

ANGEL

"Paradyse"

by
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TEASER

1 INT. HYPERION - NIGHT

1

The hallways are nearly completely in darkness, the only light coming from an illuminated night light up on the mezzanine floor.

A mingling shadow begins to creep across the floor and spill over onto the walls, but stops short.

Our attention is quickly shifted when ILLYRIA walks apathetically around a distant corner. She walks carelessly for a moment with her head in the proverbial clouds before she abruptly stops. She stares fiercely in our direction.

ILLYRIA
You are not real.

Silence.

ILLYRIA (cont'd)
I have seen this thing many times
in my youth. You exist to haunt the
core of a weakened mind.
(smirking)
I created your kind for amusement.
(beat; angrily)
My mind, however, is *not* weakened.

Illyria turns and walks back, not hesitating for a moment. When she is firmly out of sight, the shadow slowly resumes its trek until a pair of boots come to stand defiantly in our view, before we cut to:

2 INT. HYPERION - ILLYRIA'S ROOM

2

Illyria angrily SLAMS the door to her room as she enters, looking back as a tear rolls down her cheek. She stands like so for a moment before speaking.

ILLYRIA
I told you to cease your futile
attempts at penetrating my mind!

WESLEY (O.S.)
I'm not a ghost, Illyria.

Illyria turns to see WESLEY standing confidently in the corner of the room.

ILLYRIA
You are dead! Do not insult my
intelligence by acting as though I
do not understand the laws of this
world.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WESLEY

I really haven't the time to argue physics with you, Illyria, so I'm going to make this quick.

Wes takes a few steps closer as he begins to explain himself. As he does, Illyria reaches her hand around his neck to lift him off of the ground, but her hand goes straight through him!

ILLYRIA

(assertively)

This is not normal behavior for a living being.

WESLEY

(sternly)

You have to stay away from Wolfram and Hart, it is of *extreme* importance.

Illyria stares curiously at Wesley for a moment without responding.

WESLEY (cont'd)

Something is coming, Illyria. Something big that they are trying to release into the world. If you-

ILLYRIA

Enough!

(beat; angrily)

I will not waste another moment's time entertaining the delusions of an incorporeal being whose only interest lies in confusion and manipulation.

Wes reaches out to Illyria, puts his hand on her shoulder, and stares convincingly at her. Illyria stares down at his hand on her shoulder - it didn't go through!

She reaches her hand out and touches the solidness of his hand and nearly has to gasp for air as she does so.

She stares at Wesley in awe as he smiles warmly.

ILLYRIA (cont'd)

How is it that you come to this place?

WESLEY

By using a form of astral projection. I'm in a dimension called-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SPIKE (O.S.)

Blue!

3 INT. HYPERION - LOBBY - MORNING

3

Illyria FLIES out of her chair where she had been sleeping and lifts SPIKE from the ground with one arm, leaving him dangling.

He chokes for a beat before something dawns on him, and he stares back at her, looking almost bored.

SPIKE

You can't choke me to death, your highness, I don't breathe!

ILLYRIA

(confused)

Paradyse.

SPIKE

(sarcastically)

Yes. I'm enjoying myself as well.

(angrily)

Now put me down, before you-

Illyria drops Spike on the floor before he can finish his sentence, turns, and walks quickly off screen.

Spike rubs his throat for a moment as he gazes up at SKYE who is smiling at him with a slight chuckle.

SPIKE (cont'd)

(apathetically)

Glad you enjoyed the show.

SKYE

(shrugging)

It's been a boring day.

(beat)

What's her problem?

SPIKE

What's do you mean, 'what's her problem'?

(walking away)

She's a woman, isn't she?

SKYE

Hey!

As Skye trots after Spike, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF TEASER

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 INT. HYPERION - ANGEL'S OFFICE - MORNING

4

ANGEL sits restlessly at his desk, busily perusing a stack of paperwork that stands mockingly in front of him on the desktop. As he steadily flips between pages, he is interrupted by an unusually gleeful Spike.

SPIKE (O.S.)
Good morning, boss!

ANGEL
(without looking up)
What do you want, Spike?

Spike plops down in the chair opposite and smiles boldly without a word, until angel finally looks up at him and stares back at Spike's onslaught of smiling carnage.

ANGEL(cont'd)
(annoyed)
Well?

SPIKE
(happily)
You've got a visitor.

Angel stares inquisitively for a few moments, before realizing that Spike is enjoying himself far too much to allow for such an easy allowance of information.

ANGEL
(slightly agitated)
Who is it?

SPIKE
Hold on. I want to savor this.
(beat)
It's the state inspector.

ANGEL
(worried)
State inspector of what?

SPIKE
Didn't think to ask. Someone says he's an inspector, you just assume that he's come to inspect something.

Angel stands and looks quickly through the cracked door, to see a well dressed man waiting impatiently in the lobby.

ANGEL
What does he want?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPIKE

Kind of falls under the 'didn't ask him' category, mate.

(beat; happily)

But if I had to venture a guess, I would say that he's here about your license.

ANGEL

What license?

SPIKE

(smiling)

Exactly.

Angel frowns at a joyful Spike and walks to the door.

5

INT. HYPERION - LOBBY

5

A tall, well dressed, but geeky looking man in his late thirties stands in the middle of the lobby, carefully observing the whole of the hotel from the ground up.

ANGEL (O.S)

Can I help you?

The man nearly jumps off of the ground as he quickly whips around to stare Angel in the face.

INSPECTOR

Mr. Angel?

ANGEL

Yes. And it's just 'Angel.'

INSPECTOR

(smiling)

I'm sorry. You startled me. My name is Jonathan Embry, I'm a private business inspector with the state of California.

ANGEL

(beat; confused)

Is that supposed to mean something to me?

INSPECTOR

It would, if you had ever filed to become a licensed investigator.

Angel stares back at the man with a great deal of curiosity.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

INSPECTOR (cont'd)
You see, Mr. Angel, you've been operating your business illegally for the past five years, but due to a slight oversight within the committee, nothing was ever done about it.

ANGEL
So what does this mean?

INSPECTOR
It means that I'm going to have to perform a conclusive investigation. At the end of which, I will report to the committee whether or not that I recommend you be instated as a fully credentialed private investigation firm.

ANGEL
So you're going to be what, studying us?

INSPECTOR
In essence. Is that a problem?

ANGEL
(uneasily)
Oh, no. No problem.

INSPECTOR
(smiling)
Great.

The inspector opens a large folder that has ANGEL INVESTIGATIONS scribbled across the front of it, and with a click, removes a pen from his shirt pocket.

INSPECTOR (cont'd)
So, how many people do you have working for you?

ANGEL
Just one.

INSPECTOR
And his name?

ANGEL
(beat; conspicuously)
William. We-

ILLYRIA (O.S)
I do not care that he is busy!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The inspector redirects his gaze from Angel onto the advancing Illyria, and watches with a certain uncertainty as she approaches.

ILLYRIA (cont'd)
(to Angel)
I must speak with you.

ANGEL
I'm actually busy right now, but-

ILLYRIA
The matter is of great importance!

INSPECTOR
I'm sorry. Who is this?

ANGEL
This-

ILLYRIA
My name is beyond your
comprehension, mortal.

Angel rubs his eyes, exasperated, before he turns back to the inspector who stares, confounded, back at Illyria.

ANGEL
I... uh-

SPIKE (O.S)
(to Illyria)
You know what? I don't give a damn
if you were a god!

The inspectors gaze shifts once more from Illyria to Spike, who rushes into view.

SPIKE (cont'd)
You're about to be taught a lesson
in manners that you won't soon
forget, princess!

Spike races in and lunges for Illyria. Illyria, however, catches him in midair and hurls him across the room, smashing through a table and landing hard upon the ground.

SPIKE (cont'd)
(yelling)
You filthy minx!

Spike jumps from the ground and rushes towards Illyria.

Angel stares at the wall behind his visitor as a loud CRASH echoes off screen. The inspector is in awe at the royal rumble while Angel simply drops his head into his hands, staring at the floor. Angel sighs loudly before we cut to:

6 INT. HYPERION - ANGEL'S OFFICE

6

Angel is at his desk again, with Illyria, Spike and Skye before him. He has his hands folded before his mouth, contemplating something for a long beat.

ANGEL

And you're sure it was Wesley you saw?

ILLYRIA

My senses may not be what they were, but I believe I can still recognise the face of the only one among us who ever paid me any respect! At first, I believed it to be a mere spectre, sent here to taunt me, but...

SPIKE

One of a kind, isn't he, our Wes? I'm sure he'd love you mistaking him for a ghost after all he did for you...

(beat)

Well, this is all well and good, but what are we supposed to do about it? So he's stuck in another dimension. Hooray for him. How are we meant to get him back out?

ANGEL

We're not even sure this 'Paradyse' exists yet, it could be a trick from Wolfram & Hart. But... If it was Wesley you saw, we owe it to him to get him back home.

Angel stands, reaching out for his jacket.

ANGEL (cont'd)

I'll go see what I can find out, the rest of you dig up some books, look for anything mentioning this 'Paradyse' and if there's a way in.

SKYE

Where are you going?

Angel pauses in the doorway.

ANGEL

I'm checking my sources.

He heads out as Spike settles into Angel's chair with a satisfied sigh.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPIKE
Right! I'm glad to say our loveable
Forehead's absence puts me in
charge... Skye, go put the kettle
on, would you?

As Skye raises an eyebrow, we cut to:

7

INT. UTF - TAYLOR'S OFFICE

7

Angel pops his head in through a cracked door to find a
preoccupied TAYLOR, shouting loudly at one of his lackeys.
The MAN stands uneasily in front of Taylor and flinches with
every heightened release from Taylor's mouth.

Angel stops himself from interrupting and watches
intriguingly as the ass chewing continues.

TAYLOR
Did I give you confirmation to fire
upon the crowd?!

MAN
No, sir.

TAYLOR
That's precisely what I thought. So
what I'm struggling with is why
would you do something without
being given an order to do so?

MAN
Sir, I-

TAYLOR
Because for some strange reason, I
was under the impression that I was
the boss, and correct me if I'm
wrong, but isn't it the boss that
gives the orders in your typical
working environment, military or
otherwise?

MAN
Yes, sir.

TAYLOR
And yet you took it upon yourself
to *think*?

MAN
Sir, I-

TAYLOR
I've heard enough...
(notices Angel)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TAYLOR(cont'd)

And now it looks like I've got a pain in the ass vampire to deal with, so just get out of my sight.

The lackey turns and walks quickly from the room. Angel smiles as the scolded man passes, continuing his smile well into Taylor's office. Taylor motions for Angel to sit.

TAYLOR (cont'd)

Something I can do for you?

ANGEL

Impressive showing.

TAYLOR

A leader has got to keep his men in line. They can't, for one second, doubt your authority or your sincerity when you promise consequences.

ANGEL

And what kind of consequence is that guy looking at?

TAYLOR

What do you want, Angel?

ANGEL

I'm looking for some information.

TAYLOR

Nearest blood bank is on 104th street.

Taylor smiles and grabs for a sandwich that's lying on the corner of his desk.

ANGEL

(ignoring sarcasm)
I need to find out about a dimension called Paradyse.

TAYLOR

Looking for a vacation?

ANGEL

I just need to find out anything that I can about. For starters, whether or not it exists.

TAYLOR

What is it exactly that you're looking for?

Taylor is busily unwrapping what appears to be his lunch and barely taking note of Angel by this point.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANGEL
I've got a lead on someone that
might be holed up there.

TAYLOR
Planning a rescue mission?

ANGEL
Something like that.

TAYLOR
(beat)
I'll get Sonia on it and let you
know, although I don't know why I
should-

When he looks up from his desk, the door is slowly coming to
with no sign of Angel anywhere.

TAYLOR (cont'd)
(mutters)
Dick.

8 INT. HYPERION - LOBBY - AFTERNOON

8

Skye and Spike are chatting lazily at the front desk as the
hotel's front door swings open, to allow an ocean of sunlight
to sweep through the lobby. Spike eyes the sunlight
cautiously as it comes just short of reaching his seat.

SONIA casually strolls into the hotel, a backpack strapped
over her right shoulder and her smile in place.

SONIA
Hey, guys!

SPIKE
Your boyfriend's not here.

Skye slaps Spike's arm.

SPIKE (cont'd)
(overexaggerated)
Ow! Well, he isn't!

SONIA
(beat)
I'm actually looking for Angel.

SPIKE
(to Skye)
Is it okay if I take this one, or
am I in danger of another violent
outburst?

Skye glares sarcastically at Spike before he continues.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPIKE (cont'd)
He's in his office per usual,
whining over today's events with
that inspector person.

SONIA
Inspector person?

SPIKE
Don't ask. He threw himself a bit
of a hissy and only shut up about
it an hour or so ago, and that's
just because he went into full on
brood mode. So do us a favor and
keep our lips sealed on the
subject, shall we?

SONIA
(wry)
I'll try to control myself.

9 INT. HYPERION - ANGEL'S OFFICE

9

Angel is at his desk, staring into the wall as a quiet knock
interrupts. He looks up to see Sonia smiling at the door.

ANGEL
Sonia, what are you doing here?

SONIA
Taylor sent me.

ANGEL
Bring me good news?

SONIA
Sort of.
(beat)
One of Taylor's contacts through
the Watcher's Council confirmed
that there is definitely an
alternate dimension known as
Paradyse.

ANGEL
(amazed)
I don't believe it.
(shaking his head)
That's great. What else did he find
out? I kinda need to get there in a
hurry.

SONIA
That's where the 'sort of' comes
in, I'm afraid.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Angel stares at her, waiting for the rest, but Sonia is reluctant to break the news.

SONIA (cont'd)

The Council also told Taylor not to allow you access to any pertinent information relating to the dimension.

ANGEL

What?!

SONIA

Apparently it's a rough place, Angel. They said that it's too risky to send anyone in... no matter what the reason.

ANGEL

(beat; angrily)

Great. That's just-

SONIA

So... I stole the information for you.

Angel looks curiously up from his rant to stare at Sonia, who reaches into her backpack and pulls forth a stack of papers and drops them on Angel's desk.

ANGEL

Wh- How?

SONIA

Off of Taylor's computer. I'm second in command, remember? I get the keys to his office. There's a spell in there somewhere, if you can finish translating it, you should be able to open up a portal into that dimension no problem.

ANGEL

I- I don't know what to say.

SONIA

You don't have to say anything. Taylor is well intentioned, but he can't see things unless they're right in front of his face, and even then it's strictly by the books.

(rolling her eyes)

I swear he gets off on the chain of command and basic procedures.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANGEL
Thank you. I won't forget this.

SONIA
(smiling)
You'd better not, because if Taylor finds out I did this for you, I may need *your* help.

10 INT. HYPERION - LOBBY - NIGHT

10

Angel, Spike, Illyria, Skye, and CONNOR are all in the middle of the lobby. Angel and Illyria are translating text and preparing a spell to open up a portal. Skye and Spike are sitting down, watching the fireworks along with Connor.

ILLYRIA (O.S)
Your transcriptions are all wrong, vampire!

ANGEL (O.S)
Well then, why don't you tell me what it says?!

Spike smiles and shakes his head.

SPIKE
Good god, that girl has got a temper!

CONNOR
It seems to be even worse today.

SPIKE
That's because Fred thinks that there might be a chance at saving her boyfriend.

SKYE
(confused)
Don't you mean Illyria?

SPIKE
Do you really think Illyria, former god of the earth, gives a quid about a decaying shell?

CONNOR
So...

SPIKE
That's right, kiddies. Illyria isn't the one pushing the shopping cart today.

SKYE
But how could-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ILLYRIA (O.S.)
For the last time, vampire, you are
doing this *wrong!*

Angel stands, frustrated, and walks away from Illyria, his
fists clenching.

ANGEL
Alright, fine, you do it, then! You
know, seeing as I'm obviously so
hopeless at this...

Illyria stares at the scroll, then kicks them to one side
with a sweep of her foot.

Raising a hand into the air, there is a BLAST of air through
the lobby, her long hair billowing out behind her, and then
with a CRACK of thunder and a FLASH of blue light, a whirling
vortex of a PORTAL opens before her.

Illyria simply turns and faces the astonished faces staring
at her - no words are needed. Spike breaks the silence after
a long beat.

SPIKE
(to Skye)
Well, time to go.

Skye and Connor join him, and the three of them stand
alongside Angel and Illyria to stare into the emptiness of
the portal. Skye eyes the portal uneasily, awaiting orders.

ANGEL
Everyone ready?

SPIKE
We will be able to follow our trail
of bread crumbs back home, right?

ANGEL
Assuming that they're not eaten by
some sort of blood hungry hell
beast, yeah.

SPIKE
(beat; nodding)
Works for me.

SKYE
So what do we do here?

SPIKE
What do you mean?

SKYE
We just jump through it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SPIKE
(motioning to the portal)
We follow the yellow brick road.

SKYE
(beat)
Sorry, I'm just new to the world of
portals and it seems really
intimidating. Just give me a minute
to-

Spike interrupts her by grabbing her, throwing her over his
shoulder and leading the crew into the portal, with Skye
kicking all the way.

Connor and Angel share a quick smile before following Illyria
into the portal as well. A few moments later, the portal
begins to close and vanishes into the air.

11 EXT. PARADYSE

11

As the portal closes in the background, we catch Angel in a
confounded gaze. He scours his surroundings for several
moments before he is thankfully interrupted.

SKYE (O.S.)
Put me *down*, you jerk!!

SPIKE (O.S.)
Alright, alright, keep your
knickers on!
(beat)
Blimey, looks like Kansas just took
a hell of a left turn...

Paradyse is revealed - and standing before us is a monstrous
city, lying nearly completely in shambles.

Tall buildings are kept standing with only inches of
resistance to spare. Fires rage on throughout the whole of
the scenery, and match the blood red color of the skies.

Angel stares grimly at the scene for several moments before
he slowly begins to shake his head.

ANGEL
(to himself)
I hate hell dimensions.

BLACK OUT:**END OF ACT ONE**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

12 EXT. PARADYSE

12

Fade back in on the hellish remnants of the unknown city, many fallen buildings lying just where they had once fallen.

As we slowly sweep along, we're catch glimpses of beings scampering wildly through the opened areas. Darkness and distance make it impossible to see anything clearly.

Back on our heroes, we take in the varied reactions to their new surroundings. Connor, Angel, and Illyria don't seem overly worried. Skye, however, looks dismally over to Spike, who seems almost bored.

SKYE

(sarcastically)

Thanks a lot for bringing me here, sweetie. It was real nice.

SPIKE

Like you would've missed this trip? You would have gone on for weeks if I'd left you back at the hotel.

Skye looks back at the decaying city with contempt.

SKYE

I think I would have found it in myself to forgive you.

ANGEL

Skye, Spike - save it. Now's not the time. We need to see if we can find Wesley and get out of here as fast as possible. I don't like the looks of this place and I'm sure none of you do either.

SPIKE

What's the matter, chief? Haven't you ever been to a Hell dimension?

Spike walks confidently past Angel and toward the city. Angel watches spike for a moment, then sighs as he follows everyone else down the hill toward the ruins of the city.

13 EXT. PARADYSE - CITY - ALLEY

13

The group is following behind Spike as they all look cautiously about their surroundings. As Spike comes to the end of the alleyway, he takes only a single step into the street before quickly JUMPING back into the alley and firmly planting his back against the building.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPIKE
(freaked)
What the hell is *that*?

Angel smirks at Spike and shakes his head.

ANGEL
(sarcastically)
What's the matter? Haven't you ever
been to a Hell dimension?

Spike doesn't seem too interested in a quip which only adds to the dramatics of the situation.

Angel steps confidently around Spike and peers into the streets.

After just a moment, he hurries back into the alley and also leans back against the wall. Skye and Connor are quick to pick up on what may be in store and take to the wall with the others as Illyria simply stands, staring at them.

SPIKE
(to Angel)
I'll say it again - what the hell
is that thing?

ANGEL
I have no idea.

SPIKE
(beat; quietly)
Blue! There's something out there
that needs killing. Be a help and
snap to.

Illyria walks quickly to the street as she looks to the two vampires.

ILLYRIA
Must I fight alongside cowards?

As she rounds the corner, however, Illyria freezes. Her typically confident expression drops from her face and is replaced by an unusual look of fear.

Adjacent from the alley, a tall building stands in putrid surroundings. Nothing of extreme significance is present until seconds later, a horrifically demonic creature comes tearing hastily into view, crawling effortlessly down the side of the building.

The creature is jet black and barely visible against the backdrop of the dark city on its far side. An elongated body is capped off with a maniacally crafted tail that swings eerily to and fro as it descends the building.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The creature abruptly stops and scours the area, looking frantically in every direction and exposing a set of exquisitely sharpened fangs as it releases a deep, dark GROWL from within.

As the growl rings out in the silent streets, Illyria turns back to the rest of the group to reveal an odd look of near panic on her face.

ANGEL
Well? What is it?

ILLYRIA
They are called nightcrawlers. I assumed that their kind had dwindled out of existence along with every other being from my past - it appears I was mistaken.

ANGEL
What can you tell us about them?

ILLYRIA
That we should not make our location known.

SPIKE
(in disbelief)
You're scared of them? Oh, Jesus, this is fan-bloody-tastic. A simple rescue mission, he says, but now we've got a god cowering at the sight of a wall crawling monster!

ILLYRIA
I do not 'cower' before anything, half-breed!

SPIKE
Oh yeah? Why don't you take a stroll down main street then, so the rest of us can get the hell out of here?!

Illyria steps closer to Spike, a fiery look in her eye.

ILLYRIA
I do not have to-

ANGEL
(quietly)
Enough!
(beat)
We don't have the time for bickering.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ANGEL(cont'd)

This *is* a simple search and rescue mission, but we're not going to be able to search or rescue if you guys draw that thing's attention to us! Now keep quiet!

Illyria stares at Angel, knowing that he's right, but reluctant to allow Spike's insubordinations to go unpunished.

Meanwhile, Skye and Connor's curiosity has gotten the best of them, and they too are peering around the corner. After barely glimpsing, Skye jumps back round to the others as Connor watches on in amazement.

SKYE

(panicky)

I'm with Angel. Let's not anger them. Or, in fact, crowd them or generally be within five freakin' miles of them!!

SPIKE

'Them'?

Spike pulls Connor back out of the way and peeks around the corner - there are now several more of the creatures scaling the sides of various buildings. Spike steps back around the corner and comes to stand in front of Angel.

SPIKE (cont'd)

I think the mission just changed. I say we search for an exit, and rescue ourselves.

ILLYRIA

We will not leave Wesley here! If I am fortunate, the crawlers will take you to finally silence your insolence!

SPIKE

We don't even know that he's here! You had a dream, Blue. They're not always premonitions. Sometimes, they're just dreams.

ILLYRIA

We are not leaving this world empty handed!

SPIKE

Then you can stay here, if you're so damn fond of it! I am going home.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

VOICE (O.S)

Looks like you're having trouble
keeping your team together these
days, Angel...

The entire group quickly whips around to see HOLLAND MANNERS
standing happily at the other end of the alleyway.

MANNERS

Of course, I'm sure that all lies
within the eye of the beholder,
doesn't it?

Manners begins waling slowly towards the group.

SPIKE

(to Angel)

This place is turning out to be a
damn high school reunion for you,
innit?

ANGEL

(to Manners)

What the hell are you doing here?

MANNERS

Haven't you heard? I live here. Oh,
well I live here and there
actually. My job these days
requires that I travel.

ILLYRIA

(to Angel)

What is this being?

ANGEL

This is the guy whose job I took.

Illyria turns her stare back to Manners, who has come to
stand merrily in front of them.

ILLYRIA

(to Manners)

You are of the wolf, ram, and the
hart?

MANNERS

In a manner of speaking, yes.

ILLYRIA

Then why should we not kill you?

ANGEL

Because he's already dead.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

MANNERS

(nodding)

Comes with the territory,
unfortunately.

ANGEL

Cut the crap, Manners. What is this
place?

MANNERS

This, Angel, is Paradyse.

ANGEL

(sarcastically)

Bit of a misleading name, isn't it?
And why is our friend trapped here?

MANNERS

This place is a lot like a holding
cell. We've got several of them.
You've been to one other, if I'm
not mistaken, that quaint little
suburb!

(beat)

And as for Mr. Wyndham-Pryce...

Illyria perks her head up as he mentions Wesley's name.

MANNERS (cont'd)

... he was a signatory, therefore
upon his unfortunate death, he was
transferred here.

ANGEL

You said this place is a holding
cell. A holding cell for what?

(angrily)

What are you planning on doing with
Wesley?

MANNERS

So many questions, so little time.
I'm afraid that I've got a flight
to catch, but I will leave you with
this small rationing of reason. You
remember our little scuffle earlier
this year? The one that you oh-so-
graciously took the fall for to
save your beloved Los Angeles?

Angel stares back angrily.

MANNERS (cont'd)

Where do you think we got our
resources? We can't pluck random
spirits from Hell at our discretion
- that's what these places are for.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

MANNERS(cont'd)

In fact, you'll probably find several spirits that you've dispersed over the years wondering these streets. And I'm sure they'll be very happy to see you again...

ANGEL

You're going to-

MANNERS

Good luck.

With those words, Manners disappears from view. The gang quickly looks around, but there's no sign of him anywhere.

CONNOR

(beat)

Well, at least he told us what was going on... Right?

14 EXT. PARADYSE - OUTSIDE OF CITY

14

The group are past the city limits, walking along the barren hills that they entered the world on with the city in the not-too-distant background. Angel leads the group across the hills and into a small valley that lies at the basin of a steep assortment of cliffs.

The gang slowly make their way through various winding turns, through different gaps in between hills and sharp cutting mountains on the other side.

ILLYRIA

I do not understand, why are we not looking for Wesley?!

SPIKE

Because we value our own arses as well! Do you want to wind up wall-scaling demon food?

ANGEL

We are looking for Wes, but odds are that he isn't in the city with those things running round - or *crawling*, even. Wes is smarter than that. There's got to be some kind of underground community somewhere, if this place is as populated as Manners says.

SKYE

And how do we know that it is what he said it was? I mean, not to get all suspicious, but he *is* the bad guy...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANGEL

Manners always tells the truth about these things. He's so arrogant that he thinks his schemes will succeed, no matter what information we have. He likes to watch us squirm as we try to figure it out.

SPIKE

(apathetically)

You've got to admire a man with conviction.

(quickly)

Now, explain to me again how we're supposed to find anyone in a damn barren desert like this, let alone one person in particular? It's like looking for a bloody single drop within a tub of water, it's just not going to happen! Odds are-

Before Spike can finish his sentence, he stops abruptly, leaving everyone else to know that something is wrong. Angel looks back to the end of the group to see that Spike is nowhere to be seen.

ANGEL

Spike?

The rest of the group are just now catching up and turn to look around as well.

SKYE

Spike?!

Alarmed, the group begins to take a defensive stance against anything that may come from around the next curve or from above. As they scan the area, however, they're interrupted by Spike's voice.

SPIKE (O.S)

Er... I think I may have found something.

Angel frowns, confused, as he walks slowly to the back of the group and looks around carefully, but is still unable to come up with anything.

ANGEL

Spike?

As Angel searches the ground, a small rock connects on the side of his head, and he SHOUTS in alarm.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SPIKE (O.S)
(excitedly)
Did I hit him?!

Angel rubs his head as Skye rushes past him - a spot of dirt has given way to a sizable hole in the ground.

Inside the hole, Spike is leaning apathetically against a wall. Upon seeing Skye, he looks inquisitively at her and beckons again:

SPIKE (cont'd)
(excitedly)
Well? Did I hit him?

15 INT. CAVES

15

Angel is the last one to land inside of the darkened cave with a THUD, then he turns and PUNCHES Spike. Angel turns and begins inspecting the surroundings, leaving Spike to angrily rub his jaw.

SPIKE
Bloody hell!

ANGEL
That was for the rock.

SKYE
(beat)
What is this place?

CONNOR
Home to someone... or *something*.

SKYE
And you know that how?

CONNOR
(motioning to the corner)
There are footprints in that far corner over there, and it also looks like something might have slept there on more than one occasion.

SKYE
Right. Grew up in a hell dimension. I don't know why that's so hard for me to remember.

SPIKE
(to Angel)
So what now, fearless leader?

ANGEL
Now? We follow the rabbit hole.

16 INT. CAVES - FORK

16

As they round the latest corner, everyone stops as they reach a fork in the road, one side looking as though it had been crudely cut by hand whereas the other appears to be of natural origins.

SPIKE

Well, that ought to make things easier.

ANGEL

It's no problem. We'll just split up and meet back here if we find anything.

SPIKE

What if we don't find anything?

ANGEL

(annoyed)

Then we'll *still* meet back here.

SPIKE

Right. Well then, I call this one.

Spike walks into the path on the right and is followed quickly by Skye and Illyria, leaving Angel and Connor looking to one another.

CONNOR

I guess it's you and me then.

17 INT. CAVES - RIGHT PATH

17

Spike leads Illyria and Skye silently through the darkened path, glancing back to check that they're still there.

SPIKE

(to Illyria)

You sensing anything?

ILLYRIA

I sense that you do not know where you are taking us.

SPIKE

Do you see any alternative paths? I've got one of one options here, your majesty. It isn't a head scratcher as to which way to go.

Spike pauses for thought, then carries on again. Skye is looking less sure about this by the moment!

18 INT. CAVES - LEFT PATH

18

Angel and Connor walk noisily through the tunnel, apparently not too worried about anything when they hear a vague noise from just around the next corner.

Connor peeks around the corner first as Angel works his way around him.

CONNOR

Oh, man...

19 INT. CAVES - RIGHT PATH

19

Illyria has taken the lead as Spike walks alongside Skye.

SPIKE

Look, I'm sorry for carrying you through the portal... you know, kicking, screaming, and such. I should have let you walk through on your own accord. Must have had one of those irrational moments that everyone says that I get from time to time.

SKYE

(smiling)

You, irrational?

(beat)

Don't be sorry. I probably would have wussed out and not tagged along otherwise.

SPIKE

So what you're saying is, that I was right.

SKYE

(playfully)

For once.

SPIKE

Fair enough. I-

SKYE

Spike...

SPIKE

Yeah?

SKYE

Illyria's gone.

Spike looks back in front of him to see that she's right. Illyria has disappeared.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPIKE

Oh, *bullocks!*

Spike takes off in a sprint and Skye is quick to follow. Shortly thereafter, they come to an opening in the cave.

20

EXT. OUTSIDE CAVES - CONTINUOUS

20

Spike and Skye both stop as soon as they exit the caves. They look around quickly, but there is nothing to be seen except for the city in the background -- nothing else.

SPIKE

That crafty devil. How in holy hell did she get away from us so quickly?

SKYE

Don't forget, she's getting her powers back. Maybe 'sneaking away from vampires' is something she used to be good at, you know?

SPIKE

That's all we bloody need, that borderline psychotic turning herself into a one-woman A-bomb again!

Spike looks across the landscape and sighs.

SPIKE (cont'd)

As much as I hate to admit it, we've got to find that bastard of a boss of ours because I'm coming up a thimble short in the idea department.

(beat)

Unless you've got a ball buster of an idea swirling about your head?

Skye shakes her head, and the duo enter the cave and fade into the darkness before we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

21 INT. CAVES - LEFT PATH

21

Spike and Skye come running around the corner and stop abruptly, Spike nearly falling down, as they take in the scene before them.

As we spin around, we see that a large cavern is filled with people; people who appear to be ran ragged and starved. Most of them are wearing expensively crafted business attire that is worn nearly completely down.

In the middle of the group, sitting promptly on the ground, are Angel and Connor, busily inquiring as to every bit of information available.

ANGEL

And you don't know of any way out?

RANDOM GUY

There *is* no way out.

RANDOM WOMAN

You think we haven't looked? I've been down here longer than I can even remember.

ANGEL

What about the nightcrawlers? Is there anything you can tell us about them?

SPIKE (O.S)

(curiously)

Are we interrupting something?

Angel turns back around to see Spike and Skye standing in the cavern's entrance. He waves them over.

ANGEL

Spike, where's Illyria?

SPIKE

She's gone. What the hell are you two doing playing house with the locals?

ANGEL

She's gone?

SPIKE

That's what I said, innit?

ANGEL

How could you let-

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPIKE
(apathetically)
'Let' isn't the word I'd use for
it, not where her Highness is
concerned.

Spike looks around Angel to stare at the group of people that
Connor is still talking to.

SPIKE (cont'd)
Now what the hell is going on in
here?

ANGEL
These are more signatories from
Wolfram & Hart.

SKYE
They look... wild.

ANGEL
It's a very different dimension
than ours. These people have to run
for their lives every day just to
survive.

SKYE
But they're already dead. What's
there to worry about?

SPIKE
Just because you're dead, doesn't
mean that you can't feel pain and
I'd say that those black, Spider-
Man trick pulling monsters from Oz
are experts in dishing it out.

SKYE
So what are we going to do?

ANGEL
We're going to find Illyria and
hopefully Wes, and then get the
hell out of here.

SKYE
(emotionally)
No, I mean about *these* people.

ANGEL
(solemnly)
Nothing we can do.
(beat)
Connor, let's go.

Connor jumps up from the ground where he was still sitting
with the others to come stand alongside his father.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

CONNOR
Where are we going?

ANGEL
To find a way home.

SKYE
(to Angel)
We can't just leave them here!

ANGEL
They got themselves in, it's not up to us to get them all out again. I don't like this any more than you, but we can't afford to get distracted.

SKYE
So did this guy Wes that you're looking for, you signed the same thing as he did, right? What if you got stuck down here? Would you expect him to come get you?

ANGEL
What do you want me to do, Skye? Lead some kind of multi-dimensional revolution against a hoard of demons?

Skye stares back convincingly at Angel as he looks away, but then quickly looks back at her when he realizes what she's suggesting.

ANGEL (cont'd)
No. No way.

22 EXT. PARADYSE - NEAR CITY

22

Illyria is walking cautiously through an open space towards a large, creepy wooded area. All the trees appear to be dead and look like something out of 'Sleepy Hollow.' As she walks through the space, however, she stops without warning.

Illyria stands for a motionless for a moment before ducking as a nightcrawler flies overhead. The creature HISSES at her as it lands on the ground and spins around.

ILLYRIA
Death comes to us all, but upon yours, I shall wear your bones around my neck as a symbol of my victory.

With vigor, Illyria grabs the creature by its neck and locks her arms in a choke hold, violently SLINGING the creature to the ground.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

A ROAR slips from the creature's jaw before Illyria pounces on it like a lion killing its prey. She boldly grabs it by the neck and thrusts all her might, before we hear a loud SNAP.

The demon falls lifelessly to the ground. Illyria smiles proudly and begins to carry through with her promise to wear the creature's bones as she starts to rip an extended limb from its body. Before she can begin, however, another HISS claims the air.

Illyria whips her head around to see an entire pack of nightcrawlers surrounding her. She stands up to face them all and stares defiantly into the group.

ILLYRIA (cont'd)
(confidently)
If you wish.

Illyria takes a defensive stance, awaiting the first move.

The closest one jumps at her, and as she tenses, there is a loud SHATTERING sound and a thick mist surrounds the area.

Nonstop HISSES fill the air for several moments before the area goes silent. As the smoke slowly begins to clear, we see WESLEY standing heroically in the parting smoke.

His demeanor is considerably different from his typical self. A thick, scroungy beard covers the whole of his face and is met by long locks of hair that hangs well over into his eyes. Wesley smiles as he walks over to Illyria.

She stares back at him, wide-eyed.

WESLEY
Hello, Illyria. Anyone else would have started running after the first one showed up, but that's not your style, is it?

ILLYRIA
(softly)
Wesley...

WESLEY
In the flesh. Do you need a hand?

Illyria quickly stands up from the ground, refusing his help and obviously wounded with blood flowing everywhere, but characteristically reluctant to let it be known.

ILLYRIA
Don't begin to think that you saved me mortal. I had the situation well under control.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WESLEY

(chuckles)

Good, you haven't changed a bit.

Illyria stares back at him, seeming almost as though she is hurt by his words.

After a moment, Wes takes note, walks over, and hugs Illyria who seems to be oddly taken by the gesture, returning it for a brief moment before suddenly pushing him away.

ILLYRIA

How long have you known we were in this dimension?

WESLEY

Since you arrived.

ILLYRIA

And you waited until now to show yourself?!

WESLEY

(assuringly)

I had to make sure it was safe.

(beat)

Where are the others?

ILLYRIA

I left them in a series of caverns. They only worked to slow my pursuit.

(beat; curiously)

What is in the concoction that drove the demons away?

WESLEY

(routinely)

The proper combination of natural resources from this world.

(quickly)

Illyria, you've got to get out of here.

ILLYRIA

We can go now that you are in our possession.

WESLEY

I can't leave.

ILLYRIA

But, you told me you wanted me to rescue you...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

WESLEY

Ah, yes, that. I'm afraid I've learnt a little more about the way this place works since then. It's not as easy to leave as I first imagined.

ILLYRIA

No! I will not leave you here, I want you to come back with me! I *demand* it!

WESLEY

I'm flattered, really, but there is no way out of here for me. If you're meant to be here, you must remain until released.

(beat)

You have to find the others and leave the way that you came in.

Illyria cocks her head to the side and stares at Wes for a moment, looking immensely saddened, before she becomes herself again, reaches out and grabs his arm, and pulls him behind her.

ILLYRIA

Your input on the matter does not concern me. You will return with us to your home dimension.

Wes opens his mouth to answer, but Illyria sternly marches away, dragging him after her.

23

EXT. PARADYSE - MOUNTAINS

23

Wes is now following closely behind Illyria as she checks constantly to make sure that he is still indeed behind her.

WESLEY

Not wanting to dispute your mission, Illyria, but-

Illyria stops and looks back to him in anger.

ILLYRIA

As I have already decreed, you will not be left behind!

She turns back and continues her walk as Wesley smiles.

WESLEY

That's not what I was going to say. Do you see that tree?

Wes points to a gnarled tree a few feet away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WESLEY (cont'd)

This is the third time we've walked past it. Are you sure that this is where you left them?

ILLYRIA

I left the two vampires in the tunnels beneath the mountain. Angel and his son took an alternate path.

WESLEY

Two vampires? Sounds like I've got plenty of catching up to do... If Spike's in the tunnels, they could have theoretically made it miles by now.

ILLYRIA

Theory does not concern me. Only escaping this diseased world, and bringing you with me!

As a stony-faced Illyria walks on, Wes can't help a proud smile slipping out at her determination.

24 INT. CAVES - RIGHT PATH

24

Angel and Spike are walking alongside each other, followed shortly thereafter by Skye and Connor.

SPIKE

You are *such* a pushover.

ANGEL

What would *you* have done?

SPIKE

I would have put my foot firmly upon the ground, and if she tried to remove said foot from said ground, I would have had to teach her a lesson in economics.

SKYE

(to Connor)

He does this all time - talks about me like I'm not around.

CONNOR

(to Spike)

Economics?

SPIKE

Yeah.

(smiling)

It's not very profitable to piss me off.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Connor laughs for a moment before looking over to Skye who stares apathetically back at him, leaving Connor to quickly cease his laughter and walk on in silence.

25 EXT. OUTSIDE CAVES

25

As Illyria and Wesley near the cave's entrance and begin to enter, Illyria quickly stops and looks around as though she senses something.

WESLEY

What is it?

ILLYRIA

There is something plotting against us.

Wesley quickly does a three-sixty, but doesn't see anything.

WESLEY

Are you-

When he makes it back around, Illyria is gone.

WESLEY (cont'd)

(beat)

She *definitely* hasn't changed a bit.

We watch Wes hurry into the caves.

26 INT. CAVES

26

Wesley catches up to Illyria who is walking extremely slowly through the tunnel, taking in her surroundings.

After a few moments, a GROWL rings out. Wes quickly spins around just in time to see Illyria catch Spike, one handed, in mid air by the throat.

SKYE (O.S)

Careful, 'Ria. He'll teach you math, I heard.

Spike rolls his eyes at Skye's comment as she, Angel, and Connor emerge from around the next corner to stand in front of them. Illyria drops Spike to his feet and he quickly looks over to Wes.

SPIKE

Honest mistake, luv! Thought you were one of those things.

(to Wes)

You've got to give this one a good shagging so she'll stop being so damn fiery!

(to Illyria)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPIKE(cont'd)

Thought for a horrible moment there
you were going to zap me with your
bullet time thing again...

Illyria looks almost shocked, like she's been busted.

WESLEY

(to Illyria)

So your powers are returning... I
had a dream where we spoke about
it, but I wasn't sure what to make
of it.

ILLYRIA

I also-

ANGEL (O.S)

It doesn't matter.

Angel steps into view and quickly hugs Wesley, creating a
rare moment of emotion between the two.

ANGEL (cont'd)

(smiling)

We've got what we've came for. It's
good to see you, Wes.

WESLEY

You don't know how happy I am to
see you... all of you.

(to Skye)

Though I'm afraid I don't know you.

SPIKE

(apathetically)

Wes the Watcher, meet Skye the
vampire, comma, slayer.

WESLEY

(impressed)

You're a Slayer?

SKYE

And a vampire.

Wes gives her a confused expression.

SPIKE

Long story short, she's neither
here nor bloody there. There are
black things climbing on walls,
boys and girls, let's just get the
hell out of here!

WESLEY

Yes, about that... That may prove
rather tricky.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Off Spike's deflated expression, we dissolve to:

27

INT. CAVES - LATER.

27

Spike leans up against the walls with a dumbfounded stare upon his face for several moments before speaking.

SPIKE

So what you're telling me is that we came all the way here just to save your hide, and you don't know a way to get us home?!

Angel rolls his eyes at Spike's rant.

ANGEL

Freaking out is not going to help us get out any more quickly, Spike. The nightcrawlers are no worse than any of the other things we've over the years.

SPIKE

(quickly)

I'm not freaking out over the nightcrawlers, you ponce. Black, wall crawling beasts that look like they should be battling Ripley don't freak me out. The fact that I'm almost out of cigarettes and the nearest corner shop is two dimensions over does have me *slightly* agitated, however!

SKYE

(to Spike)

He's right. You're not helping.

SPIKE

Oi! What gives you-

SKYE

So shut up!

Spike looks to Skye, bewildered that she just told him to shut up, but it, oddly enough, seems to work.

ANGEL

That was... interesting.

SPIKE

(seriously; to angel)

You, I won't take that from. I'm having trouble understanding why I just took it from the likes of her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SKYE
(playfully)
Because you love me?

WESLEY
(quickly)
I may know a way out.

Everyone stops and stares at Wesley.

WESLEY (cont'd)
I'll reiterate that - I *may* know a way out.

Wesley stops for a moment and appears to be reluctant to voice his suggestion. Spike clicks the heels of his boots together three times and looks back apathetically to Wes.

SPIKE
Didn't work. There goes my idea.
(quickly)
Now why don't you share yours with us?

WESLEY
There is a place inside the city that is heavily guarded, and I've often observed new waves of both the human captives and demons leaving there. Logic dictates that would most likely prove to be the only way out of this dimension.

CONNOR
Heavily guarded by what?

28 EXT. PARADYSE - CITY STREETS

28

Our eyes are fixed upon a small, one storey building that lies strangely in the city streets. The fact that it is still standing with few blemishes lies testament to the fact that the building bears some importance. The legions of nightcrawlers that are present is another.

The beasts crawl fiendishly over the building, forcing a quivering feeling down one's spine with the odd nature of their unorthodox movements. They nearly cover the whole of the building from top to bottom, crawling atop one another as they circle the building.

We pull back to reveal that the group is cowering some two hundred yards from the building. Angel, extremely out of character, looks particularly worried before turning back to the group.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANGEL
So... ideas?

BLACK OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

29 EXT. PARADYSE - CITY STREETS

29

Back in the city, as the team watch the swarm of nightcrawlers between them and their way out.

CONNOR

None that involve going in there.

SPIKE

Right.

(quietly; to Angel)

I've got an idea.

Spike leans in and whispers something into Angel's ear, before Angel quickly pulls back and looks shocked.

ANGEL

Spike!!

SPIKE

(angrily)

Simmer down. They'll hear you.

Spike turns and waves uneasily to his left. As we swing around, we see a group of about thirty of the various people that we recognize from the cavern earlier. They all stand readily, looking over their shoulders as if they're expecting to be attacked at any time.

ANGEL

(quietly)

We are not sacrificing all these people so we can go home!

SPIKE

It's not *sacrificing*, you blind ninny. They're already dead.

SKYE

What happened to your 'still feeling pain while you're dead' speech earlier?!

SPIKE

Unless you want to find out first hand, I suggest you talk our clueless leader here into taking my advice.

ANGEL

No, Spike, it isn't going to happen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WESLEY (O.S)

He's right.

ANGEL

What?

Wesley steps in closer to the group.

WESLEY

Spike is right... for once.

SPIKE

I'll let that slide, Percy, but just on account of our being in a situation of imminent peril and you being our best shot out.

WESLEY

We'll never make it through all of them and if we do and there is no portal, then we're dead anyhow.

SKYE

So you want us to kill them all?

WESLEY

We won't be the ones doing the killing. I know that it seems like a horrible thing to even suggest, but it's the only way that any of us are going to get out of here. These people are already finished, the only thing in their futures is an indeterminate time spent here, then an apocalyptic bloodbath.

SKYE

Forget it! I'd rather stay here.

CONNOR

Speaking as the only living being in this dimension, I would like to cast my vote for leaving. Spike's right, dad. It's our only hope.

Angel stares knowingly at Connor, but is reluctant to go through with it. Half because he doesn't want to mislead these people and half because he doesn't want to admit that Spike is right.

As he makes his decision, we cut to:

30

EXT. PARADYSE - CITY STREETS - FRONT OF BUILDING

30

As the dozens of nightcrawlers stir restlessly around the building, hissing and growling at one another, a CRASH rings out as a glass shatters against the cement.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

With the glass shattering, comes the familiar, thick mist that accompanied Wesley's concoction earlier. Much hell raising occurs on behalf of the nightcrawlers as they HISS mercilessly in search of the source.

As the mist clears, several CRIES bellow out in the distance and the large group of humans run directly past the building and towards another building slightly down the road. They hastily begin to enter the building as the nightcrawlers give chase.

Some of the humans toward the rear of the group are POUNCED upon by the nightcrawlers. SCREAMS ring out as they begin busily tearing flesh from bone, sinking their razor-like teeth into soft skin. We watch the horrific scene for a few moments before we cut back to:

Angel staring on at the scene with a face nearly made of stone. Though he is trying frantically to hide it, signs of remorse are blatantly obvious upon his brow. Off of his saddened look, we FLASH BACK to:

31 EXT. PARADYSE - CITY STREETS - MINUTES EARLIER

31

Angel stands heroically in the center of the group of people with all of his own team scattered throughout the masses. He paces confidently as he gives a rousing speech, handing out orders in the process.

ANGEL

These things, these *demons* will not be the death of us.

(beat)

We're not here because Wolfram & Hart wishes it or because they force us to be. We're here because we haven't done anything about it.

Wesley and the others look nervously around the crowd of people, fearing the worst, that they won't buy into it.

ANGEL (cont'd)

But today, that's all going to change. A block and a half is all that stands between us and our freedom. Inside that abandoned skyscraper is a portal that leads back to our own dimension.

(beat)

All we've got to do is make it there.

32 EXT. PARADYSE - CITY STREETS - PRESENT

32

We pick back up as Angel stares at the dismal scene before him, despair weighing heavily upon his face.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WESLEY (O.S)
Alright, let's go!
(beat)
Angel!

Angel quickly turns his head to see that the rest of his group have already begun their dash across the street. Angel looks back to the mauling once more before he raises his sword and follows behind his comrades.

Spike is the first near the building and swings his sword furiously at an attacking nightcrawler, slicing through it and one other as he swings hastily through the air.

Illyria walks confidently through her surroundings, staying close to Wesley. She steps quickly to the side and grabs the neck of a flying demon to snap its neck.

As she turns back around, however, she's nearly met face to face with an advancing foe before Wesley steps in front of her, and takes its head clean off of its body with a swing of the axe.

Connor and Skye are running behind the others, followed by Angel, as they swing their weapons continuously through the crowd of demons.

Just as Angel reaches the his first adversary, another CRASH claims the scene and the street quickly fills with smoke once again, leaving painful HISSES from the demons to fill the air.

WESLEY (O.S) (cont'd)
Hurry! Into the building!

Wes disappears through the main archway entrance, rapidly followed by the others. Angel pauses to take one last look at the carnage outside before heading through.

33 INT. PORTAL BUILDING - ROOM

33

Angel hurries through the door to find the rest of the gang nearly running around in circles in search of anything remotely resembling a portal.

SPIKE
I don't see any portal!

ANGEL
Wesley?!

WESLEY
I'm working on it!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPIKE

Working on *what*?! This isn't a bleeding puzzle, it's either here or it isn't!

CONNOR

(to Angel)

We'd better get ready. They won't be held off for long by whatever was in that stuff.

Angel nods, and he and Connor prepare to exit the room and fend off any approaching enemies before Illyria speaks up.

ILLYRIA (O.S)

There!

Everyone stops and looks back to Illyria who is pointing at a wall. Angel takes a double take to make sure that she's pointing at the wall.

SPIKE

(yelling; angrily)

It's damn lovely wall paper , luv, but this is no time for decorating!

Illyria takes the axe from Wesley's hand and lays into the wall. After a few swings, a small hole is created and a bright, blue light shines incandescently through it.

Spike smirks at her correct assumption and quickly begins swinging his sword at the wall as well.

Angel and Connor begin to hurry back to help with the carving, but are stopped short when a nightcrawler LUNGES into Angel, pinning him to the floor. The demon tears into his arm as his sword is sent skidding across the floor.

The demon's head then falls lifelessly onto Angel's chest as Connor kicks the body off of his father. Connor hands him his sword and quickly helps him from the ground.

Angel quickly peers into the hallway to see several more of them advancing through the open doorway to the building.

He looks back to the others who are only about half way through with carving up the wall, turns to Connor, and nods.

ANGEL

Let's get the hell out of here!

He takes off in a dead sprint and RAMS his body through the wall, leaving Spike and Illyria hitting nothing, but air. Angel falls to the ground just in front of the portal and is quickly helped up by Wesley.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WESLEY
(to Angel)
Are you alright?

ANGEL
(dusting himself off)
Sure, no problem.
(grimaces)
I think I popped my shoulder out of
joint, but otherwise fine...

Angel nearly falls over as Wesley lets go of him, but catches his balance. Wes grabs his arm and thrusts him through the portal and then looks to the others as the nightcrawlers are just coming into view.

WESLEY
Hurry up!

Spike makes sure that Connor and Skye get through the portal and then turns back to Illyria.

SPIKE
See you on the other side.

Spike jumps through the portal, leaving only Illyria and Wesley. Illyria quickly grabs him by the arm.

ILLYRIA
We must hurry!

WESLEY
Yes, we must.

He releases his arm from Illyria's grip and pushes her through the portal, leaving an emotional expression on her face as she tumbles backwards and disappears from view.

Wes sighs, turns back around, and faces the quickly approaching nightcrawlers, retrieving his last home-made smoke grenade from his jacket.

As the demons rumble ahead and seem only inches away, another bright, blue LIGHT rips the air apart in front of him. Illyria LEAPS through the portal and spears Wes, sending them both HURLING into the portal.

34 INT. HYPERION - LOBBY

34

Wes and Illyria fall hard upon the floor from several feet in the air as the portal closes overhead. Wes jumps quickly to his feet and raises the axe, waiting for anything to pop through a similar portal.

ILLYRIA
They cannot enter this world. It is
not their own.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WESLEY

Why did you bring me here?!

ILLYRIA

Because I cannot bear the impenetrable sadness that accompanies this shell since the day that you left!

WESLEY

I'm not supposed to be here, Illyria, I died! My living could upset the flow of the universe!

ILLYRIA

(angrily)

Then it will be upset!

Illyria storms out of the lobby and into the rear garden. Wes turns to see everyone else acting as though they're not watching, except for Spike.

WESLEY

How did she even make it back to get me out?

SPIKE

Well, there was a poof of blue light, then she was gone. Then, she showed up with you yelling like a sodding hatter.

ANGEL

As well as Illyria starting to get her powers back, a lot of other things have happened. You've been gone for-

WESLEY

Seventy-nine days, in *this* world at least, I know. And what happened with the Circle of the Black Thorn?

ANGEL

It's... a long story.

WESLEY

(beat; hesitantly)

Yes, well... I should speak with Illyria for a moment.

SPIKE

Remember mate... good shagging!

Skye shakes her head, disappointed with Spike.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SPIKE (cont'd)
What? Like it wouldn't do her some good. Hell it might do *me* some good if it calms her down!

Skye raises her eyebrows.

SPIKE (cont'd)
(quickly)
I meant with Blue! Not the deranged thoughts running through *your* mind, you bloody pervert.

35 EXT. HYPERION - GARDEN

35

Wesley slowly walks into frame through the opened door as Illyria stands in the sunlight, staring at the sky.

ILLYRIA
I do not wish to hear insincere apologies, if you have come to-

WESLEY
I didn't come to apologize.

Illyria turns back to him, furious, as he walks closer. He finally comes to stand nearly face to face with her.

WESLEY (cont'd)
What you did could have thrown the entire world into jeopardy.

ILLYRIA
I do not care!

WESLEY
But I do. This world is cold and harsh, but I don't wish for it to end.

ILLYRIA
I could not care less for this sniveling excuse of a dimension. I only wish that your arrival had worked to unravel its existence!

WESLEY
(beat)
However... ill conceived as your plan may have been, I'm honored that you think enough of me to risk your own life and everyone's in this world to save my own. That's called loyalty.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ILLYRIA

You have been away for many moons.
I know the meaning of loyalty. The
vampire traded me for peace.

WESLEY

Spike?!

ILLYRIA

Angel.

WESLEY

(confused)

He did what?

ILLYRIA

I am weary from battle. I require
rest.

Wesley smiles warmly at Illyria before he turns and walks back into the hotel, leaving Illyria standing alone in the sunshine. She closes her eyes for a moment and when she opens them, they're no longer blue - they're brown. More specifically, Fred's brown. The faintest flicker of a smile crosses her lips.

36 INT. HYPERION - LOBBY

36

Wes walks back into the lobby with everyone sitting, nearly exhausted, in the various chairs throughout.

SPIKE

That was quick!

WESLEY

(shaking his head)

There was intercourse, Spike.

SPIKE

A bit nervous, were we?

Wesley can't help but smile as he goes to sit down in a chair himself.

As he does so, however, he FALLS straight through the chair! Everyone stares in amazement and jumps from their own seats.

ANGEL

Wes!

Wesley looks at the chair protruding from his body.

WESLEY

That's... rather strange.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPIKE

Bloody great! I should have known that every time someone gets brought back from another dimension, they get all squishy. This is going to lead to a load of work, I can already tell!

Wes picks himself up from the ground and stares as he puts his hand through the chair.

ANGEL

Wes...

WESLEY

No. There has to be a perfectly logical explanation for this.

SPIKE

Don't worry, mate. You get used to it. Been a ghost once myself. Think enough happy thoughts and you can start touching things again.

Wes begins to walk slowly through the lobby and comes to stand right in the entrance way at the front door.

WESLEY

I can't say that I saw this happening. Of course, I-

Wesley is interrupted by the front door quickly swinging open behind him. Without having a second to move, the inspector walks directly through him.

INSPECTOR

Mr. Angel. I-

He stops and curiously looks back to see Wes standing behind him, looking as though he has just been violated.

Across the room, Angel's eyes widen, his brain in overdrive to find any kind of explanation to offer.

INSPECTOR (cont'd)

(apathetically)

And you've even got ghosts! What kind of crackerjack business are you vampires running?

Angel's eye brows curl up, greatly confused at what he just heard.

INSPECTOR (cont'd)

I mean, seriously. This is like something off of a damn soap opera!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

With those words, the inspector closes his eyes for a few moments. When he opens them, his brown eyes have turned to a bright green.

As we pull back to take in the view, the inspector has transformed into a vicious DEMON who snarls violently at Angel.

INSPECTOR (cont'd)
So it's time you closed for
business, vampire!

Across the room, Angel actually looks relieved and breathes a deep sigh of relief.

ANGEL
Oh, thank god!

Angel picks up a nearby sword and methodically twists it around a few times before smiling boldly. As he begins to charge into battle, we:

BLACK OUT:

END OF SHOW