

Episode # 5ABB06
Story # E01008

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

"Family"

Written and Directed By

Joss Whedon

SHOOTING DRAFT

September 24, 2000 (WHITE)
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BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

"Family"

CAST LIST

BUFFY SUMMERS.....	Sarah Michelle Gellar
XANDER HARRIS.....	Nicholas Brendon
RUPERT GILES.....	Anthony S. Head
WILLOW ROSENBERG.....	Alyson Hannigan
SPIKE.....	James Marsters
RILEY FINN.....	Marc Blucas
ANYA.....	Emma Caulfield
JOYCE.....	Kristine Sutherland
TARA.....	Amber Benson
DAWN.....	Michelle Trachtenberg
HARMONY.....	Mercedes McNab
GLORY.....	Clare Kramer
BEN.....	Charlie Weber
MR. MACLAY.....	Steve Rankin
DONNY.....	Kevin Rankin
BETH.....	Amy Adams
SANDY.....	Megan Gray
INTERN.....	Brian Tee
BARTENDER.....	Ezra Buzzington

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

"Family"

SET LIST

INTERIORS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SUNNYDALE

WILLOW'S DORM ROOM

DORM HALL

BUFFY'S DORM ROOM

TARA'S DORM ROOM

BUFFY'S HOUSE

LIVING ROOM

FOYER/DOWNSTAIRS

FACTORY

HOSPITAL

CHANGING ROOM

THE MAGIC BOX

TRAINING ROOM

SPIKE'S CRYPT

GLORY'S WALK-IN CLOSET

WILLY'S BAR

THE BRONZE

EXTERIORS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SUNNYDALE

CAMPUS

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

"Family"

TEASER

OVER BLACK:

WILLOW (O.S.)
(sleepily)
Tell me a story.

1 INT. WILLOW'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT (NIGHT 1)

1

ANGLE ON: MISS KITTY FANTASTICO

As she runs about and plays on the floor.

TARA (O.S.)
Okay. Once upon a time there was...
um... a kitty. She was very little,
and she was all alone and nobody
wanted her.

WILLOW (O.S.)
This is a very upsetting story.

TARA (O.S.)
Oh, it gets better. 'Cause one day,
the kitty was running around on the
street and a man came and swooped her
up --

And on that, a pair of arms reach down from above frame and
pick the kitty up, bring us up to see Tara (grabbing the
kitty) and Willow (under the covers). Tara holds the kitty
on the bed as they continue.

TARA
-- and took her to the pound. And at
the pound there were lots of other
kitties, and there were puppies, and
some ferrets.

WILLOW
(sleepy)
Were there dolphins?

TARA
Yes. Many dolphins at the pound.

WILLOW
Was there a camel?

CONTINUED

1 CONTINUED:

1

TARA

There was the front of a camel. A half-camel.

WILLOW

Did the kitty get chosen by some people?

TARA

Well, now you've ruined the ending. There was a whole exciting middle part with the French Resistance.

WILLOW

I'm sleepy.

TARA

Yeah... do you mind if I keep the light on? I was gonna look up some spells.

WILLOW

That's fine. I don't need to be snuggled...

TARA

(smiling)

Vixen.

Willow looks at Tara, the sleepiness gone.

WILLOW

You've been spell gal night and day lately.

TARA

Well, I just wanna keep up with you. And I'm... I'd like to be useful. You know, to the gang. I just never feel... useful.

WILLOW

You are. You're essential.

A beat, with the love. Tara climbs under the covers.

TARA

Think Buffy found anything out tonight?

CONTINUED

1 CONTINUED: (2)

1

WILLOW

At the factory? I don't know. If there was something, I figure she would've called us.

Tara turns out the light.

2 INT. BUFFY'S LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

2

Buffy sits with Giles. The house is dark except for the living room, which is lit only by table lamps. The mood is quiet, solemn -- Buffy has told him everything.

GILES

I don't know what to say.

BUFFY

Tell me about it.

GILES

It's just difficult to wrap one's mind around... and she has no idea?

Buffy looks back at the stairs, worried about being overheard.

BUFFY

None. She thinks she's my kid sister.

GILES

Are you going to tell her?

BUFFY

How can I?

(beat)

She'd freak out and that's the last thing we need. We have to keep her safe.

GILES

This woman, this... whatever she was, she knows you now. Should we be thinking about sending Dawn away?

BUFFY

Away where?

GILES

I don't know... Your father's?

Buffy's face darkens a bit.

CONTINUED

2 CONTINUED:

2

BUFFY

He's off in... Spain or something,
with his secretary. Living the
cliche. I called when Mom got sick,
he hasn't even... You know when he
bailed on us, I remember Dawn cried
for a week. Except she didn't. She
was never there, but I can still feel
what it was like.

She gets up, goes to the doorway. Looks up at the dark of
the stairs. A beat before she turns back.

BUFFY (cont'd)

They sent her to me, Giles. I think
I have to take care of her. I want
to.

GILES

Do we tell the others?

BUFFY

No. No one. They'd all get weird
around her. And it's safer for them
if they don't know.

GILES

Yes. We have to find out who exactly
this woman is, and what it is she
needs Dawn for. If she comes after
you --

BUFFY

She'll come.
(beat)
She'll come for us.

3 INT. FACTORY - NIGHT

3

Glory comes bursting out of a pile of rubble, breathing hard
and covered in dust.

GLORY

Okay. Now I'm upset.

BLACK OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

4 INT. DORM HALL/BUFFY'S DORM ROOM - DAY (DAY 2)

4

Kids go to and fro, carefree college life. Buffy enters frame in a more contemplative mood. She is carrying a box of her stuff from her room, sets it down near some others. She winces slightly. Behind her, we find Xander and Riley moving a dresser (or bookcase) out of her room from the entrance in the cul-de-sac.

XANDER

Okay, just -- ow! Thumb! Necessary
opposable thumb!

RILEY

Sorry. Crybaby.

They get through as Buffy turns to them --

BUFFY

Just leave it by the wall there for
now.

RILEY

Got it.

-- and she heads into her room by way of the main hall entrance, passing Dawn who has a hugely piled box in her arms.

DAWN

I don't need any help...

BUFFY

Just be careful...

Camera follows Buffy into her dorm room, which is being cleared out. Giles stands by the head of the bed, vaguely putting things in a box. Tara is in the closet (no jokes, please), pulling out clothes on their hangers and handing them to Willow, who folds them into a big box. Anya is crossing with a lamp or some such to the cul-de-sac door, complaining:

ANYA

But we just helped her move this
stuff in a few days ago!
(sees Buffy)
And it was fun!

GILES

People help each other out, Anya.
It's one of our strange customs.

CONTINUED

4 CONTINUED:

4

Buffy moves to the bed, starts folding up her bedspread and sheets. Mentions to Giles:

BUFFY

I notice you're doing the smallest amount of helping that can actually be called helping.

GILES

Well, I see myself in a patriarchal sort of role. You know, a lot of pointing and scowling.

He sees something, and quite genuinely points and scowls.

GILES (cont'd)

Stop that, you two.

ANGLE: XANDER AND RILEY

are in the cul-de-sac doorway, in mid wrestle. They don't stop.

RILEY

He started it...

XANDER

He called me a bad name! I think it was bad; it might have been latin.

ANGLE: TARA

As she watches the exchange with a kind of sweet sadness. What she is seeing is a POV of the scoobie unit, all happy and comfy together.

GILES

Stop. You're going to break something.

BUFFY

Or I'M gonna break something.

They stop.

XANDER

Still can't believe you're giving up this cherry corner suite.

ANYA

(crossing back in)

Just a few days after we moved you in.

CONTINUED

4 CONTINUED: (2)

4

Buffy glances at Giles, covering:

BUFFY
It's no big. Just, with Mom not
feeling well, I'm hardly ever here
anyway. Might as well save some
money, for the semester, at least.
That's all.

Willow chimes in, misinterpreting Buffy's concern.

WILLOW
I think that's smart.

XANDER
Still, hard to give up. Got the two
entrances, lotta opportunities for
bawdy french farce -- and everybody
loves bawdy --

BUFFY
(suddenly tense)
Where's Dawn?

RILEY
She just took --

BUFFY
(calling out)
Dawn?

Dawn reappears in the cul-de-sac doorway. Buffy masks her
relief.

DAWN
Some of your CDs are my CDs.

BUFFY
I know. Help me fold.

Dawn comes in as Willow moves out with a full box of clothes,
Tara filling another. Buffy leans down to get a blanket from
the floor, winces.

RILEY
Starting to feel that fight?

BUFFY
Nothing like getting your ass kicked
to... make your ass hurt.

She throws the blanket out to Dawn, they fold.

CONTINUED

4 CONTINUED: (3)

4

DAWN

You'll totally take her next time.

XANDER

'Cause you'll have back up, baby.
She's messin' with ALL of us.

GILES

Yes, we'll find her weaknesses, and
then...

TARA

Yeah, you learn her source and we'll
introduce her to her insect
reflection.

There is a bit of silence, followed by some polite
expressions.

TARA (cont'd)

(much quieter)

That was funny if you've studied
Taglarin mystic rites and... are a
total dork...

As she says this last she grabs her box of clothes and heads
out of the room.

RILEY

Then how come Xander didn't laugh?

XANDER

I don't know that Taglarin stuff.

RILEY

Oh.

She meets Willow just outside the doorway.

WILLOW

You wanna start taking stuff down to
the car?

TARA

I really do.

As she goes down the hall, she mutters to herself:

TARA (cont'd)

Stupid...

Willow waits to make sure Tara is out of earshot, then:

CONTINUED

4 CONTINUED: (4)

4

WILLOW

Okay, guys, now remember, you gotta
be at the Bronze by eight.

Again with the polite, as people try to remember what
Willow's talking about.

BUFFY

Bronze.

WILLOW

Tomorrow night! Tara's birthday!

BUFFY

Oh, right. Right.

General murmurs of remembrance.

ANYA

We have to bring presents, right?
Birth is a present thing.

XANDER

I got something... picked out, yeah...

WILLOW

You all can still come, right? I
mean, I know there's this new evil
and all...

BUFFY

No, no, we can make it. I could
definitely use a break from all this
craziness.

5 INT. HOSPITAL - DAY

5

ANGLE ON: SOME CRAZINESS.

A woman, strapped to a gurney, looks about her in wild
terror, occasionally muttering things we cannot hear.

BEN (O.S.)

What's the story?

Widen to see an INTERN wheeling her by Ben, stopping to talk.

INTERN

Another crazy. Got her family out
there...

CONTINUED

5 CONTINUED:

5

BEN

Let me guess. No history of mental problems.

INTERN

That makes, like, five this month.

BEN

They told me Sunnydale was gonna be interesting...

INTERN

Aren't you off?

BEN

(looks at his watch)

As of now. Have fun.

He exits into

6 INT. HOSPITAL CHANGING ROOM - CONTINUING - DAY

6

It's kinda dark in here. Ben doesn't notice -- he moves to his locker, pulling off his shirt.

Camera moves away from him, around the corner, past some lockers to pick up a shadow, moving slowly forward, and a face comes into frame.

It's gross. A demon, diseased, predatory, it flicks a long, black tongue between its teeth and moves slowly forward.

It reaches the corner, about to spot its prey -- and a hand grabs it across the mouth.

It's Glory. She comes in close, whispering:

GLORY

I need a favor.

She pulls him out of frame.

7 INT. THE MAGIC BOX - DAY

7

There are a few customers milling about.

A customer is leaving the counter as Anya puts money in the register.

CONTINUED

7 CONTINUED:

7

ANYA

Thank you for coming! We value your patronage! Come again for more purchases!

Giles enters frame with a box, sets it down.

GILES

We could perhaps be a bit less effusive, Anya. Let's not frighten the people.

ANYA

I'm just so excited! They come in, I help them, they give us money in exchange for goods, you give me money for working for you... I have a place in the world now. I'm part of the system. I'm a workin' gal.

GILES

(smiles)

Yes. Well why don't you start organizing the shipping orders?

ANYA

No, that's boring, I just wanna do the money parts.

WE SEE A YOUNG, DISREPUTABLE-LOOKING MAN LOOKING AT SOME ITEMS NEAR THE ENTRANCE. BEHIND HIM, Buffy and Xander enter, crossing to the counter.

BUFFY

Well, ~~sure~~ I forgot about the party. There's kind of a lot going on. And it's not, you know, the most thrilling social event of the season.

XANDER

It's a big deal for Will, though -- I mean you are gonna be there?

BUFFY

Sure. Barring monsters...
(to Giles)

Hey.

ANYA

Hi.

Xander leans over the counter --

CONTINUED

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

XANDER

Gimme sugar. I've come to buy sugar.

-- and kisses Anya fairly deeply.

ANYA

Mmmmm.... We value your patronage....

Giles emerges from behind the counter.

BUFFY

Any breakthroughs on the identity of Miss Congeniality?

GILES

Well, I've narrowed it down some...

He indicates the table, which is covered in books.

BUFFY

Your definition of narrow is impressively wide.

GILES

Well, you didn't give me much to go on. She looks human, so the mug shots aren't any use... you can't be a bit more specific about what she was like?

BUFFY

She was kind of like... well she was kind of like Cordelia, actually. If she were on steroids. That were on steroids.

(not helpful)

I'm pretty sure she dyes her hair.

GILES

(dryly)

Ah yes that one of course our work is done.

BUFFY

There's gotta be something on her.

XANDER

(joins them, re:
books)

The answer's somewhere here. It's right in front of us and we're too blind to see it.

(more)

CONTINUED

7 CONTINUED: (3)

7

XANDER (cont'd)
 (off their looks)
 What? You've never wanted to say
 that?
 (off their other
 looks)
 I'm helping, I'm reading, I'm quiet.

He sits and opens a book, as has Buffy. Giles crosses out
 for a bit. A beat.

BUFFY
 So what'd you get her?

XANDER
 Huh?

BUFFY
 Tara. You said you had a present
 already.

XANDER
 Yeah. That was a tangled web of
 lies, sweetie. I'm not really sure
 what kind of thing she'd... I mean I
 don't really know her that well.

BUFFY
 I know.

XANDER
 I'm mean she's nice --

BUFFY
 Yeah yeah! Nice nice. I just sort
 of...

XANDER
 I don't necessarily 'get' her. But
 she's real nice!

BUFFY
 Oh yeah.
 (small beat)
 There's that thing, you know.

XANDER
 (already agreeing)
 That thing.

BUFFY
 That thing of not understanding...

CONTINUED

7 CONTINUED: (4)

7

XANDER

Half of what she says?

BUFFY

As for example. A lot of... not understanding. But she's so nice.

XANDER

You betchya.

BUFFY

You think there'll be a lot of wiccans at the party? Big wiccan crowd?

XANDER

That's sort of her deal. Her and Willow are all... wiccie. Swinging with the wiccan lifestyle.

BUFFY

Which is cool.

XANDER

Oh yeah.

BUFFY

I just hope we fit in. Not awkward.

XANDER

With Willow, it's like she's got this whole new thing in her life, but she's still Willow, I can always figure her out. But Tara, I just know she likes Willow, and she already has one of those.

BUFFY

Okay. I'm having a present-buying headache. Tara's damn birthday is just one too many things to worry about.

XANDER

Relax. You should take a few minutes, train, or stretch out... do something to work off the tension.

8 INT. SPIKE'S CRYPT - DAY

8

Buffy punches Spike in the face, her expression hard with warrior glee. He goes flying, comes back up in a rage. Blocks a blow and punches her back.

They continue, a brutal and balletic back and forth of kicks, throws and a couple of impressive flips. Spike ends up on the opposite side of one of the tombs. They are both breathing hard.

SPIKE

You want me, Slayer? Come and get me.

BUFFY

Oh, I'm coming. I'm coming right NOW!

And she hurls herself through the air at him as we SMASH CUT TO:

9 INT. SPIKE'S CRYPT - DAY

9

Spike and Harmony are finishing up some lovin'. He's atop her, breathing hard.

HARMONY

What are you thinking?

He looks at her a beat...

SPIKE

All about you, baby.

He buries his head in her shoulder.

HARMONY

Oh, you're my little lamb...

10 INT. THE MAGIC BOX - DAY

10

Giles crosses to the table, where Xander and Buffy are.

GILES

Come up with anything?

XANDER

Well candles, maybe, or bath oils of some kind.

BUFFY

I saw a really nice sweater at Macy's, but I really want me to have it.

CONTINUED

10 CONTINUED:

10

GILES

And you are talking about what on earth?

BUFFY

Tara's birthday. We're at a loss.

GILES

You're in a magic shop and you can't think of anything Tara might like. I believe you're both profoundly stupid.

XANDER

Well, we don't know what kind of things witches really like. What, are we gonna get her some cheesy crystal ball?

GILES

Bloody well better not. I've already got mine wrapped.

The young man we saw before (his name is DONNY) approaches the table.

DONNY

Are all these magic books?

GILES

Private collection. The books for sale are along the wall there.

Giles crosses out toward the counter. Donny doesn't leave, his hovering presence making Buffy and Xander uncomfortable as they try to read.

DONNY

So all these books got spells in 'em? Turn people into frogs?

XANDER

Yeah, we're building a race of frog-people. It's a good time.

DONNY

(to all of them)

So, are you all witches? Hey, don't do a spell on me...

Anya and Giles look at him.

CONTINUED

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

GILES

Was there something in particular you
were looking for?

Tara and Willow enter, laughing.

WILLOW

'Her insect reflection'... that's so
good...

TARA

I just thought that'd be funny, you
know, if her power was centered in --

DONNY

Well what do you know.

The girls stop. The laughter drains from Tara's face.

DONNY (cont'd)

What's the matter? Don't got a hug
for your big brother?

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

11 INT. THE MAGIC BOX - CONTINUING - DAY

11

Everyone is taking in what they just heard.

WILLOW

Brother?

DONNY

Tara didn't say she had a brother?

(smiles)

I'm a dirty little secret.

He's actually being friendly enough, but there's something off -- most obviously with Tara.

TARA

Willow, this is D-Donny.

WILLOW

Hi.

DONNY

Nice to meet you.

TARA

(indicating the gang)

And these are m-my friends.

They nod politely, murmur hellos.

DONNY

What, alla you hang out?

(to Tara, playfully)

That's more people than you MET in high school.

DONNY (cont'd)

(to the others)

Tara wasn't too social back when. I don't think she ~~spoke~~ till she was eight --

TARA

How did you find-- I mean, how come you came?

DONNY

Well, duh, birthday girl. We came down in the camper, been all over the campus --

CONTINUED

11 CONTINUED:

11

TARA

We?

DONNY

Dad, you know, and cousin Beth. We went all over the campus looking. They oughta circle back here in a bit.

TARA

(a bit urgent)

No, we should find them. We could go --

(looks at Willow)

-- I should go meet them.

WILLOW

Yeah, sure --

The doorbell tinkles behind, whipping Tara's head around.

Her father, MR. MACLAY and cousin BETH enter together. Tara moves toward them, as does Donny. Willow stays politely a distance behind.

DONNY

Look who I found...

TARA

Dad! Hi.

MR. MACLAY

Well. There's my girl.

They hug. It's a bit formal.

TARA

It's such a s-surprise.

MR. MACLAY

Yes.

TARA

Hey, Beth.

Beth smiles -- she seems quite meek.

BETH

Hey.

MR. MACLAY

One of your dorm-mates said you might be here.

CONTINUED

11 CONTINUED: (2)

11

TARA

Oh.

(pause)

Oh, these are friends... this is
Mister Giles, he runs the shop.

Willow looks a little surprised at not being introduced.

GILES

How do you do.

MR. MACLAY

Pleasure.

(to Tara)

Well, I don't mean to interrupt your
plans, I know we've come on you kind
of suddenly. But I thought we'd have
dinner.

TARA

Okay.

MR. MACLAY

Why don't I pick you up at six? And
we'll... do some catching up.

TARA

Yes sir.

MR. MACLAY

(to the group)

Forgive me for running out -- we're
double parked.

DONNY

(holding a skull)

Didn't Uncle Jeff have a scar like
this? He could have been dug up...

MR. MACLAY

Donald.

(to Tara)

I'll see you tonight.

DONNY

Nice to meet you all.

He goes out after the others. Willow joins Tara.

WILLOW

That's so weird. Your whole family.

CONTINUED

11 CONTINUED: (3)

11

TARA

Yeah.

WILLOW

They seem nice.

TARA

They're okay. You know. Families
are always...

She rolls her eyes a bit, making light of it.

WILLOW

They make you crazy.

TARA

Usually. You wanna get into research
mode?

WILLOW

Sure.

They join the others, Willow not pressing any further.

12 INT. BUFFY'S FOYER/DOWNSTAIRS - LATE AFTERNOON

12

Buffy lets herself in just as Riley is coming downstairs.
She sees him, is pleased.

BUFFY

Honey, I'm home...

RILEY

Did you have a good day at work?

BUFFY

It's a rat race.

Kissage. They stay close, continuing:

RILEY

I squared away the rest of your
stuff. Wouldn't even know you ever
left.

BUFFY

You're like a god. You're the god of
boyfriends.

CONTINUED

12 CONTINUED:

12

RILEY
(intimately)
Nah, I just like it when you owe me
favors.

BUFFY
(also suggestively)
Well, this earns you a very big
favor. There could be outfits.

RILEY
Be still my heart.

Dawn comes in from the kitchen, on her way out.

DAWN
See you later!

Buffy stops her.

BUFFY
Whoah whoah whoah! Where are you
going?

DAWN
I'm going to Melinda's for dinner.

BUFFY
Since when?

DAWN
(puzzled)
Nowish...

BUFFY
You can't. It's not safe for you to
walk there.

DAWN
It's across the street.

BUFFY
Did Mom say you could?

DAWN
Mom's napping. What's the big deal,
I'm just --

CONTINUED

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

BUFFY
No. It's family night.
(searching for
excuses)
And Melinda's a bad influence. I
don't like you hanging out with
someone that... short.

A beat, as Dawn stares at her resentfully.

DAWN
I'm so glad you're moving back into
the house. That's the source of my
gladness.

She stalks upstairs. Buffy and Riley move into the living
room.

BUFFY
Oh, she makes me crazy...

RILEY
That's kind of the word I was
searching for.

BUFFY
What? She shouldn't be going over
there.

RILEY
Yeah, a lot of young people nowadays
are experimenting with shortness.
Gotta nip that in the bud.

BUFFY
She just can't be running out any
time she wants to.

RILEY
It's more than that.

BUFFY
What do you mean?

RILEY
You tell me.

His tone has changed, is more serious. Buffy continues
tentatively.

CONTINUED

12 CONTINUED: (3)

12

BUFFY

We all have to be careful. This demon chick, she's... exciting and new. Don't really know what I'm up against.

RILEY

If we're in trouble here, I could contact Graham, maybe get the government boys on this --

BUFFY

No! I don't want them anywhere near this.

RILEY

Just a suggestion.

BUFFY

The less people that are involved, the safer I'll feel.

She tries to look nonchalantly reassuring -- but his stare is a little unnerving.

RILEY

Every time I think I'm getting close to you...

(he moves to go)

I gotta take off.

BUFFY

Wait. What --

RILEY

I'll call you later.

His hand is on the door.

BUFFY

Riley, I want you to help, I'm not...

RILEY

Yeah.

(beat)

I know you got a lot on your mind. You decide you wanna let me in on any of it, you let me know.

(resignedly)

I'll come running.

He opens the door and goes.

13 INT. TARA'S DORM ROOM - LATE AFTERNOON

13

Tara enters to find her dad standing at her desk, looking at her stuff. She has charms and crystals and volumes of spells on the desk as usual. He turns as she closes the door.

MR. MACLAY

The door wasn't locked. I was a little early.

A beat.

MR. MACLAY (cont'd)

I suppose you wanted me to see all these... toys.

He picks up a crystal, looks at it.

MR. MACLAY (cont'd)

You don't even try to hide it anymore. I'd hoped maybe you'd gotten over the witchcraft thing, that if we let you go you'd get it out of your system. Then they told me to look for you in the... that store.

TARA

I didn't.... I didn't kn-know you were coming.

MR. MACLAY

Of course we came. We haven't heard from you in months, your birthday's getting closer and closer, you know what that means...

TARA

I don't think it's... It won't mean that --

MR. MACLAY

You're turning twenty. The same age your mother was when... do your friends even know?

TARA

Y-yes.

MR. MACLAY

Are you lying to me?

His tone is strict but not bullying. She cannot answer.

CONTINUED

13 CONTINUED:

13

MR. MACLAY (cont'd)
So they don't know. They think
you're human.

Again, she doesn't speak.

MR. MACLAY (cont'd)
Tara, you're coming home with us.
You know it's the only way.

TARA
Home?

MR. MACLAY
This charade has gone on for too
long. Do you want to put your
friends in danger?

TARA
I would never hurt them.

MR. MACLAY
Tara, you can't control what's going
to happen. You're my daughter and I
love you but you are a demon. You
have evil inside you and it will come
out. And letting yourself work all
this magic is only gonna make it
worse. Where do you think that power
comes from?

TARA
I... it doesn't feel... evil. Sir.

MR. MACLAY
Evil never does.

He heads for the door.

MR. MACLAY (cont'd)
I don't feel much like eating right
now. I'll give you a little time,
but we need to be gone by morning.

He turns back to her.

MR. MACLAY (cont'd)
Your family loves you, Tara, no
matter what. How do you think your
friends are gonna feel when they see
your true face?

14 INT. GLORY'S WALK-IN CLOSET - NIGHT

14

CLOSE ON: THE LEI-ACH DEMON'S FACE

As it blinks into consciousness.

GLORY (O.S.)

Finally. I thought you were gonna
nap the whole day away.Widen to see he is chained, arms out, to a clothes rack. He
struggle futilely.

GLORY (cont'd; O.S.)

Oh quit it. If you hadn't been such
a struggle-puss in the first place,
you wouldn't be all chained up. Now
tell me...

ANGLE ON: Glory. Looking fabulous in a green dress.

GLORY

Do you love me?

Beat.

GLORY (cont'd)

Or...

She grabs another dress, holds it in front of her.

GLORY (cont'd)

Do you love me?

He hisses and growls at her.

GLORY (cont'd)

Oh, stop whining! You know, I
remember when the Lei-ach were a
proud warrior race, not sneaking
around hospitals looking for weak
sickly types to suck the bone marrow
from. But let's talk about my
problems for 30 seconds if that's
perfectly all right with you.

He stares, sullenly. Waits.

GLORY (cont'd)

Blonde. Short. Strong for a human
and massively rude. Broke my shoe,
took my monk... You got any idea who
I might be talking about?

He growls and barks some.

CONTINUED

14 CONTINUED:

14

GLORY (cont'd)

A slayer? Oh God, please don't tell me I was fighting a vampire slayer, how unbelievably common. If I had friends, and they heard about this... and you know she's telling everyone. She's probably going around -- PAY ATTENTION!

The demon looks surprised, almost frightened, as she rushes him. She grabs his throat.

She speaks low and rapid, almost feverish.

GLORY (cont'd)

I am great and I am beautiful and when I walk in the room all eyes turn to me because my name is a holy name and you will listen or I will pull your vital organs out and put this one here and this one here.

Now she's perky again.

GLORY (cont'd)

Okay baby. Get your friends. Find the girl. Kill the girl. Yummy marrow for everyone and I don't have to do that organ thing. Okay?

He nods.

GLORY (cont'd)

You've got the cutest little suppurating sores, did anyone ever tell you that?

15 INT. TARA'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

15

Tara is alone, thinking, when Willow enters.

WILLOW

Hey.

TARA

Hey.

WILLOW

Was... dinner fun?

Tara nods unconvincingly.

CONTINUED

15 CONTINUED:

15

WILLOW (cont'd)

Well, there's scoobyage afoot. Giles called a meeting about our spanking new menace.

TARA

Oh. You should go, they don't need me for that, you can fill me in...

WILLOW

No no, you gotta come. This demon chick is supposed to be really powerful and I was thinking maybe we could try that spell, you know, the one to find demons...

TARA

That didn't work.

WILLOW

Yeah, but we only tried it one time. I think I got the ingredients wrong.

TARA

Well, I'm tired. We can try it tomorrow.

WILLOW

You sure you don't --

CONTINUED

15 CONTINUED:

15

TARA

My family's here, I can't just... not everything is about your friends and stuff.

WILLOW

(hurt)

Sorry.

TARA

No, no, I'm... there's just so much going on. I'm just... I'm real tired.

Willow's not quite convinced, but...

WILLOW

Okay.

TARA

I'll see you in the morning and you can fill me in.

WILLOW

Great. We'll be demon hunters.

Willow lets herself out. Tara watches her go. As soon as the door shuts Tara's eyes narrow with resolve. She moves to the desk and starts going through spell books. Stops on a particular spell, thinking.

16 INT. THE MAGIC BOX - NIGHT

16

The camera moves slowly in at the table as the gang gathers round it. Dawn is at the shelves in the back, poking through books. Willow is just arriving.

XANDER

Hey, Will.

WILLOW

Am I late? Did I miss any exposition?

GILES

No, no, and I've nothing earth shattering to relate. I did have a few thoughts, though, and I want to make sure we're all on the same page.

DAWN

Can I buy one of these?

CONTINUED

16 CONTINUED:

16

BUFFY

No.

DAWN

With my own money?

BUFFY

I let you come, now sit down and look
studious.

Dawn joins them. But the camera continues moving in, past her, to show a shadow at the door to the training room.

CLOSE ON: TARA

She stands in the shadows, looking through the crack of the door at the gang. Silent and intense.

GILES (O.S.)

First of all, I want to talk about
safety. This creature could be --

BUFFY (O.S.)

--WILL be --

GILES (O.S.)

-- will be coming after Buffy and
possibly all of us. Don't
underestimate her.

BUFFY (O.S.)

I'm not just talking about traveling
in groups. You see a girl you don't
know, you run. Just keep running
'til you drop. And don't drop.

Tara lifts her hand. There is a small pile of red dust in it. She incants in a barely audible whisper (The voices off screen fading out under it):

TARA

Blind Cadria, desolate queen, work my
will upon them all, your curse upon
them, my obeisance to you.

She blows the powder from her hand, causing a CGI mist to
wend from it toward the group.

We widen to see it settle in the middle of them --

CONTINUED

16 CONTINUED: (2)

16

GILES

Now, I think I may have a lead on the monk Buffy spoke with. There are a few orders I've read up on...

-- and shoot into the eyes of everyone assembled. They all jerk back ever so slightly.

A beat.

GILES (cont'd)

I'm sorry, where was I?

BUFFY

The monk.

GILES

Yes. I'd like us to start looking into some of these orders. It's possible that whatever order this monk was from was wiped out entirely, and I'm sure that wouldn't go unnoticed --

Tara fades back into the darkness, eyes on the group.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

17 INT. WILLY'S BAR - NIGHT

17

The place is sparsely populated. Few demons, few others. We see the sign as a BARTENDER crosses before it, bottle of whiskey in hand. He grabs a glass and pours, all the while addressing a customer.

THE BARTENDER

You shouldn't be coming here, man.
You got a rep with these monsters.
You come in night after night... you
looking to get killed?

He puts the drink in front of the customer. A reverse angle shows it's RILEY. He takes the drink, a grim smile on his face.

RILEY

I come for the ambiance. What can I
say; the place just reeks of class.

He downs his drink.

THE BARTENDER

If Willy was here...

RILEY

Willy's not here.
(re -- drink)
Hit me.

A sultry and attractive young woman sidles up to the next seat. Her name is SANDY.

SANDY

Drinking alone? That's not a good
sign.

RILEY

So they tell me.
(he looks at her)
I buy you a drink, neither one of us
has that problem anymore, now do we?

She smiles at him, says by way of reply:

SANDY

Vodka tonic.

CONTINUED

17 CONTINUED:

17

RILEY
(to the Bartender, as
if introducing her)
Vodka tonic.

SANDY
I'm Sandy.

RILEY
I'm Riley.

A beat, as they eye each other. Is it warm in here, or is it me?

SANDY
Place is such a dive...

RILEY.
No, no, it's great. You just have to
close your eyes... plug up your
nostrils... then it's fine.

SANDY
We could go somewhere else... You
know, more private...

She eyes him, the insouciant seductress. He smiles ruefully.

RILEY
Sandy, Sandy... It's no good. My
heart belongs to another. Besides,
I don't go out with vampires.

She narrows her eyes, growls low.

RILEY (cont'd)
(to the Bartender)
They're never interested in my
intellect.

He drinks. Sullenly, Sandy does too.

18 INT. TRAINING ROOM - NIGHT

18

Buffy is stretching out as Willow talks to her.

BUFFY
He's great... he's so considerate,
and he's really understanding about
my disturbing lifestyle, but every
now and then he's mister snappy. I
never know what sets him off.

CONTINUED

18 CONTINUED:

18

WILLOW

There's always gonna be a part of
your life he can't get near. That's
just part of relationships that
people have to deal with, even if
they feel shut out and the other
person is acting all weird and
doesn't want them to meet their
family.

BUFFY

Behold the cunning segue. Tara's
being funky?

WILLOW

She's just never been like that
before.

BUFFY

Well, families...

WILLOW

So they're dorky. I feel like...
it's something more. She's different.

BUFFY

(concerned)

What do you mean?

WILLOW

(blows it off)

I don't know. I'm over reacty. Pay
me no mind. People in love are
always a little crazy.

19 INT. SPIKE'S CRYPT - NIGHT

19

Spike is holding the mannequin head with the blond wig on it.
He is staring at it, touching its hair, as Harmony enters,
carrying a bunch of shopping bags.

HARMONY

Hi baby!

Spike puts the head aside.

SPIKE

(you are boring and
I loathe you)

Hello, sweetbreads. Did you have fun?

CONTINUED

19 CONTINUED:

19

HARMONY

Oh you wouldn't believe it it was so exciting. I went to April Fools and absolutely everything was on sale.

SPIKE

You paid for it?

HARMONY

Oh no I just killed the clerk.
Still. Bargain's a bargain.

He tries to work this logic as she deposits her bags and continues:

HARMONY (cont'd)

Oh! And I ran into Carol Beets -- you know, she sired Brandon -- Brandon from the sewer gang, and she said the Lei-ach demon was recruiting his brethren to kill the Slayer.

SPIKE

(suddenly interested)

How's that?

HARMONY

Apparently he got recruited by some big nether-wig and now he's on a mission. You think they might actually do it? Kill her?

SPIKE

God, that would be pleasant.

HARMONY

Well, if they do, I think we should do something, like a gift basket or something -- where are you going?

He is throwing on his coat, heading for the door.

SPIKE

Get myself a decent seat. If the Slayer's gonna die... I'm gonna watch.

20 EXT. CAMPUS - NIGHT

20

Tara walks back from The Magic Box. She is met by Beth,
coming down a different path.

*
*

CONTINUED

20 CONTINUED:

20 -

BETH

Tara?

TARA

Beth! What are you --

BETH

I was looking for you.

TARA

Sorry we didn't get to have dinner...
everything was so sudden.

BETH

I just wanted to make sure you were
okay, see if you needed help with
anything... packing...

TARA

Beth, I'm not... I'm n-not coming
back with you.

Beth looks innocently surprised.

BETH

You're not?

TARA

I don't think so.

BETH

You selfish bitch.

Tara steps back, genuinely astonished.

TARA

What?

BETH

I knew it. I knew you were gonna do
something like this!

TARA

Like what? You c-can't just come
here --

BETH

You don't care the slightest bitty
bit about your family, do you? Your
dad's been worried sick about you
every day you've been gone.

(more)

CONTINUED

20 CONTINUED: (2)

20

BETH (cont'd)

There's a house needs taking care of,
Donny and your dad having to do for
themselves while you're down here
living God knows what kind of
lifestyle. Is it true you've been
doing magic?

A beat. Tara looks at her, a bit defiant.

TARA

Yes.

BETH

Well then you deserve whatever you
get. Come down here, doing spells...
I can't wait 'til your little friends
find out the truth about you. They
will, you know. Doesn't matter how
innocent you act, they'll see.

TARA

No they won't.

BETH

They will unless you do some kind of
spell on them...

(off Tara's reaction)

You did.

TARA

N-no.

BETH

You did something to them. I'm
telling your dad.

TARA

No! It wasn't anything!

BETH

You think you can just go around
cursing people -- your dad's gonna
pop --

TARA

It was just so they wouldn't see!

A beat, as Tara deflates, busted.

CONTINUED

20 CONTINUED: (3)

20

TARA (cont'd)
 So they wouldn't be able to see the
 demon part of me. Please don't tell
 dad. It's harmless.

*
*
*
*

21 INT. THE MAGIC BOX - NIGHT

21

Willow is fetching a volume near the front door. She hears
 a noise, goes to open the door, thinking it's:

WILLOW
 Is that Tara?

She opens the door. The Lei-ach is standing right in front
 of her, his brethren behind him. Willow looks at them.

WILLOW (cont'd)
 I guess not. Thought I heard
 something.

In front of her, the Lei-ach smiles. She cannot see him.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

22 EXT. CAMPUS - NIGHT

22

Tara and Beth continue talking. All of the fight has gone out of Tara.

BETH

Don't you see how out of control you are? You've been lying to those people for a year, now you put a spell on them? Is that right? Is that a human thing to do?

Tara cannot answer.

BETH (cont'd)

Now I'm telling your father. If he doesn't force you to come home -- and I think he should -- I know he's gonna tell your friends the truth. If I were you I'd tell them first. Then I'd tell them goodbye.

23 INT. THE MAGIC SHOP - NIGHT

23

Dawn is by the table near the entrance, looking at stuff. She is perfectly nonchalant as the Lei-ach comes into frame right next to her. He puts his face close to hers, sniffing her out -- and another comes into frame in front of the table. They move on to the back, followed by the third.

We TRACK along the shop as they move through it, passing the gang who see nothing, heading for the back room.

ANYA

Do I get overtime for this?

GILES

Certainly not. Dawn, shut the door.

DAWN (O.S.)

I didn't open it...

A24 INT. TRAINING ROOM - CONTINUING - NIGHT

A24

Buffy is finishing up working the bag. The demons file in behind her, the lead one in front, the third staying to guard the door. They move slowly so as to be silent.

CONTINUED

A24 CONTINUED:

A24

Buffy stops, her fur up. Listens. She does a slow turn and sees nothing.

The demon pounces -- and Buffy blocks at the last second, takes most of the brunt on her arm, but he still takes her down. She flails, fighting an invisible foe.

BUFFY

Giles! There's something in here!

B24 INT. THE MAGIC BOX - CONTINUING - NIGHT

B24

Xander is closest to the back room. He moves forward -- and something invisible throws him back. He lands hard on his back. His eyes widen as something starts choking him.

CONTINUED

B24 CONTINUED:

B24

Willow grabs a chair and smashes the demon on the back. (We see the demon as it's hit). She pulls the chair back and brings it down again -- hitting Xander.

XANDER

It moved.

Suddenly Willow is thrown back into the bookcase. She lands heavily and doesn't get up.

ANYA

Where is it? Where is it?

She retreats behind the counter. Giles becomes aware of Dawn next to him. He pushes her toward the desk.

GILES

Under there. Go.

She climbs into the tiny desk space, Giles standing with his back to it, waiting.

C24 INT. TRAINING ROOM - CONTINUING - NIGHT

C24

Buffy throws off the first demon as the second grabs her from behind, choke hold.

ANGLE: SPIKE

Comes in from the back, smiles at the tableau. Buffy can't shake number two. Number one gets up, is gonna pounce, number two holding her for him -- he lunges --

-- and Spike flies into frame, tackling him from the side. They tumble into the corner.

With a burst of strength, Buffy flips her demon over her head and slams it onto the ground. She picks it up and throws it headlong into a wall. Its head makes a splatty noise.

Buffy runs toward the shop, not seeing the still struggling Spike.

SPIKE

Uh, you're welcome...

D24 INT. THE MAGIC BOX - CONTINUING - NIGHT

D24

Buffy rushes in to see Giles take a blow to the head from the invisible foe. She runs forward - but it's gone. Everyone's talking:

CONTINUED

D24 CONTINUED:

D24

XANDER
It's over there!

GILES
How many are there?

ANYA
I've already been injured this
month...

BUFFY
Shut up!

Silence. The camera moves in at Buffy as she turns,
concentrating, waiting for it to attack.

The door opens suddenly and Tara enters. Sees:

ANGLE: TARA'S POV

The demon behind Buffy.

TARA
Buffy behind you!

Buffy spins as the thing pounces. She tries to hold it off.
It throws her over the table, comes at her again.

E24 INT. TRAINING ROOM - CONTINUING - NIGHT

E24

Spike manages to kill his opponent. They never did get off
the floor. He sits up, satisfied.

F24 INT. THE MAGIC BOX - CONTINUING - NIGHT

F24

The demon comes for an exhausted Buffy. It grabs her
throat -- and Xander makes a game attempt at grabbing it from
behind. It shrugs him off, nails Buffy a couple of times.

BUFFY
Where is it? Tara can you see it?
Tara realizes they can't see it.

TARA
Oh God...
She rushes forward --

CONTINUED

F24 CONTINUED:

F24

TARA (cont'd)
Blind Cadria, lift your veil, give
evil form and break my spell --

The demon turns as she speaks the last -- it pounces on her,
slams her down into the counter.

Buffy jumps on its back.

Tara's family rushes in, Dad seeing the beast over his
daughter --

MR. MACLAY

Tara!

The beast throws Buffy off and goes for the dad -- he
stumbles and falls -- Buffy sweeps its legs out from under
it, landing it with its chin slamming down on the top step,
just in front of dad. She gets to her feet in a blur, plants
a foot at the back of its neck and CRUNCH! -- snaps it
brutally.

There is a quiet moment, as everyone recovers from the
action. Xander goes to check on Anya. Giles helps Dawn out
from under the desk. Buffy stands before Mr. Maclay, who is
still on the ground, staring at the body of the last Lei-ach
demon.

MR. MACLAY (cont'd)

What in the name of God is that...?

Spike pipes up from the back, entering.

SPIKE

Lei-ach Demon. Fun little buggers;
big with the marrow-sucking.

MR. MACLAY

I don't understand...

BUFFY

I'm not sure I do either.

She is looking over at Tara, who is still hunched by the
counter. She is desperately unhappy.

TARA

I'm sorry... I'm s-so sorry...

Willow starts toward Tara slowly, confused.

CONTINUED

F24 CONTINUED: (2)

F24

TARA (cont'd)

I w-was just trying to hide... the spell went wrong...

WILLOW

Tara, what...

TARA

I didn't want you to see... what I am.

WILLOW

What you are?

MR. MACLAY

I told you, you try to run from it you'll put these people in danger.
(re: demon)

And, my God....

TARA

I didn't mean for anyone to get hurt...

BUFFY

I think you better explain. What do you mean, what you are?

She is staring at Tara, and she doesn't sound too pleased.

Tara can't get past her stutter before her father speaks:

MR. MACLAY

Demon.

Willow looks astonished at her love, no idea what to do.

MR. MACLAY (cont'd)

The women in our family have... demon in them. Her mother had it; it's where their magic comes from. This isn't something we generally like to share with strangers. We came to take her home before... well, before things like this started happening.

WILLOW

Tara, you're not... how could you not say something to me... to me...

Tara still can't answer - can hardly look at Willow.

CONTINUED

F24 CONTINUED: (3)

F24

GILES

You put a spell on us to keep us from
seeing your demon side. That's why
we couldn't see our attackers.

BUFFY

(looking at Dawn)

Nearly got us killed.

Tara rises, trying to steady her emotions.

TARA

I'll go.

(to everyone)

I'm very sorry.

MR. MACLAY

The camper's outside.

WILLOW

Wait! Go? She just did a spell that
went wrong! Buffy, it was just a
mistake!

MR. MACLAY

It's not the point and it's not your
concern. The girl belongs with us.
We know how to control her problem.

WILLOW

Tara, look at me.

(she does)

I trusted you more than anyone in my
life. Was all of that a lie?

TARA

No! No...

WILLOW

Do you want to leave?

MR. MACLAY

(to Willow)

That is not your decision, young
lady --

WILLOW

I know that.

(to Tara)

Do you want to leave?

Eyes brimming, Tara shakes her head ever so slightly.

CONTINUED

F24 CONTINUED: (4)

F24

MR. MACLAY

You are going to do what's right,
Tara. Now I am taking you out of
here before somebody DOES get killed.
The girl belongs with her family, I
hope that's clear to the rest of you.

This registers with Buffy. She looks again at Dawn, then
back at Tara.

BUFFY

It is. You want her, Mr. MacLay, you
can go ahead and take her.

She turns to face him.

BUFFY (cont'd)

You just gotta go through me.

MR. MACLAY

What?

BUFFY

You heard me. You wanna take Tara
out of here against her will, then
you gotta come through me.

DAWN

And me.

She stands resolutely by her sister, ready for a fight.

We push in on Tara, a new wave of emotion flooding her.

MR. MACLAY

Is this a joke? I am not gonna be
threatened by two little girls.

DAWN

You don't wanna mess with us.

BUFFY

(points to Dawn)

She's a hair-puller.

GILES

And you're not just dealing with two
little girls.

XANDER

You're dealing with all of us.

CONTINUED

F24 CONTINUED: (5)

F24

SPIKE

Except me.

XANDER

Except Spike.

SPIKE

I don't care what happens.

MR. MACLAY

This is insane! You people have no right to interfere in Tara's affairs. We are her blood kin -- who the hell are you?

BUFFY

We're family.

She stares him down. The whole gang does, grouped loosely around Tara and Willow. Mr. MacLay turns away.

DONNY

Dad, you're not gonna let them --

He starts down towards Tara, stopping near Xander.

DONNY (cont'd)

Tara, if you don't get in that car I swear by God I'm gonna beat you down.

XANDER

And I swear by your full and manly beard you're gonna break something trying.

Donny eyes him... doesn't say anything else.

BETH

Well, I hope you'll all be happy hanging around with a disgusting demon.

Anya raises her hand.

ANYA

Excuse me. What kind?

BETH

What?

CONTINUED

F24 CONTINUED: (6)

F24

ANYA

What kind of demon is she? There's a lot of different kinds, some are very very evil, some have been considered to be useful members of society...

BETH

Well, I don't.. what does it matter?

MR. MACLAY

Evil is evil.

ANYA

Well, let's narrow it down...

Spike smiles, comes toward the group. He gets it now.

SPIKE

Uh huh... Why don't I make this simple...

He approaches Tara and POPS her in the nose with a quick jab.

TARA

OW!

The moment he does, he's gripped with wrenching pain.

SPIKE

Gyahh!

WILLOW

(pissed)

Hey!

(gets it)

Hey!

TARA

(hands on nose)

He hit my nose!

WILLOW

And it hurt! I mean, him!

BUFFY

And that only works with humans...

CONTINUED

F24 CONTINUED: (7)

F24

SPIKE

(re: Tara)

There's no demon in there.

(shakes off the last
twinge)

That's just the family legend, am I
right? Bit of spin to keep the
ladies in line? Oh, you're a piece
of work. I like you.

TARA

(to Willow)

I'm not a demon.

WILLOW

(smiling)

You're not a demon.

TARA

He hurt my nose.

SPIKE

Yeah, you're welcome.

GILES

Mr. MacLay, I'd say your business
here is finished.

MR. MACLAY

(last ditch)

Tara... for eighteen years your
family has taken care of you and
supported you, if you wanna turn your
back --

TARA

Dad.

She moves to him. Looks at him with quiet strength.

TARA (cont'd)

Just go.

A beat, and he does. He pauses once at the door, looking
back at the shop, muttering contemptuously:

MR. MACLAY

Magic.

He exits. Donny folds in behind. Beth is the last to go,
looking hatefully at Tara.

CONTINUED

F24 CONTINUED: (8)

F24

BETH

Are you happy now?

Tara's smile answers her well.

24 INT. THE BRONZE - NIGHT (NIGHT 3)

24

We open on a pile of presents on a table. Helium filled balloons are tied to the table as well. Camera arms up, to see the Bronze party in full swing. The Scooby gang, Dawn included (but minus Riley), mingle with some other friends (mostly, but not exclusively, wiccans.) In the center is Tara, having a great time.

We see a short series of images:

ANGLE: Dawn running behind the stairs, stopped by Buffy, who scowls at her.

ANGLE: Tara unwrapping her crystal ball, pleased, thanking Giles who's extremely pleased with himself.

ANGLE: Willow and Tara playing pool with Xander and Anya.

ANGLE: Buffy watches the pool game as Riley enters behind her, a present in his hand.

RILEY

Sorry I'm late.

BUFFY

You came!

She beams to see him. He smiles.

RILEY

(softly)

Of course I came.

She pulls him close and they head into the party.

ANGLE: Tara talks with Anya.

TARA

No, see, 'cause your insect reflection represents your insignificance in terms of the karmic cycle.

ANYA

But it's still not funny.

CONTINUED

24 CONTINUED:

24

TARA

No, no, it is, but you have to...
understand the...

ANYA

Let's just start again. You're
explaining it wrong.

ANGLE: Dawn sits with Giles and Xander and Buffy and Riley.

DAWN

This place is so cool! Except I have
to have this stupid stamp on my hand.

XANDER

Well, that's to keep you from boozing
it up.

DAWN

Oh please. Only losers like to drink
alcohol.

Riley, Xander and Giles try to look innocent.

ANGLE: Tara is still talking to Anya as Willow approaches.
A slow song has come on.

ANYA

So what's an eagle reflection?

Willow takes Tara by the hand, leads her toward the dance
floor.

WILLOW

My dance.

She and Tara begin slow dancing, holding each other close.

WILLOW (cont'd)

Good birthday?

TARA

Best birthday.

WILLOW

I still can't believe you never told
me about your family and all that.

TARA

I was just afraid if you saw the kind
of people I came from... you wouldn't
wanna be anywhere near me.

CONTINUED

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

WILLOW

See? That's where you're a dummy.
I think about what you grew up with,
and then look at what you are... it
makes me proud. It makes me love you
more.

Tara takes this in, overwhelmed.

TARA

Every time I... even at my worst, you
always make me feel special. How do
you do that?

Willow smiles.

WILLOW

Magic.

Tara lays her head on Willow's shoulder as they pull closer,
turning slowly to the music. The camera pulls back to see
the two of them holding each other in the middle of the
dancers, floating just above the floor.

BLACK OUT.

END OF SHOW