

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

Spiral

A Buffy the Vampire Slayer episode written by Steven S. DeKnight and transcribed by Joan the English Chick (piscetes@englishchick.com). Original Air Date: May 8, 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

Episode opens where "Tough Love" left off. Buffy and Dawn stand staring at Glory. Willow kneels on the bed next to Tara who is still staring up at Dawn. **Steven stands next to Tara.**

Buffy whirls, grabs Dawn by the hand and runs straight through the door into the dorm hallway. They crash to the floor amid broken pieces of door.

Glory laughs and starts after them. Willow holds up a hand. Glory suddenly can't move. She makes an angry face.

STEVEN
(laughs)
Sucker!

Buffy and Dawn get up, run down the hall.

Willow wraps her other arm around Tara, continues holding up her right hand while speaking some Latin.

Glory goes flying backward, off the side of the building into some bushes.

Willow and Tara get up and run out.

Buffy and Dawn run through the lobby of the building. It's full of students walking, sitting, standing, talking, reading, etc. Buffy still has Dawn by the hand. They run to the doors and outside.

Glory comes crashing through the wall into the building. People scream and run away. Glory walks forward, looks around, sees the door Buffy and Dawn just exited.

Glory turns into a blur as she moves forward at superhuman speed.

Buffy and Dawn run across grass. More students are all around, staring as they go by.

DAWN

Buffy!

BUFFY

We have to keep moving!

DAWN

I can't!

Dawn falls to the ground. Buffy hauls her back up and scoops Dawn up in her arms, jumps over a bench and continues running. She crosses the lawn, goes across a paved pathway, heading toward the street.

Glory, still a super-fast blur, moves across the lawn toward them.

Buffy, still carrying Dawn, comes out onto the sidewalk and suddenly Glory is in front of them. Buffy puts Dawn down and they both stare fearfully at Glory.

GLORY

I really hate it when people
touch my things.

Buffy and Dawn just stand there looking scared.

GLORY

Last words, slay-run?

BUFFY

Just one. Truck

Glory looks to her right, too late, as a huge semi smashes into her.

Buffy and Dawn run off in the other direction.

Glory lands on her back on top of a parked car, smashing its roof in. She starts to sit up, then stops with a jerk.

GLORY

No! Not now, you idiot! Let go-

She morphs into Ben.

BEN

-of my body!

Ben rolls off the car onto the ground, looks around. He's wearing Glory's dress.

BEN

Oh, god.

Wolf howl. Opening credits.

Guest starring Clare Kramer, Charlie Weber, Wade Andrew Williams, Karim Prince, and Amber Benson as Tara. Written by Steven S. DeKnight, directed by James A. Contner.

Act I

Open on Xander's apartment. Dawn stands in the middle of the room telling the story.

DAWN

A-and then whoosh! All of a sudden Glory's standing right there in front of us,

(we see Giles **and**
Steven standing
listening, and Buffy
peering out through
the closed window blinds)
all skanky and blonde and
thinkin' she's all that

(shot of Xander and
Anya sitting, listening)
just 'cause some bumpy heads kiss
her stinky feet ...

(MORE)

DAWN (CONT'D)

(pauses, very quietly)
She does have nice feet.

(louder)
A-and she's comin' right at us,
and-

(shot of the whole
room. Willow and Tara
sitting on the sofa)
Buffy's just standing there not
even blinking, like "Bring it
on," and then, wham!
(smacks one fist into
the other hand)
Hell-bitch in orbit.

XANDER

Go, Buff!

STEVEN

Nice moves, Buffy!

GILES

I knew you'd best Glory
eventually, I mean all-all our
years of training-

BUFFY

(still staring out the window)
A truck hit her.

GILES

Oh.

ANYA

You threw it at her?

DAWN

Well, no. She more kind of waited
for it to hit Glory. Uh, but then
Buffy ran really fast and we got
away.

(Shot of Willow and
Tara on the sofa. Tara
still stares blankly
at Dawn.)

BUFFY

I don't know how we got away.
That truck couldn't have slowed
her down for more than a second.

GILES

Well, how isn't important, all that matters is that the two of you are safe.

Buffy scoffs, turns to look at him.

BUFFY

Safe?

(angrily)

We've barely been able to manage not getting seriously dead every time we've crossed paths with Glory. Now that she knows that Dawn is the key?

Giles and Dawn look chastised.

GILES

There must be something in the Book of Tarnis that we've missed, something we can use against Glory.

Buffy turns to look out the window again.

ANYA

Piano!

XANDER

Because that's what we used to kill that big demon that one time!

STEVEN

You've gotta be kidding...

Buffy turns to look at them with a confused frown.

XANDER

No wait, that-that was a rocket launcher.

(turns to Anya)

Ahn, what are you talking about?

ANYA

We should drop a piano on her. Well, it always works for that creepy cartoon rabbit when he's running from that nice man with the speech impediment.

Steven cracks up.

STEVEN

(laughs)

I'm sorry...

(laughing)

That's just hilarious...

He clears his throat.

STEVEN

Sorry.

GILES

(rolls his eyes)

Yes, or perhaps we could paint a convincing tunnel on the side of a mountain. Let's just keep thinking, everyone.

(to Buffy)

Perhaps we should reassemble at the magic shop, see if there's anything-

BUFFY

We can't fight her.

GILES

(surprised)

W-well not yet, no, but-

BUFFY

No, not ever. She's too strong, Giles. We're not gonna win this with, with stakes, or spells, or pulling out some uranium power core. She's a god and she's coming for us. So let's just not be here when she starts knocking.

ANYA

Run away?

Buffy looks at her.

ANYA

Finally, a sensible plan.

XANDER

That's not what she meant.

(to Buffy)

Is it?

STEVEN

Good plan in my opinion.

BUFFY

Well, we can't stay here! She'll just kill us off one by one until there's no one left standing between her and Dawn.

GILES

Buffy, we all understand the severity of the situation, but there must be another way.

BUFFY

(harshly)

No. We stay, we die. Show of hands for that option.

Everyone is silent.

BUFFY

All right. Nobody goes home, nobody tells anybody we're leaving. Just pack up whatever supplies we need and that's it, we're gone.

DAWN

(quietly)

Cool. Don't have to study for that geometry test.

XANDER

(quietly)

What about wheels? I don't think everybody's gonna fit in the Xandermobile.

BUFFY

Just get your stuff together. I'll handle the rest.

She turns to look out the window again.

Cut to: Glory's apartment. Ben comes down the stairs to the main room, wearing regular clothes, followed by a minion, Gronx. Gronx holds Glory's dress and speaks with a female voice (although she looks just like the others).

GRONX

This is, this is terrible. I'll never be able to mend this.

BEN

Not really my color anyway.
(sits on the arm of a sofa)

GRONX

Oh, yes. Inappropriate humor.
(fake laugh)
Most amusing. Don't suppose you
know what led to this sartorial
tragedy.

BEN

That's not how it works, you know
that.

GRONX

Yes, of course. I just thought
maybe after her magnificent
incandescence was returned to
this ... manly and ...
(looking Ben up and down)
painfully handsome assemblage ...
you might have noticed something
interesting? A key in human form,
perhaps? Lounging about unattended?

BEN

If I did, do you really think I
would tell you?

GRONX

Why do you insist on fighting the
inevitable? No one can stand
against her blindingly scrumptious
luminescence.

BEN

Glory. Her name is Glory, and
she's your god, you little scab,
not mine.

GRONX

With all due respect and-and fear
of sharp objects, you exist, sir,
only because of her divine
greatness.

BEN

You mean her divine failure,
don't you?

Gronx squints angrily at him. Ben gets up to pace.

BEN

I didn't ask for any of this. I just want to be normal.

GRONX

We play the hand we're dealt.

BEN

Nothing's mine, is it? This life, this body, it's all infected. The only thing I ever cared about she's taken away from me. You know why I wanted to be a doctor?

GRONX

Flattering drawstring pants?

BEN

To be close to people. To witness their lives and their deaths, to be there alongside them, a part of everyday humanity.

(sighs)

Maybe it's the drugs.

(walks past)

GRONX

Drugs, sir?

(follows him)

BEN

Find the right combination, keep her buried where she belongs.

GRONX

Impossible! Her magnificence can never be fully contained! She is a perfect, all-encompassing light, one you should feel honored to be bathed in.

BEN

Oh, yeah, I'm thrilled. Especially with the part where she gets her key back and I cease to exist.

GRONX

True, this oh-so-appealing form will of necessity be shrugged off.

BEN

Not if I get the key first.
(turns to leave but
Gronx stops him)

GRONX

And if you did ... what then?
Could you do it?

(Ben looks annoyed)

Take a human life with your own
hands?

(comfortingly)

Oblivion is such a small
inconvenience in the service of a
deity. Accept your fate. I mean,
you said it yourself. This life
was never really yours anyway,
was it?

BEN

It doesn't matter how I came by
it. It's mine. And I plan on
keeping it.

Cut to: city street, day. Willow and Tara sit on a bench
while Giles, **Steven**, Anya, and Xander stand. They all have
bags of stuff and are watching the cars go by.

ANYA

Anybody else feel that?

WILLOW

What?

ANYA

Cold draft of paralyzing fear.

STEVEN

I got a bit o'that.

GILES

We just need to stay calm.

WILLOW

(skeptical)

Calm, right.

XANDER

Hey, we gotta be like Sergeant
Rock. Cool and collected in the
face of overwhelming odds.

ANYA
 *Over*whelming?
 (turns to him)
 How much more than overwhelming would
 that be exactly?

GILES
 Look, everything will be all
 right, we just need to stay here
 calmly. As soon as Buffy arrives-

A large Winnebago (RV, motor home) drives up and screeches
 to a halt in front of them. The windows are all covered with
 aluminum foil. The door swings open.

GILES
 -we'll feel oddly worse.

STEVEN
 (impressed)
 Nice RV...

They all pick up their stuff and climb into the Winnebago.

Cut to inside. Looking from the driver's seat back, on the
 left there's a small kitchen area with sink; on the right, a
 booth with a table. Farther back there's a door leading into
 a back bedroom.

Willow and Anya look with interest at the driver's area as
 they and Tara move to sit around the table. We see Buffy
 sitting at the table already, studying maps.

Giles and Xander enter. Giles looks at the driver's area
 too, does a double-take.

We see Spike sitting in the driver's seat, wearing a large
 pair of black goggles.

GILES
 (grimly)
 What's he doing here?

SPIKE
 Just out for a jaunt. Thought I'd
 swing by and say howdy.

GILES
 Out.

BUFFY
 (looks up from the table)
 He's here because we need him.

XANDER
The hell we do.

BUFFY
If Glory finds us, he's the only
one besides me that has any
chance of protecting Dawn.

XANDER
Buffy, come on-

BUFFY
(jumps up angrily)
Look, this isn't a discussion! He
stays. Get over it.

STEVEN
(a little annoyed)
Fine, fine...

She takes one of the maps and storms into the back room,
slamming the door. Dawn watches anxiously.

Spike grins hugely. Giles glares at him.

SPIKE
Buckle up, kids. Daddy's puttin'
the hammer down.

Spike puts the RV in gear and begins driving. Everyone
clutches the walls and each other for balance.

STEVEN
(high voice)
Help...

Shot of the RV rolling down the street. The front windshield
is completely covered with foil except one small rectangle
that has been cut out in front of the driver's seat.

Cut to: interior hospital. A nurse hands a clipboard and pen
to a guy wearing a baseball cap.

NURSE
Sign here.

Shot of the paper on the clipboard. The guy signs: first
name Dante, last name illegible.

We see two other guys standing behind him, also wearing
baseball caps.

NURSE
Okay, that should do it.

Dante nods, turns to the other men. They start to walk off. The taller man is Orlando. He stares blankly ahead of him.

DANTE

(to the other man)
See. Did I not tell you how easy
it would be for us to-

NURSE

Hey!

The men stop walking as in the background the nurse comes out from behind her counter. Dante and the other man exchange a look. The second man begins to pull a dagger out of his jacket. The nurse comes over to them.

NURSE

(pointing at Dante's hand)
My pen.

Dante hands her the pen with a slight smile. She takes it and goes back to her desk. The other man puts away his dagger as he and Dante lead Orlando away.

Cut to a forest. Dante, Orlando, and the other man move carefully down a slight rise. Orlando looks around at the sunny sky and the trees with wonder.

ORLANDO

The trees are singing water.

Dante ignores him, stops walking, looks around. Rustling noise from some bushes. They look over as a man emerges from the bushes, wearing battle armor. He has the mark of the Knights of Byzantium on his forehead and several long scars running down the side of his face.

GREGOR

You have him.

DANTE

Yes, General.

Dante and the other man remove their baseball caps, revealing the marks on their foreheads. General Gregor comes forward.

DANTE

Our brother has returned to the
fold.

GREGOR
Welcome home, Orlando.
 (puts his hand on
 Orlando's shoulder)
I swear by my sword your
sacrifice ... will not go unavenged.

Orlando seems fascinated by the medal or amulet hanging
around the general's neck. He reaches out to touch it.

ORLANDO
Shiny.

GREGOR
Yes, I suppose it is.

ORLANDO
Pretty little girl, she's shiny too.

GREGOR
 (to Dante)
Watch him, make sure he's
comfortable.

ORLANDO
So shiny. Pretty little shiny key.

GREGOR
The key? You've seen it?

ORLANDO
Pretty ... little shiny girl.

Gregor and Dante stare at Orlando.

GREGOR
The monks, they've made it human.

DANTE
We know the Slayer's protecting
the key. If what Orlando says is
true...

Gregor turns back to the bushes. We see a large number of
knights standing in formation. One knight stands closer,
guarding.

GREGOR
Prepare to advance!

KNIGHT
Yes sir.

GREGOR
(turns back)
We end this now.

He stalks off with the knights following. The camera rises so we can see them emerging from the trees. Some are on foot, some on horseback. Hard to tell exactly how many there are, but there are a lot. Blackout.

Act II

Open on the Winnebago driving down residential streets. The hole in the foil is larger than before. It screeches around a corner.

Cut to inside. Giles is driving. Dawn, Willow, Tara, **Steven**, Anya, and Xander sit around the table. Spike sits on the floor beside Dawn, looking irritated. Willow is studying a book.

ANYA
Shouldn't somebody be asking,
"Are we there yet?"

Willow looks up from her book briefly, then returns to it.

ANYA
(to Xander)
Isn't that what small entertaining
children do?

Xander doesn't reply. He looks ill.

DAWN
That kinda only works if you know
where you're going.

Anya nods, ponders. Xander groans softly.

STEVEN
Carsick, Xand?

ANYA
(calls to Giles)
Do we know where we're going yet?

SPIKE
We'd already be somewhere if
Captain Slowpoke would give up
the wheel.
(Giles looks annoyed)
Hey! Gramps! Bloody step on it!

GILES
Step on what? I've driven
tricycles with more power.

Everyone looks up as the vehicle jostles and bumps.

XANDER
(groans)
Is anybody else queasy?

ANYA
(rubs his arm sympathetically)
He doesn't travel well. He's like
fine shrimp.

SPIKE
(to Dawn)
I shoulda nicked that Porsche I
had my eye on. There's just
enough room for me, you, and big
sis.

STEVEN
That would've been interesting.

Xander gives Spike a queasy glare.

SPIKE
What?

XANDER
Would you give it a rest, or...

SPIKE
Or what, you're gonna toss your
cookies on my shoes?

XANDER
Or you can be undead man walking.
See how fast you can hitch a ride
with a flaming
(gulps)
thumb.

SPIKE
Fine.
(quietly)
Shrimp.

Xander gags, gets up and stumbles to the front, falls into
the passenger seat beside Giles.

XANDER
That guy is bloodsuckin' the last
nerve right outta me.

GILES
Well, Buffy has a point. In a
confrontation, Spike may prove...

Giles looks back as Spike gets up off the floor and takes
the seat Xander just vacated.

GILES
...useful.

XANDER
(still queasy)
I don't know if Buffy's thinkin'
too clear on that one, or
anything else right now.
(gulps)
I've never seen her so...

GILES
She's ... been through more than
her fair share of late. She just
needs a chance to catch her
breath, regroup. She'll be all
right.

XANDER
Yeah. She'll ...
(gulps)
Yeah.

Steven walks over to Xander.

STEVEN
You feelin' okay, Xand?

Xander gives him a look.

Shot of the RV going down the road. It seems to have left
the city and is now on a highway.

Cut to back inside. Willow continues studying her book. Dawn
peers over her shoulder.

DAWN
Any luck?

WILLOW

Uh, if you define luck as the
absence of success, plenty.

(shot of Anya and
Spike listening)

There's a couple barrier spells,
but...

(we see Tara next to
Willow, staring past
her at Dawn)

they only work on a fixed locus.
Haven't found anything that'll
work while we're still moving.

TARA

So pretty, can I have one?

Tara tries to reach past Willow to touch Dawn. Willow gently
pushes Tara's arm back.

WILLOW

(to Tara)

Come on.

(pushes Tara back into
her seat)

DAWN

Anyone hungry?

ANYA

Ooh! Snacks! The secret to any
successful migration.

STEVEN

We're not migrating...

Anya reaches into her backpack and pulls out a frying pan,
reaches in again.

ANYA

Who's up for some tasty fried
meat products?

She holds up a can of SPAM. No one looks interested.

Tara reaches over to the window and opens the blinds.
Sunlight streams in, hitting Spike's hand.

SPIKE

Hey! Aah!

Spike jumps away from the table as Willow pulls Tara back
from the window.

WILLOW
Tara, no! What did I tell you?

Tara whines loudly in protest. Spike cradles his smoking hand.

WILLOW
Shh.

STEVEN
(frowns)
Poor Tara...

Tara continues whimpering. Willow pulls Tara's head to her chest to comfort her, looks over at Spike.

WILLOW
I'm sorry. She, she didn't mean to.

Spike nods understanding.

WILLOW
She doesn't know what she's doing.
(Tara continues whimpering)

DAWN
We know.

SPIKE
No biggie. Look, the skin's already stopped smoking. You go ahead and play ... peek-a-boo with Mister Sunshine all you like. It keeps the ride from getting boring.

TARA
(upset)
All the light is gone.
(crying)

WILLOW
No, shh, baby. The light's still outside, okay?

Dawn watches with concern. Willow continues trying to comfort Tara.

TARA
All dark. All dark.

Cut to the psych ward at Sunnydale Hospital. All the patients, strapped down in their beds, are also saying "All dark." They repeat this over and over. Then one of them says "Soon" and they all start saying "Soon, soon."

Cut to a section of floor with candles set out and symbols written on the floor in red dirt. A pair of hands throw runestones onto the symbols. The camera pulls out and we see we're in Glory's apartment. Gronx and Murk sit on the floor casting the runes.

GRONX

It's coming. The signs are in alignment, and soon victory will be in our grasp.

(they smile)

All we need do is seize the moment ... and squeeze until it bleeds.

They both smile happily.

Cut to the RV driving through the desert on what looks like a dirt road. Mountains in the background.

Cut to inside. Buffy sits in the back room, leaning against the wall. The door opens and Dawn peeks in.

DAWN

Hey. I think Anya's gonna try to cook. Wanna come watch the tears and recriminations?

BUFFY

(small smile)

Maybe later.

Dawn starts to retreat, pauses, leans back in and gathers her nerve.

DAWN

Thanks.

BUFFY

(looks up)

For what?

DAWN

You know. Pretty much everything.

BUFFY

(sarcastic)

Yeah. I'm doin' a great job.

DAWN
(firmly)
You are.

BUFFY
(scoffs)
I'm the Slayer. The chosen one.
All mythic and defender-y. Evil
nasties are supposed to flee from
me. Not the other way around.

DAWN
You're not fleeing. You're ...
moving at a brisk pace.

BUFFY
Quaintly referred to in some
cultures as the big scaredy runaway.

Dawn comes fully inside, closes the door and walks over to
sit beside Buffy.

DAWN
It's the most amazing thing
anyone's ever done for me.

Buffy looks over at her with a pained expression, then away.

BUFFY
(voice breaking)
It just keeps coming. Glory ...
Riley ... Tara ... Mom.

DAWN
(pause)
I know. But there's a bright side.

BUFFY
There is?

DAWN
At least things can't get any
crazier. Right?

Suddenly they both jump as an arrow shoots through the
window and lands in the wall a little ways from Buffy's head.
Dawn stares at it in horror. Buffy gives her an almost
amused look.

BUFFY
You know this is your fault for
saying that.

Dawn doesn't seem to see the humor.

Buffy pulls down a corner of the Venetian blinds to peek outside.

KNIGHT

Come on now!

We see a bunch of knights riding horses up alongside the Winnebago, swinging their weapons.

KNIGHT

Bring up the rear! Let's go!

Buffy and Dawn stare for a moment, then Buffy turns away from the window and sighs.

The RV drives on. The knights are about a hundred feet back but closing fast.

Buffy and Dawn rush into the main cabin.

BUFFY

Giles!

GILES

I see them.

SPIKE

See who?

Shot of the side mirror with the knights reflected in it.

Several knights ride up alongside the RV on either side. One has a crossbow and shoots another arrow into the side.

Spike jumps aside as the arrow appears in the wall beside him.

XANDER

Arrows!

SPIKE

Bloody hell!

XANDER

They're throwing arrows!

STEVEN

Probably more like shooting arrows!

Tara peeks out the window.

The knights continue to ride up alongside the vehicle. They shoot more arrows.

BUFFY
Dawn, get down under the table.

Buffy pushes Dawn to the floor. Anya also ducks under the table.

TARA
(peeking out)
Horsies!

BUFFY
Tara!

The knights shoot more arrows. Willow pulls Tara away just as an arrow appears in the wall beside her.

WILLOW
Tara!

Willow and Tara duck under the table. Arrows appear in the wall beside Giles.

GILES
Weapons?

Buffy tosses a bag to Spike.

SPIKE
Hello! You're driving one!

WILLOW
Don't hit the horsies!

BUFFY
Oh, we won't!

Buffy moves up next to Giles.

BUFFY
Aim for the horsies.

STEVEN
**Let's try to run these bastards
off the road!**

Shot of the horsemen reflected in Giles' mirror.

Giles turns the wheel trying to hit them, but the horses move out of the way. Giles swings the wheel again to get back on the road. Shot of Spike looking grim.

Long shot of the RV being pursued by the horsemen.

Cut closer as one of the men rides up alongside the back of the RV, grabs onto the ladder on its side and climbs on, letting his horse gallop away. He climbs up onto the roof.

Cut inside. Xander sits by the table.

XANDER
Did we shake 'em?

The knight's sword stabs through the ceiling inches from Xander's head, making him jump. Giles and Buffy look up.

STEVEN
(afraid)
Xander!

Shot of the knight pulling his sword free.

Buffy moves back toward the rear. Spike continues looking in the bag of weapons.

The knight stabs down again.

BUFFY
Stay low!

The knight stabs again.

BUFFY
Watch out for the-

The sword point comes in directly at Buffy's head. Spike reaches up with both hands and grabs the sword, stops it from stabbing Buffy in the head. She ducks.

The knight tries to pull his sword free but can't. Spike continues holding onto it with both hands.

SPIKE
Now might be a good time for
something heroic.

The knight continues trying to free his sword.

Buffy looks around.

BUFFY
Xander! Hatch!

Buffy climbs up on the table and opens the hatch in the roof. Xander boosts her up and through it. She emerges behind the knight. We see the other horsemen still riding alongside.

The knight sees Buffy, pulls his sword free. We hear Spike yelling in pain.

The knight thrusts at Buffy. She ducks, backs away from his second swing, wheels and kicks his legs out from under him. He goes down and Buffy gets on top of him, blocks another swing, punches him. He drops the sword.

Cut to inside. Spike sits at the table beside Dawn. His hands are bloody and he has some rags. He tries to use his teeth to rip them up.

Cut to above. Buffy punches the knight in the face a few times, then he blocks and punches her. They grapple, he kicks her in the head and she falls over the side, holding onto the railing along the top of the RV. She hangs there as a knight rides alongside holding a mace.

Cut to inside. Spike holds his bloody hands on the table as Dawn rips up the rags. Tara and Willow emerge from under the table. Giles continues driving. They all look up as we hear the sounds of fighting on the roof.

Cut to outside. The knight crouches above Buffy to hit her, but she kicks upward and he falls back. Buffy vaults back up onto the roof. They both stand and face off.

Another knight rides alongside and throws a grappling hook onto the railing. He begins climbing up the side.

Buffy punches the first knight, whirls around and kicks him. He falls off the side with a scream.

The second knight reaches the roof as another grappling hook catches on the railing.

Cut to inside. Dawn ties the rags around Spike's hands.

DAWN

Keep the pressure on.

SPIKE

I always do, sweet bit.

A knight busts through the window and they both shriek and jump aside. The knight tries to grab Dawn. Spike yells in pain from the sunlight.

STEVEN

(yells)

Let 'er go!

He tries to run toward a knight, but he stabs him in the stomach.

STEVEN

(screams)

Aah!!

DAWN

(worried)

Steven!

He slowly tries to sit down.

Giles looks back. Shot from outside of the side of the van with the knight hanging on it, his upper half inside the window. Sounds of Spike and Dawn and the knight yelling.

Cut back inside. Tara and Willow cower as Anya appears and begins hitting the knight in the head with her frying pan. He loses his grip and falls to the ground below.

ANYA

Not a piano, but hey.

Giles glances back, continues driving.

Cut to the roof. Two soldiers now face Buffy, one with an axe, the other with a mace. She punches the one with the axe, kicks the other one, kicks the first one, ducks to take a mace blow on her back, punches the mace-wielder, does a back-flip and kicks them both in the faces.

Cut to inside. Willow and Anya sit on either side of Tara trying to comfort her as she looks anxious.

Cut to above. Buffy picks up the first knight's sword from where he dropped it, twirls it around. The mace chain wraps around the sword blade and she uses it to pull the knight closer. Behind him the knight with the axe tries to attack but Buffy kicks him away. She spins the mace-holder around, knees him in the stomach and throws him off the side of the RV, taking the mace and the sword with him.

Buffy ducks an axe swing, kicks the knight in the chest, grabs his axe hand and hits him with her other hand. He gets hold of her from behind as another knight climbs up the ladder. Buffy hits the axe hand. The knight yells and lets go of the axe, which Buffy grabs. She swings it at him and he ducks, then she kicks him and he falls over the side.

Buffy throws the axe and it slams into the chest of the knight on the ladder. He screams and falls backward off the RV.

Cut to inside. It seems quiet. Spike is on the floor with Dawn crouching over him, Willow and Anya and Tara on the other side of the table, all listening. Giles peers out at his mirror.

Shot of the back end of the RV with the road retreating away, clear of all knights.

Giles lets out a sigh of relief. Xander does the same although he still looks queasy. Giles glances back.

GILES
Everyone all right?

Everyone seems to be all right.

STEVEN
(groans)
**He stabbed me...that punk bitch
on the horse...he stabbed me!**

Giles smiles slightly as he turns back to the road.

Only to see another knight on horseback coming straight at him, holding a spear.

Giles looks horrified and tries to twist the wheel.

The knight throws the spear. It flies through the window and into Giles' side, impaling him. He gasps and is thrown forward onto the steering wheel. Everyone shrieks and gasps as the RV jostles, out of control.

Shot of Buffy still on the roof, struggling to keep her balance. She leaps off the roof, lands on the ground and rolls.

She sits up in time to see the RV go careening off the road, fall over onto its side, and come to a stop in a huge cloud of dust. Blackout.

Act III

Open on the Winnebago still lying on its side with dust drifting slowly around it. It's on a dirt road in the desert, just a few trees and telephone poles on either side. In the background we can see the gang walking along. Spike has a blanket covering his head. Buffy and Xander support Giles with his arms over their shoulders. **Steven limps into the building.**

XANDER VOICEOVER
We gotta find shelter.

SPIKE VOICEOVER
Yeah, right bloody quick. I'm
burning up out here.

Cut to: overhead shot of an abandoned gas station with a rusting old truck in front of it. The gang walks up to the building.

Cut to the entrance. Spike goes first, kicking the door open and hurrying inside. The others follow.

BUFFY

Careful.

Dawn coughs from the dust, watches with concern as the others bring Giles in. Anya closes the door behind them. Inside, it looks like an empty room with little or no furniture. The windows are boarded up but incompletely, so stripes of light enter the room. There's a long sort of counter halfway in.

BUFFY

Spike.

Spike and Xander help Buffy bring Giles over to the counter. Giles groans in pain. The lower left side of his stomach is covered in blood.

XANDER

Careful. Up.

BUFFY

Okay, Will?

WILLOW

I'm on it.

Giles groans more as Xander and Spike lift him onto the counter. Spike also groans in pain from his wounded hands.

WILLOW

Oh, careful!

Spike finishes helping Giles onto the counter and hurries out of the sunlight. Willow and Tara come up next to Giles. Willow puts a bag under Giles's head. He is sweaty and panting.

Buffy goes over to Dawn.

BUFFY

Are you sure you're okay?

DAWN

Yeah. B-but Spike's hurt.

Buffy turns to Spike, grabs his wrist to look at his injured hands.

SPIKE
Ow! Easy with the delicates.

BUFFY
(to Dawn)
They'll heal.

Xander and Anya exchange a look as they put down their stuff.

SPIKE
Florence bloody Nightingale to
the rescue.

Buffy goes to the window and looks through the boards. Shot
of the view outside: no one in sight.

ANYA
Um, you have another plan, right?
(Buffy turns from the
window to look at her)
One that doesn't involve pointy
knives and a Winnebago?

BUFFY
We-we-we'll rest here for a
minute, but then we have to keep
moving.

XANDER
Where?

BUFFY
(desperately)
I don't know!
(puts her hands to her face)
We just, we, we, we can't, can't
stay here. I-it's too close to
the wreck, we're too easy to find.

WILLOW
Buffy!

Buffy runs over to where Willow is standing over Giles.

BUFFY
Will, how is he?

Willow has her hands on Giles's wound. Shot of Giles's face,
still sweaty with blood coming out of his mouth.

BUFFY
Will?

WILLOW
I-I think I slowed the bleeding,
but...

Giles continues breathing shallowly, his eyes closed.

BUFFY
Okay. Okay, just-just give me a
minute.

Buffy turns away trying to think.

Suddenly a flaming arrow shoots through a boarded-up window
and embeds in the wall opposite. Everyone turns.

BUFFY
Dawn, get down!

Another fiery arrow breaks through some glass that's left in
a window.

Xander pulls the first arrow out of the window and stomps
out the fire on the ground.

Buffy pushes Dawn behind the counter. Dawn sits on the
floor, protected on three sides.

More fiery arrows come shooting through the windows.

Willow pushes a whimpering Tara down to a crouch.

Xander peeks out the hole made by one arrow.

Shot of the outside. A bunch of knights are setting up,
mostly hiding behind the abandoned truck and gas pumps with
their bows and arrows. There are a few garbage barrels with
fires lit in them.

XANDER
(OS)
We got company.

STEVEN
(groans)
Many, many knights...

More arrows shoot through the windows. Xander turns back
inside.

XANDER
And they brought a crusade.

Cut to outside. The knights continue firing their arrows.
The general rides up on horseback.

Cut to inside. Everyone's crouching down. Buffy runs toward the wall.

BUFFY

Willow!

We see Willow crouching beside the counter, with one hand stretched up to keep pressure on Giles's wound while her other hand is flipping the pages of a magic book. Tara huddles next to her whimpering and covering her head.

WILLOW

I'm working on it!

Buffy and Spike together shove a large coffee machine in front of the door and tip it over on its side.

Cut to outside. The general sits on his horse watching the action.

KNIGHTS

Go! Go! Go! Let's move! Come on,
move it!

We see multiple knights attacking the boarded-up windows of the building with various weapons, trying to break in.

Cut to inside. A knight's axe breaks through the wall right next to Dawn's head. She screams.

The knight continues hacking and then reaches an arm in. Dawn screams again.

DAWN

Buffy!

STEVEN

(yells)

(worried)

Dawn!

Steven starts to run over, but begins limping.

A knight takes advantage of that, and punches him in the face, knocking him back over by Giles.

Buffy runs over to help, but a knight comes through the door beside the counter. He punches Buffy and she falls aside.

Xander and Anya hide behind something (looks like an old heater).

Spike lunges at the knight, punches him, then screams in pain and clutches his head. The knight lifts his weapon to strike Spike but Buffy intervenes, kicks him and then punches him. He punches her back.

The boards on the windows rattle as more knights pound on them and the glass shatters. Spike covers his head as glass falls on him.

Buffy kicks the knight again and he stumbles back, turns and thrusts his weapon at her but she blocks it, kicks him, then twists around and flips him over her shoulder. He falls unconscious on the floor.

Xander runs out from his hiding place and grabs the unconscious knight, begins dragging him away.

The other knights continue beating on the walls and windows, knocking out the glass with their weapons.

KNIGHT

It's clear!

Dawn stands up cautiously from behind the counter and is confronted by the bleeding Giles. She looks at his wound in dismay.

The general enters. Buffy turns to look at him. He points his sword.

GREGOR

The key.

Dawn looks frightened.

Buffy picks up the knight's weapon from the ground and throws it at Gregor, hitting him in the hand, making him drop his sword. He lunges at Buffy and she hits him, making him reel aside into a pillar. He hits it face-first and falls down unconscious.

WILLOW

Enemies, fly and fall.

We see Willow sitting on the floor beside the counter, with her legs crossed holding the book. Her eyes are all black again as they were in "Tough Love."

WILLOW

Circling arms, raise a wall.

She raises her arms and a circle of light emits from them, expanding outward.

Cut to outside. The sphere comes through the walls and all the knights are forced backward, flying through the air. They land several feet away from the building as the bubble holds.

Dante hits the barrier with his sword. It shimmers but he can't get through.

DANTE
(angry growl)
They have the general. Clerics!

Two elderly men in long black robes come forward. They walk up to the barrier and hold up their hands to it. One begins to chant while the other turns back to Dante.

CLERIC
Energy barrier. A most powerful one.

DANTE
Can it be breached?

CLERIC
The witch's magic pales to the
might of our god. The infidels'
wall ... shall tumble before us.

Cut to inside. Willow and Tara get to their feet as Buffy comes to check Giles's wound.

BUFFY
Will? How long will it hold?

WILLOW
(uncertain)
Half a day maybe.

Buffy and Dawn watch as Willow goes to the window and peeks out.

Shot of the view through the window. We can see the two clerics chanting while the knights wait behind them.

WILLOW
Or till Heckle and Jeckle punch a
hole through it.

Buffy and Dawn look nervous.

Spike walks forward, looking down at the ground.

SPIKE
So. What's the story with these
role-playing rejects?

STEVEN
They're after the Key, I'm guessing.

Shot of Gregor lying unconscious on the floor.

BUFFY
(OS)
Let's find out.

Cut to Gregor tied to a pillar in a rear room of the building. Buffy stands in front of him with her arms folded.

Shot of Dawn by the door watching.

Shot of Spike off to the side.

SPIKE
You sure Scarface here can habla
the English?

BUFFY
He understands me.
(to Gregor)
Don't you?

GREGOR
You were warned we would return,
Slayer.

BUFFY
Took you long enough. What are
you supposed to be, some kind of
chief?

STEVEN
General, probably.

GREGOR
(sneers)
General.

BUFFY
General.
(takes a step forward)
In charge of what, getting captured?

GREGOR
You do not frighten me, child.
(looks at Dawn)
The instrument of chaos must be
destroyed.

Buffy steps forward to him and puts her hands firmly on
either side of his face.

BUFFY
(angrily)
Look at her that way again, and
she will be the last thing you
ever see.

She lets go and steps back.

GREGOR
As I've been told, you protect
the key of the beast.

Shot of Xander watching.

BUFFY
It's not that simple.

GREGOR
Yes. The key has been transformed,
given ... breath, life. Yet, this
makes no difference. The key is
the link. The link must be
severed.

(Shot of Dawn looking scared)
Such is the will of god.

BUFFY
(upset)
She doesn't remember anything
about being this key you're all
looking for. The only thing that
she remembers is growing up with
a mother, and a sister that love
her. What kind of god would
demand her life for something
that she has no control over?

Shot of Gregor looking unmoved.

BUFFY
We are not your enemy.
(Shot of Spike watching)
Tell your men to stand down.

GREGOR
(looks at Dawn)
No.

BUFFY
It is not her fault! She's human
now!
(Shot of Dawn)

GREGOR

The key is too dangerous ... to
be allowed to exist. No matter
what form it has been pressed into.

BUFFY

I will not let anyone tell me-

Buffy breaks off as we hear a wailing from the next room and Willow saying "Shh, shh." Xander turns to look through the door.

Buffy, Dawn, **Steven**, Spike, and Xander go into the other room where Anya is watching helplessly as Willow tries to calm Tara.

WILLOW

Shh, shh, shh.

BUFFY

What happened?

ANYA

I-I don't know, she just went nuts.

Tara whimpers frantically and struggles to get free from Willow who is holding her still. Tara finally breaks free.

TARA

Time! Time, time!

She runs over to the boarded-up windows and claws at them. Willow runs after her and tries to pull her away. Tara breaks free and runs to another part of the wall, whimpering in agitation. The others watch helplessly.

Willow grabs Tara around the torso, pinning her arms to her sides as Tara continues whimpering.

WILLOW

Tara!

(to Buffy)

We have to do something!

(shot of Dawn and

Spike watching with concern)

She, she can't stay this way. Buffy!

TARA

Time... time... time...

STEVEN

What are we gonna do?

Cut to the hospital psych ward. All the patients are muttering "Time, time" as well, and struggling against their bonds. One of them is the man who accosted Dawn on the street in "The Real Me."

PATIENTS

Time. Time.

The nurse comes in.

NURSE

No, it's not time for your meds,
just lie back-

The guy from "The Real Me" rips free of his restraints and the nurse rushes over to try to force him back into bed.

NURSE

(yelling over her shoulder)
Doctor! Doctor McCarthy!

Another patient hits her over the head and she falls down unconscious. The other patients begin to break free and get up out of bed. They all walk off toward the door, muttering "Time" over and over again.

Cut to outside the gas station. Orlando is among the knights in the encampment. He walks forward, staring at the building.

ORLANDO

It's time. It's time.

DANTE

No, no, shh. There's nothing to
fear, my brother.

Orlando looks unhappy. Behind Dante we can see the clerics still standing by the barrier chanting.

DANTE

The beast may have taken your
mind, but I swear to you, she
will never know the taste of your
heart.

Dante pulls Orlando sharply toward him. Orlando groans and grabs Dante's shoulders but then slumps to the ground. Dante looks sadly down at him. We see a bloody dagger in his hand.

DANTE

Clerics!
(The clerics turn)
I want the witch's barrier down.
NOW!

The clerics exchange a look, return to their chanting.

Cut to: closeup of Buffy's face.

BUFFY

I'm sorry.

We see she's standing beside Giles, holding his hand with both of hers. Giles is conscious.

GILES

For what?

BUFFY

We should have stayed. If we had,
none of this would have happened.

GILES

Don't.

(painfully)

What you did ... w-was necessary
... what I've always admired.

BUFFY

(small smile)

Running away?

GILES

Being able to place ... your
heart ... above all else.

He breathes shakily while Buffy watches with concern.

GILES

I'm so proud of you. You've come
so far. You're everything a
Watcher ... everything I could
have hoped for.

Buffy has tears in her eyes. She sniffles.

Steven smiles, watching the two.

Giles makes a pained face, closes his eyes. Buffy looks anxiously at their entwined hands, then at Giles's stomach. He continues breathing shallowly, seems to have fallen asleep. Buffy gently removes his hand from hers.

In the background we see Willow standing over a sleeping or resting Tara, stroking her hair.

Buffy turns away from Giles with a resolute expression.

BUFFY

Willow.

Willow looks up at her.

BUFFY

Open a door.

Willow looks uncertainly from Buffy to the wall and back.

STEVEN

I don't know if that's a good--

BUFFY

(to Willow)

Open a door. Now.

Cut to outside. A hole appears in the barrier as Buffy comes out of the building followed by Xander. Dante and a few other knights come forward. They stop at the edge of the barrier and Dante holds up a hand to stop the knights.

DANTE

Speak.

BUFFY

One of my friends was hurt when you attacked us.

DANTE

And ten of my men are dead.
Honorable men.

(draws his sword)
Shall we balance the scale?

BUFFY

Will you let someone come and help him or not?

DANTE

Give quarter to an agent of the beast? What madness would move me to such action?

BUFFY

I'm done asking.

Buffy starts forward but Xander intervenes, stopping her, as the knights were preparing for Buffy's attack.

XANDER

Whoa, whoa, hey! Uh ... this is war, isn't it? And if there's one thing I've learned from Sergeant Rock, it is in war ... there are rules.

Dante looks stern.

XANDER

Or at least there should be, if you're as honorable as you think you are.

(Buffy looks to see if Dante is convinced)
Plus, we do have your general forehead guy.

Dante considers this.

Cut to: Willow, Spike, and Buffy standing beside a pay phone in the building. The phone is dark.

WILLOW

Discharge and bring life.

The pay phone sizzles and suddenly lights up. Buffy picks up the receiver, turns and nods to Willow, who looks relieved. Buffy begins to dial.

SPIKE

(to Willow)
Handier than a Swiss knife. Look, the door to my crypt's got this nasty squeak, maybe you could...

Willow rolls her eyes, turns and walks away. Pan to Buffy on the phone.

BUFFY

Hey, uh, i-it's Buffy. I need to ask you a really big favor.

Cut to: exterior shot, night. A car drives up to the gas station where the army of knights stands around watching. Ben is at the wheel. He stops the car and looks fearfully out the window at the knights, who all hold weapons and glare at him. Ben takes a deep breath, picks up his black bag from the seat, and gets out of the car.

Cut to inside. Ben stands next to Giles tending to his wound, wearing surgical gloves. Buffy stands beside him with the others in the background.

BEN

You, uh, forgot to mention the costume party outside.

BUFFY

Sorry.

(shot of Willow
sitting over a
sleeping Tara)

I-I didn't know who else to call.

BEN

No, it's okay. I mean, yeah, not ... how I pictured seeing you again, but, uh ... I'll take what I can get.

Shot of Spike looking annoyed, rolling his eyes.

BUFFY

Thank you ... for coming.

STEVEN

Yeah, we're really glad you're here...

BEN

My pleasure.

Ben looks past Buffy. Shot of Dawn standing a few feet away, with Xander in the background.

Ben continues looking at Dawn.

Blackout.

Act IV

Open on Giles's face, asleep or unconscious. Ben's hands enter the shot and put the discarded surgical gloves down next to Giles. Pan down to Giles's stomach. The bloody sweater is pulled up revealing a bandage wrapped around his abdomen.

Cut to a longer shot as Ben pulls a blanket up over Giles's stomach and packs away his stethoscope while Buffy stands watching.

BEN

All right, I think I got him stabilized, but there's a lot of damage. We need to get him out of here.

BUFFY

Well, I think the guys with the pointy swords kinda have other ideas.

BEN

Don't they always.

Shot of Spike in the background making a disgusted face, mimicking Ben silently, then turning away.

BUFFY

Look, I know this must seem extra "Outer Limits" to you.

BEN

This? Naah. I've seen things you wouldn't believe.

Shot of Dawn watching with Xander in the background.

BEN

(OS)

You know, emergency room, full moon on a Saturday night.

STEVEN

I can sympathize. A "Full Moon Saturday Night" has to be one of the worst things to deal with as a doctor.

Xander goes into the other room and pulls the door shut behind him.

Cut back to Buffy and Ben.

BUFFY

Look, if this gets too weird, just tell me. I'll understand.

BEN

Don't worry about me. I won't leave until I've worn out my welcome.

He smiles. Buffy smiles back, then looks with concern at Giles.

Shot of Giles breathing shallowly and unevenly. Pan down to his blanket-covered stomach.

Shot of Giles's hand lying beside his body. Buffy's hand enters the shot and takes hold of Giles's.

Cut to Spike's bloody, bandaged hands as he tries to light a cigarette. He fumbles with the lighter.

We see that we're in the back room. It's dark. Xander stands watching the tied-up general as the sound of Spike trying to light his lighter continues.

SPIKE
(whispering)
Ow.

Spike shakes his hand in pain and annoyance.

Xander walks over. Spike gives him a wary look. Xander takes the lighter. Spike sighs.

SPIKE
Thanks.

Xander flicks the lighter on and holds it up to Spike's cigarette, lighting it. Then Xander closes the lighter, puts it in his pocket as Spike takes a drag.

XANDER
You know, those things'll kill you.

Spike gives him a look.

XANDER
Oh. Right.

They stand side by side, leaning against the wall, as Spike smokes.

XANDER
I mention today how much I don't
like you?

SPIKE
(nods)
You mighta let it slip in ...
(looks at Xander)
once or twice.

Xander smiles slightly, looks down at Spike's hands.

XANDER
How're your feelers?

SPIKE

(sighs, looks around)
Nothing compared to the little
bits we're gonna get chopped into
when the Renaissance Faire kicks
the door in.

(points to the door;
they both look over at it)
And here we bloody sit.

XANDER

It's not like we got much of a
choice.

SPIKE

(gestures impatiently)
Could make a break for it! Use
General Armor-All as a shield
(shot of the general)
get to the doc's car, and-

XANDER

Great plan. And while all the
hacking and slashing's going on,
what are you gonna be doing, huh?
Throwing migraines at 'em?

SPIKE

Look, we stay here, we all die!
At least this way, some of us
might get-

BUFFY

(OS)
No.

The guys turn to see Buffy standing in the doorway.

BUFFY

We're all gonna make it. I'm not
losing anyone.

Spike sighs and shakes his head but says nothing.

BUFFY

Check the supplies. See if
anyone's hungry.

Xander looks at Spike, then they both walk out. Focus on
Buffy as they walk past her. She stares at the floor looking
pensive.

Gregor chuckles and Buffy closes her eyes briefly, then
looks angrily at him.

GREGOR
Dissent in the ranks. Seldom a
harbinger of glad tidings.

Buffy scowls, walks over to him and backhands him across the
face.

BUFFY
Shut up.

Gregor turns his head and spits blood. Buffy turns her back
to him.

GREGOR
Poor frightened girl.
(she turns back)
You've no idea what you've gotten
yourself into.

BUFFY
(crosses arms over her chest)
Why don't you tell me?

GREGOR
Would it make a difference?

Pause.

GREGOR
What do you know of the beast?

BUFFY
Strong. Fast. Hellgod.

GREGOR
From a dimension of unspeakable
torment.

BUFFY
A demon dimension. I know. She
ruled with two other hellgods,
right?

GREGOR
Along with the beast they were a
triumvirate of suffering and
despair. Ruling with equal
vengeance. But the beast's power
grew beyond even what they could
conceive. As did her lust for
pain and misery. They looked upon
her, what she had become ... and
trembled.

BUFFY
(nervously)
A god afraid?

GREGOR
Such was her power. They feared she would attempt to seize their dimension for herself, and decided to strike first. A great battle erupted. In the end, they stood victorious over the beast ... barely. She was cast out. Banished to this lower plane of existence, forced to live and eventually die trapped within the body of a mortal ... a newborn male, created as her prison. That is the beast's ... only weakness.

BUFFY
Kill the man ... and the god dies.

GREGOR
Unfortunately, the identity of the human vessel has never been discovered.

BUFFY
(puzzled)
I don't understand. Now, I've seen Glory. Not a whole lot going on in the hairy chest department.

GREGOR
You have seen a glimpse of the true beast. Her power was too great to be completely contained. She's found a way to escape her mortal prison ... for brief periods, before her energies are exhausted and she's forced back ... into her living cell of meat and bone.

DAWN
(OS)
What about me?

Buffy turns to see Dawn standing in the doorway.

DAWN
What about the key?

BUFFY

Dawn.

DAWN

I want to know.

GREGOR

The key ... is almost as old as the beast itself. Where it came from, how it was created ... the deepest of mysteries. All that is certain is that its power is absolute. Countless generations of my people have sacrificed their lives in search of it, to destroy it before its wrath could be unleashed.

DAWN

But the monks found it first.

GREGOR

Yes, and hid it with their magicks.

BUFFY

Why didn't they just destroy it?
If the key is as dangerous as-

GREGOR

Because they were fools. They thought they could harness its power for the forces of light. They failed, and paid with their blood.

DAWN

What do I do? What was I created for?

GREGOR

You were created ... to open the gates that separate dimensions. The beast will use your power ... to return home and seize control of the hell she was banished from.

Buffy laughs. The general looks at her in surprise.

BUFFY

That's it? That's Glory's master plan ... to go home?

GREGOR

You misunderstand. Once the key is activated, it won't just open the gates to the beast's dimension. It's going to open all the gates. The walls separating realities will crumble.

(shot of Buffy no longer smiling. Shot of Dawn)

Dimensions will bleed into each other. Order will be overthrown and the universe will tumble into chaos ... all dark ... forever.

Buffy looks dismayed.

GREGOR

(staring at Dawn)

That ... is what you were created for.

Dawn stares at him, then looks down.

Cut to: Buffy emerging from the back room into another room.

BUFFY

Dawn.

We see Dawn sitting on a table nearby. She has her back to Buffy.

DAWN

(not turning)

You think it's true ... what he said?

Buffy walks forward with a sigh, sits next to Dawn. They look at each other.

BUFFY

I don't know.

DAWN

Destroyer of the universe.

(pause)

I guess cutting school doesn't seem so bad now, huh?

BUFFY

It's not you. You know that.

DAWN
But it's in me ... isn't it? It's
inside me.

They look at each other for a moment, then Dawn looks away.

DAWN
What are we gonna do?

Buffy frowns slightly, then puts her arms around Dawn's shoulders and pulls Dawn close, resting Dawn's head on her cheek.

BUFFY
I won't let anything happen to
you. I promise.

They sit there quietly. Buffy sighs.

Cut to the back room. Willow is trying to feed Tara while Gregor, still tied up, watches.

TARA
(upset)
Wriggling!

WILLOW
Come on, Tara, you have to eat
something.

Tara turns her head aside and whimpers. Anya walks up.

ANYA
Want me to try?

WILLOW
I don't know. I'm gettin' used to
pickin' fruit out of my hair.

Pan over to the general. Nearby we see Ben standing over a small sink doing something with gauze.

GREGOR
(whispers)
You!

Ben stops what he's doing but doesn't look at Gregor.

GREGOR
You are not a part of this, are you?

BEN
(still not looking at him)
Just a friend of the family.

GREGOR
Would you die for them?

Ben turns to look at him.

GREGOR
Because that is what your future
holds if you align yourself with
the Slayer and her misguided people.

BEN
(walks a little
closer, angrily)
It's my life, and I'll do what I
please with it.

GREGOR
It's not just your life.
Unimaginable legions will perish,
including everyone here.
(whispers)
You can stop this. You can save
all their lives by ending one.
The little girl. The key. Destroy
it, and the will of the beast
will be broken, she will fade, a
distant memory ...
(shot of Ben listening,
looking uncertain)
and all of this madness will end.

Ben just glares at him.

Cut to Dawn standing over Giles, watching him as he
continues to sleep, breathing raggedly. Ben walks up and
Dawn gasps in surprise.

BEN
Sorry.

Ben puts his hand on Giles's wrist and takes his pulse.

DAWN
Is ... is he gonna be okay?
(shot of Xander watching)

BEN
He was hurt pretty bad, Dawn.
(releases Giles's wrist)

DAWN
It's because of me. It's all my
fault.

BEN
No it isn't.

Ben goes past Dawn to get his bag.

DAWN
You don't know what's happening.

BEN
I don't have to.
(takes a syringe from
the bag, begins
filling it)
I just know that sometimes
terrible things happen to good
people. It shouldn't, but ... it
does.

He pulls down the plunger, filling the syringe with liquid.
Dawn continues watching Giles. Ben flicks the needle to make
sure it's flowing.

BEN
It's nobody's fault.

He turns back, holding the needle up.

Shot of Dawn with her back to Ben.

Ben moves slowly closer to her.

BEN
It's just the way life is.

He walks past Dawn and puts the needle to Giles's arm. Dawn
sees it and gasps.

Shot of the needle injecting into Giles. Dawn frowns in
distaste.

DAWN
Is that gonna help?

Ben doesn't answer. He turns away.

DAWN
Ben?

The syringe falls to the ground.

Ben has his back to Dawn, puts a hand shakily to his forehead. Dawn stares at him looking very scared.

Cut to Ben running into the main room.

BEN
You have to let me out.

Dawn follows him in. The others begin to gather.

DAWN
Ben?

BEN
You don't understand, I gotta get out, open a door now!

Buffy, **Steven** and Spike run up next to Dawn.

BUFFY
What happened?

DAWN
I-I don't know, he just freaked out.

BEN
(frantically)
Let me out!

BUFFY
Okay, W-Will, open a door.

Willow turns away from Tara to see what's going on.

BEN
No! Ha!

Ben puts his hands to his head and suddenly morphs into Glory, who turns the movement into a stretch. She slowly brings her arms down and looks around.

STEVEN
Damn it!

Buffy and Dawn stare in horror. Buffy pushes Dawn behind her.

Glory looks around in surprise.

Shot of Willow looking scared, reaching for Tara.

Glory begins to smile.

Shot of Xander and Anya watching.

GLORY

Well, what do you know. Little Ben finally did something right.

GREGOR

The beast.

GLORY

Hey, it's Gregor.

She grabs a hubcap that's hanging nearby and throws it like a Frisbee. It flies into the general's chest. Everyone stares. Gregor falls forward against his bonds, dead.

GLORY

Now it's not.

Spike rushes at Glory with a yell, Xander right behind him. Glory hits Spike and he crashes backward into Xander. They both fall against the wall.

Tara looks upset as Willow lowers her head and closes her eyes.

Buffy rushes at Glory as the guys try to get up. Glory hits Buffy and she crashes into Willow, both of them hitting the wall and then falling to the floor.

Glory turns to look at Dawn, gives a little laugh. Dawn looks frightened.

Glory runs forward and grabs Dawn. Anya grabs Dawn from the other side but Glory pulls her free and begins running out.

DAWN

Buffy!

STEVEN

(yells)

No!!!

Buffy painfully tries to get up as Glory, dragging Dawn by the hand, crashes out the door.

Steven runs after Glory, chasing her and Dawn.

Cut to outside. Glory and Dawn burst out, run forward and into the barrier, which stops them. We can hear the knights shouting.

GLORY

Yeah, right!

Glory swings her free arm at the barrier and breaks a hole in it. She runs through it, pulling Dawn with her. We hear the knights yelling battle cries.

The hole begins to close as Buffy emerges from the building. She runs into the barrier just as it finishes closing. She can't get past it.

BUFFY

Dawn!!

Sound of knights yelling and swords clashing. Buffy turns and runs back inside, moving with a slight limp.

Cut to inside. Buffy enters.

BUFFY

Willow!

Willow lifts her head. Her eyes are black again.

BUFFY

Get it down, now!

WILLOW

Hear, hear my plea.

Buffy runs back out again.

WILLOW

Circling arm protecting me.

Cut to outside. Buffy comes running out as the barrier disappears. Buffy limps forward and looks around.

All the knights are lying dead on the ground.

Buffy walks forward slowly, looking around at the corpses in horror.

Spike, **Steven**, Xander, Willow, Tara, and Anya burst out, slow down when they see the scene.

WILLOW

We have to-
(stops)

Buffy walks slowly forward, looking around.

STEVEN

(worried)

Dawn...

Pan across the men lying dead. We see Dante among them, still alive.

DANTE

The beast.

Spike and Xander staring around.

Tara whimpers and hides her face in Willow's shoulder.

SPIKE

(points)

The car. Get the keys.

Spike and Xander run off. Buffy continues staring.

Willow, Tara, and Anya start forward.

WILLOW

Buffy! Buffy, we have to find
Dawn. We, we can't let Glory-

Buffy abruptly sits down on the ground.

WILLOW

Buffy? Buffy!

Tears run down Buffy's face. Willow and Tara walk over to her.

WILLOW

Buffy, you have to get up! We
need you!

Buffy just sits, the tears flowing, staring in front of her.

WILLOW

(OS)

Buffy, please!

(echoing)

Buffy...

Blackout.

Executive Producer: Joss Whedon.