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Buffy The Vampire Slayer

"The Harsh Light of Day"

by Jane Espenson

TEASER

1 BRONZE - NIGHT (NIGHT 1) 1
(Buffy, Willow, Oz, Parker)

The Dingoes have finished playing for the night, and Oz joins Buffy and Willow at a table. The next band performs (a song of edgy longing?) as Buffy observes Parker from across the room. He is playing pool and he is very appealing and very oblivious.

Buffy, Oz and Willow are planning to load up the van, then Oz will drive the girls back to their dorm. But, to Buffy's delight, Parker approaches and offers to walk Buffy home. Oz starts to say that Buffy has a ride, but Willow stops him. Buffy agrees with Parker, it's not safe out there and she should have planned ahead. She gratefully accepts his offer. As Buffy and Parker head out together, Buffy flashes a hopeful smile back at Willow.

2 ALLEY OUTSIDE BRONZE - MINUTES LATER 2
(Willow, Oz, Harmony)

Willow and Oz are loading the band's stuff into Oz's van, when a girl steps over to Willow. "Hi. Remember me?" It's Harmony. There is much surprised recognition and some reminiscing about the mayor-snake. They're continuing their little delusion that they were friends. Harmony says that Willow is just as sweet as ever... she hasn't changed. Willow says that Harmony hasn't changed either. Harmony says, well actually... and she MORPHS into VAMP FACE and grabs Willow, about to plunge her fangs into Willow's tender neck.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

3 ALLEY OUTSIDE BRONZE - CONTINUOUS 3
(Willow, Oz, Harmony)

Willow is helpless in Harmony's grasp. Fangs start to clamp down... one nicks Willow's throat and a thin trickle of blood spills out. But then Oz yanks Harmony's head back with a mic stand, breaking her hold.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Harmony snarls and lunges at the two of them, but by now Willow has pulled a cross from her pack. As Harmony backs away, she whines at them that it took Willow's boyfriend to save her, but she has a boyfriend too, and he'll be mad they were mean to her.

4 CAMPUS - NIGHT

4

(Buffy, Parker)

Parker and Buffy walk and talk. Buffy is forced to make up hobbies: "I... surf and... knit, but not at the same time" -- she's working hard to conceal her identity. Parker says maybe surf-knitting is how she got the scar on her neck, and Buffy has to laugh it off.

Buffy continues to play a little bit helpless, and he gets to feel strong and powerful. A dynamic of mutual attraction. He seems like a good guy as he talks about his "for tomorrow we die" philosophy -- groundwork for his plans. He seduces us as well as Buffy.

Parker invites Buffy to a party on campus tomorrow night. She accepts. He tells Buffy that he can't believe how comfortable he is with her already. He says maybe they knew each other in a former life. Maybe a hundred years ago they were one of those old couples, married forever and with no way left to express their love except sniping at each other.

5 GILES' APARTMENT - NIGHT

5

(Giles, Xander, Anya)

"You're doing it wrong." "Well, I don't get your system." Xander and Giles snipe at each other and shelve books. Giles: "My system? It's the alphabet." Xander is working for Giles, helping to organize Giles' spare room into a small library/meeting place for the Scooby gang.

There's a knock at the door. It's Anya. She says she called Xander's mother who said Xander was working here. She turns to Giles. "You. Ex-Watcher. I need to talk to Xander. I'll let you know when you can come back in." Giles gives her a cold look, but he steps out so she and Xander can talk. Or perhaps Anya pulls Xander out into a new foyer area.

Anya demands to know from Xander where their relationship is going. Xander, "I haven't seen you all summer. I have a steadier relationship with my dentist." Anya won't let it drop. She says she's been thinking about Xander all summer long. He's irritating her by existing -- she hates the vulnerable way he makes her feel -- without mentioning sex, she sounds awfully involved. He tells her to slow down.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

They're just getting to know each other. (beat of enjoying her bluntness) He tries to explain that there are steps to a relationship, and they're pretty much supposed to be at the smiling shyly stage.

6 DORM HALLWAY - NIGHT

6

(Buffy, Willow, Oz, Parker)

Parker and Buffy at the door to Buffy's room, smiling shyly. He asks if her roommate is around (hinting that he wants to come in). Buffy admits that Willow is her roommate. Parker: "Oh... so, wait a minute, you didn't really need a walk home, did you?" Buffy shrugs, Parker smiles. He leans in for what could be a very sweet kiss, when...

Willow and Oz run up, breathless, breaking the mood into a jillion pieces. Willow's hand is at her neck. Willow: "You know Harmony? Well, she's back from her summer vacation and she doesn't have a tan." Parker, sensing there is nothing here for him right now, leaves. Buffy, Willow and Oz move into the room...

7 BUFFY AND WILLOW'S DORM ROOM - CONTINUOUS

7

Oz puts a Band-Aid on Willow's neck nick as they tell Buffy that Harmony is a vampire. Buffy remembers seeing Harmony get bitten during the graduation melee -- she must have been turned. But Buffy laughs off any threat. Harmony is a marshmallow, and she has terrible taste in boyfriends -- I'm not all that worried about him.

8 VAMPIRE LAIR

8

(Spike, Harmony)

Harmony storms into a dark, subterranean lair, stomps into a narrowing tunnel, past a few assorted vampires and ends up in the deepest darkest corner, where a figure in a welder's mask chips away at the stone and dirt. Harmony: "Willow was mean to me and I didn't get to eat her at all, and I told her my Big Blondy-Bear would take care of her..." He removes his mask. It's SPIKE.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

9 VAMPIRE LAIR - NIGHT (NIGHT 2)

9

(Spike, Harmony, Vamp-engineer)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Spike and a Vampire-Engineer are going over plans of an elaborate underground crypt -- we learn that it has six-foot thick stone walls on every side except the bottom... Spike is tunnelling up into it from underneath. Harmony enters and drinks desultorily from a dazed young man chained to a wall. She starts pestering Spike, pulling him away from his work. Harmony: "This one tastes funny. I think I had math with him, and I didn't like him much then either." She wants to go out to eat. Out to a party. Spike: "What, I don't provide you with enough right here?" He gestures to two more young people chained to the wall. But Harmony sweet-talks him in front of the lackeys, embarrassing Spike terribly, "Bloody hell, woman, not in front of the victims." He agrees to go out. All right then, let's go find you your party.

10

PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

10

(Buffy, Spike, Harmony, Parker)

Buffy and Parker are just entering the party. It's a typical, rowdy college affair. There's a live band (Dingoes?), a keg, couples dancing and others making out. Parker puts a protective arm around Buffy, guiding her through the crowd. Despite his efforts, they collide with a couple taking a drunken friend out for some air. Buffy looks closer... it's Harmony and Spike, and the "drunken friend" is a stunned and lacerated victim (still alive). Buffy and Spike stare at each other. Neither can say what needs to be said, not in the middle of a crowd. But they each check out the other's date and allow themselves a bit of a sneer. Harmony, lacking their discretion, starts blabbing. "You think you're so hot, Buffy Summers, but you still have no fashion sense and you're really going to be sorry when my Spike-Bunny and me have the Gem of Amara..." Spike: "Shut up, Harmony." He drops the would-be victim and pulls Harmony out into the night -- they disappear. Buffy makes a quick excuse to Parker: those blond people were... friends, and they're in trouble. She has to go find them. Parker tells her to hurry back... you wouldn't want to waste a perfectly good Saturday night.

11

PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT

11

Buffy chases Spike and Harmony... tiny skirmish. HERE, Harmony mentions the Gem of Amara. Buffy loses them.

12

XANDER'S BASEMENT HOME - NIGHT

12

(Xander, Anya)

(CONTINUED)

16 PARTY HOUSE - NIGHT 16

(Buffy, Parker)

Buffy returns to the still-happening party. She finds Parker, who is happy to see her, and doesn't blame her for having left him alone. He says he is touched that she went to that much trouble to help a friend. He talks more, seducing us all. He kisses her.

DISSOLVE TO:

17 PARKER'S DORM ROOM - LATE 17

(Buffy, Parker)

Buffy and Parker sit, fully clothed, on his bed and kiss. He starts to unbutton his shirt. She stops him. She unbuttons his shirt for him. He smiles and reaches for her.

18 GILES' APARTMENT - NIGHT 18

(Giles)

In his new study, Giles can't find any of the books he wants, but he finally locates one. He flips through it. "Gem of Affliction, Gem of Agony... Gem of Amara..." He finds the reference. "Oh dear Lord." He picks up phone to call Buffy... no answer. -- leaves msg. "Are you there?"

19 PARKER'S DORM ROOM 19

(Buffy, Parker)

Buffy and Parker, in bed, both apparently naked. Eyes locked together, breathing together, it looks like a union of more than just bodies. Only less explicit.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

20 PARKER'S DORM ROOM - MORNING (DAY 3) 20

(Buffy, Parker)

Buffy wakes up in Parker's bed. He's not there. He's not in the room. She has a moment of disorientation and fear. But then Parker opens the door and comes in with doughnuts and coffee for two. He is sweet and solicitous, but there's no escaping the awkwardness of "where's my bra?" and "I think you're wearing my socks." Parker says "I'll call you."

21 XANDER'S BASEMENT HOME - MORNING 21

(Xander, Anya)

Anya and Xander wake up entwined and a little sore. It was great, and that makes the morning even more awkward. Anya: "So... I am over you now." Xander: "Um, okay." Anya: "Okay?" She's actually more interesting in ducking the emotional fallout of the experience than she is really upset. Xander lets her go, and no one feels resolved.

22 VAMPIRE LAIR - MORNING 22

(Spike, Harmony)

Spike and Harmony wake up together. He wants to get back to work on his tunnel. Harmony: "You love that tunnel more than me!" Spike: "I love syphilis more than you."

23 BUFFY'S DORM - LATE 23

(Buffy, Willow, Giles)

Buffy arrives home in her rumpled clothes from last night. She finds Willow and Giles waiting for her. Buffy cooks up a story about studying all night at the library. Willow is making thumbs-up gestures behind Giles' back. Finally Buffy says it's none of his business. Giles is relieved. Giles tells Buffy that he's learned something terrible about the Gem of Amara. Terrible power. It's in a crypt in Sunnydale. Buffy takes charge: Giles and the others will start figuring out where the crypt is. Buffy will brush her teeth, then she wants to hear more about it's terrible power. Then she'll go track Spike and Harmony. With any luck she can stop them before they get close to the crypt.

24 VAMPIRE LAIR 24

(Spike, Harmony) Spike's tunnel hits the outer stone wall of the crypt. He's only a few feet away from his goal. Now the real hard work begins, cutting upward into the stone. It will take at least a day. He tells Harmony this is a crucial time. She isn't allowed to leave, because Buffy might see her and follow her back here. Harmony has a hissy fit. Spike starts a stone drill and drowns her out.

MONTAGE:

25 GROTTO - DAY (DAY 3) 25

(Buffy)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Buffy is showing the yearbook picture of Harmony around campus... has anyone seen her? She checks her phone messages for word from Parker... nothing.

26 BUFFY'S DORM ROOM (DAY 4) 26

(Buffy, Willow)

Willow shows Buffy an old map in a book... they're closing in on the crypt location. While Willow talks, Buffy checks the phone for a dial-tone... it's working just fine.

27 VAMPIRE LAIR (DAY 4) 27

(Spike)

Spike has broken through... pierced a small hole into the crypt. He starts tearing at it with his hands, trying to widen it.

28 GILES' APARTMENT (DAY 4)) 28

(Giles, Willow, Xander, Oz)

Giles, Xander, Oz and Willow pore through books. Xander is distracted, staring into space -- he's thinking about Anya.

29 CAMPUS - NIGHT (DAY 4) 29

(Buffy)

Buffy searches. She looks at the many couples that walk around the campus. She's not one of them.

30 BUFFY AND WILLOW'S DORM ROOM - MORNING (DAY 5) 30

Buffy comes in from a long night of searching and rushes over to her answering machine. No messages. She looks at the phone. "Ring!" She wakes up Willow (and Oz?).

END MONTAGE

31 CRYPT - DAY (DAY 5) 31

(Spike, Harmony)

A dark room that brightens as Spike crawls up into it, carrying a torch. Spike stands in the middle of the room and looks around. There is a dead demon here, withered and decayed, arrayed in finery. There are tapestries on the walls, statues and icons everywhere, piles of jewels.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Xander has been pounding on Buffy and Willow's door. He gives up and turns to leave, when Anya spots him (she's looking for him at Buffy's). She approaches him, gently, clearly still interested. Anya: "Hi. Look, Xander, I've been thinking... maybe you and me..." Xander brusquely cuts her off. He needs to find Buffy. Xander moves on, leaving Anya hurt and confused.

39

CRYPT

39

(Giles, Willow, Oz, Harmony)

Giles, Willow and Oz rally. They have Harmony surrounded now, and they each hold makeshift stakes. Harmony looks around her, wild-eyed and snarling. She sees the discarded green stone and picks it up. "Look at me. I'm invulnerable." The gang has no way to know she's lying, and they hesitate just long enough for Harmony to jump down into the tunnel and make her escape.

40

CAMPUS

40

(Buffy, Spike, Xander)

The fight drags on. Buffy and Spike are perfectly matched, but Buffy is fading. Xander runs up, ready to come to the rescue. Spike swats Xander aside immediately, knocking him out. Buffy's in trouble now. But, too bad for him, Spike starts to taunt. Buffy is fired with energy again, and drives him back fiercely. "You're full of crap, Spike. And you know what? I don't think jewelry suits you." She grabs his hand, tears the ring from his finger. Spike ROARS and runs away. He SMOLDERS AND SMOKEs as he drops into an open manhole cover (open because that's how he got here in the first place?).

41

GILES' APARTMENT - NIGHT (STILL DAY 5)

41

(Buffy, Giles, Willow, Xander, Oz)

The first full Scooby meeting in the apartment -- everyone tries to get comfortable. "This is better than the library, refreshments." Xander raids the fridge, to supply is fridge at home. Buffy has the ring -- they all look at it -- so small to be so powerful. Giles suggests destroying it, but Buffy has another idea. There is one vampire in the world who deserves this. It's going to Angel. But how to get it there? Willow: "You don't want to send invulnerability through the US mail -- I'm still waiting for a nice pen my uncle sent for my bat mitzvah." Oz says he'll take it.

42 CAMPUS

42

(Buffy, Willow)

Buffy and Willow walk back to the dorm and talk about Parker. Willow is commiserating. Buffy asks if this always happens: sex makes boys evil. Willow: "Um... as I understand it... pretty much." Buffy talks about how Parker had everything to do with Angel, brought it all back and yet made her miss him even more. That's why she's not going to L.A. -- it would be too hard to leave. When Willow heads for the dorm, Buffy decides to walk a little longer.

43 CAMPUS - LATE

43

(Buffy, Anya, Harmony)

Buffy walks alone.

Anya walks alone.

Harmony walks alone.

Aerial shot: they walk in triangle.

END OF SHOW

CONTINUED: