

Buffy The Vampire Slayer

Season 8

Once And For All

Episode 3

"Arrivals"

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. WATCHERS COUNCIL BUILDING - GILES' OFFICE - DAY

GILES walks into his office and quickly grabs the phone as he sits down at the desk. He dials a number and puts the phone to his ear.

GILES

(beat)

Yes, this is Rupert Giles again. I was wondering if you've heard from Mr. Hewitt.

(beat)

Right.

(beat)

Well, have you actually gone into his office?

(beat)

No? Well, why don't you do that now?

(beat)

On my authority. I'm fairly certain that I outrank you.

(beat)

Yes, I'll hold.

Giles sits in silence, waiting for the other person to come back to the phone. As he sits, MARGE walks into the room with SAMPSON close behind her. She sees Giles on the phone, so tries to remain quiet.

GILES (CONT'D)

Close the door please, Sampson.

Sampson closes the door.

MARGE

Have you heard anything yet?

GILES

I'm on hold now.

MARGE

Well, I've checked all of his credit cards. No charges since yesterday afternoon.

SAMPSON

I'm sorry, but... I just mean... Are we supposed to be checking our boss' credit cards?

MARGE

Why do you think we closed the door?

SAMPSON

Right.

(beat)

Okay.

(to self)

I'm so getting fired for this.

Giles puts up a finger so that the others will hold on a moment.

GILES

(into phone)

Yes?

(beat)

And nobody noticed this before?

(beat)

Okay. Get all of the security footage from last night to my office as soon as you can. I want everything from sundown until this morning.

(beat)

As far as you're concerned, I'm in charge until we find out where Mr. Hewitt is. Get me those tapes.

(beat)

Then get the bloody files!

Giles hangs up the phone. He turns to Marge.

GILES (CONT'D)

Hewitt's not been seen since last night. His access card was used to get into the building, but nobody knows where he is and his office looks like something might have happened.

MARGE

Like what?

Giles doesn't answer.

MARGE (CONT'D)

Do you think he's dead?

GILES

I think we have work to do.

INT. WATCHERS COUNCIL BUILDING - GILES' OFFICE - LATER

Giles is on the phone again, pacing across the room.

Sampson is sitting at Giles' desk with a laptop in front of him. There are several DVDs scattered around the desk and Sampson is watching the security videos from the night before.

GILES
(into phone)
Keep me updated.

Giles hangs up the phone.

GILES (CONT'D)
Damn it.
(turns to Sampson)
Well, we have absolutely no clues.
Nothing we could possibly use to
find Hewitt. How 'bout the video?

SAMPSON
Aside from the ability to watch three
feeds at once, I've found nothing.
I'm not even sure what we're looking
for.

GILES
Is Hewitt on the tape?

SAMPSON
Yeah. Nothing unusual though. Probably
just went out for a bite to eat and
came back.

GILES
Show me.

Giles walks around the desk for a better view.

ANGLE ON : THE LAPTOP SCREEN

Sampson pulls up the video of the building's lobby and drags
the time indicator bar back from the end of the video to
somewhere in the middle, rewinding the video as he does.

Sampson starts to speed up the video.

SAMPSON
I think he comes in a little after
this. I'll speed it up.

GILES
Wait. Rewind that last part. Just a
few moments back.

Sampson rewinds the video. He plays it again. Giles points
to the screen.

GILES (CONT'D)
There. Is it possible to- uhm - "zoom
in" on that section?

SAMPSON
Yeah. Just a sec.

Sampson zooms in and plays the video.

As the video plays, DRUSILLA can be seen walking through the lobby, passing a GUARD without him noticing. She's in the background of the video, so it's hard to make her out.

Giles straightens up.

GILES

Dear lord.

SAMPSON

Do you know that woman?

GILES

That's not a woman.

SAMPSON

I'm sorry?

GILES

It's a vampire. Drusilla.

Sampson's eyes widen a bit as he takes a closer look at the screen.

SAMPSON

That's Drusilla?

Giles doesn't respond. He's too busy dialing the phone.

GILES

(beat, then into the
phone)

Yes, it's me again. I need another
locator spell.

(beat)

The vampire, Drusilla. I need to
know where she is or where she might
be going.

INT. AIRPLANE CARGO HOLD - DAY

Drusilla is sitting on a crate, looking carefully at her fingernails.

DRUSILLA

Do you like the world, my precious?

HEWITT is in human face, and a little scruffy. He is pacing in front of her.

HEWITT

Why did you do this? Why now?

DRUSILLA

Because it was time. I could feel
the hourglass running out of sand.

HEWITT

We aren't ready. There was so much to do. Information that needed to be gathered.

DRUSILLA

Oh, there's time for that. Lot's of time.

(leans in and whispers)

I turned the hourglass over when you weren't looking.

HEWITT

You stupid, stupid girl.

Dru begins to moan and stands up, not liking what she's hearing.

HEWITT (CONT'D)

I should have known better than to organize with the likes of you.

Drusilla slowly walks to Hewitt and slaps him, leaving a SLASH ACROSS HIS FACE. The blood drips down.

DRUSILLA

Enough from you.

She takes a step back.

DRUSILLA (CONT'D)

I have walked this world longer than you. Don't you forget that. I planned and plotted and wreaked havok across the globe for a century before you were born. I shan't be spoken down to!

She takes a moment to gather herself, and then slowly walks back toward Hewitt.

DRUSILLA (CONT'D)

All the plans are in place. All the soldiers are gathering and they'll need a mum and a daddy to teach them right from wrong. All is ready for us when we reach the Hellmouth.

HEWITT

If they discover that I'm dead, do you really think that they'll send me the files I need?

Drusilla wipes the blood from his cheek as she giggles. She licks the blood from her hand as she sits back down.

DRUSILLA

Your math is wrong. You've
overestimated them.

She lies down.

DRUSILLA (CONT'D)

Now, rest. We have a long night ahead
of us.

Dru closes her eyes and goes to sleep. Hewitt watches her
for a moment, still unsure.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. WILLOW AND XANDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

The sun is just about to rise, giving the room the glow of pre-dawn (no pun intended... which you'll get in a second). WILLOW is standing at the window, looking out.

She turns back to look at XANDER, who is sitting in the chair, laptop open on his lap. He types a little. He's new to it, so he's still a little slow.

XANDER

Here yet?

WILLOW

No.

(beat)

Would have been faster if she just took the plane.

Willow sits on the couch.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

And she never did explain just how she could drive here. Do they allow cars in your baggage?

XANDER

(not paying attention)

Mm-hmm.

WILLOW

You're not listening to me.

XANDER

You're right.

Xander clicks a button and sits back.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Because I was busy putting the finishing touches on my report for Mr. Hewitt.

WILLOW

You finished? The whole thing?

XANDER

Pretty much. I have some T's to dot and some I's to cross, but the basic concept is there.

WILLOW

So you can have fun with Dawn and me?

XANDER

I'm all yours.

Willow smiles she walks to him.

WILLOW

Damn straight, you are.

She takes the laptop and puts it on a table, then falls into his lap. She kisses him, then puts her head on his shoulder.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

I'm tired.

XANDER

Staying up all night will do that to a person.

WILLOW

Not a me person though. I'm supposed to be able to stay up all night, then still be productive the next day. It's what I've always done.

XANDER

Or what you used to do. Face it, sweet, we're out of the game. We're old.

WILLOW

Speak for yourself. I'm still hip and young.

Xander pats her head gently.

XANDER

Young, maybe. I don't think either one of us ever qualified as hip.

Willow doesn't respond. She's too busy falling asleep.

INT. RYAN'S CAR - MORNING

DAWN and RYAN are still driving. They're in a more residential neighborhood now. Dawn's mid-story.

DAWN

So then she died and it was all dramatic and stuff. For a while I had a robot Buffy for a sister.

RYAN

Seriously?

DAWN

Yeah. We eventually got Buffy back though. There was a spell... I'm still not sure about specifics.

Ryan nods as he accepts this information. He's not sure how else to react to it.

Dawn looks over and sees that he's having trouble processing it.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Are you okay? I'm not freaking you out, am I?

RYAN

Yeah, a little.

DAWN

Just a little?

RYAN

Actually, a lot. I was do the guy thing where we downplay. I mean, I knew that there were all of these demons and monsters and stuff, but this is just... A lot.

DAWN

Yeah.

(beat)

So, is this the part where you push me out of the car and head for the hills?

Ryan glances over when he hears the concern in Dawn's voice.

RYAN

I'm not going anywhere. We've already tried that once, remember? Didn't work too well.

Dawn smiles. There's a long silence before she looks out the window again.

DAWN

We're almost there. Take a right.

INT. WILLOW AND XANDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Willow and Xander are both asleep now. The SLAMMING OF A CAR DOOR wakes them up.

WILLOW

I'm up! I didn't fall asleep.

XANDER

(rubbing eyes)

I believe you, dear.

Willow stands and looks at her watch as she heads for the window again. She glances out, then turns back to Xander.

WILLOW

She's here!

Xander gets up. They both head for the door.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

And she's with a guy.

XANDER

She has a guy?

WILLOW

I didn't see his face.

EXT. WILLOW AND XANDER'S HOUSE - DAY

Dawn stands on the sidewalk as Ryan grabs her bags from the trunk. He closes it and looks up at the house.

RYAN

So, this is your old house? It's nice.

DAWN

Yeah. It really is.

They head for the door. As they get close, it opens. Willow and Xander walk out. They see Dawn first. Everyone smiles and hugs.

WILLOW

Dawnie!

DAWN

Hey.

After she hugs Willow, Dawn grabs her hand and looks at her engagement ring.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Wow.

WILLOW

I know.

DAWN

Can I have it?

WILLOW

Not really.

Xander sees Ryan. He's a little surprised.

XANDER

Ryan. You're... Ryan.

RYAN

Hi.

Xander shakes Ryan's hand as he turns back to Dawn.

XANDER
How did you... Ryan?

DAWN
We kinda bumped into each other at
the airport.

WILLOW
Just like that?

Willow turns to Ryan.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
Hey. Are we hugs?

RYAN
I'm game if you are.

Willow smiles and hugs Ryan.

WILLOW
Not that I'm not happy to see you,
but didn't you guys kinda end on bad
terms?

XANDER
Yeah. Something about "don't come
back." Which I don't think you
actually had the authority to say.

DAWN
It's okay. We talked.

They start to walk into the house.

DAWN (CONT'D)
Actually, we talked a lot.
(beat)
About everything.

WILLOW
Everything?

DAWN
Yuh-huh.

Xander turns to Ryan.

XANDER
Freaked?

RYAN
I've known about the vampires and
stuff for a while now.
(beat)
Ball of energy part's new.

Xander pats him on the back as they enter the house.

XANDER
Welcome to the club.

Once they're in the house, they close the door behind them.

INT. WILLOW AND XANDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Willow leads the way into the living room. As the others follow behind them, Dawn takes a good look around.

DAWN
Wow. The place has changed.

WILLOW
Is it weird being here?

DAWN
No. Different, but not weird.

XANDER
You guys hungry? We have some stuff, or we could go out.

WILLOW
No fair. You have all the fun and I still have to go to work.

XANDER
You could always ditch school.

WILLOW
Yeah, and that's a great way to kick off the new gig.

DAWN
Actually, I'm a little tired.

WILLOW
Right. 'Cause of the flying and driving and stuff.

XANDER
Let's not forget the demon killing.

WILLOW
Right. So, yeah. You should rest. I should work. Then we can do dinner or something.

DAWN
On me. I owe you guys a celebration meal.

Ryan smiles. Dawn notices this.

DAWN (CONT'D)

What? What did I say?

RYAN

Nothing. We're just back to the big
"who's paying" debate.

(to Xander)

Didn't end so well last time.

XANDER

If you say so.

DAWN

So, where are we sleeping.

WILLOW

Right this way.

Willow takes Dawn's bag and leads the way up the stairs.

The others follow.

DAWN

Such service.

(to Ryan)

Remind me to tip.

INT. WILLOW AND XANDER'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALL - MORNING

Willow walks to the door of Dawn's room and opens it.

WILLOW

Your room is still your room.

XANDER

Haven't touched a thing. Well, except
that the bed's inflatable now, and
it's kinda my office.

DAWN

Okay.

Dawn looks through the doorway.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Your office still has all of my
posters in it. That's a little weird.

XANDER

I've been meaning to redecorate.
Just haven't had time.

DAWN

Well, at least I won't have that
weird feeling you get when you're
sleeping in someone else's house.

Willow puts Dawn's bag down just inside the door.

DAWN (CONT'D)
Where can Ryan sleep?

WILLOW
Oh... Uhm...

XANDER
Right this way.

Xander grabs Ryan by the shoulder and pulls him toward Buffy's room.

XANDER (CONT'D)
He can have this very separate room.
Far, far away from where Dawn's room
is.

DAWN
It's not that far, Xander.

XANDER
And look! It locks from the outside!
Imagine that.

Ryan isn't sure what to say to any of this.

DAWN
Xander.

XANDER
Just sayin'.

Xander opens the door to Buffy's room and turns on the light for Ryan.

XANDER (CONT'D)
Bed's there in theory. Just have to
move some of that other stuff.

He goes into the room. Ryan follows. When they're gone, Dawn turns to Willow.

DAWN
Who needs Buffy when I have big
brother Xander to scare off all my
dates?

WILLOW
He's just being protective. You are
the baby of the bunch.

DAWN
Right. Anyway, I'm crashing. Wake me
up if anything ugly attacks.

WILLOW

I don't think you have to worry about that. We haven't seen much action lately.

DAWN

Still, you never know.

WILLOW

We'll keep an eye out. G'night... er... good morning. Whatever.

DAWN

Goodnight.

Dawn goes into her room and closes the door. Willow walks down to the linen closet and grabs some sheets. She then walks toward Buffy's room.

INT. SUNNYDALE HIGH - COMPUTER LAB - DAY

AUDRA and MIKE are sitting in their usual chairs, looking up at the clock on the wall.

MIKE

I like Miss Rosenberg. Do you know why I like Miss Rosenberg?

AUDRA

Because of her winning personality?

MIKE

That and the fact that she's pretty much always late to class. Most teachers are on time and they end up bogging down our days with things like learning and reading.

AUDRA

But not Miss Rosenberg.

MIKE

Not Miss Rosenberg, and that's why I like her.

Just then, Willow walks into the classroom. She's carrying a stack of books and a cup of coffee, which she sets down on her desk. She then looks to the class with a big smile.

WILLOW

I'm here! Don't go ratting me out or nothing.

AUDRA

(whispered to Mike)

It's probably for the best that she's not our English teacher.

A teenage girl walks through the door of the classroom, holding a piece of paper. She stands awkwardly behind Willow for a few moments before Willow turns and sees her.

This girl is DAISY RICHTER. She's a pretty blond girl. Not quite the cheerleader type, but seems a few social rungs above Audra and Mike.

WILLOW
(to Daisy)
Can I help you?

Daisy's response is soft. She's very tired.

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

Daisy hands Willow the piece of paper.

WILLOW
Oh. Okay.

Willow glances down at the paper.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
Nice to meet you, Daisy.

Audra and Mike exchange a look and a smile upon hearing Daisy's name.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
I'm Miss Rosenberg. You can take a seat wherever you can find one.

Daisy smiles her "thanks" and walks to a seat not too far from Audra and Mike. She sits down.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
You won't have to worry too much about catching up with the rest of the class. So far, we've been keeping it pretty simple, so you can just copy everyone else.

INT. SUNNYDALE HIGH - HALLWAY - DAY

The BELL RINGS and a moment later, STUDENTS pour from the classrooms, flooding the hall. Daisy exits the computer lab and pulls a piece of paper from her pocket. She glances at it, and then starts to look at the locker numbers in an attempt to find her own.

Behind Daisy, Audra and Mike exit the classroom and walk slowly as they watch Daisy.

AUDRA
Opinions of the new girl?

MIKE

Kinda hot. Kinda... Zombie-ish.

AUDRA

Kinda looks like she's about to freak out.

They watch as Daisy attempts to open her locker, but her combination doesn't seem to be working. She bangs her head on her locker.

AUDRA (CONT'D)

Think we should help?

Mike shrugs. He and Audra stop walking near Daisy. They wait for her to look in their direction, but when she doesn't, Audra speaks up.

AUDRA (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

Daisy finally looks at them.

DAISY

Oh. Sorry. I'm just... Is this place Hell?

Audra grins.

AUDRA

There have been rumors, but I've yet to actually prove anything.

DAISY

Well I gotta say, it's seems to be leaning in that direction. Ever since I moved to this damn town, nothing has gone right. Half of my stuff vanished in the move, my phone keeps ringing in the middle of the night with nobody on the other end, my cat's missing, I haven't slept three solid hours in a week, and now my locker won't open.

Audra's not sure exactly how to respond to that. After a beat, Mike smiles big and extends a hand.

MIKE

I'm Mike.

Daisy looks at him for a second before finally smiling.

DAISY

I'm sorry. I usually introduce myself before I bitch about my life.

She shakes Mike's hand.

DAISY (CONT'D)

I'm Daisy.

MIKE

Well, Daisy, please allow me to help you with your locker situation.

DAISY

Thanks.

Daisy hands Mike the piece of paper with the combination on it. Mike gets to work on opening the locker as Daisy stands back with Audra.

DAISY (CONT'D)

(to Audra)

Should I have given him my combo?

AUDRA

Don't worry. He's lame, but he's not criminal.

Daisy smiles.

MIKE

Ta-dah!

Mike swings the locker door open and turns around with a big smile. Daisy smiles for a moment, but then looks into her locker and her smile quickly drops.

Audra's jaw drops as Daisy screams.

Mike turns around and looks into the locker. REVEAL Daisy's missing cat, hanging in the locker, dead.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. SUNNYDALE HIGH - COUNSELOR'S OFFICE - DAY

The office is a little more private than the one Buffy had. There's a door and everything. There are posters on the wall which are meant to lift spirits and inspire young minds. Among these posters are several of fluffy cats doing cute things.

Daisy is sitting alone in the room with teary eyes. She isn't crying any longer. She just sits, looking up at one of the posters.

There is a GENTLE KNOCK on the door as it opens and Audra walks into the room. She closes the door behind her. Daisy doesn't look back.

AUDRA

Hey. Miss Gregory said I could come in and sit for a few minutes. She's still trying to call your mom.

Daisy smiles.

DAISY

My mother can be hard to reach.

Audra sits down next to Daisy.

AUDRA

How are you holding up?

DAISY

Holding, I guess.

(beat)

My first day of school. I was worried that I'd have last week's hair or something.

Daisy turns to Audra.

DAISY (CONT'D)

Who does this? Who stuffs a person's dead cat in their locker?

AUDRA

A pretty large freak, I'm guessing.

DAISY

It's more than that. It's like... This guy has been following me ever since I moved in. He's always there.

AUDRA

Did you tell the police about this?

DAISY

They said they'd keep an eye out and put an extra car on my street. Not much they can do unless they actually catch the guy killing my cat. It's not like they're sending out the CSI team to crack the case at this point.

AUDRA

He's stalking you. That has to count for something.

DAISY

Yeah. It'll count against him when he's on trial for my horrible bloody murder.

AUDRA

Maybe your parents will send you away. Get you out of here.

DAISY

My Dad's dead and my mom's a little hard to reach. Even when she's in the same room.

(beat)

Besides, I don't really feel like running. This bastard killed Oscar. Pretty much the only friend I've had in the past two years.

AUDRA

You're not planning on doing something crazy, are you? Because if you are, I'm going to have to help and that could lead to bonding. I'm not good at bonding with people.

DAISY

You don't have to help, but I'm going to do whatever I have to. This guy has been following me. He's always there. He's always behind me. Watching me. I never see his face, but I'm pretty sure I've seen him. Usually I just turn and walk away. I'm done ignoring him. From now on, he's the one that is going to do the running.

AUDRA

Or possibly catching and stabbing us.

(beat)

But I'm totally right there with you.

INT. WILLOW AND XANDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Xander is sitting on the couch, typing on a laptop. He clicks a few buttons and happily closes the laptop.

XANDER

Done. Ha-ha.

Dawn comes down the stairs, still a little sleepy.

DAWN

'Morning.

XANDER

More like afternoon, but who's counting?

DAWN

Same thing in my world.

(to Xander)

What did you finish?

XANDER

Report for the Council. Mr. Hewitt asked for a sample of my work, so I sent him a detailed file on Glory, which I whipped up in all of one day. Call me Mr. Free because I can now par-tay with my lady friend and our visiting peeps.

DAWN

Not with that slang you won't.

(beat)

You wrote a detailed file on Glory in one day?

Willow walks through the front door and drops her bag on the floor. Though tired, she smiles at Dawn.

WILLOW

You're up.

DAWN

It was bound to happen sooner or later. How was work?

WILLOW

Ugh.

XANDER

Bad day?

WILLOW

A new student of mine found her dead cat stuffed in her locker.

(MORE)

WILLOW (CONT'D)

I'm pretty sure that something wicked this way comes, but I don't have a lot by way of clues at the moment. I'll look into it.

XANDER

Well, I'll have time to help. I finished my report for Mr. Hewitt.

WILLOW

On Glory? How did you finish so fast?

XANDER

Spelling errors and bad grammar mostly.

Dawn finds herself uncomfortable.

DAWN

Why Glory of all topics?

XANDER

Because that's the one he told me to write. I didn't ask many questions.

DAWN

Okay.

(beat)

But why would he want information on Glory?

XANDER

I don't know. Random pick, I guess.

DAWN

Right. But you didn't tell him everything, right? Great detail type stuff?

WILLOW

Are you okay?

DAWN

Yeah. I just get nervous around the Glory stuff.

XANDER

I didn't tell them anything new.

(beat)

I think.

Dawn and now Willow look at Xander with concern.

WILLOW

What did you tell them?

XANDER

Just the basics. Big evil god thing from another dimension, out to open the big hell portal... Using the blood of the... But they knew this stuff, right? Giles told them?

He doesn't get a response.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Oh, God. Why do I do stupid things? Why?

DAWN

No. You're right. Giles probably told them everything. It's just me. I get weird when people talk about this stuff too much. I'm sure the Council's not planning to open any mystical portals to hell anytime soon.

WILLOW

Right. And even if they were, it was a one-time deal. They can't just slice you open and hop on over to the dark side. If it were that easy I would have done it when I was evil.

DAWN

Wow. I could go my whole life without another conversation about Glory and hell portals.

Just then, Ryan walks into the room.

RYAN

There's a hell portal?

DAWN

No. No portals of any kind.

RYAN

Oh. Good. 'Cause that coulda sucked.

WILLOW

Who wants coffee?

DAWN

Me.

RYAN

Yeah, sounds good.

Willow stands.

WILLOW

I'll get it. Everyone else just relax
and stop freaking me out.

DAWN

I'll help.

Dawn follows Willow into the kitchen. Xander and Ryan remain
silent for a moment. Finally, Ryan sits down.

RYAN

So... Weather's nice. No clouds.
(beat)
Probably won't be raining any toads
today, right?

More silence. Finally, Xander's CELL PHONE RINGS. He pulls
it out of his pocket.

INT. WILLOW AND XANDER'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Willow grabs some mugs from the cabinet and sets them down
to pour the coffee.

DAWN

Okay, so we're forgetting the Glory
stuff. We're talking about happy
things. Have you guys set a date
yet?

WILLOW

We've been engaged for, like, three
minutes.

DAWN

Oh. Right.
(beat)
So, any rough ideas? Any color themes?
Cake flavors?

WILLOW

Well, we have decided on the fact
that we're getting married. Other
than that, not so much.
(beat)
Think I should tell my parents?

DAWN

You haven't yet?

Willow shakes her head.

WILLOW

They weren't too thrilled with the
idea of my dating Xander. My father
kept saying that I could do better.

DAWN
Than Xander? Good luck.

WILLOW
I know, right?

DAWN
What about your mom?

WILLOW
She just kept asking if I was really sure that I wouldn't rather be dating a woman. She tried setting me up with her secretary's daughter.

DAWN
Geez. You'd think that people would be more open-minded these days.

They grab the coffee cups and are just about to walk into the living room when Xander enters the kitchen.

XANDER
Who's up for a trip to the airport?

DAWN
Huh?

WILLOW
Why would we go to the airport?

XANDER
Giles called. He's there.

DAWN
Why is Giles at the airport?

XANDER
Don't know. He told me he'd fill us in when we got there.

WILLOW
Then I guess we should go.

The girls put the coffee down as Xander leads the way out of the kitchen. The girls follow.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
We should probably tell Giles about the wedding too.

DAWN
You haven't told Giles?

INT. XANDER'S SUV - DAY

Parked outside of the airport, Willow, Dawn and Ryan are waiting in the car. They're silent for a few moments, waiting.

Finally, Willow looks at her watch, then back to Dawn.

WILLOW

Y'know, this whole "keep them in the dark until we're face to face" thing is kinda annoying.

DAWN

Plus, it always leads to the messenger's horrible death before he can spill.

Willow gets a confused look.

DAWN (CONT'D)

In the movies.

WILLOW

Oh.

Ryan sees Xander and Giles walking toward the car.

RYAN

Here they come.

Ryan climbs into the back of the SUV. Giles and Xander get into the car. Giles only has a small bag with him. Once he shuts the door, he leans over to hug Dawn.

DAWN

Hey.

GILES

I wasn't expecting to see you here.

DAWN

I know. I was just visiting.

GILES

It's a good thing.

WILLOW

Hey, Giles.

GILES

Willow.

WILLOW

I expect my hug when we get the chance.

GILES

Of course.

(to Dawn)

Quick question?

DAWN

Shoot.

Giles looks back at Ryan.

GILES
Who is that?

Ryan extends a hand.

RYAN
Ryan. We met back in Bear River.

Giles shakes Ryan's hand.

GILES
Oh. Of course.

DAWN
He's with me. Don't worry though,
he's cool.

GILES
Cool?

DAWN
Yeah. He knows. He's in the loop.

GILES
Oh. Apparently more so than I.

XANDER
Speaking of people being out of loops,
how 'bout telling us why you're here?

GILES
Oh, right. Umm... It's Mr. Hewitt.

WILLOW
What about him?

DAWN
Is he dead?

GILES
No. Well, possibly. I'm not sure
exactly.

XANDER
Meaning?

GILES
I have reason to believe that Mr.
Hewitt may be working with Drusilla.

WILLOW
He's evil?

XANDER
Bloody hell.

INT. XANDER'S SUV - DAY

The gang continues to drive, still taking in the new information.

XANDER

I didn't say a lot! I told him the basics.

GILES

What basics exactly?

XANDER

You know... Hell dimensions, minions, incredibly snappy dresser. That type of stuff.

GILES

I want to see that file when we get to the house.

XANDER

Yeah, sure.

(beat)

You should know that my spell checker is broken, and I have issues with the word "its".

(to Willow)

When do you use the apostrophe again?

WILLOW

"It is."

XANDER

Right.

GILES

I don't care about your grammar skills, Xander. I just need to know what we're dealing with here.

ANLGE ON : RYAN

As he listens to the conversation, which he really doesn't understand much of. His attention shifts to the window and he begins to watch the houses as he drives by.

WILLOW (O.S.)

I'm sure we're okay. We shouldn't worry.

RYAN'S POV

Out the window, we see Daisy and Audra walking down the sidewalk, talking. Daisy seems very upset and emotional, while Audra seems to be trying to calm her down.

DAWN (O.S.)

Easy for you to say. You're not the one who is going to be sliced open and left for dead while a portal to unknown hell dimensions leaks out of your veins.

Ryan's attention snaps back to Dawn when he hears this. Concerned, he puts a hand on her shoulder. She looks back at him, feeling a little better.

XANDER (O.S.)

Dramatic much?

RYAN

I won't let that happen to you.

Dawn smiles a little.

XANDER

Nobody's having hell leak out of them, okay?

(beat)

I mean it, Dawn. If you bring forth even one hell dimension, I'm telling your father.

DAWN

Right. Like it's so my call.

Dawn smiles back at Ryan.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Now we're just having fun.

RYAN

I can see that. I just don't think I'm seeing the humor in this.

DAWN

After a while you just start laughing off the prospects of painful death and the end of the world.

RYAN

I think that's called insanity.

INT. WILLOW AND XANDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Everyone rushes into the house and Xander goes right for the laptop which is sitting on the coffee table. He turns it on and sits down. Giles sits next to him.

GILES

(to Willow)

Is it possible to stop his e-mail?
Can we recall the files?

WILLOW

I don't know.

XANDER

The files will stay on your standard POP server for a while. Even if you download them onto one computer, they could be on the server for a month or two.

DAWN

You've been hanging around Willow too long.

XANDER

I just watch way too much "Veronica Mars"

Willow thinks for a moment.

WILLOW

Maybe if I could hack into the server and delete it before he gets a chance to download the message.

GILES

Try it. Xander and I will go over the files and try to figure out exactly what Mr. Hewitt might be planning.

WILLOW

Okay. I just need my laptop.

XANDER

I'll print the files I sent.

Xander hits a few buttons and then hands the laptop over to Willow.

WILLOW

I'll be in the dining room.

Willow walks out of the room with the laptop.

XANDER

I'll grab the papers.

Xander follows Willow out of the room.

RYAN

(to Dawn)

What can we do?

DAWN

I don't know. Maybe I should help Giles and Xander. My brain's full of demon stuff.

RYAN

Okay.

(beat)

I'll just... I'll be here. Trying to look pretty for you.

Dawn smiles and kisses Ryan.

DAWN

(with southern accent)

Just how I likes my man. Dumb but fun to look at.

Xander comes back into the room with a handful of papers. He hands them to Giles and the two of them sit on the couch. Dawn walks over and reads over Giles' shoulder.

Ryan sits quietly for a few moments, watching them work. Dawn grabs a page from Giles when he's done with it. She focuses her attention on that page.

After a few moments, Ryan gets up and walks into the kitchen. Nobody notices him leave.

INT. VAN - DAY

The van's windows are blacked out so no sunlight can make its way in. Hewitt and Drusilla are sitting in the back of the van. Hewitt has a laptop open in front of him. He's annoyed.

HEWITT

Well, it would seem as though your planning wasn't as thorough as you thought it was.

Hewitt slams the laptop shut and tosses it to the back of the van.

HEWITT (CONT'D)

There's no internet connection available. The computer is useless to me.

DRUSILLA

I warned you that stealing was a sin. You shouldn't have taken that contraption.

HEWITT

Right. Well, dear elder, how do you plan on getting those files? Even if they were sent to me, which is highly improbable given the boy's penchant for slacking off, I can't access my e-mail.

DRUSILLA

The words are floating in the air all around us. You just need the proper net to catch them.

HEWITT

As I told you, the net isn't working.

Drusilla reaches into her purse and pulls a BlackBerry from it. She hands it to Hewitt.

HEWITT (CONT'D)

Why didn't you give this to me earlier?

DRUSILLA

Because the stars in the sky and the moon at night weren't properly aligned.

Hewitt has no idea what she's talking about. Drusilla laughs. She was just messing with him. She leans in close and whispers.

DRUSILLA (CONT'D)

All portable communications devices must be turned off prior to departure.

Hewitt takes a deep breath and starts hitting buttons on the BlackBerry. Drusilla keeps smiling as she looks toward the blacked out window.

DRUSILLA (CONT'D)

Look at all the pretty mountains.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

Ryan walks down the street deep in thought. His eyes are mostly kept on the ground, so he doesn't see Daisy and Audra round the corner and walk toward him. None of them are paying attention to where they are going.

Ryan and Audra bump into each other as they walk.

RYAN

Sorry.

AUDRA

Sorry.

Ryan keeps walking.

We STAY WITH DAISY AND AUDRA as they continue to walk down the street.

DAISY

The sun's going down soon. He'll be coming.

AUDRA

How do you know?

DAISY

He gets braver at night. It's dark.
He can move around without me seeing
him.

AUDRA

So what do you plan to do?

DAISY

I plan to find him before he finds
me. I plan to walk up to him and
kick him so hard in his special place
that I'll need your help pulling my
shoe back out.

AUDRA

You realize that you're about five
feet tall and as intimidating as a
Tickle-Me-Elmo, right?

DAISY

If you don't want to help me, fine.

AUDRA

No, I'll help. I just think we might
want to think this through before we
go ruining perfectly good Nikes.

(beat)

Maybe we should call Mike. Get some
more man power.

DAISY

Yeah and the two of us can go home
and bake some cookies while the big
strong man does all of the work for
us.

AUDRA

I'm not saying that. I'm just
saying... He wears Converse. They're
cheaper.

As they continue to walk out of sight, we REVEAL the shadowy
figure of a man, THE STALKER, standing in the distance,
watching the girls. After a moment, he turns and walks in
the direction opposite the girls.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. WILLOW AND XANDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Giles, Xander and Dawn are still in the living room with the papers. Ryan walks in and quietly joins the group.

DAWN

So, you pretty much told them everything.

XANDER

Not everything. Just basics. The general idea.

DAWN

You told them about Doc, for cryin' out loud.

XANDER

Well... He was integral to the story.

Willow walks into the room.

WILLOW

Well, I pulled the e-mail from the server.

GILES

And we're sure that it wasn't accessed?

WILLOW

I wouldn't go that far. It could have been accessed without deleting it from the server. I don't know.

XANDER

But it's very unlikely. He probably hasn't had time to check his e-mail. Becoming a vampire is a very time consuming process. He's probably been too busy.

DAWN

Relax, Xander. It's not your fault. There was no way to know this would happen.

GILES

Most of the information was in my Watcher's Diary anyway. I'm sure he could have pieced it together.

DAWN

All we can do now is try to figure out where this guy is and how to stop him.

INT. COFFEE SHOP - NIGHT

Daisy and Audra are sitting at a table, each with a drink in front of them. They sit in silence for a moment, waiting for something.

DAISY

Y'know, when I made the big speeches about leaping into action and going after my stalker, I had more in mind than sitting in a coffee shop with a double-shot latte in front of me.

AUDRA

Don't worry. He's coming.

Daisy sighs and sits back in her seat.

Mike walks through the door of the coffee shop and goes to the girls. He's out of breath.

AUDRA (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

MIKE

That's what I'm supposed to say. You sounded weird on the phone.

AUDRA

We need your help.

DAISY

Yes. We need a big strong man to help us.

Mike looks at Audra, confused.

MIKE

So you call me? Dude, I get intimidated by Girl Scouts during cookie season.

DAISY

Can we go now?

Daisy gets up and starts to walk toward the door. Audra starts to follow, but Mike grabs her arm to stop her.

MIKE

What's going on?

AUDRA

She needs our help. Some guy's stalking her.

MIKE

The guy who killed her cat?

AUDRA

And that's why she's planning on turning the tables.

MIKE

So she's going after him? So we're running toward the big scary cat killing stalker man?

AUDRA

She's running toward him. We're making sure she doesn't get killed.

MIKE

That's what police are for.

AUDRA

You know that's not how it works here. Nine times out of ten, the police don't do a damn thing. You've heard the stories.

MIKE

I've heard rumors. Rumors that I don't happen to believe, by the way. Every town has its urban legends, and they're all a load of crap.

AUDRA

Regardless of what you or I believe, this girl is going after someone who could be dangerous.

MIKE

We don't even know her.

AUDRA

And that makes it okay for her to get killed? She's not some random guest star of the week. She's not wearing a red shirt on "Star Trek" here. She's a real living human being and she stands a good chance of getting herself killed unless we help her.

Mike doesn't say anything for a moment. Finally, he nods.

MIKE

Fine. You're right. Let's go.

They head toward the door once again.

MIKE (CONT'D)
But if we die tonight, I'm making
sure that you go first.

AUDRA
I love you too, sweetie.

EXT. SUNNYDALE MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Audra and Mike walk out of the coffee shop and find Daisy standing on the sidewalk, looking down the street. They stop and try to see what she's looking at.

AUDRA
What's wrong?

DAISY
He's out there.

MIKE
I don't see anything.

DAISY
He's out there.

MIKE
Okay then. Let's go find him.

Mike starts walking and the girls soon join him.

MIKE (CONT'D)
You two stay behind me.

DAISY
Don't get macho.

MIKE
I'm not being macho, I just don't
want someone jumping out of the bushes
and stabbing me in the back.

DAISY
You're right. You're not macho.

The group walks down the street, heading toward a darker area.

MIKE
So this guy we're after... Did you
actually see him, or is it just a
feeling that you have?

DAISY
Both.

MIKE

Right. You realize that you make no sense?

DAISY

I saw a shadow.

MIKE

It's dark there are shadows everywhere. The whole area is a pretty big--

Mike stops walking. The girls also stop when they realize that he is looking toward a tall newspaper truck that is parked on the side of the street.

MIKE (CONT'D)

--shadow.

DAISY

You saw it too.

MIKE

Yeah.

AUDRA

Did you actually see his face this time?

MIKE

No. I just saw him move behind that truck.

AUDRA

And it couldn't have just been some random guy walking behind a truck?

MIKE

This was different. I mean, Michael Myers just walks down the street too, but you can still tell that he's the bad guy.

Daisy starts to walk toward the truck. Mike and Audra follow.

AUDRA

The creepy music helps.

Daisy looks back at Audra, slightly annoyed.

AUDRA (CONT'D)

What? I'm just saying.

DAISY

People in this town are way too sarcastic. What's with that?

MIKE

I think we're a little desensitized.

DAISY

So this happens a lot?

MIKE

In theory. Plus, there's video games.
They're very violent.

They finally reach the truck and look behind it. There is no sign of their mystery stalker.

AUDRA

Where'd he go?

DAISY

He's still around.

There is a BANG on the other side of the truck, as though someone hit it. Audra jumps, but Mike and Daisy are more curious than scared. They rush to the other side of the truck. Audra follows, not wanting to be left alone.

When they reach the other side, they once again find nothing.

MIKE

He's toying with us.

DAISY

He's toying with me.

MIKE

Why you?

DAISY

If I ever find out, I'll let you know.

Audra looks to the ground for a moment, gathering her thoughts. When she looks back up, she is about to speak, but stops herself. Instead, she looks down the street, farther into the darkness.

AUDRA

There he is.

Mike and Daisy turn and spot the stalker, just as he moves out of sight once again.

DAISY

Let's go.

Once again, the three of them walk off, toward the stalker.

INT. WILLOW AND XANDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Willow, Xander, Giles, Dawn and Ryan are slumped in chairs. There are papers, books and a laptop in front of them, but nobody is really doing anything.

XANDER

So... there's really not a whole lot we can do until Hewitt shows up, is there?

The is no response.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Great.

DAWN

Today sucked.

WILLOW

Yup.

DAWN

I mean, today really sucked.

RYAN

Is it always like this? Granny demons, and evil English vampire guys?

DAWN

You don't know the half of it.

XANDER

It's been pretty quiet for a long time, but the last few days have been crazy.

GILES

Something's coming.

XANDER

And when isn't that fun?

WILLOW

Something's coming and here we are without a Slayer.

The room falls silent for a moment. Finally, Dawn speaks up.

DAWN

I've been trying to find her.

The others look at her.

DAWN (CONT'D)

I've done spells to keep track of her.

GILES

Do they work?

DAWN

Sometimes.

GILES

I've tried the locator spells, but I haven't been able to make them work.

WILLOW

Dawn has a blood connection. It could amp the power.

XANDER

I've been trying to keep tabs on her too. Asking the Council whenever they have information.

WILLOW

I've been keeping an eye on the net for any information. There hasn't been a lot, but there's some.

RYAN

(jokingly, to himself)

I Googled "slayer" once. Mostly just loud music stuff.

GILES

Perhaps it's time we stopped going about this by ourselves. We should gather everything we know into one file.

Giles reaches down to the floor and grabs his bag. He starts to pull papers from it.

XANDER

I have a map in the basement.

WILLOW

You do? How come I don't know this?

XANDER

It's a secret cork board. I'll go get it.

DAWN

My stuff is upstairs. Be right back.

Xander and Dawn leave the room. Willow grabs her laptop.

RYAN

Anyone want some more coffee?

Again, no response to him.

RYAN (CONT'D)

I'll just go make that then.

Ryan heads for the kitchen.

EXT. DARK RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT

Audra, Daisy and Mike are walking down the street. The only street light in the area is out, so the area is completely dark.

Mike suddenly perks up.

MIKE

There it is again. Did you see it?

AUDRA

I didn't see anything.

MIKE

I could have sworn I just saw someone walk behind that bush up there.

Mike starts to walk toward a tall bush in the distance. Daisy follows, and Audra eventually follows her.

AUDRA

And why are we following him into a dark and creepy area? If he's after Daisy, shouldn't we try to lure him somewhere that we choose? A nice bright mall, for example.

DAISY

You can stay back if you want.

AUDRA

Right. Because the one who stays behind always lives through the third act.

MIKE

Shh. We're supposed to be sneaking up.

AUDRA

We are?

DAISY

I'm pretty sure he knows we're here.

MIKE

Fine. Whatever.

As they get closer to the bush, Daisy moves to Mike's side so that they will face whatever lurks behind it together. Audra stays behind.

After a moment, she looks over her shoulder, remembering her earlier comment about those who stay behind. She then hurries to catch up with the others.

AUDRA

You know what suddenly strikes me?
We don't know what we're doing. I
mean, we don't have weapons. This
guy is a cold blooded cat killer and
we're just gonna walk up to him and
what? Firmly ask him to stop?

MIKE

Shh.

AUDRA

I'm just saying...

Daisy stops next to the bush before walking around it. She turns back to Audra, a little annoyed. Mike continues to walk behind the bush, and out of our sight.

DAISY

Look... I know you guys think this
is stupid. Whatever. You don't know
me. You're not responsible for me.
If you want to go home, go home.

AUDRA

That's not what I'm saying. I'm just
saying that we need some sort of
plan. I'm a big fan of mapping things
out.

DAISY

It's a little late for that.

Audra is about to respond, but stops herself when she notices that Mike is missing.

AUDRA

Where's Mike?

Daisy turns around, just now noticing that he's gone on without them.

DAISY

Damnit.

Audra and Daisy move around opposite sides of the bush. When they meet on the other side, Mike is nowhere to be found. They look around the area.

AUDRA

(calling out)
Mike?

DAISY
How far could he have gone?

AUDRA
He wouldn't have run off without us.
Something isn't right.
(calling again)
Mike!

Audra is getting nervous. Daisy is more collected, looking around.

DAISY
Okay. We can do this. We just need
to think.

As Daisy looks over the area, there is a NOISE from the other side of the bush. Like a shoe on pavement. Both girls look at each other and once again move around the bush, walking in opposite directions. We STAY ON DAISY as they move.

As Daisy rounds the bush, Mike's feet come into view on the ground. As she reaches the sidewalk again, she sees the rest of him. He's unconscious.

DAISY (CONT'D)
Oh, God. I don't think he's--

Daisy looks up at Audra, who is now standing in the opposite side of Mike. As Daisy looks up, she sees Audra's wide eyes, filled with fear. Not because Mike has been attacked, but because the stalker is standing directly behind her with his hand gently resting on her neck.

Despite the fact that he is this close to them and we can see their faces clearly, the stalker somehow manages to remain in shadows so that his face is never fully visible. What we can see is that he is wearing a baseball cap, gardening gloves, torn jeans and a plaid shirt that reveals only a small amount of his arm beneath it's long sleeves. What we can see of the arm is not normal human skin.

Daisy looks into Audra's scared, tear-filled eyes for a moment, and then at the face of the stalker. Though she is scared, Daisy remains calm as she and her enemy exchange gazes. Finally, she speaks.

DAISY (CONT'D)
Who are you?

There is no answer. The stalker cocks his head ever so slightly as though not fully understanding her question.

DAISY (CONT'D)
Let her go.

No response from the stalker.

DAISY (CONT'D)

You don't need her.

(beat)

You want me.

This time, the stalker fully understands her. The hand that is resting on Audra's neck slowly moves to her shoulder, and he turns Audra around, so she is facing him.

When Audra looks at his face, the fear in her eyes changes. It's not just about the fact that there is an attacker here. This fear is of something far more disturbing to her. Before she can say anything, he shoves her out of the way harshly. She falls into the street, hitting her head on the pavement as she lands. Though still awake, she has a hand on her head and seems quite dazed.

Meanwhile, the stalker takes one or two small steps toward Daisy. She begins to back away out of instinct, still looking at the darkness where his face should be.

After a moment, she turns to run just as he lunges at her. He gets close enough to her to swat her down to the sidewalk where she too slams her head. The stalker stands over her, and turns her over so that she can look at him.

As Daisy looks up at the stalker, she is very groggy. She is on the verge of passing out.

DAISY'S POV

The stalker stands over her. A dark figure, bending down to get a closer look at his prey. As he studies her, EVERYTHING BECOMES BLURRED. Eventually, she loses consciousness.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. DARK RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT

Daisy slowly begins to wake up. She is still on the sidewalk, now covered in blood. Somewhere nearby, the SOUND OF CRYING can be heard.

Daisy puts her hand on her throbbing head as she tries to pull herself up. At the moment, the only thing she can manage to get off of the sidewalk is her head. She raises it and tries to look around, but her vision is far too blurred to see anything.

She lets out a moan.

AUDRA (O.S.)

Daisy?

Within a moment, Audra is kneeling beside Daisy, helping her to sit up.

DAISY

Wha--? How did--?

AUDRA

I don't know.

Daisy sits up enough to see herself now. She sees the blood.

DAISY

What happened to me?

Audra looks up, past Daisy, to the grass nearby. She is full of all kinds of confusion.

AUDRA

You're okay.

Audra starts to tear up again.

AUDRA (CONT'D)

We're okay.

(nodding)

We're okay.

Daisy can now see and think clearly enough to wonder what Audra is upset about. As she continues to pull herself up, she looks to the grass.

REVEAL the stalker. He is on the nearby grass... in two pieces.

Daisy and Audra look down on him for a moment.

AUDRA (CONT'D)

Something did this.

(beat)

Something saved our lives.

Daisy takes another moment to take in the sight of her stalker, and then starts to move toward Mike, who is still on the ground and still unconscious.

DAISY

We need to get him to a doctor.

INT. WILLOW AND XANDER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Xander's map of the world is now tacked to a cork board, sitting on a chair in the middle of the room. Several new pins have been placed on it. Giles is standing next to the board with a notebook in one hand and a pin in the other.

GILES

(reading)

On the fourth of November, Dawn mentions locating Buffy in Japan.

Willow reaches across the dining room table and pulls out one of her own papers.

WILLOW

I had that too. There was a blurb in a tabloid about a bunch of human-animal hybrids being found dead. Those could be demons.

Giles sticks the pin on the board. He stands back and looks at it.

XANDER

She's been all over the place. How? I mean, she can't have that many frequent flyer miles saved up, right?

GILES

She's more powerful than we've ever known her to be. Who knows how far that power extends?

WILLOW

Do we think she can fly now?
(off everyones looks)
Okay, probably not.

DAWN

I wonder what she's going through. It can't be easy for her.

XANDER

Is she even the Buffy that we knew? How could she be?

WILLOW

Do you think she's scared? Or lonely?

GILES

It's impossible to say.

Willow rests her head on Xander's shoulder.

WILLOW

She won't be at our wedding.

GILES

She could be anywhere in the wor--
Wedding? You're getting married?

XANDER

We didn't tell you?

WILLOW

Are you sure we didn't tell you?

GILES

I think I would remember if you did.

DAWN

And he probably wouldn't have that
shocked expression on his face.

WILLOW

Oops. Sorry.

XANDER

So, Giles... Guess what! We're getting
married!

Willow holds out her engagement ring. Giles takes her hand
and looks at it. He's not really looking at the ring so much
as letting the news sink in. Willow stands up.

Giles looks her in the eyes like a proud papa.

GILES

Congratulations. Xander, you truly
couldn't have found a better woman.

Willow tears up and hugs Giles.

XANDER

Yeah, I like her.

GILES

Willow... Are you sure about this?

Willow smiles.

XANDER

Hey!

GILES

I'm joking, obviously.

Xander reaches out to shake Giles' hand, but Giles pulls him up into a hug.

XANDER

Oh man. The world really is ending this time, isn't it?

DAWN

All of these tears are giving me a feeling deep down inside.

WILLOW

Like the kind of warmth that only comes from the love of true family?

DAWN

No, that's not it.

RYAN

The empty feeling that comes from not having eaten dinner?

DAWN

That's the one.

XANDER

Who's up for salad?

Moans and groans from around the room.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Okay, so meaty burgers for everyone.

WILLOW

There's a new place on Main Street. The Sinkhole Cafe. They have good food.

XANDER

And walls lined with stuff that they've dug up since the reformation.

WILLOW

I think I saw my old backpack in there.

DAWN

As long as their food is new, I'm good for anything.

Everyone gets up and they head for the door.

RYAN

Don't they have delivery around here?

DAWN

Delivery prices are higher than gas prices in these parts.

XANDER

Something about the delivery guys turning up dead.

WILLOW

Or undead.

XANDER

That too.

INT. HOSPITAL ROOM - NIGHT

Mike is sitting on a bed with his legs hanging off. Audra is standing next to him, studying a massive bump on his head.

AUDRA

Does it hurt?

MIKE

Does it look like it hurts?

AUDRA

Yeah.

MIKE

There's a good reason for that.

AUDRA

(wincing)

Sorry.

There's a knock on the door and Daisy walks in, closing the door behind her. She's not sure how much the others will want to see her, so she's a little nervous.

DAISY

I know I'm probably not the first name on the list of people you want to see right now...

MIKE

Second... No, wait. Third.

DAISY

So you're not pissed?

MIKE

I'm on painkillers. At the moment, everything is very goovy.

AUDRA

And we don't blame you. It's not your fault that guy went after you.

DAISY

It is my fault that we went after him though. I'm not usually all "Starbuck" like that.

AUDRA

We went with you of our own free will. The truth is, we kinda knew what we were getting into.

DAISY

Huh?

AUDRA

I mean, not in great detail or anything, but we know this town. It's not like other places.

DAISY

What do you mean?

MIKE

For one thing, it used to be a giant hole in the ground.

AUDRA

There are rumors. Legends. Things that nobody can really explain.

DAISY

What do you mean? I don't get it.

Audra and Mike exchange looks. Finally, Mike looks to Daisy.

MIKE

We just mean, this isn't a good place to take a long walk by yourself at night. You have to be careful.

Daisy doesn't reply. She knows something is going on, but she asks no more questions.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT

The group is making their way down the street. Walking slowly and just taking in the night air.

DAWN

So, the school on the Hellmouth is the place you don't want to be most of the time.

RYAN

Because the Hellmouth is the big fancy portal thing?

DAWN

Something like that. Seems like someone from our group's always keeping an eye on it though. First, everyone but me was there. Giles was the librarian and everyone else went to school.

RYAN

Okay.

XANDER

Then we blew up the school.

RYAN

You blew up the school?

WILLOW

Well, it had a demon in it.

DAWN

The Mayor.

RYAN

The Mayor was a demon?

DAWN

Yup.

RYAN

And you blew up the school?

XANDER

On graduation night.

RYAN

The Mayor was a demon, and you blew up the school on graduation night.

DAWN

But the school was rebuilt, and I ended up going there until the whole town was swallowed by a giant cavern as we thwarted the plans of the First Evil to release a race of uber-vamps into the world and throw off the balance of good and evil.

WILLOW

Then the town was mysteriously reformed and now the school's a hybrid of both of the old schools.

RYAN

You people live very complicated lives.

WILLOW

We haven't even told you the story
about Giles singing in a coffee house.

RYAN

Nuh-uh.

DAWN

It's true.

Xander suddenly stops short, feeling his pockets.

XANDER

Damn. I forgot my wallet.

GILES

I can pay for dinner.

XANDER

No, it's still my treat. I'll catch
up to you guys.

WILLOW

You sure?

XANDER

Yeah. Go. I'll be right there.

Xander turns around and heads back to the house. The others
keep walking.

DAWN

(to Ryan)

So now we come to the part about
everyones' love lives.

WILLOW

Maybe we should wait until he's
sitting down for this one.

INT. WILLOW AND XANDER'S HOUSE - FOYER/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Xander rushes into the house, closing the door behind him.
He quickly walks into the living room and grabs his wallet
off of a table. He sticks it into his pocket and walks back
to the door.

When he opens the door to leave, he stops short. His face
goes blank.

XANDER

Oh my God.

ANGLE ON : THE DOORWAY

BUFFY stands just outside the doorway, looking at Xander.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Buffy.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF EPISODE