

Buffy The Vampire Slayer

Season 8

Episode 21

"Home Sick"

TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - NIGHT

WILLOW, XANDER, GILES and DAWN are escorting RIP into the basement. Xander and Giles pull the chained vampire along, and eventually toss him to the floor.

Dawn looks around.

DAWN

Should we get a chair or something
to tie him to?

GILES

I don't think that will be necessary.

WILLOW

'Cause you're gonna kill him quick?

GILES

Actually, I was thinking that it
might be more convenient to torture
him without having to hunch over.

WILLOW

Oh.

RIP

I'm going to rip your hearts out and
eat them.

Dawn smiles politely.

DAWN

That's very scary. Really.

RIP

Don't mock me, little girl. I've
killed stronger people than you.

DAWN

What, were they drunk at the time?

Rip hesitates. Dawn smiles wider.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Oh my God, they were.

Rip turns away, broody.

Giles grabs some heavy duty rope from nearby and slings it
around one of the brick support columns.

GILES
Xander, a little help.

XANDER
Yeah.

Xander grabs Rip and pulls him up. Rip starts to struggle, but Xander "accidentally" knees him in the face.

XANDER (CONT'D)
Whoops. Sorry 'bout that.

Giles ties rip up, then he and Xander stand back.

XANDER (CONT'D)
(to Giles)
So, do we wait for Buffy?

Giles takes off his glasses and cleans them with his handkerchief as he eyes Rip.

GILES
I think we can handle this.

Giles puts his glasses back on and walks closer to Rip.

GILES (CONT'D)
Now, how difficult this has to be is entirely up to you. You can tell us what the Night of Morel Divineh is and die quickly, or we can draw this out a little.

RIP
I'll tell you nothing.

Giles smiles in a slightly scary way.

GILES
I don't recall that being one of the options.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

BUFFY walks into the house and into the dining room. She sits in the closest chair she can find.

She's still showing signs of her fight with Kennedy, both emotionally and physically. She just sits in the dark room, thinking.

A few moments later, Dawn walks into the room. She's carrying a couple sodas and a bag of chips.

DAWN
I thought I heard you come in.
(MORE)

DAWN (CONT'D)

We have a vamp in the basement. Wanna come watch Giles torture him?

Buffy doesn't answer. She just looks down. Dawn sets her snacks down and sits near Buffy, realizing that something's up.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Are you okay?

Buffy looks up at Dawn weakly. She brushes Dawn's hair behind her ear in that big sisterly way that she does.

BUFFY

Yeah. I'm just tired.

DAWN

Did you get into a fight?

Buffy looks down again.

BUFFY

Yeah.

DAWN

But you won, right? Demon's dead?

Buffy's not really sure how to respond to that.

BUFFY

I won.

(long beat)

I'm gonna take a shower.

DAWN

Okay.

Buffy stands up and starts to walk out of the room.

DAWN (CONT'D)

Buffy?

Buffy turns around and faces her concerned sister.

DAWN (CONT'D)

You know you can tell me stuff, right?

Buffy forces a smile, and continues to walk out of the room. Dawn watches her go, knowing that something is up.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - MORNING

Xander stands back, watching Giles work on Rip. Willow and Dawn aren't there. Only a slight hint of morning sun is starting to appear in the basement. Not yet enough to turn Rip to dust.

From the looks of him, it would seem that he might actually prefer the sunny death. His face is beaten and bloody. He is upright only because he is tied that way. His legs aren't able to support him at the moment. He's also got several stab wounds on his chest.

Giles steps away from Rip, wiping off his knuckles. His sleeves are rolled up by now, and he has splatterings of blood on his clothes.

GILES

Are you ready to talk yet?

When Rip speaks, it sounds as though his tongue is swollen for some reason.

RIP

(in pain)

I'll... I'll tell you nothing.

Giles rolls his eyes.

GILES

Do you really expect this to get you very far?

Rip doesn't respond. Giles turns to face Xander.

GILES (CONT'D)

I'm going for a glass of water. When I come back, we can try something new.

Giles walks up the stairs. Xander remains, keeping an eye on Rip. Rip looks up at him.

RIP

You're all going to die.

Xander says nothing in response, and then he slowly starts to walk toward Rip with a blank expression.

XANDER

You tried to hurt my girlfriend.

Xander walks behind Rip. Rip tries to look back, but can't quite turn that far.

RIP

She squeeled like a baby pig, and you slept through it.

XANDER

She didn't squeel.

Rip is caught in his lie.

RIP

Well, okay, no. But she would have.

Xander's not amused. He walks around to face Rip, and looks him squarely in the eyes. With his head, he gestures to the basement window which is just over his shoulder.

XANDER

In about two hours, the sun's gonna come pouring through that window, and it's gonna shine right where you're standing.

Rip doesn't respond. He's scared, but trying to act tough.

XANDER (CONT'D)

I just realized something. It's kinda funny, but I never really thought about it before. See, when a vampire burns up in the sun, they usually scream. Not just a normal scream, but the kind of scream that's hard to imagine until you've seen someone in horrifying amounts of pain.

(beat)

They don't scream when they're staked, or when you cut their head off. Jam a cross in their mouths and they might groan a little, but they really only scream like that when they're burning alive in the sunlight.

Xander backs off a little, giving Rip a better view of the window. Xander never takes his eyes off of Rip.

XANDER (CONT'D)

You're gonna burn.

Xander is back where Giles left him, keeping his eyes on Rip. He says nothing else.

Rip just stares at the window.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - MORNING

Buffy is curled up on the couch, staring at the muted TV, which has a news channel playing on it. She's not paying attention to that though. Her mind is somewhere else.

Giles walks into the room with his glass of water. When he sees Buffy, he's a bit surprised.

GILES

Buffy. I didn't know you were home.

Buffy looks up at him, still distant.

BUFFY

You've been busy.

Giles doesn't respond to that. He notices that something is wrong with her.

GILES

Something's wrong.

Buffy looks down.

GILES (CONT'D)

What is it? Did something happen last night?

Buffy thinks for a moment, and then decides to respond.

BUFFY

I killed her.
(looks at Giles)
I killed Kennedy.

Giles is a little surprised by this. He puts his water down on the table.

GILES

Oh.

After a moment of thinking, he comes up with a response.

GILES (CONT'D)

Buffy, I know it's hard right now, but she was a very dangerous person. There are times when certain actions must be taken for the the greater good.

BUFFY

But it wasn't for the greater good.
(beat)
Giles, I didn't kill her because I had to, or because it was right.

(MORE)

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I killed her because I was angry.
Because I hated her.

Giles looks away now. He's trying to make sense of this.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

The things she was saying to me...
They were the things that I didn't
want to hear. They were the things
I've been thinking, but I didn't
want anyone else to know about.

There's a long silence. Giles looks back to her.

GILES

We have other matters to worry about
right now.

BUFFY

I killed a human being.

GILES

And we'll worry about that later. At
the moment, we must focus on our
mission. We must stay the course.

Buffy doesn't respond. Giles puts a hand on her arm.

GILES (CONT'D)

I don't know how, but we will work
through this.

Dawn and Willow walk down the stairs, all fresh and rested.
They don't realize that there's a big conversation going on.

WILLOW

Hey. Are we ready for the next round
of hostage maiming?

Giles looks to Buffy to see if she'll be okay. She gives him
a slight nod, telling him to go.

He stands up and starts to walk out of the room. Willow and
Dawn follow him.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - BASEMENT - MORNING

Xander is still keeping his eye on Rip. Rip is still staring
at the window.

Giles leads the way down the stairs, with Willow and Dawn
following.

As soon as they reach the bottom of the stairs, Rip looks
over at Giles.

RIP

I'll talk!

Giles is a little confused. He looks at Xander, who just shrugs.

INT. ABANDONED HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

KENNEDY is stretching her arms. She's full of energy.

AMY is sitting nearby, with locator spell supplies in front of her (a map and some crystals). Her eyes are closed.

The CRYSTALS BEGIN TO GLOW. Amy opens her eyes and looks down at the map.

Kennedy walks closer, watching the map.

KENNEDY

It's working?

Amy doesn't respond.

KENNEDY (CONT'D)

Ethan said that locator spells didn't work here. I guess he wasn't as powerful as he made himself sound.

The CRYSTALS STOP GLOWING. Amy looks up at Kennedy.

AMY

The spell works, but not because Ethan wasn't strong enough.

(beat)

I mean, I'm way stronger than him, but that's not why I can do it.

KENNEDY

Then how?

Amy stands up.

AMY

The amulet isn't here anymore. Someone took it.

Kennedy goes into alert mode.

KENNEDY

How? Where is it?

AMY

Relax. We'll get it back.

KENNEDY

How do we get it back if we don't know where it is?

AMY

Well, let's think about this for a second. Where would you be going if you had the amulet?

Kennedy thinks for a moment, and then gets it. A plan forms in her head.

KENNEDY

Then I say we get out of here.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Buffy is still sitting on the couch, and the TV is still showing the muted news.

By now, Willow, Xander, Dawn and Giles have joined her in the room. They're just settling in for a group meeting. Giles is holding a notebook, which he's taken notes in.

Buffy looks around at everyone and sees that they're not too happy.

BUFFY

So, I'm guessing the Night of Morel Divineh isn't just a misunderstood frat party.

GILES

I should say not.

BUFFY

So what is it?

Giles takes a moment to look over his notes, trying to figure out how to put it all in context.

GILES

The Night of Morel Divineh is an event that occurs only once. It's set into motion after... When you were brought back from the dead for the second time, a sort of countdown was triggered.

BUFFY

Countdown to what?

GILES

To the opening of the source of the Slayer.

Buffy's confused now. She's not sure what she wants to say to that, so she just stays quiet.

GILES (CONT'D)

As the legend goes, after the Slayer is returned from the dead for the second time, her power is made vulnerable. If one were to possess the right tools and perform the proper spell, they would inherit that power. In effect, the world would be without a Slayer until whoever took that power died.

DAWN

Which is actually the power of two Slayers... Or, it's supposed to be.

BUFFY

But with every Slayer called, whoever gets this power would be pretty unstoppable.

Giles nods.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

So what happens to the Slayers when this spell is performed? Are they just drained, or do they--

GILES

They die.

BUFFY

Right. Because it wasn't complicated enough when they just went back to being normal people.

(beat)

No wonder every demon on the planet is after this thing. I mean, at least they don't have the amulet thingy. They can't do the spell without that, right?

Buffy just happens to look in Willow's direction at that moment, and sees a guilty expression come over her. Buffy knows what this means.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

They have the amulet. How?

WILLOW

We sorta found it, and then sorta got attacked.

BUFFY

Great, so they have the amulet and the Scythe?

Buffy takes a moment to process this information. After a beat, she starts to shake her head.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

The First was right. I walked right into this.

(beat)

And if we don't stop this, what happens then? Does the Slayer line just end?

XANDER

Why would it? I mean, sure, there'd be a skip in the Slayer record, but once the taker person dies, the next Potentials are called, right?

BUFFY

What Potentials? We called all of them, remember?

XANDER

Right, but there would be more, wouldn't there?

Xander looks at Giles. Giles isn't thrilled with the answer that he must give.

GILES

I'm not entirely sure. I do know that there haven't been any Slayers born since last summer.

(troubled beat)

There have been... complications.

Buffy looks down, upset by this.

DAWN

Even if there were more, they wouldn't be called.

Dawn looks to Willow, who gets an even guiltier look on her face.

GILES

What do you mean?

DAWN

The spell to activate all of the Slayers...

WILLOW

I kinda had to scribble over the original spell when I did that one.

BUFFY

Meaning?

GILES

(getting it)

Of course. How could I not realize?

XANDER

Umm, hello? Could someone translate for those of us who don't have the secret decoder ring?

DAWN

The original spell that was put in place to activate Slayers worked on the whole "one in a generation" premise. One Slayer dies and the next one is called. But, when Willow did the spell to activate all of the Slayers at one time, the whole "one dies, one's called" part of the equation was thrown out the window so that Willow could do the spell to activate all of them.

WILLOW

Not thrown. Scribbled over.

DAWN

However you put it, it means the same thing. The Morel Divineh thing is supposed to reset once whoever takes the power dies. The Slayer line is supposed to be restored because it just registers as the Slayer dying.

WILLOW

But now there's no system in place to activate the new Slayer when the old one dies. I called all of the Slayers at once, so when this Slayer dies--

BUFFY

The power just goes back to wherever it came from.

DAWN

No more Slayers.

XANDER

Ever?

Dawn just kinda shrugs.

WILLOW

There's a chance that there could be another one.

GILES

How?

WILLOW

Like I keep saying. I just scribbled over the original spell, I didn't erase it. It was too powerful for that, so my spell is just on top of that spell.

XANDER

So all we'd have to do is break your spell and then we're set?

WILLOW

Good luck. I'm... I mean, I was a pretty powerful witch. The spell I used was too strong for any of us to even dent.

(beat)

In theory, the original spell could bust through my spell, but that could take centuries.

BUFFY

And by then, demons would have taken over the world. It'd be like a big evil Mardi Gras that never ends.

Buffy stands up, trying to understand all of this.

XANDER

Why would Kennedy do this? I don't get it.

WILLOW

Because she's a big insane-o crazy person, that's why.

BUFFY

She didn't know.

Buffy turns and looks at Willow.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

This is a demon thing. The only way Kennedy would have found out about it was through the First, and it probably skipped over a few of the details.

WILLOW

So maybe if we told her about-- Did you say "didn't"?

Buffy looks down. She puts a hand on the scratch on her cheek that was left by Kennedy's ring during their fight.

BUFFY
Kennedy's dead.

Willow and Dawn are a little shocked by this. Giles knew, of course, and Xander doesn't react much at all.

DAWN
She's dead?

BUFFY
(still looking at Willow)
I killed her. Last night. Will, I didn't mean to--

WILLOW
No. It's okay. I mean, I'm okay. She was evil. I'm over it.

BUFFY
She wasn't evil. She didn't know.
(beat)
Neither of us knew.

Willow stops and thinks about this. She can try to hate Kennedy, but part of her still doesn't. Xander puts his arm around her.

Buffy turns to Giles.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
So, what now? We still don't have the Scythe or the amulet. How do we stop this?

Giles looks at his notes.

GILES
Umm... Well, actually... The spell requires the ritual to take place on the Hellmouth, with the twice-restored Slayer in attendance.

BUFFY
So, you're saying that all I have to do to stop this is not show up?
(beat)
Y'know, as earth-shattering revelations go, this is ranking right up there with "She used to date Fabio."

Giles is a little confused by the simplicity of it too.

Buffy laughs, which causes her scratched cheek to hurt. She puts her hand back on it and winces a little.

DAWN

Are you okay?

BUFFY

I'm fine. I don't think Kennedy's ring liked me very much.

Buffy stops for a second as something occurs to her.

DAWN

What?

BUFFY

It's... Nothing. I just thought I remembered something. It's nothing. Just deja vu.

Giles continues to look over his notes.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

But that's it? We're clear just so long as I stay here?

GILES

I think so. Assuming our vampire friend was telling us the truth.

BUFFY

Hey, if you can't trust a vampire, who can you trust?

Buffy stops again, once again being hit by a deja vu type feeling.

DAWN

Again?

BUFFY

Yeah. I just... When I mentioned Kennedy's ring, I got a flashback. Like I'd seen it before.

WILLOW

She's not really big on accessorizing. Probably just picked it up in the airport or something.

BUFFY

No. It's something else. Something...
(get annoyed)
Where have I seen that ring before?

XANDER

Did you see it on Cordelia? 'Cause I'm pretty sure she had one of each of those.

BUFFY

Shh. I'm trying to think.

XANDER

Sorry.

BUFFY

Amy!

Everyone is confused by that.

DAWN

Amy?

BUFFY

When we were in the past.

(to Dawn)

You saw it all, right?

DAWN

Yeah.

BUFFY

When I was with Amy outside of the school. When she mentioned staying in the past, she was wearing that ring.

Dawn thinks about it for a second and then remembers it.

DAWN

Oh yeah. It must have been some kind of mystical charm to keep her in the past once the spell was finished.

XANDER

So, why would Kennedy have one like it?

Willow gets what's going on.

WILLOW

Because Amy and Kennedy were working together.

Willow looks at Buffy.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Kennedy wanted you to kill her.

Off Buffy's reaction, we...

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Where we left off.

BUFFY

What?

WILLOW

The rings must have kept Amy connected to the present, so she could stay in the past. That means that Kennedy was connected to the past through Amy.

DAWN

So when Kennedy died in the present, it was as though she died in the past. If she was brought back on the same night as Buffy--

BUFFY

The countdown would be the same for her. Then the Night of Morel Divineh isn't just about me. Kennedy can be there instead.

Buffy looks to Giles.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

When is the Night of Morel Divineh?

Giles' eyes fill with dread.

GILES

Tomorrow night.

Buffy nods, accepting that answer. She gets into General Buffy mode.

BUFFY

Everyone pack a bag, we're leaving town today.

XANDER

Going where?

BUFFY

We're going where the party is. That dark corner of the planet with the nasty little secret.

(MORE)

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Where demons roam free, and the blood
of the innocent runs like water from
a faucet.

(dramatic beat)

We're going to Cleveland.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - WEAPON ROOM - DAY

CLOSE ON: BUFFY

Buffy is stuffing a bag full of weapons. Footsteps can be heard walking into the room behind her. Without looking back, Buffy knows someone's there.

BUFFY

This is my fault, Giles. Don't try
to tell me it's not.

The other person doesn't say a word, but Buffy knows what Giles would say to her, so she responds to it.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I fell for it. The First set me up,
and I fell for it. I called all of
the Slayers and now not only could
their power be given to someone who
shouldn't have it, but they could
all die.

(beat)

I'm not gonna let it happen. I'm
going to fight this.

JENNA (O.S.)

Can I help?

Buffy turns around.

REVEAL JENNA standing in the doorway.

BUFFY

You're not Giles.

Jenna doesn't respond to that comment. She starts to walk around the room, a little nervous. As she walks, she looks at the various objects in the room.

JENNA

I ran into Dawn in town. I think she
was going to see Ryan. Just in case...

(beat)

She told me what's happening.

(looks at Buffy)

I didn't know.

BUFFY

I know. We all make mistakes
sometimes.

JENNA

I just wanted it to be over. I didn't
even think about what the consequences
might be. Now, all those girls could
die because I helped them get the
Scythe.

BUFFY

(smiles)

I guess we have more in common than
we thought. Guilt complex must be a
Slayer thing.

Jenna tries to force a smile, but it's weak at best. She finally stops walking around the room and stops at a silver cross that's hanging from the corner of one of the cabinets. She picks it up and holds it in her hands. (Note: this is the cross from "Road To Hell", minus the teeth)

JENNA

Did you see this in your dream? The
one with Isabelle and Richard?

Buffy shakes her head. Jenna flips the cross over, and looks at the inscription.

ANGLE ON : THE CROSS

It has the inscription "R.A. + I.A." on it. Jenna runs her fingers over the inscription.

JENNA (CONT'D)

He gave it to her when they came to
this town. No reason really, he just
felt like giving her something.

Jenna looks back to Buffy, still holding the cross in her hands.

JENNA (CONT'D)

She didn't hate being a Slayer. It
was just part of who she was. As
many things as she was running from
in her life, that wasn't one of them.
I never understood that until now.

(beat)

I think I finally get what it means
to be a Slayer. I want to help win
this fight.

Buffy walks to Jenna. She takes the cross from Jenna, and looks at it. After a moment, she looks back to Jenna and puts the cross around Jenna's neck as though it were a badge.

BUFFY

Welcome to the fight.

INT. VIDEO STORE - DAY

KIRSTY is standing behind the counter, scanning DVDs into the computer.

Dawn walks into the store and heads for the counter. Kirsty looks up at her.

KIRSTY

You don't work today.

DAWN

I know that. I need to see Ryan. Is he here?

KIRSTY

No.

Kirsty goes back to her scanning. Dawn doesn't move away from the counter.

DAWN

Do you know where he is?

KIRSTY

No.

DAWN

Look, I really need to see him. This isn't a game.

KIRSTY

I told you, he's not--

RYAN walks out of the back room. He stops short when he sees Dawn.

KIRSTY (CONT'D)

Here.

Dawn walks to Ryan, who isn't too happy to see her.

DAWN

Can we talk?

RYAN

I don't know. I mean, I thought we could, but you haven't really tried it for a while.

DAWN

I know. Look, I'm sorry. I just really need to talk to you.

KIRSTY

Wow. It's just like I'm watching a scene from a Molly Ringwald movie.

Dawn looks at Kirsty, a little annoyed.

DAWN

Kirsty, leave.

Kirsty takes a moment as she tries to decide whether she wants to be tough or just give in. After that moment, she grabs some DVD cases and starts to walk toward the back room.

KIRSTY

Fine. Whatever.

Once Kirsty's gone, Dawn looks back to Ryan. He starts to walk away from her.

DAWN

Ryan, wait.

He turns around, a little upset.

RYAN

Why would I? You treated me like crap. For no reason, I might add.

DAWN

I know. I freaked out when I found out about you. I just... I have issues. I admit that.

RYAN

Well, when you figure them out, give me a call.

He starts to walk away again.

DAWN

I'm leaving.

Ryan stops walking, but doesn't face her.

DAWN (CONT'D)

I'm leaving town today. I'm not sure if I'm coming back or not.

Ryan looks at the ground.

RYAN

Why?

DAWN

It's complicated.
(MORE)

DAWN (CONT'D)

There are things that I wish I could tell you, but I can't.

(beat)

Look, I know you hate me. I get that. I just didn't want to leave things the way we left them. I need to know you're okay with me.

Ryan hears something in her voice which causes him to look back at her, concerned.

RYAN

Are you okay?

DAWN

Yeah. It's just that the trip I'm taking isn't a tropical vacation.

RYAN

But you'll be okay, right? You'll come back?

DAWN

I want to.

Ryan thinks for a second. This is a lot to think about.

RYAN

I don't get this. I don't get what's happening. I just don't understand.

(beat)

Explain it to me.

DAWN

It's a long story. Kinda like an annual family tradition.

RYAN

A tradition that you might not come back from?

DAWN

You know my family.

RYAN

Don't joke your way out of this. This is serious.

DAWN

I know.

RYAN

(beat)

You can't do this.

(MORE)

RYAN (CONT'D)

You can't act like you have, and then come back in here to make things better, and then tell me that you're going on some mysterious trip that you may or may not come back from.

DAWN

I know. I want--

RYAN

Just stop.

(beat)

Explain this to me. Tell me what's going on.

DAWN

I can't.

RYAN

Then how can you expect me to accept this? How can you expect me to sit back and watch the girl I lo--

He stops himself, still trying to sort this all out. After a moment, he looks into her eyes.

RYAN (CONT'D)

Explain this to me. Tell me what's going on.

Dawn hesitates. She wants to.

DAWN

I told you, I can't. It's not mine to tell.

Ryan thinks this answer over. When he speaks again, we can tell that he's in pain and doesn't like what he is about to say.

RYAN

Then don't come back.

(beat)

I can't sit by here, and wonder whether or not I'm gonna see your face again. I can't lay awake at night, trying to figure out if you're dead or alive. I can't do that.

DAWN

But--

RYAN

No. It's better if you just leave. At least then, I'm not waiting.

Dawn wants to respond, but doesn't know what to say. Ryan doesn't say anything else either.

After a second, a teary-eyed Dawn turns and slowly walks out of the store. Once she's gone, Ryan watches the door. He wants to run after her and stop her, but he doesn't.

He turns and kicks the counter as hard as he can.

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

Dawn rushes into the alley to get away from the people on Main Street. Once she's alone, she breaks down crying.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Willow and Xander walk down the stairs, carrying bags with their supplies in them.

XANDER

I think I have just about everything I'll need for our trip. Just the basics. Toothbrush, underwear, mini-arsenal. Don't leave home without them, right?

Willow doesn't respond. When they get into the living room, they put their bags down. Xander can see that Willow's troubled.

XANDER (CONT'D)

You okay?

WILLOW

Me? Sure. Fine. I mean, aside from bringing forth the destruction of the world.

XANDER

We're gonna stop it. We always do.

WILLOW

There's a first time for everything.
(beat)
If this is it, then it's my fault. I allowed it to happen. All because I wanted to feel like I was part of something again.

Xander wants to say something comforting here, but he's not sure what.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

I used to be so powerful. I'd wave my hand and the world would bow before me. I could have anything I wanted.

(MORE)

WILLOW (CONT'D)

And then suddenly, I'm a nothing.
Back to boring old Willow. Girl with
no purpose.

XANDER

That's not true. You're Willow, girl
who's the most amazing person I know.

WILLOW

Yeah, right. 'Cause next to the Slayer
and the Key, I'm looking real great.

Xander puts his hand on Willow's face, and looks in her eyes.

XANDER

You've always been special, Will.
Before the magick, and the super
powers, I knew you were different. I
saw rooms light up when you walked
into them. I saw people in tears
feel better, just seeing your smile.
You have the power to change the
world just by being you. Not only
are you the smartest person I know,
but you're the most sincere, most
warm, most caring person I know. The
magick isn't what made you powerful.
You are.

Willow looks deep into Xander's eyes, and smiles.

WILLOW

That had to be the corniest speech
I've ever heard in my entire life.

XANDER

They can't all be winners. Still
doesn't mean what I said wasn't true.
You kinda rule.

WILLOW

Thank you.
(beat)
You rule too.

Xander hugs her.

XANDER

I know.

WILLOW

You think I should bring my digital
camera?

As he hugs her, Xander notices that the TV is still on and
muted. When he sees it, his face drops.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
Downfall of the world might be a
Kodak moment, right?

XANDER
(ignoring Willow)
Oh... So not good.

WILLOW
Okay, so you're not a fan of the
camera idea.

Xander rushes to the TV, and puts a tape into the VCR.

Willow sees the TV. He eyes widen.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
Oh. You're right. That's not good.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - BUFFY'S ROOM - DAY

Buffy is packing some clothes into a bag on Dawn's bed.
Another bag is already full on her own bed.

Giles walks into the room.

GILES
The others have headed downstairs. I
think they're ready.

BUFFY
Good. We'll leave as soon as Jenna
gets back.

GILES
Are you sure we can trust her?

BUFFY
I'm sure.

Giles accepts this answer. He sits on Buffy's bed, watching
her pack.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
I have to hand it to Kennedy. She
thought this through. She played me.

GILES
I'm still not entirely clear on the
subject. The spell calls for a Slayer
that's died twice. How can Kennedy--

BUFFY
My birthday. When she crashed the
party, she died.
(beat)
I brought her back.

GILES

You couldn't have known.

BUFFY

(smiles)

Funny. You'd think I would by now. A sixth sense or something. Just seems like every move I make these days is another step in the wrong direction. Call the Slayers, save the world, get the Slayers killed, watch the world go to hell.

GILES

That won't happen.

BUFFY

First time for everything.

There's a pause in the conversation.

GILES

I'd say that you couldn't have possibly known, but then I'd be repeating myself.

BUFFY

You should do it anyway. It's kinda comforting.

GILES

You couldn't have possibly known.

BUFFY

Is that supposed to be comforting?

Buffy sits on Dawn's bed, facing Giles.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

I think it's time we called Faith. She could help us. Y'know, assuming that she could get here in time. I'm not sure how long a flight from--

GILES

We can't call Faith.

Buffy can tell from the look on Giles' face that something isn't right.

BUFFY

Why not?

GILES

Because we can't find her.

Buffy can tell there's more.

BUFFY

What aren't you telling me?

GILES

(beat)

Faith isn't the only Slayer that we've lost contact with. All over the world, Slayers have just seemed to vanish.

BUFFY

What do you mean, vanish? Are they being killed again? Bringers?

GILES

We don't know. In most cases we've seen, there aren't any bodies. This doesn't fit the pattern of the Bringers.

BUFFY

They can't just disappear. They have to be somewhere.

(beat)

Who can we call? Rhona? Chao-Ahn? Giles, I finally learned these girls' names, don't tell me it was pointless.

GILES

I don't know what else to tell you. With the limited resources available to the Council, we just can't track these girls.

BUFFY

What about the coven? They located them before.

Giles just shakes his head regretfully. Buffy can't believe this.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Why didn't you tell me about this?

GILES

You have enough to worry about with the Night of Morel Divineh. I didn't want to--

BUFFY

To what? Let me know that Slayers are missing and there's not a damn thing we can do to find them?

Buffy stands up, trying to deal with this.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

We have to help them.

GILES

And the way to do that is by first making sure that the Night of Morel Divineh doesn't happen. After that, we can worry about the others.

BUFFY

But, what happ--?

Before Buffy can finish her sentence, Xander rushes into the room.

XANDER

We have a situation.

Buffy and Giles both look toward the door and Xander, wondering what's happening now.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Buffy, Willow, Xander, Dawn, Giles and Jenna are sitting in the living room. Willow is holding the VCR remote. She hits "play".

ANGLE ON : THE TV

On the TV, a news report begins to play, though the beginning of it has been cut off. The REPORTER is standing on a somewhat familiar street, talking into the camera.

REPORTER

...ago, the town of Sunnydale, California was little more than a hole in the ground. An earthquake last spring caused a massive sinkhole to swallow the town, leaving it's citizens homeless.

Footage begins to play on the screen. Images of the ruins of Sunnydale.

REPORTER (CONT'D)

This is what the town looked like almost one year ago.

The images change. Now, there are images of familiar looking streets and buildings, all in perfect condition.

REPORTER (CONT'D)

And this is what the town looks like today. But, how did this happen, and why? I set out to find answers to these questions, but what I found were even more questions.

A MAN IN A SUIT appears on the TV, looking all official. He's talking to the reporter, who has a microphone aimed at him.

MAN IN SUIT

What we do know is that whoever backed this project went to great lengths to make this reconstruction look as much like the old town as possible. We're just not sure why.

The reporter appears on the screen again.

REPORTER

So who did this?

(beat)

It was back in October when the first witnesses reported something happening in this area. Debris being moved, and the land filling in. What they didn't see, however, were the work crews that were performing these tasks.

A WITNESS appears on the screen. A kindly old man.

WITNESS

I've been in this area for sixty years, and I never saw anything like this before. It was like the town was rebuilding itself.

(beat)

I guess they might have been working at night though. I do go to sleep early. I have a condition, y'know?

And once again, we go back to the reporter.

REPORTER

While we remained on the site for several days, waiting for someone to show up, nobody ever did. So the questions remains, who rebuilt Sunnydale? Will we ever know? Regardless of this, we're being told that the town is being inspected and if it passes, residents might begin moving in by the end of the summer.

(beat)

Reporting live from Sunnydale, California, Randi Knight, NNC.

ANGLE ON : THE GANG

Sitting, watching the report. Willow and Xander have seen it before, but are still in shock. Buffy, Dawn and Giles are speechless.

Jenna looks around.

JENNA
I don't get it.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

EXT. DESERT OUTSIDE OF SUNNYDALE - DAY

We can see the "Welcome To Sunnydale" sign, which is still buried up to the "unnydale".

REVERSE ANGLE

In the distance, from the direction opposite Sunnydale, a SHADOW appears on the horizon.

The shadow moves closer and closer, growing as it goes along.

Finally, we can see that this is not one object, but A DOZEN HELLHOUNDS, rushing toward Sunnydale.

They finally pass by us, and out of view. Once they're gone, we PAN OVER a little, and REVEAL HUNDREDS OF OTHER DEMONS making their way toward Sunnydale as well.

One of these demons, a BIG SCALY DEMON, stops walking for a moment and looks at the town. He smiles with his nasty looking teeth.

BIG SCALY DEMON
Home, sweet home.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY

Everyone is still gathered. They're getting over the shock.

BUFFY
How?
(to Giles)
How is this possible?

GILES
I don't know any more than you do.

Buffy turns to Dawn.

BUFFY
Someone must know.

Then she turns to Willow.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
Someone explain this to me.

Dawn shrugs.

WILLOW
I don't know either. I've never heard about anything like this happening.

GILES

It must have something to do with the power of the Hellmouth. Something must have caused it to... rebuild.

Buffy looks at Giles, and just stares for a moment before speaking.

BUFFY

Y'think?

GILES

That wasn't terribly helpful, was it?

JENNA

I thought you guys destroyed the Hellmouth. Caved it in.

WILLOW

I guess not.

XANDER

I'm pretty sure we just caved in a big cave.

(to Buffy)

Did you see the giant tentacle demon when you were down there?

Buffy's never thought about this, but she is now.

BUFFY

No.

XANDER

See? Big cave.

WILLOW

So, the Hellmouth's still active?

DAWN

Then, that means...

GILES

It means, we're not going to Cleveland. We're going to Sunnydale.

XANDER

(much sarcasm)

Oh. Joy.

Everyone stands and starts to gather their things.

GILES

Everyone make sure you have all that you need.

(MORE)

GILES (CONT'D)

I'd hate to get to Sunnydale, only to realize that we neglected to bring any weapons.

WILLOW

We got them.

XANDER

Let's start loading the cars.

Willow, Xander, Giles and Jenna grab some bags and start to walk out the door.

Buffy is about to follow, but she sees Dawn standing in the living room, deep in thought. She goes to her.

BUFFY

I'm guessing things didn't go as planned with Ryan?

Dawn shakes her head, still upset.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

You can try again when we come back.

DAWN

Are we coming back? I mean, even if we don't die, Sunnydale's back and Bear River's not mystical anymore.

BUFFY

Dawn...

DAWN

(teary)

He told me not to come back. That's the funny part, right? I mean, he said it and now it's probably true.

BUFFY

He said that?

DAWN

Can you blame him? I can't even tell him why we're leaving.

(beat)

I hate this. I'm tired of not being able to tell the people that I care about what's happening.

Buffy looks down.

BUFFY

I know.

DAWN

Do you? I mean, it's not just Ryan that I'm talking about. Buffy, we could die without even telling Dad that we're leaving town. That isn't right. That isn't how families should work.

Buffy stops to think about this. She grabs hold of the locket that she's wearing around her neck. The one that her father gave her for her birthday.

BUFFY

You're right.

Giles walks into the house and looks at the girls.

GILES

Are you two planning on joining the rest of us?

BUFFY

(to Giles)

Coming.

Buffy looks at Dawn.

DAWN

If I'm right, then why don't we just tell them?

BUFFY

(beat)

We'll talk about this later. We have work to do now.

Buffy grabs her bag.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

C'mon.

DAWN

I'll be out in a sec. I have to go to the bathroom.

Buffy picks up Dawn's bag.

BUFFY

We'll be waiting.

She walks out of the house. Once she's gone, Dawn looks around the room. She finds a piece of paper and a pen and starts writing.

EXT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - DAY

Buffy joins Willow, Xander, Giles and Jenna at the car (big SUV type car). Xander takes the bags from her and loads them into the car. Buffy walks to Giles and the other girls. Giles is on his cell phone.

BUFFY
(to Willow)
Who's he calling?

GILES
(into phone)
I understand that, but this is very important. We have to get there fast.

WILLOW
Council. Trying to book us a flight with as few security checks as possible.

JENNA
For some crazy reason, people are all weird about bringing a stash of weapons on flights. Go figure.

GILES
(still into phone)
Yes.
(beat)
Did you check with Mr. Patterson?
(beat)
Well, do it. I'll wait.

Giles is put on hold. He looks at Buffy.

GILES (CONT'D)
Where's Dawn?

BUFFY
Coming.

GILES
Good. We must get to Sunnydale as fast as possible. With any luck, we'll be able to keep the Scythe and the--
(into phone)
Hello? Yes, I'm here. I just said "Hello", in case you didn't hear me.
(beat)
Fine. Yes, I understand that.
(beat)
Thank you.

Giles hangs up. Xander rejoins them.

XANDER

What about the security stuff?

GILES

The Council has quite a bit of pull
in these situations.

Dawn comes out of the house, closing and locking the door
behind her. She walks to the others.

GILES (CONT'D)

Are we ready?

DAWN

Good for go.

GILES

Fine. Everybody in.

EXT. THE BRONZE - DAY

Kennedy and Amy walk down the eerily silent alley, looking
around. It's the same place as before, but something about
the place is just not right. It's off somehow.

KENNEDY

Who would have thought we'd ever see
this place again?

AMY

I think you're forgetting that I was
just here. It's not that big a deal
for me.

KENNEDY

Yeah, but... I mean, the place was
sucked into a giant pit. This is
weird, right?

AMY

I guess.
(beat)
So, where's this friend of yours?

KENNEDY

He said he'd meet us out here.

They get closer to the entrance to the Bronze, where ETHAN
is leaning against a wall, waiting.

ETHAN

Gorgeous day, isn't it? The sun is
shining, the birds are chirping...

He listens for a moment, but there's only creepy silence.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Or they would be if there were any
birds here.

Kennedy looks over and sees Ethan. She and Amy walk to him.

KENNEDY

Where is it?

ETHAN

Hello to you too.

KENNEDY

Cut the crap. Do you have the Scythe?

Ethan leans over and picks the Scythe up, off of a nearby
garbage can. Kennedy grabs it.

KENNEDY (CONT'D)

Good.

ETHAN

Still need the amulet though.

KENNEDY

It'll be here.

Kennedy looks at Amy.

KENNEDY (CONT'D)

And you can find it, right?

AMY

Locator spell. It's child's play.

ETHAN

I could do it too. I have been known
to--

AMY

No offense, but I think she wants
someone with a little kick in her
step. If we need someone to make us
all act like teenagers, we'll give
you a call.

KENNEDY

Both of you shut up. I don't give a
damn who does the spell. Just do it.
I want to know where the amulet is,
and I want to know tonight.

Amy and Ethan look at each other. There's not a lot of love
there, but there is a sense of playful competition.

AMY

We'll see who gets there first.

EXT. DESERT OUTSIDE OF SUNNYDALE - NIGHT

THREE MORE DEMONS pass by, on their way into Sunnydale. There are probably more, but it's dark and demons are good with lurking.

A car drives down the highway, going well over the speed limit.

INT. CAR - NIGHT

Inside the car, we see SANDERS at the wheel. He's driving with one hand, while clutching the amulet in the other. He's in a rush to get into town.

He looks down at the amulet and grins.

SANDERS

Tonight, my love. Tonight we find the Scythe and by this time tomorrow, I will be the most powerful being on the face of the planet.

(beat)

Tomorrow night, I will feel the power of the Slayer fill me. I will let it wash over me like water. I will--

EXT. DESERT OUTSIDE OF SUNNYDALE - NIGHT

As Sanders speeds down the road, he suddenly SMASHES INTO a HUGE DEMON. The car wraps around the demon like it was a tree, killing the demon.

Sanders' door pops open, and he stumbles out, still holding onto the amulet. He walks around to the front of his car and takes a look at the dead demon. He kicks the dead body.

SANDERS

Watch where you're going next time.

After saying that, Sanders starts to walk toward Sunnydale.

INT. SUNNYDALE RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT

An SUV (not unlike the one back in Bear River) slowly makes it's way down the street.

INT. SUV - NIGHT

Giles is behind the wheel, with Buffy in the passenger seat. Everyone else is squeezed into the back. They're all looking around.

XANDER

This is creepy.

BUFFY

Does it seem weird to anyone else?
Not just in the way where it exists,
but something else.

DAWN

Yeah. Like it's not exactly the way
it used to be, but it's close.

WILLOW

It looks right to me.

(beat)

Except, does anyone else see all the
demons?

JENNA

I see them.

XANDER

Yeah, but what's so unusual about
that?

EXT. SUNNYDALE RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT

As the SUV drives down the street, a DEMON crosses the road
in front of them. The SUV stops. We can now see more clearly
around the area.

ANGLE ON : A HOUSE

There's yet ANOTHER DEMON scrounging around the bushes. And
a dim light on inside.

ANGLE ON : THE STREET

A pack of hellhounds is surrounding the dead carcass of
another demon, eating it.

INT. SUV - NIGHT

Everyone is looking around at all of the demons.

BUFFY

Even before, it wasn't this crowded.

GILES

They're being drawn here.

BUFFY

Couldn't they draw somewhere else? I
have enough to worry about with
Kennedy.

Willow suddenly perks up, still looking out the window.

WILLOW

Hey.

(points)

That's the guy who took the amulet!

WILLOW'S POV

Sanders is walking down the street. As he walks, the hellhounds suddenly perk up and look in his direction. They start to run toward him.

Other demons from the area also start to charge toward Sanders. They sense the amulet.

Everyone in the car looks in the direction that Willow is pointing.

BUFFY

Then let's get it back.

Buffy gets out of the car. The others follow her. Willow grabs a weapon bag on her way out.

EXT. SUNNYDALE RESIDENTIAL STREET - CONTINUOUS

Buffy walks toward Sanders. By now, Sanders is trying to fight off the other demons.

BUFFY

Hey!

The demons all look up at Buffy.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

The vamp's mine.

The demons ignore her and go back to attacking Sanders, who is SCREAMING. Buffy looks at Dawn who is standing next to her.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Am I not threatening anymore?

Willow hands Buffy an ax. Buffy walks toward the demons, which are attacking Sanders. She stands right behind them, waiting for them to look up, see her, and go after her. After a second of waiting, she rolls her eyes and taps one of the Hellhounds on the back.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Hey! Slayer. Right here.

The demons still ignore her.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Okay, let's try this another way.

She raises the ax and swings it, hitting one of the hounds right in the back (there should be about three more remaining). She pulls the ax out, and the hellhound drops, dead.

The other hounds look up at her finally. Buffy smiles.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
That's more like it.

All at once, the hounds attack Buffy. Buffy's smile quickly fades as she fights them off.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
(calling back)
Get the others!

The rest of the Scoobies jump into action, taking weapons (Jenna gets a mace) and attack the rest of the demons, trying to get to the amulet.

Within a few moments, the demons are attacking them instead of Sanders. They want the amulet, but it does them little good if they're too dead to use it.

Sanders (bloody and beaten by now) still clutches the amulet. Since the demons are otherwise distracted, he starts to back off. As he turns to run, he comes face to face with Kennedy.

She smiles.

KENNEDY
Hey. Mind if I borrow that?

Kennedy punches Sanders. Sanders goes down.

Buffy looks up from her fight and sees that Kennedy is close to the amulet. Her eyes widen.

Unfortunately, this distracts her, and a hellhound leaps onto her, taking her down.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. SUNNYDALE RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT

Buffy kicks off the hellhound that jumped on her, sending it flying backwards. She jumps to her feet and begins to fight off the other hounds. It seems like every time she gets one out of her way, another one jumps her.

ANGLE ON : JENNA

Fighting with another demon, and not doing too bad a job. She manages to avoid it's swings at her, and kicks it in the gut. She looks down at her mace, and then back to Dawn.

JENNA

What the hell am I supposed to do
with this?

Dawn is too busy fighting with another demon to reply. Jenna looks back to the demon and starts whacking it with the mace.

This makes the demon angry, and it swings at her, hitting her in the face. She quickly recovers. Now she's pissed.

She kicks the demon in the groin area, and then punches it in the face, hard. The demon is knocked off balance. As he stumbles backward, Jenna spin-kicks him in the face.

ANGLE ON : KENNEDY

She is struggling with Sanders, trying to get the amulet from him. He refuses to let go of it.

Finally, Kennedy grabs Sanders by the face, and throws him to the ground. She gets on top of him and starts to beat him.

ANGLE ON : BUFFY

As she continues to fight the hellhounds, she tries to keep her eye on Kennedy.

She throws two of the hellhounds off of her, leaving one more to keep attacking. She takes this chance, and grabs the hellhound around the head with her free hand. She twists, SNAPPING it's neck.

The remaining two hellhounds leap at her at the same time. Buffy quickly swings her ax, killing one of them. As she continues the swing, she brings that hellhound along for the ride, slamming it into the last living hound and causing it to hit the ground.

Buffy takes a breath and looks back at Kennedy. As she starts to walk toward Kennedy, the last hellhound gets to it's feet and GROWLS. Buffy looks at it.

BUFFY

Great.

(beat)

Y'know, I do have other things to d--

Before she can finish, the hellhound jumps on her.

ANGLE ON : JENNA

She's repeatedly hitting her demon over the head with her mace. The demon is growing bloody, and can't seem to find a chance to attack her.

JENNA

Die already!

Finally, the demon falls to the ground. Jenna takes a deep breath and smiles a little. She's proud.

JENNA (CONT'D)

Hey, I did it.

(then)

Finally.

She looks over and sees Kennedy beating on Sanders, trying to get the amulet. When she sees this, she looks to Buffy and the others and sees that they're otherwise occupied.

She's the only one free to handle Kennedy, so she goes over to her.

Just as Jenna gets there, Kennedy grabs the amulet from Sanders. He's still on the ground, groggy from the big beating.

Kennedy stands up and sees that Jenna's standing near her. Kennedy smiles.

KENNEDY

You come to help?

JENNA

I come to stop you. I know what you're doing now.

KENNEDY

Right. You mean, you know what Buffy told you.

JENNA

What you're doing is wrong. People will die. I won't let it happen.

Kennedy sticks the amulet in her pocket and prepares to fight Jenna.

KENNEDY
Do you really think you can stop me?

JENNA
(shrugs)
I'll try anything once.

Kennedy looks at Jenna's mace.

KENNEDY
Then bring it on, Go-Go.

Kennedy attacks Jenna. Jenna avoids Kennedy's punch and jabs Kennedy in the stomach with the back of the mace. She swings around and tries to hit Kennedy with the ball of the mace, but Kennedy grabs her arm and twists it. The mace drops out of Jenna's hand.

Kennedy flips Jenna onto the ground, not letting go of her arm.

KENNEDY (CONT'D)
Say uncle.

ANGLE ON : BUFFY

She hits her hellhound in the chest with her ax, and pulls it back out really quick. After she's sure it's dead, she turns and sees Jenna and Kennedy fighting. She knows this isn't good.

WILLOW (O.S.)
Xander, help!

ANGLE ON : WILLOW

Being attacked by one of the other demons. It's holding her tightly, lifting her off the ground. She can't breath.

Soon, Xander comes to her rescue, stabbing the demon in the neck with a knife. The demon drops Willow and turns his attention to Xander. Xander smiles nervously.

XANDER
I don't suppose you'd let me go if I yelled "April Fools" right now.

The demon swings at Xander, knocking him to the ground. It's about to attack him some more, but Willow goes at it with an ax, and keeps hacking away until the demon drops.

ANGLE ON : JENNA AND KENNEDY

Still fighting. Jenna manages to get back to her feet, and throws a kick in Kennedy's direction. Kennedy grabs Jenna's foot and twists it, sending Jenna back to the ground.

KENNEDY

Is this the best you can do? 'Cause from the way you were talking before, I thought this would be hard.

BUFFY (O.S.)

How's this?

As Kennedy turns to see who's talking, a fist comes out of nowhere and smashes into her face. Kennedy flies through the air and crashes to the ground.

ANGLE ON : BUFFY

Standing nearby, looking tough.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

And to think, I've only been training since I was fifteen. Your face must be red with embarrassment.

(beat)

In all fairness, there's also a chance that's just bruising.

Kennedy gets back up.

KENNEDY

You caught me off guard. I'd like to see you do that when I'm looking.

BUFFY

You don't know what you're doing here, Kennedy. You don't realize what's happening.

KENNEDY

I'm not listening, Buffy. You'll just feed me more lies. You never cared about those girls. You just wanted your "normal life".

(looks around)

Guess you lucked out. Still fighting. Still losing. You managed to kill me once. Let's see if you can do it again. And this time, I won't be letting you win.

Buffy doesn't respond. She still wants to work this out and explain it to Kennedy.

Kennedy attacks her with all of her might. Buffy soon realizes that this isn't going to be talked away. Kennedy won't listen.

Buffy grabs Kennedy and pulls her close. She doesn't like this, but if she has to fight, she is determined to win it.

BUFFY
(oddly guilty)
This time, I won't be holding back.

ANGLE ON : JENNA

On the ground, attempting to get back up. As she looks up, she sees Sanders on the ground. He's just getting back to his feet. Jenna recognizes him.

JENNA
You.

Sanders looks at her.

SANDERS
Do I know you?

JENNA
You killed Isabelle.

Sanders looks at Jenna, confused. How does she know that?

Kennedy charges at Buffy. Buffy avoids Kennedy's first swing, and tries to sweep Kennedy's legs out from under her. Kennedy jumps over Buffy's leg, avoiding the leg sweep, but Buffy quickly comes back with a kick to Kennedy's gut.

Kennedy doubles over and stumbles back as Buffy gets back to her feet. Once back up, Buffy spin-kicks Kennedy in the face, causing Kennedy to fall to the ground again.

ANGLE ON : SANDERS

He sees that this isn't a battle that he's going to win. He starts to move off.

Jenna gets back to her feet and is about to go after him when Dawn calls out.

DAWN (O.S.)
Jenna!

Jenna looks back.

ANGLE ON : DAWN

Being attacked by her demon. Not winning this fight.

Jenna knows that she has to help Dawn. She grabs onto the cross around her neck, and looks at Buffy.

JENNA

Buffy!

Buffy looks over at Jenna. Jenna nods toward Sanders. When Buffy looks at him, she recognizes him right away.

BUFFY

Oh, no. You don't get away this time.

Buffy looks down and sees Jenna's mace on the ground. Using her foot, she kicks the mace into the air, catches it, and snaps the wooden handle in half, making a stake. She throws the stake as hard as she can.

ANGLE ON : SANDERS

The stake catches him in the back, and through the heart. He turns and looks at Buffy.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

That one's for Isabelle.

Sanders looks confused again.

SANDERS

How do you people know about--?

Before he can finish that sentence, he POOFS.

Buffy doesn't have time to celebrate. Kennedy is back in the game and goes after Buffy. They resume their fight.

ANGLE ON : DAWN

Still being attacked by the demon. All of the other Scoobies are busy with their own demons, so Jenna is the only available help.

Jenna rushes to Dawn's side and grabs onto the demon. She pulls it away from Dawn and causes it to turn in her direction. Once it's facing her, Jenna proceeds to kick it's ass.

ANGLE ON : BUFFY AND KENNEDY

Still fighting like a couple of crazy animals who know martial arts. Each of them is doing pretty well with avoiding the other's punches and kicks. When they do manage to hit each other, the recovery time is very short.

BUFFY

(between punches)

I'm getting--

(punch)

--that amulet.

KENNEDY

Don't think so.

Buffy gets in a good punch, which causes Kennedy to stumble backwards.

ANGLE ON : GILES

Fighting with a demon, and using a sword. After a few jabs and grabs, Giles manages to swing around with his sword, and put it through the demon's chest.

As he pulls it back out, the demon drops. Giles looks around for the next demon to fight. There aren't many more at the moment. Only the two that the others are fighting.

Giles rushes over to Willow and Xander, and helps them with their demon. It goes down quickly.

ANGLE ON : BUFFY AND KENNEDY

Buffy slams Kennedy onto the ground and holds her there.

KENNEDY (CONT'D)

They told me you'd try to stop me.

BUFFY

They were right.

(beat)

Whoever "they" are.

Buffy picks Kennedy up and slams her down again, knocking the wind out of Kennedy.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Now, let's make this easy. Give me the amulet and tell me where the Scythe is.

Kennedy doesn't respond with words. Instead, she flips Buffy off of her, sending Buffy to the ground.

Kennedy gets to her feet quickly.

ANGLE ON : THE OTHER SCOOBIES

They are just finishing off the demon that Dawn and Jenna were fighting. Once that one is dead, they look around for more demons. Not seeing any, they turn toward Buffy and Kennedy.

By this point, Xander and Willow are leaning on each other, worn out and a little bloody.

As Buffy gets to her feet, Kennedy looks over at Willow and Xander. There's a level of hurt in her eyes, but it just comes off as bitchiness.

KENNEDY

(to Willow)

I still can't believe you chose *him* over me.

WILLOW

What can I say? Sometimes you feel like a nut, sometimes you don't.

Xander smiles at her, and then gets a slightly confused look on his face. Willow looks at him lovingly, and sees his expression.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

She's the nut.

Xander nods.

BUFFY

So, did we call time-out? 'Cause last time I checked, I was right in the middle of kicking your ass.

Buffy looks over to say something sarcastic to Giles. As she looks in his direction, her face drops.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Oh... Bloody hell.

Giles gets a confused look on his face. Finally, he and the others turn to see what Buffy is looking at.

ANGLE ON : THE ROAD PAST GILES

A group of DEMONS are coming their way. There must be another dozen there.

ANGLE ON : DAWN

Not liking this.

DAWN

Anyone else think we should maybe--

She can't finish that sentence before a FURRY DEMON jumps on top of her from behind. She crashes to the ground, and the demon keeps attacking.

BUFFY

Dawn!

Without thinking, Buffy jumps into action to help Dawn. She pulls the demon off of Dawn, and hits it a few times. Then she holds up a hand.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
(still watching the
demon)
Giles, sword!

Giles tosses the sword to Buffy. She catches it without even looking. Quickly, she jams it into the demon, killing it.

Jenna helps Dawn up. Dawn is holding her head, having hit it in the fall.

JENNA
You okay?

DAWN
Yeah. Luckily, thick skulls run in
the family.

Buffy turns back to where Kennedy was, but Kennedy is gone. This upsets Buffy.

BUFFY
Son of a bitch.

Willow, Xander and Giles are still watching the demons coming their way.

XANDER
I know the whole Kennedy thing is
bad, but am I the only one who feels
the need to run?

BUFFY
We have to catch her.

GILES
Right now, we have to get out of
here.

Giles leads the way to the car. Buffy hesitates, wanting to track Kennedy, but eventually follows the others. Once they get into their SUV, they speed off.

INT. SUV - NIGHT

As they drive down the road, Buffy still has a determined look on her face.

BUFFY
Giles, we have to find Kennedy.

GILES
I'm aware of that.

DAWN
Follow the demons. They'll go after
the amulet.

JENNA

You mean, more fighting?

BUFFY

We don't have a choice.

Jenna looks to Xander, tired.

JENNA

Do we ever take a break?

XANDER

Eventually. I think you'll find that May is a pretty bad month for us, statistically speaking. Good news is, we tend to have slow summers.

Somehow, this isn't comforting to Jenna.

Up front, Giles is turning the car.

BUFFY

We're heading in the wrong direction. Demons are going the other way.

GILES

Yes, well, one generally gets *behind* those that they're tracking.

BUFFY

Oh. Right. Good thinking.

GILES

Yes, I am capable of that every so often. Thank you for noticing.

Willow rests her head on Xander's shoulder. He leans over, smiling, and whispers in her ear. As he does this, a surprised look comes over her. She's also a little embarrassed at first, but then just smiles.

WILLOW

I didn't mean it that way.

Xander smiles and rests his head on hers.

Dawn leans up to Buffy.

DAWN

Hey.

BUFFY

Hmm?

DAWN

So, did Kennedy really date Fabio?

Buffy looks back at Dawn.

BUFFY
You really need to watch more TV.

GILES
Even I got that one.

Buffy now looks to Giles with a questioning look.

DAWN
(to herself)
I've been busy this year.

Giles sees that Buffy is watching him. He gets a little defensive.

GILES
What? It was on the same tape as
Alias.

EXT. SUNNYDALE RESIDENTIAL ROAD - NIGHT

The SUV is keeping it's distance behind the demons as they make their way toward the amulet.

EXT. OTHER ROAD - NIGHT

Amy is waiting with a mystical box in her hand. When Kennedy runs up, she's ready for her.

Kennedy reaches Amy. As she does, Amy hands her the box.

AMY
Put the amulet in here.

Kennedy does as she's told. As she does this, Amy's EYES TURN BLACK.

AMY (CONT'D)
(focusing)
Scatter.

The BOX FLASHES.

KENNEDY
(beat)
That's it? Don't you have to rhyme
or something?

AMY
Let's go. It'll only last a while.

EXT. SUNNYDALE RESIDENTIAL STREET - NIGHT

As the SUV follows the demons, something happens. The demons suddenly lose track of their target.

They stop for a moment, trying to figure out where to go. Then they begin to wander in different directions.

INT. SUV - NIGHT

The gang watches this, confused.

BUFFY
What's happening?

GILES
They've lost track of the amulet.

BUFFY
How?

DAWN
Probably a spell.

XANDER
We really should figure out who's been helping Kennedy. I mean, if Amy was past-girl all this time, there had to be someone else, right?

JENNA
What do we do now?

Buffy thinks.

BUFFY
We go to the amulet.

XANDER
Which is where, exactly?

Buffy looks to Giles, telling him where to go.

BUFFY
The Hellmouth. It's the only place they can do this, right?

Giles nods and begins to drive again.

EXT. SUNNYDALE HIGH ROAD - NIGHT

The SUV pulls to a stop down the street, and everyone gets out. They gather at the front of the car.

WILLOW
What's the plan?

Buffy looks around.

BUFFY

We should check the place out before going in. Last thing we need is another surprise.

Buffy sees something.

BUFFY'S POV

A nearby building.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

(pointing toward the building)

There. We can see the school from the roof. Xander, grab the binoculars.

XANDER

'Cause we have those?

BUFFY

We don't?

(to Giles)

Why don't we ever have binoculars?

GILES

Why are you asking me?

WILLOW

Oh! I have a digital camera!

Buffy looks at Willow, not getting it.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Zoom lense.

BUFFY

Get it.

Buffy starts walking toward the other building. Xander and Willow get into the car for the camera.

XANDER

Why did you bring a camera?

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Buffy leads the way across the rooftop with the others following her.

Before Buffy gets to the edge of the roof, she turns and takes the camera from Willow.

WILLOW

Just be careful, okay?

BUFFY

Just taking a look.

Buffy gets to the edge of the roof and looks over at the school. As she does, her jaw drops... along with the camera.

Everyone else sees what she sees, which is why Willow doesn't react to the camera dropping.

GILES

God, help us.

ANGLE ON : THE SCHOOL

Sunnydale High ain't what it used to be. Either time.

It's a combination of both versions of the school. Mostly the old version, but with some bits and pieces of the updated version.

EXT. SUNNYDALE HIGH - COURTYARD - NIGHT

Kennedy is in the center of the courtyard, holding the Scythe and the box that contains the amulet.

PULL BACK to REVEAL that she's not alone. The courtyard is filled with HUNDREDS OF GIRLS.

More to the point, hundreds of Slayers.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF EPISODE