

**Buffy The Vampire Slayer**

**Season 8**

**Once And For All**

Episode 4

"The Bodies In Her Wake"

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. DARK RESIDENTIAL STREETS/GRASSY AREA - NIGHT

BUFFY is walking down the dark street, carrying her Scythe and just taking in the world around her. She hasn't taken a moment to catch her breath in a long, long time, but something about this night and this place is different.

She turns and starts to cut across a grassy area. After a few moments of peaceful walking, she turns her head, listening for something.

                                    DAISY (O.S.)  
                                    (from the previous  
                                    episode)  
                                    You don't want her.  
                                    (beat)  
                                    You want me.

Buffy hears this and turns to walk in the direction from which it came. She is in no particular hurry, but she is walking with a mission now.

Buffy walks over a hill and stops to look down at the street below, where she can see AUDRA on the street, holding her head. MIKE is on the ground, unconscious. DAISY and the STALKER are looking at each other. He takes his couple of steps closer to her, and she backs away. As before, she turns to run and he swats her down.

Buffy starts to walk again, still not in any particular hurry.

CLOSE ON: DAISY

Same as in the previous episode. She is looking up at the stalker, who is standing over her.

The stalker leans down to get a better look at his prey, and Daisy eventually passes out.

The stalker sniffs the air around her, taking in what to him is a sweet smell. He brushes the hair away from her face.

Buffy walks onto the sidewalk, looking over at Audra, who isn't looking back in Buffy's direction. Buffy can see that Audra will be okay, so she doesn't concern herself with her. Same with Mike.

Buffy finally reaches the stalker and stands behind him without making a sound as he continues to study his victim.

Suddenly, his actions switch from creepy to violent as he pulls off one of his gloves, revealing a clawed hand.

He quickly raises it with the intention of slashing Daisy to shreds, but when he tries to slash, he finds that he can no longer move his arm. Buffy is now holding onto it.

As the stalker looks back to see who or what is holding onto him, Buffy throws him onto the grass.

He struggles to get up as Buffy walks toward him, raising her Scythe.

When he sees the Scythe and realizes who Buffy is, fear fills him. Though we still can't see his face through the weird shadow that covers it, one can tell that he is having quite the wiggins.

He trips over himself as he tries to get up, and eventually ends up crawling backwards in an attempt to get away from her.

For her part, Buffy coolly walks to him, and looks down at him. Her eyes are filled with disgusted anger, knowing what he is and what he does. She says nothing. She simply swings her Scythe down at him. Though we don't see what happens to him, we do hear the SQUISH.

HARD CUT TO:

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.

For a moment, Xander stands in shock as Buffy stands before him. Finally, he steps forward and puts his arms around her, hugging her warmly.

After the reality catches up to her, Buffy puts her arms around Xander, and rests her head on his shoulder.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF TEASER

## ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. SUNNYDALE MAIN STREET - NIGHT

WILLOW, DAWN, GILES and RYAN are standing outside of a restaurant, waiting for Xander.

Dawn and Ryan are off to the side, talking and flirting a little, while Giles reads a menu that is posted on the wall and Willow looks at her watch and then down the street to look for Xander.

GILES

"Wreckage Burger. Crater of Chili.  
Spicy Angel Wings?"

(beat)

I really don't see the connection.

WILLOW

(absently)

Not a lot of victims during  
Sunnydale's demise. People see it as  
a blessing.

(then)

Shouldn't Xander be here by now? I  
mean, it's been a while, right?

GILES

I'm sure he's okay. He probably  
couldn't find his wallet.

WILLOW

It's on the table. It's always on  
the table. I yell at him about it  
all the time because it looks messy.

GILES

Oh. That's rather... domestic of  
you, isn't it?

WILLOW

We should go look for him.

GILES

We could call the house.

WILLOW

Good idea.

Willow reaches into her pocket, and pulls out a cell phone. she pushes one button and then puts the phone to her ear. After a few moments, she hangs up.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

No answer.

GILES

I'm still sure that he's fine. We'll walk back toward the house and I'm sure that we'll meet him along the way.

Willow nods and the two of them start walking. Dawn sees this and pulls Ryan along after them.

DAWN

We're not eating?

GILES

We'll come back after we find Xander.

DAWN

Oh. Okay.

As they walk, Willow tries the house number again. Still no answer. Giles puts a hand on her shoulder.

Dawn slows down to put some space between herself and Willow. She then leans to Ryan and speaks softly. She's not playful anymore.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Something suddenly feels weird. Do you feel it?

Ryan shakes his head.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Well, trust me. Something is different.

RYAN

Good different?

Dawn shrugs.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Okay. We'll just call it good different.

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

Buffy is in the living room by herself. She is looking around at the furniture, the bookcases, and the mantle. Just getting a general feel for the place. She feels very out of place being here now.

Xander walks into the room with a cup of tea in one hand, three bags of chips and a box of pop-tarts in the other, and a Snickers in his pocket.

XANDER

I wasn't sure if you were hungry, so I brought food.

He hands her the cup of tea, which she sets down on the table next to her Scythe. Xander dumps the food into a chair.

BUFFY  
Are there six of me?

XANDER  
I just wasn't sure...  
(beat)  
God, Buffy. You're here.

Buffy doesn't respond.

XANDER (CONT'D)  
You must be tired.

BUFFY  
Kinda.  
(beat)  
Not really.

Buffy wanders over to the map with all of the tacks in it and looks it over for a second before she begins moving the tacks around.

XANDER  
It's been years. No letters. No phone calls.

BUFFY  
I know. I'm sorry about that. You guys are probably mad.

XANDER  
No. We're not mad at you, Buffy. We just... Where were you?

BUFFY  
That's a long story that I'd really rather only have to tell once. Can we wait for everyone?

XANDER  
Yeah. Sure.

They are silent for a moment. Xander awkwardly moves to a chair and sits on the arm rest. Buffy keeps her eyes on the map. She places a pin in it and keeps her hand on it for a few seconds. This one is hard for her.

Finally, Buffy turns around and looks at Xander.

BUFFY  
I killed him. Angel.

Xander is caught off guard by this comment. He pauses for a moment before responding.

XANDER

Angel's dead?

(beat)

Like "see you at Thanksgiving" dead,  
or--?

BUFFY

He's gone.

Xander is silent once again. Just as he thinks of something else to say, the front door opens and Willow walks in.

WILLOW

Xan--?

Willow stops when she walks into the living room and sees Buffy. She doesn't move or say anything.

Giles, Dawn and Ryan follow Willow into the house and they all stop when they see Buffy.

Buffy looks back at them, also saying nothing. Her eyes start to tear up. Still, the room is silent.

Ryan looks from Buffy to Dawn, and then to the others.

RYAN

So, I'm just gonna order in.

Buffy and Dawn finally walk to each other and meet with a hug.

BUFFY

You're so beautiful.

DAWN

You're kinda looking plain these days.

Buffy smiles.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

BUFFY

I manage. Are you? I never meant to leave you alone.

DAWN

I was never alone, Buffy. You did what you had to. I didn't get it at first, but I do. You don't have to worry about me.

They let go of each other, but Buffy takes a moment to look at Dawn.

BUFFY

I always worry about you.

Buffy then looks at Giles. She gives Dawn one last look and then moves to where Giles is. She looks up at him, and he looks down at her. There are too many things to say, so they say nothing. Finally, they hug.

Giles closes his eyes, taking in the hug. At last, he can breathe again. When they let go, he looks her in the eyes and wipes a tear off of her cheek with a warm smile.

WILLOW

Umm, hello? Best friend over here.  
Waiting on a hug.

Giles nods to Buffy, and she then turns to Willow. The two of them meet with big smiles, looking each other squarely in the eyes.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

I missed you.

BUFFY

Me too.

They take a step closer and Willow is about to hug Buffy when instead of hugging, Buffy grabs Willow's hand and pulls it up to look at the engagement ring.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Holy crap! Are you serious?

Willow smiles and nods.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

To Xander, right?

WILLOW

Who else would it be?

BUFFY

I don't know...

Buffy looks toward Ryan.

RYAN

(pointing to Dawn)  
I'm with her.

BUFFY

We'll talk.

Buffy turns her attention back to Willow, leaving Ryan hanging on that last comment which makes him slightly less than comfortable. He starts to walk toward the kitchen.



RYAN

I'm gonna call the pizza place.

BUFFY

(to Willow)

How did he propose? When? Have you set a date?

WILLOW

Well, it was really romantic. In the bedroom with candles and flower petals.

BUFFY

The bedroom? Really? Seems kinda...

WILLOW

What?

BUFFY

I don't know. You were clothed, right?

WILLOW

Yeah.

BUFFY

I guess it's okay then.

WILLOW

It was romantic.

BUFFY

No, I'm sure it was.

Giles can't help but get a silly grin, listening to this banter.

WILLOW

It was.

BUFFY

Right.

WILLOW

We can change the topic now. We have a lot of catching up to do.

Buffy's not sure that she wants to do the catching up part, but she tries to look happy about it.

BUFFY

Okay.

Buffy walks to the couch and sits down. The others take their seats shortly after.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

So... What are you guys up to lately?  
A house like this doesn't pay for  
itself.

(beat)

Unless there's a spell that does  
that.

XANDER

I wish.

WILLOW

Yeah, uhm... When I said that we  
should catch up, I was leaning more  
toward the "you" side of the spectrum.

BUFFY

Me?

(beat)

It's just-- Y'know, slaying. Find  
the demon. Kill the demon. Find the  
other demon. You've all been there.

DAWN

Yeah, but this is kinda different.  
You've been on a three year slaying  
binge and this is the first time  
you've come up for air.

Buffy looks down. Xander sees this, and knows that there are  
things that she'd rather not discuss.

XANDER

Maybe we should wait a while. Let  
her catch her breath before going  
all Barbara Walters on her.

WILLOW

If that's what she wants.

Buffy looks to Xander to thank him.

DAWN

It's just that there's so much to  
talk about. You've been gone for  
three years. That's a long time.

BUFFY

I know. I didn't even realize...  
Everything is so different now. Willow  
and Xander engaged. You and Ryan.  
That's pretty long term.

DAWN

Actually, I just bumped into him on  
my way back here.

BUFFY

Oh. So, what do you do now?  
(looking around)  
All of you. I want to know everything.

WILLOW

Okay. Well, I went back to school.  
Finished up and now I'm teaching.

BUFFY

You're a teacher?

WILLOW

Yup. Computer lab at Sunnydale High.

BUFFY

You're kidding me. You seriously  
went back to that place? Are you  
suicidal?

WILLOW

Hey, someone has to keep an eye on  
things while the Slayer's away.

BUFFY

Fair enough. And it's totally fitting  
too. I saw the power in your eyes  
that time you thought Miss Calendar  
was going to let you take over the  
class.

WILLOW

You know me. Always the power junkie.

BUFFY

(to Dawn)  
What about you?

DAWN

School. Demonology. Pretty boring.

BUFFY

Don't tell me you go to UC Sunnydale.

DAWN

No. I'm still up north.

BUFFY

Nice. Just tell me that you're not  
killing something or getting kidnapped  
every other day.

DAWN

Got kidnapped on my last birthday,  
but that was just some friends  
whisking me off to a party.

BUFFY

Wait. You have friends whose last names aren't "Scooby"? Is that allowed?

Buffy looks to Willow who shrugs.

WILLOW

First I've heard of it.

Buffy looks back to Xander with a smile. Xander smiles back, but it's not all good with him. Giles notices this as well, just as Buffy turns to him.

BUFFY

Let me guess. You're a Watcher?

GILES

I'm afraid that once you reach a certain age, three years stops making very much difference.

BUFFY

C'mon. There has to be something to report. Any hot British schoolmarms on your buddy list?

GILES

If only.

Buffy turns to Xander next. There's a slight pause before she asks him. A silent plea to just follow her lead for a while.

BUFFY

How 'bout you?

XANDER

Working for the enemy. Both literally and not.

BUFFY

Huh?

XANDER

I write reports for the Council. Fill them in on all of the details that Giles left out of his diaries back in the day.

BUFFY

And the literal part of you working for the enemy?

XANDER

Oh, that? Nothing to worry about, really. I just kinda wrote a report about the whole Glory case.

BUFFY

(nodding)  
Leaving out all of the important  
stuff. Go on.

XANDER

Well... Not so much.

BUFFY

You told them about Dawn?

XANDER

Oh, it gets even better. The guy I  
wrote the report for kinda... Well,  
he sorta got turned into a vampire.

BUFFY

So this vampire now has access to  
all of the information we have on  
the Key?

XANDER

In all fairness, I didn't know he  
was a vampire at the time. Plus,  
Willow pulled the file from the  
server. There's a good chance that  
you don't need to slay me.

BUFFY

Don't worry about it.

XANDER

(to Giles)  
Okay, I like her response better  
than yours.

(then, to Buffy)  
Why are you so cool about this?

BUFFY

It's a vampire. It's not like they're  
hard to kill.

As soon as she says that, an awkwardness comes between her  
and Xander once again.

WILLOW

That's the spirit.  
(to Dawn)  
See? You're not gonna die after all.

DAWN

That's cool. I hear it's a downer.

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

Ryan is in the kitchen, sitting on a stool at the island,  
flipping through a phone book.

RYAN

Okay. Pizza. That's "P".

(beat)

And they say jocks are stupid.

He flips a couple of pages and then starts skimming.

RYAN (CONT'D)

So, which Pappa shall we go with

tonight? Take your time deciding.

Stay away from the scary woman with  
the shiny red axe.

Ryan falls silent as he tries to decide on a pizza place. After a moment, the silence is broken by the MUFFLED SOUND OF CRYING.

Ryan looks up upon hearing this. As the sound continues, he gets off of his stool and attempts to follow the sound.

First, he walks toward the living room to see if it's coming from the others. When he decides that it's not coming from in there, he walks in the other direction, toward the basement and back door.

As he gets close to the back door, the CRYING STOPS.

Ryan opens the back door and walks out.

EXT. WILLOW AND XANDER'S HOUSE - BACK PORCH - CONTINUOUS

Ryan walks out onto the porch. He expects to find someone sitting out there, but he finds nobody. The crying is no longer heard. It's only the sound of a calm night.

After a couple of seconds, Dawn walks to the back door.

DAWN

Hey.

Ryan jumps slightly as he turns.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Something wrong?

Ryan pauses, trying to decide whether to tell her about the sounds or not. Finally, he decides that it was nothing.

RYAN

I'm just jumpy.

DAWN

It must have been a long day for  
you. It was for me, and I'm used to  
all of this stuff.

RYAN

Yeah. Tired.

DAWN

And hungry. Did you order food?

RYAN

Doing it now.

Ryan walks toward the door, and Dawn lets him inside. As he closes the door, he takes one last look at the backyard, still uneasy.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

FADE IN:

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

Xander and Willow are cleaning up in the post-dinner kitchen. Willow puts leftover pizza in the refrigerator as Xander takes care of the dishes.

WILLOW

So, Buffy bunks with Dawn in Dawn's room. Giles in Buffy's old room. Ryan on couch?

XANDER

We have the spare bunk downstairs he could use.

WILLOW

Oh, I forgot about that. Isn't it gonna be musky?

XANDER

New sheets should make it okay. I mean, it's not the Ritz or whatever, but it's an actual bed. Last time Giles used our couch, he ended up falling off three times.

Willow laughs.

WILLOW

"Bloody hell!", every other hour.

Xander turns off the water and dries his hands.

XANDER

I'll go pull it out. We can set it up in the living room.

Xander goes down to the basement, leaving Willow alone. She chuckles again.

WILLOW

"Bloody hell!"

Buffy walks into the room.

BUFFY

Bloody hell, what?

WILLOW

Oh, it's nothing. Just an inside joke.

BUFFY

Ah. Where'd Xander go?



WILLOW  
 Basement. He's trying to find the  
 spare bed.

BUFFY  
 Oh. You need any help in here?

WILLOW  
 I'm almost done.

BUFFY  
 'Kay.  
 (beat)  
 I guess I'll go see about Xander  
 then.

WILLOW  
 Okay.

Buffy heads for the basement.

WILLOW (CONT'D)  
 Buff?

Buffy stops and turns around.

WILLOW (CONT'D)  
 Are you okay? I mean, I know you  
 don't want to do the big exposition  
 thing tonight, but you're okay, right?  
 You'd tell me if you weren't?

BUFFY  
 Yeah. I'm fine.  
 (beat)  
 I'm just gonna go check on Xander.

Willow nods, still concerned. Buffy walks into the basement.

INT. WILLOW AND XANDER'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - CONTINUOUS

Buffy walks down the stairs and finds Xander digging through  
 some piles of old boxes, furniture and the like.

BUFFY  
 Need any help?

XANDER  
 I can handle it.

Buffy starts looking around the basement at nothing in  
 particular.

BUFFY  
 There's actual stuff down here. Last  
 time I was here, it was pretty empty.

XANDER

Willow's mom redecorated her house last year and decided that we should take everything she didn't want.

BUFFY

Fun.

Buffy looks under a sheet-covered piece of furniture and winces.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I can see why she'd redecorate.

Buffy makes her way to an old desk and sits on it, nosing around the drawers. She opens one and finds a stack of papers. She picks up the top sheet.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

What's this?

Xander looks back and jumps when he sees where she's looking. He rushes to her and takes the paper.

XANDER

It's nothing. Just some old work papers.

Xander puts the paper back in the desk and closes the drawer.

BUFFY

Okay. That was weird.

XANDER

You don't just go snooping. There's privacy and... privacy.

BUFFY

Both very important. Sorry.

XANDER

I didn't mean to freak out on you. I'm just jumpy.

BUFFY

Didn't notice.

XANDER

Well, you have to admit, I have a pretty good reason. You dropped this huge bombshell on me and then you were acting like nothing ever happened. What's the deal?

BUFFY

I just didn't want everyone going crazy all at once.

(MORE)

BUFFY (CONT'D)

It's weird enough as it is. I'm not used to this anymore. I'm not used to having people care about where I am or what I do.

XANDER

People always cared about where you were and what you were doing. You just didn't bother to tell them.

Buffy stands up and takes a few steps, not knowing quite what to say next. Her instinct is to just walk away, but she pushes that back and turns to face Xander.

BUFFY

I'm sorry. Not because I went off like that, or because I didn't tell you where I was. I'm sorry that you had to worry about me. I wish I could make that go away.

XANDER

We don't want it to go away.

Xander sits on the desk. He's not angry at Buffy at all.

XANDER (CONT'D)

We love you. You're part of our family, and that means that we worry about you. Whether you're in Japan somewhere, or down at the Espresso Pump, getting a cup of coffee. I just wish you could let us know that you're okay every once in a while.

Buffy sits next to him.

BUFFY

I can't do it the way I was before. I can't be the Slayer that I have to be, and then come home for dinner. I wish I could, but everything is different now. I'm different.

(beat)

I probably shouldn't even be here now.

XANDER

I'm glad you are.

Buffy rests her head on his shoulder, closing her eyes.

BUFFY

Sooner or later, I have to go back.

Xander doesn't respond. He's not sure if he wants to accept that she can't stay, or if he wants to beg her to.

Instead of doing either one of these, he just sits with her in silence.

After several moments of quiet, Buffy opens her eyes. She points across the room.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

There's the extra bed.

Xander nods and stands up. He walks toward the bed and starts to pull it out of the clutter.

XANDER

So, about this secret of yours that you told me and not everyone...

BUFFY

It's not a secret. I'm not seventeen anymore. I don't run away and hide from my actions. I'm an adult. Now I move away and remain discreet in my convictions.

XANDER

Well, that clears that up.

BUFFY

It's not a secret. I just didn't want to make a big speech about the past two years.

XANDER

Three. Almost.

BUFFY

We're getting old.

Xander now has the bed in hand.

XANDER

Let's head upstairs. Being around Giles will make us feel young again.

BUFFY

Good plan.

Buffy grabs part of the bed and helps Xander carry it up the stairs.

XANDER

Hey, Buff?

BUFFY

Hmm?

XANDER

Thanks for making it seem like I'm helping carry this thing too.

They get upstairs, turning off the light and closing the door behind them.

In the darkness, the sound of A CAT'S MEOW is heard.

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

Xander and Ryan are setting up the small bed for Ryan in the living room. Buffy, Willow, Dawn and Giles are sitting, watching them.

WILLOW

So, Buffy, we've told you all about us. Now you tell us something about you.

BUFFY

There's not a lot to tell, really. It's like what I always did, but way more global.

DAWN

There has to be something to tell. You've been on this mission for years.

BUFFY

There's really not.

DAWN

You must have seen some weird demons though, right?

BUFFY

Some, I guess.

(beat)

There was this one a few months ago that was kinda funny. A shapeshifter demon who must have eaten a bad toad or something because he was all kinds of goofed up.

WILLOW

What did he do?

BUFFY

Well, I mean, he wasn't walking into walls or anything like that. He just kept trying to turn into me for some reason, but he must have been seeing three of me. Every time he tried to turn himself into me, it was like this chubby fun-house mirror version of me.

WILLOW

That would be amusing.

BUFFY

Even worse, the thing kept repeating everything I said. He would have moved like me too, but he couldn't stand up, so he was just doing this kind of gyrating thing on the ground.

WILLOW

Now it's more sad than amusing.

BUFFY

It got old fast. After that, it was just really annoying.

DAWN

So then you...?

BUFFY

Squish.

WILLOW

Yeesh.

Willow stands.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

And on that chipper note, I'm beat. I think I'm going to hit the sack.

Buffy stands to say g'night to Willow. Willow hugs Buffy again.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

It's really good to have you home.

BUFFY

I'll see you tomorrow. We'll go looking at wedding dresses and do girlie stuff all day.

WILLOW

Sounds like a plan. I just have to check on this girl in my class first. She's been having some trouble that I think might be demonic.

BUFFY

Urgent?

WILLOW

I'd put it at level two for now. Seems like the guy's into the stalker thing. That usually takes a while.

BUFFY

If you need help, I'm around.

Willow nods.

WILLOW

G'night.

BUFFY

G'night.

Willow waves to the rest of the group.

WILLOW

G'night, everyone.

XANDER

Wait up.

Xander smooths out Ryan's blanket and then rushes to join Willow.

XANDER (CONT'D)

I'm coming too.

Willow and Xander head upstairs.

GILES

It has been a long day, hasn't it?

BUFFY

(to Dawn)

That's code.

DAWN

I do believe you're right.

Dawn gets up. She walks to Ryan and gives him a kiss on the cheek.

DAWN (CONT'D)

G'night.

(then, to Giles)

G'night, Giles.

(then, to Buffy)

We'll talk, right?

Buffy nods. Dawn heads for the stairs.

Once Dawn is gone, Ryan sits on his bed. Giles looks to him.

GILES

Are you sure you don't want the bed upstairs?

RYAN

Yeah.

Ryan turns and sees Buffy smiling at him very kindly. Too kindly. He's a little freaked by her.

RYAN (CONT'D)

I'm gonna brush my teeth.

Ryan rushes up the stairs, leaving Buffy alone with Giles. She turns to him, still grinning. He grins back.

GILES

He seems like a nice boy.

BUFFY

Yeah, I guess so.

GILES

I think you should give him a chance. Dawn seems fond of him.

BUFFY

Isn't she too young to be dating? Shouldn't she be, like, braiding Barbie's hair or something?

GILES

She's grown into quite a capable young woman.

BUFFY

And I missed it.

Giles doesn't respond.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Some part of you always thinks there's time. That you can get everything done and still have a chance to make up for what you weren't there for.

GILES

There is no making up for it. All we can do is hope that when all is said and done, we still have something to go home to. That we haven't burned all of our bridges.

Both take a moment to let the thought sink in before Buffy speaks again.

BUFFY

I'm glad you were here. I didn't expect you to be.

GILES

I'm glad I was too.

INT. WILLOW AND XANDER'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Buffy walks up the stairs, and through the dark hallway. The only hints of light come from underneath the doors, which are closed.

As Buffy walks, a FIGURE can be seen in the shadows behind her, following Buffy down the hall.



This (female) figure appears to be dressed in a white nightgown, but its face is not visible. We can only see a vague outline of the gown and some blond hair, not unlike that of Joyce.

Buffy can feel something behind her. She stops walking and turns around.

When she turns, the figure is nowhere to be seen. The hall remains dark.

Despite the fact that she knows that something was behind her, Buffy enters Dawn's dark room and closes the door behind her.

INT. WILLOW AND XANDER'S HOUSE - MASTER BEDROOM - NIGHT

Willow turns off the light, climbs into bed next to Xander, and rests her head on his chest.

WILLOW

It feels right again, doesn't it?  
Everyone's under one roof. Whole  
family is together.

XANDER

Except everyone that didn't make it  
this far.

WILLOW

Well, yeah. There's that.  
(beat)  
We should be happy though. Everyone  
else is here too, in spirit. And you  
never know when that will turn into  
wacky fun.

Willow smiles and looks up at Xander. He doesn't smile.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

XANDER

Yeah.

WILLOW

But something's up.

XANDER

Yeah.

Willow moves over and rests her head on her arm, so that she is in a better position for a serious discussion.

WILLOW

What's wrong? Is it Buffy?

Xander doesn't respond.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

I know she's acting a little different, but we probably are too. A lot's changed, right? And she's all super-Slayer now. That's gotta be a ton of pressure.

XANDER

She killed Angel.

WILLOW

Again?  
(then, leaning up)  
Are you serious?

XANDER

If I weren't, you'd probably find me doing a happy dance at the idea of Angel's death.

WILLOW

But he's really dead?

XANDER

Poof.

WILLOW

Was he evil?

XANDER

(beat)  
I don't think so.

WILLOW

Well, how did you find out about this? What did Buffy say, exactly?

XANDER

There wasn't much time for questions. She just kinda blurted it out right before you came home.

Willow gets out of bed again.

WILLOW

So maybe there's more to it? There has to be more to it, right?

Xander doesn't think so.

XANDER

Maybe.

WILLOW

But you don't think so.  
(beat)  
And you didn't say anything about this?

XANDER

She didn't want to talk about it.

WILLOW

I don't think this is something that she gets a choice on. We need to talk to her. We need to ask her why she killed him.

XANDER

Can't we just let her talk to us when she feels like it?

WILLOW

No!

(beat)

You know, you always do this. You always want to put off anything that might not be fun. Whether it's not getting a real job since we moved here, or putting off the conversation about our friend being a potential murderer.

XANDER

I have a real job. I've had several real jobs.

WILLOW

Right. Great. You built a few stupid tables on commission. That really would have paid the mortgage if Giles didn't help you get in with the Council.

XANDER

I'm not the one who needed to buy this house. And where were your waitressing tips? Oh, that's right... You were always too good for real jobs.

WILLOW

I was kinda busy going to school so that at least one of us could have a real job.

XANDER

You know what? I'm not doing this tonight. I'm going to sleep before you get to the part about my being too stupid to go to college.

Xander turns over and closes his eyes.

WILLOW

I never said you were too stupid to go to college. I said you were too lazy. Which explains the garbage that you constantly leave laying around the kitchen.

Xander doesn't respond. Willow paces back and forth, now not even a little tired.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

I should go talk to Buffy.

XANDER

You can talk to her in the morning.

WILLOW

Again, putting things off as always.

(beat)

You do think there's more to the story though, right?

XANDER

G'night, Will.

Willow climbs back into bed.

WILLOW

Goodnight.

There is a long silence between them.

XANDER

I love you.

EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

DRUSILLA and HEWITT walk through the woods. Dru walks as though she knows exactly where they are going and how to get there. Hewitt is far more cautious where he steps. He is still holding the Blackberry in his hand, trying to read it while he walks. Dru is getting a little too far ahead of him.

HEWITT

Would you slow down?

DRUSILLA

But the party's already started without us.

HEWITT

Have you ever heard of being fashionably late?

Dru doesn't respond to that.

HEWITT (CONT'D)

I've been reading this report. It's reminded me of something I'd only heard mentioned once before, when I worked with the Council's former head.

Drusilla stops walking. She turns to Hewitt, forcing him to stop before running into her. She looks him in the eyes.

DRUSILLA

You lack the proper grace. If you don't learn to glide, the judges will tap you on the shoulder.

HEWITT

Right. Only this isn't a dance. This is about our very survival and that of the Council.

DRUSILLA

Still talking business.

HEWITT

It's why I joined you in the first place.

DRUSILLA

But not what matters. Once you join the party, you'll realize what truly matters.

HEWITT

Enough talk of parties and dances. We have work to do.

DRUSILLA

Not the work that you'd planned for.

HEWITT

You don't understand the bigger picture. This Slayer could really do it. She could put an end to us all. Demons, Watchers... Our entire way of life could become obsolete.

DRUSILLA

It already has.

Drusilla turns and walks a little more.

DRUSILLA (CONT'D)

That's why we must join the party.

Hewitt walks toward Drusilla and stops so that he is only a foot or two away from her. He's annoyed by her.

HEWITT

How can I make you see?

DRUSILLA

It's not I that must see what's right  
below me.

Hewitt hesitates and Dru looks him squarely in the eyes with an odd grin on her face. Finally, he looks down. Dru's eyes widen as she fakes surprise.

DRUSILLA (CONT'D)

Ooh.

REVEAL that Hewitt is standing on top of a metal grate which covers an air vent of some sort. The shaft below is large enough for a person to fit through.

INT. DARK TUNNEL - NIGHT

Drusilla and Hewitt walk down the dark tunnel. As they walk, Dru hums a soft waltz, which echoes through the tunnel. Hewitt ignores this as his curiosity pulls him through the tunnel.

HEWITT

What is this?

Dru keeps humming as she puts a finger over her lips.

Hewitt says nothing else as they walk.

In the distance, a faint light can be seen. Its flicker suggests that the light comes from a fire of some sort.

Hewitt attempts to pick up the pace, but Dru holds out an arm which prevents him from getting too far ahead of her. She continues to hum.

Finally, they reach the end of the tunnel and stand in the flickering light. They look downward. A smile forms on Drusilla's face. Hewitt is a little surprised by what he sees.

PULL BACK to REVEAL a massive cavern. Parts of the walls look like manufactured cement, with doorways and stairs which lead to even more doorways. The rest of the cavern is bare rock, as though the walls were broken through to expand the space. The cavern is large enough to hold the hundreds of DEMONS that are camping out there, with several fires lit around the area to provide light.

DRUSILLA

Welcome to the party.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT TWO

## ACT THREE

FADE IN:

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

Buffy is laying in a sleeping bag on the floor next to Dawn's bed. Dawn is on her bed. Both of them are staring at the ceiling.

DAWN

Tell me about it.

BUFFY

There's not much to tell.

DAWN

There has to be. Do you ever get scared?

BUFFY

I don't usually stop to think about it.

DAWN

So you're always moving. Always fighting. How do you know where to go?

BUFFY

I just do.

DAWN

Like a sixth sense?

BUFFY

I see undead people.

DAWN

That was so obvious. And I'm just assuming that this demon radar is incapable of leading you toward a telephone.

BUFFY

I never meant to vanish. I just couldn't be the Slayer that I have to be and still be the person that I was.

DAWN

You were a good Slayer before.

BUFFY

It's different. Everything is so different. I'm not the person that I was.

DAWN

We are who we are. Who we allow ourselves to become is a decision that we make.

BUFFY

Whatever you say, Giles.

DAWN

I'm serious. I know you feel this need to disconnect, but it's not something that you're being forced into.

BUFFY

Maybe it's just easier this way.

(beat)

Do you remember Toth?

DAWN

I remember everything. Mystical Key gal, remember?

BUFFY

So you remember how he wanted to split human Buffy and Slayer Buffy apart?

DAWN

Yeah.

BUFFY

I think this is what Slayer Buffy would have been. It's like human Buffy's left the building.

DAWN

Human Buffy's right here.

Buffy falls silent for a moment. Finally, she speaks again.

BUFFY

I'm sorry.

DAWN

For what?

BUFFY

(beat)

For leaving you alone.

DAWN

I told you, I was never alone. I have Giles and Willow and Xander...

BUFFY

I was your family. It's different.



DAWN

I still have Dad. I'm living with him now.

BUFFY

So things worked out?

DAWN

Everything happens for a reason, right? I guess that's why he came back when he did.

BUFFY

Are you happy?

DAWN

As anyone, I guess.  
(beat)  
He misses you.

Buffy doesn't respond.

DAWN (CONT'D)

You should call him. Let him know that you're okay.

BUFFY

I can't.

DAWN

Why not?

BUFFY

I wouldn't know what to say. How do I explain what I am? What I have to do?

DAWN

Mom was okay with it.

BUFFY

I'm not sure she would be anymore.

DAWN

You underestimate the people that love you.

BUFFY

(extended beat)  
Tell me about school.

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

Ryan walks from the kitchen, toward the living room carrying a glass of water. Once he reaches the living room, he sets the glass down and grabs his cell phone off of the table. He taps a few buttons to set an alarm, and then reaches for the light switch.

As he reaches, Ryan catches a reflection in the glass of a picture frame. The reflection shows the blurred image of JOYCE laying on the couch behind him. She is in her dead position.

Upon seeing this, Ryan quickly turns to see who is on the couch, but finds nobody there. He looks back to the reflection, but the image is gone.

He considers his options for a moment, and finally decides to turn off the light and ignore it.

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

Giles is sitting at the island, deep in thought as he drinks a cup of coffee. Xander walks into the room.

XANDER

Coffee?

GILES

I just made a fresh pot.

XANDER

I do so love having an English butler around.

Xander stops and turns around with a serious look on his face.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Is that a derogatory remark? Did I just offend your people?

Willow walks into the room.

WILLOW

G'mornin, Giles.

Willow goes for the coffee and notices Xander's worried expression.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

You made the butler joke again, didn't you?

Xander's expression lightens and he turns to pour himself a cup of coffee, which Willow grabs as soon as it's poured. She sits next to Giles.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

I keep telling him that it's not funny, but does he listen?

XANDER

I listen. I just disagree.

Ryan walks through the back door. He's holding a newspaper and a store-bought cup of coffee.

XANDER (CONT'D)

(to Ryan)  
You're up early.

RYAN

Yeah, I didn't sleep much.

XANDER

Ah. Might try the couch tonight.  
Might be a little less painful.

RYAN

It wasn't that.

XANDER

Oh.  
(then)  
So let me ask you something, and you can tell me if you think it's funny... A British guy makes a pot of coffee while staying with his American friends--

WILLOW

Are you really gonna do this?

XANDER

Shh. You're ruining my flow.

Buffy walks into the room, heads for the refrigerator and a proceeds to look inside for something. When Willow sees her, she immediately wants to ask a ton of questions, but wants to wait for just the right moment.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Now, where was I?

GILES

(to Ryan)  
You say you didn't sleep well? You're welcome to take the bed upstairs tonight.

RYAN

It wasn't so much the bed as it was the ghost.

XANDER

You had an uncomfortable ghost?

WILLOW

What kind of ghost? What did you see?

RYAN

A woman. She was laying on the couch, kinda staring off into space. It was just a reflection though. When I turned around, it wasn't there. I tried to ignore it, but as soon as I fell asleep, I heard someone yell something about hooking up to do a study thing. After that I was pretty much up.

(holding up the paper)

Anyone read the paper?

WILLOW

So we have ghosts?

XANDER

So we have ghosts who like to study?

WILLOW

Since when do we have ghosts?

Buffy grabs a bottle of orange juice and closes the refrigerator door. She turns and looks at the others, not having heard any of the conversation. They look to her as though she is supposed to do something.

BUFFY

Did I miss something?

WILLOW

Ryan saw a ghost.

BUFFY

Oh. I don't really do ghosts.

XANDER

Too good for the wandering spirits, are we?

BUFFY

I try to focus on the things that are stabable.

XANDER

We should still try, shouldn't we? Do you know what ghosts do to property value?

RYAN

Is definately didn't seem like a malevolent entity. Probably more along the lines of a residual haunting. Repeating some past event over and over again.

XANDER

Since when do you know things?

RYAN

I watch "Ghost Hunters".

GILES

If it is a residual haunting, there probably isn't much that we could do...

BUFFY

See? Not a job for a Slayer.

GILES

Of course, if we could figure out what triggered these hauntings, we may be able to cleanse the house. There must have been some sort of trigger.

WILLOW

They weren't here before. It must have been one of you guys.

Dawn walks into the room.

DAWN

What wasn't here before?

XANDER

Ghosts. Residual something or other type ghosts.

DAWN

Ah. Well, unless they allow those in carry-on baggage, I didn't bring them.

WILLOW

Maybe there's an emotional trigger. Y'know... Ghosts... Hmm? Ghosts are usually connected to death, right?

(to Buffy)

Know anyone who's died lately?

GILES

Residual hauntings don't require a death. The subjects in question may still be very much alive.

DAWN

Is that what I heard last night? I thought I was hearing things, but this would be a much better way to explain why Willow and Xander would be arguing over Buffy killing Angel.

(to Ryan)

Buffy killed her boyfriend once and then took off. It was a whole big dramatic thing.

Buffy and Willow look at each other. Buffy knows that Willow now knows and she's not really sure how she wants to handle this.

XANDER

(to Buffy)

You said it wasn't a secret, right?

BUFFY

(still looking at Willow)

It's fine.

Dawn and Giles exchange puzzled looks.

GILES

Buffy?

BUFFY

I killed Angel.

Dawn has no idea how to respond to this.

WILLOW

Was he evil?

BUFFY

No. He was just Angel.

WILLOW

So, why?

GILES

Because she had no choice.

Willow looks at Giles, not getting what he is saying.

WILLOW

Were there thugs that made her do it?

BUFFY

I just had to.

WILLOW

You had to kill one of the people that you love? Someone who wasn't even evil? How does that make sense?

GILES

Willow...

WILLOW

No. I want her to answer me.

GILES

We must sometimes make decisions that we'd rather not have to.

WILLOW

I get that. How does that work here?

GILES

Because Angel posed a threat to this world.

WILLOW

He wasn't evil.

(to Buffy)

I'm not yelling. I just want to know why you did this. Tell me why you did this.

GILES

Angel wasn't evil, but the chance still existed that he would lose his soul again. It's happened before.

WILLOW

And we fixed it.

XANDER

You did a spell, Will. You don't really do that type of work anymore.

WILLOW

(to Xander)

So you're siding with them?

XANDER

I'm not siding with anyone. I'm just saying...

WILLOW

Oh. Okay. Good. Fine. So if I did still do spells, one might say that the chance of me turning evil still existed. Does that mean it would be okay to kill me?

XANDER

Will--

WILLOW

No. I want to know.

(to Buffy)

If I were still capable of doing magick... If there was a chance that I would turn evil again, would you kill me?

Buffy looks at Willow but doesn't answer. After a moment, Buffy walks out of the kitchen. Dawn soon follows.

Willow looks to Xander and then to Giles, trying to figure out if she feels right in all of this or guilty for yelling at Buffy.

INT. WILLOW AND XANDER'S HOUSE - FOYER - MORNING

Buffy walks toward the front door, but stops before she reaches it. She stands near the bottom of the stairs. This is where Dawn joins her.

BUFFY

I shouldn't have come. I shouldn't even be here right now.

DAWN

That's not true.

BUFFY

How am I supposed to do the things that I need to do and still look people like you in the eye?

DAWN

We love you. That's all you need to know.

Buffy fights tears as she speaks.

BUFFY

Don't say that. Please.

DAWN

We do.

Giles, Willow and Xander walk from the kitchen to join Buffy and Dawn.

WILLOW

Buffy--

BUFFY

Stop.

WILLOW

I shouldn't have lost it. I shouldn't have gone off like that.

BUFFY

That's not true. You should have lost it. You never should have to see the world the way I see it.

WILLOW

But we're all in this. We've been in this together for ten years.

BUFFY

We're not in it together though. You hear that someone you care about is dead and you get upset over it. That's the way it should be.

(MORE)



BUFFY (CONT'D)

I have to think about whether or not it's for the greater good. Do you know what it feels like to think that way about someone you love?

Nobody replies to Buffy.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

You asked me what would happen if I thought you still posed a threat. You wanted to know if I'd kill you the way I killed Angel.

Buffy can't help but cry now.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

The truth is, I would. I would kill you. I don't have a choice.

When Willow speaks, it's softly and without accusation in her voice. She just doesn't understand.

WILLOW

Who's making you? I don't get it.

BUFFY

You shouldn't have to.

WILLOW

I want to.

BUFFY

I don't think you can. All those years that we worked together, we didn't have to worry about what happens ten or twenty years from now. We could give Angel some slack. Or Spike. How many people did we know that were capable of so much damage? But we liked them. We believed in the possibility of redemption. We thought that with some support, they could change.

(beat)

I can't afford to risk it anymore. I don't have the luxury of time. If I let Angel live, then what happens if he loses his soul again?

WILLOW

Then we could stop him.

BUFFY

How? I won't be here forever.

(MORE)

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Any day that I wake up could be my last, and there isn't going to be anyone to save the world once I'm gone. If I don't kill as many of them as I can now, I might as well not kill any. I can't afford to be soft anymore. I can't afford to be a person. I'm the Slayer. The last.

Willow has no response. She's powerless and she knows it. Nobody is really sure what to say. Dawn keeps her eyes on Buffy, troubled by her words. Finally realizing exactly what it must be like for Buffy.

Willow just looks down, feeling stupid for having blasted Buffy.

Xander hesitates, and then leans closer to Giles, speaking in a low voice to him.

XANDER

Aren't you supposed to say something grown up and meaningful right now?

Giles doesn't respond.

DAWN

We can still help you. Maybe not in the slaying part, but in other ways. We can be there.

BUFFY

Having you around makes me weak.  
(beat)  
Death follows me. Wherever I am.  
Whatever I'm doing. I can feel it.

Behind Dawn, a BLURRED IMAGE OF JOYCE APPEARS on the couch. Buffy looks over at it, and then down to the ground as she speaks.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Wherever I turn, it's one step behind.  
I leave a trail of bodies in my wake,  
and there will never be an end to  
it.

WILLOW (V.O.)

(from "Passion")  
What? No! No!  
(now crying)  
No!

Willow, Xander and Giles turn toward the dining room when they hear that. Dawn continues to look at Buffy.

DAWN

The one thing that has always made you different from the other Slayers is the decision to let people in. To care. To let people help you when you need it. Whatever your life is like now, I don't think that's changed. Otherwise you wouldn't have come home.

BUFFY

I shouldn't have.

DAWN

I disagree. You went through something huge- whether or not you want to admit it- and you needed to be with the people that love you. Look me in the eye and tell me that I'm wrong.

Buffy looks Dawn in the eyes, but hesitates before she speaks.

BUFFY

I did come here because of you. Because I need you.

(beat)

That doesn't make it right.

WILLOW

Right or wrong, like it or not, we're in this together.

Buffy looks at Willow.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

As long as you fight, we fight.

XANDER

So say we all.

BUFFY

It won't stop here. More people could die.

XANDER

I know we're slow sometimes, Buff, but it didn't take us ten years to figure that one out.

DAWN

We're in this to the end. All of us.

Buffy thinks this over. She wants to run or cry or something, but after careful consideration, she turns to Giles.

BUFFY

Tell me more about this Hewitt guy.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT THREE

## ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

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

Everyone is gathered in the living room now, including Ryan who is sitting with Dawn on the floor.

Buffy and Giles are sitting on the couch. Giles is showing Buffy some of the information that they have.

GILES

Daniel Hewitt became the head of the Council after the reformation. He's a smart man who has dedicated his life to the Council in every respect. He's focused. Driven. His willingness to do whatever it took to rebuild the Council is what earned him the job, which isn't to say that he's always been wise in his actions.

(beat)

In recent months, Hewitt's actions have become more and more questionable. He's closed himself off more. Begun making strange requests and issuing strange orders. It wasn't until now that his actions have begun to make sense.

Giles takes out a picture of Drusilla in the Council Headquarters lobby and shows it to Buffy.

GILES (CONT'D)

It's my belief that Hewitt is working with Drusilla. While I'm not sure of his exact motivation, I can only assume that it is somehow connected to the report that he had Xander working on. I've made some calls and discovered that he's taken out all information on our dealings with Glory. Her plans to open the gateway between dimensions. I think that whatever he's working on with Drusilla is related to this. To the Key.

Buffy looks over the papers in front of her. She then turns to Willow.

BUFFY

I need more information. We need to be ready. I'm going to need a date. A location. Dress colors for bridesmaids.

WILLOW

Actually, I think I want Dawn to be my maid of honor.

BUFFY

(let down)

Oh.

XANDER

But only because I wanted you for best man.

BUFFY

(perky)

Oh. I can do that.

(beat)

But I'm not hiring any strippers.

WILLOW

He can live with those terms.

(then, to Xander)

At least, if he wants there to be a wedding.

DAWN

(smiling)

I'm maid of honor. Yay!

GILES

Did any of you hear a word that I've said?

RYAN

I did.

(beat)

Not sure that actually means anything though.

BUFFY

(to Giles)

I'm listening. So, do we think they're planning to open the portal again?

GILES

It's possible.

BUFFY

Why? You said this guy was all juiced up on Watcherness. Why would he switch sides?

GILES

He probably doesn't see it as switching sides. In order to ensure the future of the Council, there must be a need for their work.

(MORE)

GILES (CONT'D)

If you manage to succeed in ridding the world of demons, there is a chance that there won't be a need for us.

DAWN

Which you'd think was the goal all along.

XANDER

I'm sure it still is for all of those Watchers who aren't crazy. Which is pretty much Giles at this point, right?

Willow leans in closer to Xander.

WILLOW

You work for the Council, hun.

XANDER

Damnit!

DAWN

Good news is, the plan Glory was working on isn't something that can just be done any old time. Bad news is, that doesn't mean that the Key is officially dead as far as energy goes.

XANDER

So you can still be used for evil?

DAWN

Not in a "quick Buffy, kill me" kind of way... But, yeah. I've been doing a little bit of research here and there. The energy that I was made from isn't the type of thing to just go away. Given the right circumstance... yeah.

(then, to Buffy)

But you don't need to kill me. Really.

BUFFY

Okay, so we find them and we kill them.

XANDER

How? They could be anywhere in the world.

DAWN

Odds are, if they want to use the Key, they'll need to be near the Key.

BUFFY

Which also means that they will eventually pop up. When they do, I will kill them.

WILLOW

Sounds like a plan.

BUFFY

Until then, life goes on.

(to Xander and Willow)

You plan your wedding.

(to Dawn and Giles)

You keep researching. See if you can find anything that might tell us how they can use the Key.

RYAN

Maybe I can help.

BUFFY

We'll talk.

GILES

I have some colleagues that may be able to help us.

XANDER

More Watchers? Yay!

WILLOW

Again, you work for them too, dear.

XANDER

Damnit!

BUFFY

Let's get to work.

Buffy gets up and starts to walk toward the dining room.

WILLOW

Buffy?

Buffy turns.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Before I can set a date for the wedding, I need to know... I mean, I wasn't sure if you're...

BUFFY

I'll be here for your wedding.

Willow smiles.



XANDER

But we should do it soon. Sooner is better than later.

WILLOW

Are we in a particular hurry?

XANDER

No. Not really. I was just thinking about the last time I did this. We waited almost a year to get married and it just gave us that much more time to freak out. Then we called it off and it ended up costing us a fortune.

WILLOW

But we're not planning to call it off, right?

XANDER

I'm not saying that. I'm just saying that I want to do this. I want to do it fast.

(beat)

I want you to be my wife, fast.

DAWN

(to Ryan)

Did you see how he pulled out of that dive? That's talent.

WILLOW

(to Xander, ignoring Dawn)

I want to be your wife soon too.

XANDER

So then we do this fast, right?

WILLOW

(smiles)

We do this fast. But not tomorrow fast. I want this fast, not insanely fast. We still have planning to do. That takes time.

(beat)

A month. Let's get married in a month.

DAWN

A month? That's giving yourself time?

XANDER

A month sounds good to me.

DAWN

I guess it's romantic. In a way.

(MORE)

DAWN (CONT'D)

(beat)  
Maybe.

WILLOW  
It is kinda romantic.

BUFFY  
But a month is, like, really soon.

WILLOW  
It's not that soon. I mean, how hard can it be to plan a wedding? We can do a small thing. Keep it simple.

Xander laughs.

XANDER  
(to Giles)  
That's what they always say.

WILLOW  
Or we could always not get married at all, what with the mocking me and all.

XANDER  
Simple is good.

WILLOW  
I just want to do it. I want to get married and not have to freak out over table linens and china patterns. The sooner we do it, the less I'll worry.

XANDER  
(beat)  
Then we'll get married in a month. One month. In one month, we will be married.

WILLOW  
Neat. I also want Giles to officiate.

XANDER  
What?

GILES  
What?

WILLOW  
That part was a joke. There's a site online that lets you do that though. But in this case, I was joking.

XANDER  
Really? That's not just in lame TV  
shows?

WILLOW  
It's real.

XANDER  
Neat.  
(then, to Giles)  
Wanna officiate our wedding?

GILES  
Not really, no.

XANDER  
Fine. Be that way.

Xander starts to walk out of the room. As he goes, he puts his arm around Buffy and brings her along with him.

XANDER (CONT'D)  
So, Buff... Wanna officiate our  
wedding?

BUFFY  
That might be kinda hard, since I'm  
already the best man.

XANDER  
So being a man's not hard, but  
officiating the wedding is?

BUFFY  
Your brain isn't quite right, is it?

Xander turns away from Buffy, back toward the living room.

XANDER  
So, Dawn...!

INT. THE CAVERN - NIGHT

Drusilla and Hewitt walk through the crowd of demons, taking in the sight as they go along.

The area is a refugee camp for demons, so there are fires burning, a few tents raised and many, many hungry demons.

Hewitt looks at them all with quite a bit of distain.

HEWITT  
Filthy creatures, aren't they?

DRUSILLA  
You speak as though you're not one  
of them.

HEWITT

I'm not.

DRUSILLA

You're a creature, same as the rest.  
A demon in the human's flesh.

HEWITT

I'm not like them. This is but a  
means to an end. Once we're done  
here, I'll get my soul back.

Drusilla laughs.

DRUSILLA

That seems to be going around quite  
a bit lately. Nasty little bug, isn't  
it?

Dru stops walking and turns to Hewitt, forcing him to stop.  
She puts a hand over his eyes.

DRUSILLA (CONT'D)

Close your eyes and listen close.

HEWITT

Listen to what?

DRUSILLA

To the sound of your heart beating  
in your chest.

HEWITT

I don't...

Drusilla pulls her hand away, smiles and starts to walk again.

DRUSILLA

Precisely. You're all in your head,  
but once you stop to listen, you  
realize that what once was now isn't.  
(beat)

Good little girl, prim and proper.  
Go to school. Go to church. Mind  
your manners. All that turns to dust  
long before the body.

Hewitt doesn't respond. He follows Dru as she walks.

DRUSILLA (CONT'D)

Don't you worry though.

Dru walks toward a smaller demon who has his back turned to  
her as he warms himself by a fire. His clothes are the remains  
of what was once a nice suit.

Dru stops behind him.

DRUSILLA (CONT'D)

It all works out for the best.

Hearing Drusilla behind him, the demon turns. It's now that we see his face. He is DOC.

Dru smiles at him.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF EPISODE