

**BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER**

"The Calling"

by

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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. JUNGLE. DAY 1

We're following a river, whooshing by beneath us, powerful torrents. Sailing along it, then pulling up and above to start whishing along the treetops, blurred green. It gives way to rocks, charred, jagged.

Zooming up the slope till the rocks break into a crevice. Lava boils within. Hovering a moment, floating across the waves of heat.

Then shooting down the other side of the mountain at ground level. Faster and faster, breaking into the jungle on the other side, leaves smacking against the view, we emerge into:

2 EXT. DESERTED VILLAGE. DAY. 2

Floating in the quiet. Crude wood houses on stilts, weatherworn, haggard. We snake through the tall grass. A twinge of red up ahead. Moving faster again, grass knocking out of our way. The grass ends in a scorched area.

Swoop up and over WILLOW, curled on her side in the foetal position. She's asleep inside the wide charred circle sucking on her thumb.

She twitches awake. Lifts her head, looks around groggy. Notices she still has her thumb in her mouth. Yanks it out, makes a face.

She stands and surveys her surroundings. Cautiously she approaches one of the ladders that leads up to a house. She reaches out to grab the ladder.

A loud SCREECH! reverberates through, a THUMP shakes her and everything around her. BRANCHES BREAK nearby. Willow scrambles back. A massive demonic SNAKE HEAD crests the jungle canopy by the village.

Willow gawks in mute shock at the enormous creature.

WILLOW  
Woah! Uh, Expedium!

She tears off into the jungle hyper-fast. The snake ROARS and SMASHES into the trees after her.

3 EXT. JUNGLE. DAY. 3

Willow struggles to dodge trees and branches as her speed builds. The more she fights it the faster she gets.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She trips with a shout and goes tumbling across the jungle floor, coming to a stop in an undignified heap.

WILLOW

Okay magic, little too much around here to run through..

She finds herself underneath a massive oak tree, the base over fifty feet across. Willow gazes along the trunk that stretches beyond sight past the jungle canopy.

Another SCREECH comes from somewhere behind. Willow scrambles to the trunk base. Grips into the thick divots of the tree's bark. Starts to climb.

CONTINUOUS:

4 EXT. JUNGLE - TREE. DAY.

4

She's a good forty feet up along the trunk as we hear normal size trees TIMBER down somewhere beneath her.

The demon snake slithers into view.

Panicky, Willow tries to climb faster, but she gets sloppy, not gaining solid footholds, and the going is slower. The demon snake coils itself around the trunk and climbs.

Going much faster, it catches up to her in no time. Its head reaches her level. It pulls back ready to pounce.

The snake almost looks like its smiling, but before it can bite an apple thrown from below bops the snake on the nose. It lets out a WHIMPER, shifts its head and looks down.

TATTLES, a little girl with tangled brown hair and scuffed overalls stands with hands on her hips at the trunk base. She glowers at the demon beast.

TATTLES

What are you doing up there?

The demon makes a hurt noise that sounds surprisingly like "Who me?"

TATTLES (cont'd)

Get right down here. You know your place.

The demon lowers its head and skulks back down the trunk. It sidles up near her like an obsequious puppy.

TATTLES (cont'd)

My brother drew this page, and you aren't about to change it!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TATTLES(cont'd)

(stomps her foot and  
points)

Go back to the village and wait.

Sullen, the snake slithers back into the jungle, more  
CRASHING TREES accompany its departure.

TATTLES (cont'd)

Sorry about her. She gets uppity  
sometimes, like Ascending makes her  
all that or something.

WILLOW

(still very confused)

That wasn't the Mayor of Sunnydale?

TATTLES

(giggles)

Gosh no, we're way before that. I'm  
Tattles. Come down, Teach. I'll  
tell you all about it.

WILLOW

Big snake afraid of little girl?  
Feeling kind of safer in the tree.

Tattles skips over to where her apple fell. Dusts it off.  
Holds it up in Willow's direction, shakes it.

TATTLES

I got a shiny apple for you..

A MASSIVE ERUPTION echoes from a few miles away. Wind RUSTLES  
the trees.

TATTLES (cont'd)

Besides, it'd be sad if the lava  
ate you too.

WILLOW

Lava?!?

(beat)

What about the snake?

TATTLES

She's going to take a nap. She did  
eat a whole village. That much red  
meat would make anybody sleepy! But  
the lava gobbles her every time.

WILLOW

You're not going to eat me.. are  
you?

TATTLES

Golly no, you're way too stringy.  
(off Willow's look)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TATTLES(cont'd)

Just kidding, you're plump and juicy.

(off Willow's even more wiggly look)

Geez, humanity must have no sense of humor anymore. Come on, hurry up!

Tattles skips off into the jungle. Willow watches her go, a look of extreme confusion on her face. She glances upwards, and the camera pans up to take in the beautiful sunny sky of wherever this place is, and we DISSOLVE TO:

5 INT. HOTEL ROOM. DAY.

5

INSERT: THREE HOURS EARLIER

The room is an organised mess. We're looking through a window on a similarly sunny sky, but as we pan across and into the room we can tell we're back on Earth. The door to the bathroom is ajar, and we can hear the tap running.

6 INT. BATHROOM. DAY

6

FAITH stands above the sink. Her arms either side, she stares down at the slowly rising water.

Then, like a flash, she strikes out, SMASHING her fist into the mirror. Her hand bloody, she stops, and starts to breathe heavily. A small voice from behind startles her.

VI (O.S.)

Faith? You okay in there?

Faith turns around and we see VI, a redheaded ex-Potential, now a fully fledged Slayer, poke her head into the bathroom.

VI (cont'd)

Is everything alright? It sounded like you were-

FAITH

(snaps)

Just having a moment, kid. I'm fine.

(beat)

Sorry, I just..

VI

I miss him too, you know.

Faith looks round and straight at Vi. It's not a subject that gets raised too often.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VI (cont'd)

Robin was.. he was really cool, but  
right now we've got the plan to  
stick to. We need to find those  
girls before they get to Dawn or  
we're all in big trouble.

Faith nods and splashes some water carefully on her face.

VI (cont'd)

Are you sure you're okay?

FAITH

(turns to Vi; grins)  
Five by five.

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF TEASER**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

7 EXT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE. DAY. 7

8 INSERT: ONE HOUR EARLIER 8

A BMW parks in front. AMBROSIA, the blondest rich girl you might ever see, sits in the drivers seat gabbing away on her cell.

AMBROSIA

Yes daddy, I know.

(beat)

Yes, you told me. Look we're here.

I gotta go.

(beat)

Okay, yes, daddy we'll be careful.

Daddy, I gotta go.

(beat)

Okay, love you too.

She flips the phone closed and heaves a big sigh.

AMBROSIA (cont'd)

It's like he thinks I've never been out of the country before.

XIA, a cat muscled African, sits in the back seat along with MAGDA, a mousy little Polish girl.

XIA

I'm glad my father not my Watcher.  
He be bicker all day.

AMBROSIA

Tell me about it.

Magda opens her door and gets out.

AMBROSIA (cont'd)

He's put me through the ropes. We even designed this whole mission plan together!

XIA

You not show me plan..

AMBROSIA

(sarcastic)

Well, sweetie, I know just how much you like to wing it!

Magda pounds on the trunk, and Ambrosia sighs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMBROSIA (cont'd)

That girl needs some social skills.

She pulls the trunk lever and they both get out.

XIA

How you crossbow aiming? It pretty good?

AMBROSIA

My dad makes me practice that one a lot. He always says, 'why mess the hair when you can slay from a distance?'

XIA

He said that?

AMBROSIA

Well, I added the hair part.

Magda pulls a katana sword from the trunk, shoves it into her belt. Slings a satchel over her shoulder. Heads up the walk.

AMBROSIA

Hey, wait for us!

Ambrosia quickly grabs her crossbow. Xia pulls out a quarterstaff with the two ends widdled into points. Ambrosia runs to catch Magda.

XIA

I check back.

Ambrosia stumbles up the steps as Magda knocks.

AMBROSIA

Hold on, I thought we were going to go over the plan one more time?

Magda shakes her head. The door opens to reveal ANDREW, standing in flour covered apron.

ANDREW

Hello girls.. with weapons.. Uh, can I-

Magda sucker punches him out, and as he falls off screen she steps through into:

CONTINUOUS:

9

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - FRONT DOOR. DAY.

9

She drags Andrew out of the way so she can close the door. Which she almost does on Ambrosia who just slips inside.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

AMBROSIA  
You could at least have asked if  
anyone else is home!

Magda gives her a withering look.

AMBROSIA (cont'd)  
I mean, if you're not going to  
follow the plan..

They step into:

10 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM. DAY. 10

Just as Anya enters from the other direction.

ANYA  
Andrew, who was-

Stops dead seeing the two with the weapons. Anya takes a step  
back towards where she came from. In one fluid motion two  
throwing daggers zip out of Magda's satchel and embed in the  
floor near Anya's feet.

ANYA (cont'd)  
(quickly)  
I don't really live here. I  
wandered into the wrong house. I  
can just go and you can rob.

Magda draws her sword and holds it trained on Anya.

ANYA (cont'd)  
(panicked)  
I don't want to be a ghost again!!

Ambrosia steps in between the sword and Anya.

AMBROSIA  
Hi, sorry, my friend's a little  
cranky. I'm Ambrosia and this here  
is Magda.

XIA (O.S.)  
Hi-yaa!

Somewhere off screen the back door CRASHES in.

AMBROSIA  
Oh, and that's Xia. We kinda need  
to know where Dawn Summers is.

ANYA  
She's at school, something you  
young people do.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ambrosia smacks her head with her palm.

AMBROSIA  
The home schooling really throws me  
sometimes..

Magda's lip twitches.

AMBROSIA (cont'd)  
Come on, you have a sword on her,  
she's not lying!

ANYA  
For the record, I don't even like  
Dawn! She's kind of whiny.

Magda sheathes her sword. Xia enters from where Anya came in.

XIA  
Back all clear.

Magda steps past Ambrosia and sucker punches Anya out.

AMBROSIA  
You and all the punching..

Magda ticks her head toward the door and marches to it. The  
others follow.

CUT TO:

11 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - FRONT DOOR. DAY. 11

JACKSON finds himself knocking on air when the door opens in  
front of him. He doesn't look up at first as it swings open  
and starts talking.

JACKSON  
Hey I know Buffy isn't...  
(seeing the weapons)  
...home. Uh, are you girls  
Potentials?

Magda rolls her eyes.

XIA  
(clearly taken with him)  
We, yes, no, well, we are Slayer.  
Slayers. Plural form. Yes.

JACKSON  
(puzzled)  
Nice.. Well then I was hoping-

Drawing her sword, Magda clunks him in the head with the  
hilt, stunning him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Before the other girls can react the point enters his abdomen and sticks out his back. He gurgles in shock.

Magda puts her heel on his chest and kicks him off her weapon. He crumples back on the steps. Ambrosia drops to her knees.

AMBROSIA

Oh my god, oh my god, oh my god.  
We're racist murderers! We're KKK!  
If this gets back to daddy I'm so  
not dating for months.

XIA

What you do?!

Magda wipes the blood from her sword with a brown stained cloth and sheathes her sword. She grabs Jackson's ankles and drags him inside:

12 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LIVING ROOM. DAY. 12

Ambrosia wrings her hands as she looks down at the injured Jackson.

AMBROSIA

Oh.. covering this up is so going  
to cost Daddy money!

XIA

Answer us. Why you kill this man?

Magda grabs Jackson's hand and holds it up to the girls, showing them the Guardian ring.

AMBROSIA

Oh... that's a pretty good reason.

XIA

Such a shame. Pretty man.

Magda drops his hand and marches out. The other girls follow leaving the door wide open. Jackson spits blood, still breathing.

13 INT. HIGH SCHOOL HALLS. DAY. 13

Silent and empty. BELL RINGS and teenagers pour into the hallways.

We weave through the crowd and come up on DAWN coming out of class, shoving a book into her bag. She heads down the hall and JODY pops into step behind her.

JODY

Hey cutie, how was the excitement  
of study hall?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAWN

On a scale of nots, about not not  
not.. and not.

Falling back from them through the crowd to where Xia follows  
having not the best time.

XIA

Excuse me. Sorry. Excuse me. Sorry.

A group of plastics cut in front of her. Leaving her swooping  
over heads down past Dawn and Jody to:

Ambrosia is chatting it up with a LETTERJACKET JOCK.

AMBROSIA

So, you're on the football team  
then? I'm in love with organized  
sports..

LETTERJACKET JOCK

Hey, you should come to a game!

She looks past the jock's shoulder to see Dawn turn a corner  
down another hallway.

AMBROSIA

I'd love that, but got to go,  
honey.

She kisses him on cheek and slips into the crowd. The jock  
opens his mouth to speak but can only stare after her as she  
darts away.

14

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - OTHER HALLWAY. DAY.

14

Magda's sneer parts the crowd around her sure and steady  
stride. Dawn stops at her locker further down. Magda stands a  
good thirty feet away in the middle of the hall, watching.

JODY

Lots of might and magic planned for  
the weekend?

DAWN

Why, you need an excuse now to come  
see Andrew?

JODY

(blushes a little)  
Boy, I just love being a window.

DAWN

(grins)  
Aw, you're sweet when you're  
embarrassed!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Jody notices Magda past Dawn. He leans up next to Dawn's ear.

JODY

I don't want to wig you, but some  
creepy girl's checking us out.

Ambrosia walks up from the other direction.

AMBROSIA

Hey, Dawn Summers and...  
(taking Jody in)  
Heeelllllooooo..

Jody isn't sure how to respond.

JODY

Um, yeah, I'm gay.

AMBROSIA

Shucks.

DAWN

Sorry, do I know you?

AMBROSIA

Oh, I'm sorry. I'm Ambrosia, that's  
Magda over there. I think she's  
kind of permanently on the rag.

Xia squeezes her shoulders through the crowd and walks up.  
She's clearly flustered.

XIA

American school crazy! These big  
hair girls made demon faces.

AMBROSIA

This is Xia.

XIA

What you learn here?

DAWN

(suspiciously)  
Um, English, History, Math  
sometimes.

XIA

Anything useful?

DAWN

Look, who are you guys?

AMBROSIA

We're Slayers. We need your help.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

DAWN

Me?

AMBROSIA

You are the Key and all, right?  
Gateway between worlds and that  
mystical stuff?

Jody raises an eyebrow and looks across at Dawn, who looks like she wants to quickly change the subject.

DAWN

Uh, I'm not sure that's even me  
anymore..

AMBROSIA

My Watcher's pretty sure and he  
says you're the gal we need. So  
come on.

DAWN

Wait, does Buffy know about this?

AMBROSIA

(beat; broad smile)  
Sure!

15 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE. DAY. 15

Buffy, in her work clothes, strolls up the walk, grimacing and pressing a hand to her stomach as though in pain.

Notices the door open. Wary, she reaches into her case and draws a stake. Tiptoes toward the door. She sees Jackson's feet. Rushes into:

16 INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - FRONT ROOM. DAY. 16

Kneels down by him into the pool of his blood.

BUFFY

Oh my god, Jackson!

She presses her hands to the wound in his stomach. He coughs a little and tears break from her eyes.

BUFFY (cont'd)

Jackson, look at me! You're going  
to be okay, who did this?

His head lolls and his eyes flutter but he doesn't answer.

Buffy looks round and sees Anya, still unconscious on the floor. Buffy scrabbles over to her and tries to rouse her with a few shakes, but Anya's still out cold.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Exasperated, Buffy grabs Andrew's feet and yanks him to her. Slaps him across the face.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
Wake up, you little nerdling!

He comes to with a start, covered in flour.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
Keep pressure on Jackson's wound,  
and call an ambulance, quickly!

He sees what's going on. Puts his hands to Jackson's stomach.

ANDREW  
(still dazed)  
I got it, Buffy.

BUFFY  
What happened?

ANYA (O.S.)  
Three girls came after Dawn.

Buffy spins round - Anya has come to, pressing a hand to her jaw and scowling.

ANYA (cont'd)  
And look what they did to me!

BUFFY  
Anya! Did you say somebody was here  
after Dawn?

ANYA  
(nods)  
Yes, three girls. Very brash and  
offensive, so most likely new  
Slayers. At first, I thought they  
were just robbers but then they  
asked me where Dawn was.

BUFFY  
And did you tell them?

ANYA  
Of course! They had a sword on me,  
I wasn't about to let them  
perforate me after Xander went  
through so much effort to bring me  
back!

Buffy stands up, glares at Anya.

BUFFY  
I'm going to save Dawn.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANYA

She's not really your sister, you know. Technically, she's just a ball of energy with legs and a face that keeps pouting, and besides...

Anya looks over - but Buffy is already out the door and running. Anya sighs, as we cut back to:

17

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL PARKING LOT. DAY

17

The four girls walk together, Jody kind of hangs back, nervous. With a wide arc of her arm Ambrosia motions to the BMW.

AMBROSIA

Pretty swish, don't you think?  
Daddy's sixteenth birthday present.

DAWN

Sure, it's nice. Where are we going anyway?

AMBROSIA

(grins)  
Over the river, and through the woods.

DAWN

(playing along)  
To Grandma's house? I hope there are no wolves, me and mean stray dogs have history.

XIA

You're with the wolves. No need to worry.

Jody catches on up and puts his arm around Dawn.

JODY

Hey Dawn, you know we got that whole big English assignment to do. Maybe we should be library bound on the bus.

DAWN

What English assignment? I didn't miss an assignment, did I?

JODY

No, remember it's the one we were going to have your sister double check for us.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED:

DAWN

(blinks)

Buffy? Buffy and school, are like peanut butter and tomatoes.

JODY

Normally, but in this particular assignment I think she could really help.

DAWN

Jody, have you been sniffing glue again?

AMBROSIA

What he's trying to say, dearie, is you're a sucker and he's not.

The girls surround them by the car. Dawn suddenly realises that things have gone wrong.

JODY

(exasperated)

I hate that my people-dar is always right!

Jody puts himself between Dawn and the Slayers, his eyes flicking between them. They don't look worried at all.

AMBROSIA

(claps hands)

Aw, look! He's so gallant I could just eat him right up.

DAWN

What do we do?

JODY

Working on the plan thing..

Magda punches Jody out cold. Ambrosia huffs.

AMBROSIA

Magda, can I once be allowed to reason with somebody?

XIA

His plan not very good.

Dawn SCREAMS. Magda punches her out too and catches her as she slumps.

AMBROSIA

Guess not.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XIA  
Her's neither.

FADE OUT:

FADE UP:

18 INT. BMW. DAY

18

Darkness with the sound of the BMW's engine purring along, then fade up on blurry as she wakes up. Dawn sits in the back with her hands tied wedged between Ambrosia and Xia. Magda drives with her katana riding shotgun.

The car is speeding through typical suburban streets as Ambrosia turns and smiles, sickly sweet.

AMBROSIA  
I take it you know what you're up  
against?

DAWN  
Three Slayers gone bad?

AMBROSIA  
Why, I'm hurt! We're trying to save  
the world, don't you know!

DAWN  
My sister's so gonna kick your  
asses.

XIA  
Buffy is powerful Slayer. But she  
is not three.

AMBROSIA  
Huddle in, sugar, you'll be with us  
awh-

SMASH! The car jerks violently to the right as another vehicle ploughs into them. The side door crumples into Xia's leg and she yells in pain. All of them are thrown about the cabin.

The axle GRINDS and SQUEALS as the car pops the curb and tears through grass to a stop.

**BLACK OUT:****END OF ACT ONE**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

19 EXT. JUNGLE. DAY

19

Willow trudges through the dense foliage. She's drenched in sweat and grime. Tattles rides her piggyback with an arm wrapped around Willow's neck and a half-eaten apple in her hand. Tattles takes another bite. The jungle slopes upward and Willow trudges hard to keep on.

WILLOW

You know, it would be nice to start getting some kind of an explanation as to what the hoey is going on at some point..

TATTLES

(points)

See up ahead? That's where we live.

Willow squints at a blinding whiteness peeking through from the approaching jungle edge. We fall back from Willow as she presses closer bathed in the white.

20 EXT. SNOWY CLEARING. DAY.

20

Amidst the jungle, the snow falls, SIZZLING on banana leaves at the clearing edge. Willow leaves tracks in deep snow. Tattles wiggles off Willow's shoulders.

She bounds through the snow toward her brother TALEDRAW who sits on a straw mat. Bunches of coloured pencils, crayons, and pens surround him and he carefully sketches in a leather-bound book.

TATTLES

Taledraw, Taledraw, Taledraw! I brought Teach! I brought Teach!

He doesn't look up from his book. Tattles kneels down right by him and points toward Willow.

TATTLES (cont'd)

See, she's right there. So close you could kiss her.

He still doesn't look up.

TATTLES (cont'd)

Say hi, Teach.

WILLOW

Uh, hi, I'm Willow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TALEDRAW  
(still not looking)  
She's too old.

TATTLES  
Is not! Tell him you're young at  
heart.

WILLOW  
Well, I'm not sure that's true,  
Tattles..

TATTLES  
Shhh, we're trying to win here.  
Please, oh please, just give her  
one little peek. You'll like her,  
she's plenty pretty.

Barely perceptible, Taledraw shakes his head, then gives  
Willow a quick glance.

TALEDRAW  
She's kind of gangly. And red.

TATTLES  
Red's a good color!

TALEDRAW  
I've drawn too much of it lately.

Tattles stands up, triumphant.

TATTLES  
A-ha! I win.

TALEDRAW  
I said she's too red!

TATTLES  
Once you've seen something from  
your books I know you can't let it  
go!

TALEDRAW  
I hate you..

She leans down and kisses him on the cheek. Taledraw  
comically makes a big deal of rubbing the kiss away.

TATTLES  
Off off, more to do.

She grabs Willow's hand and skips along. Willow leans down  
and stumbles to follow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WILLOW

Uh, bye, Tale-

The snow collapses underneath them and they fall through out of sight, with a YELP from Willow, and we cut back to:

21

EXT. SUBURBIA. DAY

21

INSERT: THIRTY MINUTES EARLIER

A VW van has T-boned the Camry, embedded in its side. Graffiti adorns the van like an acid trip with a big flower on the side door. Smoke seeps from the hoods of both vehicles.

The van door ratchets open, and Faith steps out, hips wrapped in black leather, red tank top with the cleavage we all know and love.

Vi exits the drivers side with shotgun in hand, a hippie-looking redhead in a tie dye shirt and bell bottoms, her waist length hair in one long braid. She pumps the shotgun.

Magda shakes her head, stunned from the impact. Blurry eyed, she looks out the surprisingly intact front windshield. Sees Vi with gun in hand. Vi smiles and waves, as does Faith. Magda ducks. Two shotgun BLASTS pepper the windshield.

Vi cries out and drops the shotgun. Grabs her shoulder, looks at her hand, blood on it. The windshield has a few cracks at most.

FAITH

What the hell was that?

VI

I forgot.. some damn Beamers have bullet resistant glass.. Frickin' ricochets!

FAITH

You cool?

VI

Five by five. Let's grab Dawn and split.

Ambrosia and Dawn are out cold. Xia struggles to get her leg unjammed. Magda peeks up surprised to see the window still there.

XIA

Get us out of here!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Faith and Vi walk around to the passenger side back door. Faith grabs the door handle, it's locked but she keeps pulling, putting her Slayerness into. Vi reaches in and grabs hold, pulls as well. The metal GROANS under the stress.

XIA (cont'd)

Go now! Vi will get in!

Magda turns the key, the car SPUTTERS but won't start. She keeps trying. Vi and Faith yank more urgently. The handle snaps off and they fall back onto the grass. Vi looks at handle, chucks it away.

VI

I'll get the jaws of life.

She walks over to her van. The BMW starts. Metal SCREECHES and tires SQUEAL. The BMW inches slowly forward with the van still stuck in its side. Vi jumps inside her van and re-emerges a second later with a scoped M4 assault rifle.

Faith grabs hold of the BMW's back bumper, but the BMW breaks free and PEELS OUT. It tears down the road as the bumper snaps off into Faith's hands. Vi raises her gun but Faith knocks the barrel down with the bumper.

FAITH

No, you might hit Dawn.

VI

If Amber's Watcher was right, maybe I should hit her..

FAITH

We take Dawn back, Vi. That's the plan.

VI

How do you suppose we do that if they've gotten away?

Faith reaches in her back pocket and pulls out an electronic doodad. Shakes it like a box of crackerjacks.

FAITH

Didn't spend hours listening to you go on about these cool gadgets for nothing!

VI

You put a tracker on the car!

FAITH

Just after we hit 'em.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

VI

(smiles)

See, this is why we work well  
together.

Faith grins back, drops the bumper and they dash back to the van.

CUT TO:

22

INT. WILLOW AND KENNEDY'S APARTMENT. DAY.

22

Buffy paces back and forth as Willow finishes drawing a magic circle with mystical dust. Jody stands near Buffy, arms folded and a bruise welling on his cheek. Kennedy sits on the lip of the bed, twirling a dagger in her hands. Jody watches Buffy pace up and down.

JODY

Buffy, look, I'm sorry I couldn't stop them, but please stop pacing, okay? You're making me even more nervous..

BUFFY

(sighs)

Sorry, Jody. I know you did what you could.

(to Willow)

Cleveland's a lot bigger than Sunnydale, Will. You sure you can do this?

Finished, Willow sets down the jar and dusts her hands off.

WILLOW

Don't worry, locator spells always work just dandy for me. Well, except for that demon one I did with Tara. And then that one in the haunted house.

(off Buffy's look)

Okay, shutting up and doing the spell now.

She sits inside the spell circle. Buffy kneels down just outside it. Willow reaches her hands forward and Buffy takes them.

WILLOW (cont'd)

Remember, don't blink.

BUFFY

I won't.

Willow breathes deep, settling in.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW

Rules of place and space, take this fragment, this piece of what I seek. Use it as my mirror and show me. Show me Dawn Summers.

Willow stares hard into Buffy's eyes. Nothing happens at first. Then a rack zoom to Buffy's eyes, a jarring cut to:

GREEN ENERGY, which ripples against the black void. It coalesces and the fabric of space tears open. A whiteness emerges.

We're back on Buffy, as her eyes like lighthouse beacons shine blinding light into the room.

Willow's hair changes as she's bathed in it, white growing from the roots. A moan escapes Willow's lips.

She lets go of Buffy's hand and they snap back from each other. They shake their heads to clear them and then look at each other.

BUFFY

Did it work? Did you find Dawn?

WILLOW

I don't know, Buffy. I'm not sure what I saw. But I didn't only see - I felt.

BUFFY

Is Dawn scared? Is she afraid?

WILLOW

I felt peace. Contentment. Love. Freedom.

BUFFY

So it didn't work. You got some pleasure mojo but nothing we can use.

WILLOW

(shakes head sadly)  
Yeah, I guess.

BUFFY

What about the Slayers? When we collapsed the Hellmouth, you said you could feel them awakening. If you can't find Dawn, maybe you can find the girls holding her hostage?

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

WILLOW

(nods)

I'll draw another circle.

KENNEDY

Come on, Red, I want to get out  
there and crack some heads  
together!

Willow rolls her eyes comically at Buffy as she continues,  
and the two Slayers manage a comradely grin at each other.

23 EXT. CRYSTAL CITY MALL. DAY. 23

Establish shot. A massive multi-storey complex, five floors  
at least. Expansive windows all up one side, the city gleams  
outside. A fountain bubbles away at the center of the ground  
floor, shooting streams twenty feet high.

24 INT. MALL PARKING GARAGE. DAY. 24

The beamer's parked in a spot amongst the somewhat sparse  
garage. Ambrosia stands leaning against the trunk talking on  
her cell phone. Magda has her katana jammed into the back  
driver's side door and heaves trying to wedge it open. Dawn  
is tied up, gagged and sitting in the back seat, looking  
understandably angry.

AMBROSIA

Daddy, I'm sorry about the car.

(beat)

Daddy, I said I'm sorry. If Vi's  
here she probably knows the plan.

(beat)

Daddy, I know, Daddy! I'm kind of  
freaked out. A girl with guns is  
after us and I don't know what to  
do.

(beat)

Daddy? Daddy? Pickles, it cut out  
again!

Ambrosia shoves the phone in her pocket. Magda stops heaving  
and motions toward the sword. Ambrosia grabs onto the hilt.  
They both heave and the door pops off its hinges and CLATTERS  
to the concrete.

AMBROSIA (cont'd)

She couldn't have honked at us, or  
shouted with a megaphone for us to  
pull over, could she?

Xia stands out of the car favouring her left leg.

XIA

We not have listened.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMBROSIA

Sure, but it would have been courteous.

XIA

What we do now?

AMBROSIA

Well, while we're here, I need to shop. It helps me think.

XIA

With prisoner?

Ambrosia considers this for a second then smiles and nods.

AMBROSIA

Why not, we can snap her neck if she screams.

Dawn's eyes widen as Magda reaches in and roughly drags her over the bonnet and out of the car, shoving her forward to stand alongside Ambrosia and Xia.

Ambrosia smiles sweetly at Dawn again, who just scowls at her as Xia wraps some rope from inside the car round Dawn's wrists and Magda makes up a gag from her bandana.

25

INT. FAITH &amp; VI'S VAN. DAY.

25

We're riding inside the van as it pulls onto the car park of Crystal City Mall, sputtering in past the entrance sign to the parking lots. Faith and Vi look out at the approaching mall through the slightly cracked windshield.

VI

How could I not realize we'd end at a shopping mall..

FAITH

Cool, I need to get some more leather pants.

Vi and Faith exchange a grin as they swing towards the garage entrance.

FAITH (cont'd)

So how the hell did you end up working with three jerks like those girls?

VI

Amber- I mean Ambrosia's dad took over as her Watcher after the Council thing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FAITH

You mean sudden explosive lack of?

VI

Exactly. Seemed they were short staffed enough to take on anyone who'd sign up for the job, and he ended up being assigned Xia and Magda too. I ended up tagging along when we met over a pack of tribo demons one day.

FAITH

Sounds like a regular Addams Family get together.. Just without the funky theme music! You gonna tell me any more about this prophecy Amber's dad found that started this whole mess yet?

VI

(sighs)

I'll get to it. Promise.

Faith nods as the van enters the garage.

26

INT. MALL - GROUND FLOOR. DAY.

26

The four girls walk along through the near-empty shopping mall, Dawn held tightly by Magda, who slips off Dawn's gag as some absent-looking shoppers stroll past.

Magda glares at Dawn, daring her to try calling for help, and Dawn wisely keeps quiet. Ambrosia leads the way, breathing in the rich mall aroma and sighing happily.

AMBROSIA

You girls smell that? Unfettered capitalism. With extra frosting. And best of all, hardly anyone here to have to share it with! I love shopping on school days..

XIA

Why we here? Other Slayers will be after us.

AMBROSIA

Simple. The last place they'd think to go looking would be the nearest shopping mall, they'd expect us to hightail it out to the closest highway and make a dash for the state line!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMBROSIA(cont'd)

(she taps the side of her  
head)

See? Logic.

Xia looks back at Magda, who just shrugs - obviously Ambrosia is the only one of them who follows her 'logic.' Ambrosia starts to walk towards another shop, eager to carry on shopping. Xia leans in to Ambrosia and whispers in her ear.

XIA

This too dangerous. We have  
possible world's end with us..

AMBROSIA

Exactly, and what better way to see  
that end than in a new pair of  
Sketchers. I have so many wonderful  
things to show you..

She grabs Xia's arm and drags her in a quick scamper towards a clearance sale at the Gap. Magda is about to follow but notices the shop next door, a Victoria's Secret.

She cocks her head with a thoughtful look and heads inside, with Dawn in tow. Dawn doesn't seem to know what's going on still.

27 INT. VICTORIA'S SECRET. DAY.

27

Magda wanders in to the store, swamped at once by the sheer amount of pink inside. Dawn is still giving her a cold look.

DAWN

So what are you gonna do with me  
now? Model something for me and try  
to scare me to death?

Magda doesn't answer, instead she just reaches up and pinches a nerve on the side of Dawn's neck. Dawn lets out a soft gasp before fainting away into Magda's arms.

Magda heaves Dawn up and carries her over to one corner of the room, checking that the coast is clear before shoving open an 'Employees Only' door and disappearing inside, reappearing moments later without Dawn but wearing a triumphant smirk.

28 INT. WILLOW &amp; KENNEDY'S APARTMENT. DAY.

28

Willow is seated inside another magic circle, legs folded and eyes closed as the dust making up the circle glows softly. Jody whispers to Kennedy.

JODY

(whisper)

So.. do you two do this sort of  
thing often?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNEDY  
(concentrating on Willow)  
Huh?

JODY  
(waves hand towards  
Willow)  
You know.. this magic thing.

KENNEDY  
Yeah, pretty much every day.  
(turns to Jody; smirks)  
Why? Not freaked out by it, are ya?

JODY  
Me? Heck, no, I think it's damn  
cool as a matter of fact..

The circle suddenly glows with fierce intensity, then dies  
down as Willow's eyes snap open.

WILLOW  
(gasps)  
Pink!

Buffy and Kennedy sit up and lean towards her.

BUFFY  
Pink?

WILLOW  
Sorry.. just getting..  
(deep breaths)  
Whoo! Ahem. I think I found her.  
One of the girls is giving off so  
many happy vibes at the moment, she  
stuck out like a Smurf in a goth  
bar..

Willow chuckles at her own joke. Kennedy grins but Buffy  
doesn't get it.

BUFFY  
Huh?

WILLOW  
(stops herself laughing)  
Er, nothing, sorry. They're at the  
mall.

JODY  
Crystal City?

WILLOW  
That's the one!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY

Good work, Will. Kennedy, grab something sharp and follow me. Looks like we've got a fight on our hands.

KENNEDY

(grins)  
Groovy.

WILLOW

I'd better come too, you could use some backup by the sounds of things.

BUFFY

Sure thing.  
(to Jody)  
You coming as backup too?

JODY

What, join up in a three against three face off between six superpowered chicks?  
(beat)  
I think I'll pass.

**BLACK OUT:****END OF ACT TWO**

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

29 INT. CLOCK WORKSHOP. DAY.

29

A trap door in the floor opens into a massive cluttered workspace, tables and scaffolding with more tables. All kinds of ancient clocks and gadgets and pieces of gadgets scattered everywhere. Tattles and Willow crawl up into the room.

TATTLES

This way!

Willow follows Tattles through the precarious support structure to a rickety old ladder. Tattles looks Willow over.

TATTLES (cont'd)

Taledraw was right, you're skinny enough to be okay. Come on.

Tattles climbs, Willow follows. The ladder CREAKS. TRINKETS gazes over the edge of a platform from above at the two girls approaching. He wears an oversized T-shirt with the Animaniacs plan to escape from the watertower and colourful jam shorts.

TRINKETS

Hey Tattles, get off on the third tier and take the second lift on your right.

Tattles smiles up at him and nods. They climb a few more feet and hop off onto the scaffolding.

TATTLES

That's Trinkets, he makes the niftiest things.

Tattles walks toward the lift, Willow still looking as confused as ever.

30 INT. CLOCK WORKSHOP - UPPER LEVEL. DAY

30

Trinkets watches the lift SHUDDER to stop with Willow and Tattles on it. He wipes his palm on his pants and extends his hand toward Willow. She takes it and he shakes it vigorously.

TRINKETS

(grinning broadly)

Wonderful to meet the new Teach. Many things you can show us, I'm sure.

WILLOW

Why do you all keep calling me 'Teach?'

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TRINKETS

(surprised)

Tattles hasn't told you about your new role? Well, she's always been one for surprises so I won't ruin it for her.

Willow sighs and holds up her hands.

WILLOW

Okay, look. I think I've been a real sport up till now, but I want to go home now! Don't bother with this 'Teach' thing, alright? Just point me to the door and I'll be on my way out of here.

TRINKETS

(beat; smiles)

Let me show you something.

He leads her across the scaffolding to an edge.

Beyond it stands a massive gaming set, multi-tiered boards with all different types of pieces, some human, some demon, some indistinguishable. Different sections of the board all in different colours and shapes. The whole system is easily thirty feet around and a hundred feet tall with kid sized ladders running amidst it.

TRINKETS (cont'd)

This is the war as I track it.

WILLOW

(cocks head sideways)

It looks like a giant 'Star Trek' chess set..

TRINKETS

(proudly)

Yeah, for the new century I kind of modelled it after that!

He steps up to the edge, gazing across the set. He waves a hand across it to indicate his creation.

TRINKETS (cont'd)

Down below us on one of those boards around the thirty feet level is you. Don't get me wrong, as planet bound spots go it's a pretty good one. You hit the game board around five feet and have been climbing since.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

TRINKETS(cont'd)

Now if you look up, somewhere above us around the ninety feet level are Tattles, my brother, and me. We're giving you a chance to make one doozy of a checker jump. It's not about power. It's about your ability to do what's right. Believe me, you have a lot more options at ninety feet, than at thirty feet.

WILLOW

But I'd have to leave my friends behind.

TRINKETS

In a manner of speaking.

WILLOW

I.. I don't want to leave my life!

TATTLES

This is your calling, Teach. This is where your life has led you. But don't worry, it's not now. But it will be soon.

Willow gazes up at the huge board, rising past us and out shot, not knowing whether to be honoured or scared stiff.

31 INT. MALL PARKING GARAGE. DAY.

31

INSERT: FIVE MINUTES EARLIER

Faith and Vi are entering the customer lift in the parking area, their van visible in the shot parked next to Ambrosia's BMW. The lift doors close on them.

32 INT. MALL - GROUND FLOOR. DAY.

32

Faith and Vi step out onto the main floor, weapons tucked away out of sight as they scan the shops and walkways for any sign of the trio of Slayers.

VI

At least it's quiet.. less chance of any civilians getting in the way.

(spots something)

Oo, I like that skirt..

She wanders off towards one of the shop fronts. Faith rolls her eyes and reaches out, grabbing her hair braid and gently tugging to get Vi's attention.

FAITH

Shop later, kiddo. First we find Dawn and then we bust some heads.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Vi nods and follows Faith as she starts walking down the corridor.

33 INT. MALL - GROUND FLOOR. DAY.

33

Further along on the ground floor, Ambrosia is staring up with marvel at a selection of gorgeous dresses in the window of Macy's as Magda rejoins them. Ambrosia turns to look at her, scanning for Dawn.

AMBROSIA

Where's the Oompah-Loompah?

Magda jerks her thumb back towards the store where she left Dawn. Ambrosia pauses, waiting for more.

AMBROSIA (cont'd)

Can you possibly be a teeny bit more specific?

Magda points her thumb back again in exactly the same way. Ambrosia sighs and rolls her eyes.

AMBROSIA (cont'd)

We really need to work on your people skills, Maggie. Like getting you any at all!

34 INT. CRYSTAL CITY MALL. DAY.

34

Team Slayer walks into frame and stand before the mall - Buffy, Kennedy and Willow. Buffy nods and the trio head up the steps.

BUFFY

Okay then. We split up and sweep the place, looking for the three of them. Jody's given us their descriptions, so keep a sharp eye, and don't either of you take all three on alone.

KENNEDY

Aw, come on, they're newbies compared to us, surely!

BUFFY

Remember everything I've been teaching you? All the moves and special tricks?

KENNEDY

Course I do!

BUFFY

Well, forget them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KENNEDY

Righ- huh?

BUFFY

We're going up against our own kind here. Slayers. Girls who've been trained like we have, even though not for as long. Giles told me there are some Watchers still operating out there, and from what I've been told it seems like these girls know what they're doing. They'll know all your moves, they'll know how to block them and how to hit back. Hard.

KENNEDY

So exactly what are we going to do?

BUFFY

(beat; grins)

Improvise.

They enter the mall.

35 INT. MALL - FIRST FLOOR. DAY.

35

We pick up Faith and Vi, walking along and still scanning for signs of the girls, when Vi spots something below and tugs on Faith's sleeve.

FAITH

What is it?

VI

Down there, look!

Faith looks down and sees Willow, wandering along and scanning the shops, with Buffy about ten paces behind her doing the same.

FAITH

Oh, great. Perfect. Now Mojo Jojo and Blondie show up..

She glances across at Vi, who is readying her silenced rifle and taking aim down at Willow.

Faith's eyes widen and she pushes the gun barrel down, her eyes scanning around to make sure no-one's seen them.

FAITH (cont'd)

What the hell are you doing? You're not going to shoot Willow, are you? In here? Are you nuts?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VI

I'm only going to wing her..

FAITH

Okay, Sarah Connor, back up. This idea sucks.

VI

Would you rather call out and say, "Hey Buffy, we're here to steal your sister because of an 'if maybe' clause in some partially translated prophecy that was half burned."

FAITH

(thinks)

Good point.

Vi twists the dial atop her scope, setting the range. She puts her eye to the lens and takes aim.

VI

Last chance to veto me. You are the senior Slayer.

FAITH

Necessary evil, right?

VI

I just point and click.

FAITH

You promise to just clip her? We want her out of the fight in case she messes things up, I don't want to kill her.

VI

You have my word.

FAITH

(beat)

Do it.

36 INT. MALL - GROUND FLOOR. DAY.

36

Buffy notices a little red dot in the middle of Willow's chest.

BUFFY

Oh, Willow, there's something on your shirt.

They watch the dot travel across Willow up to her shoulder. Buffy's eyes go wide in realisation. She dives for Willow.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THUD! Fired through a silencer, the bullet pings, reflecting off the ground. Buffy grabs air, skids across marble floor. She spins and jumps back to cover behind a pillar. Buffy's eyes dart around. Willow's nowhere to be seen.

37 INT. MALL - FIRST FLOOR. DAY.

37

Vi pops her head over her scope to look. Faith is making sure no-one heard the silenced shot.

VI  
Willow's gone..

FAITH  
You killed her?!

VI  
No, I mean she disappeared. She was dead in my sights, and then poof! Gone.

FAITH  
Yeah, witches do that. Is Buffy gone too?

VI  
She's taken cover behind a pillar.

FAITH  
Good, then she'll be distracted trying not to get shot. Let's pound slayers and get the spit out of here!

The two girls race off screen.

38 INT. MALL - GROUND FLOOR. DAY.

38

Buffy is scanning around, trying to trace the location of the shooter as Kennedy pops into frame. Buffy gasps in surprise.

KENNEDY  
Hey. What's up? I thought I heard something.

BUFFY  
You did, somebody took a pot shot at us!

Kennedy looks round, searching for Willow.

KENNEDY  
Where's Red?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY

I don't know, I think she zapped herself out of here. Probably some kind of built in wicca airbag or something.

Buffy starts to jog deeper into the mall, with Kennedy following.

39

INT. MALL - SECURITY OFFICE. DAY.

39

We're looking at the office which controls the whole mall, security camera monitors, computer displays and intercom systems accessible via a desk manned by MARTIN, a dozing, middle aged guard.

On the other side of the frosted window in the doorway we see two figures' shadows, and after a few moments of scraping the door handle turns and Vi and Faith step stealthily inside.

FAITH

(whispers)

I take it back, this idea sucks..

VI

Will you relax? I know what I'm doing.

Vi deftly chops the guard on the back of the neck, and with a yelp he falls backwards off his chair and lies, still, on the floor.

FAITH

What did you do?

VI

Standard nerve chop. Didn't your Watcher ever teach you that?

FAITH

(grins)

Our time together wasn't what you'd call productive.

(looking round)

So now what?

Vi is bent over the keyboard, rapidly typing as we see lights start to flash on the wall display behind them.

VI

Simple. I'm telling the system that there's a fire alert and everyone has to evacuate, but I'm also locking the place down to make sure no-one gets in or out without us letting them.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VI(cont'd)

And, I'm turning off the cameras so we don't all end up on 'America's Most Wanted.'

FAITH

(impressed)

Cool.

40 INT. MALL - MAIN HALL. DAY.

40

An overhead shot of the mall's main atrium complete with fountain and huge, ornate chandelier hanging overhead, a few packs of early shoppers milling around. A delicate female voice comes on over the intercom system.

ANNOUNCER

Ladies and gentlemen, please be advised, for your safety we must insist that you leave the mall immediately. There is no cause for alarm, we have a small fire in one of our stores but the emergency services are on their way.

The shoppers exchange mildly concerned looks then start making for the exit.

41 INT. MALL - SECURITY OFFICE. DAY.

41

Faith and Vi are leaving, we hear the announcement start over as Faith steps outside.

FAITH

So, are the fire trucks on their way then?

Vi pretends to look horrified for a second, hand over her mouth as though she forgot to do something, but then smirks and shakes her head.

VI

What, you thought I'd leave a loophole? This place is ours now.

The girls high five and leave the office.

42 INT. MALL - GROUND FLOOR. DAY.

42

Ambrosia, Xia and Magda are stood outside Bloomingdales, the other two girls holding bags that are obviously filled with Ambrosia's shopping. They look up as the announcement loops.

XIA

Fire?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMBROSIA

No, it's them. They're trying to lock us in. Looks like they want a showdown.

(beat)

Ooh, that's sneaky! Kinda clever, though..

XIA

What we do?

Ambrosia turns to the others, a defiant look on her face.

AMBROSIA

We give them what they want.

And from that look, we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF ACT THREE**

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

43 INT. THE GRAND LIBRARY

43

Willow is in the next section of the jungle complex - a huge library, bookshelves stretching upwards and into the heavens, the top of the room disappearing into clouds. Indoors. Rows and rows of books line the shelves, each a different size and colour. More of those ladders from the game board line the shelves.

Willow looks as amazed as ever as she tries to take in the library. The others have joined her, looking up with her.

WILLOW

Wow.. now this.. this is impressive. Books make better friends than giant snake demons in my, uh, book.

TATTLES

Our old Teach used to be here before.. before he became something else.

TRINKETS

Humanity has come far since those days.

WILLOW

So.. what exactly would I do here?  
(beat)  
If I took up your offer. And I'm not saying for sure I will. I think.

TRINKETS

Everyone has a purpose here, a duty to perform. I track each beat of each heart. I ticked away the heartbeats.

TALEDRAW

I drew the pages of the world.

TATTLES

And I kept 'em all company!

WILLOW

And me?

TATTLES

You have to know everything in the world.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW

(beat)

Oh.

TRINKETS

But you can use that knowledge - everything contained within these walls is at your command, and you can use it as you see fit.

WILLOW

(thoughtful)

Hmm..

TRINKETS

The world is much changed now. The Slayers now are not the Slayer she was. The Chosen One became the Chosen bunches. Evil spread its sticky fingers. The Watchers, or what they used to be, were given the secret to create the Slayer by a true demon. The race of man is smart, but it's not that smart.

WILLOW

Sorry, still trying to process wherein the entire history of the world is kept as.. comic books?

(beat)

Where's Xander when I need him..

TATTLES

This is who you will be. Our Teach, our one to look up to and help us understand things.

WILLOW

Me? Um, okay, first: so many things I don't get. I have to use Google all the time. Even for simple stuff, like how to cook pancakes.

TATTLES

I talk to tons of people who are afraid. It's sad but I help them. I can help you too. To realise what you are.

WILLOW

So.. I'd be kind of like a Super Watcher?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Trinkets raises his hands as if to say 'Whatever you want to be.' Tattles giggles as Willow gazes up at the rows and rows of bookcases again, frowning and looking like her little head's about to pop from everything she's trying to take in.

44

INT. MALL - MAIN HALL. DAY.

44

Ambrosia leads the other two as they march towards the fountain, looking up towards all the levels visible from there. Streamers with lightbulbs on dangle from the ceiling all over.

AMBROSIA

(shouts)

You want me? Here I am! Come on!  
Come get me!

XIA

What you doing?

AMBROSIA

(seething)

Settling a score. That stupid hippy's always thought she was better than us, thought she deserved to be a Slayer more than I did, tried to get my Daddy to teach her instead!

(shouts upwards again)

Well now we'll prove it! Now we'll see who's best!

Crouched behind a first floor column out of sight but able to hear Ambrosia below, Faith turns to Vi.

FAITH

Any of that true?

VI

Oh, yeah.

(grins)

Because I am better.

FAITH

Let's find out, then, twinkie!

They stand and walk out into view of the Slayers below.

Ambrosia looks up as Vi and Faith walk into sight. Vi loads her rifle and looks ready to use it.

AMBROSIA

Aha! I knew you'd be behind this.  
You always were one for all that survivalist crap.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FAITH

(to Vi)

That's some mouth on her, huh?

(shouts to Ambrosia)

Okay, Barbie! Where's the girl?

AMBROSIA

Maybe if you kick the stones out of me, I'll tell you.

(wicked grin)

I dare you.

FAITH

Oh, that's it, you are toast!

AMBROSIA

(to Vi)

Come on, doll, show me what you got!

VI

Amber, if you call me doll one more time, I am going to shoot you..

AMBROSIA

So get down here and shut me up!

Faith and Vi exchange a look, then Faith steps up onto the guard rail and jumps for the streamers, sliding down them and sending sparks flying as they shear off the lightbulbs all the way down.

Vi opens up with her rifle, scattering the three Slayers as bullets ping off the expensive mall marblework and ricochet into windows and stalls all around. Ambrosia cartwheels off to the side and Vi's fire tracks after her.

It's a regular melee as the three girls on the ground get to it, Faith's experience showing up as she smacks her palm into Magda's face, sending her reeling backwards. She blocks a kick from Xia and trades a few punches with her.

Still backflipping and rolling as bullets zing past her, shattering glass and destroying plant pots, bins and benches, Ambrosia keeps out of the way of the entire clip of Vi's ammo.

Vi's rifle clicks onto empty, and with a muttered curse she throws it to the ground and climbs down over the guard rail, dropping cat-like to the ground and stepping warily up to Ambrosia, who stands, breathless but grinning, waiting.

AMBROSIA (cont'd)

Okay then, Mother Earth, time to show you how a real Slayer fights!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

VI

Why? You gonna hold a mirror up?

Ambrosia doesn't like that one bit. With a yell she jumps forward, but Vi blocks the kick and returns a punch to Amber's stomach.

Amber chops Vi across the back of the neck and she stumbles forward, but turns on the spot and sweeps her leg out, sending Ambrosia crashing to the floor.

Faith's got her arms up, blocking hits from both Xia and Magda. She glances over her shoulder towards the shops and makes a break for them, the two girls in hot pursuit.

We follow Faith as she races up to the front of a garden hardware store, and in one swift movement sweeps up a bench sitting outside and flings it at the glass, which shatters satisfyingly.

Faith bobs backward to avoid a kick from Xia, and is back to chopping and blocking blows from Magda.

45 INT. MALL - GARDEN STORE. DAY. 45

She manages a few backflips to get inside the shop, quickly grabbing a rake and using it like a bo staff to fend off the two girls, smacking it left and right to block their punches.

FAITH

(grins)

Oh, you two fight good! This is gonna be fun.. come on!

46 INT. MALL - FOUNTAIN. DAY. 46

Vi is losing the fight, and reels backwards as Amber lands another strong kick. Blood spatters from her nose after Ambrosia lands another heavy hit, and Vi stutters back into the fountain, almost losing her balance.

Ambrosia takes another few steps forward, pressing her advantage home.

AMBROSIA

(panting)

Come on, Woodstock, I thought you were supposed to be showing me what you've got!

VI

(also panting)

Just.. getting.. started!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

With a high kick, she knocks Ambrosia on her ass, leaping forward for another blow but Ambrosia blocks, slamming both palms into Vi's stomach and sending her staggering backwards.

She hits the fountain and with a yelp topples over backwards, landing in the knee-high water with a splash.

47 INT. MALL - GARDEN STORE. DAY. 47

Faith looks cross and sees Vi splash down, but can't pause for long as Xia comes at her with a shovel, swinging it sharp edge out for Faith's neck.

Faith blocks with the rake but is hit from behind by Magda, who hurls a lawnmower straight at her.

Faith clatters to the floor, just shoving the heavy weight off her in time to get the rake up and block another shovel swipe.

48 INT. MALL - FOUNTAIN. DAY. 48

Ambrosia leaps into the fountain and grabs the weakened Vi by her shirt, lifting her out of the water.

AMBROSIA  
Say goodnight, Gracie.

VI  
Amber.. you don't understand.. what she is..

Ambrsoai pauses for a moment, wondering what Vi could mean. Then she shrugs and raises her fist again.

AMBROSIA  
Oh, whatever.

CRACK! One last punch knocks Vi out cold, and Ambrosia drops her, leaving her floating face up in the water. Ambrosia hops out of the fountain and heads over to the store where Faith and the others are.

CUT TO:

49 INT. MALL - GARDEN STORE. DAY. 49

She sees the soggy Ambrosia heading over, and the unconscious Vi is visible floating in the fountain.

FAITH  
Vi! Damn it..

Faith ducks as Magda swipes at her with a pair of hand trowels, using them like daggers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Ambrosia enters the scene in the background, and as they see her Xia and Magda step backwards. Faith eyes the trio warily, splintered and broken rake up.

AMBROSIA

Aww, looks like the butch one's all on her lonesome again! And against all three of us as well..

(mock fear)

Oh no! However will we win?

50

INT. MALL - MAIN HALL. DAY.

50

Reverse angle, looking in through the smashed shop front as Buffy and Kennedy step into frame, watching the pause in the melee inside.

BUFFY

Faith?

We see the girls inside the shop snap round as one, and Faith takes advantage of the distraction to race out, vaulting out through the window on what's left of her rake to quickly join Buffy and Kennedy. Buffy is still looking incredulously at her.

BUFFY (cont'd)

What are you doing here?

FAITH

No time to explain, B. They've got your sister. We're getting her back.

Buffy turns and glares at the three bad girls as they walk out of the shop, taking up defensive poses opposite each Slayer.

AMBROSIA

That's right, sweetheart, and we plan on leaving with her. Whether you try to stop us or not doesn't really matter, because either way we're walking out of here.

KENNEDY

Oh, I'm gonna enjoy this..

XIA

(points to Kennedy)

I take one with big mouth.

Magda points at Faith and then beckons with her finger.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMBROSIA

(to Buffy)

Well then, Chosen One Numero Uno..  
shall we dance?

BUFFY

Darn, and here I am with my best  
dancing shoes at home..

(beat)

No, wait, that wasn't a great  
comeback..

With a battle yell, Xia charges forward, quickly followed by Magda and Ambrosia. Xia and Kennedy step to the fight, kicking and punching with youthful fury as Faith jogs backwards to get a better spot to take on Magda. Buffy and Ambrosia circle each other as the two other fights race away either side of them.

Stepping backwards as she blocks Xia's punches and roundhouse swings, Kennedy finds herself standing just outside the front of a large Macy's store.

Kennedy looks like she's enjoying the action, swept up in the exhilaration of the fight as she hops from foot to foot, Muhammad Ali style.

KENNEDY

You know..

(ducks)

.. if you weren't trying so hard to  
hit me..

(dodges back)

.. you might actually land one!

SMACK! Kennedy takes a shot right in the kisser, and staggers backwards to fall against the glass shop front. She dives to the side as Xia lets out a yell and flies at her with a jump kick, smashing the window down around them.

Racing along with Magda in pursuit, Faith comes to a stop next to a mobile candy stand, tipping it over into Magda's path, and despite trying to leap over it the Polish Slayer trips over it, hitting the ground to a cascade of candy shells and sweets. Faith socks her in the jaw as she tries to get up.

FAITH

Candy's real bad for your teeth,  
you know..

Buffy and Ambrosia are still circling round, one taking the occasional swing which the other blocks or dodges.

(CONTINUED)



CONTINUED: (2)

AMBROSIA

So you're the One, huh? The strongest Slayer going. The one who died twice and is still kicking around, way past her sell-by date!

BUFFY

Sure am. Sorry, don't think I've heard of you?

AMBROSIA

Not many people have. Yet. They will do when I become the girl who finally took out 'the mighty Buffy'..

BUFFY

Big plans.. you got the moves to back that up?

Ambrosia sweep kicks Buffy off her feet, but Buffy dodges the punch to her head that follows. Kicking Ambrosia in the back and sending her stuttering forward.

Back with Kennedy, as she grabs hold of one of the fallen shop dummies and uses it as a club, slamming it into Xia and knocking her back inside the store, jumping onto the display and following her inside.

Faith runs again, spots a sporting goods store coming up and skids to a halt, grabbing the charging Magda and flinging her back-first through the glass frontage. Faith jumps through and follows after Magda as she skids along the shop floor.

51 INT. MALL - MACY'S. DAY.

51

Xia pushes a fully loaded clothes rack at Kennedy, who dodges to the side and throws the shop dummy at her. It knocks Xia forward, and she hits the jewellery counter just past the shop entrance.

She picks up one of the earring display boards and throws it like a frisbee at Kennedy, the board slicing one of Kennedy's cheeks open as it swooshes past. Kennedy shouts in pain.

XIA

(sneers)

White girls wear too much gold.

KENNEDY

You're gonna be wearing my boot in a second!

Kennedy leaps forward, and the two are back trading punches.

52 INT. MALL - SPORTS STORE. DAY. 52

Faith ducks and weaves as Magda hurls an assortment of balls at her - basketballs, footballs, baseballs - before grabbing a baseball bat from the display next to her and knocking one of them back.

It thwacks into Magda and knocks her off her feet, and Faith grins as she strolls over to the winded Slayer.

FAITH  
Sorry, did I forget to say 'fore'?

Magda grunts and kicks one leg up at Faith, knocking her back.

53 INT. MALL - MAIN HALL. DAY. 53

Buffy is thrown from off screen, skittering backwards and tripping, rolling back into an art store and just getting up as Ambrosia charges in after her.

54 INT. MALL - ART STORE. DAY. 54

Buffy grabs a picture frame from the racks beside her and slams it down over Ambrosia's head.

BUFFY  
Looks like you've been framed..

Ambrosia shakes her head clear and then flexes to break the frame off herself.

AMBROSIA  
Oh, please, that was lame.

BUFFY  
Well.. why don't I try a better punchline?

AMBROSIA  
I'm all ears, dear..

THUD! Buffy lands a good punch on Ambrosia who staggers back, pulling down a wall display of unframed art prints down on top of her as she hits the deck.

BUFFY  
(deadpan)  
Boom boom.

55 INT. MALL - SPORTS STORE. DAY. 55

Faith charges into Magda, bowling them both into a display of trainers and boxes, sending everything scattering across the floor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The two jump up, the in store video screen wall behind them showing a series of particularly brutal football tackles as they block and throw punches alternately.

FAITH

Don't say much, do you?

Magda doesn't answer, but concentrates on trying to hit Faith, swiping up a mallet from another display and swinging it at her. Faith grabs the mallet and punches Magda with her free hand, knocking her into some seats and down onto the floor.

FAITH (cont'd)

Come on, that was worth an 'ow!' for sure!

Magda throws a sneaker lying nearby at Faith, which bounces off the side of her head. Faith holds an indignant hand to her head.

FAITH (cont'd)

Ow!

With a growl, she leaps forward, grabs Magda and spins round, throwing her back into the video wall which explodes in a shower of sparks and glass, Magda and the remains of the screens falling to the ground.

Magda's out for the count, and Faith stands triumphantly over her.

FAITH (cont'd)

Here, I'll fill in your next line.  
(leans in close; whispers)

Ow.

56 INT. MALL - MACY'S. DAY.

56

Xia and Kennedy are still fighting, running through the aisles of clothes hangars, throwing various items of fashion at each other as they reach a staircase leading to the first floor.

Kennedy spots something and jinks to the left, running off screen as Xia turns to look behind her. Kennedy is nowhere in sight, so Xia bounds up the stairs.

57 INT. MALL - MACY'S (1ST FLOOR). DAY.

57

Xia reaches the top of the staircase, and walks past an elevator as she scans, looking for Kennedy.

She doesn't hear the faint 'ping' of the elevator doors opening behind her, so she isn't expecting the hit as Kennedy whacks her over the head with another mannequin.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Xia crumples, lights out, to the floor as Kennedy throws the dented dummy down. She wipes the sweat from her brow and allows herself a smile.

KENNEDY  
Element of surprise. See?  
Improvise!

58 INT. MALL - MAIN FLOOR. DAY.

58

The three victorious girls limp back into the main hall where the fight started, Faith racing over to the fountain and heaving Vi out of it, lying her down on the ground and checking her pulse.

BUFFY  
She okay?

KENNEDY  
Is that Vi?

FAITH  
Yeah, we've been running together  
for a while now. Long story.

BUFFY  
(sighs)  
You know, an awful lot of  
explaining from you is in order  
now..  
(beat)  
Dawn.. Dawn! Where's Dawn?

Faith stands up, satisfied that Vi is otherwise okay.

FAITH  
Maybe my silent girl feels like  
talking now..

59 INT. MALL - VICTORIA'S SECRET (BACK ROOM). DAY.

59

A rusty metal door is yanked open, and inside sits Dawn, still gagged and bound but who quickly brightens up when she sees who's come to get her.

Buffy leans into frame and takes off the gag, getting to work on the ropes tied round her wrists.

DAWN  
(exasperated)  
Well, it's about damn time!

Buffy throws a wry look back to Faith and Kennedy.

BUFFY  
(beat)  
Oh, it was nothing.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY(cont'd)

And I'm fine, by the way. The cuts  
and bruises don't hurt at all.

Dawn throws a weary look at Buffy, who sighs as she helps her  
sister to her feet.

DAWN

What happened to those other girls?

KENNEDY

We did.

DAWN

Oh. Good.

BUFFY

Okay, next thing, I'll call Giles  
and get someone out here to lock  
those girls up, and then I'll go  
look for Willow. You guys go meet  
Xander outside and get back home.  
Oh, and I'd better call Andrew to  
make sure he remembered to call an  
ambulance for Jackson before he  
bled to death..

FAITH

So, looks like business as usual  
for you, huh B?

BUFFY

(tired smile)

Yep.

60 INT. HOSPITAL WARD. DAY.

60

Faith sits by a bed in a quiet hospital ward, waiting for the  
bandaged Vi to come round. The redheaded junior Slayer stirs  
and creaks one puffy eye open, looking over to see Faith.

VI

(weakly)

Hey..

FAITH

Hey. Took a pretty good beating out  
there, Vi!

VI

Sorry..

FAITH

Relax. We've both had worse. We got  
Dawn back, but I had to leave her  
with Buffy or we'd have blown our  
cover.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VI

So what's the plan now?

FAITH

You stay here and recover, you'll be out in a few days thanks to our trademark Slayer healing, then you head back to Amber's dad and explain to him what happened. I'll stick around here with Buffy, stay undercover and keep an eye on everything. Sound good?

VI

(weak smile)

Five by five.

Faith grins back.

61 INT. MALL - MAIN HALL. DAY.

61

Buffy is walking around the now reopened mall, trying to look inconspicuous as shoppers fill the place up again. She's back at the column where Willow disappeared earlier, her eyes scanning round for any sign of the Wicca.

With a POP and a brief flash of purple light, Willow reappears, looking dazed and confused as she scans around. She spots Buffy and heaves a sigh of relief.

WILLOW

(relieved)

Oh.. no more jungle. Good. Concrete good.

BUFFY

(also relieved)

Willow! Where the heck did you get to?

WILLOW

I'm not even sure myself, Buffy.. I'll try to tell you about it later..

(beat)

Did I miss much?

BUFFY

Eh, this and that. Fought three bad Slayers. Rescued Dawn. Did some shopping afterwards while I was looking for you. Same as.

The two girls link arms and walk back towards the light of the entrance of the mall. We stay and watch them walk away.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

                  BUFFY (cont'd)  
So where did you go?

                  WILLOW  
It was very, very strange. I'm  
still not sure myself yet.  
                  (beat)  
Do you think I'd make a good  
teacher?

                  BUFFY  
Huh?

Willow shakes her head and walks away, and as a confused  
Buffy watches her go, we:

**BLACK OUT:**

**END OF SHOW**