

Buffy The Vampire Slayer

Season 8

Episode 11

"Twenty-Three Skidoo"

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

BUFFY is pacing back and forth, in front of the front door. WILLOW and XANDER are watching her.

Buffy checks her watch.

BUFFY

He's not coming.

WILLOW

He's coming, Buffy.

BUFFY

No, he's not. He's not coming. He's doing exactly what he always does.

XANDER

Maybe you should give the guy a break. I mean, by my calculations, he'd be a good twenty minutes early if he showed up right now.

WILLOW

And if he mapped his way here online, the timing would be pretty much on the spot.

BUFFY

I just have this gut feeling in my gut.

WILLOW

Which is usually where those tend to hang out.

BUFFY

(ignoring Willow)

It's telling me that he's not coming.

XANDER

That gut feeling is probably living right next door to your past experience. I'm sure that the two just got together for a barbeque and got to the Hank gossip.

WILLOW

What he said.

(beat)

Which, I'm not exactly sure what he said, but it sounded like something I'd agree with.

XANDER

Thank you.

BUFFY

That makes sense. I'm probably just overreacting. I tend to do that sometimes. Right?

WILLOW

Right.

Buffy looks at her watch again.

BUFFY

He's not coming.

WILLOW

Shouldn't Dawn be ready by now?

BUFFY

Maybe she's not coming either. Maybe they got together and planned this. They could have planned to not come together.

XANDER

Yes. It's a big Buffy birthday conspiracy. Make the plans, but don't show up for the plans. Dawn's probably doing her evil laugh as we speak.

WILLOW

I'll go check on her.

Willow starts to move toward the stairs, but Buffy stops her.

BUFFY

No. I'll go. It'll give me something to take my mind off of the fact that Dad's not coming.

WILLOW

Okay.

Willow goes back to Xander. Buffy goes up the stairs.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

You know, I think she might have some issues.

XANDER

You think?

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

DAWN is putting on a necklace when Buffy walks into the room.

DAWN
I'm almost ready.

BUFFY
I was worried you weren't coming.

DAWN
Why wouldn't I come?

BUFFY
I don't know. I think it might have something to do with the fact that I stole your future away from you. People tend to get upset about things like that.

DAWN
Right. I almost forgot about that. Thanks for reminding me.

BUFFY
No problem.

DAWN
We should be back by eight, right?

BUFFY
I think so, why?

DAWN
Work. I'm supposed to help out for a while at the store.

BUFFY
I think we'll be back.

Buffy sits on the bed.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
So, will Ryan be there?

DAWN
I guess so.

BUFFY
And do we still like Ryan?

DAWN
He hasn't tried to kill me yet, so I don't see any reason not to.

BUFFY
And have we given him many kisses lately?

DAWN

No. Our date was called on account of blizzard, remember?

BUFFY

Umm, hello? Weeks ago. You're telling me that you haven't made up for it yet?

DAWN

We haven't gotten around to it.

BUFFY

Meaning, he hasn't gotten around to asking you yet.

DAWN

It's not a big deal.

BUFFY

It's way a big deal. No guy in his right mind would keep you hanging like this.

Dawn doesn't know how to respond. She looks at her watch.

DAWN

We should get downstairs.

Dawn walks out of the room. Buffy stands to follow her. As she walks out of the room, Buffy repeats her motto of the day.

BUFFY

He's not coming.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dawn comes down the stairs, and stops as she sees Willow at the front door, accepting a vase full of flowers from a DELIVERY MAN.

WILLOW

Thanks.

DELIVERY MAN

Have a nice day.

Willow takes the flowers and closes the door, just as Buffy comes down the stairs. She stops short when she sees the flowers. Even though she's been joking about it all morning, there's a new sadness when she repeats the motto.

BUFFY

He's not coming.

Willow looks up at her, feeling bad.

WILLOW

You should read the card.

BUFFY

Why? I know what it says. "Dear Buffy,
Sorry I can't make it. Maybe next
year. Dad."

WILLOW

You don't know.

Willow puts the vase down and takes the card. She goes to
Buffy and holds it out. Buffy doesn't take it.

BUFFY

You read it.

WILLOW

Okay.

Willow opens the card and looks at it. A smile forms.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

See? I told you, overreaction girl.
It's not from your father. The flowers
are from Giles.

(reading)

Happy Birthday, Buffy. Wish I were
there to celebrate with you. Giles.

Buffy takes the card from Willow and looks at it. She's a
little relieved.

BUFFY

This still doesn't mean that Dad's
coming.

DAWN

Why are you so paranoid?

BUFFY

I don't know. Birthdays don't tend
to go well for me. Last year was the
best one I've had in a while, and
that's only because I called it off
due to an apocalyptic situation.

WILLOW

Relax. That was the old way of things.
The Sunnydale way. This is a new
place, with new traditions. We're
not even on a Hellmouth anymore.

BUFFY

And all of that means?

XANDER

It means, relax. Nothing is gonna go wrong today. You go and spend it with your family, and then come back here for a late night birthday bash with the buds.

BUFFY

If you say so.

WILLOW

Buffy, trust your friends. Nothing's gonna happen.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The house is boarded up and dark. A fire in the fireplace provides some light to the room, which allows us to see the floor.

On the floor is a circle, drawn with white sand. In the circle are several other sand-drawn designs, a few animal bones, a large candle, and a wooden stake.

From O.S. we hear a man's voice.

MAN (O.S.)

(whispered)

Spirit of Canus, I summon you. Endow me. Fill me with your power, and grant me the ability to perform my task. Smite the power of the Slayer. Make her my instrument.

The candle's FLAME TURNS BLUE, and then GOES OUT.

MAN (O.S.) (CONT'D)

It is done.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. HANK'S CAR - DAY

HANK is driving the car. Buffy is in the passenger seat, with Dawn in the back.

BUFFY
You were late.

HANK
Was I?

BUFFY
Two minutes.

HANK
There was traffic. I guess I should have factored that into the mapping online. You weren't worried, were you?

BUFFY
You mean, that you might not show up, and then we'd never hear from you for three years? Why would I be worried?

DAWN
Buffy.

BUFFY
I know. I'm sorry.

There's an awkward silence. Finally, Buffy decides to move on.

HANK
I bought you something. It's under the seat.

BUFFY
Okay, now I feel bad for bringing up the whole three years thing.

She leans down and picks up a small wrapped box.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
The whole present thing makes it hard to stay broody.

HANK
That's what I was going for. Open it.

Buffy starts to open it neatly. Dawn rolls her eyes.

DAWN

What, is this like the first gift you've ever opened or something? The paper's there to be torn.

BUFFY

Fine.

She rips the paper off now. It's a necklace box. She opens it to reveal a beautiful locket.

DAWN

What is it?

BUFFY

It's a locket.

HANK

It's been in the Summers family for three generations. Open it.

Buffy opens the locket and looks inside. In it, there's a picture of a very young Buffy holding a baby Dawn, on the day that Dawn was brought home from the hospital.

HANK (CONT'D)

I would have put in a picture of the whole family, but I didn't want to push the reunion thing too quickly.

BUFFY

It's beautiful.

(beat)

I have a picture of you and Mom that'll go in the other side.

From the back seat, Dawn struggles to see the locket.

DAWN

Let me see it.

BUFFY

Hold on, I'm looking.

DAWN

I wanna see.

BUFFY

When I'm done.

Dawn waits a few seconds.

DAWN

C'mon, how long does it take you to look at something?

Buffy gives in and hands the locket back to Dawn. She looks at Hank.

BUFFY
Thank you. I love it.
(beat)
So, where are we going, anyway?

HANK
Seattle.

BUFFY
I figured that much. I mean, more specific.

HANK
I was gonna keep it a surprise, but...

Hank reaches into his coat pocket and pulls out an envelope. He hands it to Buffy.

HANK (CONT'D)
Here.

DAWN
While you're at it, here.

Dawn hands the locket back to Buffy at the same time.

DAWN (CONT'D)
Notice how fast I looked?

BUFFY
(to Dawn)
Shouldn't you be buckled in?

Dawn sits back and buckles up. Buffy puts the locket aside and opens the envelope. She pulls out three tickets and looks at them. A puzzled look comes over her face.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
Hockey? We're going to hockey?

HANK
I know it's not really a Buffy thing. I tried to find tickets to an ice show, but this was the only thing I could get.

Buffy appreciates the gesture.

BUFFY
Thank you.

HANK
I thought we might grab a bite after the game.

DAWN

As long as we're home by eight.

HANK

I know, you have work. You told me last night.

BUFFY

Last night?

HANK

On the phone.

BUFFY

Oh.

(beat)

I didn't know you called.

DAWN

You were out.

HANK

Is there a problem?

BUFFY

No. I'd just like to know from now on. Y'know, so I don't think... Nevermind.

HANK

So you don't think that I ran off again, when I don't call.

BUFFY

Do I know how to kill the mood, or what?

HANK

I get that things aren't back to how they were with us. I don't expect you to trust me.

The car falls into another awkward silence.

INT. ARENA - DAY

The seats are packed, but the game hasn't started yet. Buffy and Dawn find their way to their seats. Buffy's leading the way. When she gets to the seats, she double checks the tickets.

BUFFY

I think this is them.

They sit down.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Do you want anything? Soda?

DAWN

Dad's getting it.

BUFFY

Right.

(then)

Cotton candy? You can't watch...
hockey without cotton candy.

DAWN

Dad's getting the food. Buffy, what's
up?

BUFFY

Up?

DAWN

You're being way too nice to me right
now.

(beat)

This is about the whole Key thing
isn't it?

Buffy gives a guilty look.

DAWN (CONT'D)

I told you that we're okay. Move on.

BUFFY

I don't want to move on. I want you
to make me pay. It'll make me feel
better if I'm suffering.

DAWN

Sorry. I'm not mad.

There's a pause, and then Buffy points a finger at Dawn.

BUFFY

Ah-ha.

DAWN

What?

BUFFY

You're making me pay by acting like
you don't care.

DAWN

I'm not making you pay. Also, I never
said I didn't care.

BUFFY

You're handling this too well. I demand that you scream at me.

DAWN

Or, I could freak out on you, like you did with Dad in the car.

BUFFY

I said I was sorry about that.

DAWN

It's rude.

BUFFY

I can't help it. I'm not in a trusting place with him yet.

DAWN

I have my doubts too, but you don't have to bring it up every five seconds. Especially when he's doing birthday stuff for you.

BUFFY

I'll try harder.

DAWN

Good.

Hank walks up, holding food and drinks. He hands them out, giving Dawn nachos.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Ooh, nachos. Almost enough to make me actually care about the hockey game.

Hank takes a seat next to Buffy, handing her a drink. When he sits, the two of them look at each other. Buffy smiles.

WILLOW

(prelap)

Was it weird?

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Buffy and Willow are sitting on the couch, talking.

BUFFY

A little. I couldn't help it. No matter how hard I tried to put the past behind us, it just kept hitting the nitro button and taking the lead.

WILLOW

I'm sorry. But on the up side, you're working on it, right?

BUFFY

Yeah. We knew it wouldn't be easy. I was just kinda hoping that he'd be the one making it difficult and I'd be the innocent party.

WILLOW

(smiles)

Speaking of party, it's almost time for your surprise party. We have all kinda of junk food and enough movies to last us until the sun comes up.

BUFFY

I think we missed something with the whole "surprise" part.

WILLOW

Well, it's not like we could get rid of you until Dawn got home. But it's still a surprise. You have no clue what movies we got.

BUFFY

Very true.

(beat)

Is there cake?

WILLOW

Chocolate, with gobs of icing. And we have ice cream.

BUFFY

Neat. I will enter the next year of my life with thirty extra pounds, and an increased risk of heart attack.

WILLOW

As any self respecting partier would.

Dawn walks through the front door.

DAWN

I'm back. Sorry I'm late.

BUFFY

It's okay. The party didn't start without you.

DAWN

Where's Xander.

Xander walks in from the kitchen, holding a birthday cake with lighted candles.

XANDER
Right here, waiting for my grand
entrance.

Buffy sees the cake and smiles big. She and Willow stand up and face Xander.

BUFFY
Yummy.

WILLOW
Make a wish, Buffy.

Buffy looks around at her friends.

BUFFY
I can't think of anything that I
don't already have.

XANDER
Then blow out the candles and wish
for an I-Owe-You.

DAWN
Way to ruin the sentimental moment,
Xander.

XANDER
Sorry.

Buffy closes her eyes and blows out the candles.

WILLOW
I'll get the plates.

Willow walks out of the room, toward the kitchen. Xander sets the cake down on the coffee table.

XANDER
Happy birthday, Buff.

Buffy hugs him.

BUFFY
Thank you.

Buffy pulls Dawn onto the couch.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
So?

DAWN
So, what?

BUFFY

Was Ryan at the store?

Dawn looks down.

DAWN

No. It was just me and Kirsty. She said he was busy, but I think he's avoiding me.

BUFFY

Haven't you seen him in school?

DAWN

Yeah, but someone else is always around there. He never talks about our date.

(beat)

I'm new to this whole dating thing. What's this mean?

BUFFY

That he's a big jerk.

XANDER

Or possibly that it took him a long time to muster up the nerve to ask you out the first time, so going through that all over again might get him back to the wiggin zone.

DAWN

But I said yes.

XANDER

After thinking about it.

BUFFY

You thought about it?

DAWN

Is that bad?

BUFFY

Well, no wonder the guy's creeped out. You practically turned him down the first time.

DAWN

I didn't turn him down.

BUFFY

No, but he probably thought you gave him a "what the hay" answer.

DAWN

So, should I say something?

BUFFY

I would.

Willow comes back with plates, forks and a knife. She sets them on the table.

WILLOW

What are we talking about?

DAWN

Boy problems.

WILLOW

Anything that I can help with?

(awkward beat)

Not that I've had boy issues lately.
'Cause I haven't.

XANDER

Right.

Buffy and Dawn give them a weird look.

DAWN

I think I've got it. Thanks anyway.

WILLOW

Then shall we cut the cake and party?

BUFFY

We shall.

Willow hands Buffy the knife.

WILLOW

Birthday girl cuts the cake.

BUFFY

Knife? Can't we just dig in with our hands?

WILLOW

Umm... no.

BUFFY

No fun grown-up rules.

Buffy takes the knife. Just as she's about to cut the cake, a WOMAN CRASHES through the back window, and slams to the ground.

The gang jumps to their feet and rushes to see if she is okay.

ANGLE ON : THE WOMAN

Her face is down, so we can't see her clearly. What we can see is that she is covered in blood.

Buffy gets to her quickly.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
She's hurt bad.

She turns the woman over, revealing KENNEDY. Barely conscious, and bloody.

Everyone's shocked.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
Kennedy?

XANDER
Oh, God.

BUFFY
Xander, help me get her to the couch.

Buffy and Xander pick Kennedy up and bring her to the couch. Dawn heads off.

DAWN
I'll get the first aid kit.

XANDER
I'll call for help.

WILLOW
Anyone else feel like cake?

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Where we left off.

Willow walks away from the whole scene.

Dawn comes back with the first aid kit and hands it to Buffy. Buffy starts to work on Kennedy. Xander picks up the phone.

KENNEDY
(faint whisper)
No.

BUFFY
What?

Kennedy struggles to speak again.

KENNEDY
Don't. Call.

BUFFY
Why? Kennedy, what's happening?

Kennedy passes out. Xander looks to Buffy.

XANDER
What should I do?

Buffy thinks it over.

BUFFY
Don't call. We'll take care of her here for now. There has to be a reason for her not wanting us to call for help.

DAWN
We should move her upstairs, right?
To a bed?

BUFFY
Yeah.

Buffy looks to Willow, and then back to Dawn.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
We'll put her in mine. Xander, help me.

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

Kennedy is in Buffy's bed now. Buffy is cleaning her up some more. Dawn and Willow are sitting on Dawn's bed.

DAWN

What do you think did this?

BUFFY

I don't know, but it's strong. To do this to a Slayer... And one who's had training.

Buffy turns to Willow.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I know you have Kennedy issues, but we need to figure this out. Whatever this is, it's our problem too now.

WILLOW

I'll see what I can find in the database, but I'm not really sure what I'm looking for. "Strong demon" isn't really a narrow search.

BUFFY

For now, just look for something that goes for Slayers.

DAWN

Buffy, every demon on the planet is going after Slayers.

BUFFY

I don't know what else to do. Until she wakes up and explains some of this, we have to try to figure this out on our own.

(to Willow)

Do it.

(to Dawn)

Call Giles. Tell him what's happening. Maybe he's heard something.

Dawn nods and leaves the room. Willow follows. Before she leaves the room, Willow looks back to Buffy and Kennedy. She is about to say something, but stops herself. She turns and leaves.

Buffy sits on the bed, next to Kennedy. She inspects Kennedy's wounds as a mother would. Surprisingly, Kennedy doesn't have a lot of bruises. Just a lot of cuts.

Moments later, Xander walks into the room.

XANDER

Window's covered up as well as it
can be until tomorrow.

Buffy doesn't respond.

XANDER (CONT'D)

How's she doing?

BUFFY

She hasn't woken up yet. We have no
idea what did this to her.

XANDER

We'll figure it out. That's what we
do, right?

Buffy is still inspecting Kennedy's wounds.

BUFFY

Look at this.

Xander looks at the wounds.

XANDER

I'm looking.

(beat)

What am I looking at?

BUFFY

These cuts. They're all from coming
through the glass or hitting the
floor. There aren't any claw marks
or any signs of being hit.

XANDER

What does this mean?

BUFFY

I'm not sure.

Kennedy starts to wake up. Buffy stops looking at the cuts,
and starts looking her in the eyes, which slowly open.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Kennedy?

KENNEDY

(groggily)

Where am I?

BUFFY

Your in my house.

KENNEDY

Buffy?

BUFFY

Yeah. Yeah, it's Buffy.

(beat)

Kennedy, do you know how you got here?

Kennedy thinks for a moment. She weakly shakes her head and clears her throat.

KENNEDY

Water?

XANDER

I'll get it.

Xander leaves the room.

BUFFY

You have to help me figure this out.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Willow is sitting at her computer. Xander walks into the dining room, on his way to the kitchen. Willow stops him.

WILLOW

How is she?

XANDER

She's awake.

WILLOW

Did she say anything?

XANDER

Not yet. She needs water.

Xander walks into the kitchen, leaving Willow alone. She stares at her computer, not paying attention to what's on the screen.

Moments later, Xander returns with a glass of water in his hands. As he walks through the room, he sees Willow. He stops.

XANDER (CONT'D)

You okay?

WILLOW

Yeah. Fine. Why?

XANDER

Because your ex-girlfriend is laying in a bed upstairs, looking like she just got out of the Freddy Kreuger massage parlor.

Willow doesn't respond. Xander sits next to her.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Will?

Willow starts to tear up.

WILLOW

After what she did to me, you'd think I'd be happy to see her like this.

XANDER

You're not that kind of person. You care about people. As much as you hate to admit it, you still have a history with her.

WILLOW

When she left, I spent weeks wishing for something like this.

XANDER

You didn't mean for it to actually happen though.

WILLOW

It's just... Why do I feel this way? She treated me like garbage.

XANDER

Which is why I'm willing to make her wait for the water.

(beat)

You have issues with her. You never really had closure, and now things are all emotional.

WILLOW

So, what do I do?

XANDER

Talk to her.

(beat)

Y'know, once she's capable of talking again.

WILLOW

I guess until then, I'll just sit here, pretending to look stuff up.

XANDER

Good plan.

Xander stands up. He holds Kennedy's water out to Willow.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Wanna spit in it?

WILLOW

I think I'm a little more mature than that, Xander.

XANDER

Okay.

He starts to walk away, but then stops and turns back.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Want me to?

WILLOW

Okay.

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

Buffy is still talking with Kennedy. Xander enters the room with the water.

BUFFY

(to Kennedy)

You have to help me understand this.

Kennedy looks to Xander. Buffy takes the water from him and helps Kennedy drink it. Once Kennedy's had her drink, she clears her throat.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

What did this to you?

KENNEDY

(weakly)

I don't know. I couldn't see.

XANDER

You couldn't see it?

KENNEDY

It was like it was everywhere. All around me.

BUFFY

Did it say anything?

Kennedy shakes her head.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Tell me how this all happened. I need to figure this out.

Kennedy thinks.

KENNEDY

I was in Chicago, about a month ago. I was on my way back home, but stopped off to sight see.

She pauses, dealing with a little pain.

KENNEDY (CONT'D)

I was walking back to my hotel one night, and I thought I heard something in an alley. So I went to see what it was.

(beat)

When I got there, I saw a homeless guy on the ground, dead. He'd been beaten to death, but nobody else was around.

As Kennedy tells the story, her voice begins to get raspy. Buffy gives her another sip of water. Once she drinks, Kennedy goes on.

KENNEDY (CONT'D)

After I found the guy, whatever this thing is attached itself to me.

XANDER

You mean, like a parasite?

KENNEDY

Not literally attached. It started following me. Stalking me. I'd be walking down streets, and people around me would be thrown into walls. I couldn't stop it. I tried to figure out a way to kill it, but I didn't know what it was. I finally tried a basic protection spell that Willow taught me last year. That's when it turned on me. After that, I got here as fast as I could.

BUFFY

We're going to help you.

Buffy looks back to Xander with a "go" expression. He nods to her and walks out of the room.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Xander walks back into the dining room. By now, Dawn is sitting with Willow.

DAWN

Do we know anything?

XANDER

We're looking for something invisible, but strong. Doesn't like the protection spells.

WILLOW
Protection spell?

Willow already knows where Kennedy got that from. Xander looks to her, getting it.

XANDER
Yeah.

DAWN
So what happened? What's the story?

XANDER
Pretty much, she was attacked by an invisible demon who doesn't like protection spells.
(beat)
Oh, but she was in Chicago.

DAWN
I've always wanted to go there.

WILLOW
Home of the Oprah book club.
(beat)
And the Oprah.

Willow starts working on the computer. Dawn turns to her.

DAWN
This has to be awkward.

WILLOW
I've researched before.

DAWN
I mean... The other part.

WILLOW
You mean, seeing Kennedy here, all beaten and bloody? Actually, it's kinda neat.
(beat)
You know, in a non-evil way.

Xander looks at Willow, watching her say the exact opposite of what she said before.

DAWN
You never really told me what happened.

XANDER
Dawn.

Dawn stops herself.

DAWN

Sorry.

(beat)

But if you ever wanna talk about it,
I'm here.

WILLOW

Thanks. I think I just wanna figure
this out and stop whatever's doing
it.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The same setup we saw before. Still, there is an unseen man,
chanting.

MAN (O.S.)

(whispered)

Tempestatas, master of the winds, come
to me.

A number of small stones are thrown into the circle, near
the candle.

MAN (CONT'D)

I call you to this corner of the
earth, and beg you to hear my plea.
Tempestatas, mother of the rain, and
father of the ice, bring forth your
power. Make yourself known.

There is a LOUD THUNDER.

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

The thunder shakes the room. Buffy looks to Kennedy.

BUFFY

What's happening?

Kennedy is getting nervous.

KENNEDY

It's coming.

The wind starts to pick up outside, causing the shutters to
knock against the window.

KENNEDY (CONT'D)

It's coming. You have to stop it.

BUFFY

We will.

Buffy starts to walk toward the door.

KENNEDY

Don't leave.

BUFFY

I'm not.

Buffy stops at the doorway, and is just about to yell for the others when they rush up the hall. They almost knock into her, not expecting her to be in the doorway.

DAWN

What's happening?

BUFFY

I'm not sure. That's what I wanted to ask you.

KENNEDY (O.S.)

Help me!

Kennedy, still in the bed, pulls her legs close to her chest. Buffy turns back to her.

BUFFY

What happened?

KENNEDY

It's coming. I can feel it. You have to stop it.

BUFFY

We will.

(beat)

If we can figure out how.

There's ANOTHER CLASH OF THUNDER.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

The spells continue.

MAN (O.S.)

Canus, we are one. Feel my grasp and let it guide you.

He reaches his hand into the circle, and tightly closes it, as though grabbing onto something.

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

Everyone is waiting for the attack.

BUFFY

Will, are there any spells we could do?

WILLOW

I'm not sure. I'd have to know what we were up against.

BUFFY

How about a standard protection spell?

KENNEDY

No! No spells. Please. They make him stronger.

XANDER

Him? Aren't we jumping to conclusions there?

BUFFY

Xander, not now.

XANDER

I'm just saying.

The window starts to rattle. Dawn notices it first.

DAWN

Buffy, the window.

BUFFY

I see it.

KENNEDY

It's here.

Everyone stares at the window. For the longest time, nothing happens. Finally, the window slowly opens.

Buffy assumes a defensive stance.

BUFFY

Whatever you are, we know you're here.

There's a SCRATCHING sound along the wall, as though something is dragging a knife along it. It gets closer and closer to Kennedy.

Buffy quickly moves to block it's path.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

You're gonna have to go through me first.

Silence. Nothing happens. Nobody moves.

XANDER

Are we sure that was the smartest thing to say?

As soon as he says that, Buffy flies across the room, slamming into the wall.

DAWN

Buffy!

Dawn rushes to Buffy's side.

BUFFY

Help Kennedy.

XANDER

How?

Willow looks to the ground.

WILLOW

Enemies, fly and fall. Circling arms,
raise a wall.

She looks up. If history has taught us anything, it's that her eyes should be black, but they're not. Confused, she presses on.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Hear my plea, circling arms protecting
me!

Nothing happens. She turns to Xander.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

It's not working. It's too powerful.

DAWN

Even for you?

Xander jumps into action, rushing to Kennedy's side. He tries to help her stand and move away from the bed, but he is thrown aside. He hits the dresser, and is knocked out. Kennedy falls onto Dawn's bed.

Willow goes to Xander.

By this time, Buffy is getting back to her feet.

BUFFY

Kennedy, move!

KENNEDY

I can't!

Buffy tries to grab Kennedy, but she is hit in the face by an unseen force. She stumbles.

Kennedy tries to pull herself across Dawn's bed, but she can't. Something grabs her shirt and pulls her back.

KENNEDY (CONT'D)

Help me!

Before anyone can do anything, Kennedy is PULLED INTO THE AIR.

Buffy looks up at her, as she floats above Buffy's bed. Kennedy screams in pain.

BUFFY

Oh, God.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

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

Kennedy is still floating, and screaming.

The WINDOWS SHATTER, and wind fills the room.

DAWN

We have to do something!

BUFFY

I'm trying!

Buffy goes to Kennedy, but is stopped before she can grab onto her.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I can't move.

Dawn tries to jump onto the bed and grab onto Kennedy, but she is stopped mid-air. She floats there.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Dawn!

After a few seconds, Dawn drops to the ground.

DAWN

Ow!

Kennedy screams again. She is punched in the face by an unseen force. Her lip begins to bleed. Her arms spread wide, and she is hit in the stomach.

Buffy looks up at her, not knowing what to do next.

Kennedy continues to get beaten as she floats in mid-air. There's nothing Buffy can do to stop it. She is forced to watch, unable to get close to Kennedy.

Xander starts to wake up. He opens his eyes and looks at Willow, and then to Kennedy.

XANDER

Please tell me that I'm still dreaming.

WILLOW

I wish I could.

Finally, the wind dies down. Kennedy falls to the bed, limp.

Buffy is once again able to get close to her. She rushes to Kennedy. Dawn soon follows, as do Xander and Willow.

Buffy checks Kennedy's pulse. It's not good.

BUFFY
She doesn't have a pulse.

Buffy straightens Kennedy out. She starts performing CPR as the other watch.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
Don't die.

After a few moments, Buffy checks for a heartbeat again. Still nothing.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
C'mon!

DAWN
Buffy.

BUFFY
No.

DAWN
It's not working.

BUFFY
I'm not giving up. She's not dying.

DAWN
She's already dead.

Buffy checks for a pulse again. She smiles.

DAWN (CONT'D)
Or not.

WILLOW
You have a pulse?

BUFFY
Yeah. She's alive.

XANDER
Great. Now all we have to do is figure out what the hell that thing was before it comes back.

WILLOW
Whatever it was, it was strong. I couldn't even dent it with magic.

BUFFY
At least we have a little more to work with now, right? We've seen this thing in action.

WILLOW

I guess I can try to run some more searches.

BUFFY

Good. Go. All of you.

XANDER

What about you?

BUFFY

I'm staying with Kennedy, in case this thing comes back.

XANDER

Alone? No offense, Buff, but the thing was throwing you around like a Frisbee.

BUFFY

I'll be fine. The sooner we figure this out, the better.

XANDER

I still don't like this.

BUFFY

Go. Maybe Giles can find something.

XANDER

Worth a shot. At least he has some books to look through.

(beat)

Be careful.

BUFFY

I will.

Willow, Xander and Dawn walk out of the room, leaving Buffy and Kennedy alone once again.

Buffy looks down at Kennedy.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

We will figure this out.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Willow and Dawn walk into the dining room and sit by the computer. Willow starts typing in keywords that might help a search.

DAWN

What do you think we're looking at here?

WILLOW

Not sure. Invisible demon, maybe.

DAWN

Or a poltergeist.

WILLOW

Don't ghosts usually haunt a place?

DAWN

Sometimes. Sometimes a poltergeist will latch onto a person and follow them around though.

WILLOW

Right. I forgot about the sequels.

DAWN

You're using a movie as your ghost guide?

WILLOW

Well, we haven't had a ghost problem in a really long time.

DAWN

The thing is, it's rare that a ghost will turn that violent, much less homicidal. Especially when they're not reliving specific events in a specific location.

WILLOW

So we're back to invisible demon?

DAWN

One who can't talk. I didn't even hear a grunt.

Xander walks into the room, phone to his ear.

XANDER

Since when did Giles start putting people on hold and forcing them to listen to elevator music?

DAWN

Annoying, isn't it?

Willow sighs.

WILLOW

There's about six billion hits for invisible entities that could cause this kind of mess.

DAWN

We have to start narrowing it down.

XANDER

I'll make some coffee.

Xander walks into the kitchen.

MUSIC BEGINS TO PLAY.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Xander walks back into the dining room, with coffee. The phone still to his ear.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Xander's talking to Giles at this point.

Willow rubs her tired eyes.

Dawn picks up the empty coffee pot and walks into the kitchen.

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

Kennedy sleeps. Buffy is sitting on the other bed, watching her.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Dawn is at the computer. Willow's head is down on the table. Xander is pacing back and forth.

The coffee pot is once again empty, and bags of snack foods are scattered around the table.

END MUSIC

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

Buffy is still watching Kennedy sleep. There's a knock on the door.

Buffy turns and sees Willow standing in the doorway.

WILLOW

Hey.

BUFFY

Find anything?

WILLOW

Not really. Lots of invisible things with lots of quirks that we're not seeing here.

BUFFY

Keep on it.

WILLOW

We are.

(then)

They are. You've been up here for a long time. You could use a break.

BUFFY

I'm fine. Just find me this demon.

WILLOW

We will, but there's no point in fighting something if you fall asleep right in the middle of the battle.

(beat)

There's a piece of cake downstairs with your name on it. Literally.

BUFFY

I can't leave her alone.

WILLOW

I'll watch her for a while. Go.

Buffy starts to give in.

BUFFY

How do I know you won't smother her?

WILLOW

And taint a perfectly good pillow? Now, go.

BUFFY

Okay.

Buffy stands and walks to the doorway.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

If anything happens--

WILLOW

I'll call you.

Buffy gives her a friendly smile and walks out of the room. Willow goes to where Buffy was sitting and sits down. She watches Kennedy with a blank expression.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Buffy and Xander are sitting at the table, as Dawn works on the computer. Buffy's eating a piece of cake.

BUFFY

Do we have anything at all?

DAWN

A hundred and twelve more matches to click on.

BUFFY

Great. So we'll save Kennedy after she dies of old age.

DAWN

Sorry.

BUFFY

(to Xander)

Did Giles have anything?

XANDER

Nada. Less than nada. Nada damn thing.

Buffy puts her cake down.

BUFFY

This is driving me crazy. There has to be something we're missing.

Dawn looks away from the computer screen.

DAWN

You don't think I really scared him off, do you?

XANDER

What?

DAWN

Ryan. You don't think I scared him off with all of that stuff about waiting and thinking?

Dawn sees that Buffy and Xander are giving her odd looks. She looks back to the computer screen.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Right. The "you're insane" looks. It's wrong for me to be thinking about this when there's demon stuff happening.

XANDER

Actually, my look was about you thinking there was a chance you didn't scare him off. If I were this kid, I'd be running for the hills.

BUFFY

Me too. I agree with the hills thing.

DAWN

I am so lame it hurts.

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

Willow is now leaning her head on her hand, starting to drift off.

Kennedy stirs and opens her eyes. She sees Willow.

KENNEDY

Hey.

Willow picks her head up, still with a blank face. She doesn't respond.

KENNEDY (CONT'D)

You've been watching me?

WILLOW

Yeah.

Kennedy smiles.

KENNEDY

I used to watch you sleep too.

WILLOW

Really? 'Cause I thought you were planning to stab me in the back and run away.

KENNEDY

(beat)

I guess I should have seen that coming.

WILLOW

Probably.

KENNEDY

Listen, I'm sorry about what happened.

WILLOW

Sorry that you used me to get what you wanted and then skipped town when you didn't need me anymore?

KENNEDY

That's not how it was. Not exactly.

WILLOW

That's how it looked to me. You became a Slayer and then you just took off. What other reason was there?

KENNEDY

I don't have a good response to that.

WILLOW

You didn't even care about me, did you? You just wanted a quick thrill.

KENNEDY

You didn't seem to mind it.

WILLOW

I'm not like that, Kennedy. Relationships mean something to me. Did you ever care, or was it all meaningless?

Kennedy thinks for a moment and then is about to respond when Willow cuts her off.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

You know what? Don't bother responding. You're just gonna lie anyway. Just go back to sleep. You're more pleasant to be around that way.

Kennedy gets Willow's anger, and turns away from her. She closes her eyes.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Buffy, Xander and Dawn are worn out. Dawn is sitting at the computer tapping the same key over and over again, not knowing what to type next.

XANDER

I think my brain is on strike.

DAWN

Mine too.

XANDER

Damn unions.

BUFFY

We must be doing something wrong.

XANDER

We've been doing this for seven years.

(MORE)

XANDER (CONT'D)

You'd think we'd have it down by now.

BUFFY

Researching isn't helping us at this point. Reading demon bios isn't working. We have to come at this from another angle.

DAWN

Such as?

BUFFY

Motive. What's driving this thing to stalk Kennedy?

DAWN

She's a Slayer?

BUFFY

Maybe. Cause it's not like I don't have enough guilt. Then again, maybe it's something else.

XANDER

Kennedy said that she just happened to stumble across this thing. How could it have something against her for that?

BUFFY

I don't know.

Frustrated, Buffy stands up and starts to pace.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

None of this makes any sense.

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

Willow has fallen asleep.

ANGLE ON : KENNEDY

In bed, with her eyes closed. After a beat, they open. With no expression on her face, she looks back to Willow.

Once she sees that Willow is asleep, she sits up in her bed. She looks around, Slayer senses at work.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Buffy, Xander and Dawn can still be heard in the dining room, but we can't see them.

The living room is dark. There's a tarp covering the broken window.

XANDER (O.S.)

Maybe we should try to put ourselves in the demon's shoes. Y'know, like what would we be if we were a demon who couldn't be seen?

(beat)

That sentence made much more sense in my mind.

DAWN (O.S.)

It's times like these when I miss Giles' marker board. We should be writing down everything we know, so we can try to connect the dots.

XANDER (O.S.)

I have paper. Could we use paper?

DAWN (O.S.)

It's not the same.

ANGLE ON : THE FLOOR

Glass from the window is scattered around, as well as other pieces of debris from Kennedy's entrance.

As we see this scene, a woman's foot enters the frame. Wearing the same boots that we saw in the hospital room at the end of episode 7. She silently makes her way over the glass, toward the couch.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Dawn and Xander continue to chat, as Buffy stands silently by the table, deep in thought.

XANDER

There might be a chalkboard in the attic. Want me to get it?

DAWN

That should work. What do you think, Buffy?

BUFFY

I think you both need sleep. Maybe we should...

She trails off. Something isn't right.

DAWN

"We should..."? Finish sentence please.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Still seeing the floor view as the feet get closer to the couch. Finally, when she reaches it, she stops. She bends down and reaches under the couch.

From under it, she pulls out the Scythe.

Suddenly, the lights go on. The girl stands up, still holding the Scythe.

ANGLE ON : BUFFY

At the light switch. Xander and Dawn behind her.

BUFFY

Well, well. Looks like we're feeling better.

ANGLE ON : KENNEDY

Holding the Scythe. Looking at Buffy. Caught with her hand in the cookie jar (so to speak).

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kennedy looks at Buffy. A defiant look comes across her face.

Buffy takes a step closer to her.

BUFFY

This explains a lot. You show up here, all bloody from coming through the window, but now that I think of it, you didn't have any other bruises on you.

(beat)

So this is it? This is why you came here? To take the Scythe?

KENNEDY

It's as much mine as it is yours.

BUFFY

Really? I seem to remember fighting Caleb to get it while your team was getting all blown up.

KENNEDY

It belongs to the Slayer.

BUFFY

What's the plan? Cut it into a couple thousand equal-sized pieces and mail a chunk to each one?

KENNEDY

No. The plan is pretty much, I take it.

BUFFY

That's not gonna happen.

KENNEDY

And who's gonna stop me? You?

BUFFY

I was thinking I might give it a try.

Kennedy holds up the Scythe, and looks it over. Feeling it's power.

KENNEDY

I don't think it'll work. I've got the weapon.

BUFFY

Too bad you suck at weapons.

KENNEDY

I was swinging a sword while you were still waving pom-poms.

BUFFY

And yet, there's still the sucking.

Willow comes down the stairs and sees what's happening.

WILLOW

What's going on?

DAWN

Kennedy's taking the Scythe.

KENNEDY

(to Buffy)

Okay, so are we done with the talking part yet?

BUFFY

Yup.

XANDER

(to Dawn and Willow)

That whole "are we done with the talking part" line is just a cliché at this point, isn't it?

Buffy dives over the couch, toward Kennedy. Kennedy avoids her and takes a defensive stance. As Buffy hits the ground, she rolls right onto her feet. She throws a punch at Kennedy, which is blocked by the Scythe.

Kennedy spins around, trying to slice Buffy with the Scythe blade, but Buffy avoids it.

While Buffy is off balance, Kennedy kicks her, sending Buffy backward, into the wall.

Kennedy raises the Scythe, to swing at Buffy. Willow sees this.

WILLOW

Buffy, look out!

Willow picks up a nearby vase and throws it at Kennedy. It doesn't really hurt Kennedy when she is hit, but it throws her off just long enough for Buffy to get out of the way.

Buffy goes at Kennedy again. Kennedy takes another swing, which Buffy avoids. Buffy sweeps Kennedy's feet out from under her, sending Kennedy to the ground on her back.

Buffy tries to grab the Scythe, but Kennedy holds onto it, and uses the leverage to throw Buffy to the ground.

Before Buffy can get up, Kennedy gets back to her feet, and jumps through the tarp that is covering the window. She vanishes into the darkness of the night.

DAWN
She's getting away!

BUFFY
Thanks for the recap.

Buffy runs out the front door. The others look at each other.

DAWN
Should we follow her?

XANDER
Do you think we could keep up?

DAWN
That's a good point.

EXT. BUFFY'S STREET -- MORNING

The sun is just starting to rise. The streets are still empty.

Buffy runs down the street at full speed. Her face is filled with determination.

She reaches the end of the street and turns.

EXT. WOODSY STREET - CONTINUOUS - MORNING

Buffy continues to run at full speed.

EXT. ALLEY - MORNING

Buffy turns down the alley, still at full speed. There's a collection of garbage cans in the middle of the alley, blocking her path.

Without skipping a beat, Buffy dives over them, landing with a roll on the ground and quickly resuming her run.

EXT. MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS - MORNING

Buffy exits the alley and throws her hand out, against a light pole just in time to block Kennedy's path. Neither of them are even out of breath. Buffy's cool about the whole thing.

BUFFY
I guess it's called "Main Street"
for a reason.

KENNEDY

You think you're gonna get it back?

BUFFY

I do.

(beat)

You know, this whole "bad Slayer" thing's been done. And might I add, it was done by someone a lot better at it than you.

Kennedy tries to stab Buffy with the stake, but Buffy avoids it.

KENNEDY

I took what was mine.

Buffy punches Kennedy in the face and grabs the Scythe. Kennedy doesn't let go of it.

KENNEDY (CONT'D)

I deserve this a lot more than you do.

BUFFY

What you deserve is a kick in the gut for what you did to Willow...

Buffy kicks Kennedy in the gut.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

And a smack in the face for acting like the spoiled little kid that you are.

Buffy twists the Scythe and pulls it out of Kennedy's hands. She uses the side of the blade to hit Kennedy in the face. Kennedy stumbles back. Buffy holds onto the Scythe and looks at Kennedy.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

You were willing to play games with your life in order to get this *thing*. That alone tells me that you're not worthy of it, or the title of Slayer.

KENNEDY

You don't decide that.

BUFFY

Unfortunately, that's right. What I do decide is that I won't let you have it. I won't allow this weapon to be taken by someone who isn't mature enough to handle it.

KENNEDY

One thing you should know about me,
Buffy. I always get what I want.

Kennedy charges at Buffy. Buffy spins around and kicks Kennedy in the face, sending Kennedy flying to the ground.

Buffy looks down at her.

BUFFY

One thing you should know about me,
Kennedy.

Buffy turns and starts to calmly walk away.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I don't give a monkey's ass what you
want.

Kennedy gets up and moves toward Buffy.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Stop.
(beat)
Come at me again, and I promise you
a pain that you won't soon forget.

Kennedy takes a step toward Buffy, still angry and determined. Suddenly stops, as though hitting a wall. She looks around at her invisible barrier, getting more upset.

Finally, she looks to Buffy, knowing what the wall between them is and deciding to deal with that issue later.

KENNEDY

This isn't over, Buffy.

BUFFY

It never is.

Buffy turns the corner, and heads home. Kennedy watches her leave, not happy.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Dawn and Willow are picking up the glass from the floor. There's a long silence. Finally, Dawn looks up to Willow.

DAWN

You okay?

WILLOW

Why wouldn't I be?

DAWN

Because you're ex tried to kill Buffy.

WILLOW

You'd think I'd be more surprised. I don't know if it's the fact that we've done the "ex lover turns bad" thing so many times by now, or just the fact that I already thought she was a bitch, but I'm somehow not all that surprised by this.

DAWN

I guess. I just didn't expect her to go this far.

WILLOW

The thing I learned about Kennedy is, she's like Cordelia concentrate. She always has to have everything her way and she doesn't care who she has to run over to get it.

DAWN

Somehow, this stuff always seems weird to me. How do you guys handle it?

WILLOW

I guess we've developed thick skins. Being attacked just ain't what it used to be.

DAWN

Not the attacks. The whole love life thing. It's always so hard.

WILLOW

You'll get used to it.

(beat)

Of course, you should probably talk to Ryan at some point.

DAWN

Yeah. If he'd stop avoiding me. How do I get him to give me another chance?

WILLOW

The word "grovel" comes to mind.

DAWN

You think it would work?

WILLOW

Worth a try. The next time you see him, just do your best to make it clear that you're still interested.

DAWN

Yeah. I guess that makes sense. I'm supposed to work tonight, after the store closes. Help with inventory or something. Maybe I'll try something then.

EXT. VIDEO STORE - NIGHT

Dawn walks up to the video store and looks inside. Through the window, we can see RYAN helping a CUSTOMER. The customer smiles and thanks Ryan, and then walks out of the store. Ryan looks out and sees Dawn. He looks down, a little thrown.

Dawn takes a deep breath and goes inside.

INT. VIDEO STORE - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

Dawn walks into the video store and goes to Ryan, who is standing in the middle of the store (as opposed to behind the counter). There's an awkward silence.

DAWN

So.

RYAN

Yeah.

DAWN

I guess there's probably stuff for us to work on.

RYAN

Yeah.

Ryan goes to the door and locks it.

DAWN

Inventory? Kirsty was working on it last night.

RYAN

Not exactly.

He goes behind the counter and turns off the lights.

DAWN

Look, we need to talk. I know things are weird, and I want to make them better. We should talk.

(beat)

I should talk. I should tell you that I know I might have given you the wrong impression, but I am interested. I don't want things to be weird. I want things to be--

RYAN
Dawn?

DAWN
Hmm?

RYAN
I don't think we really need to talk
about this.

DAWN
But we should. I don't want it to
seem like I'm not interested in you,
'cause I am.

RYAN
That's reassuring.

DAWN
What?

RYAN
Close your eyes.

DAWN
Did I ever tell you that I have trust
issues?

RYAN
Do it.

ANGLE ON : DAWN

She is a little uncomfortable, but she closes her eyes.

DAWN
I mean, these things have a way of
turning out badly in my family. Very
badly.

The dark room around Dawn is suddenly filled with an odd
light. Reflections off of a mirrored ball.

SOFT MUSIC begins to play.

Dawn is confused.

DAWN (CONT'D)
Ryan?

RYAN
Okay, open them.

Dawn opens her eyes, and looks around. She sees the mirrored
ball, sitting on the counter. She also sees Ryan, now standing
in front of her. He's holding a corsage. He holds it up.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Shelly told me that this wasn't a lame idea, so if it is lame, blame her.

Dawn takes a second.

DAWN

It's not lame.

Ryan smiles and puts the corsage on Dawn.

RYAN

I was really looking forward to our date, and then things kinda got weird after it was called off.

(beat)

I wanted to dance with you. I wanted to see what you looked like by a mirrored ball. I played the image in my head over and over, and then it was called off and I didn't know what to do next. Then I thought of this.

Dawn doesn't respond.

RYAN (CONT'D)

I know. It's not really the same. The comedy section isn't the most romantic place in the world, no matter how much you like Pauly Shore. And the carpet cleaner was just here, so the place kinda smells a little funny, and--

Suddenly, he is cut off. Not by words, but by Dawn kissing him. He's surprised at first, but quickly warms up to it.

When it's over, Dawn looks him in the eyes and speaks softly.

DAWN

It's perfect.

He smiles at her, and she takes his hands and rests her head on his shoulder. They stand like this, as the music continues to play in the background.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - ATTIC - NIGHT

Xander is moving some boxes around, trying to make more space. Buffy is sitting in an old rocking chair, watching him.

BUFFY

You know, I think this is the first time I've stayed in the attic for more than a couple of seconds.

(beat)

It's kinda nice. Big.

XANDER

You should try sleeping on the floor sometime. It'll suck the niceness right out of the place.

BUFFY

I can see where that would happen.

XANDER

Think she'll try again?

Buffy quickly changes modes, from "mindless banter" to "serious thought".

BUFFY

Kennedy? Probably. She seemed pretty determined when I was kicking her ass.

(beat)

I gotta say though, if this is the big evil that I'm facing these days, I'm liking it. I've had my fill of uber-vamps and evil hellgods trying to end the world. Give me the rich twit who's only interested in shiny things any day.

XANDER

Still, we might want to consider keeping the Scythe someplace other than under the couch.

BUFFY

I guess.

(beat)

Somehow, I don't think this is going to be as simple as it seems. Kennedy put everything on the line for this. Why would she do that? And we still don't know how she did it. Those were some pretty impressive tricks for someone who wouldn't know an eye of newt if it bit her in the face.

XANDER

Odd visual there.

(then)

So, you think someone's helping her then?

BUFFY

Maybe. The question is, who? Who is that powerful, and would have something to gain from it?

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Kennedy walks through the door of the house, and into the center of the room. She's healed by now.

She kicks the sand aside, fuming. She turns to the man, who is off-camera.

KENNEDY

You stopped me. I could have had the Scythe, but you stopped me. We're supposed to have an arrangement.

The man finally steps into frame.

ANGLE ON : ETHAN RAYNE

ETHAN

All in due time, my dear. You'll get your ax soon enough. Until then, I'd prefer that you didn't die, as it might tend to ruin our plans.

KENNEDY

I could have taken her.

ETHAN

Buffy Summers is a resourceful little girl. If this Scythe is as powerful as you say, she would have beaten you in a second.

KENNEDY

That's my problem to deal with, not yours.

He steps closer to her.

ETHAN

You listen to me, and listen carefully. I intend to make these people pay for sending me to that prison. I won't have you running around like a chicken with it's head cut off, and ruining everything.

KENNEDY

Just don't forget our goal here. This is bigger than your revenge.

ETHAN

Don't worry about me. As little as I actually care about your little Slayer games, I wouldn't do anything to miss the looks on their faces when this all plays out.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - ATTIC - NIGHT

Buffy and Xander are still talking.

XANDER

These boxes are like sand. You move some out of the way, and there's always more to fill in the hole.

BUFFY

Maybe we can get the city to take more of them.

XANDER

Maybe. We should have Willow talk to Mrs. Gimly.

The light bulb overhead flickers and dies. Xander looks at it.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Great.

BUFFY

I think we have more in the closet downstairs. I'll get it.

Buffy walks down the stairs, out of the attic.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

Buffy walks into the hallway, and goes to the closet. She opens the door and grabs a bulb. As she starts to walk back to the attic stairway, she stops, and looks at the wall right by the doorway to the attic. A confused look fills her face.

She walks up the stairs.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - ATTIC - NIGHT

Buffy walks into the attic, and looks around. She looks in the direction of the wall downstairs, and sees that the attic continues for about another twelve feet.

She walks back down the stairs.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY - NIGHT

She walks out of the attic doorway, and looks at the wall again. She turns and walks back up the stairs.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - ATTIC - NIGHT

She walks back into the attic. She's still confused.

XANDER
Forget something?

BUFFY
Xander?

XANDER
Yeah?

BUFFY
Did you ever notice something strange
about this place?

Xander looks around.

XANDER
Like what?

BUFFY
Like the fact that the attic goes on
past where the next floor ends?

Xander looks in that direction, catching on.

XANDER
I never thought about it.

BUFFY
The attic is a good ten feet bigger
than downstairs.
(beat)
Upstairs.
(beat)
Whatever.

XANDER
So, what are you thinking?

BUFFY
I think I'm thinking that ten feet
is about the size of another room.

Buffy and Xander remain there, looking around at the attic,
trying to figure this out.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF SHOW