BUFFY (V.O)
Choices. Decisions. We make them every day and they shape our future, the outcome of it all. Sometimes we choose the wrong paths and get lost along the way. Sometimes we choose the right ones but the consequences can be too consuming for us to deal with. So we hide and we pray we’ll never have to face them.

1
EXT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - DAY

The camera swoops in from the skyline, hot on the tail of a beautiful bird in flight. As the creature soars through the sky, we leave its form, and fall down onto a figure -- BUFFY, sitting on a bench in the front yard. She’s completely lost in thought, staring ahead. Only when a shadow falls over her does she look up to see JACKSON.

JACKSON
You okay?

BUFFY
(smiles)
Yeah, I am.
(beat)
Xander fixed that pipe yet?

JACKSON
I think he gave up. Plumbing... not his thing.

BUFFY
I remember.

Jackson lowers himself onto the bench as Buffy interlocks her hand with his.

There’s a diamond ring on her engagement finger.

JACKSON
Something’s up with you, I can feel it. Is it the wedding?

BUFFY
No, Jackson. Not even.
(beat)
I’m peachy.
CONTINUED:

JACKSON
Good, cos you know, you’re gonna have to meet my family soon and that’s never a good thing.

BUFFY
Looking forward to it.

JACKSON
Don’t be. Can’t you just meet them at the church? I mean, seriously, they all need to be chained and gagged.

BUFFY
They can’t be that bad.

JACKSON
Oh, you don’t know the half of it.

BUFFY
(smiles)
Well, soon I’ll be Mrs. Buffy Shaw and we’ll have the rest of our lives to find things out about each other.

JACKSON
Bring it on.

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

The camera pans to see ANDREW sitting at the table, fiddling with the laptop. XANDER enters, grubby and tired, clutching a wrench.

XANDER
No more plumbing! I mean it, I’m finished with the household odd jobs.

ANDREW
(grins)
Couldn’t fix it?

XANDER
It’s impossible!
(beat)
You know, I don’t get it. Buffy’s a big earning counselor now, all businesswoman-like, but yet she still refuses to call a qualified plumber.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

ANDREW
Well, I guess she’d rather see you getting all sweaty.
(smiles)
Which isn’t so bad.

XANDER
(rolls eyes)
She’s gonna be a married woman soon, and I’m gonna be a father.
(beat)
Speaking of, I should really get back to my pregnant bride to be.

ANDREW
I sense issues.

XANDER
Let’s just say the pregnancy has brought out the demon in her.

3 INT. HARRIS RESIDENCE – KITCHEN

ANYA is rushing around the kitchen, cooking with various pots and pans. WILLOW looks on, a little amused, a little scared.

ANYA
All I’m saying is, he could at least help me cook. It’s not a crime, is it?
(beat)
Though, if it was a crime I would have him castrated. Or...
eviscerated.

WILLOW
Anya, I think it’s pretty fair to say your hormones are getting the better of you.

ANYA
(confused)
What?

WILLOW
Uh... I just mean... there have been times when...
.quickly)
Xander!

She almost leaps into his arms as he walks through the door. Anya turns to him, arms on hips.

ANYA
Where have you been? Willow has been irritating me.
CONTINUED:

WILLOW
What?

XANDER
I’ve just been fixing a few... Anya, what are you doing?

ANYA
We have your parents coming for dinner tonight and I want to make sure everything’s perfect.

XANDER
(gulps)
My parents?

ANYA
Yes. I told you this.

XANDER
Tonight?

ANYA
See, you never listen to me!

WILLOW
Xander, don’t anger it!

Anya shoots an icy look at Willow.

WILLOW (cont’d)
Heh, I just meant... I have to go... away... now...

She quickly grabs her jacket and rushes out of the house. Xander softly grabs Anya by the hips.

XANDER
An, you’ve gotta calm down. All this stress can’t be good for little Xander.

ANYA
I know, it’s just --
(then)
Little Xander?

Xander pulls a worried look as we cut to:

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

Buffy enters, seeing Andrew at the table.

ANDREW
Jackson gone?
CONTINUED:

BUFFY
Yep. No rest for the wicked. I’m just gonna take a shower.

ANDREW
Okay.

She exits as we finally see the computer screen. Andrew’s playing a flight simulator game which CRASHES AND BURNS.

ANDREW (cont’d)
Balls!

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - UPSTAIRS HALLWAY

Buffy walks up the stairs and through the hallway, stopping outside an empty room. She looks in, standing on the threshold, just staring into it as if looking for something she can’t find.

Suddenly there’s a very brief FLASH of a GIRL LYING ON THE BED. Buffy notices, but can’t make it out.

TARA (V.O)
(distorted)
Be back before Dawn.

Buffy tilts her head, slowly reaching for the door knob. She pulls the door shut and with a moments hesitation, continues through the hallway and into the bathroom.

BLACK OUT.

END OF TEASER
ACT ONE

FADE IN:

EXT. CHARLESTON & SMITHE - DAY

An establishing shot. The building is large, probably too large for counseling offices. Below on the sidewalk, people go about their daily business, rushing to and fro.

INT. BUFFY’S OFFICE

Buffy is sitting at her desk, looking over some files, lost in her work. The door opens and MATILDA HUNSLEY hesitantly enters, (think Velma from Scooby Doo... the movies, not the cartoons).

MATILDA
(sheepish)
Ms. Summers...

Buffy almost jumps out of her skin, too caught up in her work to have noticed Matilda enter.

BUFFY
Holy crap!
(beat)
What is it?

MATILDA
I know I’m only the temp, while your regular secretary is on leave but... I can’t find anything in the files. Her system is... crazy.

BUFFY
Yeah... Anya. She’s a... less than ordinary gal.
(beat)
What are you looking for?

MATILDA
The Lobaque case. You have an appointment with the son later on today and I really need to get it all prepped.

BUFFY
Okay.
(thinks)
Check under the... "A" section.

MATILDA
Why? I mean, that makes no sense.
BUFFY
Jeremy Lobaque comes here because he is depressed about the way he looks. He has acne. Hence his file being under the "A" section.

MATILDA
(confused)
Is that... really how this should be filed?

BUFFY
No, but you try telling Anya that when she’s looking for a little vengeance after the morning sickness.

MATILDA
Oh.
(smiles)
Your friend is lucky to be having a baby. I’ve always wanted to be pregnant. The house, the husband, the happy, happy life.

BUFFY
(huh?)
Yeah, it’s... great.

MATILDA
And you, getting married. I bet you’re real excited, right? I would be. Do you know a date yet or are you still on the high from the engagement?

Buffy goes to speak but --

MATILDA (cont’d)
Are you having a church wedding? Cos, every girl dreams of the white wedding. Although, I always wanted red roses, but then my Mom said it could look a little gothic if I had all white and then red roses. Which is strange, cos normally when you think of gothic you think of black but that isn’t the case. Is your Mom excited?

BUFFY
My Mom --

(CONTINUED)
MATILDA (interrupting)
Oh, I bet she is. Do you have any family going? Brothers? Sisters?

BUFFY
No. No brothers or sisters.

MATILDA
Oh, well I bet a woman like you has enough friends to fill the seats. You’re so confident and always comfortable with talking to people. I’m so not like that, I never talk to people I don’t really know. But then sometimes when I’m nervous I talk too much. You don’t think that do you?

BUFFY
Um... Matilda... I don’t think any work is gonna get done if we’re chatting all day.

MATILDA
Of course not. I’m sorry. I just feel like I could talk to you forever. (beat) Ms. Summers?

BUFFY
Yeah?

MATILDA
You’re very lucky.

BUFFY (smiles)
Thank you.

Matilda smiles back at her and then exits, finally. Buffy breathes a sigh of relief and leans back on her chair, her hands resting on the back of her head.

MATILDA (O.S)
Ms. Summers?

Buffy YELPS with surprise, FALLING OFF HER CHAIR with a THUD! Matilda peers through the gap in the door.

MATILDA (cont’d)
Jeremy Lobaque’s here.

BUFFY
Okay!

(CONTINUED)
The door closes again and Buffy pulls herself up, looking to make sure she’s gone.

BUFFY (cont’d)
I so have to fire her.

8
INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - ANDREW’S ROOM

JODY is laying on the bed, looking ahead at something, which we can’t see.

ANDREW (O.S)
And I believe that with the information presented through many media programs, we can separate the fiction from fact and devise new ideas. Creating and structuring basis for theories we had previously not conceived.

The camera pans to see Andrew dressed in a suit, looking very much like a nerdy James Bond.

ANDREW (cont’d)
So... what do you think?

JODY
I think you’ll have them licking your boots.

ANDREW
Really? You don’t think the Cleveland Science and Technology Division will laugh at me?

JODY
I won’t lie to you, Andrew. There could be laughing. But they’ll soon succumb to your charm.
(beat)
I did.

Andrew smiles as he takes his place on the bed next to Jody.

ANDREW
I really want this. I don’t want to be working at the cafe for the rest of my life, being one of those people who never do anything with their lives.

JODY
Hey, you won’t be. And you’ve done more with your life than most people will ever do.
CONTINUED:

ANDREW
Like what?

JODY
(thinks)
You helped destroy that Sunnydale place. Which, okay, could be a bad thing if there wasn’t a Hellmouth beneath it. Oh! And you came up with that plan to kill the dragon.

ANDREW
(smiles)
It was a good plan.

JODY
Yeah, it was. And without it, that Ulithios might have destroyed us all.

ANDREW
You know, it’s getting harder and harder to remember what happened that night.

JODY
Yeah, I know what you mean. It’s like it’s one big blur.

ANDREW
I don’t even remember what Ulithios looked like.

JODY
(beat)
I think it was scaly... I can’t picture it right now.

Andrew’s watch BEEPS! He looks down at it and JUMPS off the bed.

ANDREW
Jumping Jimbob, it’s time.

JODY
Good luck.

ANDREW
I’m gonna need it. I’ve gotta try and convince a board of scientists that my theories of warp propulsion could be science fact instead of science fiction.

Jody stands and straightens Andrew’s tie.
CONTINUED: (2)

JODY
You’ll do fine, I know you can. If anyone can make world renowned scientists believe that Star Trek is the way to go, you will.
(beat)
Now go out there and kick some butt!

Andrew leans in and softly kisses Jody on the cheek. Pulling back, he brings his hand up to touch his cheek.

ANDREW
Thanks for sticking by me.

JODY
You know me, I’m... sticky.

Andrew laughs before exiting, leaving Jody with a longing look on his face.

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

The front door pushes open to reveal Buffy, carrying a briefcase. She sets it down, seeing Andrew rushing down the stairs.

BUFFY
Hey, is --

ANDREW
Can’t talk! Interview!

He swiftly EXITS. Buffy shakes her head and closes the door behind her.

She heads into the lounge and sees GILES and MARIE at the table, looking over some books.

BUFFY
Oh, hey.

GILES
Buffy. You’re home early.

BUFFY
Yeah, turns out the new secretary is more hard work than Anya was.

MARIE
(smiles)
Is that even possible?

(CONTINUED)
BUFFY
Hard to believe, I know. She hangs up her jacket and takes a deep breath.

GILES
You seem tired.

BUFFY
Me? No. If anything... I’m restless.

MARIE
Ah, yes. The decrease in demonic activity seems to be taking its toll on everyone.

GILES
Quite. Seems we all actually have to find lives now.

BUFFY
(smiles)
Us? You’re kidding, right?

GILES
(beat)
Buffy...
(distorted)
Your sister is dead.

Buffy stops dead in her tracks, looking confused.

BUFFY
What did you just say?

GILES
I said, I’ve been thinking about what you said.

BUFFY
(wigged)
Oh... right...

GILES
Are you feeling all right?

BUFFY
Yeah, I’m okay. Long day. What was you saying?

GILES
Well, when you asked me to... give you away at the wedding...
(beat)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
Wouldn’t your father be best suited?

BUFFY
Giles, I’d be surprised if my father actually gave a damn about me getting married. You’d think with him only ever having one child, he might make an effort, but no.

(beat)
You’re the closest thing I’ve got to... the closest thing I’ve ever had to a real Dad. I know on some level it might seem kinda wrong but... I wouldn’t want anyone else in your place.

GILES
(emotional)
Yes, well... that’s that then.

He takes off his glasses, giving them a wipe. Buffy smiles.

BUFFY
Is that a tear?

GILES
(scoffs)
A tear? No, no. Marie’s had me looking through dusty books all day and I must have gotten some in my eye.

BUFFY
And only just realized?

GILES
Yes.

(beat)
Let’s do change the subject.

ANYA (O.S)
Penis!

GILES
Not quite what I was hoping for.

They all turn to see Anya standing in the doorway, with a cake SPLODGED on the floor by her feet.

ANYA
(stressed)
That thing took me an hour to bake. One hour of my life wasted.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (3) ANYA(cont'd)

Well, I guess it doesn’t compare to the four years I’ve wasted helping you lot take on the world of demons, which actually lost me my powers, made me fall in love with Xander, caused me great heartache, as well as various skin blemishes, which all lead to this thing growing inside of me!

(giddy)

But it was just one of six so I can bring you another. What’s going on with you guys?

Giles, Marie, and Buffy exchange various glances.

BUFFY
You feeling okay there, Anya?

ANYA
Why does everyone keep asking me that? It’s not like I’m dying, you know!

BUFFY
Okay...

(beat)

So, I’m gonna get gone now.

GILES
Anywhere exciting... or somewhere we can also runaway to?

Anya shoots him an icy look.

BUFFY
Patrolling. I figured I’d get it in before Jackson gets home.

ANYA
Yes. There’s nothing like a bit of sweaty action to get you in the mood for some sweaty action.

BUFFY
And on that note...

She picks up her stake and EXITS, stepping over the cake and past Anya.

MARIE
(motioning)

Rupert.

GILES
Yes, let’s.
CONTINUED: (4)

They quickly rush through the other door. Anya stands alone, looking down at her cake.

ANYA
Hey! What am I, a danger zone?

She shrugs, lowering herself down to the floor, taking bites out of the mess, formerly known as a cake.

ANYA (cont’d)
These cravings are killing me!

INT. CEMETERY - EVENING

Buffy walks alone through the darkened cemetery, her eyes shifting, but we get the feeling she isn’t really concentrating. Suddenly --

VAMPIRE
Howdy.

The Slayer turns to see him.

BUFFY
Uh... hey.

VAMPIRE
Do you know where the cinema is? I’m missing the new Halle Berry flick.

BUFFY
It’s downtown, on Edmund Street. (then) Wait, aren’t we gonna fight?

VAMPIRE
Um, nah. I just filled up on cherry cakes and I can’t fight on a growling stomach.

BUFFY
Oh, it’s just... normally when I see a vampire here, we fight to the death.

VAMPIRE
Yeah, I never really got that. I mean, if I were a vampire, which I am, I wouldn’t try and kill you. Everyone knows it’s pointless.

BUFFY
(smiles)
They do?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

VAMPIRE
Sure. You’re like, unbeatable.
After Ulithios, the demons and vamps kinda realized that. I mean, Ulithios was an Old One. With the power and arrogance to boot. But you stopped it.

(beat)
And you even let your sister die.

BUFFY
(shocked)
What?

VAMPIRE
Uh, I said ’and you didn’t even die.’ This time. You know, cos you’ve died so many times before.

BUFFY
Just the twice. It’s no big.

VAMPIRE
Oh, well, good luck with the slaying.

He goes to walk away but Buffy chases up to him.

BUFFY
Wait! I haven’t had a big fight in a long time. Can’t you just hit me?

VAMPIRE
I’m sorry, but I’m really gonna miss that movie.

BUFFY
Please! I won’t hit back. A lot.

VAMPIRE
Slayer, you need to get yourself a life.

He pushes past her and walks away. Buffy looks on at him, a little disgruntled.

BUFFY
That’s what I’m afraid of. She steps back, turns, and --

There’s Jackson! She almost screams, raising her stake, but he catches it.

JACKSON
Whoa there cowgirl.
BUFFY
Jackson, what are you doing here?

JACKSON
I took the scenic route home, figured you’d be here.

BUFFY
You almost gave me a heart attack.

JACKSON
And we wouldn’t want that.

He leans in and KISSES her.

VOICE (O.S)
Buffy!

Buffy turns to see Jackson standing ten feet away from her, holding a young brunette girl by her hair, which is bloodied. In his other hand is a gun, which is pointed to her head. The girl looks up, it’s DAWN!

DAWN
(screams)
Help me!

Buffy’s LUNGES forward to help the girl but when she lands, there’s nothing there. She looks around and sees Jackson looking back at her, confusion painting his expression.

JACKSON
Buffy, what is it?

BUFFY
(breathless)
It was... Dawn...

JACKSON
Who is Dawn?

BUFFY
(thinks)
I don’t know...

On her bewildered expression we...

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
CONTINUED: (3)

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Giles, Marie, Jackson Andrew, Jody, Anya, and Willow are all gathered around the big wooden table. Their attention is set upon Buffy, who is pacing up and down.

GILES
I’m not sure I understand, Buffy.

BUFFY
What’s not to understand? I saw a girl and somehow, I instantly recognized her. Her name was Dawn. Something about her just... I don’t know how to explain it.

ANYA
Well then, that shall help with the research.

GILES
(re: Jackson)
And what role did he have in this vision?

BUFFY
It wasn’t a vision! It was... she was really there. Like, as solid as you and me.

JACKSON
But... you said I was there as well.

ANYA
Yes, Jackson, you were in the cemetery. You should know that.

JACKSON
No, I mean... in your vision or whatever it was. You said I was in it.

(beat)
What was I doing?

BUFFY
(lying)
I don’t remember.

Everyone exchanges glances. Is she crazy?

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

MARIE
I think we should put this down to exhaustion. Buffy, you have obviously been working too hard.

BUFFY
I’m not tired. I know what I saw.

WILLOW
Maybe it was a dream.

BUFFY
Huh?

WILLOW
A vision. Buffy, you used to get them all the time. When something was going to happen, you would sometimes dream about it first.

BUFFY
Like when Spike and Drusilla tried to kill Angel.

ANDREW
Spike tried to kill... who’s Drusilla?

ANYA
A vampire. Giles made out with her once.

GILES
I was under her hypnosis!

BUFFY
(irritated)
Guys! Focus!

Giles shakes his head.

BUFFY
I’m sorry, Buffy, but I really have no solution to this. We are just going to have to see what comes of it.

BUFFY
Great. Yes. Let’s wait for the bad guys to come to us, like we always do. Like when Glory took...

She stops, searching for something to finish that sentence. Everyone looks to her.
CONTINUED: (2)

WILLOW
Are you okay?

BUFFY
What did Glory come for?

ANYA
The Key, Buffy.
(beat)
Oh, I know what it is. She’s having amnesia. It’s all that sex with Jackson.

JACKSON
Hey!

ANYA
Well think about it. When you two first got groiny, you got amnesia.

JACKSON
That was different... and not relevant.

ANYA
Just thinking outside the box here.

BUFFY
No. I know what Glory came for... what did it look like?

The entire gang rack their brains but none of them can come up with an answer.

BUFFY (cont’d)
And when Willow went dark, I was fighting with someone by my side. I don’t... remember who...

JODY
Oh! Me and Andrew were so thinking about this earlier.

ANDREW
Yeah. What did Ulithios look like?

ANYA
Well that’s silly, it was... well it looked like...

WILLOW
It was... not as big as I thought it would be...
CONTINUED: (3)

GILES
I think it’s safe to say there is some kind of a spell at work here.

BUFFY
Our memories have been changed.

WILLOW
Why? Why would someone change them?

BUFFY
That’s what we’ve got to find out. Will, you think you could do some kind of a spell to find out what it is and who has done it?

WILLOW
I guess. I’m not sure where to start but I’ll try.

She stands, heads towards the door, but stops.

WILLOW (cont’d)
Don’t I normally have someone help me?

ANDREW
(thinks)
Yeah... someone good with books.

Marie stands.

MARIE
I’m good with books.

WILLOW
(unsure)
I guess... you must help me.

Willow and Marie EXIT. Buffy turns back to the remaining members of the gang.

BUFFY
So much for no demon activity.

GILES
We don’t know for sure a demon is involved here.

JODY
It could be a witch, like Willow.

ANYA
Or it could be Willow.
(off their looks)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
ANYA (cont'd)
I’m just saying: when Kennedy died she kinda went off the deep end a little. Maybe she wanted to change our memories.

ANDREW
But why wouldn’t she block Kennedy’s death out?

BUFFY
It doesn’t make sense.

ANYA
Oh come on. Willow and spells going awry go together like peanut butter and roast beef.

They all glare at her.

ANYA (cont’d)
I’m having cravings.

BUFFY
Willow wouldn’t... I mean... she wouldn’t, right?

GILES
She has tried to use magic whilst grieving before, Buffy, and it didn’t turn out quite like she had hoped.

BUFFY
But she’s different. She’s grown.

ANYA
Got any roast beef?

BUFFY
Kitchen.

Anya quickly rushes out. Jackson stands.

JACKSON
Well, whatever this is, I killed Dawn.

GILES
Yes. We should all sleep.

BUFFY (to Jackson)
You killed... what did you say?
CONTINUED: (5)

JACKSON
It’s going to be dawn? As in, sun coming up soon. We should go to bed, deal with this in the morning.

BUFFY
(wigged)
Yeah, right. Okay.
(beat)
I’m gonna wait to see what Willow finds.

JACKSON
See you in a bit?

BUFFY
Sure.

They KISS before he exits, going up the stairs, following by Andrew and Jody. Giles hangs back.

GILES
What is it?

BUFFY
Huh? Nothing. I’m fine.

GILES
No you’re not.

BUFFY
(smiles)
No, I’m not. I keep... that name keeps coming up. ‘Dawn.’ I don’t know what it means. I think I’m supposed to be doing something about it.

GILES
Well, you can’t do anything until you know what it is. If our memories truly have been fabricated then I’m sure Willow will find out how.

BUFFY
Why would someone want to change our memories? What could have happened that was so bad?

GILES
I don’t know, Buffy. But if it is Willow --

(CONTINUED)
BUFFY
It’s not. It’s something else. I feel it and I have to find out what.

GILES
We will. We always do. No matter what happens, we always come out on top.

BUFFY
Yeah... it’s just sometimes it doesn’t feel real. I mean, how can we always win? How can we always get through it? We save the world... and party?

GILES
(smiles)
I think there’s a little more to it than that. We’ve all lost people in the battle.
(beat)
The main thing is to focus on the task at hand.

ANYA (O.S)
(calls)
Where’s the peanut butter?

Buffy rolls her eyes and exits.

Giles looks to her, waiting for her to leave, then pulls out an AMULET from his pocket. He examines it for a moment, then tucks it away again, out of sight.

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - BUFFY’S ROOM

Buffy enters and softly closes the door behind her. She looks over to see Jackson asleep in the bed. She smiles, then goes to the window. Her hands reach up to pull the curtains to but as she does she catches a glimpse of something outside.

We’re looking out into the backyard. A shadowed figure creeps around, hidden by the various bushes.

EXT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - BACKYARD

The door opens and Buffy sneaks out, stake in hand. She examines the garden, seeing nothing out of the ordinary. But as she turns to the door again she hears something -- weeping.

Slowly turning back around, Buffy notices a crumpled heap in the middle of the grass. She steps closer, clutching her weapon, ready for anything. Or so she’d like to think.
CONTINUED:

BUFFY

Hello?
(beat)
Are you okay?

She reaches for the large black cloak and pulls it away from the heap. But as she does, her eyes narrow down on the kneeling body.

She is looking down at herself, her clothes bloodied. The second Buffy looks up at her.

SECOND BUFFY
(crying)
You let her die!

BUFFY
Wha --?

SECOND BUFFY
(screams)
You let her die!

She lunges at Buffy --

14
INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - BUFFY’S ROOM - MORNING

Buffy’s eyes FLASH open as she almost hits the ceiling. With her heart pounding, she looks around, seeing Jackson lying next to her.

BUFFY
What the hell was that?

She runs her fingers through her hair, breathing a sigh of relief, happy to be back in the real world.

15
INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

Xander ENTERS, brandishing a box of donuts.

XANDER
Rise and shine, I got donuts!

He turns to see Willow and Marie on the floor, waking up. A smile forms.

XANDER (cont’d)
An all nighter, huh?

WILLOW
(disorientated)
What... oh... we must have fallen asleep.

(CONTINUED)
MARIE
Willow, you really wore me out.

XANDER
(surprised)
And here’s me thinking you had the
hots for Giles.
(beat)
Go Willow!

Willow shoots him a look, helping Marie up.

WILLOW
We were doing a spell.

XANDER
Is that what the kids are calling
it these days?

MARIE
Xander!

XANDER
Sorry. Seeing two women on the
floor together tends to put my
brain in overdrive.

WILLOW
Well, they do say men always think
with their --

BUFFY (O.S)
What’s going on?

They all turn to see Buffy coming down the stairs.

XANDER
Donuts.
(beat)
And no lesbian action.

BUFFY
(unsure)
Okay.
(re: the spell)
Did it work?

WILLOW
We found something... there is a
fabrication of some kind but we
didn’t get close enough to find out
what.

BUFFY
So I was right. There is definitely
changes?

(Continued)
CONTINUED: (2)

Willow nods, as Xander looks on, a little confused.

XANDER
What’s going on?

BUFFY
Anya didn’t tell you?

XANDER
No. I got home from work last night and she was raiding the fridge for some mustard...
(beat)
What’s going on?

BUFFY
I had a vision... or something. It was of a girl, I think I know her.

WILLOW
(interrupting)
And we think something has happened to our memories.

XANDER
How do you mean?

MARIE
They have been changed, Xander. Someone has altered them.

XANDER
Really?

He thinks about this for a moment. Him, Willow, and Marie exchanging looks. Buffy notices.

BUFFY
What’s going on?

XANDER
Nothing. Why would you think something is? I mean, nothing ever goes on... right?

WILLOW
Xander, I think Anya’s on the phone.

BUFFY
The phone isn’t ringing.

Suddenly the phone RINGS. Buffy looks to it, a little freaked. Xander rushes to answer it, as the Slayer looks back to Willow and Marie.

(CONTINUED)
BUFFY (cont’d)
How did you know?

WILLOW
Intuition.

BUFFY
(suspicious)
There’s something going on. I know there is.

MARIE
Buffy, you’re overworked.

BUFFY
Stop telling me I’m exhausted, or tired, or overworked. I’m fine!

She stops, finally realizing what she really sounds like. She takes a deep breath.

BUFFY (cont’d)
I’m sorry. It’s just... I need to know what I’m dealing with here.

WILLOW
We’ll find out what and we’ll stop it.

BUFFY
(nods)
Okay. And you’ll try the spell again?

WILLOW
Of course.

BUFFY
Good.

She goes to the front door.

WILLOW
Where are you going?

BUFFY
I’ve gotta speak to someone. In private. I’ll catch up with you guys later.

MARIE
Have fun.

Buffy EXITS. Xander quickly puts the receiver down and joins the other two. Their eyes are all pinpointed on the door.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (4)

XANDER
You think she knows?

WILLOW
She’s beginning to suspect.

XANDER
What do we do?

GILES (O.S)
We do it again.

They all turn to see Giles enter, with the amulet in his hand. They all nod in agreement.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT TWO
CONTINUED: (5)

**ACT THREE**

FADE IN:

16 **EXT. CHARLESTON & SMITHE - DAY**

Buffy rushes along the sidewalk and quickly enters the building, pushing past a lot of unhappy people.

17 **INT. CHARLESTON & SMITHE - BUFFY’S OFFICE**

The doors open and in walks Buffy, quickly followed by Matilda, who’s carrying a PDA.

**MATILDA**

I just need to know where you’re going to be all day so I can...

Buffy turns around, pushes out her arms, and ushers Matilda out, literally pushing her away. She SLAMS the doors.

**BUFFY**

And stay out!

**MATILDA (O.S)**

Okay!

Buffy quickly rushes to her desk and rummages through some papers. She stops at one and reads it. Picking up the receiver, she dials a number.

**BUFFY**

Angel, is that you?

(beat)

I know. It’s just... I need you to help me.

(beat)

I figured you’d be busy but I need you to do a spell. I think my memories have been changed.

(beat)

Willow’s... I don’t trust her, or the others... it’s hard to explain.

(beat)

Angel, I just --

The phone goes DEAD. Buffy puts the receiver down and looks around as the lights go OFF. She’s feeling seriously freaked now. As she heads to the door --

**JACKSON (O.S)**

Buffy.

She turns, seeing Jackson standing by the window, the light making him seem more like a silhouette. Buffy eyes him, unsure of what to make of it.

(CONTINUED)
BUFFY
How did you get here?

JACKSON
Look, the others told me you were acting strange, and what kind of a fiance would I be if I didn’t check on you?

BUFFY
But you were asleep. How did you make it here before me?

JACKSON
Buffy, you’re being erratic.

BUFFY
I’m being logical. (beat) What is happening?

JACKSON
Nothing. You just need to get home.

BUFFY
Why?

JACKSON
Willow’s done the spell. She knows how to bring back your memories.

BUFFY
(realizing)
My memories? (beat) I thought all of our memories had been changed?

JACKSON
Yeah, that’s what I said.

BUFFY
No, you didn’t.

She discreetly reaches for a silver letter-opener on her desk and pulls it behind her back.

JACKSON
Buffy, listen to me. We have all the answers back at the house. All you need to do is --

As he reaches for her hand she pulls out the letter-opener and slices it along his palm. He winces, pulling his hand back.
Continued: (2)

BUFFY
I’m sorry, I didn’t...

But then she sees there is no blood coming from his hand.

BUFFY (cont’d)
What are you?

JACKSON
I am Jackson Shaw, your husband to be.

(angry)
And I am getting real pissed with having to repeat myself. Now come with me!

He almost jumps on her but she KICKS him in the chest, knocking him back. She rushes to the doors, opening them, but sees all the employees waiting for her outside.

MATILDA
Ms. Summers, you need help.

BUFFY
Oh, crap!

She SLAMS the doors again, only to be faced with Jackson. He wraps his hand around her mouth and drags her back, kicking and screaming.

The doors open and all the employees come in, lead by Matilda, who’s carrying a needle, filled with a yellow fluid.

BUFFY (cont’d)
(muffled)
What are you doing?

MATILDA
This won’t hurt, Ms. Summers.

She jabs the needle into Buffy’s arm as the Slayer’s eyes begin to close.

INT. WHITE ROOM

Buffy opens her eyes to find she is laying on a white bed, in a room with white floors, white walls, and a white ceiling.

She JUMPS up, seeing Giles standing by the door.

BUFFY
What have you done to me?

GILES
(shocked)
Buffy!

(continued)
Giles rushes to her but Buffy kicks him away. He picks himself up, soothing his arm.

**GILES (cont’d)**

Buffy, you have to listen to me. I don’t know how much time we have. You have to get to the Hellmouth, it’s the only way you will --

He continues to talk but no sound is coming from his lips... and Buffy can’t hear a thing. Everything around her starts to blur as her eyes close...

---

**INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - BASEMENT - NIGHT**

... and open again to find herself on the bed, chained to the wall. She struggles but can’t get free. Then she sees SMOKE. Her head turns to see --

**SPIKE.** The platinum blonde vampire steps out from the shadows, cigarette in hand.

**BUFFY**

Spike?

**SPIKE**

Gotta say, love, this isn’t exactly the most romantic place to meet up again.

**BUFFY**

Spike, you have to get me out of here. Something has happened to the others.

**SPIKE**

(smiles)

They’re just protecting you. It’s what they’re good at.

**BUFFY**

Protecting me? What from? Needles, chains...?

**SPIKE**

The truth. Hurts like a bitch. I should know.

**BUFFY**

(distracted)

Giles told me I had to get to the Hellmouth.

**SPIKE**

Hm, Giles told you, huh? And you trust him, do you?
CONTINUED:

BUFFY
It was... I don’t know. Spike, get me out of these chains.

GILES (O.S)
Buffy, please try to calm down.

She turns to see Giles coming down the steps, rubbing his glasses. He motions to Spike.

GILES (cont’d)
Get out, Spike.

SPIKE
Right.

He rushes up the steps. Buffy looks on surprised.

GILES
Buffy, you’re going through something right now.

BUFFY
Yeah, it’s called ‘having all your friends turn on you, inject you with some sleeping thing, and chain you to a wall.’ I’d say that’s going through something.

GILES
We haven’t turned on you, Buffy. This, all of this, is what you wanted.

BUFFY
(laughs)
Are you insane? You think I want to be in the basement?

GILES
Perhaps not in this particular situation, but that is because of your nature.

BUFFY
What?

GILES
Something happened three months ago, the fight against Ulithios. What do you remember?

BUFFY
(thinks)
Jackson shot it... that’s all.

(CONTINUED)
GILES
And you want to learn it all, don’t you? What the Key looked like, what Ulithios looked like? You want to because it is in your nature. You have to know the answer to every question, it’s what we all love about you.

BUFFY
So tell me!

GILES
That’s not what you want. Deep down. I know it. I feel it. What we did... what you did... it is so you can go on living. If you knew the truth, you would fall, and what kind of a Watcher would I be if I let that happen?

BUFFY
Giles... this doesn’t make sense. I know something is wrong. You can’t keep me chained to this wall forever.

GILES
I don’t plan to.

As he says that, Willow, Xander, Andrew, Jackson, and Anya come down the steps. Xander is holding the amulet.

GILES (cont’d)
Buffy, I need you to believe me when I say the truth is more hurtful than the lie could ever be.

BUFFY
But I need to know the truth.

XANDER
Forget it. You wouldn’t wanna.

BUFFY
Let me find out for myself! God, you guys are all acting like... my Mom died and I still fought. I carried on and she was the most important person in my life. No one ever compared to her.

(beat)
If I got through that, what else is there I couldn’t get through?

They all exchange looks.
ANDREW
(to Giles)
If she doesn’t do it, we stop living, right?

GILES
Andrew!

ANDREW
It’s just, I like being alive.

BUFFY
(re: Andrew)
What is he talking about?

WILLOW
(thinks)
The cost of the spell we did. If you don’t repeat it, we will all die.

XANDER
We will?

WILLOW
We will!

XANDER
Uh, okay. Yeah, we will. Don’t kill us, Buffy.

Buffy thinks about this but we can see she can’t wrap her brain around it. She lowers her head.

BUFFY
Giles, I’ve trusted you with my life. Do you promise that this is for the best?

GILES
With all my heart.

Buffy accepts it.

BUFFY
What do I have to do?

GILES
Hold the amulet in your hands and say ‘forget.’

ANDREW
Or you can just think it.

Giles shoots him a look.

(CONTINUED)
BUFFY
Okay.

Giles motions to Xander, who passes the amulet to Buffy. She keeps it in her hands and closes her eyes.

BUFFY (cont’d)
Giles?

GILES
Yes?

She opens them.

BUFFY
You really should have tightened the chains.

Buffy breaks free, kicking Giles and Xander back. She flips over and rams an advancing Jackson into the wall behind her. She looks at Willow, Andrew, and Anya.

ANYA
Oh penis!

Instead of attacking them, Buffy makes a dash for it, but is blocked by Spike.

SPIKE
Where ya going, love?

BUFFY
You should have stayed in LA.

She jabs him in the ribs with her elbow, grabs him by his waist, and throws him down the steps. The others look on helplessly as she EXITS.

ANYA
Well that went well in the sense that it went very, very wrong!

WILLOW
We need to get her to forget it all. Otherwise we’ll cease to exist.

SPIKE
Speak for yourself, I wasn’t even a part of the spell.

GILES
You’ll still die, Spike. Think about it. Everything we see is here because she wishes it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
GILES (cont'd)

Once she realizes the truth, it’ll all burn in hell... including us.

SPIKE

Yeah, well I’ve been to hell. It’s not that bad.

ANYA

Okay but is there really much fire because I’m not a fan?

SPIKE

Eh, it’s kinda --

XANDER

People! We have a seriously pissed and confused Slayer out there. (beat)

I think it’s time to take her down.

WILLOW

And we can’t hold back this time.

EXT. CLEVELAND STREETS

The moon lights up the sidewalk as Buffy rushes down it, her eyes looking everywhere. She stops outside an alleyway before running through it.

She comes to a side door and BANGS on it. It opens and she quickly dashes in.

INT. DEMON BAR

Buffy walks in, trying to blend in. Not the usual Slayer we’re used to. There are demons all around, some take notice, some are too drunk to notice themselves. The Slayer takes a seat at the bar as the barmen, a DOQOREI demon called ALF, approaches.

ALF

What can I get ya, little lady?

BUFFY

Anything.

ALF

Pigs ear with a dash of lime?

BUFFY

Or water?

ALF

Water it is. (beat) (MORE)
CONTINUED: ALF (cont'd)
So what brings a nice looking tasty
treat like you to a place like
this?

BUFFY
I’ve got nowhere else to go.

ALF
Ah, we get those kinds of people in
here a lot. Feels like the world’s
out to get you, huh?

BUFFY
Something like that.

He passes her a glass of water.

BUFFY (cont’d)
You’re a demon. You’d know if there
was something… strange about me,
right?

ALF
Us uglies do have heightened
senses.

BUFFY
Do you see anything around me? Some
kind of spell?

Alf sniffs around her.

ALF
Nope. Sorry. You smell perfectly
fine to me. A little sweaty but
nothing too bad.

BUFFY
(sighs)
There has to be.

ALF
Come on, Buffy, tell me what’s
really going on.

BUFFY
It’s just --

She stops suddenly, backing away.

BUFFY (cont’d)
How do you know my name?

ALF
Um… oops.

(CONTINUED)
Buffy looks around to see the demons all surrounding her. She shakes her head, as if it were all in her mind... but it’s not.

ALF (cont’d)
See, I don’t think you quite understand, Slayer. This thing you’re going through effects us all.

BUFFY
How?

ALF
If you don’t start believing in the lie again, we’ll all die.

BUFFY
What is the truth?

ALF
You will never know.

Alf grabs her by the neck as the twelve angry looking demons edge closer to her, with drawn swords.

Buffy struggles with him until finally breaking free, standing in the middle of the surrounding circle. As "WON’T BACK DOWN" by FUEL plays over the scene, the demons and the Slayer have a western stand-off.

BUFFY
This is a very bad idea. You know what’s worse than a Slayer?
(grins)
A really pissed off Slayer.

We do a 360 inside the CIRCLE of demons, who surround our petite Slayer. Not all have swords; one JUGGLES two axes, another TWIRLS a staff over his head.

Suddenly she GRABS a pool cue and as the music EXPLODES, so does she -- -- this explosion of furious violence screams through the bar as Buffy goes crazy on them.

She manages to knock one of them down and picks up his sword. Many demons are sliced, slashed, and liberated from the limbs they were born with at Buffy’s blade.

Buffy is knocked to the floor, her attacker stands over her to spear the young blonde.

Her legs spring up in the air, ankles lock around the demon’s neck. She throws him down to the ground. With his neck still in the vice-like grip of her ankles.
She removes the SOG Knife from its sheath and plunges it deep into the demon’s chest.

While still on the ground, another demon charges at her. Yanking the knife out of the demon’s chest, she sends it flying in the charging demon’s path -- -- knife twirling through the air close to the ground -- -- chopping off the demon’s foot in mid step, he falls flat.

Buffy jumps up onto a demon’s shoulders. She locks her legs around him so he’s helpless at shaking her off. She swings down with her sword, and cuts the demon’s head off. Buffy drops and looks around.

There’s a heap of dead demon bodies lying all around her but one still moves. Alf is huddled behind the bar, quivering in his boots. Buffy looks to him.

BUFFY (cont’d)
So, you gonna tell me what’s going on here?

GILES (V.O)
She’s figuring it out.

MARIE (V.O)
You think this is it?

Buffy tilts her head, looking around her, trying to find out where the voices are coming from.

BUFFY
(calls)
Giles?

GILES (V.O)
She just needs to get to the Hellmouth.

MARIE (V.O)
Is that the one under the police station?

GILES (V.O)
Yes, I’m just hoping she knows that.

Buffy takes this in.

BUFFY
Police station. Got it.

She turns to see Alf has disappeared. She shrugs it off and EXITS, with her sword in hand.

Which is when Alf reappears. He looks at the carnage and pulls out his CELL PHONE.
CONTINUED: (4)

ALF
(into phone)
Mr Giles? She’s heading to the police station.
(beat)
You may wanna bring in the big guns, she’s packing some serious moves.

On this we...

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT THREE
CONTINUED: (5)

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

EXT. CLEVELAND STREETS - NIGHT

There’s nothing quite like a woman scorned, and as Buffy marches down the street, with the sword in full sight, we start to realize just what that phrase means. She starts to notice the same thing we do.

As she walks, various people begin to follow. She shrugs them off and continues on her way. Determination is the only thing on her mind. The VAMPIRE we previously saw comes up beside her.

VAMPIRE
Where you heading, Slayer?

BUFFY
To end this.

VAMPIRE
You know I can’t let you do that.

BUFFY
And here’s me thinking you weren’t the fighting type.

VAMPIRE
Sorry to say, things change.

Buffy stops dead in her tracks, seeing an army of people and demons alike ahead of her, blocking her way.

BUFFY
So the whole world’s trying to stop me from getting to the truth?

VAMPIRE
No. Just you.

BUFFY
I don’t want this.

VAMPIRE
(smirks)
Then make it stop.

She turns to him and nods, understanding. She SLICES the sword through his neck and decapitates him, turning him to dust. She then looks to the army approaching her. An aura of confidence now surrounding her.

As she walks towards them, the army begins to divide, but the people and demons are pushed back unwillingly. They struggle against a force we can’t see.

(CONTINUED)
BUFFY
Now that’s what I’m talking about.

SPIKE (O.S)
Slayer!

Buffy stops, turns, and sees Spike, backed up by the rest of the Scooby Gang. She scans them all, various weapons in their hands.

BUFFY
Spike.

SPIKE
We can’t let you do this.

BUFFY
I don’t think you can stop me.

WILLOW
Buffy, please... just come back to the house.

XANDER
We can make this better.

ANYA
And Jackson will give you sex!

JACKSON
Hey! (then)
Actually, I will!

Buffy rolls her eyes.

BUFFY
This isn’t real. Any of this.

MARIE
You’re wrong, Buffy. We’re as real as anything else.

BUFFY
I didn’t get it at first, what was going on. But I think I do now. My memories are only altered because I did it, cos of something I’ve done. So I guess I’m the only one who can change it all back.

ANDREW
You don’t want to do that.
BUFFY
I think I kinda do.
(beat)
And I’d really like to see you try and stop me.

Spike begins to step up but Jackson pushes him back and takes his place, sword in hand.

JACKSON
Well, shall we dance?

She takes her combat stance. The fist of her left hand is wrapped around the handle of the sword. Her right empty hand, raises and makes a beckoning gesture to Jackson. Then with a face completely devoid of emotion.

BUFFY
I’ll lead.

She’s facing him, sword in mid-air, her right hand far from handle, in a standing still position, not moving a muscle or blinking an eye, staring her laser beams in Jackson’s direction waiting for his attack. He stands in a combat position, sword raises in a combat grip, to charge her.

JACKSON
That’s my girl.

He CHARGES her but she stands motionless, watching him coming. No fear, no expression. We go back and forth, close, wide, low... until -- -- they meet.

Using only her left arm, with the sword in its grip, she blocks all of his blows, right arm unmoving down at her side, his sword and hers lock together... they’re close to each other.

She brings up her right arm and hits Jackson on ten different pressure points on his body. Then hits him straight on in the heart with her palm.

His body jolts, like he’s just had a heart attack. He coughs up a little blood, looking at her. Their faces are very close...

BUFFY
Ready to tango yet?

JACKSON
It doesn’t have to be this way, Buffy. We could have it all. You and me.
BUFFY
Build our dreams on a lie? No thanks.

JACKSON
If you find out the truth, we’ll never have a chance.

BUFFY
Then it’s a chance I’ve gotta take.

JACKSON
(beat)
Then tango it is.

Jackson ferociously attacks her but once again she dodges every attack, as if she’s moving at super speed.

Everything around the battling duo begins to blur, with the camera spinning around them, until... ... their swords meet once again.

The camera focuses on Buffy before pulling back...

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EXT. POLICE STATION/STREETS

Jackson backs off and looks around, seeing that they’re real far from where they just were.

JACKSON
How did you do that?

BUFFY
I don’t know. But it was fun.

Jackson nods and lowers his sword.

JACKSON
I guess this is it.

BUFFY
Sorry.

JACKSON
It’s okay. Just remember me. I never meant to hurt you, Buffy. I did it because... I love you. That’s the only reason.

BUFFY
Somewhere, deep inside, I know that.
CONTINUED:

JACKSON
Then go find the truth.
(beat)
And God help you.

She approaches him and places her hand on his cheek before gently kissing him.

BUFFY
I’ll be seeing you.

He closes his eyes as she kisses him once again, then makes her way inside the police station.

As he stands and watches, Giles, Willow, Xander, Anya, and Andrew rush up to him.

GILES
What happened? Did you stop her?

JACKSON
We can’t stop her.

GILES
We have to try!

JACKSON
There’s no use! Don’t you get it?
You can’t stop her... she’s alive.
We’re just... ghosts.

WILLOW
But if she knew what she was uncovering... she’ll break.

JACKSON
Then she’ll break.

INT. POLICE STATION

Buffy makes her way through the corridors as various policeman try to stop her but find themselves unable to touch her. Even their weapons fail to react to the finger being pulled on the trigger.

The Slayer strolls through, almost in slow motion, but not quite, as "THE FUNERAL SONG" by THE RASMUS begins to play. Her head held high, her fists clenched, her feet striding in sheer determination.

INT. FIRE EXIT STAIRS

The door pushes open, almost CRASHING into the wall behind it. Buffy stops, looks down at her sword, and drops it to the floor. A tear of crimson blood falling to the floor by her feet, as she continues on her way.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

Her hands slide on the railings as she goes down the steps one by one. Her heart beating. Scared of what she’ll discover?

INT. BASEMENT

Buffy peers in, letting the door close behind her. She looks on through the darkened basement, at a blur of motion in the center. She struggles to see what it is, her hands digging in her pockets, until she pulls out the amulet.

She looks it over, and realizes. She kisses it, kissing goodbye to the lie, and THROWS THE AMULET to the ground with great force --

SEQUENCE OF FLASHBACKS:

-- Buffy walking in and seeing Dawn in "BUFFY VS DRACULA."
-- Buffy and Dawn hugging in "BLOOD TIES."
-- Dawn watching helplessly as Buffy jumps off the construction in "THE GIFT."
-- Buffy and Dawn fighting side by side in "GRAVE."
-- Dawn fighting in "LESSONS."
-- Dawn and Xander in "CHOSEN."
-- Dawn in hospital in "SUDDENLY HUMAN."
-- Dawn killing Kennedy in "AETERNUS MORTIS."
-- Dawn and Buffy fighting in "CRADLE."
-- Jackson shooting Dawn in "CRADLE."

END SEQUENCE

-- The camera is instantly on Buffy’s eyes as these flashbacks enter her head. Pure SHOCK is all we see. As the camera slowly pulls back...

INT. WHITE ROOM

... we find ourselves back in the white room with Giles sitting opposite Buffy, who is staring ahead, in mid-air, in a comatose state.

Suddenly she FLINCHES, and looks to Giles, as if acknowledging him for the very first time.

GILES

Buffy...?
CONTINUED:

Buffy is lost for words. She STARES at Giles as if looking right through him. All that pain flooding every cell in her body.

She suddenly BURSTS INTO TEARS, her head falling into her hands. Giles quickly rushes to her side as the Slayer falls to her KNEES, pounding her fists into the floor beneath her.

Giles cradles her, just like Buffy did to Dawn’s body. The camera slowly pulls back until the image of the duo begins to...

FADE TO BLACK.

END OF SHOW