

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 Real Me

A Buffy the Vampire Slayer episode transcribed by Joan the English Chick (pisces/englishchick.com). Original Air Date: October 3, 2000

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.

Episode begins with a black screen.

GILES VOICEOVER
There is nothing but you.

Head-shot of Buffy with her eyes closed. Quiet, meditative music begins.

GILES VOICEOVER
You are the center. And within
you, there is the core of your
being ... of what you are.

Shot of Giles walking in a circle around Buffy.

GILES
Find it ... breathe into it.

We see Buffy wearing a tank-top and pants, leaning over a short pedestal with both her hands on it. Giles walks in front of her.

GILES VOICEOVER
Focus inward. Let the world fall
away ... fall away ... fall away....

The camera zooms in on Buffy's face as Giles repeats "fall away." She opens her eyes. Buffy leans forward and goes into a handstand, balancing on her hands on the pedestal. The pedestal is about two feet high and four inches square. We see exercise mats underneath it and a vault in the background. Giles is still walking circles around Buffy, staring at her.

Shot of a large flat crystal with three smaller crystals standing on end atop it.

Shot of Giles watching Buffy.

Closeup of Buffy's face, eyes closed again. She begins to remove one hand from the pedestal.

Slow-motion shot of Buffy bringing one arm out parallel to the floor, so she is balancing on the other hand. Giles still walking around her, watching. The music continues. Buffy's face looks very peaceful.

Shot of the crystals. A hand appears and tries to balance a fourth crystal on top of the three standing ones, but it's clumsy and all the crystals fall over with a clunk.

Buffy's eyes pop open, she loses her concentration and crashes to the floor with a cry. Giles starts toward her in alarm, sees she's all right. He then looks in a different direction, pulling off his glasses in an angry motion.

Shot of the ceiling from Buffy's point of view. Dawn's face emerges into the shot.

DAWN

Can we go now?

Shot of Buffy looking annoyed.

Wolf howl. Opening credits.

Michelle Trachtenberg (Dawn) is now listed with the regular cast members, after Emma Caulfield and before James Marsters.

Guest starring Mercedes McNab, Bob Morrisey, Amber Benson as Tara and Kristine Sutherland as Joyce Summers. Written by David Fury, directed by David Grossman.

Act I

Fade in on a hanging mobile of fish. The camera pans across a bedroom.

DAWN VOICEOVER

Nobody knows who I am. Not the real me. It's like, nobody cares enough to find out. I mean, does anyone ever ask *me* what I want to do with my life? Or what my opinion is on stuff? Or what restaurant to order in from?

We see Dawn sitting on a bed, wearing pajamas, writing in a diary. There's a huge pile of stuffed animals on the bed with her.

DAWN VOICEOVER
No. Underline. Exclamation point.

We see her underlining the word and drawing the exclamation point. She ponders for a moment and then violently draws a few more, stabbing at the paper with her pen.

DAWN VOICEOVER
Exclamation point, exclamation point.
(pause)
No one understands. No one has an older sister who's a slayer.

Shot of Buffy opening the refrigerator and taking out a carton of milk.

DAWN VOICEOVER
People wouldn't be so crazy about her if they had to live in the same house with her every single day. Everybody cares what she thinks. Just 'cause she can do backflips and stuff.

Buffy sniffs the milk and puts it on the counter. In the background we see Joyce drinking coffee and Dawn opening a cabinet to get out a box of cereal. Buffy picks up a banana from a bowl of fruit, turns away.

DAWN VOICEOVER
Like that's *such* a crucial job skill in the real world.

As Buffy moves to the background of the shot to get a bowl, Joyce and Dawn move to the foreground. Joyce pours milk into her coffee cup. Dawn opens the cereal box and sits down.

DAWN VOICEOVER
Plus Mom lets her get away with everything. "Your sister's saving the world."

Joyce moves to the background again as Buffy returns with a bowl, which she places on the counter, moving the milk carton aside. She picks up the banana again and turns away, peeling it. Dawn takes Buffy's bowl and pours cereal into it.

DAWN VOICEOVER

I could so save the world if
somebody handed me super powers...

Dawn turns away from the table as Buffy returns with a knife, prepared to slice the banana into her bowl, but finds the bowl missing. She sees it sitting at Dawn's spot full of cereal, and makes an irritated face.

DAWN VOICEOVER

...but I'd think of a cool name
and wear a mask to protect my
loved ones, which Buffy doesn't
even.

Dawn returns with a spoon, wearing an innocent expression. Buffy turns away to get another bowl, and Dawn picks up the carton of milk. She empties it into her bowl and sits down to eat.

DAWN VOICEOVER

If this town wasn't so lame
everyone would completely know
what she does. And then I bet
they wouldn't even be that
impressed, because like, killing
things with wood? Oh, scary
vampires, they die from a splinter.

Buffy returns with another bowl, reaches across Dawn for the cereal box, pours it into her bowl, picks up the milk carton and finds it empty. Dawn continues eating, pretending not to notice.

JOYCE

So Buffy, what are your plans today?

Buffy continues giving Dawn a dirty look for a moment, then looks away.

BUFFY

Oh, actually, Giles and I are
gonna go to the magic shop for
supplies for my new and improved
training sessions.

JOYCE

Oh, that's great.

BUFFY

(walking to sink, then
to fridge)
Oh, yeah, I'm actually-

JOYCE
(interrupts)
You can take Dawn shopping for
back to school supplies.

Dawn puts down her spoon and turns around, preparing to argue.

BUFFY
What??

DAWN
Mom, I-I thought you were taking me.

JOYCE
Well, honey, I've got the Gurion
showing tonight, and there's so
much to do to get the gallery
ready.
(Turns to leave kitchen.)

BUFFY
No, but, see, Mom --

Buffy and Dawn run after Joyce as she walks to the living room.

BUFFY
That doesn't really work for me.
We're just going to the magic
shop. No school supplies there.

DAWN
Yeah, Mom, I'm not going to
Hogwarts.
(She giggles at her
own joke till she
notices Buffy looking
annoyed and confused.)
Geez, crack a book sometime.

JOYCE
Look, I'm sure Giles doesn't mind
dropping you and your sister off
at the mall afterwards.

BUFFY
Actually, he does mind. This is
supposed to be quality
Watcher/sl原因er time. I told you,
she completely ruined my training
yesterday.

DAWN
Did not!

BUFFY
Oh, you know you did too.

JOYCE
Buffy. I realize the importance
of your new slayer thing, but-

Knock on door.

JOYCE
-I could really use your help.

She walks past the two girls, both sighing and rolling their eyes in annoyance. They glare at each other as Joyce opens the door and Riley comes in.

RILEY
Morning, Mrs. Summers. You look great.

JOYCE
Oh, thank you, Riley.
(Exits)

Buffy goes over to Riley.

BUFFY
Suck up.

RILEY
What? It's a nice outfit.

Dawn pretends not to be watching them.

BUFFY
Mm-hmm.

RILEY
Besides, "I'm here to violate
your firstborn" never goes over
with parents. Not sure why.

He and Buffy smooch.

DAWN VOICEOVER
Riley, my sister's boyfriend, is
so into her. They're always
kissing ... and groping. I bet
they have sex!

Riley stops kissing Buffy and looks at Dawn.

RILEY

Hey, kid.

DAWN

I'm not a kid.

She walks off as Buffy & Riley move into the living room.

BUFFY

Well, this is a surprise of the nicest kind.

RILEY

Now it's my turn to be surprised. I thought we had plans today.

They sit on the sofa.

BUFFY

Plans? We planned plans?

RILEY

Well, you said, uh, "come over tomorrow and we'll hang," and then I said, "OK." Not the invasion of Normandy, but still a plan.

Buffy nods in resignation.

BUFFY

Right.

RILEY

(studying her expression)
We're not hangin' today, are we?

BUFFY

Giles is on his way to pick me up.

RILEY

Oh, slayer training.

BUFFY

Slayer shopping, actually, but equally as important.

RILEY

I have no doubt. Okay, well, we'll hook up later.
(Starts to get up)

BUFFY
Are you mad at me?

RILEY
Oh, no, not at all. I'm plotting
your death, but in a happy way.
(Smiles)

BUFFY
Good.

RILEY
Look, Buffy, I know what this
means to you. I think it's great
that you've got this new mission.
I'll see you tonight.

(Smooch. Riley gets up.)

RILEY
Bye.
(calling)
See ya, kid!

DAWN
(OS)
I'm not a kid!

Cut to a shot of a bright red convertible driving down the street. Giles is at the wheel, Buffy beside him and Dawn in the back. Classical music plays on the radio.

GILES
Well, I sympathize with you,
Buffy, I truly do. But I'm
certain that Riley understands
better than anyone else the
importance of training. You can't
allow personal concerns to
distract you from-
(Dawn reaches between
them to change the
radio station)
Dawn, will you stop fiddling with
the radio and sit down?

Dawn sits back, looking exasperated. The radio plays classical music.

DAWN VOICEOVER
I don't think Buffy's Watcher
likes me too much.

Shot of Dawn back in her room, writing in her diary.

DAWN VOICEOVER

I think it's 'cause he's just so
... old. I'm not sure how old he
is, but I heard him use the word
"newfangled" one time. So he's
gotta be pretty far gone.

Cut back to Dawn fidgeting in the backseat of the car.

BUFFY

(studying a piece of paper)
There's a lot of books on this
list. Any of them come on tape?
You know, read by George Clooney
or someone cute like that?

GILES

You're entering a new realm here,
Buffy. One for which I myself am
not entirely prepared. Are you
ready for this commitment?

BUFFY

I'm just kidding! Hey, this
Betty's ready. Color me committed.

The car engine races as Giles tries to shift.

GILES

Blast!

BUFFY

You put it in neutral again, huh?

GILES

I'm just not used to this
automatic transmission. I-I
loathe this sitting here, not
contributing.

Shot of Dawn looking surprised.

GILES

No, i-it's not working out.

BUFFY

Giles, are you breaking up with
your car?

GILES

Well, it did seduce me, all red
and sporty!

BUFFY
Little two-door tramp.

Giles gives her a sour look.

GILES
I-I-I don't know, I just - I was
so at loose ends, I-I found
myself searching for...some way
of feeling more...

BUFFY
Shallow?

GILES
Perhaps, as I am to act as your
Watcher again, a modicum of
respect might be in order.

BUFFY
Do I have to?

GILES
I'm serious, Buffy, there's going
to be far less time for the sort
of flighty, frivolous-

DAWN
(pointing)
Hey, there's Willow, **Steven** and
Tara!

GILES
Ooh, they haven't seen my new car.

He pulls over. Buffy rolls her eyes at him. We see Willow,
Steven, and Tara coming out of the coffee shop.

WILLOW
Hey Giles, sharp wheels!

STEVEN
(impressed)
Yeah, totally!

TARA
The rest of the car's nice too.

STEVEN
(chuckles)
**Just to clarify...I was actually
talking about the whole car.**

Everyone gets out of the car.

GILES
Handles like a dream.

BUFFY
Where are you guys heading?

WILLOW
Magic shop. I have some charms on
back order.

DAWN
(smiling)
Willow, hi.

WILLOW
Hey Dawny!
(They hug)
How's my favorite chess partner?
Still leading with your knight?

Dawn shrugs in embarrassment.

DAWN VOICEOVER
Willow's the awesomest person.

Cut back to Dawn in pajamas, now lying on her bed writing in
the diary with a smile.

DAWN VOICEOVER
She's the only one I know who
likes school as much as me.

Cut back to the street. Dawn smiles at Willow, then the
camera pans over to Tara.

DAWN VOICEOVER
Even her friends are cool!

Tara smiles and gives a little wave.

TARA
Hey Dawn.

DAWN VOICEOVER

Like Tara.

(Cut back to Dawn in
the bedroom)

She and Willow are both witches.
They do spells and stuff, which
is so much cooler than slaying. I
told Mom one time I wished they'd
teach me some of the things they
do together. A-and then she got
really quiet and made me go
upstairs.

(She pauses in her
writing and looks puzzled.)

Huh. I guess her generation isn't
cool with witchcraft.

Cut back to the street.

STEVEN

(smiles)

Hey, Dawnie.

He hugs her.

STEVEN

How are ya?

DAWN

(smiles)

Good.

DAWN VOICEOVER

Steven's cool too. He's the only
male Slayer. He's really nice,
too. Smart...funny...just
amazing.

(comes out of it)

Sorry.

(continues)

He's always treated me with
respect and he's such a great guy.

Cut back to the street. Dawn and Tara are walking side-by-side, with Giles ahead of them and Buffy, **Steven** and Willow in the lead.

BUFFY

So Giles and I worked out a whole
schedule around school. A block
of time every day just to focus
on my new slayer training.

WILLOW

That's a work ethic! Buffy,
you're developing a work ethic.

BUFFY

Oh, no. Do they make an ointment
for that?

STEVEN

I don't think so.

WILLOW

People gotta respect a solid work
ethic. Look at you, motivated
Buffy. Eager to soak up learning.
Oh, you and I are gonna have so
much fun this semester.

BUFFY

(stops walking, and so
do the rest of them)
Yeah, that reminds me. With the
whole new training schedule, I
kinda had to drop a class.

WILLOW

That's understandable. Your
slayer studies are way more
important.

BUFFY

So I won't be taking drama with you.

In the background we see Tara and Dawn peering in the
windows of the magic shop.

WILLOW

What? You have to, you promised!

STEVEN

**What happened to "Your Slayer
studies are way more important"?**

BUFFY

Well, I know, but Giles said that
it just was-

(gesturing to Giles
who's behind her,
looking in the
opposite direction)

WILLOW
The hell with Giles.
(Giles turns in surprise)

GILES
I can hear you, Willow.

WILLOW
Drama is just Tuesday and
Thursday afternoons. You can blow
off training Tuesday and Thursday
afternoons, can't you?

BUFFY
What happened to "people gotta
respect a work ethic"?

WILLOW
Other people, not me! There's a
whole best friend loophole.

TARA
(calling to them)
Shop's kinda dark. Maybe it's
closed.

GILES
That's odd.

Everyone looks bemused and walks toward the magic shop.

Cut to interior of the magic shop as Giles opens the door
and walks in. It's dark and the furniture is overturned.
Giles and Buffy walk in slowly, followed by the others, all
looking around.

BUFFY
Well, I think "odd" just got
upped to "bad."

GILES
(calling)
Hello? Anyone here?

TARA
Mr. Bogarty?

Everyone looks at Tara.

TARA
The owner. I-I come in here a lot.

Willow advances farther into the store.

WILLOW
Well, maybe this happened ...
really late at night when nobody
was...

She trips over something and falls to the floor.

BUFFY
Will?

STEVEN
(worried)
Willow, are you okay??

Tara comes forward.

WILLOW
I'm fine, I - I just tripped over...

She sits up and sees the body. He's lying face-up and we can
see vampire bite marks on his neck.

WILLOW
Mr. Bogarty.

DAWN
(behind Buffy and Giles)
Wha-what is it, is he okay?

STEVEN
(sighs)
(quietly)
Doesn't look like it.

She tries to move forward but Buffy pushes her back.

BUFFY
It's nothing you need to see,
Dawn, go wait outside.

Buffy hustles her toward the door with a hand on Dawn's elbow.

DAWN
I don't wanna wait outside!

BUFFY
Dawn!

DAWN
Ow, that hurt!
(Buffy pushes her out
the door onto the street)
You're hurting me. I'm telling.

BUFFY
Look, I don't have time for this.
Just do as I say and wait.

She starts off, then turns back.

BUFFY
Here.

Buffy goes back inside. Dawn sighs in annoyance, walks around a little, then goes back and peers between the blinds. Inside the shop she can see Buffy, Tara and Willow standing around as Giles kneels beside the body.

GUY
Whatcha doin'?

Dawn turns with a gasp. A scruffy older man is standing there, unshaven, his tie loose.

GUY
What are you doing here? You
can't loiter. There's no loitering.

He advances on Dawn as she backs up, scared.

GUY
That's why I'm a cat. Quiet. See,
cat's in the cupboard
(making cat-scratching
gestures with his hands)
but they find you there anyway,
and it hurts.

Dawn has backed up against a van. She looks around, scared.

GUY
(sobbing)
Please, make it stop.
(in a different tone)
Shut up, shut up, they'll hear you!

DAWN
(tries to call out)
Buff-
(Shrieks as the guy
puts his finger on her lips)

GUY
I know you. Curds and whey.
(Dawn looks shocked)
I know what you are.
(slowly and ominously)
You ... don't ... belong ... here.

Dawn shakes her head, looks on the verge of tears. Blackout.

Act II

Cut in on the outer door to the magic shop. It opens and Tara comes out. She looks around.

TARA
Dawn?

She walks out a little farther, looking around.

TARA
Dawn?

She looks down and sees Dawn sitting on the ground, leaning against a building.

TARA
Dawn. You okay?

DAWN
Is ... Is that guy dead in there?

Tara nods.

TARA
Yeah.

She sits down next to Dawn.

TARA
They're gonna be a little while longer, doing the detective thing. Best non-scoobies like you and me stay out of the way.

Dawn nods. They sit silently for a few moments.

TARA
Do you wanna thumb-wrestle?

Dawn nods again.

DAWN
Okay.

They lock their hands together and begin to thumb-wrestle.

Cut to a shot of the dead guy lying face-up. Giles' hands reach over and close his eyes.

BUFFY
Judging by the bite-fest, I'd say
it was more than one vampire.

GILES
(standing up)
I make it four at least.

STEVEN
(disgusted)
Some sorta...vampire orgy.

BUFFY
Looks like someone's put together
a new fang club.
(Walks to the counter.
Willow is behind it,
holding a book.)

WILLOW
Well, I've cross-checked the
inventory list, and things are
definitely missing.
(puts inventory book
on the counter)
Mostly books. Including "A
Treatise on the Mythology" and
Methodology of the Vampire Slayer."

Buffy pulls out her list as Giles picks up the inventory book.

BUFFY
Oh, shoot! Was that the only copy?

STEVEN
Yeah, that sucks, Buff.

GILES
Come on, Buffy, this could be
very serious. Whoever's leading
this pack of vampires appears to
be interested in learning more
about you. Perhaps searching for
weaknesses or ... good lord.

BUFFY
What?

GILES

Well, I had no idea the profit margins on a shop like this were so high.

STEVEN

Huh?

Buffy and Willow exchange a look.

GILES

Look at this! Uh, low overhead, out-of-state orders, international - it's no wonder there's never any trouble attracting new owners.

(Looking around)

A place like this is a virtual-

BUFFY

Deathtrap?

GILES

What? Well, uh, yes, there is that. But, uh, still...

(puts book down and

looks around some more)

Location, pedestrian traffic...

WILLOW

So what's the next step?

GILES

(still gazing around)

Buffy, you should begin looking for their lair straight away.

BUFFY

I'll get Riley to help me patrol.

WILLOW

Wait, aren't you forgetting something?

GILES

Impressive square footage...

He walks off as Buffy gives Willow a questioning look

WILLOW

You're on Dawn duty.

Buffy looks annoyed.

BUFFY

Oh, duty. I gotta drop my sister
back home.

(eyes widening)

My mother's gonna *kill* me.

GILES

(wandering back into view)

I bet the death rate keeps the
rent down.

(pauses)

Oh, hello. Something's been taken
from this case, look here.

He goes over to a case where the glass has been knocked out.

BUFFY

What'd they take?

Willow looks in the inventory book.

GILES

I should think an item of, of
value, or-or power, possibly even
a-

WILLOW

A unicorn. 10-inch ceramic
unicorn imported from Thailand.

BUFFY

Was it valuable?

Giles stares in puzzlement at the empty case.

WILLOW

(OS)

List price, \$12.95.

GILES

Which begs the question, what
kind of an unholy creature
fancies cheap tasteless statuary?

STEVEN

Spike!

Cut to head shot of Harmony.

HARMONY

Okay, hi. First of all, I wanna thank everybody for a really successful raid on the magic shop last night.

(applauding)

Good job, minions!

We see Harmony in the underground lair, wearing a skimpy black top and shiny gold pants. Four male vampires are standing around. They applaud along with her, a little uncertainly. They are Brad, Cyrus, Peaches, and Mort. Mort is very tall and large, whereas the others are fairly average-sized.

HARMONY

Yes, you deserve it. Secondly...

(turns away to reach
for something)

somebody remembered to pick me up
the sweetest little unicorn!

(Holds up the ceramic
unicorn and smiles at
Brad. The other vamps
stare at him.)

BRAD

(whispering to other vamps)
What?

HARMONY

Brad, guess someone was feeling
guilty for standing me up in the
tenth grade.

(Admiring the unicorn)

BRAD

(to other vamps)
I, I had to get her something.
She sired me.

PEACHES

(to Cyrus)
Sire-whipped.

We see Mort adding the unicorn to a large collection of other unicorn statues sitting on a table.

HARMONY

Anyway, the books you guys brought me to help with the plan? Well, I've been skimming through the book jackets all morning, and let me tell you, there's some pretty useful stuff in there, so-

Cyrus raises his hand.

HARMONY

Yes, uh ... sorry, forgot your name.

CYRUS

Cyrus.

HARMONY

Cyrus, huh, right. Peaches' friend.

(Peaches nods)

What's your question?

CYRUS

When are we gonna do it?

HARMONY

Eww! That's rude! I barely know you!

(Cyrus looks sideways

at the other vamps in confusion)

Uch, and you're a minion!

MORT

He means the plan! When are we gonna do the plan?

HARMONY

Ohhh! The plan!

(laughs in embarrassment)

Ah, well, first lemme tell you

I'm really psyched about it and I hope the rest of you guys-

MORT

(yelling)

When?!

HARMONY

(yelling)

Tonight!

(more calmly)

We kill the slayer ... tonight.

(Smiles in self-satisfaction.)

The other vamps grin and nod at each other.

Cut to Dawn sitting on her bed holding her diary, wearing the same clothes she was wearing at the magic shop.

JOYCE VOICEOVER

So not only didn't you take your
sister shopping for school
supplies-

Dawn listens in. Cut to Joyce's bedroom. While Buffy and Joyce argue, Joyce walks back and forth getting dressed and putting on jewelry.

JOYCE

-you brought her to a murder scene.

BUFFY

No, I didn't bring her to it, it
... just ... sorta came upon us.
It's not like she saw the body or
anything.

JOYCE

Oh, well. That makes it all right
then, doesn't it?

BUFFY

No, that is not what I meant.

JOYCE

I asked one favor of you, Buffy.
To look after your sister. And
now you want to unload her, so
you and Riley can go out.

BUFFY

To patrol. I'm working, it's not
like I wanna go to the sock hop.

JOYCE

I have to be at the pre-show
reception in half an hour. Who's
gonna watch Dawn?

DAWN

(OS, calling from her room)
I don't need anyone to watch me!

BUFFY AND JOYCE

(unison)
Yes you do!

Joyce walks into the bathroom.

BUFFY

Wait. So what you're saying is if I can get an acceptable babysitter here before you leave, I can go patrol?

DAWN

(OS)

Babysitter? I'm fourteen! I'm old enough to **be** a babysitter!

JOYCE

And who are you gonna get on such short notice?

DAWN

(OS)

I can take care of myself!

BUFFY

(suddenly realizing)

Xander.

JOYCE

Xander?

Sound of running footsteps. Joyce and Buffy look up as Dawn appears in the doorway.

DAWN

Okay.

Doorbell rings.

Cut to Dawn running up to the front door, pausing to fix her hair. She's wearing a tight short dress. She opens the door. Xander stands there holding a pizza.

XANDER

Dawn patrol.

DAWN

(smiling)

Hey.

XANDER

Check this out, they put cheese on round bread. It's gonna be big.

He comes in. Dawn watches him with a smile as Joyce appears, putting on a jacket. We see her and Xander talking, but we only hear Dawn's voiceover.

DAWN VOICEOVER

Xander is so much cuter than anyone. And smarter too. He totally skipped college and got a job working construction. Which is so kind of ... deep, you know? He builds things. And he's brave too.

Cut to Dawn in her pajamas, lying on the bed and writing in her diary.

DAWN VOICEOVER

Just last week he went undercover to stop that Dracula guy.

(Note: the closed-captions provide the following dialogue during this scene which is not actually heard:

JOYCE

Xander, thanks for doing this.

XANDER

Total non-sweat.

JOYCE

Again, thanks for coming. Oh, uh, here is my card. If you have any problems, you just call me on the cell phone.)

Cut back to downstairs as Joyce gives Xander her card.

XANDER

Have fun. Not too much fun, though.

(Although we can hear this line and it sounds like Xander's voice, we see his face and his lips aren't moving.)

JOYCE

Dawn, be good.
(Kisses Dawn goodbye)

XANDER

Oh, we will. We're just gonna play with matches, run with scissors, take candy from ...

(MORE)

XANDER (CONT'D)
some guy ... I don't know his
name.

(Winks at Dawn. Joyce
leaves, and Dawn,
smiling at Xander,
starts to shut the door.)

DAWN VOICEOVER
Xander treats everyone like an
equal. He doesn't look down on
people.

Anya appears in the doorway, preventing Dawn from closing
the door. Anya carries a stack of board-game boxes.

ANYA
Hello there, little girl.

Dawn's happy expression turns to one of dismay.

DAWN VOICEOVER
Even when he should.

ANYA
(talking as if to a
very small child)
We are gonna have fun, fun, fun.
Look, I've got Monopoly, Clue,
and ooh, the Game of Life! That
sounds good!

Dawn looks upset. She closes the door.

TARA
(OS)
Poor Dawn.

Cut to Tara looking at herself in a mirror, which is above a
sink with a towel rack beside it.

TARA
She was pretty shaken up.

WILLOW
Well, sure. Bloody death and stuff.

The camera pans out and we see they are in a dorm room,
unpacking. Willow goes to hang a painting while Tara is
unpacking bathroom stuff from a box.

WILLOW
She'll be okay.

TARA

It's just ... I, I think it's tough for her, not being able to ... well, allowed to, you know, help.

Willow tries the painting in a few places, then puts it atop a bureau and begins unpacking another box.

WILLOW

Help?

TARA

Oh, you. You guys. The Slayer circle.

WILLOW

Well, Buffy doesn't really need ... a-and I think Dawn's a little young.

TARA

I-I know, you're right. It's just hard. That outsider feeling.

Willow looks over at her.

WILLOW

Tara ... you're not an outsider.

TARA

Well, yeah. I kinda am.

WILLOW

(walking toward her)
No, you're not.

TARA

Willow, it's okay. Where does this go?

WILLOW

Somebody making you feel uncomfortable? Is it Xander? It's Xander, isn't it?

TARA

Xander's a sweetie.

WILLOW

It's Giles! It's 'cause he's ... British and doesn't understand about stuff.

TARA

It's no one.

(Continues taking
stuff out of the box)
You guys all just have this
really tight bond. It's-it's hard
to break into that. And I'm not
even sure I want to.

Willow walks up behind Tara and puts her arms around Tara's waist, resting her chin on Tara's shoulder.

WILLOW

I'm sure.

Tara puts her hands over Willow's.

WILLOW

You're completely one of the gang
now. Everyone accepts that.

Closeup of their faces as they both smile.

WILLOW

You're one of the good guys.

Tara's smile disappears and she pulls away, disengaging herself from Willow's embrace. Willow doesn't notice her expression.

WILLOW

Maybe I can talk to the rest of
the group and we can do something,
some kind of scooby initiation.

(They both return to
what they were doing)
Oh! Maybe we could wear some kind
of special ring that identifies
us as members.

TARA

I don't think so. But maybe
something like that would be nice
for Dawn. I do worry about her
sometimes.

WILLOW

You don't have to. She's got big
sister Buffy happily looking out
for her.

Cut to Buffy and Riley walking through a graveyard.

BUFFY

So then my mom goes off on me about how I'm supposed to watch out for Dawn and make sure that she's shielded from something that might upset her.

RILEY

Like dead shopkeepers.

BUFFY

She didn't see him! A foot, maybe. A dead foot, which is bad, okay, but hello, I see dead stuff *all* the time, and you don't see Mom shielding me.

RILEY

So you want your mother to give you space to be a slayer, and shield you from it at the same time.

BUFFY

Thank you, logic boy. Did I mention this is a rant? Sense really has no place in it.

RILEY

I'm getting that.

(sighs)

What's the deal, Buffy? You seem really-

Buffy stops him by putting out a hand. She stops walking and looks intently to her right.

BUFFY

Oh, trash can. From a distance it looked kinda-

RILEY

Tense.

BUFFY

Nooo, I-I was gonna say brown, squat, shadowy...

RILEY

Uh-uh. Back to what I was saying before we were rudely attacked by nothing. You seem really tense.

BUFFY

(shrugs)

Yeah, there's a new vampire gang in town.

RILEY

I mean domestically tense. You're on Dawn's case a lot.

BUFFY

I guess. It's just...

(sighs)

I don't know, it ... I know it's always been this way. She's the baby. But for some reason lately, it's just really getting to me. She's **always** around.

RILEY

Well, yeah. You're like her idol, Buffy.

BUFFY

Her idol? I don't think so, unless you like to spill things on your idol's new leather pants, and-

RILEY

You know what I mean. You have super powers ... and college ... a studly yet sensitive boyfriend...

BUFFY

And a pesky life-or-death job that I can't quit or even take a break from.

RILEY

She doesn't get the sacrifices. She's a kid.

BUFFY

And that's what bugs. **She** gets to be a kid, and she acts like it's the biggest burden in the world. Sometimes **I** would like to just curl up in Mom's lap and not worry about the fate of the world. I'd like to be the one who's protected, who's waited on--

Cut to Joyce's house.

DAWN

-hand and foot, getting her own way. Always the favorite.

We see that they're playing the Game of Life around a low table in the living room, surrounded by various junk food. Dawn is eating a bowl of ice cream.

XANDER

You nut. Your mom loves you both equally. But if I'm wrong, I find money usually helps tip the scale. Slip Joyce a 10 or a 20 once in a while. Then we'll see who's the favorite.

Dawn smiles.

DAWN VOICEOVER

He says I'm like a kid sister...

XANDER

(looking at the game board)
Here comes the judge!

DAWN VOICEOVER

...but sometimes when he looks at me, I feel like he sees me as I am...

Xander gives Dawn a big goofy grin.

DAWN VOICEOVER

...as a woman.

We see that Dawn has chocolate ice cream smeared all over her face.

ANYA

Oh, crap!

(slaps down her cards)
Look at this! Now I'm burdened with a husband and several tiny pink children, more cash than I can reasonably manage...

XANDER

That means you're winning.

ANYA

Really?

XANDER

Yes. Cash equals good.

ANYA

Ooh!

(claps her hands in excitement)

I'm so pleased.

(Scoops up the plastic

markers that represent children)

Can I trade in the children for
more cash?

Dawn gives her a disgusted look.

Suddenly something smashes in the window, showering them with broken glass. They all duck behind the table. Dawn shrieks. Xander gets up and goes to see what it was. Anya follows. Xander picks up a rock with a note tied around it. He unties the string, hands the rock to Anya, and reads the note. Dawn stays on the floor watching.

XANDER

"Slayer, come out and die."

We see the note, written in large letters. The "i" in "die" is dotted with a smiley-face.

HARMONY

(OS)

I'm waiting for you, Buffy!

Xander goes over to the hole in the window and peeks out. He sees Harmony, surrounded by her four minions, who carry weapons. Harmony looks annoyed.

HARMONY

(yells)

I know you're in there!

Cut to Xander standing in the doorway, holding the front door open.

HARMONY

(OS)

What do you mean, she's not in
there?

Xander looks unimpressed.

HARMONY

She has to be. I'm calling her out!

We see Anya and Dawn a few feet behind Xander.

XANDER

Then I bet she'll be real sorry
she missed your call. 'Fraid you
and your buddies are gonna have
to come back and be killed by
Buffy later.

HARMONY

(scornful)
They're not my buddies. They're
my minions.

XANDER

They're...what now?

HARMONY

Minions! You know, lackeys? They
work for me.

Xander looks skeptical. Then he starts laughing.

HARMONY

What's so funny?!

XANDER

Nothing! What could be funny,
just "Look out, it's a terrifying
Harmony gang, ooh!"
(Laughing)

HARMONY

Stop laughing!
(Tries to attack him,
but she can't go past
the doorway. Dawn
ducks behind Anya.
Xander continues laughing)

XANDER

I just, I just can't picture
anyone pathetic enough to be
following-
(Looks at the minions
again and pretends to
be shocked)
Is that Brad Konig? Huh! Hey
Brad, who'd have thought when you
were beating up kids in gym
class, you'd end up Harmony's
lapdog?

BRAD
Screw you, Harris.

HARMONY
You should know all about being
somebody's lapdog. I hear you
were a good little puppy for
Dracula.

Anya and Dawn look insulted on Xander's behalf.

XANDER
You heard wrong.

HARMONY
(laughs)
Don't feel bad. I hear that mind-
control thing he does works
really well on weak fraidy-cat
losers. You didn't stand a chance.

DAWN
(still behind Anya)
Shut up!

XANDER
Dawn, I'm handling this. Shut up,
Harmony!

HARMONY
Make me.

XANDER
Fraid I don't feel like getting
into another hair-pulling contest
with you.

HARMONY
You're the hair-puller, you big
girl!

DAWN
Oh yeah? Come inside and say that!
Xander will kick your-

ANYA
Dawn, no!

Xander makes his "uh-oh" face.

Harmony morphs into vampire face and lunges at Xander,
shoving him to the floor as Dawn shrieks. Blackout.

Act III

Harmony is on top of Xander, holding him down as he struggles. Dawn shrieks and pushes past Anya to run up the stairs. The minions rush to the door but can't enter.

XANDER

The invitation was for one.

The minions snarl. Anya turns and runs into another room.

HARMONY

Not such a pushover any more, am I?

(Punches Xander in the face a few times)

ANYA

(running around)

Slayer's house have more weapons lying around.

(Picks up a lamp)

HARMONY

I've been working out, learning some new tricks, honing my -

She bends to bite Xander as Anya runs up with the lamp. Harmony straightens up and backhands Anya, breaking the lamp and sending Anya flying.

HARMONY

Instincts.

Xander kicks Harmony in the stomach and she flies backward out the front door, crashing into the minions. They all fall down the porch stairs. Xander and Anya rush to close the door and lean against it, looking out at the vampires.

HARMONY

This isn't over, Xander! I'll be back!

XANDER

And we'll be ready for you!
Stakes ... crosses ... the whole enchilada.

He and Anya pull their heads away from the windows.

XANDER

Buffy is not going to be happy about this.

Anya shakes her head in agreement.

Cut to Buffy laughing hysterically.

BUFFY

Harmony ...
(laughing)
Harmony has minions?

We see Buffy and Riley in the kitchen laughing, along with Anya and Xander, who aren't laughing.

XANDER

Yeah, that was pretty much my reaction.

BUFFY

I'm sorry, I'm sorry.
(Clear throat and stops laughing)
It's just ... Harmony has minions!
(Starts laughing again)

XANDER

And Ruffles have ridges. Uh, Buffy, there's actually a more serious side to all this.

BUFFY

I sure hope so, 'cause I'm having trouble breathing.
(Giggles, then stops and takes a deep breath)
What is it?

XANDER

(nervously, looking at Anya)
Well, she did come here to kill you.

Buffy bursts out laughing again. Riley also snickers.

RILEY

(chuckling)
Buffy, come on, they have killed once that we know of. She could be a threat to you.
(Buffy laughs harder)

ANYA

Especially now that she can enter your house any time she wants.

Buffy stops laughing for real this time.

BUFFY

What?

Xander and Anya fidget.

XANDER

Uh, yeah, actually, she --
Harmony -- kind of happened to
sort of get an invite.

BUFFY

You guys can't invite her in. I
mean, only someone who lives here
can-

(The clue hits. Xander
nods. Buffy frowns.)

BUFFY

(quietly)
Where is she?

ANYA

In her room. Look, I think she's
still pretty freaked out.

BUFFY

Dawn!
(starts to stomp out.
Xander stops her)

XANDER

Buff, it was an accident. She
didn't mean it.

BUFFY

Oh, well that just makes it okay
then, doesn't it?
(Stomps out)

XANDER

(calling after her)
No, but believe me, nobody feels
worse than her right now.

Cut to Harmony and minions walking through a dark graveyard.

HARMONY

What a total disaster. My first plan! I so wanted it to go well. Plus, I didn't even get to kill stupid Xander Harris! God, that was so embarrassing.

MORT

We'll go back later.

HARMONY

No! It's no good. Buffy's gonna expect us now. The whole surprise is blown.

PEACHES

(to Cyrus)

Who're you growling at?

CYRUS

Not me, my stomach. If I don't eat somebody soon, I-I'll get dizzy.

PEACHES

Let's go back to the lair. That census taker may not be empty yet.

BRAD

Not me. This night is young, and I want some action.

A hand taps Brad on the shoulder, and when he turns, it punches him in the face. He goes down. The other three minions turn.

SPIKE

Happy to oblige. Here I thought it was gonna be a slow night.

(puffing on a
cigarette, sizing up
the minions)

Step on up, kiddies. Thrashings for all.

The minions start forward.

HARMONY

Stop!

She emerges from behind Mort. Spike looks surprised.

SPIKE

Well. Hello, Harm.

HARMONY
Spikey. I mean, Spike.

SPIKE
Long time. You look good.

HARMONY
I feel good.

SPIKE
(smirks)
I remember.

They both grin.

HARMONY
How've you been?

SPIKE
(shrugs)
Not bad. Just got a brand-new
telly in my crypt, so...

MORT
(walking up behind Harmony)
Why are you talking to him?

HARMONY
It's okay, we used to go steady.
(sighs)
Spike, Mort. Mort, this is-

MORT
I know who he is. He kills our kind.

HARMONY
Oh yeah!
(to Spike)
What's up with that?

SPIKE
(shrugs)
Bloke's gotta have a hobby, don't
he? Piss off, Mort.

Mort growls and steps forward, but Harmony stops him.

HARMONY
Mort, just give us ... a couple
minutes, 'kay?
(MORE)

HARMONY (CONT'D)
(Turns back to Spike)
He's really testy. Some of us
were thinking of voting him out
of the gang.
(She and Spike step
aside where the
minions can't overhear.)

SPIKE
Gang?

HARMONY
Oh, yeah. I've got my own gang now.

SPIKE
(checking out the minions)
Is that what those circus freaks
are?

HARMONY
Uh huh. I mean ... shut up!
(Spike grins)
We're gonna kill the slayer.

SPIKE
Singing my song now, are you? You
should pay me royalties for that
one, or at least get your own tune.

HARMONY
I'm not gonna make the same
mistakes you did. I've been doing
my homework, reading books and
stuff.

SPIKE
What, Evil for Dummies?
(walks around her)
Look at you, all puffed up and
mighty, thinking you're the new
Big Bad. It's, uh ... well, let's
face it, it's adorable.

HARMONY
You just can't stand the fact
that I'm my own person now. There
comes a time in every woman's
life when she realizes she needs
to take the next step. I've taken
it. I've found the real me... and
I like her.

Spike moves closer to her during this speech until their faces are inches away.

SPIKE
Hope you'll be very happy
together. In the meantime, save
slayer slaying for the
professionals.

HARMONY
(sighs)
You'll see. Buffy'll be dead by
sunrise. I've got a plan.

SPIKE
(chuckling)
Lemme guess. Snatch one of her
friends, use 'em as bait, lead
her into a trap. That sort of thing?

HARMONY
(bluffing)
No! Much, much better one.
(Spike looks skeptical.)
I'm not gonna tell you!

SPIKE
Thought as much. Best of luck.
Let me know how this arch-villain
thing works out for you.
(Backs away and walks off)

HARMONY
I'll do that.
(shouting after him)
And after Buffy is gone? I'm
gonna kill everybody in this town
that was ever mean to me ... Spike!

Spike waves a hand over his shoulder as he walks off.
Harmony sighs, then turns back to the minions.

HARMONY
(smiling)
Guys! New plan.

Cut to Buffy laying out a huge array of stakes and crosses
on her bed as Riley watches.

RILEY
That's a lot of weapons for
somebody you weren't sweating
twenty minutes ago.

BUFFY

Well, that was before Dawn gave Harmony a backstage pass to kill us all in our sleep.

XANDER

Buff, I left word with Willow. She'll come do a return engagement of her uninvasion spell. She probably still has the stuff from last week. And bang, boom, you're back in the Fortress of Solitude. All better.

BUFFY

No. Not all better. I mean, it's not like Dawn hasn't grown up in this house knowing all the rules.

Cut to the hallway where we see Dawn listening in.

BUFFY

(OS)

Especially the biggie! Numero one-oh. "Do not invite bloodsucking dead people into our home."

(Dawn rolls her eyes)

Cut back to the bedroom.

BUFFY

I mean, please. I would never have Harmony over even when she was alive.

XANDER

People slip, Buffy. Your mom did. She invited in the mas-

(Catches himself)

Dracula. In for coffee.

Buffy and Riley give Xander an odd look.

BUFFY

Well, that was different. I mean, she ... He would ... She was lonely, and, and, and she didn't know he was a vampire. *The* vampire. Meanwhile, Dawn knew exactly what Harmony was and she rolled out the welcome mat for her.

Cut back to Dawn in the hallway.

RILEY

(OS)

She's just a kid.

(Dawn rolls her eyes)

Cut back to the bedroom.

BUFFY

You know, will everybody please stop saying that? I was just a kid when I met my first vampire, but somehow, I still managed to remember the rules.

RILEY

You had to. It was your job.

BUFFY

(putting on a jacket)

No. No, it was common sense. But nobody expects even that much from Dawn, do they? No, she has to be protected and coddled from the big bad world, well you know what? We are doing nothing but turning her into a little idiot who is going to get us all killed.

Cut back to the hallway. Dawn makes an unhappy face.

Cut back to the bedroom. Xander and Riley look displeased, but they don't argue any more. Cut back to the hallway. Dawn turns and walks away.

Cut back to the bedroom. Buffy sighs and speaks more quietly.

BUFFY

She just has to be more careful.

Now, I can't be there to protect her 24 hours a day. I-I just can't.

Cut to Dawn running through the downstairs part of the house, passing by Anya in the kitchen.

ANYA

Hey! Don't!

Dawn runs out the back door and Anya follows.

ANYA

Dawn!

Dawn stops a few feet outside the door and puts her hands to her face, as if trying not to cry. Anya grabs her shoulder, startling her.

ANYA
What do you think you're doing?

DAWN
Leave me alone.

ANYA
I will after you come back inside
the house.
(Grabs Dawn and starts
shoving her back
toward the door.)

DAWN
Let go of me!
(breaks free)

ANYA
No, it's not safe out here!

Dawn shrieks as Mort steps from behind a bush, wearing his vamp face.

MORT
You got that right.

He hits Anya, sending her flying back inside, where she falls on the kitchen floor unconscious. Mort grabs Dawn and passes her to the other minions, who herd her away shrieking. Mort pauses to look at Anya lying on the floor, then follows the other minions. Blackout.

Act IV

Xander, Riley and Buffy come down the stairs and find Anya on the kitchen floor.

XANDER
Anya!

Xander and Riley kneel to lift Anya up. Buffy goes to look out the door.

ANYA
(half conscious)
Oh, vampires took...

RILEY

This head wound looks bad. We
gotta get her to the hospital.

Buffy goes to the phone.

ANYA

(murmuring)

They took her...

XANDER

Shh, shh.

ANYA

Dawn.

BUFFY

Dawn? Wha-what about Dawn?

ANYA

She ran out ... they took her ...
vampires...

BUFFY

Oh god. Oh god. Uh, take care of
Anya.

(Hands the phone to
Riley and runs out)

RILEY

Buffy!

Cut to the underground lair. The minions look a little
impatient.

HARMONY

All right, once again, nice work,
minionators. I'm really, really
proud of you guys.

(Mort comes in)

Ah, Mort. I trust you made our
guest ... comfortable?

MORT

(confused)

You told me to chain her to a wall.

HARMONY

Yeah, I know, I'm being, you
know, sarcastic or whatever?

(MORE)

HARMONY (CONT'D)
 (Mort looks blank)
 Anyway...
 (turns back to the
 other minions)
 I'm feeling really good about
 this new plan, people. I think
 it's a winner.

CYRUS
 When do we eat the girl?

HARMONY
 We don't. Not yet.

CYRUS
 Why not?

HARMONY
 Because! That's not the plan!
 (sighs)
 Do I have to go over the plan
 again? We use the sister as bait.
 We send Buffy a note-

PEACHES
 More notes?

HARMONY
 (annoyed)
 We send Buffy a note, telling her
 that if she wants to see her
 sister again, she has to come
 alone to a place we choose. She
 comes, we jump her, we kill her.

Peaches nods.

MORT
 So it doesn't really matter if
 we're actually holding the
 slayer's sister, just as long as
 she thinks we are. She'll walk
 into the trap.

HARMONY
 I guess.

CYRUS
 So it won't make any difference
 if we eat the girl now.

HARMONY
 We're not eating the girl.

PEACHES

Why not?

HARMONY

Cause! That's not the plan.

All the minions look dissatisfied.

Cut to a TV showing mostly static. Spike bangs on it and fiddles with the knobs and antenna for a while, with no results.

SPIKE

Bollocks. Gonna have to pinch one of those satellite dishes.

He looks up as the door bangs open and Buffy strides in.

SPIKE

Well, speaking of dishes, to what do I owe this unpleasant-
(Buffy hits him in the face)
Ow! Bloody hell!

BUFFY

(grabbing his shirt)
I don't have time for banter,
Spike. Where's Harmony's lair?

SPIKE

Haven't seen her in months. How should I know-
(Buffy hits him in the face again)
Ow!

BUFFY

Where is she?

SPIKE

At least lay off the nose.
(Buffy pulls back her fist)
Okay! Okay! Used to have a cave in the north woods. About forty meters past the overpass construction site.

Buffy punches him in the nose again, then lets go and turns to leave.

SPIKE

Ow!! I was telling you the truth!

BUFFY
(leaving)
I know.

Spike rubs his nose and glares after her.

Cut to the lair.

HARMONY
They don't respect me. They
pretend they do, but deep down
they think I'm nothing.

We see that she's talking to Dawn, who's chained to a wall
with her wrists at head height.

HARMONY
I mean, I'm the one who put this
group together. Me! But they
treat me like I don't even matter.
Do you have any idea what that
feels like?

DAWN
A little.

HARMONY
(whining)
They have no idea how much
pressure I'm under. I have to
make all the hard decisions. And
it's hard!

Dawn gasps. Harmony turns to see Mort leading the other
minions in, all wearing vamp faces.

HARMONY
Excuse me, I didn't hear anybody
knock.

MORT
We've been talking it over, and
we decided we don't like this plan.

PEACHES
(scornfully)
Except for Brad. He abstained.

HARMONY
(angry)
Oh really? You have a plan you
like better?

MORT
We're gonna feed on the girl and
kill you.

Dawn looks scared.

MORT
Maybe not in that order.

HARMONY
I don't think I like your
attitude, Mort.
(to the others)
Kill him for me.

The other minions don't move. Mort smirks.

HARMONY
All right. You're all on my list.
(Looks nervous as Mort
advances toward her)
Th-this isn't fair. Okay, so
things haven't been perfect. I
just need a little more time to
grow into my leadership role.

MORT
Time's up.

He grabs her by the throat. Dawn watches fearfully as Cyrus
walks toward her.

DAWN
(nervous)
Touch me and my sister's gonna
kill you.

Cyrus smirks and reaches out one finger. He pokes her in the
shoulder and laughs. The other minions laugh too. Suddenly
the point of a stake shoots through Cyrus from behind. He
stops laughing and turns to dust. Mort lets go of Harmony
and they both turn, as do the other minions, who are holding
weapons.

BUFFY
Can't say she didn't warn him.

HARMONY
(to Mort)
And you didn't like the plan.

BUFFY
Dawn, close your eyes.

Dawn does so.

HARMONY
So, Slayer, at last we meet.

BUFFY
We've met, Harmony, you halfwit.

HARMONY
I'm the halfwit? Um, excuse me,
but look who's fallen into my-

Suddenly she is grabbed from behind.

STEVEN
(grins)
Trap?

HARMONY
(struggles)
Let me go!

STEVEN
(scoffs)
Yeah, right.

HARMONY
You are aware I don't breathe,
right?

She kicks him in the chest and breaks his grip.

Steven and Harmony begin attacking each other. Steven
blocks Harmony's girly punches with no problem.

STEVEN
(yells)
Buffy, look out!

Peaches attacks Buffy with a large axe. She ducks his swing
and stakes him. As he turns to dust, Buffy grabs the axe
from him, Brad attacks, and Buffy chops off his head. Dawn
scrunches her eyes together tightly.

HARMONY
Trap.

BUFFY
Harmony, when you tried to be
head cheerleader, you were bad.
When you tried to chair the
homecoming committee, you were
really bad. But when you try to
be bad...you suck .

During this speech we see Mort moving around behind Buffy. Dawn opens her eyes and sees him.

DAWN
Buffy, watch out!

Buffy turns and swings the axe but Mort knocks it out of her grasp and knocks her down.

HARMONY
Ooh, good shot, Mort, I think you
got her on the--

Mort glares at her. Harmony laughs nervously, turns and runs away.

Steven rushes at Harmony, knocking her down.

Harmony gets back up and throws him into a rock, continuing to escape.

Mort swings at Buffy; she punches him, grabs a large stick and hits him with it. He punches her. She ducks a few more punches and lands one on him.

Shot of Dawn struggling against her chains as sounds of battle continue.

Buffy kicks Mort a few times, he hits her a few times and she goes down. He picks her up and throws her. She gets up and they exchange more punches and kicks. Mort grabs Buffy by the neck and lifts her off the ground. She looks around and notices a large unicorn statue nearby. She shoves Mort away, lands on the ground, grabs the unicorn and stabs him through the heart with it. He turns to dust. Buffy scowls at the unicorn, then shrugs and puts it down.

Buffy strides toward Dawn, picking up the axe along the way.

BUFFY
You are going to be in so much
trouble when we get home.
(Strikes at the chains
with the axe)

DAWN
Yeah, well ... I'm telling Mom
you slayed in front of me.

BUFFY
Fine. I'll just tell her that you
ran out of the house in the
middle of the night,
 (another strike at the chains)
that you got Anya hurt,
 (another strike)
invited a vampire in,
 (strike)
got kidnapped....

Cut to exterior shot of Joyce's house, night.

Cut to interior of the kitchen. Buffy and Dawn enter, moving quietly, looking around guiltily. Just as Buffy closes the back door, Joyce comes in the front door.

JOYCE
Sorry it ran so late. Everything,
uh, go okay?

Buffy and Dawn look at each other.

BUFFY
Yeah. Yeah, you know ... I got
the vamps and we watched some TV.

JOYCE
 (smiles)
Well, I know at least one of us
who's supposed to be in bed by now.

Dawn obediently kisses Joyce and exits.

JOYCE
Night.

BUFFY
So how was the exhibit?

JOYCE
 (opening the fridge)
Oh, it was fantastic.

We see Dawn looking back at them as she walks toward the stairs.

DAWN VOICEOVER
Buffy probably would've gotten in
way more trouble than me anyway.

Cut to the magic shop, day. Dawn is sitting at a table writing in her diary.

DAWN VOICEOVER

But I guess it was pretty okay of her not to say anything to mom. Anya's gonna be okay, and Xander wasn't mad at me. So stuff mostly worked out.

The camera pans over Dawn to the counter, where we see Buffy leaning against it.

BUFFY

Giles, are you sure about this?

Giles stands up behind the counter.

GILES

Why wouldn't I be?

BUFFY

Well, aside from the fact that most magic shop owners in Sunnydale have the life expectancy of a Spinal Tap drummer...and, have you ever run a store before?

GILES

I was a librarian for years. This is exactly the same, except people pay for the things they don't return.

(comes out from behind counter)
It'll give me focus. Increase my resources. And it'll prevent you lot from trampling all over my flat at all hours.

(he and Buffy walk toward the back)
There may even be some space for you to train in the back.

BUFFY

Boy, you've really thought this through. How bored **were** you last year?

GILES

I watched "Passions" with Spike. Let us never speak of it.
(Exits)

Buffy follows him out, laughing. A moment later she reappears in the doorway.

BUFFY
Don't. Break. Anything.

Dawn gives her an exasperated look. Buffy goes out, then comes back in again.

BUFFY
Just don't *touch* anything.
(exits)

DAWN VOICEOVER
Not that Buffy's really changed
at all. Like she ever would.

Buffy reappears in the doorway.

BUFFY
What you're doing right now, not
moving?
(Makes the "okay" sign
with her fingers)
Good. Keep doing that.
(Exits)

DAWN
She still thinks I'm Little Miss
Nobody, just her dumb little
sister. Boy, is she in for a
surprise.

Blackout.

Executive producer: Joss Whedon.