

1- SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR

2- ALYSON HANNIGAN

3- NICHOLAS BRENDON

6- EMMA CAUFIELD

7- AMBER BENSON

"Title"

by

Your Name

4- ANTHONY STEWART HEAD

5- JAMES MARSTERS

8- MICHELLE TRACHTENBERG

9- SEAN JOHNSON

## The Gift

A Buffy the Vampire Slayer episode written by Joss Whedon and transcribed by Joan the English Chick (pisces@englishchick.com). Original Air Date: May 22, 2001

### Transcriber's Notes:

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\*I apologize in advance for my lame transcription of the fight scenes. I don't know the names of different punches and kicks. Use your imagination.

### Teaser

We cut into an alleyway. The camera moves down the alley as from the POV of someone running. Fast, urgent music.

We go around a corner and see the person who's running. It's a teenage boy. He rounds the corner and stops, seeing that he's in a dead end. Slowly, fearfully, he turns.

Shot of the corner he just came around.

The kid moves very slowly back toward the corner, very scared.

Suddenly someone steps around the corner. It's a large male vampire. The kid starts, takes a step back.

The vampire strides forward with a small smile.

VAMP

Gave me a pretty good run there.  
Bet the blood's just pumpin'.

The boy backs away, frightened.

VAMP  
(advancing)  
Bet it's hot.

KID  
(voice breaking)  
Don't hurt me.

VAMP  
Don't hurt you?  
(laughs)

Suddenly one of the doors along the alley opens and Buffy's head pops out.

BUFFY  
(innocently)  
Hey, what's going on?

The vamp turns his head to glare at her.

KID  
Help me! Call the police!

VAMP  
Get outta here, girl.  
(turns back to the kid)

BUFFY  
(emerging from the doorway)  
You guys havin' a fight? 'Cause,  
you know, fighting's not cool.

The vampire turns to glare at her again.

KID  
Get out of here!

VAMP  
No.  
(turns fully toward Buffy)  
No, she wants to stay. I don't  
mind a little appetizer.

BUFFY  
(small frown, walks forward)  
Have you ever heard the  
expression, 'biting off more than  
you can chew'?

The vamp frowns, shakes his head.

BUFFY

Okay. Um ... how about the expression, 'vampire slayer'?

VAMP

What the hell you talkin' about?

BUFFY

Wow. Never heard that one. Okay.  
How about, 'Oh god, my leg, my leg'?

The vampire growls and lunges at her. She ducks his grab, punches him in the face and kicks his leg. His knee buckles and he falls to the ground.

VAMP

Oh god! My leg! Uhh...

BUFFY

See? Now we're communicating.

The vamp surges up, grabs Buffy and throws her against the wall. He grabs her again but she pushes his arms away, punches him in the face, knees him, then goes around behind him and kicks him into the wall. He lands against a dumpster, turns and backhands Buffy, who stumbles forward toward the boy. The boy leaps out of the way. The vamp punches Buffy again, picks her up and slams her down on top of another dumpster.

Shot of the kid cowering in the corner.

Buffy kicks the vamp, cartwheels off the dumpster and kicks him again, then again, and then yet again. On the final kick he lands on his back among a pile of wooden boxes. They all shatter.

One of the shards of wood flies toward Buffy and she catches it. As the vampire lunges up out of the boxes, she stakes him with the piece of wood. The boy watches in shock.

The vamp turns to dust. Buffy drops the makeshift stake and stares at the pile of dust as the boy continues to cower in the background.

BUFFY

Wow. Been a long while since I met one who didn't know me.

She turns to go, pauses and looks at the kid.

BUFFY

You should get home.

She begins walking back toward the door she came out of.

KID  
H-how'd you do that?

Angle on Buffy's back as she walks toward the door. She doesn't turn or stop as she replies.

BUFFY  
It's what I do.

KID  
But you're ... you're just a girl.

Buffy pauses in the doorway.

BUFFY  
That's what \*I\* keep saying.

She walks through the door.

Wolf howl. Opening credits.

Guest starring Clare Kramer, Charlie Weber, Amber Benson as Tara, and Joel Grey as Doc. Written and directed by Joss Whedon.

## Act I

Open on Buffy coming in the back door of the magic shop, walking down the hall and into the main room. We see Xander sitting at the round table with Giles **and Steven** beside him looking at books, and Spike sitting behind them on the ladder leading up to the loft, smoking a cigarette.

XANDER  
Something goin' on out back?

BUFFY  
(walks over to table)  
Vampire.

XANDER  
Oh.

STEVEN  
**Dusted?**

BUFFY  
**Yep.**

STEVEN  
**Cool.**

BUFFY  
(sighs)  
Anything?

Angle on Giles sitting at the table with a few books open in front of him.

GILES  
Nothing you want to hear. The ritual is, uh...

BUFFY  
Explain it again.

GILES  
There's nothing new to-

BUFFY  
Go through it again.

Everyone looks nervously at Buffy. We see Willow sitting at the table on Xander's other side. Giles slowly removes his glasses.

Shot of Anya standing to the side.

GILES  
The key was ... living energy. It needed to be channeled, poured into a specific place at a specific time. The energy ... would flow into that spot, the walls between the dimensions break down. It stops, the energy's used up, the walls come back up. Glory uses that time to get back into her own dimension, not caring that all manner of hell will be unleashed on earth in the meantime.

STEVEN  
**"All manner of Hell"?**  
**(less than excited)**  
**Yippee.**

Buffy looks grim.

ANYA  
Um, but only for a little while, right? The walls come back up, uh, n-no more hell?

WILLOW  
 That's only if the energy is  
 stopped. And now the key is human  
 ...  
     (looks over her  
     shoulder at Buffy)  
 ...is Dawn.

GILES  
     (reads from book)  
 "The blood flows, the gates will  
 open. The gates will close when  
 it flows no more."  
     (removes his glasses)  
 When Dawn is dead.

Pause.

TARA  
 I have places to be!

Everyone looks over at Tara, who is curled up in a chair to the side. She falls silent again and they return to their conversation.

STEVEN  
     (concerning Tara)  
 Uh-huh.

XANDER  
 Why blood? Why Dawn's blood? I  
 mean, why couldn't it be like a,  
 a lymph ritual?

SPIKE  
 'Cause it's always got to be blood.

XANDER  
 We're not actually discussing  
 dinner right now.

STEVEN  
 He's not discussing dinner,  
 Xander. He's discussing the  
 ritual.  
     (to Spike)  
 Go on, Spike.

SPIKE  
 Blood is life, lackbrain. Why do  
 you think we eat it? It's what  
 keeps you going. Makes you warm.  
 Makes you hard.  
     (MORE)

SPIKE (CONT'D)  
Makes you other than dead.  
(quietly)  
Course it's her blood.

BUFFY  
Pretty simple math here. We stop  
Glory before she can start the  
ritual. We still have a couple of  
hours, right?

GILES  
If my calculations are right. But  
Buffy-

BUFFY  
I don't wanna hear it.  
(turns away)

GILES  
I understand that-

BUFFY  
(whirls back)  
No! No, you don't understand. We  
are not talking about this.

GILES  
(jumps up from the  
table, yells)  
Yes, we bloody well are!

Beat. Everyone looks shocked by Giles' outburst.

STEVEN  
(surprised)  
Whoa...

GILES  
(quieter)  
If Glory begins the ritual ... if  
we can't stop her...

BUFFY  
Come on. Say it. We're bloody  
well talking about this. Tell me  
to kill my sister.

GILES  
(whispers)  
She's not your sister.



BUFFY

(pause)

No. She's not. She's more than that. She's me. The monks made her out of me. I hold her ... and I feel closer to her than ...

(looks down, sighs)

It's not just the memories they built. It's physical. Dawn ... is a part of me. The only part that I--

(stops)

STEVEN

(calmly)

What, Buffy...?

WILLOW

We'll solve this. We will. Don't have another coma, okay?

Buffy gives a small smile.

GILES

(quietly)

If the ritual starts, then every living creature in this and every other dimension imaginable will suffer unbearable torment and death ...

(looks up at Buffy)

including Dawn.

BUFFY

Then the last thing she'll see is me protecting her.

GILES

(quietly)

You'll fail. You'll die. We all will.

(turns away from the table)

BUFFY

I'm sorry.

STEVEN

"You'll fail"?

(scoffs)

Nice faith you have in her Giles.

Shot of the others looking at her as Giles walks slowly away.

BUFFY  
I love you all ... but I'm sorry.

She turns away too. Giles turns back to look at her. Beat.

ANYA  
(loudly)  
Okay.  
(raises her hand)  
All in favor of stopping Glory  
\*before\* the ritual. Suggestions,  
ideas?  
(snapping her fingers)  
Time's a-wastin'.

STEVEN  
**Shut up, Anya.**

SPIKE  
Uh ... when you say you love us  
all...

XANDER/GILES  
(unison)  
Shut up.

ANYA  
Willow. I bet you've got some  
dark spell a-brewin'. Uh, make  
her a, a, a toad? Little hoppy  
toad, we can hit her with a hammer?

TARA  
(giggling)  
Hoppy toad.

XANDER  
What about Ben? He can be killed,  
right? I mean, I know he's an  
innocent, but, you know, not like  
Dawn innocent. We could kill a ...  
regular guy.

Pause while everyone considers this and Xander realizes what  
he's said.

XANDER  
(softly, in self-disgust)  
God.

GILES

It's doubtful he'll surface again this close to the ritual. We can expect it's Glory we're dealing with.

WILLOW

We don't have to kill her. Uh, we just have to stop her from doing the ritual. I mean, there's only the one time that she can do it, right?

SPIKE

Yeah. We get her on the ropes, we just gotta keep her occupied till it's too late.

STEVEN

**That's actually a good idea.**

ANYA

Okay. But I'm still not hearing enough ideas. She's a god. Let's think outside the box.

SPIKE

Why don't *\*you\** go think outside the bleeding box?

STEVEN

**This is Dawn's life we're talking about. Hell, this ritual deals with the lives of every single person on the face of the Earth. Now I see that you have two choices, Anya: you can yak, yak, yak until one of us snaps and kills you. Or you can shut up, sit down, and let us think.**

GILES

Yes, Anya, apart from your incredibly uninfected enthusiasm, have you anything else to contribu-

ANYA

The Dagon sphere!

GILES

Sorry?

**STEVEN**

Huh?

**ANYA**

When Buffy first met Glory, she found that magical ...

(gestures)

glowy sphere that was meant to repel Glory. We've got it in the basement.

(everyone looks surprised)

It might drive her away or hurt her. Ooh!

Anya hurries over to a display case, gestures like a game-show hostess.

**ANYA**

And Olaf the troll god's enchanted hammer.

**STEVEN**

(to himself)

Retail for \$99.99

We see the hammer (episode "Triangle") on a shelf.

**ANYA**

You wanna fight a god, use the weapon of a god.

Buffy walks over to check out the hammer.

**SPIKE**

Uh, nah, that thing's too heavy to-

(Buffy picks it up easily)

**STEVEN**

(in shock)

Holy shit.

Everyone looks at him.

**STEVEN**

(confused)

What? I can't even carry that thing.

**SPIKE**

Yeah. Good.

BUFFY

I like this.  
(to Anya)  
Thanks.

ANYA

Here to help. Wanna live.

XANDER

Smart chicks are soooo hot.  
(looking fondly at Anya)

WILLOW

You couldn't have figured that  
out in tenth grade?

Willow and Xander exchange a smile.

GILES

Well, we have some ideas, if we  
could actually get Glory on the  
run, but, um...

BUFFY

But, we still have no idea how to  
find her.

TARA

Big day. Oh, it calls me! I have  
to be there!

Everyone looks at Tara, then at Buffy. Buffy looks thoughtful.

TARA

Big day!

STEVEN

(dawning on him)  
**The ritual. We--we have to find  
Glory.**  
(sighs)  
**We can't lose Dawn...we--we can't.**

Cut to: Ben entering the back room at the warehouse. He  
still wears the ceremonial robe and is holding a pile of  
clothing. A few minions are in the background.

Shot of Dawn sitting on the floor with her knees up to her  
chest, eyes closed. Ben walks over to her.

BEN

They, uh ... said you have to put  
this on ... for the ceremony.

DAWN  
What if I don't?

BEN  
Come on, just-

DAWN  
What if I don't like the color?

BEN  
Look, I ... I wish there was  
another way.

DAWN  
And I wish you'd fall on your  
head and drown in your own barf,  
so ...  
(shrugs)  
I guess we're both disappointed.

BEN  
I think ... it'll be quick.

MINION  
Actually, sir, the bleeding is  
quite a slow process to give the  
portal time to-

BEN  
(annoyed)  
Thank you ... for the information.  
(to Dawn)  
I'll do what I can to-

DAWN  
Change.

BEN  
What?

DAWN  
Change. Be her. I don't wanna  
look at you.

BEN  
(shakes head)  
Dawn, I don't think you wanna-

DAWN  
Be Glory. Be Glory.  
(yelling)  
Glory! Glory! Glory!

BEN  
Will you just stop-  
(morphs into Glory)

GLORY  
-shouting already?

Dawn scowls.

GLORY  
Huh.

Glory shakes out the garment she's holding. It's a medieval-style dress. She examines it, then turns to Dawn.

GLORY  
So, what's the hubbub, bub?  
(sits in a chair)  
What do you got against old Benjy?

DAWN  
He's a monster. At least you're  
up-front about it.

GLORY  
(picking at the hem of  
the dress)  
Don't be so hard on the boy. He  
just wants to live. Most guys  
would do the same. Besides, he's  
probably the reason your sis and  
her little cartoon pals are still  
alive. That little nagging pinch  
of humanity that makes me go for  
the hurt instead of the kill.  
(looks at Dawn)  
Lowering myself to trade blows  
with the Slayer when I should  
have just put my fist through her  
heart.

Glory stands up and holds up the dress to look at it.

GLORY  
It's gotta be Ben.

DAWN  
Or maybe you just can't take her.

Glory tosses the dress to Dawn, who takes hold of one end. Glory is still holding the other end and she suddenly yanks on it, pulling Dawn to her feet. They face off.

GLORY

Hmm, funny thing. You've been here for a few hours now, and I haven't seen big sis galloping in to save you. She probably knows what a terrible mistake that'd be.

DAWN

She's not afraid of you.

GLORY

Oh no, sweetie baby. I'm talking about the ritual. 'Cause you know I bleed you, the portals open, but once you die they close. The faster you die, the better for your sorry species.

Glory puts her hand on the side of Dawn's face. Dawn looks scared.

GLORY

I'm bettin' Buffy knows that. Since she's not really your sister, I'm guessin' she isn't gonna show. And if she does...

Dawn winces in pain as Glory's fingers tighten on her head.

GLORY

...it might not be to save you.

Glory shoves Dawn aside. She falls to the floor on top of a grating. Glory smirks at her.

Angle on Dawn's face, shooting up from below as her face is pressed against the grating.

DAWN

(whispers)

Buffy.

Cut to Buffy in the workout room, punching the punching-bag. She alternates hands and hits it with a steady rhythm. The camera pulls out and reveals Giles entering, walking toward her.

GILES

You sure you're not going to tire yourself out?

BUFFY

(stops punching)

I'm sure.



She resumes punching. Close shot on Buffy's face with Giles out of focus in the background.

GILES

We're ... still working on ideas.

(Buffy stops punching)

Time's short, but, uh, best leave it to the last moment.

(Buffy stretching her arms)

If we go in too early and she takes us out, no chance of getting her to miss her window.

BUFFY

Then we wait.

Buffy gives one last punch that breaks the punching bag off its chain. It falls to the floor. Buffy stares at it, gives her arm a shake.

GILES

I imagine you hate me right now.

Same angle on Buffy with Giles in the background, her back to him. She sighs but doesn't answer. Giles takes a few steps closer.

GILES

I love Dawn.

BUFFY

I know.

GILES

But I've sworn to protect this sorry world, and sometimes that means saying and doing ... what other people can't. What they shouldn't have to.

Buffy turns to face him.

BUFFY

You try and hurt her, and you know I'll stop you.

GILES

I know.

Overhead shot of the two of them. Buffy walks slowly over to the sofa in the corner and sits. Giles paces slowly over to the sofa as well.

BUFFY  
This is how many apocalypses for  
us now?

**Steven walks in.**

**STEVEN**  
**Three.**

GILES  
Oh, uh, well...  
(sits, takes off his glasses)  
six, at least.  
(sits back slowly)  
Feels like a hundred.

**STEVEN**  
**Right about that.**

BUFFY  
I've always stopped them. Always  
won.

GILES  
Yes.

BUFFY  
I sacrificed Angel to save the  
world.

Cut to close angle on Buffy's face.

BUFFY  
I loved him so much. But I knew  
... what was right. I don't have  
that any more. I don't understand.  
I don't know how to live in this  
world if these are the choices.  
If everything just gets stripped  
away. I don't see the point. I  
just wish that...  
(tearfully)  
I just wish my mom was here.

**Steven frowns and goes to hug her.**

She gets up, walks a few paces away, **away from Steven**, turns  
to face Giles.

BUFFY  
The spirit guide told me ... that  
death is my gift. Guess that  
means a Slayer really is just a  
killer after all.

STEVEN

Buffy, no. That's not true.

GILES

I think you're wrong about that.

BUFFY

It doesn't matter. If Dawn dies,  
I'm done with it. I'm quitting.

**Steven sighs deeply.**

She walks out, **followed by Steven**, leaving Giles sitting on the sofa alone.

Cut to the warehouse. Dawn is now wearing the ritual dress. She has her other clothing folded in a neat pile and carries it over to the chair, lays the clothing down on the chair, kneels beside the chair.

Shot of Glory off to the side, writing something. A minion goes to her and whispers.

Dawn kneels by the chair and arranges her sneakers neatly in front of the chair. She looks up when Glory begins to speak.

GLORY

Okay, campers, it's almost stab time.

(smiling)

You two, get her.

Two minions move toward Dawn, who looks scared and backs away.

DAWN

No. No! Aah!

(screams)

Buffy!

She continues to scream as the minions grab her arms and drag her away. Glory watches them go with a smile.

GLORY

See you in a few.

Cut to outside. The minions drag Dawn into the courtyard area where the crazy people are still working. Sparks fly from someone's welding. Dawn looks up apprehensively.

Shot of a huge metal tower, basically build out of scaffolding. It stretches into the air above the warehouse. At the top, a narrow walkway protrudes out into the air. We see the tower first from Dawn's perspective, on the ground looking up; and then a longer shot from the side.

Dawn continues to stare up at the tower as the minions lead her to some stairs at the base of the tower and they begin to climb.

Blackout.

Act II

Open on Giles in the magic shop, walking over to a door and opening it. It leads down some stairs into the basement, which is cluttered as any basement tends to be.

GILES  
(calling)  
Any luck? Have you found the  
Dagon sphere?

Pan down to the basement. Anya emerges from behind the stairs, wearing a bra, quickly putting on her blouse.

ANYA  
(calling)  
Um, I'm sure it's here, just be a  
minute!

Xander emerges as well, fastening his pants.

XANDER  
(calling)  
Yeah, we're on it! Let's look  
over here, where we didn't look yet.

Xander and Anya continue fastening their clothing. The angle is such that Giles can't see them.

GILES  
(OS)  
Time is a factor.

ANYA  
Yes. Yes. Not to worry.

Sound of the door closing. Anya picks up a clipboard and examines it.

XANDER  
So, are you more, uh ... relaxed?

ANYA  
(looking through boxes)  
No.

XANDER

No? I mean, it sounded like you,  
uh ...  
(paces past her)  
arrived.

ANYA

(distracted)  
No.  
(tunes back in to the conversation)  
Yes. Um, I had the pleasure  
moment, and the blissful calm  
that comes right after it. But  
that only lasted a couple of  
seconds, and now I'm terrified  
again.

XANDER

Well, you don't have to be.

Anya moves toward another pile of stuff. Xander turns and  
pulls down a drop-cloth, revealing the Buffy Bot.

XANDER

Gah!

He leaps back, making Anya jump as well.

ANYA

What?

They both stare at the bot. It sits there with eyes open,  
unmoving.

XANDER

Spike's sex-bot. Why didn't they  
just melt it down into scrap?

Anya moves away as Xander continues staring at the bot.

ANYA

Maybe Willow wanted it.

XANDER

(turns to her)  
I don't think Willow feels that  
way about, about Buffy. I mean, I  
know she's gone through a lot of  
changes, but--

ANYA

To study it.

XANDER  
Right. Robotics.  
(embarrassed )  
Science.

Xander moves to another pile of stuff and they both continue looking, separately.

ANYA  
Pervert.

XANDER  
Other pervert.

ANYA  
And don't frighten me like tha-aah!

She shrieks as she sees something in another box. Xander comes over to look.

ANYA  
God, who, who would put something  
like that there? Is this supposed  
to be some sort of sick joke?

She picks it up. It's a small toy bunny.

ANYA  
I mean, things aren't bad enough!  
(pause)  
This is an omen.

XANDER  
Hey, hey, shh.  
(rubs her shoulders)

ANYA  
No, no, it's an omen. It's a  
higher power, trying to tell me  
through bunnies that we're all  
gonna die. Oh god.

XANDER  
No it's not.

Anya puts the bunny back in the box as Xander puts his arms around her waist from behind.

XANDER  
It's okay.

ANYA

No, you see, usually when there's an apocalypse, I skedaddle. But now I love you so much that instead I have inappropriately timed sex and try to think of ways to fight a god ... and worry terribly that something might happen to you. And also worry that something'll happen to me. And then I have guilt that I'm not more worried about everyone else, but I just don't have enough! I'm just on total overload, and I honestly don't think that I could be more nervous than I am right now.

XANDER

Care to wager on that?

Xander lifts his hand into the shot. He holds a small box, open to reveal the ring inside.

Anya stares at it. Xander lets her go and she turns to face him, still looking at the ring.

XANDER

Anya ... you wanna marry me?

Anya stares at him a moment, then slaps him across the face.

XANDER

Can I take that as a "maybe"?

ANYA

You're proposing to me!

XANDER

Yes...

ANYA

You're proposing to me 'cause we're gonna die! And you think it's romantic and sexy and, and you know you're not gonna have to go through with it 'cause the world's gonna end!

XANDER

I'm proposing to you, Anya, because it's not.

ANYA  
You can't know that.

XANDER  
I believe it. I think we're gonna  
get through this. I think I'm  
gonna live a long ... and silly  
life, and I'm not interested in  
doing that without you around.

ANYA  
(softly)  
Oh. Okay.

XANDER  
(wide-eyed)  
Okay?

ANYA  
Yes.  
(small smile)  
I mean, yes.

They both smile happily and look down at the ring. Xander  
begins removing the ring from the box as Anya holds up her  
hands. Then she stops him.

ANYA  
No.

XANDER  
No?

ANYA  
After. Give it to me when the  
world doesn't end.

Xander smiles slightly. Anya puts her arms around his neck  
and they kiss.

Cut to the main magic shop room. Willow sits at the table  
reading books, **along with Steven**, while Tara naps behind her.  
Buffy walks up.

BUFFY  
Will, what do you got for me?



WILLOW

Some ideas.

(Buffy goes to sit on  
the stairs leading up  
to the loft)

Well, notions. Or, theories based  
on wild speculation. Did I  
mention I'm not good under pressure?

STEVEN

(smiles)

**We all know that, Will.**

BUFFY

I need you, Will. You're my big gun.

WILLOW

(alarmed)

I'm your - no, I-I was never a  
gun. Someone else should be the  
gun. I, I could be a, a cudgel.  
Or, or a pointy stick.

STEVEN

**Like a stake.**

BUFFY

You're the strongest person here.  
You know that, right?

WILLOW

(frowns)

Well ... no.

BUFFY

Will, you're the only person  
that's ever hurt Glory. At all.  
You're my best shot at getting  
her on the ropes, so don't get a  
jelly belly on me now.

WILLOW

Well ... I, I ... do sort of have  
this one idea. But, last few  
days, I've mostly been looking  
into ways to help Tara. I-I know  
that shouldn't be my priority....

Buffy leans over and puts her hand on Willow's knee.

BUFFY

Of course it should.

Willow smiles gratefully. Buffy leans back.

WILLOW

Well, I've been charting their essences. Mapping out. I think ... if I can get close enough, I may be able to reverse what Glory did. Like, take back what she took from Tara. It might weaken Glory, or ... make her less coherent. Or it might make all our heads explode.

STEVEN

**I don't know if you wanna do that...**

GILES

(OS)

Buffy.

Buffy looks up. Across the room we see Giles, Xander, and Anya gathered around something.

WILLOW

I'll try to work it.

Buffy gets up and walks away, putting her hand briefly on Willow's shoulder as she passes.

Willow gets up and goes to crouch beside Tara's chair.

WILLOW

Don't worry, love. It won't be long.

Tara slaps her hard across the face.

TARA

(angrily)

Bitch! I'm supposed to work on the factors!

Willow just looks at her sadly. The anger passes and Tara becomes anxious.

TARA

I'm, I'm not ... I'm not....

Tara puts her hand gently on Willow's cheek and begins to cry. Willow looks at her with tears in her eyes as well.

WILLOW

I'm gonna bring you back.

Cut over to the others gathered together. Giles is holding the Dagon sphere.

BUFFY  
No. No, no, that's good. That  
could be pivotal.  
(to Anya and Xander)  
Thank you guys.

GILES  
Well, um, you're gonna need some-

BUFFY  
Way ahead of you. We have time?

GILES  
Yes, if you hurry.

BUFFY  
Okay. I'll grab some weapons too.  
(we see Spike  
appearing behind Giles)

XANDER  
I'm looking for something in a  
broadsword.

SPIKE  
Don't be swingin' that thing near  
me.  
(Buffy takes the  
sphere from Giles,  
examines it)

XANDER  
Hey, I happen to be-

SPIKE  
A glorified bricklayer?

XANDER  
(looks around at the others)  
I'm also a swell bowler.

ANYA  
Has his own shoes.

SPIKE  
The gods themselves do tremble.

BUFFY  
Spike, shut your mouth, come with  
me.

Buffy hands the sphere to Giles and strides out. Spike looks surprised, follows her.

Cut to Buffy entering the Summers house with Spike behind her. It's dark outside.

BUFFY  
The weapons are in the chest by  
the TV, I'll grab the stuff  
upstairs.

She moves toward the stairs, not realizing that Spike has stopped at the door.

SPIKE  
Uh, Buffy...

She turns back to him. Spike lifts his hand in a little wave. Buffy frowns, still not getting it.

SPIKE  
If you wanna just hand them over  
the threshold, I'll...

BUFFY  
Come in, Spike.

Spike looks surprised and pleased. He takes a slow step over the threshold, smiles.

SPIKE  
Hmm. Presto. No barrier.

They look at each other for a moment, then Spike breaks away, walks into the living room.

SPIKE  
Um, won't bother with the small  
stuff. Couple of good axes should  
hold off Glory's mates while you  
take on the lady herself.  
(opens the chest,  
begins taking stuff out)

BUFFY  
We're not all gonna make it. You  
know that.

SPIKE  
Yeah.

He takes a few weapons from the chest and walks back toward Buffy.

SPIKE  
Hey. Always knew I'd go down  
fightin'.

BUFFY  
I'm counting on you ... to  
protect her.

SPIKE  
Till the end of the world. Even  
if that happens to be tonight.

BUFFY  
I'll be a minute.

SPIKE  
Yeah.

Buffy turns to go up the stairs. Spike watches her go.

SPIKE  
I know you'll never love me.

Buffy pauses halfway up the stairs, turns back to look at  
Spike.

SPIKE  
I know that I'm a monster. But  
you treat me like a man. And  
that's...

Buffy gazes silently at him.

SPIKE  
Get your stuff, I'll be here.

She turns and continues up the stairs.

Cut to the top of the tower. The minions are tying Dawn to  
the tower with rope. She stands there looking scared. The  
wind blows her hair around.

Angle downward from Dawn's POV. We see her bare feet on the  
edge of the platform, and far below we can see the crazy  
people moving around.

The minions finish tying Dawn up and turn to leave. One of  
them looks back.

MINION  
She will come to you soon.

The camera pulls slowly back on Dawn standing at the end of  
the platform with the city lights behind and below her.

Cut to the magic shop. Pan quickly across Xander and Anya looking at each other, Tara looking at stuff in a display case. Willow appears from the back as Buffy and Spike enter, carrying weapons. **Steven walks into the shop from the training room.** They walk over to the office area.

BUFFY  
We on schedule?

Spike goes to put the weapons down on the desk beside Giles, who is also holding an axe.

GILES  
Yes, it's time.

STEVEN  
**Let's do it.**

Pan back over to Buffy.

BUFFY  
Will?

Willow nods, goes over to Tara who is still staring at the merchandise.

WILLOW  
Tara, baby? Is there somewhere  
you should be?

Tara looks over at Buffy, doesn't look at Willow.

TARA  
They held me down.

WILLOW  
No one's holding you. It's the  
big day, right?

Both Willow and Tara look at Buffy. Shot of Buffy looking concerned.

WILLOW  
Do you wanna go?

Tara looks anxiously from Buffy to Willow and back again. She turns and begins to walk toward Buffy and the door. She passes Spike and Giles in the background, Spike packing up weapons as Giles unsheathes a sword.

TARA  
(points to Giles)  
You're a killer.  
(Giles and Spike look  
at her in surprise)  
This is all set down.

Tara continues walking out. Giles puts his axe in Spike's bag.

Willow, following Tara, draws alongside Buffy as Tara heads for the door.

BUFFY  
(quietly)  
Stay close but don't crowd her.  
We'll follow in a minute.

Willow starts out again, stops when Buffy begins to address the others.

BUFFY  
Everybody knows their jobs.  
Remember, the ritual starts, we  
all die. And I'll kill anyone who  
comes near Dawn.

**STEVEN**  
**Unless we're trying to save her**  
**life.**

Buffy turns and walks off. Willow turns to the open door and leaves.

Angle on Giles and Spike. Giles is clutching his side where he was speared in "Spiral." Spike glances at Giles, then back in the direction Buffy went.

SPIKE  
Well, not exactly the St.  
Crispin's Day speech, was it?

GILES  
We few...

Giles goes past Spike as Spike gathers up the bag of weapons.

GILES  
...we happy few.

SPIKE  
We band of buggered.

They exit.

Cut to: exterior city street, night. Tara walks along the sidewalk, picking at the cast on her hand. The camera pulls out to reveal Willow walking a few paces behind, with the others following farther behind that.

Tara comes around a corner, pauses to gaze upward for a moment, then continues. The others follow, now all in a group. Spike carries a crossbow, **Steven a machete**, Anya a baseball bat. Spike also has the bag of weapons on her back. They all stop walking and look up.

Shot from below of the tower rising up into the air above them.

They all stare at it.

XANDER

Shpadoinkle.

ANYA

What is that?

GILES

The portal must open up there.

BUFFY

Will, you're up.

Close angle on Willow's face.

GILES

Need anything?

WILLOW

Could use a little courage.

Spike's hand comes into the shot, holding a small flask in front of Willow's face.

WILLOW

The real kind.

Spike looks over at her. She looks at him.

WILLOW

But thanks.

Spike nods, puts the flask away.

**STEVEN**

**Good luck, Willow.**

Shot of the tower. People are walking toward it as sparks (from welding) come from the yard below.



Cut to the warehouse. The crazy people are still doing various things with machinery and metal. Pan over to the entrance as Tara enters, finally pulling the cast off her hand and tossing it aside. She walks in muttering to herself, goes over to a pile of bricks and picks one up.

A hand grabs Tara's shoulder from behind and spins her around.

GLORY

You. What are you doing here?

Willow appears beside Glory.

WILLOW

She's with me.

Willow grabs both Glory's and Tara's heads. They all scream as blue lightning begins to flicker around them. Bright blue light appears to stream from Glory's head to Tara's.

Suddenly a blast of power separates them. All three go flying in different directions. Willow crashes into a pile of wood.

Glory lands on her back on the concrete, sits up as several minions run over.

GLORY

What the frickin' hell did that  
bitch do to me?

The minions look at each other, then at Glory.

MINION

(anxiously)  
You look fine. Truly.

GLORY

(clutching her head)  
She made a little ... she made a  
hole. Uh, I need a brain to eat.

MINION

Oh, take mine, oh groove-tastic  
one!  
(bows)

GLORY

I said a brain, you worthless dirt!

She puts a hand to her forehead and begins to walk, distractedly, as the minions follow her with concern.

GLORY  
Big day. I got places to be, big  
day. Need a brain.

She looks at something directly in front of her, scoffs.

GLORY  
Suppose I could always use yours.

BUFFY  
(OS)  
Okay then.

Buffy stands there with her hands clasped behind her back.  
The camera zooms in on her.

BUFFY  
Come and get it.

Blackout.

Act III

Open on Glory still staring at Buffy. Glory starts to smile,  
then looks away and moves her arms as if in pain.

BUFFY  
(innocently)  
You don't seem very well.

GLORY  
Your little witch bitch ... gave  
me kind of a headache there.  
(removes her ceremonial  
robe, revealing the  
simple black dress underneath)  
But if you think this is gonna  
last more than eight seconds-

BUFFY  
I noticed you're talking, whereas  
in your position, I would attack me.

The minions have taken Glory's robe as she continues to  
stand there looking weakened.

MINION  
Oh, most sweaty-naughty-feelings-  
causing one, should we...

GLORY  
Go guard the girl. This is a ...  
this is a, a...

MINION  
Diversionary tactic?

GLORY  
Go guard!

The minions scurry away. They pull a bunch of crazies away from their work and gather them around the base of the stairs leading up to the tower.

Cut back to Glory still standing there unsteadily.

BUFFY  
It's strange, you're not as  
blurry with speed as usual either.

GLORY  
The witch...

BUFFY  
It's not her.

Buffy produces the Dagon sphere from behind her.

BUFFY  
Might be this.

Glory looks alarmed.

BUFFY  
I heard it's supposed to repel  
you. So my guess is ... you  
probably shouldn't touch it, either.

Buffy tosses the sphere at Glory, who catches it instinctively. The sphere lights up and seems to warp the air around it when it touches Glory's hand. She makes a pained face, drops her hand to her side.

Close shot on Glory's hand holding the sphere. She slowly crushes the sphere and the light goes out as it crumbles.

GLORY  
You're gonna wish you-

Buffy punches her in the face. Glory stumbles back and Buffy kicks her, then punches her again, and again, and again.

The minions and crazies gathered around the stairs mutter and look around nervously as the fight continues.

MINION 1

Stand fast! Kill anyone who dares approach! This will be our day of glory!

MINION 2

Well punned.

MINION 1

Well, it just called out to me.

Suddenly an arrow appears in his chest and he falls back.

We see Spike holding his crossbow, having just shot the minion. Anya and Giles are beside him. They rush forward and begin fighting the minions, while Spike stays behind.

Giles blocks a minion's staff while Anya beats on another one with her bat.

**Steven rushes a minion with the machete, wasting no time cutting off his head.**

Spike gives a loud battle cry and jumps on two minions at once, bearing them to the ground.

Giles slices at a minion with his sword.

A minion has Spike around the waist as another one approaches. Spike fights them both.

Cut to a wide overhead shot of the fighting. Off to the side we see Buffy hitting and kicking Glory.

Cut to above. Dawn looks down and her eyes widen as she spots Buffy.

Cut to below. Buffy flips Glory over and slams her down on a pile of bricks, tries to punch her but Glory rolls aside and Buffy ends up punching the bricks. Buffy tries to punch again and Glory grabs her arms, throws her across the room.

Willow sits up among broken pieces of wood, looks at Buffy fighting Glory, looks over to her left.

WILLOW

Tara!

Willow half-walks, half-crawls over to where Tara lies unconscious in a pile of debris.

WILLOW

Tara?

Tara's eyes open. She looks at Willow.

WILLOW  
Tara?

TARA  
W ... Willow?

WILLOW  
(smiles hopefully)  
Tara?

TARA  
(tearfully)  
Willow ... I got so lost.

WILLOW  
(smiling)  
I found you.

Willow kisses Tara all over her face, then hugs her. They both smile happily.

WILLOW  
I will always find you.

Long shot of the two of them embracing.

Cut back to Glory. She stands up straight.

GLORY  
You know what?

Buffy punches, but Glory grabs her fist.

GLORY  
I'm feeling a little better. And  
now? I'm a little bored.

BUFFY  
Oh, I'm sorry. Cause you're about-

Glory kicks her in the face. "Buffy"'s head goes flying off, leaving her body standing. We can see the wires exposed in the neck.

The body falls over as Glory stares in bewilderment. When it hits the floor, sparks fly out of the neck.

GLORY  
(staring)  
Hey, wow, the Slayer's a robot.  
(looks around)  
Did everybody else know the  
Slayer was a robot?

Glory smiles in triumph as the real Buffy appears behind her.

BUFFY  
Glory?

Glory stops smiling, turns. Buffy hits her with Olaf's hammer. Glory flies across the room, crashes into a wall.

BUFFY  
You're not the brightest god in  
the heavens, are you?

DAWN  
Buffy! I'm up here!

Buffy looks up as Dawn screams at the top of her lungs. Shot of the tower from Buffy's POV. We can't really make out Dawn at the end of the platform.

DAWN  
Buffy!

Buffy runs toward the tower, leaps over a pile of bricks and onto the stairs. A minion confronts her but she punches him and throws him over the side.

Glory picks herself up, looks over and sees Buffy running up the stairs.

GLORY  
Oh no you don't!

DAWN  
(screams)  
Buffy! I'm up here!

Cut to midway up the stairs. There's one last level after which the stairs end and the only way up is via ladders. Buffy is ascending onto this level as Glory appears in front of her and hits her. Buffy hits Glory with the hammer, then Glory kicks her into the scaffolding. They exchange a few more blows and Buffy loses her grip on the hammer, which goes flying. It gets caught in some chain that's hanging off the tower. Glory grabs another piece of chain and uses it to swing around the side, knocking Buffy aside as Buffy tries to reach the hammer.

Buffy falls aside, gets up, takes another kick from Glory and swings around the scaffolding, kicks Glory, ducks a punch and goes around Glory, kicks her from behind.

DAWN  
(looking down)  
Buffy!

Buffy tries to continue climbing but Glory hits her in the leg, making Buffy gasp in pain. They exchange some more blows, then Buffy resumes climbing up the outer scaffolding. Glory goes around beside her and climbs up as well, kicks Buffy as she's scaling up a pipe. Buffy slides back down to the previous level.

Buffy runs up a ramp, kicks Glory in the face, runs down the ramp again and manages to free the hammer. She swings it at Glory and hits her a couple of times, also hits a ladder which falls aside.

Glory hits Buffy in the face and she loses her balance. As she falls backward, she grabs Glory and they both fall off the tower.

They both hit the concrete below, a few feet away from each other. The hammer lands nearby.

Shot of Spike still fighting two minions at once.

Buffy gets to her feet. Glory does too. Buffy grabs Glory by the shoulders and pushes her away. Glory winds up a few dozen feet away, beside a wall.

GLORY  
You lost your hammer, sweet  
cheeks. What are you gonna hit me  
with now?

Buffy looks at the wall.

Glory turns to the wall also, just as a huge wrecking-ball crashes through the wall and into Glory. It crashes through a second wall, deposits Glory on the other side, and swings back.

BUFFY  
Whatever's handy.

Buffy turns and runs off.

Cut to Xander driving the machine that controls the wrecking ball. He shuts down the engine and sits back looking satisfied.

XANDER

The glorified bricklayer picks up  
a spare.

Cut to the hammer lying on the ground. Buffy grabs it as she runs past.

Cut to Spike, **Steven**, Anya, and Giles taking refuge behind something.

ANYA

Has anyone noticed we're going  
backwards?

STEVEN

**What do you mean by "backwards"?**

Spike straightens up to peek over the top of the machine. A brick hits him in the forehead. He ducks down again, looking annoyed.

SPIKE

It's crossed my mind.

Shot of the group of crazies standing between them and the stairs, glaring at them. There are also a few minions.

GILES

(panting)

As long as ... Buffy can keep  
Glory down ... long enough, it  
doesn't matter.

(looking up at the tower)

There's only a few minutes left  
to start the ritual.

Cut to Buffy hitting Glory with the hammer. Glory doesn't seem able to fight back, just stands there reeling each time Buffy hits her.

Cut to Dawn looking down at the fight. Suddenly she looks up and gasps.

We see Doc standing at the other end of the platform, inside the tower.

DAWN

You. You can help me. Untie me.  
Please. Help me, she's coming.



DOC  
 (walks forward)  
 Well, it seems she's running a  
 bit late, is the thing. And, uh,  
 if her Splendidness  
 (Dawn looks upset)  
 can't be here in time to bleed  
 you...

Dawn looks scared and anxious as she realizes he's not on her side.

DOC  
 (whispers)  
 Hey!  
 (winks)  
 Kid. Wanna see a trick?

Dawn looks fearfully at him.

Suddenly he produces a large shiny knife, holds it up in front of his face. Dawn gasps and cringes. Lingering shot of Doc holding the knife up with a small smile. Blackout.

#### Act IV

Open on a shot up at the top of the tower. Pan down to below.

Xander leaps over a fence and comes to join the others. Spike, **Steven**, Anya, and Giles are all still crouched behind their shelter, looking up at the tower.

XANDER  
 How we doing?

ANYA  
 So far it's a tie.

GILES  
 We haven't got up to Dawn, but  
 then neither has anyone else.

SPIKE  
 (still gazing up)  
 Someone's up there.

Shot of the underside of the platform from their POV. It's hard to tell how many people are there.

XANDER  
 Okay, we gotta charge or something.

ANYA  
 We tried that.

Zoom in on Spike's face.

WILLOW VOICEOVER  
Spike. Can you hear me?

SPIKE  
(frowns)  
Yeah, loud and clear.

Cut to Willow at the other side of the warehouse, with Tara behind her. Her lips don't move as she communicates telepathically to Spike.

WILLOW VOICEOVER  
Is there someone up there with Dawn?

SPIKE  
Yeah, can't tell who.

XANDER  
Are you talking to us?

WILLOW VOICEOVER  
Get up there. Go now.

STEVEN  
I'm goin' too.

WILLOW VOICEOVER  
Steven, no!

STEVEN  
I'm going after Dawn whether you  
like it or not!

Spike peers out uncertainly. The crazies and minions are still in battle stance.

SPIKE  
Yeah, but-

WILLOW VOICEOVER  
Go!

Spike gets up, **along with Steven**, and charges out as the others stare at him in surprise.

Willow puts her hand behind her without looking back. Tara puts her own hand in Willow's.

The entire crowd of minions and crazies suddenly parts into two halves like the Red Sea. They all yell in surprise -- an unseen force is shoving them aside as Spike runs through, **with Steven following**.

He reaches the stairs and leaps up them without slowing, **as does Steven who is still hot on Spike's heels.**

Spike **and Steven get** to the last level, runs up the ramp and begins climbing the ladder.

Cut to the top. Doc produces a pocket-watch and looks at it as Dawn watches him fearfully.

DOC

Well. What do you know?

(Spike appears behind  
him, **as does Steven**)

It's just about that time.

DAWN

Spike! **Steven!**

Doc whirls around as Spike strides slowly forward.

SPIKE

Doesn't a fella stay dead when  
you kill him?

DOC

Look who's talking.

SPIKE

Come on, Doc. Let's you and me  
have a go.

DOC

I ...

(tapping his knife  
against his hand)

do have a prior appointment.

SPIKE

This won't take long.

DOC

No, I-I don't imagine it will.

Spike lunges forward. Doc sidesteps, grabs Spike around the neck, and thrusts his knife into Spike's back. Spike gasps. Dawn gasps.

STEVEN

**That's it...**

**(pissed)**

**You're fired, Doc.**

**He charges at Doc and he tries to punch him, but Doc grabs Steven's fist, holding it in his hand.**

Once Steven gets the upper hand, turned around so he's in front of Dawn, Steven kicks Doc in the stomach, knocking him back.

STEVEN  
(determined)  
Nobody...absolutely nobody hurts  
her. She means the world to  
me...and to Buffy. If you want  
her...

He looks at Doc, straight-faced.

STEVEN  
(voice like steel)  
You come through me.

DOC  
(smirks)  
No problem.

He grips Steven's neck and flings him off of the tower.

Steven screams on the way down.

He crashes on the rubble below.

Cut to below. Buffy continues hitting Glory with the hammer. Glory has blood running out of her nose. She gives Buffy an anguished look.

GLORY  
You're just a mortal. You  
couldn't understand my pain.

BUFFY  
Then I'll just have to settle for  
causing it.

She hits Glory with the hammer again. Glory reels to the side, recovers and turns back.

GLORY  
You can't kill me.

BUFFY  
No ...  
(hefts the hammer)  
but my arm's not even tired yet.

She hits Glory again.

Cut to the bloody knife falling onto the floor of the platform. Pan up Spike's body as he is now standing between Dawn and Doc.

SPIKE  
You don't come near the girl, Doc.

DOC  
I don't smell a soul anywhere on you. Why do you even care?

SPIKE  
I made a promise to a lady.

DOC  
Oh?

Doc's long tongue appears from his mouth, shooting out at Spike, who ducks aside. Doc drops to his knees and pulls Spike's legs out from under him. Spike falls to the floor. Dawn watches anxiously as they grapple. They get to their feet, Doc holding on to Spike, pinning his arms behind him.

DOC  
Then I'll send the lady your regrets.

Spike gives Dawn an agonized look.

SPIKE  
(whispers)  
No.

Doc pushes Spike over the edge.

DAWN  
(screams)  
Aah! No!

Spike falls to the ground below, lands amid a pile of bricks and makes a pained face.

Cut to Glory falling to her knees. She looks up at Buffy, gasping, on the verge of tears.

GLORY  
Stop it.

BUFFY  
You're a god.

Buffy hits Glory again. She falls on her back on the floor.

BUFFY

Make it stop.

Buffy goes over to Glory, kneels beside her and hits her several more times. We don't see Glory during this, just Buffy as she slams the hammer down over and over.

Now we see Glory, lying there with blood covering half her face. She morphs into Ben. Buffy stops hitting.

BEN

I'm sorry.

BUFFY

Tell her it's over. She missed her shot.

(Ben watches her, not moving)  
She goes. She ever, \*ever\* comes near me and mine again...

BEN

We won't. I swear.

Buffy drops the hammer and hurries away.

Ben lies there, gives a pained cough and smiles painfully but still doesn't move.

BEN

I guess we're stuck with each other, huh baby?

He breathes painfully. Giles comes over and kneels beside him.

GILES

Can you move?

BEN

Need a ... a minute. She could've killed me.

GILES

No she couldn't. Never. And sooner or later Glory will re-emerge, and ... make Buffy pay for that mercy. And the world with her. Buffy even knows that...

(reaches into his pocket, takes out his glasses)  
and still she couldn't take a human life.

Shot of Ben listening.

GILES  
 She's a hero, you see.  
 (Giles puts his  
 glasses on)  
 She's not like us.

BEN  
 Us?

Giles suddenly reaches down and puts his hand over Ben's nose and mouth, holding them shut. Ben struggles weakly as Giles keeps him still. Giles keeps his calm expression throughout.

Shot of the top of the tower. Sound of Dawn screaming.

Cut to close shot of Dawn's stomach in the ceremonial dress. The knife cuts a thin slash through the material and the skin. Dawn cries out and sobs in pain.

DOC  
 Shallow cuts...  
 (Dawn crying)  
 shallow cuts...

He makes another cut and Dawn cries out again.

DOC  
 Let the blood ... flow ...

Shot of Dawn's bare feet on the edge of the platform. Blood drips over her toes.

DOC  
 ...free.

BUFFY  
 (OS)  
 Dawn.

DAWN  
 (gasping in pain)  
 Buffy!

Doc whirls around as Buffy strides forward.

DOC  
 This should be interesting.

Buffy doesn't even pause, just walks right past Doc, giving him a push as she goes. He falls over the edge. We can hear him faintly screaming as Buffy goes to Dawn, who continues crying.

BUFFY

Here.

DAWN

Buffy, it hurts.

Another shot of Dawn's bloody feet.

BUFFY

(OS)

I got it. Come here. You're gonna  
be okay.

A few drops of Dawn's blood drip over the edge. In midair they meet something, and a small circle of light appears, quickly growing.

Buffy leads Dawn limping across the platform to the tower entrance. Dawn stops, turns to Buffy.

BUFFY

Go!

DAWN

Buffy, it's started.

Buffy turns. They can both see the light of the portal.

Shot of the portal growing ever larger.

Shot of Sunnydale's main street as a huge bolt of lightning opens an enormous hole in the middle of the street. People scream and run away.

Shot of the portal crackling and sending out lightning.

Shot of a large building being hit by lightning and burning to a shell in instants.

Shot of weird demon creatures in the walls of the building, screaming in pain.

Long shot of the tower with the portal hovering beside it. Lightning continues to crackle out of it.

Cut to below. Giles stares upward. The ground shakes. The crazies and minions fall to the ground. Shot of Xander and Anya holding each other and staring up. Shot of Willow and Tara holding each other and staring up, turning to look in each other's eyes.

Shot of Spike still recovering from his fall. He rolls aside as a crack appears in the ground he's lying on.



**Shot of Steven still unconscious, not moving or breathing.**

Cut to Anya and Xander looking up.

ANYA

Xander!

Anya pushes Xander aside as a bolt of lightning goes by and a pile of bricks falls on Anya's head.

XANDER

Anya!

Shot of Anya lying unmoving among the bricks.

Shot of the portal continuing to do its destruction.

Cut to above. Buffy turns back to Dawn as Dawn continues staring at the portal.

DAWN

(tearful)

I'm sorry.

BUFFY

It doesn't matter.

Dawn tries to run past Buffy but Buffy grabs her.

BUFFY

What are you doing?

DAWN

I have to jump. The energy.

BUFFY

It'll kill you.

DAWN

(softly)

I know.

(Buffy staring at her)

Buffy, I know about the ritual. I have to stop it.

BUFFY

No.

The tower shakes underneath them, making them both stumble.

DAWN

I have to. Look at what's happening.

More lightning crackles, even larger than before. Buffy looks up. A huge dragon flies out of the portal and buzzes the tower, flying away as they watch.

DAWN

Buffy, you have to let me go.  
Blood starts it, and until the  
blood stops flowing, it'll never  
stop.

Buffy stares at Dawn in anguish.

DAWN

(tearfully)  
You know you have to let me. It  
has to have the blood.

Buffy gets a realization look on her face.

Flash to Spike earlier in the episode.

SPIKE

Cause it's always got to be blood.

Flash to Buffy and Dawn in the hospital at the end of "Blood Ties." Buffy putting her hand to her wound, then pressing it against Dawn's bloody hand.

BUFFY VOICEOVER

It's Summers blood. It's just  
like mine.

Flash to Buffy earlier in this episode.

BUFFY

She's me. The monks made her out  
of me.

Flash to Buffy beside the fire in "Intervention."

FIRST SLAYER

Death is your gift.

BUFFY

Death...

Flash back to the present. Close shot on Buffy's face.

FIRST SLAYER VOICEOVER

...is your gift.

Buffy frowns. Turns around slowly.

Shot of the platform extending into the air. In the distance, holes seem to be opening in the sky. The sky is growing lighter as the sun tries to rise.

Buffy looks peaceful. She turns back to Dawn, who stares wide-eyed.

DAWN  
Buffy ... no!

BUFFY  
Dawnie, I have to.

DAWN  
No!

BUFFY  
Listen to me. Please, there's not  
a lot of time, listen.

The camera pulls out on the two of them. Buffy holds Dawn by the upper arms and continues talking to her, although we don't hear the words. Dawn begins to cry. Lightning continues to crackle behind them.

Cut back to close shot of Buffy. She strokes the side of Dawn's face, then kisses her on the cheek. Dawn continues to cry.

Buffy turns. In slow-motion, she runs down the platform as Dawn stays there crying.

Buffy swan-dives off the end of the platform and into the portal.

Dawn watches, sobbing.

Buffy falls into the portal and hangs there motionless, making expressions of pain.

Long shot from below of the portal writhing and spitting.

Shot of Buffy's face inside the portal.

Begin a lengthy voiceover of Buffy's final words to Dawn.

BUFFY VOICEOVER  
Dawn, listen to me. Listen.

Shot of Dawn still crying on the platform.

BUFFY VOICEOVER  
I love you. I will \*always\* love  
you.

Shot of Buffy in the portal.

BUFFY VOICEOVER  
But this is the work that I have  
to do.

Long shot of the portal as it shrinks to nothingness and disappears. The sun begins to rise.

Cut to below. Willow and Tara, holding each other up, walk forward. Behind them we can see Giles coming forward too, and Xander holding Anya in his arms. They all walk forward, staring at something we can't see.

BUFFY VOICEOVER  
Tell Giles ... tell Giles I  
figured it out. And, and I'm okay.

The camera pulls back and we see they're all looking at Buffy's lifeless body lying amid the debris. In the background we see Spike trying to come forward, falling to the ground as the sunlight hits him.

Cut to closer shot of Spike, his face bloodied.

Cut to closer shot of Willow and Tara as Willow begins to cry.

BUFFY VOICEOVER  
And give my love to my friends.

Shot of Xander and Anya looking sadly at Buffy. Anya lowers her head to Xander's shoulder.

BUFFY VOICEOVER  
You have to take care of them now.

Shot of Giles looking sad.

BUFFY VOICEOVER  
You have to take care of each other.

Giles begins to cry. Cut to Spike with his hands over his face, sobbing.

BUFFY VOICEOVER  
You have to be strong.

Cut to Dawn coming slowly down the stairs, holding her sides, spotting the others.

BUFFY VOICEOVER  
Dawn, the hardest thing in this  
world ... is to live in it.

Dawn begins to cry again.

Cut to Buffy giving her speech to Dawn a few minutes ago.

BUFFY  
Be brave. Live.

Cut back to Dawn on the stairs.

BUFFY VOICEOVER  
For me.

Cut to: graveyard, day. It's sunny and pretty with lots of trees and grass. Zoom in slowly on a headstone. A small bunch of flowers lies on the grass in front of it.

The headstone reads:

BUFFY ANNE SUMMERS

BELOVED SISTER

DEVOTED FRIEND

SHE SAVED THE WORLD

A LOT

**Cut back to the rubble. We focus on Steven's body. We zoom in, lingering on it for a second, as he lies still looking at the camera.**

**His eyes snap open.**

Blackout.

Executive Producer: Joss Whedon.