

## Rocky – A Dark Blue Sky

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**Rating:** R--for language, nudity, and lesbos being lesbos

**Pairing:** Buffy / Faith

**Disclaimer:** The only characters I own are the ones I created and you know which ones those are.

**Feedback:** I will be a saaaaad sad man if you don't give me some. Just ask Oral--I keep tellin' her I'll be happy if she gives me "some", but...

**Dedicated:** Gina, 'cause I know she wants to give me naked pictures of herself. Oh, and because she's all a wonderful friend and stuff. Whatever. And in honor of the late President Ronald Reagan--I loved the guy for everything he did and stood for; there isn't enough room to go into detail, but even though I was too young at the time to even know he was President, I know my history and I'm grateful he led this country for 8 years. Whether or not you think the country is, I believe the country is and I know my family & I are better off for having him.

**Notes:** So I've returned. This is episode 8 in my series. If you've forgotten or are just tuning in, I'm a screenwriter so these are "fics" but in screenplay form. They're my own tv episodes. If you haven't already, or need a refresher since it's been 6 months, then please read the first 7 episodes which can be easily found archived at Oralfxatn the website. Excuse the crappiness of the title--I suck at titles. Anybody else here a Mets fan? If you are, I'd really appreciate it if you can email me and share in my pain and suffering. PLEASE? ENJOY!

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FADE IN

EXT. GRAVEYARD - NIGHT

Fog rolls in. A teen couple stroll through.

TEEN GIRL

Are you sure this is smart?

TEEN GUY

It's just a walk...

TEEN GIRL

...that's not in the park.

TEEN GUY

The park is dangerous.

TEEN GIRL

While this place is so comforting.

The teen guy holds up the teen girl and takes her hands in

his own.

TEEN GUY

I just want to be alone with you  
without interruption. My world  
doesn't revolve around you--you are  
my world.

TEEN GIRL

(smitten)

Aww Steve. I love you so much.

TEEN GUY

I love you too.

The teen guy and teen girl hug and prepare to kiss, but:

CREEPY VOICE

What a beautiful sight.

The teens jump out of their skin. They turn and discover  
the voice belongs to a creepy dude.

CREEPY DUDE

Didn't mean to scare you. Just  
making an observation.

TEEN GUY

Uh, well, thanks.

(to teen girl)

We should be going--got that exam  
tomorrow.

The girl nods rapidly.

CREEPY DUDE

Oh don't do that. Wouldn't want to  
monopolize your time...would we?

GRUFF VOICE

Nope.

DEEP VOICE

Absolutely never.

The couple are startled to find a gruff dude and a big dude  
approaching. The couple is scared shitless.

TEEN GUY



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Stop lookin' at me like that.

BUFFY

How am I looking at you?

FAITH

In a way that makes me nervous.

BUFFY

Don't worry--you'll get used to it.  
This will be one of my standard  
Faith-gazes...along with humor,  
understanding, and irritation at  
your latest sex joke involving me  
and/or us.

FAITH

Put way too much thought into this.

BUFFY

It's you. I like thinking about you.

FAITH

Then I guess it's okay.

Faith snuggles deeper into Buffy.

CUT TO:

INT. CRYPT - MORNING

SPIKE sits on a leather couch watching tv.

DRUSILLA (OS)

(whining)

Spike, my toe hurts.

SPIKE

(exasperated)

Which one?

DRUSILLA (OS)

The middle one on my right foot.

SPIKE

Maybe it's stuffed with all that  
roast beef it ate.

Spike CHUCKLES.

DRUSILLA (OS)

(whining)

Spike...what does that mean?

A frustrated Spike turns the tv off and heads into another room where Drusilla nurses her toe on a bed.

SPIKE

It means I'm trying to watch the telly--a task made impossible by your blasted complaining.

DRUSILLA

But I ache without end.

SPIKE

And ANNOY without end.

DRUSILLA

Don't you love me anymore?

SPIKE

You're lucky I saved you from the white hats. Dumping me for the witch! I should drain you drop by drop.

DRUSILLA

I was going to share her with you. She would make for a delectable sex slave.

SPIKE

Even if I believed you--which I don't...well, the part about her being choice submissive meat I can agree with, but trust you in any substantive manner? NO BLOODY WAY!

DRUSILLA

What can I do for my love that would prove my undying devotion to you?

Spike's piercing gaze holds on Drusilla as he goes into serious thinking mode.

Spike's eyes circle downward, then back up to Drusilla. He's got something.

SPIKE

All right. You really care?

(pause)

Help me sire Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

END TEASE

FADE UP

EXT. APARTMENT BUILDING - MORNING

XANDER exits onto the sidewalk with DINO trailing him.

DINO

You have a plan?

XANDER

That I do my friend.

DINO

Is it anything beyond a blank piece  
of paper with the word PLAN at the top?

XANDER

You doubt my planning skills?

DINO

Took the thoughts right out of my mind.

XANDER

Dare you think such a thing!

DINO

It's a much easier dare than  
kissing Molly Phillips in the 5th  
grade.

XANDER

All right, so the plan hasn't  
materialized as of yet, but it will.  
My mind is working overtime.

DINO

Relying on your mind may not be the  
wisest thing.

XANDER

I do not feel supported by your  
support.

DINO

Support? What are you--a damn metrosexual? Some boo-hoo sensitive, effeminite, soft-hearted, homoerotically clothed male.

XANDER

No--but you'll find a lot of those in this part of the country. Forget support--how about backup? You're my wing man, right?

Dino implores Xander to rethink that.

XANDER

I'M YOUR wingman, right?

DINO

Yeah, all right. So, every non-plan has a first step. What's yours?

XANDER

Communication. Dialogue. I have to communicate with Anya in order to begin a dialogue with her.

DINO

Profound and sensible. Very good.

XANDER

I read it in a book. Put it to the test by calling her ten minutes ago.

DINO

And?

XANDER

She wasn't home.

DINO

Anya's got something to do at this hour?

CUT TO:

INT. SUMMERS HOUSE - MORNING

DAWN opens the front door to reveal ANYA with a goofy smile

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and a bag from Dunkin' Donuts.

ANYA  
Is Willow awake?

Dawn quirks an eyebrow.

CUT TO:

INT. SUMMERS HOUSE, BUFFY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Still naked, still in bed. Buffy rests her head on Faith's stomach as she gazes at Faith. The intensity has Faith a little uncomfortable.

FAITH  
What?

BUFFY  
You were a gorgeous child.

FAITH  
Oh please. You don't gotta say that. I already knew it.

BUFFY  
Rockeferrara.

FAITH  
Hey--I was four and had that New York-style éclair cream in my mouth. That tasty shit is thick.

BUFFY  
Do you still love her?

FAITH  
Who?

BUFFY  
Your mom. I mean, I know she was...it's just--my dad, while not having done anything nearly as bad, was and is an asshole...but I--

FAITH  
--can't help it.  
(beat)  
My mom was a bitch. I hated her

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then, I hate her now. If there's a  
God, she's rottin' in the fiery  
circles of blackest hell.

(beat)

Let's just say I don't LIKE her.

Buffy lays a small kiss on Faith's tummy.

FAITH

Thanks for stickin' up for me. In  
the dream.

BUFFY

That was easy.

FAITH

What was hard?

BUFFY

Failing.

FAITH

You saved me earlier. As long as  
you keep savin' me for the rest of  
my life, then it's all good.

Buffy smiles.

CUT TO:

INT. GILES' HOUSE - DAY

GILES reads a book at his desk. DOORBELL. Giles puts the  
book down and answers the door. It's a refined, Jodie  
Foster-type WOMAN.

WOMAN

(British accent)

Rupert Giles?

GILES

(suspiciously)

Yes. And you are...

WOMAN

...here to help you.

GILES

Excuse my skepticism. I don't know

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you, have never seen you, and am tempted to kill you where you stand.

WOMAN

I work--well, worked--for the watcher's council.

GILES

You must have a death wish.

WOMAN

My name is Sylvia Wright. I was an associate with the council--a watcher in training if you will. I'm sure you heard the council no longer exists.

GILES

Blew up.

WOMAN

Yes. A shame really. They weren't all that...deplorable.

GILES

What are you here for?

WOMAN

The council is gone. However, that does not mean a slayer should be without supervision.

GILES

Your commitment is admirable, but neither Buffy nor Faith require further tutelage under anyone except myself. Kennedy is dead. The others have moved on.

WOMAN

I wasn't talking about them.

Giles' interest--and concern--is heightened.

CUT TO:

INT. SUMMERS HOUSE - DAY

Dawn blocks entrance to the stairway from Anya.

ANYA

My intent is to increase her good vibrations.

DAWN

I bought her batteries for that yesterday.

ANYA

Willow wants to see me!

DAWN

Based on what? Last night? She would've given ME head if I let her.

Anya scowls.

DAWN

No, I'm not hot for Willow. You shouldn't be either. What about Xander?

ANYA

Xander doesn't deserve me.

DAWN

That's debatable. Willow needs her space. She needs her grieving zone. She needs to be surrounded by people who won't hit on her!

ANYA

(seething)

I can extinguish her need for space and grief through orgasms!

Anya tries to rush past Dawn to the stairs, but Dawn fights her back. They struggle.

Xander and Dino enter through the front door. After a long while, Dawn and Anya see them and freeze.

DINO

Is it wrong that bikinis and mud are in my mind right now?

XANDER

Anya. You're here.

ANYA

Very astute observation.

XANDER

Why are you here?

ANYA

I came to see--

DAWN

--ME! She came to see me...in order to help me, um, research. Do research. I'm researching. Yay research!

DINO

We don't believe that for a second. But since we came here to run with Giles' idea to go on the offensive for the holidays, you both can help us research.

Anya scowls at Dawn again.

DAWN

What about Buffy and Faith?

XANDER

They can take a break. Relax. Get on each other's good side again.

CUT TO:

INT. SUMMERS HOUSE, BUFFY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Buffy stands at her desk in full naked glory. Faith approves, admiring the sight. Buffy opens a jewelry box and digs in there until she comes upon a silver bracelet. She turns and holds it up for Faith to see.

BUFFY

This look familiar?

FAITH

Your nipple? Of course. I was nibblin' on it a few minutes ago. Little disappointed though 'cause I was hopin' to get some milk out of it.

Buffy GROWLS. Faith smirks and gets off the bed. She goes to Buffy and examines the bracelet in wonder.

FAITH

Is that...you still got this? I figured you'd toss it after a few days. It's so crappy.

BUFFY

Sweetness--it may be crappy, but it's crappy crap courtesy of you.

FAITH

Wow--I got no idea what to think of that.

BUFFY

It means I love you and love anything you give me.

Faith is beyond amazed. She kisses Buffy.

CUT TO:

INT. THE UNDERGROUND - DAY

Spike marches down a hallway and enters a room filled with an assortment of CHATTERING demons.

SPIKE

(loudly)

All right. Thank you all for coming. How 'bout a story?

The room goes quiet.

SPIKE

'Twas the week before Christmas and all through the hellmouth...not a creature was killing, not even a--

Spike focuses for a moment on:

SPIKE

--weasel-ugly, pink Kucinichiro demon.

(beat)

Bottom line fellas, it's the time

of year when decency is in the air.  
Somehow, it got into the bad guys'  
standards and practices handbook  
that we have to be nice and  
respectful during the holidays.  
Let the kiddies own the streets for  
a couple weeks. Leave the stray  
demons to fend for themselves on  
the surface, facing the wrath of  
the slayers.

(beat)

You know what I say? Fuck it. I  
say we go up there and mutilate  
men...women...and children! We  
don't discriminate. Kill 'em, eat  
'em, rape 'em.

The demons are agreeable to that.

**SPIKE**

When the 23rd comes around,  
terrorize the human fuckheads to  
the point where they'll add  
"painless death" to their Santa  
lists.

(MORE)

**SPIKE (CONT'D)**

I mean, demons celebrate Christmas  
too.

(shouting)

Am I right?

**DEMONS**

Yeah!

**SPIKE**

(shouting)

Right?

**DEMONS**

(shouting)

**YEAH!**

The crowd is energized. On Spike's sinister face:

**END ACT ONE**

FADE UP

INT. SUMMERS HOUSE - DAY

Dawn, Anya, Xander, and Dino research in the living room.

DAWN

Exactly what are we looking for?

XANDER

Possible apocalypse scenarios  
Spike--or any monster for that  
matter--could utilize.

ANYA

Oh, well, thank you for narrowing  
our search to--  
(screaming)  
--every single page in these  
stupidly huge dust-collectors!

DINO

They might not collect as much dust  
if you cleaned 'em once in a while.

DAWN

Oh great--now I have to clean.

XANDER

You went on a cleaning spree a few  
weeks ago.

DAWN

That was before I made up with Elle.

ELLE (OS)

Someone say my name?

Everyone turns to see Elle walk out of the kitchen drinking a bottle of water. Elle is in a clingy tank top, sweatpants rolled up to her knees, hair in a ponytail, sweat glistening on bare skin. Dawn is encapsulated by the image.

DINO

You're running in this weather?

ELLE

It's seventy degrees.

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DINO

Right. Forgot for a moment that  
California has only one season.

Elle sits on the arm of the couch next to Dawn.

ELLE

Hi.

DAWN

(shyly)

Hi.

DINO

(aggressively)

Hi.

Dawn and Elle cower back. A hung-over WILLOW descends the stairs.

WILLOW

Why is everyone being so loud?

Anya moves to jump out of her seat but Dino holds her back.  
Willow enters the living room and plops onto the floor.

DAWN

Willow--you feeling okay?

WILLOW

My head hurts.

XANDER

That's all?

WILLOW

The rest depends.

XANDER

On...?

WILLOW

How much embarrassment I caused  
last night.

ANYA

Hey! I take offense at your  
characterization. That lap dance  
you gave me was special!

WILLOW

That says it all.

(beat)

Are you not able to hear it?

DAWN

You're hearing things? Are any of them telling you to kill Anya?

ANYA

If only I were a vengeance demon.

DAWN

(smug)

You still couldn't do anything to me.

Anya CURSES under her breath.

WILLOW

I mean Buffy and Faith having slayer sex upstairs.

Dawn falls out of her seat. Dino loses his ability to breathe. Xander's in complete shock.

XANDER

(incredulously)

WHAT?

Anya shakes her head. Elle's got a mischievous gleam in her eyes. Willow's face clouds over with regret.

WILLOW

I could use a drink.

CUT TO:

EXT. MAIN ST. - DAY

Giles and Sylvia walk.

GILES

You're positive she's a slayer?  
It's not possible she is some sort of impostor attempting to lure you--and us--into an elaborate scheme to open the hellmouth?

SYLVIA

Anything is possible. Obviously,  
if I'm wrong, we could be doomed.

But if I'm right...

(pause)

...well, there's yet ANOTHER slayer  
to defend this town. Okay, so the  
negatives outweigh the positives in  
terms of impact, but any good is  
better than bad.

GILES

Your optimism is ovation-worthy.  
Do we at least have a description?

SYLVIA

Statuesque, red hair, milky-white  
skin, hazel eyes, extremely serious  
in every form of the word.

At that moment, the Female literally skips by HUMMING.

CUT TO:

INT. SUMMERS HOUSE, BUFFY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Buffy and Faith get dressed.

BUFFY

(whiny)

Why can't we stay in here all day?  
All week. All...our lives.

FAITH

Believe me B, I've never felt so  
tempted by anything ever. But a  
girl's gotta eat.

BUFFY

Isn't that why I'm here?

FAITH

Isn't that my line?

Faith takes Buffy in her arms.

FAITH

I know it's gotta be nerve-wrackin',  
the prospect of announcin' US to

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that familiar--and familial--world.  
But it must be done, so life can go on.

BUFFY

Congratulations--that's a finalist  
for cheesiest statement ever.

FAITH

(proudly)  
I knew I could do it.

CUT TO:

INT. CRYPT - DAY

Candlelight barely illuminates the dark room. Spike polishes a bowie knife as Drusilla comes up behind and wraps her arms around him. She slides her hair across his face.

DRUSILLA

Why don't you come to bed my love?

SPIKE

Do I look tired?

DRUSILLA

I'll make you tired.

SPIKE

If that's what I wanted, I'd let you. But I need to THINK. That may be as alien a concept to you as sanity...just let me be.

DRUSILLA

Leave you to contemplate your future with...

(disdainfully)

I do not like this. I most certainly do not like her.

SPIKE

It's OUR future. She'll please us both. If it'll ease your mania, we can enslave the witch. You can have full ownership. Sound good?

DRUSILLA

(pushing away from Spike)

I want to make the slayer pay  
through horrifying torture. All  
you want to do is make her feel  
pleasure through love-making!

Spike eyes her over his shoulder for a few moments.

**SPIKE**

What's your point?

Drusilla's eyes burn with rage, then flood with unshed tears  
that soon waterfall down her cheeks. Spike rolls his eyes.

**SPIKE**

You can still torture her. As a  
vampiress, considering her sexual  
predilictions as a human, I'm sure  
she'll love it. Lord knows I will.

Drusilla WAILS. Spike SIGHS and goes to her. He caresses  
her cheeks gently, then roughly grabs her hair and viciously  
yanks it exposing her neck to the knife. That shuts her up.

**SPIKE**

You know as well as I do how  
exquisite slayer blood is. The  
others are worthless compared to  
Buffy. She's got the champaign of  
slayer blood--one tasting is not  
enough. You can't help the need to  
enjoy a glass every day, it's that  
good. Imagine, spending the next  
century biting into the smooth,  
tender skin of those sultry thighs,  
pert tits, firm and tight little  
ass...and drawing into your waiting  
mouth waves of the most magnificent  
red liquid to ever grace God's  
green Earth. She'll be ours--forever.

Spike lets go and drops his hands down to the top of  
Drusilla's dress. He tears it open. letting it drop to the  
floor. Drusilla lets out a sharp GASP as Spike cuts into  
her chest.

**SPIKE**

Accept it my love. We'll all be  
happy together. This is what I  
want. That's all that matters.

CUT TO:

INT. SUMMERS HOUSE - DAY

Buffy leads Faith down the stairs, their eyes locked the whole way. When Buffy hits the ground floor, she looks towards the living room and halts abruptly causing Faith to bump into her.

In the living room, Xander is splayed out on the sofa with Anya waving a magazine over his face. Dawn is spread out on the floor with a wet towel on her forehead as Elle pats her thigh. Dino smokes a cigar. Willow drinks from a mug. Buffy warily glances at Faith. Faith shrugs and pushes Buffy towards the group. As they enter, they're finally noticed.

WILLOW

It's about time. I apologize for my drunkitude.

BUFFY

Your what?

ELLE

Despite my immense virginity, I am damn impressed.

BUFFY

Your immense what?

FAITH

What's goin' on?

ELLE

We know.

BUFFY

You know.

WILLOW

They know.

BUFFY

(to Willow)

Do you know?

WILLOW

I was the first one to know, remember?

BUFFY

The first--

(painfully realizing)

--they do not know!

(beat)

Except for Dawn. And apparently Anya.

WILLOW

They all know.

ELLE

We all know.

FAITH

What the fuck are all you fuckin'  
freaks talkin' about? For fuckin'  
fuck's sake, talk fuckin' English  
you fuckin' freaks!

ELLE

Geez--you eat Buffy with that mouth?

I mean KISS. I said KISS.

Buffy goes white. Faith blushes. Dawn and Dino smack Elle.

BUFFY

Um, what do you know?

ANYA

A slayer-sex marathon.

BUFFY

How do you know?

WILLOW

I have a hangover.

BUFFY

So you...

FAITH

...listened to us?

BUFFY

(shouting)

WILLOW!

WILLOW

I didn't mean to. I swear. We

share a wall, and I thought I heard certain sounds coming from your side of the wall that very well may have been of the negative-type bad and so I amplified the magic hearing and after finding a clear-thinking part of my mind I listened carefully and the sounds registered in my brain and I figured it out and promptly stopped listening because it's you and I'm not a pervert and I wanted to preserve your privacy.

BUFFY

And you decided that the best way to achieve that preservation was by telling everyone we were having sex.

WILLOW

Hindsight is 20/20.

DINO

Especially after a drinking binge.

Willow nods rapidly and then holds her head, wincing.

BUFFY

Oh this is great. Take an event of utter beauty and turn it into the embarrassment of a lifetime!

WILLOW

I'm sorry.

DINO

(to Buffy)

Calm down woman. God, you gotta loosen up. You should get laid.

(fake realizing)

Oh, wait...

Dawn smacks Dino. Elle GIGGLES. Buffy glares.

FAITH

B, it's no big deal. They probably all knew the basics anyway.

BUFFY

Basics?  
(whispering)  
Of lesbian sex?

FAITH  
Are you always like this after  
gettin' some?

ELLE  
Some?

FAITH  
Ya gotta chill, B. It's nothin' big.

BUFFY  
This is US. It's the biggest thing  
ever.

Many skeptical looks are directed at Buffy.

BUFFY  
It is for me!

Faith smiles.

BUFFY  
Either way, it's big. Very big.

XANDER  
Yes it is.

All heads turn to Xander. Anya stops fanning as Xander  
lifts his head and sits up.

XANDER  
So big--so large--  
(pointedly)  
--so IMPORTANT. Everyone here  
agrees that Buffy and Faith being a  
couple is important, right?

Everyone except Anya--who shakes her head vigorously--  
cautiously nod their heads.

XANDER  
Good. Apparently, I'm not alone in  
that one. Not in that one...but  
that "alone" feeling is just  
starting to wear off from somewhere

else. Can anyone guess where those residual alone feelings are coming from?

**BUFFY**

Xander, I wanted--

**XANDER**

(loudly)

--it is impolite to answer a question with a deflective non-answer. Indulge me people.

(to Willow)

Wills--enlighten us.

**WILLOW**

Uh...okay...this is just a wild guess--you're hurt by being the only one who didn't know?

**XANDER**

See? Best friends do think alike. Unless it's my best friend Buffy who thought her best friend Xander wasn't interested in the major events in her life.

**BUFFY**

That's ridiculous.

**XANDER**

Yeah, it is. I guess I just don't matter. I'm irrelevant.

**BUFFY**

Now that hurts ME. How can you even think that?

**XANDER**

Easy. My mind formulates all the necessary conditions to produce that thought. Everyone knew except goofy ol' Xander.

**DINO**

Come on man, you couldn't have been the only one.

**XANDER**

Did you know?

DINO

Well, yeah, but I figured it out before they even got together. Didn't you notice the wild energy between them?

XANDER

Of course I did! I wrote it off as being no different than the weird energy Buffy has with Willow and Anya. And she's not doing it with them.

(to the girls)

Are you?

BUFFY

I'm taken.

WILLOW

Do I look sated?

ANYA

They wish.

XANDER

(to Dino)

Meanwhile, thanks buddy for keeping their not-so-secret secret.

(sadly)

We watched "Die Hard" together.

DINO

I didn't think it was that big a deal.

XANDER

Why should it be? She's not your sister.

Dino glances at Elle and hangs his head. Xander stands. Someone CLEARS their throat. Everyone looks at the hallway where Giles and Sylvia stand.

GILES

Are we interrupting?

XANDER

Ah, no. Buffy and Faith stopped

having sex about 20 minutes ago.

**BUFFY**

XANDER! You're making way too much out of this. Faith and I were waiting for the right time to officially tell everyone.

**SYLVIA**

(to Giles)

Oh my. You were serious.

Xander and Buffy look sharply wide-eyed at Giles and Sylvia.

**XANDER**

What was that?

Giles and Sylvia look around the room.

**XANDER**

(to Buffy)

Giles knew? GILES?

(to Giles)

You knew, and of all people you tell a stranger?

**GILES**

Sylvia is no stranger. She's a watcher.

**XANDER**

Am I the only one who thinks that's worse?

The others' reactions say he's not.

**GILES**

I discovered the girls in a romantic embrace, purely by accident. They said not a word to me.

**XANDER**

As if that makes it better? I wasn't smart enough to figure it out on my own; not lucky enough to catch them in the act; and not...

(pause)

...worth telling.

Silence.

FAITH

Hey X, it's my fault really. I'm  
not used to this relationship stuff...

BUFFY

(touching Faith's arm)  
You don't have to.

XANDER

It's okay. I totally understand  
that. Thing is, except for...  
(to Sylvia)  
...Sylvia was it?

She smiles and nods.

XANDER

Nice name.  
(to Faith)  
Except for Sylvia and me, you're  
surrounded by people who take your  
relationship so in stride they  
don't even have to try and pretend  
it's anything more than a casual  
fact of life. I would've liked the  
opportunity to join them.

Buffy and Faith shuffle in place, avoiding Xander's eyes.  
Willow runs a frustrated hand through her hair. Dino wants  
to say something but can't find the words. Anya sits, arms  
crossed, a little irritated. Giles nervously glides further  
into the room away from Xander.

XANDER

I need to cool off.

Xander hesitates before walking out. After a while:

SYLVIA

I take it this isn't the best time  
to talk about the renegade slayer  
and our fight against evil.

An uncomfortable silence blankets the room.

END ACT TWO

FADE UP

INT. SUMMERS HOUSE - DAY

Everyone minus Xander and Anya are gathered in the living room. Buffy and Faith sit shoulder to shoulder on the floor. Dino sits in between Dawn and Elle. Willow boredly rests her head on her forearms next to Giles. Sylvia stands in the middle with all eyes on her.

SYLVIA

That's what I know.

WILLOW

(British accent)

Smashing tale.

Giles nonchalantly pulls a hair out of Willow's head. It hurts.

GILES

(to Sylvia)

Thank you for informing us. It should be extremely useful.

FAITH

We don't know if mystery girl is a bonafide starter or just a bench-warmer. How is that useful?

SYLVIA

I'm sorry--starter, bench-warmer...I don't speak that sort of analogous English.

FAITH

(murmuring)

At least I speak English.

BUFFY

What Faith is saying--and correctly pointing out--is we don't know if she's a slayer or just a potential. We're looking for some girl who may or may not be on our side. No offense, but your information-gathering in this case stinks.

SYLVIA

Thank you for your honesty. I

admit the book on our girl is thin,  
but she was listed as a priority in  
the watcher's files.

(pause)

They do not use that label often.

Beat.

FAITH

You mean they don't use it ANYMORE.

I'm still cryin' over that by the  
way.

(to Buffy; fake desperation)

Hold me.

Buffy does so, digging Faith's face into her chest, patting  
Faith on the head and back.

GILES

(to Sylvia)

We all mourn the dead. Really.

SYLVIA

In any case, I appreciate your  
attention and hopefully we can work  
together to bring this issue to a  
peaceful and positive resolution.

Everyone stares.

DAWN

'Kay.

SYLVIA

Well, I'll take my leave. If you  
need me, I'm staying at the  
Waterfront Hotel.

DINO

What water?

SYLVIA

There's a charming little fountain  
in back.

BUFFY

The only fountain I've seen there  
is for DRINKING.

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SYLVIA

And it is quite charming. Good day.

Sylvia nods to the group, aims an extra-long look Giles' way and heads out.

BUFFY

Raise your hand if you don't trust her.

Buffy, Willow, Dawn, and Elle raise their hands. Faith raises Buffy's other hand. Giles gives them a stern look.

DINO

I'm giving her a chance...'cause I wanna do her.

GILES

Besides that, she knows things only someone who worked for the council would know. Also, I consider myself a fairly good judge of character. I don't feel she is a threat or here for nefarious reasons.

Buffy's dumbfounded.

BUFFY

Guys, can you give Giles and us some privacy?

The others exchange weary glances. Willow stumbles out of her seat and goes upstairs. As she does:

WILLOW

Me, Buffy, Anya, and Sylvia...I'm going to sleep.

DINO

(to Elle)

Home. Lunch.

Dino yanks Elle to her feet.

ELLE

Can Dawn come?

DINO

Family lunch.

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Elle's a bit disturbed. She looks over at Dawn who feels the same way. Elle waives at Dawn before being dragged out the door. Dawn lingers for a moment. She slowly heads for the kitchen, stopping briefly when Buffy grabs and reassuringly squeezes her hand.

FAITH

(to Buffy)

I get to stay?

BUFFY

This is slayer business.

(to Giles)

You have a feeling?

GILES

I do not like the tone of that question.

BUFFY

My seriousness bothers you?

GILES

It FEEL it was condescending.

BUFFY

It wasn't. With all due respect to you and the others, excluding Dino...it's the super people who have to clean up the monumental messes that build up in this town. The hardcore physical work is OUR work. So yes, I have to question you on this.

GILES

I don't impose my will on you much these days. I'm certainly not trying in this case. Mainly because with every new day I trust you to run this operation more than the day before. I thought you still held that same level of trust in me.

BUFFY

You know I trust your judgment as much as anyone, but I won't--and I definitely can't--leave it that.

History, downright common sense  
tell me we have to be suspicious  
and skeptical of this lady.

GILES

What do you propose we do?

FAITH

Ain't gotta be nothin' major. Low-  
level intelligence-gatherin' and  
shit like that. She's got a past--  
some kinda record. We won't touch  
her unless we gotta, G-man.

BUFFY

Giles, there's no room for  
recklessness in this situation.

Buffy grasps Faith's hand. Giles knows she means business.

BUFFY

Or any situation from here on out.  
Not if it can be helped.

Giles concedes her point.

GILES

Of course you're right.  
(beat)  
I think I will catch up on some  
reading. Enjoy the rest of your  
day and I will see you tomorrow.

Giles heads for the door.

BUFFY/FAITH

Bye.

Giles exits without looking back.

BUFFY

Of course I'm right. Did you see  
the way he looked at me?

FAITH

Don't fret babe. They all come  
around eventually.

BUFFY

The last thing I need--I WANT--is to be on bad terms with the men in my life.

FAITH

Technically, I'm the guy in this relationship and, well, I'm doin' pretty damn good.

Buffy smiles and gives Faith an eskimo kiss.

CUT TO:

INT. DEAN HOUSE - DAY

Elle walks in with Dino behind her.

ELLE

Supremely trippy stuff, huh?

DINO

Like a vacation in North Korea.

ELLE

Can you believe Xander...taking overreactions to a level unheard of in human history.

DINO

Oh, I don't know...I can see where he's coming from.

ELLE

Considering he's your friend and he shamed you in front of others, I'm not surprised.

DINO

No no--I can see it because I've used a similar set of eyes that he has. In fact, I'm using them right now.

ELLE

What the hell are you talking about?

DINO

What's going on with you and Dawn?

ELLE

Obviously, you're implying something. I know she's not having lunch with me.

DINO

This ain't a time for kiddin' around.

ELLE

Do I look entertained by my own wry wit?

DINO

Are you and her...?

Dino gestures around with his hands. Elle narrows her eyes.

ELLE

She's my friend.

DINO

That's it?

ELLE

We're also study-buddies and lab partners, but I don't like to brag.

Dino silently crosses his arms.

ELLE

Do you EXPECT more and just wanna hear me say it, or are you genuinely curious?

DINO

Both.

ELLE

All right, you wanna hear an answer--grow some balls and ask the question.

DINO

Are you and Dawn a couple?

ELLE

Finally!

(beat)

To respond: that's none of your business.

DINO

(stunned)

None of my--none of my--

ELLE

--your business. My love life is none of your damn business.

DINO

LOVE LIFE? You're a fuckin' teenager--you have no fuckin' love life!

ELLE

Maybe I do...maybe I don't. No matter what--it's none of your God damn business.

DINO

(angrily)

No, nuh uh--you don't bring that shit with me. After EIGHT YEARS of making YOU the focus of MY life--

ELLE

(appalled)

--don't you dare throw that in my face!

DINO

Shut up! I was FOURTEEN when I took you in. Got you out of that shithole, away from those monsters. I've had to be more than just a brother to you--father, mother, you're entire fuckin' family along with being your friend. Ya think it was easy braiding your hair and buying your bras? Find the right schools, doctors, and all that crap that's supposed to be for ADULTS? Everything you ever needed I gave you on top of so much you wanted. I gave you the best life possible by bringing you into mine. I've never regretted it.

(pause)

This isn't me throwing it in your face. It's stating a history. One

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that I think means I've earned the  
right to know if my sister is a  
fuckin' lesbian!

A long silence. Elle shakily holds her ground.

ELLE

And here I thought that kind of  
love was unconditional.

That stings Dino.

ELLE

But I guess nothing ever is.  
(beat)  
I'm not hungry.

Elle's eyes water. She turns hastily and races upstairs  
leaving behind Dino to bang his head against the wall.

CUT TO:

INT. XANDER'S APARTMENT - DAY

Xander shuts the door behind him and leans against it. He  
releases a heavy SIGH. Moments later, the door opens  
knocking Xander to the ground. Anya marches in.

ANYA

Oh, so you're filled with so much  
angst that it's floored you?

XANDER

If angst is a blonde with a  
limitless sex drive, then yes.

ANYA

You have a lot of nerve reacting  
that way.

XANDER

You knocked me down!

ANYA

Your earlier outburst. Could you  
be more of a hypocrite?

Xander gets up.

XANDER

Excuse me? Maybe I didn't hear correctly from my possible head injury.

ANYA

Xander the Hypocrite. That's you. How else to explain complaining about your friends keeping you in the dark about something important when YOU did the exact same thing with our engagement over a much longer period of time!

XANDER

Are you still dwelling on that?

Anya takes a swing at Xander. He ducks.

XANDER

I have always apologized for how I handled that situation. I was wrong then, but it's totally different from this one.

ANYA

Sure, YOU would think that.

XANDER

I wanted to keep that a secret because I wasn't completely comfortable with the idea of getting married. Whether or not you think that's a good reason, you have to keep sight of the major difference between then and now.

ANYA

And what's that?

XANDER

We didn't discriminate! Nobody knew about us. Everybody knew about Buffy and Faith...

(pause)

...except me.

ANYA

There were signs. If you had taken the signs seriously instead of

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simply attributing them to your  
horny male testosterone-laden  
imagination, you would've known.

XANDER

That's all it was for you? The signs?

ANYA

Well, that and Faith admitted it  
the day after I slept with her.

Xander does a double-take, his eyes threatening to bulge out  
of their sockets. Anya is mortified.

ANYA

I mean, YES--it was only the signs.

Xander is pissed. Anya smiles nervously before jetting out  
of the apartment.

CUT TO:

INT. SYLVIA'S HOTEL ROOM - EVENING

Sylvia talks on the phone.

SYLVIA

It is not necessary to inform me of  
my responsibilities. I will do  
what I came here to do.

(pause)

My funding is adequate. And I do  
mean ADEQUATE.

A KNOCK at the door.

SYLVIA

(loudly; to the door)

Just a moment please.

(into phone)

I'll call you tomorrow.

Sylvia hangs up the phone and goes to the door. She opens  
it to reveal Giles holding a bottle of wine.

GILES

I finished my reading sooner than  
expected and decided to take  
advantage of having as company  
someone my own age.

With a gleam in her eye, Sylvia smirks.

CUT TO:

INT. SUMMERS HOUSE, WILLOW'S ROOM - NIGHT

Willow boredly fiddles with her hair on the floor. There's a KNOCK and the door opens giving way to Dawn who enters with a large bag.

DAWN

Busy?

WILLOW

I'm flexing my hair.

DAWN

Good for you, keeping those hair muscles in shape.

(beat)

I got something for you.

WILLOW

You're not old enough to buy alcohol.

DAWN

No, but I am old enough to buy...

Dawn shuts the door and pulls out a box. She displays the front to Willow. Willow's interest is heightened. The picture on the box is of a checker board with filled shotglasses on the squares. The name: SHOTGLASS CHECKERS.

DAWN

I figured if you're gonna drink, you might as well have fun doing it.

WILLOW

What, they didn't have Keggerland?

DAWN

Keggerland? Get real, Willow.

Dawn takes a seat across from Willow and opens the box.

DAWN

You doing okay?

WILLOW

I could be better. I could be worse. I've been both. Overall, not terrible.

DAWN

That's a big step above "terrible". You'll hit "pretty crappy" in no time.

WILLOW

Thanks. And thank you for earlier.

DAWN

What did I do?

WILLOW

Your scrum with Anya woke me up. She's a nice fantasy, but not a real-life scenario I want to deal with.

DAWN

A nice fantasy? Geez Louise, we haven't even started the game yet.

Willow CHUCKLES.

DAWN

Can I ask a certain type of particular question?

WILLOW

As long as you don't phrase it like that.

DAWN

What's it like to--um, uh...  
(pause; whispering)  
...kiss a girl?

WILLOW

(whispering)  
Is that all? You don't have to whisper your curiosity about...  
(loudly)  
...what it's like to kiss a girl!

Dawn flails at Willow.

WILLOW

I'd say I'm sorry, but I'm not.  
It's nothing to be bashful about.  
Buffy knows, right?

DAWN

Yeah...

WILLOW

Why don't you ask her?

DAWN

Buffy's not really a lesbian.  
She's a...Faithian. It's not like  
she's going around shouting "gay  
now!" in everyone's face.

Willow's not amused.

DAWN

Not that when you did it was stupid,  
annoying, and/or an unconsciously  
desperate way of convincing  
yourself you are, in fact, gay.

Willow nods stoically.

DAWN

Are you gonna shatter these  
shotglasses over my head? Look,  
I'd go to someone else 'cause you  
don't need this kind of sophomoric  
burden, but it seems like God is  
hellbent on keeping you as  
Sunnydale's token lesbo.

WILLOW

Sophomoric burden?

DAWN

Sorry--all that reading is  
improving my grammar against my  
will.

(beat)

If you don't want to answer 'cause  
of bad memories--

WILLOW

--NO. It's okay.

Willow looks pleasantly thoughtful.

WILLOW

Those aren't bad. The kisses were always wonderful. Sent a special shiver down my spine that I never wanted to stop. Thing is Dawnie, and Buffy understands this--you can get that from anyone you care about in a romantically special way.

DAWN

Sounds easy, but she's still a GIRL.

WILLOW

Look at the feelings you have for her, see them on her face...and that concern will disappear.

Dawn thinks about it for a moment before a soft smile snakes across her lips.

WILLOW

(sly)

It helps that a girl's lips are silky smooth with a velvety tongue that she knows how to use.

Dawn bursts into GIGGLES and so does Willow.

CUT TO:

INT. SUMMERS HOUSE, BUFFY'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS

Buffy listens to the wall as Faith shimmies on the bed.

FAITH

Seriously B, your sis and Red aren't gettin' it on.

BUFFY

How do you know? Can you see through the wall?

FAITH

No. But I can see the wall by lookin' through your ears.

BUFFY

Willow's been so down recently  
and--

(realizing)

--HEY! Are you calling me--

FAITH

--adorable? You read my mind my  
pretty little Bumble B.

BUFFY

Stop that! You don't pull it off.  
I'm worried about them both.

FAITH

They're not gonna get naked with  
each other 'cause they got problems.  
Not everyone's susceptible to a  
sympathy fuck.

BUFFY

It's more like erotically mutual  
comfort.

FAITH

Whatever ya say babe. Why don't ya  
tell me more as you slowly take off  
your clothes?

As Buffy mindlessly removes her clothes to Faith's delight:

BUFFY

I don't know. I guess it is stupid.  
But it's so not easy to stand by  
and watch them hurt when...  
(pause)  
...when you and me are good.

FAITH

That's bad?

BUFFY

(emphatically)

God no! But considering where we  
were 36 hours ago, it physically  
pains me to sit by and feel  
incapable of helping two people I  
love. You and I got through our  
troubles.

FAITH

And they'll get through theirs.  
You worry too much about people not  
named Buffy.

BUFFY

So I shouldn't help?

FAITH

You should, just don't be so fuckin'  
obvious about it.

BUFFY

Did you see Dawn's face when Dino  
literally dragged Elle out of the  
house? Dino doesn't treat his  
sister like that. Willow...well,  
Willow's...

FAITH

...knockin' down bottlenecks like  
we knock off vamps?

BUFFY

Bingo. She's a few Buds away from  
meeting Bill W. That's an  
experience no one should have to go  
through.

Faith crawls off the bed and over to Buffy. Faith places  
her hands on either side of Buffy's face.

FAITH

You LOVE. You CARE. On a level  
that makes ya think it comes from  
slayer power. But it don't--it's  
part of who you are. You let it  
control you though. Take it from  
someone who thrived on anger for  
half her life--it ain't a great way  
to live. How can you feel good  
about yourself when you're busy  
feelin' bad for everyone else?

Buffy deeply considers that. Her hands cover Faith's.

BUFFY

When did you get so wise?

FAITH

It's always been there. Just needed enough inspiration to bring it out...such as Naked Buffy. Hey, can I shave you? I always wanted to snuggle into a smooth, bald--

BUFFY

--FAITH!

(looking at her nude self)  
When did my clothes come off?

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET/ALLEY - NIGHT

Xander rages down the street.

XANDER

Calm down Xander. Things may suck royally now, but the suck has hit only an individual level. It's not a royal family suck. Nope--no matter how many chicks your girlfriend is into, the suck is not unbearable.

Stay on the street as Xander promptly reaches the entrance to an alley and suddenly gets pulled into it.

ALLEY

Two vamps hover over Xander, one pinning him to the wall.

VAMP 1

Since you don't mind the suck...

Vamp 2 LAUGHS.

XANDER'S POV

Vamp 1 headbutts him and CACKLES. Xander GROANS. The scene gets blurry, then finally fades to black.

Moments later, there's a WHOOSH. The LAUGHS and CACKLES turn to torturous SCREAMS. A SCUFFLE, GRUNTS, CRASHING and SLAMMING.

Moments later:

FEMALE VOICE

Aloha! Hellooo. Waaaake uuuuuup.

Eyes flutter open, coming into focus, bringing into view the smiling Female.

FEMALE

I have to admit--you do look good  
enough to eat.

The Female grins. Xander can't believe his eyes.

END ACT THREE

FADE UP

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

Buffy and Faith easily take on two vamps. Eventually, they simultaneously punch their vamps in the face, kick them in the midsections, kick them up high, pull out their stakes, and use their left hands to grab and send their respective vamps each other's way. At the same time, Buffy and Faith spin and stake the vamps. After the explosion of dust settles:

BUFFY

(giddily)

That was fun!

FAITH

(flatly)

Oh yeah. Super duper fun.

BUFFY

Is it that we're fully clothed?

FAITH

Ya look so fuckin' hot in the buff!  
And the stuff I'd do to you...

BUFFY

You tricked me into getting naked.  
Consider yourself lucky--there are  
worse punishments than slaying with  
your girlfriend.

FAITH

Can't we--

BUFFY

--slay naked?

(beat)

Sure.

FAITH

Really?!

BUFFY

No. If I got your hopes up...good.

MAN'S VOICE

(screaming)

No. Please don't.

Buffy and Faith glance at each other and take off in the direction of the voice. They reach the top of a slope and see what's happening. Buffy and Faith sneer.

BUFFY/FAITH

Spike.

Spike beats up on some guy.

FAITH

THIS is gonna be better than nakedness. Almost. Let's do it

Faith taps Buffy on the shoulder but Buffy doesn't move and holds Faith back.

FAITH

What?

BUFFY

Wait...this isn't right.

Faith watches with Buffy as Spike fights that guy along with two others. Spike has no trouble. He gets one into a chokehold, grasping him against his body. Spike pulls out a stake, says something into his ear, and dusts him. Spike attacks the other two and dusts them leaving Buffy and Faith confused. After Spike admires his work, he walks over to behind a tree and comes back around with a woman. Now Buffy and Faith are immensely confused.

BUFFY

Umm...

FAITH

She can't be human.

WOMAN

(profusely)

Oh thank you! Thank you so much!

SPIKE

It was my pleasure. You know, a lovely lass like yourself shouldn't be travailing around these parts. Bad things that happen here are not few and far between.

FAITH

(quietly)

No shit. She's as good as drained.

SPIKE

(rubbing the woman's shoulders)

You run along, have a safe trip home. Heed my advice--carry a cross and holy water with you whenever you go out at night. Trust me, it'll help.

Buffy and Faith look at each other in utter disbelief.

WOMAN

I will. Thank you.

The woman kisses Spike on the cheek and runs off. Spike watches her go before flipping his stake and shouting:

SPIKE

All right--who wants some?

Spike disappears into the night, WHISTLING an upbeat tune. Buffy and Faith are stupefied.

BUFFY

Umm...

FAITH

What the hell just happened?

BUFFY

Something...that we have to tell Giles about.

CUT TO:

INT. SYLVIA'S HOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Giles and Sylvia LAUGH it up as they finish off their wine.

SYLVIA

You know Rupert--may I call you Rupert?

GILES

Why would you? Oh, right, that is my first name. It's so rarely used these days by others, I forgot for a moment.

Sylvia sadly looks at him before busting out into LAUGHTER. Giles doesn't mind.

SYLVIA

Ahh, Rupert--for a watcher whose spent seven years residing on the mouth of hell, you seem extraordinarily less hardened than the rest.

GILES

The rest haven't spent seven years with California teenagers.

SYLVIA

Do you ever feel that enough is enough?

GILES

Enough of the hellmouth...  
(pause)  
...or enough of my children?

There's a light RINGING. Giles peers down and pulls out a cell phone. He looks at it. The screen says: BUFFY. Sylvia takes a peek.

SYLVIA

Must be important.

Giles stares at the phone for a while. He turns it off and stuffs it in his pocket.

GILES

It's nothing my charges can't

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handle. So, what did you do before joining the council?

CUT TO:

INT. DEAN HOUSE - NIGHT

Dino distractedly flips through the channels on the tv. Elle comes downstairs and stops at the front door.

ELLE  
I'm going out.

DINO  
Where?

ELLE  
Wherever.

A beat.

DINO  
Dawn?

ELLE  
I'll be back before then.

Dino shuts his eyes and dips his head, then shakes it.

DINO  
Be careful...and have fun.

Elle flies out, SLAMMING the door closed. Dino sits, defeated. He looks at his watch and gets thoughtful. He jumps out of his seat, grabs his keys and hustles out the door.

CUT TO:

EXT. CEMETERY - NIGHT

Buffy and Faith chug some beer against headstones.

BUFFY  
Okay, so Spike's killed ten vamps tonight for seemingly positive reasons.

FAITH  
Eleven--that tree branch didn't break by accident.

BUFFY

It has to be a trick.

FAITH

Definitely.

BUFFY

Spike knew we were here somehow.

FAITH

Absolutely.

BUFFY

Part of his scheme to--to, uh...

FAITH

Scheme us?

BUFFY

Even though I don't think you can scheme a person, yeah.

FAITH

He's playin' mind games.

BUFFY

YES! Great way to put it sweetness. I wish stupid Giles would answer his stupid phone.

FAITH

(looking behind her)

Oh, hey G-Man.

Buffy fearfully looks behind her. No one's there. Faith CRACKS UP. Buffy glares at her.

BUFFY

You're sleeping on the couch.

FAITH

If we sleep at all. We should follow the limey lemonhead back to his lair.

BUFFY

Maybe that's what he wants us to do. As part of his scheme.

FAITH

Maybe not followin' him 'cause we think followin' him is part of his scheme is what's really part of his scheme.

Buffy and Faith stare at each other. After a while, they take another swig of beer.

BUFFY

All right--let's take it from the top.

CUT TO:

INT. SUMMERS HOUSE, WILLOW'S ROOM - NIGHT

Dawn and Willow play the game. The shotglasses are filled. Dawn jumps one of Willow's glasses with her own, then takes Willow's drink and throws it down.

DAWN

Ugh! That is some sour apple juice.

Willow reaches for the container and looks at it.

WILLOW

It expired three weeks ago.

DAWN

Whiskey gets better with age. Apple juice doesn't. Check.

There's a KNOCK. The door opens and Elle pokes in.

ELLE

Hi.

DAWN

Hey. How did you get in?

ELLE

Front door was unlocked. Back door was unlocked. You people protect this town?

WILLOW

We never claimed to be good at it.

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ELLE  
(to Dawn)  
Can I talk to you?

Dawn glances at Willow before nodding at Elle and getting up.  
The girls exit. Willow takes another shot.

CUT TO:

INT. UNDERGROUND - NIGHT

Close on Dino as he empties a glass of beer down his throat.

DINO  
This isn't fair. I haven't gotten  
ANY since I came here. But you--  
you're just gettin' it from all  
walks of life.

Pull back to reveal Anya resting her head on her arms on top  
of the table.

ANYA  
It's not my fault I'm irresistible.

DINO  
You had sex with Faith. You've had  
sex with Xander who's also had sex  
with Faith. Xander's had lots of  
sex with you; sex once with Faith;  
lots of make-out sessions with  
Cordelia; and at least several  
make-out sessions with Willow.  
That's more hot chicks than most  
guys get in a lifetime. Why the  
fuck is he complaining?!

ANYA  
Exactly! He's so lucky. Us gals  
are catches.

DINO  
I haven't even groped anyone here.

ANYA  
Would you like to grope me?

Dino thinks about it. REALLY thinks about it.

DINO

Nah. He loves you, I couldn't do that to him. Besides, I just remembered I grabbed Willow's ass a few weeks ago.

ANYA

I bet it felt spectacular.

DINO

My hand concurs. Xander'll be okay. He'll release a whole lotta anger and shit and be back to normal soon.

Anya nods, not quite convinced. Silence.

DINO

You notice Elle and Dawn acting funny around each other?

ANYA

They're weird teens.

DINO

Even so. I have a right to know if they're--you know--doin' the girl-girl thing...right?

ANYA

Honestly, I doubt THEY know whether or not they're doing the girl-girl thing. They're in high school...and weird enough as it is.

CUT TO:

INT. SUMMERS HOUSE, DAWN'S ROOM - NIGHT

Dawn and Elle anxiously hang around.

ELLE

Are you drunk?

DAWN

Are you high?

ELLE

Why do you ask that?

DAWN

Why did you ask if I was drunk?

ELLE

I'm not THAT socially inept. I know what shotglasses are for.

DAWN

Apple juice.

ELLE

They're not for apple juice.

DAWN

No duh. But there really was juice in there. Willow would never let me drink.

ELLE

Did you see her last night? It was like she was being fed alcohol through an iv.

DAWN

So you came here to make sure I was sober?

ELLE

No. Well, I had to make sure after seeing the game.

(beat)

We have to stay friends.

Dawn's face clouds over.

DAWN

Why would we stop?

ELLE

We wouldn't. It's just, you know how things can get between friends.

DAWN

Not really. Explain it to me.

ELLE

(stuttering)

They get these feelings that mean you wanna be--more than friends

which complicates the whole situation.

DAWN

You can say it. We're alone. The complication is I'm a girl and so are you.

ELLE

It's a pretty major complication.

DAWN

For a lot of people. Doesn't stop them from going through with it.

ELLE

Teenagers kill themselves over this.

DAWN

We're not them! You and me...

(pause)

I look at you and all I see is someone I want to hold and kiss because I love her.

(pause)

I love you.

Elle's stunned. Dawn appears relieved.

ELLE

No you don't. You're confused and misguided--inexperience telling you lies about how you feel.

DAWN

Like you?

Elle stays silent.

DAWN

You're afraid. You are scared of the truth because of some whacked-out notion that your life can't get any more fucked up.

ELLE

Oh please! I'M scared? You do realize this is the first time we've even talked about this!

DAWN

Who's fault is that?

ELLE

If you're saying it's mine--FUCK YOU.

DAWN

I wasn't. Yeah, I was scared too,  
but I'm saying it out loud now.  
We're talking now. That counts for  
something.

ELLE

Sure it does. NOW we know what to  
avoid.

DAWN

Why are you doing this?

ELLE

Life is hard enough as it is  
without a sexual identity crisis.

DAWN

There'd be no crisis if you would  
just kiss me. Everything would be  
okay then.

ELLE

What demented reality are you  
living in? People don't kiss and  
have their problems magically  
disappear.

DAWN

My feelings for you aren't a  
problem to me. How can they be  
when whenever I'm with you life--  
life feels beautiful. That's what  
you do to me. Avoiding that would  
be the most painful problem ever.

ELLE

I'm glad it's easy for you. I  
don't want you to hurt. But it's a  
teeny bit harder for me. I've  
always been grateful for the life  
my brother gave me, but I thought  
maybe I could enjoy a more normal

existence here.

DAWN

Normal. What is that?

ELLE

It's not kissing a girl 'cause I  
love her the way Rocky loves Adrian.

DAWN

Is that your idea, or your brother's?

Dawn cuts Elle off.

DAWN

What? You thought nobody noticed  
him manhandling you out of the  
house? The way he looked at us?  
US. Not you, then me. US, together.

ELLE

Chris doesn't control my life.

DAWN

But he is a part of it. So what he  
thinks matters.

ELLE

He's more. Unbelievably more. You  
bet your ass what he thinks matters,  
but it doesn't dictate my thoughts  
or feelings. I can't be what you  
want. I'm sorry.

DAWN

What WE want.

Elle is unnerved. Dawn begins to tremble. Dawn turns around and steps to the window. Elle can only look at Dawn's back. She wants to say something. Instead, she wipes at her sensitive eyes and walks out. Dawn sits on the edge of the bed, back still turned to the doorway where Willow appears. Willow sadly looks at Dawn's stone-still form.

CUT TO:

EXT. STREET/WATERFRONT HOTEL - DAWN

Buffy and Faith walk.

BUFFY

Very productive.

FAITH

Thinkin' things through is so overrated.

BUFFY

Don't get carried away. Thinking is good when it doesn't cause us to lose track of Spike.

FAITH

I'm beat. Let's go home, get into bed, and finger each other 'til we fall asleep.

BUFFY

I don't know...that's not much a punishment. But--

Buffy stops when she notices the hotel nearby. Faith looks at her imploringly.

FAITH

But? Don't leave me high and wet.

BUFFY

Waterfront. Maybe we should tell Sylvia what happened?

FAITH

Yeah, that'll boost G's ego, givin' important info to someone we don't trust before goin' to our surrogate father.

BUFFY

He might appreciate the effort. Although we have no idea how much HE trusts her.

FAITH

(looking past Buffy)

We do now.

Faith points behind Buffy at the hotel. Buffy turns and sees Giles exit the hotel and walk off in the opposite direction of where they are.

FAITH

That didn't take long.

CUT TO:

INT. DEAN HOUSE - MORNING

Elle sleeps on the couch. The front door opens. Dino, in a ragged haze, enters and closes the door waking Elle. Elle's head pops up startling Dino.

ELLE

It's past dawn. Would it be nonsensical for a girl to ground her own mother?

Dino's steely glare matches Elle's scornful stare. Without a word, Dino trudges up the stairs. Elle buries her softening face in the cushion.

CUT TO:

INT. SUMMERS HOUSE - MORNING

Faith and Buffy playfully enter the kitchen where Willow sits at the counter reading a magazine.

FAITH

Mornin' Red.

WILLOW

Good morning.

Buffy narrows her eyes. She gets right in Willow's face and examines her eyes.

WILLOW

I'm not drunk.

BUFFY

Any particular reason why?

FAITH

Did you get laid in your room?

Buffy is horrified. Faith winks.

WILLOW

No, I didn't. Can I borrow Faith

## Rocky – A Dark Blue Sky

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for five minutes?

FAITH

Thought you'd never ask.

Faith and Willow sway over to each other and pretend to kiss.  
Buffy glares and crosses her arms.

FAITH

(to Willow; pointing  
at Buffy)

Ain't she the adorablest?

WILLOW

Adorablest with a bullet.

(to Buffy)

By the way, we're out of coffee.

BUFFY

Wonderful. Last night was a  
disappointment.

FAITH

Gigantic disappointment. Where's  
Sunrise?

Willow tries to remain cool.

WILLOW

Still sleeping.

BUFFY

I guess you really drank her under  
the checkerboard.

WILLOW

Mm hmm.

Giles enters to Buffy and Faith's discomfort.

GILES

Good morning ladies.

WILLOW

Hey Giles. You have any coffee?  
Buffy forgot to buy coffee.

BUFFY

I was slaying with Faith, protecting

the human population thank you very much.

FAITH  
You're welcome.

GILES  
Any suspicious occurrences to report? I'm sorry I wasn't able to receive your phone call last night.

A beat. Buffy opens her mouth, but:

FAITH  
Killed some run-of-the-mill baddies.  
Blah blah stake, blah blah  
beheading, blah blah blah patrol-cakes.

Buffy gives Faith a concerned sideways glance.

GILES  
Very good. I for one could use a hot cup of decaf.

Everyone looks at Buffy. Buffy rolls her head.

BUFFY  
You'll all rot in caffeinated and decaffeinated hell.

CUT TO:

INT. ESPRESSO PUMP - MORNING

Buffy enters and goes to the counter. A waitress shows up.

BUFFY  
Can I get three coffees, one decaf,  
and a mocha.

The waitress nods and goes off. Buffy looks to her left out the window.

XANDER (OS)  
Top o' the morning to ya.

Buffy snaps her head to the right where Xander stands.

BUFFY

Hi.

XANDER

Long time no see. You've really changed.

BUFFY

You haven't. That's a good thing.

(beat)

Look, about yesterday...

XANDER

Yesterday was yesterday. Today is today. Tomorrow is Sunday.

BUFFY

Today is Sunday.

XANDER

I'm the last to know that too, aren't I?

Buffy LAUGHS. Xander remains fairly serious. The waitress brings Xander a large cup.

XANDER

(to waitress)

Thanks.

(to Buffy)

Have a good one.

Xander gets a few steps away before stopping when:

BUFFY

Xander--you're not irrelevant. I hoped that for as long as we knew each other, that fact could remain unsaid.

XANDER

Actually, I'm starting to reconsider it myself.

A beat.

BUFFY

What does that mean?

XANDER

Coffee's ready.

Buffy turns around where the waitress has her order. Buffy quickly turns back to Xander, but he's walking away from her. As Xander walks out the door to Buffy's disappointment:

FADE OUT