

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

"The Dreamlife of Angel"

TEASER

Fade In:

EXT. THE PORCH OF BUFFY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

A light shines on the porch, bathing it with its yellow glow. RING! A gloved hand presses the doorbell.

JOYCE (O.C.)
Coming. Just a minute.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

JOYCE SUMMERS wipes her wet hands with a dishtowel as she approaches the front door.

JOYCE
Who would be calling at this time of night?

She peeks out the keyhole.

EXT. THE PORCH OF BUFFY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

The porch is empty.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Joyce opens the door and looks out, but doesn't see anything. She steps onto the porch....

EXT. THE PORCH OF BUFFY'S HOUSE - CONTINUOUS

...And nearly trips over a package wrapped in shiny blue paper with a bow on it. A note is attached. Joyce looks around again.

JOYCE
Odd.

She picks up the package and reads the note.

JOYCE

Happy Birthday Buffy, from your
secret admirer.

(beat)

Isn't that sweet.

Joyce brings the package inside and shuts the door.

CUT TO:

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

A light shines in the office of MAYOR RICHARD WILKINS III, backlighting the sign that bears his name on the door. The MAYOR'S ASSISTANT slowly pushes the door open. The camera follows him in.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

Mayor Wilkins sits behind his desk, working on paperwork with a fountain pen. His sleeves are rolled up, his tie is loosened and his head is down in concentration.

MAYOR

(to himself)

A five letter word for Beelzebub.

He scribbles something.

MAYOR

No. This is too easy.

(beat)

Hey, what's a six-letter word for merman?

ASSISTANT

I don't know sir.

The Mayor looks at him for a moment.

MAYOR

That's no help.

He looks at the puzzle again.

MAYOR

It starts with a "T".

ASSISTANT

It could be triton, sir.

The Mayor writes it on the puzzle. He smiles.

MAYOR

Yes, that's it. So, did you get it to her?

The Assistant shifts nervously.

ASSISTANT

It was delivered.

The Mayor looks at the sharp edge of his fountain pen.

MAYOR

Did she open it?

ASSISTANT

No.

The Mayor looks up at him. The Assistant realizes he has erred.

ASSISTANT

I mean, she wasn't home sir.

The Mayor shrugs.

MAYOR

Just as well. Get back to work.

The Assistant turns to leave. The Mayor looks at the puzzle again.

MAYOR

What's a three letter word for disintegration.

FADE OUT:

ACT

FADE IN:

EXT. THE BRONZE - NIGHT

The door to the Bronze opens as a group of teenagers enter.

INT. THE BRONZE - CONTINUOUS

The Bronze is crowded with the usual gang of cool kids gathered in the low, intimate light. A band plays onstage – the music drumming out a slow, soulful beat.

At the bar sit BUFFY SUMMERS and WILLOW ROSENBERG, sipping sodas through straws. Buffy looks glum. The ever-helpful Willow tries to cheer her up.

WILLOW

I don't know Buff, birthdays aren't so bad. You grow older, wiser...

BUFFY

(playing with her straw)

More wrinkly and decrepit looking...

WILLOW

You get presents.

BUFFY

Which you don't like.

WILLOW

(brightly)

People sing to you.

BUFFY

Off key.

(beat)

Thanks Will, but this isn't really helping.

The slow song ends. XANDER HARRIS and FAITH join the gang at the bar.

XANDER

Hey Buffy, what's with the happy face? So much joy should be shared.

WILLOW

It's her birthday tomorrow.

XANDER

Wow. Cool. When's the cake and the spanking?

BUFFY

There isn't going to be any.

XANDER

Okay, no spanking, but what about cake.

BUFFY

No cake. I just want my birthday to slide by.

Xander circles his arm around Buffy and leans into her.

XANDER

Do I detect a whiff...

He sniffs at Buffy's hair.

XANDER

Yes, just a hint of eau de self pity. What gives?

Buffy shrugs off Xander's arm.

BUFFY

I just don't feel like celebrating.

FAITH

And why should you?

Xander pokes at Faith.

FAITH

What? Look, she's just getting older. Big fat deal.

Buffy deliberately looks at her watch.

BUFFY

Oh, would you look at the time. I promised mom I'd be home soon.

FAITH

Don't we have patrol?

BUFFY

Nope. I'm on tomorrow night. You're on tap tonight.

FAITH

You're going to miss all the fun.

BUFFY

I'm sure you'll save some for me.

Willow and Xander look concerned watching Buffy leave.

WILLOW

Buffy's not taking this birthday thing well.

XANDER

Not well Will? I've seen her handle demons better.

FAITH

Big surprise.

WILLOW

What's that supposed to mean?

FAITH

B's staring her future in the face. College, graduating, the whole thing. Who wouldn't get freaked?

Willow and Xander look at each other.

WILLOW

It's not that scary. Just a bit...frightening. In a nice way.

Faith looks at her as if she's grown a second head.

FAITH

Whatever.

CUT TO:

INT. BUFFY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

A pajamaed Buffy sits in bed, staring out the window. An alarm clock nearby says 11:59 p.m. A KNOCK is heard.

BUFFY

Come in.

Joyce enters, holding the blue package behind her back.

JOYCE

Hi.

BUFFY

Hi.

Joyce looks at the alarm clock, which now says 12:00 a.m.

JOYCE
Happy birthday.

BUFFY
Thanks.

Joyce brings the present out from behind her back and gives it to Buffy.

JOYCE
This came for you earlier. I thought it might cheer you up to open it.

Buffy takes the gift and looks at the card.

BUFFY
(reading)
From a secret admirer.
(grimacing)
Great.

Joyce sits beside Buffy.

JOYCE
Open it.

Buffy puts her ear to it and listens.

BUFFY
It's not ticking. That's a good sign.

She shakes it. A RUSTLING SOUND is heard.

BUFFY
Here goes.

Buffy gingerly unties the ribbon as if the box might explode any minute. She lifts the top off. Inside is a mass of tissue paper, which she lifts out and starts to unwrap.

BUFFY
So far, so good.

The gift is revealed as a dreamcatcher with light blue webbing, a green stone in the middle and an eagle's feather dangling from it.

BUFFY

Oh good. Just what I always wanted.
A webbed thingy.

Joyce reaches over and takes the dreamcatcher from Buffy.

JOYCE

It's beautiful.

BUFFY

For a piece of bark and some string.

JOYCE

It's a dreamcatcher. We used to sell them in the gallery.

She hangs the dreamcatcher from Buffy's bedpost.

JOYCE

They're supposed to keep bad dreams away and let the good ones through.

BUFFY

I could use that.

Joyce gets off the bed and Buffy slides under the covers. Joyce begins to leave the room.

JOYCE

Sweet dreams.

She turns off the light and closes the door. Buffy closes her eyes. The camera PANS to the dreamcatcher on the bedpost. The green stone in the center of it begins to glow.

FADE TO WHITE:

FADE IN:

INT. COURTYARD OF MANSION - NIGHT

ANGEL stands in the empty, crumbling courtyard holding a red rose with a rolled piece of paper attached to it.

Time is slower here, everything has a thick, dreamlike quality. Angel holds the rose out to Buffy.

She takes it and slowly unravels the paper. It is a drawing of Buffy sleeping. Startled, Buffy drops the paper, which drifts to the ground. Angel smiles.

ANGEL
Happy Birthday.

He opens his arms. A green gleam flashes through his eyes as Buffy steps into his embrace.

FADE TO WHITE:

FADE IN:

INT. LIBRARY - MORNING

A bleak RUPERT GILES sorts through the stack of books piled on his desk. He places each group of books into a cardboard box with "Property of Rupert Giles" written on the side. It is a task he does not relish.

A chipper Buffy bursts in. Giles looks up, surprised.

GILES
You're early.

BUFFY
Freshly squeezed and ready to go.

GILES
Oh. Well good.

He stops packing.

BUFFY
It's amazing what a good night's sleep does for a girl.

Buffy idly rifles through the books on the desk.

BUFFY
So, you ready?

GILES
Actually, um, there's something I have to tell you.

Buffy looks at the box on the floor, noticing what's written on it. She picks it up.

BUFFY
What's going on?

Giles takes the box from her and sets it down. He turns to face Buffy.

GILES
I don't know how to say this, but
I've...

Faith BURSTS into the room.

FAITH
Man, I heard you got canned.

She sees Buffy.

FAITH
Oh, hey B.
(to Giles)
So, what'd you do? File a book in
the wrong place?

GILES
Not quite.

Buffy turns to Giles.

BUFFY
What's she talking about?

FAITH
You don't know? Guess the cat's out
of the bag now.

GILES
(to Faith)
Don't you have somewhere to be?

Faith goes to the weapons chamber and picks up an arrow. She caresses it.

FAITH
We have weapons training. Remember?

GILES

(crossing to the
chamber)

Right.

He picks up a wooden staff and thrusts it into Faith's hands.

GILES

Here's a weapon. Go outside and
train.

Giles guides her to the door.

FAITH

Okay, okay. I can see where I'm not
wanted.

Faith exits, leaving Buffy and Giles to face the aftermath.

BUFFY

Is this true?

GILES

I'm afraid it is.

Giles picks up a book from his desk and places it into the box.

GILES

Snyder gave me my notice first thing
this morning. He seemed almost happy
about it.

BUFFY

That rat. He can't do this.

GILES

He didn't. The school board did.

Giles stops packing and sits on the edge of the desk.

GILES

(bravely)

Don't worry. It's not as if I'm
leaving town. I'm just moving on.

BUFFY

No. You're not going anywhere.

She heads for the door.

GILES

Buffy. Don't do anything rash.

Buffy turns at the door.

BUFFY

Don't worry.

She leaves. Giles sighs.

GILES

I wish she wouldn't say that.

CUT TO:

INT. PRINCIPAL SNYDER'S OFFICE - MOMENTS LATER

PRINCIPAL SNYDER sits at his desk, looking out his window at the students of Sunnydale High.

SNYDER

They're like rodents. All of them.

The BUZZING of an intercom is heard. Snyder's SECRETARY speaks.

SECRETARY (V.O.)

Principal Snyder.

SNYDER

Yes.

SECRETARY (V.O.)

There's a young lady here to see you.
A Miss...

Buffy THROWS the door open.

SECRETARY

Summers.

Snyder gets up and looks at the secretary, whom he can now see through the open door.

SNYDER

(to the secretary)

I can see that.

BUFFY

How could you.

Snyder closes the door, then goes back to his position behind the desk.

SNYDER

How could I what?

BUFFY

Fire Giles.

SNYDER

Oh that.

He picks up a letter opener on his desk and starts playing with it.

SNYDER

The school board voted for an updated library system and a new librarian. I could hardly oppose them, could I.

BUFFY

We don't need a new librarian.

Snyder leans back in his chair.

SNYDER

Really.

BUFFY

(babbling)

No. Giles does a fine job. Just ask him for any book he'll find it. He knows where all the history stuff is...and literature. He's great at literature...

SNYDER

I had no idea you even knew what a library was for Miss Summers.

BUFFY

Oh, I'm there all the time.

SNYDER

(nodding his head)

Uh huh.

(beat)

Well, I'm sure you'll find another place to go. Young hooligans like you always do.

He gets up from the desk and ushers her towards the door. She resists.

BUFFY

But, you can't do this.

Snyder pushes her out the door.

SNYDER

Tell it to the PTA.

He slams the door on her.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUNNYDALE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

Buffy sits alone on a bench, disheartened. Couples, laughing teens pour past her in slow motion. She searches through the crowd, looking for her friends. More teens pour out of the school. It's almost as if Buffy is drowning in people. Claustrophobic. A HAND clamps on her shoulder. Buffy grabs it and spins around.

CORDELIA

Ow. Quit the death grip will ya.

Buffy lets go of CORDELIA's hand and relaxes a bit.

BUFFY

Sorry.

Cordelia rubs her wrist.

CORDELIA

A bit touchy today.

BUFFY

Have you seen Will?

Cordelia sits next to Buffy.

CORDELIA

Little Miss Witch? No.

BUFFY

I can't seem to find anyone.

(beat)

It's weird.

CORDELIA

What isn't around here.

Cordelia takes a lipstick and mirror out of her purse and starts fixing her lips.

CORDELIA

I heard what happened to Giles. Poor man. He looked all broken up about it when I saw him.

BUFFY

Where?

CORDELIA

In the parking lot. He said to say he'd meet you tonight at the graveyard.

(beat)

Don't you think that's creepy?

Buffy looks at Cordelia as if she's from a distant planet.

BUFFY

News flash. Vampire slayer. Vampires. Remember. They rise from the ground...

CORDELIA

Right.

Buffy gets up and leaves. Cordelia continues to fix her lips.

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

The cemetery is filled with shadows as Buffy walks slowly among the graves. Alert, wary, she looks around, but doesn't see anything. She glances at her watch and then sits on a headstone. Something moves in the shadows. Buffy looks, but can't see what it is.

Suddenly, she whirls around, fists up, ready for a fight. And sees Willow.

WILLOW

Hey, it's only me. Put down your dukes.

Buffy relaxes. Willow, dressed in black, looks pale, almost unearthly.

BUFFY

You shouldn't sneak up on me like that.

WILLOW

Sorry.

BUFFY

Where were you today.

WILLOW

(secretive)

Around.

BUFFY

What's up with the mistress of the dark look?

Willow does a fashion turn.

WILLOW

Do you like it? It's part of a surprise.

BUFFY

It's...different.

(beat)

Have you seen Giles? He told Cordelia he'd meet me here.

WILLOW

Nope. Haven't seen him.

Willow moves so she's standing behind Buffy. She leans in towards her neck. Buffy turns to speak with her. Willow pulls back.

BUFFY

Are you okay?

WILLOW

Sure. Why wouldn't I be?

BUFFY

You just seem...different.

WILLOW

No. Not me. Good old dependable
Will. Same as ever.

Xander, also all in black and pale, strolls up.

XANDER

Hey there, hi there, ho there.

BUFFY

Hey Xander. Have you seen Giles?

XANDER

Not since this morning. He was
packing his books to get out of
Dodge.

Xander places a friendly arm around Willow.

BUFFY

I think this qualifies for the bad
birthday hall of fame.

XANDER

Yeah. It definitely sucks.

BUFFY

At least it can't get much worse.

WILLOW

Oh. I don't know about that.

Buffy looks at Will and Xander standing together.

WILLOW

You haven't gotten your surprise yet.

XANDER

Or your spanking.

Willow and Xander CHANGE into vampires.

WILLOW & XANDER

(in unison)

Happy Birthday.

FADE OUT:

ACT

FADE IN:

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

Willow and Xander, as vampires, each start to circle around Buffy like carnivores scenting prey.

BUFFY

This can't be happening.

XANDER

I get to stay young, skip school,
avoid working at the Burger Barn.
What's not to like about being dead?

Buffy turns towards him and backs away, into the headstone. The two vampires start converging on Buffy. She reaches in her pocket and pulls out a cross. They back away temporarily.

WILLOW

Not fair.

Buffy swings the cross from side to side, trying to clear a path for herself.

BUFFY

I don't want to hurt you.

Xander presses forward, placing his chest against the cross.

XANDER

Oh, but I like it when you hurt me.
Please do.

The cross starts to burn his skin. Buffy drops it.

XANDER

That was good for me. Was it good
for you?

He SPRINGS on Buffy, who throws him to ground. She stands. And is JUMPED by Willow. Buffy elbows Willow in the stomach, dropping her to the ground.

BUFFY
(praying)
Stay down. Please stay down.

Xander gets on his feet and advances towards her.

XANDER
Do that to me one more time.

He RUSHES at Buffy. She KICKS him in the chest, knocking him down. She places a foot on his chest.

BUFFY
Had enough?

Xander struggles to get up. Buffy pushes him down. Willow gets up in the background.

BUFFY
What happened to you?

Willow STRIKES out at Buffy, who ducks. This causes Willow to lose her balance. Buffy distracted, Xander PUSHES her off him. He SWINGS at Buffy and connects with her jaw. Buffy goes tumbling to the ground.

XANDER
Right where I've always wanted you.

BUFFY
(struggling)
Get off me Xander.

XANDER
Xander doesn't live here anymore.

He lowers his head to feed. A LIGHT sweeps over the scene, it is a car. Xander covers his eyes. Taking advantage of the interruption, Buffy pushes Xander off her. The lights flash by again. The voice of Giles can be heard....

GILES (O.C.)
Buffy. Buffy...

INT. BUFFY'S BEDROOM - MORNING

...Giles flashes a penlight past Buffy's eye, which he hold open with a thumb and forefinger. Buffy lies in bed, the dreamcatcher still on the corner. A very normal Willow stands beside Giles, a worried look on her face.

GILES

How long has she been like this?

He straightens and puts the penlight back into his breast pocket.

WILLOW

I don't know. She was okay last night. I came by to wish her a happy birthday...

Xander rushes into the room.

XANDER

Is she okay?

GILES

We don't know yet. She seems to be...asleep.

Xander goes to Buffy's bedside and looks at her. He leans down to listen to her chest.

XANDER

Is she breathing?
(to Giles)
She's breathing right?

Giles pulls him back.

GILES

She's breathing fine.

Willow notices the dreamcatcher. The center stone has a light glow to it.

WILLOW

Giles, what's that?

Giles glances at the object.

GILES

A dreamcatcher. Native American in origin. They're terrible popular these days.

Willow reaches out to touch it. A JOLT of light is emitted from the stone, zapping Willow. She pulls her hand back in pain.

WILLOW

Ow.

GILES

Willow, back away from it. Xander, you too.

A green glow FLASHES over the bed.

WILLOW

I don't think that's supposed to happen.

Giles tries to get close to the bed, but an invisible force field stops him in his tracks. He runs his hand along the unseen barrier.

GILES

Trying to touch that thing seems to have triggered some sort of force field.

Giles examines the dreamcatcher without touching it.

GILES

I've never seen anything quite like it.

WILLOW

Kind of like Snow White's crystal casket.

Xander comes forward.

XANDER

Isn't there a prince in that story?

GILES

Yes. He awakens her with a kiss.

Giles looks at Xander.

GILES

Somehow I don't think that's going to happen here.

XANDER

I don't see you coming up with any bright ideas.

GILES

I need to look at my books. Xander, you stay here. Willow can help me search the archives.

WILLOW

I want to stay here with Buffy.

GILES

Alright. Xander are you coming.

XANDER

Yes master.

Giles and Xander leave. Willow takes a chair and sits as close as she can to Buffy's bed. Buffy lies still and pale.

WILLOW

You have to wake up.

Buffy tosses in bed...

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

...In the dreamworld, Buffy runs towards a car. A vampire Willow pursues her. Buffy reaches the car and pulls the passenger door open. Giles is inside.

GILES

Come on...

SLAM! Willow pushes the door shut, entrapping Buffy with her arms. Buffy turns to face her.

WILLOW

You can't run away. I was just starting to have some fun.

Buffy PUNCHES her in the stomach, sending her reeling to the ground.

BUFFY

I wasn't.

Buffy opens the car door and gets in...

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

...Shutting the door right as Willow is reaches it again. Willow presses her face up to the door.

WILLOW

Leaving the party so soon?

BUFFY

Giles, step on it.

Willow SMASHES the car window, sending glass flying everywhere. Giles hits the gas, sending the car flying forward. Willow holds onto the side of the car door. Buffy pries her fingers loose one by one until Willow tumbles backwards.

GILES

That was close.

Xander steps in front of the car.

BUFFY

Look out.

Giles keeps the car moving forward.

BUFFY

You have to stop.

Giles presses the gas pedal harder..

GILES

Buffy, he's not human.

BUFFY

But it's Xander.

Xander doesn't move out of the way as the car comes closer and closer.

GILES

Not anymore.

The car HITS Xander, who is thrown up and over the hood.

BUFFY
(screaming)
Nooooooo.

Buffy looks back. Through the rear view mirror, she sees Xander start to stand again. Willow helps him up. They stand together, watching the car leave.

GILES (O.C.)
There's nothing you can do.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

In the real world, Xander and Giles sit at a table, searching through a pile of books. Giles is reading from a heavy, leather-bound volume, a finger tracing the path his eyes are taking. Xander SLAMS a book shut in frustration and stands.

XANDER
There's got to be something we can do.

He starts pacing.

GILES
Pacing is not going to help. It will just wear out a tread in the carpet. Now sit down and keep reading.

Xander sits at the table and grabs another book from the stack.

XANDER
Reading is not my best subject.

GILES
Obviously.

INT. BUFFY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Willow sits at Buffy's bedside, looking concerned. In the bed, Buffy tosses and turns.

WILLOW
Hang in there Buffy.

Buffy throws her arm to the side, as if to ward something off.

BUFFY
(mumbling)

No.....

Willow looks around the room and notices a photo of her, Buffy and Xander on the dresser. She picks it up and looks at it. Then, she looks at the reflected image of Buffy helpless. She faces Buffy.

WILLOW

I remember when this was taken. We played miniature golf. Your mom took us to that course with the little old lady in a shoe. Xander hit the lady on the head. Good thing she was plaster.

(laughs)

Although I'm not sure the golf course manager was happy to have a headless shoe lady.

(beat)

You know, before you came to school, I didn't believe in vampires or werewolves or things that go bump in the night.

(beat)

You have to wake up.

Willow sits back in the chair.

WILLOW

Who else is going to laugh when I tell a stupid joke. Who else can I count on to save the world at least twice a week.

EXT. EDGE OF TOWN - NIGHT

In the dream world, Giles' car pull up and parks under a tree.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

All is quiet. Buffy stares blankly out the side window. Giles shuts off the ignition. He takes a moment and then turns to the Slayer.

GILES

Buffy, I...

A tear trails down Buffy's face.

BUFFY

They were fine.

She turns to Giles.

BUFFY

They were fine. They were laughing
and happy, trying to cheer me up.
Will said...

She breaks down. Giles awkwardly pats her shoulder.
Her searches in his pocket and finds a handkerchief,
which he hands to her. She blots her eye, stops crying
and straightens her shoulders.

BUFFY

They were the best friends I ever
had.

GILES

They felt the same about you.
(beat)
And look where it got them.

Buffy turns and looks at him.

BUFFY

(slowly)

What did you say?

GILES

You heard me. You've betrayed them.
You've lied to them and me. You've
put all our lives in jeopardy. And
now you're whining because there are
consequences.

(beat)

How many times have you gone in
search of a little teenage fun
instead of practicing? How many
times?

Buffy shakes her head numbly.

GILES

You've been a spoiled, selfish,
immature brat.

BUFFY
That's not fair.

GILES
Life seldom is.

Giles takes his handkerchief back and slowly folds it.

GILES
At any rate, I won't have to deal
with you much longer.

BUFFY
You can't just leave.

GILES
I can't? I never chose this life, it
was chosen for me. Maybe it's time I
stop.

He places the folded cloth in his pocket. Buffy just
stares at him.

GILES
We have work to do.

Giles reaches to start the car. A loud thump is heard.
The car roof indents.

GILES
Sounds like company.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

In the real world, Giles and Xander sit at a table,
intently reading. Faith enters annoyed.

FAITH
(to Xander)
I thought we were meeting at the
Bronze for B's party. But no one
showed. What gives?

XANDER
Buffy's in trouble.

FAITH
Oh good, a fight. Let me at em.

GILES

Settle down. It's not that kind of fight.

Xander goes and looks over Giles' shoulder.

XANDER
You found it?

GILES
I think so.

He continues reading, moving his lips as he reads. Xander watches for a moment.

XANDER
A little louder for the hard of lip-reading.

GILES
What? Oh. Sorry.

Giles reads aloud from the book.

GILES
The Circle of Iktomi. It's American in origin.

The book is illustrated with a picture of the dreamcatcher.

GILES
The circle was created by a Lakota medicine man as a birthday gift for an enemy chieftain about to embark on a spiritual journey.

Giles turns the page. An illustration of a Native American sleeping with the web hanging over him is shown.

FAITH
It looks harmless enough.

GILES
It's not. This is quite bad.

XANDER
Define bad. "Oh you're so bad, you're good" bad or "Hey, you're

about to become lunch for a
bloodsucker" bad.

GILES

I think it's the latter.

Giles closes the book.

GILES

According to this, the bearer of the
circle must face what they fear most,
or stay in sleep forever.

FAITH

Hell, B can handle that. She's the
Slayer. Most things fear her.
Besides, she's killed vamps, demons,
and her boy toy, what's left?

GILES

In dreams, everything.

FADE OUT:

ACT

FADE IN:

INT. BUFFY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Buffy tosses and turns in her bed.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

The car is rocking back and forth. Giles tries to start
the engine. A hand rips through the roof and grabs his
hair. Giles fends the hand off.

GILES

Oh bloody hell.

Buffy presses the cross around her neck into the hand.
It SIZZLES as it burns the skin, a puff of smoke
forming. The hand is pulled back with a SCREAM of
agony. Suddenly, everything goes quiet.

BUFFY

Giles, start the car.

Giles turns the ignition, but the car won't start.

GILES
(under his breath)
Oh bloody hell.

BUFFY
Start the car.

The engine turns over, but won't start. Xander JUMPS on the hood of the car, his vampire face visible through the front windshield. He shakes his head at Buffy.

XANDER
Buffy, Buffy, Buffy. You didn't think we'd give up, did you?

The car starts.

BUFFY
You never do.

Xander THRUSTS his hand through the windshield, which SHATTERS. He grabs at Buffy, grasping her shirt. Giles puts the car in reverse. Xander hangs on, tightening his grasp on Buffy, CHOKING her.

INT. BUFFY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Buffy starts to gasp for air. Willow stands by her bedside.

WILLOW
Oh God.

Xander, Giles and Faith enter. Willow turns to them, panicky.

WILLOW
What do we do? We have to do something.

Faith walks to Buffy's bed, intending to help her, but hits the force field instead.

FAITH
You didn't tell me about this thing.

She tries to break it down by butting it with her shoulder. On the bed, Buffy continues to choke.

FAITH

Man, this thing is hard.

GILES

Faith, stop.

WILLOW

We have to do something.

Faith stops banging against the invisible shield.

FAITH

This thing's not coming down.

Giles puts his arm around Willow.

GILES

Right now, I suggest we fall back on what often works best in a situation like this.

(beat)

We pray.

EXT. STREETS OF SUNNYDALE - NIGHT

Giles SWERVES his car back and forth down the empty street, trying to shake Xander, who is holding on.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Buffy grabs at Xander's hands. Giles reaches behind his seat and produces a wooden stake, which he tries to hand to Buffy while driving.

GILES

Buffy, take the stake.

Buffy scrabbles at Xander's hands.

BUFFY

(choking)

No.

GILES

Buffy, take it.

Buffy PUNCHES Xander's head.

XANDER

Come on, you can do better than that.

GILES

That's it.

Giles BRAKES hard. Xander flies forward, letting go of Buffy, who gasps for air. Giles gets out of the car...

EXT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

...With the stake in hand. He walks to Xander lying on the ground.

GILES

I have had quite enough of you..

He raises the stake to kill Xander. A CAR HORN beeps.. Distracted, Giles turns to see Buffy leaning on the steering wheel. He turns back to stake the prone Xander. But Xander has vanished. Giles goes back to the car and gets in.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

GILES

That was bloody stupid.

Buffy looks sullenly at him.

INT. BUFFY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Buffy starts breathing normally. A ring of bruises appear around her neck.

WILLOW

She's stopped.

Willow gets as close to the bed as she can and looks at Buffy.

WILLOW

I think she's okay.

INT. CAR - CONTINUOUS

Giles starts the car.

BUFFY

I'm fine. Really.

She touches her neck, which is ringed with bruises.

BUFFY

I'll be wearing scarves for a while,
but scarves are in right now.

GILES

Glad to know you can still make a
fashion statement.

BUFFY

Giles, what's going on?

INT. BUFFY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Faith looks at the prone Buffy, noting the bruises.

FAITH

Ouch, that's got to hurt.

(gesturing at the
dreamcatcher)

Do we know who sent that thing?

GILES

No.

FAITH

So, what are we going to do about it?

GILES

There doesn't seem to be much we can
do.

FAITH

So that's just it?

She whirls angrily, accusingly on the group.

FAITH

We just let her stay like this? I
never thought you were a bunch of
quitters.

WILLOW

We're not.

FAITH

Could'a fooled me.

GILES

This is a fight Buffy must fight on
her own.

FAITH

Since when.

GILES

There's no other known cure. Buffy must fight her own demons.

FAITH

Yeah? Well B's demons are my demons.

XANDER

(quietly)

No. They're not.

CUT TO:

INT. GILES' HOUSE - NIGHT

Giles rummages through a set of boxes, looking for weapons. Buffy picks up a stake.

BUFFY

Do you know who did this?

Giles finds a book on demonology. He glances through it, then puts it aside.

GILES

A vampire would be my guess.

BUFFY

Guess? Giles, you don't guess.

Giles finds a skull. He examines it.

BUFFY

You look it up. You search through the archives.

Giles puts the skull down.

BUFFY

I've even known you to use a computer...

GILES

Dreadful things.

BUFFY

...But you don't guess.

Giles finds a crossbow. He loads it and sights it. As he talks, he swings the weapon towards Buffy.

GILES

(eerily calm)

I've lost my job. My career is on the line. And I have no time to cross-reference.

He points the weapon at Buffy for a moment and then drops it.

GILES

A guess is the best you'll get.

Giles hands the weapon to Buffy. She puts it down.

BUFFY

Okay. So what's your guess as to where we can find this nameless vamp?

Giles hands Buffy a stake, which she places in her back pocket.

GILES

The old warehouse.

BUFFY

I thought that place was torn down.

Giles puts a stake in his back pocket.

GILES

Not yet. Anything else you want to know?

Buffy hoists the crossbow and looks at it.

BUFFY

No. It's a vampire. I'm the Slayer. Should be simple.

GILES

Yes.

Turned away from Buffy, he smiles.

GILES

It should be.

INT. BUFFY'S BEDROOM - DUSK

Faith paces back and forth. Willow looks out the window of Buffy's room at the setting sun. Giles stands near Buffy's bed, muttering under his breath. Xander sits in the chair earlier occupied by Willow. Buffy lies still on the bed. Suddenly, Faith stops pacing.

FAITH

I can't do this.

She grabs her jacket and heads to the door.

FAITH

I've got to go...HIT something. I can't just wait around.

GILES

That might not be a bad idea. It's getting dark.

FAITH

Great. Then there'll be plenty of targets.

Faith leaves.

WILLOW

Buffy's mom should be home soon.

GILES

Oh God. Joyce. What am I going to tell her.

No one has an answer. On the bed, Buffy moans and turns over. Xander looks up.

XANDER

She looks better.

GILES

Yes, she does.

Willow looks at Buffy and suddenly, her face lights up.

WILLOW

Ah hah!

GILES

What.

WILLOW
She's dreaming right?

GILES
(puzzled)
Yes, but what...

WILLOW
Isn't there a way to get into her
dreams? A ceremony or dream walk or
something..

GILES
...Or something. Yes, I think so. If
she knows she's dreaming, it will be
much easier for her to defeat
whatever it is she faces. Don't know
why I didn't think of it earlier.

Xander stands impatiently at the door.

XANDER
What are we waiting for?

GILES
Oh, yes, right.

Buffy moans again and throws her arm out.

WILLOW
I think you'd better hurry.

EXT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

A rat scurries across the entrance to the warehouse as a well-heeled foot lands next to it. The camera pans up to show Buffy in full battle mode, crossbow in hand. Behind her is Giles.

Buffy looks around and then slowly opens the door to the warehouse. She steps inside.

INT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

It is empty, a vast space with nothing in it except a lone chair with a folded piece of paper on it. Buffy walks to the chair, cautious, suspecting a trap. Behind her, Giles enters the building.

Buffy picks up the folded paper and opens it. The warehouse door SLAMS! Buffy jumps.

GILES

Sorry.

BUFFY

Try not to do that.

GILES

I won't.

Buffy opens the piece of paper. It is blank.

BUFFY

What's going on here?

INT. BUFFY'S BEDROOM - EVENING

Joyce stands inside the door of Buffy's room.

JOYCE

I said, what's going on here?

She walks to Buffy's bed and is stopped by the invisible shield.

JOYCE

Buffy...Buffy...

Willow gently steers her towards the chair.

WILLOW

Mrs. Summers...

JOYCE

No. I am not going to sit. I am not going to budge until someone tells me what the hell is happening with my daughter.

WILLOW

Buffy's under a spell.

JOYCE

Well get her out from under it.

WILLOW

We can't.

JOYCE

What kind of a spell?

WILLOW

You're not going to like this.

Joyce slowly sinks down onto the chair.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Buffy holds out the blank piece of paper to Giles.

BUFFY

Something is very wrong here.

Giles takes the paper. He looks at it. And hands it back to Buffy.

GILES

I don't see anything wrong.

Buffy looks at the paper again. Now it has a drawing on it, the same drawing of herself sleeping as her dream. Buffy drops the paper. It floats to the floor.

BUFFY

This is not funny.

Giles circles Buffy.

GILES

Oh, I think it's hysterical.

Buffy points the crossbow at Giles.

BUFFY

Okay. I don't know what's going on here or who you are, but you are not Giles.

GILES

Don't be ridiculous. Of course I am.

Buffy continues to point the crossbow at him.

BUFFY

You talk like him. You act like him, but you're not him.

Giles puts his hand on the end of the crossbow and pushes it down.

GILES
If I'm not him, then who am I.

BUFFY
I don't know.

GILES
Don't you.

He executes a little spin. As he does so, his face changes from Giles to a vampire Xander, to Angel.

ANGEL
Oh Buffy, you don't know how much I've missed you.

ACT

INT. BUFFY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Giles and Xander enter the room carrying supplies.

XANDER
...know if this is going to work?

GILES
We don't.

Giles stops short when he sees Joyce.

GILES
Oh. Hello Joyce.

JOYCE
Why didn't you call me?

Giles gives the supplies to Willow.

GILES
I'm sorry. I should have. I just thought...I didn't want to worry you.

JOYCE
Next time, don't do me any favors.

Willow starts unpacking the supplies.

WILLOW

Giles, what do we need to do with these?

Giles starts out of his moment with Joyce.

GILES

Yes. We need to place the candles in a circle and light them,

Willow begins to put the unlit candles on the floor.

GILES

Take the mandrake root and place it in the center in a bowl with some sage and a piece of Buffy's hair. We need to build a link with Buffy's dreams.

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Buffy, crossbow in hand, backs away from Angel.

BUFFY

You're not real.

Angel walks forward with every step Buffy takes.

ANGEL

I'm not?

He suddenly grabs the crossbow away from Buffy, breaks it over his knee and throws it aside.

ANGEL

That seemed real to me. What's the matter, didn't you miss me?

Buffy stumbles as the back of her knee hits the chair. She grabs onto the top of it.

BUFFY

You can't be real.

ANGEL

That's where you're wrong. Did you think that killing me would stop me?

Angel LUNGES at Buffy. Buffy SWINGS the chair, hitting him over the head. It breaks, sending wood pieces

everywhere. Angel staggers back. Buffy grabs a piece and starts to run. Angel follows her.

ANGEL

It's not that easy. Do you know what hell is? You'll find out.

Buffy gets as far as the door before Angel's hand lands on her shoulder.

CUT TO:

INT. BUFFY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Candlelight gives a gentle glow to the room. Inside the candle circle, Giles and Willow sit on opposite sides of a bowl. Giles opens a packet and pours the powdered contents in.

GILES

Earth to ground the dreamers flight.

Willow takes the root she is holding and breaks it in two, placing half into the bowl.

WILLOW

Root to bring her towards the light.

Outside the circle, Joyce and Xander both look nervous.

JOYCE

(whispering to
Xander)

Shouldn't we be holding hands or something?

Xander reaches down and places his hand over hers. She smiles, grateful.

Giles pulls a piece of Buffy's hair from a comb.

GILES

Link spirit to spirit when spirit is near.

He places her hair in the bowl. Willow pours a touch of oil from a vial.

WILLOW

Bringing back spirit safe from harm.

Xander leans close to Joyce.

XANDER
(whispering)
Shouldn't that have rhymed?

Joyce shrugs. A wisp of smoke rises from the bowl.

JOYCE
(whispering)
It looks like it's working.

CUT TO:

INT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Buffy KICKS Angel, hitting him in the stomach. It barely moves him. He PULLS Buffy away from the door and sends her reeling to the floor.

ANGEL
You'll have to do much better than that. What's the matter, too tired to talk?

Buffy gets up, holding the wood piece in her hand like a knife.

BUFFY
No. But you seem to be all talk and no fight.

ANGEL
That's what I love about you Buff, you're always so eager.

Angel circles around Buffy, who tracks him.

ANGEL
Always so ready and willing.

BUFFY
Can't get it up, huh.

Angel throws a punch at Buffy's jaw. She ducks and sweeps out with her leg, making him lose his balance and fall. Buffy PLUNGES the stake downwards, but Angel rolls away and pops back onto his feet. Through a curtain of hair, Buffy looks at him.

ANGEL
So close and yet so far.

CUT TO:

INT. BUFFY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Sounds of COUGHING can be heard. The room is cloudy white with smoke. Joyce opens a window and tries to shoo the smoke out with her arms. Xander waves his arms about.

JOYCE
(coughing)
I don't think this is supposed to happen.

Giles brings the smoking bowl to the window and dumps it out.

GILES
Too much mandrake root.

Willow comes to the window and takes a big gulp of air. The smoke is starting to clear.

WILLOW
Do you think if we used more earth?

GILES
No. I don't know why it didn't work.

XANDER
I think it was supposed to rhyme.

On the bed, Buffy starts to cough, pulling everyone's attention back to her.

JOYCE
I don't care what went wrong, make it work.

GILES
I don't know if we can.

CUT TO:

INT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Determined to defeat Angel, Buffy stands.

BUFFY
I killed you once, I'll do it again.

ANGEL
(taunting)
You and who else?

Angel slowly walks towards Buffy, who watches warily.

ANGEL
Not your little friends or your
Watcher. You know what happened to
them?

BUFFY
Enlighten me.

ANGEL
(licking his lips
exaggeratedly)
Lunch. And dinner. And Giles.
Well, poor Giles. He'll never quite
be the same again.

BUFFY
What have you done with him?

ANGEL
What haven't I done.

Buffy strikes out at him, but he deflects the blow,
punching her in the gut. Buffy doubles over. Angel
sends her to the ground.

He moves in for a kill, but Buffy kicks out with her
leg, catching him squarely in the chest and sending him
down. Buffy and Angel both struggle to stand up.

ANGEL
You never learn. Never. You won't
defeat me you know. Poor Buffy.

Both parties are taking a breather.

ANGEL
All alone in the world. Everyone's
dead now.

BUFFY
You're lying.

ANGEL

No. I really did it this time. Just like Miss Calendar. And you couldn't save any of them.

Angel advances on Buffy, who shakily stands her ground.

ANGEL

Not Willow or that pathetic Xander or even Giles. All of them dead because of you.

He is right in her face. Buffy looks teary, but determined, with one hand behind her.

ANGEL

No one left for you now is there. You might as well just join them.

Buffy THRUSTS the wood piece she was hiding into Angel.

BUFFY

You first.

Angel stumbles back, but doesn't die. Instead his face turns vampirish.

ANGEL

I like it when you do that.

He pulls the stake out of his heart. Buffy is stunned.

ANGEL

Gives new meaning to heartless, doesn't it.

Angel advances on Buffy, who turns and runs. He follows her

CUT TO:

INT. BUFFY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The lights are low, the candles lit, the ceremony has begun again. Giles places hair in the bowl

GILES

...spirit to spirit when spirit is near.

Willow pours oil from the vial.

WILLOW

And show the dreamer that is here.

Smoke rises from the bowl and forms a portal. Inside the magical space, Buffy can be seen running from Angel.

GILES

Good Lord.

CUT TO:

INT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Angel traps Buffy in a corner.

ANGEL

You don't know how long I've been waiting for this.

He reaches out towards her. She flinches away.

ANGEL

I love the fear. It really works for you.

INT. BUFFY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Willow, Xander, Joyce and Giles are gathered around the portal. Willow makes waving motions with her hands. Through the portal, we can see that Buffy is unaware of their presence.

WILLOW

Buffy. Buff...

(to Giles)

It's not working. I don't think she can see us.

Joyce goes up to the portal and places her hand flat against it.

JOYCE

Come on sweetheart. Come on.

INT. WAREHOUSE - CONTINUOUS

Angel runs his hand along Buffy's face, halting at her neck.

ANGEL

I am going to miss you...

(beat)

But not much.

He starts to lower his head to feed. He pauses, sensing something.

ANGEL

What. A pithy comeback maybe. Oh, I know. This is where you tell me how I'm going to die.

She just keeps staring at him. It's unnerving.

ANGEL

What?

BUFFY

It's you.

ANGEL

Wow. You are sharp.

BUFFY

I kept thinking something's wrong with all of this. It's you.

ANGEL

Brilliant powers of deduction. I've got to hand it to you Buff, ya got me.

BUFFY

The dream, the pictures, Willow, Xander, even Giles. You.

ANGEL

Okay, now this is getting boring. I'm hungry. Let's eat and talk later.

He starts to lower his head. Buffy puts her hand on his chest and brings her knee up, hitting him in the groin. He doubles over.

BUFFY

I don't think so.

ANGEL

(in pain)
Ow, that really hurt.

Buffy starts towards him. He scrambles up and away.

BUFFY
You see it took me a while. You were good. Really convincing. Almost had me.

She continues advancing, confident. He slowly takes a step back.

BUFFY
Then I knew.

She looks down at her hands.

BUFFY
You see...

A stake appears in them. Angel eyes it fearfully. He takes another step back.

BUFFY
Like you, I've been known to wake up on the wrong side of the bed.

ANGEL
Can't we just talk about this?

Buffy stakes him.

BUFFY
Go to hell.

He turns into dust.

FADE TO WHITE:

FADE IN:

INT. BUFFY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

The gang is still standing next to the portal, which has turned pure white.

JOYCE
I can't see anything.

WILLOW

It looked like he went poof.

Buffy wakes up. Everyone's back is turned towards her. The force field is gone. The crystal in the dreamcatcher ceases to glow.

BUFFY

Guys?

They turn around. Giles and her mother go to her.

JOYCE

Hi honey.

BUFFY

Hi.

She sits up in the bed, pulling her covers around her.

GILES

Buffy, are you all right?

BUFFY

I'm fine.

(beat)

What are you doing in my bedroom?

Willow and Xander join the group around the bed.

XANDER

Cute pajamas Buff.

The pajamas have a pattern of bunny rabbits.

WILLOW

That's nothing. You should see the ones...

Buffy shoots her a look.

WILLOW

...keeping my lips sealed.

She runs a finger across her lips, simulating a zipper.

WILLOW

Ziiiiiiip...they're zipped.

GILES

You were unconscious for quite a while.

Buffy looks at the clock. It says 12:01 a.m.

BUFFY
It's Saturday?

JOYCE
Yes. I'm sorry honey.

BUFFY
Yeah.

GILES
Um, Buffy...Do you any idea who sent this?

BUFFY
No. But I'd sure like to get my hands on them.

GILES
Ok.
(to Willow and Xander)
We should let Buffy get her rest.

Giles gathers Willow and Xander to leave.

WILLOW
We still on for the Bronze later?

BUFFY
Yeah. I'll be there.

WILLOW
Okay.

XANDER
Bye Buff.

Buffy holds up her hand as the gang goes, leaving her and Joyce together.

JOYCE
Is there anything I can do for you?

BUFFY
No. I'm okay.

JOYCE

You sure?

Buffy nods.

JOYCE

Okay.

(She heads for the door, then stops.)

Buffy, I just want you to know I'm proud of you. I know it hasn't been easy these past few months and I...

Buffy interrupts.

BUFFY

Mom. Thanks. I appreciate it. But I would really just like to be alone right now.

JOYCE

Okay. I'll see you in the morning.

BUFFY

Thanks.

Joyce closes the door softly. Buffy stares out the window and holds a pillow close.

CUT TO:

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - MORNING

Mayor Wilkins sits behind his desk calmly looking through papers. A KNOCK is heard.

MAYOR

Come in.

The Assistant pokes his head in.

MAYOR

I said come in.

The Assistant comes all the way in, looking extremely uncomfortable. He leaves the door open.

MAYOR

Do you have something you want to say to me?

ASSISTANT

I'm sorry.

The Mayor looks at him, then gets up from behind the desk.

MAYOR

You're sorry.

The Assistant stands his ground as the Mayor comes to stand directly in front of him.

ASSISTANT

Yes sir. I'm sorry.

The Mayor looks at him for one extremely uncomfortable moment.

MAYOR

Very well. I accept your apology.
It couldn't be helped. She is a
formidable opponent.

When the Mayor turns to go back behind his desk, the Assistant shows his relief.

ASSISTANT

Thank you sir.

MAYOR

Don't thank me yet.
(he sits behind his
desk)
If I don't get the results I want,
next time you're fired.

ASSISTANT

Yes sir.

The Mayor looks at him for a long moment.

MAYOR

That will be all.

The Assistant hurries to the door to go.

MAYOR

That will be all.

The Mayor picks up the phone and dials.

MAYOR

I need you to do a job. Personally.
Make sure he doesn't suffer too much.
I did like him.

CUT TO:

INT. THE BRONZE - NIGHT

The Bronze is packed with teenagers grooving to the sounds of the band. At a table, Buffy sits with Willow and Xander, listening to the beat.

WILLOW

So Xander and I were ... ewwww.

BUFFY

Yeah well, no one was really who they were...or are.

(she shrugs)

Anyways. I'm glad it's not really real.

XANDER

Yeah me too. Although, it sounded like you and me...

BUFFY

You can stop that thought right there.

XANDER

Okay.

Faith comes over to the group. Her hands are behind her back.

FAITH

Mind if I join you?

BUFFY

No. The more the merrier.

She pulls out a box.

FAITH

I wanted to give you this. I saw it and just...Happy Birthday.

Buffy accepts the gift.

BUFFY

Thanks.

FAITH

No problem.

Buffy opens the present. It's a sleep mask.

FAITH

I thought of getting you a copy of
"Sex and the Single Slayer" but this
looked better.

BUFFY

(puzzled)

Thanks.

FAITH

Yeah.

Willow nudges Xander.

WILLOW

Give it to her.

XANDER

Stop hitting me.

WILLOW

Xander and I got you something too.
Nothing big. Just...here.

Willow hands Buffy a small box. She opens it. Inside
is a small gold cross. She takes it out.

BUFFY

It's beautiful.

She puts it around her neck.

XANDER

You can't ever have too many. Willow
picked it out.

WILLOW

Xander helped.

Buffy looks at both of them.

BUFFY

Thanks.

WILLOW

You're welcome.

(to Xander)

See, I told you she'd like it.

BUFFY

You know what I like best?

Willow shakes her head.

BUFFY

Being here with all of you...That and
chocolate cake. You got any?

XANDER

As a matter of fact, I do.

He roots around in his backpack. And comes up with a
package of HoHos.

XANDER

Here we are.

Willow, Buffy and Faith look at him funny.

XANDER

It's chocolate, it's cake...it
qualifies. What?

CUT TO BLACK