

As Voiced By the Spirit of Undefeated Heavyweight Champion Rocky Marciano—Previously on Buffy the Vampire Slayer:

Joss Whedon and Mutant Enemy decided to screw over its fans by having Spike attempt to rape Buffy and then have Buffy pine after her attempted rapist less than a day later—this on a show supposedly about female empowerment—and then Spike got a soul for reasons that are still unknown since Spike was clearly duped on the screen via his constant usage of the word “BITCH” in reference to Buffy, yet ME felt it necessary to assert in interviews that Spike WANTED the soul out of love for Buffy. Now, the brilliant writer of this upcoming episode—despite being anti-ME and finding their claims to be pathetically loaded with bullshit—will adhere to their explanation for creative purposes.

Now that that’s out of the way...Spike got a soul. He came back and was tortured by it. Buffy’s conflicted emotionally, especially with Faith back. Buffy and Faith fought in numerous different ways, but seemed to make up and shared an intimate moment at Faith’s old apartment. Dawn made friends with Elle, the new girl, but that went downhill once her brother was suspected of being a mass murderer. Spike and Xander did some sort of male bonding. There was absolutely ZERO Kennedy—allowing most of a nation to sleep peacefully that night, except many of those at The Cat’s Meow. What can I say, the writer just HATES Kennedy. Oh well...

FADE IN

EXT. CEMETERY, EAST AREA - NIGHT

BUFFY and FAITH take on five VAMPS. Buffy lands several blows to Vamp 1 and stakes him. Faith does the same and stakes Vamp 2. Faith then takes on Vamp 3 as Buffy deals with Vamps 4 and 5. Buffy kicks Vamp 4 twice, kicking him into Vamp 5. As the Vamps stagger, Buffy launches herself at them.

Nearby spectating are SPIKE, DINO, and XANDER. Spike smokes a cigarette and drinks a beer; Dino eats popcorn; Xander peers through binoculars.

Buffy stakes Vamp 4 and gets into it with Vamp 5. Faith wails on Vamp 3. In total sync, Buffy and Faith hit their respective vamps with identical shots, push the Vamps so they’re back-to-back, and slam their stakes in simultaneously. Through the dust, Buffy and Faith LAUGH and high-five.

FAITH
Still got it.

BUFFY
Can't lose it.

Dino and Xander applaud.

DINO
Excellent. Magnificent.
Four stars, two thumbs up,
and a partridge and a pear
tree. That was really
something.

XANDER
Beautiful. Pure, joyous,
erotic battle in all its
dominate glory. God I
missed this so much.

SPIKE
(grumbling)

Yeah, what they said.

DINO
(to Xander)
You were right--this IS better than
actually slaying.

XANDER
You should watch them train.
Better than everything else in the
universe...including porn.
Basically it's what they just did
with a pornographic subtext.

Spike angrily throws his beer away and walks off.

BUFFY
(calling out)
Spike.

Spike turns but keeps backpedaling.

SPIKE
Don't need me so I'm gonna turn in.
You know us vampires need our day-
rest and all, what with the sun
coming up.

FAITH
It's barely past midnight.

SPIKE
Exactly. Only 4 plus hours til I
become sun-dried, put on the
market, and sold to some demon-
spawning demon or God forbid a
vegetarian with an iron deficiency
and a fetish for food-sex.

Buffy, Faith, and Dino stare in bewilderment. Xander takes
some popcorn. Spike waves them off.

SPIKE
Bollocks!

Spike turns and leaves. Buffy and Faith glance at each other.

XANDER
Must be the British Ale.

Dino nods in agreement.

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY, WEST AREA - NIGHT

Spike stalks along MUTTERING to himself.

SPIKE
Bloody vomit-inducing slayer

connection. Ooh, still got it.
Aww, can't lose it. Bombastically
shit-worthy IT. Damn IT. I don't
have IT but she does and they do
and I'm left to complain. Just
can't compare.

FEMALE VOICE (OS)
(British accent)
What has my Spike so disturbed?

Spike halts and spins to find what looks like DRUSILLA. She
grins psychotically and slowly approaches Spike who rolls
his eyes.

SPIKE
I'm not in the mood. As you so
impressively observed, I'm
DISTURBED! Doesn't make me any
more susceptible to your mind
games, so bugger off. Waste of
time--yours and mine.

DRUSILLA
Why would I invade my love's
beautiful mind? That is reserved
for those dastardly goody-goody bad
people who want to kill us and keep
us apart.

SPIKE
So what--no physical form means you
got no brain? I'm not in the mood.

DRUSILLA
You're not happy to see me my dear,
torturing hero?

Drusilla stops right in front of Spike. She raises her hand
and strokes Spike's cheek--genuine contact. Spike's eyes
widen.

END TEASE

ACT ONE

FADE IN

EXT. CEMETERY, WEST AREA- CONTINUOUS

A stunned Spike backs away from Drusilla.

DRUSILLA
Do I scare you?

SPIKE
Seeing as you're actually
HERE...I'd venture a YES.

DRUSILLA

There's something wrong.

SPIKE

Welcome to the 21st century--era of the understatement. You don't know the end of it dollface.

(beat; worriedly)

You didn't bring any dolls along, did you Dru?

DRUSILLA

No.

SPIKE

(looking skyward)

Thank you.

DRUSILLA

They're back at my little house having tea and relaxing after the long trip.

SPIKE

Oh, what puny-ass demon you shack up with this time? What kind of FUN did you have? Blood-play--a little cut-the-cunt, slit-the-clit action? OUR favorites.

DRUSILLA

Spike didn't want me the last time I was here. At least, the NEW Spike didn't want me. I don't care for THAT Spike.

SPIKE

You don't say? And here I am thinkin' being as popular as a piece of broccoli in a candy store was just a bad dream. This is the wrong place at the wrong time for you Dru. Double the slayer--double the death--quadruple the frustration for the forces of evil and whackjobs like you.

DRUSILLA

Do you want me to leave darling? Is it that you still prefer the slayer over me?

SPIKE

Simplicity from a simpleton--a raging ball this is. It's more complicated than that.

DRUSILLA

Spike is conflicted. MY Spike wants to come out and play--be true

to himself. I wish so much to be with MY Spike. Unlike the turgid excuse for a woman. How dare she reject you?

Spike smiles. He struts over to Drusilla who's delighted.

DRUSILLA

We could do so much again my love. Bestow upon such unsuspecting souls the delicious wrath of two demented lovers reunited.

SPIKE

Music to my cold ears.

Spike leans down as if to kiss Drusilla. He strokes her hair with one hand, then brings up the other. He takes hold of her head and snaps her neck. She collapses.

SPIKE

I may be stupid, but I'm no idiot.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUNLIGHT HOTEL - MORNING

Buffy nears the staircase with two cups of coffee in hand. There's a rattling off to the side. Buffy spots a BUM rummaging through some trash cans. He looks up at Buffy and CACKLES at her.

BUM

I see you.

The Bum CACKLES and scurries away.

BUFFY

(to herself)

Buffy's mind--take note: get Faith away from this part of town. Also, add Diet Coke to the shopping list. No, check that--buy the Classic.

Buffy nods and makes her way up the stairs to the second floor. A door opens a few feet away and a FLOOSIE comes out causing Buffy to stop dead in her tracks. The Floosie adjusts her dress and closes the door. She walks by Buffy and down the stairs. Buffy eyeballs her the whole time, then turns her attention to the infamous door. Buffy stares for a few moments, bothered.

She takes one step forward before spinning around. She throws the coffee into a garbage can and leaves.

CUT TO:

INT. DEAN HOUSE - DAY

Xander and Dino sit in the living room watching "Die Hard".

XANDER
Oh oh, Hans Gruber and--

XANDER (bad German accent) DINO (bad German accent)
Shoot the glass. Shoot the glass.

They LAUGH. It happens in the film and they LAUGH harder. The front door can be HEARD opening and closing. The guys settle down as Elle walks in with her backpack. Dino looks over at her.

DINO
School's over already?

ELLE
It's almost three o'clock.

DINO
You're lying. Such a dirty rotten liar. Nobody likes a liar.

Dino looks at his watch. He stares for a moment and then taps it with his finger. He keeps tapping.

ELLE
Hoping your super-touch will--
(uses air quotes)
--Accidentally--
(hands down)
--Break it to cover up your lazy wrongness and make you just plain wrong?

DINO
I love my honest, clever sister.

XANDER
Not as clever as John McClean.

DINO
No one's got it on John baby!

ELLE
God you're pathetic. Celebrating the virtues of someone who doesn't even exist except in the macho fantasy world of violence and improbable heroism. There's a real world with real problems.

Elle exasperatedly SIGHS and walks into the kitchen. Dino and Xander share a look. Dino gets up and enters the kitchen where Elle stands silently sad.

DINO
I love having you around--that's never been in dispute, but I figured new town, new direction in

life...new obscenely loose, open-ended schedule of WHEN you come home after school. Like, calling to say you'll be late for dinner 'cause you're with friends.

ELLE

Change is not beneficial to ALL people.

DINO

Don't get haughtily intellectual with me. I know that when I was your age, I didn't practice what I'm preaching now, but there's a lotta shit I'm not proud of from those days. I had loads of sex in high school with girls whose names never mattered and whose faces just had to be pretty. Of course, more often than not, I imagined I was doin' Jodie Foster...or Gina, my lesbian friend from L.A. You know, the one I talk to through email. I should visit her.

ELLE

You go do that and I'll hit the net for my own gay friend.

DINO

You should have living, breathing friends. You are the best sister anyone could have and those qualities that make that true should translate into one helluva friend. What's going on with Dawn?

ELLE

Nothing.

DINO

Is that a dodge ball or for real?

ELLE

We were trying to be friends and ended up being very UN-friendly.

DINO

Just because you were unfriendly doesn't mean you can't be friends. Doesn't even mean you're not still friends.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUMMERS BACKYARD - DAY

Faith SLAMS into the fence. She GROANS as she gets up. Buffy attacks. GILES looks on pensively from a safe

distance. Buffy hits Faith again and again and knocks her a number of feet away.

FAITH
Damn B, somethin' go up your ass
this mornin'?

BUFFY
I could ask you the same thing.

FAITH
Wuh?

Buffy lands a kick to the face. She punches Faith in the midsection a couple of times then straddles her.

BUFFY
Guess I win.

FAITH
Didn't know there could be a winner.

BUFFY
Like it would matter. I'd still
kick your ass all over my yard, his
yard, her yard, the president's
yard, gardener's yard, etc, etc,
etc...

FAITH
Did I do somethin'?

Buffy gazes at Faith for a long moment. She leans downward before standing. Faith lets out a breath. Buffy walks into the house. Giles helps Faith up.

FAITH
Thanks. I KNOW I haven't screwed
you over.

GILES
Well, not lately.

FAITH
Right. I've apologized for that.

GILES
Actually, you haven't. Since
returning, you've searched for
Buffy, fought her, argued with her,
argued some more, fought again,
argued yet again, then mysteriously
got along and are now fighting
again. I'll never understand
slayers...or women. You're both.

FAITH
I'm sorry. For...EVERYTHING. Even
those last two I had no control
over in the first place.

GILES

Considering I myself have betrayed those I've pledged allegiance to, I feel compelled to accept that. I'd also like to add that I believe you've changed.

Faith smiles gratefully.

CUT TO:

INT. CRYPT - EVENING

On Spike as he stands in the middle of the room.

SPIKE

Yep, I'm an idiot.

Pull back to reveal Drusilla stirring on the bed. She wakes up and notices Spike.

DRUSILLA

What happened Spike?

SPIKE

Neck snapped. Freaky thing.

DRUSILLA

You hurt me.

SPIKE

No I--oh, hold up, yes I did. Why would I perform such a painful assault on a psychotic, murderous bitch? Oh, yeah, you're a psychotic, murderous bitch.

DRUSILLA

All I want do is play with Spike. Don't you want to play with me? Don't you love me?

SPIKE

No I don't. I haven't for a long time.

DRUSILLA

You love me. You're just afraid to admit it because of what those feelings stir inside you--the sleeping beast that yearns to be released.

SPIKE

Jabber all you want...I don't love you and you don't really love me. It's merely a creation of that maniacal mind of yours.

(beat; realizing)

Bloody hell, this must be what
Buffy feels like. Colossal
migraine!
(to Drusilla)
See that? I've achieved clarity on
the one subject I never wanted any!

Spike strides to the bed and kneels on it. Drusilla gets on
her knees to face up to Spike.

DRUSILLA
Are you going to snap my fragile
neck again?

SPIKE
Not this time.

DRUSILLA
I CAN'T believe you. I wish Miss
Edith were here to tell me what to
do.

SPIKE
Those blasted dolls don't come
anywhere near this place!
(dangerously)
And if you try any filthy magic and
have 'em walk their ditty wooden
legs over here, I WILL snap your
neck!

DRUSILLA
There's that fire I revere so much.
Let it out my love.

Spike clasps his hand roughly around Drusilla's throat. He
squeezes, thrilling Drusilla.

SPIKE
You're testing my patience.

DRUSILLA
Hooray. There's nothing more
lovely than Spike in pure,
unabashed, homicidal rage. Your
relentless crusade for the bloody
persecution of humanity is awe-
inspiring and makes me proud and
honored to be YOURS.

Spike eyes burn with deadly fury.

DRUSILLA
Spike...I'm hungry.

Drusilla pouts. Spike gazes long at hard at her. The
decision plays on his mind and is clear on his face.

CUT TO:

EXT. UPTOWN STREET - NIGHT

A MAN and WOMAN walk arm-in-arm. They enjoy the moment. Suddenly, they both get snatched out of sight.

CUT TO:

EXT. DARK ALLEY - CONTINUOUS

The Woman stumbles away from the Man who gets thrown against a wall by Spike. Spike steps back to size up the couple.

SPIKE
(sneering)
Now ain't this the vision of sweet?
I'd say you were lucky if I didn't
know better.

The Man trips over to the Woman, scared as hell.

WOMAN
(to Spike)
What do you want with us?

SPIKE
Who said I wanted anything? This
lurid coincidence occurred in the
course of my food shopping.

A vamped-out Drusilla appears and grabs the Man. The Woman SCREAMS. Spike muzzles her. Drusilla feeds on the Man eagerly as Spike and the Woman watch. He's deviously pleased and she's horrified.

SPIKE
(to the Woman)
Exciting, isn't it? His blood
rushing into her mouth--makes your
own blood rush through your veins,
boiling from the spark of the
thrill. Or maybe that's just me.

Spike leans down and kisses the Woman on her neck. Drusilla finishes with the Man, tossing him away. She approaches Spike and the Woman.

SPIKE
(to Dru)
This one can't wait. She's
shivering in anticipation.

DRUSILLA
Her companion was engrossing. She
has good taste.

SPIKE
That's yet to be determined.

Spike pushes the Woman's neck to the side placing her neck in open view. Drusilla stalks up to the duo and moves to

bite but stops. She peers up at Spike.

DRUSILLA
Join me?

Spike considers it.

SPIKE
Who do you love? Who do you belong
to?

DRUSILLA
Spike...not William.

Spike smiles. He vamps out and turns the Woman's head opening her neck to him. The vampires simultaneously descend, bite, and feast.

END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

EXT. PARK - NIGHT

Faith and Buffy fight two BRAWNY VAMPS. Faith finishes hers off easily but Buffy struggles. The Brawny Vamp gets in a couple of shots and knocks Buffy to the ground. He prepares to smother her but Faith intercepts and beats the crap out of him. Faith hammers the Brawny Vamp until she jams her stake into his head causing him to SHRIEK. Faith then stakes his chest turning him to dust.

Faith gets to her feet and attempts to help Buffy but Buffy rebuffs her. Buffy stands and walks away.

FAITH
Gee, thanks Faith. Don't mention
it B. You know I got your back
whenever you need me. I know Faith
and I totally appreciate your help.
You're so 5 by 5. Hell, better--10
by 10.

Faith GIGGLES before catching up with Buffy.

CUT TO:

EXT. UPTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD - MINUTES LATER

Buffy and Faith stroll in silence. Faith steals glances at Buffy who notices.

BUFFY
Could you NOT...?

FAITH
You want me to tie your shoelaces?
B, that's way adorable.

BUFFY
You are the embodiment of agitation.
In fact, it's easy to believe you
invented that state.

FAITH
Doubt it. But I do see myself as
the pioneer of the STAKE-ON.
Ladies love it--as long as the
wood's polished and waxed. Trial
and error's a bitch--especially
when you're bangin' one.

BUFFY
(shouting)
Stop it! I ever express interest
in hearing that shit?

FAITH
Not like we got a lot to talk about.

BUFFY
So then let's not talk at all.

After they turn a corner, Faith grabs Buffy and halts.

FAITH
(desperately)
Tell me what I did wrong 'cause my
mind's drawin' a blank.

BUFFY
Wrong time for this conversation.

FAITH
Bullshit! Just tell me so I can
fix it. What did I do? I honestly
don't know.

Faith looks pleadingly at Buffy. Buffy mulls it over.

BUFFY
I don't know.

FAITH
I can live with you hatin' me when
you got a reason. Then I deserve
it. But now...

Buffy averts her gaze. She's about to say something when a
BANGING is heard down the street.

CUT TO:

EXT. DARK ALLEY - MOMENTS LATER

A SCRAGGLY BUM hops over the wooden fence, CACKLING as Buffy
and Faith show up. The bodies are still there. Faith moves

to chase the Scraggly Bum but Buffy holds her back.

BUFFY
I doubt he did this. Probably the
same guy from your motel.

FAITH
What?

BUFFY
Not important.

Faith and Buffy go and check the bodies--Faith at the Man,
Buffy at the Woman--for a pulse, and then for bite marks.
They look at each other.

FAITH
Been here a while.

Buffy finds both sides bit.

BUFFY
Either he or she was starving, or
we've got a couple. Probably one
female.

FAITH
More fun for us.

CUT TO:

INT. SUMMERS HOUSE - DAY

Buffy, Faith, Giles, WILLOW, and KENNEDY are assembled in
the living room. Willow works on the computer as Kennedy
massages her.

FAITH
We found the first two uptown.
Covered ground to the east and west
and then went south and found
corpses galore.

BUFFY
Eleven.

GILES
Unconscionable.

WILLOW
I call and raise you mortifying.
(sadly)
SPD has 20 dead bodies from last
night.

KENNEDY
(soothingly)
It's okay baby. You're so damn
good at what you do. Don't worry.

Buffy can't keep her eyes off the display.

GILES
You say there was evidence of dual
engagement?

FAITH
Huh?

GILES
Two vampires.

FAITH
Oh, yeah...B's theory.

GILES
(to Buffy)
What fueled your suspicions?

Buffy doesn't answer. She's still watching Willow and Kennedy.

GILES
Buffy.

Buffy comes out of her trance. Faith furrows her brow.

BUFFY
Yeah...where were we?

GILES
You believe two vampires were
responsible?

BUFFY
Oh, um, a few of the victims were
drained on both sides. Vamps don't
drink dead blood so that's usually
an indicator of a couple. And I do
mean COUPLE.

WILLOW
Male and female.

KENNEDY
Two guys wouldn't share 'cause men
are greedy pigs.
(to Giles)
No offense.

Giles says nothing.

KENNEDY
Aren't you gonna say "none taken"?

GILES
That would be a lie.

Kennedy hides her face. Willow rubs her knee.

FAITH

I missin' somethin'? You get this a lot?

BUFFY

Not really. It's not a definite demon lovers are responsible...but that's an intimate act in a very disgusting and depraved sort of way. Kind of the Spike and Dru syndrome.

WILLOW

Just what we need--another pair of demented sociopaths.

FAITH

Who's Dru?

CUT TO:

INT. DRUSILLA'S LITTLE HOUSE - DAY

Drusilla lightly fingers her assortment of dolls on the bed.

DRUSILLA

Oh, Miss Edith...all the Misses and Madams, I'm so happy today. It's all coming together now that I have my Spike back. The real Spike. Our courtship will be sealed with a kiss and it will all fall into place oh so soon.

Drusilla flashes her long, sharp fingernails and walks over to a wall where a male PRISONER is chained.

DRUSILLA

The world has once again started playing fair with my love and I.
(to Miss Edith)
But, shh, don't tell Spike...he may not see it the way we do. He will come around for he cannot resist.
(to Prisoner)
Fear not...the pain won't last long--death is your friend.

Drusilla raises her right hand and hovers a nail near the Prisoner's left eye. Drusilla cuts into the Prisoner's flesh.

CUT TO:

INT. SUNNYDALE HIGH, HALLWAY - DAY

DAWN heads to her locker. She notices Elle at her own locker but doesn't say anything. Elle closes hers and passes by Dawn without a word, but stops and turns to Dawn.

ELLE

Hi.

DAWN
(absentmindedly)
Hey.

ELLE
You wanna get some sugar-inflated
coffee? On you?

DAWN
No thanks.

ELLE
Okay okay--on ME. I can be generous.

DAWN
Kinda busy.

ELLE
Activities involving...?

DAWN
Can't you buy the clue I'm so
obviously selling? I don't want to
talk.

Elle shuts Dawn's locker. Dawn's pissed.

DAWN
Yeah, NOW I'm in the mood for
happy-happy times together.

ELLE
I've apologized. If you want one,
two, or 75,000 more, then say so.
But, be warned, a minute ago I
would've given them to you. Not
anymore--I wasn't the only
secretive freak here.

DAWN
I had no reason to think you could
handle my life.

ELLE
Frankly, I have no reason to think
YOU can handle YOUR life.

DAWN
Go choke on a pixie stick.

ELLE
I thought I was responsible for
fucking this up. Turns out you're
just one seriously fucked up girl
Dawn--beyond the simple shiny ball
of energy bullshit you SO OBVIOUSLY
obsess about.

That stings Dawn.

ELLE
I'll be at the Bronze tonight-
making friends. Enjoy tonight's
woe-is-me-for-zero-normalcy bitch-
session in your room...alone.

Elle walks off. Dawn hurtfully scans the hall--lost. She
kicks her locker.

CUT TO:

EXT. GRAVEYARD - DAY

Dino and ANYA approach a crypt.

ANYA
The humans are routinely
overreactionary.

DINO
Could you be more detached?

ANYA
I'm a vengeance demon.

DINO
A fact that discomferts me to no
end. Don't forget--I know the
score. You were human.

ANYA
My memory capacity is beyond
superb--especially with secrets.

Dino and Anya stop at the crypt. They engage in a steely
staring match before Dino pushes the door open.

CUT TO:

INT. CRYPT - CONTINUOUS

Dino and Anya enter. Spike, fully clothed, shuts his cell
phone and covers it up.

DINO
Wow, awful digs man.

ANYA
They assail me for MY
straightforwardness.

DINO
I find that endearing on a woman.

Spike CLEARS his throat.

SPIKE
Hate to interrupt...actually,
nothing pleases me more than to

interrupt the Spike-bashing since I'M Spike. My self-esteem's been boosting lately for some reason. Don't ruin it now.

DINO
Apologies. Didn't know you were so sensitive.

SPIKE
Only physically. Anya can testify to that.

Anya looks away in embarrassment. Dino gets it and doesn't like it.

DINO
(to Anya)
I'm glad I lack your memory capacity.

SPIKE
What's this house-call about? I got nude exercises to do.

DINO
That should coincide with my puking.

ANYA
A couple of vamps littered the town with dead people.

SPIKE
And?

ANYA
That's all you have to say?

SPIKE
Should I weep in distress at the dead humans I never met?
(fake crying)
Oh no no no, they can't be dead. This is so horrible, oh my God, why...WHY?

DINO
Dude--I can be awfully callous towards death too, but THAT'S past decency.

SPIKE
Decency? Not in my vocabulary. I'm a bleedin' vampire for Satan's sake. People seem to forget that. I don't act like it enough.

ANYA
(suspiciously)
What's that supposed to mean?

Spike silently stares for a moment.

SPIKE
It means--get out.

ANYA
Must be nice to skirt fighting the
good fight at your convenience.
Buffy will be far from amused.

SPIKE
You can tell Little Miss Muffet to
sit on a tuffet and blow me. The
Princess won't mind...she never did
before.

Anya's disgusted and leaves.

DINO
How's that soul doin'?

SPIKE
Laughing it's ass off.

DINO
How's Dru?

Spike quirks an eyebrow and smirks.

CUT TO:

EXT. WEST SIDE - NIGHT

Faith and Giles patrol the area. There's a RING. Faith
pulls out a phone and talks.

FAITH
Yeah.
(pause)
Bupkus. I'd get more action with
my hand.

Giles throws an uncomfortable look Faith's way.

CUT TO:

EXT. SOUTH SIDE - NIGHT

Dino and Anya scout their surroundings as Anya uses a phone.

ANYA
I think the operative words are
fruitless, and by extension--
POINTLESS. The animals probably
have tabs on our strategy anyway.
(pause)
Because it's a simple stake-out--
with holes in the formation. I may
be a ditz, but I'm not stupid.

CUT TO:

EXT. WEST SIDE - NIGHT

Willow and Kennedy make out in a shadowy part of the sidewalk. There's a TUNE and the girls break up their session so Willow can answer the phone.

WILLOW
(breathing hard)
Hello?
(pause)
WE WERE NOT.

CUT TO:

EXT. NORTH SIDE - NIGHT

Buffy shuts her phone as she walks with Xander.

BUFFY
They've got nothing--except for
maybe a hickey.

XANDER
Could be that the vamps are
satiated. Bloodlust has its
limits--to an extent.

BUFFY
Can't take any chances. I know
it's a lesson I should've learned
years ago, but I still hate even
ONE person dying.

XANDER
The lesson not even the greatest
scholar could teach convincingly.
Feel guilt--that's the Buffer Zone
I love.

Buffy smiles.

BUFFY
Anya's smart.

XANDER
A claim I vehemently make on
numerous occasions.

BUFFY
Do you think we're missing
something--coverage-wise?

XANDER
Like...?

CUT TO:

EXT. THE BRONZE - NIGHT

Establish.

CUT TO:

INT. THE BRONZE - NIGHT

Loads of CLUBBERS. The BAND plays. Elle stands at the bar with a drink. She focuses on the entrance. A DUDE comes up to her.

DUDE
Hey there.

ELLE
(happily)
Hey. Fuck off.

The Dude goes away. Elle returns to the entrance. Moments later, Dawn enters. Elle brightens up, then turns away, acting nonchalant. Dawn spots Elle and goes to her.

DAWN
How about a drink--on you?

ELLE
Take some of mine.

DAWN
Don't get my own?

ELLE
I'm cheap.

Dawn takes Elle's drink and sips.

DAWN
Where are the friends?

ELLE
I'm weeding out the winners from the losers. Don't wanna look desperate, so the first few get shot down automatically.

DAWN
Cruel--yet creative. Do I get shot down?

ELLE
Is that not MY drink your holding?

DAWN
Nice to be a winner.

ELLE
Anyone who thinks you're a loser is a moronic bag of shit that answers to me.

Dawn smiles like sunshine.

ELLE

You're a moronic bag of shit.
Explain Dawn Summers to me in a
super-sized nutshell.

Dawn is momentarily offended but loosens up. There's a SMASH and the music stops. Dawn and Elle turn to the stage. Drusilla and two HENCHVAMPS have commandeered the stage. Five more HENCHVAMPS secure the rest of the club.

DRUSILLA

(to the crowd)

Please, be frightened. It
heightens the experience for all
involved. Your blood will taste
more yummy.

The crowd's scared shitless. Dawn and Elle are freaked.

END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

EXT. NORTH SIDE - NIGHT

Buffy and Xander hang around keeping a look-out.

BUFFY

You notice how Spike's been acting
lately?

XANDER

Not very Spike-like?

BUFFY

For the most part. But Anya told
me about hers and Dino's visit today.

XANDER

I heard.

BUFFY

Thoughts?

XANDER

Spike's lucky I'm with you on a
patrol.

BUFFY

It sounded like the old Spike.

XANDER

Does that give me license to kill
him?

Buffy says nothing. There's a BEEP. Buffy pulls out her cell and looks at it. She closes her eyes and hangs her head.

CUT TO:

INT. THE BRONZE - NIGHT

A game-faced Drusilla rips into a GUY's throat and chews it up to the horrifying dismay of the Clubbers. Dawn and Elle huddle at the bar.

ELLE
What's up?

DAWN
If Buffy's paying attention, she and the others should come soon. Everyone's patrolling the town.

ELLE
And they're everywhere but here...what kind of crack-ass patrol is that?

DAWN
I'll say crack-ass.

ELLE
Smartass.

DAWN
Better than crack-ass.

ELLE
Should we be bantering?

SCREAMS erupt as Henchvamps attack and kill people.

DAWN
If you don't mind an afterlife in hell.

ELLE
Are we up for action?

DAWN
There's a lot of them; a slayer I'm not; a superhuman you're not; and we're weaponless because we were too busy sneaking out.
(pause)
What the hell--you only live once.

ELLE
Twice, if you count...

Elle points at the Henchvamps--and an approaching Drusilla.

ELLE
Know her?

DAWN
Drusilla--Spike's ex. Buffy won't be happy.

ELLE
How 'bout Spike?

DRUSILLA
Spike is thrilled by my resurfacing.

DAWN
Okay, it is totally impolite to eavesdrop on a conversation. You are so headed for the dustbin.

DRUSILLA
That will never happen. I won't let it. My Spike certainly won't.

ELLE
You don't stand a chance with the mega-scoobs coming. My brother will personally beat your pale ass into the ground for messin' with me.

CUT TO:

EXT. SOUTH SIDE - NIGHT

Anya gets off the phone as Dino waits.

DINO
So?

ANYA
So I was right.

DINO
That goes nowhere in explaining the situation.

ANYA
Dawn's at the Bronze which has now been invaded and captured by vampires.

DINO
Good explaining. We can get there fast by stealing--

Dino stops himself and concentrates. He scans the area.

ANYA
Steal what? Do you plan on completing that thought?

DINO
I can hear something...a pattering.

ANYA

Mutant babies?

DINO
Oh ple--

Dino stops to consider that.

DINO
Won't rule it out.

ANYA
My ears report silence.

There's a thunderous BOOM in the distance.

ANYA
Never ceases to amaze me the timing
of such events.

CUT TO:

INT. THE BRONZE - NIGHT

The Henchvamps slash away at the people. Drusilla admires Dawn's hair with her hand.

DRUSILLA
So pretty. So shiny. Virtually
energizing with its touch.

Elle slaps Drusilla's hand away and gets in front of Dawn.

ELLE
That's not yours, sicko. Go play
with yourself.

DRUSILLA
Now that is adorable. Protecting
the one you love...I can admire
your dedication.

Dawn and Elle are flustered. Drusilla grins and backhands Elle sending her flying across the room.

DAWN
Bad-accented British bimbo...

Dawn connects with a punch. Drusilla prepares to retaliate but the front door bursts open giving way to Buffy and Xander. The side door busts open with Faith and Giles coming through and Willow and Kennedy appear on the stage. The gang engages the Henchvamps. Drusilla is happy.

DRUSILLA
Yay! I do love a good party.

Dawn wants to throw another punch but Drusilla throws her open hand in Dawn's face and wiggles her fingers as she HUMS. Dawn's frozen.

DRUSILLA
That would be mean. Just stay
put--for later.

Drusilla runs off. People scatter and exit the club. Buffy
dusts her Henchvamp and then looks around.

BUFFY
(shouting)
Dawn.

DRUSILLA (OS)
You'll have her soon enough.

Buffy spins and her eyes burn with rage.

BUFFY
Oh this is going to be so friggin'
spectacular.

DRUSILLA
Spike isn't here to save you this
time. He wouldn't anyway.

BUFFY
You are such a pain in my ass.
Even more than that stick everyone
says is up there.

Buffy and Drusilla get into it, brutally exchanging blows.

CUT TO:

EXT/INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

Dino and Anya arrive to find the giant entrance doors in
shambles on the ground. They run into the building. Two
dead BODYGUARDS lie on the floor and four HOBOS, the Bum,
and the Scraggly Bum raid crates.

DINO
(shouting)
Yo. You want a handout, go to the
shelter. Or else it's my foot
kickin' your ass.

The Hobos and Bums look up from the crates and CACKLE. They
return to what they were doing.

ANYA
Maybe they're masochists.

DINO
Then fun will be had by all.

Dino and Anya stride forwards. The Hobos turn to them and
point as they CACKLE. All six point upwards to the upper
levels of the warehouse where yet more crates--and more
HOBOS--are lodged. Dino and Anya peer up and are unsettled.
They look at each other and take off towards the exit but

two crates crash-land in front of it causing Dino and Anya to hit the brakes.

ANYA
(fearfully)
Now might be a good time to use
that ungodly strength of yours--
like in breaking through a wall.

DINO
Follow my lead.

Dino motions for the exit again but sprints with Anya in the opposite direction only to have several crates flying in front and back of them. They turn to the left--more crash and almost hit. They go right but don't get far before having to jump out of the way of another. They run for the exit with a line of crates dropping behind them as they go until they get sideswiped by a crate from the ground floor slung by the CACKLING Bums and Hobos. Dino stands and pulls an unconscious Anya off the floor. He looks up.

DINO
(yelling)
Oh give us a break!

Dino flings Anya to the side and hits the ground covering his head as a crate crashes directly on him.

CUT TO:

INT. THE BRONZE - NIGHT

Giles struggles with his Henchvamp. Faith heads over and stakes him and then jumps on another. Xander battles with his at the stage. Kennedy has a violent exchange with a BIG Henchvamp. Willow positions herself in line with Buffy and Drusilla who wail on each other. Buffy nails Drusilla with a kick to the stomach and follows up with blows to the back and head. Drusilla counters with several shots and it's a vicious back and forth match from there. Willow's eyes go black and her hands raise up.

WILLOW
Domina, rivi, estabon, colar!

Willow fires energy bolts at Drusilla's back. Drusilla spins out of the way and the bolts hit Buffy sending her flying. Willow softens up and rushes over as Drusilla makes her way to Dawn at the bar.

Xander uses the guitar handle to beat on his vamp and then stakes him with it. Kennedy hammers the Big Henchvamp into a pulp. She pulls out a stake, hits him, then stakes him. Giles finishes off another one of his own.

Drusilla arrives at the still-frozen Dawn.

DRUSILLA
Promises, promises, created by

those who could not keep them in
the first place. I do my best
however. So pretty--so illusory--
so pure.

Drusilla flashes her killer fingernails in Dawn's face.
Drusilla lightly snakes her fingers across Dawn's neck
around to her hair. Drusilla slices off a lock of hair and
puts it in her cleavage, then returns her nails to Dawn's
neck. Dawn's eyes water and she trembles. Drusilla
punctures skin and blood seeps out. Suddenly, Elle pops up
from behind the counter and pulls Dawn over with her.
Drusilla's dismayed but still turns in time to whack a
bumrushing Xander.

DRUSILLA
I've made my point.

Drusilla heads for the side door but gets cut off by Faith.

FAITH
Nuh uh. You ain't just walkin' out.

With lightning speed, Drusilla grabs Faith by her shirt and
as Drusilla throws her away:

FAITH
Oh shit.

CUT TO:

INT. WAREHOUSE - NIGHT

All the Hobos and Bums are gone. Anya crawls over to Dino
buried under the wood-pile. She pulls the scrap off him and
checks him out. He GROANS loudly.

ANYA
How are you?

DINO
I'd rather be getting a prostate
exam--during a hangover--with Anna
Nicole Smith standing on my back.

ANYA
I feel pretty good--if that helps.

DINO
Actually, it does.

ANYA
Really?

DINO
No.

ANYA
The extremity of unusualness we

just experienced is beyond absurd.

DINO
Yeah, I think it's weird too.

ANYA
Sunnydale can't possibly have that many homeless people...

DINO
...Who just happened to be raiding a warehouse while there's a hostile take-over on the other end of town.

CUT TO:

INT. THE BRONZE - NIGHT

Elle tries to comfort a woozy Dawn on the floor.

ELLE
Dawn...you okay? Dawn?

DAWN
I feel so weak.

ELLE
I know sweet...she's gone--don't worry.

Over at another part of the club, Giles helps Xander up.

GILES
Exceptional work Xander--including distracting Drusilla long enough for Faith to confront her.

XANDER
Faith got her? No more Dru, whacko bugaloo?

GILES
Not by a longshot. But this can be viewed as a moral victory.

XANDER
Seven years in this country--still too British.

GILES
May I remind you that it was not MY rear end that gave the floor a waxing.

Xander directs a pointed look at Giles. Willow walks with Buffy across the room.

WILLOW
I'm so sorry Buffy. Really really really really really really

sorry. I'm not evil--really. I'm good--really. I'd never in my state of goodness want to hurt you because you're my best friend and I love you and I only want to help and I'm a witch and that's my skill. well not my only skill as a hacker extraordinaire but in battle those don't come in handy so it's magic magic magic and please don't shun me or hate me or make me watch "Scooby Doo" again and--

BUFFY

--I forgave you at "I'm". And please--no apology-cards.

WILLOW

(unconvincingly)

The thought never crossed my mind.

Willow rushes over to Kennedy. Willow buries herself in Kennedy's embrace.

WILLOW

I suck.

KENNEDY

No you don't. You are the best person on Earth--alive or dead. And I'm gonna show it to you tonight baby--all night long--all about you.

Buffy spies the couple and ends up bumping into Faith.

FAITH

Wicked battle. I suck.

BUFFY

Um...no...uh...you don't...um...it's one of those situations where as your friend and partner I'll give you words of encouragement and that's all I can give as merely your FRIEND and PARTNER--that is, partner in the fight against evil--not partner as in lesbian lover.

FAITH

Damn girl--she musta nailed you big time.

BUFFY

I've had only TWO vampire lovers! Anyone who says otherwise is a liar!

Faith punches Buffy.

FAITH

THAT kinda nailed. Seriously, you need to get home.

BUFFY
Greatest idea in the history of ideas.

FAITH
Well, now we know for sure who the bad guy is. I'm callin' it right here: that vampiress cunt is mine.

GILES
I believe we were able to kill all of Drusilla's associates. If she did commit those other murders with someone else, he's probably decimated.

BUFFY
Or smart enough to not show up.

CUT TO:

INT. DRUSILLA'S LITTLE HOUSE - NIGHT

The door opens and Drusilla walks in. She leaves the door open and giddily hops over to the bed where the dolls lie.

SPIKE (OS)
Bad bad girl.

The door swings shut and Spike appears from behind it. Drusilla swivels and smirks.

DRUSILLA
I've been very bad Spike. Punish me.

Spike grabs her hair and yanks. Drusilla loves it.

SPIKE
You're up to something. Not just kicks. I'm not keen on makin' enemies with the slayer again. You already have.

DRUSILLA
I never stopped. You haven't stopped being enamored with her. Proof of how pathetic you've become.

Spike strikes Drusilla. She falls on the bed and wipes the blood from her lip.

SPIKE
Delusional whore. My bleeding heart has nothing left for her. Still can't keep you from throwing my missteps in my face! What are you up to? I won't let you open the hellmouth--armageddon...not as

long as I'm still walking around.
Don't delude yourself--and try and
piss me off--by even THINKING it's
because of her or FOR her. Hell on
Earth is an overrated and
misunderstood concept for demons.
Hell is no fun down there--why
should it be any fun up here?
Life--together--spanning a century
and an entire planet--

DRUSILLA

--I want to settle down my love.
Here--in the center of the world's
evil...and no trouble to boot.

SPIKE

Do I have to ask again?

DRUSILLA

On Friday, we shall be united in
darkness for eternity...that is, if
you wish for it as I.

SPIKE

Union involving...?

DRUSILLA

A ritual and a kiss are the
necessities. Mutilating the
opposition is merely a thrilling
bonus. We can spare those icky
children if it soothes you. In the
end, I only want YOU.

Spike clasps Drusilla's face roughly.

SPIKE

Blood and scones may heal my
bones--but you can always satisfy me.

Spike smiles wickedly.

END ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN

INT. SUMMERS HOUSE - DAY

Giles, Willow, Xander, and Anya read books in the living
room. Kennedy practices combat moves in the dining room.
Buffy and Dino talk in the kitchen.

BUFFY

Unbelievable. One of those guys
was at the first murder scene. One
was at Faith's--they laughed...no--
it was more of a cackle.

DINO

YES! Cackle. Man that pissed me off.

BUFFY

You know what pisses me off? The fact that we were outsmarted by a bunch of fake homeless guys that may or may not be demons and one definite demoness who goes above and beyond the call of evil duty to piss me off almost as a challenge to feed her sadomasochistic tendencies.

DINO

Yeah...there are easier, more socially acceptable ways to do that. Last year, I had some fun with a girl who asked me to put a saddle on her and a carrot in her mouth--treat her like a horse.

BUFFY

That's socially acceptable?

DINO

The way I define it--sure.

BUFFY

Makes me wonder what your definition of "is" is.

Buffy and Dino laugh.

BUFFY

Did you do a lot of research back in New York?

DINO

I read a lot when I was a kid. Not bad in the inherent knowledge department either. Probably a genetic thing. Dad was one hell of a guy.

BUFFY

Reading's never been a virtue of mine. Wasn't born knowledgeable. Familial genetics need not apply. I HATE researching.

DINO

We're the muscle--they're the brains. They find out what those relics could be used for, we go and do our thing and then come back here and have sex.

BUFFY
I'm already taken--by my hand.
She's territorial.

DINO
Can I watch?

Buffy thinks it over--not seriously.

BUFFY
Nah. Maybe next time.

DINO
I'm holdin' ya to that. I'll go
check out the progress report.

Buffy smiles and nods. Dino exits as Faith enters.

FAITH
Makin' nice with the new guy?

BUFFY
Not in the way you might.

Buffy instantly regrets that.

BUFFY
I didn't--

FAITH
--You did. It's okay. I'm a slut.

BUFFY
No. Don't even think that. I don't.

FAITH
Thanks for lyin' to spare my
feelins...it ain't necessary.

BUFFY
You know, for someone with so much
confidence, you think so little of
yourself.

FAITH
And for someone so devoted to bein'
a goody-goody, you sure know how to
lie.

BUFFY
Idiot is the word that comes to
mind right now.

FAITH
Aww, thanks B, how sweet.

BUFFY
Why are you like that?

FAITH

How else should I act? I got no friggin' idea what to do around you to keep you on my side. One minute, we're fightin' and then it's all great and then you're pissed at me for just bein' me and I...I never had a grasp of this relationship thing--on any level. I don't think I can even be a good enemy.

BUFFY

Trust me--you're a fantastic rival--positively and negatively speaking. My emotions have been wiggly the last couple of weeks. You've been on the wrong end of hurricane Buffy. And with the situation we're in now--and the possibility that Spike may have gone bad again...

FAITH

And the fact that you screwed him and this is a major roadblock in you two gettin' back together...

BUFFY

That's not what I want.

FAITH

It's all right. Makes sense--love can make you do stupid things, stir up weird feelins--or so I've heard from TV and stuff.

BUFFY

(dead serious)

I don't love him. Never him. He knows that--I know that--I hope you do too.

Faith stares deeply at Buffy.

FAITH

I'm glad I ain't Spike.

BUFFY

Perfect reminder...

CUT TO:

INT. CRYPT - NIGHT

Spike lounges on a chair as Buffy walks in.

BUFFY

I take it you're no longer a tortured soul.

SPIKE
Your powers of perception are
dazzling. That a slayer gift?

BUFFY
Where's Dru?

SPIKE
Dru? Drusilla? MY Drusilla? I
mean, my ex Drusilla since we're
not together. She back in town?
Ain't that a spanker. She causin'
trouble again?
(laughing)
Ahh, that Dru. Gotta love her.

BUFFY
Last time, you told her to take a
hike.

SPIKE
Last time, I had a reason. Last
time, I was in love with you and
had to prove it. Last time, I felt
the urge and desire to beat up
evil. Last time...I had no
competition. Last time, you said
you didn't want me and you showed
it. Things change. Wasn't more
than a year after shuttin' that
door on me that you willingly put
me inside you.

BUFFY
Lust gets you nowhere if you feel
nothing else. You love me, but I
don't love you--that doesn't
undermine how GOOD you are.

SPIKE
I've been on the losing end of--
whatever this is between us. I
remember having that chip in my
head and wanting to die--and trying.
'Cause I couldn't be bad.
(MORE)

SPIKE (CONT'D)
As much as you want to believe--as
much as I do--that this soul came
from my conscience--my heart where
deep down I am as good a person
with loads of humanity as you or
your friends...believe, but it's
not true. I know and accept it. I
traveled the globe for YOU--my love
for YOU--and at this moment I feel
better than I have in years and
it's got nothing to do with YOU.

I'm no Angel retread--piss on the worthless CHAMPION. I'm done being your whipping boy. I'm sick of bowing at your presence and groveling at your feet.

BUFFY
Finished with the forces of good...and we're finished altogether.

SPIKE
We gonna throw down now?

BUFFY
No. Unfortunately, we will eventually.

SPIKE
The way it's supposed to be.

BUFFY
THAT I don't believe.

Spike doesn't remark. They stare for a moment. Buffy turns and walks out.

CUT TO:

INT. SUMMERS HOUSE - DAY

In the living room, Giles and Willow ARGUE. Xander and Anya relax on the couch. Kennedy and Dino stand off to the side. Buffy walks in and over to Faith.

BUFFY
What's this about?

FAITH
Heated discussion over the ritual Spike and Dru are usin'.

BUFFY
One thinks it is and one doesn't?

FAITH
Nope. She thinks it's one--he thinks it's another. Seriously. One situation, two rituals--I love it. Giles is hot when he's arguing. So is Red.

BUFFY
I'll forget and remember that.

Faith doesn't quite understand that.

BUFFY
(screaming)
Shut up.

Giles and Willow get quiet.

BUFFY
Disagreement? Do tell.

GILES I am saying Spike and Drusilla have a Dakosta ceremony planned that will combine and enhance their powers through a simulated wedding of sorts, a conclusion supported by the facts both past and present and yet unimaginable to Miss Stubborn Shortsightedness.	WILLOW Giles doesn't understand we've got a Zaborias ritual to deal with, easily one of the worst things that could happen to Sunnydale what with the sun being blocked out and all and it only involves a fire, energetically pure hair, and an abandoned house.
---	---

Everyone stares.

BUFFY
Let's utilize a moment to wipe from
memory the fact that Giles called
Willow Miss Stubborn
Shortsightedness. Truly a
testament to how passionately both
feel about their theories. I
appreciate your hard work, but how
can both rituals be possibly
correct? Giles?

GILES
It seems the two share several of
the same ingredients and instructions.

BUFFY
What's the most important
similarity? The one that genuinely
helps us. Willow?

WILLOW
Considering how generally simple
the rituals are, I'd say the most
specific is requiring an abandoned
house--one unoccupied by a human
for at least a quarter century.

BUFFY
So then the ritual itself is
immaterial. Our worry is location.
Am I right?

Giles and Willow look at each other, then at Buffy and nod.

BUFFY
Problem solved. I know exactly
where they're headed. And THAT'S
why I'm the leader.

FAITH
I thought it was because everyone's

afraid of a person who WANTS to be called Buffy.

Faith hightails it out of there as Buffy chases her.

CUT TO:

EXT. MANSION - NIGHT

Establish. The Bums and Hobos line up in front.

CUT TO:

INT. MANSION - NIGHT

A dozen small statues form a circle that Spike and Drusilla stand in the middle of. Spike holds one of Drusilla's hands as she tosses an eyeball into the roaring fireplace.

DRUSILLA

Give us the power we so strongly desire; in darkness and death; of energy and FIRE.

Drusilla tosses the portion of Dawn's hair into the fireplace. The fire explodes and shoots out connecting with each of the statues. A ring of fire is now in place.

DRUSILLA

And now, my love, shall we proceed to our destiny--everlasting unity?

SPIKE

Just give me the word gorgeous.

DRUSILLA

I never stopped loving you Spike.

SPIKE

Yes you did...but I don't mind. I stopped loving you too.

Drusilla leans into Spike, their lips almost touching.

DRUSILLA

This moment is what we were reborn for.

SPIKE

Let's do it then.

Spike and Drusilla shut their eyes and kiss. The burning statues erupt like fireworks. After a few moments, Drusilla's eyes shoot open, distress evident. She abruptly breaks the kiss causing the statues' fire to extinguish. Drusilla stumbles backwards as Spike watches flustered.

SPIKE

What's wrong? Why stop?

DRUSILLA
(horrified)
You have materialized goodness in
you. Human spirit.

SPIKE
What...oh, no no no...don't tell me
that's a problem?

DRUSILLA
What have they done to you?

SPIKE
More what I did to myself. It's
just a bloody soul--still a vampire.

Drusilla lets out a glass-shattering SCREAM. Spike flinches
and covers his ears

CUT TO:

INT. SUMMERS HOUSE, DAWN'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Dawn and Elle sit on the floor, stretched out against the
bed. "Alone Together" by The Strokes plays in the background.

DAWN
Willow fixed the Buffybot and she
replaced the real Buffy--in a way.

ELLE
Physically she was here, but that's
all.

DAWN
Bullseye. On the bright side,
Buffybot was more pleasant and tons
more tolerable than the real thing.

ELLE
You think I should have a Dinobot
made?

DAWN
How would your brother take it?

ELLE
Spend a minute staring--two testing
its agility and defense skills--and
the next two and a half hours
watching "Die Hard" with him. So
to answer my own question: NO. A
monumentally monumental NO.

Silence.

DAWN
They're gonna be fine.

ELLE

Naturally. Life sucks, but great things have a funny way of showing up in the worst places--the absolute sinkholes of circumstance.

DAWN

Spike and Dru hooked up again and are up to something evil which is bad...but the good guys will triumph and possibly rid the world of Dru-bitch forever. And I'm here.

ELLE

Hey, there's no shame in letting the pros do the job. I have an entire lack of heroism that would be impressive if it weren't so disheartening.

DAWN

You saved me.

ELLE

An aberration. Still my pleasure.

DAWN

I'm a wimp...always on Buffy's ass about being a soldier, doing battle because I can fight and I've been scared off by ONE event.

ELLE

NEAR FATAL event. Don't forget those first two words.

DAWN

They ALMOST die every week.

ELLE

And you'll be back to bugging your sister to let you on the front lines in a few days. I know what you can do--everyone does. We all know how brave you are. Stop kicking yourself for being human. And quit the self-loathing because technically you weren't BORN human--or at all. I'm sure I speak for everyone when I say Dawn Summers is better than great just the way she is. Now shut up! I wanna hear the song.

Dawn complies happily. She rests her head on Elle's shoulder.

CUT TO:

INT. MANSION - NIGHT

Drusilla continues to SCREAM in the midst of SOBBING. Spike

tries to calm her down.

SPIKE

Dru, quit it. It's okay. We can still be together--just no blasted wedding rejoinment thing or whatever this is.

DRUSILLA

(desperately)
You're damaged. My beautiful Spike's been destroyed.

SPIKE

I'm still here...hell, I've acted like my old self since you came back--stupid soul doesn't even register anymore.

DRUSILLA

How could this happen?

BUFFY (OS)

Go ahead Spoike--storytell away.

Spike and Dru look up to find Buffy in the doorway.

FAITH (OS)

Yeah--please? Still haven't heard it yet.

Spike and Dru this time spin and see Faith enter through the gazebo.

SPIKE

You're late. Afraid of the Big Bad?

BUFFY

I don't know--maybe. Tell me where he is and I'll get back to you.

SPIKE

I missed beatin' you down with a purpose.

BUFFY

I can't wait to beat you and not feel bad about it tomorrow.

Spike SNARLS and stomps over to Buffy who goes on the offensive and hits Spike with a spin-kick. They get into it blisteringly. Faith races at Drusilla. Drusilla sees Faith coming and looks at the fireplace.

DRUSILLA

Animus Malaya.

The fire blasts out, knocking Faith to the ground. Buffy throws Spike against the wall and connects with a left-right

combo, but Spike blocks Buffy's next shot and lands a knee to the gut. He sends her soaring into the air with a vicious uppercut.

Faith recovers and searches the room for Drusilla. She's vanished. Faith looks around and exits through the gazebo. Buffy and Spike continue their slamfest trading shot after shot.

CUT TO:

EXT. MANSION - CONTINUOUS

Faith races out of the mansion and dropkicks one of the Bums. Dino, Xander, Giles, Kennedy, Willow, and Anya fight with waves of Bums and Hobos. Dino exchanges blows with a couple of the Hobos as another one leaps onto his back. There's a lot of CACKLING throughout. Anya swings an aluminum bat around. Kennedy aggressively--and excitedly--engages as many as she can find. Giles and Xander double-team a bunch of the Hobos while Willow roams the battlefield firing magic bolts.

Faith scans the area. Her eyes spot something in the distance. Close on an open manhole.

CUT TO:

INT. SEWER - CONTINUOUS

Faith drops into the shallow water in the darkened tunnel. She cautiously takes a few steps searching and listening. Close on Faith as she abruptly spins around. Appearing behind her is Drusilla. Pull back as Drusilla smiles wickedly and vamps out. Faith snaps her head back and nails Drusilla in the face hard. Faith spins and kicks Drusilla several times and lands more blows.

FAITH

This time, it ain't easy.

Faith tries to land a punch but Drusilla snatches Faith's hand in hers and twists Faith's arm. Drusilla punches Faith and throws her into the wall. Drusilla punches and kicks Faith in the back over and over and slams her head into the wall hard enough to crack the cement. Drusilla throws Faith into the opposite wall.

Faith slumps to the ground. On Drusilla as she fixes her outfit. Faith leaps into the frame and collides with Drusilla. Faith lands several shots and shoves Drusilla back into the wall a couple of times before wailing on her.

Drusilla fights back in a rapid-fire exchange.

CUT TO:

INT. MANSION - NIGHT

Spike soars through the air, hits the floor, and skids

almost into the fireplace. He YELPS and scrambles away. Buffy kicks him.

BUFFY
Foolish and blind.

She kicks him again.

BUFFY
You--are--different. No doubt.

She kicks him again. He barely gets himself to sit.

BUFFY
You brought this on yourself.

SPIKE
Damn right. If you think I regret it for a second, then that dumb blonde stereotype does apply to slayers.

BUFFY
It's almost tragic...almost.

Buffy reaches behind her and pulls out a stake.

SPIKE
Sassy uberbitch--talkin' and stakin' don't mix.

BUFFY
Like a slayer and vampire as lovers.

Spike smirks and spins attempting a sweep, but Buffy jumps avoiding the move. In mid-air, Buffy tries a kick of her own, but Spike catches her foot and tosses her away. Buffy loses the stake. She gets up just as Spike attacks her. They exchange blow after blow after blow. Buffy lands a kick to the head. Spike counters with an elbow and a knee. Buffy connects with a backhand. Spike gets her with a boot to the kidney. Another round of shots goes by until Spike ducks a punch and nails Buffy with a powerful uppercut. Buffy hits the ground on her knees. Spike retrieves the stake.

As Buffy gets to her feet, Spike slides down low and hammers Buffy's right knee with the shaft of the stake. Buffy CRIES OUT and falls. Spike hits her twice. Buffy lies on her back as Spike straddles her. He vamps out.

SPIKE
Long time coming. Number four.

Spike exposes Buffy's neck and goes in to bite. Buffy WHIMPERS loudly. Spike halts. He inches closer again, but stops and barely punctures flesh. He breathes harder and harder. He GROWLS, shuts his eyes, and vigorously shakes his head. He takes a long look at Buffy and ROARS before getting up off of her. He drives his foot down on to her

right knee. Buffy YELLS painfully. Spike, with stake in hand, walks away.

CUT TO:

INT. SEWER - NIGHT

Faith picks Drusilla up. She slams Drusilla's back down on her knee causing a CRUNCHING sound. Faith punches Drusilla repeatedly. Drusilla releases her nails and swipes at Faith. Faith backs off enough so that only her shirt gets sliced. Faith stomps on Drusilla's hand and buries her knee into Drusilla's back. Faith grabs Drusilla's head and slams it against the ground a few times. Faith gets on one knee and lifts Drusilla's head up, pulling it straight back. Faith reaches down and pulls out her knife. She releases the blade and positions it at Drusilla's throat.

FAITH

Fast or slow--no matter what--this
is gonna fuckin' hurt.

Faith drives the blade into Drusilla's neck and slashes across about an inch. On Faith as a POUNDING sound is heard and she drops unconscious into the water --on her front. Pull back to reveal Spike holding the stake with the butt end showing. He drops the stake and picks Drusilla up, covering her bleeding neck with his hand, and carries her off through the tunnel. Faith lies motionless in the water.

CUT TO:

EXT. MANSION - NIGHT

Dino rips an arm off one of the Bums and beats the crap out of him with it. He uses it to hammer another. The Bums and Hobos jump on the gang and bite and claw at them. It's scrappy and ugly. Giles whacks some of the Bums with a collapsed street sign. Xander slices into two with a sword. Kennedy breaks one's neck and flings another one.

Bad guy bodies are everywhere. The gang kills Bums and Hobos furiously. Anya swings her bat hard enough to lop off a Hobo's head. Willow decimates a trio of Bums with a magic blast. Kennedy picks up a Bum and impales him on a sharp fence-post. Dino literally tears apart the last one limb from limb.

The gang surveys the bloody, messy scene. Everyone CACKLES at the massacred remains of the Bums and Hobos. High-fives are exchanged. Xander looks around.

XANDER

Where's our super girls?

CUT TO:

INT. SEWER - NIGHT

Buffy limps through the tunnel and hurriedly pulls Faith out

of the water.

BUFFY
(panicky)
Faith, oh God oh God--don't worry--
I can do this...I can. Never took
lessons or anything like that
but...I had it done to me. Oh God.
Don't die. She won't die. You
won't die.

She places Faith on her back and moves in to do mouth-to-mouth. As she does, Faith forcefully sputters water out of her mouth and onto Buffy's face. Buffy doesn't appreciate that. Faith coughs roughly. Buffy cradles Faith in her lap.

FAITH
(groaning)
Ugh! Tastes like piss and worms.

BUFFY
You know that because you've had
piss and worms?

FAITH
Did a whole lotta freaky shit when
I was kid.

BUFFY
I dressed as Cyndi Lauper for
Halloween when I was seven.

FAITH
And that's why you're the leader.

Buffy and Faith laugh. Buffy fiddles with Faith's hair, softly caressing her face.

BUFFY
Can you get up?

FAITH
Mm hmm.

BUFFY
Do you want to?

Faith takes a moment to think. She gives a slight shake of her head. Buffy keeps up her ministrations. On this peaceful moment:

FADE OUT