

Buffy The Vampire Slayer

Season 8

Episode 5

"The Trouble With Hah'Ree"

TEASER

FADE IN:

EXT. PETERSON FRONT YARD - NIGHT

We don't know the house, or the MAN that is walking across the yard. He stops to pick up some toys that have been scattered around the yard.

MAN

Kids. How many times do I have to tell them to put their toys away?

DEMON POV

We're now seeing the man from a distance, from behind a bush. We can hear HEAVY BREATHING from the demon.

The man puts the toys near the front steps and starts to head toward the door.

The demon moves a little closer. It must step on a twig, because we can hear a SNAPPING sound. The demon pauses for a moment.

The man stops and turns around. He scans his front yard.

MAN (CONT'D)

Hello?

Just as the man turns around to go into his house, the demon rushes toward him. It's no longer trying to hide the fact that it's there.

The man turns around again, and sees the demon coming toward him. He yells, and tries to run into the house, but he isn't fast enough.

We see the demon run him down.

ANGLE ON : THE FRONT DOOR

A splatter of blood shoots across the door, as we hear STRUGGLING in the background.

Finally, the struggle stops. For a moment, there is no sound at all.

Then, the man's corpse crashes through the front door, with such force that the door is knocked off it's hinges.

We can hear a WOMAN'S VOICE inside of the house. She's startled by what she sees. Then she's just scared as hell.

WOMAN (O.S.)

Mike? Oh, God! Mike! Kyle, call the police!

For the first time, we see the demon, HAH'REE. It's an ugly sucker too. He has the skin of a snake, but has a line of hair that runs from his head (mohawk style), down his back, and finally ends up as a tail.

Hah'Ree walks up the front porch, and into the house. He walks past the man's corpse on the ground, and heads off to the side, toward the woman.

We hear a SCREAM. Some GLASS BREAKING. And then, silence.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

The same night as the end of the last episode. The same scene playing out. The DOORBELL RINGS.

BUFFY (O.S.)

I'll get it.

Moments later, BUFFY walks into the foyer from the dining room.

She walks to the front door. She opens it. When she sees who is on the other side, her face drops.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Oh my god.

REVEAL HANK SUMMERS standing on the other side of the door. A nervous smile on his face.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Dad.

They just look at each other for a moment. Finally, he speaks.

HANK

Hi.

Buffy looks back toward the dining room and then decides to take this outside where she won't be heard. She pushes Hank out of the doorway, and walks out of the house, closing the door behind her.

EXT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

She's not happy to see him.

BUFFY

What are you doing here?

HANK

I know I should have called.

BUFFY

I'd have also accepted you not coming.

HANK

You're mad.

BUFFY

Congratulations. You figured it out through all my subtlety. Now, please leave.

HANK

I want to see you and Dawn. I want to talk to you.

BUFFY

We don't want to talk to you.

HANK

I'm your father. I have a right to see my daughters.

Buffy chuckles.

BUFFY

Our father? Is what what you think you are? We haven't even heard... You know what? I'm not getting into this. Just leave.

HANK

Buf--

BUFFY

I said, leave.

Buffy walks back into the house, closing the door in Hank's face.

He stands there for a moment, trying to figure out what to do next. This didn't go as he'd hoped it would.

Finally, he turns around and walks away.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT

Buffy is leaning against the door, trying to deal with what just happened. She closes her eyes and takes a deep breath.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

WILLOW and XANDER are still sitting, talking. They're smiling.

XANDER

I was thinking I'd carve mine into a horribly disfigured priest, but then
(MORE)

XANDER (CONT'D)

I decided that there probably weren't a lot of people around here who'd get that. In the end, I decided against insulting a large chunk of the population.

WILLOW

Probably a good idea.

Buffy walks back into the room. Willow and Xander look up at her, still smiling.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Who was at the door.

Buffy doesn't want to tell them. She just want to forget it ever happened. She thinks for a second, then replies.

BUFFY

Oh, that was... Wrong number.

She sits back down. Willow and Xander know something's not right, but they decide not to push. Willow tries to get past it.

WILLOW

So, Buffy, we were just talking about our jack-o-lanterns for the front porch. Whatcha gonna carve yours like.

Buffy's mind is on other things. She looks up at Willow, still a little distant.

BUFFY

I'll think of something.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. MOVIE STORE - NIGHT

DAWN and RYAN are closing up the store. Dawn is just finishing vacuuming. She turns it off and starts to wrap up the cord.

Ryan is just finishing counting the money in the register.

RYAN

I swear, the store must do all of it's business during the day. I hardly see anyone come in here all night, and there's still a pretty nice amount of cash in the register.

DAWN

It's a conspiracy.

RYAN

With a sister like mine, I've learned not to joke about those things. She'd probably think it was "big" video, out to make a quick buck by seeding the store.

DAWN

I'm not sure that makes sense.

RYAN

I never claimed to be logical.

Ryan writes down his numbers and heads into the back room. Dawn straightens some movie covers along the wall. A moment later, Ryan comes back out.

RYAN (CONT'D)

So, you going to the Halloween bash at the Bait-N-Breakfast?

DAWN

I was thinking about it. My friend, Willow, managed to rope me into pairing up with her as far as costumes go.

RYAN

What are you going as?

DAWN

Well, she's planning on going--

Before Dawn can finish her sentence, POLICE CARS SCREAM PAST the store. Dawn and Ryan both go to the window to see if they can tell what's going on.

DAWN (CONT'D)

What was that?

RYAN

Police.

DAWN

Yeah, I mean, what are they doing?

RYAN

Don't know.

(then)

Wanna find out?

Dawn thinks about it for a second.

DAWN

Yeah.

Ryan races to the back room. He comes back a second later with Dawn's jacket and his keys.

RYAN

Let's go.

They rush out of the store.

EXT. MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

Ryan stops to lock up. Dawn looks down the street to see where the police cars sped off to.

ANGLE ON : A MYSTERIOUS MAN

The same MAN from the last episode. Watching Dawn from the shadows. Still wearing his long coat.

He watches as Dawn and Ryan run off in the direction of the police cars.

EXT. PETERSON FRONT YARD - NIGHT

The front yard from the teaser. POLICE are swarming all around, as are ONLOOKERS.

PARAMEDICS carry out a sheet-covered body, and put it into an ambulance.

Dawn and Ryan rush up to the scene. They're shocked at seeing the body being taken away.

RYAN

Man.

DAWN

Do you know them?

RYAN

The Petersons. I don't know them too well, but they come into the store once in a while.

Ryan notices the front door situation. There are more broken windows by now too.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Looks like a tornado hit here.

Dawn looks around. She notices something on the ground.

DAWN'S POV

A demon footprint on the ground.

Dawn takes in the sight.

DAWN

Something sure did.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Willow and Xander have gone to bed. Buffy is sitting alone now.

We hear the FRONT DOOR OPEN AND CLOSE. Dawn comes into the dining room and sees Buffy.

Buffy looks up at her.

BUFFY

You're late.

DAWN

I know. I'm sorry. You won't believe what happened.

Buffy thinks that Dawn knows about Hank.

BUFFY

Da--

DAWN

Demon attack.

BUFFY

What?

DAWN

Yeah. At one of the houses around here. The house was ripped apart, and the two parents were killed. There was a little boy who managed to call 9-11, but he's not talking.

(MORE)

DAWN (CONT'D)

Something bad happened and it messed
him up something wicked.

Dawn sits in a chair near Buffy.

DAWN (CONT'D)

I tried to see if I could get close
enough to the scene to find some
clues, but all I saw was a demon
footprint in the dirt.

BUFFY

What'd it look like?

DAWN

Pretty much, a foot.

BUFFY

Do you have anything else to go by?

DAWN

(shaking head)

Sorry. The place was swarming with
uniforms.

BUFFY

"Uniforms"?

DAWN

Sorry. I've been hanging around the
store too long. Ryan likes to play
the old gangster movies. You're lucky
I didn't call them "the fuzz".

Buffy thinks about it for a second.

BUFFY

Okay, we'll check it out tomorrow.

DAWN

Tomorrow? Halloween?

BUFFY

Don't worry. We'll be done in time
for you to go to the party.

DAWN

Aren't you going?

BUFFY

I think I'm just gonna stay here and
help Xander pass out candy.

DAWN

He really needs to get out of the
house more.

Buffy nods. She already knows that.

BUFFY
You should go to bed.

DAWN
'Kay.

Dawn gets up and starts to walk out of the room. Just before she's gone, she stops and turns around.

DAWN (CONT'D)
Buffy?

BUFFY
Hmm?

DAWN
Why were you just sitting here by yourself?

Buffy doesn't know exactly what to tell Dawn. She doesn't want to get into it right now.

BUFFY
Just thinking.

Dawn knows something's up, but doesn't push it.

DAWN
Don't stay up to late.

BUFFY
I'll be up in a bit.

Dawn doesn't have anything else to say. She walks out of the room. Buffy stays, thinking.

INT. ALFRED P. VANCE HIGH SCHOOL - CLASSROOM - DAY

The STUDENTS are just settling into their seats. The TEACHER is writing something history-ish on the blackboard.

Dawn sits next to SHELLY. Shelly leans over.

SHELLY
You going to the party this afternoon?

DAWN
Depends.

SHELLY
On what?

DAWN
My sister's checking out some stuff.
(MORE)

DAWN (CONT'D)

I might have to help her when I get home.

SHELLY

Oh, c'mon. You have to go. Ryan will be there.

DAWN

So?

SHELLY

What do you mean, "so?"

DAWN

I mean, what do I care if Ryan's there?

SHELLY

Like you didn't know. He totally likes you.

DAWN

He does not. We're just friends.

SHELLY

Right.

(beat)

So, do you like him?

DAWN

I just told you, we're friends. That's it.

EMILY walks into the classroom, and sits near Dawn. Not because she wants to, but because it's the only empty seat left. She doesn't even look in Dawn's direction.

Dawn and Shelly don't pay any attention to her.

SHELLY

You're telling me that you don't like Ryan at all?

DAWN

Not in that way.

SHELLY

Are you blind?

DAWN

No. I just... I don't know. I don't think of him like that.

The teacher finishes writing and turns around.

TEACHER
Class, settle down.

Shelly and Dawn cut off their conversation and look ahead at the teacher.

The teacher picks up a stack of papers from her desk and starts handing them out.

TEACHER (CONT'D)
Yesterday, we took a test. I was very surprised to see that only two of you seemed to have a clue what they were talking about in that test.

The teacher finally gets close to Dawn. She hands Dawn her test, then hands Emily hers.

TEACHER (CONT'D)
Dawn and Emily. Congratulations, you too. You seem to be the only two in the entire class that are capable of reading.

Emily looks at her test. She got an A.

Dawn sets her test down on her desk. Emily looks over and sees Dawn's grade. An A+.

Emily can't believe that she got a slightly lower score than Dawn. She'd probably huff out of the room if she thought she could get away with it.

Dawn looks at her with a smartass grin. Obviously, these two never got along.

TEACHER (CONT'D)
As for the rest of the class. Well, let's face facts. You're all pretty much doomed to live out your lives earning minimum wage at the ice cream shop.

Shelly leans in to Dawn.

SHELLY
(whispers)
Can she talk to us like that?

Dawn shrugs.

TEACHER
Nevertheless, my job requires that I attempt to teach you anyway, so turn your books to page 152.

The students all open their books.

EXT. ALFRED P. VANCE HIGH SCHOOL - DAY

The school looks quiet. All of the students are inside, learning (more or less).

Our mysterious stranger in the long coat stands across the street, looking at the school. All we can see is his back.

INT. PETERSON HOUSE - FOYER/LIVING ROOM - DAY

Buffy and Willow walk through the front doorway, which has been covered with plastic and police tape. They look at the mess inside of the house.

Things are broken all over the place. Blood stains are still on the floor and walls.

WILLOW

Yikes. Look at this place. The blood and the... other stuff. It couldn't have been fun to be these people.

BUFFY

Also, the horrible death could have been a clue to that fact.

WILLOW

Oh. Right. I forgot about that.

BUFFY

I guess we should just **CSI** the place, and get out of here before someone finds us.

They start looking around.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I wouldn't be surprised if Mrs. Gimly walked in right now. Instead of asking what we were doing here, she'd probably ask us if we could do her a favor.

Willow smiles at the joke. Then she gets a puzzled look on her face.

WILLOW

So, what are we looking for? I mean...

She points down at the hardwood floor.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Does that count as a clue?

ANGLE ON : THE FLOOR

Deep scratches in the floor where claws were dragged across it.

Buffy looks at the scratches.

BUFFY

I don't think so. Not a worthwhile one, anyway.

She starts looking around again.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

We need to find something to help us research this demon. We have to figure out what did this and stop it before it happens again.

WILLOW

Right. Hey, wouldn't it be neat if the demon left us a little note that had all of it's information on it? Like a little demon resume or something.

BUFFY

Somehow, I don't think it'll be that easy.

Buffy stands back and looks at the room.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Whatever this thing is, I want to kill it. Look at this. It just comes into this house and rips it apart. What gives it the right to ruin a family's perfectly happy existence like that?

WILLOW

Well, it doesn't have the right. That's why we usually kill them.

BUFFY

I know. I'm just saying.

WILLOW

Are you okay?

BUFFY

Yeah, I'm fine. I guess I'm just a little tired.

WILLOW

Tired because you went to bed late,
or tired because of the wrong number
at the door last night?

Buffy sits on the couch.

BUFFY

You mean, you saw through my clever
web of lies?

WILLOW

Just call me Lady Einstein. So what's
going on?

BUFFY

Dad.

WILLOW

Your father? He was at the door?

BUFFY

Yup. He actually expected me to
welcome him in for a cup of coffee
and a meaningful chat.

WILLOW

But you didn't want to?

BUFFY

What is there to say? Are we gonna
remember the fond memories of the
time he abandoned his family and
didn't come back for three years?

WILLOW

Good point.

Buffy takes a deep breath.

BUFFY

I really didn't need this right now.
Granted, I've had busier times in my
life, but this is just too much.

WILLOW

Sorry.

(beat)

Hey, you could take your mind off of
it, and go to the Halloween party
today.

BUFFY

No. I'm not in a dress-up kind of
mood.

(MORE)

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I'll just stay home with Xander and hope that there aren't many kids coming around, so I can eat all the chocolate myself.

She starts to get up. As she's pushing herself off of the couch, she stops and winces, feeling something.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Great.

WILLOW

What?

BUFFY

I think I just found our clue.

Buffy lifts her hand. A piece of Hah-Ree's skin is stuck to it by a strange green goo.

Willow winces too.

WILLOW

Eew.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Buffy, Willow and Xander are sitting at the table. Willow is looking at the skin sample under a microscope.

WILLOW

Okay, yeah.

She goes back to her computer and reads a little. Then looks back to the skin sample.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

That works too.

XANDER

Do we know what we're dealing with?

WILLOW

Hold on a sec.

Willow types something into her computer and waits a second. Then she reads a little.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

See, that's what I suspected.

BUFFY

What?

WILLOW

Well, I looked at the skin sample, which looks reptilian.

XANDER

Which is unlike a million other demons?

WILLOW

I'm not finished. See, the goo was another clue for me to follow up on. What I found was a demon species called the Hu'Mak. They're one species, but each member has a slightly different M.O.

BUFFY

Will, cut to the chase. Do we know our baddie?

WILLOW

We do. His name is Hah'Ree.

XANDER

Harry?

WILLOW

No. Hah'Ree. See this?

Willow points to the skin sample. Buffy and Xander look close.

XANDER

That little strandy thing of fur?

WILLOW

Yeah. Hah'Ree has a line of fur running down his back.

BUFFY

So what's his deal and how do I kill him?

WILLOW

His deal is, he attacks families in their homes and feeds off of their screams. Something about the sound vibrations, I think. When he's full, he secretes this goo and his skin starts to come off.

BUFFY

So this goo is like demon poop? I had demon poop on my hands?

Willow shrugs and nods.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I have to shower like I've never showered before.

XANDER

How does he find his victims? If we can tell that, maybe we can stop him from attacking someone else.

Willow reads some more on her computer.

WILLOW

Not sure. I think he follows someone home when he picks up a family vibe.

BUFFY

He could track down pretty much anyone who has a family?

WILLOW

Pretty much. He'll lock onto a victim and then follow them back home.

BUFFY

I guess we just have to go out and keep our eyes peeled.

XANDER

My eyes are already peeled enough. I think I'll stay here.

BUFFY

Nope. Sorry Xand, but you're coming with me. Maybe your eye will pick up his scent or something.

Buffy thinks about that sentence for a second.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

You know what I mean.

Xander doesn't want to leave the house, but he gives in.

XANDER

Fine. But if I start freaking out in public, you can't do that thing where you pretend you don't know me.

BUFFY

I promise.

WILLOW

I'll go out too, I guess.

BUFFY

To the Halloween party.

WILLOW

Huh?

BUFFY

It's like family central there. You and Dawn go, like you planned, and keep an eye out for this demon.

WILLOW

Okay. I'll make sure I check all shadowy corners and alleys.

EXT. RESIDENTIAL STREET - DAY

Buffy and Xander are walking down the street. Around them, COSTUMED KIDS are running around in their pre-trick-or-treating frenzy. Buffy is watching them play. Xander is keeping his eyes on the road ahead, not watching the kids.

Buffy looks over and sees Xander not watching the people.

BUFFY

Y'know, I think "keeping an eye out" actually requires that one- I don't know- keeps an eye out.

XANDER

Hey, my eye's out. It's just out on the road ahead, as opposed to out on the kids playing.

BUFFY

Relax a little.

XANDER

Easy for you to say, ye of the non-demonic eye. I really don't feel like risking some freaky x-ray felony at the moment.

BUFFY

Oh. That's actually a good call then. I thought you were worried about the cloud-o-vision. Back to the not watching people.

Buffy continues to watch the kids playing around. Her mind drifts.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Halloween is depressing.

XANDER

Because it's the glorification of everything we risk our lives to put an end to?

BUFFY

No. Because all of this reminds me of when I was a kid. Free candy. Playing dressup. Going out at night, which was exciting for me back then. It was all so innocent, wasn't it?

XANDER

I'm the wrong guy to ask. Most of my Halloween outings ended with my dad taking my candy bag to make sure it was all clear of razors, and returning it in the morning, empty.

BUFFY

Ouch.

XANDER

It wasn't a total loss though.

(MORE)

XANDER (CONT'D)

When I got a little older, I'd give Willow a chunk of my stash and she'd hold onto it for me.

BUFFY

She's a pal.

Buffy turns around and takes a look back, then turns back to face forward.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I wish this thing would just show itself already, so I could beat the crap out of it and get home to my Jerry Springer version of a life.

XANDER

Yikes.

BUFFY

How else should I describe it? My dad, who ran off with his slutty secretary a couple years ago, comes back into my life now and wants to play like it's all good.

XANDER

I think that's a little more Montel than Jerry.

BUFFY

You really need to get out more.

XANDER

I realize that.

BUFFY

So what happens if he decides to fight me for Dawn?

XANDER

She's seventeen. Can't she pick where she lives?

BUFFY

Well, there has to be some reason for it. There has to be a catch.

XANDER

Maybe he just wants to make friendly.

BUFFY

Do I bring you down from your parental rantings?

XANDER
Sorry. Hank evil.

BUFFY
Thank you.
(then)
I just can't deal with this right
now.

XANDER
As opposed to that better time to
get into emotional war with your
dad?

BUFFY
I'd just like to have more warning.
A couple months to pencil it in and
make excuses for not being able to
see him when we're supposed to meet.

XANDER
I don't think it works like that.
There's never going to be a good day
to do lunch. You just have to kinda
go with it.

BUFFY
I'm not sure that I can. I don't
know if I'm in that place yet.

XANDER
I'm sure you'll--

Before Xander can finish his sentence, he closes his eyes
hard, in pain. He puts his hands on his head and tries to
hold back any screams of pain that he might want to let out.

Buffy tries to help him, but doesn't know what to do.

BUFFY
Are you okay?

He can't respond with words. He just shakes his head.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
Okay. We'll get you home. Don't worry.

She starts to lead him in the direction they came from. As
he tries to walk, his legs weaken. He falls to his knees.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
Xander!

She tries to help him up, but he can't stand.

XANDER
I... can't.

He opens his eyes, looking down toward the street. As he does, a RIPPLE shoots from his left eye, and RIPS A HOLE in the street.

Buffy's eyes widen. She looks around to see if anyone's watching. Luckily, nobody is.

BUFFY

Xander?

The pain is starting to go away now. It still hurts, but it's getting better. Xander struggles to his feet with Buffy's help.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

XANDER

I just ripped a hole in the street, just by looking at it.

BUFFY

Right.

XANDER

I don't think I'm okay. I think I'm very much not okay.

Buffy helps him as they start to walk toward home.

BUFFY

Don't worry. We'll figure this out.

XANDER

And if not, I'll just get a cape and some tights.

BUFFY

Actually, I think they'll probably be on super cheap sale tomorrow at the store.

(off his look)

What, I can't kid?

XANDER

Can we get back to talking about your dad?

HAH'REE'S POV

A ways up the road, from behind a bush, we watch Buffy and Xander walk off.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/FOYER - NIGHT

Xander is resting on the couch, with a damp towel on his head. Buffy walks in from the kitchen, with a mug of tea.

She hands it to him.

BUFFY
Careful, it's hot.

XANDER
Buffy, I have a headache, I didn't
revert to being a five year old.

BUFFY
Sorry. Is it getting any better?

XANDER
A little. I should be ready for my
next brain explosion by early
tomorrow.

BUFFY
We'll figure this out. when Willow
and Dawn get home, we'll start working
on it.

XANDER
And are we also gonna stop trying to
get me to leave the house? Another
outing like today and I might kill
someone by mistake.

BUFFY
Yeah. You be the judge from here on
out.

XANDER
And you'll pay for all the pizzas we
order until the end of the year?

BUFFY
You had to push that extra foot,
didn't you?

XANDER
It was worth a shot.

Buffy grabs the remote for the tv and leans back.

BUFFY
Let's see what's on, shall we?

XANDER
We shall.

Just as Buffy's about to turn on the tv, Hah'Ree crashes
through the back window. He lets out a GROWL as he eyes
Buffy and Xander.

Buffy and Xander look up as their eyes widen. It's more shock
than fear.

BUFFY

Geeze! Give a girl a heart attack,
why don't you.

Buffy gets to her feet, tossing the remote control back to the couch.

Hah'Ree and Buffy stare each other down.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

You really made a bad call here,
pal. Two, actually. First, we're
roommates, not family. Second, I'm a
friggin' Slayer. How stupid was it
to attack me?

Hah'Ree quickly moves toward Buffy, in attack mode. Buffy avoids him, and punches him in the face.

Hah'Ree stumbles back, but quickly recovers. He comes at Buffy again. Buffy tries another punch, but Hah'Ree blocks her and returns with a punch of his own, sending Buffy flying back into a bookcase.

Xander watches from the couch.

XANDER

You 'kay, Buff?

Buffy gets back up.

BUFFY

Yeah, just getting warmed up is all.

Buffy runs and dives onto Hah'Ree, taking him to the ground. They roll around a little, struggling for the upper hand.

Finally, Hah'Ree gets on top of Buffy and pins her arms to the ground. He puts his face close to hers and smells her. Grossed out, she winces.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

It's called an Altoid. Look into it.

Buffy uses her legs to flip Hah'Ree over her head, onto the ground behind her. He then flips back on top of him, pinning him down.

XANDER

Let me know if you need me.

BUFFY

Will do.

Xander turns on the tv, and starts flipping channels.

Buffy punches Hah'Ree in the face, but this forces her to let one of his hands go. He grabs her and throws her off of him. Both of them get to their feet.

ANGLE ON : THE FRONT DOOR

Willow and Dawn walk in and stop short at the sight of the demon fight going on. Willow is in a Harry Potter costume, while Dawn is dressed as Hermione.

DAWN

Buffy!

BUFFY

Hey, guys. Hold on a sec, 'kay?

Willow and Dawn look at each other.

WILLOW

I guess she doesn't need our help.

They both shrug and join Xander on the couch.

XANDER

Hey.

WILLOW

Hi. What's up?

XANDER

Demon followed us home.

WILLOW

Stupid.

XANDER

Yeah. Guess that's what we get for talking about family issues in public.

Willow notices Xander's damp towel.

WILLOW

You okay?

XANDER

Yeah, just a little headache that ripped a chunk out of the street.

WILLOW

Yikes.

Buffy throws Hah'Ree across the room and looks at Dawn.

BUFFY

Dawn, can you get the scythe for me?

DAWN

Yeah.

Dawn reaches under the couch and grabs the scythe. She tosses it to Buffy.

BUFFY

Thank you.

DAWN

(to Xander and Willow)

We need a better place to keep that.

Buffy goes at Hah'Ree one more time, with scythe in hand. He GROWLS and goes at her. When they meet, Hah'Ree is surprised to get the stake end of the scythe through his chest. Within a few seconds, he drops to the floor, dead.

Buffy turns back to Willow and Dawn.

BUFFY

So how'd the party go?

WILLOW

There were sixty other Harry Potters there.

BUFFY

Ouch.

DAWN

She still won the prize for best Harry impersonator though.

WILLOW

I was the only one who could make things float.

XANDER

(Ricky Ricardo impersonation)

Lucy, what have I told you about using your powers in public?

WILLOW

Well, it was competitive out there.

XANDER

(to self)

I should have gone with Sam, or Jeanie. Those would have made so much more sense.

Buffy looks down at Hah'Ree's corpse.

BUFFY

I guess we should get rid of him.

Before they can do anything with Hah'Ree, the DOORBELL RINGS.

Everyone looks around at each other.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Get the corpse into the kitchen,
quick.

Willow and Xander grab the corpse and drag him off toward the kitchen. Buffy looks down at the scythe, covered in demon blood, and doesn't know what to do with it. Finally, she stuffs it under the couch cushion.

Dawn goes to the door and puts her hand on the knob. She looks back to Buffy for the all-clear. Buffy looks around and shrugs. It's the best they're gonna get.

Dawn composes herself and opens the door.

Hank is standing outside. He smiles when he sees her.

Dawn's face just drops.

DAWN

Dad?

HANK

Hey, sweetie.

Dawn doesn't know how to react.

DAWN

Wh-- What are you doing here?

HANK

I wanted to see you.
(re: Buffy)
Both of you. Can I come in.

DAWN

Yeah.

BUFFY

No.

Dawn turns around and looks at Buffy.

DAWN

What?

BUFFY

I don't want him in here.

DAWN

But, he's our father.

BUFFY

Not anymore.

DAWN

Buffy-

HANK

It's okay. I know how she must feel.

BUFFY

Do you? That's funny, considering how much you don't even know me.

HANK

I know.

Hank walks into the house, to Buffy.

HANK (CONT'D)

And that's what I want to change. I've made mistakes. Bad judgement calls. I want to make it right.

BUFFY

You can't make it right. After everything we've been through because of you, you can't just come back into our lives and expect us to welcome you.

DAWN

Buffy, c'mon. At least give him a chance to explain.

BUFFY

Explain what? Why he hasn't even cared enough to call us since mom died?

HANK

Wha--?

BUFFY

No. Stop right there. Before the excuses and backpeddling starts, just stop. I don't want to hear it.

DAWN

Well, I do.

BUFFY

(to Hank)

I want you out of my house. Forever.

Dawn walks between Buffy and Hank and looks Buffy in the eyes.

DAWN

It's my house too. I pay more around here than you do now. I say he stays.

Buffy looks at Dawn, not wanting to hear this. She doesn't know how to react.

BUFFY

You want to talk to him? You wanna catch up on old times? Fine. Do it.

(beat)

But do it without me.

Buffy pushes her way past Dawn and Hank and walks out the door.

Dawn looks to Hank.

DAWN

She's just...

HANK

I know. She has every right to hate me forever. So do you.

DAWN

I don't want to. I just want to know why. I need to know why you never came back.

HANK

Then I'll try to explain it to you. It's not going to make sense, and it's not going to make anything better, but it's all I can tell.

(beat)

Can we sit down?

Hank moves toward the couch to sit down. Dawn suddenly remembers that the scythe is under the cushion. She throws her hands up.

DAWN

Wait!

Hank stops. He looks at Dawn, confused.

DAWN (CONT'D)

The couch is old. Lumpy. You'd be more comfortable in the chair.

HANK

Oh.

He moves over to the chair. Dawn sits on the couch very carefully. She finds it very uncomfortable, but tries to hide it.

Hank looks around the room. He sees the broken window and the mess from the bookcase.

HANK (CONT'D)
Is everything okay here? The place looks like a battlefield.

DAWN
So now you're gonna question our housekeeping skills?

Hank doesn't know how to respond.

DAWN (CONT'D)
Sorry. Trying to break ice. I do that when things are awkward.
(beat)
Bird flew through the window. Big mess. So, what brings you here?

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Willow and Xander are sitting on the counter, eating Halloween candy. Hah'Ree is on the floor under their feet.

XANDER
Sounded pretty bad out there. Think we should go see what's up?

WILLOW
And get in the middle of their family fun time?

XANDER
Right. Staying in the kitchen.

WILLOW
I just hope Buffy's okay. She sounded pretty angry.

XANDER
She'll cool off.

WILLOW
Too bad Hah'Ree didn't attack *after* Hank showed up. At least then, she'd have someone to pummel.

EXT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Buffy is sitting on the front steps, thinking. She is considering going back inside, but she can't bring herself to do it.

Finally, she gets up and walks across the front yard. She heads down the street and out of view.

Seconds after she leaves, the mystery man steps into view.
He watches her go for a moment, and then follows her.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Buffy makes her way down the street slowly. She watches the TICK-OR-TREATERS as they run through town on their way to the next group of houses.

A strange feeling comes over her. She stops walking and just listens. When she doesn't hear anything out of place, she starts to walk again, but the feeling isn't gone.

She turns around and looks behind her. There, almost face to face with her, is our mystery man. Wearing his long coat. We see his face clearly for the first time. He is in his late 40's, but in good shape. He's tired and dirty. Kinda creepy looking.

Buffy doesn't skip a beat when she sees him.

BUFFY

Who are you?

When he speaks, it's with a strong Italian accent.

MYSTERY MAN

My name is Luka. I didn't mean to frighten you.

BUFFY

Who said I was frightened?

Luka doesn't respond.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Okay, Luka, what's your deal? Vampire? Demon?

LUKA

Monk.

BUFFY

My next guess. So are you a good monk, or the kind of monk that works for the First, and will cause my friends a lot of pain?

LUKA

I am not evil. I am a follower of the light.

BUFFY

So what do you want with me?

LUKA

It is not you that I have come to see. It is your sister.

Buffy steps back and gets a very serious look on her face.

BUFFY

You stay the hell away from my sister.

LUKA

You don't understand. She has a great force inside of her. Your sister is the Key.

Buffy is surprised to hear him say that. Nobody's used that term in a very long time.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/FOYER - NIGHT

Dawn and Hank are still sitting. They've been talking for a while now. Dawn's processing some information. She looks up at him.

DAWN

It still doesn't make sense. It doesn't explain why you could act the way you did.

HANK

I know. I'm not trying to sound like the good guy here. I just wanted to tell you my side of the situation, and hoped that you might forgive me.

Dawn stands up. She walks around the room, trying to think.

DAWN

I want to.

She's about to say something else when the DOORBELL RINGS. She wonders who it could be, and how they could have such bad timing.

She walks to the door and opens it. On the other side, a GROUP OF KIDS is standing, in costume, holding their candy bags.

KIDS

Trick or treat!

Dawn just stares at them for a second, not responding. Finally, she snaps back to reality.

DAWN

Oh. Right. Candy.
(beat)
Hold on a sec.

She leaves them at the door and walks into the kitchen. Hank looks at the kids and smiles.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dawn rushes into the kitchen and looks at Willow and Xander, eating the Halloween candy.

DAWN
Please tell me you didn't eat all of
the candy.

Willow looks down at the bowl. She pushes some wrappers out of the way.

WILLOW
There are still a few pieces left.

DAWN
Great.

Dawn grabs the bowl.

DAWN (CONT'D)
You do realize that there are kids
that expect candy, right?

XANDER
Sorry.

WILLOW
We won't do it again.

DAWN
You can't do it again. We don't have
enough candy.

WILLOW
You want me to get more?

DAWN
No. Just stay here and deal with the
smelly demon body.

XANDER
'Kay.

WILLOW
How's it going with your dad?

Dawn looks at her, trying to figure out the answer for herself.

DAWN
I'll let you know when I've figured
it out.

Dawn rushes back out of the kitchen. Willow and Xander look at each other.

WILLOW
We shouldn't have eaten the candy.

XANDER
We're very bad people.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/FOYER - NIGHT

Dawn gets back to the door and hands out the candy to the kids.

DAWN
Here you go.

KIDS
Thank you.

DAWN
Happy Halloween.

With a fake smile, Dawn closes the door and turns back to Hank. Her smile drops.

DAWN (CONT'D)
What were we saying?

HANK
I was asking if you'd forgive me.

DAWN
Right.

Dawn goes back to the living room, but doesn't sit down.

DAWN (CONT'D)
I was saying that I want to, but I don't know if it's possible to just make that kind of decision on the spot. I'm mad at you. You haven't earned my trust or my forgiveness. I can't just say that it's all better now.

HANK
I know.

DAWN
And I wouldn't even try talking to Buffy for a while if I were you.

HANK
She always knew how to stay mad.

DAWN

But I do know one thing. I don't want it to be like before. I don't want you to leave and never come back. I want to be able to take you to meet my friends and say "This is my dad".

HANK

I want that too.

DAWN

But it'll take time. Lots of time.

She thinks about it for a second.

DAWN (CONT'D)

And possibly several expensive gifts.

HANK

Okay.

DAWN

Okay.

There's a silent moment. Hank moves to give Dawn a hug. She backs away.

DAWN (CONT'D)

We're not at hugging yet.

It's a little awkward. Hank wants to say something, but he isn't sure how. Finally, he just says it.

HANK

Do you smell something?

Dawn knows it's the demon in the kitchen, but doesn't want to say anything.

DAWN

Smell? No.

Hank tries to let it go, but he can't. He starts sniffing the air.

HANK

I'm pretty sure I smell something.

He starts to move toward the kitchen.

HANK (CONT'D)

It's like... dead rat.

Dawn steps in front of him.

DAWN

Isn't it rude to say someone's home
is smelly when you're trying to make
up with them?

He stops.

HANK

You're right. Sorry.

DAWN

Good.

(loudly)

Besides, you really don't want to
see the kitchen.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Willow and Xander hear Dawn, and jump to their feet.

WILLOW

We're in the kitchen.

XANDER

I noticed!

WILLOW

We have to get rid of the body.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Hank wanders into the dining room, looking around. Dawn is
following, trying to keep him out of the kitchen.

HANK

This really is a nice house though.
I'd love a tour.

DAWN

Tour? Umm... Oh--Kay.

(beat)

Well, this is the dining room.

HANK

Nice. You're computer?

DAWN

Willow's. She's into computers and
stuff.

Dawn notices that Willow's computer has a demon database
website displayed on it. She quickly shuts it, so Hank can't
see.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Willow and Xander are dragging the corpse toward the basement when they hear Dawn and Hank in the dining room.

WILLOW
They're in the dining room.

XANDER
Which means they're coming in here.

WILLOW
No time for basement.

Willow looks around.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
Window!

XANDER
Window?

WILLOW
Y'know. We can push him out the window quicker than we can get him into the basement, and there's less chance of being seen.

XANDER
But, is it really quicker?

WILLOW
Well, if you'd help me it would be!

XANDER
Right.

They start dragging Hah'Ree toward the window. When they get to the window, Willow opens it and starts to push Hah'Ree through it.

WILLOW
Push.

They push as hard as they can, but this sucker is heavy. Xander is pondering something as he pushes.

XANDER
Will?

WILLOW
Hmm?

XANDER
Why not just use the back door?

Willow stops pushing for a sec. She looks at the back door.

WILLOW

Oh.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Hank is looking at the moulding around the doorways. Dawn is standing in his path to the kitchen.

HANK

This all looks authentic. Is it original to the house?

DAWN

I'm actually not sure. You might wanna talk to Xander about that kind of stuff.

HANK

Xander?

Hank thinks for a second.

HANK (CONT'D)

Right. He's Buffy's friend?

DAWN

Yeah.

HANK

He... lives here?

DAWN

Yeah.

HANK

So you have a man living in the same house as the three of you girls?

DAWN

Yeah.

HANK

I can't say that I like that.

DAWN

It's fine. We're not having orgies or anything.

(beat)

We take turns.

Hank looks at Dawn, shocked. Dawn's eyes widen as she tries to figure out what evil force made her say such a stupid thing.

DAWN (CONT'D)

That was so not the joke to be making at a time like this.

EXT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - SIDE OF HOUSE - NIGHT

Willow and Xander are on the ground, each pulling on one of Hah'Ree's arms.

Hah'Ree finally drops to the ground.

WILLOW

I need to start working out more.
(re: the smell)
And breathing less.

XANDER

Can't you just- y'know- zap him
somewhere?

WILLOW

Zap? No.
(beat)
I could float him though. You want
me to do that?

Xander looks at Willow. Obviously, the answer is yes.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Right.

Willow looks at Hah'Ree and focuses. Soon, Hah'Ree BEGINS TO FLOAT.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Where are we going with him?

A SCREAM comes from nearby. Willow and Xander look toward the front of the house to see a CHILD, dressed as a fairy, watching them and screaming at the sight of the floating demon corpse.

CHILD

Mommy! Mommy!

The child keeps screaming. Willow looks to Xander and then back to Hah'Ree. HAH'REE DROPS back to the ground.

WILLOW

We have to do something with him.

Xander looks around.

XANDER

I think I have an idea.

EXT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

Willow and Xander pull Hah'Ree up the front steps.

WILLOW

Are you sure about this?

XANDER

As sure as I ever am about one of my plans.

WILLOW

That's not comforting.

They sit him in a chair on the porch, and pose him.

XANDER

This is Halloween. The one day a year where we can put a demon on the front porch without having to worry about people being around.

Willow is about to respond when she sees more KIDS walking up the yard in costume.

WILLOW

We have trick-or-treaters.

Xander looks.

XANDER

Just be cool.

The kids get to the front porch.

KIDS

Trick-or...

They stop. The smell is getting to them. They can't take it anymore. Some start to cry. One or two look like they might throw up.

WILLOW

Not good.

The kids run off, screaming.

XANDER

On the other hand, they didn't take any of our candy.

Willow sees the kids talking to their PARENTS and the parents looking over at the porch.

WILLOW

We have to move him before we get too many people over here.

Xander thinks for a second.

XANDER
Okay, new plan. Basement.

Willow's confused.

WILLOW
But, how...?

Xander points to the basement window.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Hank is ready to move on with the tour. He steps toward the kitchen.

HANK
What's in here? The kitchen?

DAWN
Yeah. You don't want to see that
though. It's a mess.

HANK
Don't worry about it.

Hank walks into the kitchen. Dawn closes her eyes and gets ready for hell to break loose. A moment later, Hank pops his head back into the dining room.

HANK (CONT'D)
This isn't too messy. You should see
my place.
(beat)
You coming?

Dawn opens her eyes and wonders why all hell didn't break loose.

DAWN
Yeah. Coming.

She walks into the kitchen. The dining room is empty now. We keep watching the kitchen doorway.

HANK (O.S.)
Hey, do you hear screaming?

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Willow crawls through the window and into the basement. After she dusts herself off, she looks back to the window.

WILLOW
(whispered)
Okay, pass him down.

XANDER (O.S.)
 (whispered)
 Can't you float him?

WILLOW
 The window's too narrow. He'd bump
 into things. Just pass him down here.

XANDER (O.S.)
 Fine.

Soon, Hah'Ree's legs are pushed through the window. Willow
 grabs on to them and pulls.

WILLOW
 Keep pushing.

XANDER (O.S.)
 I am pushing.
 (then, not whispered)
 It's a dummy. Halloween decoration.

Willow's confused.

WILLOW
 Huh?

XANDER (O.S.)
 (back to whispering)
 The kid's mom showed up.

WILLOW
 Did she buy it?

XANDER (O.S.)
 Think so

Willow managed to get Hah'Ree through the window, about to
 his arms and then he stops. She tugs a little more, but he
 won't budge.

WILLOW
 Keep pushing.

XANDER (O.S.)
 I am pushing. You keep pulling.

WILLOW
 I am pulling.
 (beat)
 I think he's stuck.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Buffy leads the way into an alley. It's dark and out of the
 way.

BUFFY

Get in here. The last thing I need
is for the town to hear this
conversation.

Luka follows her until she stops. Once they're sure that
nobody's around, Buffy pushes him against a wall.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Okay, you're gonna tell me exactly
what the hell you want with my sister,
and how you know that she's--

Buffy looks around again, just to make sure they're still
alone. She turns back to Luka.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

--The Key.

LUKA

You have nothing to worry about,
Miss Summers. As I've told you, I
mean you and your sister no harm. I
simply wish to teach her to harness
her power.

BUFFY

We're doing fine on our own. What
makes you think we need you?

LUKA

Because I know what you don't.

BUFFY

And what's that?

LUKA

I've spent the last three years
studying her.

BUFFY

You've been watching us?

LUKA

No. I've been studying what I learned
about her, from my brethren. Those
who created her. After they were
attacked, one of your sister's
creators managed to escape. He told
me what they'd done.

BUFFY

Stop talking about my sister as though
she was an object.

LUKA

I'm sorry.
(beat)
All I mean is to help you.

BUFFY

How?

LUKA

I will teach her. The Key's power has always been unstable. Nobody has been able to harness it. However, it has never been in human form before. I believe that your sister would act like a lense. She could focus the energy.

BUFFY

Which means?

LUKA

It means that your sister is special. Exactly how, I will need to figure out once I've gotten to know her. The energy's focus would depend on your sister. Only through understanding her will I understand how she might utilize the Key's power.

BUFFY

And how would you do that?

LUKA

I would need to spend time with her. Guide her.

BUFFY

I do that.

LUKA

You aren't able to help her with this.

BUFFY

I can help her. We don't need you or anyone else coming into our home and trying to take over.

(beat)

Leave.

He's about to respond, but she stops him. She looks into his eyes, very serious.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Leave.

Once she's sure he gets the message, she turns around and walks out of the alley.

EXT. MAIN STREET - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

Buffy walks down the street a little before stopping. She can't take this anymore. It's too much for her to handle in one day.

She leans against a bench, trying to gather herself. She looks up the street and sees a pay phone.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Luka knows that the meeting could have gone better. He thinks about going after Buffy, but figures that he'll give it time. He turns around and walks away.

FADE TO BLACK :

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. MAIN STREET - NIGHT

Buffy walks toward the phone. She's out of energy. She seems as though she could fall over at any second. Things seem to be falling apart all around her.

Finally, she reaches the phone. She picks up the receiver and dials.

She puts the phone to her ear and waits. A second later, the person on the other end of the phone answers. Buffy responds to this person simply and weakly.

BUFFY

I need you.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Dawn and Hank are still looking around.

DAWN

There's really not much to be said about this one. It's a kitchen.

HANK

A lot of antiques though.

DAWN

I guess. Wanna see another room?

HANK

Sure.

Hank motions toward the basement door.

HANK (CONT'D)

What's that one?

DAWN

That's just the basement. Nothing special there.

HANK

Is it a dirt floor?

DAWN

Yeah.

HANK

I hear that people find things buried in those all the time. Mind if I take a look?

DAWN

You wanna dig in our basement?

Hank laughs.

HANK

No. I just want to see it. I think old houses are interesting. Always have.

DAWN

I never knew that.

HANK

Yeah, I wanted to buy an old house when your mother and I first got married, but she thought a newer house would be safer for when we had kids.

His mood changes to a much less happy one.

HANK (CONT'D)

I guess she decided that she liked older houses when she moved out of LA.

Dawn notices that he is less happy. She doesn't really know what to say.

DAWN

You can look at the basement.

Hank looks back at her. He knows she's trying her best.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

Willow and Xander are still working on the demon situation.

WILLOW

Okay, on the count of three, I'll pull really hard. You push really hard.

XANDER (O.S.)

Haven't we been doing that?

WILLOW

I thought we were stopping to think about this.

(beat)

Anyway, get ready.

Willow grabs Hah'Ree's legs again.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

One. Two. Three.

She pulls as hard as she can. Suddenly, Hah'Ree is free. He comes through the window and drops to the ground. Willow falls too. She looks at the body on the ground and smiles.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

That wasn't so hard.

Then she notices something. Hah'Ree's arms are both missing. She winces as Xander tosses them through the window.

He pokes his head in.

XANDER

I think we broke him.

WILLOW

He must be decomposing faster than most things do.

Xander crawls through the window.

XANDER

Came in handy though.

He picks up one of the arms and holds the hand up.

XANDER (CONT'D)

See?

Willow laughs.

WILLOW

Quit it. That's gross.

XANDER

No grosser than the smell. We're gonna have to buy out the gas station's supply of little cardboard pine trees when this is over.

The basement door opens.

HANK (O.S.)

How do you manage to afford a place like this?

DAWN (O.S.)

It's cheaper than you'd think. Nobody's lived in the place for years. It's been used for all kinds of other purposes for the city, but they couldn't get anyone to move in.

HANK (O.S.)

That's strange. Did you have it checked out by a carpenter?

Dawn starts down the stairs.

DAWN
Actually, Xander's a--

She sees Willow and Xander with the demon body down there. Her eyes widen and she stops walking, blocking Hanks path.

DAWN (CONT'D)
--Carpenter. You can see the basement from there. No need to come all the way down the stairs.

Hank starts down the stairs. He doesn't come far enough to see Willow and Xander because Dawn is in his way.

Willow starts thinking hard.

ANGLE ON : HANK

He looks at Dawn, questioningly.

HANK
Are you okay?

DAWN
I'm fine.

Hank stops and smells the air again.

HANK
The smell is stronger down here. I think you might have a dead animal somewhere down here. Let me have a look.

DAWN
We can handle it, really.

HANK
As long as I'm here, I might as well. It's no problem.

Hank moves past Dawn and down into the basement. Dawn knows that he'll see Willow, Xander and Hah'Ree, so she closes her eyes and waits for it.

Seconds pass and she hears nothing. Finally she opens her eyes and walks down to join her father. He's looking around, but not seeing anything, except for Xander. Xander is holding the demon arm behind his back.

HANK (CONT'D)
You must be Xander.

XANDER
That's me.

Hank looks back at Dawn as he talks.

HANK

Dawn's told me about you.

When Hank's not looking, Xander tries to toss the arm out of sight, but it hits one of the ceiling boards and drops to the ground. Xander quickly picks it up.

HANK (CONT'D)

You sound like a very handy man to have around.

Dawn is watching Xander, trying to figure out where Willow is, and freaking as Xander fumbles around with the arm.

Hank turns back around and sees Xander holding the arm. Xander doesn't know how to react. He holds up the arm.

XANDER

(nervously laughing)
Handy.

Hank extends a hand.

HANK

I'm glad the girls have someone to watch out for them.

Xander moves Hah'Ree's arm to the other hand so he can shake hands with Hank. As they shake hands, Xander realizes that he has a huge glob of Hah'Ree slime on his hand. Now on Hanks.

When they're done shaking, Hank stands back and winces.

HANK (CONT'D)

Whoa. That's what smells.

XANDER

Yeah. Still perfecting my recipe.
Sorry.

Dawn looks around, and then finally looks up. Near the ceiling, Willow is FLOATING with the demon corpse (and one arm) next to her. Willow waves at Dawn.

HANK

I could smell it all the way upstairs.
I thought something died.

Xander nervously laughs again.

XANDER

Died? Here?

Dawn is panicking.

DAWN

Dad!

Hank stops and looks back at her.

HANK

Hmm?

DAWN

I can't do this. It's too weird.

(beat)

I think you have to go now.

HANK

What? Did I...?

DAWN

No. It's not like that. It's just too much for me. I mean, I haven't seen you in years, and suddenly you're looking for dead things in my basement. It's too weird.

Hank looks down.

HANK

You're right. I shouldn't try to act like things are okay.

DAWN

We just need to do this slower. I promise, you can come back in a couple days and, who knows? You could be looking for dead things again by the end of the month. I just need to think about this. I need to figure out where we stand.

Hank takes this in. Finally, he turns around.

HANK

I'll go.

He starts to walk out.

DAWN

Dad.

Hank stops and turns around.

DAWN (CONT'D)

I mean it when I say that you should come back in a couple days.

Hank nods and gives her a halfhearted smile. He continues to walk out of the basement.

Once he's gone, Dawn goes to the stairs and sits. She tries to work this all out in her head.

ANGLE ON : WILLOW

Still up on the ceiling, feeling Dawn's pain.

WILLOW
You okay, Dawnie?

DAWN
Yeah. I'm good.

Dawn gets up and walks out of the basement. Willow looks to Xander.

WILLOW
See, this is why I shouldn't dress up for Halloween. It's hard to comfort a friend when you're dressed as an adolescent boy, floating on the ceiling.

XANDER
Speaking of which, I think it's safe to get down now.

WILLOW
Right.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM/FOYER - DAY

Xander is working on fixing the back window. Buffy is sitting on the couch, thinking.

XANDER
This should be patched up in no time.

Buffy doesn't respond. Xander looks back at her.

XANDER (CONT'D)
Sometimes it can be tricky to fix a broken window like this. Sometimes it takes a lot of time to heal. It can't just go back to being a whole window in one day.

Buffy doesn't respond. She's too caught up in her thoughts.

XANDER (CONT'D)
Buffy?

Buffy finally looks up at him.

BUFFY
Hmm? I'm sorry. What were you saying?

Xander goes to the couch and sits next to her.

XANDER

I'm trying to be all deep and helpful.
I even used a metaphor.

BUFFY

I guess I'm not all here today.

XANDER

You have a lot to take in. Wanna
talk about it?

BUFFY

I don't think so.

XANDER

You need anything?

Buffy is about to respond with a "no thanks" when the DOORBELL RINGS.

BUFFY

That's never good.
(then)
I'll get it.

She gets up and goes to the door. Xander gets back to work.

Buffy opens the front door. Her eyes light up when she sees who is on the other side.

REVEAL GILES standing outside, holding a suitcase. He smiles when he sees her.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Giles.

FADE TO BLACK:

End Of Show