

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

## Out of My Mind

A Buffy the Vampire Slayer episode transcribed by Joan the English Chick (pisces@englishchick.com). Original Air Date: October 17, 2000

### Transcriber's Notes:

\*I do not own the characters or situations of BTVS, and I claim no credit for the content of this episode. I have merely transcribed what appeared on my screen, with help from the closed captions.

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### Teaser

Fade in on a graveyard, night. Camera pans across the crypts and finds Buffy crouched on top of one. She stands up, stake in hand. Looks around, leaps to the ground.

Cut to Buffy running through the graveyard, pausing, looking around.

A pair of arms bursts out of a fresh grave but Buffy stakes the vampire before it can finish coming out of the ground.

Buffy straightens up, turns as another vamp emerges from another grave. She ducks his swing, throws a few punches, kicks him in the chest. He does a back-roll and comes up to his feet.

Riley appears out of nowhere and throws the vamp aside.

BUFFY

Riley?

RILEY

(smiling)

Buffy, what are you doing here?

BUFFY

My job?

RILEY

Well, I just thought you were in  
the north sector.

BUFFY

Watch out!

The vamp attacks Riley from behind. He kicks the vamp's legs out from under him and throws him aside. The vamp hits a crypt and slides down.

BUFFY

Never mind.

Riley punches the vampire, then stakes him.

Shot of another vamp emerging from the ground. Buffy spots him and starts forward with a yell, raising her stake.

Another person appears from the left side of the screen and tackles the new vamp, carrying him to the ground. Buffy looks bemused.

BUFFY

Why do I even bother to show up?

The two fighters get up and we see that the newcomer is Spike. He blocks a couple of punches from the other vamp, then grabs his arm.

BUFFY

Spike, what are you doing here?

SPIKE

Same thing as you and your Cub  
Scout here, I'll wager.

He lands a few punches and the vamp goes down. Spike turns toward Buffy with a big grin.

SPIKE

A spot of violence before bedtime.

The other vamp punches him in the face and he goes down. He gets to his knees, wiping blood from his nose. The other vamp growls. Buffy rushes forward.

Shot of Spike standing up, still wiping his nose with his hand. The other vamp attacks from the left. Buffy appears from the right, shoves Spike out of the way, and stakes the vamp.

Spike exhales loudly, and Buffy gives him a dirty look.

SPIKE  
What? I softened him up.

He wipes more blood from his nose, sniffs it, then licks it from his fingers.

BUFFY  
Better keep out of my way, Spike.  
I'm not gonna take this much longer.  
(Riley walks over to join them.)

SPIKE  
And I should do what in my spare time? Sit at home knitting cunning sweater sets?

BUFFY  
Would it keep you out of my way?

RILEY  
She's right. You shouldn't be out here when she's patrolling.

Buffy turns to Riley in exasperation as if she's going to say something, but she doesn't.

SPIKE  
Oh! I saw that. Looks like neither boy's entirely welcome. You should take him home, Slayer. Make him stay there. I've got knitting needles he can borrow.

Riley looks annoyed.

BUFFY  
Spike ... I just saw you taste your own nose blood, you know what?  
(Spike grins at her)  
I'm too grossed out to hear anything you have to say. Go home.

She stalks off. Riley gives Spike a dirty look, then follows. Spike looks injured.

SPIKE  
(yelling after them)  
It's blood! It's what I do!

Cut to Buffy walking along, looking tired and annoyed. Riley catches up with her.

RILEY

Hey, hope I didn't get in the way.

He puts his arm around her. She gives a fake smile.

BUFFY

Of course not. I-I was just ... startled. And, you know I don't ... love the idea of you patrolling alone.

RILEY

Not much for bench-warming.

BUFFY

No, you made the squad. You ... threw that vampire like he was a ... teeny-weeny little vampire.

RILEY

(grinning)

Hey, wanna go again? Come on, I bet this place is just teeming with aerodynamic vampires.

Buffy looks around.

BUFFY

Nah.

(pauses)

Unless you wanna go back and kill Spike for the fun of it?

Riley raises his eyebrows in a sort of shrug. They both turn and continue on their way.

Cut back to Spike staring after them.

SPIKE

I will know your blood, Slayer.

(pause)

I will make your neck my chalice ... and drink deep.

He wipes blood from his nose again, turns, and tries to stride away purposefully, but he falls into an open grave.

Long shot of the graveyard looking empty, with the open grave in the foreground.

SPIKE  
(voice coming from the grave)  
Ow!

Wolf howl. Opening credits.

Guest starring Mercedes McNab, Bailey Chase, Charlie Weber, Time Winters, Amber Benson as Tara, and Kristine Sutherland as Joyce Summers. Written by Rebecca Rand Kirshner, directed by David Grossman.

Act I

Fade in on a UC Sunnydale building filled with students walking around, talking, studying, etc.

WILLOW  
You can't possibly be arguing  
that Marat didn't betray the  
French Revolutionaries.

We see Willow and Buffy walking through the halls.

WILLOW  
This was the guy who declared the  
rights of man, and then the next  
thing you know he's ... killing  
Girondin like it's going out of  
style.

BUFFY  
Will, you're totally missing my  
point. Now, I agree that Marat  
wasn't a real martyr, but the  
death in the tub ... the neck  
wound, all that blood, just a  
little more fang-y than knife-y.  
I mean, Charlotte Corday wasn't a  
real martyr either, but...

WILLOW  
Buffy!

Willow stops walking and grabs Buffy's hand.

BUFFY  
What?

WILLOW  
(smiling hugely)  
Listen to us! We-we're arguing!  
We're having a debate about a  
college lecture!  
(MORE)

WILLOW (CONT'D)

I have dreamt of this day since  
... forever!

(proudly)

You are turning into quite the  
student.

(Buffy smiles)

Should I be watching my occipital  
lobe?

BUFFY

Your what?

WILLOW

Occipital.

(pointing to her head)

The lobe in the back of your  
brain. You know, like, "should I  
be watching my back?" But, you  
know, the ... back of your brain.

(sighs)

BUFFY

Apparently not. Don't worry,  
Will, you still wear the smarty-  
pants in the family.

WILLOW

I don't know. You've been  
studying ... really a lot.

BUFFY

I'm trying. But they're really  
piling on the reading, and Giles  
fills any free time I have with  
extra training ... I'm starting  
to think this working hard is  
hard work.

WILLOW

Isn't it crazy like that?

BUFFY

I thought it was gonna be like in  
the movies. You know,  
inspirational music ... a  
montage, me sharpening my  
pencils, me reading, writing,  
falling asleep on a big pile of  
books with my glasses all  
crooked, 'cause in my montage I  
have glasses.

(MORE)

BUFFY (CONT'D)  
(Willow nods)  
But real life is slow, and it's  
starting to hurt my occipital lobe.

WILLOW  
(sympathetic)  
Aw. Poor Buffy's brain.  
(Pats Buffy on the head)

BUFFY  
Actually, I'm heading to training  
now. Do you wanna come with?

WILLOW  
I'm in.  
(They start walking again)  
Maybe we can argue some more  
about the French Revolution. Hey!  
Wasn't that Robespierre the coolest?

BUFFY  
Robespierre? You're kidding me,  
right?

WILLOW  
I'm just gettin' it goin'.

Cut to a shot of a circle saw cutting some wood. We hear  
Giles' voice indistinctly over the saw noise. The camera  
pulls back and we see it's Xander wielding the saw, wearing  
safety goggles, standing in the middle of the magic shop.  
Giles is behind the counter wearing a dust-mask, painting  
something.

GILES  
(muffled by the noise)  
It seems the plans worked perfectly.

Xander stops the saw and unclamps the piece of wood from the  
vise.

XANDER  
Yes, blueprints, not a bad idea.  
That, and getting straight  
"measure twice, cut once." You  
know, for the longest time I had  
it backwards. Mess-y!

Xander begins fitting the piece of wood into a bookcase(?)  
that he's working on.



GILES  
 (pulling mask down  
 from his mouth, so it  
 hangs around his neck)  
 Well, I must say, I'm very  
 impressed.

XANDER  
 Yeah, carpentry is pretty cool.

Knock on the door. Giles goes to answer it. As he walks across the shop and the camera follows him, we see Tara standing by a small round table, wearing a long skirt, holding a deck of tarot cards. **Steven is standing by the bookcase, alphabetizing the books.** Then we see Anya moving stuff around on the shelves.

ANYA  
 Oh! Who put the monkey heads near  
 the Styx water? Do we \*want\* to  
 pick exploded monkey out of our  
 hair?  
 (Picks up a jar and a  
 monkey head, and walks  
 across the room.)

Giles opens the door. Willow and Buffy stand there, smiling.

BUFFY  
 Trick or treat!

GILES  
 Hello, you two, come on in.

WILLOW  
 Thank you, kind proprietor.

They enter.

TARA  
 Hey, you.

WILLOW  
 Hey!  
 (looking around)  
 Oh, wow, this place looks great.  
 Oh, I feel like a witch in a  
 magic shop.  
 (picks up a jar from a table)  
 Ooh. Are these real newt eyes?  
 (Looks at Giles)

GILES

No, too ... rich for my blood,  
I'm afraid. No, these are  
salamander eyes, it's the ...  
cataracts which give them their  
newt-like appearance.

(moving past her)

They're really equally effective,  
though, it's ... just a matter of  
overcoming snobberies.

We see Buffy putting her purse down, and Xander looking at a  
blueprint, holding a pencil.

XANDER

I'm telling you Giles. You gotta  
set up a blind taste test and  
prove once and for all that  
generic amphibian eyeballs are  
just as good.

WILLOW

I don't know. If you ask me, the  
newt name still means something.  
(puts down jar and  
walks off)

GILES

(to Buffy)

You ready to train?

BUFFY

You betcha.

GILES

Shall we then?

BUFFY

We shall then.

They walk off toward the back.

We see Willow sitting at the round table, with Tara standing  
beside her. A lot of tarot cards on the table.

TARA

I just ... keep thinking how cool  
it would be, if we got a real  
psychic to sit up here and read  
fortunes and stuff.

WILLOW

You should do it.

TARA

Not me. But, but I'd love to, to  
watch and learn. From someone  
who's really good, you know?

WILLOW

You're really good.  
(holds out her hands)  
I'll prove it. Here, do me.

**Steven's ears immediately perk up and look over at Willow and Tara.**

Tara nods and sits, putting down the cards, taking one of Willow's hands. Willow watches her study it.

TARA

Hmm.

WILLOW

What do you see?

TARA

Willow hand.

They both smile.

Cut to Giles opening the door to the back as Buffy and Xander watch. Giles holds the door for Buffy.

Shot of Buffy entering, looking around. Someone tackles her from the side, pulling her out of the shot so we see Giles and Xander behind, looking surprised.

Buffy falls to the floor on top of Riley, who has his arms around her waist.

BUFFY

Unh! Ow, Riley...

They get up.

RILEY

Just keeping you on your toes.

BUFFY

Or off them, as it were. What's  
gotten into-

She stops as she looks around the room and sees it for the first time.

BUFFY

Oh my god. Look at this place!

Long shot of the room. We see a punching bag hanging from the ceiling, a vault horse atop a set of mays, a stationary bike, and a scarecrow/dummy. In the background there's something that looks like a mini-fridge(?). Against the far wall there's a set of weights. Symbols are painted on the floor and walls.

BUFFY

(gasps)  
Thank you.  
(looks up at Giles)  
Thank you ... so much.

GILES

(removing his glasses  
and then the mask  
that's still around  
his neck)  
It's just a start, you need a  
proper space to train, so-

BUFFY

I love it.  
(Giles gives a small smile)

RILEY

(grinning)  
So come on, let's test this puppy  
out. Think you can take me?  
(throws a few fake  
punches at Buffy. She  
mostly ignores him,  
walking farther into  
the room.)  
What's the matter, afraid of a  
little competition?

BUFFY

It must have been so much work.

XANDER

I'm the dummy man.  
(coming forward)  
I mean, I ... made the dummy.  
(gestures at it)  
The thing that you hit that  
doesn't hit back.  
(shrugs, looking embarrassed)  
That, I made.

BUFFY  
It's great.  
(to Giles)  
I-it's all great.

GILES  
(putting his glasses  
back on)  
Well, you've earned it. Truly.

BUFFY  
Thank you guys so much. You're  
like my...fairy godmother and  
Santa Claus and Q all wrapped up  
into one.

Riley looks confused.

BUFFY  
Q from Bond, not Star Trek.

STEVEN  
(laughs)  
I was just gonna ask.

Xander nods.

BUFFY  
I'm gonna go change.

Cut to the graveyard, night. The camera pans jerkily across  
gravestones and bushes. We hear the sound of someone panting.  
The camera moves up the stairs leading into a crypt.

Cut to Spike sitting in his crypt, watching TV.

SPIKE  
Oh Pacey, you blind idiot. Can't  
you see she doesn't love you?

Suddenly there's a banging on the door. Spike jumps up and  
turns off the TV. More banging and Harmony comes in, looking  
disheveled and nervous. She shuts the door behind her and  
presses her back against the wall.

SPIKE  
Well, well, well. Looky here.

HARMONY  
(anxiously)  
Is it safe? Has Buffy gotten to  
you yet? I saw her patrolling  
just now ... with a stake!  
(MORE)

HARMONY (CONT'D)  
(Spike pretends to  
look shocked)  
She won't give up until she's  
killed me to death!

SPIKE  
(skeptical)  
Buffy's looking for you.

HARMONY  
Of course!  
(walks forward)  
That's why I'm on the lam. Didn't  
you hear? I'm totally her arch-  
nemesis!

SPIKE  
Is that right. I must have missed  
the memo.

HARMONY  
There was a mem-?  
(sighs)  
Spike, oh my god! This is like a  
real emergency! Uhh!  
(Spike grins)  
I need a hideout so bad. You're  
my only hope. We're just gonna  
have to rise above ... our petty  
differences...  
(looks anxiously at Spike)  
Listen, Spike ... I'm desperate.

SPIKE  
(still grinning,  
looking her up and down)  
Desperate, are you?

Harmony smiles a cajoling smile.

HARMONY  
Come on, Spike. Pretty please?  
I'll do anything!

SPIKE  
Anything, will you?

HARMONY  
Yeah! I said I'll do anything.

Spike raises his eyebrows.

HARMONY

Ohhhh. You mean will I have sex  
with you?

(shrugs casually, like "duh")  
Well, yeah.

Spike grins to himself as Harmony sits in his chair and takes out a cigarette. She begins flicking a lighter, trying to light it. She flicks it quite a few times before she finally figures it out and gets the cigarette lit.

SPIKE

Taking up smoking, are you?

Harmony leans back in the chair.

HARMONY

I \*am\* a villain, Spike,  
hellooooo.

(Takes a drag and  
starts to cough)

SPIKE

I guess you are at that. What  
with the slayer on your tail and  
all.

Harmony watches him warily.

SPIKE

She's not the type to give up,  
either. She'll hunt you down, day  
and night, till you're too tired  
and too hungry to run any more.  
And then?

(leans down to grab a  
handful of dust)

Then...

(dusting off his hands)  
that is you.

Harmony looks upset.

SPIKE

I guess you're gonna have to kill  
her.

HARMONY

(whining)

I tried! It was all hard and  
stuff!

(sits up)

You do it.

SPIKE  
(looking down at her)  
I'd love to. But, I can't.  
Remember? I've got this cute  
little government chip in my head.

HARMONY  
(sighs)  
Oh, right. Guess it'll have to be  
me after all.  
(looks up at Spike again)  
Can you help with the thinking?

SPIKE  
(nods)  
Yeah. I suppose I could do that.

Harmony smiles and sits back again, putting the cigarette to her lips.

Cut to Buffy and Riley lying in bed, side-by-side. Riley is tapping his hands agitatedly on his chest. Buffy gives a contented sigh.

RILEY  
Yeah.

BUFFY  
Mm, that was relaxing.

She turns onto her side as if to sleep. Riley continues patting himself, looks over at her.

RILEY  
You, uh ... wanna relax some more?  
(Turns onto his side  
and snuggles up  
against her)

BUFFY  
Again? Right away again?

Riley is kissing her bare shoulder.

RILEY  
Maybe you're too tired.

BUFFY  
Hey.  
(reaches behind her to  
caress his cheek)  
I have the endurance of ten men.



RILEY  
 Let's make it women, okay?  
 (Buffy laughs)  
 Just for the imagery.

BUFFY  
 Whatever. You know, it takes a  
 lot to wear me out.  
 (turns toward him)

RILEY  
 Oh, I love a challenge.

BUFFY  
 Mm.

Buffy turns back onto her back and Riley moves on top of her.  
 They kiss passionately.

DAWN VOICEOVER  
 Well, wouldn't you?

Cut to Dawn in Joyce's kitchen, pouring from a box of Sugar  
 Bombs cereal. There are a number of bowls on the table in  
 front of her.

DAWN  
 Every kid tries to make the  
 substitute cry. It's like a rite  
 of passage.

We see Joyce in the background, cooking over the stove.

JOYCE  
 I certainly would not. Being a  
 substitute is an \*extremely\*  
 difficult job. Besides...  
 (looks at the bowls)  
 Honestly, Dawn, how many bowls of  
 cereal are you planning on eating?

DAWN  
 Oh, these aren't for eating. I'm  
 just trying to get the extra out  
 of the way so I could...  
 (sticks her hand in  
 cereal box, pulls out  
 a toy)  
 get this.  
 (She smiles cheerfully  
 at Joyce and sits down.)  
 Anyway,  
 (pointing to Joyce)  
 I want eggs.

JOYCE

You want the cereal prize, but  
you don't want the cereal. You  
\*are\* growing up. All righty,  
half an omelette coming up.  
(Scooping the eggs  
onto two plates)

DAWN

Oh, um, with ketchup if you please?

JOYCE

Mm-hmm.

Joyce turns away from the stove, holding the two plates.  
Suddenly she stops and blinks as if dizzy. Dawn looks up  
from unwrapping the prize.

JOYCE

(confused)  
Oh, what is the...  
(looks at Dawn)  
Who are you?

Dawn looks confused. Suddenly Joyce collapses to the floor,  
the plates shattering. Dawn jumps up in alarm.

Shot of Joyce lying unconscious on the floor, surrounded by  
pieces of plates and food.

Dawn backs away, panting fearfully, and grabs the telephone.  
She dials 911.

Cut to a hospital emergency room. Double doors burst open  
and Buffy pushes in past some people, followed by Riley.

Long shot down the hospital hall. We see Dawn sitting on a  
chair, fiddling with a stethoscope that's hung around her  
neck. Buffy rushes up to her.

BUFFY

Hey. How's Mom? Are you okay?  
(Hugs Dawn)

DAWN

I'm okay.

MAN

And your mom's doing just fine.

A young man in a white coat approaches. Buffy lets go of  
Dawn and stands up.

DAWN  
(still sitting)  
This is Ben. He gave me his  
stethoscope.

BEN  
\*Lent\* you his stethoscope.  
Buffy, right?  
(holds out hand)  
I'm Ben, I'm an intern here. I've  
had the pleasure of hanging out  
with the renowned Dr. Dawn here  
while your mom's being tested.  
(Buffy shakes his hand)

RILEY  
So what's goin' on? What happened?

BEN  
Well, she's doing okay now ...  
the doctors don't really know  
what caused the collapse...

We see Dawn putting the stethoscope earpieces in her ears  
and tapping the end with her fingers. The voices fade out;  
we can still hear them, but they're muffled as they would  
sound to Dawn with the stethoscope in her ears.

BEN  
(muffled)  
... it could've just been a dizzy  
spell, low blood sugar, that sort  
of thing.

BUFFY  
But it's nothing bad. I, I mean  
it's not ... serious, right?

BEN  
(muffled)  
Very unlikely. So your mom  
doesn't have a ... history of  
fainting?

We see Dawn putting the stethoscope to Ben's chest. We hear  
a normal heartbeat.

BUFFY  
(muffled)  
No. I mean, not that I know of.  
She's usually really healthy.

BEN  
(muffled)  
Well, I think they'll be running  
tests for a few more hours...

We see Dawn putting the stethoscope to Buffy's chest. We hear a normal heartbeat.

BEN  
(muffled)  
...then they'll probably want her  
to come back for some follow-up  
tests in a couple weeks, but it  
really doesn't look like anything  
too serious.

BUFFY  
Oh, thank god. I was freaking out.

We see Dawn getting up and walking around them.

BEN  
(muffled)  
I think you'll be able to take  
her home before too long.

RILEY  
(muffled)  
Well, that is definitely good news.

We see Dawn putting the stethoscope to Riley's chest. We hear a heartbeat that is much too fast and irregular. Dawn's eyes widen and she looks up at Riley's face. Blackout.

## Act II

Fade in on a hospital exam room. Riley sits on the exam table buttoning up his shirt.

DOCTOR  
I know I'm repeating myself here,  
but I don't know what else to say  
to convince you.

We see Buffy watching as a female doctor talks to Riley. The doctor is writing on her clipboard.

DOCTOR  
I have never in all my years of  
medicine let a patient with  
tachycardia this severe leave a  
hospital.

RILEY

You said you couldn't keep me.

DOCTOR

Legally, no, I can't force you to do a thing.

(Riley nods and resumes buttoning his shirt)  
But with that pulse, believe me, I'd get on my knees and beg you if I thought I could change your mind.

RILEY

You can't. I'm going home.

DOCTOR

And your friend here can't convince you to-

Riley holds up a hand to stop her.

RILEY

I'm going.

Buffy looks very concerned.

DOCTOR

All right then, but you're leaving against my recommendation.

The doctor leaves. Riley looks at Buffy, then stands up.

BUFFY

What's going on? What are you doing? What if you have a heart attack?

RILEY

(puts hands on her shoulders)  
Listen to me. Calm down.

BUFFY

\*Me\* calm down? I'm not the one with a pulse of a hundred and fifty.

RILEY

My heart's different than yours, Buffy. It works differently now, but it's okay.

BUFFY

But you're still a human, Riley. You could still have a heart attack.

RILEY

I'm a human who was used as a lab rat for months.

They look up as the door opens. Joyce and Dawn enter.

JOYCE

Hi.

BUFFY

Hey. How are you?  
(hurries over to hug Joyce)

JOYCE

Oh ... embarrassed, mostly. I'm sorry to put you through this. But, no more tests, so you can take this pincushion home.

RILEY

Yes.  
(comes forward)  
Let's, uh, get outta here.

He holds the door for Joyce and Dawn. Buffy gives him a concerned look, then exits also. Riley follows.

Cut to Joyce's living room. Joyce is lying on the sofa, sipping from a mug, with Buffy and Dawn sitting by her. Willow stands beside the sofa. **Steven stands next to Dawn.**

WILLOW

What about a crossword? Some people say feed a cold, I say puzzle it.

JOYCE

Oh, no thanks, Willow.

STEVEN

**Do you want something to eat? I could order us a pizza.**

JOYCE

**I think that'd be a little much, but thank you for the thought, Steven.**

DAWN

I like chicken fingers with mustard when I'm sick.

JOYCE

(puts mug on coffee table)  
I know you do, sweetie. I can  
make us some later.

BUFFY

Oh, uh-uh. You are sitting right  
here on this couch today.

JOYCE

I feel silly lying here like a lump!

STEVEN

**You don't have to feel silly.**  
**(smiles)**  
**You've got an excuse this time.**

WILLOW

You could make a game out of it.  
A-a very quiet game, about being  
a lump.

JOYCE

I feel fine. Honestly, I'm more  
concerned about Riley than I am  
about me.

BUFFY

You shouldn't even be thinking  
about that. He's not worried, so  
I don't think we should be.

Cut to Buffy's room. Buffy is pacing. Willow lies on the bed  
while Dawn sits on the floor, leaning against the bed **and**  
**Steven stands by the door.**

BUFFY

I don't get what he's thinking.  
(steps over Dawn as  
she paces around the bed)  
Why isn't he worried?

WILLOW

Maybe he thinks his body can  
handle it. He *\*is\** in really good  
shape.

BUFFY

Nobody's body can handle a heart  
attack.  
(steps over Dawn to  
pace the other way again)

**STEVEN**  
**My grandfather did.**

WILLOW  
 I know. I'm sorry, Buffy. I'm  
 trying too hard to make it okay.

BUFFY  
 (sighs)  
 I just keep coming back to the  
 Initiative.

Dawn watches her pace back and forth.

WILLOW  
 It does have that icky government  
 feel to it.

DAWN  
 Did you know that one time the  
 CIA tried to kill Fidel Castro  
 with poisonous aspirin?

**STEVEN**  
**(interested)**  
**Really?**

BUFFY  
 Dawn, please.

Dawn looks annoyed. Buffy sits on a chair.

BUFFY  
 I know I have to do something, I  
 just don't know what.

DAWN  
 Another time the CIA-

BUFFY  
 Dawn!

DAWN  
 It's important.

Buffy looks annoyed but nods.

DAWN  
 (quickly)  
 Tried to make Castro go crazy by  
 putting itching powder in his  
 beard.

(MORE)



DAWN (CONT'D)  
(Buffy raises her  
eyebrows accusingly)  
It's about the government!

**STEVEN**  
**She's got a point, Buffy.**

WILLOW  
Call the Initiative. If they know  
what's wrong with him, they have  
to help.

BUFFY  
Yeah, but call them how? First of  
all, they don't exist any more,  
and secondly, they never  
\*claimed\* to exist in the first  
place.

**STEVEN**  
**(sighs)**  
**Back to Square One.**

Willow looks defeated.

BUFFY  
(getting up)  
It's so unfair. I mean, i-it's  
like Big Brother can spy on you  
all the time, and-and the second  
I have something to say, no one  
will listen!

DAWN  
(muttering)  
Sounds more like Big Sister.

**Steven hears Dawn and smiles at that.**

WILLOW  
There has to be a way.

BUFFY  
Like what? Take a tour of the  
White House and pretend to get  
lost, and look for some door with  
a sign on it that says "Secret  
Government Monster Hunters"?

DAWN

If they're really spying on you all the time, you just say something so you know they'll hear you.

(Buffy looks thoughtful)  
Like sometimes, I write fake things in my diary in case...  
(trails off)

BUFFY

I gotta go. Uh, see you guys later.

She grabs her bag and leaves. Dawn looks over at Willow.

DAWN

What'd I say?

**STEVEN**

**Might've been the diary thing.**

Cut to Buffy entering Riley's room. We see a punching bag in the foreground. It's dark.

BUFFY

Riley?

No one's there. Buffy walks in, closing the door behind her. She picks up the phone and puts it to her ear. We hear a dial tone, alternating with clicking noises.

BUFFY

(into phone)  
Riley's in trouble. He needs help.

She hangs up.

Fast music starts. Cut to Riley playing basketball with a bunch of other guys. They're all yelling. The camera moves very fast, as do the men, giving it all a dizzy frantic feeling. Riley is clearly playing very well. The other men shake their heads as the game ends.

GUY

No way, man.

RILEY

I'm out.

He throws the ball to one of them. He's very sweaty. He turns and walks off.

Riley walks past a bench where a guy is sitting. He glances at the guy, then away.

RILEY

Graham.  
(Keeps walking)

GRAHAM

Riley.  
(We see Graham sitting  
on the bench, talking  
over his shoulder)  
Can we talk?

Riley bends over a water fountain and drinks. Graham gets up, gestures to two men standing nearby in button-down shirts.

GRAHAM

Agent Goodman, Agent Brown.

Riley walks toward Graham.

RILEY

So talk.

GRAHAM

What's goin' on, man?  
(Riley shrugs)  
You gotta get this taken care of  
immediately. We gotta get you  
into an operating room.

RILEY

Very convincing. Makes me  
completely wanna put myself under  
government control.

Graham stares Riley down with the two other agents behind him. Riley puts out his hands, in fists, with the wrists together, as if inviting handcuffs.

RILEY

Please take me where they can  
make me unconscious and naked.

GRAHAM

Hey, you think I'd pull something  
on you?

RILEY

You're still in. I'm out. I don't  
know what orders you're following.

GRAHAM

Oh, come on. You know Walsh pumped all those chemicals and crap into us. You got more than anyone. She messed us up bad.

RILEY

(scornful)

And now the government's knocking themselves out to kiss it and make it better.

GRAHAM

Riley, I'm tellin' you, you need help. I'm not saying it to trick you.

RILEY

(shakes head)

Maybe you even believe it.

GRAHAM

I know it. You don't want this.

RILEY

You're sure you got the fix for it?

GRAHAM

Yeah. We got a guy, a doctor. He's gonna take care of you, and we're going to him now.

(Riley nods)

I'm not givin' you a choice.

RILEY

I guess you're not.

Suddenly he punches Graham in the face. The other two agents grab both Riley's arms but he throws one of them off, knees the other one in the stomach and punches him. He blocks a kick from the first one, punches him, clotheslines him, throws the other one to the ground and runs off.

Cut to interior of UC Sunnydale building. We see Buffy talking to Graham amid a crowd of students. Graham's face is bruised.

BUFFY

So you messed up and now he's gone and when are you even gonna tell me what's wrong with him?

GRAHAM

I'm not permitted to say.

BUFFY

Say.

GRAHAM

(sighs)

Hyperadrenal overload and a bunch of stuff that sounds even worse than that, and all it means is he's way stronger than he oughta be and feeling no pain. His heart can't take it. We've been at him for weeks about it.

Buffy sighs.

GRAHAM

There's a specialist waiting at Sunnydale General, fourth floor neurology. Get Riley there. If you don't-

BUFFY

I'll get him there.

GRAHAM

(nods)

I'll tell the doc.

Buffy turns to walk off. Graham watches her go.

GRAHAM

Buffy.

She turns back.

BUFFY

If you tell me to hurry...I'll kick your ass.

She walks off as Graham watches.

Cut to shot of Sunnydale, evening.

Fade to Riley walking through woods, approaching the entrance to a cave and entering it.

Cut to interior of the magic shop. We see Willow and Tara sitting at the round table with Giles standing in the background. **Steven is walking around the shop.**

WILLOW

Poor Riley.

GILES

Could he have simply gone back to his apartment?

Giles walks toward them and we see Buffy standing beside the table. Xander and Anya are sitting across from Willow and Tara.

BUFFY

No, he's not at his apartment, he's not at the gym, he's not at the library ... he's gone somewhere where he doesn't wanna be found.

ANYA

So basically he's gone AWOL.

BUFFY

Basically exactly.

WILLOW

Poor Buffy.

XANDER

Maybe he just needs some time alone. Like, I had this friend once, who really liked this girl, and ... he got all worried that maybe she didn't like him back...

(Buffy and Giles look confused)  
and maybe that made him act like a total jerk. Maybe Riley reminds me of that friend.

STEVEN

(grins)

**Maybe that friend was named Xander.**

Anya smiles.

WILLOW

What are you talking about?

XANDER

Then again, maybe not. Maybe he just wants attention.

BUFFY

Well, here's a hot tip, if you want attention? *\*Be\** there so people can give it to you.

ANYA  
 (softly)  
 I care about you, Xander.

XANDER  
 (smiles confusedly)  
 Thanks.

ANYA  
 (smiles)  
 Don't be insecure.

XANDER  
 (shrugs, shakes his head)  
 Thanks...I won't.

ANYA  
 And, I also have this "friend"  
 (making air-quotes)  
 and, uh, I have it on really good  
 authority that she really likes  
 that guy, your "friend"  
 (air-quotes)  
 ... and, by the by, my friend-

BUFFY  
 You guys, enough!  
 (Anya and Xander look embarrassed)  
 Okay, Riley is in real danger  
 here.  
 (sighs)  
 Anya, Xander, why don't you guys  
 check the docks?

Anya and Xander nod.

XANDER  
 Aye aye.

They get up and leave.

WILLOW  
 Tara and I can scope out the  
 burned-out school. Riley hid  
 there once. Maybe he ... feels  
 it's homey or something.

BUFFY  
 (thoughtful)  
 Homey. You know what else he  
 might find homey in a ... dank,  
 unpleasant evil sort of way?  
 (MORE)

BUFFY (CONT'D)  
(Giles sits in  
Xander's vacated seat)  
The Initiative caves. I don't  
know them too well.

**STEVEN**  
**I'll go with you, Buffy.**

GILES  
(sipping tea)  
We do have an associate who knows  
those caves like the back of his  
... melanin-deprived hand.

BUFFY  
(sighs)  
I \*so\* don't want to deal with  
Spike right now. That guy is  
really starting to bug me in that  
special "I wanna shove something  
wooden through his heart" kinda way.

WILLOW  
He does seem extra twitchy lately.  
Maybe the whole not killing is  
gettin' to him.

BUFFY  
Plus hanging out all day in that  
moldy crypt, you just \*know\* he's  
doing something nasty.

**STEVEN**  
**Or someone.**

Cut to Spike sitting with Harmony in the crypt.

SPIKE  
Okay, is it bigger than a breadbox?

HARMONY  
(smiling)  
No. Four left.

SPIKE  
So it's smaller than a breadbox.

HARMONY  
(giggling)  
No! Only three!



SPIKE  
 (quietly annoyed)  
 Harmony ... is it a sodding  
 breadbox?

HARMONY  
 (clapping and laughing)  
 Yes! Oh my god! Someone's blondie  
 bear is a twenty-question genius!

Banging on the door. Harmony stops laughing and looks scared.

HARMONY  
 She's found me!

She jumps up and runs over to a coffin, climbs into it.  
 Spike follows and slides the lid onto the coffin, then sits  
 on top of it trying to look casual.

Buffy busts the door open and strides in, **along with Steven  
 following behind.**

BUFFY  
 I've got a proposition for you.

SPIKE  
 (jumping off the coffin)  
 Funny, I've got a proposition for  
 you, what about knocking?  
 (Buffy ignores him,  
 pulling out a wad of  
 cash and unfolding it)  
 Seems only fair since we vamps  
 can't enter your flat without an  
 invite, you could at least - Say,  
 look at those pretty pieces of  
 paper.

STEVEN  
**I've got more than that on me,  
 Spike.**

**He holds up a wad of cash.**

BUFFY  
 Riley's sick with some Initiative  
 thing and he's missing. I think  
 he might be in the caves. You  
 find him, bring him to the fourth  
 floor of the hospital, their  
 doctors get to him in time...  
 (holds up the money)  
 you get the cash.

SPIKE  
Oh, dear, is the enormous hall  
monitor sick? Tell me, is he  
gonna die?

STEVEN  
(pissed)  
Spike, I'm gonna...

Buffy slaps him across the face.

BUFFY  
He is not the only person that  
can die.

SPIKE  
Hey. I'm just saying, if it's  
really that important to you, I  
think I'll get half now.

Buffy looks at the money in her hand. She rips the bills in  
half, slams one half against Spike's chest, and strides out.

Spike watches her go, then looks down at the half-bills in  
his hand.

Harmony pushes the coffin lid aside and peeks out.

HARMONY  
So? What'd she say about me?

Cut to hospital corridor. The double-doors open and Graham  
walks through, walks down the hallway, past a security guard  
who nods at him. Graham goes through another set of double-  
doors and enters a lab. The doctor (Dr. Overheiser) is there.

OVERHEISER  
Any word?

GRAHAM  
They'll be here any minute.

Overheiser looks at a folder in his hand.

GRAHAM  
That's soon enough, right? I  
mean, if we bring him in now?

OVERHEISER  
I'll be honest. I'm not sure it's  
soon enough if you brought him in  
yesterday.

Knock on the door. Graham turns.

GRAHAM

Finally.

He opens the door to see the security guard apparently standing there. Then the guard falls forward, his head hitting Graham's. Graham falls back and the guard falls on top of him as we see Harmony walking in behind the dead guard. Overheiser looks up in alarm. Spike follows Harmony in, carrying a crossbow. He tosses it to Harmony, who catches it and points it at the doctor, letting the tip of the arrow touch his cheek.

SPIKE

You got yourself a new patient, doc.

Blackout.

Act III

Fade in on Buffy **and Steven** walking in the woods, Buffy holding a flashlight. It's dark. She finds the cave entrance that Riley used earlier, and walks in.

Exterior shot of a college building.

Cut to interior of a room with several tiers of chairs. The door opens and Spike enters, followed by Overheiser and then Harmony with the crossbow.

OVERHEISER

Look, you don't understand. This is a complicated neurological procedure and I've never performed it before.

They walk down the steps, past rows of seats, into a surgical theatre.

SPIKE

Little performance anxiety, eh doc?

(Takes off his jacket,  
sits on the operating table)  
Butterflies in the old belly?  
Harm, do us a favor. Shoot the  
nasty butterflies for the good  
doctor.

(Overheiser looks from  
Harmony to Spike and  
moves toward the  
operating table)

There you go. It's not so  
complicated.

(MORE)

SPIKE (CONT'D)  
Just do whatever those Initiative  
lab monkeys did, only backwards.

Harmony sits on a nearby counter.

OVERHEISER  
This is a medical school, not a  
proper operating facility, these  
instruments...  
(gesturing at the tray  
of instruments)

SPIKE  
(sighs)  
They look pointy enough. They'll do.

He lies back on the table with his hands behind his head.

OVERHEISER  
You're not listening. That chip  
is deeply imbedded in your  
cerebral cortex. Removing it  
could leave you a vegetable.

SPIKE  
That's not gonna happen, mate.  
See, I have faith in your  
survival instinct.

He looks significantly over at Harmony. Overheiser looks too.  
Harmony smiles and lifts the crossbow.

SPIKE  
(smiling)  
Yeah. You'll have me up and  
killing before the night's over.

(Note: although it sounds like "killing," and the closed-  
captions say "killing," his lips clearly say "fighting.")

Overheiser looks apprehensive. Spike continues to grin.

SPIKE  
Come on, doc!  
(nudges the doctor  
with his foot)  
You'll do me right. Nothing  
bad'll happen to you.

Suddenly an arrow flies across the room, narrowly missing  
the doctor, and lodging in the wall opposite. Spike and  
Overheiser look at it, startled, then look over at Harmony.

HARMONY

Oops.  
(grinning apologetically)  
String was slippy.

Cut to exterior shot of the burned-out old Sunnydale High School building.

WILLOW VOICEOVER

(calling)  
Riley!

Cut to inside. Willow and Tara walking through the rubble.

TARA

This place kinda creeps me out.

WILLOW

You shoulda been here when it was  
a school.  
(calls)  
Riley!

They walk on, very slowly, looking nervous.

WILLOW

Oof. Darkness.

TARA

Piles of it. We shoulda brought a  
flashlight.

WILLOW

Ooh! I know!  
(reaches into her bag)  
Better to light a candle than  
curse the damn darkness.  
(Smiles. Pulls a small  
bottle out of her bag)  
A little spell.  
(Shows it to Tara)  
Fiat lux!  
(trans: "let there be light")

Willow throws the bottle at the ground. There's a big burst of flame and then the entire area is lit with a soft diffuse light.

TARA

Wow.

WILLOW

There, that's better.

Tara stares at her in amazement.

WILLOW  
(calling)  
Riley! Come on out!

She begins to walk again. Tara follows, still staring.

TARA  
How'd you do that? With the light?

WILLOW  
Oh, you know. You taught me.

TARA  
I taught you teeny Tinkerbell light.

WILLOW  
Okay, so I ... tinkered with the  
Tinkerbell. It was easy. And  
besides, isn't this better than  
... using a flashlight like some  
kind of doofus?

Cut to Buffy with a flashlight, walking through the caves,  
calling.

BUFFY  
Riley? Riley, answer me.  
(mutters softly)  
Please.

STEVEN  
**Riley!! C'mon, Rye; where are ya??**

She walks on. Pan across the rocks, with vines growing on  
them. We hear a repetitive knocking noise.

BUFFY  
Riley?

She rounds a corner and finds Riley punching the rock wall.  
There's a large cavity in the wall where he's clearly been  
punching for some time. He's shiny with sweat and looks tired.

RILEY  
(not looking at Buffy)  
You know, this doesn't even hurt.

STEVEN  
**Wow...**

BUFFY  
Your hand is bleeding.

RILEY  
(looks at her)  
Don't feel a thing.

He moves to punch the wall again but Buffy stops him.

BUFFY  
This stops now. I'm taking you to  
the doctor.

RILEY  
The one from the government, you  
mean? Like the ones who did this  
to me in the first place?  
(Puts up a hand in a  
"no thanks" gesture  
and backs away)

BUFFY  
(moving toward him)  
He's the only one that understands  
what's wrong with you. He's the  
only one that can help.

RILEY  
What's wrong with me? I'm more  
powerful than I've ever been,  
Buffy. Most people would kill to  
feel this way.

BUFFY  
Yeah, and this feeling is \*going\*  
to kill you. Riley, your body was  
not built for this kind of  
strength--

RILEY  
I can handle it. This is my deal,  
Buffy, just ... back off.

STEVEN  
**We're not backing off. Not when  
we could lose one of our best  
friends.**

He walks past her. She turns to watch him.

BUFFY  
What is this?

He stops walking, turns back to her.

BUFFY

What's happening to you?

RILEY

I go back ... let the government  
get whimsical with my innards  
again ... They could do anything  
that- Best-case scenario, they  
turn me into Joe Normal, just...

(sighs)

Just another guy.

BUFFY

And that's not enough for you?

RILEY

It's not enough for \*you\*.

BUFFY

Why would you say that?

RILEY

Come on. Your last boyfriend  
wasn't exactly a civilian.

**STEVEN**

**Everyone always brings up Angel.  
Every single time.**

BUFFY

So that's what this is about?  
You're going to die, all over  
some macho pissing contest.

RILEY

(shakes his head)

It's not about him. It's about us.

(Buffy shakes her

head, not understanding)

You're getting stronger every  
day, more powerful. I can't touch  
you. Every day, you're just ... a  
little further out of my reach.

BUFFY

You wanna touch me?

(walks toward him)

I'm right here. I'm not the one  
running away.

RILEY

Not yet.



BUFFY  
 So you have this all figured out?  
 I'm bailing because you're not in  
 the super club.

RILEY  
 (shrugs)  
 It's human nature.

BUFFY  
 (angrily)  
 Don't Psych 101 me.  
 (Riley looks away)  
 Not now. Not after everything  
 that ... Nobody has ever known me  
 the way you do. Nobody.  
 (Riley doesn't look at her)  
 I've opened up to you in ways  
 that I've never opened up to ...  
 God, you're just sitting back  
 there thinking that none of this  
 means anything to me.

RILEY  
 (still not looking at her)  
 I never said that.

BUFFY  
 (teary-eyed)  
 Because it obviously doesn't mean  
 anything to you. Do you really  
 think so little of me--

RILEY  
 Buffy.

BUFFY  
 No! No. Do you think that I spent  
 the last year with you because  
 you had super powers? If that's  
 what I wanted, then I'd be dating  
 Spike.

**Steven CHUCKLES.**

BUFFY  
 (quietly)  
 Riley, I need you.  
 (He looks at her,  
 looks apprehensive)  
 I need you with me ... and I need  
 you healthy.  
 (MORE)

BUFFY (CONT'D)  
But if you wanna throw it all  
away because you don't trust me,  
then ...  
(firmly)  
then I'm still gonna make you go  
to that doctor.

Riley looks at her, looks away. He sighs.

RILEY  
Take me to him.

Buffy nods.

BUFFY  
We have to hurry.

She strides past him, but he grabs her arm and turns her to face him.

RILEY  
Loving you is the scariest thing  
I've ever done, Buffy.

BUFFY  
I don't know why.

She puts her hand over his heart.

BUFFY  
The doctor said we didn't have  
much time.

STEVEN  
**Then let's get to it.**

They walk off.

Cut to Spike on the operating table. A sheet lies vertically over the top of his head, and his eyes are closed. As the camera pulls back we see the doctor wearing rubber gloves, working on Spike's head. Harmony comes into view, walking behind Overheiser.

HARMONY  
I read in a magazine that some  
women think a man's real sex  
organ is his brain.

She leans next to the doctor and looks at where his hands are.

HARMONY  
Yecch! No contest. I mean, look  
at it. It's so ... pink and  
wiggly-looking.  
(grins suddenly; to  
the doctor)  
Can I touch it?

Spike's eyes pop open.

SPIKE/OVERHEISER  
(unison)  
No!

HARMONY  
(looking over at  
Spike's face)  
Oh my god, you're awake?

OVERHEISER  
Local anesthetic.

HARMONY  
Wow, Spikey, how does it feel?

SPIKE  
Like someone's cutting into my  
brain with a knife, you silly bint.

Harmony looks back at Spike's brain.

HARMONY  
(to doctor)  
You know what it means that he  
can't hurt any living thing? It  
means he can't even pick flowers.

SPIKE  
What? Yes I can!

OVERHEISER  
(softly)  
Please be quiet.

Everyone is quiet for a moment. Then Harmony points at  
Spike's brain again.

HARMONY  
Is it supposed to do that?

OVERHEISER  
Please. For god's sake, please,  
be quiet.

HARMONY

Listen, buster. I don't see a crossbow in *\*your\** hands, okay?

SPIKE

Harmony, if your incessant prattling bolloxes up this operation, I'm gonna personally yank out your pink and wriggly tongue.

Overheiser looks at Harmony.

HARMONY

What are you looking at?

Cut to the hospital room. Riley, **Steven** and Buffy come through the double-doors and find the security guard and Graham on the floor.

BUFFY

Uh-oh.

Buffy bends over the guard while Riley goes to Graham.

RILEY

Graham. Graham.

(Helps him sit up.

Riley holds up two fingers)

How many fingers I got?

GRAHAM

Seventeen.

**STEVEN**

**Huh?**

Riley and Buffy exchange a concerned look.

GRAHAM

Hostile 17 and a blonde girl.

BUFFY

(sighs)

Spike and Harmony, together again.

**STEVEN**

**(sarcastic)**

**Lovely.**

Riley helps Graham stand up. They look around.

GILES

Where's Dr. Overheiser?

BUFFY

Uh, Spike must have taken him.  
What would Spike want with -  
(The clue hits)  
The chip. He's gonna force the  
doctor to remove the chip from  
his brain.

Riley bends over and puts his hands on his knees, panting.  
He's pale and sweaty.

BUFFY

Riley?

RILEY

(straightens up, breathlessly)  
I'm okay. Okay.

GRAHAM

(to Buffy)  
We're running out of time. We  
don't find the medic soon, he's  
not gonna make it.

BUFFY

(thinking fast)  
Okay, okay, brain surgery. He,  
he's gonna need a medical  
facility, he-he's gonna need, uh,  
uh, equipment...

GRAHAM

This is a big hospital.

BUFFY

No, uh-uh, he wouldn't do it here.  
It's too risky. We'll split up.  
Graham, get on the horn, or the  
... pipe, or whatever you guys  
get on, I-I want you to check  
animal hospitals, doctors'  
offices...

Graham walks to the door. Riley stops him.

RILEY

Hey, about before...

GRAHAM

Forget it. Apologize later, if  
you're not dead.

He leaves. Riley looks nervously at Buffy. She walks toward  
him.

BUFFY  
(firmly)  
You are \*not\* going to die.

RILEY  
Bet you say that to all the boys.

BUFFY  
No. There is one peroxidized pest  
whose number is up.  
(They start to walk off)  
When I get my hands on Spike, I'm  
gonna rip his head off, I'm gonna...

Cut to closeup of Spike's face. He's still on the operating table.

SPIKE  
...bathe in the slayer's blood.  
Gonna dive in it.  
(with relish)  
Swim in it.

Shot of Overheiser and Harmony behind the sheet, staring at Spike's brain. Harmony is smoking another cigarette.

SPIKE  
I'm gonna do the bloody backstroke.

Harmony blows out smoke, which drifts toward Spike's face. She begins to jump up and down.

HARMONY  
I see it, Spikey! I see the chip!  
It's nestled in there like ... a  
pretty little Easter egg with  
your brain all around it like  
that green plastic grassy stuff  
... only this is more a beige,  
like-

OVERHEISER  
Would you please put out that  
cigarette? It's really not allowed.

HARMONY  
Oh yeah? Says who?

The doctor turns to look pointedly at the NO SMOKING sign on the wall.

HARMONY  
Oh god, sorry! Didn't see the sign!

She turns away to put out the cigarette. The doctor turns and drops something into a dish. It makes a metallic clinking noise.

OVERHEISER

The chip's out.

(Harmony squeals excitedly)  
 Didn't think I could do it, I  
 just ... it's out.

SPIKE

Yeah?

HARMONY

(jumping up and down, clapping)  
 Yay! Yay for Spikey!

SPIKE

Right then.

(determinedly)  
 Stitch me up, doc. Got places to  
 go. And slayers to kill.

Blackout.

Act IV

Fade in on Harmony holding the crossbow. Pan across to Spike, sitting up while the doctor puts a few last stitches in his head.

SPIKE

Listen to me. My stomach's  
 growling, I'm so starved.

(The doc looks  
 nervous, begins to  
 apply a bandage)  
 I'm afraid I'm gonna have to have  
 me a little snack.

Overheiser looks very nervous. Spike turns his head to speak over his shoulder.

SPIKE

Oh, don't worry. I won't fill up  
 on the bread. I'll still have  
 plenty of room for the main course.

The door opens and Buffy walks in, followed by Riley.

SPIKE

(fiercely)  
 Slayer!

He jumps off the table. Harmony moves to stand beside him, holding the crossbow. Buffy, **Steven**, and Riley stand side-by-side. Faceoff. The doctor tries to sidle around toward the door.

Spike morphs into vampire face.

SPIKE  
Suit up, Harm.

Harmony morphs into vampire face.

Buffy turns to stop the doc as he tries to leave.

BUFFY  
Stay here.  
(She pushes him so he  
falls to the floor)  
We're gonna need you.

SPIKE  
Buffy. I swear I was just  
thinking of you. I wanted to tell  
you the great news. My head's all  
clear now. No more bug-zapper in  
my noggin.

BUFFY  
That means I get to kill you.

SPIKE  
You get to try.

The standoff continues. Suddenly the crossbow goes off and the arrow flies, landing in Riley's leg. Buffy looks over at him. Riley doesn't seem to react.

HARMONY  
Oops.

Riley storms toward her. She moves toward him. He brushes the crossbow out of her hands.

Buffy punches Spike in the face.

Riley throws Harmony down on the operating table, picks her up and throws her against a wall full of equipment.

**Steven rushes Harmony and grips her throat, lifting her up. He whips her over the gurney.**

Buffy punches Spike in the face a few more times; he stumbles back against the operating table.



Riley punches Harmony, throws her across the room, leans against a counter panting. He turns as Harmony shoves a wheeled chair toward him. He trips over it and goes down. Harmony kicks him in the face.

Spike jumps up onto the operating table and grins down at Buffy. In the background we can still see and hear Riley and Harmony exchanging blows.

SPIKE

At long last.

He leaps on top of Buffy, carrying her to the ground and landing on top of her. He pins her hands down and bends to bite her neck. Buffy struggles.

Spike gives a yell of pain and jerks backward. Buffy punches him, then shoves him off her so he lands next to the doctor. Spike looks angrily at Overheiser, who looks scared.

Riley punches Harmony in the face; she kicks him away. He starts toward her again but stops, grabbing his chest and groaning in pain.

STEVEN

(worried)

Riley!!

BUFFY

Riley!

Riley stumbles against a metal table and falls down with it on top of him. Harmony looks at her fist, then runs off.

Buffy crawls over to Riley and puts her hands on his chest.

BUFFY

Riley.

Spike gets up and opens the container where the doctor supposedly put his chip. He takes out a penny from inside it.

SPIKE

(looking at doctor)

A penny?

OVERHEISER

(getting up)

I told you I couldn't do it.

BUFFY

Oh god. Doctor! Doctor, we need you now !

The doctor rushes to lift the table off of Riley as Spike and Harmony move to the door. Spike grabs his jacket and pauses to look back, then turns and leaves.

Buffy and the doctor lift Riley up to a sitting position.

Cut to exterior graveyard, night. Spike and Harmony run between the trees and gravestones.

SPIKE

Buffy, Buffy, Buffy! Everywhere I turn, she's there! That nasty little face, that ... bouncing shampoo-commercial hair, that whole sodding holier-than-thou attitude.

HARMONY

Well, aren't we kinda unholy, by the-

SPIKE

She follows me, you know, tracks me down. I'm her pet project. Drive Spike round the bend. Makes every day a fresh bout of torture.

He stops running, picks up a headstone and throws it against another. Harmony cringes as the dust showers her.

HARMONY

Spike!

SPIKE

You don't understand. I can't get rid of her. She's everywhere. She's haunting me, Harmony!

He grabs her upper arms. She looks very scared. Spike stares at her, slowly calms down.

SPIKE

(quietly)

This ... has got to end.

Cut to Riley lying on the operating table, with the doctor putting a bandage on his chest. Buffy walks in.

OVERHEISER

All patched up.

Overheiser exits and Riley sits up. We see that in addition to being shirtless, he's also only wearing half a pair of jeans -- the other pant-leg was cut away to help get the arrow out of his leg. Another bandage is wrapped around his thigh. He picks up his shirt and begins to put it on. Buffy puts one hand on Riley's good leg and lightly touches the bandage on his chest with her other hand.

BUFFY  
How's it goin' in there?

RILEY  
Good. Back to normal.

STEVEN  
**Good. That's good to hear, Riley.**

Buffy leans her head against his chest to listen to his heartbeat.

BUFFY  
Yep.

He strokes her hair. She leans back and takes his bruised hand in hers, pulling his hand to her heart.

BUFFY  
And see ... I'm still touchable.

RILEY  
(nods)  
Give me a week or so to heal, and ... I'll take full advantage of that fact.

Buffy smiles, still holding his hand

BUFFY  
Are you gonna be okay? 'Cause I should really go check on my mom.

Riley looks up at her.

RILEY  
Yeah. Yeah, go ahead. I'll be fine.

BUFFY  
I'll talk to you later.

He nods. She leans up and kisses him softly, then turns away.

Shot of Riley's hands as Buffy pulls her out of his grasp and leaves.

Shot of Riley watching her go, looking pensive.

Cut to Riley and Graham walking down the hall in a dorm or frat building. Riley has a noticeable limp. Graham's face is still bruised.

GRAHAM

It's a good thing Buffy found you  
when she did, 'cause you were  
about to detonate big-time.  
Always said she's pretty impressive.

RILEY

You know, she really is.

GRAHAM

But you know you don't belong  
here, right?

(Keeps walking and  
talking although Riley  
has stopped walking  
and is staring at his back)  
This town? I mean, you're nothin'  
here.

RILEY

Hey.

(Graham stops walking,  
turns to look at him)  
What are you saying?

GRAHAM

Come on, man. You know it's true.  
There's nothing for you here.

RILEY

There's her.

GRAHAM

Okay, right, there's her. And?  
You used to have a mission, and  
now you're what? The mission's  
boyfriend? Mission's true love?

Riley looks at the floor, then walks on, past Graham.

GRAHAM

You belong with us.

Riley doesn't reply, keeps walking. Graham watches him go.

Cut to Spike's crypt. Spike is sleeping in his chair.  
Banging noises. Spike opens his eyes and gets up as the door  
flies open and Buffy walks in.

SPIKE  
Should have known it's you. Been  
nearly six hours.

BUFFY  
Well, it would've been less if I  
wasn't busy cleaning up your mess.

SPIKE  
\*My\* mess? I just \*borrowed\* the  
doc. The mess is yours, Slayer.  
Yours and the boy's, **along with  
that reject Slayer.**

BUFFY  
I'm done.

She takes a stake from her back pocket and walks toward  
Spike. He looks surprised.

BUFFY  
Spike, you're a killer. And I  
shoulda done this \*years\* ago.

Spike looks her in the eye.

SPIKE  
You know what? Do it. Bloody just  
do it.

BUFFY  
What?

SPIKE  
End ... my ... torment. Seeing  
you, every day, everywhere I go,  
every time I turn around. Take me  
... out of a world ... that has  
you in it!  
(Yanks off his shirt  
and throws it aside)  
Just kill me!

Buffy stares at him, then raises her stake and lunges. Spike  
winces, but she stops at the last minute. They stare into  
each other's eyes.

Suddenly Spike grabs Buffy by the upper arms and kisses her  
passionately. She returns the kiss. It goes on for a moment  
and then Buffy pulls back with a little noise of dismay,  
bringing her hand to her mouth. She stares at Spike and he  
stares back, both panting. The stake is gone from her hand.

Slowly Buffy drops her hand from her mouth and walks back to Spike, putting both her hands to the back of his head and pulling him down toward her. They kiss again, very passionate. Spike brings his hands up to clutch her back, kissing her cheek and the side of her neck.

BUFFY  
(panting)  
Spike ... I want you.

SPIKE  
(muffled against her neck)  
Buffy, I love you.

He pulls back. Closeup of Buffy staring at him.

SPIKE  
(OS)  
God, I love you so much.

Cut to Spike sitting up in bed with a gasp.

Shot of Harmony sleeping in the bed next to him.

Shot of Spike sitting up in the bed, looking horrified, while Harmony continues to sleep.

SPIKE  
Oh, god, no.

Closeup of Spike's face.

SPIKE  
Please, no.

Blackout.

The sound of Spike panting continues as the producer credit appears.

Executive Producer: Joss Whedon.