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BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

Season Seven -- Episode Fourteen

"First Date"

OUTLINE

TEASER

1 ROBSON'S FLAT 1

<already shot> We see what happened when that BRINGER attacked GILES. We also see that Robson passed out at such a time that he got the impression that Giles had been killed.

Giles prelaps as we...

2 CEMETERY - NIGHT 2

Come out of flashback. Giles is finishing his exciting story of what happened. He is telling BUFFY and KENNEDY and AMANDA, and CHAO-AHN about his cat-like reflexes.

Suddenly SPIKE appears on the scene and TACKLES GILES! They fall to the ground out of frame together. Giles lands on his cat-like reflexes.

Spike is startled to find Giles corporeal... "Anya said you were the First! I thought you'd be all go-through-able!" And Giles is both indignant at that: "Then why'd you tackle me?" and startled that Spike can hit a human.

Thus Giles and the Potentials learn that Spike had his chip removed, not replaced. There is much silent absorption of that fact. After a beat... Amanda: "What's a chip?"

After another beat... Chao Ahn, in subtitled Asian Language: "I don't understand a word any of you are saying."

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

3 SUMMERS' HOUSE - BUFFY'S ROOM - DAY 3

Early the next morning. Giles comes to Buffy's room -- she's getting ready to go to work. He asks her about Spike's chip. And about her relationship with Spike. She seems to be acknowledging that Spike is a Good Man. Does this mean that there may still be something between them? Buffy says no...

4 SUMMER'S HOUSE - STAIRS/ENTRYWAY/KITCHEN - CONTINUIN 4

Buffy heads downstairs, still talking quietly with Giles about how this kind of thing doesn't have to be complicated. Giles follows... and as they move, we pass by little vignettes:

Kennedy, flirting with Willow.

Andrew, listening supportively as Anya complains to him about Xander leaving her at the altar.

Amanda and Dawn, gossiping about boys.

Buffy and Giles arrive in the kitchen, where she gets coffee and they finish with the private conclusion to their talk. Buffy says there is a growing bond of trust between her and Spike. But no sparks.

5 HARDWARE STORE - DAY 5

SPARKS! We're close on a table saw or acetylene torch...

REVEAL that XANDER is explaining equipment to a lovely young woman, MAYA, played by Ashanti, whom he met in this hardware establishment.

6 HIGH SCHOOL - BUFFY'S OFFICE - DAY 6

Principal Wood asks Buffy out for dinner. Confused, she accepts.

7 PRINCIPAL WOOD'S OFFICE - DAY - CONTINUOUS 7

Principal Wood enters his office, removes an ornate knife from under his suit coat and wipes it clean of blood... puts it in a foot-locker sized chest.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

8 SUMMER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - DAY 8

After school. Giles beat with Choa-Ahn.

Xander, Buffy and Willow talk about their new dating lives. They're ready to take a chance again. Except...

Buffy thinks Principal Wood might be evil. Plus she's still calling him Principal Wood. Plus she doesn't know what to wear.

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Xander thinks Wood is really old. Buffy: He's the youngest man I've ever dated.

Anya is grumpy about Xander dating.

Buffy decides to have Willow and the potentials research Wood - is he evil?

Willow thinks they should be glad this is the worst of their troubles...

And the camera travels to the kitchen where we find...

9 SUMMER'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - CONTINUING 9

Andrew setting the clock on a new microwave. JONATHAN appears to him. (It's really the First, of course.) Andrew is shaken and upset at first, and he rejects Jonathan: "Get thee behind me! I rebuke thee!". But Jonathan is sly and convincing, he needs Andrew's help... Andrew: "Why not get Spike to do it? I thought he had that trigger and everything." Jonathan explains that he can't reach Spike now... he needs Andrew. Apparently flattered and easily controlled, Andrew starts to seem amenable to the First's influence. The First tells him that the Slayer girls need to be eliminated. Andrew nods.

10 SUMMER'S HOUSE - UPSTAIRS - LATER 10

Spike sees Buffy scurrying around, getting ready for her date. Buffy, sensitive to his feelings, and confused about her own, down plays the date. But Spike is brave. He no longer has any romantic expectations relative to Buffy, although he obviously loves her. He tells her to go out, have fun... Spike breaks your heart with a complete lack of pathos.

11 ESPRESSO PUMP - NIGHT 11

[I'd rather have this be in a bowling alley -- can we afford that?]

Xander meets up with Maya. She's as fun and bright as he remembered her.

12 SUMMER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 12

Giles comedy beat with Chao-Ahn.

Willow, Amanda and Kennedy work the computer, trying to find info on Principal Wood...

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but there's nothing on him, which is in itself suspicious. Anya is there too, grumping about Xander being on a date.

Andrew watches them surreptitiously.

13 ALLEY - NIGHT

13

Principal Wood is urging Buffy into a long dark alley. He tells her there's a delightful little bistro... just a bit farther...

scary, scary, and then the VAMPIRES ATTACK! (3 of 'em).

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

14 ALLEY - NIGHT

14

Where we left off. Buffy and Principal Wood facing three hungry vamped-out vamps. It seems as though Wood summoned them to attack the Slayer, but...

He's fighting alongside her!

She kills two and he gets one. He has a few good moves.

After the last vamp is dust, Buffy turns on him: "You betrayed me!"

He's surprised and amused. He helped. And the bistro's right there... He thinks they need to talk.

15 ESPRESSO PUMP - NIGHT

15

Xander and Maya continue their date. Xander has finally relaxed, accepting that nothing terrible is gonna happen. He starts to open up to her, explaining that he was initially uncomfortable because he's had a kind of bad history.

They laugh together, having fun. It really looks like a new relationship is coming to Xander's life!

16 BISTRO - NIGHT

16

Wood levels with Buffy. He knows she's the Slayer. He's the son of a slain Slayer -- she was killed by an Vampire when he was a small child. Buffy is impressed and startled... she never heard of a Slayer having a baby.

Wood was raised by her Watcher, and has Slayer-like training. His search for the vampire who killed his mother yielded nothing, but it did draw him into the Big Fight.

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He slays demons himself sometimes (explaining his bloody knife at end of act one), and he got himself a job at Hellmouth High to be closer to the action, keep an eye on things there.

He asked her out tonight not for a date, but to discuss their roles in the upcoming big fight. Buffy asks why they needed to discuss it all dressed up in a cozy restaurant. He doesn't have a really good answer.

17 SUMMER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM / KITCHEN - NIGHT 17

Andrew is talking with Jonathan/The First in the living room.

Andrew is nervous and sweaty and he keeps scratching at something that's irritating him under his shirt.

A fairly substantial time before we reveal:

In the kitchen, Willow, Kennedy, Amanda and Anya are listening at headphones. Kennedy: "He's gotta stop scratching at the microphone."

They can only hear Andrew. The First doesn't register on their equipment.

In the Living Room, Jonathan/The First gets nasty... "You're wearing a wire!" Andrew caves immediately. Jonathan lays it on the line... playing on Andrew's very real guilt. Out of a quiet moment we transition to...

18 HIGH SCHOOL BASEMENT - NIGHT 18

Ashanti is stringing Xander up over the seal, which she has uncovered. He's on a different mechanism than Spike was, but it still suspends him over the seal. Xander: "I knew it! I knew it!"

19 SUMMER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM 19

Andrew, Willow, Kennedy, Amanda, Anya and Spike. (+ possibly another Gilse-Chao-Ahn beat)

Andrew is still pale and shaky, angry with himself for going in wired, and terrified that the First is angry with him. The women try to bolster him. Spike can't believe any of them thought this plan would work. While this is going on...

Willow gets a text message on her phone. Kennedy leans over Willow's shoulder to read it, all over Willow's personal space. The message is a signal from Xander. He and Willow had set up a system...

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this either means he's getting laid and we shouldn't bother him, or that she's a demon that's turning him inside out. She can't recall which, but if history teaches us anything... Xander needs help.

Spike volunteers quickly to go get the Slayer.

20 BISTRO - NIGHT 20

Spike interrupts the date, trying not to seem too interested in what might have been going on between these two kids. He tells them that Xander needs help.

21 HIGH SCHOOL BASEMENT - NIGHT 21

Maya is explaining to the suspended Xander that she wants a Turok-Han of her own. She also explains about how all the demons are lining up on the side of the First.

Then she stabs Xander, bleeding him.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

22 CAR - NIGHT 22

Principal Wood drives. Buffy next to him. Spike in the back seat.

They do the normal urgent car talk: What makes you think she took him to the high school? Can't this thing go any faster?

Then they're left with awkward small talk. Wood: "So, how do you two know each other...?" (simultaneous with:) Buffy: "Robin is the son of a Slayer, isn't that something?"

23 PRINCIPAL WOOD'S OFFICE - NIGHT 23

Wood outfits himself Buffy and Spike with weapons from the chest in his office. Buffy is the general, discussing the plan of attack. The two men each try to select a bigger weapon than the other one.

24 HIGH SCHOOL BASEMENT - NIGHT 24

The Rescue of Xander! And oh boy, it's exciting.

The Seal is just starting to glow and shift as...

Buffy attacks the demon.

It grabs Spike.

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Spike does damage to the demon as he frees himself. He also goes Vamp-face, which Wood notices, recoiling as he realizes for the first time that Spike is a vampire.

Principal Wood gets himself past the demon as Buffy and Spike continue to fight it, and he unties Xander.

The seal is cracked open, and a TUROK HAN ARM APPEARS. It grabs Wood's leg! But Wood manages to throw Xander away from the seal, cutting off the supply of blood. The seal closes, severing and crushing the arm!!

Buffy and Spike kill the Maya Demon (She still looks like Ashanti, only with contact lenses) -- as she dies she MORPHS into something big so we can see clearly that she was a demon, not human. Buffy checks out Spike's injuries before checking on Wood. Wood notices this... he's been picking up on the connection between Spike and Buffy.

Xander, weakly, to Buffy: "So how was your date?"

25 SUMMER'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - LATER

25

Andrew, Willow, Kennedy, Amanda and Anya are still up discussing the implications of their encounter with the First... Andrew is trying to remember everything it said, and they're trying to figure out why it can't use Spike, when..

Buffy, Xander and Spike arrive home. Xander is agitated, going right to Willow and demanding... "Gay Me Up! You heard me! It's gotta be better than this!"

Anya smiles a little to herself -- Xander's date went badly -- how sad.

(Giles/Chao-Ahn??)

26 PRINCIPAL WOOD'S APARTMENT

26

Principal Wood is at home when a young woman appears to him. She resembles the young stunt woman who played Nikki in Fool For Love. This is, in fact, Nikki, Principal Wood's mother -- or least, this is The First appearing as Nikki.

Wood immediately knows she's the First. Why hasn't she appeared to him before? Because he's only now becoming important.

She says that's true. So is this. He has finally found the Vampire who killed his mother. It's Spike.

END OF EPISODE

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