

SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR
Buffy Summers

ALYSON HANNIGAN
Willow Rosenberg

MICHELLE TRACHTENBERG
Dawn Summers

NICHOLAS BRENDON
Xander Harris

EMMA CAUFIELD
Anya Emerson

AMBER BENSON
Tara McLay

ANTHONY STEWART HEAD
Rupert Giles

SEAN JOHNSON
Steven Windsor

"Title"

by

Your Name

Seeing Red

Teaser

Open in Willow's bedroom, daylight. Overhead shot of the room, various items of clothing strewn across the floor. Pan across the floor. Sound of giggling.

Pan further to reveal Willow and Tara snuggling together on the bed, under red sheets.

WILLOW

When did morning happen?

TARA

After the moon went down.

Willow giggles, leans up and they kiss for a while. Then Willow lies back down with her head on Tara's stomach. Tara caresses her shoulders.

WILLOW

Mmm, I forgot how good this could feel. Us. Together.

(pause)

Without the magic.

TARA

There was plenty of magic.

Willow smiles, then sighs.

WILLOW

It's getting late.

TARA

(small frown)

Wanna get up?

WILLOW

No!

(Tara laughing)

Oh god, no.

(quietly)

I was just thinking about Buffy.

TARA

(frowns)

Oh. She still isn't back?

WILLOW

I didn't hear her. She wouldn't talk about what happened at the magic shop when she got home last night. She just wanted to know how close I was to tracing the camera signal back to the Empire of the Nerds. And then she left again.

TARA

I'm sure she'll be okay.

WILLOW

Yeah, I'm not really worried about her going up against Warren and the others. I know this is going to sound crazy, but ... I think something might be going on. With Spike and Buffy.

(Pause)

I mean, she looked so hurt when she saw him with Anya. I think maybe-

TARA

They've been sleeping together.

WILLOW

(laughs)

No. I wouldn't go that far.

TARA

No, I mean she told me they've been sleeping together.

Willow sits up to stare at Tara.

WILLOW

Sleeping together? You mean like the naked kind of together?

TARA

(sighs)

I'm sorry I didn't say anything, but I, I promised her I wouldn't.

WILLOW

(shocked)

Does everybody else know? Am I the only one she didn't-

TARA

God, no. She, she didn't even
mean to tell me, it just came out.

WILLOW

(still shocked)
How could she hide something like
this from me?

TARA

I think she was afraid of the
look you'd get on your face.
(Willow staring at her)
Kinda like the one you're wearing
now.

WILLOW

Oh, no, I'm not ... I'm just
trying to understand.

TARA

So is she.

WILLOW

Wow, she probably really needs
someone to talk to.

TARA

Probably.

Willow continues absorbing the news as Tara strokes her hair.

TARA

We've been kinda busy, maybe we
didn't hear her come home.

Willow nods uncertainly.

Cut to the hallway. Willow, wearing a large football shirt,
knocks on a closed door.

WILLOW

Buffy?

She opens the door, revealing the neatly made, not-slept-in bed.

Willow frowns, closes the door and starts back toward her room.

Shot of another closed door, starting to open.

DAWN

(OS)
She back yet?

Willow stops, turns back. Dawn appears in the doorway.

WILLOW

(nervously)
Uh, not yet. I'm sure she'll be
home soon. Everything's fine,
just go back to bed.

DAWN

It's ten o'clock.

WILLOW

(surprised)
Oh. Uh...

DAWN

(comes closer)
You don't think she's ... gonna
hurt Spike, do you?

WILLOW

She told you about Spike?

DAWN

It was kinda obvious after last
night.

WILLOW

(covering)
Yeah, I totally knew.

DAWN

It must have hurt so much. To see
him and, and, and Anya like that?
And poor Xander. Everything is so
screwed up.

WILLOW

It's gonna be all right. It's
just ... complicated. You know,
when, when people have such
strong feelings for each other,
sometimes-

TARA

Is she back yet?

Tara emerges from the bedroom with the sheet wrapped around
her. Dawn's face lights up. Tara sees Dawn and looks mildly
alarmed/embarrassed.

TARA

Oh. Hey.

DAWN
(starting to smile, delighted)
Oh! You and-

TARA
(smiling)
Uh, that's my cue to put some
clothes on.
(turning back toward
the bedroom)

DAWN
No! No no no! I'm totally not
here! You guys, you do whatever
you want. Um ... I'll go watch TV.
(Giggles)
Downstairs, really loud! In the
basement. Where I can't hear
anything.
(Squeals)
Oh my god!

Dawn rushes off giggling excitedly. Tara and Willow grin at each other, head back toward the bedroom. Dawn reappears almost immediately.

DAWN
I love you guys!

She squeals some more and dashes off again. Willow and Tara smile and continue on.

Cut to: Some door somewhere. It explodes inward (toward the camera) and Buffy appears in the doorway, wearing a red leather jacket.

BUFFY
(calls)
All right. Let's make this quick.

Reveal the interior of the Geek Trio's lair, still decorated in cheesy love-pad fashion, but empty of people.

Buffy looks quite displeased. She walks down the stairs into the lair, looks around.

BUFFY
Fine. But I'm not leaving till we
have a little chat.

She wanders over to a desk. There's an iMac and a bunch of papers on it. Buffy frowns, picks up some of the papers, looks around more.

Pan over a variety of geek-type knick-knacks and such.

BUFFY

Very little, considering the
pummeling that needs to occur.

She looks at a shelf where a bunch of action figures are set up -- mostly of women in extremely skimpy outfits. Buffy pokes one of them, makes a face, turns away.

BUFFY

I mean, guys, helloooo. Slayer
here. Did you honestly think I
wouldn't find you...

She gets distracted by more piles of paper and stuff on a chair. She sifts through them, picks some up. Frowns, continues walking.

She discovers the white-board on which the Nerd Herd had written their evil plans. Buffy turns it on its squeaky axle to reveal the surface. All it says now is: "TOO LATE!"

BUFFY

(frowns)
Well, that can't be good.

Suddenly a huge circular buzz-saw cuts through the white-board and comes slicing toward Buffy, cutting through everything in its path. Sawdust and debris flying everywhere. Buffy shields her face with her hands, dives to the floor just in time to avoid being sliced in two.

Several more saws appear, at all angles, moving around the room, some horizontally, some vertically, some on a diagonal. Buffy does a flip to duck under one and over another. She grabs a pile of random papers and stuff, and runs for the door. One saw gets caught in the stairwell just below her feet.

Cut to outside. Buffy bursts out of the house and falls onto the grass, papers flying everywhere. She groans and sits up. We see that she's holding a large, old book.

She looks down at herself. Close shot on her stomach. Her red leather jacket has a big gash in it, just deep enough to cut the fabric but not her flesh.

BUFFY

(annoyed)
Okay. That's gonna cost ya.

Wolf howl, opening credits.

Note: Amber Benson (Tara) appears in the opening credits for the first time.

Guest Starring Danny Strong, Adam Busch, Tom Lenk, Amy Hathaway, and Nichole Hiltz. Written by Stephen S. DeKnight, directed by: Michael Gershman.

Act One

Open on exterior shot of the Summers house, day.

Cut to inside. Willow and Tara come down the stairs, dressed, arms around each other, smiling. They go into the living room.

WILLOW
Okay, we're here, ready for
action! Uh, bad guy fighting
action.
(Giggles)

Reveal Buffy sitting on the sofa holding some papers, and Dawn on the floor beside her, eating something.

Willow and Tara exchange affectionate looks.

BUFFY
Guys, you didn't have to ... You
know, if you still wanna be alone-

WILLOW
No. No, we're good.
(still with the
amorous looks)

TARA
We're better than good.

Buffy and Dawn smiling too.

BUFFY
Great.

WILLOW
(softly)
Super.

Willow and Tara kiss briefly, then begin kissing more intensely. Buffy and Dawn watch with "aw" faces. Dawn giggles.

BUFFY
Awww.

WILLOW
Okay, all right, we'll stop.

DAWN
Oh, you better not!

TARA
So, um, nerds. How are them? They?

BUFFY
Well, I found their lair, but they obviously knew we were tracing their signal. They left in a hurry. Van was gone, but everything else was still there.

WILLOW
We should go back, uh, Tara and I can Sherlock around-

BUFFY
There's nothing left there now. Giant buzz saw. It was a thing.
(indicating papers)
This was all that I could save. I, I know it's not much, but we need to go through it and see if we can find anything that might tell us what, what they're doing, where they're going....

There is a knock on the door.

Buffy goes to answer it.

Steven is standing on the other side.

STEVEN
Hey.

BUFFY
Hey.

STEVEN
Can I come in?

BUFFY
Sure.

He walks in.

STEVEN
Where's everyone?

BUFFY
Living room.

STEVEN
Thanks.

He walks into the living room.

STEVEN
(smiles)
Hey, guys.

DAWN
(smiling)
Steven!

Steven walks over to Dawn and smiles at her, hugging her.

STEVEN
Hey, Dawnie!

WILLOW
(happily)
Hey, Steven!!

TARA
(smiles a little)
Hey, Steven. Welcome back.

STEVEN
(ignoring Willow)
Hey, Tara. Thanks.

WILLOW
(confused)
Steven?

STEVEN
(still ignoring Willow)
So what're we dealin' with here,
guys? Monster? Vamp? Demon?

Willow walks up to him.

WILLOW
(apologetically)
Steven, you have every right to
be mad at me for what I'd done to
Dawn. But I want you to know
that I'm a changed person. I've
learned to control the magicks
and...and accept that I have a
problem.

STEVEN
(still ignoring Willow)
Buffy, something's blocking me
from your vision. Do you have,
like, a new piece of furniture in
here or something?

Willow has had enough and she slaps him hard across the face.

STEVEN
(annoyed)
What the Hell was that for?!

WILLOW
(angry)
Now you listen to me, Steven
Windsor! I have worked very hard
to get where I am and I have been
very in touch with my self-
control! Now if you don't wanna
believe me, then that's fine.
But I have confronted my
addiction and I've realized that
I do have a problem. I've
learned to use my self-control to
my advantage and I haven't used a
single magic spell since you've
left. Now if that's not enough
for you, then you can keep
believing what you want, but the
truth is I've changed.

TARA
(earnestly)
It's true, Steven. She's doing
really well.

Steven looks skeptical.

WILLOW
(begging)
Please, Steven...can you forgive me?

After a beat:

STEVEN
This is a start, Willow. It's
going to take a lot to get me to
actually trust you again.
But...it's a start.

WILLOW
(smiles sweetly)
Thank you.

STEVEN

(grins)

Aw, what the Hell? I forgive ya.

He hugs her, then lets go.

STEVEN

(smiling)

I still can't say no to that smile.

TARA

(sweetly)

(re: Willow)

That makes two of us.

Steven smiles. Willow and Tara kneel on the floor. We see that the coffee table is covered with the rest of the papers and stuff that Buffy salvaged from the nerds' lair.

Tara picks up a large book. It has a buzz-saw cut right across the middle, and it falls in half as she picks it up.

TARA

Um,

(chuckling)

this might take a while.

BUFFY

Anything we can do to fast forward? We really need to find Warren and the others before anyone else gets hurt.

WILLOW

Should we call Xander?

BUFFY

(grimaces)

I don't think he's really in the Scooby space. We need to give him some time.

DAWN

Maybe they've heard something in the demon bars about those guys.

(tentatively, looking
at Buffy)

Spike-

BUFFY

(quickly)

Spike Spike's not part of the team.

DAWN
 (softly)
 So he's not ... going to be
 around anymore?
 (Willow and Tara
 looking concerned)

Steven frowns at seeing Dawn's disappointed expression.

BUFFY
 Uh ... I don't know, Dawn. Not,
 not for a while.

Dawn ponders this.

TARA
 What about Anya? She might be
 able to help with some of the
 demon texts.

BUFFY
 I'm guessing she's not feeling
 real researchy right now.

STEVEN
I can totally understand
that...after what happened.

Sound of sniffing, crying.

Cut to: a restaurant, day. A blonde woman sits at the bar with a martini glass in front of her. She's crying and has her head down so we can't see her face, but her hair and build and clothing resemble Anya's. But as the camera pulls out we see that Anya is actually sitting next to the crying woman.

ANYA
 I know how you feel. Maybe I can
 help.

CRYING WOMAN
 How could Carl do that to me?
 That bastard!

ANYA
 He's a man. Look no further.

CRYING WOMAN
 But with my sister? She's not
 even pretty.

ANYA

(taken aback)

Well ... it isn't always about looks.

(Crying woman looking skeptical)

Or a beating heart. Sometimes intimate sweaty relations with the wrong person just seems like a good idea at the time.

CRYING WOMAN

(angrily)

She's fat! He cheated on me with my fat ugly sister!

(continues crying)

ANYA

Likes 'em fleshy, huh? Bet you wish he'd bloat up a coupla thousand pounds and pop like a big ol' meat zeppelin, don't you?

CRYING WOMAN

He said he loved me.

ANYA

Oh, gee, then he must have meant it, 'cause hey, guys never say anything they don't really mean, do they?

CRYING WOMAN

But we-

ANYA

They say, "I love you," and, and you think it's true.

(crying woman staring at her)

They say, "Oh, Anya, I want to be with you for the rest of my life," and, and you believe them, you believe they feel the same way about you, because that's the way love's supposed to be, right?

CRYING WOMAN

Who's Anya?

ANYA

And then you get all excited with the tingly anticipation, but wait! Not so fast! There's the apocalypse, a-and the back from the grave, and the blah blah blah blah blah, and by the time you're finally standing there in that beautiful expensive white dress you've dreamed about ever since you became human, he's gets all heebie-jeebie and decides, "you know, I'd rather just go steady."

Beat. The other woman has stopped crying. Now she just looks bitter.

CRYING WOMAN

Men suck. I wish Carl's flesh would-

ANYA

And you know, he said it isn't me, but how can I believe him? I mean ... he knew he didn't want to get married! Deep down he knew, but he lied to me every day for months!

CRYING WOMAN

I wish-

ANYA

He lied and lied and then lied some more, 'cause hey , who's gonna notice with all the other lies flying around like little monkeys? And then he thinks he can just sweep the carnage underneath the rug by saying , "oh-"

Cut to: some sort of underground cavern. A looming shapeless shadow moves across the wall.

VOICE

I'm sorry. Sorry.

Pan down and reveal Andrew, sitting on the floor and scooting backwards on his butt as the looming creature pursues him down the tunnel.

ANDREW

Sorry, please! I'll never try to desecrate your chamber again!

We finally get a look at the thing chasing him. It's a huge brown scaly demon with thorny things protruding from its chin, a sort of triangular head, teeth like needles.

ANDREW

Just don't hurt me! Please!

Andrew has backed into a corner. The demon continues advancing.

Then we see Warren and Jonathan behind the demon. Warren zaps it with a cattle prod/taser. Blue electricity sparkles around the demon and it growls in pain.

JONATHAN

Hit him again! Hit him again!

Warren continues zapping the demon until it falls over.

WARREN

Wow. These things are tougher than I thought.

(as Andrew gets up and joins them)

You know, one jolt from this should have dropped an elephant .

Andrew grabs the prod from Warren.

ANDREW

You want a piece of this? Huh?

(zapping the demon repeatedly)

Not so tough, are you now, Puff 'N Stuff?!

WARREN

Hey, hey! We need him fresh, all right, not smoke house.

ANDREW

(stops zapping)

I'm done being the bait. Next time one of you can wiggle on the hook.

Warren goes over to the demon and squats down to look at it.

WARREN

If this works ... then next time we'll be the thing that everyone's afraid of.

JONATHAN

Okay, so...what now?

Warren has a switchblade knife in his hand. He flicks open the blade.

WARREN

Well, now it's your turn, Sparky.

Warren reverses the knife so he's holding it by the blade, then tosses it to Jonathan, who catches it. He looks at it uncertainly, then makes a disgusted face.

Cut to: Spike's crypt, night. Spike holds a glass of blood in one hand and a bottle of liquor in the other. He pours liquor into the blood, puts the bottle down, takes a slow sip.

DAWN

(OS)

Does it help?

Spike looks over his shoulder. Behind him, Dawn is standing in the doorway with a white bag over her shoulder. Spike looks back at his glass.

SPIKE

Doesn't hurt.

He looks over at Dawn again. She fidgets a little.

SPIKE

Not planning a camp-out, are we?

DAWN

No. I'm sleeping over at Janice's. Figured Willow and Tara might want some time to, uh...

SPIKE

(smiles slightly,
staring into his glass)
Oh, so the birds are flying again,
eh?

(bitterly)

Ain't love grand.

He turns to sit in his armchair, not looking at Dawn.

DAWN

I wanted to stop by on my way and,
you know.

(beat)

Everybody's pretty mad at you.

SPIKE

Yeah. Kinda picked up on that.

DAWN
(softly)
You're not going to be coming
around anymore. Are you?

SPIKE
(staring into the distance)
It's complicated, Nibblet.

DAWN
(small laugh)
Everybody's been saying that.

SPIKE
Must be true then.
(drinking)

DAWN
Was it worth it? What you did
with Anya?

Spike looks over at her in surprise.

SPIKE
Buffy told you?

DAWN
(shrugs)
Kinda caught the show. There was
a camera somewhere in the Magic
Box.
(Spike looking shocked)
Warren and Jonathan and that
other guy have been watching Buffy.

SPIKE
(sighing angrily)
Wankers!

Dawn walks down the steps and a few feet into the room.

DAWN
(pained)
Do you love her?

SPIKE
Oh, no. No. It was just a ... It
was a bad day. For both of us.
And we just had a few drinks and,
things just-

DAWN
No. Not Anya. Buffy.

Close on Spike staring at his glass.

DAWN

(OS)

Do you really love her?

Spike doesn't answer, just looks pained.

DAWN

Then how could you do that to her?

SPIKE

(still not looking at her)
Oh, right , 'cause Big Sis was
treating me so well up until that
point.

(Dawn sighing in exasperation)
Must still be a bit of the evil
left in me after all.

DAWN

I don't know what happened
between you two. But what you did
last night ... If you wanted to
hurt Buffy, congratulations.

(quietly)
It worked.

Dawn turns to leave. Close on Spike staring sadly into his
drink as the door closes.

Cut to: a different part of the underground tunnel. It's lit
with candles. Across the tunnel at one point there's a
shimmery magical barrier.

A demon like the one that the Nerds stunned earlier comes
walking down the tunnel. When it gets to the barrier it
simply keeps walking. The barrier flashes with orange light
and makes sizzling noises as the demon walks through it.

As the demon continues on, Warren and Andrew emerge from a
nook in the tunnel and go over to the barrier.

WARREN

This is it. We found it.

ANDREW

You sure it's in there?

Andrew starts to go over to the barrier but Warren stops him.

WARREN

Careful! Only Nezzla demons can
pass through the barrier.

Warren picks up a rock from the ground and tosses it at the barrier. It sizzles and burns to nothing in an instant.

WARREN

Everything else gets curly-fried.

JONATHAN

(OS)

This sucks.

Jonathan comes walking out of the nook. He is wearing the other demon's skin like a suit, covering his whole body. It's much bigger than him so it hangs loosely around him. The head-skin is hanging like a hood so that Jonathan's head is free.

WARREN

Just make sure all your skin's covered.

JONATHAN

(whining)

Why can't I just use a glamour?

ANDREW

You can't Siegfried and Roy the barrier. It's gotta be the real deal.

Warren reaches behind Jonathan and pulls the head-hood over Jonathan's head. Jonathan yells in dismay. The other two laugh.

JONATHAN

Ahh!

(muffled, disgusted)

It's still wet.

(The head is also too big and Jonathan's eyes barely show through the eye-holes)

WARREN

Good. Then it should still be fresh enough.

JONATHAN

(muffled)

Should be? Wait a minute, what do you mean, what do you mean, should be?

Still laughing, Warren grabs Jonathan and shoves him into the barrier. Jonathan screams. The barrier sizzles and flashes, and lets him through.

He falls to the ground on the other side.

WARREN
(chuckling, to Andrew)
Huh. Wasn't sure that would work.

Andrew looks surprised and a little uncertain. On the other side of the barrier, Jonathan gets up and composes himself.

JONATHAN
(muttering, muffled)
Jackass.

He shuffles off down the corridor.

ANDREW
You think he knows?

WARREN
Well, if he did, why would he be here?

ANDREW
Why is he? Our mojo's tight, bro.
We could've pulled this ourselves.

WARREN
Well, somebody had to guinea pig the meat suit. Were, were you gonna volunteer?

Andrew frowns, then laughs nervously and shakes his head.

ANDREW
No.
(looks nervously toward the barrier)
I don't trust the leprechaun.

WARREN
Okay, just stay frosty. This works the way we planned it, by the end of the evening Jonathan won't be a problem.

As Warren is saying this, Jonathan reappears, holding something. He walks through the barrier to rejoin the others.

WARREN
You got it?

JONATHAN
(muffled)
Yeah, I got it.

He gives Warren a small wooden box.

ANDREW
That's it?

JONATHAN
(muffled)
It better be.

Jonathan pulls the hood off his head. His face and hair are covered with demon slime.

JONATHAN
No way I'm going back through
there. Thing stings like a mother.

ANDREW
Dude, unholy hair gel.
(reaching out to touch
Jonathan's slimy hair)

JONATHAN
Get off.

ANDREW
Make me, skin job.

WARREN
Shut up.

Warren takes out a small electrical device and runs it over the surface of the wooden box. The device has a bunch of little lights that flash randomly. Warren puts it back in his pocket and opens the box.

WARREN
Ohh.

The box is divided into two equal compartments. Each one holds a small glass orb, red with white or gold symbols drawn on it.

WARREN
Gentlemen...

Warren puts the box on Andrew's outstretched hands and removes the orbs, holding one in each hand.

WARREN
...the Orbs of Nezzla'khan.
(gazing at them)
Strength. Invulnerability. The
deluxe package.

ANDREW

They're everything I've ever dreamed of.

JONATHAN

You know, those things have been down here for like a zillion years. How do we know they still work?

Suddenly a bright purple light explodes from each orb, surrounding Warren. The light begins to pulse rhythmically from each globe and through Warren's body. He gasps and his eyes glow purple. He starts to laugh.

WARREN

Ohh, they work.

Blackout.

Act Two

Open on the underground tunnel. The Geek Trio are walking down the tunnel as Warren puts the glowing orbs into a small leather bag attached to his belt.

ANDREW

You don't look any different. I thought they were supposed to make us all huge and veiny. Are you sure they're working right?

Sound of growling. Warren looks around as another demon comes around a corner, growling.

WARREN

Let's find out.

Warren rushes at the demon. It hits him and he flies against a wall, turns back and grabs the demon's arm and kicks it in the back of the legs. The demon falls to its knees. Warren wraps his arms around its head and twists, breaking the demon's neck. It falls down dead.

The other two stare in amazement.

JONATHAN

Mahatma!

WARREN

Welcome to the show, boys.

ANDREW
That was so hot!
(Warren nodding)

JONATHAN
Lemme try 'em!

Jonathan runs over and grabs for the bag holding the orbs.
Warren grabs Jonathan's wrist.

WARREN
Watch the paws, little man.
(lets go)

JONATHAN
Ow.
(cradling his wrist)
We're supposed to share.

WARREN
Oh, relax. All right, you'll each
get a whirl.
(nodding)
As soon as I'm done playing with 'em.

Warren smirks evilly.

Cut to: exterior shot of Xander's apartment building, day.
Sound of knocking. Cut to the hallway outside Xander's
apartment. Buffy stands in front of the door. It opens to
reveal Xander. He doesn't look thrilled to see Buffy.

BUFFY
Hey.

XANDER
Hey.

Xander turns away, leaving the door open. We see that he has
a beer can in his hand. He walks back into the apartment.
Buffy follows him in, closing the door behind her.

XANDER
I think there's still a cold one
in the fridge.

BUFFY
Thanks, but, uh, I think it's
still a little early for me.

Xander just looks at her, then sits on a sofa. Buffy sits on
a chair opposite.

BUFFY

(softly)

She loves you. You know that.
Anya was just ... She was hurting.
She was ... hurting and, and she
did this really stupid thing.

XANDER

With your boyfriend.

BUFFY

He's not my boyfriend.

XANDER

I know why Anya ... I understand,
I do.

(shaking his head)

But you...

Buffy looks down at her feet.

XANDER

(still shaking head)

All those times I told Spike to
get lost ... that he didn't have
a chance with a girl like you.

(laughs bitterly)

BUFFY

You don't know how hard it's been.

XANDER

What, lying to me?

BUFFY

(angrily)

Being here. After I was brought back.

Xander looks chastised. Buffy sighs, calms down.

BUFFY

You have no idea how hard it is
just being here.

XANDER

You could have told me.

BUFFY

You didn't want to know.

XANDER

So you went to him instead?

BUFFY
Xander, what I do with my
personal life is none of your
business.

XANDER
(softly)
It used to be.

Buffy fidgets like she doesn't know how to answer that.

BUFFY
It just happened, okay?

XANDER
(chuckles bitterly)
Oh, like, uh, "Say, you're evil.
Get on me"?

BUFFY
You fought side by side with him
when I was gone. You let him take
care of Dawn.

XANDER
But I never forgot what he really
is.
(Buffy looking hurt)
God, what were you thinking?

BUFFY
(laughs)
You're asking me that? Oh, 'cause
your decision making skills have
really sparkled lately.

XANDER
I'm not saying I didn't make any
mistakes. But last time I checked,
slaughtering half of Europe
wasn't one of them. He doesn't
have a soul, Buffy. Just some
leash they jammed in his head.
You think he'd still be all
snuggles if that chip ever
stopped working? Would you still
trust him with Dawn then?

BUFFY
(resigned)
It doesn't matter. I'm not seeing
him anymore. It's over.

XANDER

Yeah. There's a lot of that going around.

Xander crumples up the beer can in his hand, tosses it aside, gets up and walks off. Close on Buffy looking upset as we hear the apartment door opening. The door slams and Buffy winces.

Fade to: Sunnydale street, night. People walking around. Sad music. Xander walks down the street looking sad.

Fade to: Magic shop, night. Anya wanders around dusting things at random.

Cut to the street. Xander still walking.

Cut back to inside. Anya dusting items on a shelf.

Cut to the street. Xander walks up to a window and peers in through the blinds.

Shot of Xander's face from inside.

Shot from Xander's point of view, Anya dusting inside the shop while Xander's face is reflected in the window. Anya doesn't notice him.

Xander walks on.

Cut to: Willow and Tara's bedroom. The floor and bed are strewn with papers. Willow lies on the bed on her stomach, working on her computer. Tara reclines on the bed propped up by pillows, reading papers. Both are covered by blankets (naked underneath?).

WILLOW

It's all a mess.

TARA

These things take time. We'll figure it out.

WILLOW

Sure. We'll decipher codes, foil evil schemes...

TARA

Finally get out of bed...

WILLOW

I was with you up until there.
(Tara laughing)
Whoa.

TARA
(sitting up)
What is it?

WILLOW
Uh, one of their data CDs. It's
filled with encrypted blueprints,
schematics...

Shot of the computer screen with various blueprints flashing by.

TARA
To what?

WILLOW
I'm not sure. The designations
have been stripped.

TARA
Maybe we can cross-reference them
with the county clerk's office.

WILLOW
(makes a face)
Would that involve getting up?

TARA
(smiling)
Eventually.

WILLOW
Then I'm coming out firmly
against it.

TARA
(mock-frowning)
What about the Trio's evil scheme?

WILLOW
(grinning)
Well, I'm kinda busy working on
my own.

Willow turns away from the computer and toward Tara. Sound of giggling. Tara leans back against her pillows with a smile.

Cut to the Bronze. Several people are sitting/standing by the bar as the bartender pours drinks. Xander is sitting at the end of the bar. The bartender pours into Xander's glass.

Close shot on Xander's hand holding the shot glass as the liquor pours. Some of it misses the glass and splashes on Xander's hand.

Pan up to the woman next to Xander, looking over at him.

WOMAN
You're all wet.

She pushes a cocktail napkin toward him.

XANDER
It's a good thing I'm part fish.
(wiping his hand with
the napkin)

WOMAN
(smiling)
Which part?

XANDER
The part with the hook in it.

WOMAN
Careful. Someone might reel you in.

XANDER
Yeah, but then there'd be the
flopping and the ... gasping, and
... sure, maybe it'd work out,
but chances are I'd up and leave
you at the helm in your white
dress. Then find you spawning
with another fish who turns out
to be spawning my very good
friend night and day behind my
back.
(woman looking confused)
Then comes the fighting and again
with the flopping and the gasping,
'cause hey , Chicken of the Sea
here's not doing too good with
the women these days.

WOMAN
Huh?

XANDER
Sorry, I'm just looking to curl
up with the quiet alone tonight.

Wide shot of the two of them. The woman looks disappointed,
turns away. Xander concentrates on his drink.

Cut to the entrance. The Geeks enter, look around. Jonathan
looks at his watch.

JONATHAN
(irritated)
We don't have time for this.

ANDREW
Ease up, twitchy.

Warren looks around, spots something.

WARREN
All right.

Long shot of a tall guy and a pretty girl smiling into each other's eyes, holding hands.

WARREN
Let's make some noise.

Warren walks forward. The others watch, Andrew excited, Jonathan nervous.

Cut to: close on a vampire face. Someone punches him and he grunts.

Cut to wider shot: the cemetery. Buffy fighting the vamp. He throws a punch which she blocks. Then he spins around, blocks her punch, kicks her in the chest. She does a spin-kick that sends him sprawling.

BUFFY
Not bad. How hard you gonna hit
when you're blowin' in the wind?

She reaches into her back pocket for a stake. The vamp gets up and attacks her again. She stakes him just as he's leaping into the air for a kick. He dusts, but the kick lands anyway. Buffy gives a cry and goes flying backward. She flies into a headstone, shattering it and landing on the ground behind it.

Buffy lies on the ground groaning in pain.

BUFFY
(pouty)
That was rhetorical.

She goes to get up and winces.

BUFFY
Ow.

Cut to: exterior shot of the Summers house, night.

Cut to the bathroom. Buffy enters, wearing a grey bathrobe and moving slowly, sighing. She goes over to the tub and starts the water running, leans over to check the temperature, putting one hand on her back as she bends over. She sighs loudly as she straightens up.

SPIKE

(OS)

You hurt? You're not moving so well.

Buffy sighs and walks toward the sink.

Reveal Spike standing in the doorway, wearing black shirt and jeans, no jacket.

BUFFY

(standing by the sink,
not looking at him)

Get out.

SPIKE

We have to talk.
(closing the door)

BUFFY

(turns to look at him)
I really don't.

SPIKE

Well, this isn't just about you...
(pushes the door the
rest of the way shut)
as much you'd like it to be.

Overhead shot of the two of them. Spike stands by the door and Buffy by the sink, with about four feet separating them. Buffy crosses her arms over her chest.

BUFFY

You spoke. I listened. Now leave.

Close on Spike. He sighs a little.

SPIKE

(softly)
I'm sorry. Not that it matters
any more, but I needed you to
know that.

BUFFY

Why?

SPIKE
Because I care about you.

BUFFY
Then you might want to try the
not sleeping with my friends.

SPIKE
I didn't go to Anya for that. I
was looking for a spell.

BUFFY
(outraged)
You were going to use a spell on me?

SPIKE
(sighs, exasperated)
It wasn't for you! I wanted
something .
(puts hand on his chest)
Anything to make these feelings
stop.
(angrier)
I just wanted it to stop!

Buffy looks taken aback. Spike sighs, calms down.

SPIKE
(softly)
You should have let him kill me.

BUFFY
(softly)
I couldn't do that.

SPIKE
Why?

BUFFY
(moving back toward
the tub)
You know why.

SPIKE
Because you love me.

Buffy bends over the tub, again with one hand on her back.

BUFFY
(annoyed)
No. I don't.

SPIKE
Why do you keep lying to yourself?

BUFFY
(whirls around to face
him again)
How many times-

She pauses, composes herself.

BUFFY
(calmer)
I have feelings for you. I do.
But it's not love. I could never
trust you enough for it to be love.

SPIKE
(laughing)
Trust is for old marrieds, Buffy.
(Buffy rolling her eyes)
Great love is wild ... and
passionate and dangerous. It
burns and consumes.

BUFFY
Until there's nothing left. Love
like that doesn't last.

SPIKE
(pacing)
I know you feel like I do. You
don't have to hide it anymore.

BUFFY
(rolling her eyes)
Spike, please stop this.

SPIKE
(whispers)
Let yourself feel it.

He moves forward, puts his hands on her waist, pulls her
toward him. She resists.

BUFFY
No....

SPIKE
You love me.

BUFFY
Ow, no, stop it.

They struggle, Spike trying to kiss and grope Buffy, Buffy
trying to push him away. Sound of fabric ripping. Spike's
hand is inside Buffy's robe.

BUFFY

Spike, no - ow - what are you do-

She loses her balance and falls backward toward the tub. Her hand grabs the shower curtain for balance, but it rips off the shower rod and Buffy falls down, hitting her back against the side of the tub.

BUFFY

(yelling)

Ow!

She falls to the floor beside the tub, groaning in pain. Spike gets on top of her, holding her down. He grabs her face and tries to kiss her as she continues trying to fight him off.

SPIKE

Let it go. Let yourself love me.

He continues saying similar things as Buffy continues saying "no" and "stop" and "ow." Spike pulls at her clothing.

Buffy gets onto her stomach and tries to pull herself toward the door, but Spike is on top of her, holding her down, pulling her arms away from the door as she continues yelling and protesting.

Close on Spike wearing a determined and wild expression. Blackout.

Act Three

Open on the same scene, overhead shot of Spike straddling Buffy on the bathroom floor. Buffy continues struggling.

BUFFY

(yelling)

No, stop it!

SPIKE

I know you felt it ... when I was inside you...

Close on his hands trying to open her robe. Sound of fabric ripping.

Buffy breaks partly free and starts crawling toward the door again. Spike grabs her ankle and pulls her back toward him, flips her over, pins her hands to the floor.

BUFFY

No, ow, ow!

(sobbing)

Please, please, Spike, please...

SPIKE

You'll feel it again, Buffy...

BUFFY

Please don't do this...

SPIKE

I'm gonna make you feel it.

He rips the front of her robe open. Buffy screams and struggles against him as he tries to get her robe off.

BUFFY

Stop!!!

She gives him one last shove with her Slayer-strength and Spike goes flying backward, crashing into the sink and the wall. Buffy gets to her feet, holding her robe closed with one hand. It's torn so that one of her shoulders is exposed.

Spike gets up, panting and staring at her.

BUFFY

Ask me again why I could never
love you.

Spike looks like he's just realizing what he was doing.

SPIKE

Buffy, my god, I didn't-

BUFFY

(angrily)

Because I stopped you.

(quieter)

Something I should have done a
long time ago.

A tear runs down Buffy's face. Spike stares at her looking horrified.

Cut to exterior shot of the house.

Cut to aerial shot of Sunnydale, houses lit up in the dark of night. Cut to exterior shot of the Bronze.

Cut to inside. Andrew and Jonathan walk beside the bar. Jonathan looks nervous. Andrew holds a glass of something involving fruit and a little paper umbrella.

JONATHAN
 (looks around nervously)
 What are we doing here? Somebody
 might recognize us.
 (spotting something,
 sighing in exasperation)
 Oh, oh, that's just great.

Shot of Warren talking to the woman we saw with another guy before.

JONATHAN
 We're risking everything so that
 Charles Atlas can get a date?
 He's going to end up getting us
 thrown into jail. Or worse.
 (urgently)
 Maybe you and I should think about-

ANDREW
 Warren's the boss. He's Picard,
 you're Deanna Troi. Get used to
 the feeling, Betazoid.

Andrew walks off. Jonathan stares after him in dismay.

Cut to Warren talking with the girl.

WARREN
 ...the clothes, the cars, and the
 money ... see, it's all just
 window dressing.

He strokes the side of the girl's face. She doesn't look too thrilled with that.

WARREN
 Baby, this is what's really
 important.
 (holding her hand)
 Two souls, coming together ...

FRANK
 (OS)
 Hey!

The girl's boyfriend returns. He gets in Warren's face. He is much larger than Warren.

FRANK
 She only comes together with me.
 So get lost, shrimp.
 (girlfriend looking amused)

WARREN

Frankie? Oh my god, is that you?
How long has it been?

Frank stares down at Warren in confusion.

WARREN

It's Warren! Remember, Warren,
gym class, fifth period?
(smiling)
You and your jock buddies used to
give me such a hard time.
(Frank starting to smile)
That thing with the underwear?
(laughing)
God, I thought I'd never stop crying.

FRANK

(grinning)
That was you?

WARREN

(big fake grin)
Yeah, that was me!
(quieter)
But hey, no hard feelings. I mean,
I know you were just fooling
around.
(Frank nodding)
Like I'm gonna be with your girl
in about five minutes.

FRANK

(threateningly)
What'd you say?

WARREN

You heard me, meathead. Take a walk.

FRANK

Oh, you're dead, you little-

Frank grabs Warren by the shoulders to shove him away, but can't budge him. Frank frowns, tries several times to push Warren away, but he can't.

WARREN

This ain't high school.

Warren shoves Frank in the chest with one hand, and Frank flies backward, crashing into some people. The girlfriend looks alarmed.

GUY

Frankie!

Another large guy moves toward Warren. Warren turns to face him. As the guy throws a punch, Warren grabs his wrist, immobilizing it, then jerks it to the side, breaking the arm. The guy falls to the floor.

Warren turns to find the girl, just as she starts running away. Warren sighs in annoyance.

Another guy hits Warren in the back with a chair. The chair shatters. The guy stares at the pieces in surprise as Warren turns around to face him. Warren backhands the guy and he flies across the bar-top and off the other side. Andrew watches this casually, sipping his fruity drink.

WARREN

Let's party.

In the background a couple of people go to help the injured guys. Warren strolls forward, clasps Andrew's arm briefly, walks right past Jonathan without even acknowledging him. He goes over to the bar where a bunch of pretty women are sitting, watching him.

WARREN

Oh, don't worry about the tab,
now, ladies. It's on daddy tonight.

He slams his fist down on the cash register, causing the drawer to open. Warren reaches across to take out some money.

Angle on the door of the men's restroom as Xander emerges, **followed by Steven**, but pause when **they catch** sight of Warren.

Warren turns away from the cash register with a handful of money.

WARREN

Don't worry, babies.
(moves toward the women)
Daddy's gonna give you some too.

XANDER

(walking up)
See now, I think it's the daddy
thing that's throwing her.
(Jonathan hiding his face)
'Cause incest , not that sexy.

Steven walks up to him as well, cutting him off from going in the other direction.

STEVEN

He's right. Now, maybe for a two-time jailbird like you, that might work, but...

Xander, Steven and Warren get in each other's faces as Andrew watches and Jonathan covers his face with his hand.

JONATHAN

Aw, crap.

XANDER

So, uh, why don't we leave the ladies to their impending nausea and move the freakshow outside, whaddaya say?

WARREN

(nodding)

Okay. But lemme ask you something first.

(quietly)

You think maybe you could put in a word for me with that Anya chick? 'Cause if she's taking it from a vamp...

(smirking)

I think I might have a chance .

STEVEN

You f--

Xander punches Warren square in the face. Warren barely even moves. Xander clutches his hand in pain.

WARREN

No wonder she's screwing a dead guy. You hit like a girl.

XANDER

(painfully)

Well, at least I know how to get one.

Warren scowls angrily, punches Xander. Xander flies backward across the room, lands on the floor on his back. People exclaiming, gasping, etc. **Steven starts walking toward Warren.**

STEVEN

(angry)

You son of a--

Warren does barely a flick of his wrist and sends Steven flying across the bar, landing behind the counter. Xander lies on the floor groaning in pain.

Warren walks quickly toward him, shoving a pool table out of the way as if it were nothing. Xander is bleeding from the nose, blood running down his face.

WARREN

Let's see how popular you are without a face.

Jonathan hurries over and grabs Warren's arm.

JONATHAN

Warren, we have to go.

WARREN

We go when I'm ready.

JONATHAN

(very nervous)
Hey, it's your call, but ...
(showing Warren his watch)
we're gonna miss that thing you wanted to do tonight
(Warren sighing, exasperated)
if we don't leave right now.
That's all I'm saying.

Warren sighs and nods reluctantly. He bends over a little to address Xander.

WARREN

It's your lucky night, Shemp.

ANDREW

We're just gonna leave him there?
What if he sics the Slayer on us?

WARREN

Bring her on.

Warren turns and walks off. Andrew follows casually. Jonathan makes a little apologetic hand-gesture at Xander, and follows the others.

Cut to: Summers house, foyer. The door opens and Xander enters, his face still bloody. **Steven also follows him inside, a gash on his forehead and his nose bleeding.**

XANDER

(calls)
Buffy? I found Warren.

He glances around.

XANDER

Actually, my face kinda found him--

STEVEN

Buffy?

He stops as he sees Spike's leather jacket hanging on the banister. Xander strides over to it, picks it up. His expression is grim as he starts up the stairs.

Cut to the bathroom. Xander bursts in holding the jacket.

XANDER

This what you call not seeing
Spike anymore-

He pauses as he sees Buffy. She's sitting on the floor looking very upset.

XANDER

What did he do?

Close on Buffy's legs. Her robe hangs loosely and one thigh is exposed, with a big ugly bruise on the inside of the thigh.

XANDER

Did he hurt you?

BUFFY

(sighing, shaking her head)
He tried. He didn't...

XANDER

Son of a bitch.
(turns to storm out)

BUFFY

(softly)
Don't.

Xander stops in the doorway.

BUFFY

(tearfully)
Please, just ... don't.

Xander stares at her in concern, **as does Steven**. A loud door-slamming noise from downstairs makes them both jump.

Willow rushes in, smiling.

WILLOW

Hey, I think we finally have something-

She pauses, seeing Xander's bloody face and Buffy's bruised condition. Buffy quickly pulls her robe down to hide the bruise on her leg.

WILLOW

What happened?

BUFFY

Nothing.

Xander looks down at Buffy as she composes herself.

BUFFY

What'd you find out?

Cut to the dining room, a little later. Buffy, now dressed, sits at the table with Willow and Tara. Xander stands nearby holding an ice pack against his face. The table is covered with the papers and books from the Geek lair, plus Willow's computer.

WILLOW

We were able to decipher pretty much everything except these.

Willow holds a set of papers with weird symbols on them.

TARA

It isn't written in any ancient language we could identify.

XANDER

(chuckling)
It's Klingon. They're love poems.
(catching himself, embarrassed)
Which has nothing to do with the insidious scheme you're about to describe.

BUFFY

What do you got for me that doesn't rhyme?

TARA

Um, this.
(holding up a CD-ROM)

STEVEN

What's that?

WILLOW

It was filled with encoded
blueprints and schematics.
(handing Buffy a pile
of papers)

BUFFY

To what?

TARA

Um, banks, armored car routes,
corporate vaults ... This is big.

WILLOW

They're looking to score some
serious dinero. We don't think
they're planning just one job.

XANDER

Spree, anyone?

BUFFY

I, I can't cover all of these at
once.

WILLOW

You don't have to. We think
there's one they may hit tonight.

TARA

It's time sensitive.

XANDER

Be careful. Warren's gone all
Mighty Mouse. Emphasis on the might.

BUFFY

Good. Then I won't have to hold back.

STEVEN

**Buffy. You should exercise
caution, no matter what he can
bring to the table.**

BUFFY

(annoyed)
I'm so glad Giles is gone 'cause
we got a spare right here.

STEVEN

(sighs)
Fine, Buffy; whatever. I'll shut up.

Cut to Spike's crypt. The door bursts open and Spike rushes in, still without his leather coat.

Flash to the earlier scene of Buffy protesting and struggling.

Flash back to now. Spike closes his eyes and clenches his jaw, looking pained. The sound of Buffy crying and begging continues.

Flash to the bathroom again. Buffy struggling and crying.

Flash back to now. Spike strides across the room and picks up a bottle of alcohol and a glass. He pours, puts the bottle down, drinks.

Flash to the bathroom. Spike on top of Buffy, pinning her down.

SPIKE
I'm gonna make you feel it.

Flash to now. The glass shatters in Spike's hand. He stares at it, lowers his hand slowly.

CLEM (OS)
Uh ... knock knock?

Reveal Clem standing in the doorway holding a paper bucket of fast-food. He waves tentatively.

CLEM
I was just in the neighborhood so
I thought, you know...

Clem walks into the room. Spike stares at the floor sullenly.

CLEM
...there's a "Knight Rider"
marathon on the TV, so, uh...
(holding up bucket)
I got hot wings!

SPIKE
(shakily)
What have I done?

Beat. Spike frowns, looks bemused.

SPIKE
Why *didn't* I do it?
(looks up at the
ceiling, sighs)
What has she done to me?

CLEM

She done who?

(Spike waves his hand dismissively)

Ohh. The Slayer, huh? Gosh.

(shaking head)

She break up with you again?

SPIKE

We were never together. Not really. She'd never lower herself that far.

CLEM

She's a sweet girl, Spike, but hey. Whew. Issues.

(Spike giving a sarcastic grin)

And no wonder, with the whole coming back from the grave and whatnot. Hey, I had this cousin, who got resurrected by some kooky shaman...

(chuckles)

Whoo boy! Was that a mess.

SPIKE

(desperate)

Why do I feel this way?

CLEM

(shrugs)

Love's a funny thing.

SPIKE

Is that what this is?

(Clem looking uncertain)

I can feel it. Squirming in my head.

(puts hand to his head)

CLEM

Love?

SPIKE

The chip. Gnawing bits and chunks.

Spike puts his fingers against his head as if he's trying to dig his way into his skull.

CLEM

Uhh ... maybe a wet cloth?

SPIKE

You know, everything used to be
so clear. Slayer. Vampire.
Vampire kills Slayer, sucks her
dry, picks his teeth with her
bones. It's always been that way.
I've tasted the life of two
Slayers. But with Buffy...
(grimacing in anguish)
It isn't supposed to be this way!

He grabs a piece of furniture and shoves it over, with
accompanying crashing noises.

SPIKE

(angrily)
It's the chip! Steel and wires
and silicon.
(sighs)
It won't let me be a monster.
(quietly)
And I can't be a man. I'm nothing.

CLEM

Hey. Come on now, Mr. Negative.
You never know what's just around
the corner. Things change.

SPIKE

Yeah, they do.

Spike gives a bitter sarcastic laugh. Clem looks at him,
kind of helpless.

Then something occurs to Spike. His grin turns nasty.

SPIKE

If you make them.

Cut to: an amusement park, shut down for the night. A banner
reads "Opening Weekend!" Pan across closed concession stands,
to a large stone gate with lettering over the archway
reading "WILD RIVER ADVENTURE."

Pan further to reveal two men standing beside an armored
truck. One man wears a security uniform, the other a dark
suit. They check something on a clipboard, and then the
security guard puts two bags into the back of the truck. A
second guard comes around from the other side of the truck.

GUARD #1

All right, that's the last one.

Guard #1 takes the clipboard from the guy in the suit, and signs it. Guard #2 is closing the truck.

GUARD #1
Quite a haul, huh?
(gives back the clipboard)

SUIT
Always the biggest gate of the year.

GUARD #1
Yeah.

SUIT
Don't lose any.

GUARD #1
Yeah.

The suit guy takes the clipboard and walks off.

Cut to the front of the truck. Guard #2 is at the wheel as Guard #1 climbs into the passenger seat and shuts the door.

GUARD #2
Wanna grab a bite after?
(Guard #1 nodding)
I think Ruby's is still open.

Guard #2 puts his foot on the gas pedal, but nothing happens.

Close on Warren at the back of the truck.

Wider shot of Warren lifting one rear corner of the truck off the ground. Close shot on the right rear wheel, spinning in the air.

Cut back to the cab.

GUARD #2
What the hell?

Another shot of the spinning wheel.

Reveal Andrew and Jonathan, both wearing black turtlenecks with black zipper jackets over them.

In the cab, the guards slide toward the side of the truck as Warren tilts it further.

GUARD #1
There's something back there!

Warren continues lifting.

ANDREW

Man, I can't wait to get my hands
on his orbs.

Warren shoves the truck over onto its side.

JONATHAN

(sarcastic)

Yeah, I'm sure he'll be giving
'em up any second now.

Warren rips the rear door off the truck.

BUFFY

(OS)

Hey.

Reveal Buffy standing on top of the overturned truck.

BUFFY

Is this your bank?

Warren stares up at her.

BUFFY

'Cause if not, there's gonna be a
fee for that.

She starts to leap down at Warren. He reacts, puts up his arms and catches her as she falls toward him. He throws her backward over his head. She lands on the ground several yards away, and gets up again.

WARREN

(striding toward her)

I was wondering when Super Bitch
would show up.

BUFFY

You really got a problem with
strong women, don't you?

WARREN

Nothing I can't handle.

Buffy ducks his first swing, the second catches her in the face. Warren blocks her punch, holds her arm and hits her with his other hand. They exchange a few blows and Buffy goes down.

WARREN

You seem a little off. This a bad day?

BUFFY

(gets up)
It's getting better.

She lands several strong kicks in a row, grabs Warren and flips over him, kicks him from behind. He goes down and immediately rolls back to his feet.

Buffy grabs the large metal door that Warren ripped off the truck, and hits him with it. He stumbles into the stone gate, hard. Bits of plaster dust fall on his head.

WARREN

That all you got?

He looks up a moment too late as the stone gate collapses, a pile of stone and rubble falling right on Warren's head, engulfing him.

ANDREW

(screams)
No!

Jonathan stares in dismay. Buffy looks over at the other two geeks.

BUFFY

There's two ways this can end.
And right now? I'm thinking
they're both gonna hurt.

Andrew suddenly starts to smile.

ANDREW

I think you're right.

Buffy turns around to see Warren emerging from the rubble.

WARREN

What's the matter baby? You never
fight a real man before?

Blackout.

Act Four

Same scene. Warren lands two strong punches on Buffy before she ducks the third and kicks him. He blocks her swing, lands several more punches.

Buffy grabs his hand and twists around, holding Warren's arm behind him and kicking him in the stomach. She ducks another punch and kicks him. He falls against the overturned armored truck.

Buffy watches as Warren pulls himself upright again.

WARREN

Wow. That almost hurt, kitten.

Buffy kicks him and punches him several times, with little effect. Warren grabs her and slams down on her arm. Buffy makes an expression of pain. Warren kicks her backward, grabs her again.

ANDREW

Kill her! Kill her!

Jonathan stares from the fight to Andrew and back, looking alarmed.

Warren continues beating on Buffy. He gets her legs out from under her and she goes down.

WARREN

You know who I am? Huh, Slayer?

BUFFY

You're a murderer.
(getting up)

WARREN

Well, that too, but more to the point-

Buffy swings at him, he blocks the punch and backhands her.

WARREN

I'm the guy that beat you.

Again she swings, again he blocks and hits her. Buffy reels backward, looking shocked.

WARREN

And it's not the muscles, baby.

He kicks her backward.

WARREN

It's the brains.

BUFFY
I'll remember that when I knock
'em clean out of your-

Suddenly Jonathan leaps onto Buffy from behind, grabbing her around the neck. Buffy grunts and stumbles forward, trying to pry him off.

WARREN
(amused)
Whoa! Sparky, I didn't think you
had it in you.

Close on Jonathan and Buffy struggling. Jonathan mutters into Buffy's ear through gritted teeth.

JONATHAN
(quietly to Buffy)
The orbs! Smash his orbs.

Buffy throws him off. He lands on the ground and rolls away as Warren attacks again. Buffy blocks a couple of punches, but then Warren lands one that sends her falling against a park bench. The bench breaks into pieces. Warren strides over as Buffy is still lying in the wreckage of the bench.

WARREN
Say good night, bitch.

Warren pulls his fist back for a final punch. This pulls his jacket back, revealing the pouch on his belt. Buffy sees it. Before Warren can move, she lunges forward, grabs the pouch, and slams it against the ground. Blue light flashes, suffusing Warren, then leaving him and shooting toward the smashed orbs. Warren looks dazed. Buffy stands up.

BUFFY
Good night, bitch.

She does a serious spin-kick that sends Warren flying back and tumbling to the ground near his comrades. He climbs slowly to his feet, looking scared.

BUFFY
(advancing)
You're nothing but a sad little
boy, Warren. But it's time you
grow up, and pay for what you've
done.

WARREN
(panting)
Get away from me!

He pulls off his jacket, revealing an apparatus strapped to his body, including a pair of silvery tanks on his back.

WARREN

I swear to god I'm gonna take you
down. You piece of...

Buffy stares in disbelief as Warren pulls a switch and the jet-pack activates, lifting him straight up into the air.

BUFFY

(sighing, almost whining)
Oh, come on.

Shot of Warren still shooting up into the sky.

Shot of the other two nerds. Jonathan is watching Warren go, shocked. Andrew stares calmly at Buffy.

ANDREW

Well played, Slayer!

Andrew pulls off his jacket, revealing an identical jet-pack. Buffy can't believe it.

JONATHAN

(whines)
Why didn't I get one of those?!

ANDREW

(to Buffy)
This round to you. But the game
is far from over.

Andrew activates his jet-pack and lifts off as Buffy and Jonathan stare.

But Andrew was standing underneath a roof overhang. He hits it with his head, hard, and falls to the ground unconscious.

Jonathan stares apprehensively at Buffy. Sound of police sirens.

Cut to: exterior police station. A car with its siren wailing and lights flashing pulls up and stops. The driver and his partner get out, open the rear doors and take out Andrew and Jonathan, both handcuffed. The cops begin leading them inside.

JONATHAN

(furious)
Jet packs. You jerks were setting
me up to take the fall.

ANDREW

(upset)

He left me. He flew away and left me.

They enter the police station, go down some steps and into a lobby area. Various cops and handcuffed prisoners are moving about, etc. Andrew and Jonathan pause and stand there looking around. Andrew is crying.

JONATHAN

Oh god. The Big House.

AUDREW

(crying)

How could he do this to me? He promised we'd be together, but ... he was just using me. He never really loved-

(catching himself)

...hanging out with us.

The cops lead them over to a bench and sit them down.

ANDREW

You think he'll come back for us?
I mean ... he wouldn't just take off, would he?

Jonathan gives him a look of contempt.

Cut to: a highway somewhere, night. The lights of Sunnydale are visible in the distance. Spike rides up on his motorcycle, cigarette in his mouth. He stops and looks over at the city.

SPIKE

Get nice and comfy, Slayer. I'll be back. And when I do ... things are gonna change.

He tosses his cigarette onto the ground and rides off.

Cut to: exterior shot of the Summers house, day.

Cut to Willow and Tara's bedroom. They are standing by the mirror as Willow finishes buttoning up her blouse. It's white and frilly. Tara is also fully dressed.

WILLOW

Hey. Clothes.

TARA

Better not get used to 'em.

WILLOW

Hmm, yes ma'am.

Willow grabs Tara's belt loop and pulls her in for a kiss. Then they hug. Tara smiles happily. Then spots something over Willow's shoulder.

TARA

Mmmm... Xander!

WILLOW

(pulling out of the hug)
Okay, not quite the response I was fishing for.

TARA

No, he's here.

Tara goes to look out the window. We can see Buffy below in the backyard, and Xander walking up behind her.

WILLOW

(opening a dresser drawer)
Think they're making up?

TARA

(turning from the window, smiling at her)
I hope so, that's the best part.

Cut to the backyard. Buffy has a stick and is using it to poke at the bushes and weeds. Xander comes up behind her, **followed by Steven**. Xander looks awkward. **Steven looks sympathetic**. It's a beautiful sunny day.

XANDER

Time for the Spring Poking already?

BUFFY

(turns to see **them**)
Just making sure there are no more Evil Trio cameras. Or Evil Uno.

XANDER

The sinister yet addictive card game?

Steven smiles a little at that.

BUFFY

Warren. Jonathan and Andrew got clinked, but ... Warren pulled a Rocket Man.

STEVEN

Great...

XANDER

You'll find him. He won't be much good without his friends.

BUFFY

(softly)

No, he won't.

They both move to sit side-by-side on a wooden bench. Xander fidgets uncomfortably, then takes a deep breath.

XANDER

How did we get here?

BUFFY

Scenic route. Long drive.

XANDER

The past few weeks...

BUFFY

I know.

XANDER

I thought I hit bottom, but ... it hurt. That you didn't trust me enough to tell me about Spike.

(pauses, softly)

It hurt.

BUFFY

I'm sorry. I should have told you.

XANDER

(small smile)

Maybe you would have, if I hadn't given you so many reasons to think I'd be an ass about it.

BUFFY

Guess we've all done a lot of things lately we're not proud of.

XANDER

(slightly larger smile)

I think I've got you beat.

BUFFY

Wanna compare?

XANDER

Not so much.

Beat. They smile tentatively at each other.

XANDER

I don't know what I'd do ...
without you and Will.

BUFFY

(teary)
Let's not find out.

Xander nods. They hug.

BUFFY

I love you. You know that, right?

Xander spots something over Buffy's shoulder and his eyes widen in alarm.

XANDER

Buffy!

Reveal a very angry Warren striding toward them, fast. He still wears the all-black outfit from last night. Buffy and Xander jump up, turn to face him. **Steven is unbelievably angry to see him there.**

WARREN

You think you can just do that to
me? You think I'd let you get
away with that?
(laughs crazily)
Think again.

Suddenly he raises a gun and fires wildly at them. Buffy frantically shoves Xander down. He tumbles to the ground. **Steven drops to the ground, ducking the incoming bullets.**

Warren runs off, firing wildly into the air over his shoulder as he goes.

Closeup of one bullet shattering a window.

Shot of Willow still standing by the dresser, smiling. Suddenly, redness splatters across her white blouse. She looks surprised.

Shot of Tara still standing with her back to the window, looking surprised. There's a large red spot on Tara's chest, right over her heart.

TARA
(frowning)
Your shirt.

Tara falls forward.

WILLOW
(shocked, rushing forward)
Tara?

Cut to the backyard. Xander gets up, brushes himself off.

Steven gets up as well.

STEVEN
Is he gone?

XANDER
(checking around)
Yeah...
(can't believe it)
sweet fancy Moses! Where the hell
did he-

Xander stops, looking to his left. Pan quickly over to Buffy, lying on the ground on her back, staring upward.

XANDER
Oh god!

Steven looks around, and sees Buffy on the ground.

STEVEN
Oh, no...

He rushes over to her, kneeling next to her.

Cut to the bedroom. Tara lies on the floor. Willow grabs her shoulders.

WILLOW
(desperate)
Tara?! Baby?

Willow rolls Tara over, pulling her onto her lap. Tara lies limp in Willow's arms.

WILLOW
(sobbing)
Baby, come on! Get up!

Cut to the backyard. Buffy has a red spot in almost the same place as Tara's. Xander kneels over her, holding her shoulders. Her eyes close, then slowly open again.

Steven kneels on Buffy's other side, shaking her..

XANDER
(desperate)
Oh god. Buffy? Buffy! Buffy!

STEVEN
(desperate as well)
Buffy! Buffy!!
(near tears)
Oh, God...

Xander presses his hands against the wound, making more blood well out.

STEVEN
(visibly upset)
Buffy!

Cut to the bedroom. Willow cries harder as Tara continues not responding. Willow rocks back and forth holding Tara in her lap.

WILLOW
No... no....
(crying)

Shot of Buffy lying on the ground staring blankly at the sky as Xander continues trying to stop the bleeding.

Close shot on Tara's face and the bullet hole in her chest.

Willow lifts her head and bares her teeth. Her face is wet with tears and her eyes are completely black ... then they go completely red.

Blackout.

Executive Producers: Joss Whedon and Marti Noxon.