

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

"The Puppet Show"

Written by

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&

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Directed by

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SHOOTING SCRIPT

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BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

"The Puppet Show"

CAST LIST

BUFFY SUMMERS.....	Sarah Michelle Gellar
XANDER HARRIS.....	Nicholas Brendon
RUPERT GILES.....	Anthony S. Head
WILLOW ROSENBERG.....	Alyson Hannigan
CORDELIA CHASE.....	Charisma Carpenter
JOYCE.....	*Kristine Sutherland
MR. SNYDER.....	*Armin Shimerman
MORGAN.....	*Richard Werner
MARC.....	*Burke Roberts
MRS. JACKSON.....	*Lenora May
ELLIOT.....	*Chasen Hampton
LISA.....	*Natasha Pearce
DANCING GIRL (EMILY).....	*Krissy Carlson

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

"The Puppet Show"

SET LIST

INTERIORS

SUNNYDALE HIGH SCHOOL
AUDITORIUM
 STAGE WINGS
 STAGE
 LOBBY
 BACKSTAGE
 PROP ROOM
 GREEN ROOM
 CATWALK
GIRLS' LOCKER ROOM
HALL
HALL OUTSIDE LOCKER ROOM
CLASSROOM
LIBRARY
 GILES' OFFICE
BUFFY'S BEDROOM

EXTERIORS

SUNNYDALE HIGH SCHOOL
 LUNCH AREA
 PRACTICE FIELD

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

"The Puppet Show"

TEASER

IN BLACK:

WE HEAR a slow, steady, BREATHING. Then we hear a VOICE. A low, guttural, demonic voice:

DEMON VOICE (O.C.)
I will be whole.

We FADE IN to see:

1 INT. STAGE WINGS - DAY

1

from the POV OF SOMEONE, OR SOMETHING watching. The POV is slightly hazy, with washed-out colors. It's almost unreal, and definitely from a LOWER ANGLE than is normal.

FROM THE WATCHER'S POV WE SEE:

A DANCER (EMILY), a pretty, athletic senior girl. She stands in the wings of the school auditorium stretching down after a performance. Brings her leg up high against the wall, holds it there.

DEMON VOICE (O.C.)
I will be new.

A body moves past, effecting a screen wipe and we are now in FULL COLOR, still on the girl. The camera moves off her as another person passes, the camera follows him, picking up various people in the wings. They are students, waiting to perform various acts. There is a girl (LISA) with a tuba. A juggler (ELLIOT) walks by juggling three balls. A magician (MARC) tries a sleight of hand with a card.

And finally we see MORGAN, a gangly, intense looking kid in a tux with no tie. He is a bit apart from the others, sitting in a chair with a dummy (SID) on his lap.

CUT TO:

2 INT. AUDITORIUM STAGE - CONTINUOUS

2

We see a big banner that says "TALENT SHOW" IN THE BACK OF THE STAGE.

CORDELIA stands on stage holding a mic and passionately selling her song.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

CORDELLIA

"Learning to love yourself, is the
greatest love of all."

ANGLE: GILES

He sits in the auditorium seats, staring blankly into space.
After he can take it no longer:

GILES

Thank you, Cordelia, that's going
to work fine.

CORDELIA

But I haven't done the part with
the sparklers.

GILES

We'll save that for the dress
rehearsal. Lisa?

Cordelia exits the stage as Lisa walks on with her tuba.

CORDELIA

(to Lisa)

Have fun trying to follow my act.
Sparklers.

ANGLE: GILES

As BUFFY, XANDER AND WILLOW descend upon him.

BUFFY

It's the great producer.

XANDER

Had to see this to believe it.

GILES

Oh. You three.

BUFFY

The school talent show. How did
you finagle such a primo
assignment?

*

GILES

Our new Fuhrer Mr. Snyder--

WILLOW

I think they're called 'principals'
now.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: 2

2

GILES

Mm-hmm. He thought it would behoove me to have more contact with the students. I tried to explain that my vocational choice of librarian was a deliberate attempt to minimize said contact.

BUFFY

(with importance)

Giles, into every generation is born one who must run the annual talentless show. You can not escape your destiny.

GILES

If you had a shred of decency you would have participated. Or at least helped.

BUFFY

Nah, I thought I'd take on your traditional role and just watch.

XANDER

And mock.

WILLOW

And laugh.

The three of them chuckle.

BUFFY

Let's leave our Mr. Giles to this business he calls show.

They get up and see that PRINCIPAL SNYDER is there. In years and schools past, he has ruled with unwavering confidence and was able, despite his size and appearance, to strike fear and respect into his students. But that was then and this is Sunnydale.

BUFFY (cont'd)

(caught)

Principal Snyder.

MR. SNYDER

So. We think school events are stupid. And we think authority figures are to be made fun of.

BUFFY

Oh, no! We don't -- unless you do --

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: 3

2

MR. SNYDER
And we think our afternoon classes
are optional. All three of you
left campus yesterday.

*
*
*
*

BUFFY
Yes, but we were fighting a
demon --

*
*
*

MR. SNYDER
Fighting?

*
*

BUFFY
Not fighting.

*
*

XANDER
We left to avoid fighting.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: 4

2

MR. SNYDER

Real anti-social types. You need
to integrate yourself into this
school, people. I think I've just
found three eager new participants
for the talent show.

*
*
*
*
*
*

BUFFY

What?

XANDER

No!

WILLOW

Please...

MR. SNYDER

I've been watching you three.
Watching and learning. Always
getting into one scrape or another.

*

BUFFY

We're sorry. But about the talent
show --

MR. SNYDER

My predecessor, Mr. Flutie, may
have gone in for all that touchy
feely relating nonsense. But he
was eaten. You're in my world now.
Sunnydale has touched and felt for
the last time.

XANDER

If I can just mention: detention is
a time-honored form of punishment -

MR. SNYDER

I know you three will come up with
a wonderful act for the school to
watch. And mock. And laugh. At.

He exits. Three shades of indescribable despair mark the
faces of the kids.

XANDER

Noooo....

Buffy looks at Giles. He cannot completely hide his smile.

BUFFY

You speak word, then comes pain.

*

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: 5

2

ANGLE: THE STAGE

Lisa finishes, exits the stage as Morgan walks on.

BUFFY
(seeing)
Eeeuuh. Dummy.

XANDER
(seeing something else)
AHHHGH! Mime.

ANGLE: A NEARBY MIME

Buffy and Willow don't notice.

WILLOW
I think dummies are cute. You
don't?

BUFFY
They give me the wig. Ever since I
was little.

WILLOW
What happened?

BUFFY
I saw a dummy. It gave me the wig.
There wasn't really a story there.

Morgan sits on a stool and starts his act.

MORGAN
Hi, I'm Morgan.
(then, as Sid)
And I'm Sid.

As Sid 'speaks,' Morgan's mouth moves freely. It's as if he
isn't even trying not to move his lips. He's terrible.

MORGAN (cont'd)
(as Sid)
Hey, Morgan, would you like to tell
some jokes?
(as himself)
Would I!
(as Sid)
As a matter of fact it is. It's
also a wood nose and a wood mouth!

Our gang watches, pained. They look away, embarrassed for
Morgan. And yet Morgan continues.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: 6

2

MORGAN (cont'd)
(as Sid)
I didn't sleep at all last night.
Itching like crazy.
(as himself)
Some kind of rash?
(as Sid)
Termites. Doctor Carpenter says--

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: 7

2

Suddenly, Sid begins talking in a new voice. This time, Morgan's lips don't move.

SID

--All right, time out. Let's stop this before someone gets hurt.

(to Morgan)

Kid, you are the worst. Even I can see your lips move. On top of that, you're spitting all over me.

Giles and the others chuckle at this.

SID (cont'd)

And you call those jokes? My jockey shorts are made of better material. And they're edible.

Everyone laughs. Morgan looks at the audience, pleased.

GILES

See? Some of the kids are doing quite well. I'm sure you three will come up with something equally exciting.

As they nervously eye one another...

DISSOLVE TO:

3 INT. GIRLS' LOCKER ROOM - LATER

3

The dancer has finished changing back into her civilian outfit. She is alone, pulling on her sweater. A NOISE startles her. She looks around.

DANCING GIRL

Hello?

There's no response. She throws her dancing shoes in her locker, closes it. She hears a noise from the other direction and quickly turns around.

DANCING GIRL (cont'd)

Is somebody there?

She cautiously walks towards the end of the lockers.

LOWER POV: OF SOMEONE WATCHING HER

It's the same hazy, unreal POV from before.

Emily's back is to us as she peers around the locker.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

DANCING GIRL (cont'd)

Hello?

POV: RUSHES UP BEHIND HER

She turns in time to face the thing and SCREAMS INTO CAMERA.

BLACK OUT.

DEMON VOICE (O.C.)

I will be...flesh...

END TEASER

ACT ONE

4 EXT. SUNNYDALE HIGH - THE NEXT MORNING

4

STUDENTS arrive and head into the building.

CUT TO:

5 INT. AUDITORIUM - SAME TIME

5

Different performers are here, practicing on or about the stage.

Marc has a hat set up on a table. He reaches into it --

MARC

I reach into the hat, and out comes....

(nothing)

Has anybody seen a rabbit?

ANGLE: Buffy, Xander and Willow

They have been rehearsing a dramatic piece. They stand in a tableau, holding playbooks. Xander moves to speak, dramatically, then:

XANDER

I can't do this.

BUFFY

Xander, come on!

XANDER

I can't! I have my pride. Okay, I don't have a lot of my pride, but -- I have enough so that I can't do this.

WILLOW

A dramatic scene is the easiest way to get through the talent show. Because it doesn't require an actual talent.

XANDER

We have talents! We're good at stuff! Buffy...

BUFFY

What am I gonna do? Slay vampires on stage?

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

WILLOW
Maybe in a funny way.

XANDER
Willow. You do stuff. The piano!

BUFFY
You play?

WILLOW
A little.

BUFFY
Well, that's cool. You could
accompany us and --

WILLOW
Oh! In front of other people?
Then, no, I don't play.

BUFFY
And I don't think we'll be
featuring Xander's special gift...

XANDER
Okay, some people are jealous that
they can't burp the alphabet --

BUFFY
... so we're back to drama.
(holds up playbook)
We'll just do it. Quickly. Get
in, get out, nobody gets hurt.

XANDER
Whatever happened to corporal
punishment?

We hear a WOLF WHISTLE. Buffy turns around. Morgan has
come on stage, is setting up, Sid on his knee.

SID
Mmmm, look at the goodies.

WILLOW
Wow, Morgan, you're really getting
good. Where'd you come up with
that voice?

MORGAN
Well, it's kind of an imitation of
my dad.

(CONTINUED)

BUFFY
It sounds real.

SID
It is real. I'm the one with the
talent here. The kid's dead
weight.

WILLOW
(patting his head)
Oh, sorry.

SID
Don't be. What say you and me do a
little rehearsing of our own?
(seeing Buffy)
And bring your friend. I'd feel
right at home sitting on her knee.

XANDER
Hey, watch your mouth!
(then, to Morgan)
I mean... watch his mouth.

SID
(to the girls)
You know what they say: once you go
wood, nothing's as good.

BUFFY
(trying to be polite)
Okay, Morgan. We get the joke.
Horny dummy -- ha ha. But you
might think about getting some new
schtick. Unless you want your prop
ending up as a Duraflame log.

ANGLE: GILES AND MR. SNYDER

as they come in. Snyder is in the middle of a lecture --
not his first.

MR. SNYDER
Kids today need discipline. That's
an unpopular word these days.
Discipline. I know Principal
Flutie would have said kids need
"understanding". Kids are "human
beings". That's the kind of
wooly-headed liberal thinking that
leads to being eaten.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: 3

5

GILES

Well, I think perhaps it was a bit more complex then --

MR. SNYDER

This place has quite a reputation, you know. Suicide, missing persons, spontaneous cheerleader combustion... You can't put up with that. You gotta keep your eye on the bad element.

(indicates our trio)

Like those three. There's something funny about them.

GILES

(covering)

They're not funny. Truly, I think you've shaken the funny right out of them. You needn't keep an eye on them.

MR. SNYDER

(looking around)

Kids... I don't like 'em.

(to Giles)

From now on you're going to see a very different Sunnydale high. A tight ship. Clean, orderly, and quiet.

SMASH CUT TO:

6 INT. GIRL'S LOCKER ROOM

6

CLOSE UP: A GIRL SCREAMING

Looking down at something she's discovered.

CUT TO:

7 INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE THE LOCKER ROOM - A LITTLE LATER

7

Giles steps out past a policeman, heads to our kids, who are a bit down the hall. The four of them huddle.

GILES

It was Emily.

WILLOW

Emily dancer Emily?

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

Giles nods.

XANDER

(genuinely)

Oh, man. I hate this school.

GILES

It must have been right after
rehearsal. There was a cross
country meet at Melville she never
showed up for.

(CONTINUED)

BUFFY
Vampire?

GILES
I think not.

He seems somewhat bothered. Looks back toward the scene.

BUFFY
Giles, share. What happened.

GILES
Her heart was removed.

WILLOW
(quietly)
Yikes.

BUFFY
(to Giles)
Does that mean anything to you?

GILES
Well, there are various demons that
feed on human hearts, but...

BUFFY
But...

He looks toward the door again. They follow his gaze.

ANGLE: A CLEAR PLASTIC EVIDENCE BAG

is big in the foreground as we see the four looking at it in
the background. As they look, the bag is held open and a
BLOODY KITCHEN KNIFE is dropped into it.

BUFFY
But Demons have claws. And teeth.

XANDER
They got no use for a big old
knife.

GILES
Which more than likely makes our
murderer --

BUFFY
Human.

XANDER
Did I mention that I hate this
school?

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: 3

7

WILLOW

So Emily was killed by a regular human person? Like you and me... only crazy?

GILES

The evidence points that way.

BUFFY

No. I'm not buying. Remember the Hellmouth, guys? Mystical activity is totally rife here. This to me says demon.

GILES

I'd like to think you're right. A demon is a creature of evil. Pure and very simple. But a person driven to kill is... it's more complex.

WILLOW

The creep factor is also heightened. It could be any one. It could be me.

They look at her.

WILLOW

It's not, though...

GILES

Demon or no, we've some investigating to do. We'd best start with your talent show compatriots. One of them might have been the last to see her alive.

CUT TO:

8 INT. AUDITORIUM LOBBY - LATER

8

Lisa the Tuba Girl sits behind a music stand as Buffy sits next to her. She BLOWS A FINAL NOTE on her tuba.

BUFFY

Pretty good. I never heard 'Flight of the Bumblebee' on the tuba.

LISA

Most people aren't up to it.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

BUFFY
It's a lotta notes. Now,
about Emily --

*
*
*

LISA
Right. I didn't know her too well.
There's that whole dancer/band
rivalry, you know.

BUFFY
I've heard about that.

LISA
But I talked to her a little the
day that -- yesterday.

BUFFY
How did she seem?

CUT TO:

9 EXT. LUNCH AREA -- SAME TIME

9

Marc the Magician Boy is speaking with Giles.

MARC
She was happy, I guess. Psyched to
be doing the show. She was a
really good dancer.
(holds out a deck)
Here, pick a card.

Giles does.

MARC
Wait. Not that one. Pick this
one.

GILES
Do you remember the last time you
saw her?

MARC
She was talking to someone.

GILES
Who?

CUT TO:

10 INT. ANOTHER CLASSROOM - SAME TIME

10

Elliot the juggler sitting at a desk rolling two tennis balls around in one hand. Willow is with him.

ELLIOT

That smart guy with the dummy.
What's his name?

WILLOW

Morgan?

ELLIOT

Yeah, that's it. He was acting
kind of strange.

WILLOW

Strange how?

CUT TO:

11 EXT. PRACTICE FIELD - DAY

11

Xander has been talking to Cordelia, who's wearing cheerleader attire. It's clear that his investigation is going nowhere.

CORDELIA

This is just such a tragedy for me.
Emma was, like, my best friend.

XANDER

Emily.

CUT TO:

12 INT. AUDITORIUM LOBBY - SAME TIME

12

LISA

Well, Morgan's just strange. He's
always rubbing his head a lot,
moaning-- especially the other day.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. LUNCH AREA - SAME TIME

13

MARC

He seemed real paranoid. You know,
looking around at everyone--

CUT TO:

14 INT. ANOTHER CLASSROOM - SAME TIME 14

ELLIOT
And I think I saw him arguing.
With his dummy. Strange guy.

CUT TO:

15 EXT. PRACTICE FIELD - SAME TIME 15

CORDELIA
All I can think is... it could
have been **me!**

XANDER
We can dream.

16 INT. AUDITORIUM - THAT DAY 16

Buffy comes around the corner and sees Sid, with his back to her, SITTING ALONE on stage -- TALKING. (We do not see whether his mouth is moving).

SID
...Right now you and me got to be
on the lookout. Figure out who's
going to be next.

Morgan appears from the OTHER SIDE of the stage.

MORGAN
How are we supposed to--

He sees Buffy and stops.

MORGAN (cont'd)
Oh, hi.

BUFFY
(suspicious)
Hello...

MORGAN
I was, uh, just working on throwing
my voice. I guess I could do that
anywhere, but I like to come to
this place whenever we can. *

BUFFY
Yeah. Morgan, did you--

Buffy approaches him. Morgan quickly grabs Sid. Buffy stops.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

BUFFY (cont'd)
Um... did you notice anything weird
going around here yesterday?

MORGAN
(nervous)
Weird? What do you mean?

BUFFY
With Emily. Did she say anything
to you? Was she arguing with
anyone?

MORGAN
No. She was dancing. Sid and I
were talking.

He starts down off stage, she comes closer to him. *

BUFFY
Talking?

MORGAN
Rehearsing.

BUFFY
So you didn't see or hear anything
at all?

Morgan doesn't answer. He rubs his forehead.

BUFFY (cont'd)
Morgan, are you okay?

Sid's head SPINS towards Buffy.

SID
Look, sweetheart, he answered your
question. Leave him alone.

BUFFY
Morgan, how about talking to me
yourself?

SID
He's said all he's going to say.

MORGAN
It's okay, Sid. We're done.

He sets Sid in his case, with Sid's head FACING TO THE LEFT.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: 2

16

MORGAN (cont'd)
(to Buffy)
I'm sorry.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: 3

16

BUFFY

I didn't mean to make you mad.

MORGAN

No, I'm-- it's him. He's...

Morgan shuts the case. Just as the case closes, Buffy does a double take: did she just see Sid's head FACING TO THE RIGHT? Buffy shakes this off. Morgan latches the case closed.

MORGAN (cont'd)

We've got to go.

Morgan hurries out.

BUFFY

Cute couple...

CUT TO:

17 INT. LIBRARY - A LITTLE LATER

17

Buffy, Xander, and Willow are there with Giles.

XANDER

Okay , next time we split up, someone else is taking Cordy detail. Five more minutes with her and we would have had another organ donor.

WILLOW

I think I had a bit more luck. Everyone I talked to pointed their fingers at the same guy.

BUFFY

Morgan.

WILLOW

Morgan.

XANDER

We have a winner.

GILES

I fear I was led to the same conclusion.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

XANDER

So what do we do? We don't slay the guy, right? We want to bring him to justice.

WILLOW

We could set up a complex sting operation where we get him to confess.

XANDER

I should wear a wire.

BUFFY

Hey! Slow and steady wins the race, guys. All we know is that Morgan is a grade-A large weirdo. That doesn't lead directly to "murderer".

XANDER

Guy talks to his puppet.

WILLOW

And **for** his puppet.

BUFFY

Yeah, but -- what happened to the whole "it's a demon" theory?

GILES

I am looking into that. But my investigations are somewhat curtailed by a life in the theater.

BUFFY

Priority check, Giles.
(weighing them)
Murder. Talent show.

XANDER

Yeah! We can't possibly do the talent show now! It's unthinkable! I'm not able to think it!

GILES

Principal Snyder is watching us all very closely. If he chooses to, he can make our lives extremely difficult. A Slayer can't afford that. We will stop this killer. But meanwhile, the show must go on.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: 2

17

BUFFY
It's so unfair.

GILES
Buffy, you should watch Morgan.
Check his locker, see if there's
anything there.

WILLOW
Like a heart?

GILES
Or something.

BUFFY
All right.

WILLOW
(moving to computer)
I'll pull up his locker number.

Buffy moves after her.

XANDER
Can I still wear a wire?

CUT TO:

18 INT. HALLWAY - A LITTLE LATER

18

Buffy PEERS around a corner. The hallway is empty.

ANGLE: POV FROM INSIDE A CLOSET

*

watches Buffy as she walks down the hallway.

Suspicious, she stops and looks down the hall behind her.
Nothing. She turns back.

LOW ANGLE POV: FROM AFAR -- as Buffy makes her way down a
row of lockers and stops at one.

BUFFY
Okay, three to the right, two to
the left--

She BREAKS it open.

BUFFY (cont'd)
Got it.

She starts rummaging through Morgan's things -- notebooks,
coat pockets, etc.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

She finds nothing, and is about to close the door. She looks at Sid's case, stops. She reaches out and pops open a latch. Then the other. She puts her hand on the case to open it when:

A HAND SHOOTS INTO FRAME and grabs her wrist.

Buffy spins around and sees:

BUFFY *
Mr. Snyder. *

MR. SNYDER *
What are you doing? *

BUFFY *
Looking for something. *

MR. SNYDER *
School hours are over. You *
therefore should be gone. *

BUFFY *
And I'm going any minute now. *

MR. SNYDER *
There are things I will not *
tolerate. Students loitering on *
campus after school. Horrible *
murders with hearts being removed. *
And also smoking. *

BUFFY *
Well, I don't do any of those *
things. Not ever. *

MR. SNYDER *
There's something going on with *
you, though. I'll figure it out. *
Sooner or later. *

Mr. Snyder looks at the open locker, then at Buffy. *

MR. SNYDER (cont'd) *
Well? *

BUFFY *
What? *

MR. SNYDER *
Do you need something here? *

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: 2

18

BUFFY
Yeah. A friend wanted me to get
something -- out of this case.

*
*
*

Buffy puts her hand on the case, then flips the lid open.
It's EMPTY.

ANGLE: MORGAN AND SID

as they watch this from a hiding place INSIDE A CLOSET.

BUFFY
I... guess he already has it. Must
have forgotten to tell me.

MR. SNYDER
Hmm-mm. Get along home, now. It's
late.

He leaves. Buffy looks after him, then at the locker.
Pensive.

CUT TO:

19 INT. CLASSROOM - A MOMENT LATER

19

Morgan paces frantically. Sid sits propped up on a desk,
his back to us. Though the two carry on an animated
conversation, it's impossible to tell if Sid is talking or
Morgan is talking for him.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

MORGAN
No, I can't do it.

SID
It's the only way.

MORGAN
I don't want--

SID
She's the one.

MORGAN
But--

SID
You saw what she did. How strong
she is.

MORGAN
I know, but--

SID
She's the last. Just this one more
and I'll be free.

Morgan stops.

MORGAN
I won't.

SID
Then I will.

CUT TO:

20 INT. BUFFY'S BEDROOM - THAT NIGHT

20

Buffy is in her jammies, looking through her closet. JOYCE *
looks in.

JOYCE
Good night, honey.

BUFFY
Good night, mom.

JOYCE
You've been pretty quiet tonight.
Is everything okay?

BUFFY
Yeah, sure. Business as usual. *

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

JOYCE
How's it going with the talent
show?

BUFFY
It'll be over soon.

JOYCE
It can't be that bad. I, for one,
am looking forward to seeing your
act.

Buffy stops what she's doing.

BUFFY
Seeing? In the sense of actually
attending?

JOYCE
Of course.

BUFFY
No, mom, I'll... knowing that
you're out there, watching, I'll
freeze up. Stage fright.

JOYCE
But I want to support what you're
doing.

BUFFY
If you really love me and want to
show your support, you'll stay far,
far away.

A beat.

JOYCE
Well, if that's what you want.

BUFFY
It's best for everyone.

JOYCE
Honey, is anything bothering you?
I mean, besides your fabulous
debut?

BUFFY
Nothing, I've just been thinking
about... There's a lot going on
right now.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: 2

20

JOYCE

Well, get some sleep. You'll feel
better in the morning.

BUFFY

Good plan.

*

Joyce exits, closing the door behind her. Buffy crawls
into bed and reaches for the light on her nightstand.

*

*

ANGLE: THE LIGHT

It shines in front of the window. Buffy's hand reaches in
and turns it off.

As soon as it's off, we can see Sid right outside the
window. Motionless, staring at the bed.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

21 INT. BUFFY'S BEDROOM - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

21

It's still dark. Buffy is still sleeping.

We HEAR a slight rustling.

ANGLE: THE WINDOW

is open, and Sid is gone.

ANGLE: BUFFY

peaceful, serene -- doesn't know what's about to hit her.

A SOUND startles her and her eyes shoot open. She hears something SCURRY across her floor. She SITS STRAIGHT UP. It SCAMPERS under her bed. She quickly swings her head down and looks under her bed. There's nothing there. She comes back up.

And SOMETHING is in her face. Buffy SCREAMS and slaps the thing off of her. It's on her feet. She kicks her covers off and the thing -- wrapped in the covers -- goes flying across the room. Buffy leaps out of bed and goes for the light switch.

A HAND reaches in just as Buffy gets to the switch. Buffy SCREAMS as the hands touch.

The LIGHTS come on --

--and we see the other hand is attached to Joyce.

JOYCE

Honey, what is it?

BUFFY

In the covers. There's something in the covers.

JOYCE

Where?

With resolve (in the light now) Buffy goes over to the pile of covers. She YANKS it up from the floor -- and finds that nothing is there.

ANGLE: THE WINDOW

A shadow escapes out.

BUFFY

There was something there.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: 21

JOYCE *

Well, there's nothing there now. *

You sure you didn't have a *

nightmare? *

BUFFY *

Mom, I know I - *

(stops herself) *

Yeah. It probably was. I'm sorry *

I got you up. *

JOYCE *

Don't worry about it. I was *

dreaming about bills. *

She kisses Buffy on the forehead and goes to the door. *

JOYCE *

You want the light on? *

BUFFY *

That's okay. *

Joyce stops, hands on the light switch. *

JOYCE

You shouldn't go to sleep with your

window open.

Buffy turns to look. *

BUFFY

I didn't.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. SUNNYDALE HIGH - THE NEXT MORNING 22

Another day begins at our favorite school.

CUT TO:

23 INT. AUDITORIUM - CONTINUOUS 23

The talent show cast is there. Many are putting final *

touches on costumes, rehearsing in various parts of the *

theater, etc. Marc performs on stage as some others *

(including Xander and Willow) watch from the seats. Marc *

opens his magic box, ushers his lovely assistant inside. *

Closes it. *

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

MARC

And my lovely assistant steps into
the box, and, behold!

He opens the box. His lovely assistant is standing there
vacantly.

MARC

(to her)

You were supposed to leave.

ANGLE: GILES AND CORDELIA

She is haranguing him.

CORDELIA

I don't see why I have to follow
Brett and his stupid band.

GILES

We have to get their equipment out
before the finale, I told you.

CORDELIA

But the mood will be all wrong. My
song is about dignity, and human
feelings, and personal... hygiene.
Or something. Anyway it's sappy
and no one's gonna be feeling sappy
after all that rock and roll.

(he is staring at her)

What?

GILES

I'm sorry, there's something...
your hair. Seems a bit odd.

CORDELIA

There's something wrong with my
hair? Oh my god.

She hurries off.

GILES

Xander was right. Works like a
charm.

Buffy arrives looking like she didn't sleep very well last
night because, well, she didn't. Giles approaches.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: 2

23

GILES

You look a bit the worse for...
what are you the worse for?

BUFFY

Where's Morgan?

GILES

I haven't seen him.

XANDER

Did he do something to you?

BUFFY

No. His... Sid. The dummy.
(frazzled)
All right, just look at me like I'm
in a bunny suit. Because that's
how stupid I feel saying this.
But... I think Sid was in my room
last night.

XANDER

The dummy.

WILLOW

With Morgan?

BUFFY

No. He was alone. And alive.

XANDER

Did you see him?

BUFFY

I saw something. It ran across my
floor, under my bed. And then it
attacked me.

GILES

Attacked you how?

BUFFY

It was like it pounced on my face.

XANDER

Like a cat?

BUFFY

Yeah. Exactly. Then when I turned
the light on it was gone. I think
it went out the window.

(CONTINUED)

XANDER

Like a cat.

BUFFY

Yes. No. It was Sid. The dummy.

GILES

(gently)

Or possibly the nightmare of
someone with dummies on her mind?

WILLOW

You did say they creep you out...

BUFFY

Excuse me? Can I get some support
here? I'm not some crazy person.
I'm the Slayer.

XANDER

The dummy Slayer?

(off her glare)

There was nothing funny about that.

Morgan comes in carrying Sid. Morgan is wearing the same
clothes from the day before. He looks haggard,
disheveled -- like he got less sleep than Buffy.

Buffy stares long and hard at the motionless Sid.

WILLOW

Well, on the side of the "Morgan's
just crazy" theory, there is...
well, Morgan.

BUFFY

I'd like to see him without his
better half for a few minutes. I
bet he could tell me something.

GILES

(pulls out a book)

If it's any consolation, I have
found a possible demon culprit.
There's a reference here to a
brotherhood of seven demons who
take the form of young humans.

XANDER

Young wooden humans?

(off Buffy's look)

Still not funny.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: 4

23

GILES

Every seven years these Demons need human organs -- a heart and a brain -- to maintain their humanity. Otherwise they revert back to their original form, which is somewhat less appealing.

He shows them a picture. Ugly.

WILLOW

So Morgan could still be the guy. Only demon Morgan instead of crazy Morgan.

GILES

Yes. Except these demons are preternaturally strong. Morgan --
(as they look at Morgan)
-- seems to be getting weaker every day.

24 INT. CLASSROOM - LATER THAT DAY

24

Buffy, Morgan, Cordelia, Xander and some of the other kids from the talent show are at their desks. Morgan has Sid with him.

No one pays attention as the TEACHER rambles on.

TEACHER

It was as a result of this that President Monroe put forth the eponymous -- meaning named after one's self -- Monroe Doctrine, which in one sense established the U.S. as a local peace keeper..

Buffy is staring at Morgan as he holds Sid. She studies them for a few beats, then:

SID'S HEAD turns and he LOOKS right at Buffy. Morgan continues to look straight ahead, listening to the teacher.

Buffy reacts, but returns Sid's 'gaze.'

Buffy, inexplicably rattled, looks away. She glances up. Sid's still staring.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

CORDELIA
(leaning in to Buffy)
Looks like someone digs you.
That's adorable. You and the dummy
could tour in the freak show.

The teacher looks out to the class.

TEACHER
Okay, who can tell me how Spain
responded to this policy? Morgan?

ANGLE: MORGAN

Sid is WHISPERING something in his ear.

TEACHER (cont'd)
Morgan?

He looks up.

MORGAN
What?

SID
(to teacher)
Morgan has other things on his
mind.

TEACHER
Morgan, pay attention.

SID
I'd like you to leave him alone.
He's not well.

The teacher walks over to Morgan.

TEACHER
Give me your puppet.

MORGAN
I'll put him away.

She takes Sid from him. Xander watches this with interest.

TEACHER
You'll get it back after school.

Morgan watches nervously as the teacher puts Sid in a
cupboard.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: 2

24

CLOSE IN: SID

as the cupboard closes.

TEACHER (cont'd)
Okay, then, in the first part of
the nineteenth century--

We hear Sid's MUFFLED VOICE from the cupboard.

SID (O.C.)
I'm still watching you.

TEACHER
Morgan, that is enough.

The class nervously giggles, except for Buffy, who eyes
Morgan suspiciously.

DISSOLVE TO:

25 INT. CLASSROOM - LATER

25

The classroom is empty. The teacher grades papers at her
desk. Morgan comes in with urgency.

MORGAN
Mrs. Jackson?

TEACHER
Morgan.

MORGAN
You said you'd give me--

TEACHER
Oh, of course.

She goes to open the cupboard where she put Sid, then stops.

TEACHER (cont'd)
You know, I wanted to ask you...

Morgan eyes the cupboard anxiously. Throughout the
following he bites his nails, rubs his temple, puts his
hands in his pockets. Anything to keep from exploding.

TEACHER (cont'd)
Is everything okay? At home? Here
at school?

He gestures towards the cupboard.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

MORGAN

Yeah. It's great. Um--

TEACHER

I feel like you've become... a little detached.

Morgan rubs his head, clearly in pain.

TEACHER (cont'd)

You're not participating as much, you're goofing off, disrupting class...

MORGAN

(tries to move her along)
Uh-huh.

TEACHER

You're one of the brightest kids I've seen in a long time. But lately it seems like you're not all 'there.' Try not to let other things get in the way of--

MORGAN

(cutting her off)
Okay. Can I get Sid, now?

She looks at him. He hasn't heard any of this.

TEACHER

Sure...

The teacher opens the cupboard where she put Sid.

ANGLE: THE CUPBOARD

is EMPTY.

TEACHER (cont'd)

It's gone.

Morgan is horrified. He can hardly contain himself.

MORGAN

Gone? What do you mean, gone? Where would he have gone?

TEACHER

I put it right here--

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 2

25

MORGAN

He knew to wait for me. He knew
I'd be back!

TEACHER

What do you mean he--

MORGAN LUNGES across the desk and GRABS the teacher. He
pulls her up to his face.

MORGAN

What did you do with him? Where
is he?!

26 INT. LIBRARY - SAME TIME

26

CLOSE-UP: SID'S HEAD

as it looks from side to side.

PULL BACK TO REVEAL:

Xander is controlling Sid's movement. Buffy, Giles, and
Willow come in. Buffy stops short when she sees Sid.

BUFFY

(alarmed)

Where did you get that?

XANDER

I took it out of Mrs. Jackson's
cupboard. You said you wanted to
be able to talk to Morgan alone.
Well, now he's alone. And Sid's
with me.

Xander makes Sid's mouth move and does his voice.

XANDER (cont'd)

(as Sid)

Hi, Buffy. Hi, Willow! Would you
like to hear some off-color jokes?

*

*

BUFFY

Xander, quit it.

XANDER

What? Come on.

(as Sid)

I'm not real.

Xander taps on Sid's head.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

BUFFY
I really don't think you should be
doing that.

XANDER
He's--not--real!

Xander bangs Sid's head on the table.

CLOSE ON: SID'S FACE

as his head hits the table. Repeatedly.

WILLOW
Okay, Xander, we get the point.
Cut it out.

XANDER
Okay, okay. Just want to point out
this huge hole in his back. I
think our demonstration proves that
Sid is wood. Now go find Morgan
and prove he's... whatever he is.

GILES
Morgan will be looking for his
puppet.

BUFFY
Probably in the auditorium.

Buffy heads out.

XANDER
(as Sid)
Bye bye now! I'm completely
inanimate!

WILLOW
(pointing at Sid)
What do we do with him?

Xander puts Sid in a chair at the table.

XANDER
I'll keep him company.

GILES
Willow, we should get some hunting
of our own done.

WILLOW
Once again I'm banished to the
demon section of the card catalog.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: 2

26

They head up into the shelves. Xander looks at Sid.

XANDER (cont'd)
So, I guess it's just you and me.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: 3

26

Xander hits Sid on the shoulder. Sid falls over to one side. He slumps against the arm of the chair. Looking right at Xander. Xander chuckles, and looks away.

He looks over again, reaches for him, and quickly turns Sid's head away.

XANDER (cont'd)
That looks more comfortable.

He starts working on some homework.

CUT TO:

27 INT. AUDITORIUM BACKSTAGE - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

27

Buffy steps up onto the stage and calls out:

BUFFY
Morgan?

Buffy disappears into the wings.

A28 INT. GREEN ROOM - CONTINUOUS

A28

Buffy pokes about, not finding anything. She turns to find:

*

A DARK FIGURE blocks the doorway.

Buffy GASPS. Then, letting out her breath:

BUFFY (cont'd)
Mr. Snyder.

There is something different about him here. A slight aura of menace.

MR. SNYDER
Looking for something?

BUFFY
Not really.
(then, what the hell)
Have you seen Morgan Shay?

MR. SNYDER
The same Morgan Shay whose locker
you were in?

(CONTINUED)

A28 CONTINUED:

A28

BUFFY
(caught)
...I--

(CONTINUED)

A28 CONTINUED: 2

A28

MR. SNYDER

Seems you're always looking for something.

He moves closer to her.

MR. SNYDER (cont'd)

You know, with everything that's been going on recently, I'm not sure how safe it is for a girl like yourself to be here alone.

Buffy realizes he's blocking the doorway.

BUFFY

I was just leaving.

He looks at her for a beat.

BUFFY (cont'd)

(pointedly)

And I know how to take care of myself.

MR. SNYDER

All right then.

And he's gone. Buffy goes toward the prop room.

CUT TO:

28 INT. LIBRARY - SAME TIME

28

Xander is still at the table. He looks up. Sid is just as we left him: on the arm chair, facing away from Xander.

Xander shifts slightly, looks back down.

ANGLE: WILLOW AND GILES

Giles is standing near the stacks, looking through a book. Willow walks up, carrying an armload of books.

WILLOW

Look what I found.

Willow holds up a SMALL BOOK -- the Middle Ages equivalent of a pamphlet -- out of her pocket.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

WILLOW

In the section on toys and magic:
(reading)

'On rare occasions, inanimate
objects of human quality such as
dolls and mannequins, already
mystically possessed of
consciousness, have acted upon
their desire to become human by
harvesting organs.'

Giles closes the book he's holding.

GILES

Emily's heart.

WILLOW

Morgan's dummy.

ANGLE: XANDER

Is still studying. He gets up and crosses to the dictionary *
stand. We can see Sid sitting at the head of the table *
until Xander reaches the stand, blocking Sid from view. *
Xander takes the dictionary and heads back to his seat, *
revealing -- but not noticing -- that Sid is gone. *

ANGLE: XANDER *

Looks up a word. *

ANGLE: HIS LEGS *

Under the table. Vulnerable. *

ANGLE: XANDER *

at the table. He looks up. *

SID IS GONE. *

XANDER

Whaa!

ANGLE: GILES AND WILLOW

as they race down.

GILES

What is it?

ANGLE: XANDER

standing on the library table.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: 2

28

XANDER

He's gone. Sid's gone.

A beat. Giles and Willow look around at the floor. Then
JUMP UP on the table with Xander.

CUT TO:

29 INT. PROP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

29

It is a small room/large closet. The shelves are crammed with theatrical supplies -- masks, wig heads, a statue or two, swords and knives, etc. A few costumes hang on racks.

Buffy slowly steps inside.

BUFFY (cont'd)

Hello?

A rack of clothes hangs in the back of the room.

ANGLE: A PAIR OF SHOES pokes out the bottom.

Buffy reaches her arm out and approaches the rack. She raises one fist and quickly pushes the clothes aside with her other hand.

False alarm. Buffy goes deeper into the clutter, calling out:

BUFFY

Morgan?

She takes another step, stumbles over something, looks down.

ANGLE: A BODY LIES ON THE FLOOR

which we only see from the shoulders down.

BUFFY (cont'd)

Morgan.

Buffy quickly backs up a few steps, looking on in horror.

BUFFY (cont'd)

The demon's got himself a brain.

Something above catches her eye. She looks directly overhead.

BUFFY'S POV

A huge RIG WITH STAGE LIGHTS comes CRASHING down.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

30 INT. PROP ROOM - CONTINUOUS

30

Buffy lays MOTIONLESS, pinned beneath the tonnage of the light rig. She groggily come to.

Above, in the fly space, she hears the CLANKING of something running across the catwalk.

Buffy tries to free herself, but the rig is too heavy and she is still groggy. She hears the SKITTERING NOISE as it descends from the catwalk, then lands in the wings with a THUMP.

BUFFY

Whoever is there, I'm going to hurt you. Badly.

(then, to herself)

If you'll just give me a minute.

Buffy frantically works harder to free herself. She almost manages to get an arm free.

Buffy looks in front of her. Tries to look behind her. Looks to the left. Nothing but clutter everywhere.

A noise. She cranes to see:

ANGLE: BUFFY'S POV

something small runs behind a stack of clutter. In the POV, it is upside-down, further disorienting us.

Buffy is getting seriously wigged. She darts her eyes around. Noise and shadow seem to come from different places.

She looks to her right.

SID IS THERE -- RIGHT AT HER SHOULDER. He's all alone now, no hand up his back or nothing. Standing stock still, staring at her with his rictus grin.

He raises a kitchen knife.

He slices at her. Buffy SCREAMS, moves her head away as the blade comes down inches from her cheek. It sticks in the floorboard. Buffy struggles as it is pulled free, raised again.

She finally frees her arm -- grabs him and THROWS him off.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

He scurries out of sight -- and Buffy really starts pulling
herself free. Gets her upper half free -- sits up, trying
to pull the rest from her legs. *

and he pops up again, slicing at her from the side. *

BUFFY *

Ow! *

She grabs her arm: Sid has drawn blood. *

Sid hoists the knife over his shoulder with both hands. *

SID *

The end. *

He brings the knife down.

She grabs a sandbag and swings it at Sid, knocking him into
the shadows. Buffy gives one final heave and pushes the
light off. Goes to him as he lies on the floor, the knife
out of his hand. She steps on him. *

He looks up wearily. *

SID

You won. You can take your heart
and your brain and move on.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: 2

30

BUFFY

I'm sure they would have made great trophies for your case.

SID

That would have been justice.

BUFFY

Yeah, except for one thing -- You lost. And now you'll never be human.

*

SID

Neither will you.

They stare at each other for a beat, confused. Then:

BUFFY/SID

What?

CUT TO:

31 INT. GILES' OFFICE - LATER

31

Buffy, Willow, Xander and Giles listen drop-jawed as the puppet tells his story.

SID (O.C.)

This is what I do. I hunt demons.

ANGLE: SID

who sits on a stool, holding court.

SID

Yeah, you wouldn't know it to look at me. Let's just say there was me, there was a really mean demon, there was a curse, and the next thing I know I'm not me anymore. I'm sitting on some guy's knee with his hand up the back of my shirt.

WILLOW

And since then you've been a living dummy.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

SID

The kid here was right about me all along.

(to Buffy)

I shouldn't have picked you to team up with. But I didn't because--

BUFFY

Because you thought I was the demon.

SID

Who can blame me for thinking? Look at you. You're strong. Athletic.

(getting lost in thought)

Limber. Nubile...

(snapping out of it)

I'm back.

BUFFY

So you were in my room.

SID

Morgan followed you home and dropped me off. He helped me a lot. And now he's dead because of me.

XANDER

Actually, I think I did that by taking you out of the closet.

SID

Hell, kid. No offense, but I could've resisted. I was going to escape, but then I realized you'd take me exactly where I needed to go. To Buffy. No, Morgan's death was my fault. Too bad. He was a good kid.

WILLOW

And we all thought he was crazy.

SID

Oh, he was certifiable. That's why I picked him. Less suspicion that way.

(then)

In any case, now that this demon's got the heart and brain, he gets to keep the human form he's in for another seven years.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: 2

31

GILES

I must say, it is a welcome change
to have someone else around who can
explain these matters.

SID

There were seven of these guys.
I've killed six. If I can get the
last one the curse will be lifted
and I'll be free. I'm sure it's
someone in that stupid talent show.

BUFFY

But now he's done. And he'll be
moving on.

SID

So once we know who's missing from
the show--

BUFFY

We'll know who our demon is.

GILES

The show!

BUFFY

What?

GILES

It's going to start. I'm supposed
to be there.

BUFFY

(to Xander and Willow)
Start pulling addresses on everyone
in the show. If they're not there
maybe we can grab them at home.

SID

(to Giles)
And you, get 'em all on stage.
Form the power circle. Then we can
see who's a no-show.

GILES

The what?

SID

The power circle. You get everyone
together, you get 'em revved up.

GILES

Right.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: 3 31

He starts out. Sid watches him go.

SID
How'd **he** ever get that gig?

CUT TO:

32 INT. GREEN ROOM - NIGHT 32

It is a flurry of activity. PERFORMERS cross through getting into their costumes, etc. Giles is at the center of the storm.

GILES
Fifteen minutes to curtain,
everyone. Fifteen minutes.

Cordelia comes up to Giles.

CORDELIA
(short of breath)
I can't go on. All those people.
Staring at me and judging me like
I'm some kind of... Buffy. What if
I mess up?

GILES
Cordelia, there's an adage that, if
you're nervous, just imagine the
entire audience is in their
underwear.

CORDELIA
(thinks)
Eeeyu. Even Mrs. Franklin?

GILES
Perhaps not.
(then, calling out)
All right, we'll assemble on stage
in five minutes for the... power
thing.
(looking around)
Is everybody here?

A33 INT. CATWALK A33

where Buffy and Sid hide, waiting for the power circle to assemble.

(CONTINUED)

A33 CONTINUED:

A33

SID

So what's your deal, kid? I don't figure you for a demon hunter.

BUFFY

I'm a vampire slayer.

SID

You're the Sayer? Damn. I knew a Slayer in the thirties. Korean chick. Very hot. We're talking muscle tone. Man, we had some times.

(off her look)

Hey, that was pre-dummy, all right? I was a guy.

A beat, as she looks at him.

BUFFY

You kill this demon, the curse is lifted.

SID

That's the drill.

BUFFY

But you don't turn into a prince, do you? I mean your body --

SID

--is dust and bones. When I say free...

BUFFY

You mean dead.

SID

Don't get sniffly for me, Sis. I've lived a lot longer than most demon hunters. Or Slayers, for that matter. Of course, if you wanna snuggle up and comfort me...

BUFFY

So that horny dummy thing really isn't an act, is it?

SID

Nope.

BUFFY

Yuck.

SID

Okay, here comes our line-up...

B33 INT. STAGE

B33

BACK ON STAGE, everyone gets into a circle to join hands.
Giles stands with them, gathering them --

GILES
Quickly, everyone, power circle.

They all get into place. They look at Giles expectantly.
Giles stands a moment, looking at all the faces. Everyone
accounted for. Finally:

GILES
Well, that's that then. Everybody
get ready.

They disperse as we:

ANGLE: BUFFY

has been watching this.

BUFFY
Hold on.

She JUMPS DOWN to Giles.

GILES
No one's missing.

BUFFY
Then the Demon isn't in the show.

GILES
No.

Buffy looks up at the catwalk for Sid.

ANGLE: HER POV

He's gone. Buffy starts for the ladder on the side of the
stage.

Giles notices someone off in the wings. It's Principal
Snyder, who retreats almost hesitantly into the darkness.
Giles furrows his brow, heads off.

ANGLE: BUFFY

in the cluttered dark at the bottom of the ladder. She
looks up once toward the catwalk.

BUFFY
Sid?

(CONTINUED)

B33 CONTINUED:

B33

She peers about the dark clutter a while, increasingly *
tense. HEARS something -- a drip drip. *

She looks up on a shelf where the noise seems to be coming *
from -- moves something -- and something falls off the *
shelf. She catches it. *

(CONTINUED)

B33 CONTINUED: 2

B33

It's a brain.

It takes Buffy a moment to realize what she's holding. Then she gasps, dropping it, stepping in horror.

CLOSE UP: THE BRAIN

Hits the floor. Sits there, all squishy.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

33 INT. LIBRARY - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

33

Buffy and Xander watch as Willow works at the computer.

BUFFY

I'm never going to stop washing my hands.

XANDER

So the dummy tells us he's a demon hunter, and we're like, fine la la la, and he takes off and now there's a brain. Does anybody else feel like we've been Keyser Soze'd?

BUFFY

Sid's on the level. I'm sure of it. But why would the demon have rejected that brain? I thought Morgan was the smartest kid in school.

WILLOW

He was. Look at his grades -- all A's. He was even taking college classes.

(then)

Wait a second.

BUFFY

What?

WILLOW

All these sick days.

XANDER

He's been out, like, half the year.

BUFFY

Check the school nurse's file.

Willow types into the computer; looks at the screen.

WILLOW

Look at this. Medicine, physical therapy.

(reading)

'In case of emergency, contact Dr. Dale Leggett, California Institute of Neuro Surgery -- Cancer Ward.'

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

BUFFY
(reading)
'Patient's condition is terminal.'

XANDER
Brain cancer?

WILLOW
That's why he had the headaches.

BUFFY
This means that whatever is out
there still needs a healthy,
intelligent brain--

XANDER
In other words, I'm safe.

BUFFY
--and it's going to be looking for
the smartest person around.

Buffy and Xander look at Willow.

WILLOW
What?

CUT TO:

34 INT. AUDITORIUM STAGE - SAME TIME

34

Giles is holding a weight, talking to someone who is
off-screen.

GILES
...And then, if you calibrate this
unit as a counterweight, the rate
of descent will be maximized on
impact.

PULL BACK to REVEAL he is speaking to Marc, who smiles.

MARC
Gee, Mr. Giles. You're really
smart.

PULL BACK FURTHER - they are standing next to a guillotine.

MARC (cont'd)
Could you do me a favor?

35 INT. LIBRARY - A MOMENT LATER 35

Xander hurries Willow into the book cage for safe keeping. *

WILLOW

What could a demon possibly want from me?

XANDER

What's the square root of 841?

WILLOW

Twenty-nine.

(then, quickly realizing)
Oh, yeah.

BUFFY

But Willow, don't worry. As long as you're with us, there's absolutely no way that demon is going to get what he wants.

CUT TO:

36 INT. AUDITORIUM STAGE - SAME TIME 36

CLOSE-UP: THE GUILLOTINE BLADE

as it plummets down.

THWACK! It slices through its target -- a large head of lettuce. Giles looks on.

GILES

Oh, my...

MARC

Pretty cool, huh?

GILES

You're sure there's no one else who can help you out?

MARC

My assistant got sick. You won't have to say anything. I'll show you. Lie down.

Marc pulls the blade back into place with a rope, then ties the end of the rope to a pin on a block a few feet away from the guillotine. Nearby is a wooden refrigerator-sized box with 'MARC THE MAGNIFICENT' written on it.

GILES

How does this work, exactly?

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

MARC

A good magician never tells his
secret.

Marc looks down at his own arm. The skin is starting to peel
away, revealing the SCALY DEMON FLESH underneath.

MARC (cont'd)

Come on, we don't have much time.

CUT TO:

37 INT. LIBRARY - SAME TIME

37

Buffy is nervously pacing.

BUFFY

We can't just sit here and wait for
him to come to us. We have to
figure out who we're dealing with.

XANDER

I still vote dummy.

BUFFY

Well, we ruled out the people in
the talent show --

WILLOW

Because they were all there. But
that was before we found the brain.

BUFFY

Right. So it probably **is** one of
them. And Giles doesn't know!
He's with them all right now!

XANDER

Well, Giles can handle himself.
I mean, he is really...
(realizing)
smart...

*
*
*

CUT TO:

38 INT. HALLWAY - SAME TIME

38

The library doors swing open and Buffy comes running out.

BUFFY

Giles!

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

She takes off down the hall. Xander and Willow follow.

CUT TO:

39 INT. AUDITORIUM - SAME TIME

39

Giles has his head in the stockade-type device.

MARC

Okay, when I cut the rope with this hatchet, the blade will come crashing down -- BAM!

(then)

Okay, now turn over.

GILES

(confused)

Face up?

MARC

Yeah. You'll see the blade coming right at you.

Giles turns over.

MARC (cont'd)

Now slide down a bit.

Marc moves Giles so that his scalp is in line with the path of the blade.

GILES

Shouldn't it be aimed at my neck?

MARC

No. This way, your scalp will be sliced off and your brains will just come pouring out.

GILES

Well, what exactly is the trick?

Marc clicks the lock into place and stares down at Giles.

MARC

Trick?

Horror flashes on Giles' face as Marc grabs the hatchet and raises it to cut the rope. He takes a whack -- most of the rope is cut through, a few remaining threads straining --

Buffy comes FLYING in and tackles Marc from behind. The hatchet SLIDES across the stage.

Buffy and Marc struggle. Buffy hits Marc in the face. When he turns back, Buffy sees that most of his neck and cheek are scaly.

BUFFY

Ew...

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: 39

Giles looks at the rope worriedly: *

CLOSE ON: THE ROPE *

as the strands begin to fray. *

The last few strands start to unravel. The rope BREAKS. *

IN SLO-MOTION: *

GILES' POV: THE BLADE FALLS *

CLOSE ON: A HAND as it closes around the rope. *

BACK TO REAL TIME: REVEAL Xander has grabbed the rope. The *

blade hovers inches from Giles' head. *

Giles has his eyes tightly closed. He opens them, realizes *

he's okay. He lets out his breath. *

Xander raises the blade back up as Willow looks for: *

WILLOW *

Where's the key? *

GILES *

Marc has it! *

Willow grabs the hatchet and starts chopping at the lock. *

Buffy lifts Marc up and hurls him into his large magic box. *

The door SLAMS shut. *

Buffy rushes to it -- *

BUFFY *

How do you lock this thing -- *

and a monstrous arm PUNCHES through the door, grabbing at *

her. Buffy backs off as Marc smashes through the door. *

When Marc comes out, he has completely TRANSFORMED into the *

monstrous DEMON. He ROARS violently. *

Willow BREAKS the lock with a final hack. Giles is free. *

Demon Marc slams Buffy against a wall closes his hands *

around her throat. *

VOICE (O.C.)

Found you!

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: 2

39

Demon Marc looks over.

SID IS THERE behind him, holding his knife.

Sid SINKS THE KNIFE INTO Demon Marc's back and pulls it back out.

Demon Marc ROARS, backs off of Buffy, and STUMBLES INTO the guillotine.

BUFFY

Let go!

Xander releases the rope. The blade falls onto Demon Marc (out of frame). Our gang cringes and turns away.

After a moment:

GILES

Well...

He feels the top of his head to make sure it's still there.

GILES (cont'd)

I must say to all of you, your timing is impeccable.

SID

And now for the big finish.

They turn to see Sid standing over Demon Marc's body, wielding the butcher knife.

BUFFY

What are you doing?

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: 3

39

SID

It's not enough. He'll come back.
You gotta stop the heart. Then
all this will be over.

*

She puts out her hand.

BUFFY

Let me.

SID

I got it.
(looks at her)
Thanks.

He raises the knife in both hands. He looks over at Buffy,
then brings the knife down in Demon Marc's chest (off
screen). Our gang reacts as they watch.

*

*

*

Sid pulls the knife out. There is a mystical WHHOOSHING
noise, and as it suddenly stops Sid collapses on top of the
demon.

*

*

*

Buffy slowly walks over and picks up Sid's body.

*

BUFFY

(to no one in particular)
It's over.

The moment is interrupted as the CURTAIN is RAISED.

ANGLE: THE AUDIENCE STARES AT THEM

Our gang looks at the audience, dumbfounded. Buffy holding
a dummy, Willow a hatchet. A demon with its head on the
floor.

ANGLE: MR. SNYDER

in the front row. Staring.

MR. SNYDER

I don't get it.

BLACK OUT.

MR. SNYDER (O.C.)

What is it, avant garde?

END OF ACT FOUR

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: 4

39

TAG

OVER END CREDITS

40 INT. AUDITORIUM STAGE - A WHILE LATER

40

Buffy, Xander, and Willow are in the middle of their act -- a scene from 'Oedipus the King,' with Xander as Oedipus, Buffy as Jocasta, Willow as the Priest, and all three at various times the Greek chorus. Giles watches from the wings.

WILLOW
(as Priest)
O ruler of my country, Oedipus, you
see our company around the alter;
and I the Priest of Zeus.

XANDER
(as Oedipus)
Ha! Ha! They prophesied that I
should kill my father! But he's
dead, and hidden deep in earth.
But surely I must fear my mother's
bed?

BUFFY
(as Jocasta)
O Oedipus, unhappy Oedipus! That
is all I can call you, and the last
thing that I ever shall call you.

XANDER
(as Oedipus)
Darkness! Horror of darkness
enfolding, restless, unspeakable
visitant sped by an ill wind in
haste! Madness and stabbing pain
and memory of evil deeds I have
done!

WILLOW
(as Chorus)
This is a terrible sight for men to
see! What evil spirit leaped upon
his life to his ill luck?

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

BUFFY, WILLOW AND XANDER
(as Chorus)
See him now and see the breakers of
misfortune swallow him! Look upon
that last day always. Count no
mortal happy till he has passed the
final limit of his life secure from
pain.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

The audience looks on, stunned.

BLACK OUT.

END OF SHOW