

Faith, Hope & Trick

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Teaser

EXT. SUNNYDALE HIGH - DAY

Lunch time. Students mill.

TWO FEET -- Teeter on the curb.

WILLOW - looks down at her feet, Oz next to her. Cordelia and Xander (holding hands) approach in b.g.

WILLOW
I'm giddy.

Oz
Like you giddy. Always have.

WILLOW
It's the freedom! As Seniors we can go off campus now for lunch. It's no longer cutting, it's legal. Heck, it's expected. But also a big step forward, a Senior Moment...

Oz glances over his shoulder at Xander, they exchange nods.

WILLOW
...one that has to be savored fully before -- ooo!

Without breaking stride, Xander takes Willow's arm as Oz takes the other. They carry her off the curb, towards the park across the street.

WILLOW
I can't.

XANDER
You can.

Oz
See? You are.

WILLOW
But... what if they changed the rule without telling? What if they're laying in wait just so they can arrest me and put me in detention and mar my unblemished record?

XANDER

Breathe.

WILLOW

Okay. You can put me down.
(they do; she links her arm through Oz's)
Better now. Wow. We're seniors.
Hey, we're walkin' here!
(then:)
Maybe we shouldn't be too
couply around Buffy.

CORDELIA

Oh, you mean 'cause of how the only
guy that ever liked her turned into
a vicious killer and had to be put
down like a dog?

XANDER

Can she cram complex issues into a
nutshell or what?

OZ

Prepare to uncouple... uncouple.

The four of them unlink hands and arms as they enter the --

EXT. PARK - DAY

ANGLE - BUFFY BY A BENCH IN THE PARK

Willow, Xander, Cordelia and Oz (uncoupled) approach. Other STUDENTS eat and
mingle in b.g.

XANDER

Buffy, banned from campus but not
from our hearts, how are you and
what's for lunch?

BUFFY

I just threw together a few things...

She pulls paper towels off a couple of platters revealing a stunning array of cold
cuts, sliced fruit, breads, etc. They munch as:

CORDELIA

When did you become Martha Stewart?

BUFFY

First of all, Martha Stewart knows
jack about hand-cut prosciutto.

XANDER

I don't believe she slays, either.

OZ

I hear she can, but she doesn't like to.

BUFFY

Second of all... way too much time on

my hands since I got kicked out of school.

WILLOW

I know they'll let you back in.

XANDER

Don't you and your mom have a meeting
with Principal Snyder?

BUFFY

(nods)

We're seeing Snyder-man tomorrow.
Maybe I should bring a wheel of my
extra runny brie...

Willow sees: SCOTT HOPE, nice guy Senior, heading their way.

WILLOW

(to Buffy)

Scott Hope at eleven o'clock.

(as Buffy looks)

He likes you, he wanted to ask you
out last year, you weren't ready then
but I think you're ready now -- or at
least in a state of pre-readiness
that would allow you to make
conversation or do that thing with
your mouth chat boys like --

(sudden panic)

I don't mean a bad thing with your
mouth, I mean that sort of half smile
that you do and --

(beat; to Oz:)

You're s'posed to stop me when I do that.

OZ

I like it when you do that.

SCOTT

(passing by)

Hi Buffy.

BUFFY

Hi.

And he's gone.

WILLOW

Oh, I think that went very well.

(to the others)

Don't you think that went very well?

CORDELIA

He didn't try to slit our throats or
anything, it's progress.

WILLOW

(to Buffy)

Did you do the half smile?

BUFFY
I'm not trying to snare Scott Hope,
Will. I just want to get my life
back, okay? Do normal stuff.

WILLOW
Like date...

BUFFY
Well...

XANDER
Oh, you wanna date. I saw that
half-smile, you slut.

Laughing, Buffy punches Xander in the arm. He laughs as well til he realizes how much that --

XANDER
Ow.

-- hurt.

BUFFY
All right, yes. Date. Shop. Go to
school, hang out, save the world from
unspeakable demons -- I wanna do all
that girl stuff.

EXT. HAPPY BURGER - NIGHT

CRANE DOWN on the drive-thru joint, past Mr. "Happy Burger" himself (half man, half burger, big grinning plastic face) as a long, black limo glides to the order window. We hear:

TAKE-OUT GUY (V.O.)
Welcome to Happy Burger,
can I take your order?

And the silky voice of:

MR. TRICK
Diet soda. Medium. Thank you.

TAKE-OUT GUY (V.O.)
That will be eighty-nine cents
at the window, sir.

THE LIMO - We catch a glimpse of MR. TRICK as the darkened window rolls back up. He is young (20's), smart, easygoing and deadly. Speaks quickly and mellifluously, all charm.

INT. LIMOUSINE - NIGHT

Mr. Trick sits in back next to a shape silhouetted in the darkness. In some circles he

is worshipped, in all he is feared. He is KAKISTOS.

MR. TRICK

Sunnydale. Town's got quaint, and the people: he called me sir, don't you miss that? Admittedly, not a haven for the brothers -- strictly the caucasian persuasion in the Dale -- but you gotta stand up and salute their death rate. I ran a statistical analysis and Hello Darkness -- Makes D.C. look like Mayberry. And nobody sayin' boo about it. We could fit right in here. Have some fun.

Kakistos lays a hand on Trick's arm. The hand is cloven, beastly.

KAKISTOS

We're here for one thing.

MR. TRICK

Kill the Slayer, I know. Still, big picture...

Trick rolls down the window, pays the guy inside.

TAKE-OUT GUY

Have a nice night.

MR. TRICK

Right back at you.

KAKISTOS

I'm going to rip her spine out of her body, then I'm going to eat her heart and suck the marrow from her bones.

MR. TRICK

(beat)

And now I'm hungry.

EXT. HAPPY BURGER - NIGHT

Trick reaches out his window. The TAKE-OUT GUY'S smile turns to terror when he sees TRICK HAS BECOME a vamp.

TRICK'S HAND

Vises the guy's throat, rips him out the drive-thru window. The guy screams bloody murder as:

THE LIMO

Peels out, the guy's legs hanging out the back window, his screams growing distant as we settle on Mr. Happy Burger, grinning his eternal plastic grin.

BLACK OUT.

END OF TEASER

Act One

EXT. BRONZE - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

INT. BRONZE - NIGHT

Small crowd. Cordelia, Oz, Willow, Xander at a table. Watching (with no particular emotion) something on the dance floor. WE PUSH PAST them and discover:

BUFFY AND ANGEL - Slow dancing, holding onto one another tenderly.

BUFFY
I miss you.

Buffy looks up at Angel, he looks at her, then turns his head, she follows his gaze to:

HER HAND, ON HIS SHOULDER

And the ring he gave her.

THE RING

Slips off Buffy's finger and CLATTERS TO THE FLOOR (Possible slo-mo.)

Angel picks up the ring. Looks at Buffy. PUSH TO BUFFY --

-- FLASHCUTS: EPISODE 22, YEAR 2 - She runs the sword through him; he is sucked into hell --

IN THE BRONZE - Her friends stare expressionlessly.

BUFFY
I had to...

He tightens his fingers around the ring, crushing it; Buffy sees a bit of blood trickle from his fist to the floor.

ANGEL
I loved you...

She looks at his chest where she ran the sword through, his shirt red now with seeping blood. She moves towards him:

BUFFY
Oh god, Angel...

ANGEL
GO TO HELL!

His fury stops her in her tracks. Then he smiles. And it's not a pleasant smile.

And his face is now a horrible ROTTING CORPSE MASK.

ANGEL

I did.

Buffy screams and screams.

INT. BUFFY'S BEDROOM - MORNING (DAY)

Buffy bolts up in bed from her nightmare. Breathing hard. She takes a moment to get her bearings. Something catches her eye: on the bed post, hung with the scarves and other things, a long silver chain -- on it the RING Angel gave her. She reaches out to touch the ring. Stops, startled by:

JOYCE (V.O.)
Morning, Sunshine...

Joyce is in the doorway.

JOYCE
Ready to face the beast?

INT. SCHOOL - SNYDER'S OFFICE - DAY

SNYDER, the aforementioned beast, faces Buffy and Joyce.

PRINCIPAL SNYDER
Here are the terms of your re-entry,
Missy, take 'em or leave 'em.

Buffy flips (or picks up) a dagger-like silver letter opener off the edge of Snyder's desk, toying with it as:

PRINCIPAL SNYDER
One: you pass a make-up test for each
class you skipped out on last year;
two: you provide, in writing, one
glowing recommendation from any
member of our faculty who is not an
English librarian; three: you
complete an interview with the school
psychologist who must conclude that
your violent tendencies...

Snyder quickly but cautiously removes the letter opener from Buffy's grasp.

PRINCIPAL SNYDER
...are under control.

JOYCE
I'm not sure I like your attitude,
Mr. Snyder. I spoke to the School
Board and according to them --

PRINCIPAL SNYDER
-- I'm required to educate every juvenile
who's not in jail where she belongs.
(to Buffy)
Welcome back.

He opens the door for them to leave. As they do:

BUFFY
So, I'm really back because the
School Board overruled you...
(nothing from Snyder)
...wow, that's like having your whole
ability to do this job called into
question when you think about it.

Snyder stares sullenly at the girl.

JOYCE
I think what my daughter's trying to
say is: nyah nyah nyah nyah.

They leave.

SECRETARY (O.S.)
It's the mayor on line one.

As dread shows on Snyder's face...

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Empty. Willow and Buffy enter.

WILLOW
It's so great you're a school girl again.

BUFFY
What did Giles want, was he mad?

WILLOW
(looks around)
I don't think so, he just needed to
see you. Have you ever noticed when
he is mad but he's too English to say
anything he makes that weird "cluck
cluck" sound with his tongue --

Giles rises from the counter, a pestle and mortar in hand.

BUFFY
(for Willow's benefit)
Hi Giles.

WILLOW
Oh, hi. Been there long?

Giles sets the pestle and mortar down next to some herbs on the counter, busying
himself with them as:

GILES
Buffy, good timing, I can use your help.
I trust you remember the demon Acathla --

BUFFY
Giles, please, contain yourself. Yes,
I'm finally back in school but you
know how it embarrasses me when you

gush so. Why don't we just skip all that and get right to work.

GILES

Oh, ahhh. Sorry. Of course it's wonderful that you're back. That goes without saying. But you... enjoy making me say it, don't you?

BUFFY

That and chocolate, what else have I got? So, Acatla, what ya' doin':
(re: mortar, herbs)
...making him some demon pizza?

GILES

We need to make sure he remains dormant, and the dimensional vortex stays well shut. So I'm working on a binding spell.

WILLOW

Ooo, a spell, can I help?

GILES

Possibly with the research. It's a very sensitive --

WILLOW

Who's more sensitive than me?

GILES

-- and difficult spell.
(to Buffy)

It involves creating a protective circle around... I don't want to bore you, but there's a litany that one recites in Aramaic. It's very specific, and I need to know a few things about your experience in defeating Acatla and Angel.

Buffy looks a tad stony, but:

BUFFY

Fire away.

GILES

I've put the time at around 6:17, about half an hour after Xander rescued me...

BUFFY

Less. More like ten minutes.

GILES

And was the vortex already open?

BUFFY

Just barely.

GILES
I see. And Angel...?

BUFFY
Big fight, Angel got the pointy end
of the sword, Acatla sucked him into
hell instead of the world. That's
about the it.

A school bell rings.

GILES
Yes. Well that should be helpful.

BUFFY
I gotta go. I've got the English
make-up test. You get some credit
just for speaking it, right?

She goes. Willow picks up a couple of the herbs.

WILLOW
Sage, love that smell... and Marnox
root. Just a smidge of this mixed
with a virgin's saliva --
(off his look, drops root)
-- does something I know nothing about.

GILES
These forces aren't something one
plays around with, Willow. What have
you been conjuring?

WILLOW
Nothing much. I mean, I tried that
spell to cure Angel, I guess that was
a bust, but after that just, you
know, small stuff. Floating feather,
fire out of ice, which next time I
won't do on the bedspread -- are you
mad at me?

GILES
Of course not. If I were angry I
believe I would be making a strange
clucking sound with my tongue.

INT. BRONZE - NIGHT

Start on the band (if we have one) playing something sexy. Drift through the
dancers, lingering on a WILD GIRL (FAITH, young, loose and fast, 18-ish, biker type
meets trailer park) dancing suggestively with an older GUY, mid-20's, his dance
steps reminiscent of the seventies. Xander and Cordelia dance nearby.

DOLLY to Willow and Oz at a table. They are smooching - they break it up as Buffy
approaches with drinks.

BUFFY
Don't let me interrupt...

Buffy's in a good mood.

WILLOW
Are you... is she all a glow-y?

OZ
I suspect happiness.

BUFFY
I passed my English make-up -- I'm
out with my friends, hello my life,
how I've missed you.

WILLOW
(sees Scott approaching)
Hi, Scott, what are you doing here?

Scott, looking good, walks up.

SCOTT
You told me if I came after eight
I could run into Buffy.
(to Buffy)
I'm a bad liar, it's not good for the
soul -- or the skin: it makes me blotch.

BUFFY
Hi, Scott.

SCOTT
Hi. Don't you love this song?

BUFFY
Actually... I do.

SCOTT
(beat)
Would you like to...?
(re: dance floor)

BUFFY
Dance? I, uh... I don't know, I
mean... I don't know. Thanks for
asking but...

SCOTT
I'm just going to go stand by the
dance floor. If you change your mind
you can mosey on over. If not, you
don't mosey. No harm, no foul.

He smiles and goes. Buffy watches him go.

WILLOW
Come on, Buffy, the guy is charm, and
normal which is that thing you want

to get back to.

OZ

Plus, bonus points for the use of
the word "mosey."

BUFFY

I'm just... I'm not ready.

WILLOW

What's stopping you...?

Buffy doesn't answer.

Cordelia and Xander return from the dance floor.

CORDELIA

Check out the Slut-o-rama
and her Disco Dave...

Buffy looks:

BUFFY'S POV

Faith dancing with the older guy.

CORDELIA

...what was the last thing that guy
danced to, K.C. and the Sunshine Band?

Buffy studies the guy as the Wild Girl drapes an arm around his shoulder. They head
for the exit.

BUFFY

I don't think that guy thrives
on sunshine...

Buffy moves off after them.

ANGLE - THE DANCE FLOOR

Scott sees Buffy approaching. His face lights up.

SCOTT

Hi.

BUFFY

Oh. I didn't come to... I have to...
(nods toward exit)

SCOTT

Sorry. My bad.

BUFFY

No. It's mine, it's mine.
I really gotta...

Buffy hurries towards the exit.

EXT. BRONZE - NIGHT

Buffy exits. Looks around for the Wild Girl. Cor, Xander, Willow and Oz exit behind her.

BUFFY
Where is she...?

CORDELIA
I bet it's nothing, they're probably
just making out --

SOUNDS of a violent confrontation from around the corner.

WILLOW
-- that's not what making out sounds
like -- unless I'm doing it wrong...

Buffy is already charging ahead, the others follow:

EXT. BRONZE - DESERTED ALLEY - NIGHT

Buffy arrives in time to see: Faith up against a wall, her head down in shadow and the guy -- he's a vamp all right (VAMP 1) -- moving towards her.

The gang arrives as Buffy whips out a stake, charges in, ready to slay. Faith brings her head up, into the light: it's not a face full of fear, it's a face full of glee -- ready to kick ass.

As Buffy is about to stake Vamp 1, Faith leaps in the air, spin kicks over Buffy's head and connects with the vamp's face, sending him reeling back and down. Faith turns to Buffy.

FAITH
S'okay, I got it. You're Buffy, right?

The vamp rises behind her.

FAITH
I'm Faith.

Without turning around, Faith back-head butts the vamp, smashing him back.

OZ
I'm gonna go out on a limb here and
say we've got a new slayer in town.

Faith delivers several impressive kicks and punches to Vamp 1 as the others watch, then turns back to Buffy.

FAITH
(re: stake)
Can I borrow that?

Faith takes the stake from Buffy's hand. Then with shocking speed and a little

savageness, WHAM! She stakes Vamp 1 to dust. She flips the stake back to Buffy.

FAITH

Thanks, B. Couldn't a done it without ya'.

Faith grins, walks by Buffy. Off Buffy's look.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

Act Two

INT. BRONZE - NIGHT - LATER

At a table; Faith devours a huge muffin, in the middle of a story; Xander, Cor, Oz and Willow are charmed and amused by Faith (okay, Cordelia's not charmed by anyone) -- Buffy feels a little left out.

FAITH

-- it was about a hundred and
eighteen degrees, I'm sleepin'
without a stitch on, suddenly I hear
all this screamin'. I go tearin'
outside -- stark nude -- this church
bus has broke down and three vamps
are feasting on half the Baptists in
South Boston. So I waste the vamps
and the preacher is hugging me like
there's no tomorrow when the cops
pull up. They arrested us both.

XANDER

They should film that story
and show it every Christmas.

Faith grabs another muffin.

FAITH

God, I could eat a horse!
(to Buffy)
Isn't it crazy? Slayin' always makes
you just hungry and horny.

The others look at Buffy, frankly curious.

BUFFY

Well... sometimes I crave a non-fat
yogurt afterwards...

Out of the blue:

CORDELIA

I get it.
(off their looks)
Not the horny thing -- yuck -- the
two slayer thing: there was only one,
but then Buffy died for like two

minutes so Kendra was called, then
Kendra died so Faith was called.

WILLOW

But why were you called here?

FAITH

I wasn't. My watcher went to some
retreat thing in England, so I
skipped out. I thought, this is my
big chance to meet the infamous Buff
and compare notes -- So B, did you
really use a rocket launcher one time?

BUFFY

Well, it's actually funny --

XANDER

(to Faith, interrupting)

What was that about the alligator?
You said something before --

FAITH

Oh, this big daddy vampire out of
Missouri kept 'em as pets. He's got
me rasslin' one of 'em, must of been
twelve feet long --

XANDER

Now, was this also naked?

FAITH

(smiles)

Well, the alligator was...

CORDELIA

Xander, find a new theme.

WILLOW

(worried)

Did the alligator get hurt?

FAITH

Only a little. Then it was dead.

WILLOW

Oh. No...

FAITH

I never had more trouble than
that damn vamp.

(to Buffy)

What about you? What was your
toughest kill?

ANGLE - BUFFY

FLASHCUT: Buffy runs the sword through Angel (5V22).

BACK TO SCENE

BUFFY

They're all tough in different
ways I guess...

(trying)

Oh, but, do you guys remember the
Three? Or, you never met the
Three... But anyway --

OZ

Something occurring: you both
Kill the vamps and who could
argue with that, but --

(to Faith)

I'm wondering about your
position on werewolves.

WILLOW

(proudly)

Oz is a werewolf.

BUFFY

(to Faith)

Long story.

OZ

Got bit.

BUFFY

Apparently not that long.

FAITH

Hey, long as you don't go scratchin'
at me or humpin' my leg, we're five by five.

OZ

Fair enough.

FAITH

Now the vamps, they better get their
asses to defcon one, the two of us
around. We're gonna have some fun
you and me, watcher-less and fancy free.

BUFFY

Watcher-less?

FAITH

Didn't yours go to England, too?

EXT. SUNNYDALE HIGH - DAY - ESTABLISHING

GILES (O.S.)

There is a watcher retreat every year
in the Cotswalds...

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Giles, Buffy, Xander, Willow, Faith.

GILES

...lovely spot, very serene. They have horseback riding, river rafting, lectures and discussions. Quite an honor to be invited; they're very stimulating events.
(trying not to be peevish)
So I'm told...

FAITH

Ah, it's boring. Way too stuffy for a guy like you.

BUFFY

Um, maybe I should introduce you again. Faith, this is Giles.

FAITH

I seen him. If I'd a known they came this young and cute I'd've requested a transfer.

BUFFY

Okay, raise your hand if "ew."

GILES

(trying not to be flustered)
Well, leaving for the moment the question of my youth and beauty, I would say it's fortuitous that Faith arrived when she did.

WILLOW

Ah-hah!
(off their looks)
Sorry, I just meant --
(exactly the same)
-- ah-hah! There's a big evil brewing -- you'll never be bored here, Faith, 'cause this is Sunnydale, home of the big brewing evil.

GILES

I don't know how big an evil it is at this point but two people have disappeared in the Sunset Ridge district.

XANDER

Ah hah!
(to Willow)
Fun.

GILES

(shoots Xander a look, then:)
One of them, a fast food worker, was pulled right out of his order window.

BUFFY

I'm good to patrol. Late-ish,
though; I promised mom I'd be
home for dinner.

Expectant looks from the others prompt:

BUFFY
(to Faith)
To which you're invited, of course.
Dinner. With us.

FAITH
Dying to meet the fam. I'm in.

BUFFY
(darn)
Great. Then we'll patrol. Also together.
Try to get a bead on these new vamps.

FAITH
(pumped)
We'll hunt 'em down and kill 'em
where they stand. Come to momma, unh!

Faith mimes punching a head.

XANDER
She doesn't make it sound
like work at all.

WILLOW
(to Buffy)
Don't you have a health science make-up?

BUFFY
Yeah, I could use a little coaching

WILLOW
(to Faith, ignoring Buffy)
You can hang with us while she's
testing. You wanta?

XANDER
(to Faith)
Say yes and bring your stories.

BUFFY
Yeah, you guys run along, I'll be
fine, really, I'll just sit here...

FAITH
Okay, have fun.
(to Giles)
Later on. We'll talk weapons.

The three take off, leaving Buffy with Giles.

GILES
This new girl has rather a lot of zest.

(off Buffy's look)
Oh, I had a little problem with the
binding spell for Acatla -- in fact
I wound up with a face full of Marnox
root. I seem to be lacking the
requisite details to perform it
correctly. The physical location --
Acatla was facing south...

BUFFY
Yeah.
(pointing and demonstrating)
Acatla. Angel. Me.
(mimes stabbing)
Sword.

GILES
That's what I thought, but I wonder --

BUFFY
Giles, I've got make-up tests to
pass, missing folks in Sunset Ridge,
a zesty new slayer to feed... next
time I kill Angel I'll video it, okay?

Buffy goes. Giles watches her.

INT. SCHOOL HALL/LOUNGE - DAY - LATER

Willow, Xander and Faith head down the hall past the cafeteria towards the lounge.
They're having a good time.

WILLOW
And here we have the cafeteria, where
we were mauled by snakes...

XANDER
This is the spot where Angel
tried to kill Willow.

WILLOW
Over there in the lounge is where
Spike and his gang nearly massacred
us all on parent-teacher night. Oh,
and up those stairs, I was sucked
into a muddy grave...

XANDER
They say young people don't learn
anything in high school nowadays but,
I've learned to be afraid.

FAITH
You guys are a hoot 'n a half. If I'd
had friends like you in high school,
I'd've still dropped out but I mighta
been sad about it.
(beat)
What's up with B? She seems wound
kinda tight -- needs to find the fun

a little, like you two. Water.
(heads for fountain)

XANDER
Then the alligator story!

XANDER AND WILLOW

Watch Faith as Cordelia moves up behind Xander.

XANDER
She's got something, doesn't she?

CORDELIA
(startling him)
What is it with you and slayers?
Maybe I should dress up like one and
hold a stake to your throat.

Xander regards her hungrily for a moment:

XANDER
Please, God, don't let that be sarcasm.

ANGLE - FAITH

As she straightens up from the water fountain, almost bumps into:

SCOTT
Excuse me.

FAITH
Sorry. Hey, I seen you before.

SCOTT
At the Bronze? You're friends with
Buffy, right?

FAITH
Yeah. I'm Faith.

SCOTT
Scott, nice to meet you.

WILLOW, CORDELIA AND XANDER

As Buffy moves up.

BUFFY
I'm two for two with the make-up
tests. Proud, yes, but also humble
in this time of --
(re: they're looking elsewhere)
What are we looking at?

CORDELIA
(re: Faith)
Does anyone believe that's her

actual hair color?

Buffy follows Cordelia's gaze to:

BUFFY'S POV - SCOTT AND FAITH

At the water fountain, out of our earshot. Scott is laughing.

BACK TO SCENE

WILLOW

Boy I haven't seen him laugh like
that... maybe Faith and Scott could
hit it off. I mean, if you're done
with him -- not that you used him or anything.

BUFFY

I hadn't definitely, one hundred per
cent said no to him for all time...
it's just, you don't enter into these
things lightly, there's repercussions
to consider and...

Willow and Xander exchange a knowing look.

BUFFY

Why am I seeing a look?

WILLOW

You really do need to find the fun
a little, "B"...
(off Buffy's look)
...uffy.

Buffy moves to --

SCOTT

(spots:)

Buffy, Faith is telling me tall tales.

BUFFY

She's funny. And leaving.

(to Faith)

We have to go.

SCOTT

(thinking it's him)

Oh.

(to Faith)

Nice talking to you.

FAITH

Likewise.

(as they move off)

Cute guy. He seeing anybody?

INT. ABANDONED FIREHOUSE - DAY

Day (we can tell as a vamp tapes up a light-crack in one of the blacked out

windows) but dark and gloomy. Vamps light candles, wave incense, chant:
"Kakistos... Kakistos..."

KAKISTOS
Mister Trick...

Mr. Trick moves brusquely through them to Kakistos.

KAKISTOS
Talk to me.

MR. TRICK
Check it out. This town -- this very
street -- wired for fiber optics. We
jack in a T-3, 2500 megs per, we got
the whole world at our fingertips.
(waves away vamp with incense censer)
Theo, allergies.
(to Kakistos)
What I'm sayin' is, we stay local --
where the humans are jumpin' and the
cotton is high -- but we live global:
you got a hankering for the blood of
a fifteen year old Filipina? I'm on
the net, she's here the next day,
express air.

KAKISTOS
I want the blood of the Slayer.

MR. TRICK
On that front, good news and bad --
rumor is this town already has a
slayer, which makes two, I'm not sure
how that happens --

KAKISTOS
(furious)
I don't care if there's a hundred slayers!!

Kakistos moves into the dim light. For the first time we get a look at his face. Not a pretty face. One eye is milky and useless; a wide-ass scar runs through that eye and down his terrible face, as if someone parked an ax in it. Even the unflappable Mr. Trick is flapped. He takes a step back.

KAKISTOS
I'll kill them all! SHE'S GOING TO
PAY FOR WHAT SHE DID TO ME!

Kakistos points to his beastly face with his beastly hand.

MR. TRICK
Yes she is. I'm running a computer
check on every hotel, rooming house
and youth hostel in town.

There's a KNOCK at the door. Mr. Trick slips on a long, radiation-type glove-mitt as:

MR. TRICK

Meanwhile, soon as the sun's down --
(re: vamps)
-- we're out in force.

Another KNOCK. Trick opens the door. Bright sun surrounds the squinting:

PIZZA GUY
You guys order a --

Trick's oven-mitted arm shoots out into the harsh light, grabs the pizza guy by the throat. As he is yanked inside,

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - DINING ROOM - NIGHT

Joyce smiles into CAMERA.

JOYCE
So you're a slayer, too.

ANGLE - Joyce is piling Faith's plate with food. Buffy sits nearby, her own plate empty.

JOYCE
Isn't that interesting. Do you like it?

FAITH
I love it.

BUFFY
(gestures with her own empty plate)
Mom...

JOYCE
Just a sec, honey.
(to Faith)
Buffy never talks that way,
why do you love it?

FAITH
When I'm fighting, the whole world
goes away and I only know one thing:
I'm gonna win and they're gonna lose.
I like that feeling.

Buffy finally starts dishing up her own supper as:

BUFFY
Well sure, it's better than that dead
feeling you get when they win and you lose.

FAITH
I don't let that kind of
negative thinking in.

JOYCE
Right, right, that could get you hurt.
Buffy can be awfully negative sometimes.
(turns to Buffy)
See, honey, you gotta fight that.

BUFFY
I'm trying.

JOYCE
Faith, can I get you another soft drink?

FAITH
You bet, thanks.

Joyce heads for the kitchen.

FAITH
She's cool.

BUFFY
Best mom ever. Excuse me.

Buffy heads for the:

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN/DINING ROOM - NIGHT

As Joyce re-fills Faith's soda.

JOYCE
I like this girl, Buffy.

BUFFY
Yeah, she's personable. Gets along
with my friends, my watcher, my
mom -- look! Now she's getting along
with my fries!

ANGLE: FAITH is in fact reaching over and snagging some of Buffy's fries.

JOYCE
Now, Buffy --

BUFFY
Plus, in school today, she was making
eyes at MY not-boyfriend. It's creepy.

JOYCE
Does anybody else think Faith is creepy?

BUFFY
No, but I'm the one getting
Single White Femaled here.

JOYCE
It's probably good you were an only child.

BUFFY
Hey, I... Mom, I'm just getting my
life back. I'm not looking to go
halfies on it.

JOYCE
Well, there are some things I'd be

happy to see you share. Like the
Slaying. Two of you fighting is
safer than one, right?

BUFFY
Yeah, I guess...

JOYCE
Unless -- you heard her, she loves
the slaying, couldn't she take over for you?

BUFFY
No one can take over for me, Mom.

JOYCE
But next year you'll be in college,
I don't see why --

BUFFY
The only way you get a new slayer is
when the old one dies.

JOYCE
That means you... when did you die,
you never told me you died!

BUFFY
...it was just for a few minutes.

JOYCE
I hate this, I hate your life.

BUFFY
Mom...

JOYCE
I know you didn't choose this, I know
it chose you... I've tried to march
in the slayer-pride parade but...
(weakly)
I don't want you to die.

Buffy hugs her mom.

BUFFY
It's okay, I'm not going to die. I
know how to do this job. Besides,
like you said, I've got help now.

Buffy indicates Faith in the dining room. Joyce nods.

BUFFY
I've got all the help I can stand.

EXT. SUNNYDALE STREETS/CONSTRUCTION SITE - NIGHT

Buffy and Faith patrol. They move in silence for a beat, then:

FAITH

Didn't we already do this street?

BUFFY

Weird thing about vampires, they'll hit a place even after you've been there. It's like they have no manners.

FAITH

(shrugs)

You're the one who's been doing this the longest.

BUFFY

I have.

FAITH

...maybe too long...

BUFFY

What's that supposed to mean?

FAITH

Nothing.

BUFFY

You got a problem?

FAITH

I'm five by five, B. Living entirely large and wondering 'bout your problem.

BUFFY

I may not sleep in the nude and wrestle alligators --

FAITH

Well maybe it's time you started. Something in your bottle needs uncorking. Is it this Angel thing?

BUFFY

What do you know about Angel?

FAITH

What your friends tell me: big love, big loss, you oughta deal and move on but you're not.

Buffy stops, gets in Faith's face.

BUFFY

I got an idea: how 'bout from now on we don't hear from you on Angel or anything else in my life. Which by the way, is my life.

FAITH

What are you getting so

strung out for, B?

BUFFY
Why are your lips still moving, "F"?

FAITH
Did I just hear a threat?

BUFFY
Would you like to?

FAITH
(beat)
Wow. Think you can take me?

BUFFY
Yeah --
(sees something O.S.)
I just hope they can't.

And Buffy suddenly shoves Faith hard -- and out of the way -- stakes our CONTEST WINNING VAMP as Vamps 2, 3, & 4 attack!

Buffy punches 2, sidesteps an onslaught from 3 and spin kicks 4 -- who blocks the kick and smashes her in the face. Buffy stumbles back, momentarily stunned.

Faith gets her wits, barrels at 4. She hits him hard in the mid-section and they crash back into the wall.

Buffy punches and kicks 3 as 2 grabs a two by four from the building site and wallops her with it. Buffy goes down.

Faith and 4 trade punches.

FAITH
Come on! My dead mother hits harder than that!

Buffy looks up from the ground, rolls as the two by four misses her face by inches, sweeps 3's legs out from under him, wrenches the two by four out of 2's hands and gut punches 2 with it. She glances over at:

FAITH - crazed, knocks 4 to the ground, leaps on him, punching the shit out of him.

FAITH
YEAH, THIS IS ME, YOU UNDEAD BASTARD!

BUFFY
Faith! You want to stake him already
and give me a hand?

But Faith is in her own rage-filled world, as 3 leaps on Buffy from behind and 2 punches her in the side of the head. Buffy falls to the ground, 2 and 3 on her, each pinning a shoulder to the ground.

3 bends down to bite her neck.

VAMP 3
For Kakistos we live...

for Kakistos, you die.

BUFFY
FAITH!

Off Faith, oblivious to Buffy and everything else, hitting the vamp over and over...

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

Act Three

EXT. CONSTRUCTION SITE - NIGHT

As before. Faith beating on 4, Buffy about to get bit.

Buffy slides the two by four out from under her, jams it under a fence bracket and jerks up on it, breaking it in two and smashing 3 in the face with it at the same time. She rolls onto her back, staking 2 to dust with the sharp end, and flips to her feet.

Buffy back-stakes 3 without even looking and marches to:

FAITH - punching away at 4, angry and incoherent.

FAITH
You... can't... touch... me...!

BUFFY - yanks Faith off the unconscious vamp with one hand, stakes the vamp with her other. Then she turns to Faith who is breathing hard, high on adrenaline, rubbing her fists.

BUFFY
What is wrong with you?

FAITH
What are you talking about?

BUFFY
I'm talking about you living large on
the great undead here.

FAITH
Gee, if doing violence to vampires
upsets you, I'm pretty sure you're in
the wrong line a work...

BUFFY
Or maybe you like it just
a little too much.

FAITH
I was getting the job done.

BUFFY
The job is to slay demons. Not mash
them into sloppy joes while their

friends are cornering me.

FAITH

I thought you could handle yourself.

Off Buffy,

INT. SCHOOL HALL - DAY

Buffy walks with Giles.

GILES

Well, Buffy, you have to realize you
and Faith have very different temperaments...

BUFFY

I know, mine would be the sane one.
Giles, she's not playing with a full
deck. She has almost no deck. She
has a three.

GILES

You said yourself she killed one of
them, she's a plucky fighter who got
a little carried away. Which is
natural, she's focussed on Slaying,
she doesn't have a whole other life
here like you --

BUFFY

-- she doesn't need a whole other
life here, she's got mine.

GILES

I think you're being a little...

BUFFY

No, I'm being a lot. I know that. But
I'm telling you, she nearly got us
both killed, she needs help.

GILES

I'll see if I can get word to her
watcher at the retreat...
(checks watch)
Eight hours later, they're probably
enjoying a nightcap... I wonder if
they still kayak. I was an excellent
kayaker in my day, do they even consider that...?
(off her look)

Sorry. Now these vampires that
attacked you, did you notice any
details that might help me trace
their lineage: modern or ancient
dress, amulets, cultish tattoos...?

BUFFY

No tats, crappy dressers, oh, the one
who nearly bit me said something

about... kissing toast, he lived for
kissing toast.

GILES
(alarmed)
You mean Kakistos?

BUFFY
(still thinking)
Or, it could have been taquitos,
maybe he lived for taquitos...
what'd you say?

GILES
Kakistos.

Giles heads into the library with purpose. She follows:

BUFFY
Is that bad?

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

GILES
Kakistos is Greek, it means the worst
of the worst. It's also the name of
a vampire, so old his hands and feet
are cloven. He must be here for some reason.

BUFFY
This guy shows up when, two days ago?
Right around the time my bestest new
little sister makes the scene.

GILES
You think Faith is connected to
Kakistos somehow?

BUFFY
There's two things I do not believe
in. Coincidence and leprechauns.

GILES
Buffy, it's entirely possible they
happened by chance to arrive simultaneously.

BUFFY
Okay, but I'm right about
leprechauns, right?

GILES
As far as I know.

BUFFY
Good. Get England on the phone. I'm
gonna talk to Faith. See if Kakistos
rings a bell. Or an alarm.

Buffy heads out.

NEAR SCHOOL LOUNGE - DAY

Buffy heads for the exit, runs into:

SCOTT
Hi.

BUFFY
Scott ...

SCOTT
How are you?

BUFFY
Okay. I've gotta...

SCOTT
I know, be somewhere else. Think of
this as my last ditch effort, I
realize one more will qualify as stalking.
(beat)
I've given a lot of thought, some
might say too much thought, to how I
might be a part of your life. It
begins with conversation, we all know
this. Maybe over a cup of coffee,
maybe at the Buster Keaton
festival -- playing on State Street
all this weekend...

Beat.

BUFFY
Looking back now I see I haven't
really been fair to... Buster Keaton.
I like what I've seen of him so far,
I think it's time to see a little more.

SCOTT
(success at last)
Keaton is key.

Giles, looking concerned, hurries down the hall towards Buffy in b.g., approaching in time to witness:

SCOTT
(pulling out a small white box)
I got you a little present, guy in a
retro shop said it represents
friendship -- that's something I'd
very much like to have with you.

Buffy smiles, he's charmed and relaxed her. Scott hands her the box. She looks in, her smile fades.

IN THE BOX - a Claddagh ring, just like the one Angel gave her.

SCOTT (O.S.)
You like?

Buffy steps back (towards Giles), dropping the box. The ring clatters to the floor, much like it did in her dream.

FLASHCUT: Angel putting the ring on her finger in episode 13, year 2.

BACK IN THE PRESENT

Scott picks up the ring as:

BUFFY
I can't... I can't do this...

ANGLE - THE RING IN SCOTT'S HAND

Is not the Claddagh ring but a simple friendship ring, colored plastic or something markedly different.

SCOTT
Okay, I get the message.

Buffy turns, walks into Giles (Scott exiting in b.g.)

GILES
Are you all right?

BUFFY
Yeah. I'm fine. Did you reach the retreat?

GILES
I did.

BUFFY
What'd her watcher say?

GILES
Her watcher is dead.

EXT. CHEESY MOTEL - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

INT. CHEESY MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

The door to the hall is open. Faith faces the hefty MANAGER.

MANAGER
Room's eighteen dollars a day,
that's every day.

FAITH
I know. I'll get it to you
tomorrow, I swear.

MANAGER
It's not like I own the place.

FAITH

(sexy)
Bet you will some day.

MANAGER
Not if I listen to broads like you.

He turns to go. Buffy is standing in the doorway.

MANAGER
Roommates are extra.

BUFFY
Just visiting.

Manager gives her a look, goes. Buffy shuts the door.

FAITH
What brings you to the po' side of town?

BUFFY
Cloven guy, goes by the name of Kakistos.

Faith goes very cold and hard.

FAITH
...what do you know about Kakistos?

BUFFY
That he's here.

Faith just stares.

BUFFY
So we're not happy to see old
friends. What'd he do to you?

FAITH
It's what I did to him...

She grabs a bag, starts throwing her few belongings in.

BUFFY
What would that be?
(nothing from Faith)
You came here for a reason, Faith,
I can help --

FAITH
You can mind your own business.
I'm the one can handle this.

BUFFY
Yeah, you're a real badass when it
comes to packing. What'd you say
about my problem, gotta deal and move on...?

Faith picks up her bag, turns to face Buffy.

BUFFY
Here we have the moving on part,
I get that -- and dealing, that's
something you just gonna dump on my doorstep?

FAITH
You don't know me, you don't know
what I've been through. I'll take
care of it.

She heads for the door.

BUFFY
Like you took care or your watcher?

Faith stops.

BUFFY
He killed her, didn't he.

Faith looks back at Buffy, dropping the tough girl act:

FAITH
They don't have a word for what he did to her.

Then she reaches for the door -- someone KNOCKS, scaring the hell out of her. She looks through the peephole.

PEEPHOLE CAM - A fishy view of the Manager.

FAITH
What now...

BUFFY
Faith, you run, he runs after.

FAITH
Yeah, that's where the head start
comes in so handy.

Faith opens the door. The manager teeters there, just as dead as a man can be. Kakistos stands behind him, holding his neck.

Faith goes stone cold with fear. Mr. Trick (in vampface here and throughout the rest of the script) and Vamp 5 flank Kakistos who lets go of the manager's neck. The manager falls to the floor.

KAKISTOS
Faith...

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

Act Four

INT. CHEESY MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Kakistos reaches out and grabs Faith. Buffy runs at the door, hits it with her shoulder, slamming it on Kakistos' arm, ramming it against the door jam. His hand holds fast to Faith's neck. Buffy whips out a stake, stabs Kakistos' forearm. We HEAR Kakistos howl in pain, he lets go of Faith's neck.

Buffy stabs it some more, driving it back -- she slams and locks the door. Faith is just crazy with fear.

FAITH
No... no...

BUFFY
It's okay, I just bought us a little --

Kakistos' fist comes smashing through the door, nearly taking Faith's head off.

BUFFY
-- time.

Faith starts screaming. Buffy slaps her hard across the face.

BUFFY
Scream later, escape now.

Buffy races to the window -- sees Vamps 6 & 7 posted outside. Meanwhile, the motel door is being ripped off its hinges by Kakistos

Buffy picks up a chair and hurls it through the window, knocking the two vamps outside down. Buffy grabs Faith:

BUFFY
Go!

They jump out the window (Buffy elbow-smashes Vamp 6 who is getting to his feet) as Kakistos, Trick and Vamp 5 bust into the room and run for the window --

EXT. CHEESY MOTEL - NIGHT

Buffy and Faith run for it.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Kakistos, Trick, three vamps run after.

BUFFY AND FAITH - running like hell. Buffy grabs Faith, they veer off the street, vault a hedge or low fence, cutting through a property.

KAKISTOS, TRICK AND THE OTHERS

Mr. Trick points down the street: Vamps 6 & 7 keep going straight; Kakistos leaps the hedge, following Buffy and Faith directly; Mr. Trick and Vamp 5 cut hard right - splitting into three different flanks now. [Note: How 'bout a big-ass aerial shot of them splitting off in three different directions, I'm just sayin'.]

EXT. ANOTHER STREET - NIGHT

Faith and Buffy burst into the street, see:

THE TWO VAMPS

Rounding a corner.

BUFFY AND FAITH

Run the other way, see:

TRICK AND THE OTHER VAMP

Coming from that direction.

BUFFY AND FAITH

Tear down an alley, turn a corner. A few feet from the corner, an abandoned firehouse.

INT. ABANDONED FIREHOUSE - NIGHT

Buffy and Faith tumble through a half broken window, hit the floor. Buffy jumps up, looks out the window.

BUFFY'S POV

Kakistos runs across the "T" in the alley, missing the turn Buffy and Faith took.

BUFFY
We're okay.

Faith glances out the window herself, badly shaken.

BUFFY
What happened?

FAITH
I...
(starts to cry)

BUFFY
It's okay.

FAITH
I was there when he killed my
watcher. I saw what he did to her,
what he was going to do to me... I
tried to stop him, but I couldn't...
I ran...

BUFFY
Faith, listen to me. First rule of
slaying: don't die. You did the right
thing, you didn't die. Now do the
math: one of him, two of us...

FAITH
(softly)

No...

BUFFY
Yes.

FAITH
(terror-stricken)
No...

Buffy follows her gaze. In the corner, a gruesome pile of bodies. Happy Burger Guy, Pizza Guy, a couple of other uniformed corpses, Meter Reader, Mail Woman, etc.

FAITH
This is his place.

Buffy spins around: Trick and Vamp 5 coming through a back entrance, Kakistos coming through the side, Vamps 6 & 7 behind him. They're surrounded and, need I mention, badly out-numbered.

BUFFY
(realizing:)
They drove us here.

Here come the vamps. Buffy kicks Vamp 5 in the face, punches 6.

Faith can't take her eyes off Kakistos; she backs away in terror.

Buffy sees this, grabs a metal bar.

BUFFY
Don't die.

Buffy hurls the metal bar into Faith's arms.

Buffy whips out a stake, diving for Kakistos who catches her with one hand -- and hurls her against a wall.

Faith looks at the bar in her hands, up at Kakistos. She is not doing well here. She tries to swing it -- Kakistos stops it and punches her right through a support beam.

BUFFY - on her back on the floor; Vamp 5 dives for her. She whips out a stake.

ANGLE - THE WALL ABOVE BUFFY AND VAMP 5

We see 5's dust cloud as Buffy pops up to her feet out of it, stake in hand; she spins to see:

ANGLE: FAITH

crawling painfully away from where she landed, Kakistos moving towards her.

Buffy is about to go for Kakistos when Mister Trick (in vampface) grabs her from behind.

MR. TRICK
I believe this dance is mine.

She slams him back against the wall, bends forward and flips him over onto his

back, whips out her stake --

BUFFY
The music stopped.

She drives the stake down -- but he rolls away, comes back up to face her.

MR. TRICK
But the beat goes on.
Gimmie whatchya got.

She comes at him, and they trade just enough punches so we know they're a good match.

KAKISTOS TOWERS OVER

Faith. Grabs her hair, drags her to her feet. She looks at him beyond terror now...

BUFFY AND TRICK

Going at it as Vamp 6 grabs Buffy from behind. Trick comes for her, she rears back, kicks him in the face, flips 6 over her shoulder and stakes him (out of C.G.I. sight) on the ground. Buffy sees:

KAKISTOS HIT FAITH REALLY HARD

She's down and out, folks.

BUFFY RUNS LIKE HELL

Diving, hitting Kakistos in the mid-section, she starts raining kicks and blows upon him.

ANGLE - TRICK

Gets up, watching this as Vamp 7 gets up next to him.

MR. TRICK
Spirited girl. We don't do
something, she just might kill him.

Vamp 7 moves to help -- Trick stops him.

MR. TRICK
I don't think I have a problem with
that. Incense, candles, missing the
Bulls games 'cause he's too cheap to
pop for cable -- who's had enough here?

Vamp 7 tentatively raises his hand.

ANGLE - OVER BUFFY AND KAKISTOS

Trick and Vamp 7 slip out the door as Buffy comes up with a stake, ducks a giant swing from Kakistos and sinks the stake deep and true into his chest.

Nothing happens.

Buffy pounds on the stake, trying to sink it deeper. Still nothing -- and now Kakistos starts laughing.

KAKISTOS
Guess you need a bigger stake, slayer.

WIDER

Kakistos is still laughing as Faith rises from the ashes, the broken support beam in hand. He just has time to register this as she rams it through his chest. Oh yeah, he's dust now.

BUFFY AND FAITH

Stand there, breathing hard, looking around: the others are gone, it's over. They look at each other.

BUFFY
You hungry?

FAITH
Starved.

As they walk out,

EXT. SUNNYDALE HIGH - DAY - ESTABLISHING

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

Buffy is with Giles and Willow.

GILES
The Council approved our request,
Faith can stay here indefinitely, I'm
to look after you both until they
assign a new watcher.

BUFFY
Good. She came through, you know.
She had a lot to deal with, but she
did it. Got it behind her.

GILES
That's good to hear.

A moment, as Buffy looks down, gathers something in herself.

BUFFY
Angel was cured.

GILES
I'm sorry?

BUFFY
When I killed him, Angel was...
cured. Your spell worked, Willow.
Last minute. I was about to take him
out and something went through him

and then he was... Angel again. He
didn't remember anything he'd done,
he just held me, and...
(this is tough)
... but it was, it was too late and
I had to... I kissed him, and I told
him that I loved him. And I killed him.

There is a long silence. Buffy looks at her friends, maintaining surprisingly well.

BUFFY
I don't know if that helps with your
spell or not, Giles.

GILES
I believe it will.

WILLOW
I'm sorry...

BUFFY
It's okay. I guess I been holding
onto that. It's actually kinda good
to get it out.
(picks up her books)
I'll see you guys later.

Giles nods. Buffy goes. Beat. Giles begins gathering up some of his herbs and talismans.

WILLOW
Giles? I know you don't like me
playing with the mystical forces, but
I really could help with the binding spell.

GILES
There is no spell.

A moment, as Willow gets it. Giles looks a moment more towards the door, then heads into his office.

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

Between classes. Scott exits a class. Rounds a corner, finds:

BUFFY
Hi.

SCOTT
Hello.

BUFFY
So I was just... waiting here for you
to get out of your class.

SCOTT
Why?

BUFFY

I'm really sorry about going mental on you... there was someone a while ago and the ring sort of confused me but... I liked what you said about friendship, I liked it a lot. Also, Buster Keaton, big fun. And I'm capable of the big fun even though there's no earthly way you could possibly know that about me lately. Wow, if I'd known I was going to go on this long I'd have brought water. So, if you were still up for the film festival -- and I'd understand if you weren't -- I'd pretty much love to go with you.

SCOTT
I don't know, Buffy, I'm really gonna have to think this over.

He turns, walks away. She barely has time to deflate before he turns and comes right back.

SCOTT
Okay, thought it over. I'm in.
When do you want to go?

BUFFY
(smiles, then:)
I have one thing I have to do tonight, after that I'm good.

SCOTT
Good.

Off them,

EXT. MANSION - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

INT. MANSION - NIGHT

Buffy enters, moves through the darkened rooms, remembering. Walks to where she stabbed Angel. Looks down at the Claddagh ring in her hand.

She closes her hand around the ring, kneels down, where Angel was cast into hell. Holding the ring tightly. Then:

BUFFY
Goodbye.

She opens her hand, lets go of the ring. It slips to the ground (again, not unlike in her dream?) She stays there very still, as if in prayer.

BIG INSERT - THE RING

comes to rest on the ground.

BUFFY RISES

She's not dancing and singing, but she's taken the first step in the long journey that

will put him to rest and allow her to get on with her life.

She turns and walks out the front door.

HOLD THE ROOM

As our music gently builds to the end and the scene starts to fade. It fades to black, until the only thing visible in the room is the ring itself.

Visible because we now realize: it's glowing.

And then there's a LOW RUMBLING TREMOR which builds to a frightening crescendo culminating in --

A BLINDING FLASH OF LIGHTS

Something DARK AND LARGE hurtles out of the lights and lands on the cold stone floor. PUSH IN:

Naked and shivering, virtually mad, something huddles there -- something fresh out of hell -- his own hand inches away from the ring: Angel.

BLACK OUT.

THE END