

(Name of Project)
by
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(Based on, If Any)

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in Order of Work Performed)

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BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

"Triangle"

by

Jane Espenson

FIRST WRITER'S DRAFT Nov. 7, 2000

TEASER

1 XANDER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (NIGHT 1)

1

XANDER and ANYA in bed. Intimate and affectionate, talking softly together late at night. Anya is looking at Xander's hand. Xander's eyes are closed.

ANYA
Funny fingers.

XANDER
Are not.

ANYA
Hmm. Maybe not. On second thought, they have no entertainment value at all.

Xander smiles, opens his eyes.

XANDER
But check out this elbow. It has charmed audiences worldwide with stunning displays of bendiness.

Anya takes his arm, pulls it around her, snuggles in closer.

ANYA
Really?

XANDER
Uh-huh. They named a macaroni after it.

ANYA
You're very peculiar.

XANDER
Yes. However do you put up with my strangeness?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANYA

It's tough.

XANDER

You're a saint.

ANYA

Maybe I should run away.

XANDER

Don't go.

ANYA

Okay.

A quiet beat.

ANYA (CONT'D)

Riley isn't coming back, is he?

XANDER

Nope.

Xander pulls Anya closer, and curls around her as if to protect her from even the thought of pain.

ANYA

It's sad.

XANDER

Yeah, it is. I haven't talked to Buffy in a couple days. I wonder how she's dealing with it?

CUT TO:

2

CLOISTER - NIGHT

2

A NUN, in a habit, a few blond hairs escaping from her wimple, kneels and prays among A ROW OF OTHER NUNS. Gregorian music plays -- soft chanting.

ANOTHER ANGLE

reveals that the nun is not Buffy. BUFFY, in fact, comes rolling in at this point, tangled in combat with a VAMPIRE. NUNS SCATTER as Buffy fights. There are some fancy sweeping kicks and punches. Buffy stakes the vamp. It DUSTS. Buffy picks herself up, dusts herself off. She looks around to see one last nun, not the blond one, clearing the area. Buffy runs after her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY
Hey! Sister!

The nun stops, looks back as Buffy approaches.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
So, um, you're a nun, right? How
does that work? I mean, do you
have to be, like, super-religious?

END OF TEASER

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ACT ONE

3

MAGIC BOX - DAY (DAY 2)

3

The end of the day. GILES turns the sign from "open" to "closed" and joins Buffy, Anya, Xander, WILLOW and TARA at the table.

BUFFY

(to Giles)

You want to go talk to the
Watcher's Council? Are you sure?

WILLOW

Yeah, as good guys go, aren't they
kind of...

BUFFY

... bad guys?

GILES

They also have access to resources
we don't have. We've had no luck
tracing Glory or discovering her
plan. Might as well let them have
a go at it.

TARA

A trip to England. It sounds so
exciting and exotic.

(realizing)

Unless you're English.

GILES

Actually, I'm a little apprehensive
about leaving all of you.

XANDER

Hey, we can take care of ourselves.
By which I mean Buffy can take care
of us, which is even better 'cause
it's less work.

BUFFY

Glory has been pretty much not-
around lately. I don't think you
have to worry about that.

GILES

Yes, yes, that's all fine, but what
about the trashmen?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW

Um... are these trashmen of evil?

GILES

No. Well, possibly. They've been making such a mess in the alley that the recycling people can't get in there to collect. Someone has to talk to them. Also, there's some genius health inspector who has decided that potions are technically "food," and that we need a full inspection.

ANYA

I can do it.

GILES

Food! As if anyone ever said, gosh, I could go for some tasty potion.

BUFFY

We can all help. Open up the shop and close it, deal with everyone...

WILLOW

We can come by between classes--

ANYA

Hello? I work here. I'll take care of everything.

XANDER

Yeah, Anya can do it.

ANYA

Thank you, Sweetie. Well said.

GILES

Anya, I trust you completely with the inventory and the money. But dealing with people... a certain finesse may be required...

ANYA

I have finesse! I have finesse coming out of my bottom! I can completely lie to a health inspector. I can also distract him with coy smiles and bribe him with money and objects!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XANDER

There, see? She'll be great.

WILLOW

Giles, don't worry. I'll take care of everything.

ANYA

Hey! Xander, she's talking to Giles like I'm not here! Make her stop!

GILES

Perhaps I should call the airline...

WILLOW

Xander, tell her I'm just trying to help her out!

GILES

...try to get an earlier flight back. Excuse me.

Giles crosses away.

ANYA

(to Xander)

Then you can tell her I don't need her help!

Anya and Willow are both looking at Xander. He looks very uncomfortable.

XANDER

Um... hey, Buffy, how's the slaying been going?

BUFFY

I killed something in a convent today.

XANDER

Say, tell us all about it. Lots of details.

BUFFY

It was a vampire. Staked it. Did you know nuns get up at five in the morning?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ANYA

So do the trashmen. And I'll be here to give 'em what for.

WILLOW

You're just going to get them mad.

ANYA

Am not. They keep arguing.

Over it:

TARA

Buffy? I don't want to listen to this.

BUFFY

Me neither.

TARA

Can you do something?

Buffy looks back and forth -- Willow and Anya squabbling, Xander in between trying to smooth it over. Not a situation you want to step into.

BUFFY

(dryly)

I guess can go home.

4

HALLWAY/JOYCE'S ROOM - NIGHT

4

Buffy is walking past Joyce's room. The door is open. Buffy glances in and sees something strange. Stops and backtracks. Joyce's bathrobe is lying on the bed. Buffy enters and picks it up. JOYCE turns around from where she was at the closet, wearing street clothes. She has only a small head bandage now.

BUFFY

You, with the actual clothing. Who are you?

(calls out)

Dawn! Come look at this!

JOYCE

Hard to recognize me, huh?

Joyce sits on the bed, leans against the headboard, obviously still weak.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

 BUFFY
No more bathrobe.

DAWN enters.

 DAWN
Whoa.

 JOYCE
I looked at it today and there it
was, all fuzzy and, and, blue,
and... I couldn't stand it anymore.

 BUFFY
Well the rest of us aren't gonna
miss it much either.

 DAWN
It was getting a little ripe, Mom.

 BUFFY
Maybe we should burn it.

 DAWN
It would keep the bugs away.

 JOYCE
It doesn't smell-- Fine, fine,
make the funny jokes at the expense
of the woman with the hole in her
skull.

Joyce leans back, closes her eyes.

 BUFFY
 (to Dawn)
Come on, she's tired out.

Buffy and Dawn exit into the hallway. Buffy still carries
the bathrobe. Buffy starts to walk away, but Dawn calls her
back.

 DAWN
Hey, Buffy?

 BUFFY
Yeah?

 DAWN
You okay?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY

Sure. Mom's getting better, new semester at school. It's like, things are all on track again.

DAWN

No, I mean, like, really. It just happened so fast, with Riley...

Buffy moves to sit somewhere -- perhaps the top of the stairs if they exist. Dawn sits next to her. Buffy looks at the bathrobe she still holds.

BUFFY

This robe really does kind of smell.

DAWN

I know. It's gross.

Buffy pushes the bathrobe away from them.

BUFFY

I'll throw it out later.

DAWN

Are you gonna tell me how you're doing?

BUFFY

You said it was fast. It wasn't fast. Riley leaving. I didn't see what was happening until it was pretty much over, but I think it was kinda gradual.

DAWN

Oh.
(beat)
Does that make it better?

BUFFY

No.

DAWN

Because you should have noticed earlier?

BUFFY

Stop being insightful. It's creepy. Look, yeah, it hurts. A lot.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BUFFY (CONT'D)

In all kinds of horrible ways...
the way where I'm furious at him,
and the way where I blame myself,
and all the little ways where I
imagine how I could have fixed
things...

DAWN

It'll get better. Won't it?

BUFFY

I hope so. I mean, yeah. It has
to. I'll just keep going on like I
am, and it'll get better. Every
day it'll be a tiny bit better.

DAWN

Really? Every day?

BUFFY

Not really. But it'll be better
soon.

Dawn leans against Buffy's shoulder.

DAWN

It still feels all sudden to me.
With him gone where no one can talk
to him.

BUFFY

Yeah. I wish I could talk to him
one more time. There's stuff I
didn't get to say.

5 SPIKE'S CRYPT - NIGHT

5

SPIKE stands in front of his Buffy mannequin, one hand behind
his back. He looks at it.

SPIKE

Um... there's, there's something
I've got to tell you. About
showing you Riley, in that place.
I didn't mean to make you feel
all... anyway...

He takes his hand from behind his back. He's holding a box
of chocolates.

SPIKE (CONT'D)

Got you some chockies. There's
nuts in 'em.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPIKE (CONT'D)

I mean, it's a little thing, but after all, I was trying to help you out, wasn't I. Would you rather've not known the boy was cheating? I mean, that's pretty bloody ungrateful if you ask me. Look at you, nose in the air, butter wouldn't melt in your mouth, not even looking at me--

Having worked himself into a good ol' rage, Spike starts beating the mannequin with the box of chocolate.

SPIKE (CONT'D)

Ungrateful bitch--

Eventually he catches himself, breathes deep, calms himself down. He tries to un-crush the crushed box. He starts over.

SPIKE (CONT'D)

Buffy. Yeah. Something I wanted to tell you...

6 MAGIC BOX - DAY (DAY 3)

6

Anya, Willow and Tara are alone in the shop. Anya is busy at the counter. Tara is pulling vials of powder off shelves over her head, at Willow's direction.

WILLOW

Good. And... and the antimony. It's up and to the right.

Tara reaches for it, pulls it off the shelf. Adds it to a collection of vials piled on a table.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

See, I couldn't reach that. You're taller than me.

TARA

We're the same height.

WILLOW

No, you're taller.

Willow and Tara gather the ingredients, take them to the table across from the counter where Anya stands.

TARA

You're right. I've been living a lie.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TARA(CONT'D)

(whispers)

I'm secretly very tall.

WILLOW

Okay, you're making fun of me.

TARA

Would I make fun of a shorty?

Anya has noticed them now, and hurries over.

ANYA

Hey! What are you two doing?

WILLOW

Oh, we're going to try out a few spells.

TARA

There's this thing you can do, where you create light, and we were thinking, what if you could make, like, simulated sunlight...

WILLOW

So then, you know, there Buffy is, middle of the night, and she finds this whole nest of vamps, and she just goes... Presto--

TARA

Only it wouldn't be "presto" exactly...

WILLOW

And zhoomp... there's this little ball of sunlight floating there. Vamps get dusty.

ANYA

That sounds swell, but you can't use this stuff. Not without paying for it. It's stealing!

WILLOW

Stealing?! Anya, Giles would totally be fine with this.

TARA

Willow, maybe we should just pay--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANYA

Giles would not be fine! He's only been gone two days and you're already robbing his grave.

WILLOW

His grave? He's with the Watchers Council. He's not dead. Probably.
(explaining, to Tara)
They can get a little rough.

ANYA

Amusing. Now pay.

Tara draws back, trying to get interested in something on one of the shelves.

WILLOW

Come on. It'll be fine. We'll show you how to do some stuff. You could be floating pencils by the end of the day.

Anya hesitates...

ANYA

Sometimes I miss having powers--
(catching herself)
Oh! Oh! I know what this is.
This is peer pressure! Any second now you're going to make me smoke tobacco and have drugs!

WILLOW

Look how easy...

She raises her hand and a STICK OF INCENSE FLOATS OFF THE TABLE.

ANYA

Hey! That's our incense! Don't float the merchandise!

Anya grabs the incense. Then A CRYSTAL BALL RISES OFF THE TABLE. Anya grabs that too. Anya looks around... three more things are floating. Willow smiles.

ANYA (CONT'D)

Stop that!

Xander enters.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

XANDER

Hey! Look at this! My two
favorite girls!
(noticing Tara off to the
side)
Three! Three favorite girls.

ANYA

Xander! Willow is stealing! She's
a... a burglar!

Willow lets THE OBJECTS SETTLE.

WILLOW

I am not stealing! Xander, I'm
just doing a spell, a spell to help
Buffy.

ANYA

Xander, Giles left me in charge.
Tell her that.

Xander tries to joke his way out of it:

XANDER

Hey, hey... Judge Xander requesting
a recess here.

TARA

You really shouldn't pull him into
this...

XANDER

Yes! See! Tara's with me.
Protect me, Tara!

Jokingly, he pulls Tara in front of him as a shield.

XANDER (CONT'D)

(joking)
Bet you're sorry you said anything,
huh, Tara?

TARA

Oh, yes.

Willow starts scattering powder around the counter...

WILLOW

See, Xander, what I'm doing, it's a
good thing.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

WILLOW (CONT'D)

And if it doesn't work, then Giles
never even has to know -- Oops!

Willow jumps back from a BURST OF RED SMOKE. THE CASH
REGISTER IS GONE.

ANYA

The cash register! What did you do
the cash register?! Dear God!

WILLOW

I'll fix it! I'll fix it!

She waves her hand, says:

WILLOW (CONT'D)

RecurSAT!

The CASH REGISTER REAPPEARS, SMOKE STILL CURLING AROUND IT.
IT HAS A DENT ON ONE SIDE.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Look. All back.
(off the dent)
I think that was there already.

Anya is so appalled, she's almost speechless.

ANYA

That was money! Money whoosh!
Money gone!

Both women turn to Xander.

WILLOW / ANYA

Tell her I'm right!

XANDER

Okay, you know what? I'm tired of
being the one in the middle. I'm
not going to let you pull me into
this.

WILLOW

I'm not--

XANDER

Whatever the issue is between you
two, just figure it out without me.

Xander walks out angrily.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ANYA
Xander! Don't go!

He's out. He tries to slam the door behind him, but it's one of those slow-closing business doors that doesn't slam.

WILLOW
(to Anya)
You made him mad.

ANYA
Me?!

Tara starts backing up gingerly, heading for the door.

WILLOW
Tara? Who do you think he was more mad at?

TARA
Um, you know? I think maybe, maybe you two have some things to work out. You know, just really talk.

Tara exits. Anya and Willow are left alone.

7 MAGIC BOX - DAY - LATE

7

A long beat of silence. They're not talking. Not working anything out. But they have reached an uncomfortable compromise. Anya watches grumpily as Willow works on spells at the counter. Anya carefully writes down everything Willow uses and how much it costs. Willow adds things to a bowl.

WILLOW
Fleabane.

ANYA
Fifteen cents.

WILLOW
Salamander eyes, slightly sub-standard.

ANYA
Ten bucks for twelve, and I can't spare any more, the shipment's late. So I'll just hold onto that.

Anya takes the vial of eyes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW
Bindweed.

ANYA
Oh, that's a pricey one--

WILLOW
Would you stop that! You're
distracting me and you're
overcharging like a crazy person!

ANYA
Fine. Make your little ball of
sunshine. I'll be quiet.

WILLOW
Good, because this spell is very
sensitive. Once I begin the spell,
any non-ritual word can disrupt it.

ANYA
Fine.

WILLOW
Okay. Here we go. Long beat.

Willow draws a breath...

ANYA
Did you start yet?

WILLOW
No. Shh. Here we go.
Spirits of the light, I invoke
thee. Let the gloom of darkness
part before you, let the moonlight
be made pale by your presence. May
my offering please thee...

Willow reaches for the vial of salamander eyes. Anya doesn't
let go of it. They grapple for a second...

WILLOW / ANYA
Let go!

A SMALL PURPLE WHIRLWIND FORMS IN THE BOWL, THEN GROWS AND
ENGULFS A FRAGMENT OF TWISTED PURPLE CRYSTAL that was sitting
decoratively on the counter. THE CRYSTAL JUMPS, GROWS, turns
into... OLAF, an enormous hairy Viking-type troll,
brandishing a huge stone hammer.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

OLAF

ARRRRRR!

END OF ACT ONE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TARA
I know it's hard right now.

BUFFY
I'll be okay. Don't worry about me.

Tara hastily looks for another topic.

TARA
Hey, fun over at the magic shop.

Willow and Anya were sort of, you know... grrrr. It was almost funny.

BUFFY
Fighting?

TARA
Uh-huh. Xander got pretty mad about the whole thing. He actually left. You know, like stormed out?

Buffy stops, concerned.

BUFFY
He left? He left Anya?

TARA
Um... no. Not left her, left her. He just left. It was only a little thing.

Buffy gets more and more worked up during the following speech:

BUFFY
A little thing. See, thing is, a little thing gets bigger. You don't catch the little thing and then boom, you've got this whole huge thing.

TARA
Buffy? Are you--

Buffy bursts into tears.

BUFFY
Nooo!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TARA

Oh dear.

Buffy cries harder. Starts hiccuping too.

BUFFY

Not them! They were-- so-- good!
 We have to find them-- fix-- fix--
 fix this!

TARA

I think... I think they'll be...
 fine...

Buffy grabs Tara hard, cries on Tara's shoulder, gasping wetly. Tara looks around at the other students passing in the hall, staring at them. She pats Buffy's back awkwardly.

TARA (CONT'D)

It's not so bad.

10

GILES' CAR - DAY

10

Anya drives Giles' car, hunched over the wheel, frowning with concentration.

Willow is in the passenger seat, looking through some big books. The pages flutter and whip in the wind.

ANYA

There! That bench. It's all
 smashed and mangled. We're still
 on his trail.

WILLOW

I don't even get how we made that
 guy anyway, because, wow, advanced.

ANYA

You didn't make him. He must have
 been trapped in that crystal and
 you released him.

WILLOW

Oh. Still...

ANYA

Just find the reversal spell.
 Hurry!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW

I'm trying! Can we put the top up?
The pages are all blowing around.

ANYA

I don't know how to put the top up.
I only just figured out what the
left pedal does.
(proudly)
It makes us stop.

WILLOW

You don't know how to drive?! Why
didn't you say you don't know how
to drive?

ANYA

Well I couldn't know if I could
until I tried, could I? Hang on.

WILLOW

This is very very bad! You spoke
during the spell and now the
store's all trashed and there's
some big ogre on the loose--

ANYA

Troll.

WILLOW

What?

ANYA

Troll on the loose.

WILLOW

And now you're going to crash
Giles' car.

ANYA

That's likely. We're going very
fast.
(then)
You spoke during the spell too.

WILLOW

Because you wouldn't let go of the
jar.

ANYA

The jar of stolen eyes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WILLOW

They weren't stolen! I wasn't stealing!

ANYA

I say you were and Giles left me in charge.

WILLOW

Well, sometimes Giles is an idiot.

ANYA

Xander agreed.

WILLOW

Right, Xander doesn't step out of line.

ANYA

What do you mean by that?

WILLOW

Nothing.

ANYA

I think you should just find that spell.

Quickly. Anya takes a turn fast. THE BOOK FLIES OUT OF WILLOW'S HAND AND OUT OF THE CAR.

WILLOW

Woooo!
(then, softly)
Book's gone.

11 BRONZE - DAY

11

Xander enters, grabs a bowl of peanuts off the bar and heads, head down, across the club. He bumps into someone on the way.

GUY

Hey, watch it!

Xander reacts to the voice. Looks up. The guy is Spike.

SPIKE

Oh, it's you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER

Spike. Don't let me stop you from not being here.

Xander steps around Spike, heads to a table. He sits down.

SPIKE

Whatcha doin'?

XANDER

Eating nuts. And charging admission. Give me a thousand bucks or go away.

SPIKE

They've got more than nuts, you know. Chicken wings. Also a sort of a flower-shaped thing they make from an onion. Brilliant.

XANDER

Why aren't you all gone away?

SPIKE

Because you're troubled. Bloke can see that a mile away.

XANDER

Hmm. And you're hoping to make me so depressed I impale myself on a fork right in front of you.

SPIKE

Lovely thought. Could eat you that way, beat the onion-thing all to hell. But, no. Simply thought I'd lend an ear.

Spike takes some peanuts.

XANDER

Hey! Those are mine!

Spike slides onto the stool opposite him.

SPIKE

Don't care. So tell Uncle Spike what's wrong. This all sympathetic misery borrowed from the Slayer?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XANDER

What? No. Nothing to do with Buffy.

SPIKE

So she's fine then.

XANDER

Um... I don't know. I thought you wanted to hear my problems.

SPIKE

Huh. Yeah. Okay. Prattle away. Don't need to talk about her. I'm sure she's merrily slaying some pals of mine, having a grand old time.

And we prelap:

BUFFY (V.O.)

This is not good.

12 MAGIC BOX - DAY - LATE AFTERNOON

12

Buffy stands in the middle of the magic shop. The door is open behind her. She looks around her at the destruction Olaf left behind. Buffy is still a little sniffly from her crying jag as she says:

BUFFY

(to herself)

Something big did this.

Tara enters from the training room.

TARA

They're not back there either. They're gone.

BUFFY

C'mon. This thing's destructive. I bet it's leaving a trail. We better hurry.

Buffy and Tara run for the door.

13 ALLEY - NIGHT

13

Olaf is rampaging through an alley, smashing dumpsters with his magic hammer.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OLAF
HA HA! PUNY RECEPTACLES!

He smells something (not the dumpsters)... he stops, thinks.

OLAF (CONT'D)
ALE? I SMELL DELICIOUS ALE!

He rampages off again.

14

BRONZE - NIGHT

14

Night has fallen and Spike and Xander talk and play pool.

XANDER
I don't think they even realize how much it bugs me when they don't get along.

Xander doesn't make his shot. Spike examines the table.

SPIKE
Uh-huh. Shame 'bout the shot. Thought you had it.

XANDER
They get in these fights and then they're both looking to me, like I'm the referee.

SPIKE
They don't get along.

XANDER
Yeah. It's like, sometimes I'll say something about Anya and Willow will get this look. This "what the hell do you see in her" look.

SPIKE
I know that look. Lot of people never really got Dru, you know?

XANDER
Well, she was insane. And then it's like, I get all torn, because Willow's my best friend, and I really value her opinion. But I love Anya, you know?

Spike lines up his shot.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPIKE

You sure about that? I mean, sometimes it's like... like an obsession, where you can't stop thinking about them, where you want to just breathe 'em in, and for a while you're not sure--

XANDER

Yeah, no. It's real. I mean, I know it. It's... it's kinda not put-into-words-able. But it's there.

SPIKE

Like it's in your blood.

Spike makes his shot.

XANDER

Exactly.

SPIKE

And speaking of love eternal... you say the Slayer's bouncing back?

XANDER

I guess. I mean, there's a lot of pain there, but I think she'll come out of it.

SPIKE

There were some... steps, revelations. Leading up to his going away. Various individuals involved in those steps.

Spike is getting angry, taking it out on Xander without even thinking, closing in threateningly...

SPIKE (CONT'D)

Getting various amounts of the blame. Completely unwarranted.

XANDER

What?

SPIKE

All they were trying to do is rip the bloody scales from her eyes!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

SPIKE(CONT'D)

I mean, did she want to be made a fool of?! And what does someone have to do to make it right?

Xander is bending back under the onslaught.

XANDER

I don't know what you're talking about.

Spike realizes what he's doing. He pulls back, goes back to lining up a shot.

SPIKE

Nothing. I just did her a favor, is all. She... she promised me payment, and I never got--

Someone jostles Spike's elbow, causing him to miss his shot.

SPIKE (CONT'D)

Bloody hell! Watch it, mate!

Spike turns and finds himself face-to-chest with Olaf.

SPIKE (CONT'D)

Second thought, do what you like.

OLAF

(happily)

ALE!

Olaf strides to the bar.

OLAF (CONT'D)

MMMM YES! FRAGRANT ALE!

Olaf picks up a (full-sized) keg with one hand, bites through the metal and drinks heartily. Customers move away from the bar, but the whole place does not clear out. Spike and Xander watch the obviously supernatural troll.

XANDER

So, um... think we run get Buffy?

SPIKE

Dunno. 'S a close call on this one. Might just be out for a good time.

OLAF

BABIES! FETCH ME SOME PLUMP SUCCULENT BABIES!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

SPIKE
We might want the Slayer.

Before they can leave, Anya and Willow enter. The girls join them.

ANYA
Xander! You shouldn't be here!
There's a dangerous troll!

XANDER
Yeah, think I noticed him,
actually.

WILLOW
I wish Buffy was here.

Buffy and Tara join them.

BUFFY
I'm here. Willow jumps.

WILLOW
I wish I had a million dollars.
(off their looks)
Some day it'll work.

TARA
He's a troll?

BUFFY
What's going on? Where'd he come
from?

Spike hasn't been able to take his eyes off Buffy since she came in. He steps toward her tentatively.

SPIKE
Hello, Buffy.

Buffy shoots him an evil look. He steps back, rejected.

ANYA
Willow stole ingredients and
released him from a purple crystal.

WILLOW
Not just me!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

BUFFY

Well, the guy's leaving a trail of smashed cars and dumpsters a mile wide. We have to put him back.

XANDER

Also, babies. He was asking for babies. Succulent ones.

OLAF

DID YOU SAY BABIES?

Olaf has turned, fixed them with his eyes. Buffy steps forward to meet him.

BUFFY

I'm the Slayer. You don't belong here. How about we just put you back where you belong.

OLAF

NO! I AM OLAF AND I HAVE BEEN FREED!

ANYA

Willow! Do the spell!

Willow fumbles with a book...

WILLOW

Let the conjuring be undone, return the beast to native form--

OLAF

WITCH! CEASE WHAT YOU ARE DOING!

Olaf plucks the book from Willow's hand and casually tosses it away... it sails halfway across the Bronze.

SOMEONE (O.S.)

Ow! Hey!

Buffy starts to approach Olaf again.

BUFFY

Okay, Olaf, guess it's time to kick one very big ass.

Anya catches at Buffy's arm.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ANYA

No, wait! You can't fight him.
Not while he's got the hammer.

BUFFY

What's with the hammer?

OLAF

OLAF'S HAMMER IS A HAMMER OF THE
GODS. COME FEEL ITS MYTHIC BITE!

ANYA

(to Buffy)

It's strong. Stronger than a
Slayer.

Olaf looks to Anya.

OLAF

YOU. YOU ARE STOPPING MY FUN. WHY
DO YOU DO THAT? IT'S JUST LIKE
WHEN WE WERE DATING!

Silence. Everyone looks at Anya. Especially Xander. Anya
considers her position.

ANYA

Hum.

XANDER

You dated him?

ANYA

Briefly.

XANDER

You dated him.

ANYA

A little bit, yes.

BUFFY

You dated a troll?

ANYA

He wasn't a troll when I dated him.
He was just a big stupid guy. And
I was still a human. Then he
cheated on me and I found a spell
and I made him into a troll.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (6)

ANYA (CONT'D)

Which, by the way, is how I got the job as a vengeance demon and the rest is histor--

XANDER

So he was your first boyfriend?

BUFFY

You made him into this?

SPIKE

Nice job. Good workmanship.

WILLOW

Wait, how'd he end up in a crystal in the magic shop?

ANYA

I don't know, but it's painfully ironic--

They are interrupted by Olaf, who smashes the bar with his hammer. Wood splinters fly. Everyone jumps.

TARA

We're forgetting about the troll. Let's pay attention to the troll.

OLAF

I DID NOT CHEAT! NOT IN MY HEART.
(to Buffy)

IT WAS ONLY ONE WENCH, YOU SEE, AND I HAD HAD A GREAT DEAL OF MEAD THAT NIGHT-- THE NEXT THING I KNOW, I'M A TROLL! CURSE YOU, ANYANKA! YOU WILL DIE FOR THIS!

WILLOW

But, but, you seem to enjoy the... being a troll...

OLAF

HA! YES! IT WAS A GOOD LIFE! UNTIL WITCHES -- WITCHES LIKE YOU -- TRAPPED ME! I WAS IMPRISONED IN THAT CRYSTAL FOR CENTURIES! YOU WILL DIE TOO!

WILLOW

Witches like me. Not me in particular.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (7)

OLAF
I DO NOT CARE! I AM VERY ANGRY AND
VERY HUNGRY!

BUFFY
(soothingly)
We can take care of hungry. How
'bout you just sit down... on one
of the sturdier chairs... and we
can just talk calmly and have some
food.

OLAF
BABIES?

BUFFY
Well, not so much. But maybe...
roast pigs and... stags... and much
hearty grog!

SPIKE
They have this onion thing--

OLAF
YOU CANNOT APPEASE ME! DO NOT TRY!

He is lurching through the room now, swinging his hammer.
Buffy et al duck out of his way.

BUFFY
Wait! Stop!

But Olaf is working himself up into a rage. He ROARS and
smites the pillars supporting the loft-level of the Bronze
with his hammer. The LOFT-LEVEL OF THE BRONZE COLLAPSES onto
the people below!

END OF ACT TWO

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (8)

ACT THREE

15

BRONZE - NIGHT

15

Through the kicked-up dust, we glimpse the chaos of metal, trapped and injured people. There are some people trapped underneath the loft, and others, also injured, who were on the loft itself.

Olaf ROARS and heads for the exit, swinging his hammer.

Buffy tries to stop him, but he knocks her aside with a blow from his mighty hammer.

OLAF
DO NOT STOP ME!

She flies impressively through the air -- far enough so we can tell the hammer is pretty darn powerful. She lands hard.

TARA
Buffy!

Spike runs to help Buffy up...

SPIKE
I'll help you--

But Buffy is already on her feet before Spike gets to her. The rest of the group hurries over as well.

WILLOW
He got away. Olaf got away.

A trapped customer is pinned under a section of the collapsed loft near Buffy's feet. He reaches out, catches weakly at Buffy's leg, appealing for help.

BUFFY
People are trapped. Let's get this up.

Buffy grabs the edge of a section of the collapsed loft, strains to lift it. Spike and Xander help, lifting it with her. Tara and Willow pull the trapped customer free.

BUFFY (CONT'D)
Xander-- you follow Olaf.

Willow and Anya, head back to the store, try to come up with some spell to stop him. I'll stay here, help the people.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TARA
I'll stay too.

Buffy is already pulling at the rubble some more, trying to get at more of the pinned victims. Spike hurries to help her. Buffy suddenly notices who is working beside her. She opens her mouth to send him away.

SPIKE
I got someone here. Help me get
'er out.

Buffy hesitates, then reaches in, helps Spike free a girl.

BUFFY
I smell smoke.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Reveals a growing fire near them.

SPIKE
Candles went over. We got
ourselves a fire.

BUFFY
Work faster!

16 MAGIC BOX - NIGHT

16

Willow and Anya enter, running in past the debris left by Olaf.

WILLOW
--forget about spells to put him
back into the crystal. I think we
have to find another place--

Willow steps over some debris, really noticing it for the first time.

ANYA
This is a terrible mess.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Reveals that Giles is standing right behind them, holding a broken statuette -- body and head.

WILLOW
Yeah. That's a big job.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANYA

Hope I don't have to--

Anya senses Giles and stops talking. The girls turn around to face him. Willow gives a little wave.

WILLOW

You got the earlier flight! Yay.

Giles smiles, kind of a creepy, manic, "I'm not going to let this bother me smile."

ANYA

(to Willow)

I don't like the look of that smile.

GILES

There was only one undamaged statue of the Goddess Lithra in the world. This was it!

ANYA

And you've got the wrong head there. That's a dog's head.

Giles looks at what he's holding.

GILES

So it is! Funny! The damage. Was it a demon?

ANYA

Troll. With a hammer. Willow released him during some thievery.

WILLOW

Anya helped. He collapsed the loft at the Bronze. Buffy's there helping people. We're going to find magicks to stop him.

GILES

Fine. I'm going to... going to... do something!

WILLOW

You can yell at us or go help Buffy rescue the innocent.

Giles hesitates.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANYA

I understand it's difficult.

GILES

I will help rescue the innocent
now, and yell at you later!

Willow holds out his car keys.

WILLOW

Car keys.

GILES

You drove my car? How marvelous!
How perfect!

ANYA

We didn't crash it.

WILLOW

Not at all. And the troll didn't
hit it with a hammer or anything.

GILES

Fabulous!

Giles takes the car keys and exits, still carrying the broken
statuette.

ANYA

(to Willow)

Oh, he's snapped.

17

BRONZE - NIGHT

17

Buffy and Spike hard at work. A second section of the loft
is in danger of collapse and they are pulling people off of
it, lowering them gently to the ground. (If possible, it
would be nice to see a few fire fighters and paramedics
working too, in the b.g. -- they should be there by now.)

SPIKE

Hey, Slayer, hope you're impressed.

Buffy has to admit, grudgingly...

BUFFY

You're helping. Thank you.

SPIKE

Oh, more than that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY
(whatever)
That right?

SPIKE
Sure. See these people? Helpless.
And lots of 'em are bleeding.
Nothing stopping me. But I'm not.
See... treatin' 'em as gentle as
their own mum.

BUFFY
Wait. You want credit for not
feeding off bleeding disaster
victims?

SPIKE
Well... yeah.

BUFFY
You're disgusting.

She moves away. Spike looks after her, disbelievingly.

SPIKE
(to himself)
What does it take?

Tara brings a FRANTIC GIRL over to Buffy.

TARA
Buffy! This girl's upset--

FRANTIC GIRL
My boyfriend! I can't find him!

BUFFY
You lost your boyfriend?

Buffy snuffles. Tara recognizes what's coming.

TARA
(to the girl)
We can look over there.

BUFFY
(lip quivering)
That's so sad.

The BOYFRIEND comes running over.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BOYFRIEND

Cheryl! Oh God Cheryl, I couldn't
find you anywhere!

FRANTIC GIRL

Tom!

They hug, relieved. Tara and Spike come over to stand near
Buffy.

TARA

(to Buffy)

Well, that's nice, isn't it. For a
second there I thought you were
going to--

Buffy bursts into loud tears again.

TARA (CONT'D)

Buffy?

BUFFY

It's so... So beautiful!

Spike watches Buffy's display, startled. Then recognizes the
opportunity.

SPIKE

Yeah, yeah. It is beautiful,
innit?

He starts to slide his arm around her.

SPIKE (CONT'D)

Two people, finding each other--

She sniffs wetly, discreetly wipes her nose against his
shirt. Spike pulls back a little.

18 MAGIC BOX - NIGHT

18

Willow is pulling books off the shelf and loading them onto
the table. Anya is gathering armloads of magical ingredients
and lining them up on the counter.

WILLOW

Hurry up! He's just getting
started. The whole town's in
danger.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANYA

In case we need it, I'm getting more of all the things you stole.

WILLOW

Why do you do that?

ANYA

What?

WILLOW

You're so rude! I mean, sure, at first, ex-demon, doesn't know the rules. Well, now you've been here forever. Learn the rules!

ANYA

The rules are stupid.

WILLOW

Great. Whatever. Just thought you might be interested in acting more like a human.

They're both flipping through the books now.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Look for spells about dimensional portals.

ANYA

I am a human. And there are many humans who are stranger than me. That Howard Stern, for example--

WILLOW

Howard Stern isn't going to turn Xander into a troll.

ANYA

Well, it's a complicated proced-- Oh! You think I'm going to hurt Xander? I'd never hurt Xander!

Willow shrugs.

ANYA (CONT'D)

(realizing)

You really think I would do that!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WILLOW

Anya, it's what you do. You spent, what, a thousand years, punishing men.

ANYA

I was a demon. It was my job. I don't even have any powers now! I can't even float things!

(re: book)

Is this the spell?

WILLOW

Maybe. Tear it out and keep looking. We won't tell Giles. And by the way, you weren't a demon when you turned Olaf into lord of the hammers and you managed that.

ANYA

Hey, I don't do magic now. You're the one with the power. In fact, seems to me that D'Hoffryn offered you my job! You're closer to being a vengeance demon than I am! Maybe Xander should be afraid of you!

WILLOW

Xander's my best friend!

ANYA

And you don't want anyone else to have him. I know what broke up him and Cordelia, you know. It was you.

WILLOW

You think I'd do that again? You really worry about that?

ANYA

Why not?

WILLOW

Well, let's see... how about... gay now!

ANYA

That's true... you are pretty gay. But you are his best friend.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

ANYA (CONT'D)

You've known him since you were squalling infants. You'll always know him better than I do.

WILLOW

Well, yeah, I guess...

ANYA

Well, that's scary for me. I, I just want to get into his heart and, like, curl up in there, but you were there way before me.

WILLOW

Um... that's kinda weird, but I, look, I promise I'm not trying to break you guys up. I just... I care about him. He's my friend. I worry that he's going to get hurt. And not just because of the demon thing.

ANYA

I won't hurt him. Ever. I love him.

WILLOW

You say that. But do you get it? I mean, you get love, and all that?

ANYA

Before I was a demon, I was a human. I thought I was in love then. Heck, I thought I loved Olaf. But I didn't. Xander taught me about love. I love him completely.

WILLOW

Wow. That's... that's good. He deserves someone to love him.

ANYA

And we have lots of vigorous sex.

WILLOW

Okay, stop--

OLAF SMASHES IN! He crashes through the front door with his hammer. He towers over them, waving his hammer.

OLAF

I AM GOING TO KILL YOU NOW!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

WILLOW

Anya! Run!

But he sweeps the girls up, one under each arm. They scream. He THROWS BOTH GIRLS OVER THE COUNTER... They land there, hurt and semi-conscious and trapped! Olaf steps closer to them, honing in to finish them off... reaching over the counter. Xander bursts in!

XANDER

No! Get away from them!

Olaf straightens up and looks at Xander. He LAUGHS.

XANDER (CONT'D)

No. No more laughing.

Xander charges Olaf, tackling him. Olaf is unmoved. A flick of his hammer slams Xander against the wall. Xander, on the floor, hangs on to consciousness, just barely. He pulls himself up and charges Olaf again.

OLAF

AH. YOU WISH FOR MORE!

Olaf knocks Xander across the room again. And again. Xander is incredibly over-matched, keeps getting thrown up against the walls over and over, but heroically, he keeps coming back! Xander is bruised and battered looking by the time Olaf finally laughs jovially!

OLAF (CONT'D)

HA HA! YOU FIGHT WELL, ALTHOUGH
YOU ARE A TINY MAN!

Olaf claps an arm 'round Xander's shoulder.

OLAF (CONT'D)

I SHALL REWARD YOU! ONLY ONE OF
THESE WOMEN SHALL DIE! AND YOU
SHALL BE THE ONE TO CHOOSE!

END OF ACT THREE

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (5)

ACT FOUR

19 MAGIC BOX - CONTINUOUS

19

Anya and Willow are regaining consciousness and struggling to their feet.

WILLOW
Did he say...

OLAF
CHOOSE! ANYANKA OR THE WITCH! ONE
OF THEM MUST DIE!

XANDER
No!

OLAF
YOU ARE NOT CHOOSING!

XANDER
That's right! You're one crazy
troll! I'm not choosing between my
girlfriend and my best friend!
That's insane!

ANYA
Go Xander! I love you!

Olaf laughs jovially.

OLAF
HA HA! GOOD FOR YOU! YOU ARE A
LOYAL MAN!

Olaf takes Xander's arm and cheerfully snaps Xander's wrist.
Xander gasps in pain. Willow and Anya blanch.

WILLOW
Xander!

OLAF
NOW CHOOSE!

ANYA
Olaf! No!

XANDER
(through his pain)
I won't choose!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

OLAF
THEN YOU SHALL BE THE ONE TO DIE!

Olaf moves in close to Xander, his hammer raised for the killing blow.

ANYA
Choose me! Choose me to die! Just
don't take him!

Olaf and Xander both pause and look to Anya.

ANYA (CONT'D)
Don't take Xander!

Willow grabs a vial off the counter, dumps powder into her hand. She throws it.

WILLOW
(in Latin)
Let the monster disappear.

The CASH REGISTER DISAPPEARS again as before.

WILLOW (CONT'D)
Damn!

Buffy bursts in, Giles and Tara right behind her. Olaf turns to face Buffy as Xander collapses against a wall, cradling his broken wrist.

ANYA
Buffy!

WILLOW
Tara, stay back!

BUFFY
(to Olaf)
You! Yeah you, the Thor knock-off!

Buffy charges at Olaf.

ANYA
Buffy! The hammer! The strength
is in the hammer!

Buffy SPIN-KICKS, trying to knock the hammer from his hand, but it doesn't work -- the impact of foot on hammer throws her back to land hard on her back. Olaf laughs heartily. Anya and Willow share a look.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WILLOW

The hammer...

Willow tosses a book at Anya as Buffy fights, dodging the hammer, barely escaping.

WILLOW (CONT'D)

Anya! Read!

Willow draws runes on the counter as Anya reads:

ANYA

(in Latin)

Tool of vengeance, weapon mythic,
arise, arise, defy the earth...

The hammer starts to quiver and glow in Olaf's grasp.

OLAF

THIS IS WITCHERY! DESIST!

He swings the now-glowing hammer at Anya. She ducks it and keeps reading.

ANYA

(in Latin)

Fly with force, deny thy master.
Fly!

The hammer glows brighter and FLINGS ITSELF out of Olaf's grasp. It hits the wall, then the floor, the glow dying out.

ANYA (CONT'D)

Hey! I floated it! I floated it!

WILLOW

Told you you could.

Buffy, encouraged, charges Olaf! She is thrown against the wall.

BUFFY

Anya! You said his strength was in
the hammer!

ANYA

Well, he's still a troll! I mean,
look at him!

OLAF

YOU WILL ALL DIE! NO MERCY NOW!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Buffy gets up, charges Olaf, drives him back, but not much. He swipes at her, and she grabs his arm, twists it back, having to use her whole body to grip it. He shakes her free. Xander, cradling his wrist, joins Willow and Anya at the counter.

WILLOW
(to Xander and Anya)
She's got him now.

Anya looks at Xander's wrist.

ANYA
Poor baby.

Buffy is getting the upper hand now. Olaf sails though frame in front of the trio. Buffy runs through after him. Willow, Xander and Anya watch the now off-screen fight, their heads following the clearly-violent action.

XANDER
You really dated him?

ANYA
Yes.

XANDER
But you like me better.

ANYA
Yes. Willow likes you too, but not in a sexy way, and she won't break us up so that's okay.

From off-screen:

OLAF (O.S.)
UNHAND ME! THAT HURTS A GREAT
DEAL!

20 MAGIC BOX - LATER

20

As Buffy stands over the unconscious Olaf. He smiles in his sleep, jovial as ever. Willow is in the middle of a spell. Anya, Xander, Tara and Giles look on. Xander has fashioned a makeshift wrap for his wrist.

WILLOW
...and let the transposition be
complete.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

There's a magical poof of some kind, and he's gone, although his hammer remains.

XANDER

Hey, the hammer stayed!

TARA

It's very powerful. That could be useful.

ANYA

Yes. It'll crack a pecan like nobody's business.

GILES

Where did you send him?

ANYA

The Land of the Trolls. He'll like it there.

WILLOW

It's hard to be precise, though.

ANYA

Lots of alternate universes out there. Might be the Land of the Giants or Crazy Melty Land or the World Without Shrimp.

TARA

There's a world without shrimp?
(to Willow)
I'm allergic.

BUFFY

I only care that he's not here.

GILES

I'm still not certain how he came to be smashing up my shop.

ANYA

An accident. Nobody's fault.

Giles gives Anya a skeptical look.

GILES

Maybe we can repair some items, sell them at a discount.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

TARA

A troll sale. I like it.

BUFFY

There, see how nice things worked out? And look at you guys...

(looking at Xander and Anya)

So good and alive and together.

Buffy sniffles dangerously.

GILES

Buffy?

Buffy takes Anya and Xander by the hands... joins their hands.

XANDER

The wrist. Watch the wrist.

Buffy decides holding hands isn't good enough and pushes Xander and Anya together roughly into a hug. She looks over at Willow and Tara who immediately jump into a hug.

21 XANDER'S APARTMENT - NIGHT (NIGHT 4)

21

Buffy, Willow, Xander, Tara, Anya, watching videos. Xander's arm is in a sling.

XANDER

They couldn't just tell him that over the phone? They made Giles go to England to tell him they don't know anything about Glory?

BUFFY

Yep. But they promise they're going to look into it. Raise your hand if you're less than reassured. Everyone raises their hand.

Xander forgets about his sling and tries to raise his hand too.

XANDER

Ow Ow Ouch.

ANYA

Slings are tricky, watch out, Sweetie.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANYA (CONT'D)

(to the others, proudly)
I had a sling.

WILLOW

Xander had a broken wrist before.
(then)
It's good you're here to take care
of him now.

ANYA

Thank you.
(then, to the others)
She's being nice to me because we
had a big fight and everything
turned out okay.

WILLOW

Right, like I wouldn't just be nice
because I'm nice.

ANYA

I'm only saying what I think. Some
people like that about me.

WILLOW

Well, some people are--

TARA

Let's... let's... let's watch a
video!

BUFFY

Please God.

XANDER

Okay. We have a choice to make,
good people. We've got "Return to
Me," a romance with the very curvy
Minnie Driver or Terminator 2.

BUFFY

Romance...
(sniffles)
Let's see the romance. Because
it's so nice -- so nice when people
find each other--

XANDER

So, T2, right?

All the hands go up except Buffy's.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XANDER (CONT'D)
Sorry, Buffy. Gotta go with the
people.

Xander puts in the T2 video. As it starts...

BUFFY
Okay, just 'cuz there's killing,
doesn't mean you can't hold hands.

No one moves.

CUT TO BLACK

BUFFY (V.O.)
Hold hands!

END OF EPISODE

CONTINUED: (3)

CONTINUED: (4)