

**Buffy The Vampire Slayer**

**Season 8**

Episode 6

"Opposing Forces"

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

It's morning. WILLOW is standing at the stove, cooking pancakes. DAWN is sitting on a nearby stool, watching.

DAWN

I didn't know you could cook.

WILLOW

Yeah, me and the flour canister go way back. Tara taught me how to make the perfect pancakes. The trick is to sour the milk with a little--

DAWN

Lemon juice.

WILLOW

She told you too?

DAWN

It was her secret, but I saw her do it once.

WILLOW

I haven't cooked for a while though. I'd forgotten how much I enjoy it.

DAWN

Cause you get to make a mess?

WILLOW

It's just neat. Like with baking. You mix all of these different things together, and there's this chemical reaction that just makes it all work. It rises, or falls. It's sweet or tart. It's all about what you put in and how much.

(beat)

I guess it's kinda like magic.

GILES walks into the room.

GILES

What's like magic?

WILLOW

Cooking.

GILES

Oh. It's really not, you know.

WILLOW

In a way.

DAWN

Cookbook. Spell book.

WILLOW

Exactly.

GILES

I've never seen a pancake reduce  
someone to ashes.

Giles inspects Willow's pancakes.

GILES (CONT'D)

Lemon juice?

WILLOW

Tara really didn't know how to keep  
a secret, did she?

GILES

Secret? It's in every cookbook.

WILLOW

Oh.

GILES

Did you add extra baking soda?

WILLOW

Should I have?

GILES

You really are an amateur, aren't  
you?

WILLOW

(straight faced)  
Ha ha. Funny.

Giles sits next to Dawn.

GILES

Is Buffy up yet?

DAWN

She went out for orange juice. She'll  
be back soon.

GILES

Good. I need to talk to her.

DAWN

'Bout what?

GILES

I'm not sure. That's why I need to talk to her.

XANDER walks in, through the basement.

XANDER

Hey, Giles, wanna lend me a hand down here?

GILES

What are you doing?

XANDER

The plan is two-fold. First, make some space to fit in some of Buffy's workout stuff. Second, see if I can fit some attic stuff into the basement so I can stop sleeping on a sleeping bag in the middle of the floor. Third, eat some really good smelling pancakes.

Willow smiles at him.

WILLOW

I forgot the baking soda.

XANDER

Never liked that stuff anyway.  
(leans in close to  
Giles)  
What's baking soda?

GILES

Let's go. I prefer to do my heavy lifting before breakfast.

Xander and Giles walk back into the basement. Willow calls after them.

WILLOW

I'll let you know when it's ready.

Willow plates some pancakes and brings them to Dawn. Dawn studies them and pokes them a bit.

Willow goes to the pantry and gets the baking soda.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

I think I'll add a little before the next batch.

Dawn gives Willow a "no fair" face. She has to eat the rubber pancakes.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

Xander and Giles stand in the middle of the packed basement. Giles scratches his head.

GILES

You want to make room down here for the training equipment, and for more boxes from upstairs?

XANDER

That's the plan.

(beat)

I think it might be flawed.

GILES

I'm inclined to agree.

XANDER

I'm hoping that some of it is old papers or something from when the city used the space as storage. That way we can unload it onto the--

Xander cuts himself off as pain rushes to his eye. He puts a hand over it and doubles over. Giles grabs him, making sure he won't fall over, and leads him to the stairs to sit down.

GILES

Are you alright?

XANDER

I've been better.

GILES

Right. I suppose that was a rather stupid question.

Xander comes out of the pain. He blinks his eyes a couple of times.

XANDER

At least I didn't rip anything apart this time.

GILES

I'm sorry?

XANDER

Oh, there was this thing last week. I kinda tore a street apart.

GILES

With your eye? Like some sort of laser vision?

XANDER

Yeah. Only more like rumble vision.  
No heat or anything like that.

GILES

My word.

XANDER

And "holy crap" while your at it.

Xander stands up.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Okay, lets get some of these boxes  
upstairs so we can give them a good  
going through.

GILES

Are you sure you're alright?

XANDER

Aside from my literal stance on giving  
people the evil eye? Yeah. I'll be  
fine until the next time this thing  
attacks me.

ANGLE ON : THE CEILING

Wooden braces run all across the ceiling, supporting the  
rest of the house.

On one of these braces, hidden in a dark corner of the  
basement, is a small, red, glass bottle.

Xander moves under this bottle as he grabs a box and starts  
up the stairs.

XANDER (CONT'D)

C'mon, English man. Chop-chop.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF TEASER

## ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - DAY

A bright, happy, sunny day.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

BUFFY is sitting on the couch, going through one of the boxes. It's filled with papers and folders.

Giles walks into the room, sipping a cup of tea. He sits down next to Buffy.

GILES

Hello.

BUFFY

Hey. Do you think the city would want this stuff back? I'm not sure what it is, but it sounds very official. See this?

Buffy holds up a paper.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

It has the word "subsidiary" on it. Not really sure why, but that word always sounds official to me.

GILES

Perhaps Willow could ask when she goes to work.

BUFFY

Oh, right. I forgot that she's starting there today. Is she nervous? I bet her stomach's all rumblie. I could get her something for it.

GILES

Buffy?

BUFFY

Hmm?

GILES

We should talk.

BUFFY

Okay. About what?

GILES

For starters, why you called me here.

(MORE)

GILES (CONT'D)

It's been a week and you haven't told me. Now, I gather from the others that your father is in town. Is that what's upsetting you?

Buffy pauses, trying to figure out the answer to that question.

BUFFY

Kinda.

(beat)

Are you sure that I shouldn't get something for Willow?

GILES

I'm sure. Why don't you tell me what's on your mind. You're upset with your father?

BUFFY

Wouldn't you be? The guy ran out on us. I haven't even heard from him since before Mom died.

(beat)

Now he expects to just waltz back into our lives like nothing ever happened.

GILES

Have you spoken with him? Listened to what he has to say?

BUFFY

I spoke to him.

(off Giles' look)

Okay, I yelled at him and stormed off without listening to a word he had to say, but why should I? Why does he get a second chance?

GILES

Because like it or not, he is your father.

BUFFY

And I don't get a say in that?

Giles shakes his head.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

That doesn't seem fair to me.

GILES

I understand that you're angry.

(MORE)



GILES (CONT'D)

Nobody's saying that you shouldn't be, but if there's a chance for you to work this out with him, don't you think you should try? Dawn's heard his side of the story.

BUFFY

Which she refuses to tell me.

GILES

It's not for her to tell. You and your father need to sit down and talk. You need to decide, once and for all, where he will fit into your life, if at all. It'll be difficult for you to keep avoiding him when he comes to see Dawn.

BUFFY

And rip her away from me.

GILES

What?

BUFFY

Isn't that how this works? Daddy comes home and suddenly, he's in charge? I take care of her. I've been more of a parent to her than he is, even since before I was doing it alone. Why does he think he can just come in and take over?

GILES

He can't take over, Buffy. The job is very near done. Dawn's become an amazing young woman under your guidance. Whatever her relationship with her father, the fact will remain that you did that. You helped to mold her into the person she is.

BUFFY

But what if he wants to make her into something else? What if he thinks that I'm not good enough anymore, and he knows a better way to help her realize her potential?

GILES

That won't happen.

Buffy pauses, and looks into Giles' eyes.

BUFFY

But what if it does?

Giles can see how serious she is.

GILES

What are you talking about?

Buffy stands up and starts to pace.

BUFFY

I think I might have done something that I shouldn't have.

GILES

What?

BUFFY

(beat)

This guy... This monk guy came up to me on the street. He said that he knew about Dawn being the Key, and he could help her tap into that power.

Giles takes this in.

GILES

He knew about the Key?

BUFFY

He said that after he met with her, he could help her channel the Key's power. I guess it works like a lense where she could focus it, if she knew what to focus on.

GILES

When did this happen?

BUFFY

Halloween. The same night that my dad came back to talk with Dawn. I guess that's why I freaked out and...

Giles looks up at her.

GILES

And, what?

BUFFY

I told him to leave us alone.

(then)

I was in a weird place that night. I couldn't stand that yet another person was coming to take her away.

GILES

Part of being a good parent is knowing when to let others in.

(MORE)

GILES (CONT'D)

You shouldn't have sent him away  
without first talking with Dawn.

BUFFY

I know that. I didn't think he'd  
really just leave, but I haven't  
seen him around since that night.

Buffy sits down again.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

What if I blew her only chance to  
figure out her place in this world?  
For all we know, this guy could have  
been her Giles, and now she'll never  
know how to shoot her crossbow.

(beat)

Metaphorically speaking.

(beat)

I think.

GILES

I'm not sure what you want me to  
say.

BUFFY

Say something amazingly comforting.  
Tell me that it'll be okay and that  
he'll come back, and that my dad  
situation will stop being such a  
situation.

GILES

Would you settle for a heart-felt  
"there there"?

EXT. CITY HALL - ESTABLISHING - DAY

An old building. Not huge or fancy, but nice.

INT. CITY HALL - RECORDS OFFICE - DAY

And when I say "records office", I mean "basement". Willow  
walks into the office and looks around. The basement looks  
like it hasn't been updated in decades. File cabinets line  
every wall, and spill into the center of the room. Even with  
those, boxes of files are still piled all around.

Willow looks around, almost wanting to run as she takes in  
this sight.

WILLOW

(tentatively)

Hello?

A man pops up from behind some file boxes. He is HARRY MINTZ (late 30's, business type).

HARRY

Hello.

He looks her over. Realizing this, Willow unconsciously smooths off her skirt and hair, feeling as though she's being inspected.

HARRY (CONT'D)

Are you Willow Rosenbaum?

WILLOW

Berg.

HARRY

I'm sorry?

WILLOW

It's Rosenberg. My last name. Mrs. Gimly just gets that wrong sometimes.

HARRY

Oh.

(beat)

But you're still her?

WILLOW

As far as I know, yup.

HARRY

Good. My name is Harry Mintz- yes, as in the hard candy, or the meat pie, I've heard the jokes- Anyway, I've been sent down to get you started.

WILLOW

You don't work down here?

HARRY

Nobody works down here. Not until you, I mean. This is where we throw all of the things that nobody ever wants to see again.

Willow looks around.

WILLOW

It looks like all of the city records.

HARRY

Like I said. Whatever.

(MORE)

HARRY (CONT'D)

The higher ups in town have decided that they want to clear some of this stuff out, but before we can do that, we need to know what we have.

WILLOW

So you just want me to organize the files and create a database that'll help you figure out what's in which boxes? Sounds easy enough.

HARRY

Yes it does, but that's not what they want. They want a database that includes all of these files.

WILLOW

Includes? You mean, you want all of this put onto one computer?

HARRY

Ain't the new millennium a grand thing? Anyway, that's what we want. Can it be done?

WILLOW

You mean before the next new millennium?

(beat)

I guess so. It'll take a while, but it can be done.

Harry looks down.

HARRY

This is yours then.

WILLOW

Boxes upon boxes of endless boxes of files?

HARRY

That and this computer.

WILLOW

Oh.

Willow walks around the boxes and sees a desk with a flat panel computer monitor, a top of the line keyboard, and a wireless mouse sitting on top of it.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Wow. What kind of machine do those run with?

Harry rolls his eyes, bored with the whole computer thing. He motions for Willow to follow him. As she does, she notices that they're following a group of cables from the desk to... wherever they're going.

He leads her to the other side of the room where they come to a door. It seems slightly out of place among the clutter, as there is nothing in front of it. It's an old door, with fancy carving around it.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

What's in there?

Harry opens the door. As Willow gazes upon that which lies within this mysterious room, her eyes widen. Her jaw drops.

Breathless and unable to speak, she finally manages to let out a moan.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

Xander and Dawn are working in the basement. Xander is moving boxes around. Dawn is looking through boxes.

She opens one box and fishes through it. It's a box full of old knickknacks.

DAWN

Some of this stuff is pretty cool.  
Check it out.

She pulls out a quill.

DAWN (CONT'D)

This bird probably died a hundred years before I was born.

XANDER

Same for the people who ate that bird.

Dawn looks through the box some more.

DAWN

I wonder how much we could get for this stuff on Ebay.

XANDER

Twenty, at least.

DAWN

You don't think there's a market for these things?

XANDER

Maybe a few years ago.

(MORE)

XANDER (CONT'D)

If they're anything like my **Star Trek** collectables, Ebay pretty much blew their value. I guess things aren't as valuable when you can find whatever you want whenever you want it. Same thing happened with the comic book society in the early 90's.

Dawn is still fishing through the box. She's not paying attention to Xander. He notices this.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Dawn?

She looks up.

DAWN

Hmm?

(then)

Oh. Sorry. I tuned you out as soon as you mentioned **Star Trek**.

XANDER

Andrew might have been a pain in the ass, but at least he listened to me.

DAWN

Poor Xander. Maybe we could get him to come back from Brazil and you could have a Number One to play with.

(beat)

Okay, that just sounded weird, from a non-Trekkie point of view.

Dawn sees something she likes in the box.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Oh, cool.

XANDER

What?

She picks it up. It's exactly like the red bottle we saw before, only this one is blue.

DAWN

Check out this bottle.

She holds it up for him to see.

XANDER

Am I supposed to be impressed?

DAWN

You don't think it's neat?

XANDER

I think it's a bottle.

DAWN

It's pretty. I think I'll keep it.

She sets the bottle aside.

XANDER

Finally, someplace to keep your  
century old mouth wash.

DAWN

You're funny.

Xander tries to lift another box, but stops suddenly. He  
doubles over in pain. Dawn sees him and rushes to his side.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Xander, are you okay?

XANDER

Just give me a sec.

He stays bent over, eyes shut. Waiting for the pain to go  
away. Dawn doesn't know what to do.

ANGLE ON : THE BLUE BOTTLE

Sitting on the floor, it begins to shake.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT ONE



## ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

Buffy, Giles and Dawn are standing around Xander, who is still feeling the pain. It's not as bad as some he's been through, but it's still there.

BUFFY

What can we do?  
(to Giles)  
We have to do something.

GILES

I've been trying to figure this out.  
I'm afraid I simply don't have enough  
information.

DAWN

What information do you need?

GILES

If only I knew.

Xander kicks one of the boxes.

BUFFY

Xander?

XANDER

I'm tired of this. I'm tired of the  
pain. I'm tired of not being able to  
leave the house without worrying  
that it'll attack again. I'm tired  
of this whole damn thing. I want it  
over.

Buffy puts a hand on his shoulder.

BUFFY

We'll work this out, I promise. As  
soon as Willow gets home she and  
Giles will sit down and go over the  
spell she used on you. We'll fix  
this.

XANDER

How do we know that it can be fixed?  
For all we know, I'm destined to  
live out the rest of my crappy life,  
hunched over in pain, or inflicting  
it upon others as I tear them apart  
with my eye.

DAWN

We've been through stuff like this before. We've faced things that are a lot worse than this, and we all came out of it okay.

Xander looks up at her, but then looks away. He can't be there anymore.

XANDER

I'll be in my attic.

He walks out of the basement. Once he's gone, Buffy turns to Giles.

BUFFY

I can't take this. I can't stand seeing him like this.

GILES

There's only so much that we can do.

BUFFY

We have to find a way to do more. He's hurting and there's nothing I can do about it.

GILES

His pain is more than just the physical pain that he feels in his eye. I think it runs deeper than that.

BUFFY

He's been through a lot the last few months.

DAWN

But if we can fix his eye, it'll help, right?

GILES

Perhaps.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - ATTIC - DAY

Xander walks up the stairs, into the attic. It's filled with boxes, as most attics are. In the one clear spot in the room, a sleeping bag is rolled out.

Xander paces in the middle of the room. He wants to do something, but there is nothing for him to do. He wants to scream, but that would make his thoughts a little more public than he'd like.

He sits in an old rocking chair and puts his head in his hands. It still hurts. The pain hasn't gone away for hours.

He begins to pound on his head, as though he could beat the pain out of it, but he can't. For a few seconds, the pain worsens. He stops moving and hunches himself over. The sharpness of the pain eventually goes away, but it still hurts.

He sits back in the chair, brings his knees close to his chest, keeping his head down, and starts rocking.

XANDER

(mumbled)

Help me. Please help me. Please,  
just take it away.

And there he remains, rocking himself. Waiting for the pain to end.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Buffy is pacing in the center of the room. Dawn and Giles are sitting nearby. All are deep in thought.

DAWN

Maybe I could bring him something.  
Tea?

GILES

I think he'd prefer to be alone at  
the moment.

DAWN

But that's bad, right? Alone is bad.  
Together is good. It's comforting.

GILES

Not always. With what he's going  
through, he probably feels alone  
either way. He probably doesn't want  
people hovering around him.

BUFFY

This is stupid. There has to be  
something we can do. I can't just  
sit here doing nothing.

GILES

At the moment, there's not anything  
else to do.

Buffy stops pacing and looks at Giles.

BUFFY

How can you be so cool about this?  
Xander's up there, in pain, and we're  
not doing anything.

GILES

Do you think I'm somehow enjoying this? If there were anything I could do to end his suffering, I would do it without a second thought. I simply don't see the purpose of pacing endlessly, or bringing him warm beverages.

There's a moment of silence. Finally, Buffy starts pacing again.

BUFFY

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to... I just feel so useless. Usually, there's something to stab or burn when people I love are suffering.

Dawn stands up.

DAWN

I'm going to look on Willow's database. I'm not sure what I'm going to look for, but I'll figure it out when I get there.

She walks into the dining room.

Buffy watches her go, and then sits down. She takes a deep breath. Just before she can speak, the DOORBELL RINGS.

BUFFY

I'll get it.

She pulls herself together and walks to the front door. She opens it.

HANK is standing on the other side. When she sees him, she says nothing. She just closes the door in his face.

She turns back to the other room.

GILES

Who was that?

BUFFY

Just my dad.

GILES

Buffy.

Buffy stops, rolls her eyes, and turns back to the front door.

BUFFY

Fine. I'll let him in. Happy?

She opens the door again. Hank is still standing there.

HANK

I thought you might do that.

BUFFY

What do you want?

HANK

To talk.

BUFFY

I'm not sure I feel like talking.

HANK

Then let me talk. You can just listen.

Buffy looks back to Giles. Giles nods at her, giving her a "do it" look. She turns back to Hank.

BUFFY

Come in.

Hank walks into the house. He looks into the dining room and sees Dawn working at the table. She sees him, but doesn't get up. She smiles politely and goes back to work.

HANK

Did I come at a bad time?

BUFFY

Would there be a good time?

HANK

I guess you have a point.

Buffy leads him into the living room. Giles stands and extends his hand.

GILES

Hello.

HANK

Rupert Giles, right?

GILES

Yes.

Giles stays for an awkward moment.

GILES (CONT'D)

I think I'll see how Dawn's research is coming along.

As Giles walks out of the room, Buffy shoots him a "don't go" look, but he leaves anyway. This isn't something he feels he should be involved in.

Hank sits down, and waits for Buffy to sit. She doesn't.

HANK  
Don't you want to sit?

BUFFY  
I'll stand.

HANK  
Okay.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

The blue bottle is still sitting on the floor where Dawn left it. It's still rattling.

After a few seconds, the bottle tips over. It starts to roll across the floor, in the direction of the red bottle.

ANGLE ON : THE RED BOTTLE

Still resting on a beam near the ceiling, it's rattling too. It tips over, falling off of the beam.

As the red bottle falls, it's pulled toward the blue bottle. The BLUE BOTTLE FLIES into the air at the same time. The two bottles CRASH into each other.

As the now-clear glass falls to the floor, two clouds hover in the air. ONE RED CLOUD and ONE BLUE CLOUD.

They swirl around the room for a moment, and then each cloud SHOOTS THROUGH THE CEILING (not damaging it, just going through it)

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Giles is standing over Dawn's shoulder, watching her research.

The BLUE CLOUD SHOOTS THROUGH THE FLOOR. It ENTERS HIS BODY.

Giles doesn't react at all.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Buffy turns away from Hank.

BUFFY  
So is this the part where you tell me that you're so sorry and it'll never happen again?

She faces him again, just in time to see the RED CLOUD ENTER HIS BODY. He doesn't react at all.

Buffy looks at him for a moment, confused.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

What was that?

HANK

What?

She doesn't know how she wants to respond.

BUFFY

I'll be right back.

Buffy goes into the dining room.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - CONTINUOUS - DAY

Buffy rushes in and goes to Dawn and Giles.

BUFFY

(whispered)  
Something's up.

DAWN

What?

BUFFY

Shh. I don't want Dad to hear.

(then)  
Something weird happened. We were talking, and this weird red cloud thing just went into him.

GILES

Went into him?

BUFFY

Yeah.

DAWN

What do you mean?

BUFFY

I don't know. I just saw this red cloud fly through the floor, and right into his body. He didn't even notice.

GILES

Are you sure you're not just trying to find a way out of talking with him?

BUFFY

I'm sure. I think I know the difference.

DAWN

So what do we do?

BUFFY

I'm going to check out the basement.  
That's where this thing came from.  
Dawn, you try to find something on  
there about red cloud things. Giles...  
you go watch Dad.

Buffy quickly leaves the room before Giles can question that obviously questionable list of jobs.

He looks at Dawn, then finally walks out of the dining room.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Giles walks into the living room where Hank is still waiting.

Hank stands when he sees Giles.

HANK

Is something wrong?

GILES

Wrong? No. Buffy just went to check  
on something in the basement.

HANK

She doesn't want to talk to me.

GILES

No, she doesn't, but I think she  
understands that she has to.

HANK

I just want to explain things to  
her.

GILES

So I've heard.

HANK

It's hard.

(beat)

Do you have children, Mr. Giles?

Giles thinks about his response for a moment. He finally decided to go with the "official" answer.

GILES

No. I don't.

HANK

It can be difficult. Overwhelming.

GILES

Just imagine how hard it would have  
been if you'd actually been around  
your children.



HANK

What?

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - DAY

Buffy walks down into the basement. She looks around. There are still a lot of boxes, so it's not an easy task.

BUFFY

Okay, so which box do I check?

She walks around the room, continuing to look. When she reaches the area where the bottles smashed into each other, she hears a CRUNCH under her foot. She looks down and sees the broken glass.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Hello.

She bends down and picks up a piece. She looks around the room. Where did the glass come from?

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Giles and Hank are still talking.

HANK

What right do you have to talk to me like that?

GILES

Was I too blunt? I just find it rather amusing that you'd show up here after all this time, and complain about how hard it is to raise children when the truth is, you haven't actually raised any.

HANK

I raised Buffy for sixteen years.

GILES

Oh, well, I guess you're an expert on the matter then.

HANK

Who do you think you are?

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - DAY

Dawn is working on the computer when she hears the voices in the other room getting louder.

GILES (O.S.)

I think that I'm the man who has been there for your daughters when they needed a father.

Dawn continues to listen in as the men yell.

HANK (O.S.)  
You're overstepping your bounds here.

GILES (O.S.)  
Am I?

DAWN  
What the hell?

Dawn gets up and walks out of the dining room.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - CONTINUOUS - DAY

She walks into the living room, and sees Giles and Hank in the middle of their conversation.

GILES  
From where I'm standing, it looks as though you're the one overstepping your bounds.

DAWN  
What's going on?

HANK  
Your friend here thinks that he has the right to critique my relationship with you.

DAWN  
Giles?

GILES  
He's the one who marches in here, expecting the whole world to bend around his wishes.

HANK  
I never said that. I'm their father, I deserve a second chance.

GILES  
Do they get a second chance to grow up with a father who actually cares about them?

HANK  
I never stopped caring.

GILES  
You could have fooled me.

DAWN  
Stop it. Both of you. What's wrong with you?

Then she gets it.

DAWN (CONT'D)  
Giles, could I see you for a sec?

GILES  
Of course.

Giles walks to the side of the room with Dawn. She whispers to him.

DAWN  
Something's wrong.

GILES  
Yes, I've noticed.

DAWN  
I mean, something's wrong with you.

GILES  
Like hell.

DAWN  
Look at you. You're having a shouting match with my father.

GILES  
Who happens to be wrong.

DAWN  
Since when do you act like this? You're supposed to be all stuffy book guy.

GILES  
Hey.

DAWN  
You know what I mean. Whatever happened to my dad, I think it's messing with you too.

GILES  
I don't think so. For all we know, I'm fine and you're the one who's acting strange.

Buffy comes in through the dining room. She goes to Dawn and Giles.

BUFFY  
You guys okay?

DAWN  
Something's up with Dad and Giles. They're fighting.

BUFFY

Who's winning?

(beat)

I mean... That's bad. Shame on you,  
Giles.

HANK

Is everything okay over there?

DAWN

(to Hank)

We're fine. Just a sec.

(to Buffy)

Did you find anything?

BUFFY

Just this.

Buffy holds out some broken glass.

DAWN

Where'd it come from?

BUFFY

Not sure, I found it on the floor in  
the basement.

DAWN

So this is all we have to go on?

Buffy shrugs.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Great.

GILES

We might want to consider lopping  
off his head. That should take care  
of the problem.

DAWN

We're not going to decapitate our  
father.

From upstairs, a THUD is heard. Buffy and Dawn stop what  
they're doing and look up.

BUFFY

What was that?

DAWN

It sounded like something fell.

BUFFY

Xander.

Buffy and Dawn rush upstairs, leaving Giles and Hank alone.

The two men look at each other.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - DAY

Buffy and Dawn rush up the stairs and find Xander, pulling himself up from the floor. Buffy helps him.

BUFFY

What happened? Are you okay?

XANDER

Yeah. Just really weak all the sudden.

DAWN

Does your head still hurt?

XANDER

I've decided to see the glass as half full. In my mind, it's not about my head hurting anymore, it's about the rest of my body not hurting.

(beat)

Until I fell and bumped my knee on the hard floor. Now it's about the pain again.

DAWN

All of that when you coulda just said "yup".

BUFFY

We're working on it. We're going to figure this out and get you back to normal soon.

XANDER

As fun as that sounds, I think I'll just go find a bed somewhere and crash for a while.

From downstairs, there's a LOUD CRASH.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Kinda like that, but much less literal.

BUFFY

This isn't a good day.

Buffy and Dawn head back down the stairs. Xander stays in the hallway.

XANDER

I think I'll just stay here.

(beat)

Seeing as how my legs don't seem to be working at the moment.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Giles and Hank are now in the middle of an all out fight. Giles punches Hank in the face. Hank grabs Giles by the shirt and throws him down, onto the coffee table.

Buffy and Dawn come down the stairs and see what's going on. For a moment, they have to just stop and take in the sight.

BUFFY  
What the...?

DAWN  
We have to stop them.

Dawn goes to where Hank is now trying to strangle Giles.

BUFFY  
Dawn, wait--

Dawn tries to pull the men apart. By accident, Hank's arm swings back and hits Dawn. She falls back, hitting her head on the wall as she falls.

Giles and Hank both look back at her for a second.

HANK  
Dawn, I didn't mean to...

GILES  
Are you alright?

Dawn doesn't respond. Buffy rushes to her and tries to help her. Dawn's not seriously injured, she's just hurting a little.

GILES (CONT'D)  
(to Hank)  
You see? You never should have come back. All you've ever brought this family is pain.

HANK  
Shut up. You have no right to talk about my family.

GILES  
Your family? I'm sorry, who do they call when they need help?

This angers Hank again. He punches Giles in the face. The men begin fighting again, rolling around on the floor, beating each other.

Buffy looks back at them.

BUFFY

Stop it!

Giles gets to his feet and throws Hank into the bookcase.  
Buffy watches all of this, not sure how to react.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT TWO

## ACT THREE

FADE IN:

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Giles and Hank continue to go at it. Buffy and Dawn watch.

                  DAWN  
Buffy, do something!

                  BUFFY  
Like what?

                  DAWN  
Stop them.

                  BUFFY  
I can't just beat them up... Can I?

                  DAWN  
You have to do something. They'll  
kill each other.

                  BUFFY  
Good point.

Buffy gets up and walks to where Giles and Hank are fighting. She gets between them, pushing them apart, but they're still fuming. They fight to get back at each other, but Buffy keeps them apart.

                  BUFFY (CONT'D)  
Would you two just stop and look at  
yourselves?

                  HANK  
I have a right to protect my family.

                  GILES  
The only thing these girls need  
protection from is you.

                  BUFFY  
Both of you, shut up.

Hank pushes past Buffy and grabs onto Giles' shirt. Buffy punches him in the face, and he stumbles back, onto the couch.

Giles laughs.

                  GILES  
See? She agrees with me.

Buffy pushes Giles back, into a chair.



BUFFY

Quiet.

(to Dawn)

We don't have time for this.

By now, Dawn has picked herself up.

DAWN

You think?

Buffy turns back to Giles.

BUFFY

You're both under some kind of spell.  
We'll figure that out, but we need  
to help Xander. Are you able?

GILES

Of course I'm able. We just have to  
take care of our pest problem first.

Giles moves to get up, toward Hank. Buffy pushes him back  
down.

BUFFY

Sit.

Buffy turns to Dawn.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

We have to split them up. Take Dad  
upstairs and keep him in our room.  
I'm gonna work with Giles down here.

HANK

Why should I be the one to leave?

BUFFY

(to Hank)

Because this is my house and as  
long as your wiggling under my roof,  
you'll wig by my rules.

Dawn goes to Hank and takes his arm, to lead him out of the  
room.

DAWN

C'mon.

Hank hesitates at first, but eventually goes.

HANK

Fine.

(to Giles)

But this isn't over, limey.

Dawn takes Hank up the stairs. Once they're gone, Giles cools down.

BUFFY  
Can you focus?

GILES  
I think so.

BUFFY  
Good. As much as people in your condition hate to admit these things, you're under a spell of some kind.

GILES  
I rather think I agree.

BUFFY  
What?

GILES  
I said, I agree. I'm under some kind of spell. I don't know what's gotten into me.

Buffy just looks at him, confused.

GILES (CONT'D)  
What?

BUFFY  
Nothing. It's just usually a little harder to get someone to admit that they're under a spell.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - BUFFY'S ROOM - DAY

Dawn brings Hank into the bedroom and closes the door. He sits down on a bed, no longer fuming.

DAWN  
Are you okay?

HANK  
I think so. That friend of yours is a pretty good hitter.  
(beat)  
I don't know what got into me down there.

DAWN  
You're probably just really tired.

HANK  
I'm angry. I'm angry at him, but I've never acted out like that before. I never meant to hit you like that.

DAWN

I know.

(beat)

Why don't you just rest for a while?  
Take a nap and cool off.

HANK

Yeah.

Hank lays back.

DAWN

I'll just be in the hall.

Dawn leaves the room, closing the door behind her. Hank rests in the bed, trying to figure out where that rage came from.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY/WILLOW'S ROOM - DAY

Dawn stands in the hallway, not really knowing what to do next. She goes to pull up a nearby chair, and happens to see into Willow's room.

She walks inside, finding Xander on Willow's bed. He's resting there, but not asleep. The room is as dark as he could make it.

DAWN

Xander?

XANDER

Hmm?

DAWN

Why are you in Willow's bed?

XANDER

It's much softer than my bed. Which is the floor. Also, much easier to collapse onto without breaking any bones.

DAWN

Are you okay?

XANDER

Aside from the splitting headache, the dizziness and having my limbs feel very much like wet noodles, I'm good. You?

DAWN

Buffy and Giles are looking into a cure for you. They just have to figure out what happened, and then you'll be all better. Ship shape in no time.

XANDER

Until then, I think I'll just stay here and try not to see through anything. Oh, and, your dad and Giles... what's that all about? They looked like street thugs, or these two ladies I saw fighting over the last warm Krispy Kreme a couple months ago.

DAWN

Yeah. Pretty scary. Just one more freakish situation to deal with in this surprisingly hellish non-Hellmouth we live in.

XANDER

I guess we really weren't sent here for rest and relaxation.

DAWN

Which bites. I could use a bit of those.

XANDER

(weak laugh)

You said "bites" and then "bit".

DAWN

Ha-ha.

XANDER

If you guys need help with anything, I'm there.

DAWN

That's okay. You're all busy with the pain and suffering.

XANDER

Just let me know.

DAWN

Thanks. You need anything?

XANDER

Two nails, a hammer, some gauze and a saxophone.

DAWN

I don't get it.

XANDER

Just chalk it up to the pain.

DAWN

Gotcha. I guess I'll go now. If you need anything, just yell really loud or something.

XANDER

Thanks.

Dawn gets up and walks out of the room. As she closes the door behind her, she looks back and watches Xander turn over and try to sleep.

EXT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - ESTABLISHING - NIGHT

Hours have passed. Night has fallen.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Dawn is at Willow's computer. Giles sits with his back to the front door side of the room and watches Buffy pace.

DAWN

I can't find anything. I swear, it's like the computer is alive and has something against me.

BUFFY

Yeah, cause that's all we need right now.

Willow walks through the front door. She goes to the dining room and smiles at everyone.

WILLOW

Hey. You guys wouldn't believe the day I had. At first, it was all like "gah", but then I saw this amazing setup they... set up, and I was all like, in shock. Then I got to work and before you knew it, I was in this unexplainable groove. It was awesome.

(off their looks)

And there's something more major going on here, so my rambling about my really great day probably seems a bit out of place.

She sits next to Dawn.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

What's up?

DAWN

Your computer wants me dead, Giles and Dad are under some kind of spell, and Xander's head is about to explode.

WILLOW  
Are you serious?

DAWN  
Not about the computer thing, it's just being a pain. The other stuff is true though.

WILLOW  
Let me see.

Willow turns the computer and looks at Dawn's work.

WILLOW (CONT'D)  
Cloud?

BUFFY  
I saw this weird red cloud come through the floor and go into my dad.

WILLOW  
Where is he now?

BUFFY  
Upstairs.

WILLOW  
Okay. So what are the symptoms?

DAWN  
He's really mad at Giles. They almost killed each other.

GILES  
I'm infected as well.

WILLOW  
Right. And this is all we know?

BUFFY  
That, and it might have something to do with broken glass. I found some in the basement.

WILLOW  
Okay.

Willow types in her computer.

WILLOW (CONT'D)  
What about Xander?

BUFFY  
He's upstairs too.

DAWN

Crashed in your bed. The pain's not going away this time, and he's all weak and stuff.

Willow winces.

WILLOW

Is he good until we can figure this out?

DAWN

I think so.

WILLOW

I'll have to check on him.

GILES

Yes, good idea. Perhaps I'll go up there now.

Giles stands up. Buffy pushes him back down.

BUFFY

You're not going up there.

GILES

It seemed like a logical idea at the time.

DAWN

It's like something's pulling them together.

WILLOW

It sounds familiar, but I can't put my finger on it.

DAWN

I know. I think there was something in the Draumans' Papers, but I only glanced at those for a second last year.

WILLOW

And you remember?

DAWN

Good memory.

Willow types something on her computer.

WILLOW

Okay, I pulled up the scans of those papers.

DAWN

And the computer let you?

Willow doesn't respond. She and Dawn read over the scans.

WILLOW

Says something about Dirakon and Mokratet. They're enemy spirits.

BUFFY

So they're possessed?

WILLOW

Not exactly. The spirits enter the bodies of those who fit their needs. They don't make the feelings, they just kinda nudge them in the wrong direction, then feed off of them.

DAWN

So Giles and Dad really hate each other?

Willow shrugs. They look at Giles.

GILES

Well, maybe a little.

BUFFY

This coming from mister, "Give him a chance"?

DAWN

Whatever. Does it say how to get the spirits out?

WILLOW

(reading)

"The spirits are drawn together in a never ending battle. When their hosts kill each other, the spirits move on to the next hosts, and can only be stopped when contained in glass and kept apart."

(beat)

Really apart. There should probably be walls between them.

BUFFY

Explains the broken glass. Does it say how to stop them without killing either of the hosts?

GILES

Let's not rule it out completely.

(then)

Ignore that.



Willow reads some more.

WILLOW

No, there's nothing in here about how to stop them. There's some research into the spirits that's kinda interesting, on a scientific level, I mean. Nothing that would help us.

BUFFY

So we've got zip in the clue department.

Buffy sits down next to Giles, exhausted.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I could really go for a Slurpee right about now.

She puts her head down on the table. Giles pats her back.

From the darkness of the foyer entrance, Hank sneaks into the room, holding a wooden chair over his head. He walks toward Giles, ready to smash the chair over Giles' head.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT THREE

## ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Willow and Dawn looks up and see Hank just as he's bringing the chair down. They both gasp.

Without raising her head, Buffy stops the chair with one hand. She lets out a little pout, knowing what's coming.

Giles stands up, and dives on top of Hank. They begin rolling on the floor, hitting each other. Trying to kill each other.

Buffy takes a deep breath and gets up. She walks to where they're rolling around and looks at them with her hands on her hips.

BUFFY

How many times do I have to tell you  
boys to play nice?

They ignore her and keep fighting. She looks back to Willow and Dawn.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I take the time to think of these  
cute little comments and it's totally  
lost on both of them.

DAWN

Buffy, stop them!

BUFFY

Calm down.

Buffy bends down and tosses Giles off of Hank. She pulls Hank up and keeps him on the side of her that's away from Giles. She makes sure that Giles stays away too, even though both men want to battle more.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

(to Dawn)

A few cuts and bruises never hurt  
anyone.

She stops and thinks for a beat.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Oh, wait. I guess they have.

GILES

Step aside, Buffy. It's time we  
finished this.

BUFFY

Or- here's an idea too- no. Giles,  
sit down.

Giles doesn't. He still wants to get at Hank.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Now.

Buffy grabs Giles' arm and puts him back in his chair.

GILES

He doesn't deserve to live, Buffy.  
After what he put you through.

HANK

You have no idea what's going on  
here. You should keep your nose out  
of our business.

GILES

Your business? Please. If you ran a  
business like you've run your family,  
you'd have been eating your own  
headlice for dinner years ago.

BUFFY

Shut up. Enough. And also, ew.

WILLOW

(to Dawn)

I think he worked around Anya way  
too much.

BUFFY

Giles, stay put.

(to Willow)

If he moves an inch, burn him alive.

Buffy tugs on Hank's arm.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

(to Hank)

You, come with me.

Buffy leads Hank out of the room.

Giles is left alone with Willow and Dawn.

GILES

Bloody ponce deserves a slow death,  
if you ask me.

DAWN

That's my father you're talking about.

GILES

Just be thankful that you've inherited most of your personality traits from your mother.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Buffy leads Hank down the hallway.

HANK

I don't appreciate being sent to my room every time you're angry.

BUFFY

First of all, it's my room, not yours. You're being sent to *my* room. Second, it's not my fault that you're trying to kill a close friend of mine.

She pushes him into her bedroom and is about to follow when she sees Xander come out of Willow's room. He's tired and groggy, with his hand on his head. Still in pain.

Buffy sticks her head into her bedroom.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

(to Hank)

I'll be right back.

She comes back to the hallway, closing the door behind her. She goes to Xander.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

You okay?

XANDER

I've been better. Like the time I had a guy's thumb in my eye socket. That sounds kinda nice right about now.

BUFFY

We'll find a cure.

XANDER

I know. Just deal with the bigger problem first and then we'll get to me.

BUFFY

You're a priority. You're a big problem.

(off his look)

I meant that in the best possible way.

XANDER

I know. Just deal with your dad and Giles, and then we'll worry about me. Until then, I'm just gonna go get some water and then throw up some water.

BUFFY

If you wanna lay down, we could bring it.

XANDER

No. I feel like being around people. I might as well play the sympathy card while I can, right?

Buffy gives a halfhearted smile.

BUFFY

(in a friendly, not  
romantic way)

I love you. You know that right?

XANDER

Yeah.

He hugs her.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Okay, you go deal with your dad. I'm going to hydrate.

He walks off. She watches for a second, wishing there was something she could do. Finally, she goes into her room.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - BUFFY'S ROOM - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

Hank is sitting on the bed, calmly. Buffy pulls up a chair and sits near him.

HANK

I don't know what's getting into me. I feel all of these things toward a man that I have no business hating.

BUFFY

You're right, you don't. You don't have a right to hate the man that picked up the slack when you skipped off with your secretary.

HANK

That was a fling. It didn't mean anything.

BUFFY

I'm sorry. I didn't know that. Silly me. I guess I should have paid more attention to the lack of postcards you sent us from Spain.

Hank takes in the comment. It hurts, but it's true.

HANK

I don't have an excuse for that.

BUFFY

There's a shock.

HANK

But I can explain. Or at least try to. Will you listen to me?

Buffy thinks about it.

BUFFY

Fine.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Willow, Dawn and Giles are sitting where they were before. Willow's working on the computer. Dawn's keeping a close eye on Giles.

GILES

You don't have to watch every move I make. Really, I'm in full control of myself at the moment.

DAWN

I'd rather not risk you killing my father, if it's all the same.

Xander walks through the room, still groggy and in his pain.

Everyone looks up at him.

XANDER

And here I always thought it took nice clothes and a good looking date to get this kind of attention when I walked into a room.

WILLOW

How are you--

XANDER

Feeling? Like death warmed over. I know, you're all going to find a cure, and I can wait until you've taken care of the other situation. Until then, I'm thirsty.

DAWN

Do you want me to--?

XANDER

I'm good.

(then)

Sorry if I'm being kinda short. I'm just a little tired right now.

WILLOW

We understand.

Xander walks into the kitchen. Once he's out of the room, the others look at each other, wishing there was more to be done.

DAWN

This bites.

WILLOW

It really does.

Dawn suddenly gets a thought.

DAWN

Bites. Bit.

Willow looks up at her, getting it.

WILLOW

Wait a second.

Before they can expand on that thought, the sound of GLASS SHATTERING comes from the kitchen.

All three of them jump to their feet.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Xander.

They rush into the kitchen.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Willow, Dawn and Giles rush into the kitchen (in that order) and find Xander hunched over the counter, in very serious pain. His left eye is bleeding now.

Willow rushes to him and puts an arm around him.

WILLOW

Xander!

Xander can barely speak through his pain.

XANDER

Please help me. God, please help me.

Willow gives a pained look to Dawn. Neither of them knows what to do.

WILLOW

We're close. I think I know what caused this. That means that we can probably fix it.

DAWN

It was the demon bugs. Remember, when they bit you and you got all red and swollen?

WILLOW

It's some kind of chemical reaction to their bites. Like an allergy. It reacted to the spell I did to restore your eye.

XANDER

Just fix it. Please, just fix it. I can't take this anymore.

WILLOW

We will, sweetie. We're fixing it. Just come into the dining room and sit down while we research this.

As Dawn and Willow help Xander into the other room, they don't even realize that Giles is now gone.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - BUFFY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Buffy and Hank are still sitting and talking.

BUFFY

So tell me. What's this big thing that's supposed to make me tear up and fall into your arms?

HANK

There is no big thing. But I want you to know that as much as it seemed otherwise, I never stopped caring about you, your sister, or your mother.

BUFFY

That's why we didn't even hear from you when she got sick?

HANK

That was her choice. I offered to go to Sunnydale and keep an eye on things, but she didn't want me there.

(MORE)



HANK (CONT'D)

(beat)

When your mom went to LA, for second opinions, we'd see each other. She'd always try to pretend that things were okay, and she was so happy, but I knew her. I knew that she was scared. It killed me that there wasn't more I could do.

BUFFY

So you decided to just back away and ignore it?

HANK

I didn't know how to deal with it. I don't know if you've ever felt like this, but sometimes there's a person that you love so much, it hurts. Even if you break up, they're still a part of you. Even if you're not with them, you feel them.

Buffy looks away, thinking of her own experience. She looks back to him, not wanting to give in to his ramblings.

BUFFY

What does this have to do with anything? You left us long before she got sick.

HANK

I know.

BUFFY

Why?

HANK

What?

BUFFY

I want to know. You and Mom never told me why, but I want to know. I need to know.

(beat)

There was someone else, wasn't there?

Hank looks away.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Wasn't there?

HANK

I can't...

BUFFY

Answer me. Who was she? Did I know her?

Hank hesitates.

HANK

You're old enough now.

(beat)

His name was Greg.

Buffy's face drops. What's he talking about?

HANK (CONT'D)

You knew him as Dr. Marcus.

BUFFY

The one from the institute?

Hank nods.

HANK

Your mother and he started meeting, to discuss your case. Eventually, she opened up about the rest of her life, and... I was never around, I couldn't blame her.

(beat)

Nothing happened. She didn't do anything, but things changed.

BUFFY

You're blaming Mom for this?

HANK

No. I'd never... It was my fault. I was wrong on so many levels. It ruined my life, and my relationship with your mother. She should have been the priority to me, but she never was. I was distant around her.

(beat)

We tried to put the relationship with Dr. Marcus behind us, but the things that came out were too big to ignore. Your mom needed to be away from me.

BUFFY

So you got a divorce.

HANK

It was the hardest thing I've ever done in my life, but it's what she needed. I thought that if I let her go, she'd come back to me.

(MORE)

HANK (CONT'D)

When she'd come to LA, we'd meet and try to talk things over and I thought that things might be getting better between us, but after a while, I saw her becoming someone new. Someone happier than I'd ever made her.

(beat)

So I decided to step away and give her space. That's where my mistake was. Somehow, in my mind, giving your mom space translated into staying away. So I did. I guess it was more for me than for her. Lord knows, I wasn't thinking of you or Dawn.

BUFFY

Do you know what that did to us? How that made us feel?

HANK

If I could take it back, I would. I wanted so much to talk with you. For things to be the way they were, but the more I saw you grow, the more I saw your mother in you. By the time I figured out what I was doing, and what I'd let happen between you and I, you didn't want to speak to me anymore.

BUFFY

I didn't?

HANK

When your mom died, I tried to think of a way to make things better. I wanted to talk to you again, but every time I called that summer, Dawn made up an excuse for why you didn't want to talk to me. I took the hint.

Buffy lets this all sink in. Especially that last part.

HANK (CONT'D)

I'm not saying that I was right. I'm not trying to make excuses for how I messed up. I'm just hoping that you'll be able to forgive me someday.

(beat)

I have a new job in Seattle. It's only a few hours from here. I was hoping that we might see more of each other.

BUFFY

I can't.

(beat)

It's too hard. It's too soon.

HANK

I know. I don't blame you. I don't blame you for moving on.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Giles creeps up the hallway, carrying a knife. He slowly walks to Buffy's bedroom door.

HANK (O.S.)

I guess I'll go.

There's a pause. Giles stops, waiting for the door to open.

BUFFY (O.S.)

Wait.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - BUFFY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Hank is now standing, closer to the door. Buffy stands and turns to him.

BUFFY

Just wait. I need to think.

She thinks for a moment.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I don't want things to be like this for the rest of my life. I've lost too much. I can't...

(beat)

You're my father. I might not like the fact. I may be mad at you for too many reasons to count, but the fact is, you're my father. You're the only one I get.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Giles reacts to that comment. It's like a knife in the gut for him to hear.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - BUFFY'S ROOM - NIGHT

She turns away and thinks some more as she talks.

BUFFY

Things can't just be better. I can't just forgive you for what you did to us.

(MORE)

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I can't just let you walk back into my life and pretend that it's all okay. It's not.

HANK

I know.

BUFFY

Just let me finish. I wanna know where I'm going with this.

(beat)

Dawn is my sister. I've taken care of her ever since Mom died. I'm not gonna hand her over to you like she's some kind of property of yours. We have a life here.

(beat)

But she wants you to be a part of that life now. She wants to try to make things better somehow.

HANK

And what about you? What do you want?

BUFFY

I don't know. I honestly don't know. But I'm willing to let you be part of our life until I figure it out. For her sake.

Hank doesn't know what to say. He wants to hug her. He moves to hug, but she steps back.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

We're not there yet. Let's just take this slow, okay Dad?

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Giles is still listening at the door. He looks down for a beat, thinking of what comes next.

Finally, he drops the knife and walks back toward the stairs.

As he walks, the BLUE CLOUD EXITS HIS BODY. In a mad frenzy, the cloud shoots around the hallway, and eventually out of the house.

EXT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Both the BLUE CLOUD and the RED CLOUD leave through the roof. They swirl around each other, battling. Eventually, they fly off into the distance.

WILLOW (V.O.)

(prelap)

It was a hard night.

INT. WILLOW'S ROOM - DAY

Willow and Buffy are standing over Willow's bed, watching Xander sleep.

WILLOW

It took some research and a three hour drive to find the right herbs, but we did it.

BUFFY

So what was it?

WILLOW

An allergic reaction of some kind. The way his body chemistry reacted with the demon bites and my spell... I guess it just overloaded his system. Magic O.D.

BUFFY

But he's better now?

WILLOW

He passed out before I got home. I think the pain is less now though. He's not as restless as he was before.

BUFFY

That's good.

WILLOW

So how's things with Dad?

BUFFY

They're complicated. No magic herbs there.

WILLOW

I'm sorry. I'm sure it'll work out. At least there's no more demon in them... Which I've yet to figure out.

BUFFY

I just don't think I can trust him again. Not like before.

WILLOW

I think it's safe to say that the relationship of the past is gone.

(MORE)

WILLOW (CONT'D)

You have to try to relate as two adults now. That's tricky, even when you get along with your parents.

BUFFY

I don't suppose you'd like to do a body-switching spell and deal with this one for me?

WILLOW

Sorry. No can do. I have work tomorrow.

Buffy looks at Xander again, taking in his peaceful look.

BUFFY

At least one of us is resting soundly. We should probably leave him alone.

(beat)

You want some tea?

WILLOW

I'll be down in a bit. I just wanna stay here for a few minutes.

BUFFY

'Kay.

Buffy leaves Willow alone with Xander. Willow watches him sleep for a moment, just watching him. She sits next to him on the bed.

WILLOW

You scared me, y'know. Please don't do that again.

She takes his hand.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

It's getting old. I don't like seeing you like this.

She holds his hand for a minute. Finally, she lays back on the bed next to him. Watching him sleep, and finally drifting off herself.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF SHOW