

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

Entropy

Episode opens on two pairs of feet running through the graveyard, night. Sound of motors running.

Cut out and we see it's two vampires running, looking nervously behind them. Cut out farther and we see three all-terrain vehicles chasing the vampires.

Cut closer to reveal the Geek Trio on the ATVs, holding long stakes like jousting spears. Warren gives a yell or laugh of excitement as the chase continues.

WARREN

Ha ha!

ANDREW

They're getting to the gate!

WARREN

I see it, I see it!

The vampires continue fleeing. Now we see one of them has something in his hand: a flat round metallic disk three or four inches in diameter. The Geeks continue pursuing.

One vampire grabs a branch from a passing tree. The branch breaks off and he throws it at the ATVs.

The branch hits Andrew in the face and he loses control of his vehicle. He falls off as Jonathan roars up behind him.

Jonathan and Warren swerve to avoid hitting Andrew. Jonathan side-swipes a gravestone, shattering it. He ends up riding head-on toward Warren. They both stop just in time but go tumbling off their vehicles and onto the ground.

Andrew comes limping over.

ANDREW

We're gonna lose 'em.

We see the vampires still running. They have almost reached the wide gate that marks the exit to the cemetery.

Jonathan and Warren get to their feet.

JONATHAN

We need that disk.

The vampires run through the gate and onto the street, only to be attacked by Buffy. She hits the first vamp and grabs the second, but he twists out of her grip.

The disk goes clattering across the pavement.

The second vamp kicks at Buffy but she blocks, hits him and throws him against the gate. He falls to the ground and Buffy turns to the other vamp.

The Nerd Herd stands watching.

WARREN

Wait.

The fight continues, moves around the gate and out of the Geeks' view. Warren moves forward.

The second vamp gets to his feet and prepares to rejoin the fight. But suddenly he rises up off the ground.

Reveal Spike sitting atop the stone pillar of the gate, holding the vampire by the back of his shirt, calmly watching Buffy. The vamp struggles ineffectively.

The Geeks walk closer, carefully.

Buffy has gets the first vamp in a strangle-hold, tryinges to stake him but he holds her arm off. Spike continues watching and holding the second vamp in the air.

The first vamp gets loose from Buffy's hold and hits her.

Warren crawls across the ground toward the disk. He gets to it, grabs it. Andrew and Jonathan start to run off, as Warren follows. Buffy never saw them.

The first vamp throws Buffy to the ground and reaches for her throat.

SPIKE

How you doin'?

BUFFY

(holding the vamp off)
Oh, fine. You know, same old same old.

SPIKE

Here, I could take care of this guy if you want.

BUFFY

Whatever.

Buffy kicks the first vamp off and flips to her feet.

BUFFY
Your call.

SPIKE
I mean, sure he don't look like
much...

VAMP 2
Hey!

SPIKE
... but I'd wager he could give
you a bit o' nasty.
(Buffy kicking Vamp 1)
Save you the staking.
(Buffy throwing Vamp 1
to the ground)
All you gotta do is-

BUFFY
I 'am not telling my friends
about us.

SPIKE
Right, I'll just be dropping him
down to you then.

BUFFY
(still struggling with
Vamp 1)
You wanna tell them so badly? Go
ahead.

She finally manages to get a hand free and stakes the first
vamp. Buffy stands up and walks over to the gate, looks up
at Spike and the still dangling Vamp 2.

BUFFY
You know why? I tried to kill my
friends, my sister, last week ...
and guess how much they hate me.
Zero. Zero much.
(shrugs)
So I'm thinking, sleeping with
you?
(Spike looking annoyed)
They'll deal.

She turns to go. Spike lets Vamp 2 go. He falls to the
ground and rushes at Buffy from behind.

SPIKE
In that case, why won't you sleep
with me again?

Vamp 2 pauses, looks back at Spike in confusion.

VAMP 2

Huh?

Buffy turns back, stakes the vamp and glares at Spike. Turns again and resumes walking.

BUFFY

(quietly as she walks away)
Because I don't love you.

Spike looks down, pouts.

SPIKE

(to himself)
Like hell.

Cut to Xander's apartment. It's dimly lit and very red. Sad music plays -- "Sao Paulo Rain" by Tom McRae.

//And midnight graffiti appears on your door//

Pan across to reveal Xander sitting on the floor holding a bottle of beer. He takes a sip, stares blankly.

//So we all can sleep safe in our homes//

Xander takes another sip of beer, continues staring blankly.

//And the storms in the distance hold no rain...//

Xander picks up a remote control and pushes a button. The music stops. He looks around in the silence. Gets up.

He walks over to a chair, picks up a jacket and puts it on as he leaves the apartment.

Cut to the front of the building. Xander exits, goes down the walkway toward the street.

Pan over to some bushes. We see Anya standing behind them, watching him go.

Blend in with a scene by the Sunnydale Bus Stop. A bus pulls up to the stop and a person's feet step out. First one foot...then the other. The bus drives off.

VOICE

(happily)
Ah...

We pan up to the person standing there.

It's Steven Windsor.

STEVEN
(smiles)
It's good to be home.

Wolf howl. Opening credits.

Guest starring Danny Strong, Adam Busch, Tom Lenk, Kali Rocha, and Amber Benson as Tara. Written by Drew Z. Greenberg, directed by James A. Contner.

Act I

Exterior college campus, day. Students walking around, talking, etc.

Cut to inside hallway. Willow stands beside a classroom door holding books. Students are walking out of the classroom.

Tara exits the classroom, also holding books. She doesn't see Willow, begins walking. Willow rushes to intercept her, smiling. Willow grabs Tara's shoulder.

TARA
Hey!

WILLOW
Hey. Look at you. All coming out of class and everything.
(they continue walking)

TARA
(smiling)
I do that sometimes. Usually at the end part of the class.

WILLOW
Right.
(nervous laugh)

TARA
So how's your, you know, after the whole basement deal?
(gesturing at her neck)

WILLOW
(puts hand to her neck)
It's between a hitch and a kink, with a side of a twinge.
(MORE)

WILLOW (CONT'D)

It's okay.
(smiling)

TARA

And Buffy's okay too? Enjoying
the refreshing sanity and so
forth?
(stops walking)

WILLOW

(loud fake laugh)
Ha, yeah! Refreshing san - that's
funny.
(more seriously)
She's okay. A little ... freaked.
I'm glad she didn't hurt you.

TARA

You too.

Pause. They resume walking.

TARA

So, this is becoming kind of a
regular thing, you and me after
class.

WILLOW

(nervous)
Uh, I didn't...

TARA

Only this time you stuck around.

WILLOW

Uh, um ... various sounds of
hesitation...

TARA

She was just a friend.

WILLOW

(relieved, nervous laugh)
Friends are nice!

TARA

(smiles)
You rushed off before I could,
you know, explain.

WILLOW
Well, officially, I have to say I
have no idea what you're talking
about.

TARA
Unofficially?

Tara stop walking, gives a teasing look. Willow smiles
hugely, then calms down but still looks happy.

WILLOW
We should have some coffee some
time.
(nervously)
Uh, maybe some day ... this week
after class?

TARA
(small smile)
I'm free tomorrow.

WILLOW
Uh, you could, you could bring
your friend.

TARA
(surprised)
I wasn't gonna - I-I mean, if you
have a friend-

WILLOW
No!
(quickly)
I'm, oh, I-I'm friendless.

TARA
Yeah, yeah, no friends.
(quickly)
I-I mean, I have friends-

WILLOW
Right, many dear friends, yeah.

They both laugh and fidget nervously.

TARA
(sighing, smiling)
Coffee.

WILLOW
With us. Who are ... just friends.
(both nodding at each other)

Cut to: exterior street mall, day. Lots of people walking around, shopping etc.

BUFFY

(OS)

Okay, how about this onestore?

Long shot of Buffy and Dawn walking along. Buffy points at a store window.

DAWN

Ah. Three pairs of earrings, a coin purse and a toothbrush.

BUFFY

(dubious)

You stole a toothbrush.

DAWN

(defensive)

A mother- of- pearl handle. Very fancy.

BUFFY

Yeah, but you stole a toothbrush. As far as rebellious teenagers go, you're kinda square.

DAWN

(smiling)

Dental hygiene is important.

BUFFY

Guess this was kind of a lame sisters' day out, huh? I make up for trying to kill you by taking you to places you can't go in.

DAWN

No, it's my bad. I'm the one that got caught taking stuff.

BUFFY

(noticing something
offscreen, pointing)

Hey, how about the pet store? You didn't take anything from there, did you?

DAWN

A pocketful of goldfish. It didn't work out.

Beat. They continue walking as Buffy stares at Dawn.

DAWN
(laughing)
No!

BUFFY
(smiling)
Okay, good. We can go, and we can
look at all the puppies.

DAWN
(grimacing)
AcEhh. It's so awful! There's
puppy mills, and keeping them in
cages, and, and people poking at
them all day.

BUFFY
Yeah, but puppies, cute! Come on,
you used to love the pet store.

DAWN
Yes, when I was in my fives and
sixes.
(sees Buffy looking disappointed)
Uh, come on, we'll go look.
(looking around)
Besides, I don't think there's
another store here where I can ...
show my face.

BUFFY
It'll pass. You've returned all
the stuff that you still had, and
we're paying for the rest.

DAWN
I'm paying for the rest.

BUFFY
We'll figure it out.

They look at each other.

Cut to: close-up of the disk from earlier. We see that it
has symbols drawn in concentric rings on its surface. It
sits on a table leaning against a small glass jar filled
with yellow liquid.

JONATHAN
(OS)
Get back.

Reveal Jonathan sitting by the table holding a glass mortar and pestle. The table also holds an array of test tubes, and the requisite arrangement of curly tubes and jars filled with liquids of various colors. Warren stands by Jonathan's shoulder.

JONATHAN

You don't want to make me rush this.

(mixing stuff in the mortar)

WARREN

I'm not impressed, padawan. When do we hit pay-dirt?

JONATHAN

If something goes wrong, it's gonna surge...

(Warren pacing to the other side)

...and we'll be deader than an ex-girlfriend.

WARREN

(pauses, whirls to stare at Jonathan)
What did you say?

JONATHAN

(annoyed)
Just let me work!

WARREN

(playing it cool)
All right. All right, you do what you need to do. You get us to the goods, and then watch out!

(smiles)
It'lls gonna be like ... it'll be like the whole world just spread open and gave it up for you, man.

Jonathan doesn't look thrilled by that. He looks up at Warren.

JONATHAN

(quietly)
And then we're done, right? We each take our share and we call it a day.

WARREN

You that ready to get rid of us? Huh?

In background Andrew appears, pretends to be doing something but really is listening in.

WARREN

Don't worry. We pull this off,
you can go buy any tropical
island you want.

(Jonathan still
looking grim)

Aw, cheer up, Short Round. You're
about to get us everything we
ever wanted.

Jonathan still looks displeased but he nods and turns back
to the chemistry set. Warren turns away, goes over to Andrew.

WARREN

(quietly)

He's almost done.

(shot of Jonathan working)

ANDREW

I sorta feel ... kinda sorry for
him.

WARREN

(glares at him)

That's a weakness.

ANDREW

(uncertain)

Um ... okay.

WARREN

Look at him.

(shot of Jonathan
working, frowning)

ANDREW

He's got that same look on his
face, the one he had that time I
highlighted in his Babylon 5 novels.

Andrew smiles at the memory, suddenly realizes something.

ANDREW

Right before he told his mother
on me! Warren! I don't think we
can trust him.

WARREN

We don't have to. Not for that much longer.

ANDREW

Is it gonna be that soon?

WARREN

The milk. In the fridge. How long 'til it expires?

ANDREW

Well, we got it on Friday, and I remember noticing that there wasn't a full two weeks on it,
(Warren rolling his eyes)
but we did get it in the fridge pretty quick, unless I'm thinking of the two-percent milk...

WARREN

(annoyed)
Forget it. It was a thing.
(explaining)
It's gonna be soon.

ANDREW

(pretending to get it)
Oh. Wow.

They nod at each other.

Cut to Xander's apartment, night. Xander enters from the hallway, closes the door behind him, turns around, sees something and stops.

Reveal Anya sitting at the table. She stands up quickly.

XANDER

Oh my god.

He walks quickly toward her. She backs away, twisting her hands nervously.

XANDER

How are you?

ANYA

Ducky. You?

XANDER
(holding out a hand
toward her)
Ahn.
(sighs)
Please. Let me, uh, explain.

Anya watches him, still fidgeting with her hands and looking nervous.

XANDER
I know there's nothing that I can
say or do to make up for what I
did. I can't. Sometimes when I
wake up in the morning, I'm like,
'oh god, is this my life? Was
that me?'

ANYA
(softly)
Me too.

XANDER
But you gotta believe me, please.
I want to make up for it. I want
to take away the hurt.
(small sigh)
I love you so much.

Anya looks touched, seems to be softening up a bit.

XANDER
(embarrassed smile)
I, I may have practiced that a
couple of times in front of the
mirror.

ANYA
I just ... don't understand what
happened.

XANDER
I do. I'm an idiot. All I had to
do was say something earlier.
(Anya looks surprised)
I could have spared you from that
... that nightmare.

Through this speech Anya begins to frown and look hurt again.
She backs away a few steps and folds her arms.

ANYA
Said something about what?

XANDER

(makes "uh-oh" face)
No, no! I mean, you know, if I
were, like, more ... self-aware.
Bec'Cause, with the whole idiot
thing.

ANYA

(arms still folded, angrily)
If you had been more self-aware,
you would have what?
(Xander looking alarmed)
Been able to stop the wedding?

XANDER

No no, it's not like that, that's
not what...
(pauses, frustrated sigh)
Okay, see, I didn't practice this
part.

ANYA

(firmly)
Do you still want to get married?

Close on Xander's face. He hesitates, looks unsure. Anya
looks upset.

ANYA

(very quietly)
Oh.

XANDER

Ahn, it's a very complicated
question.

ANYA

(getting teary)
No, actually, it's really not.
It's kind of an either-or deal.
Do you want to get married?

XANDER

Someday, yes, very much. When
we're ready.

(Anya looking very hurt)
I don't want you to take this as
a bad thing. It's good.

(Anya looking
resigned, annoyed)
I love you, I love you so much,
I'm just trying to be honest with
you.

ANYA

(angry)
Yes, honesty *now*.
Congratulations, Xander, on being
honest now. I wonder what the
medal will say.

XANDER

(confused)
Okay, clearly I'm not handling
this well.

ANYA

(yelling)
Well, duh!

She turns away, walks a few steps away. Xander walks a few steps toward her. Shot of both with Anya in foreground, her back to Xander, arms crossed and looking angry; Xander in background.

XANDER

All I want is for us to be
together. I love you., I ... I
just wish we could just go back
to the way things were before.

Anya's face slowly morphs into her demon face.

ANYA

(demon voice)
And I wish you were never born!

Blackout.

Act II

Exterior shot of Xander's apartment building, night.

Cut to inside. Still the same scene. Anya stands with her back to Xander, her demon face on, arms folded.

XANDER

I know this is all coming out wrong.

Anya morphs back into human face, frowning in confusion. She turns around to look at Xander.

ANYA

(angry)
I wish you felt the pain of a
thousand searing pokers boiling
your heart in its own juices!

XANDER

I know, honey. I totally deserve that.

ANYA

(confused)

I ... I wish you had tentacles where your beady eyes should be! I wish your intestines were tied in knots and ripped apart inside your lousy gut!

XANDER

(sadly)

They are.

ANYA

(hopeful)

Really?

(Xander nods)

Right now? Does it hurt?

XANDER

God, yes. It hurts so bad it's killing me. Anya ... I love you, I want to make this work.

ANYA

(annoyed)

Those are metaphor intestines! You're not in any real pain! What's wrong with me?

XANDER

No, honey, it's not you, it's me. That-

ANYA

(frustrated)

Ohh!!

She shoves past him and goes storming toward the door.

XANDER

Ahn! Ahn! Wait. Please.

Anya yanks the door open and exits. Xander goes to the door and stands in the doorway, looking down the hall at her.

XANDER

Ahn!

HALFREK VOICEOVER
So there was no child support in,
like, eleven years...

Cut to: a restaurant, day. Halfrek and Anya sit at a table. Halfrek holds a coffee cup. Anya is fiddling with a yellow flower, not really listening to Halfrek.

HALFREK
...not a single check, so now,
every time he picks up a piece of
paper that isn't a check for the
child? Paper cut.

Halfrek laughs cheerfully. Anya is oblivious.

HALFREK
I mean Oh, you know how I hate to
toot my own horn ... but now his
hands are just covered in all
these tiny little bandages.
(smiling)
Like a quilt.
(chuckles)
You know, made of bandages.

Halfrek looks over at Anya, finally notices that she isn't paying attention. Anya looks up.

ANYA
Hmm?

HALFREK
Okay, dido they not teach
listening skills in Human World?
(puts down coffee cup)

ANYA
I'm sorry. I know.
(puts the flower back
into its vase on the table)
I'm just distracted.

HALFREK
What, about this thing with
Xander? Don't worry, you'll
figure out a way to-

ANYA
No, that's just it, I've tried
everything. I tried every curse I
knew, nothing's worked.

HALFREK

Wait. Did you try to curse him
yourself?

ANYA

Well, yYeah, I am the wronged
party here, of course I-

HALFREK

You can't exact justice against
someone on behalf of yourself,
silly!

(laughs)

How long have you been away?

ANYA

I haven't been scorned by a man
in, like, a thousand years. I
never had to make a wish for
myself. There has to be some way
around that.

HALFREK

Well ...

(thinks)

You could try getting someone to
make the wish for you. I suppose.

Anya stares at her, contemplating this. A very small smile
appears on her face.

Cut to: exterior Summers house, day.

Cut to the kitchen. Dawn walks in and stares at the kitchen
island.

DAWN

Uh ... did we open a chain?

Close shot on the island set with two place settings, bowls
of fruit, four bottles of syrup.

Reveal Buffy standing by the stove holding a spatula and
frying pan. Several cereal boxes lined up on the counter.

DAWN

Are we the International House of
something?

BUFFY

Nope. Got up early, and it felt
like a breakfast kind of morning.

(MORE)

BUFFY (CONT'D)
 (puts pancakes from
 the pan onto a plate)
 Okay, what kind of syrup do you
 want on your pancakes?

DAWN
 (delighted/amazed)
 Syrups have kinds?

BUFFY
 Oh! Also, you know, I was
 thinking,
 (turns away to put the
 pan in the sink)
 after the mall yesterday, maybe
 we, we shouldn't go out tonight,
 you know, maybe we could stay in
 and, uh,
 (taking toast from the toaster)
 ow ... um, you know, get a pizza,
 or, uh, rent a movie?

DAWN
 Um...

BUFFY
 (putting plateful of
 toast on the island)
 Also, I didn't know if, you know,
 if you had plans this weekend,
 (turns to grab the
 cereal boxes)
 but I thought, maybe we could...

DAWN
 Hey, Buffy?

Buffy pauses, looking at Dawn, with a large armful of cereal
 boxes.

DAWN
 (quietly)
 I'm gonna be okay with the
 basement thing. Really. You
 weren't you.

BUFFY
 (quietly)
 This isn't guilt. I want us to
 spend time.

DAWN
 Okay. Good. I love spending time-

BUFFY
(realizing)
But I'm cramping your teenage style.

DAWN
No-

BUFFY
Yes, I am.
(alarmed)
I'm the embarrassing mom who
tries too hard. When did this
happen?

DAWN
(smiling)
No, you're not, it's not that,
it's just ... what if, instead of
you hanging out with me,? mMaybe
I could hang out with you.

Buffy stares blankly, not getting it.

DAWN
Why don't I come patrolling with
you tonight?

BUFFY
Oh. And then? Maybe we can invite
over some strangers and ask them
to feed you candy.

DAWN
Well, you guys went out patrolling
every night when you were my age.

BUFFY
True ... but technically, you're
one-and-a-half.

Dawn gives her patented adolescent dirty exasperated look.

BUFFY
See, I thought a little levity
might ... but okay, also no.

DAWN
I just ... I just think I could
help.

BUFFY
I'm sure you could. But it's a
little more dangerous than I had
in mind.

DAWN

But --

BUFFY

Dawn., I work very hard to keep you away from that stuff. Okay, I don't want you around dangerous things that can kill you.

DAWN

Which would be a perfectly reasonable argument, if my sister was chosen to protect the world from tax audits? But, see, my sister is you, and ... dangerous things that want to kill me seem to find me.

BUFFY

But you don't need to go looking for them.

Beat. Dawn gives Buffy a pleading look.

BUFFY

Now eat up. You're gonna be late for school.

Buffy turns back to the stove. Dawn sighs quietly and sits down.

Cut to: the Espresso Pump, day.

TARA

(OS)

Okay, wait, it was under her wig?

Pan across various customers to reveal Tara and Willow sitting at a table with cups of coffee. Both smiling as Willow tells the story of the old lady in episode "Double Meat Palace."

WILLOW

Well, it was this thing, it just came out from inside her head.

TARA

That's disgusting! What did it look like?

WILLOW

Well, let's put it this way, if I wasn't gay before...

TARA
 (laughing)
 God, and this was *after* the
 invisible ray?

WILLOW
 Yep.

TARA
 Okay, I'm gone for a couple of
 months-...

WILLOW
 Oh, did I tell you about the
 demon eggs?

TARA
 See, now, now I know you're just
 trying to make me jealous.

WILLOW
 (grinning)
 So, what, no rollicking adventures
 in the dorms?

TARA
 (quieter)
 Mm, it's not the same. It's not
 like living with a house full of
 family, or sharing a room with
 someone you...

WILLOW
 ...are friends with?

As they gaze at each other, Anya walks up.

ANYA
 Hi.

WILLOW
 Oh my god. You're back.
 (hugs Anya)

TARA
 We've been so worried.

ANYA
 Yeah, sorry. I just needed to,
 you know ... I couldn't stay here.
 Not after ... everything that
 happened.

TARA
No, no no, we, we totally
understand.

WILLOW
But, you're back now, r. Right?

ANYA
It's complicated.
(sits)
You know, and there's a lot to
deal with.

WILLOW
Well, if there's anything we can
do, just let us-

ANYA
Actually ... um ... there is an
eensy something I could use a
little help with. You're
lesbians, so the hating of men
will come in handy.

Willow and Tara look at each other in puzzlement.

ANYA
(cheerfully)
Let's talk about Xander.

Cut to: Magic shop, day. Close on Dawn.

DAWN
He feels awful.

Reveal Anya facing Dawn.

ANYA
You think it's anywhere close to
what I feel?

DAWN
No, but-

ANYA
What if it were you, Dawn? What
if ... all you dreamed about was
that magical day?
(MORE)

ANYA (CONT'D)

(Dawn looking chastised)
The day when the one person you loved with all your soul would promise to cherish and protect your heart for the rest of his life, but instead he shatters it into a million jagged pieces?

Cut back to the coffee shop.

TARA

Well, it's, it's not really so much about hating the men.

WILLOW

We're more centered around the ...
(smirking)
girl on girl action.
(Tara grinning)

ANYA

And men really like to watch that kind of stuff, don't they? Men like Xander.

Cut to: exterior Summers house, day. Anya and Buffy stand on the front porch, leaning against the two pillars on either side of the door, facing each other.

BUFFY

I don't think he could feel any worse.

ANYA

Let's test that theory.

BUFFY

Anya, Xander's my friend. I know what he did was wrong, and ... if it had happened to me, I'd-

ANYA

(hopefully)
Wish his penis would explode?

Cut back to the magic shop.

DAWN

I never use that word anymore.

ANYA

Coagulate?

DAWN

W-i-s-h.

ANYA

Oh, wish! As in 'I wish Xander-'

DAWN

Right! That word. There's vengeance demons out there that are still active, remember? Any 'I wish' could totally end in horrible grossness.

ANYA

Gimme a for-instance?

Cut to the Summers porch.

BUFFY

I don't really think I should.

ANYA

Did I mention the whole 'left at the altar' thing? Didn't leave that out, did I?

BUFFY

No.

(shakes head)

Look, I - I know what he did was wrong. God, if it happened to me, I ... I-I, it must have been torture.

ANYA

(excited)

Okay! Let's talk about torture!

Cut to the magic shop. Dawn looks very dubious.

ANYA

So. Tell me more about wishing Xander's guts brains and brains guts would go blooey.

DAWN

I didn't say that.

ANYA

Yes you did.

DAWN

No I didn't.

ANYA
I heard you.

DAWN
I swear, I didn't say that.

ANYA
Didn't say what?

DAWN
Um ... I just saw you were back
and wanted to talk to you about
working off my debt.
(nervous chuckle)
You know, my whole sticky-
fingers, grabby-hands thing?

ANYA
Oh, right, the mad thieving!
Good, yes, there 's much to do.
(mock stern)
I'm gonna put you to work, missy!

Anya gives a fake laugh. Dawn continues to look dubiously at her.

ANYA
So, back to Xander's brains and
guts...

Cut to the Summers porch. Now Anya and Buffy are sitting on the step.

ANYA
Squish squish squish! Guys have
been running roughshod over you
for years.
(Buffy nodding,
pouting, reluctantly agreeing)
Torturing that perky little
ticker. Aren't you sick of it?
Don't you wish guys like that-

BUFFY
Whoa. Guys? There have only been
four - three! Three! Three guys.
That's barely plural.

ANYA
And didn't each of them rip your
heart out? Don't men like that,
as to pick an example, Xander,
deserve to be punished?

Cut to the coffee shop.

WILLOW

Well, Xander is a guy, so ...
 (Tara looking confused)
 it's kinda not the surprise that
 he likes to watch ... girls ...
 Why are we talking about this?

ANYA

(annoyed)
 We're comforting me!

TARA

Well, I-I guess it's ... natural
 for guys to be interested in-

ANYA

God! What kind of lesbians are
 you?! If you love men so much, go
 love men!

Anya jumps up and grabs her to-go coffee cup, storms off.

Cut to the Summers porch. Anya has stood up there too and
 started to storm off.

BUFFY

Anya, I know you're hurting, but-

ANYA

What? Xander doesn't deserve to
 suffer for what he did 'cause
 he's your friend. A, and I'm not,
 right? I get it.

BUFFY

No. That's not what I'm saying at
 all. What he did was wrong. He
 knows that.

ANYA

(upset)
 It just, it hurts. He hurt me so
 much.

BUFFY

(gets up)
 He really did.
 (puts hand on Anya's arm)
 Look, I-I wish that...

XANDER

(OS)
Anya?

Xander walks up. Buffy and Anya look at him.

ANYA

(angry)
Well, congratulations. They all
still love you. Even after what
you did to me.

She starts to walk off. Xander starts to follow, but Buffy
grabs him.

XANDER

Anya, wait...

BUFFY

Okay. Not, not crazy about that
idea.

XANDER

What are you doing? I have to go
after her.

BUFFY

Or, in the land of the sane, you
could give her some space, let
her cool down.

XANDER

(frustrated)
That's not Proactive Guy.
(pacing)
That's Sit-Around-And ... Watch-
TheRest-of-Your-Life-To-Turn-To-
Crap Guy.

As Xander paces, we get a shot of the tree on the front lawn.
There are a few straggly plants around the tree's base, and
a little ceramic garden gnome nestled among the plants.

BUFFY

True, uh, but at least Crap Guy
gets to keep all of his appendages.

XANDER

And I'm supposed to what? Walk
away?
(Buffy looking sympathetic)
That shouldn't be too hard. It's
what I'm good at, right?

Xander kicks out in frustration, smashing the garden gnome.

BUFFY

Okay, see, that's exactly why a heart-to-heart is probably not your best course of action right now.

(Xander still pacing)
When you're both angry and upset and ... what the hell is that creepy little thing doing in my yard?

Buffy walks forward, looking down at the bits of gnome.
Xander looks at them too.

BUFFY

Did Willow put that there when I was dead? 'Cause if I had known, I would have crawled out of the grave sooner to-

XANDER

Buffy.

They both kneel beside the gnome's head. We can clearly see a tiny camera inside it. Xander picks it up.

BUFFY

Oh my god.

XANDER

Looks like someone's been keeping an eye on all your ins and outs.

BUFFY

What the who?

XANDER

Well, now, let's see. Who's obsessed with Buffy? Who likes to hang out in ther yard and keep an eye on her? Who's in love with you and not getting any?

Buffy looks grim.

Cut to: close-up of a hand holding the camera.

SPIKE

What's this?

We see that we're in Spike's crypt. Spike is holding the camera up to look at it as Buffy stands confronting him.

BUFFY
It's a camera.

SPIKE
Yeah, I got that part. Why am I
holding it?

BUFFY
Someone was using it to spy on me.
On the my house.
(Spike frowning)
Xander thinks it's you.

SPIKE
Oh, the great Xander thinks so!
Shudder gasp! It must be true!

BUFFY
Spike --

SPIKE
That ponce has always had it for
me. Every chance he gets, he
sticks it-

He pauses, looking at Buffy.

SPIKE
(outraged)
You believe him, don't you? You
think I was spying on you.

Buffy doesn't answer.

SPIKE
You think I could do that?.

BUFFY
Because you don't lie or cheat or
steal or manipulate...

Spike gives her back the camera.

SPIKE
(quietly)
I don't hurt you.

He walks a few steps away.

BUFFY
I know.

SPIKE

No, you don't. I've tried to make it clear to you, but you won't see it.

(pauses)

Something happened to me. The way I feel ... about you ... it's different. NAnd no matter how hard you try to convince yourself it isn't, it's real.

BUFFY

I think it is.

Beat. He looks at her.

BUFFY

For you.

She turns to walk away. Spike looks hurt.

Buffy pauses by the door, turns back.

BUFFY

I know that's not what you want to hear. I'm sorry. I really am. But, Spike, you have to move on. You have to get over-

SPIKE

(softly)

Get out.

Buffy looks grim, turns and leaves.

Cut to: magic shop. Anya stands behind the counter talking to Halfrek, who is on the other side of the counter sitting on a stool.

ANYA

No! They're all, 'oh, poor Xander! It took so much out of him, all that running away he did.!' I just don't understand what's wrong with these people.

HALFREK

Did you really think they were the ones who would help you?

ANYA

Well, but-

HALFREK

Do you want retribution, Anyanka?

ANYA

I want Xander good and cursed.

HALFREK

Then you know what you have to do.

ANYA

Get a wish from someone who
doesn't freaking love him.

HALFREK

Exactly.

ANYA

Yeah, but my social circle is a
little limited here. What am I
supposed to do, just stumble upon
someone who doesn't give a fig's
ass if Xander gets hurt?

The bell over the magic shop door jingles as Spike enters.
He slams the door shut and strides toward Anya.

SPIKE

Hey. I need a thing.

Zoom in on Anya as she gazes speculatively at him. Blackout.

Act III

Same scene. Halfrek and Anya looking at Spike.

ANYA

So. What's your pleasure?

SPIKE

Fresh out of pleasure. That's
why I'm here.

(sighs)

I need something. Numbing spell,
maybe.

ANYA

(fake smile)

Uh huh. Hang on.

Halfrek smiles and gets up as Anya walks to the end of the
counter. Halfrek moves that way too so they can talk
privately. We see that Anya is wearing a red skirt, matching
red tank-top, and matching red cardigan.

ANYA

(quietly, smiling)

Oh my God. Spike *hates* Xander.
Maybe I could get him to wish ...
dammit, if only he were a woman.

(thinks)

Got it! If I can somehow get
someone to wish that Spike were a
woman, then I could go to him -
well, he'd be a her by then -
then I could go to her and get
her to-

HALFREK

Anyanka. There's an easier way.
Now, I know you have this whole
female-power, Take Back the Night
thing, I think that's cute. But
I've been telling you for
decades - men need a little
vengeance now and then, too.

ANYA

Oh.

(looks over at Spike)

HALFREK

Maybe this is your a good chance
to try it out.

Halfrek gives a cheerful little wave at Spike and heads for
the door.

HALFREK

Good luck with that. Ta-ta!

She leaves. Anya smiles nervously at Spike.

SPIKE

Sorry to bust up the little
girls' night out.

ANYA

(walking toward him)

That's okay. I'm ready to do some
business.

SPIKE

Right then. Got something that'll
dull the ache a bit?

ANYA
(smiling)
Actually, yes.
(walks back behind the counter)
Um, Giles left a couple of
supplies here, and I think ...
this might help.

She bends over, begins rummaging in the cabinet under the cash register.

ANYA
Eases the hurt ... makes the sun
shine a little brighter,
(Spike frowning)
even makes boring people seem
more interesting. Ah. Here.

She produces a bottle of Jack Daniels whiskey and puts it on the counter-top with a clank.

Spike grins.

Cut to: close shot on a table strewn with various colored wires. The camera from the garden gnome sits there with several wires attached. A hand attaches another wire to it. We see a laptop computer next to the camera.

Pan up to reveal Buffy sitting at the other end of the table. The location is the Summers dining room.

BUFFY
How's it coming? Can you see
who's getting the camera's signal?

Reveal Willow sitting in front of the computer. Xander stands beside the table.

WILLOW
Should have something once I get
tapped into the fiber-optic
network. We're gonna use the
feedback relay to, uh, get their
signal routed into our system.

XANDER
Okay, if it's not Spike, and
I'm I'm, I'm not saying I believe
him, ... but if it's not Spike, I
think we already know who's
behind this.

WILLOW

(typing)

Makes sense.

BUFFY

(grimly)

I want. To find. These guys.

Cut to: the Geek Trio Lair. Green, blue, yellow liquids bubble in the chemistry set. Jonathan lights a red candle on the table next to the chemistry stuff. Warren and Andrew stand watching.

We see that there's an old map spread out on the floor a few feet away. Jonathan holds a short wooden rod with the magic disk attached to the end of it. He positions it in front of the candle and sprinkles some powder over the disk.

Close shot on the disk as the powder makes it glow red-hot and give off purple smoke.

JONATHAN

Uncover.

A beam of purple light shoots from the candle, through the disk, and onto the map. We see that the map is labeled "Map of Sunnydale." The light lands on a single point on the map.

JONATHAN

There. That's it. That's where we have to go.

WARREN

Well, now that we've found out where we're supposed to go-

Suddenly the map bursts into flame where the beam of light is touching it. They all yell.

JONATHAN

Yah!

Jonathan screams and runs off.

Cut to: magic shop, night. Spike is sitting on the stool beside the counter, Anya still standing behind the counter. They both have shot glasses and are in the process of drinking the shots.

SPIKE

(angrily)

So then, this girl says, "real for you ."

ANYA

Right. But getting back to Xander...

SPIKE

(scornful)

Xander. Let's not waste any more
breath on that wanker.

ANYA

But he made a fool of me. And
nobody seems to care enough to do
anything!

SPIKE

I care. What he done to you,?
I've never stooped that low, and
I'm an 'evil, soulless thing.'
(bitterly)

According to some people.

ANYA

But shouldn't he pay? Don't you
wish he had to pay in some
horrible way?

SPIKE

Absolutely.

Spike picks up the whiskey bottle and his shot glass, turns
to walk over to the round table in the middle of the room.

SPIKE

Take him on myself, if it wasn't
for my little handicap.
(gesturing at his head)

Anya comes out from behind the counter, bringing her glass.

ANYA

Right.

(sits)

So ... hypothetically, what do
you wish you could do to him?
(Spike pouring fresh
shots for both of them)

SPIKE

You name it, pet. You're the
wronged party. Something, uh...
(lifts his glass)
gruesome, how 'bout?

Spike drinks. Anya maintains her fake-cheerful smile, drinks also.

Cut to: Geek Trio lair. Andrew and Warren are stomping on the fire trying to put it out. Jonathan runs in with a fire extinguisher.

Warren grabs a blanket off the sofa and tosses it on the fire trying to smother it. He and Andrew continue stomping.

JONATHAN

Hey! That's my blanket!

WARREN

Well, makes sense, it was your fire.

Behind Warren's head we see a red light-bulb suddenly light up.

Cut to: Summers dining room. Willow still working on her laptop.

WILLOW

Hey hey, I think I've got something.

Buffy and Xander, now both sitting, look over at her.

Cut to magic shop. Spike and Anya sit facing each other on the bench next to the round table. Anya gestures wildly with the bottle. She has removed her cardigan sweater and now just wears the red tank top over her red skirt.

ANYA

(angrily)

Thing about it is, none of this was my idea.

(disgusted)

I didn't ask to be human.

(pouring)

SPIKE

Right! And I didn't ask for this bloody chip in my head.

ANYA

To tell you the truth, ...

(puts bottle down)

all I wanted was to use him and lose him. I hadn't had a good tumble in a thousand years...

SPIKE
(grinning)
Me too. The using part. I just
wanted to know what I was
missing, move on.

ANYA
(maudlin)
Yeah ... and he was ... all bumpy
... in the right places. And nice
to me...

She trails off, looking wistful. Spike looks the same way.

SPIKE
(softly)
She was so raw. NI've never felt
anything like it.

ANYA
Next thing you know ... I'm
changing to please him.
(a little more upset)
I care if he cares!

SPIKE
(nodding)
Right.

ANYA
And I'm off my guard. Happy! I'm
singing in the shower and doing
my sexy dance?!

SPIKE
Exactly.
(pauses)
I ... have no dance.

He looks sternly at Anya as if to make sure she's buying it.
She nods, but frowns a little.

Cut back to the dining room. Willow continues typing.

BUFFY
Talk to me, Will.

WILLOW
Technology's pretty sophisticated,
lots of booby traps and firewall
stuff...

(MORE)

WILLOW (CONT'D)
(shot of the screen
showing a "radar"
diagram of concentric circles)

BUFFY
But can you get us a location?

WILLOW
Well, hey, I'm still me. Just
one - whoa.

BUFFY
What?

WILLOW
There are other cameras.

Cut back to Magic Box. Anya is now sitting on the table.

ANYA
Screw 'em!

SPIKE
To the rafters!

They clink their glasses together and drink.

ANYA
I did everything for that man.
Was it ever enough?

SPIKE
Never!
(slurred)
I was always going above and
beyond. I saved the Scoobies how
many times? And I can't stand the
lot of you.

ANYA
Me either! I hate us! Everybody's
so *nice.* Nobody ever says
what's on their mind.

SPIKE
You do. That's why you're the
only one of them I wouldn't bite
if I had the chance.

ANYA
(giggles, pleased)
Really?

SPIKE

Absolutely. I have nothing but respect for a woman who is forthright. Drusilla was always straightforward. Didn't have a single bugging clue about what was going on in front of her,
 (Anya giggling)
 but she was straight about it. That's a virtue.

ANYA

Mm. Xander didn't think so. He thought I was rude.

SPIKE

(like 'duh')
 That's because he's one of them. Uptight. Repressed.
 (makes "uptight" gesture with one finger)

ANYA

(frowning)
 You think?

SPIKE

Please. It's no wonder they couldn't deal with the likes of you and me, luv. We should have been dead hundreds of years ago ... and we're the only ones who are really alive.

Anya smiles, gazing down at him. He looks up at her. They both smile at each other.

Cut to the dining room. On Willow's laptop screen we can see a tiny image of the exterior of the Double-Meat Palace.

WILLOW

Oh my god, Tthe Double Meat Palace?
 (image changes)
 The Bronze? My classrooms on campus...

Close on the screen showing an overhead shot of a UC Sunnydale hallway. Then it changes to an image of a deserted construction site.

WILLOW

(OS)
Xander's site...
(Xander looking surprised)

BUFFY

What?!

XANDER

They've been spying on all these places?

WILLOW

I can tell there are more feeds,
I, I'm just having a harder time
pinpointing 'em. Here, lemme...
(typing)

Cut back to Magic Box. Anya is sitting on a chairthe bench again, closer to Spike than before. The bottle is nearly empty. Spike picks it up with a sigh, pours the last of it into one shot glass.

SPIKE

Here.
(picks up glass, holds
it toward her)
Ladies last.

ANYA

(gazing sentimentally
at him)
Thank you.

SPIKE

Take it quick or my chivalry'll
run out.

ANYA

No ...
(puts her hand on Spike's)
thank you.

Spike frowns a little, puts the glass down, moves a little closer to her.

ANYA

This is the first time since ...
(shrugs)
It feels good to be with someone
who understands.

SPIKE
(softly)
Intimately.
(sighs)

ANYA
This whole time, I've been coming
on all ... hell- bent and mad.
Wanting his head, you know?

SPIKE
Yeah.

ANYA
When, really, I ...
(tearfully)
can't sleep at night, thinking ...
it ... has to be my fault,
somehow...

SPIKE
(shakes his head)
Shh...

ANYA
(crying)
What if it was just pretending?
What if he never really wanted me
... the way I wanted him?

She snaps out of it a little, shakes her head.

ANYA
Oh, god. I'm sorry.

SPIKE
Now now.

Spike gently brushes some hair out of Anya's face, then cups
her cheek in his hand.

SPIKE
He would have to be more than
just the git he is, Anya. He'd
have to be deaf, dumb and blind
not to want a woman like you.

ANYA
(whispers)
Then why?

SPIKE
(looks away, sadly)
The two of them ... they're weak,
is all.
(pauses)
But, I'll tell you what, though.
(continues stroking
Anya's face)
They'll, uh, be going to miss the
water now that the well's gone dry.

Now Spike has his fingers under Anya's chin and she leans
her face into his hand.

ANYA
(quietly)
Too hot to handle.

SPIKE
Too hot...

He leans forward, very close. Leans his forehead against hers.

ANYA
Um ... just-just one more question.

SPIKE
Hmm?

ANYA
(very softly)
Can I see your sexy dance?

SPIKE
(small grin)
I'll show you mine...

He moves as if to kiss her.

ANYA
Wait. Wait.
(very soft whisper)
What are we doing?

SPIKE
Moving on.

They kiss passionately.

Cut to the dining room.

WILLOW

Here, I think there are a couple more transmitters on the network, I just ... uccgh, I've almost got a picture on 'em.

Cut back to Magic Box. Spike and Anya still kissing. Then she pushes back a little.

ANYA

You know I'm only doing this 'cause I'm ... I'm lonely and drunk and you ... smell really good.

SPIKE

See? Forthright.

She grins and nods, and they resume kissing.

Cut to: Geek Lair. The red light continues flashing, now accompanied by a loud alarm noise. The geeks look over in alarm.

WARREN

Ahh!

ANDREW

It tapped into our feed, something's wrong!

They all run toward the bank of computers along one wall.

Cut back to Magic Box. Kissing continues as Anya climbs onto Spike's lap, straddling him. He pushes his hands up underneath her red blouse shirt and pushes the blouse shirt up, revealing a black bra.

Cut back to the Lair. The geeks still racing for the computers. Jonathan still holds the fire extinguisher.

Cut back to Magic Box. Spike sweeps a pile of stuff (including the empty liquor bottle) off the table with one arm. Then retreats out of shot so all we see is the bare table. Then Spike's hands place Anya on the table, now wearing just her black bra and short red skirt. She lies back on the table panting.

Then Spike moves on top of her, between her legs. They resume kissing.

Cut to the dining room.

WILLOW

I think I've got the Magic Box.

She continues typing and looking at the screen.

WILLOW

Whoa!

She stands up quickly, staring at the screen.

Cut to Geek Lair. Close on the multiple keyboards sitting on the table, multiple hands typing frantically.

WARREN

(OS)

Shut it down, shut it *all* down!

Shot of the monitors with various windows flashing chaotically across the screens.

ANDREW

I'm trying, I can't find--

JONATHAN

(reaching across
Warren to Andrew's keyboard)
Here, dorkface--

ANDREW

I'll get it myself--

WARREN

Guys, we have to - oh, holy crap.

They all freeze, staring at one monitor.

Close on the monitor showing a full-color view of Spike and Anya having sex on the table in the Magic Box.

The geeks stare, dropping their hands from the keyboards.

JONATHAN

Oh my god.

WARREN

What is that, p-porn?

We get another shot of the screen as the action heats up, the kissing becomes more frantic.

JONATHAN

Oh my god.

WARREN

Is that the cam in the Magic Box?

JONATHAN

Oh my god.

ANDREW

What are they ... ohh.

WARREN

Is that--

JONATHAN

Spike.

ANDREW

(riveted)

He is so cool.

(glances at the

others, self-consciously)

And, I mean, the girl is hot too.

WARREN

(shaking his head)

Dude.

They all continue to watch intently.

Cut to Magic Box. The kissing and such continues. Pan over to a nearby display case where a human skull is sitting. The camera in its eye is clearly visible. (same skull-cam shown in episode "Life Serial")

Cut to dining room. Buffy and Xander, alarmed by Willow's reaction, get up and come over to look at the screen.

WILLOW

Xander, don't look--Wait, Xander,
no.

XANDER

(looks)

Oh, god.

Buffy stares at the screen, looks over at Xander, back to the screen.

Close on the screen. It's monochrome unlike the Geeks' setup, but the image of Spike and Anya kissing and writhing on the table is quite clear.

Shot of Buffy and Xander both watching in horror. Sound of a door opening.

Dawn enters through the front door, closes it, sees the others in the dining room and walks that way.

DAWN
Hey guys. What's up?

Dawn walks over to them as Buffy and Xander are staring at the screen and Willow staring at them. Dawn looks at the screen and gasps. Willow quickly puts her hand over Dawn's eyes.

WILLOW
Whoa, whoa, whoa.

XANDER
I ... what is she...

Willow looks at Xander with concern, then at Buffy. Close on Buffy looking, if anything, even more upset than Xander. Close on the screen as the action continues.

WILLOW
Buffy?

Dawn and Willow stare at Buffy.

BUFFY
That's enough.

Buffy storms out. Willow and Dawn exchange a look.

Xander walks off in a daze. Willow snaps out of it, a little.

WILLOW
(sits)
Here, lemme just...
(typing)

Shot of Buffy's back as she heads toward the kitchen and the back door.

WILLOW
You know, we, we aren't even
really sure what we're just
seeing here, there could be
something-

Dawn rolls her eyes, follows Buffy.

WILLOW
There, got it.

Sound of a door closing (back door) and one opening (front door). Willow looks up, realizes she's alone.

WILLOW

Xander?

She gets up and goes to the foyer, finds the front door standing wide open.

Willow goes into the living room, sees something. Zoom in on her face looking upset.

Zoom in on the weapons chest that Xander made for Buffy (episode "Older and Far Away"). Its lid is open and the weapons are in disarray.

Cut to the street. Xander walks along, walking fast with a grim look on his face. Pan down to reveal the short-handled axe in his hand.

Blackout.

Act IV

Open on the Summers back yard, night. Buffy sits in one of the wooden lawn chairs, staring blankly. Dawn stands nearby, her arms folded across her chest.

DAWN

So. This is it? This is the stuff
you've been protecting me from?
You and Spike?

BUFFY

And a lot of monsters.

DAWN

Uh- huh.

BUFFY

But it's over.
(Dawn sitting in the
other chair)
Spike.

DAWN

I wish you'd told me.

BUFFY

I kinda didn't wanna admit it to
myself.

DAWN

I get that.

Buffy continues staring at the ground.

DAWN

I know it must hurt. To feel like
you have to hide, to keep secrets
from everybody?

Buffy looks at Dawn, pensively.

Willow bursts out the back door of the house.

WILLOW

Buffy. Xander's gone. And h--he
took your axe.

Cut to Magic Box. Pan across the assorted stuff scattered on
the floor. The bench is lying on its side. There's also a
tipped-over chair with Anya's sweater hanging on it.

Anya, wearing her blouse tank top again, picks up the
sweater. In background we see Spike fastening his belt. Anya
has her back to him. He looks over at her.

Close on Anya looking a little ashamed or embarrassed. Pan
to Spike looking the same.

Spike finishes with his belt and starts walking toward the
door as Anya puts on her sweater, staring blankly into space.
Spike pauses by the door and they both turn to face each
other from across the room.

Anya gives a little nod, and after a moment Spike nods back.
He turns and opens the door, walks out.

Cut to exterior of the shop. Spike exits and immediately
looks shocked at something directly in front of him. He
dodges to the right and the short-handled axe plunges into
the wall behind where he just was.

Shot of Xander struggling to pull the axe free. Spike stares
at him in some alarm.

Xander gives up on the axe, grabs Spike by the front of his
shirt and throws him down on the sidewalk.

Shot of Buffy running around the a corner farther down the
street, running hard toward them.

Xander picks Spike up and throws him against a pillar, grabs
him and turns him around, punches him in the gut. Spike
doubles over.

XANDER

Get up. Get up!

Spike glares up at him but doesn't move.

XANDER
You're just gonna sit there? Do
nothing?

Spike doesn't answer. Xander grabs him, pulls him to his feet and slams his head against the pillar.

XANDER
That the kinda man you are?

SPIKE
I'm not gonna fight you. The chip.

Xander knees him in the stomach. Spike groans and doubles over again.

XANDER
Too bad.

Xander pulls a stake from his pocket, just as Anya opens the door and sees them.

A gloved hand grabs him from behind and spins him around and moves Xander's arm behind his back, making him drop the stake.

Xander looks at the figure.

XANDER
(confused)
Who the Hell are you?

VOICE
(through the mask)
You don't wanna do this.

XANDER
Don't I?

VOICE
You don't. I know you don't.

The masked figure steps on the stake, shattering it into pieces.

XANDER
Well, you don't know a damn thing
about me!

Xander grabs the masked figure and goes to punch him, but the figure grabs his arm and pushes him away.

Xander spears the masked figure, knocking him down.

He backs up and the masked figure does a kickflip up to a standing position.

VOICE
(through the mask)
Xander, stop this!

A beat, as what the person said registers in Xander's head:

XANDER
(confused)
(angry)
How do you know my name?!

The figure quickly and angrily removes its mask.

STEVEN
(angry)
Because we've fought side-by-side
for four years!!

Xander is in surprise and shock.

XANDER
(annoyed)
(angry)
So...I should've known. All
these years...I knew you liked
Spike.

STEVEN
(confused)
What?!

XANDER
He had sex with Anya and you're
telling me not to kill him?!

STEVEN
(more confused)
What?! Sex with who?! Xander,
I've been in L.A. for, like, the
past two months. I have no idea
what's going on.

XANDER
(disbelieving)
Right. Sure you don't. Maybe
you've just been helping Spike
from good ol' Los Angeles.

(MORE)

XANDER (CONT'D)
Tellin' him where my girl
is...let's face it, Windsor; we
know you hated her since the
moment I first showed 'er to
everyone.

STEVEN
Xander, no!

XANDER
Maybe I've been goin' about this
the wrong way.

He grabs Steven's jacket by the lapels.

XANDER
(angry)
Maybe he's not the one I should
kill.

SPIKE
Good idea, mate. Throw the
suspicion off me for a while.

XANDER
(reconsiders)
No, I changed my mind.

He runs over to Spike, once again pinning him against the
wall, pulling out another stake.

ANYA
Xander, no! Stop it! Stop it!
Stop it!

Anya runs over, distracting Xander. She reaches him just as
Buffy does, coming up behind him and shoving him aside.

Xander pants and glares at Buffy. She pants and glares back.

ANYA
Xander, I...

XANDER
(panting)
Don't even try to deny it. 'Cause
I saw it all. The whole beautiful
show.

ANYA
How...?

Xander glares angrily at her.

ANYA

It was just, it ... it was just a thing. I ... I felt bad, and he was just ... there.

BUFFY

(to Spike)
 Didn't take long, did it?
 (Spike looking sourly at her)

XANDER

(still yelling at Anya)
 Oh, oh, oh, okay! You had to do it. Because he was there. Like Mt. Everest.
 (upset)
 Like I used to be.

ANYA

(angry)
 And then you weren't. You left *me,* Xander. At the altar.
 (yelling)
 I don't owe you anything.

XANDER

So you go out and bang the first body you can find? Dead or alive?

ANYA

Where do you get off judging me?!

XANDER

When this is your solution to our problems. I hurt you, and you hit me back? Very mature.

ANYA

No, the mature solution is for you to spend your whole life telling stupid, pointless jokes, so that no one will notice that you are just a scared, insecure little boy!

XANDER

(bitterly)
 I'm not joking now. You let that evil, soulless thing touch you.
 (MORE)

XANDER (CONT'D)
(pointing at Spike)
You wanted me to feel something?
(Anya looking chagrined)
Congratulations, it worked.

Anya stares at him, looks like she might cry again.

XANDER
I look at you ... and I feel sick.
'Cause you had sex with that.
(points at Spike again)

Anya looks down at the ground, hurt. Buffy looks a bit ashamed too.

SPIKE
(quietly)
It's good enough for Buffy.

XANDER
(yells)
Shut up and leave her out of...

Xander stops as what Spike said sinks in. He, **Steven** and Anya stare at Buffy. Buffy looks all upset.

ANYA
Buffy?

STEVEN
(surprised/disgusted)
Oh my God...

BUFFY
Xander...--

XANDER
(shaking his head,
full of pain)
I don't want to know this.

Shot of Xander's stake clattering on the ground.

XANDER
I don't want to know any of this.

He walks off. Buffy looks very upset, watches him go for a moment, then turns to glare at Spike.

Spike just looks back at her, unapologetic.

Buffy looks angry but resigned. She turns and follows Xander.

Steven gives Spike a look, then walks past Spike and Anya, on his way home.

Spike and Anya stand side-by-side watching Buffy go. Shot of Buffy's back as she walks away.

SPIKE

(OS)
Bloody Xander, mucking up
everything.

Spike looks angrysullen.

SPIKE

You know, I wish--

ANYA

Don't.

Spike looks at her, a little surprised. Anya grimaces in self-disgust.

They move off in opposite directions, Spike down the street, Anya back toward the shop.

Cue sad music -- "That Kind of Love" by Alison Krauss.

//Who would sell their soul for love?//

Another shot of Buffy still walking away.

//Or waste one tear on compromise?//

Anya walks into the store, stares unhappily at the mess.

//Should be easy enough To know a heartache in disguise//

Anya slowly walks down the three steps into the main room, picks up the bench and rights it. Continues starting to clean the place up.

TARA

(OS)
Things fall apart. They fall
apart so hard.

Cut to the Summers house. Willow is lying on the bed with some homework, but looking in surprise at the doorway. She sits up on the edge of the bed.

WILLOW

Tara?

Reveal Tara in the doorway, leaning against the door frame.

TARA
 You can't ever ...
 (sighs)
 put them back the way they were.

WILLOW
 Are you okay?

TARA
 I'm sorry, it's just ...
 (deep sigh)
 You know, it takes time.
 (walking into the room)
 You can't just ... have coffee
 and expect--

WILLOW
 (guilty)
 I know.

Long shot of the two of them -- Willow sitting, Tara standing -- with a considerable distance separating them.

TARA
 There's just so much to work
 through. Trust has to be built
 again, on both sides ...
 (Willow looking upset)
 You have to learn if ... if we're
 even the same people we were, if
 you can fit in each other's lives.

Willow continues looking at Tara, sadly.

TARA
 It's a long and ... important
 process, and ... can we just skip
 it? Can-can you just be kissing
 me now?

Willow looks hopeful, then delighted as the words sink in.
 She smiles widely, jumps up. Tara meets her halfway and they
 kiss passionately.

//There was not faith enough Still my heart held on When we
 find that kind of love//

Blackout.