

# Reptile Boy

(August 13, 1997)

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## Teaser

EXT. BUFFY'S HOUSE – NIGHT

After a beat we HEAR a STRANGE, HIGH PITCHED WAILING –

CUT TO:

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE – NIGHT

CLOSE ON XANDER – Concerned

XANDER  
Is she dying?

BUFFY AND WILLOW

Flank him on the couch. Slumped down in high teen boredom, sodas and junk food pilfered from Buffy's kitchen scattered about, watching T.V. –

BUFFY  
She's singing.

ANGLE – THE T.V.

An EAST INDIAN soap opera on an obscure cable channel: an INDIAN WOMAN sings (in a foreign language) something very heartfelt into a telephone.

BUFFY, WILLOW & XANDER

XANDER  
To a telephone, in Urdu... now that's entertainment. Why is she singing?

WILLOW  
She's sad because her lover gave her a dozen gold coins but then the wizard cut open the bag of salt and the dancing minions had no place to put their big Maypole...  
(gestures)  
...fish thing.

XANDER  
Uh huh. And why is she singing?

BUFFY  
Her lover? I thought he was her chiropractor.

WILLOW

Because of that thing he did with her feet? No, that was personal.

They stare at the screen for a beat. The PIERCING SINGING continues under:

XANDER

And we thought just 'cause we didn't have any money or anywhere to go this'd be a lackluster evening.

WILLOW

Hey, I know – we could go to the Bronze, sneak in our own tea bags and ask for... hot water.

XANDER

Hop off that outlaw train, Will, before you land us all in jail.

BUFFY

I for one am giddy and up. There's a kind of hush all over Sunnydale, no vampires or demons to slay, I'm here with my friends and—  
(re: T.V.)

-- where does the water buffalo fit in again?

CUT TO:

EXT. ANOTHER HOUSE – BACK YARD – NIGHT

Shooting the back of the house, preferably a classic Colonial, preferably no neighboring homes in sight.

PUSHING IN on the quiet affluent house and then –

AN UPSTAIRS WINDOW IS SHATTERED

And a PRETTY GIRL (17, wearing a ceremonial-type dress) bursts through the glass, hits the ground and runs for her life.

A moment later, several dark figures in hooded robes emerge from other windows and doors like malevolent ghosts and give chase.

She vaults a fence, heading for the woods. She's fast.

They're faster.

EXT. WOODS – NIGHT

She tears through running for all she's worth.

The hooded figures close the gap behind her.

She cuts right, sees a couple of the hoods gaining on that flank.

She cuts sharp to the left and sees a break in the trees, a not so distant road with

cars – freedom.

She glances behind her – she’s ten yards ahead of her closest pursuer – three trees between her and the open space that leads to the road, then two, then one –

As she passes the last tree, a HOODED FIGURE coolly steps out and grabs her. She SCREAMS, he purrs:

HOODED FIGURE  
Callie... Where are you going?

The girl, her eyes wild with fear, claws at him, pulling his hood off revealing the face of a handsome twenty year old sadist. He deflects her blows and grabs her wrists, puts his face close to hers.

FIGURE  
The party ain’t even started yet.

And, not without charm, the Figure smiles at Callie. Then nods at the brethren. Several of them hustle Callie back towards the house.

CALLIE  
No! No!

The Figure takes a deep breath of the bracing night air and walks out of frame.

BLACK OUT.

END OF TEASER

## Act One

INT. SCHOOL HALL – DAY – CORDELIA

laughs in a HIGHLY AMUSED if somewhat forced manner. She’s with a Cordette. KIDS are arriving for school.

CORDELIA  
Ha ha ha ha ha.

Cordelia shows the Cordette a magazine (TEEN TIME). Pretty girl on the cover holding a fishing rod and big lure; headline: HOW TO LAND HIM AND KEEP HIM.

CORDELIA (cont’d)  
Doctor Debbi says when a man is speaking you make serious eye contact and really, really listen. And you laugh at everything he says... ha ha ha ha...

ANOTHER ANGLE – BUFFY AND WILLOW

Heading up the steps.

WILLOW  
You dreamed about Angel again?

BUFFY

Third night in a row.

WILLOW  
What did he do in the dream?

BUFFY  
Stuff.

WILLOW  
Ooh, stuff. Was it one of those vivid  
dreams where you could feel his lips  
and smell his hair?

BUFFY  
(nods)  
It had surround sound. I'm just thinking  
about him so much lately.

WILLOW  
Well you guys are so right for each  
other, except for the, uh...

BUFFY  
Vampire thing?

WILLOW  
That doesn't make him a bad person.  
Necessarily.

BUFFY  
I'm brainsick, I can't have a relationship  
with him.

WILLOW  
Well maybe not in the day time... but you  
could ask him for coffee some night.  
(off Buffy's look)  
It's the non-relationship drink of choice.  
It's not a date, it's a caffeinated beverage –  
okay it's hot and bitter, like a relationship  
that way but —

Xander slides into step with them.

XANDER  
What's like a relationship?

BUFFY  
Nothing I have.  
(mulling, to Willow)  
Coffee.

XANDER  
Huh?

As they pass Cordelia and the Cordette.

CORDELIA  
There's really no comparison between

college men and high school boys –  
(re: Xander)  
-- I mean look at that.

XANDER  
Cor, you datin' a college guy now?

CORDELIA  
Not that it's any of your business, but I  
happen to be seeing a Delta Zeta Kappa.

XANDER  
Oh, an extra-terrestrial, so that's how you  
get a date once you've exhausted all the  
human guys.

CORDEDLIA  
You'll go to college some day, Xander.  
I just know your pizza delivery career  
will take you so many exciting places.  
Ha ha ha ha.

Buffy, Xander and Willow move off as a bell RINGS O.S.

BUFFY  
Oops, I told Giles I'd met him in the  
Library ten minutes ago –  
(moving off)  
-- there hasn't been much paranormal  
activity lately, he won't be upset.

CUT TO:

INT. LIBRARY – DAY – GILES IS UPSET

Faces Buffy, circles her as:

GILES  
Just because the paranormal has been more  
normal and less... para lately, that is no excuse  
for tardiness or letting your guard down.

BUFFY  
I haven't let my guard down.

GILES  
Oh really? You yawned your way through  
weapons training last week, you skipped  
hand to hand entirely – I suppose you're  
prepared if some demon springs up behind  
you and does this!?

Without warning, Giles swings at her from behind. Without turning, Buffy's hand shoots backwards, grabs Giles' wrist. Buffy pivots and whips Giles' hand around behind his back, in a painful arm lock.

GILES (cont'd)  
Yes, well, I'm no demon...  
(beat)

...which is why you should let go now.

She does. He massages his wrist.

GILES (cont'd)

When you live atop a mystical convergence  
it's only a matter of time before a fresh hell  
breaks loose. Now is the time to train more  
strictly, hunt and patrol more keenly, hone  
your skills day and night –

BUFFY

And the little scrap of my life that still belongs  
to me – say from seven to seven oh five in the  
morning – can I do what I want to then?

GILES

(beat)

Buffy, you think I don't know what  
it's like to be sixteen?

BUFFY

No, I think you don't know what it's like  
to be sixteen and a girl and a Slayer.

GILES

I may not know precisely –

BUFFY

Or what it's like to exterminate vampires  
while you're having fuzzy feelings  
towards one.

GILES

You're still...? That is dicey.

BUFFY

Yeah, digging on the undead doesn't  
exactly bolster your social life.

GILES

Ahh, but you see that's just where being  
different comes in handy.

BUFFY

Can't have a social life anyway, too busy  
killing fiends from hell?

GILES

Yes! You have a duty, a purpose, you have  
a life long commitment. How many people  
your age do you think can say that?

BUFFY

We talkin' foreign or domestic – how  
'bout none.

Giles sighs, he tried.

GILES

Well here's a hard fact of life: we all have to do things we don't like. You have hand to hand this afternoon and patrol tonight. You'd best come right here after sixth period and get your homework done. Don't dawdle with your friends.

Buffy just stands there pouting.

GILES (cont'd)

And don't think standing there pouting is going to get to me. It doesn't.

She pouts. He lies.

GILES (cont'd)

Not getting to me.

CUT TO:

EXT. SUNNYDALE HIGH – DAY

After school. Cars pulling up, KIDS taking off. Buffy dawdles on a wall near the street. Xander and Willow move up.

XANDER

Wow, what a long day.

WILLOW

You cut three periods.

XANDER

Yeah, and of course they flew by.  
Buffy!

WILLOW

Aren't you s'posed to be doing your homework in the library –

BUFFY

I'm dawdling. With my friends.

Buffy tips forward on the wall like she's going to fall – catches herself by draping her arms over Xander's shoulders.

XANDER

Works for me.

ANOTHER ANGLE – FRONT OF THE SCHOOL – CORDELIA

Looking luscious, waits expectantly as a sleek, dark BMW (tinted windows, we can't see who's inside) pulls to the curb.

She moves to the car. The dark window rolls down revealing RICHARD (the twenty year old sadist from the teaser) in expensive slacks and sport coat. As are the other

two DELTA ZETAS in back.

In the passenger seat is TOM, also 20, but dressed casually. Tom is rich, too, but he's not a prick, he's a low key, decent guy.

RICHARD  
Cordelia.

CORDELIA  
Hi Richard. Nice car.

As instructed by her teen magazine, Cordelia never takes her eyes off Richard.

We PUSH PAST Richard to Tom, totally engaged by:

TOM'S POV – BUFFY

Dawdling with Xander and Willow.

BUFFY  
Dawdle, dawdle, dawdle... I'm a rebel  
and I'll never ever be any good...

TOM

Takes a breath. Something about Buffy...

RICHARD

RICHARD  
So we're having a little get together  
at the house tomorrow night...

Richard sees the look on Tom's face, follows it to Buffy, never skipping a beat with Cordelia

RICHARD (cont'd)  
... it's going to be a really special evening...

CORDELIA  
(recovering)  
Oh I'd love to –

RICHARD  
Who's your friend?

Cordelia turns, sees Buffy behind her on the wall clowning with Xander and Willow.

CORDELIA  
Her? She's not my friend.

TOM  
She's amazing.

CORDELIA  
She's more like a sister, really.  
We're that close.

RICHARD  
Why don't you introduce us?

BUFFY, XANDER AND WILLOW

XANDER  
Okay so tonight, Channel fifty nine, Indian  
T.V. – sex, lies and incomprehensible story  
lines – I'll bring the beetle nuts.

Cordelia walks up, grabs Buffy.

CORDELIA  
Come on, Richard and his fraternity  
brothers want to meet you.

BUFFY  
I don't really want to meet any fraternity –

CORDELIA  
And if there was a God, don'tcha'  
think He'd keep it that way?

Buffy is dragged away.

XANDER  
Hey, I believe we were hanging here...

Cordelia drags Buffy to Richard who has now gotten out of his car. Confident, cool,  
he flashes his perfect smile at Buffy.

RICHARD  
Hi, sweet thing. I'm Richard. And  
you are?

BUFFY  
So not interested.

CORDELIA  
She's such a little comedienne!

Cordelia hits Buffy who is about to turn away when Tom appears behind Richard.

RICHARD  
What, is she playing hard to get?

TOM  
No Richard, I think you're playing easy  
to resist.  
(to Buffy)  
Feel free to ignore him. I do all the time.

Buffy hesitates, this guy seems okay.

TOM (cont'd)  
I'm Tom Janson. I'm a Senior at Crestwood  
College and I feel like a complete dolt meeting  
you this way – so here I stand in all my

doltishness...

XANDER AND WILLOW

XANDER  
She's gonna walk away... now.  
(snaps fingers)  
Okay boots, start walkin'...

BUFFY AND TOM

BUFFY  
I'm Buffy Summers.

TOM  
Nice to meet you. Are you a Senior?

BUFFY  
Junior.

TOM  
Me too, except I'm a Senior, and in  
college.  
(beat)  
So, we have that in common.  
(beat)  
I major in History.

BUFFY  
History stumps me. I have a hard enough  
time remembering what happened last week.

TOM  
Nothing happened last week, don't worry,  
I was there.

Buffy smiles, not smitten but charmed. Behind them, Richard, with other frat guys looking on, says something to Cordelia. We HEAR her "Ha ha ha ha".

XANDER AND WILLOW

Xander shakes his head, disgusted.

XANDER  
I hate these guys. Whatever they want  
just falls into their laps. Don't you  
hate these guys?

WILLOW  
Yeah, with their charmed lives and their  
movie star good looks and more money  
than you can count...  
(off his look)  
I'm hating.

BUFFY AND TOM

TOM  
(re: Richard and Cordelia)

So my friend asked your friend to this party we're having tomorrow night...

(lowers voice)

... actually he's not really my friend - I only joined the fraternity 'cause my father and grampa were in it before me. It meant a lot to them. I know, I talk too much. Anyway, they're really dull parties full of really dull people so, uh, how would you like to come and save me from a really dull fate?

BUFFY

(beat)

I wish I could but... I'm sort of seeing someone.

TOM

Oh. Sure, of course you are. Well, thanks for letting me ramble...

BUFFY

People underestimate the value of a good ramble.

Tom smiles.

GILES (O.S.)

Buffy!

Buffy turns, sees Giles near the front door of school, pointing to his watch.

BUFFY

I gotta... nice to meet you

TOM

Same here.

Buffy takes off. Tom watches her, intrigued.

CUT TO:

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Buffy practices her hand to hand with Giles (who wears much protective gear). There's a certain not-so-sub-text here: they're pissed at each other.

GILES

I'm going to attack you. Word of caution: for your own good, I won't be pulling any punches.

BUFFY

Please don't.

He comes at her with the short sword - she kicks it out of his hand. He immediately counters with a wooden rod - she chops it in half.

He charges her, she sidesteps, flips him over her shoulder and slams him down on

the ground. Hard.

GILES

Good. So you're on patrol and I'll see  
you in the morning.  
(she offers him a hand up)  
Thanks, no, I'll just rest here for a while.

CUT TO:

EXT. WOODS – NIGHT

Dark, empty dangerous. We might recognize them as the woods from the teaser.

Buffy moves through the dark shadows, her hand instinctively checking the stakes  
in her belt.

ANGLE – A LARGE TREE

As Buffy moves past. Something moves in the dark – a FIGURE, watching Buffy.

THE FIGURE'S POV

Buffy moves through the trees. The Figure follows.

BUFFY

Stops, sees something glinting in the leaves at her feet. She kneels down.

INSERT – BUFFY'S HAND

Picks up a BROKEN SILVER PIECE of an I.D. bracelet. Three letters, E, N and T, can  
be seen, inscribed in the delicate bracelet.

BUFFY

Studies the bracelet, then:

ANGEL (O.S.)  
There's blood on it.

Startled, Buffy jumps to her feet, sees ANGEL.

BUFFY  
Oh... hi. Nice to... blood?  
(studies bracelet)

ANGEL  
I can smell it.

BUFFY  
(beat)  
It's pretty thin, probably belonged  
to a girl.

Angel glances around the woods.

ANGEL

Probably.

Buffy laughs. He looks back.

BUFFY

I was just mulling, wouldn't it be funny  
to see each other some time when it  
wasn't a blood thing?

Nothing from Angel.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
Not funny ha ha.

ANGEL

What are you saying, you want to have  
a date?

BUFFY

No -

ANGEL

You don't want to have a date.

BUFFY

Who said date? I never said date.

ANGEL

Right, you just want to have coffee or  
something.

BUFFY

Coffee?

Buffy makes a "that's ridiculous" sound.

ANGEL

I knew this would happen.

BUFFY

Really? And what do you think is happening?

ANGEL

You're sixteen years old, I'm two  
hundred and forty.

BUFFY

I've done the math.

ANGEL

You don't know what you're doing, you  
don't know what you want.

BUFFY

Oh I think I do: I want out of this  
conversation.

She turns to walk away. He grabs her.

ANGEL

Listen. If we date you and I both know  
one thing's going to lead to another.  
Then what?

BUFFY

Then... whatever, I don't know, might be  
nice to find out. But you want to end it  
before it's begun. Fine.

Angel just shakes his head.

ANGEL

It's a Fairy Tale. Only when I kiss you  
you don't wake up from a deep sleep  
and live happily ever after.

BUFFY

No. When you kiss me I want to die.

She holds his gaze – then she walks out of frame.

CUT TO:

INT. CLASSROOM – DAY

Buffy is gathering her stuff as students head out.

CORDELIA (O.S.)  
Buffy!

Cordelia moves up.

CORDELIA

Did you lose weight? And your hair...  
(Buffy ignores her)  
All right, I respect you too much to be  
dishonest, the hair's...  
(makes a face)  
...well that's not the point here, is it.  
The Delta Zetas have to have a certain  
balance at their party – Richard explained  
it all to me but I was so busy REALLY  
LISTENING to him that I didn't hear much –  
anyway, the deal is they need you to go.  
And if you don't go...  
(her eyes moisten)  
...I can't! I'm talking about Richard Anderson,  
okay? As in Anderson Farms, Anderson  
Textiles...  
(she can no longer hold back the tears)  
... and Anderson Cosmetics! Do you have a  
hankie?

Buffy shakes her head.

CORDELIA (cont'd)

Well you can see why I have to go. These men are rich, Buffy, and I'm not being shallow – think of the poor people I could help with all my money.

BUFFY  
I'll go.

CORDELIA  
I'm not going to beg you – please, oh please – you'll go? Great! We'll just take my car. Oh Buffy, we're just like sisters... with really different hair.

And Cordelia happily moves off. Off Buffy's expression, pre-lap:

RICHARD (O.S.)  
I pledge my life...

CUT TO:

EXT. FRAT HOUSE – NIGHT

PUSHING SLOWLY IN. Hearing RICHARD'S voice intoning:

RICHARD (O.S.)  
... and my death...

INT. FRAT HOUSE – BASEMENT – NIGHT

SHOOTING HIGH ABOVE AN ALTER that's built up around a dark circle, like a well – and apparently bottomless pit.

ANOTHER ANGLE – Richard and other frat minions, in robes (no Tom) are gathered before the alter which has eyes, fangs, diamond shape carvings – an abstract but frightening representation of some horrible *thing* they worship. Possibly a thing that lives in the bottomless pit.

The basement is cut into the bed rock – cave-like out-croppings of stone add an ancient touch to the décor.

A YOUNG MAN is naked from the waist up and Richard holds the sword to his chest, carving a large diamond shaped SCAR into his flesh. (Yes, we'll be tasteful.)

YOUNG MAN  
I pledge my life and my death...

RICHARD  
To the Delta Zetas and to Machida  
whom we serve.

YOUNG MAN  
To the Delta Zetas and to Machida  
whom we serve.

RICHARD  
In blood I was baptized, in blood I

shall reign, in His Name!

YOUNG MAN  
In blood I was baptized, in blood I  
shall reign, in His Name!

Richard finishes carving the diamond shape.

RICHARD  
You are now one of us.

YOUNG MAN  
In His Name!

The others reply: "In His Name!"

RICHARD  
Brewski time!

Someone opens a cooler – beers are flung about. Someone turns on a boom box. Suddenly it's a bunch of college guys in robes guzzling beer and listening to loud music.

The various brethren congratulate the Young Man. Richard sees something O.S., moves to:

CALLIE

The girl from the teaser. Chained to the rock wall.

RICHARD  
So what's a girl like you doing in a  
place like this?

CALLIE  
Please, let me go.

RICHARD  
Let you go. Okay, let me think –  
uhhh, no.

She cries. He laughs.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
Gawd I love high school girls.

Richard sips his beer, tapping his head to the music, digging his world.

END OF ACT ONE

## Act Two

EXT. SUNNYDALE HIGH – MORNING – ESTABLISHING

WILLOW (O.S.)  
You're going to the Delta Zeta party?

INT. SCHOOL – HALL – DAY

Buffy, Xander, Willow walk `n talk. Buffy in the middle.

WILLOW

What made you change your mind?

BUFFY

Angel.

WILLOW

He's going with you?

(to Xander)

She's got a date with Angel. Isn't that exciting?

XANDER

I'm elated.

BUFFY

I'm not going with Angel. I'm going with... ye gods, Cordelia.

WILLOW

(a little jealous)

Cordelia? Did I sound a little jealous just then? Cause I'm not really... Cordelia?

XANDER

Cordelia's much better for you than Angel.

WILLOW

What happened with Angel?

BUFFY

Nothing. As usual. A whole lot of nothing with Angel.

XANDER

(hot diggity)

Bummer.

WILLOW

I don't understand. He likes you. More than likes.

BUFFY

The guy hardly ever says two words to me...

XANDER

Don't you hate that.

BUFFY

... and he treats me like a child.

XANDER

That bastard!

BUFFY

At least Tom can carry on a conversation.

XANDER  
Yeah, Tom – who's Tom?

WILLOW  
The frat guy.

XANDER  
Oh, I don't think so, Buffy, frying pan  
and the fire, know what I'm saying?

They wheel into:

INT. LIBRARY – DAY

Giles, his back to the doors, short sword in hand, deals with an unseen opponent.

GILES  
What if a vampire came up behind you  
and did that!

Giles swings the sword to the left while ducking and jumping to the right.

TRACK WITH Buffy, Xander and Willow as they move into the room and see there is no opponent, Giles is refining the move he tried on Buffy yesterday.

GILES (cont'd)  
Or this!

Giles twists, cuts high, then low –

GILES (cont'd)  
Hah!

-- and then sees the three of them, quickly straightens up with as much dignity as he can muster.

GILES (cont'd)  
Oh, didn't see you three...  
(under his breath)  
...sneaking up like that.

He puts the sword down, turns to Buffy.

GILES (cont'd)  
All went well last night?

Buffy nods, pulling out the piece of the bracelet she found.

BUFFY  
I found this.

INSERT BRACELET – as she holds it out.

Willow looks at it as Giles takes it.

GILES

(read letters on it)  
"E" "n", "t"...

WILLOW  
I've seen something like that somewhere...

BUFFY  
It's broken in two, I don't know what the  
other letters might have spelled... and  
there's blood on it.

GILES  
I don't see -

BUFFY  
Angel showed up. Said he could smell it.

XANDER  
The blood.  
(Buffy nods)  
There's a guy you want to party with.

GILES  
Blood...

WILLOW  
Yeah, in Sunnydale, what a surprise.

XANDER  
(re: Buffy)  
She should probably make the rounds  
again tonight while we try and figure out  
who that bracelet belongs to.

GILES  
(nods)  
Good idea. She'll patrol, we'll reconvene  
after school -

BUFFY  
Hello, "she's" standing right here. And  
she's not available tonight.

GILES  
Why not?

XANDER  
Buff, this is a little more important than -

BUFFY  
(shut up, Xander)  
--I've got a mountain of homework, my  
mom's sick and she needs me to take  
care of her, and I'm starting to feel a  
little woozy myself.

Buffy touches her forehead. Willow and Xander exchange a look.

GILES

Oh, if you're not feeling...

BUFFY

I'll make a quick pass early this evening,  
and another one later on, but for the bulk  
of the evening...

GILES

You need to be home with your mother.

Buffy nods.

CUT TO:

INT. HALL OUTSIDE LIBRARY – DAY

As Xander, Buffy and Willow exit. They walk in silence for a beat.

BUFFY

Well, say it.

XANDER

I'm not going to say it 'cause –

WILLOW

You lied to Giles.

XANDER

(re: Willow)

-- she will.

BUFFY

I wasn't lying. I was protecting him.  
From information he wouldn't be able  
to... digest properly.

XANDER

Like a corn dog.

WILLOW

Like you don't have a sick mother but  
you'd rather go to a Fraternity party where  
there'll be drinking and older boys and  
probably an orgy?

XANDER

Enh! Rewind, when did they start having orgies  
and how come I'm not on the mailing list?

BUFFY

There's no orgy.

WILLOW

I've heard some really wild things go on at  
the Delta Zeta parties.

BUFFY

Look, six days a week I'm busy saving the  
world. Once in a great while I want to have

some fun. And that's what I'm going to have tonight... fun.

CUT TO:

INT. SCHOOL LOUNGE – DAY – CORDELIA

Lectures Buffy.

CORDELIA

This isn't about fun tonight. It's about duty: your duty to help me achieve permanent prosperity. Okay, do's and don'ts. Don't wear black, silk, chiffon, or spandex – these are my trademarks – don't do that weird thing to your hair.

BUFFY

What weird...?

CORDELIA

Don't interrupt. Do be interested if someone should speak to you – may or may not happen – do be polite, do laugh at appropriate intervals – ha ha ha ha – and do lie to your mother about where we're going: it's a fraternity, there'll be drinking.

Willow and Xander, carrying food trays, pass by.

XANDER

So Cor, are you printing up business cards with your pager number and hours of operation or just going with the halter top tonight?

CORDELIA

Ahh, are we a little envious? Don't be, you could join a fraternity of rich, powerful men... in the Bizarro world.

BUFFY

You guys want to...  
(gestures: join us?)

XANDER

Nah, I gotta digest and all.

Xander and Willow move off. Cordelia studies Buffy, tapping her fingers, thinking hard.

CORDELIA

Make-up, make-up... well, just give it your all and keep to the shadows. We are going to have a blast!

ANGLE – WILLOW AND XANDER

As they sit some distance away.

WILLOW  
I can't believe she lied to Giles. My world  
is all askew.

XANDER  
Buffy lying? Buffy going to frat parties?  
That's not askew, that's cockeyed!

WILLOW  
Askew means cockeyed.

XANDER  
Oh.

WILLOW  
Well, there's nothing we can do about it.  
We'll help Giles –

XANDER  
I'm going to the party.

WILLOW  
What?

XANDER  
I want to keep an eye on Buffy, those  
frat guys creep me.

WILLOW  
You want to protect her.  
(he nods)  
And you want to prove you're as good  
as those rich, snotty guys.  
(he nods)  
And maybe catch an orgy.

XANDER  
If it's on early.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRAT HOUSE – NIGHT

Lots of cars, young folks arriving, MUSIC blasting. Those little white lights strung in trees and along the roof line.

A CAR ROARS UP to CAMERA. We read the personalized license plate: QUEEN C.

Cordelia squeezes her car into a parking place (smashing the car behind and in front if we can afford). Cordelia and Buffy get out. Oh yeah, they look fantastic.

CORDELIA  
Why do they park so darn close to you?  
(to Buffy)  
You up for this?

BUFFY

I don't know... maybe it isn't such a good  
idea—

CORDELIA  
Me too, let's do it!

Cordelia charges ahead. Buffy reluctantly follows.

INT. FRAT HOUSE – NIGHT

This ain't Animal House. This is a well furnished, wealthy home. But still being  
partied in by a gaggle of rich young snobs. The men wear coats and ties. The  
women are sexy but not cheap. WAITERS (actually pathetic guys, some in their  
underwear, some with fruit hats, all with a big sign PLEDGE hung around their  
necks) serve drinks and hors d'oeuvres.

CORDELIA AND BUFFY

In a far corner of the room. Standing alone, perhaps a little awkwardly.

CORDELIA  
You know what's so cool about college?  
The diversity. You've got rich people  
and you've got... all the other people. Richard!

Richard approaches, hands them each a drink.

RICHARD  
Welcome, ladies.

CORDELIA  
Thank you.

Richard toasts, drinks. Cordelia follows suit.

BUFFY  
(re: drink)  
Is there alcohol in this?

RICHARD  
Just a smidge.

CORDELIA  
C'mon Buffy, it's just a smidge.

BUFFY  
I'll just...  
(setting drink down)

RICHARD  
I understand. When I was your age I  
wasn't into grown-up things, either.

Buffy gives him a look. He turns to Cordelia.

RICHARD (cont'd)  
Have you seen our multi-media room?

CORDELIA

The one with the cherry walnut paneling  
and the two forty-eight inch televisions on  
satellite feed? No, why don't you show me?

As they head off:

RICHARD

(re: Buffy)

What about -- ?

CORDELIA

She's happiest by herself.

BUFFY

Watches them go. Looks around for a friendly face. Doesn't find one.

EXT. FRAT HOUSE – FRONT PORCH – NIGHT

Xander is dressed in preppy gear, trying to look nonchalant. At the front door a big  
LINEBACKER checks names on a list as partiers enter. The linebacker turns his back,  
Xander coolly slides in.

INT. FRAT HOUSE – NIGHT

A huge TACKLE downs a HUGE GLASS STEIN O' BEER. Xander moves past him. The  
Tackle's huge hand comes down on Xander's shoulder, stopping him in his tracks.

TACKLE

Who...

(burp)

the heck...

(burp)

...are you.

The Linebacker has joined the Tackle now, list in hand. Xander glances at list, trying  
to read it upside down.

XANDER

Stewart L. Huntington, Junior. The third.

My people have been Delta since... a  
time that was in the past. Hunting –

(glances at list)

Hunsinger.

Linebacker nods at Tackle who reluctantly lets Xander go. The Tackle watches  
Xander's departing back, suspicious.

BUFFY

Still standing off by herself, unaware of Xander's entrance. Buffy looks at that drink.  
Picks it up. Puts it back. Clasps her hands awkwardly together. Looks around for a  
friendly face. Sees:

A COOL GUY across the way. He toasts her with his glass. Buffy picks her glass up,  
toasts back, not wanting to appear unsophisticated, takes a polite sip – it's strong.  
Then she sees the BIG TACKLE, hammered, heading her way.

TACKLE  
New girl. Dance. Ahhhhyeahh.

Buffy looks left and right for an avenue of escape as the Tackle lumbers in for a landing. Just as he's upon her, Tom steps between them, takes Buffy's hand –

TOM  
Could I have this dance?

-- and pulls her to the dance floor. Perhaps we hear a crash of plates O.S.

INT. FRAT HOUSE – NIGHT

BUFFY AND TOM

Dance to a cool slow song.

BUFFY  
(re: tackle)  
Thanks for...

TOM  
We're not all a bunch of drunken louts.  
Some of us are sober louts.  
(Buffy smiles)  
I'm really glad you decided to come.  
(nothing from Buffy)  
And you're not.

BUFFY  
No. It's just... I shouldn't be here.

TOM  
Because you're seeing someone.

BUFFY  
No.

TOM  
You're not seeing someone.

BUFFY  
Someone's not seeing me.

TOM  
So why shouldn't you be here?

BUFFY  
I have obligations, people I'm responsible  
to... or for... or with, it's complex.

TOM  
You're big on responsibility. I like that.  
But there's such a thing as too mature.  
You should relax and enjoy yourself  
once in a while. You think I'm too mature.

TOM  
I talk too much. Have you picked up on that

yet? Anyway, the Hulk is gone so you  
don't have to dance with me any –

He starts to step back – she doesn't let him go.

BUFFY

He might come back.

He smiles. And she puts her head on his shoulder. And they dance for a couple of  
beats.

ANGLE: XANDER CHATS WITH TWO CO-EDS

He swipes the air with a couple of crab claws.

XANDER

Godzilla is attacking downtown Tokyo!  
Argh! Argh!

The co-eds laugh.

ANOTHER ANGLE – THE TACKLE AND RICHARD

Watch him.

TACKLE

You went to Cold Springs with Donny  
Hunsinger. Is that his kid brother Stewy?

RICHARD

Stewy's blond and six four. We got us  
a crusher.

Richard smiles unpleasantly. Moves off towards Xander. The Tackle waves the  
Linebacker over and they follow.

XANDER AND CO-EDS

XANDER

So have either of you seen a pair of girls  
Here? One is about so high –

Richard, the Tackle and the Linebacker suddenly surround him.

XANDER (cont'd)

Hey guys.

The Tackle grabs one shoulder, the Linebacker the other.

RICHARD

New Pledge!

TACKLE

New Pledge!

And they drag him away from the co-eds, other Delta Zetas gathering around,  
chanting "new pledge!", blotting poor Xander out of sight.

EXT. FRAT HOUSE – BACK PATIO – NIGHT

Buffy wanders out to get some air. We see the party through the large windows or French doors behind her. She looks off into the woods beyond the back fence. Something CRUNCHES beneath her feet. She bends down.

INSERT – BUFFY’S HAND

Picks up some broken glass.

BACK TO SCENE

Buffy straightens up and looks up at the second story. We see the broken and partially patched window the girl burst out of in the teaser.

Buffy looks off to the woods where she found the bracelet: is there some connection here?

She turns back towards the house, startled to find:

TOM  
You okay?

BUFFY  
Yeah. I was just... thinking.

From inside we hear the party and the music crank up. Richard hurries out, tipsy, thrusts a drink in each of their hands. Clinks their glasses with his own.

RICHARD  
To my Argentinean junk bonds which just  
matured in double digits!

He holds up his glass and drinks merrily. Tom looks at Buffy, embarrassed by Richard.

TOM  
To... maturity.

Tom clinks her glass.

BUFFY  
(re: drink)  
Ahhh, what the hell.

She downs the whole drink. Tom’s a little surprised.

BUFFY (cont’d)  
I’m tired of being mature.

Tom smiles.

CUT TO:

CLOSE on the bracelet fragment, the letters “N”, “T”.

Willow is typing a list of possibilities on the computer. Giles stands behind her, helping.

WILLOW  
Bent.

GILES  
Sent.

WILLOW  
Rent.

GILES  
Lent.

WILLOW  
Kent – Kent, that’s it!

GILES  
Her boyfriend’s name is Kent.

WILLOW  
(typing)  
No. Kent Preparatory School. Just outside  
town. That’s where I’ve seen those bracelets.

GILES  
What are you doing?

WILLOW  
Pulling up their school newsletter for the  
last few months, to see if there’s anything about...

She stops speaking. Giles sees it on the computer.

GILES  
A missing girl...

INSERT COMPUTER

KENT SCHOOL NEWS -- a picture of a pretty girl, the girl from the teaser. Headline:  
CALLIE, OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU.

CUT TO:

INT. FRAT HOUSE – NIGHT

We see two lines of people facing one another. Dancing down the middle of the  
gauntlet (all hope of escape barred by the Tackle and the Linebacker) is:

XANDER

A hideous wig of long dark curls parked on his head; an (extremely) large bra  
strapped over his shirt; a painful party smile plastered on his face.

XANDER  
Okay, big fun... who’s next?

He tries to walk away. The big Tackle shoves him back.

TACKLE

Dance, stranger.

Xander dances.

BUFFY

comes out of a bathroom looking a little wobbly. She touches her head.

BUFFY-CAM

Her pov of the party. Distorted, a macabre Mardi Gras.

BUFFY  
(looking around)  
Tom?

BUFFY WEAVES HER WAY

To the stairs, moves up.

INT. FRAT HOUSE – TOP OF THE STAIRS – NIGHT

Buffy clears the top, getting woozier by the step, and stumbles down a dark hall.

BUFFY-CAM

Worse than before. She's losing it.

INT. FRAT BEDROOM – NIGHT

Buffy stumbles in. A big bed. Looks so inviting.

BUFFY  
Okay. Just need to stop spinning for a...

Buffy collapses on the bed. Out cold. A figure appears silhouetted in the doorway. Moves to her. Rolls her over. It's Richard. He admires her unconscious form for a beat then reaches for her blouse. Undoes the top button. Reaches for the next button when

A HAND

Grabs his hand. Spins him around. It's Tom.

TOM  
Get away from her.

And Tom hits Richard, hard. Richard is flung back against the wall.

RICHARD  
I wasn't doing anything.

TOM  
I saw what you were doing.

RICHARD

I just wanted to have a little fun.

TOM  
She's not here for your fun you pervert!

PUSH IN on Tom.

TOM (cont'd)  
She's here for the pleasure of the one  
we serve.

RICHARD  
(obediently)  
In His Name.

TOM  
And that goes for the other one, too.

We now see Cordelia, passed out in a dark corner of the floor. Off Tom's eyes, the eyes of the zealot and true believer.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

## Act Three

INT. LIBRARY – NIGHT

Willow types at the computer. Giles reads a print-out of the Kent School News.

GILES  
Callie Megan Anderson... missing for  
over a week. No one's seen her, no one  
knows what happened to her...

WILLOW  
This being Sunnydale and all, I guess we  
can rule out something good.

GILES  
(nods, grabs phone)  
I'm calling Buffy.

WILLOW  
No!

GILES  
Why not?

WILLOW  
Because Buffy... and her mother...

GILES  
Are sick. You're right, we shouldn't  
disturb them until we know more.

WILLOW

(re: computer, alarmed)  
You mean like if there are others...?

Giles follows Willow's gaze to her computer.

WILLOW

(cont'd)

Brittany Oswald, Junior at St. Michael's,  
disappeared a year ago... so did Kelly  
Percell, sophomore at Grant...

GILES

A year ago...

WILLOW

Almost to the day.

GILES

(piecing it together)

An anniversary... or some other event  
that has significance for the killer.

WILLOW

Killer? Now there's a killer? We don't  
know there's a...

GILES

No. But this being Sunnydale and all...

WILLOW

Gulp.

GILES

We need to know where Buffy found that  
bracelet – and begin a search from there.

WILLOW

Angel.

Giles reaches for the phone.

WILLOW (cont'd)

(as Giles dials)

He was there when Buffy found it – we're  
gonna need all the help we can get.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRAT HOUSE – FRONT PORCH – NIGHT

We see the last few partiers stumble out, then Xander, still in wig and bra, is hurled  
out by the Tackle and Linebacker.

They shut the door, Xander stops it with his hand.

XANDER

A friend of mine was here –

TACKLE

Party's over, jerkwater. You know, in that  
light, with the wig and all, you're still  
butt ugly.

The Tackle slams the door in his face. Xander stands there steaming, HEARING their laughter from inside. He rips off wig and big bra, storms off the porch.

Xander, brushing himself off, in a foul mood, heads up the sidewalk away from frat house.

XANDER

One day I will have money and power.  
And on that day...  
(glances back at frat house)  
...they'll still have more.

He stops, something catches his eye. A car. With the license plate: QUEEN C.

Xander looks back towards the house, concerned.

CUT TO:

INT. FRAT HOUSE – BASEMENT – NIGHT

Tom, stripped to the waist, kneels before the alter which surrounds the dark pit.

Several ROBED BRETHREN keep a respectful distance from Tom whose arms and chest sport a dozen or more of the sword-carved diamond shapes. Tom is pretty much the high priest around here.

He finishes whatever silent prayer he was offering, picks up the long sword, holds it over the pit as a form of blessing, then hands it to a brethren.

The brethren begins carving yet another diamond on Tom as we (discreetly) PAN AWAY to:

CORDELIA – COMING TO

Chained to a rock wall. Now dressed in the same ceremonial garb as the girl in the teaser. Her hair is mussed and as she takes in her surroundings, her eyes fill with fear. She looks to

BUFFY

Chained next to her. Also in ceremonial dress. Buffy is already awake and alert, gazing around the basement, taking everything in. From this angle she can only see Tom from the back (i.e. she doesn't know it's Tom.)

CORDELIA

Buffy... where are we?

BUFFY

In the basement, far as I can tell.

CORDELIA

What's happening? What did they...?

BUFFY  
They drugged us.

CORDELIA  
Why? What are they gonna do?

BUFFY  
I don't know...

CORDELIA  
(really scared)  
I want to go home.

CALLIE (O.S.)  
No one's going home.

They turn and see Callie as she leans out of the shadows: a once pretty girl who's been chained in a basement for a week.

CALLIE  
Ever.

Callie stares at them with the look of the condemned.

CALLIE (cont'd)  
One of them's different from the  
others, nicer...

BUFFY  
Tom.

And Tom turns around on the alter. His eyes meet Buffy's.

CALLIE  
He's the one to watch out for.

Callie leans back into the shadows. Tom gazes at Buffy for a long, creepy beat.

TOM  
She's last.

CORDELIA  
Last for what? Who's first?

Tom turns back to his priestly duties. He picks up three round stones, holds them over the pit in a ritual blessing.

BUFFY  
Three stones... three of us.

CORDELIA  
Buffy...

BUFFY  
Stay calm. We'll get out of this.

CORDELIA  
Why'd I ever let you talk me into

coming here!

CUT TO:

INT. LIBRARY – NIGHT – ANGEL

Moves INTO FRAME, the glass window of Giles' office behind him.

ANGEL

She found the bracelet in Miner's Woods.

REVERSE – WILLOW AND GILES

Willow leans forward, staring hard at something behind Angel.

GILES

Miner's Woods, which is...?  
(to Willow)  
-- what are you doing?

WILLOW

Oh. Sorry. The reflection thing, that you  
don't have. Angel, how do you shave?  
-- Miner's Woods. That's out by the college,  
right behind...  
(realizing)  
... the Delta Zeta house.

GILES

A fraternity?

Willow nods, unable to speak.

ANGEL

Could they be taking these girls?

Willow nods again, petrified.

ANGEL (cont'd)

Let's get out there.

Willow finally blurts out:

WILLOW

Buffy -- !

GILES

We don't know this is concrete, let's  
not disturb her until –

WILLOW

-- is there. With Cordelia. They went to a  
party at the Delta Zeta house!

GILES

She... lied to me?

WILLOW

Well...

ANGEL  
Did she... have a date?

WILLOW  
Well...

Losing it, she turns on them both in a sudden Willow-fury.

WILLOW (cont'd)  
(to Angel)  
Why do you think she went to that party?  
Because you gave her the brush off...  
(to Giles)  
...and you never let her do anything except  
work and patrol and – I know she's the  
Chosen One but you're killing her with the  
pressure, she's sixteen going on forty –  
(to Angel)  
-- and you, I mean you're gonna live forever,  
you don't have time for a cup of coffee?

Willow takes a breath, no less surprised by her outburst than they are.

WILLOW (cont'd)  
Okay. I don't feel better now and we  
gotta help Buffy.

Willow runs for the door. They follow.

CUT TO:

INT. FRAT HOUSE – BASEMENT – NIGHT

Buffy, Cordelia and Callie watch as the brethren (including Richard) gather around the altar.

TOM  
Machida...

The others murmur "Machida" (pronounced Ma-Kee-Da).

TOM (cont'd)  
We who serve you, we who receive all that  
you bestow, call upon you in this holy hour.

Again the others murmur "Machida".

TOM (cont'd)  
We have no wealth, no possession, except  
that which you give us. We have no power,  
no place in the world, except that which  
you give us.

OTHERS  
Except that which you give us.

BUFFY AND CORDELIA

CORDELIA  
What are they, some kind of cult?

BUFFY  
A psycho-cult.

CORDELIA  
You gotta do something.

Buffy tests her chains (secured to metal eyes sunk in the wall). They hold her fast.

TOM AND THE BRETHREN

TOM  
It has been a year since our last offerings...  
a year in which our bounty overflowed...  
We come before you with fresh offerings...  
we hope you find them worthy.

BUFFY AND CORDELIA

CORDELIA  
Offerings... he's talking about us?

Callie peers out of the shadows.

CALLIE  
You see anyone else chained up in here?

TOM AND THE BRETHREN

TOM  
Accept our offering, dark lord, bless us  
with your power, Machida!!

OTHERS  
Machida!

Tom drops the stones into the pit. A long silent beat, followed by the sound of the stones PLOPPING into water far, far below.

BUFFY AND CORDELIA

CORDELIA  
What... what's down there?

TOM AND BRETHREN

TOM  
Come forth, let your terrible countenance  
look upon your servants and their humble  
offerings! We call you, Machida!

OTHERS  
In his name! Machida!

A substantial RUMBLING is heard far below, gathering power and speed. It fills the

chamber, growing ever nearer.

BUFFY AND CORDELIA

Cordelia is terrified.

CORDELIA

There's something down there.  
(Buffy nods)  
And they're gonna throw us down there  
with it!

BUFFY

I don't think so.

CORDELIA

(grasping at straws)  
No? Well that's good, that's...

BUFFY

I don't think we go to it, I think  
it comes to us...

AT THE ALTER

The rumbling grows louder and more fierce. The brethren are all glass-eyed, murmuring "Machida" feverishly. And suddenly, with a great explosion, the HORRIBLE THING bursts out of the big black pit.

MACHIDA is half man, half snake. He has a muscular body (from the waist up) and the enlarged and frightening head of a man with the fangs and horrible eyes of a snake. His skin has the diamond pattern of a snake – thus the diamond carvings on his "people". From the waist down he is all snake – and a big 'un, too, his snake body trails behind him into the depths of the pit: God knows how long this guy is.

Machida towards over the brethren and stretches his glistening body so he can look down on Buffy, Cordelia and Callie.

Off Buffy, looking up at the hideous Delta Zeta deity, and Cordelia screaming for all she's worth.

END OF ACT THREE

## Act Four

INT. FRAT HOUSE – BASEMENT – NIGHT

As before. Machida hovers over the girls.

TOM

For he shall rise from the depths and we  
shall tremble before him. He who is the  
source of all we inherit and all we  
possess. MACHIDA!

OTHERS

Machida!

TOM  
And if he is pleased with our offerings,  
then our fortunes shall increase.

OTHERS  
Machida, let our fortunes increase.

TOM  
And on the tenth day of the tenth month he  
shall be en-hungered and we shall feed him.

Richard and a brethren start to unlock Cordelia's chains.

CORDELIA  
Feed him. FEED HIM?!

Buffy pulls like hell at her own chains. They hold fast. Richard and brethren drag Cordelia, whimpering now, before Machida. Cordelia looks like she's about to lose her mind. Buffy struggles with her chains.

Machida rises up, ready to dive for Cordelia.

BUFFY  
Hey, Reptile Boy!

Machida turns his gaze to Buffy.

TOM  
No woman speaks to him!

BUFFY  
You don't want her. She's all skin and  
bones. Half hour later you'll be hungry  
again. Why don't you try me –

And Tom backhands her viciously, nearly knocking her out. Brandishes his sword.

TOM  
Speak again and I'll cut your throat.

CUT TO:

EXT. FRAT HOUSE – NIGHT

Angel, Willow and Giles exit the Giles-mobile and head for the darkened frat house.

WILLOW  
Looks like everyone's gone.

As they approach, a robed figure steps out of the shadows behind them. Angel senses the intruder, slows his pace and suddenly leaps on him.

ANGEL  
Hey!

XANDER  
Hey!

It's Xander, in one of the D.Z robes. He pulls the hood back. There's a tear in the front of the robe.

XANDER

What are you doing here?

WILLOW

There's a bunch of girls missing, the Delta Zetas may be involved and Buffy – are you wearing make-up?

XANDER

(rubs at his face)

No. I think Buffy's still inside somewhere with Cordelia.

(points to car)

That's her car.

GILES

Why are you wearing that...?

XANDER

I found it in their trash.

(re: house)

I saw them through the windows, wearing robes, going down to the basement. I was going to use it to sneak in.

GILES

They may be involved in some kind of ritual.

WILLOW

With the missing girls.

ANGEL

With Buffy.

Angel looks to the house, his anger mounting, and MORPHS into a vampire with a fierce growl. Willow and the others take a step back.

XANDER

Okay, that is the guy you want to party with.

CUT TO:

INT. FRAT HOUSE – NIGHT

The Tackle and the Linebacker keep a watch in the darkened rooms. They hear someone KNOCKING, move to one of the doors in back, see a dark figure in a robe outside.

XANDER

(in robe)

Got locked out dumping the trash. Let me in, I don't want to miss the "you know what..."

The Tackle peers hard at the robed figure, unlatches the door. The minute he does, Xander kicks open the door and hits him as hard as he can in the face.

The Tackle staggers back. Angel, Giles, Willow rush in.

XANDER (cont'd)

(to Tackle)  
Where are they?!

The Tackle charges Xander who sidesteps him and helps run his head into a banister. The Linebacker charges Angel – sees Angel's face – screams!

INT. FRAT BASEMENT – SAME TIME

Tom Stands behind Cordelia, beneath Machida.

TOM  
Receive our offering!

They hear fighting and bodies crashing to the floor above.

Go!

Richard charges upstairs with several of the brethren.

Machida rises to his full height.

Cordelia cowers beneath him.

Machida dives.

DIVING POV – WE SWOOP DOWN TOWARDS CORDELIA

Who screams bloody murder.

Buffy uses all her strength and rips her chain and eye hooks right out of the wall.

Buffy whips the chain and hits Machida with it. He rears back, screaming.

Cordelia scampers back to relative safety as –

Buffy whips her chain into two attacking brethren, knocking them down.

Tom picks up the sword and charges Buffy who ducks and backs away as he attacks, nearly taking her head off.

INT. FRAT HOUSE – UPSTAIRS – NIGHT

Angel throws a guy across the room. Xander is on the Tackle, piggy back, hitting him on the head from behind.

XANDER  
That's for the wig, and that's for the bra...

Willow and Giles weave their way through the carnage to the basement door. Willow manages to get the door open as Giles is blind sided by a brethren. Giles holds him off and decks him.

Willow runs down a couple of steps into the basement, runs back up, yells to the gang:

WILLOW  
Some guy's attacking Buffy with a sword!  
(beat, realizes: )

Also, there's a really big snake.

XANDER

... that's for the make-up and that's for  
the last sixteen and a half years!

Xander gives him one last good wallop and leaps off. The tackle falls forward, out of frame, we HEAR him crash through the French doors. Xander stands there, pretty darn satisfied with himself for half a beat until Richard hits him like a train from the side.

Angel drops Richard like a stone.

WILLOW

Guys, Buffy, snake, basement, now!

They all charge toward the basement door.

INT. FRAT HOUSE – BASEMENT – NIGHT

Buffy scrambles away from Tom and his attacking sword.

TOM

You... bitch. I'll serve you to him in pieces!

He swings hard. Buffy ducks and counters with the chain, wraps it around the sword, rips it out of Tom's hands.

BUFFY

Tom...

And Buffy hits him with a right, then a left, then she spin-kicks him in the side of the head – he flies back, trips on the alter, falls on his ass. Down and out.

BUFFY (cont'd)

You talk too much.

Angel, Xander, Willow and Giles tear downstairs as Machida gathers Cordelia in his arms.

CORDELIA

Helllppppp!!!

Buffy suddenly looms up with the sword.

BUFFY

Back off, wormy!

Machida ROARS at her. Buffy raises the sword and brings it down hard and fast on the middle of Machida's snake body, cutting him in half.

XANDER, GILES, WILLOW

And Angel react.

CORDELIA

Falls to the floor, safe.

THE PIT

As what's left of the severed snake jiggles and lies still a couple of feet from the upper torso.

BUFFY

Helps Cordelia up. Willow and Xander un-chain a very freaked out Callie.

CORDELIA  
You did it, you saved us.

Cordelia walks right past Buffy and hurls herself into Angel's arms.

CORDELIA (cont'd)  
I've never been so happy to see anyone  
in my whole...  
(fights the tears)  
You guys, I just really... hate you guys, the  
weirdest things always happen around you!

Tom comes to near the alter. And, unbeknownst to any of our heroes, the snake body begins slowly moving. Until it joins up with the torso. A squooshy sound of flesh and protoplasm meeting and the two halves re-join!

CORDELIA (cont'd)  
(to Tom)  
You're going to jail for about fifteen  
thousand years. Oh god, it's over...  
it's really...

That's when Machida, re-joined, suddenly pops up again.

Angel takes a threatening step forward next to Buffy and growls.

Machida towers over Tom:

MACHIDA  
For a hundred years I have given your forebearers  
wealth and power. And this is how you repay me.  
From this day forth you are alone in the world.

Machida slides back down. Cordelia is afraid to breathe. With good reason. Machida pops back up, grabs Tom.

MACHIDA (cont'd)  
Lil' somethin' for the road.

Machida disappears into the pit with Tom. We hear Tom's screams, a quick couple of chomps and then silence.

Willow and Xander help Callie toward the stairs.

Buffy moves to Giles.

BUFFY  
I told one lie, I had one drink...

GILES

And you nearly got devoured by a giant demon-snake. I think the words "let that be a lesson" are a tad redundant at this juncture.

BUFFY

Sorry, Giles.

GILES

I am, too. I drive you too hard, because I know what you have to face... from now on no more pushing, no more prodding...

Buffy smiles.

GILES (cont'd)

Just... an extraordinary amount of nudging.

Off them,

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. BRONZE – NIGHT

A high school freshman, a real young looking one, moves up to Cordelia, hands her a coffee and a muffin. He looks up at her (being so much shorter and all) adoringly.

CORDELIA

Thank you, Leslie. Did we forget the extra foam?

Leslie grabs the coffee and hurries out of frame. Cordelia turns to

BUFFY, WILLOW, XANDER

Sitting at a nearby table. Xander studies a newspaper.

CORDELIA

Young men. The only way to go.

CLOSE ON NEWSPAPER – We see a picture of the Delta Zeta house and the headline: FRATERNITY ARRESTED.

XANDER

Says here they'll all get consecutive life sentences: investigators found bones of the missing girls in a huge cavern beneath the D.Z house... and other bones dating back fifty years...

WILLOW

They didn't find the snake? (Xander shakes his head)  
Which means we probably will some day. Oh goody.

XANDER

(reads)

"A surprising number of corporations whose Chairmen and Founders are former Delta

Zetas are suffering falling profits, I.R.S raids  
and suicides in the board room..."  
(to Buffy and Willow)  
Starve a snake, lose a fortune. Boy, the rich  
really are different.

WILLOW  
(to Buffy)  
Have you heard from Angel?

She shakes her head.

WILLOW (cont'd)  
When he got so mad about you being in  
danger and changed into...  
(makes a face)  
...grrrr... it was the most amazing thing  
I ever saw. I mean how many guys can –

XANDER  
Angel, Angel, Angel. Does every  
conversation always have to come  
around to that freak?

Xander notices Angel standing right next to him. Doesn't skip a beat.

XANDER (cont'd)  
Hey man, how ya' doin'?

ANGEL  
Buffy.

Beat.

BUFFY  
Angel.

Beat.

XANDER  
Xander...

ANGEL  
I hear this place serves coffee. Thought  
maybe you and I should get some...  
(nothing from Buffy)  
...sometime.  
(nothing from Buffy)  
If you want.

Buffy considers him for a long moment, then:

BUFFY  
Yeah.

Angel brightens.

BUFFY (cont'd)

Sometime. I'll let you know.

And she gets up and goes. Xander, Willow, Angel stare at her departing back. Xander kind of respects what she just did. So does Angel.

ANGLE – BUFFY – WALKING AWAY

Tracking backwards with her. Letting her grow into a tight close-up. So we can see how pleased she is. Then she walks out of frame and we –

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT FOUR