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BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER

"The Replacement"

written by

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WRITER'S FOURTH DRAFT \*

August 4, 2000 \*

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

"The Replacement"

TEASER

1 XANDER'S BASEMENT - NIGHT (NIGHT 1)

1

BUFFY and RILEY, XANDER and ANYA. Anya's arm is in a sling, but not a cast, following her adventures of last week. The two couples are relaxing on and around Xander's sofa, watching movies. We can't see the screen, but Kung-Fu movie music and fighting thuds and grunts are heard. Buffy has a history text book, and is completely absorbed in it.

XANDER

Wish I had something foodlike to offer you guys, but the hot plate's out of commission.

ANYA

We think the cat peed on it.

XANDER

I do have Spaghetti-os. Set 'em on top of the dryer and you're a fluff cycle away from lukewarm goodness.

RILEY

I, uh, had dryer-food for lunch.

From upstairs we can hear a door slam.

XANDER

Huh, guess the folks are back.

From upstairs there is the muffled sound of a fierce husband-  
\* wife argument, punctuated by the sound of a plate hitting  
the \* wall.

\*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER (CONT'D)  
 (embarrassed)  
 No, no. I was wrong. Just  
 \* incompetent burglars.  
 \*

Another door slams and we hear a shouted fragment:  
 \*

MAN (O.S.)  
 \*  
 ...like I'm gonna listen to your  
 \* friends sober...  
 \*

Xander, embarrassed, talks over the continuing muffled fight:  
 \*

XANDER  
 \*  
 Hey! Here's something interesting.  
 \* I may start looking for another  
 \* place. Who thinks I'm crazy?  
 \*

RILEY / ANYA  
 \*  
 No, not crazy. / 'Bout time.  
 \*

Something heavy hits the floor above them and DUST SIFTS DOWN  
 \* from the rafters. The muffled fighting stops for now.  
 \* Riley, mortified for Xander, tries to change the subject.  
 \*

RILEY  
 Hey, Buffy... good book there?  
 Full of zippy dates and zesty  
 names?

BUFFY  
 (absently)  
 I'm fine.

Riley gently tugs the book away from her.

BUFFY (CONT'D)  
 Hey! I was enjoying the studying!

RILEY  
 Who are you lately? Give it up and  
 watch the movie.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY

Well, it has been a long hard day with the crusades. Guess I could take a little break from the violence for some...

(sees the screen)

Ooh! Fighting!

XANDER

Incompetently dubbed kung-fu. Our most valuable Chinese import.

ANYA

Much more durable than their hot plates.

RILEY

(to Buffy)

Watch the movie and relax. Here.

Riley moves Buffy around in front of him, starts to rub her shoulders.

BUFFY

Mmm. So good. More...

Xander sees the happiness that is Buffy and Riley. He takes the cue, starts rubbing Anya's shoulders.

ANYA

What are you doing? I have a dislocated shoulder and I'm trying to concentrate on the kicking movie.

Xander takes his hands away from Anya. Riley has been watching the whole rejection. He stops rubbing Buffy's shoulders, not wanting to flaunt their togetherness.

BUFFY

Hey! The rubbing went away.

RILEY

Um... sorry... got caught up in the action.

BUFFY

Yeah, it's pretty good--

(then, off movie)

Oh, give me a break!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BUFFY (CONT'D)

See, you'd hit the big guy first, a flying kick maybe, take him out of the fight while you move in on the little one. Slam him with a punch, spin him around right when the big fella's coming in for more, buy some time... \* Oh! Now with the flying kick?! From a dead stop? What's powering it -- raw enthusiasm?

Riley's a little rankled.

RILEY

Hey, Buff. Maybe you oughtta leave the work behind sometimes. You're not always on Slayer duty, you know.

BUFFY

Well, it would drive you crazy if this was an army movie and they were all, you know, saluting backwards and, and... invading all willy-nilly.

Another door slam upstairs. Another fragment:

\*

WOMAN (O.S.)

\*

...gonna run away, huh? Cuz that's \* what you do best...

\*

The muffled fighting starts up again. Everyone tries to \* ignore what they hear. Riley clears his throat loudly to try \* to drown it out. Xander tries to keep the conversation on \* track:

XANDER

(overly peppy)

Yeah! Yeah! We all see the mistakes in the movies! Willow's the same way with movies about witches!

BUFFY

(also overly)

Right. She's all "What's that? A cauldron? Pfff. Who uses a cauldron anymore?"

A very tall and imposing demon, TOTH, stands in front of a bubbling cauldron. A hooded black robe hides his features. He pushes back the hood, revealing the strips of skin shedding from a black skull underneath. He holds something length-wise over the cauldron, letting the smoke curl around it. It's a black cylinder, about half the length of a baseball bat and inscribed with arcane symbols. Toth speaks in a deep and portentous rumble.

TOTH

The last step in thy forging is my  
pain. The price with which I  
purchase the death of the Slayer.

And he plunges the arm holding the cylinder into the cauldron up past the elbow and screams skyward in pain and rage.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

3 APARTMENT BUILDING 3

Quite nice. To establish.

4 HALLWAY - DAY (DAY 2) 4

The hallway of a nice apartment building. Xander, Anya, WILLOW, Buffy, and Riley are heading down the hall.

WILLOW

(to Xander)

If you get the apartment, this'll be your hallway. We'll walk down this hall, going, la, la, I'm on my way to Xander's.

BUFFY

Just warning you now, Xander. I probably won't be doing that.

RILEY

Really? I will.

XANDER

Hey, we're just looking. The rent's way high, so don't get your hopes all carbonated.

ANYA

But you have references!

XANDER

No. I have Albert. Which is me doing an important-voice.

(important-voice)

Xander Harris? An excellent tenant and a very nice-looking fellow...

Anya opens the door. Everyone follows her in.

5 NEW APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS 5

Anya enters, followed by Xander, Buffy, Riley and Willow. The apartment is great -- well, it's not a basement anyway. \*

A large living room-kitchen area, with a door to a bedroom.

\* There is a dining table and a sofa in the otherwise

\* unfurnished apartment.

\*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILLOW

Ooh. Big.

BUFFY

Nice. And not subterranean.  
Very... above-terranean.

ANYA

I want it. Pay anything.

The BUILDING MANAGER, a not-unattractive woman in her early 30s, steps out of the kitchen area and comes over to them. She looks at Riley and Xander. Riley is neatly dressed. Xander wears an untucked floral shirt. She shakes Riley's hand.

BUILDING MANAGER

Xander Harris?

RILEY

Oh. No. Riley Finn. This is  
Xander.

XANDER

Hey.

BUILDING MANAGER

Ah.

Xander wipes his hand on his shirt-tail and offers his hand. She shakes it, unimpressed.

XANDER

I brought my friends.

BUILDING MANAGER

I see.

XANDER

They wouldn't always be around.

WILLOW

But we're quiet and clean.

Buffy and Riley exit into the bedroom. Willow heads into the kitchen area. Anya is looking around the living area.

ANYA

We could have Scooby meetings in  
the living room. Giles can explain  
the boring things over here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WILLOW

Hey! There's a microwave in here!  
It would be like having hot-and-  
cold running popcorn. Only hot.

Xander starts looking around.

BUILDING MANAGER

Phone and electricity are hooked  
up. \* There's a  
private balcony, ceiling  
\* fans, closet space...

Xander opens the door to the bedroom. Buffy and Riley are  
kissing just inside the door. They jump apart.

XANDER

You guys. You can't save it for  
the bedroom?

Buffy and Riley gesture expressively around them at the  
bedroom. (There is a stripped bed there.)

\*

XANDER (CONT'D)

Okay, good point.

Xander heads back to the manager. Buffy and Riley follow  
him.

BUILDING MANAGER

I brought an application for you to  
fill out.

XANDER

An application? I can't just,  
like, tell you my references? 'Cuz  
there's \* Albert--

BUILDING MANAGER

We run your credit check based on  
the application.

XANDER

Oh. Credit check. Little check on  
the credit. See how credible my  
checks are, ha ha.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BUILDING MANAGER

And we'll be asking for first,  
last, security and a small cleaning  
deposit. The total's at the bottom  
of the sheet there.

Xander looks at the total. Buffy and Riley look at it over  
his shoulder. Xander does a good job of not reacting. But  
Buffy and Riley exchange a look -- Buffy shakes her head \*  
slightly. Anya joins them.

ANYA

He'll take it! Xander, go get the  
furniture, I'll wait here.  
(to the manager)  
He lives in his drunken parents'  
basement where something urinated  
on the hot plate.

XANDER

Um, let's talk quietly over there.  
(to the manager)  
Excuse us.

Xander pulls Anya to one side. Buffy, Riley are left smiling  
awkwardly at the building manager. Willow joins them.

RILEY

We... um... we like the ceiling  
fans.

WILLOW

Very, you know, kind of Old South.

BUFFY

(quickly)  
\* But without unpleasant slavery  
associations.

Xander and Anya's talk in progress. Xander tries to talk  
softly, but Anya is loud throughout:

ANYA

But why can't we have it?

XANDER

I told you. The construction job  
is \* ending, I'm  
not going to have any money coming  
in. And, by the way, you do have  
your own place.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ANYA

But when I want to be with you I  
 have to be in that awful basement?  
 \*

XANDER

\*  
 Quiet, please. It's just until  
 \* things come together...  
 \*

ANYA

Things never come together for you,  
 \* Xander! This isn't fair to me.  
 I'm \* injured. My  
 arm is faulty. And now  
 \* you keep shutting me up! I've  
 never been treated this way in over  
 a thousand yea--

Xander glances toward the Building Manager, who is obviously  
 hearing every word.

XANDER

Twenty. Twenty years. And what  
 does your arm have to do with  
 anything? Where is this all coming  
 from?

Anya doesn't answer. She spins around, storms out.  
 Embarrassed, Xander turns to the building manager.

XANDER (CONT'D)

(forced smile)  
 Guess I'll just start on that  
 \* application. Think you'll like  
 it. \* I've been  
 told I have lovely  
 \* handwriting.  
 \*

Looking very skeptical, the manager hands him the  
 application.

6

MAJIK SHOP - DAY

6

GILES is alone in the closed shop, dressed down, sleeves  
 rolled up for a day of inventory and clean-up. Most of the  
 shelves are empty, but there are some dusty books, some  
 jumbled vials of powder, etc.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Giles rummages around in the contents of a cardboard box, hauling out handfuls of amulets, their chains all knotted together. On the side of the box is a black magic-marker scrawl: "Charms, Orbs, Misc. Curses."

GILES

"Miscellaneous curses." Brilliant.  
Be lucky not to curse my hands  
right off.

Giles picks up the box, turns, and FINDS HIMSELF FACE-TO-CHEST WITH THE VERY TALL DEMON TOTH. Toth carries his rod-device.

GILES (CONT'D)

Gahhhh!

TOTH

The Slayer is not here.

Giles holds the box with one arm and starts frantically pawing through it. He seizes on something, holds it up. It's a rabbit's foot.

GILES

Rabbit's foot! No, wait.

Giles comes up with a heavy sculpture of a deity just as Toth swats the box out of his hand. Giles holds the sculpture up in front of him.

TOTH

That is a fertility god. Feeble  
man, you are not likely to strike  
mortal fear into--

GILES HITS TOTH WITH THE FERTILITY SCULPTURE. Again and again! The beating drives Toth back for a moment. But he is more surprised than hurt. He swats Giles casually, smacking him against a wall.

TOTH (CONT'D)

You are not the Slayer. You do not  
concern me.

Toth sweeps out, his robe all billowy and evil behind him.

7

MAJIK SHOP - LATER - DAY

7

Willow pages through some of the shop's collection of books. Buffy, Riley, and Xander watch as Giles demonstrates how he fought off the demon. Giles swings the sculpture wildly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GILES

Like this... and this!

RILEY

That thing's pretty heavy.

WILLOW

It's Oofdar, Goddess of Childbirth.  
Got some nice heft to her.

BUFFY

How badly did you hurt him?

Giles sets down the sculpture.

GILES

Well, hurt... maybe not hurt...

WILLOW

(helpful)

I'm sure he was startled.

GILES

Yes, yes, I imagine it gave him  
rather a turn.

BUFFY

He ran away, right?

GILES

Sort of, more... turned and swept  
out majestically, I suppose. Said  
I didn't concern him.

BUFFY

So a mythic triumph over a  
completely indifferent foe?

GILES

Well, I'm not dead or unconscious,  
so \* I say bravo  
for me.  
\*

Willow hands Giles one of the books.

WILLOW

Good demons in this one. See if  
your guy's in there.

Giles starts looking through it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY

So you bought the magic shop and you were attacked before it even opened. Who's up for a swingin' chorus of the "I Told You So" symphony?

Riley is taking a few practice swings with the sculpture.

RILEY

Owning this place, does seem kind of \* dangerous.

Giles looks up from his book. He looks blankly at Riley.

GILES

Toth.

RILEY

What?

BUFFY

\*

He called you a toth. It's a British \* expression. It means, like, a moron. \*

GILES

(patiently)

No. Toth is the name of the demon.

(consulting book)

Ancient demon... very strong... last survivor of the Tothric Clan. it also says that for a demon he's unusually sophisticated.

BUFFY

Sophisticated? I talk men's fashion with him while I cut his head off?

GILES

They're referring to the fact that he does not fight bare-handed. He uses tools, devices. He's also supposed to be very focused. And since he mentioned "The Slayer" I think we know what the focus is--

Riley turns grim.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

RILEY

He mentioned Buffy? Where do we find him and how hard can I kill him?

GILES

There's no mention of the types of \* places he might frequent. But I have \* an idea. He had a specific... olfactory presence.

XANDER

So it's off to the old factory. I hate that place.

(off their looks)

I'm joking. I know what it means. He smelled.

WILLOW

Some demon rituals involve anointing with oils. Was it kind of sandalwoody?

GILES

Hmm. Not even remotely. But it was very... distinctive.

\*

8

THE DUMP - NIGHT

8

That night. Buffy, Giles, Willow, Riley, and Xander walk gingerly through the dump carrying crossbows and axes.

BUFFY

The city dump, where smells go to relax and be themselves.

RILEY

People say they're recycling.

(sadly)

They're not recycling.

WILLOW

I found a spell so you can't smell anything. But it does it by taking your nose off. I decided no, but I'm \* thinking I was hasty.

\*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY

At least the rats are staying away.

GILES

Okay, everyone. We're here to find  
\* a demon. Stay focused.

\*

XANDER

Right, because with the moonlight  
\* reflecting off the pools of scum,  
we \* might just  
forget ourselves and start  
\* holding hands...

\*

Caught, Buffy and Riley let go of each other's hand. Xander sees it and reacts, surprised. The group rounds a corner, startling SPIKE, who is rummaging through some discarded items.

BUFFY

Knew we'd see a rat eventually.

\*

RILEY

What are you doing here, Spike?

SPIKE

Oh, there's a nice lady vampire  
who's set up a charming tea room  
just 'round the next pile of crap--  
what do you think I'm doing? I'm  
scavenging, ain't I?

Spike indicates a small pile of salvaged items. We can see a broken table and part of what looks like a mannequin. Spike holds up an attractive old oil lamp.

WILLOW

Very pretty.

BUFFY

Spike, we're looking for a demon.  
Very tall, robe, skin kinda hanging  
off, deep voice...

SPIKE

What, you mean a great tall robe-y  
thing like that one?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

The Scoobies turn and look behind them. TOTH LOOMS OVER THEM all, holding the black rod from the teaser.

TOTH  
Die well, Slayer.  
\*

Giles and Riley are circling around behind Toth, axes ready as Toth raises the rod.

SPIKE  
Hey, big guy! Kick 'er ass!

Buffy sees the rod in Toth's hand -- a fighting staff? She picks up a length of pipe. But Xander sees that Toth is aiming the rod at her.

XANDER  
Watch out!

A BLAST OF SPARKS ERUPTS FROM THE ROD AND A PILE OF GARBAGE NEXT TO BUFFY EXPLODES!

RILEY  
Take cover!

Riley grabs Willow's arm, pulls her away from the action.

TOTH FIRES THE WEAPON AGAIN. SPIKE'S NEW LAMP IS HIT, SHATTERING IN HIS HAND.

SPIKE  
Oh, very nice. I was on your side!

Toth has Buffy in his sights. Xander knocks Buffy aside just as a blast of magical force erupts from the rod. THE FORCE HITS XANDER. HE IS FLUNG TO THE GROUND IN THE SHADOWS.

BUFFY  
Xander!

The gang run to Xander.

RILEY  
Man, you okay?

Xander struggles to his feet. Buffy looks around for Toth, \* but he's gone. Xander allows himself to be supported between Buffy and Riley. The group moves away slowly. As they go, \* and the others ad lib concern...  
\*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

XANDER

I'm okay... I'm fine...

\*

The dump is empty now. Except that something lies half-buried in garbage, unnoticed. We push in. IT'S XANDER, still lying unconscious where he fell. So who just went off with Buffy? Stay tuned. For this is only the...

END OF ACT ONE

## ACT TWO

9 THE DUMP - MORNING (DAY 3) 9

The sun is up. We hear the cheerful early-morning rustle and squeak of the local rodents. Tucked in amid the debris is the Xander. He stirs, yawns, sniffs, his eyes still closed.

XANDER  
(half asleep)  
Anya? Are you trying to use the hot plate again?

He opens his eyes, wakes up. Looks around.

XANDER (CONT'D)  
Uh-oh.

10 THE DUMP - MOMENTS LATER 10

Xander, rumpled and stained, picks his way across the dump.

XANDER  
So, you take the bullet for the swinging Scooby-friends and what do you get? A pat on the head? A tasteful medal? No! You get left for dead under a light layer of potato peelings and moldy socks!

He slips and falls out of frame.

11 XANDER'S HOUSE - DAY 11

Xander trudges down the outside stairs to the basement door. He tries it, but it doesn't open.

XANDER  
Anya! Ahn?!

He rattles the lock. Nothing. He kicks the door. Hurts his foot. Hops up and down.

12 XANDER'S HOUSE - BASEMENT WINDOW 12

Xander has to lie on his stomach in the dirt to look into the ground-level window into the basement. He uses his hand to clean a patch of dusty window. He is startled to see...

HIGH ANGLE ON: XANDER INSIDE THE BASEMENT

Combing his shower-damp hair. This is XANDER-DOUBLE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER (O.S.)

Oh my god.

ANGLE: XANDER

Outside. Taking it in. Watching himself. He blinks. He touches his own face.

XANDER

What-- Who is... me?! What's he doing?

XANDER-DOUBLE

searches through Xander's drawers, pulling out shirts. He pulls on a shirt, finds a billfold, takes money out, puts it in his pocket.

XANDER

Watches with dawning horror.

XANDER

Buffy. Need Buffy.

Xander scrambles to his feet, turns to run, trips on his shoelaces and falls down.

13

PHONE BOOTH - DAY

13

A corner phone booth near Xander's house. Xander searches his pockets as he talks to the operator.

XANDER

No, it ate my quarter!... Uh-huh. But see, I'm having this sort of aggressively bad day... Ooh!... I found a quarter! I found a quarter!... well, ma'am, for me it is worth getting excited about.

He breaks the connection, dials a number.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Come on, Buffy.

As he waits, Xander-Double walks right by the booth, not spotting Xander. Xander-Double looks good. Work clothes, but nicer than jeans. Everything is clean, tucked in. Even his posture seems better. Startled, Xander puts up a hand to hide his own face. The phone's still ringing and he's torn -- hope Buffy picks up or follow his double. He hesitates, then hangs up, follows Xander-Double.

14 BUFFY'S HOUSE - DAY

14

Buffy and Riley in her bedroom. Buffy hangs up the phone.

BUFFY

They hung up. She goes back to loading weapons into her weapon bag.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Okay, the guy wants to fight with weapons, I've got it covered from A to Z. From ax to... ze other ax.

She smiles at Riley. He forces a smile back at her.

BUFFY (CONT'D)

Relax. Another day, another demon.

RILEY

\*

(unconvinced)

\* Right. It'll be good.

\*

She kisses him. He kisses back. Right away, the sweet moment is spoiled by vigorous off-screen gagging noises. Riley and Buffy look over to see DAWN, standing in the doorway.

DAWN

My friend Sharon's older brother knows a girl who died 'cause she choked on her boyfriend's tongue.

BUFFY

Go away, Dawn.

DAWN

I'm not in your room. I'm in the hallway. The hallway doesn't belong to you.

BUFFY

Get out of here!

JOYCE passes by, and Dawn stops her.

DAWN

Mom, I can stand in the hallway, right?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY

She's watching us like a big freak.

Joyce rubs at her forehead.

\*

JOYCE

This must be my two-teenage-  
daughters- \* in-the-  
house headache. I thought it  
\* felt familiar.

\*

BUFFY

Good work, Dawn. You gave her a  
headache.

DAWN

I did not. Did I give you the  
headache, Mom? I'm sure part of it  
is Buffy's.

BUFFY

But part of it is Dawn's.

JOYCE

(small smile)

I knew you two'd learn to share  
\* someday. Now, you girls solve  
this \*  
yourselves. It's good for you.

\*

Joyce moves off.

DAWN

She didn't say I couldn't stand  
here.

Without taking a step, Buffy reaches over, swings the door  
closed in Dawn's face.

DAWN (O.S.)

Ow! Buffy and Riley are alone  
again.

BUFFY

I guess I should go. I'm thinking  
maybe the guy actually likes smelly  
places. So I'm going to do a whole  
tour de funky, starting with the  
sewers.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

RILEY  
I'm coming with you.

BUFFY  
Um...

RILEY  
I never told you this about me, but  
\* I love the sewers. Probably get  
a place there when I retire.

BUFFY  
Riley, this guy is looking for me  
specifically. I want to draw him  
out. With you there, I don't  
know...

RILEY  
Okay. Yeah, I get it.  
\* (beat)  
\* I guess this is what being the  
Slayer \* is going  
to be about now. The bad  
\* guys don't come here 'cause of  
the Hellmouth anymore. Dracula and  
now this Toth guy -- seems like  
they're \* all  
coming to take on "the Slayer".  
\*

BUFFY  
It doesn't have to be bad. Maybe  
it \* means I'm  
doing a good job, you know,  
\* if they've heard of me.  
\*

RILEY  
(softening)  
\* I get that. It's just... Buffy,  
I \* need you to  
be okay. I don't know what I'd  
do... This whole Slayer  
\* thing-- who knows how many bad  
guys \* are out  
there just waiting for their  
chance?

15 SPIKE'S CRYPT - DAY

15

Spike is concentrating on something out of frame. ANOTHER  
ANGLE REVEALS that he's tying a halter top onto a mannequin.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Actually it's only the top half on a mannequin. It sits on top of a short stone pedestal. Spike puts a blonde wig on the mannequin. He steps back to admire.

SPIKE

Very posh.

He brushes the blonde hair out of the mannequin's face, almost tenderly, then he turns to walk away. He takes a few steps, then without warning he spins and kicks viciously at the mannequin. The head and torso fly apart. The torso slams into the opposite wall of the crypt. The wigged head falls, rolls, stops at Spike's feet. He picks it up, holds it in front of his face, addresses it. (If possible, could \* be maybe get his foot under the head and KICK IT UP INTO HIS \*  
HANDS?)  
\*

SPIKE (CONT'D)

Oh, Slayer. One of these days.

16

CONSTRUCTION SITE - DAY

16

Xander-Double arrives at a construction site on which the job is clearly almost complete. A row of hardhats is set up, names affixed to most of them with tape. Xander-Double finds the one labelled "Harris." He puts it on, picks up a nail-gun and goes to work. The FOREMAN approaches.

FOREMAN

Harris!

Xander-Double doesn't react. Maybe he doesn't recognize his own name. Or maybe he just can't hear over the nail gun.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)

Harris!

Xander-Double stops work.

XANDER-DOUBLE

Harris. Sorry. Yeah?

FOREMAN

In my trailer, okay? I'm talking to all the guys today. Job's winding down.

XANDER-DOUBLE

Yeah. Right with you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANGLE: XANDER

Standing half-hidden by a porta-potty. He watches as Xander-DOUBLE heads away, following the Foreman.

XANDER  
Welcome to payback, mister evil-  
plan face-stealer. You take my  
life, you get my being-fired  
absolutely free!

ANGLE: XANDER-DOUBLE

Xander-Double heads toward the Foreman's trailer. Xander-Double neatly avoids the hazards of the site, ducking under boards, jumping over tools.

ANGLE: XANDER

A WORKER EXITING THE PORTA-POTTY OPENS THE DOOR AND WHACKS Xander on the head. Xander doesn't exclaim... he's used to it by now. He just rubs his head.

WORKER  
Harris? Where's your hardhat?

17

/EXT. FOREMAN'S TRAILER - DAY

17

Xander-Double takes off his hardhat as he enters the cramped trailer. The Foreman sits behind a cluttered desk.

FOREMAN  
Sit down. Xander-Double sits.

OUTSIDE THE TRAILER:

Xander arrives under a window in the Foreman's trailer. The window is too high to see in. Xander jumps, can't see in.

Out of breath, he realizes this isn't going to work. He quickly rigs a platform: particle-board over some planks. He gets on the platform and looks into the window.

INTERCUT WITH:

INSIDE THE TRAILER:

Xander-Double faces the foreman across the desk. Xander-Double is playing with something in his hand -- a flat  
\* silver-colored disk. He turns it casually in his fingers.  
\*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FOREMAN  
How long you work here, Harris?

XANDER-DOUBLE  
Huh. I'm not sure.

FOREMAN  
Three months?

XANDER-DOUBLE  
I guess-- yes.

FOREMAN  
Well, that's a pretty good run.  
Lots of times we don't keep someone  
that long.

Xander-Double is still playing with the metal disk.

FOREMAN (CONT'D)  
Sometimes it takes longer than  
others to see if a guy's gonna work  
out or not. Now you know the job's  
ending...

OUTSIDE:

Xander watches:

XANDER  
(re: disk)  
He's got something... he's doing  
something.

INSIDE:

Reflected light glints off the disk in Xander-Double's  
hand... shines onto the Foreman's face...

\*

FOREMAN  
And that's why I figured, I figured  
I better let you know we're gonna  
be shifting you to another site.  
We want to keep you on, prob'ly at  
a higher rate.

OUTSIDE:

Xander reacts with shock.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XANDER

Why isn't he firing me-- him?  
 What's \* going on?  
 \*

INSIDE:

FOREMAN

We're starting a new job over on  
 Carleton next week -- some interior  
 work, carpentry. Thought I'd bring  
 you on to head up the crew over  
 there.

XANDER

Standing on his platform. He's  
 heard it all.

XANDER

A promotion?! He made it happen.  
 \* The shiny thing. He brain-washed  
 him! \*

Agitated, he moves a little too much. The platform breaks  
 under him. He falls to the ground.

XANDER-DOUBLE AND FOREMAN

FOREMAN

Anyway, there's gonna be some extra  
 cash coming your way. Think about  
 what you want to do with it.

XANDER-DOUBLE

I already have an idea.

Xander-Double smiles slyly to himself.

18

NEW APARTMENT - NIGHT

18

The nice apartment Xander couldn't afford. Xander-Double is  
 standing at the kitchen counter with the Building Manager,  
 signing a lease. He is still in his work clothes, but he has  
 added a casual sport coat -- he looks very put-together.

BUILDING MANAGER

I was going to call you, Mr.  
 Harris. Let you know your credit  
 checked out fine. But I really  
 didn't think you'd be back.

19 HALLWAY - SAME TIME 19

Xander is on his knees at the apartment door, ear pressed against the door, listening.

20 NEW APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS 20

Xander-Double finishes signing the lease.

BUILDING MANAGER

I'm sure you'll like the building.

Xander-Double takes the shiny disk out of his pocket, starts to turn it in his fingers.

BUILDING MANAGER (CONT'D)

I think someone said you're currently in your parents' basement?

XANDER-DOUBLE

Right. And there's just a point where you either move on or you just buy yourself a Klingon costume and go with it.

She laughs, charmed. Light glints off the disk, reflects \* onto her face.

\*

BUILDING MANAGER

Well, I hope you'll be happy here, Mr. Harris. We're certainly happy to have you.

\* (moving closer)

\* And if you need anything, day or

\* night, please call me. I...

um... \* I'm

leaving my home number here...

\*

XANDER-DOUBLE

Thank you.

\*

BUILDING MANAGER

Call me. Even, you know, for non-

\* business stuff... we could maybe

do

\* something...

\*

21 HALLWAY - NIGHT

21

Xander continues to listen.

XANDER

She's coming on to me! Him!

\* (realizing)

\* He did it again. He made her  
want \* him.

The door starts to open right in front of Xander's face and he tips over backwards onto his butt. The building manager hesitates in the doorway, giving Xander time to get away.

BUILDING MANAGER

(calling back in)

Remember... any time!

Xander has to scuttle ungracefully backwards and then get to his feet and down the hall before the manager sees him.

22 NEW APARTMENT - NIGHT

22

Xander-Double has just finished dialing.

XANDER-DOUBLE

Anya? You there?

(then)

Look, I know you're still mad. But I figure you're probably sitting there, pretending you're not home, but listening anyway...

23 ANYA'S APARTMENT - THE SAME TIME

23

Only a tiny glimpse of Anya's apartment, a corner with a short cabinet with an answering machine on it, and a few ancient Eastern ornaments on the wall. Anya stands next to the answering machine, listening as Xander leaves the message.

ANYA

(to machine)

Am not.

XANDER-DOUBLE

(on machine)

... But I have something to show you. Meet me at the apartment. You know the one. Nine o'clock.

We hear Xander-Double hang up.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Anya considers what he said.

24 APARTMENT HALLWAY - NIGHT

24

Xander-Double emerges from the apartment and heads down the hallway, tucking lease papers into his inside jacket pocket. Xander jumps him from behind, knocking him off balance.

XANDER

Yaaaa!

Xander-Double shakes him off -- Xander collides with the hallway wall, hitting his leg. Xander-Double turns, ready to fight. He sees Xander for the first time, and freezes. Then he hauls off and decks Xander. Xander goes down, but is not knocked out. Xander-Double stands over him -- ready to move in for more violence? But a noise farther down the hallway startles him, someone may be coming. Xander stirs, starts to get up.

XANDER (CONT'D)

I won't let you do this! You can't do this to me!

Xander-Double turns and runs. Xander collapses flat on his back on the ground again.

XANDER (CONT'D)

Oh man. I need Buffy.

25 GILES' APARTMENT - NIGHT

25

It's dark and it's RAINING. Xander, now limping, stumbles toward Giles' apartment. He's heading past the windows that flank the fireplace when he hears his own voice:

XANDER-DOUBLE (V.O.)

No, no. He looked exactly like me!

Xander slumps against the wall, next to window and listens...

26 GILES' APARTMENT- NIGHT

26

Buffy, Giles and Riley listen to Xander-Double. Buffy's weapon bag lies nearby and a map of the sewers is pinned to the wall -- looks like a strategy session got interrupted.

XANDER-DOUBLE

It stole my face. We have to find it and we have to kill it!

27 GILES' APARTMENT - CONTINUOUS

27

XANDER

She sees it's not me.

(prayer)

C'mon Buffy... resist his spell...  
do this for me.

Xander hears them continue:

BUFFY (O.S.)

Don't worry, Xander. Whatever  
stole your face -- it has to deal  
with a Slayer now.

Xander reacts -- Buffy has deserted him.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

A28 EXT. CAMPUS - NIGHT

A28

It's still dark, it's still raining and Xander is still limping and wet and rumpled and confused. And now he is also lost. He looks around at the campus buildings.

XANDER

Stupid dorms, all sitting there,  
being all the same looking. Where  
are you, Willow?

Just behind Xander, warm and dry inside the glass lobby of a  
\* dorm, Willow passes by, carrying a few books. He turns and  
\* spots her.

\*

XANDER (CONT'D)

(yells)

Willow!

She doesn't hear him of course, and continues to walk.  
\* Xander runs along side her, trying to catch her attention  
and \* looking for the door in. But the glass wall is long  
and he \* keeps tripping over rocks and shrubs.

\*

XANDER (CONT'D)

Willow!

28 WILLOW'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

28

Willow enters her room, puts down her books. Suddenly Xander  
\* bursts into the room, dripping wet and generally yucky.  
Willow YELPS in surprise.

XANDER

Don't be scared, Will. Just  
listen. It's me, Xander. And I can  
prove it.

WILLOW

Um... okay.

XANDER

Let's see... stuff only you and me  
know.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER (CONT'D)

Okay, for my seventh birthday I wanted a toy fire truck and I didn't get it and you were really nice about it and then the house next door burned down and real fire trucks came and for years I thought you set the fire for me. And if you did, you can tell me.

(beat)

And for a while last year I thought I was lactose intolerant but it was just some bad brie. And, by the way, \* if I had time to prepare, I'd have \* way better material than this.

(beat)

Oh! Every Christmas we watch Charlie Brown together and I do a Snoopy dance.

Still dripping wet, Xander starts to do a Snoopy dance.

WILLOW

Are you just going to keep going?

XANDER

Yes!! Yes! I will keep going until I have you convinced!

WILLOW

Xander, stop dancing!

He stops dancing.

XANDER

A-ha! You called me Xander!

WILLOW

Xander, shut up. Why wouldn't I think you were Xander?

XANDER

Oh. Huh.

WILLOW

What's going on?

XANDER

Okay. I woke up in the dump this morning--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

WILLOW

Wait. You woke up in the dump?  
But we walked you home last night.  
Remember?

XANDER

(scared)

I didn't... Will, did I do anything  
weird? Did I wave any shiny things  
\* around?

WILLOW

Shiny things? What are you talking  
about?  
\*

XANDER

Last night. That wasn't me.  
There's \* a double  
out there. Some... thing that's  
stolen my face. It's going around  
pretending it's me and it's  
hypnotizing people. It even got to  
Buffy and Giles and Riley. It's  
with them right now and they have  
no idea. \*

29

GILES' APARTMENT - NIGHT

29

Giles and Xander-Double and Riley talk. Buffy sits quietly  
apart, thinking.

GILES

What's intriguing me is that there  
are any number of demons with the  
ability to mimic a simple form, but  
this sounds like more than that--

XANDER-DOUBLE

Hold up. Do we really have to  
figure out what it is? Let's just  
go kill it!

RILEY

Yeah. When the imposter is killed,  
the body'll probably turn back into  
\* whatever it really is, and then  
we'll know--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY  
 (interrupting)  
 Toth. The demon with the creepy-  
 stick.

Xander looks up quickly. Shoots a hard look at Buffy.

XANDER-DOUBLE  
 Toth.

BUFFY  
 It's gotta be. He hit you with the  
 blast and somehow that allowed him  
 to take your form. Giles, couldn't  
 that be what the stick-thing did?

GILES  
 I suppose... yes, it makes sense.  
 A shape-shifting device.

XANDER-DOUBLE  
 (carefully)  
 It does make sense. It must be  
 Toth. Well, Buffy, I think you've  
 solved the mystery of what the  
 double is.

THRU  
 THRU

32  
 32

A33 INT. WILLOW'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT  
 A33

Xander and Willow sit and talk. Willow has spread newspapers  
 on the bed and wet Xander sits on those, wringing out his  
 socks into the trash basket.

XANDER  
 \*  
 It's a robot! An evil robot  
 \* constructed from evil parts that  
 look \* like me and  
 are designed to do evil!  
 \*

WILLOW  
 Uh-huh. Or, it's Toth.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER

Or, it's Toth!

\*

33 GILES' APARTMENT - NIGHT

33

Buffy, Giles, Riley and Xander-Double continue...

BUFFY

Well, I was looking for Toth  
 anyway. I guess now I start, you  
 know, looking for you.

XANDER-DOUBLE

Yes. Now, I made plans to see Anya  
 \* tonight, and I think I should do  
 \* that. I'd know she was safe that  
 way. \*

BUFFY

Go be with her. If you were  
 running around looking for the  
 double too... well, let's just say  
 I don't want to run into you and  
 kill the wrong one.

Xander-Double is already up and heading for the door.

XANDER-DOUBLE

No one wants that.

GILES

Wait! Xander, this thing's  
 attacked you once already.

RILEY

Right. What if it comes after you  
 again?

XANDER-DOUBLE

You know what? I kind of hope he  
 does.

Xander-Double exits.

34 WILLOW'S DORM ROOM - NIGHT

34

Xander is pacing listlessly now, flapping his wet shirt-tails  
 \* to dry them. Willow flinches occasionally as if water  
 drops are being flung onto her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER

A demon. A demon has taken my life from me. And he's living it better than I do.

WILLOW

But we're working on it. There's got to be a way to get to Buffy, to un-hypnotize her. I'll find a spell to snap her out of it.

XANDER

(numbly)

Right. Whatever.

WILLOW

\*

Xander, you sound a little-- You  
\* have to help me figure this out,  
you \* know.  
\*

XANDER

But I never help. I get in trouble  
\* and Buffy saves me.  
\*

WILLOW

\*

That's not true! Sometimes we all  
\* work together to save you!  
\* (trying to fix it)  
\* And sometimes you're not in  
trouble. \*

XANDER

Will, I'm just getting so tired of  
\* this. I mean, here I am again,  
the \* target of  
some humiliating thing, and this  
time it's even worse. This demon,  
he's like, taking my life and, and  
everyone's treating him...  
everyone's treating him like a  
grown-up. Will, I'm starting to  
feel like...

WILLOW

Like what?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XANDER

Like, it's doing everything better,  
 \* it's smarter and... I don't know.  
 \* Maybe I should just let it have  
 it. \* Take my  
 life, please. It's not like I was  
 doing anything with it.

WILLOW

Xander, no! You're just tired and  
 all soggy, that's why it seems so  
 hard. But you can't let him take  
 everything away!

XANDER

I really don't care. He can take  
 it. \* All of it.  
 Well, not all of it. He  
 \* can't take Anya. I, I couldn't  
 go on \* without...  
 \* (then)  
 \* Willow-- you don't think...  
 \*

But he doesn't need her answer. He's already heading for the  
 \* door, galvanized.  
 \*

XANDER (CONT'D)

\*  
 I have to go. She'll think he's  
 me! \* She's  
 defenseless!  
 \*

WILLOW

Xander, you already knew he was  
 taking over your life. You didn't  
 think about Anya 'til just now?

As Xander exits:

XANDER

Hey, wait 'til you have an evil  
 twin, see how you handle it!

Willow is left alone.

WILLOW

(to herself, meekly  
 defensive)  
 I handled it fine.

35 ANYA'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

35

Same small view of a piece of Anya's apartment. Xander enters, sweaty and frantic.

XANDER

Anya? Ahn? She's not there.

He sees the light on the answering machine signalling there's a message. He hits play and hears:

XANDER-DOUBLE (V.O.)

--Meet me at the apartment. You know the one. Nine o'clock.

Xander is genuinely shaken. He starts searching for something... pulling out the drawers in the cabinet, rummaging around.

36 NEW APARTMENT - NIGHT

36

Xander-Double and Anya are standing in the middle of the new apartment. She still wears her sling. Champagne is chilling \* in a bucket on the counter next to a picnic basket. A \* blanket is spread out on the floor. Anya is looking around \* her, trying to absorb what Xander-Double has just told her. \*

ANYA

You're lying. It's a trick.

XANDER-DOUBLE

No. Trust me.

ANYA

You really got this apartment?

XANDER-DOUBLE

I really did. And you know why?

ANYA

The ceiling fans? They're very attractive.

XANDER-DOUBLE

No. It's because I knew you wanted it. It's all for you.

He moves closer. She smiles. He kisses her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XANDER-DOUBLE (CONT'D)

Anya? You didn't see me today, did you? I mean, we didn't talk?

ANYA

What do you mean? I got your phone message, that's all.

XANDER-DOUBLE

Good.

More kissing. Xander sits on the picnic blanket, takes Anya  
\* in his arms.

\*

ANYA

So what happens next?

XANDER-DOUBLE

Well, at some point we take our clothes off.

\*

ANYA

I mean, what's next in our lives? When do we get a car?

XANDER-DOUBLE

A car?

ANYA

And a boat. No, wait. I don't mean a boat. I mean a puppy. Or a child? I have a list somewhere.

XANDER-DOUBLE

What are you talking about?

ANYA

Just, we have to get going. I don't have time to just let these things happen.

XANDER-DOUBLE

There's no hurry.

He pulls her in for another kiss, but she squirms away.

ANYA

Yes, there is. There's a hurry. Xander. I'm dying.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ANYA(CONT'D)

I may have as few as fifty years left.

XANDER-DOUBLE

Fifty years-- what is this... oh, wait a minute. This is about this.

He touches her sling.

ANYA

What? About the sling?

XANDER-DOUBLE

You haven't been hurt like this since \* you became human. Maybe it's finally hitting you what being human means.

ANYA

That's not it.

\*

XANDER-DOUBLE

Yes, I think it is. You were going \* to live for thousands more years. Now you're going to age and... die. \* It must be terrifying.

\*

ANYA

You don't understand what it's like. \*

XANDER-DOUBLE

Being suddenly human? I think I can get what that would be like. And, I \* think that we can work through it.

\*

ANYA

You can't make it any different. I'm \* going to get old and you can't promise you'll be with me when I'm wrinkly and my teeth are artificial and stuck into my wrinkly mouth with \* an adhesive.

XANDER-DOUBLE

I can't promise that. But it doesn't sound terrible, and that's saying something.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Anya kisses him. He kisses back.

XANDER-DOUBLE (CONT'D)  
I promise you, Anya, very soon you  
won't be thinking anymore about  
getting older...

The kisses might turn into something more, but... Xander  
bursts into the room.

XANDER  
Get away from her!

ANYA  
Xander! Xander?

XANDER-DOUBLE  
Get out! You don't belong here!

She takes a tentative step toward Xander. Xander-Double  
grabs her by her uninjured arm and pulls her back.

XANDER  
Anya! It's me!

XANDER-DOUBLE  
(to Anya)  
It's a demon. He stole my face.  
He's trying to trick you.

Anya looks back and forth between them, uncertain.

XANDER-DOUBLE (CONT'D)  
Anya... you know I'm me, right?

XANDER  
No!

Anya makes her decision. She runs to Xander-Double.

ANYA  
(to Xander-Double, re  
Xander)  
What is it? Make him go away!  
\*

37

GILES' APARTMENT

37

Buffy lifts her weapon bag onto her shoulder as Riley looks  
at a map of Sunnydale and Giles pages through a book.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

RILEY

So you're thinking we split up.

BUFFY

Right. You hit all the places he  
might go to blend in as Xander.  
I'll keep checking out the places  
Toth might hang--

Willow bursts in, out of breath, able to do nothing but pant  
for a second.

GILES

I swear, that time I know I had  
that locked.

WILLOW

Buffy! Toth looks like Xander!

RILEY

We know it already. We're on our  
\* way--

BUFFY

Wait. Willow, how do you know  
about this?

WILLOW

He came to me. I mean, Xander did.  
He's in terrible shape. We need to  
help him!

RILEY

He came to us, too.

WILLOW

No! We each had a Xander. I mean,  
you didn't have a Xander! You had  
a demon in a Xander-suit!

BUFFY

But, wait, what makes you think  
yours was the right one?

WILLOW

He knew stuff. He did the Snoopy  
dance. Buffy, it was Xander and he  
needs us!

Giles looks up from his book.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GILES

Oh dear lord.

The others ignore him.

RILEY

Buffy... our Xander. Did he seem a little...

BUFFY

He was kind of... forceful and confident.

WILLOW

That's not Xander!

GILES

I said oh dear lord.

BUFFY

You always say that.

GILES

Well, it's always important!  
Neither one of the Xanders is a demon.

WILLOW

Um... is one of them a robot?  
\*

GILES

What? No. The rod device, it's  
\* called a Ferula-gemina.  
\*

(note: gemina with a  
\* hard 'g')  
\*

And it does something completely  
\* different. It, it splits one in  
half.

BUFFY

But it's a blasty-thing, not a  
slicy thing.

GILES

Not that way. It's a form of  
alchemy. Alchemy of the, of the  
spirit. It distills personality  
\* traits into two separate bodies.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

GILES(CONT'D)

As near as I can tell, Toth was attempting to split the Slayer into  
\* two different entities.

RILEY

Two Buffys?

GILES

Yes, one of them with all the qualities inherent in Buffy Summers. \* The other with, with everything that belongs to the Slayer alone: the strength and speed, the heritage--  
\*

WILLOW

But it didn't hit Buffy. It hit Xander and now there's two of them.

GILES

Yes. I think it separated him into, \* I suppose, his strongest qualities and his... weakest.

RILEY

But which one is the real one?

GILES

They're both real. They're both Xander. Neither of them is evil. There's nothing in either of them that our Xander didn't already possess.

RILEY

So the one that was here, that's the \* best Xander there is.

BUFFY

Poor other Xander must be a mess.  
\*

WILLOW

No! He's just a little wet and smelly and freaked out... yeah, okay, he's a mess.

RILEY

I still don't get the original plan. \* Why do it?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

RILEY(CONT'D)

The Slayer half would be  
 \* like Slayer-concentrate. Pretty  
 \* unkillable.

GILES

But the two halves can't exist  
 \* without the other. Kill the  
 weaker \* Buffy  
 half and the Slayer half dies.

BUFFY

So, same thing for the Xanders,  
 right? Both of them need to stay  
 alive or they both die.

38

NEW APARTMENT

38

The two Xanders face each other warily. Anya stands at  
 \* Xander-Double's side.  
 \*

XANDER

He's the demon! Or possibly a  
 robot! Look at me Anya! Look in my  
 eyes! \* Can't  
 you see it's me?  
 \*

Anya hesitates. She thought she was sure, but...  
 \*

ANYA

\*  
 I don't know.  
 \*

XANDER

\*  
 (desperate)  
 \* Please! Look at him! Listen to  
 him! \* He's all  
 smooth! You have to know me!  
 \*

Xander-Double pulls Anya in closer, possessively.  
 \*

XANDER-DOUBLE

\*  
 Don't worry, Anya. I'll get rid of  
 \* this thing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Xander-Double releases Anya and takes a threatening step  
\* toward Xander.

XANDER

No! No!  
\*

XANDER PULLS OUT THE GUN AND POINTS IT AT HIS DOUBLE.  
\*

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

39 NEW APARTMENT

39

The two Xanders and Anya where we left them: Xander with his  
gun leveled at Xander-Double.

ANYA

No! Don't shoot him!

Anya rushes at Xander, KNOCKING HIS ARM ASIDE. SHE AND  
XANDER GRAPPLE OVER THE GUN.

41 GILES' NEW CAR

41

Riley and Buffy in Giles' car, racing to Xander's apartment.

BUFFY

Can't this thing go any faster?  
\* Ultimate Driving Machine my ass.  
\*

RILEY

We're pushing seventy. Look at the  
speed-thing.  
\*

A beat.  
\*

BUFFY

Hey, Riley. Do you wish--  
\*

RILEY

No.  
\*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BUFFY

\*

No? You don't even know what I was  
\* going to say!

\*

RILEY

\*

Yes, I do. You wanted to know if I  
\* wished you got hit by the Ferula-  
\* whatsis. The split-in-two-y  
beam. \*

BUFFY

\*

Huh. Well, you have been kinda  
\* rankly about the whole "Slayer"  
gig. \* Instead of  
Slayer Buffy you could  
\* have Buffy Buffy.

\*

RILEY

\*

You really think I want Buffy  
Buffy? \*  
(when she doesn't answer)  
Buffy?

BUFFY

Well, it's tough, right? Me being  
the "Slayer" -- all bruised and  
busy and occasionally quite  
literally out of my mind.

RILEY

I worry about you. But I also love  
\* you and all that stuff is part of  
you. I wouldn't change anything.  
I \* promise.

\*

Buffy thinks about his answer. After a quiet beat... she  
\* allows herself a little smile. Then:

\*

BUFFY

We better get there soon. If  
Xander kills himself, he's dead.  
(thinks)  
You know what I mean.

42 NEW APARTMENT

42

Xander-Double looks on as Xander and Anya grapple over the gun.

XANDER

(to Anya)

\* Let go! I have to kill the demon-bot!

Anya wrenches the gun from his hand and it falls to the ground. Xander-Double scoops it up. He points it coolly at Xander.

XANDER-DOUBLE

Anya, get out of the way.

Startled by his cold determination, Anya steps away. Suddenly, Buffy and Riley burst in! Riley is carrying Buffy's weapons bag.

BUFFY

Xander!

Both Xanders turn and look.

XANDER-DOUBLE

It's all right, Buffy, I have him.

XANDER

No! Buffy! I'm me! Help me!

ANYA

\*

That's my gun! He has my gun!

\*

RILEY

\*

You own a gun?

\*

BUFFY

Xander-- Gun-holding Xander. Give it to me.

Xander-Double hesitates, his finger hovering over the trigger. Finally he flips the gun expertly in his hand, expelling the cartridge onto the ground and handing Buffy the now-unloaded gun. Buffy hands it to Riley who tucks it into his waistband.

\*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANYA

Buffy! Which one's real?

\*

XANDER

I am!

XANDER-DOUBLE

No. I am.

Xander, infuriated, launches himself physically at Xander-Double. Buffy grabs him mid-launch and throws him up against a wall.

XANDER

Ow!

XANDER-DOUBLE

Thank you!

She grabs Xander-Double, puts him up against the wall next to Xander.

XANDER-DOUBLE (CONT'D)

Ow!

She holds them both pinned motionless against the wall with an hand on each chest. She looks back and forth between them. Riley comes up behind her, looks too.

RILEY

Wild.

BUFFY

Yeah. Okay, look, Xander...s.  
You've been split in two. You're both Xander. And you can't kill each other. I mean, you can, but it would be bad.

The Xanders look at each other.

XANDER-DOUBLE

No way.

XANDER

He can't be me. He's all... fancy.

Buffy cautiously steps away, unpinning the boys.

RILEY

We can prove you're both Xander.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY

Yes! How?

RILEY

(stumped)

Well, there has to be a way.

BUFFY

What number am I thinking of?

RILEY

I don't think that's how to--

XANDER/XANDER

Eleven and a half.

BUFFY

Wrong. Oh! But, see?!

XANDER

But I'm me. I feel it.

XANDER-DOUBLE

No, I'm me--

They're starting to get in each other's faces again. Buffy casually slams them both back up against the wall.

XANDER/XANDER

(perfect unison)

Stop it! That hurts!

They look at each other.

XANDER-DOUBLE

(getting it)

We're both Xander.

XANDER

No. We're not the same. We're all different.

RILEY

Different properties went into each of you, but you're both Xander.

ANYA

Different properties?

XANDER

What different properties?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

BUFFY  
 (covering)  
 Oh... um... sense of direction,  
 good night-vision, stuff like that.

XANDER  
 But he has a thing! In his pocket!  
 A shiny disk that stuns and  
 disorients!

Xander-Double pulls the disk from his pocket.

XANDER-DOUBLE  
 What disk? This?

Xander screams and clamps his hands over his eyes.

XANDER  
 Cover your eyes! It'll melt your  
 brain!

Buffy takes the disk from Xander-Double and pries Xander's  
 hands away. She shows him the disk.

BUFFY  
 Look.

XANDER-DOUBLE  
 It's a nickel someone flattened on  
 a \* railroad  
 track. I found it on the  
 \* construction site and I thought  
 it \* was cool.  
 It's not magic.

Xander takes it.

XANDER  
 No! It-- Huh. It is kinda cool.  
 Washington's still there, but he's  
 \* all smooshy. And he may be  
 Jefferson. \*

ANYA  
 Isn't anyone going to tell me why  
 \* there are two Xanders?  
 \*

BUFFY  
 We'll explain on the way to Giles--

Suddenly, Toth blasts into the room, with his rod-device!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

TOTH  
I will not miss again, Slayer.

BUFFY  
Oh great. Rod boy.

Xander quickly steps behind Xander-Double.

XANDER  
The gun! Pick up the little gun-  
pieces!

Toth aims the rod at Buffy and fires. She FLIPS out of the way and the blast leaves a harmless charred area on the rug.

XANDER-DOUBLE  
Hey! I just made a small cleaning  
deposit!

Toth is aiming again when Riley comes out of nowhere and jumps him from behind, attempting to disarm him. Toth throws Riley aside easily, but the distraction allows Buffy to catch him by surprise. She catches him with a flying kick, follows up with punches... and finally sweeps his feet out from under him.

BUFFY  
Axe!

Riley is at her weapons bag. He opens it and tosses her the axe.

ANGLE ON: THE XANDERS

Winning at the off-screen beheading.

WIDER:

Out of breath and victorious, Riley crosses to Buffy. The demon Toth lies dead at her feet, the axe imbedded in it.

XANDER-DOUBLE  
Oh yeah, that cleaning deposit's  
gone.

XANDER  
I was thinking the same thing.  
(a brand new thought for  
him)  
Hey-- do you suppose we're both  
Xander?

Giles, Buffy, Riley, both Xanders, Anya, Willow. Giles is drawing a pentagram on the floor with chalk. Everyone else is looking at the two Xanders. Xander-Double has put on the \* duplicate of Xander's outfit, and is just finishing buttoning \* his shirt. Buffy and Willow examine their faces close up, \* comparing.

XANDER

(jovial)

Look and admire, ladies.

BUFFY

It's like... there's a little scar here, then there it is over there.

WILLOW

It's all doubled. This zit, and this kind of funny dippy place and this weird little hair that grows the wrong way--

XANDER

(same jovial tone)

Okay, back off, ladies.

RILEY

Psychologically, this is fascinating. Doesn't it make everyone want to lock them in separate rooms and do experiments on them?

(then)

Just me, then.

\*

ANYA

So, you Xanders, you really do have all the same memories, all the same... physical... attributes?

XANDER-DOUBLE

We're completely identical.

XANDER

Yeah, we checked out some stuff in the car on the way over.

(quickly)

Fingerprints.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANYA

Maybe we shouldn't do this reintegration thing right away. See, I could take the boys home, have sex with all of us, then we could just slap 'em back together in the morning.

XANDER-DOUBLE

(smoothly to the others)  
She's joking.

XANDER

No she's not! She entirely wants to have sex with us together! It's wrong, and, and... it would be very confusing!

Giles finishes the pentagram and stands up.

GILES

Now, we need to arrange the candles. Also, we can continue to pretend we heard none of the disturbing sex talk.

WILLOW

Check. Candles and pretense.

Willow, Buffy, Anya, Riley and Giles each take a candle, light it, and place it on a point of the pentagram during the following.

ANYA

(to herself)  
It's not like it'd be cheating.  
They're both Xander.

Everyone pretends they didn't hear her. As the candle-business continues, the two Xanders have a chance to talk:

XANDER

Hey, um, I guess... "Xander"? If the disk wasn't magic, how did you do it? I mean, everyone was treating you so great, and things were all working out...

XANDER-DOUBLE

I think it was just... we earned it. \* Before the split.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XANDER-DOUBLE(CONT'D)

I was just, just  
 \* the guy who was there when it  
 started paying off. Oh, and get  
 this. I \*  
 think we might be much better-  
 looking \* than we  
 think.

Xander looks at Xander-Double, evaluating.

XANDER

Hmm.  
 \*

The group has completed the candles.

WILLOW

We're ready. We should do it now.

ANYA

\*  
 What do we do if it doesn't work?  
 \*

XANDER/XANDER-DOUBLE

Kill us both, Spock!

They laugh, cracking each other up.

BUFFY

(aside, to Giles)  
 They're kind of... the same now.

GILES

Yes. He's clearly a bad influence  
 on himself.

XANDER

(to Willow)  
 Summon the goddess, chant the  
 chant. Let's do it.

WILLOW

Actually, it's not that hard. See,  
 your natural state is to be  
 together. Toth's spell is doing all  
 the work of keeping you apart. I  
 just have to break it. You two  
 stand here. Side by side. Don't  
 want you to end up with two fronts,  
 do we?

The Xanders stand where she positions them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

XANDER

You sure you know how to do this?

WILLOW

Here we go. Brace yourselves.  
"Let the spell be ended."

XANDER

You've got to be kidding. "Let the  
spell be ended"? That's not gonna  
work! Oh.

Xander looks at himself. Looks around. There's only him.

\*

ANYA

I liked it the other way. Put 'em  
back.

44 XANDER'S BASEMENT - DAY (DAY 4)

44

Buffy, Riley and Dawn are helping Xander pack his things. Anya, not wearing her sling for the first time this ep, is sitting on the workbench, watching the activity. Incidentally, Xander looks a lot like Xander-Double in this scene, clothes and hair at their best.

\*

BUFFY

\*

You look good, Xand. Clothes,  
\* hair... I think you came out  
ahead in \* this  
whole thing.

\*

XANDER

\*

Well, I got a job and an apartment.  
\* If the hair's grooving along with  
the \* new vibe, I'm  
okay with it.

\*

Dawn, carrying an armload of clothes, approaches Xander a  
\* little shyly.

\*

DAWN

I think it sounds like it was  
pretty \* cool.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DAWN (CONT'D)

There being two of you.

\*

XANDER

It was strange. And, honestly, one  
\* of me was kinda, you know, clumsy  
and sorta...

DAWN

Shempy?

XANDER

Yeah. I don't think anyone  
would've wanted him around too  
much.

Dawn heads out. As she goes...

\*

DAWN

(wistfully, to herself)

I would've wanted him.

Riley and Xander carry a box to the bottom of the stairs (to  
\* be carried up later). Xander looks around the near-empty  
room.

RILEY

Getting nostalgic?

XANDER

I don't know. At first it's just a  
place, and then you start to make  
memories and then it's like...  
that's where Spike slept, and  
there... that's where Anya and I  
drowned the Separvo demon and right  
here, here's where my heart got all  
ripped out... I really hate this  
place.

Over by the workbench:

BUFFY

Hey, Anya, I see you've joined the  
\* not-sling-wearing crowd.

\*

ANYA

Yes. I'm feeling better and I  
\* anticipate many years before my  
\* death, excepting disease or  
airbag failure.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

BUFFY

\*

Ah. That sounds... good?

\*

Buffy exits as Xander comes over and hands Anya a box.

\*

ANYA

Oooh, a present!

XANDER

Not unless you want my collection  
of \* novelized X-  
Files episodes.

\*

(beat)

Which you cannot have. I just  
thought you could help carry a  
little.

ANYA

Me? Buffy has super strength,  
let's just load her up like one of  
those little horses.

XANDER

Anya. Please.

ANYA

(softening)

Well, you did fight over me. I  
will carry.

Anya exits. Xander turns to Riley, smiles wryly.

RILEY

We've got ourselves some  
complicated women, man.

XANDER

Yeah. You have the slight  
advantage of course, of having got  
the sane one. Riley smiles and goes  
back to packing clothes.

RILEY

I think you two are okay. Not so  
smooth on the surface, but it's  
like, it's solid underneath, you  
know?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Xander looks up from packing another box.

XANDER

But you two are a whole 'nother class. I mean, you guys were holding hands at the dump. You're good deep down, on the surface, everywhere.

RILEY

It is great. I love her. And even when we're fighting, it's... like... it's still amazing and, and alive. \* It's ridiculous, but I swear I wake \* up every day and remember that I have \* her and, it's, it's like this rush \* all over again.  
\*

(with resignation)

But... she doesn't love me.

Xander is stunned. While he figures out how to react, Buffy enters again.

BUFFY

(to Riley)

You got more for me to carry?

RILEY

You can help me pack this.

BUFFY

Sure.

Buffy gives Riley a quick casual kiss and then they pack the box together. Xander watches.

END OF SHOW



CONTINUED: