

"Once More, With Feeling"

by

Joss Whedon

ACT I

FADE IN:

INT. SUMMERS HOME - BUFFY'S ROOM - MORNING

The ALARM CLOCK owned by

BUFFY

RINGS.

It's 7:00 AM. She picks up, looks at it, then puts it back down.

CUT TO:

INT. SUMMERS HOME - BUFFY'S ROOM - MORNING

WILLOW

TARA

and

DAWN

go about their morning routine, making beds, brushing hair, getting ready for school while Buffy sleeps through her alarm.

While fluffing the pillows, Tara finds the flowery herb Willow used to make her forget their fight lying in the bed.

She picks it up, sniffs it and smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. THE MAGIC BOX - DAY

ANYA

and

XANDER

look through Tomorrow's Bride magazine.

Xander points something out and smiles.

Anya frowns, then moves off to help a customer.

GILES

finds Dawn reading a magick book and takes it away from her.

Tara and Willow are researching ancient texts while Buffy passes the time sketching.

STEVEN

is sitting, feet on a desk, relaxing and reading a book on demons.

Giles approaches with a battle axe and looks at Buffy and Steven expectantly.

She puts down her pad, takes off her sweater and follows him into the training room.

Steven takes his feet off the desk, gets up, and follows Buffy.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRAVEYARD : NIGHT

Buffy **and Steven** are walking through the graveyard.

GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS

BUFFY

(singing)

Every single night, the same
arrangement/I go out and fight the
fight/Still I always feel this
strangest strangement/Nothing here
is real, nothing here is right/

STEVEN

(overlapping)

(singing)

Every single night, I face those
demons/I go out and kill the
scum/Buffy by my side/I know I'm
dreamin'/I know some will fight/I
know some will run

As they fight two vampires:

BUFFY

(singing)

I've been making shows of trading
blows, just hoping no-one knows/That
I've been going through the
motions/Walking through the
part/Nothing seems to pene

STEVEN
 (overlapping)
 (singing)
 I will never see one vamp set free,
 but hoping no-one sees/that I've
 been going after Willow/I won't
 cross the line/Nothing seems to
 weaken

As they stake another vampire:

BUFFY
 (singing)
 trate my
 (holding note)
 heart/

STEVEN
 (overlapping)
 (singing)
 her, so
 (holding note)
 fine

They continue walking.

BUFFY
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 I was always brave and kind of
 righteous/Now I find I'm
 wavering/Crawl out of your
 grave/You'll find this fight/Just
 doesn't mean a thing

STEVEN
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 I was never brave, but kind of
 righteous/Now I find I'm
 strengthening/Get out of your
 grave/You know we fight/We never
 mean a thing

VAMPIRE
 (singing)
 You ain't got that swing/

The vampire backhands them and knocks them on the ground.

BUFFY
 (singing)
 Thanks for noticing/

STEVEN
(overlapping)
You were noticing

Four VAMPIRES AND **two** DEMONS walk up.

They begin dancing.

VAMPIRES AND DEMONS
They do pretty well with fiends
 from Hell/But lately, we can tell/

She flips up.

Steven gets up.

VAMPIRES AND DEMON
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 That she's just going through the
 motions/

VAMPIRES AND DEMONS
(overlapping)
(singing)
That he's just going after Willow

Buffy swiftly cuts the head off of one vampire.

Steven takes another sword and cuts the head off another vampire.

She kicks another out of her way.

He kicks another out of his way.

VAMPIRE #2
 (overlapping)
 (singing)
 Going through the motions

VAMPIRE #4
(overlapping)
(singing)
going after Willow

VAMPIRES AND DEMON
 (singing)
 Faking it somehow

VAMPIRES AND DEMON
 (overlapping)
 (singing)
 We do know this now

She stabs the demon, and pulls it out.

He stabs the other demon, and yanks out his sword.

DEMON
 (singing)
 She's not even half the girl she...

DEMON #2
 (overlapping)
 (singing)
 We don't even know this guy, he...

He looks down at the wound.

He looks down at the wound also.

DEMON
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 Ow

DEMON #2
 (overlapping)
 (singing)
 Ow

They **both** fall down with a THUD.

As Buffy walks over to a tree, and as Steven walks over to another:

BUFFY
 (singing)
 Will I stay this way
 forever/Sleepwalk through

STEVEN
 (overlapping)
 (singing)
 I will love this job forever/This
 could be

As she cuts a rope in half:

As he cuts a rope in half:

BUFFY
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 my life's endeavor/

STEVEN
 (overlapping)
 (singing)
 My life's endeavor

A

BOY

looks at Buffy.

A

GIRL

looks at Steven.

BOY
 (singing)
 How can I repay--

GIRL
 (overlapping)
 (singing)
 How can I repay--

As Buffy **and Steven** turn away:

BUFFY
 (singing)
 Whatever/

STEVEN
 (overlapping)
 (singing)
 Whatever

She puts the sword in the ground and continues walking.

He puts the other sword in the ground and continues walking.

BUFFY
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 I don't wanna
 (holding note)
 be/

STEVEN
 (overlapping)
 (singing)
 I will never
 (holding note)
 see

She walks up to another area of the graveyard.

He walks up to another area of the graveyard.

BUFFY
 (singing)
 Going through the motions/Losing
 all my drive/I can't even see/If
 this is really me/And I just wanna
 (holding note)
 be/

STEVEN
 (overlapping)
 (singing)
 If these are the motions/then I'll
 leave the hive/It has made me see/I
 know it's her or me/And I was
 hopin'
 (holding note)
 to

She stakes another vampire.

He stakes another vampire.

BUFFY
 (singing)
 A
 (holding note)
 li
 (singing)
 ve

STEVEN
 (overlapping)
 (singing)
 Sur
 (holding note)
 vi
 (singing)
 ve

The SONG ENDS

CUT TO:

8.

INT. THE MAGIC BOX - MORNING

Buffy enters the store to greetings all around.

GILES
Good morning, Buffy.

STEVEN
Hey, Buff.

WILLOW
Hey, did Dawn get off to school all right?

BUFFY
What? Oh, yeah. I think so.

STEVEN
(to himself)
Hmm...

Willow is puzzled at Buffy's response.

Buffy heads over to the reading table where Xander sits with donuts.

Anya bustles about, tending to the store.

XANDER
Respect the cruller and tame the donut!

As Anya walks past Xander:

ANYA
(deadpan)
That's still funny, sweetie.

STEVEN
Yeah, about as funny as a heart attack.

BUFFY
So no research? Nothing going on?
Monsters or whatnot?

They shake their heads.

BUFFY

Good! Good. So did anybody... last night, did anybody um... burst into song?

Everyone stops and stares at her, then comes to life in a flurry of agreement, talking over each other in their excitement to share.

XANDER

Merciful Zeus!

WILLOW

We thought it was just us!

GILES

Well, I sang but I had my guitar at the hotel...

TARA

It was bizarre. We were talking and then it was like-

BUFFY

Like you were in a musical!

GILES

That would explain the huge backing orchestra I couldn't see and the synchronized dancing from the room service chaps.

WILLOW

We did a whole duet about dish washing.

ANYA

And we were arguing and then everything rhymed and there were harmonies and the dance with coconuts.

WILLOW

There was an entire verse about the cous-cous.

XANDER

It was very disturbing.

GILES

(to Buffy **and Steven**)

What did you sing about?

BUFFY
(evasive)
I don't remember.

STEVEN
(equally evasive)
Yeah...me neither.

BUFFY
But it seemed perfectly normal.

STEVEN
Definitely.

XANDER
But disturbing and not the natural
order of things. And do you think
it'll happen again?

GILES
I don't know. I should look into it.

WILLOW
With the books.

TARA
Do we have any books on this?

XANDER
Well, we just gotta break it down.
Look at the factors before it
happens again because I for one--

STEVEN
(cutting off Xander)
**Giles...Anything brewing in that
mind of yours?**

I'VE GOT A THEORY

As Giles takes off his glasses:

GILES
(continuing)
(singing)
I've got a theory/That it's a
demon/A dancing demon/
(confused/singing)
No, something isn't right there/

WILLOW
 (singing)
 I've got a theory/Some kid is
 dreamin'/And we're all stuck inside
 his wacky Broadway nightmare

We see Tara doing jazz hands.

XANDER
 (singing)
 I've got a theory/We should work
 this out

**XANDER, ANYA, WILLOW, TARA, BUFFY,
 STEVEN**
 (singing)
 It's getting eerie/What's this
 cheery/Singing all about?

As Xander stands up:

XANDER
 (singing)
 It could be witches/Some evil
 witches/

Willow and Tara give him annoyed looks.

XANDER
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 Which is ridiculous/'cause witches
 they were persecuted/And wicca
 good, and love the Earth, and women
 power/and I'll be over here

He walks back over to his chair.

ANYA
 (singing)
 I've got a theory/It could be
 bunnies/

We hear CRICKETS CHIRP.

STEVEN
What the Hell?

Everyone stares, dumbfounded.

TARA
 (singing)
 I've got a--

We hear ROCK MUSIC starting.

ANYA
 (singing)
 Bunnies aren't just cute like
 everybody supposes/They got them
 hoppy legs and twitchy little
 noses/And what's with all the
 carrots?/What do they need such
 good eyesight for
 anyway?/Bunnies/Bunnies, it must be
 bunnies/

We see an explosion of pyrotechnics.

The music goes back to normal.

After a BEAT:

STEVEN
 (singing)
You are an ijit

ANYA
 (overlapping)
 (singing)
 Or maybe midgets?

As Willow sits down next to Giles:

WILLOW
 (singing)
 I've got a theory/We should work
 this fast/

They look at each other.

GILES
 (singing)
 Because it clearly could get
 serious/Before it's passed

WILLOW
 (singing)
 (overlapping)
 Because it clearly could get
 serious/Before it's passed

STEVEN
 (singing)
I have a theory

BUFFY
 (singing)
 (overlapping)
 I've got a theory

They all look at them.

STEVEN
 (singing)
 It never mattered/We know we'll win
 if we're together/We'll handle any
 new endeavor/We know the chips/Are
 down and there/We'll take no
 trips/Why give a care?

BUFFY
 (overlapping)
 (singing)
 It doesn't matter/What can't we
 face if we're together?/What's in
 this place that we can't
 weather?/Apocalypse/We've all been
 there/The same old trips/Why should
 we care?

XANDER, ANYA, WILLOW, TARA, BUFFY,
 STEVEN
 (singing)
 What can't we do if we get in it?/

XANDER, ANYA, WILLOW, TARA, BUFFY,
 STEVEN
 (singing)
 We're workin' through it every
 minute/

Giles joins in.

XANDER, ANYA, WILLOW, TARA, BUFFY,
 STEVEN, GILES
 (singing)
 We have to try/We'll pay the
 price/It's do or die

BUFFY
 (singing)
 Hey, I've died twice

STEVEN
 (singing)
 (overlapping)
 Hey, you've died twice

Giles smiles.

**XANDER, ANYA, WILLOW, TARA, BUFFY,
STEVEN**

(singing)

What can't we face if we're

As Giles starts down the ladder:

**XANDER, ANYA, WILLOW, TARA, BUFFY,
STEVEN**

(continuing)

(singing)

together

GILES

(overlapping)

(singing)

What can't we face

**XANDER, ANYA, WILLOW, TARA, BUFFY,
STEVEN**

(singing)

What's in this place that we can't

GILES

(overlapping)

(singing)

If we're together

**XANDER, ANYA, WILLOW, TARA, BUFFY,
STEVEN**

(singing)

weather?/There's nothing we can't
face

ANYA

(singing)

Except for bunnies

The SONG ENDS.

As Xander sits down:

XANDER

See, okay, that was disturbing.

STEVEN

You're tellin' me.

As Willow sits down:

WILLOW

(smiling)

I thought it was neat.

BUFFY

So what is it? What's causing it?

GILES

I thought it didn't matter.

STEVEN

**It may not matter now, but trust
me...it'll matter once someone
turns up dead.**

BUFFY

Well, I'm not exactly quaking in my
stylish, yet affordable boots, but
there's definitely something
unnatural going on here...and that
doesn't usually lead to hugs and
puppies.

ANYA

Well, is it just us? I mean, is it
only happening to us because that
would probably mean a spell or...

STEVEN

That'd be a lot easier.

Buffy turns and heads for the door.

16.

She opens it to find people dancing in the street in front
of the dry cleaners across the way.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUNNYDALE BUSINESS DISTRICT - DAY

THEY GOT THE MUSTARD OUT

A man holds up his dry cleaned shirt and sings triumphantly.

MAN

They got the mustard out!

CROWD

They got the mustard out!

CUT TO:

INT. THE MAGIC BOX - DAY

Buffy closes the door and turns back to the others.

BUFFY
It's not just us.

STEVEN
(sarcastic)
Really?

CUT TO:

INT. MAGIC BOX - LATER

The door swings open and Dawn runs in, excited.

DAWN
Oh, my god!

DAWN
You will never believe what
happened at school today!

BUFFY
Everybody started--

STEVEN
Singing and dancing?

Dawn are disappointed that her news isn't news.

17.

DAWN
I gave birth to a pterodactyl.

ANYA
Oh, my god. Did it sing?

DAWN
So you guys, too, huh?

Tara whispers to Willow.

XANDER
(to Dawn)
So what'd you sing about?

DAWN
Math.

Tara and Willow are giggling to themselves.

Tara suddenly turns to the others, covering.

TARA
That's right! The volume. The text.

GILES

What text?

WILLOW

The volumey text.

TARA

(evasive)

You know...

WILLOW

The

(mumbling)

Marinaford

(speaks)

Report.

Tara nods eagerly.

18.

XANDER

The what now?

STEVEN

(overlapping)

Excuse me??

TARA

There's just a few volumes back at the house that deal with mystical chants, bacchanals...might be relevant.

Dawn looks down at the counter and sees a pendant and chain lying on the glass.

She sneakily slips it into her pocket.

WILLOW

Yeah, we could-

GILES

Well, I'm a hair's breadth from investigating bunnies at the moment, so I'm open to anything.

WILLOW

Great! We'll check it out and we'll give you a call.

TARA

Yeah, this could blow the whole thing wide open.

STEVEN
 (low voice)
 Hopefully.

They both stand up and quickly make for the exit.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUNNYDALE PARK - DAY

Willow and Tara stroll through the sun-dappled park surrounded by people picnicking, throwing Frisbees, etc.

TARA
 Do we have any books at all at home?

Two college guys approach from the opposite direction and their gaze follows Tara as she and Willow walk past.

19.

WILLOW
 Well, who wants to be cooped up on a day like this? The sun is shining. There are songs going on.
 (flirtatiously)
 Those guys are checking you out.

TARA
 (surprised)
 What? What are they looking at?

WILLOW
 The hotness of you, doofus.

TARA
 Those boys really thought I was hot?

WILLOW
 Entirely!

TARA
 Oh, my god... I'm cured! I want the boys!

She turns to follow them, laughing, and Willow pulls her back.

WILLOW
 Do I have to fight to keep you?
 'Cause I'm not large with the butch.

TARA
 I'm just not used to that. They were really looking at me?

WILLOW

(smiles)

And you can't imagine what they see
in you.

TARA

I know exactly what they see in me.
You.

I'M UNDER YOUR SPELL

She smiles at Willow as they come to a stop near a pond.

20.

TARA

(singing)

I live my life in shadow/Never the
sun on my face/It didn't seem so
sad, though/I figured that was my
place/Now I'm bathed in
light/Something just isn't
right/I'm under your spell/How else
could it be/Anyone would notice
me?/It's magick, I can tell/How you
set me free/Brought me out so
easily/I saw a world
enchanted/Spirits and charms in the
air/I always took for granted I was
the only one there/But your power
shone/Brighter than any I've known/

Two of the picnickers stand up and dance in harmony with Tara.

TARA

(singing)

I'm under your spell/Nothing I can
do/You just took my soul with
you/You worked your charm so
well/Finally I knew/Everything I
dreamed was true/You made me
believe!/

Tara sweeps Willow into her arms and they dance together.

WIPE TO:

INT. SUMMERS HOME - MASTER BEDROOM

Tara and Willow twirl in each other's arms and suddenly
we're in their bedroom.

They sit down on the bed, holding hands and smiling lovingly
at each other.

TARA
(singing)
The moon to the tide/I can feel you
inside.

Tara falls backward onto the pillows.

TARA
(singing)
I'm under your spell/Surging like
the sea/Wanting you so helplessly

Willow leans over her, smiles seductively, then moves
backward out of frame.

21.

TARA
(continuing)
(singing)
I break with every swell/Lost in
ecstasy/Spread beneath my willow
tree/You make me complete!

Tara rises blissfully off the bed, levitating.

TARA
(singing)
You make me complete/You make me
complete/You make me...

SMASH CUT TO:

INT. THE MAGIC BOX - DAY

Xander and Buffy are at the table, reading the books.

Steven is looking at books on the shelf.

XANDER
I bet they're not even working.

BUFFY
Who now?

XANDER
Willow and Tara. You see the way
they were with each other?
The...get-a-roominess to them? I
bet they're...

STEVEN
Having sex.

Xander looks over and sees Dawn standing at the counter.

XANDER
(continuing)
...singing. They're probably
singing right now.

STEVEN
Xander, come on! It was so obvious!
They were definitely going to--

He looks at Dawn standing there.

STEVEN
(continuing)
Sing. Probably gonna go belt out a
few numbers from "Grease".

GILES
I'm sure Willow and Tara are making
every effort.

XANDER
Oh, yeah.

STEVEN
They sure are.

BUFFY
Guys...

DAWN
(smiles)
Buffy, it's okay. I do know about
this stuff. Besides, it's all kinda
romantic.

BUFFY/XANDER
(unison)
No, it's not.

STEVEN
She's got a point, guys.

BUFFY/XANDER
(unison)
No, she doesn't.

DAWN
Come on! Songs, dancing around...
(smiling)
What's gonna be wrong with that?

CUT TO:

EXT. SUNNYDALE STREETS - ALLEY - NIGHT

A man stands in the alley alone, tap dancing.

As he dances, his steps get more frantic, it's obvious he can't stop.

A look of panic crosses his face as smoke begins to seep from beneath his clothes.

He bursts into flame with an agonal scream and incinerates.

23.

He drops dead at the feet of SWEET, a devilish-looking demon in fashionable and flashy clothes.

SWEET
(laughs)
That's entertainment.

FADE OUT

ACT II

FADE IN:

INT. XANDER'S APARTMENT - DAY

Anya and Xander wake.

ANYA

Hey, baby. You don't have to go to work?

XANDER

No, I shut the crew down for the day. My guys started dancing around me. I don't know if I can deal. It's a flab thing. So... waffles?

ANYA

Will you still make me waffles when we're married?

XANDER

No, I'll only make them for myself but by California law, you will own half of them.

He kisses her.

XANDER

(continuing)

Hey, how about omelets? You know, I can do an omelet...

Anya throws back the covers and sits up.

I'LL NEVER TELL

ANYA

(singing)

This is the man that I plan to
entangle/Isn't he fine?/My claim to
fame was to maim and to mangle/
Vengeance was mine/But I'm out of
the biz/The name I made I'll trade
for his/The only trouble is/ I'll
never tell

XANDER

(singing)

She is the one, She's such
wonderful fun, Such passion and
grace/Warm in the night/When I'm
right in her tight/Embrace, tight
embrace/ I'll never let her go/The
love we've known can only
grow/There's just one thing that/

(speaks)

No.

(singing)

I'll never tell.

They both look slightly nervous.

XANDER & ANYA

(singing)

'Cause there's nothing to
(holding note)

tell

They get up and head into the living room.

Xander heads for the fridge while Anya sits at the table.

ANYA

(singing)

He snores

XANDER

(singing)

She wheezes

ANYA

(singing)

Say "housework" and he freezes

XANDER

(singing)

She eats these skeezy cheeses that
I can't describe

He opens the fridge and picks up a slice of green and yellow
cheese and sniffs it dubiously.

ANYA

(singing)

I talk, he breezes

XANDER

(singing)

She doesn't know what pleases

ANYA
 (singing)
 His penis got diseases from a
 Chumash tribe

XANDER & ANYA
 (singing)
 The
 (holding note)
 vibe
 (singing)
 gets kind of scary

XANDER
 (singing)
 Like she thinks I'm ordinary

ANYA
 (singing)
 Like it's all just temporary

XANDER
 (singing)
 Like her toes are kind of hairy

As they look at each other:

XANDER & ANYA
 (singing)
 But it's all very well/'Cause God
 knows I'll never tell

ANYA
 (singing)
 When things get rough he/Just hides
 behind his Buffy/Now look he's
 gettin' huffy/'Cause he knows that
 I know

XANDER
 (singing)
 She clings/She's needy/She's also
 really greedy/She never--

As Anya moves in, blocking Xander:

ANYA
 (singing)
 His eyes are beady!

XANDER
 (singing)
 This is my verse, hello?!/She--

Anya suddenly starts dancing like a 20's flapper.

ANYA
Look at me! I'm dancing crazy!

Xander watches her for a moment, then does the same,
matching her moves and sweeping her around the apartment.

XANDER & ANYA
(singing)
You
(holding note)
know...

XANDER
(singing)
You're quite the charmer

ANYA
(singing)
My knight in armor

XANDER
(singing)
You're the cutest of the
Scoobies/With your lips as red as
rubies/And your firm yet
supple/Tight embrace!

They waltz for a second, and they go and sit at opposite
ends of the table.

ANYA
(singing)
He's swell

XANDER
(singing)
She's sweller

ANYA
(singing)
He'll always be my feller

XANDER
(singing)
That's why I'll never tell her that
I'm petrified

ANYA
 (singing)
 I've read/This tale/There's wedding
 then betrayal/I know there'll come
 the day I'll want to run and hide

28.

As they both crawl onto the dining room table:

XANDER & ANYA
 (singing)
 I
 (holding note)
 lied/
 (singing)
 I said it's ea
 (holding note)
 sy/
 (singing)
 I've
 (holding note)
 tried/
 (singing)
 But there's these fears I can't quell

They meet in the middle, their lips inches apart.

He turns away from her.

XANDER
 (singing)
 Is she looking for a pot of gold?

She turns away from him.

ANYA
 (singing)
 Will I look good when I've gotten old?

XANDER
 (singing)
 Will our lives become too
 stressful/If I'm never that
 successful?

ANYA
 (singing)
 When I get so worn and wrinkly/That
 I look like David Brinkley?

As Xander paces:

XANDER
(singing)
Am I crazy?

ANYA
(singing)
Am I dreamin'?

XANDER
(singing)
Am I marrying a demon?

XANDER & ANYA
(singing)
We could really raise the beam/In
making marriage a hell/So thank God
I'll never tell/I swear that I'll
never tell

Xander looks back.

XANDER
(singing)
My lips are sealed

They continue walking.

Anya looks back.

ANYA
(singing)
I take the fifth

They continue walking.

Xander looks back.

XANDER
(singing)
Nothin' to see/Move it along

They continue walking.

XANDER & ANYA
(singing)
I'll never/Tell

The SONG ENDS.

They fall backward onto the couch laughing.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUNNYDALE STREETS - DAY

Xander, Anya and Giles walk along the sidewalk.

In the background, various people dance and sing as they pass by.

Xander and Anya are talking over each other in their anxiety over what just happened in their apartment.

XANDER

It's a nightmare! It's a plague!

ANYA

(overlapping)

It has to be stopped!

XANDER

It's like a nightmare about a plague!

ANYA

(overlapping)

It's like we're being watched. Like there was a wall missing from our apartment.

XANDER

I didn't want to be saying things but they just kept pouring out!

ANYA

(overlapping)

Like there were only three walls and not a fourth wall--my toes aren't hairy!

XANDER

And they rhymed, and they were mean--and my eyes are not beady!

Xander looks at Giles.

XANDER

Giles, you gotta stop it.

GILES

Well, I'm looking into some leads and--

ANYA

Of course! Clearly our number is a retro pastiche that's never going to be a breakaway pop hit.

NO PARKING

XANDER

(to Giles)

Work with me, British man. Give me
an axe and show me where to point it.

GILES

Xander, it's not quite that simple
but I have learned about some
disturbing things. Basically...

A

WOMAN

notices a cop writing her a parking ticket and runs over to
him.

WOMAN

(singing)

I'm asking you, please no!/It isn't
right, it isn't fair/There was no
parking anywhere/I think that
hydrant wasn't there/Why can't you
let it go?

XANDER

...as in burnt up? Somebody set
people on fire? That's nuts!

ANYA

I don't know. One more verse of our
little ditty and I would have been
looking for a gas can.

GILES

Well, clearly emotions are running
high but as far as I can tell,
these people burned up from the
inside, they spontaneously
combusted. I've only seen the one.
I was able to examine the body
while the police were taking
witness arias.

XANDER

Okay. But we're sure that the
things are related... the singing
and dancing and burning and dying?

GILES

We're not sure of much. Buffy's looking for leads at local demon haunts. At least in theory she is but she doesn't seem to...

XANDER

She's easing back into it. We pulled her out of an untold hell dimension. Ergo the weirdness. The important thing is to be there for her.

GILES

I'm helping her as much as I can but...

He shakes his head in frustration.

Anya awkwardly pats him on the shoulder, trying to comfort him.

CUT TO:

INT. SPIKE'S CRYPT - NIGHT

SPIKE

climbs up into the crypt from the lower level as Buffy enters.

SPIKE

The sun sets and she appears. Come to serenade me?

BUFFY

So you know what's going on?

SPIKE

Well, I've seen some damn funny things the last two days. Six-hundred pound Chirago demon making like Yma Sumac. That one'll stay with you. I remain immune, happy to say.

He holds up a liquor bottle.

SPIKE

Drink?

BUFFY

A world of no. So any idea what's causing this?

SPIKE
Oh. So that's all. You just come to
pump me for information.

BUFFY
What else would I want to pump you
for?
(cringes)
I really just said that, didn't I?

SPIKE
Yeah, well... don't want to bore
you with the small talk.

He goes over to the door and holds it open.

SPIKE
Don't know a thing.

BUFFY
What's up? You're all bad moody.

SPIKE
It's nothing. Glad you could stop by.

He sees her looking at him strangely.

SPIKE
It's nothing.

BUFFY
(o.s)
What?

After a BEAT:

REST IN PEACE

SPIKE
(singing)
I died/So many years ago/And you
can make me feel/Like it isn't
so/And why you come to be with me/

He CLOSES the DOOR.

SPIKE
(continuing)
(singing)
I think I finally
(holding note)
know/

He looks at her.

SPIKE
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 Mmm-mmm/You're scared/Ashamed of
 what you
 (different pitches)
 feel/
 (singing)
 And you can't tell the ones you
 love/You know they couldn't
 deal/Whisper in a dead man's ear/It
 doesn't make it
 (holding note)
 real/

Her expression doesn't change.

After a BEAT:

As he walks past her:

SPIKE
 (continuing)
 (speaking)
 That's great/
 (singing)
 But I don't wanna
 (different pitches)
 play/

As he turns to face her:

SPIKE
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 'Cause bein' with ya touches
 me/More than I can
 (different pitches)
 say/
 (singing)
 And since I'm only dead to you/I'm
 sayin' stay a
 (holding note)
 way/

He lies down on his coffin, arms folded across his chest.

SPIKE
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 And

As the beat changes to ROCK MUSIC:

SPIKE
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 Let me rest in
 (holding note)
 peace/

As he gets up:

SPIKE
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 Let me rest in peace/

As he walks over to her:

SPIKE
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 Let me get some sleep/Let me take
 my love and

As he throws the liquor bottle against the wall:

SPIKE
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 bury it/

It SMASHES.

SPIKE
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 In hole of six-foot deep/I can lay
 my body down/But I can't find my
 sweet
 (holding note)
 release/
 (singing)
 So let me rest in
 (holding note)
 peace

As he walks over to her:

SPIKE
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 You know/

As he kneels down, looking up at her:

SPIKE
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 You got a willin' slave/And you
 just love to play the thought/That
 you might misbehave/

As he gets up and gets in her face:

SPIKE
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 But 'til you do/I'm tellin'
 you/Stop visitin' my
 (holding note)
 grave/

As he OPENS the DOOR:

SPIKE
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 And let me rest in
 (holding note)
 peace/

CUT TO:

EXT. GRAVEYARD : NIGHT

We see pallbearers carrying a coffin.

Spike and Buffy are walking down the path, side-by-side.

The beat is slow and calm.

SPIKE
 (singing)
 I know/I should go/But I follow
 you/Like a man possessed/There's a
 traitor here/Beneath my breast/And
 it hurts me more/Than you've ever
 guessed/If my heart could beat/it
 would break my chest/But I can
 see/You're unimpressed/So leave me
 be/

As the beat changes to ROCK MUSIC again:

As he jumps onto a coffin:

SPIKE
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 And let me rest in peace/Let me get
 some sleep/

As he somersaults off of the coffin:

SPIKE
 Let me take my love and bury

As he vamps out:

SPIKE
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 it/In hole of six-foot deep/

As he begins attacking random people:

37.

SPIKE
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 I can lay my body down/But I can't
 find my sweet
 (holding note)
 release/
 (singing)
 Let me rest in peace/Why won't
 you/Let me rest in
 (holding note)
 peace/

Buffy looks at Spike and gets out of the crypt and runs off.

Spike pokes his head up.

SPIKE
 (continuing)
 So...you're not staying then?

CUT TO:

INT. SUMMERS HOME - DAWN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Dawn dumps her purse out on the bed.

Tara stands in the door, watching.

TARA
 Lot of homework?

DAWN

Math. It seemed cooler when we were singing about it.

TARA

Willow said they have a lead on the whole musical extravaganza evil. This demon that can be summoned--some sort of lord of the dance--but not the scary one. Just a demon.

DAWN

Do they know who summoned it?

TARA

They don't even know its name yet but Willow will find out. She's a brainy type.

DAWN

I'm glad you guys made up.

TARA

(confused)

What?

DAWN

That fight you guys had about magick and stuff? It gives me belly-rumblings when you guys fight.

TARA

Dawn, Willow and I never fought about--

DAWN

It's okay. It's just you guys are so great together. I just hate it when you... but that was the only fight I've seen you guys have anyway. But I'm still glad it's over.

Tara looks down at her shirt where she's wearing Willow's magickal herb.

It starts to dawn on her what the herb is for.

TARA

Dawn, I... there's something I need at the shop. Will you be okay for a little while?

DAWN

Yes, the fifteen-year-old can spend
half an hour alone in her locked
house.

TARA

I won't be gone long.

Tara quickly leaves and Dawn heads over to her dresser.

She opens her jewelry box and takes out the inside partition
revealing a stash of stolen jewelry, charms and talismans.

She picks out the pendant she stole from the store earlier
and puts it on.

DAWN'S LAMENT

DAWN

(singing)

Does anybody even notice? Does
anybody even care?

She turns around and come face to face with a life-size and
living ventriloquist's doll.

The creature seizes her as two others just like him throw a
burlap sack over her head.

FADE OUT

ACT III

FADE IN:

INT. THE BRONZE - NIGHT

The club is deserted, empty.

Dawn wakes up on the billiard table.

SWEET'S LAIR

She gets down and try to get away but the three living dolls block her and thwart her.

Her movements aren't normal, however.

The entire escape attempt is a well-choreographed ballet sequence.

She slides across the floor to the foot of the stage and look up to find Sweet looming over them.

SWEET'S SONG

He tap dances down the stairs and smiles at her.

SWEET

(singing)

Why'd you run away?/Don't you like
my...style?

He snaps his fingers and his cherry red zoot suit instantly changes to electric blue.

SWEET

(singing)

Why don't you come and play?/I
guarantee a great big smile.

He pulls his mouth off his face and holds it out to her.

The disembodied mouth continues singing.

SWEET

(singing)

I come from the imagination/And I'm
here strictly by your/invocation/So
what do you say/Why don't we dance
a while?/I'm the how to swing/I'm
the twist and shout/When you gotta
sing/When you gotta/Let it out/You
call me and I come a-runnin'/I turn
the music on, I bring the fun
in/Now we're partyin'/that's what
it's all about/

Dawn stands up and matches Sweet's moves with her own,
eventually dancing with him, ballroom style.

SWEET

(singing)

'Cause I know what you feel, girl/I
know just what you feel, girl.

DAWN

So you're like a good demon?
Bringing the fun in?

Sweet CHUCKLES.

SWEET

(singing)

All these melodies, they go on too
long/Then that energy starts to
come on way too strong/

A door drops out of the ceiling and lands in the middle of
the dance floor.

SWEET

(singing)

All those hearts lay open--that
must sting/Plus some customers just
start combusting

Sweet opens the door and a charred and smoking corpse falls
through.

Dawn recoils in horror.

SWEET

(singing)

That's the penalty when life is but
a song/You brought me down/And
doomed this town/So when we blow
this scene/Back we will go to my
kingdom below/And you will be my
queen.

Sweet waves his hand and Dawn's jeans and sweater turn into
a silver ball gown.

SWEET

(singing)

'Cause I know what you feel, girl.

DAWN

(singing)

No, you see, you and me/Wouldn't be
very legal

SWEET

(singing)

I'll make it real, girl

DAWN

(singing)

What I mean,/I'm fifteen/So this
queen thing's illegal

SWEET

(singing)

I can bring whole cities to
ruin/And still have time to get a
soft-shoe in

DAWN

(singing)

Well, that's great/but I'm late/And
I'd hate/To delay 'er.

SWEET

(singing)

Something's cooking/I'm at the
griddle/I bought Nero his very
first fiddle

DAWN

(singing)

She'll get pissed/If I'm missed/See
my sister's the Slayer

Sweet freezes mid-step.

SWEET
The Slayer?

DAWN
Yuh-huh.

Sweet CHUCKLES and turns to his minions.

SWEET
Find her. Tell her...tell her
anything. Just get 'er here.
(to Dawn)
I want to see the Slayer burn.

Dawn cringes, realizing she may have made a mistake.

SWEET
(singing)
Now we're partyin'//That's what it's
all about/

CUT TO:

INT. THE MAGIC BOX - TRAINING ROOM

Buffy smashes a inch-thick plank held by Giles with one kick.

GILES
Good. Good.

BUFFY
I feel like I should bow or have
honor or something.

GILES
It may seem hokey but we need to
work on precision and concentration
as much as power. I'm still not
sure what we're facing.

BUFFY
You'll figure it out. I'm just
worried this whole session's going
to turn into some training montage
from an 80's movie.

GILES
If we hear any inspirational power
chords, we'll just lie down until
they go away. Anyway, I don't think
we need to work that much on your
strength.

BUFFY

Yeah, I'm pretty spry for a corpse.

Buffy flips up onto the vault and does a perfect handstand on the rings.

GILES

Have you spoken to Dawn about that incident at Halloween?

BUFFY

Oh. I thought you took care of that?

Troubled, Giles nods.

GILES

Right.

BUFFY

What would I do without you?

She finishes stretching.

BUFFY

Okay. I'm ready.

STANDING IN THE WAY

GILES

(singing)

You're not ready for the world
outside/You keep pretending but you
just can't hide/I know I said that
I'd be standing by your side/But
(different pitches)

I...

He takes a set of throwing knives off the wall and whips them at Buffy one at a time.

She easily dodges or deflects them, reacting with preternatural speed.

GILES

(singing)

You're path's unbeaten and it's all uphill/And you can meet it but you never will/And I'm the reason that you're standing still/But

(different pitches)

I/

(singing)

I wish I could say the right words/To lead you through this land/Wish I could play the father/And take you by the hand/Wish I could stay here/But now I understand/I'm standing in the way.

CUT TO:

INT. THE MAGIC BOX - STORE FLOOR

Giles continues in voice over as Tara rushes into the store and ducks past Willow **and Steven**.

She climbs the ladder into the upper loft where the magick books are stored.

GILES

(singing)

The cries around you, you don't hear at all/'Cause you know I'm here to take that call.

CUT TO:

INT. THE MAGIC BOX - TRAINING ROOM

Buffy does flips and acrobatic moves in slow motion while Giles watches.

GILES

(singing)

So you just lie there when you should be standing tall/But

(different pitches)

I/

(singing)

I wish I could lay your arms down/And let you rest at last/Wish I could slay your demons/But now that time has passed/Wish I could stay here/Your stalwart standing fast/But I'm standing/in the way/I'm just standing/in the way.

The SONG ENDS.

Buffy comes back into real time with Giles.

BUFFY
Did you just say something?

CUT TO:

INT. THE MAGIC BOX - STORE FLOOR - NIGHT

Tara flips through a book on magick herbs.

She finds a picture that nearly exactly matches the
flowering plant she holds in her hand.

REVEAL:

THE BOOK

The caption reads:

Lethe's Bramble. Used for augmenting spells of forgetting
and mind control.

WISH I COULD STAY

Tara turns and looks down at Willow talking to Buffy in the
front of the store.

TARA
(singing)
I'm under your spell/God, how can
this be?/Playing with my memory/You
know I've been through Hell/Willow,
don't you see?/There'll be nothing
left of me/You made me
(holding note)
believe/

Giles enters from the back.

A guitar is heard in the background.

GILES
(singing)
Believe me, I don't want to
(different pitches)
go/

GILES & TARA

(singing)
 And it'll grieve me 'cause I love
 you
 (holding note)
 so/
 (singing)
 But we both
 (different pitches)
 know/

GILES

(singing)
 Wish I could
 (holding note)
 say

TARA

(singing)
 (overlapping)
 Wish I could trust/

GILES

(singing)
 The right words

TARA

(singing)
 (overlapping)
 That it was just this once

GILES

(singing)
 To lead you through this land

TARA

(singing)
 (overlapping)
 But I must do what I must

GILES

(singing)
 Wish I could
 (holding note)
 play
 (singing)
 the father/

TARA

(singing)
 (overlapping)
 I can't adjust to this disgust/

GILES
 (singing)
 And take you by the hand

TARA
 (singing)
 (overlapping)
 We're done and I just

GILES & TARA
 (singing)
 Wish I could
 (holding note)
 stay
 (singing)
 Wish I could
 (holding note)
 stay
 (singing)
 Wish I could
 (holding note)
 stay
 (singing)
 Wish I could

After a BEAT:

GILES & TARA
 (singing)
 (holding note)
 stay

The SONG ENDS.

The door opens and Spike pushes one of Sweet's living ventriloquist dolls into the store.

SPIKE
 Looky-looky what I found.

TARA
 Is this the demon guy?

Willow turns and smiles.

WILLOW
 (happily)
 Tara!

Tara ignores Willow and approaches Spike and his captive.

Willow looks confused and hurt.

Steven walks up to her.

STEVEN
 (concerned)
 (to Willow)
 What's wrong?

SPIKE
 Works for him. Has a nice little
 story for the Slayer, don't you?
 Come on, then. Sing.

He kicks the dummy forward into the room.

The music starts up.

DUMMY
 (speaking)
 My master has the Slayers' sisters'
 hostage at the Bronze because **they**
 summoned him and at midnight he's
 going to take **them** to the underworld
 to be his queens.

GILES
 What does he want?

The dummy points at Buffy **and Steven.**

DUMMY
Them.

Spike steps forward and grabs the creature.

SPIKE
 If that's all you've got to say,
 then-

The dummy slips Spike's grip and runs off.

SPIKE
 Strong. Someday he'll be a real boy.

BUFFY
 So... Dawn's in trouble. Must be
 Tuesday.

STEVEN
I can't believe this...

TARA
 I just left her for a few minutes.

BUFFY
 Oh, it's not your fault.

BUFFY
(to Giles)
So what's the plan?

XANDER
Plan schman. Let's mount up.

GILES
No.

STEVEN
Excuse me? What did you say?

ANYA
Dawn may have had the wrong idea in
summoning this creature but I've
seen some of these underworld
child-bride deals and they never
end well. Maybe once.

WILLOW
We're not just going to stay here?

GILES
Yes, we are. Buffy's going alone.

STEVEN
I don't think so. I'm going with her.

GILES
Steven, you--

STEVEN
(calm)
Look...this thing...whatever it
is...has my sister too, and I'm not
going to stand by while he
does...God knows what to her.

SPIKE
(to Giles)
Don't be a stupid git! There is no-

GILES
If I want your opinion, Spike,
I'll--

(after a beat)
I'll never want your opinion.

WILLOW
A little confusion spell could-

TARA
No!

Willow looks confused.

TARA
(continuing)
I mean, I don't think it'll help.

SPIKE
(to Buffy)
Forget them, Slayer. I got your back.

BUFFY
I thought you wanted me to stay
away from you. Isn't that what you
sang?

XANDER
(mocking)
Spike sang a wittle song?

STEVEN
(mocking)
Aww....that's so cute!!

ANYA
Would you say it was a breakaway
pop hit or more of a book number?

XANDER
Let it go, sweetie.

SPIKE
(to Buffy)
Fine. I hope you dance till you
burn. You and the little bit.

He glares at Buffy and leaves.

BUFFY
(to Giles)
You're really not coming?

GILES
It's up to you both.

BUFFY
What do you expect me to do?

STEVEN
(overlapping)
What do you expect me to do?

GILES
Your best.

STEVEN
I got almost no faith in that, Giles.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREETS OF SUNNYDALE - NIGHT

We see a burning trashcan.

Buffy and Steven walk up to it, standing on two different sides.

DRAWN TO THE FIRE

BUFFY
 (singing)
 I touch the fire/And it freezes
 me/I look into it and it's
 black/Why can't I feel/My skin
 should crack and peel/I want the
 fire back/

STEVEN
 (singing)
 (overlapping)
 I am a Slayer/It's new to me/I know
 I'm picking up the slack/I cannot
 feel/I have to make a deal/I will
 get back on track

CUT TO:

INT. THE BRONZE - NIGHT

Sweet pushes Dawn into a chair.

BUFFY
 (singing)
 (v.o)
 Now through the smoke/She calls to
 me/To make my way across the
 flame/To save the day/Or maybe melt
 away/

STEVEN
 (singing)
 (v.o)
 I see her there/Just needing me/To
 go and save her from the flame/I
 know the way/I have to save the day/

CUT TO:

EXT. STREETS OF SUNNYDALE - NIGHT

BUFFY
(singing)
I guess it's all the same/So I will

STEVEN
(overlapping)
(singing)
The risks, they are the same/I have
to

As Buffy **and Steven** start walking forward:

BUFFY
(continuing)
(singing)
Walk/Through the fire/'Cause where
else/Can I/Turn/I will/Walk/Through
the fire/And let it

STEVEN
(overlapping)
(singing)
Save her/From the fire/There's
nowhere/Else to/Turn/I will/Save
her/From the fire/Not out of

CUT TO:

INT. STREETS OF SUNNYDALE - ALLEY - NIGHT

As we:

PAN:

ACROSS AN AREA IN THE ALLEY:

SPIKE
(o.s)
(singing)
The torch I bear/Is scorching me/

CUT TO:

SPIKE

He is sitting on a crate.

SPIKE
 (singing)
 Buffy's laughin'/I've no doubt/
 (angry)
 (singing)
 I hope she fries/I'm free if that
 bitch dies/

As he gets up and follows:

SPIKE
 (singing)
 (calm)
 I better help her out

CUT TO:

INT. SWEET'S LAIR - NIGHT

SWEET
 (singing)
 'Cause she is/Drawn/To the
 fire/Some people

CUT TO:

INT. STREETS OF SUNNYDALE - ALLEY - NIGHT

As Spike walks forwards:

SPIKE
 (overlapping)
 (singing)
 She will

SPIKE
 (singing)
 Never learn/And she
 will/Walk/Through the fire/And let it

SWEET
 (overlapping)
 (singing)
 Never learn/And she
 will/Walk/Through the fire/And let
 it/

CUT TO:

INT. MAGIC BOX - NIGHT

GILES
 (singing)
 Will this do a thing to change her?/

GILES
(singing)
Am I leaving Dawn in danger?/

GILES
(singing)
Is my Slayer too far gone to care?/

Xander stands up.

XANDER
(singing)
What if Buffy/Can't defeat it?

Anya stands up.

ANYA
(singing)
Beady-Eyes is right/We're needed/

As she looks at everyone:

ANYA
(continuing)
(singing)
Or we could just sit around and glare

As Xander grabs his coat and they start to leave:

GILES, ANYA, WILLOW, TARA, XANDER
(singing)
We'll see it through/It's what
we're always here to do/So we will
walk/Through the fire

CUT TO:

OVERHEAD:

EXT. STREETS OF SUNNYDALE - NIGHT

Buffy **and** Steven are still walking.

BUFFY
(singing)
So one by one/They turn from me/I
guess my friends can't face the cold

STEVEN
 (singing)
 (overlapping)
 The Chosen One/Is her, not me/I
 guess I have to face the tune

SUPERIMPOSE:

TARA'S FACE

TARA
 (overlapping)
 (singing)
 What can't we
 (holding note)
 fa
 (singing)
 ce

BUFFY
 (singing)
 But why I froze/Not one among them
 knows/

STEVEN
 (singing)
 (overlapping)
 But what I know/She slays 'em like
 a pro/

SUPERIMPOSE:

TARA'S FACE

TARA
 (singing)
 (overlapping)
 If we're toge
 (holding note)
 ther

BUFFY
 (singing)
 And never can be told

STEVEN
 (singing)
 (overlapping)
 Her number is up soon

SUPERIMPOSE:

ANYA'S FACE

ANYA
(singing)
She came from the grave much graver

SUPERIMPOSE:

SWEET'S FACE

SWEET
(singing)
(overlapping)
So one by one, they come to me

SUPERIMPOSE:

SPIKE'S FACE

SPIKE
(singing)
(overlapping Sweet)
First he'll kill her/Then I'll save
her

SWEET
(singing)
(overlapping)
The distant redness as their guide

TARA
(singing)
(overlapping)
Everything is turning out so dark

SUPERIMPOSE:

BUFFY AND STEVEN

BUFFY
(overlapping)
(singing)
Going through the motions

STEVEN
(singing)
(overlapping Buffy)
going after Willow

SUPERIMPOSE:

SPIKE'S FACE

SPIKE
 (singing)
 (overlapping)
 No, I'll save her, then I'll kill
 her/

WILLOW
 (singing)
 (overlapping)
 I think this line's mostly filler

GILES
 (singing)
 What it going to take to strike a
 spark?

SWEET
 (singing)
 (overlapping)
 It's what they had inside

BUFFY
 (singing)
 These endless days

STEVEN
 (singing)
 (overlapping)
I chance the days

SWEET
 (singing)
 (overlapping)
 She will come/To
 (holding note)
 Me

BUFFY
 (singing)
 (overlapping)
 Are finally ending in a blaze/And
 we are

STEVEN
 (singing)
 (overlapping)
**We know are ending in a blaze/I
 have to**

BUFFY, XANDER, GILES, ANYA, SPIKE,
 WILLOW, TARA
 (singing)
 Caught/In the fire/

STEVEN
 (singing)
 (overlapping)
 Save her/From the fire/I know
 she/Will return/And I will/Save
 her/From the fire/It's out of
 (singing)
 (holding note)
 Turn/
 (singing)
 Out of/
 (singing)
 (holding note)
 Turn/
 (singing)
 Out of/
 (singing)
 (holding note)
 Turn/
 (singing)
 Out of

GROUP
 (singing)
 The point of no return/So we
 will/Walk/Through the fire/And let
 it/
 (singing)
 (holding note)
 Burn/
 (singing)
 Let it/
 (singing)
 (holding note)
 Burn/
 (singing)
 Let it/
 (singing)
 (holding note)
 Burn/
 (singing)
 Let it

As Buffy **and Steven** kick the door down:

STEVEN
 (singing)
 Turn!

GROUP
(overlapping)
(singing)

Burn!

TIGHT SHOT:

SWEET'S MOUTH

SWEET
Show time.

He CHUCKLES.

The SONG ENDS.

FADE OUT

ACT IV

Buffy walks in, taking in Sweet and his henchmen.

Steven follows her.

SWEET

I love a good entrance.

STEVEN

Our specialty.

BUFFY

How are you with death scenes?

Sweet CHUCKLES.

BUFFY

(continuing)

You got a name?

SWEET

I got a hundred.

STEVEN

**Well, I'd like to know one 'cause,
frankly--**

BUFFY

Well, I oughta know what to call
you if you're going to be my
brother-in-law.

DAWN

Buffy, I swear I didn't do it.

BUFFY

Don't worry. You're not going
anywhere. I am.

DAWN

What?

STEVEN

Are you nuts??

Sweet leans forward, interested.

BUFFY

(to Sweet)

Deal's this. I can't kill you, you
take me to Hellsville in her place.

STEVEN

Buffy, no...

SWEET

What if I kill you?

BUFFY

Trust me. Won't help.

SWEET

That's gloomy.

BUFFY

That's life.

SWEET

Come now. Is that really what you feel? Isn't life a miraculous thing?

STEVEN

You wish.

BUFFY

I think you already know.

Sweet smiles impishly.

LIFE'S A SHOW

BUFFY

(singing)

Life's a show and we all play our parts/

BUFFY

(singing)

And when the music starts/We open up our hearts/

Buffy shrugs out of her coat and takes note of the three dummy henchman arming themselves with pool cues in the shadows.

BUFFY

(singing)

It's all right/If some things come out wrong/We'll sing a happy song/And you can sing along/

The henchman attack and Buffy beats them back.

The TEMPO CHANGES.

As she attacks:

BUFFY
 (singing)
 Where's there's life/There's
 hope/Everyday's/A gift/Wishes
 can/Come true/Whistle while/You
 work/So hard/All day

Giles and the gang arrive.

The TEMPO GOES BACK TO ITS NORMAL MELODY.

BUFFY
 (singing)
 To be like other girls/To fit in in
 this glittering world/
 (singing)
 Don't give me songs/

GILES
 She needs backup. Anya, Tara...

Anya and Tara run up behind Buffy and dance and sing backup for her.

BUFFY
 (singing)
 Don't give me songs/Give me
 something to sing about/

ANYA & TARA
 (singing)
 ahh-ahh-ahh-ahh

BUFFY
 (singing)
 I need something to sing about/

ANYA & TARA
 (singing)
 ahh-ahh-ahh-ahh

There is a TEMPO CHANGE.

Anya, Tara, and Buffy do the exact same dance move.

The tempo changes to the normal beat.

BUFFY
 (singing)
 Life's a song/You don't get to
 rehearse/And every single verse/Can
 make it that much worse/Still my
 friends/Don't know why I ignore/The
 million things or more/

BUFFY
 (singing)
 I should be dancing for/All the
 joy/Life sends/Family/And
 friends/All the twists/And
 bends/Knowing that/It ends/Well
 that/Depends/On if they let you
 go/On if they know enough to
 know/That when you bowed/You leave
 the crowd

Buffy mounts the stage.

Sweet knows what's coming and smiles with a flourish of his hand.

BUFFY
 (singing)
 There was no pain/No fear, no
 doubt/Till they pulled me out/Of
 heaven

Buffy turns to look at her friends whose faces register shock and dawning horror.

BUFFY
 (singing)
 So that's my refrain/I live in
 hell/'Cause I've been expelled/From
 heaven/

BUFFY
 (singing)
 I think I was in heaven/

Steven has a shocked expression on his face.

STEVEN
Oh...crap...

Willow takes a step backward as the enormity of what Buffy has revealed sinks in.

BUFFY
 (singing)
 So give me something to sing about/

She looks at Sweet.

BUFFY
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 Please/Give me something

Sweet shakes his head and Buffy leaps off the stage, dancing in an uncontrollable frenzy.

She starts to smoke and burn.

Sweet leans forward in anticipation of the inevitable.

Suddenly Spike is there.

He stops Buffy in mid-step before she can burst into flame.

SPIKE

(singing)

Life's not a song/Life isn't
bliss/Life is just this/It's
living/You'll get along/

Dawn stands up.

SPIKE

(continuing)

(singing)

The pain that you feel/Only can
heal/By living/You have to go on
living/So that one of us is living

DAWN

The hardest thing in this world
(o.s)
is to live in it.

Sweet smiles and CLAPS.

THE SONG ENDS.

SWEET

Now that was a show-stopping number.
Not quite the fireworks that I was
looking for--

WILLOW

(pissed)

Get out of here.

SWEET

Hmm... I smell power.

STEVEN

Shut your red, horned face. You
leave her alone.

SWEET

I guess the little missus and I
should be on our way.

GILES

That's never going to happen.

SWEET

I don't make the rules. She
summoned me.

DAWN

I so did not! He keeps saying that!

Sweet strokes the pendant around Dawn's neck.

SWEET

You have my talisman on, sweet thing.

DAWN

(nervous)

(stammering)

Oh, but no...I--I...this...at--at
the Magic Box...on the floor. I was
cleaning and I forgot...but I
didn't summon anything!

SWEET

Well, now. That's a twist.

GILES

If it was in the shop, then one of
us probably...

As Giles looks at each of them in turn:

STEVEN

I didn't do it.

ANYA

Wasn't me.

TARA

Not me.

BUFFY

Not me.

GILES

I didn't.

SPIKE

I never even went in the bloody place.

WILLOW
It wasn't me.

Finally Xander raises his hand.

ANYA
Xander!

STEVEN
So, this is your fault?!

BUFFY
Steven, calm down...

Steven looks at Buffy.

STEVEN
No! He let Dawn get kidnapped! He
made us out to be some kind of...

He exhales for a second, to control his anger, turning away
from him.

Steven looks at Xander.

STEVEN
How could you do this?!

XANDER
Well, I didn't know what was gonna
happen! I just thought there was
gonna be dances and songs. I just
wanted to make sure we'd...we'd
work out, get a happy ending.

SWEET
(laughs)
I think everything worked out just
fine.

STEVEN
Yeah, whatever.

Xander looks at him fearfully.

XANDER
Does this mean that I have to... be
your queen?

SWEET
It's tempting... but I think we'll
waive that clause just this once.
Big smiles everyone! You beat the
bad guy.

Sweet spins around.

SWEET'S SONG (ONCE MORE, WITH FEELING)

SWEET
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 What a lot of fun/You guys have
 been real swell/And there's not a
 one/Who can say this/Ended well/All
 those secrets you've been
 concealing/Say you're happy now

STEVEN
 (singing)
 (overlapping last line)
What's the title now?

SWEET
 (singing)
 Once more with feeling/Now I gotta
 run/See you all/
 (holding note)
 In/
 (holding note)
 Hell!

THE SONG ENDS.

Sweet throws his arms wide and disappears in a swirl of blue and red energy.

Everyone stands, silently and awkwardly, not sure what to do or say to each other.

As Dawn begins walking down the steps:

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

DAWN
 (singing)
 Where do we go/from here?

BUFFY AND SPIKE
 (singing)
 Where do we go/from
 (holding note)
 here?

GILES
 (singing)
 The battle's done, and we kinda won

STEVEN
 (overlapping)
 (singing)
 The battle's done, and we kinda won

GILES AND TARA
 (singing)
 So we sound our victory cheer/

GILES AND TARA
 (singing)
 Where do we go/From here?

XANDER AND ANYA
 (singing)
 Why is the path/Un
 (holding note)
 clear?
 (singing)
 When we know home/Is
 (holding note)
 near?

STEVEN
 (singing)
 (overlapping)
 This has become/so
 (holding note)
 Clear
 (singing)
 I have now lived/In
 (holding note)
 fear

As the group joins hands:

GROUP
 (singing)
 Understand, we'll go hand in hand,
 but we'll

As they break formation:

GROUP
 (continuing)
 (singing)
 Walk alone in fear

GILES
(singing)
Tell me

STEVEN
(overlapping)
(singing)
Tell me

GROUP
(singing)
Where do we go/from here?

They begin doing hand motions.

GROUP
(continuing)
(singing)
When does the end/Appear?

SPIKE
(scoffs)
Bugger this.

GROUP
(singing)
When do the trum/pets
(holding note)
cheer?
(singing)
The curtain's closed/on a kiss

CUT TO:

EXT. THE BRONZE : NIGHT

As Buffy follows him:

GROUP
(o.s)
(singing)
God knows/we can tell the end is near

BUFFY
Hey.

GROUP
(singing)
(o.s)
Where do we go

SPIKE

(sighs)

You should go back inside. Finish
the big group sing...get your
kumbayayas out.

BUFFY

(evasive)

I don't want to.

SPIKE

The day you assess out what you do
want, there'll probably be a parade.

(sighs)

76 bloody trombones.

BUFFY

Spike...

SPIKE

Look...you don't have to say anything.

BUFFY

(singing)

I touch the fire and it freezes me

SPIKE

(singing)

I died

BUFFY

(singing)

I look into it

SPIKE

(overlapping)

So many years ago

BUFFY

(singing)

(overlapping)

And it's black

They begin getting closer.

BUFFY

(continuing)

(singing)

This isn't real

SPIKE

(singing)

(overlapping)

You can make me

BUFFY
 (singing)
 (overlapping)
 But I just wanna

SPIKE
 (singing)
 Fe
 (holding note)
 el

BUFFY
 (overlapping)
 (singing)
 Fe
 (holding note)
 el

They kiss passionately.

XANDER, ANYA, WILLOW, TARA, STEVEN,
 GILES, DAWN
 (singing)
 (o.s)
 Where/Do we go/From/
 (holding note)
 Here?

The curtain closes.

THE SONG ENDS.

CUT TO BLACK

Executive Producers Joss Whedon & Marti Noxon

FULL SONGS USED

GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS
SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR, **SEAN JOHNSON**

I'VE GOT A THEORY
ALYSON HANNIGAN, SARAH MICHELLE
GELLAR, ANTHONY STEWART HEAD,
NICHOLAS BRENDON, EMMA CAUFIELD,
SEAN JOHNSON

I'M UNDER YOUR SPELL
AMBER BENSON

I'LL NEVER TELL
NICHOLAS BRENDON, EMMA CAUFIELD

REST IN PEACE
JAMES MARSTERS

SWEET'S SONG
HINTON BATTLE, MICHELLE TRACHTENBERG

STANDING IN THE WAY
ANTHONY STEWART HEAD

WISH I COULD STAY
AMBER BENSON, ANTHONY STEWART HEAD

WALK THROUGH THE FIRE
SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR, NICHOLAS
BRENDON, ALYSON HANNIGAN, EMMA
CAUFIELD, HINTON BATTLE, JAMES
MARSTERS, ANTHONY STEWART HEAD,
SEAN JOHNSON

LIFE'S A SHOW
SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR
(BACKUP)
AMBER BENSON, EMMA CAUFIELD
(SPEAKING)
ANTHONY STEWART HEAD, **SEAN JOHNSON**

SWEET'S SONG (REPRISE)
HINTON BATTLE, **SEAN JOHNSON**

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?
MICHELLE TRACHTENBERG, ANTHONY
STEWART HEAD, AMBER BENSON, JAMES
MARSTERS, SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR,
NICHOLAS BRENDON, EMMA CAUFIELD,
SEAN JOHNSON

(LATER)
JAMES MARSTERS, SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR

PARTIAL SONGS USED

THEY GOT THE MUSTARD OUT
DAVID FURY

NO PARKING
MARTI NOXON

DAWN'S LAMENT
MICHELLE TRACHTENBERG