn almost drops her bag.

DAWN

No Chinese food. How?

SHELLY

I guess we just never got one.

DAWN

Well someone is seriously missing a huge money making opportunity there.

SHELLY

Maybe. Then again, even the most successful restaurant in town isn't gonna make anyone rich.

DAWN

True.

(beat)

So what's the deal with the last principal?

SHELLY

Oh, the one that was...?

Shelly doesn't want to bring up any bad mental images.

DAWN

Yeah.

SHELLY

Rumor has it, it was Big Jack.

DAWN

Big Jack?

SHELLY

Yeah. Kinda like an urban legend around here. This big bear that lives in the woods and kills anyone who invades it's territory.

DAWN

Has anyone ever tried to track it down?

SHELLY

Nah. It's just a way for people to explain all the deaths that happen in the woods. But they're the woods, so it's probably just natural for people to die out there.

(beat)

Anyway, it's how the town got it's name. Bear River. There's a river too.

DAWN

Yeah, I knew that.

They are just passing by the video store when Dawn stops. She's looking at the store's window. There's a "Help Wanted" sign in it.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Hold on a sec.

Shelly stops.

SHELLY

What?

DAWN  
They're hiring.

Dawn goes inside the store. Shelly follows.

INT. VIDEO STORE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Dawn walks through the video store, looking around.

DAWN  
It's no Blockbuster, is it?

SHELLY  
Mm-mm.

Dawn finally reaches the counter. There's a young woman, KIRSTY (early 20's, dark hair, glasses) sitting in a chair, reading a magazine behind the counter.

DAWN  
Excuse me?

Kirsty looks up. She sees Dawn's unfamiliar face.

KIRSTY  
You're new.

DAWN  
Yeah. That seems to be the conclusion everyone's come to. I saw the sign in the window.

KIRSTY  
Sign?

DAWN  
"Help Wanted".

KIRSTY  
Oh. Yeah. What about it?

DAWN  
Well, I was actually hoping to apply.

Kirsty looks at Dawn for a second without responding. Dawn starts to get a little confused.

KIRSTY  
You're serious?

Dawn shakes her head.

KIRSTY (CONT'D)  
Sorry, I didn't realize.

RYAN (O.S.)  
You're hired.





KIRSTY

Fine.  
(to Dawn)  
You're hired.

Ryan smiles and puts down the movies. He extends a hand to Dawn.

RYAN

I'm Ryan. This is my sister, Kirsty.

DAWN

I knew a Kirsty back home. She was...

Dawn doesn't want to finish that sentence for fear of insulting Kirsty.

DAWN (CONT'D)

So, when do I start?

INT. ICE CREAM SHOP - DAY

Buffy, Xander and Willow are sitting at a table, eating ice cream.

WILLOW

Where do you think she went?

BUFFY

Don't know.

WILLOW

I hope she wasn't attacked or anything like that.

XANDER

I'm sure she's fine. We'll bring her some ice cream for later.

BUFFY

This is good ice cream. Her ice cream for later might become my ice cream for later if she's not home in time.

WILLOW

We should bring home extra, just incase.

BUFFY

Good plan.

WILLOW

(smiles)  
Wouldn't wanna deprive a Slayer of her post-kill munchies. It just wouldn't be right.

Buffy puts a scoop of ice cream in her mouth just before talking.

BUFFY

Actually, it was a no-go on the killing.

WILLOW

What?

BUFFY

Yeah. Big fight, I got scratched, we both got thrown around, and I took off.

WILLOW

So there's still a demon out there?

BUFFY

I guess. Don't worry about it. It's no biggie.

XANDER

The thing draws blood from the Slayer, I'd say that's a biggie biggie.

BUFFY

Actually, I'm not *the* Slayer. I'm just a Slayer. There's a bunch more now.

XANDER

Okay. But my wiggins still stands.

BUFFY

Calm down. It's not a big deal. What's one little demon? Besides, it's probably been out there forever and the town still seems to be functioning.

Willow and Xander share a concerned look.

WILLOW

Buffy, are you okay?

BUFFY

I'm fine. More than fine, actually. What else does a girl need besides some good food and the company of her best friends in the world?

XANDER

Prescription medication?

WILLOW  
 (to Xander)  
 Maybe we should get her home and  
 figure out what's going on.

Xander nods. He stands up. As he does, he gets a little dizzy.

XANDER'S POV

Everything get's a little blurred for a moment, but soon  
 clears up. For a split second, we can see a BLUE CLOUD around  
 Buffy's head. As his vision clears, the cloud goes away.

XANDER  
 Whoa.

He rubs his eyes.

WILLOW  
 Are you okay?

XANDER  
 Yeah. Head rush. Let's go.

They grab Buffy by the arms and walk her out of the shop. As  
 they walk out, Buffy tries to turn around.

BUFFY  
 Hey, we forgot the ice cream.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Buffy is sitting on the couch, watching Willow and Xander  
 pace back and forth in front of her.

BUFFY  
 You guys are really blowing this  
 whole thing out of proportion. I'm  
 fine.

XANDER  
 That's why you're suddenly pro-demon?

BUFFY  
 I'm not pro-demon. I just don't see  
 what the big deal is with one little  
 demon out in the woods.

WILLOW  
 A demon in the woods that attacks  
 people and kills them.

BUFFY  
 See, now you're just jumping to  
 conclusions. Do we really know that  
 it kills people?

XANDER

I don't think he was trying to thumb  
wrestle you, Buff.

BUFFY

It was probably my fault anyway. I  
was the one who invaded his personal  
space. If anything, I think I should  
go apologize.

(beat)

You think bear demons like ice cream?

WILLOW

A spell.

BUFFY

You want me to bring the bear demon  
a spell?

WILLOW

(to Xander)

It has to be a spell. It's the only  
explanation.

XANDER

You think you can break it?

WILLOW

I'd have to know what it was first.

XANDER

Is there some kind of general spell  
undo-er?

WILLOW

Yes. But those things can be tricky.  
If it got out of hand, who knows  
what we might undo? For all we know,  
Buffy would be uncalled as a Slayer,  
Dawn would cease to exist and your  
eye would go poof.

XANDER

Okay, so we find a new plan.

BUFFY

Maybe I could bake him a cake. I  
hear chocolate's bad for animals  
though.

Dawn walks through the front door. Right away, she can sense  
badness with Willow and Xander.

DAWN

What's going on?

XANDER

Buffy got into a fight with some bear demon and now she's acting all passive toward it. We think it's a spell.

DAWN

Big Jack.

WILLOW

What-now?

DAWN

The bear. A friend was telling me about it today. It's like a legend around here. This big bear that lives in the woods and kills anyone who invades it's space.

BUFFY

You made a friend? Good for you.

XANDER

But why would that make Buffy act all weird?

BUFFY

I'm not acting weird.

(to Dawn)

I'm not acting weird.

DAWN

So what are we gonna...

Dawn stops. She's looking at Xander and sees something different, but can't quite place what it is.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Is there something new about you?

XANDER

Kinda.

She finally realizes it. A smile forms on her face.

DAWN

Your eye!

She runs to him and gives him a big hug.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Oh my God, this is so great. How'd it happen?

XANDER

Willow.

DAWN

This is so great. We have to celebrate.

WILLOW

Um, guys? Slayer issues, remember?

DAWN

Sorry. So, what happened?

XANDER

Fight in the woods. Ice cream. Suddenly she's all warm and fuzzy toward demons.

DAWN

So could it have been the ice cream, maybe? I mean, if there's an evil exterminator in town, maybe there's an evil ice cream maker.

WILLOW

I don't feel any different, but I guess it's worth checking out.

XANDER

I'll go.

DAWN

Me too.

WILLOW

I guess I'll stay here and try to place the spell.

Xander and Dawn leave.

Willow looks down at Buffy who is looking back at her, innocently.

BUFFY

Wanna play Jenga?

INT. ICE CREAM SHOP - NIGHT

Xander and Dawn walk into the shop and look around.

XANDER

I'll check out the shop. You go to the counter and see if anything looks weird.

DAWN

'Kay.

XANDER

Oh...

He hands her some money.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Here. The butter pecan looks a little shifty. Might want to get some. Y'know, for the sake of the investigation.

Dawn gets his meaning.

DAWN

Check. Suspicious butter pecan. I'm on it.

Dawn heads off for the counter. We stay on Xander as he checks out the rest of the shop. He goes to the table where he, Buffy and Willow were sitting at earlier, and looks around.

Nearby, an ATTRACTIVE YOUNG LADY is sitting alone, eating ice cream. She catches Xander's eye. He smiles at her in a flirty way.

XANDER

Hi.

(beat)

Just looking for a quarter I dropped before. It's my lucky quarter.

She smiles at him. He looks around a little more, then turns back to her.

XANDER (CONT'D)

I don't suppose you've seen anything weird? Y'know, like a quarter. Or maybe a funny looking red man with horns and a pitchfork?

She shakes her head, playing coy. He smiles.

Then something comes over him. He puts a hand on his temple.

XANDER'S POV

His vision blurs. When it clears up, he can see the woman sitting, enjoying her ice cream. He can also see right through her clothes! Luckily, she's wearing underwear because this is a network tv show.

Xander jumps and slaps a hand over his new eye.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Nygh!

Of all the luck, Xander's x-ray vision prevents his hand from actually doing any good. He can see right through it.

He yelps again and tries putting his other hand over the hand covering his eye. It still doesn't work.

Dawn looks back from the counter. She starts to walk over with a bag of ice cream in her hand. Xander is very sure not to look in her direction.

Finally, she gets close enough to whisper.

DAWN  
(whispered)  
Xander, what are you doing? Are you okay?

Xander turns his head to keep his eyes away from Dawn. When he does, he finds himself looking back at the attractive young woman. He can still see through her clothes.

He lingers on that sight for the slightest of moments before realizing that this just isn't right.

XANDER  
I have to go.

He runs out of the shop.

Dawn looks around to see if people are staring.

EXT. BEAR RIVER MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Xander runs into the street. Moments later, Dawn follows.

DAWN  
What's going on?

Xander looks up. He looks around (still not at Dawn) and finds that his vision is normal again.

XANDER  
It's gone.

DAWN  
What?

XANDER  
Back there, I could see through that woman's clothes.

DAWN  
You what?

XANDER  
Not on purpose.

DAWN  
X-ray vision? Are you serious?



Xander's head hurts again. He rubs his temple. When he looks up, he looks around the street. As he does, his jaw drops.

XANDER

Uh-oh.

DAWN

What?

Xander doesn't respond. He just looks around.

XANDER'S POV

PEOPLE walk up and down the street. Some of them look quite normal. But a bunch of them (mostly men, but a few women) have a BLUE CLOUD around their heads.

XANDER

I think we have a problem.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT TWO

## ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. BEAR RIVER MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Only a few moments have passed. Xander is still looking around the town.

DAWN

What's going on? Xander, talk to me.

XANDER

There's... Something isn't right with this place. The people.

DAWN

And that means?

XANDER

I can see something around some of them. A cloud.

He closes his eyes and shakes his head a little. When he opens his eyes, his vision is normal again.

XANDER (CONT'D)

It's gone.

(beat)

But I saw the same thing around Buffy earlier. I just thought it was a head rush or something.

DAWN

So what is it?

XANDER

That's what we have to find out.

They're about to take off when they run into Shelly. Shelly smiles.

SHELLY

Dawn. Hi.

Dawn really doesn't feel chatty, but she can't just run off.

DAWN

Hey, Shelly.

Shelly looks to Xander and then back to Dawn. Dawn doesn't get the meaning for a moment, but then finally gets it.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Oh. Right. Shelly, this is Xander. Xander, Shelly. I met her at school today.

Xander wants to rush off too, but doesn't.

XANDER  
Hi. Nice to meet you.  
(to Dawn)  
We really should--

DAWN  
Right.  
(holds up bag)  
Ice cream. Don't want it to melt.

SHELLY  
So is this your brother?

DAWN  
Him? No. Xander's a friend. Roommate,  
actually.

SHELLY  
Roommate? You don't live with your  
family?

DAWN  
My sister. It's a long story. I'll  
tell you tomorrow.

Xander looks back up at the crowd to see if he can make out  
the cloud, but it's still not there.

Shelly notices him looking around.

SHELLY  
Is something wrong?

XANDER  
Hmm? Oh, no. I'm just not used to  
this much plaid.

SHELLY  
Yeah. It's a big hunting town, what  
can I say? Hunters love their plaid.

Shelly points out one of the men.

SHELLY (CONT'D)  
See him? That's Ray Neilson. He won  
the deer hunting competition for  
last year. He'd have had even more  
if he wasn't put out of commission  
in the attack.

DAWN  
Attack?

SHELLY

Yeah. Something came at him in the woods when he was out one day. Nearly took a leg by the time it was done with him.

DAWN

How'd he get away?

SHELLY

Managed to fire a shot into the thing's face. He said he wasn't even sure it killed him, the thing was so strong. Nobody ever found the carcass. Anyway, the whole thing really changed his life. He said he may never go hunting again.

DAWN

(to Xander)  
Big Jack.

SHELLY

(laughs)  
That's what they say.  
(to Xander)  
Then again, that's what they say about most of the attacks around here. Every time someone's bitten, mauled, mutilated, or has their corpse stolen from the funeral home, people blame Big Jack. As if there weren't any other animals in the world.

Xander and Dawn share a look and then smile nervously at Shelly.

XANDER

Animals. Right. What kind of person would believe in demons anyway?

SHELLY

Demons?

XANDER

Not demons. I mean legends. Creatures from legends. Elves. Fairies. Christina Aguilera. All those things that nobody really believes in.

DAWN

You'll have to excuse my friend here. He gets a little loopy when he's low on sugar. We should really get going.

SHELLY

Okay. Well, I'll see you in school tomorrow.

DAWN

Right. See ya.

SHELLY

(to Xander)

Nice meeting you.

Xander smiles and then he and Dawn turn and walk away.

DAWN

(mumbled to Xander)

Spill the beans much?

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Buffy is sitting on the couch, playing Jenga. Willow is pacing, with the phone up to her ear.

WILLOW

(into phone)

It's me. We have a little issue here that I could use some help figuring out. Let me know as soon as you get in. Safe trip. Bye.

Willow hangs up the phone. She looks at Buffy.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

This was a lot easier when we had a library of books to look through.

Xander and Dawn walk into the house. Dawn heads into the kitchen to put the ice cream away. Xander sits next to Buffy.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Find anything out?

XANDER

Do you mean about Buffy's situation, or about my freakish new super eye with the amazing powers of x-ray vision and cloud-o-vision?

WILLOW

Huh?

XANDER

Yeah. Turns out my eye was fixed a little too well or something. It's going crazy on me.

BUFFY  
 (still in Jenga world)  
 Wow. That's weird.

He scratches at one of his demon bites again.

XANDER  
 Yeah. As if I didn't have enough  
 suffering with these bug bites from  
 Hell.

WILLOW  
 Okay, so what's cloud-o-vision?

Dawn walks back into the room.

DAWN  
 He can see clouds around people who've  
 been in contact with Big Jack.

WILLOW  
 Can you see the clouds now?

XANDER  
 No. It comes and goes.

DAWN  
 But he saw one around Buffy before,  
 and then again with a few people in  
 town.

WILLOW  
 And they survived?

DAWN  
 Seems that way.

Willow thinks.

WILLOW  
 Okay, so these people are attacked  
 by the bear-demon--

DAWN  
 Big Jack.

WILLOW  
 Whatever. So these people are  
 attacked, and they have this cloud  
 around them?

DAWN  
 That and they're suddenly all passive  
 and stuff. I'm thinking it's some  
 kind of poison that gets into their  
 system. Like a drug.

WILLOW  
That would make sense.

XANDER  
So will it wear off?

WILLOW  
Maybe.

DAWN  
But the people in town are still  
doped up.

Buffy takes a piece from the bottom of the Jenga tower, and  
the thing falls apart.

BUFFY  
Darn.  
(to the others)  
Were you guys saying something?

WILLOW  
We're gonna make you better soon,  
Buffy.

BUFFY  
I feel fine. Is it really so bad  
that I don't wanna go around killing  
things all the time?

DAWN  
For you? Yeah.

XANDER  
So where do we start?

WILLOW  
Killing the demon is usually the way  
to go.

XANDER  
So we kill this demon that Buffy  
couldn't even kill?

WILLOW  
Maybe I can use a spell to put him  
to sleep or something.

DAWN  
And then what? Do we boil the body  
and make Buffy drink it or something?

XANDER  
Eew.

DAWN  
Well.

WILLOW

We'll figure out how to fix this  
once we have the demon. Let's go.

Willow, Xander and Dawn start for the door. At the last second, Xander stops and turns around.

XANDER

Wait. I think we're forgetting  
something.

WILLOW

Buffy?

XANDER

Buffy.

Dawn goes and grabs Buffy's arm. She pulls Buffy along with them as they walk out of the house.

BUFFY

You guys, I'm really okay to stay  
here alone. I'm an adult, you know.  
I have the photo ID to prove it.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

The gang walks through the woods, searching for Big Jack.

DAWN

So how are we supposed to find this  
thing anyway?

WILLOW

If Buffy would just tell us where  
she was, we'd know where to look.

Willow gives Buffy a "hint hint" look.

BUFFY

Don't look at me. I'm not in on this  
whole hunting thing. The poor guy  
just wants to live in peace.

DAWN

And make others live in pieces.

Dawn smiles at her own joke, but nobody else does. Her smile turns into a defensive pout.

WILLOW

C'mon. If you tell us where the demon  
is, I'll play Jenga later.

Buffy mimes a key-turning action over her mouth. Willow sighs.



WILLOW (CONT'D)

Okay, so I guess we'll just have to wander around until we find it.

XANDER

Hey, I have an idea.

Dawn and Willow look at him.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Neither of you would happen to have a picnic basket handy?

The girls roll their eyes. Buffy laughs. Dawn looks at Buffy.

DAWN

You think *that* was better than my "pieces" joke?

Buffy shrugs. At the same time, Xander's vision blurs again. He stops walking and rubs his eye. The others stop.

BUFFY

Are you okay?

XANDER

Yeah, my eye's just going wonky again.

DAWN

X-ray?

Xander looks around, being sure not to look at any of the girls.

XANDER

Don't think so.

WILLOW

It's not heat vision, is it?

XANDER

I'm not Clark Kent, Will.

Xander looks at Buffy. He focuses on her. After a second, she gets a little self conscious and rubs her face.

BUFFY

What? Do I have something on my face?

XANDER

The cloud.

DAWN

You see the cloud again?

XANDER

Yeah.

Xander looks around the rest of the woods.

WILLOW

So do you see the cloud anywhere else?

XANDER

Hold on a sec.

BUFFY

How do we know he's not just seeing things?

XANDER

There.

Xander is pointing into the distance.

WILLOW

You see it?

XANDER

I'm not just pointing for the thrill of it. Let's go.

They start to walk off. Buffy finds a rock and sits down.

BUFFY

I'll just wait here. You guys go ahead without me.

Dawn walks back and grabs Buffy again.

The group walks to the same area of the woods that Buffy was in earlier.

XANDER

The place is lit up like a cheap Las Vegas night club.

WILLOW

I don't see any bear.

DAWN

Could he have moved on?

Xander blinks a few times.

XANDER

Eye's back to normal.

Dawn takes a few steps and looks around the area. She turns back to the others.

DAWN

So what do we do now?

Before anyone can answer, there's a RUSTLING in the trees behind Dawn. She closes her eyes, realizing what's happening.

Big Jack creeps up behind her. He stands on his hind legs and shows his teeth.

DAWN (CONT'D)

He's right behind me, isn't he?

Big Jack raises a claw and moves to swipe at Dawn.

Willow quickly raises a hand.

WILLOW

(latin)

Contego.

(translation)

Shield.

The claw is stopped just short of Dawn's head.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Dawn, run!

Dawn runs out of the way. She stops next to Buffy.

BUFFY

Dawn, are you okay?

DAWN

Yeah.

BUFFY

We should go.

Big Jack ROARS. He starts toward Willow. Willow looks down to the ground and holds her palm up. She focuses as hard as she can.

When Big Jack finally gets to her, he swipes at her. Again, the claw is stopped short of hurting her. Slowly, Willow looks up. Her face is filled with strength and determination.

Big Jack FLIES BACK, and crashes to the ground. Angered, the demon bear grabs a branch off of the ground and throws it at Willow. It bounces off of her shield and lands on the ground near her.

XANDER

Just let us know when we can jump in.

WILLOW

Stay back.

BUFFY

You guys, we should get out of here.  
Now.

DAWN

We don't run.

XANDER

Sometimes we run.

DAWN

We're not running this time.

Willow and Big Jack are staring each other down. Big Jack charges at her. She moves out of the way. He slowly walks closer to her again. She backs away with each step he takes.

XANDER

Willow, watch it!

Willow doesn't have time to react before she trips over the branch on the ground. Her focus is lost. As she falls, Big Jack swipes at her. He catches her in the arm and sends her flying through the air, into a tree. She lands on the ground with a thud. She's unconscious.

BUFFY

Willow!

Buffy goes to Willow's side to see if she'll be okay.

Big Jack starts to make his way toward Xander and Dawn. When he gets close to them, he ROARS again.

Buffy looks back. Her eyes widen.

Xander and Dawn look up at Big Jack. Xander swallows hard.

XANDER

Oh, bother.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT THREE

## ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

Big Jack is standing over Xander and Dawn. The demon ROARS again. He raises a claw to swipe at them.

Xander pushes Dawn out of the way just in time. She lands on the ground and looks up just in time to see Xander get knocked to the ground. Once on the ground, Big Jack stands over him, ready to rip him apart.

BUFFY

Xander, get out of there!

Dawn gets to her feet. She tries to think of a plan, but when one doesn't come to her, she just charges at the demon.

XANDER

(to Dawn)

No!

Dawn lands a few punches, but Big Jack quickly gets annoyed. He turns and swats her away. She lands on the ground, a little dazed. Big Jack turns back to Xander and holds him down with one paw.

Buffy goes to Dawn and helps her up.

BUFFY

Are you okay?

DAWN

I think so.

BUFFY

We have to get out of here.

DAWN

We have to help Xander and Willow.

Buffy looks back.

BUFFY

I think they made him mad.

DAWN

What was your first clue?

Xander is struggling to get away, but he can't. The weight of Big Jack on his chest is also making it hard for him to breath.

Big Jack puts his nose to Xander's face and starts sniffing.

BUFFY

What can we do?

DAWN

I was thinking we might kill the demon.

BUFFY

But...

DAWN

Look, I don't have time to chat. Help or don't. Either way, I'm going to help Xander.

Dawn pushes past Buffy and grabs a rock off the ground. She holds it with both hands and hits Big Jack as hard as she can over the head.

Big Jack HUFFS, and turns toward Dawn. She slowly begins to back away.

DAWN (CONT'D)

That's right, big guy. Come this way.

Big Jack moves away from Xander, toward Dawn. Buffy watches with concern.

BUFFY

Dawn, don't make him mad. He'll hurt you.

Xander takes a few deep breaths as he tries to get up. He only makes it as far as his knees before he has to stop and deal with the pain he feels on his chest. He looks up and sees Big Jack moving closer to Dawn.

Dawn doesn't have any clue what she's doing. She looks around for something to use to stop Big Jack, but she sees nothing.

XANDER

Buffy, help her!

Buffy is torn. She doesn't know what to do. Help her little sister, or go with her gut and stay out of Big Jack's way.

BUFFY

What am I supposed to do?

XANDER

Kill him!

BUFFY

I can't.

DAWN

But don't you think it's worth a try?

XANDER

You're a Slayer. Slay!

Buffy thinks about it.

BUFFY

Am I? When was the last time I killed anything? Maybe I'm not a Slayer anymore.

XANDER

It's not a choice you have. It's who you are.

Buffy struggles to make sense of this.

DAWN

You're under a spell.

Big Jack GRUNTS as he gets closer to Dawn.

DAWN (CONT'D)

(to Big Jack)

Not you. Her.

Dawn's run out of space to back up.

BUFFY

Dawn.

XANDER

Save her, Buffy.

Big Jack swipes at Dawn. She's thrown into a rock and hits her head. She's awake, but groggy at this point. Big Jack steps closer to her and raises a claw to swing again.

BUFFY

Dawn!

Buffy runs and dives on top of Big Jack. Both of them fall to the ground.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Xander, get Dawn and Willow out of here!

XANDER

But--

BUFFY

Do it!

Buffy leaps to her feet just as Big Jack gets to his. They stare each other down.

BUFFY (CONT'D)  
I really can't allow you to hurt my  
sister like that.

Xander goes to Dawn and helps her up. He puts one of her arms around his neck and helps her over to where Willow is. He looks at Willow and then to Dawn.

XANDER  
Oh, this should be fun.

BUFFY  
(to Big Jack)  
I'm sure we can work something out.  
Maybe you could try not killing people  
for a while. Y'know, just to see how  
you like it?

Big Jack swings at Buffy. She avoids him and kicks him in the gut. He stumbles back.

BUFFY (CONT'D)  
If you're not willing to talk this  
through, I'm not sure what I might  
have to do.  
(beat)  
C'mon. What do you say? Friends?

He charges at Buffy again. This time, he manages to knock her to the ground. He puts a paw on top of her and ROARS.

BUFFY (CONT'D)  
(struggling to breath)  
I'm trying. I really am. But if you're  
not willing to give a little, I guess  
I have no other choice.

She grabs his paw and twists it. He falls to the ground next to her. She rolls on top of him and begins punching him in the face.

Xander and Dawn are kneeling next to Willow now. Xander's trying to wake Dawn up. He's slapping her lightly on the face.

XANDER  
Wake up. C'mon, stay with me.

DAWN  
Wha...?

XANDER  
That's right. Just open those eyes  
and help me out a little.



He thinks for a few seconds, trying to think of something to help his situation. She's starting to wake up a little more.

XANDER (CONT'D)  
Come on. Umm... How many fingers?

He holds up three fingers, but she doesn't respond. She's not looking at his hand.

XANDER (CONT'D)  
Okay. Who's the president?

DAWN  
(groggy)  
Xander?

XANDER  
Close enough.

Dawn is finally starting to come around. She looks up at him, still a little out of it, but much more aware.

DAWN  
The demon.

XANDER  
Buffy's handling it.

DAWN  
Buffy?

Xander looks back. He sees Buffy still pounding on Big Jack's face.

XANDER  
Looks like he wasn't willing to give  
peace a chance.

Big Jack finally manages to block one of Buffy's punches, and grabs her fist. He shifts his weight and rolls on top of her. His weight makes it hard for her to breath.

BUFFY  
Okay, someone needs a diet.

He leans up, still using his lower half to hold her down. He swipes at her. She moves her head in time to avoid being killed, but she gets a nasty looking cut in the process.

BUFFY (CONT'D)  
Ow! That's just rude.

She punches Big Jack in the face, then pushes him off of her. She leaps to her feet. Big Jack stands and faces her.

Xander and Dawn each grab one of Willow's arms.

XANDER

(to Dawn)

You sure you can do this?

DAWN

Think so.

They try picking Willow up. Dawn quickly lets her side drop.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Or not.

Dawn drops next to Willow.

XANDER

I'll take care of Willow. You just try to take care of yourself.

Dawn nods. Xander picks Willow up, ignoring his bruised chest. They slowly begin to make their way out of the area. Dawn stops and turns around.

DAWN

We can't leave her.

XANDER

She'll be fine. We have to get out of here.

Dawn hesitates.

By this time, Buffy and Big Jack are back to fighting. Swinging at each other, and trying to avoid each other.

BUFFY

Dawn, go!

Finally, Dawn gives in and goes with Xander. When they're gone, Buffy stands up straight and puts her hands on her hips.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Okay, they're gone. We can stop the fighting now.

Buffy turns to walk away, but Big Jack isn't stopping. He swings at her from behind. Even though she can't see it, she ducks and avoids it.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Y'know, I've tried being nice. I've tried walking away. I've tried being your friend. What else can I do? You keep trying to kill my friends, and my sister. You keep trying to rip out my insides. And why?

(MORE)

BUFFY (CONT'D)

So you can eat them? Or make a hat?  
'Cause some demons make a hat out of  
the... That's not important. What is  
important is that you just aren't  
cooperating. You really need to be  
more of a giver.

Big Jack swings at her again. She stops his arm and holds  
onto it.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I don't think we can work this out  
by talking, at this point.

Buffy kicks Big Jack in the gut, still holding onto his arm.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Seems like the only thing you respond  
to is good old fashioned violence.

She kicks him again.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Luckily for you, I happen to be fluent  
in the language of the ancient ass  
kickers.

She twists his arm and flips him to the ground.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

They were a quiet race. Known for  
their pottery and basket making.  
They made really nice baskets.

She kicks him again. He tries to get up, but she pushes him  
back down.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Did I mention their ass kicking  
skills?

She kicks Big Jack again.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

That's how you say "hi" in ancient  
ass kicker.

She bends down and begins to beat the crap out of Big Jack.  
Soon the POUNDING SOUNDS turn into SQUISHING SOUNDS.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Sorry for the run on sentence. I  
tend to ramble when I'm under demonic  
spells.

She finally stops pounding him and sits back. She catches her breath.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Buffy, Willow and Xander are all laying around the room. They're recovering from their battle the night before.

WILLOW

My head feels like it's been put through a juicer.

XANDER

My ribs feel like they've been beaten by a meat tenderizer.

WILLOW

Hey, maybe we could open a really disgusting restaurant.

BUFFY

So there goes my non-killing spree.

WILLOW

Sorry.

BUFFY

It was bound to happen eventually. Still a personal record though.

XANDER

On the bright side, no more blue cloud around you.

BUFFY

Yay for that.

(beat)

For some reason, I was rambling on about an ancient race of ass kickers. I think the cloud was making me a little insane.

XANDER

Everything seems normal again though. From what Dawn says, the urge to hunt and kill has gone back up in town.

BUFFY

That's nice.

WILLOW

Normal for most people. Still working on your eye issue.

XANDER

I'm starting to get used to it,  
actually.

WILLOW

It doesn't make sense. I can't figure  
out why your eye would do that.

BUFFY

You'll work it out. It's what you  
do. Until then, Xander, if I catch  
you staring at me, I'll kill you in  
your sleep.

Xander smiles at Buffy's joke. Then he starts to realize  
that she wasn't joking and his smile fades.

XANDER

So, shouldn't Dawn be home by now?  
(beat)  
Not that I wanted to stare at Dawn.  
Because I wouldn't do that.  
(beat)  
Really.

INT. VIDEO STORE - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Kirsty is showing Dawn around the shop. They're behind the  
counter at the moment. Dawn's being shown how to check movies  
back into the computer.

KIRSTY

Then you scan it, hit F3 on the  
computer, scan it again, and then  
put it back on the shelf.

DAWN

Okay. Sounds easy enough.

KIRSTY

Could be easier, but our system is  
about two decades past it's prime.

DAWN

You should have seen the register at  
this shop some friends of mine owned  
back in California. I think it was  
from the 1800's or something.

Kirsty doesn't respond. She's not really interested.

DAWN (CONT'D)

So, how 'bout them late fees?

KIRSTY

I'll show you one of those when we get one. Usually, we just let it slide.

DAWN

Wow. That's nice of you.

KIRSTY

Just never saw the point in charging them.

Kirsty reaches behind the counter and pulls out a name tag and a pin. She hands them both to Dawn. Dawn smiles at the name tag.

DAWN

Cool. My own name tag.

Again, Kirsty doesn't respond. Dawn looks at the pin and is a little confused by it.

DAWN (CONT'D)

"Hunting is murder"?

KIRSTY

It's the official opinion of the store.

RYAN (O.S.)

No it's not.

Dawn turns and sees Ryan walking into the store. He walks right to them.

RYAN (CONT'D)

She just wants to push her own opinions.

KIRSTY

Mom and Dad put me in charge.

RYAN

They didn't say you could make every employee become a registered PETA member.

KIRSTY

Whatever. You show her around. I have paperwork to fill out.

Kirsty walks into the back room, leaving Dawn alone with Ryan. He smiles at her.

RYAN

Sorry about that.

DAWN  
It's cool, I don't mind.

RYAN  
She can be a bit political sometimes.  
You can just ignore her. I do.

Dawn smiles.

RYAN (CONT'D)  
Hey, did she tell you that you get  
free rentals?

DAWN  
Really? That's cool.

RYAN  
Yeah.  
(beat)  
C'mon, I'll show you the snack rack.

Ryan walks away. Dawn stands for a moment, just looking around the shop. Taking it all in before finally following Ryan.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF SHOW