

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

"The Pack"

Written by

Matt Kiene

&

Joe Reinkemeyer

Directed by

Bruce Seth Green

SHOOTING SCRIPT

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BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

"The Pack"

CAST LIST

BUFFY SUMMERS..... Sarah Michelle Gellar
XANDER HARRIS..... Nicholas Brendon
RUPERT GILES..... Anthony S. Head
WILLOW ROSENBERG..... Alyson Hannigan

KYLE..... *Eion Bailey
LANCE..... *Jeff Maynard
RHONDA..... *Michael McCraine
TOR..... *Brian Gross
HEIDI..... *Jennifer Sky
FLUTIE..... *Ken Lerner
ZOOKEEPER..... *James Stephens
COACH HERROLD..... *Gregory White
ADAM..... *Jeffrey Steven Smith
MR. ANDERSON..... *David Brisbin
MRS. ANDERSON..... *Barbara Whinnery
*JOEY..... *Justin Jon Ross
*YOUNG WOMAN..... *Patrese Borem

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

"The Pack"

SET LIST

INTERIORS

SUNNYDALE HIGH SCHOOL

HALL

GYM

CLASSROOM

LIBRARY

FLUTIE'S OFFICE

THE BRONZE

ZOO

HYENA HOUSE

HYENA CAGE

*ZOOKEEPER'S OFFICE

*CAR

EXTERIORS

SUNNYDALE HIGH SCHOOL

COURTYARD

THE ZOO

BY THE MONKEY CAGE

WOODS

DRIVEWAY

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

"The Pack"

TEASER

1 EXT. THE ZOO - DAY

1

We see VARIOUS ANGLES of ANIMALS in their cages. Find BUFFY in front of one of them, walking by herself. Other students pass by, talking. Buffy looks at animals until:

KYLE

Oh, look.

This is THE PACK: KYLE, RHONDA, TOR and HEIDI. They are the kind of kids who seem to exist only to ridicule others. They are always together, always with fairly bad intent.

KYLE

It's Buffy.
(indicating she's alone)
And all her friends.

BUFFY

That's witty.

TOR

Do you ever wonder why nobody cool
ever wants to hang out with you?

BUFFY

I'm just thankful.

RHONDA

So, were you this popular at your
old school? Before you got kicked
out?

Sore spot. Buffy glares at her, as the group drifts off.

TOR

(to Rhonda)

Careful -- she might beat you up.

She looks like she might. After a moment she turns back to the animals.

XANDER

(off screen)

Hey!

XANDER and WILLOW run up to her, excited.

(CONTINUED)

XANDER

Buffy!

WILLOW

You missed it!

BUFFY

Missed what?

XANDER

We saw the Zebras mating! Thank you, very exciting...

WILLOW

It looked like the Heimlich. With stripes.

BUFFY

And I missed it. Yet somehow I will find the courage to live on.

WILLOW

Where were you?

BUFFY

I was looking at the fishes.

WILLOW

Was it cool?

BUFFY

It was fishes.

XANDER

I'm feeling that you're not in the field trip spirit here.

Buffy looks briefly in the direction the pack left in.

BUFFY

Well, it...

(shrugs it off)

It's nothing. Anyway, we did this every year at my old school. Zoo trip. Same old same old.

XANDER

Buffy, this is not just about looking at a bunch of animals. This is about **not being in class**.

BUFFY

You're right. The animals suddenly look shiny and new.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 2

1

XANDER
Perspective.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. BY THE MONKEY CAGES

2

Stands LANCE, all alone. Thin, bookish, nerdy, he looks at the monkeys and takes notes until he is approached by the pack.

KYLE
Lance, how's it going?

LANCE
(a bit nervous)
Hey, Kyle.

KYLE
So is this like a family reunion?

LANCE
No.

KYLE
I think it's a family reunion.
It's so touching. Doesn't anybody
have a camera?

RHONDA
(picks at his hair)
Does your mom still pick out your
lice, or are you old enough to do
it yourself?

LANCE
Quit it.

Tor reaches out and grabs Lance's notebook.

LANCE
Hey! Guys, come on.

TOR
(pretends to read)
I am a total loser who will never
have a girlfriend as long as I
live.

KYLE
See, I wouldn't have put that in
writing. I would have kept it to
myself.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

Tor tosses the book to Heidi, who makes as if to throw it in the cage.

HEIDI

Let's see what your family thinks of it.

LANCE

That's got all my notes!

MR. FLUTIE (O.S)

What's going on here?

PRINCIPAL FLUTIE strides up to the kids. They are somewhat cowed by him, though they glare at him sullenly.

MR. FLUTIE

I have had it up to here with you four. What are you doing?

KYLE

Nothing.

MR. FLUTIE

Did I ask you to speak? Okay, I guess I did. But I want the truth. Lance?

A beat, as Lance looks around at the other kids.

LANCE

They weren't doing anything. Really. We were just playing around.

A beat, as he studies the kids, who say nothing.

MR. FLUTIE

All right. But this is not a place for horseplay. Save that sort of thing for class. I don't mean class.

(turns to go, turns back)
I'm watching you.

He leaves, the kids relaxing. Kyle turns to Lance with seeming menace, points.

KYLE

You. Came through big time.

RHONDA

Way to go, Lance.

(CONTINUED)

TOR
Flutie's just looking for a reason
to come down on us.

LANCE
It's okay. Can I have my notebook
back?

A moment -- are they going to start up again? Then:

HEIDI
Sure.

KYLE
(to Lance)
Come on. We're gonna check out the
hyena house.

LANCE
But -- I think it's off limits.

KYLE
And therein lies the fun.

As they move off,

ANGLE: BUFFY, WILLOW AND XANDER

Are nearby. They see:

ANGLE: THEIR POV: LANCE AND THE PACK

Heading down a path that is marked with a sign: HYENA HOUSE.
POSITIVELY NO ADMITTANCE.

WILLOW
What are Kyle and his buds doing
with Lance?

XANDER
Playing with him, as the cat plays
with the mouse.

BUFFY
What is it with those guys?

WILLOW
They're obnoxious. Professionally.

XANDER
Every school has 'em. Start a
school, you get desks, some
blackboards, and your mean kids.

(CONTINUED)

BUFFY

I better extract Lance before --

XANDER

I'll handle it. I don't think this job requires actual slaying.

He heads off down the hyena path himself. Buffy and Willow move toward it, to wait for him. Buffy looks down the path.

BUFFY

You don't think we should follow?

WILLOW

Kyle and those guys are jerks, but they're all talk.

(suddenly doubtful)

Mostly.

BUFFY

Why don't we --

WILLOW

Yeah, why don't we --

They move for the path --

ZOOKEEPER

Are you blind? Or are you just illiterate?

The ZOOKEEPER steps in front of them. He is 40ish, weathered. A menacing glint in his eye.

ZOOKEEPER

Because Hyenas are quick to prey on the weak.

BUFFY

We were just --

ZOOKEEPER

You're not going in there. Anyone that does is in a world of trouble.

The girls look down the path where Xander went.

WILLOW

No, no one's going in there.

BUFFY

How come it's off limits?

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: 4

2

ZOOKEEPER
Quarantine. They just came from
Africa. So keep out.

The Zookeeper begins to walk away. Then turns back.

ZOOKEEPER
...Even if they call your name.

BUFFY
What're you talking about?

ZOOKEEPER
A Masai tribesman once told me that
Hyenas can understand human speech.
They follow humans by day, learning
their names. At night, when the
campfire has died, they call out to
the person. And once that person
is separated...
(beat; for effect)
...the pack devours him.

CUT TO:

3 INT. HYENA HOUSE - DAY

3

It's dark and creepy in here, with cages at one end.
Nothing can be seen in them just yet. We see a door pushed
open.

The pack and Lance enter the dark space slowly, looking
around them. On the wall are lit up pictures of hyenas in
the wild. Some of them are a bit gruesome. The kids
approach the seemingly empty cage.

KYLE
Cool...

LANCE
I don't see any hyenas...

As if on cue, one moves ever so slightly out of the shadows.
The kids stop near the cage, watching it. Lance is made
visibly nervous.

LANCE
Well, we've seen it...

RHONDA
It looks cute.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

KYLE
It looks hungry.

He and Tor GRAB Lance from either side, the girls helping push him toward the cage.

TOR
Come on, Spot! Suppertime!

LANCE
Ow! Stop it!

Lance struggles, when suddenly, XANDER pushes KYLE and pries Lance free. Lance stumbles away from the group.

XANDER
Why don't you pick on someone your own species?

KYLE
You're gonna get in my face?

Kyle and Xander are about to fight when a shrill, horrifying HYENA CACKLE stops everyone cold --

CAMERA PUSHES IN on the HYENA'S EYES -- they FLASH YELLOW --, then INTERCUTS with KYLE'S EYES -- which flash also --, the Hyena's EYES, then RHONDA'S EYES, INTERCUTTING faster between each of them until the final exchange is between the Hyena's and XANDER'S EYES.

HIGH ANGLE: XANDER AND THE PACK

stand inside a malevolent TOTEMIC HYENA FACE on the floor.

LANCE takes off but slips, falling and injuring his knee.

LANCE
Owwwww --

They blink, then turn as one to look at Lance -- only Xander doesn't turn his head. Then, Kyle begins a cruel laugh... XANDER finally turns toward us. His eyes FLASH YELLOW.

BLACK OUT.

END TEASER

ACT ONE

4 INT. BRONZE - NIGHT

4

Buffy and Willow sit in the section behind the stairs drinking sodas. Buffy picks at a croissant, wearing Angel's jacket. Willow cranes around for Xander.

WILLOW

I thought Xander would be here by now.

BUFFY

That would make him on time. We couldn't have that.

WILLOW

Did he seem upset at all on the bus back?

BUFFY

About what?

WILLOW

I don't know. He was quiet.

BUFFY

I didn't notice anything. Of course I'm not as hyper-aware of him as, oh, for example, you...

WILLOW

Hyper-aware?

BUFFY

Well, I'm not constantly monitoring his moods, his health, his blood pressure...

WILLOW

(wistfully)

130 over 80.

BUFFY

You got it bad, girl.

WILLOW

He makes my head go tingly. You know what I mean?

BUFFY

I dimly recall.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

WILLOW

But it hasn't happened to you lately.

BUFFY

Not of late.

WILLOW

Not even for a dangerous and mysterious older man who's leather jacket you're wearing right now?

BUFFY

(dismissively)

It goes with the shoes.

WILLOW

Come on. You gotta admit that Angel pushes some of your buttons. You know he does.

BUFFY

I suppose some girls might think he's good looking, if they.... have eyes... All right, he's a honey. But he's never around, and he only wants to talk about Vampires, there's nothing there that's interesting in the sense of --

WILLOW

There he is!

BUFFY

(excited)

Angel?

WILLOW

Xander.

ANGLE: XANDER

enters and surveys the crowd. There is something different in his step: he is more graceful, more contained. Looks about himself warily.

He passes a good looking cheerleader type. Stares at her as he passes -- she stares back, intrigued.

Willow frowns at that exchange. Xander reaches her and Buffy.

XANDER

Girls.

(CONTINUED)

BUFFY

Boy.

XANDER

(sitting by Buffy)

Sorry I'm late. I forgot we were gonna be here.

He looks about him, his mind elsewhere. Takes Buffy's croissant and starts eating it.

XANDER

Hungry.

WILLOW

Xander, you still want me to help you with Geometry tomorrow? We can work after class.

XANDER

(distracted)

Yeah.

(re: croissant)

What is this crap?

BUFFY

Well it **was** my buttery croissant.

XANDER

Man, I want some **food**. Birds live on this.

They are staring at him. He looks back, smiles winningly in the old Xander way.

XANDER

What?

BUFFY

What's up with you?

WILLOW

Is something wrong? Did I do something?

XANDER

What would you ever do? That's crazy talk. I'm just restless.

WILLOW

Well, we could go to the ice cream place...

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: 3

4

XANDER

I like it here.

He sniffs suddenly, near Buffy.

BUFFY

What is it?

XANDER

You took a bath.

BUFFY

Yeah, I often do. I'm known for it.

XANDER

(shrugs)

That's okay.

BUFFY

And the weird behavior award goes to...

But he is looking towards the door. Buffy follows his gaze, as does Willow.

ANGLE: THE HYENA PEOPLE

enter. There is a subtle shift in their behavior, not unlike Xander's. They stay close together, looking about them, saying nothing. (Their dress has also begun to rhyme with Xander's: subtle, earthy browns and grays.)

BUFFY

Oh great. It's the winged monkeys.

Then the HYENA PEOPLE lock eyes with Xander and stop. He stares back -- but instead of the trouble we expect, they regard Xander with an almost animal intensity, as if some PRIMAL CONNECTION is being made.

Then, without a word exchanged, the Hyena People move on through the parting crowd. They reach a table being manned by a heavy kid by himself.

KYLE

I don't understand why you're sitting at our table.

RHONDA

Shouldn't you be hovering over a football stadium with "Goodyear" written on you?

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: 5 4

The kid retreats as the pack laughs, takes the table.

Buffy and Willow scowl -- and notice that Xander is chuckling to himself. He sees their looks, shrugs.

XANDER
Kid's fat.

CUT TO:

A5 INT. LIBRARY - NEXT MORNING A5*

CLOSE ON: GILES *

who is holding up a fighting pad. A leg SLAMS into it. *

WIDER ANGLE: *

The leg is Buffy's, and she follows the kick with an impressive fighting routine, hammering Giles with spinning kicks and jabs *

Buffy stops, barely even breathing hard. *

GILES
Well, that's enough training for one day. *

BUFFY
I was a little sloppy on the roundhouse. You want me to try it again? *

GILES
No, that's fine. You run along to class, and I'll wait for the feeling to return to my arms. *

CUT TO: *

5 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY 5*

We continue the ominous feel, as CAMERA MOVES SLOWLY above the cold linoleum floor. We only HEAR low ANIMAL GRUNTING. Suddenly, a student SCREAMS. CAMERA WHIPS AROUND, RACES at

ANGLE: TWO STUDENTS

run for their lives. CAMERA JUKES LEFT, at

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

ANGLE: PRINCIPAL FLUTIE

who screams and just leaps out of the way.

MR. FLUTIE
LOOK OUT! It's gotten loose!

CAMERA ZIGZAGS down the hallway as students peer out from classroom doorways, then jump back in shock.

MR. FLUTIE
STOP THE BEAST!

A football player-type stands in front of CAMERA, defensive tackle position, but CAMERA shoots right between his legs.

Finally, the CAMERA finds Buffy - tries to race past her, but, she leans over fast and grabs:

ANGLE: BUFFY

holds a squirming 30-pound pink PIG, HERBERT, who has a small plastic football helmet strapped to his head.

Attached to his snout are very fake looking paper-mache boar's tusks. Rubber-banded to his back is an equally fake looking ridge.

MR. FLUTIE
Naughty Herbert, gave Mr. Flutie quite a scare, didn't he?

Students gather around Buffy.

(CONTINUED)

MR. FLUTIE

Students, I'd like you all to meet Herbert, our new mascot for the Sunnysdale High Razorbacks!

BUFFY

He's so cute!

MR. FLUTIE

He's not cute. No, he's a fierce Razorback.

BUFFY

(charmed)

He doesn't look mean...

MR. FLUTIE

-- He's mean, he's ready for action. See, here are the tusks, and... a scary... razor-back...

BUFFY

I'm sure he'll strike terror into the hearts of our enemies. If they're very tiny.

MR. FLUTIE

It's all very well for you to joke, young lady. Where were you during the Buy-A-Mascot bake sale? You did not **bake**, nobody **baked**, we raised thirty eight bucks and this is our mascot. Middlefield High had one alumni fund-raiser and they have a Buffalo. We have Herbert. Deal with it.

BUFFY

(backing off)

I'm sure he's a fine mascot and will engender school spirit.

MR. FLUTIE

He'd better -- costs a fortune to feed him.

(to Herbert)

Let's get you back in your cage.

Buffy moves to hand him over to Flutie -- who backs off, not wanting to touch him. He indicates for Buffy to follow.

MR. FLUTIE

This way.

CUT TO:

6 EXT. SCHOOL - CONTINUOUS

6

Willow and Xander sit with their geometry books, working together.

XANDER

I'm not getting this.

There's an edge to his voice. He rubs his eyes, indicating a headache.

WILLOW

Well, it's simple, really: see, the bisector of a vertex is the line that divides the angle at that vertex into two equal parts.

XANDER

It's like a big blur, all these numbers and angles...

WILLOW

It's the same stuff from last week and you had it down then.

XANDER

Why do I need to learn this?

WILLOW

'Cause otherwise you'll flunk math.

XANDER

Now explain the part where that's bad.

WILLOW

You remember: you fail math, you flunk out of school, you end up being the guy at the pizza place that sweeps the floor and says "Hey kids, where's the cool parties this week-end?" We've been through this.

He is rubbing his eyes again.

WILLOW

Do you have a headache?

XANDER

Yeah, and I know what's causing it.

He stands, tosses his geometry book in the trash.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

XANDER

That's better. It goes right to
the source of the pain.

WILLOW

Xander...

XANDER

Forget it, okay? I don't get it, I
won't ever, I don't care.

He takes off. Willow calls out:

WILLOW

We can finish this another time.

He doesn't respond. She watches him go, perturbed. Stands and
retrieves his book from the trash.

WILLOW

Oh. Nice and wet.

CUT TO:

7 INT. HALL\CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

7

Buffy and Flutie head for the classroom, Buffy still holding
Herbert.

MR. FLUTIE

See, the problem is, you kids today
have no school spirit. Hold on,
let me get his outfit off.

He starts undressing Herbert as he talks, the two of them
standing near the door.

MR. FLUTIE

Today it's all gangs and drugs and
those movies on Showtime with the
nudity.

(off her look)

I don't have cable. I only heard.

(back to disrobing

Herbert)

When I was your age, we cared about
the school's reputation, the
football team's record, all that
stuff.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

MR. FLUTIE (cont'd)
(stops a moment)
Of course, when I was your age I
was surrounded by old guys telling
me how much better things were when
they were my age.

Buffy, previously bored, smiles a bit at this. Flutie heads
to the cage.

ANGLE: IN THE HALL

Xander enters, walks by the classroom.

ANGLE: BUFFY

looking down at Herbert --

BUFFY
You're cooler than a Buffalo,
aren't you, Herbert?

-- and Herbert sees Xander passing by and SHRIEKS with
primal terror. Buffy barely holds onto the Pig, as Xander
walks past, unconcerned by the Pig's reaction. On her look
of concern, we hear the ominous SOUND of THUNDER, as we

CUT TO:

8 INT. HIGH SCHOOL GYM - DAY

8

We PULL BACK to see COACH HERROLD, 50's, fake Marine.

COACH HERROLD
Alright, it's raining. Regular gym
activities are canceled. And you
know what that means...

ANGLE: COACH HERROLD HOLDS UP A DODGE BALL

right in front of his face.

COACH HERROLD
Dodge ball. For those of you who
may have forgotten, the rules are
as follows: You dodge. Okay,
captains...
(choosing)
Adam... and Kyle.

CUT TO:

9 INT. SAME - A MINUTE LATER

9

The teams are shaping up. Kyle has his whole pack on his team, ADAM has Buffy and Willow on his.

ADAM
Uh... Xander.

Our girls smile, motion for Xander to join them. He looks at them, at the other bunch.

He steps over to Kyle and his bunch instead.

ADAM
Uh, okay, not Xander. Uh, Ginny.

ANGLE: BUFFY AND WILLOW

BUFFY
What's that all about?

WILLOW
I'm not sure...

MONTAGE of the following:

The DODGE BALLS start flying between the two teams. On one is Buffy and Willow, on the other, Xander and the pack.

Dodge balls whiz all around Xander's team, but the Hyena People leap over them with animal finesse. Xander easily catches a ball, hurls it back with intensity, hitting

WILLOW in the arm. She walks to the sidelines, looking more hurt that Xander was the one who hurled the blow.

Soon Buffy is one of the few left on her team. The Hyena People HOLD FIRE, gather up their dodge balls.

Buffy stands alone, determined, awaiting their onslaught. Suddenly, Xander and the Hyena People turn on LANCE, their own teammate. They POUND Lance MERCILESSLY with DODGE BALLS.

Lance squints, trying to protect himself until he falls, hands over head, when

BUFFY WHIPS A DODGE BALL straight into Tor, which ricochets into Heidi, knocking them to the ground.

ANOTHER BALL WHIPS INTO Rhonda, Kyle and Xander, knocking the wind out of them. They're out. Buffy won. The Hyena People glower back with a newly respectful hatred.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

ANGLE: COACH HERROLD

blows his whistle.

Buffy helps up a grateful Lance but she locks eyes with Xander -- who leaves with the Hyena People. The silence is deafening.

ANGLE: COACH HERROLD

COACH HERROLD

God, this game is brutal. I love it.

CUT TO:

10 INT. SCHOOL HALLWAY - DAY

10

ANGLE: XANDER AND THE HYENA PEOPLE

move down the Hallway, tight now, like a Pack. Willow is waiting, stops Xander.

WILLOW

What's wrong with you, Xander?

Xander suddenly turns toward Willow -- only it's the old Xander with the gentle eyes. He pulls her slightly away from the Pack. Leans in, somewhat confidentially.

XANDER

Guess you've noticed -- I've been different around you, lately --

WILLOW

Yes.

Xander looks around awkwardly. Then directly into Willow.

XANDER

I think... I think it's because my feelings... for you... have been changing...

(off Willow's look)

We've been friends for such a long time... and... well... I feel like I need to tell you something...

Willow softens a bit.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

XANDER
I've... I've decided to drop
geometry... so...

Willow just looks at Xander, confused.

XANDER
I won't need your math help
anymore... which means...
(for the crowd)
I won't have to look at your pasty
face again.

The Pack laughs hysterically. Willow looks like she's been
hit in the stomach. She internalizes the pain, walks past

ANGLE: BUFFY

who can't believe her ears. Buffy locks eyes with Xander.
He looks like he's about to say something, but --

BUFFY
(stone cold)
Are you gonna say something to me?

Xander stares menacingly, then turns to the others.

Xander and the Hyena People turn, walk away, cackling.
Buffy turns and heads after Willow.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

11

Picnic tables filled with students eating lunch. In b.g. we
see the pack, roving.

ANGLE - THE PACK

Moving and grooving. Xander scents the air.

XANDER
Dogs.

KYLE
Where?

Kyle's head snaps in the direction Xander's looking. They
veer off towards the picnic tables.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: 11

ANGLE - A TABLE *

Three GUYS with hot dogs. One of them bites into one as
another (ADAM) says: *

ADAM *
...you're out of your mind, that's *
not lead guitar, that's just hunt *
'n peck... *

The pack glides in, circling them. Adam spots: *

ADAM *
Hey Xander, you've seen Wretched *
Refuse, what do you think of the *
guy who plays lead? *

Heidi grabs one of the guys' hot dogs out of his bun, Tor
grabs Adam's. *

ADAM *
What are you guys...? *

RHONDA *
Shut up. *

KYLE *
You're sharing. *

XANDER *
Friends like to share. *

ADAM *
(to Xander) *
You hanging with these guys now? *

Heidi and Tor each take big bites of the dogs. Chew...
swallow. Look displeased. *

XANDER *
(to Heidi and Tor) *
Good? *

TOR *
Too well done. *

Heidi and Tor toss what's left of the hot dogs into the
dirt. *

ADAM *
Hey, that is not cool... *

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: 2 11

But that's as far as Adam is willing to challenge them. *
Xander catches another SCENT, sniffs the air. A small smile *
comes to his face. He looks at the others and they move on, *
leaving Adam and friends staring after them. *

CAMERA PUSHES in on door in distance as Pack heads for it *
and enters. *

CUT TO:

12 INT. CLASSROOM - DAY 12

The empty classroom seems eerie under the HUM of its
fluorescent lighting.

ANGLE: THE HYENA PEOPLE AND XANDER

enter. Heidi carefully shuts the door behind them. Their
eyes narrow as they slowly move into the room. We HEAR a
RUSTLING noise and their HEADS turn toward CAMERA, smiling.

XANDER
Let's do lunch.

The camera arms down to reveal HERBERT in his cage, in
foreground.

BLACK OUT.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

13 EXT. SCHOOL COURTYARD - AFTERNOON

13

The Courtyard is filled with the SOUNDS of STUDENTS -- laughing, talking, shouting.

ANGLE: THE PACK

walks, two in front, three behind, with the confidence of The Wild Bunch. We suddenly push into XANDER, entering his SENSORY WORLD.

ANGLE: XANDER'S POV

"HYENA VISION:" A GROUP of STUDENTS, talking. Then CAMERA ADJUSTS to see LANCE, walking past them, alone. As we follow his movement, Lance seems to move in slow-mo, until he almost instinctively looks back at us -- a wariness bordering on fear in his expression. He now walks more quickly, disappearing into another GROUP of STUDENTS.

ANGLE: XANDER

just WHIP TURNS to focus in another direction.

ANGLE: XANDER'S POV

We ZOOM FOCUS on TWO STUDENTS, talking together forty feet away. The background becomes muted as BUFFY and WILLOW'S movement seems to slow -- their images become more vivid, more saturated with COLOR. The DIN of the STUDENTS FADE, until we can only HEAR them talking.

Willow has been crying.

WILLOW

I've known him my whole life,
Buffy. We haven't always been
close, but... he's never...

BUFFY

Willow, I think something is wrong
with him.

WILLOW

Or maybe something's wrong with me.

BUFFY

What are you talking about?

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

WILLOW

Come on. He's not picking on **you**. He's just sniffing you a lot. You know, so maybe three isn't company any more.

BUFFY

You think this has something to do with me?

WILLOW

Of course.

BUFFY

(not getting it)

Well that doesn't explain why he's hanging with the dode patrol. No, I think there's something going on. Something weird.

WILLOW

What are you going to do?

BUFFY

Talk to the expert on weird.

She heads off.

Xander, still watching, moves in her direction. He looks back at the pack -- they are vaguely circling a girl eating her lunch. Xander moves off, after Buffy.

CUT TO:

14 INT. LIBRARY - DAY

14

GILES furrows his brow. Animatedly restates Buffy's findings.

GILES

Xander's taken to teasing the less fortunate?

BUFFY

Yes.

GILES

There's been a noticeable change in both clothing and demeanor?

BUFFY

Uh-huh.

(CONTINUED)

GILES

And otherwise all his spare time,
spent lounging about with
imbeciles?

BUFFY

It's bad?

GILES

It's devastating. He's turned into
a 16 year old boy!

Buffy shakes her head. Back to Square one.

GILES

Of course, you'll have to kill him.

BUFFY

Giles I'm serious.

GILES

So am I, except for the part about
killing him. Testosterone is the
great equalizer; it turns all men
into morons. He will, however, get
over it.

BUFFY

I can't believe you of all people
are gonna Scully me. There's
something supernatural at work.
Get your books! Look stuff up!

GILES

Look under what?

BUFFY

I don't know! That's your
department.

GILES

But the evidence you present is --

BUFFY

(very excited)
He scared the pig!

Giles is not nearly as impressed with that as Buffy hoped.
She deflates slightly.

BUFFY

Well, he did...

(CONTINUED)

GILES

Buffy, boys can be cruel. They tease, they prey on the weak, it's just natural teen --

BUFFY

What did you say?

GILES

Uh, what? They tease...

BUFFY

(it's coming to her)
They prey on the weak. Xander started acting wiggy after the Zoo. He and Kyle and those guys went into the hyena cage...

(remembering)

God, that laugh...

GILES

Are you saying Xander's become a hyena?

BUFFY

Or been, I don't know, possessed by one. Not just him, all of them.

GILES

Well, I've certainly never heard --

ANGLE: WILLOW

bursts through the door, breathless.

WILLOW

Herbert -- they found him!

BUFFY

Herbert -- the Pig?

WILLOW

Dead -- and also... eaten!
Principal Flutie's freaking out.

GILES

Eaten... by what?

WILLOW

(ominous)

By "whom"...

An ominous beat, as the meaning sinks in.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: 3

14

BUFFY
(to Giles)
Testosterone, huh?

Giles looks a bit sheepish. He starts for his office.

WILLOW
What are you gonna do?

GILES
Get my books. Look stuff up.

CUT TO:

15 EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

15

Students are leaving as the LAST BELL RINGS. THE PACK is still in the courtyard, minus Xander. They wander past a couple of girls.

Tor brushes up against one -- she moves away -- and Heidi HISSES at her, Tor is taken.

Flutie steps in front of them.

MR. FLUTIE
You four!

KYLE
What?

MR. FLUTIE
Oh, don't think I don't know.
Three kids saw you outside
Herbert's room. You're busted.
Yeah. You're going down.

RHONDA
How **is** Herbert?

HEIDI
Crunchy.

MR. FLUTIE
That's it. My office, right now.
Now!

They hesitate, but then Kyle obeys, leading the way. Very calm, almost contented.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

MR. FLUTIE
You're gonna have so much detention
your grandchildren'll be staying
after school.

And he follows them to his office.

CUT TO:

16 INT. THE LIBRARY - DAY

16

ANGLE: A PHOTOGRAPH

of a Pack of Hyenas, CACKLING at the Moon. CAMERA PULLS
BACK to see Buffy and Willow, surrounded by books and empty
Diet Slice cans. Buffy turns the page of the antique BOOK.

BUFFY
Check this out -- Hyenas.
(reads as Willow skims
the text)
Wow. Apparently, Noah rejected
Hyenas from the Ark because he
thought they were an evil, impure
mixture of dogs and cats.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

WILLOW
Hyenas aren't well liked.

BUFFY
They do seem to be the shmoe of
the animal kingdom.

WILLOW
Why couldn't Xander be possessed by
a puppy? Or some ducks...

BUFFY
That's assuming possession is the
right word.

GILES
(emerging with book)
Oh, I'd say it is. The Masai of
the Serengeti have spoken of animal
possession for generations. I
should have remembered that.

(CONTINUED)

WILLOW

Didn't that Zookeeper mention the Masai? They said hyenas call your name and all that stuff?

BUFFY

Right.

(to Giles)

So, how does it work?

GILES

Well, apparently there's a sect of animal worshipers, they're known as Primals. They're found mostly in northern Africa and they date back to...

(off their looks)

No history lesson, sorry. They believe that humanity -- consciousness, the soul -- is a perversion, a dilution of spirit. The animal state is holy to them. They were able, through trans-possession, to pull the spirit of certain animals into themselves.

BUFFY

So they start acting like hyenas.

GILES

Only the most predatory animals were of interest to the Primals. So that would fit.

BUFFY

So what happens to the person once the spirit is in them?

GILES

If it's left unchecked?

He hesitates, then slides his volume across the table at them. Buffy looks down at it.

BUFFY

I'm gonna find Xander.

She starts out.

GILES

I would check the mascot's cage first. It might help you to know how far this has gone.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: 2

16

BUFFY

Right.

And she's out.

ANGLE: THE BOOK

bears an engraving of a group of people madly, hungrily feeding. Off each other.

CUT TO:

17 INT. CLASSROOM - A MINUTE LATER

17

Buffy enters, quietly. It's a bit dark in here and she doesn't bother with the light. She looks to make sure nobody saw her enter and heads for the cage.

The bars have been bent, the lock torn right off.

BUFFY

(to herself)

So strong...

The cage is empty and she looks about her for evidence. Something CRUNCHES under her foot. She looks down, hesitantly.

Pig bones.

She straightens up -- and **Xander is right behind her**. She gasps, moves away.

BUFFY

Xander...

CUT TO:

18 INT. FLUTIE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

18

The four are standing vaguely around Flutie as he lectures them. They don't seem terribly concerned.

MR. FLUTIE

I have seen some sick things in my time, believe me, but this is beyond the pale. What is it with you people? Is it drugs? How could you -- a poor defenseless pig -- What are you doing?

They have started to circle him.

CUT TO:

19 INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

19

Buffy stares at Xander, not sure what to do. He says nothing, just grins at her. She makes a feint for the door -- he does too. She's not going anywhere. She relaxes --

BUFFY

This is ridiculous. We have to talk --

-- and DIVES at him, takes him to the ground. It doesn't seem to bother him much.

XANDER

I've been waiting for you to jump my bones.

CUT TO:

20 INT. FLUTIE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

20

They are circling him, GROWLING. He is becoming somewhat less sure of his authority here.

MR. FLUTIE

Now, stop that, you're only gonna make things worse for yourselves.

Tor GROWLS, low.

MR. FLUTIE

Okay, I tell you how this is going to work. I'm going to call your parents and they are going to take you all home.

He goes for the phone -- Tor is there ahead of him, slams his hand down on top of it. Flutie tries to stare him down. Tor picks the phone up and hands it to him.

MR. FLUTIE

Thank you.

He moves to dial --

ANGLE: RHONDA

has the phone cord in her mouth. She jerks her head, ripping it out of the wall. The line goes dead on Flutie.

RHONDA

Sorry.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

MR. FLUTIE
That is it.

He heads for the door - -and Kyle barks viciously at him.
Flutie backs up in genuine fear.

CUT TO:

21 INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

21

Xander suddenly ROLLS, throwing Buffy down -- now he's on
top of her.

She is surprised to find his strength matches her own.

BUFFY
Get off me!

XANDER
Is that what you really want? We
both know what you really want.

She tries to get up -- he doesn't budge.

XANDER
You want danger, don't you -- you
like your men dangerous --

BUFFY
You're in trouble -- infected with
some Hyena thing, like a demonic
possession --

XANDER
-- Dangerous and mean, right?
Like Angel, your Mystery Guy --
Well, guess who just got mean --

CUT TO:

22 INT. FLUTIE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

22

Flutie's really sweating now, trying to be firm -- or
nice -- or anything that will get him out of this office.

MR. FLUTIE
You're about this close to
expulsion, people. But I'm willing
to talk to the school counselor,
and we can discuss options --

Tor jumps up on Flutie's desk.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

MR. FLUTIE

Get down from there this instant --

Rhonda suddenly SWIPES at him with her hand. He reels, and comes back up slowly, hand to his cheek. Four deep cuts beginning to bleed. Real fear in his eyes.

MR. FLUTIE

Are you insane?

CUT TO:

23 INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

23

BUFFY

You're sick, okay? That's all.

XANDER

-- You know how long I've waited?
Until you'd stop pretending we
aren't attracted --

Buffy rolls away and jumps to her feet. He follows her.

XANDER

Until Willow'd stop kidding
herself, that I'd settle for anyone
but you --

BUFFY

I don't wanna hurt you, Xander...

Xander suddenly PUSHES her against the wall, pinning her.
Sniffs the air.

XANDER

That make you wanna hurt me?
C'mon, Slayer -- I like it when
you're scared --

-- coming in close --

XANDER

-- The more I scare you, the better
you smell.

Xander roughly grabs Buffy's jaw. Begins kissing her,
biting her lips --

She pushes him away -- but he comes back, pinning her
again. In closer.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

XANDER
(soft)
Welcome to the jungle.

CUT TO:

24 INT. FLUTIE'S OFFICE - CONTINUOUS

24

As with a TERRIBLE ROAR Tor LEAPS from the desk, taking Flutie to the ground. Flutie's SCREAMS are shrill and short as the others descend upon him.

ANGLE: FROM BEHIND THE DESK

Four figures hunch over the floor, as we hear the SOUND of FEEDING. Camera moves down, rack focusing to a shot of a picture of a smiling Flutie in front of the school.

BLACK OUT.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

25 INT. THE LIBRARY - THAT NIGHT

25

ANGLE: COMPUTER SCREEN

We see vid footage of Hyenas in the wild, horribly ripping apart a wildebeest.

Willow watches, frightened and riveted.

ANGLE: THE LIBRARY DOORS

slam open. Buffy enters, dragging an unconscious Xander.

BUFFY

Hurry -- we've gotta lock him up somehow, before he comes to.

Willow turns off the video she's been studying.

WILLOW

Ohmigod, Xander -- what happened?

BUFFY

I hit him.

WILLOW

With what?

BUFFY

A desk. He was trying his hand at felony sexual assault.

Buffy HEAVES Xander into a steel-mesh book-return cage. She SLAMS the door.

WILLOW

Oh Buffy, the Hyena in him didn't --

BUFFY

No, but it's safe to say that in his animal state, his idea of wooing somebody doesn't include a Yanni CD and a bottle of Chianti.

She locks the door and puts the keys on the table.

BUFFY

That should hold him. Where's Giles?

(CONTINUED)

WILLOW

There was some teacher's meeting he got called to. What are we going to do? I mean, how do we get Xander back?

BUFFY

Right now I'm worried about what the rest of the pack are up to.

GILES

(entering from hall)

The rest of the pack were spotted outside Herbert the mascot's cage. They were sent to the principal's office.

WILLOW

Good. That'll show 'em.
(suddenly doubtful)
Did it show 'em?

BUFFY

(sensing bad news)
They didn't hurt him?

GILES

They ate him.

The girls are genuinely shocked and horrified. After a beat:

BUFFY

(small voice)
They ate principal Flutie?

WILLOW

Ate him up?

GILES

The official theory is that wild dogs got into his office somehow. There was no one at the scene.

WILLOW

(to Buffy)

But Xander didn't -- I mean, he was with you.

Giles notices the prone form in the book cage for the first time.

GILES

Oh. Well, that's a small mercy.

(CONTINUED)

BUFFY

Giles, how do we stop this? How do you trans-possess some one?

GILES

I'm afraid I still don't have all the pieces. Accounts of the Primals and their methods are sketchy. There's talk of a predatory act, but the exact ritual is... The Malleus Maleficarum deals with the particulars of **demonic** possession, which may apply...

He leafs through it.

GILES

Yes, one should be able to transfer the spirits to another human --

BUFFY

Oh yeah, any volunteers?

GILES

Good point.

BUFFY

What we need to do is put the Hyena back in the Hyena.

GILES

But, until we know more --

BUFFY

I'm betting that zookeeper can hep fill in the blanks. Maybe he didn't quarantine those hyenas 'cause they were **sick**.

GILES

All right, we should talk to him.

BUFFY

Well, one of us has to watch Xander.

WILLOW

I will.

BUFFY

Are you sure? If he wakes up --

WILLOW

I'll be all right. Go.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 3

25

BUFFY
(to Giles)
Come on.

They head out. Willow watches them, then looks at Xander in the cage. She takes the keys from the table, holds them tight.

CUT TO:

26 EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

26

A young woman, 25, walks through the Woods, whistling a happy tune. Suddenly, she stops. Then she sees the four sleeping hyena people lying on the ground, curled up in a semi-circle, holding their full stomachs. The woman, suspicious, looks closer.

ANGLE: HER POV

Rhonda has blood smeared on her mouth and clothes. Kyle cradles a freshly gnawed femur. Kyle sniffs the air... his eyes open...

ANGLE: KYLE'S POV -- HYENA VISION

The woman turns to vivid colors against the gray, flat background. We HEAR her HEART POUNDING... and then, a SECOND, smaller HEART POUNDS as she cautiously backs up.

The woman, horrified, turns suddenly away from CAMERA, revealing a sleeping baby in her backpack.

Kyle licks his lips, slowly rolls onto his front arms.

The baby now wakes with a primitive fear. Begins to CRY. The woman desperately "SHSHSHSH'S" her child and walks faster.

Rhonda hears this and SNARLS as the other Hyena People begin to wake and roll onto their front arms.

ANGLE: RHONDA'S POV -- HYENA VISION

CAMERA RISES slowly, creeping toward the Woman and her Baby. We HEAR the HEART BEATS as CAMERA CREEPS faster, faster, through the woods and toward the woman, until suddenly

CAMERA STOPS MOVING. The woman RACES up the trail, looking back to see

*
*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

-- the pack. Watching, losing interest.

CUT TO:

27 INT. THE LIBRARY - NIGHT

27

Willow watches another VIDEO, at once fascinated and frightened. Then she HEARS:

XANDER

Willow...

ANGLE: THE CAGE

where Xander now sits up, rubbing his head. Willow turns to him.

WILLOW

How do you feel?

XANDER

Like somebody hit me with a desk.
What am I doing in here?

WILLOW

You're... resting.

XANDER

You guys got me locked up now?

WILLOW

'Cause you're sick. Buffy said --

XANDER

Yeah, I'm sure. Buffy had her
all-purpose solution: Punch 'em
out, knock 'em down. Love to see
what she'd do to someone who was
really sick.

WILLOW

That's not fair. Buffy's saved
both our lives.

XANDER

And before she showed up, our lives
didn't need all that much saving,
did they? Weren't things a lot
simpler when it was just you and
me?

He's drawing her in -- literally, as she moves hesitantly
forward, eyes locked on his.

(CONTINUED)

WILLOW

Maybe...

XANDER

When we were alone together... Willow, I know there's something wrong with me. I think it's getting worse. I don't want to stand around waiting for Buffy to decide it's time to punch me out again. I want **you** to help me. I want you.

She is nearing the cage, seemingly uncertain.

WILLOW

I **am** helping you...

XANDER

You're doing what you're told.

WILLOW

Buffy's trying to help you too. you know that. Or, Xander does.

XANDER

Right, she's so selfless, always thinking of us. If I'm so dangerous, how come she left you alone with me?

WILLOW

Because I told her to.

XANDER

Why?

WILLOW

Because I know you better than she does. And I wanted to be here to see if you were still you.

XANDER

You know I am. Look at me.

WILLOW

Xander...

XANDER

Look.

She is right outside the cage now. There is a moment of tension between them as they stare at each other..

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: 2

27

Xander's hand SHOOTs out the mail slot, grabbing for the keys. But Willow steps back readily, out of reach. She was expecting this.

WILLOW

Now I know.

Xander SLAMS his hand against the cage in frustration, GROWLING.

XANDER

Let me out! **Let me out!**

He bangs the cage, shakes it.

CUT TO:

28 INT. ZOOKEEPER'S OFFICE - NIGHT

28

Buffy and Giles urgently pace, look at their watches, as the Zookeeper sits. He looks like someone punched him in the stomach.

ZOOKEEPER

The students have been possessed by the Hyenas.

GILES

Yes.

ZOOKEEPER

Are you sure?

BUFFY

We're really, really sure.

GILES

You don't seem very surprised.

ZOOKEEPER

The Zoo imported those Hyenas from Africa. There was something strange about them from day one, so I did some homework. This particular breed is very rare. Totally vicious. Historically they were worshipped by these guys --

GILES

The Primals.

(CONTINUED)

ZOOKEEPER

(nodding)

Creepy guys. They had rituals for taking the hyenas spirits, but I don't see how that could have happened to your kids.

GILES

We don't know how the ritual works. We know it involves a predatory act and some kind of symbol.

ZOOKEEPER

A predatory act. Of course. That makes sense. Where did you read that?

GILES

Do you have Sherman Jeffries work on cults and --

BUFFY

Boys!

GILES

Sorry.

ZOOKEEPER

Look, I think together we may enough information to pull off a reverse trans-possession.

BUFFY

How's about we make it quick?

ZOOKEEPER

We'd better. By my calculations, in the next several hours, the possessed students will be totally transformed by the Hyena Spirits. Once that occurs, the students can never return to normal.

BUFFY

(horrified)

No more Xander...

Buffy and Giles exchange an urgent glance.

(CONTINUED)

ZOOKEEPER

(a plan)

You must get the possessed students
to the Hyena Cage immediately --
I'll meet you there and we can
begin the ritual --

(off Buffy and Giles)

Oh no -- what?

BUFFY

Well, we can guarantee you one --
but there's four more and we don't
know where they are.

ZOOKEEPER

I wouldn't worry about that. Once
the hyenas feed and rest, they'll
search for the missing member of
their pack. They won't rest till
they find him. They should come
right to you.

Giles and Buffy look at one another, horrified.

BUFFY

Willow!

CUT TO:

29 INT. THE LIBRARY - NIGHT

29

We HEAR the ferocious WHOO-WHOOPS, spine-chilling ROARS and
the TEARING and SLURPING sounds of a slow, horrible death.
CAMERA PULLS BACK to see Willow, steeling her resolve by
watching another Nature Video of Hyenas attacking animals.

Xander is in the cage, pacing back and forth (like an
animal, duh).

XANDER

Willow...

WILLOW

I'm not listening...

Willow looks up nervously.

ANGLE: WILLOW'S POV

The LIBRARY WINDOWS are still.

Willow watches them a moment. Then her eyes return to the
Video.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

But CAMERA DRIFTS back up to the windows behind Willow.
Then CAMERA ADJUSTS to SEE KYLE'S LEERING GRIN.

KYLE (O.S.)
Wil-lowww... Wil-lowww...

BLACK OUT.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

30 INT. THE LIBRARY - NIGHT

30

Willow watches her tape.

KYLE (O.S.)

Wil-lowwww... Wil-lowwww...

WILLOW

Xander, shut up...

She looks at him. He stares back at her as we hear:

KYLE (O.S.)

Wil-lowwww... Wil-lowwww...

Willow realizes Xander's not the one calling her. Too late. Horrified, she turns to see

THE PACK staring through the LIBRARY WINDOWS. Then a CRASH behind her. She turns back to see

THE CAGE DOOR being kicked by Xander -- he's given up all pretense now.

THE LIBRARY WINDOWS crash open as the HYENA PEOPLE suddenly lunge through the open windows.

Willow BOLTS from the room, running out the double doors as the Hyena people converge near the cage. Xander kicks -- the door buckles -- then Kyle and Rhonda PULL it, RIPPING it open. Xander comes out, briefly nuzzling Rhonda.

He turns, looks where Willow went. There is no softness in his eyes.

CUT TO:

31 INT. HALL - MOMENTS LATER

31

The pack exits the library. They look at each other -- then split up, looking quietly for Willow. Xander and Heidi go forward, the others pairing off as well.

CUT TO:

32 INT. CLASSROOM - CONTINUOUS

32

Willow crouches behind a desk, opposite the door to the darkened classroom. She is silent, terrified.

CUT TO:

33 INT. HALL - CONTINUOUS 33

Xander stops, sniffs. Turns to the door.

CUT TO:

34 INT. CLASSROOM\HALL - CONTINUOUS 34

Willow still hides, waiting And the door opens, Xander and Heidi stepping in. They sniff the room, take a few steps in, then look at each other. Turn to go, Heidi exiting first.

ANGLE: WILLOW

Hears the DOOR SHUT after them. Tentatively starts out from behind the desk.

Xander is leering at her, his face inches from hers.

She SCREAMS and jumps back as he swipes at her -- she runs for the door, he's hard at her heels -- she hurls a desk in his way, trips him up -- She flings the door open --

Heidi is standing right there.

Then a fire extinguisher comes down on Heidi's head and she drops, Buffy right behind her.

BUFFY

Come on!

Willow runs out -- and Xander is on her heels, grabbing her hair, snarling --

Buffy grabs Xander and THROWS him to the ground.

The other hyenas arrive, racing around the corner.

Giles herds Willow into the class, Buffy behind, and they SLAM the door shut. Buffy barricades it instantly.

The Hyena People POUND on it a couple of times, then they can be HEARD departing.

BUFFY

They're going.

WILLOW

They could be faking it.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

BUFFY

No, they're hungry. They'll be looking for somebody weak.

(to Willow)

I'm sorry. I didn't know they'd come after Xander.

WILLOW

It's okay.

GILES

We've got to lead them back to the Zoo if we're to stop this.

BUFFY

Yeah, and before their next meal. That's my job.

GILES

Individually they nearly match you in strength. As a group...

BUFFY

They're tough. But I think they're getting stupider.

She undoes the barricade, opens the door.

GILES

I should come with you.

BUFFY

You can't keep up.

35 EXT. DRIVEWAY - NIGHT

35

A FAMILY CAR sits in the darkness. A FAMILY of three (the ANDERSONS) is getting in the car. The kids are eating twinkies.

*

CUT TO:

36 INT. CAR - NIGHT

36*

MR. ANDERSON

I didn't say she looked better than you, I said she looked better.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

MRS. ANDERSON
I heard what I heard.
(to her son)
Joey, chew. You have to chew or
you'll choke.

MR. ANDERSON
I don't see why we have to have
this conversation every time we see
them.

MRS. ANDERSON
I didn't start it.

MR. ANDERSON
Damn. Where are the keys?

RHONDA (O.S.)
Joe-yyy... Joe-yyy...

Joey turns to see:

ANGLE: JOEY'S POV

KYLE leers at him, upside down, outside his window.

KYLE
Joey...

Suddenly, the car ROCKS violently as the horrified family
sees Tor and Heidi jump on their hood.

Then, the WINDSHIELD SHATTERS! Xander reaches in to grab
the shrieking family.

Xander grabs Joey. The NOISE is DEAFENING --

ANGLE: BUFFY

running across the parking lot and VAULTING onto the car,
KICKING Kyle to the ground, hard. Xander stops, looks up.

LOW ANGLE: XANDER'S POV

BUFFY stands on the car, amongst the Hyena People.

BUFFY
Didn't your Mom teach you? Don't
play with your food.

ANGLE: XANDER

doesn't have a snappy comeback. The possession of the Hyena
people has now reduced them to snarls and growls.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: 2

36

BUFFY

Come on. You know what you want.

Xander just bears his teeth and lunges at her. But Buffy runs, taunting them.

Without hesitation, Xander forgets the Family and moves after Buffy. The Hyena People follow.

CUT TO:

37 EXT. THE ZOO - NIGHT

37

A DARK FORM, obscured by shadows, walks through it. A FLASHLIGHT clicks on under a darkened face. It's WILLOW, Giles right behind her. Her heart pounds anxiously as she lowers the flashlight. Her eyes strain to search the empty Zoo.

Finally, Willow sees something and nods for Giles to follow her. CAMERA CREEPS with them... *

ANGLE: A SIGN: HYENA CAGE. POSITIVELY NO ADMITTANCE.

WILLOW

The pathway to the Hyena Pit.

Giles' eyes warily study the ominous pathway that dissolves into the blackness beyond. He swallows, summoning courage.

GILES

I'll go in and prepare the Zookeeper. Willow, stay here -- you'll forewarn us when Buffy and the others approach.

Another ANIMAL SHRIEKS. Willow watches Giles take another deep breath and disappear down the pathway.

CUT TO:

38 EXT. NIGHT

38

HAND HELD CAMERA CHASES BUFFY through the Woods, toward the Zoo. Surreal moonlight illuminates the rising mist as the CAMERA gains on her...

We HEAR her HEART PUMPING frantically.

THE HYENA PEOPLE run with animal intensity. They can't speak -- only GROWL and CACKLE, as they close in on Buffy.

CUT TO:

39 INT. HYENA HOUSE - MOMENTS LATER 39

Giles walks in, his heart pounding.

GILES
(whispering)
Dr... Zookeeper -- are you here?

Giles HEARS a NOISE inside the cage and turns quickly to see

ANGLE: THE ZOOKEEPER

his face covered with ELECTRIC BLUE BODY PAINT, with inch *
thick WHITE CIRCLES around his mouth and eyes, emerges from
the cage's splintered shadows.

ANGLE: GILES

heaves a relieved sigh. Then, one scholar to another:

GILES
Of course -- you're in the
ceremonial Masai costume --
(turning)
Are you otherwise ready for the
trans-possession?

ZOOKEEPER
Almost.

Giles looks down at the symbol painted on the floor.

GILES
Right. The sacred circle. You'd
need that to
(stops, puzzled)
But then it must have been here
when the children first came. Why
would you...

He stands, slowly turning. Faces the Zookeeper.

GILES
It must have been terribly
frustrating, having a bunch of
school children accomplish what you
could not.

ZOOKEEPER
(all pretense gone)
It bothered me. But the power will
be mine.

Giles tries to bolt to the left but the Zookeeper is
surprisingly swift --

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

ANGLE: A WOODEN CLUB

SLAMS down on Giles' head. Giles falls to the ground and the Zookeeper pulls his prone body back into the mist.

CUT TO:

40 EXT. HYENA CAGE - LATER

40

Willow's eyes anxiously scan the surrounding area. Then she HEARS the SOUNDS of CACKLING and GROWLING -- getting nearer. She turns and runs up the pathway, toward the Hyena Cage.

CUT TO:

41 INT. HYENA CAGE - MOMENTS LATER

41

Willow runs into the walkway, through the swirling fog.

WILLOW
They're almost here!
(then)
Giles... Giles?...

Only the silence. As she walks toward the cage, she sees

ANGLE: AN ORANGE GLOW

flickering, eerie. CAMERA CREEPS, LOW ANGLE, toward the orange glow... CAMERA CONTINUES through the open cage door... into the cage, where the two Hyena had been in the Teaser... the GLOW intensifies... until we see it's a cluster of candles -- a flickering altar arranged around

ANGLE: THE ZOOKEEPER

CHANTS, back to CAMERA. He turns around.

Willow SCREAMS.

ZOOKEEPER
Don't scream.
(re: body paint)
It's all part of the Masai
tradition.

Willow looks around the empty cage.

WILLOW
Where are the Hyenas for the
trans-possession?

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

ZOOKEEPER
Over there, in the feeding area.

Willow turns to see

ANGLE: A LOW WALL

just outside the glowing altar. We can HEAR HYENAS pacing and growling.

She moves to the wall, but the Zookeeper suddenly pulls her back.

ZOOKEEPER
Stay clear. They haven't been fed.

WILLOW
(looking around)
Where's Giles?

ZOOKEEPER
He's lying in wait.

Outside in the distance, we HEAR the CACKLING and GROWLING of the Hyena People, chasing Buffy... getting nearer.

WILLOW
They're almost here... shouldn't you bring the Hyenas out?

ZOOKEEPER
When the time is right.

He kneels down at a ring in the floor, attaches a leather strap to it.

ZOOKEEPER
I'm gonna need your help.

CAMERA RISES and we realize they are standing in the

HIGH ANGLE: TOTEMIC PRIMITIVE HYENA FACE

we saw in the Teaser. Suddenly, we HEAR the ferocious WHO-WOOPING and CACKLING of angry animals scratching their way along the pathway, toward the cage.

BUFFY (O.S.)
THEY'RE RIGHT... BEHIND ME!

WILLOW
That's Buffy! Get ready!

(CONTINUED)

ZOOKEEPER

Here.

The Zookeeper positions Willow. He loops a leather strap around her wrists, pulls it taut. She stands, shackled.

WILLOW

What is this?

ZOOKEEPER

The predatory act, remember?

He produces a huge knife.

WILLOW

(uncertain)

Oh, right -- you'll pretend to slash my throat and put The Evil in the Hyenas behind the wall --

ZOOKEEPER

Something like that.

The Zookeeper presses the knife to her throat. Willow's dreadful realization sinks in.

ANGLE: BUFFY

enters the caged area, exhausted.

WILLOW

BUFFY! IT'S A TRAP!

Buffy sees Willow held at knife point. Jumps up to help her just as XANDER dives on top of Buffy, knocking her to the ground.

ANGLE: XANDER'S FACE

at its most Hyena-like, lunges downward --

ANGLE: THE HYENA PEOPLE

race into the Hyena Cage and lunge for Buffy -- their MOUTHS and HANDS begin tearing greedily.

ANGLE: THE ZOOKEEPER

holds a horrified Willow, knife denting the skin of her throat.

ZOOKEEPER

(incanting)

NYUMBA YA SANAA!

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: 3

ANGLE: THE HYENA PEOPLE

STOP. Look up from Buffy's body to meet the Zookeeper's electric eyes.

CAMERA PUSHES in on KYLE'S EYES, then the ZOOKEEPER'S EYES, then RHONDA'S EYES, then the ZOOKEEPER'S, CROSS-CUTTING between ALL THE HYENA PEOPLE'S EYES, finally XANDER'S ... until the Zookeeper suddenly CACKLES wildly.

ANGLE: THE ZOOKEEPER'S GLOWING YELLOW EYES (CGI)

infused with six demonic hyena spirits, lets the knife clatter to the ground and GRABS Willow's hair with one hand, her arm with his other, just about to rip into her when

ANGLE: XANDER

eyes alive with protective fury.

XANDER

WILLOW!

He leaps up from the ground and DIVES on the Zookeeper, jarring Willow loose. Willow struggles to free herself as the Zookeeper quickly regroups, picks up Xander and SLAMS him hard on the ground. He moves into Xander for the final blow, when

BUFFY CHARGES and JUMPS to deliver a two-footed flying drop-kick.

ANGLE: THE ZOOKEEPER

CATCHES Buffy's feet in mid-air and THROWS her backwards.

ANGLE: BUFFY

lands in a heap, the wind knocked out of her, directly in front of the INTERNAL WALL which contains the Hyenas. We can HEAR their hungry GROWLING behind the wall.

ANGLE: THE PACK OF KIDS

Are dazed and confused, cowering uselessly by the far wall.

ANGLE: THE ZOOKEEPER

HOWLING with the ferocity of an angry animal, CHARGES at Buffy --

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED: 4

41

ANGLE: ZOOKEEPER'S POV - HYENA VISION

CAMERA RUSHES BUFFY as we HEAR her amplified HEART BEATS.
She desperately looks around, her back to the wall.

Suddenly, Buffy drops from FRAME.

ANGLE: BUFFY

grabs both of the Zookeeper's legs at the knees, then lifts and HEAVES him up and over the INSIDE WALL containing the real Hyenas. We HEAR the real HYENAS CACKLING and WHOOPING behind the wall, clawing on the Zookeeper's legs.

ANGLE: THE ZOOKEEPER'S HORRIFIED FACE

appears just above the wall -- barely pulling himself up.

Buffy instinctively reaches out to help him, when we HEAR a spine-chilling ROAR and the Zookeeper's YANKED, WHIP-FAST below the wall, out of sight.

ANGLE: BUFFY, XANDER and WILLOW

react as they listen to the horrible chewing, crunching, slurping SOUNDS of the Hyena at feeding time. Then they HEAR another NOISE.

ANGLE: THEIR POV

Giles, rubbing his head as he approaches from the walkway.

GILES
Did I miss anything?

CUT TO:

42 EXT. SCHOOL - NEXT DAY

42

Our three are walking together.

WILLOW
I heard the Vice Principal is
taking over until they can find a
replacement.

BUFFY
It's shouldn't be hard to find a
new principal -- unless they ask
what happened to the last one.

(CONTINUED)

XANDER

Okay, but I had nothing to do with that, right?

BUFFY

Right.

WILLOW

You only ate the pig.

XANDER

I ate a Pig? Was he cooked and called bacon, or...

They shake their heads.

XANDER

Oh my god. Ate a pig. I mean, the whole trichinosis issue aside, yuck.

BUFFY

Well, it wasn't really you.

XANDER

I remember the field trip, going down in the hyena cage... next thing this guy's holding Willow and he's got a knife.

WILLOW

You saved my life.

XANDER

(puts his arm around her)

Hey. Nobody messes with my Willow.

She smiles, a mess of emotion unspoken.

BUFFY

This is definitely the superior Xander. Accept no substitutes.

XANDER

I didn't do anything else, did I? Around you guys? Anything embarrassing?

The girls look at each other.

BUFFY

Nahh.

(CONTINUED)

WILLOW
Nothing at all.

BUFFY
(to Willow)
Come on. We're gonna be late.

WILLOW
See you at lunch.

XANDER
Cool. Going Vegetarian.

The girls leave as Giles approaches Xander.

GILES
I've been reading up on my animal
possession. Doesn't say anything
anywhere about memory loss
afterward.

XANDER
(dropping the facade)
Did you tell them that?

GILES
Your secret dies with me.

XANDER
(totally mortified)
Shoot me, stuff me, mount me.

BLACK OUT.

END ACT FOUR