FADE IN:

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE - DAY

BUFFY sits on the sofa, watching the TV, flicking the remote control. She sighs.

BUFFY
Over nine hundred channels and still nothing good to watch.

VOICE (O.S)
Ain’t that the truth.

Buffy turns to see DAWN. But she’s not disturbed this, it seems normal to her.

BUFFY
Wondered when you’d be showing up.

DAWN
I’m earlier than expected.

BUFFY
I guess.
(beat)
How’s Mom?

DAWN
She’s great. She has these tennis matches with Marilyn, it’s good to see her so happy.

BUFFY
Yeah. Wish I could see it too.

DAWN
One day.
(beat)
Aren’t you late for something?

BUFFY
I think so... I’m not sure. I’m all over the place lately.

DAWN
Well, if there’s any better time to get it together, now’s it. Things are coming, Buffy, and it’s gonna take everything you’ve got to beat them back.

BUFFY
The darkness.
(off her look)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

BUFFY (cont’d)
Willow’s been... places. She said something was coming. Something bad.

DAWN
She wasn’t lying. In the end, things are always going to be coming, but this is different.
(beat)
Work it right and you’ll be happy.
(beat)
Buffy?

BUFFY
Yeah?

She turns to look at Dawn but she’s gone. She looks to the doorway and sees XANDER.

XANDER
You okay?

BUFFY
Yeah. Must have spaced out or something.

XANDER
You’re, um, gonna be late for that meeting. You know, with Charleston and Smithe.

BUFFY
Right. Yeah. I... knew that. I am so... not ready!

She rushes around, trying to get everything together. Xander stops her, both hands on her shoulders.

XANDER
Buffy, you’ve gotta calm down. All you’ve gotta do is go back in there and prove you’ve still got what it takes to be a counselor.
(beat)
It’s child’s play.

INT. SEWERS

Chanting is all we hear as the camera pans to see three DEMON CHILDREN. They’re surrounding a fire, burning a bright red. The bigger child, RAVIS, slams his fist down.

RAVIS
More fire!

(CONTINUED)
KEELA, the youngest of the three, reaches for something. She pulls it out of frame as her brother, DAEO, burns a stick in the flames.

Finally we look below the fire... ... and see an assortment of limbs.

AN ARM.

A FOOT.

AN EYEBALL.

AN EAR.

On the burning flesh we...

BLACK OUT.

END OF TEASER
CONTINUED: (2)

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

INT. CHARLESTON & SMITHE - LOBBY - DAY

Buffy walks through the large doors, briefcase in one hand. She’s dressed in one of her now famous suits, more Ally McBeal than serious counselor, but it works.

She heads to the front desk, where the SECRETARY is answering calls.

BUFFY

Hi. I’m supposed to be having a meeting with --

The secretary holds up a hand, stopping Buffy.

SECRETARY

(into phone)

Hold one moment please, I’ll put you straight through.

(listens)

Of course. A happy patient is a...

um, a happy patient!

(to Buffy)

Meeting with Mr. Kane?

BUFFY

Mr. Kane?

SECRETARY

I’ve got it on the screen. Third floor, fifth door to your left.

BUFFY

Um...

But before she can ask anything, the secretary is back talking on the phone. Buffy takes a breather before continuing through the lobby area of the building, passing several of her colleagues... but she still looks completely lost.

INT. CHARLESTON & SMITHE - KANE’S OFFICE

IRWIN KANE, an older distinguishable man, sits at his desk, looking over some papers. There’s a couple of knocks at the door.

KANE

Come in.

It opens and Buffy walks in, closing it behind her. She hesitantly approaches.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

KANE (cont’d)
Buffy Summers? My, you’re a vision, aren’t you?

BUFFY
Um... thanks. Are you filling in for Mr. Hanson?

KANE
No, Ms. Summers. I’m the new boss here.

BUFFY
Oh... you are?

KANE
Yes. Please, do take a seat. She does.

KANE (cont’d)
Unfortunately Mr. Hanson had a problem that he couldn’t come to terms with and had to leave the company. We’ll miss his efforts. But now I’m in charge.

BUFFY
Oh, right. Okay. I didn’t know that cos --

KANE
You’ve been abroad, getting over a death in the family. I know everything, Ms. Summers. Don’t ever forget that.

BUFFY
Okay --?

KANE
As for your job, I’ve been looking over how you performed last year, and I must say, there were a lot of sick days.

BUFFY
Yeah, there was this whole thing where... well, my sister was sick.

KANE
No need to explain yourself. I understand. I was unsure of whether you would be able to work your way back into the company but you do have quite a following.
BUFFY
Following?

KANE
Yes. A Mrs. Gladys Combs. She was practically protesting outside my office, refused to leave until you returned to work.

BUFFY
She did that? I didn’t even think she noticed me in our sessions.

KANE
You’ve made quite an impact on a lot of lives, Ms. Summers. All I’ve heard is good reports. (smiles)
So welcome back.

BUFFY
Welcome back? I get the job... again?

KANE
I wouldn’t have it any other way.

She quickly shakes his hand.

BUFFY
Thank you. Thank you so much.

KANE
There is one thing though.

BUFFY
What is it?

KANE
Your receptionist, Anya Jenkins. I’m afraid a few of the staff have complained about her brashness. And she instigated a fight between the janitor and Bob on level six. She even went so far as to make tickets.

BUFFY
Yeah, that sounds like Anya. If it makes you feel any better, she’ll be going on maternity leave soon.

KANE
(smiles)
A whole lot better.
Buffy can’t help but smile along with him.

EXT. PEACHY’S CAFE/STREETS

People go about their daily business as ANDREW steps out of the cafe, slipping on his jacket. He turns -- BUMPING INTO ANYA. She drops a bag of groceries on the sidewalk.

ANYA
Andrew!

ANDREW
Anya... sorry, I didn’t see you there.

They begin to pick up the shopping.

ANDREW (cont’d)
What are you doing here anyway? Shouldn’t you be taking it easy?

ANYA
I would be but whenever someone says that to me I tend to want to do the opposite.
(beat)
I might go bungee jumping now. Wanna come?

ANDREW
I don’t know if -- (then)
Sure, why not?

And with that, they rise and continue down the street, only stopping as they see JACKSON and DAN coming their way. Andrew and Anya exchange glances, unsure of what to say or how to act around him.

ANDREW (cont’d)
Jackson. It’s you.

JACKSON
Yeah. Hey.

ANYA
Going to catch some killers?

JACKSON
We, um... there’s some disappearances...

ANDREW
Right... (beat)
... must be fun being a cop. (MORE)

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: ANDREW (cont’d)
You get to shoot people. He stops, suddenly realizing what he’s just said.

JACKSON
It’s not as fun as you’d think.

ANYA
Yes. Well, we must go and cheat death now.

She loops her arm through Andrews and pulls him along. Jackson turns to Dan as they head on.

DAN
You know them guys?

JACKSON
I did... old friends.
   (beat)
So, this case --?

DAN
Five disappearances. Two girls, three guys. Pretty random selections, doesn’t seem connected. We’re kinda clutching at straws here.

JACKSON
In the dark, huh?

DAN
As per usual, buddy. That’s why we’re playing detectives.

JACKSON
Yeah, well, it’s time to get serious cos we could be dealing with a serial killer here.

DAN
No bodies, Jacks. At the moment it’s a serial kidnapper.

JACKSON
So let’s go get the bad guys.

As they head on...

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - KITCHEN
WILLOW is leaning on the breakfast bar, staring into space as if she wasn’t even there. Xander ENTERS.

XANDER
Hey, Will --

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

WILLOW
(distorted)
I have to go.

XANDER
Huh?

WILLOW
(distorted)
Tattles, get off my leg!

Suddenly she JERKS, looking a little disorientated. She turns to Xander.

WILLOW (cont’d)
Hey. Sorry about that.

XANDER
Um... Tattles?

WILLOW
She’s one of the Circle players... it’s complicated.
(beat)
You looking for Buffy?

XANDER
Actually I was looking for Andrew. We were supposed to be... um, doing something.

WILLOW
(curious)
Something?

XANDER
He was gonna help me set up something on the internet.

WILLOW
Oh. Oh, Xander! I can do it. I’m good at the computer. You know me, computer nerd to the core.

XANDER
Yeah, it’s just, you’ve been a little busy with the... magic and stuff.

WILLOW
Xander... you can still ask me about this stuff. I’m never too busy for you.

(CONTINUED)
XANDER
I know, I know. But to tell you the truth, it’s kinda weird.
(beat)
I just mean... like then when I walked in. Your voice was verging on scary.

WILLOW
It’s only because I was on a different plane. The frequencies can mess that kinda stuff up a little.
(then)
Wait, does this scare you?

XANDER
What? No, of course --
(beat)
Actually, I guess it does.

WILLOW
I scare you?

XANDER
No. It’s just... I’m not sure I like the fact that you’re getting involved with this Circle thing. You don’t know anything about it, or --

WILLOW
Xander, they’re higher beings. It’s what I’ve been working for since I got into magic. I see that now.

XANDER
I know. I just don’t want to...
(beat)
I don’t wanna stand by and watch you go. You said it yourself, one of these days you’re going to be called to a higher plane and leave us... me.

WILLOW
Oh... I didn’t know you... it’s not that I want to leave, Xander, it’s just... this is a chance to be more than I am. To be better.

XANDER
You don’t need to be any better. You’re perfect just the way you are.
CONTINUED: (3)

WILLOW
(smiles)
You say that but... I don’t feel it. I’ve had two loves taken away from me so I think I must be... there’s something in me, a darkness, and to ascend would make me feel like it’s over. The constant battle I fight within myself would just disappear. It’d all just be over.

Xander edges closer, wrapping an arm around her shoulder.

XANDER
Just promise me, when you finally do go up to the pearly white gates, you’ll watch over us.

WILLOW
Always.

EXT. CLEVELAND FAIR

We’re looking down from the skies, to put the whole scene on view. The fair spans a long distance, with adults and kids alike rushing around, laughing, playing. There’s a Ferris-Wheel, some kind of spinning wheel, even a ‘Vertical Drop’ ride that goes straight up for ages, as well as loads of other rides.

Anya and Andrew walk through the crowds, both munching on some candy floss.

ANYA
See, the trick is, you have to have the right amount of bouncy rope... otherwise your head will explode on impact.

ANDREW
I see...

ANYA
There it is!

She GRABS his hand, dragging him into the queue for the bunjee jump ride.

ANDREW
Anya, I really don’t think this is really safe for women who are --

Anya shoots him a look.
CONTINUED:

ANDREW (cont’d)
... with child.

ANYA
Don’t be silly, Andrew. Everyone can go on this ride. They can’t just exclude pregnant women!

One of the ATTENDANTS approaches.

ATTENDANT
Sorry, ma’am, did you say you were pregnant?

ANYA
Yes.

ATTENDANT
I’m afraid you won’t be able to go on this ride, or mostly any of them.

ANYA
Excuse me?

ATTENDANT
It’s the fair policy, ma’am. It’s all right on the sign outside the gates.

ANYA
Well that’s penalization. Or... something-ism. I’m not standing for this.

ANDREW
Anyaa, c’mon let’s just --

ANYA
No! I want to cheat death by falling to my doom, only to be sprung back up into the air by a bouncy rope!

ATTENDANT
Sorry. It’s not gonna happen.

Anya looks as if she’s about to explode with rage. Andrew hastily pulls her away before she does any damage.

ANYA
This isn’t fair! They should ban people like Xander from the fair! After all, it was his guys in white hats that did this to me!
As they walk further up we stay on a coconut stand, where Ravis watches them, like a hunter to its prey.

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

Buffy ENTERS, closing the door behind her. She continues through to the lounge, taking a look around... nobody there. She sighs, falling on the sofa.

WILLOW (O.S)

Hey!

Buffy snaps her head around to see Willow and Xander coming through the kitchen.

BUFFY

Hey, guys. Didn’t think anyone was home.

XANDER

We were just... talking. You seen Andrew?

BUFFY

Not today. I think he finished work about an hour ago.

XANDER

Yeah, he was supposed to be helping me... and I haven’t seen Anya all day either.

WILLOW

(teasing)

Isn’t that a good thing?

BUFFY

Will, that’s kinda --

(beat)

Really, true.

XANDER

I’m serious. Last time I saw her was this morning when we woke up. I’ve heard nothing since.

WILLOW

She’s probably just out living it up. Soon she’s gonna be bigger than she is now and maybe she just wants to enjoy the freedom while it lasts.
XANDER
But we had plans.

BUFFY
Uh oh, Xander’s been stood up by his own fiance. Not a good sign for marriage.

XANDER
I’ll call her.

He pulls out his CELL PHONE and dials a number, turning away from them. Willow sinks into the seat next to Buffy.

WILLOW
How’d the meeting go?

BUFFY
I’m officially back at work. I might have to sack Anya but... that’s possibly a good thing.

WILLOW
That’s great, Buffy.

BUFFY
And the best thing? My new boss is great.

XANDER
(into phone)
Anya? It’s Xander. Where the heck are you?

EXT. CLEVELAND FAIR

Anya and Andrew are walking away from the crowds. Anya’s on her CELL.

ANYA
Xander? Me and Andrew are at the fair.

(listening)
We’re on our way back now. We’ve just go to --

She SCREAMS as their legs are HOOKED BY ROPES. They DROP to the ground, the cell phone sent flying.

A moment as they share panicked expressions, before being dragged along the grass and into a manhole by things we don’t see.
CONTINUED:

Then, the manhole cover is put back in place, as if the whole thing didn’t happen.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT ONE
CONTINUED: (2)

**ACT TWO**

FADE IN:

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE - DAY

Buffy and Xander are pulling weapons out of the chest while Willow does a spell on the table.

WILLOW
I can’t locate them. There’s some kind of barrier.

BUFFY
Anya said they were at the fair, right? We’ll start there.

WILLOW
Let me just get some things that could help us.

BUFFY
Will --

WILLOW
Buffy, I’m going too.

BUFFY
I know. I was just gonna ask if you could carry the crossbow.

WILLOW
Oh. Okay.

Xander tucks a stake in his inside pocket.

XANDER
We all set? We’ve gotta hurry, I haven’t heard Anya scream like that since... ever.

BUFFY
Don’t worry, nothing’s gonna happen to them.

XANDER
I know, cos we’re gonna stop it.

They all check themselves over. Buffy takes her suit jacket off.

BUFFY
I really can’t get that dirty... it costs loads to get cleaned.

XANDER
Let’s go.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

The three of them prepare themselves then EXIT the house, one by one. First Buffy, then Xander, and finally Willow.

INT. SEWERS

We hear a GROAN before anything else. Then we see Anya and Andrew, struggling to break free from their chains, which are bolted to the walls, and to their wrists. They are alone in these murky, damp sewers.

ANDREW
This is your fault!

ANYA
What?

ANDREW
(imitates Anya)
'Let’s go cheat death at the fair. Let’s go be the people who are exciting!'
(beat)
We’re not exciting! We’re a geek and big fat pregnant woman!

ANYA
I’m not fat yet, mister!

ANDREW
Makes no difference. You wanted to cheat death? Well, tough... I don’t think we’re gonna cheat it.

ANYA
We’re not going to die, Andrew. Not here. Not now.
(beat)
I’m not dressed for it.

A moment before Andrew checks out her attire.

ANDREW
I think you look good.

ANYA
Oh, you’re so sweet. You too.

ANDREW
Thanks. I picked the shirt out at that new store in the --

KEELA (O.S)
Quiet!

(CONTINUED)
They turn to see the demon girl walked in, complete with machete, which glimmers in the light just above them. She comes around, eyeing them in a... demon-y way.

ANDREW
Um... you’re just a kid.

She GROWLS.

ANDREW (cont’d)
And surprisingly still scary.

ANYA
Hey. Girlie... how about you set us free?

KEELA
Keela doesn’t like you. Keela wants to kill you.

ANYA
(solemnly)
Look you wretched little brat, let us go or I’ll... I’ll... I’ll tell your mother!

This has absolutely no effect on Keela, who just GRINS in a sinister fashion.

ANDREW
Nice one, Anya, anger the demon that’s gonna kill us!

ANYA
Well, if she’s gonna kill us, might as well try and make her feel guilty about it!

ANDREW
But now she’s probably gonna do it really slow... with a chainsaw, and a... flamethrower and...

ANYA
(gulps)
Bunnies?

KEELA
(giggles)
Keela like bunnies! They taste like chicken.

ANYA
(forces a smile)
Ya hear that? She likes bunnies... must be evil.
ANDREW
(whispers)
We have to get out of here.

ANYA
(sarcastically)
Really? Cos I was kinda hoping we could all have a tea party!

ANDREW
You want to have a tea party at a time like --
(beat)
Oh, I see what you did there... sarcasm.

ANYA
You know what we need at a time like this?

ANDREW
Superpowers?

ANYA
No. A fairy godmother, like Cinderella.

KEELA
Cinderella?

Any turns to the demon girl, who is wide eyed at the mention of that name.

KEELA (cont’d)
You know about Cinderella?

ANYA
Yes. The shabby looking girl who was mean to her nice step-mother who kept her even though she was only taking up the air they were breathing. Not to mention the food she was eating. The same food the beautiful stepmother and indifferent step-sisters probably worked hard to earn.

KEELA
Keela likes Cinderella.

With that, Daeo ENTERS, dragging a bone on the ground. This looks like a human bone, probably an arm.

KEELA (cont’d)
Daeo! They know of Cinderella.
DAEO
(smiles)
Daeo likes Cinderella.

ANYA
Okay... Andrew, I think there’s one way of getting out of this alive --

INT. SEWERS - LATER
Keela and Daeo are sat in front of Anya, their legs crossed, looking just like normal children, hanging on every word she says.

ANYA
And Cinderella was very selfish, so she sacrificed six children... um, six demon children to conjure the fairy godmother.

The children GASP! Andrew rolls his eyes.

ANDREW
This your big plan?

ANYA
Better than being beaten to death with a bone!
(to children)
The fairy godmother was a nice little old lady, who never did any harm to anyone in her immortal life. But Cinderella put a dagger to her throat, threatening to slice her unless she granted her three wishes.
(beat)
Like she did Aladdin.

ANDREW
Aladdin? I think you’re on the wrong page!

ANYA
Am not. Everybody knows Aladdin made the fairy godmother eat the nice little monkey so he could have his wishes.

ANDREW
Nu uh, sister. The genie gave Aladdin his wishes and Abu was so not eaten. He --

Suddenly Keela and Daeo threaten him with their weapons. He GULPS, turning to see Anya’s smug face.

(CONTINUED)
ANYA
As I was saying... so after the nice little old lady had given Cinderella everything she needed, she stuffed her in a box and locked it up, knowing she could come to some use later on in life.

13 EXT. CLEVELAND FAIR - NIGHT

We’re looking straight at the manhole Anya and Andrew were dragged through. There’s silence.

Until Buffy, Willow, and Xander meet up, coming from different directions. Each with their own weapons.

BUFFY
Anything?

Willow and Xander both shake their heads.

BUFFY (cont’d)
We’ve been looking for hours.

XANDER
So what, we give up?

WILLOW
Buffy didn’t mean that, Xander. It’s just... it’s dark and... I don’t think they’re here anymore.

XANDER
(deflated)
I know... it’s just, if I go home now and find out something’s happened to her, I wouldn’t be able to live with myself.

BUFFY
We’re not giving up. Maybe we just need to cover some more ground.

WILLOW
You mean, split up again?

BUFFY
(nods)
Weapons check.

They each hold up their weapons.

BUFFY (cont’d)
Meet back in an hour.
With a nod and sigh, they head off in separate directions again. We follow Buffy as she grips the Scythe, holding it as if it were the most precious thing in her life.

Suddenly a BEAM OF LIGHT attaches itself to her. She covers her eyes, seeing a FIGURE coming towards her. Then she sees --

BUFFY (cont’d)

Jackson?

He lowers the flashlight, with his gun pointing at her. He quickly lowers it upon seeing it’s her.

JACKSON
Buffy.

BUFFY
What are you doing here?

JACKSON
I’m the cop. That’s kinda my question.

(beat)

What are you doing here?

BUFFY
Looking for Andrew and Anya.

JACKSON
Are they in trouble?

BUFFY
(nods)
It is a Tuesday.

JACKSON
I saw them earlier, they seemed fine.

BUFFY
A lot can happen in a short space of time.

Her eyes look down to see the gun at his side and instantly brings back memories. There’s a BRIGHT WHITE...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. POLICE STATION - BASEMENT

... which disappears. Jackson LAUNCHES himself into the air as he pulls the triggers. Screaming, he whirls, guns filling his hands with thought-speed.
CONTINUED:

Fingers pumping, shells ejecting, dancing up and away, we look THROUGH the sights and gun smoke at Jackson blurred with motion.

Dawn is KNOCKED back, the bullets pumping through her body, blood splattering from the ripped skin.

The sword is thrown from her hand as she FALLS, rippling the air, until she CRASHES to the ground.

The BRIGHT WHITE fills the screen again.

DISSOLVE TO:

15 EXT. CLEVELAND FAIR

Buffy shakes her head, trying to rid herself of the memories, keeping her attention focused.

JACKSON
(mid-conversation)
... and I didn’t know what to say, I guess I just kinda froze, you know?

BUFFY
Huh? What? Huh?

JACKSON
Last week, when you said what you said.

BUFFY
Oh, that... when I basically said I didn’t want to see you again. And now this. You and me, talking, here.
(beat)
This isn’t good.

JACKSON
What, you think I’m just gonna go away? That it’s gonna be that easy for you?

BUFFY
None of this is easy for me, Jackson.

JACKSON
You know what? I’m not doing this. I told myself I was going to. I guess I’ll just take it on the chin like a man.
(beat)
(MORE)
CONTINUED: JACKSON (cont'd)

Screw that! You know the reason I think you broke this off is?

BUFFY
I’m sure you’re gonna tell me.

JACKSON
You’re scared of what we could be. You’re afraid that me and you might actually make it as a relationship and you’ve never had that before.

BUFFY
That is not the reason --

JACKSON
Yes it is. I can see it in your eyes.

BUFFY
Stop it, Jackson. We’re over.

JACKSON
Yeah, we are. I can’t believe I thought I could be with someone who’s so self absorbed.

BUFFY
(shouts)
You killed my sister!

Jackson is taken back by her outburst, and to a certain extent, so is she. He nods, somberly.

JACKSON
I saved you. Willow, Xander, Anya... I saved you all. And this is what I get? Everything I cared about taken away.

BUFFY
(beat)
Welcome to the club.

JACKSON
You know? Really not wanting to be in your club right now.

He looks her over before walking away. Buffy watches him leave, a look of disappointment crossing her face.

INT. SEWERS

As before, with the demon children sitting in front of Anya as she tells them a story. Andrew watches on, rolling his eyes every now and then.
KEELA
What happened to Cinderella, Anya lady?

ANYA
Well, when the Prince realized he’d made a mistake, he smashed the glass slipper and used one very sharp piece to gut her like a fish.
(beat)
Then he married the stepmother and they lived happily ever after, with no financial worries because they had no children. The end.

Keela and Daeo CLAP.

RAVIS (O.S)
What is going on?

All of them turn to see Ravis looking at them, obviously not impressed.

KEELA
Ravis, the Anya lady tells us stories.

DAEO
Can we keep it?

RAVIS
What stories?

KEELA
Cinderella.

ANYA
I know about the spawn of Satan too... Peter Pan.

RAVIS
What is this Peter Pan?

ANYA
I could tell you. But you have to promise me you won’t kill us.

All three of the children SHOVE their weapons under Anya’s chin, grazing her neck.

ANYA (cont’d)
Or I could not try and negotiate with children!

RAVIS
Tell the Pan.
ANYA
Once upon a time in the land of Never, there was a dark, evil boy called Peter Pan. He would make fun of the nice man with the hook for a hand.

ANDREW
(mutters)
Oh God...

On his dispirited expression...

17 INT. POLICE STATION - JACKSON’S OFFICE

There’s a knock at the door. It opens and Dan ENTERS. Seeing Jackson isn’t there, he flicks the light on, and closes the door behind him.

DAN
Time to check a few things out.

He heads to the desk and looks around. Finally he sees what he’s looking for. He goes to open the drawer but --

-- it’s locked. He sighs, searching for a key, but there’s nothing. He tugs at the other drawers, none of them are locked.

DAN (cont’d)
So what’s so special about this drawer? Why lock just this one?
(beat)
Something’s going on with you Jackson... and I’m gonna find out what.

He quickly heads back through the door, turning the light off, as if he was never there in the first place.

18 EXT. CLEVELAND FAIR

Buffy stands above the manhole as Willow approaches, carrying the crossbow.

BUFFY
Still nothing?

WILLOW
No. And it’s getting late.

BUFFY
Could be an all nighter.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

WILLOW
(glum)
And I didn’t even bring any snacks.

Xander comes towards them.

BUFFY
We need a better plan than this.

WILLOW
I wish I could use magic but I just
can’t locate them... maybe the
Circle could help.

XANDER
Try them.

WILLOW
Okay. I’ll need to do it at home
though.

BUFFY
I thought you could go there from
anywhere?

WILLOW
Yeah but I need to be in a
meditation state and the dark kinda
gives me the creeps.

XANDER
Will, just hurry, okay?

WILLOW
I will. Don’t worry.

She heads off.

XANDER
I can’t lose her, Buffy.

BUFFY
We won’t.

XANDER
It’s just... seems like my turn,
you know? First Kennedy, then
Dawn... maybe it’s Anya’s turn to
die.

BUFFY
Don’t think like that! We’re gonna
get her back, I promise.

He nods, as they begin to walk away, but there is a BEEPING
sound. Both of them turn. Xander looks down and sees --
CONTINUED: (2)

ANYA’S CELL PHONE.

He picks it up.

    XANDER
    It’s her cell.

    BUFFY
    And look.

She points towards the unsettled grass leading to the manhole cover.

    BUFFY (cont’d)
    They were dragged.

    XANDER
    So let’s follow.

    BUFFY
    Right there with ya.

She lifts off the cover and begins to climb down the ladder, with Xander quickly following. As they disappear into the darkness, we hear footsteps. Then --

A PAIR OF BOOTS

That’s all we see as this FIGURE stands next to the manhole. Something or someone is watching them.

    BLACK OUT.

    END OF ACT TWO
CONTINUED: (3)

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

CLOSE ON: CLOCK

The hands tick away, backwards! The clock face has many farmyard animal pictures scattered around it. But among them is a LION, mouth open, teeth bared.

WILLOW (O.S) What do you mean you can’t?

Pull back to reveal...

INT. CLOCK WORKSHOP - DAY

Willow is standing in front of TATTLES, TALEDRAW, and TRINKETS, who are all sitting on their stools, coloring in random pictures.

WILLOW You’re supposed to be all powerful beings. Surely you can locate two mortals?

TATTLES We could...

TALEDRAW But we can’t...

WILLOW Or won’t!

TRINKETS Teach, this kind of thing doesn’t involve us.

TATTLES We can’t be so accommodating to mortal needs. If it is their time to die, they will die. If not, they’ll live.

WILLOW What? Look, I need to find my friends. If not, Anya’s gonna be really pissed about dying again and she’ll probably come back for your heads!

TALEDRAW She could try.

TATTLES They’re not real anyway.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

She hits her head.

TATTLES (cont’d)
Just for show.

TRINKETS
Teach, we’re sorry. But this is not our concern.
(beat)
Maybe you could find what you’re looking for in the Grand Library?

WILLOW
Grand --?

She stops, seeing the doors, nodding.

WILLOW (cont’d)
Thanks!

TATTLES
Are you sure you won’t play with us, Teach? We have another page, just for you.

WILLOW
No. Not today.

She heads off into the Grand Library as the kids continue coloring. We get closer to Taledraw, looking over his shoulder to put his page on screen.

It is a fantastic drawing, better than any still life painting we’ve ever seen. It’s of Anya and Andrew, chained up...

INT. SEWERS – NIGHT

... which we see now. Andrew has fallen asleep. The three demon children are gathered in a huddle farther away, whispering amongst each other. Anya nudges Andrew.

ANDREW
I am not a hippo!

He opens his eyes, looking around, wiping away a little drool. He turns to Anya.

ANDREW (cont’d)
What?

ANYA
They’re planning something. Their eyes are shifty.

(continues)

20
ANDREW
God. We’re gonna die down here.

ANYA
No. You might die. But I won’t.

ANDREW
I knew it. I knew, ever since I saw him with that other guy, that death was taunting me. It wanted my heart to be wrenched out before being offed!

ANYA
What guy?

ANDREW
(severely)
I saw Jody last week, first time in a while... he was with another guy.

ANYA
Were they --?

ANDREW
Yeah.

ANYA
Oh my God. They were having gay sex and you watched? (beat) That’s kinda kinky.

ANDREW
No, Anya! They were holding hands...

ANYA
Oh... and the big deal is? Andrew, you broke it off with Jody.

ANDREW
I know but... I didn’t think I felt that much for him when I did that. (beat) I think I was wrong.

ANYA
Well, it’s a bit late now.

ANDREW
Why, cos he’s with someone else?

ANYA
Nope. Cos we’re about to be hacked into teeny weeny little pieces.
32.

CONTINUED: (2)

She points. Andrew looks to see Ravis leading the other two, holding an ax, menacingly eyeing them.

RAVIS
We talk.

ANYA
Uh... yeah you do.

RAVIS
We decide.

KEELA
We decide you live! You not get killed.

Anya and Andrew SMILE!

ANYA
My plan worked!

ANDREW
You didn’t have a plan.

ANYA
Oh, I know, but it sounds so good when I say it!

Daeo unlocks Anya’s chains. She quickly gets to her feet, feeling the freedom.

ANDREW
Come on, set me free.

RAVIS
No. Only Anya lady. She tell stories.

ANDREW
You mean --?

KEELA
Useless man dies!

ANDREW
(nervously)
Anya...

ANYA
Well it is fair, I did read them stories.

ANDREW
What? You can’t just let them kill me!

(Continued)
ANYA

It’s not as if I’m gonna be cheering them on of anything but...

(beat)

I have a baby to think about now. Can’t be the white knight when the armor don’t fit, know what I’m saying?

ANDREW

(beat)

Anya!

RAVIS

Quiet!

He brings the ax up above Andrew’s head.

RAVIS (cont’d)

The ritual will begin!

INT. SEWER TUNNELS

Buffy and Xander make their way through the dark tunnels, which have turnings every which way.

BUFFY

This place is like a labyrinth.

XANDER

We need to hurry, Buffy.

BUFFY

I know. It’d be easier if we had a sniffer dog... maybe we should go get Doodles, he could sniff ‘em out. I mean, Anya’s stench of pickled choc chip cookies must be an easy one for him to pick up.

XANDER

(beat)

She’s onto the mustard now.

BUFFY

Disturbing.

(beat)

You wanna know the weirder thing? When I was living in my whacky normal reality, she had the weird cravings. And you guys had your own house, and Andrew was about to become some kind of scientist... I don’t know how the hell that got in there.
CONTINUED:

XANDER
Sounds like the life to live.

BUFFY
Yeah... but then everyone turned
all Truman Show on me, you know?
Started hunting me down... even
Matilda.

XANDER
The sweet little telekinetic girl?

BUFFY
No, my secretary.

XANDER
Oh.
(beat)
Sometimes your mind scares me.

BUFFY
Try living with it!
(beat)
Okay, I think it’s time to do a
Scooby routine.

XANDER
Split up again?

BUFFY
Yeah.

XANDER
Okay. But if I get caught, would
you mind saving me?

BUFFY
It’s what I do.

XANDER
Good to know.

They go their different ways, but as they do, a SHADOW creeps
up in the place they were just standing. We can’t see this
figure’s face, but it’s lurking, watching, waiting. It then
proceeds... following Buffy.

INT. SEWERS

Keela and Daeo pull a large cauldron into the area. So
cliche. There’s boiling hot water inside, or something that
looks like water anyway. Anya is standing by a tunnel
entrance. Ravis turns to Andrew.

RAVIS
Your time is up.
CONTINUED:

ANDREW
No it’s not. It’s early. Not my time yet.

RAVIS
You babble like sheep.

ANYA
He does that a lot. It’s quite annoying.

ANDREW
Any! Do something!

ANYA
Sorry. My hands are tied.

ANDREW
No they’re not!

Anya looks down at her hands, as if realizing for the first time that her hands aren’t actually tied.

ANYA
No, they’re not. But yet I’m standing here, doing nothing...

ANDREW
That’s right. Save me!

ANYA
Stuff that! I’m getting the hell out of here!

She quickly turns to the tunnel and rushes down it. The demon children watch her go, shrugging it off.

They all turn to Andrew with devilish grins.

RAVIS
It is time.

KEELA
We cook annoying man.

DAEO
We become big.

KEELA
And strong.

DAEO
Older.

RAVIS
And mean.
ANDREW
(sullen)
I think you’ve already got that one down.

The three demons GRAB Andrew, releasing him from the chains, and dragging him to the cauldron, where steam begins to float up to the ceiling.

INT. POLICE STATION – JACKSON’S OFFICE

The door opens and once again, Dan enters. He keeps the light off, heading to the desk. As the moonlight shines through the window, we catch it bounce off a blade in his hand.

DAN
This had better work.

He sticks the knife into the lock and twiddles about with it, trying to pick the lock, which he finally does.

DAN (cont’d)
Oh yeah. If Dan can’t do it, no one can.

(beat)
Now to see what’s in the drawer...

He pulls it open but it’s too dark, he can’t see what’s in it. He reaches for the lamp, to get some light...

JACKSON (O.S)
What are you doing?

Dan shoots up as Jackson turns the light on, standing in the doorway, watching him. Dan looks completely shocked.

He lowers his eyes and sees what’s in the drawer... a stake, holy water, a cross, a small bible.

DAN
What is this?

Jackson searches for his words carefully...

INT. SEWER TUNNELS

Buffy walks through, still clutching her Scythe, looking a little on edge. Her eyes switch from the shadows, to the blinking light not far from her, which makes the scene just that little bit more creepier.

Then she STOPS, almost as if she senses something. She’s on RED ALERT, turning around...

Where she is confronted by the FIGURE. She SWINGS the Scythe but the figure blocks her attack, holding her arm.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

VOICE (O.S)
Buffy!

BUFFY
What --?

Then she sees. It’s ANGEL. He drops her arm. She stares in awe of him, so not who she expected to run into.

BUFFY (cont’d)
Angel?

ANGEL
Nice reflexes. Haven’t changed a bit.

BUFFY
Angel?

ANGEL
You gonna say something besides my name?

BUFFY
Ang --?
(then)
What are you doing here?

ANGEL
I was passing through and thought it’d be rude not to show my face.

BUFFY
(smiles)
You thought right.

ANGEL
And, sorry to say, but it’s a brief visit.

BUFFY
Seeing you for just a moment can last me the year.

ANGEL
(beat)
I heard about Dawn. I’m sorry.

BUFFY
Not your fault. And likewise about that Fred guy --

ANGEL
Girl.

(Continued)
BUFFY
Fred girl... seems the Old Ones got a little crazy last year.

ANGEL
Dragons too.

BUFFY
You heard about that, huh?

ANGEL
Heard nothing but.

A beat. Buffy notices something in his pants, some papers.

BUFFY
So, is that a scroll in your pocket or are you just happy to see me?

ANGEL
(smirks)
Both.

He pulls the scroll out and hands it to her.

ANGEL (cont’d)
But this is the reason I came.

BUFFY
What is it?

ANGEL
The Scroll of Sych’Rya, an ancient race of demons. They were heavy on the prophecies and it turns out, everything they predicted has more or less come true.

BUFFY
So --?

ANGEL
There’s a prophecy about the Slayer.

BUFFY
Could mean countless Slayers, more than one now.

ANGEL
No. There’s references to deaths... as in yours. We’ve been trying to translate it but we haven’t got much. I thought maybe Giles could take a look, he has the whole Council on his side now.
Buffy nods. We see she’s still a little in awe of his return.

    ANGEL (cont’d)
    It’s good seeing you, Buffy.

    BUFFY
    I’m good to see.
    (quickly)
    I mean... yeah, you too.

She smiles at him but distant SCREAMS echo through the tunnels. Angel cocks his head.

    ANGEL
    Is that --?

    BUFFY
    The reason why I’m down in the sewers? Yeah. Anya and Andrew have been kidnapped.

    ANGEL
    Oh. Okay.
    (beat)
    Wait a minute. That’s something else... what the hell was last year? I go to Rome and find you and the Immortal together and Andrew living with you...

    BUFFY
    Yeah, um, it was a spell... to make you believe we were really there and not here but you see, you were head of an evil law firm... or an evil-er law firm and we didn’t --

    ANGEL
    Trust me?

    BUFFY
    Power corrupts.

    ANGEL
    Right. I’m over it.

    BUFFY
    Good. And, sorry.
    (beat)
    You wanna come save some people?

    ANGEL
    (thinks)
    Sure, why not?

    (CONTINUED)
CONTINUED: (4)

They head off down the tunnel, into the darkness, just like old times.

25 INT. SEWERS

The demon children are lifting Andrew into the cauldron but he uses his arms and legs, frantically trying to prevent himself being thrown into the boiling fluid.

ANDREW
   (shouts)
   Someone help me!

He struggles with the demons. Suddenly Ravis is hit over the head with a bone. The camera turns to see ANYA!

ANYA
   Mommy’s home!

As she brings the bone down on Daeo, we...

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

(Continued)
CONTINUED:

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

INT. SEWERS - NIGHT

Anya CRACKS the bone over Daeo’s head, knocking him down. Keela DROPS Andrew, who quickly backs away from the extremely hot cauldron. Keela backs Anya up against the wall with her machete, waving it ferociously in the air between them.

KEELA
Anya lady ruins ritual!

ANYA
Yeah, well it’s time you little rugrats had some discipline!

Anya looks around, seeing there’s nowhere to run.

ANYA (cont’d)
Of course, this isn’t exactly how my plan was going to go. There was supposed to be a lot more demon flesh flying.

KEELA
Anya lady must die!

Keela SWINGS the machete at her but Andrew GRABS her arm. He shakes his head in a disapproving way.

ANDREW
Didn’t your mother teach you any manners?

KEELA
Mommy teach me to eat. I eat you both!

She breaks free and takes a swipe at him. He backs off, stumbling over Daeo behind him. Keela turns back to Anya.

KEELA (cont’d)
Bad Anya lady!

BUFFY (O.S)
Hey!

Keela turns to see Buffy and Angel.

BUFFY (cont’d)
Okay... wasn’t expecting the muppet babies.

ANYA
Buffy, they’re strong!

(CONTINUED)
BUFFY
Well that makes it fair then.

Buffy advances, grabbing Keela, and THROWING her against the wall. But this doesn’t stop the little demon.

She comes at Buffy, slashing with her machete. Buffy blocks the blow with the Scythe, pressing against the weapon. They come close.

KEELA
The ritual must happen. We want to be big and strong and older and mean!

BUFFY
Not gonna happen, kiddy bitch!

Buffy sweeps her leg but Keela jumps, dodging the attack, then rushes the Slayer. Both of them go down.

Angel steps in but is suddenly jumped on by Ravis, who clings to his neck. Angel struggles to get him off, but Ravis grip is strong, trying to cut the air supply off.

ANGEL
Strangling ain’t gonna work...

He finally THROWS him off, sending him flying through the air. Angel picks up a fallen ax, brandishing it as if it were his own.

ANGEL (cont’d)
I’m already dead.

Angel charges him but Ravis dodges his attack, pushing him into the wall. He grabs the ax and plunges it into Angel’s leg. Angel grabs the demon by his hair and pulls him up.

ANGEL (cont’d)
You little --

Angel THROWS him into the wall, knocking him out. He looks around to see -- Daeo and Anya struggling with each other. The little brat has her cornered, ready to claw her with his huge nails, but --

Xander GRABS him from behind and drags him back. Anya beams a smile, breathing hard. Xander TOSSES Daeo into the air and rushes to his girl.

ANYA
You saved me.

XANDER
I’ll always save you.
ANYA
It’s very romantic.
(beat)
I’m having sexy thoughts right now.

BUFFY (O.S)
You little brat!

The camera turns to see Buffy holding Keela back by her head as the demon child pummels away with her fists, not actually making any impact.

BUFFY (cont’d)
Hey!

Keela looks up.

BUFFY (cont’d)
It’s time for bed!

Buffy SMACKS her one with her fist. Keela falls to the ground as Angel drags her to where the other two are, struggling as Andrew chains them all up to the wall. Our heroes gather to look at them.

ANGEL
Demon kids?

ANDREW
They’re scarier than I’d have thought.

XANDER
Oh, I dunno... they’re kinda cute.

Ravis spits some blood at them.

RAVIS
I will eat you starting with your genitalia!

A beat.

BUFFY
Sticks and stones.
(beat)
So what do we do with them?

ANGEL
Send them to school?

ANYA
A boarding school.

ANDREW
With Slayers. Lots and lots of --
Suddenly there is a FLASH OF GREEN LIGHT. Everyone covers their eyes until it disappears, and all that is left is an older version of these demons. She is AGUSLOS.

AGUSLOS
Oh my word! What have you kids been up to?

She comes to them, releasing them from the chains, and turning to the gang.

AGUSLOS (cont’d)
Did they cause you trouble? I’m so sorry. They’re not normally like this. Except for that time they kidnapped the postman and tortured him for thirteen months but they had issues.
(beat)
Ever since their father walked out they’ve been nothing but tearaways. Thinks he can just leave me for a younger model! Can you believe the arrogance of some men these days?
(to Ravis)
Ravis, you should know better! Apologize to these nice mortals immediately!

RAVIS
(forced)
Sorry.

AGUSLOS
I’ve told you a million times before. No eating people! We’re vegetarians now. The social club will look down on us if they know you’ve done this. I swear, one of these days you’ll have us all slain.
(to the gang)
Once again, so sorry for the trouble. If you’d like, I could send you some stuffed Hoighlog?

They all shake their heads, grossed out by even the sound of it. Aguslos marches the children to an empty space as she opens up a GREEN PORTAL.

AGUSLOS (cont’d)
Come on, kids. Time to go home!

One by one, the three demon kids jump into the portal. Keela sticks her tongue out at them before disappearing. Aguslos turns back to the gang.
AGUSLOS (cont’d)
Please forgive them. They have no father figure in their lives.

And with that justification, she jumps into the portal. It collapses behind her. The gang exchange looks.

BUFFY
Anyone else a little...

ANGEL
... disappointed?

BUFFY
I was really jonesing for a battle.

ANYA
Look on the bright side. We coulda been soup.

They look on where the portal disappeared, staring for a moment, then start to exit through the tunnels, one by one.

ANYA (cont’d)
I could really go for some soup right now.

BUFFY
(to Angel)
Pregnant.

ANGEL
Right.

And, they’re gone.

XANDER (O.S)
Angel? When did you get here?

JACKSON and Dan are now reversed. Jackson is at his desk, with the drawer closed, and Dan is by the door.

DAN
That’s it?

JACKSON
I told you, Dan, I’m just taking Christianity a little more serious these days.

DAN
What about the wooden thing?
CONTINUED:

JACKSON
(thinks)
It’s a door stopper.

Dan shakes his head, unconvinced.

DAN
Something’s going on with you. What happened to the old Jackson? You know, I bet this Buffy chick has something to do with this.

JACKSON
Leave her out of this.

DAN
How can I? She’s changed you. You’ve got holy water and a cross in your drawer... something that looks like a stake!
(beat)
I’ll find out what’s going on. And I won’t keep quiet about it.

JACKSON
You don’t know what you’re saying, Dan.

DAN
I hope for your sake, you’re clean.

He looks him over before closing the door. Jackson breathes a sigh of relief before slumping into his chair.

EXT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - PORCH - NIGHT

Angel and Buffy are standing on the porch, looking out into the streets.

BUFFY
(laughing)
A puppet? I can see it now!

ANGEL
It really wasn’t that funny.

BUFFY
Uh huh.
(beat)
Thanks for coming, Angel. It’s been a while since... just one night of feeling like my old self is good enough for me.

ANGEL
You’ve had it rough.

(CONTINUED)
CONTINUED:

BUFFY
Yeah but I’ve come to realize something. We all do. Willow, Xander... you. I know that what I feel is the way everybody else feels. And I know it’s kinda twisted but that comforts me. To know I’m not alone.

Angel takes her hand.

ANGEL
You’ll never be alone.

BUFFY
(smiles)
Thank you. For everything.

ANGEL
Any time you need me, I’m yours.

BUFFY
(beat)
So you’re off now?

ANGEL
No rest for the wicked, especially not in LA.

BUFFY
Well, don’t be a stranger.

ANGEL
Buffy, I don’t think we could ever be strangers.

She smiles as he begins to walk away.

BUFFY
Hey, when I said I didn’t trust you, I didn’t mean --

I know.

BUFFY
Good.

They exchange a long look before Angel walks down the sidewalk, out of her life once again. She turns and...

INT. SUMMERS RESIDENCE - LOUNGE

... ENTERS the lounge, where Xander, Anya, and Andrew are sitting around.

(continued)
CONTINUED:

XANDER
I think we can say we successfully saved society from some very troublesome kids.

ANYA
You think ours will turn out like that?

XANDER
If it does, I’ll know you’ve been cheating on me.

ANYA
Not like a demon! Like a horrible little kid nobody likes and just wants to kick a lot.

XANDER
How could it? We’re the parents!

Any smiles, reassured.

ANDREW
Well, I can seriously say I’ve seen it all now. Demon kids? Horrible.

BUFFY
Hey...

She turns to see Willow sitting at the table, in a meditative trance.

BUFFY (cont’d)
Shouldn’t someone tell her it’s over?

30 INT. GRAND LIBRARY - DAY 30

Willow is sitting on the upper level by a bookcase, with countless books surrounding her. She’s flicking through the pages, desperately searching but to no avail.

She sighs, putting the book down, and reaching for another.

WILLOW
This is going to take forever.

The camera pulls back to reveal the dozens of bookcases, spanning from floor to ceiling, with possibly thousands of the biggest books you’ve ever seen in your life.

And then there’s Willow, who’s nothing but a needle, lost in a haystack.
CONTINUED:

On this, we...

BLACK OUT.

END OF SHOW