

Consequences

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Teaser

EXT. RIVER - DAY

FADE UP

To find that we are UNDER WATER. Shafts of sunlight slice flowing blue currents ... It is tranquil, peaceful... Until a PANIC-STRICKEN BUFFY thrashes into view and we see that someone is GRIPPING HER ANKLE, pulling her down to a watery grave.

Now we see that her attacker is the DEPUTY MAYOR. He is wearing a SUIT, just as he was the night he died. Buffy manages to fight him off, kick him back into the murky depths. She swims frantically, tries to surface - but can't. Something is holding her down. She struggles.

For a moment, she manages to break the surface - sees that FAITH is holding her under. Her expression inscrutable, FAITH SHOVS BUFFY UNDER AGAIN.

CLOSE ON BUFFY

Desperate, drowning...

INT. BUFFY'S ROOM - NIGHT

Buffy wakes from her dream with a start, badly shaken.

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

Buffy moves down the hall to the bathroom. Overhears her mother watching the NEWS on her bedroom TV. Stops as:

TV NEWS REPORTER (O.C.)
...fishermen discovered the body
today, the victim of a brutal stabbing...

Buffy moves so she can see both the TV and her mother. Joyce doesn't notice her.

INT. JOYCE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

CLOSE ON TV

Where a REPORTER STANDS ON THE DOCKS, addressing the camera.

TV NEWS REPORTER
...Authorities and citizens alike
were shocked when the slain man was
identified as Deputy Mayor, Allan
Finch. Still reeling from the news,

Mayor Wilkins had this to say:

Now THE MAYOR appears on the TV, STANDING AT A PODIUM IN THE ROTUNDA. Looking appropriately distraught.

MAYOR

Mr. Finch was not only my longtime aide and associate, he was a close personal friend... I promise you - I will not rest until whoever did this is found and brought to justice.

ON JOYCE

Who notices Buffy standing there.

JOYCE

Oh, honey. You're up...

Now Joyce looks back to the TV. Shakes her head sympathetically.

JOYCE

It's just terrible - isn't it?

INT. HALLWAY - NIGHT

ON BUFFY

Who just nods, horrified. Feeling like the walls are closing in on her.

BLACK OUT.

END OF TEASER

Act One

INT. LIBRARY - DAY

ON WESLEY

Who paces, amped.

WESLEY

I want you to look into this. Find out everything you can about the murder of the Deputy Mayor.

REVEAL that he's talking to an extremely anxious BUFFY

BUFFY

But, I mean - it's not really our... jurisdiction - is it?

Now we see FAITH, who seems pretty cool. She glances at Buffy, sending the message - chill out.

FAITH

It's no big, B. We can get into it
if he wants-

She'd go on - but now GILES steps forward, irritated.

GILES

No. Buffy's right. The Deputy
Mayor's murder was the result of
human malice. There's nothing
supernatural about it.

WESLEY

We don't know that for certain. I
say it merits investigation.

GILES

Which I'm sure the police are doing.
However, if you ask me, there are far
better uses of the slayers time-

WESLEY

(pointed)

Ah, but, I don't believe I did. Ask you.

GILES

(fuming)

Well, considering the success of your
last venture you might do well to-

Giles STOPS SHORT as CORDELIA ENTERS.

CORDELIA

Don't let me interrupt. Wait. Let
me interrupt. I'm in a hurry.

GILES

What did you need?

CORDELIA

(turning back)

Psych class. Freud and Jung. Book me.

GILES

Happily.

Giles moves into the stacks. Now Cordelia turns to the others, really noticing
WESLEY for the first time.

CORDELIA

Check out Giles, the next generation.
What's your deal?

Wesley is clearly taken with/flustered by Cordy. He manages this debonair reply:

WESLEY

Uh, I, uh - well -

FAITH

New watcher.

CORDELIA
Oh.

WESLEY
Does everyone know about-

BUFFY
She's a friend.

CORDELIA
Let's not exaggerate.

Cordy looks him over, likes what she sees. Decides to have a little fun.

CORDELIA
(flirtatious)
So you're the new watcher.

WESLEY
(proffered hand)
Wesley Wyndam-Pryce.

She takes his hand, doesn't let go.

CORDELIA
I like a man with two last names.
I'm Cordelia.

WESLEY
And you teach psychology?

CORDELIA
I take psychology.

GILES
(returning)
She's a student.

Wesley snatches his hand back. Giles stamps Cordy's books.

WESLEY
(trying to be official)
Well then, yes. In fact I am. Here
to watch. Girls. I mean Buffy and
Faith, in specific.

Cordelia is enjoying her effect on Wesley. Moves closer, really turning on the gas. Wesley squirms.

CORDELIA
Well, it's about time we got some
fresh blood.

WESLEY
Ha! Well. Fresh. Yes.

Giles stamps emphatically. Hands the books to Cordy.

GILES
Here you go.

CORDELIA
Thanks.

Cordy turns back to Wesley. Hits him with a killer smile.

CORDELIA
Welcome to Sunnydale.

And she bails. Wesley takes a minute to recover.

WESLEY
My. She's... cheeky. Isn't she?

FAITH
First word, "jail," second word, "bait."

WESLEY
Well. Where were we?

Anxious to get out of there, Buffy stands. A little too urgent.

BUFFY
Done.
(to Faith/trying for
calmer)
We were done. Weren't we?

FAITH
Yep. Off to patrol. See ya.

Faith gets up and they start for the door. But Wesley catches them. Gives Giles a "back off" look.

WESLEY
One moment, girls. I am your
commander now and on the matter of
this murder, I am resolved. "Natural"
or "super" - I want to know.

ON BUFFY AND FAITH

Who both look like the proverbial deer caught in the headlights. Finally, Faith smiles.

FAITH
Fine by me. Always ready to kick a
little bad guy butt.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

An agitated Faith and Buffy move into an empty classroom. They close the door - make sure they're alone. Then-

FAITH

You gonna rat me out? Is that it?

BUFFY

We have to tell, Faith. I can't pretend to investigate, can't pretend that I don't know...

FAITH

Oh. I see. You can "pretend" that Angel's still dead when you need to protect him-

BUFFY

I am trying to protect you, Faith. If we don't do the right thing, it'll only make things worse for you.

FAITH

Worse than jail for the rest of my young life? No way.

BUFFY

Faith, what we did-

FAITH

Yeah. We. You were right there beside me when this thing went down. Anything I have to answer for - you do too. You're part of this, B. All the way.

With that, Faith TAKES OFF - leaving Buffy breathless.

INT. SCHOOL LOUNGE - DAY

Dazed, Buffy moves from the hall to the lounge area. Sees WILLOW there, reading. Goes to her - needing a connection.

Willow sees her coming. Glances up from her book. Looks back. She's still a little hurt by what she feels is Buffy's rejection. Buffy sits next to her. Tries to smile.

BUFFY

Hey.

WILLOW

Hey... Where's Faith? I saw her around. Figured you guys were off to kill more nasty stuff.

BUFFY

Not right now. She bailed, I guess.

An awkward moment. Then they both talk at once.

BUFFY

Will - I thought maybe we could-

WILLOW

Actually, I should get-

They stop.

BUFFY
Sorry... You go.

WILLOW
I'm - late.

Willow stands, gathers her things. Continues, a little apologetically.

WILLOW
I'm meeting Michael, the warlock guy?
We're still trying to "de-rat" Amy.

BUFFY
Oh.

WILLOW
So. See you.

BUFFY
See you.

And she takes off, leaving BUFFY feeling more alone and lost than ever.

EXT. ALLEY - NIGHT

Two police cars are parked at the entrance to the alley, lights flashing. A few policemen and detectives move about, collecting evidence.

DETECTIVE PAUL STEIN, the policeman who investigated Buffy in "Ted", is there - talking to a neighborhood woman.

STEIN
So you heard the man scream about
what time last night?

WOMAN
I'm not sure. Seven? Maybe eight.

STEIN
Can you be more specific? Say,
between seven and seven thirty?

ANOTHER ANGLE

Where we see ANGEL, moving in the shadows near the entrance of the alley. He stops - watches a medical examiner scraping BLOOD from the wall.

CLOSE ON ANGEL

As he remembers...

FLASH TO:

EXT. ANOTHER ALLEY - FLASHBACK TO EPI. 14 - NIGHT

As BUFFY runs into Angel, distraught.

BUFFY
Angel!

ANGEL
Buffy. I've been looking for you.
(sees her hand)
Your hand!

He takes it. She looks down to see it is covered in blood. She pulls it away.

EXT. ALLEY - REAL TIME - NIGHT

BACK TO ANGEL

As he moves away, clearly worried.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

CLOSE ON

A paper shredder as it GOBBLES UP some documents - makes spaghetti of them.

WIDEN TO INCLUDE

The MAYOR, who feeds the shredder. Looking glum.

Now TRICK enters - a file folder in hand. The Mayor barely looks up from his task.

MAYOR
It's not working.

TRICK
It's supposed to do something
Besides shred?

MAYOR
It's supposed to cheer me up!
Usually, using the shredder gives me
a lift. It's fun.

TRICK
And today you're not getting the ya yas.

MAYOR
No. Guess it'll take more than this
to turn my frown upside down. I just
don't understand why Allan would
leave such a paper trail about our
dealings. Do you think he was going
to betray me? That's a horrible
thought. And now he's dead and I'll
never have the chance to scold him.

TRICK

Maybe this will change your mood.

Now Trick drops a file folder on the Mayor's desk.

MAYOR
What is it?

TRICK
Bombshell.

The Mayor picks up the file. Reads. Then looks up, his expression in agreement with Trick's assessment.

TRICK
The Deputy Mayor had wooden splinters
in his wound. Struck right through
the heart with a sharp, pointed
object. Now word is someone was
fighting vampires not a block away
from the scene.
(then)
Smart money says - it's a slayer did
this job.

MAYOR
You think he talked? To them?

TRICK
If he did, I'm thinking he said the
wrong thing.

MAYOR
(smiles)
Well, this is exciting. A slayer up
for Murder One. That's sunshine and
roses to me. It really is.

OFF THE MAYOR

Clearly feeling a tad peppier.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

Act Two

EXT. SUNNYDALE TOWN HALL - NIGHT

Establishing.

INT. DEPUTY MAYOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

BLACK

Then a door opens and light from the outside hail spills in, illuminating BUFFY AND FAITH as they enter.

Buffy closes the door and Faith flicks on a light. The office is absolutely generic. A few unremarkable personal items. A rubber plant. Buffy and Faith move about, taking all this in as they talk in hushed tones.

FAITH

I'm telling you. We did the world a favor. This guy was about as interesting as watching paint dry.

Buffy stops, shocked at her callousness.

BUFFY

Faith-

FAITH

Joking. Geez, lighten up, B...

But now Faith comes across a framed photo. Picks it up.

CLOSE ON PHOTO

It's a shot of the Deputy Mayor with the Mayor at an official function of some kind. The Deputy Mayor is smiling, proud.

FAITH

He came out of nowhere.

BUFFY

(sympathetically)

I know.

At this Faith's eyes go cold and she returns to the search.

FAITH

Whatever. I'm not looking to hug and cry and learn and grow. I'm just saying it went down quick, is all.

Buffy, a little stung, decides to let it go - also looks around some more. But now Faith is restless, irritated.

FAITH

Let's just blow. I mean, who cares what this guy was about? It's kind of moot now - don't you think?

BUFFY

I don't think he was in that alley by chance. I think he was looking for us. Like to know why.

FAITH

(scoffing)

So, what, you think there's some big conspiracy-

Buffy opens the file cabinet drawers. They're empty. Buffy looks to Faith. Touché.

BUFFY

You were saying?

FAITH

So his papers are gone. That doesn't prove anything.

BUFFY

Except that somebody doesn't want us to prove anything.

OFF BUFFY

Troubled.

INT. HALLWAY OUTSIDE DEPUTY MAYOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Buffy and Faith poke their heads out of the Deputy Mayor's office - checking to see if the coast is clear. They are about to move into the hall when another door opens and THE MAYOR AND TRICK walk out of the Mayor's office.

Buffy sees them - then quickly and quietly shuts the door before she and Faith are noticed.

INT. DEPUTY MAYOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

Buffy and Faith lean against the door. Hear the muffled voices of the MAYOR AND TRICK as they pass.

MAYOR (O.C.)

...get as many men on it as we can.

TRICK (O.C.)

Yeah. We'll be wanting to turn up the heat.

Faith and Buffy look at each other.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

Buffy and Faith walk quickly. Buffy is reeling, freaked by what she just saw. Faith, on the other hand, seems pumped.

FAITH

(wry)

So the mayor of Sunnydale is a black hat. Shocker, huh?

BUFFY

Actually - yeah. I didn't get the bad guy vibe off him.

Faith shakes her head. Scoffs.

FAITH

When you gonna learn, B? It doesn't matter what kind of "vibe" a person gives off. Nine times outta ten the face they're showing you? It

isn't the real one.

Buffy takes this in.

BUFFY

I guess you know a lot about that.

FAITH

What's that supposed to mean?

BUFFY

Look at you, Faith. Less than twenty
four hours ago you killed a guy.
And now you're laughing and
scratching and zipidee doo dah.
That's not your real face, and I know
it. I know what you're feeling
because I feel it too.

FAITH

(dubious)

Do you? So, fill me in. I'd like to
hear this.

BUFFY

Dirty. Like something sick crept
inside you and you can't get it out.
And you keep hoping what happened was
just some nightmare...
(hard)
But it wasn't, Faith. And we have to-

FAITH

(cutting her off/unmoved)

Is there gonna be an intermission in this?

BUFFY

Let's just talk to Giles. I swear-

FAITH

No way. We're not bringing anybody
else into this. You gotta keep your
head, B. This is all going to blow
over in a few days.

BUFFY

What if it doesn't?

FAITH

If it doesn't... They got a
freighter leaving the docks at least
twice a day. It's not fancy - but it
gets you gone.

BUFFY

And then what? You just live with
it? See this dead guy in your head
for the rest of your life?

FAITH

Buffy. I'm not going to "see" anything... I missed the mark last night. And I'm sorry about the guy, really. But it happens.

(then)

Anyway - how many people do you think we've saved by now? Thousands? And didn't you stop the world from ending? In my book, that puts you and me firmly in the plus column.

BUFFY

we help people. That doesn't mean we can do whatever we want-

FAITH

Why not? This guy I offed was no Ghandi. We just saw - he was mixed up in dirty dealing.

BUFFY

Maybe. But what if he was coming to us for help?

FAITH

What if he was? You're still not looking at the big picture, B. Something made us different. We're warriors. We were built to kill-

BUFFY

(cutting her off)

To kill demons. But we don't get to pass judgement on people, like we're better than everybody else-

FAITH

We are better.

(this stop Buffy)

That's right. Better. People need us to survive. In the balance? Nobody's gonna cry over some random bystander who got caught in the crossfire.

Buffy looks stricken. Finally-

BUFFY

I am.

Faith just looks at her. Shakes her head.

FAITH

Your loss.

With that, Faith walks on. Leaving Buffy behind, appalled.

EXT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - NIGHT

Buffy comes up the walk to her house, distraught. Before she even gets to the front door, JOYCE opens it - freaked.

JOYCE
Buffy...

She steps aside, revealing DETECTIVE STEIN.

OFF BUFFY

Stunned, cold with fear.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Buffy and Detective Stein sit across from each other as he questions her. Joyce is also there. Buffy is doing her best to remain calm in the face of his intense scrutiny.

STEIN
Tell me again. You got home at what
time last night?

BUFFY
Late. A little past one, I guess.

STEIN
Maybe you can explain to me what a
girl your age is doing out all night.

INTERCUT WITH:

INT. FAITH'S MOTEL - NIGHT

As STEIN interrogates FAITH. He's just asked her the same question. Faith, naturally, throws attitude.

FAITH
Just hanging.

STEIN
Hanging? By yourself?

FAITH
No. I was with my friend Buffy.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

BUFFY
We were at Faith's. Watching TV.

STEIN
What did you watch?

INT. FAITH'S MOTEL - NIGHT

FAITH
Some old movie.

INT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

BUFFY
Infomercial.

STEIN
That's funny. 'Cause I've got a couple
witnesses who put you near the alley.

INT. FAITH'S MOTEL - NIGHT

FAITH
Witnesses?

STEIN
(nods)
Somebody stabbed this guy through the
heart. Strange thing is, the weapon?
It was made outta wood.
(then)
Any of this mean anything to you?

FAITH
Yeah. Whoever did it wasn't hip to
the bronze age.

!NT. BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Buffy looks like she can barely contain her rising panic.

BUFFY
Is that it? I'm - I'm kind of beat.

Stein stands to go - fixes her with a knowing look.

STEIN
I have enough for now.
(then)
Buffy. If you know something. If
you're protecting someone...

INT. FAITH'S MOTEL - NIGHT

As Stein gives the same rap to Faith.

STEIN
...I promise you it'll be better for
everyone if you come clean.

BUFFY'S HOUSE - LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Buffy looks as though she could be wavering. But she just shakes her head "no."

BUFFY
I wish I could help you.

INT. FAITH'S MOTEL - NIGHT

FAITH

You mean, am I covering for someone?
Hardly. I'm not the "throw myself on
the sword" type.

She smiles. Stein nods, but he's not buying it. He heads for the door. Hands her his card.

STEIN

Well. Call me if you "remember" anything.

And he's gone. Faith leans against the door, letting down. She fights to catch her breath.

EXT. FAITH'S MOTEL - NIGHT

We see Stein exit the hotel. He gets in his car, drives off.

REVEAL

ANGEL. Standing alongside the motel, watching. His expression betraying both thoughtfulness and concern.

INT. WILLOW'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

Willow is working on her computer when a TAPPING on her FRENCH DOOR WINDOWS draws her attention. Is surprised to see BUFFY standing there. She goes to the doors - opens them.

BUFFY

Hey.

WILLOW

Hey...

They move into the room. Stand there awkwardly. Then-

BUFFY

I really need to talk to you.

WILLOW

Good. 'Cause I've been letting things fester. And I don't like it.
I want to be fester-free.

BUFFY

Yeah. Me too-

WILLOW

(anxious/interrupting)

I mean, don't get me wrong. I understand why you and Faith have been doing the bonding thing. You work together - you should get along.

BUFFY

It's more complicated than that.

WILLOW

But, see? It's that exact thing that's ticking me off. This whole "slayer's only" attitude. Since when wouldn't I understand? You talk to me about everything! It's like - all of the sudden I'm not cool enough for you because I can't kill things with my bare hands!

BUFFY takes this in. A beat. Then she BURSTS INTO TEARS. Willow reacts.

WILLOW

Oh! Oh, Buffy. Don't cry. I'm sorry. I was too hard on you. Sometimes I unleash... and I don't know my own strength. It's bad.
(off Buffy's continued tears)
I'm bad. I'm a bad, bad person.

Finally, Buffy finds her voice. Barely meeting Willow's eye, she manages-

BUFFY

Will. I'm in trouble.

TIME CUT TO:

INT. WILLOW'S BEDROOM - NIGHT

As BUFFY finishes her story.

BUFFY

...And Faith just acts like she doesn't care. The way she talks, she doesn't even think she made a mistake.

Willow takes it all in. Overwhelmed.

WILLOW

You think she's like, in shock?

BUFFY

I don't know. But this police guy knows more than he's saying. I think he knew I was lying.

A long beat as Willow considers Buffy's options. Then-

WILLOW

You have to go to Giles, Buffy.
He'll know what to do.

Buffy finally nods. Takes Willow's hand. And they both just sit there, scared.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

BUFFY enters. The lights are on - but the library appears empty.

BUFFY

Giles?

A beat. Then he enters from his office. He immediately reads her expression. Knows something is terribly amiss.

GILES
Buffy-

Buffy steels herself. Moves to him.

BUFFY
Giles, I don't know how to say this
so I'm just going to say it. I know
I've kept things from you before but-

She stops as she sees FAITH standing in the doorway to Giles' office. It's clear from her expression that she's heard every word Buffy said. Buffy immediately starts to back down.

BUFFY
But... I've been sort of blowing off
my classes- you know, in the sense of
not attending...

But Faith stops her.

FAITH
It's okay, Buffy. I told him.

Now Faith looks away - unable to meet Buffy's eye.

BUFFY
(surprised)
You told?

FAITH
Had to. He had to know what you did.

BUFFY
What I did?

A beat as this sinks in. Then Buffy turns to Giles, desperate.

BUFFY
No. Giles. That's not- That's not
what happened-

But Giles shuts her down, furious.

GILES
I don't want to hear it, Buffy.
You've been lying again. To me,
to everybody.

BUFFY
What? No!
(to Faith/aghast)
You can't be serious.

You're setting me up?

Faith, guilty, ignores her. Turns away.

GILES

Buffy. Go to my office.

(almost as sternly)

Faith, I'll speak to you in the morning.

BUFFY

Giles-

GILES

Now.

Buffy, stunned, does as she's told. Faith moves to Giles, anxious. Ready to bail.

FAITH

I'm... sorry.

Giles just nods. Faith leaves.

INT. GILES' OFFICE - NIGHT

Giles enters. Silent. Buffy immediately launches into her explanation.

BUFFY

Giles. I didn't do this. I swear.
I messed up bad, I admit it. But the
murder. It was-

GILES

Faith. I know.

(off Buffy's surprise)

She has many talents, Buffy.
Fortunately, lying isn't one of them.

Buffy takes this in. Tremendously relieved.

BUFFY

Oh. Oh God. I thought-

GILES

I'm sorry. I needed to see how far
she'd take the charade.

BUFFY

Try - far. Like all the way.

GILES

You should have come to me right off.

BUFFY

I know. I wanted to...

GILES

But Faith wouldn't hear of it.

BUFFY

It's not all her fault, Giles. We both thought it was a vamp. I only realized a second before-

GILES

Buffy, this is not the first time something like this has happened.

BUFFY

It's not?

GILES

A slayer is on the front lines of a nightly war, Buffy. It's tragic - but accidents have happened.

BUFFY

What do you do?

GILES

The council investigates, meters out punishment if punishment is due... I've no plan to involve them, however. That's the last thing Faith needs right now. She's unstable, Buffy. She seems utterly unable to accept responsibility. Shows no remorse.

BUFFY

Well, she's freaking, right? I mean, we'll just have to help her deal.

GILES

There is no help for her unless she can admit what happened.

BUFFY

I can talk to her...

GILES

Perhaps...

BUFFY

Or maybe I'm too close - one of the guys could...

GILES

We should meet. They may be seeing a different side of her.

BUFFY

Okay.

GILES

But nobody else is to hear, understood?

INT. LIBRARY - CONT. (NIGHT)

Where we see WESLEY, who entered a few moments before. He's overheard the whole thing.

BUFFY (O.C.)
Absolutely.

GILES (O.C.)
This is a very delicate stage. If we scare her off now we could lose her forever.

OFF WESLEY

His expression inscrutable.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

Act Three

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

It's late in the day and the cafeteria is totally empty. Buffy, Willow, Xander and Giles are in the midst of a "family meeting." Topic - what to do about Faith and the murder.

WILLOW
Maybe we should all talk
to Faith together.

BUFFY
Like the intervention thing you guys
did on me? As I recall, Xander and
I nearly came to blows.

XANDER
You nearly came to blows, Buffy. I
nearly came to loss of limbs.

GILES
No - Faith's too defensive to be
confronted in that manner. I think
the "one on one" approach is more
likely to reach her-

XANDER
I could be the one. On her one.
(quickly)
Let's rephrase. I mean, I think she
might listen to me. We kind of have
a "connection."

BUFFY
(dubious)
A connection. Like when you say "hi"

and she says "hi" and then she blows you off?

XANDER

Something like that. It's just worth a shot, that's all I'm saying.

GILES

I don't see it, Xander. Of all of us, you're arguably the person Faith has had the least contact with.

XANDER

Yeah - but we hung out a little. Recently. And she seemed, uh, responsive.

BUFFY

When did you hang out?

XANDER

She was fighting one of those apocalypse demon things and I helped her. Gave her a ride home.

BUFFY

And you guys talked?

XANDER

Not extensively.

BUFFY

Well then why do you- Oh.

GILES

Ohh.

A beat of surprise. Then they all look to Willow for her reaction. Amazingly, she appears quite calm.

WILLOW

I don't need to say "oh." I got it before. They slept together.

GILES

(uncomfortable)

Fine then, moving on-

BUFFY

Xander - I know you mean well. But I don't see Faith opening up to you. She doesn't take the guys she... "has a connection with" very seriously. They're kind of a big joke with her. No offense.

XANDER

(offended)

Oh, no. Why would I find that offensive?

GILES

Buffy's right, Xander. In this instance,
it would be best if you let Faith be.
(then)

However, if you want to be of
assistance, I could use some research
help. We have this business of the
Mayor and Mr. Trick to attend to.

BUFFY

Yeah. They were looking pretty cozy
the other night.

GILES

(to Willow)

Willow - can you access the Mayor's records?

WILLOW

What? Oh. Sure. I can try.

GILES

Good. It's clearly time we took a
harder look at him. He's up to something.

BUFFY

What about Faith?

GILES

I don't know. Give me a little time-

BUFFY

She needs help. Now.

(almost to herself)

I owe her that, at least.

INT. GIRL'S BATHROOM - DAY

We move past the stalls. Find a pair of feet behind one door.

INSIDE STALL

Where we see WILLOW, books on her lap, sitting on the closed lid of the toilet -
crying uncontrollably.

FADE TO:

INT. HOTEL ROOM - DAY

Wesley dials the phone in his comfortable but modest hotel room. Waits. Then-

WESLEY

Yes, hello. I need Mr. Travers,
Quentin Travers... Wesley Wyndam
Pryce calling. The code word?

Monkey... M-O-N-K-

(losing patience)

Just put him on, would you? This is
an emergency.

INT. FAITH'S MOTEL ROOM - NIGHT

Faith is watching TV, her face a complete blank - until a knock at the door rouses her from her trance-like state. She goes to the door. Opens it. Sees Xander.

FAITH
What?

XANDER
Hey.

She just looks at him, impassive.

XANDER
I just wanted to see how you are, actually.

FAITH
Sick of people asking me that,
for one thing.

Another awkward beat. Then-

XANDER
Can I come in? Just to talk. Promise.

FAITH
Like you could make something happen
if I didn't want it to.

XANDER
Hey, yeah. You got me there. Pretty
much, not gonna try to "take you"
under any circumstances.
(makes a muscle)
See? Feel that. Must be like a wet
noodle to you.

Finally, Faith steps aside to let him in.

FAITH
Five minutes.

XANDER
That's all I need.
(quickly)
For talking. In conversation - I can
be quick like a bunny.

Xander enters - looks around. Realizes he has no idea what he's going to say.

FAITH
Clock is running.

XANDER
I just - I heard about what happened,
and I thought maybe you needed a friend.

FAITH
So talk to Buffy. She's the one who

killed a guy.

Xander takes this in.

XANDER
Yeah. I heard that version-

FAITH
(hard)
Version?

XANDER
Either way, sounds to me like it was
an accident. That's the important part.

FAITH
No. The important part is - Buffy's
the "accidental" murderer.

XANDER
Faith, you may not think so, but I
sort of know you. I've seen you post-
battle. And I know, first hand,
you're... like a wild thing. You
don't know what you're doing half the time.

FAITH
You're living proof of that, huh?

XANDER
See - you can try to hurt me, but you
need somebody on your side right now.
What happened? It's not your fault.
And I'm willing to testify to that.
In court, if you need me to.

FAITH
You'd dig that, wouldn't you? To get
up in front of all your geek pals and
go on record about how I made you my
boy toy for a night-

XANDER
No. No, that's not it-

Now Faith's attitude shifts. Becomes sexual, predatory.

FAITH
That's what this is all about, isn't
it? You just came here because you
want another taste.

XANDER
No... I mean, it was nice, it was
great, well, it was kind of a blur,
but, okay, someday, sure, yay... But
not now, not like this.

FAITH

Then like how? Lights on or off?
Kinks or vanilla?

XANDER
(sincere)

Come on, Faith. I just wanted to
help. I thought we had a connection.

Faith laughs. Then SLAMS XANDER hard in the chest, shoving him down onto the
bed.

XANDER
Ow! Faith-

Faith STRADDLES him. Hands go roughly under his clothes.

FAITH
You want to feel our connection?

She's touching him. Arousing him despite himself.

FAITH
It's just skin.

Now she kisses him - wet and deep. Breaks away.

FAITH
I see. I want. I take.
(then/hard)
I forget.

XANDER
No. We- It's more than that-

Faith is grinding on him (thank God for Levis) - making him crazy.

FAITH
I could do anything to you right now.
And you want me to.

He moans, helpless in more ways than one.

CLOSE ON FAITH AND XANDER

As she nibbles - then BITES.

XANDER
Ahhh!

FAITH
I could make you scream.

WHOMP!

And her hands are around his neck. Squeezing. Xander grabs her arms, but can't
break her grasp. Faith still licks and kisses, clearly even more aroused than before.
Xander's eyes are WILD and DARTING. He struggles for breath.

FAITH
I could make you die.

She TIGHTENS HER GRIP, not kissing anymore. Xander is turning colors, passing out. She's taking this all the way. His arms claw at her, then drop.

Then there's a noise - a floor board creaks - and a HUMAN SHADOW falls over the bed. Faith SPINS, shocked.

FAITH'S POV

As she sees ANGEL SWING A BASEBALL BAT right into her FACE.

WHOMP!

BLACK

INT. MANSION - NIGHT

CLOSE ON A SET OF CHAINS BOLTED INTO THE WALL

We follow the chains down until we see FAITH in shackles. She's just regaining consciousness after the BLOW ANGEL dealt her. She looks across the room, sees-

ANGEL

Who sits, waiting for her to awaken.

FAITH
Finally decided to tie me up, huh?
Always knew you weren't really a one
slayer guy.

ANGEL
I'm sorry about the chains. It's not
that I don't trust you-
(then)
Actually. It is that I don't trust you.

FAITH
That thing with Xander? I know what
it looked like, but we were just playing-

ANGEL
And he forgot the safety word? That it?

FAITH
Safety words are for wusses.

Now Angel crouches near her. Looks at her hard.

ANGEL
I bet you're not big on trust games,
are you, Faith?

FAITH
(scoffing)

You gonna shrink me now, that it?

ANGEL
I just want to talk to you.

FAITH
That's what they all say. Then
it's - "just let me stay the night.
I won't try anything."

ANGEL
You wanna go the long way 'round, I
can do that.

He stands.

ANGEL
I'm not getting any older.

And he walks off. WE FOLLOW ANGEL AS HE MOVES INTO THE-
EXT. MANSION GARDEN - NIGHT

WHERE WE SEE BUFFY waiting, like a worried parent. Angel moves to her.

BUFFY
How's she doing?

ANGEL
Like talking to a wall. Only you get
more from a wall.

BUFFY
But you'll keep trying, right?

ANGEL
Sure. We're just getting started.

BUFFY
So what do I do?

ANGEL
(gently)
Right now there's nothing you can do.

Again Buffy can't hear it. Brightens at an idea.

BUFFY
This could go on for a while, right?
So I'll go to Faith's place and get
her some of her clothes and stuff.
That way she'll see we're on her
side - that we want her to be comfortable.

ANGEL
It's not a bad idea.

BUFFY

Great. I'll be back.

ANGEL

I just... Don't get your hopes up, Buffy. She may not want our help.

BUFFY

She does. I know it. She doesn't know how to say it.

ANGEL

She killed a man. That changes everything for her.

BUFFY

Giles said with counseling, she might not have to be locked up, or at least-

ANGEL

That's not what I mean. She's taken a life.

BUFFY

I know.

ANGEL

She's got a taste for it, now.

Off Buffy's reaction...

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

CLOSE ON A TV SCREEN

Where we see a SECURITY TAPE playing. The image, although grainy, clearly shows BUFFY AND FAITH sneaking into the Deputy Mayor's office.

ON THE MAYOR AND TRICK

Who watch. The Mayor is as upset as we have ever seen him.

MAYOR

Not one slayer, but two. Right here in the building...

TRICK

(blustering)

There was supposed to be a guard-

MAYOR

(cutting him off)

Shhhh. Here comes my favorite part - where the slayers see us in the hall together, thick as thieves.

(burning)

Oh, wait - we are thieves. And worse. And now they know it.

TRICK

They're not gonna be much of
a threat in jail-

MAYOR

We don't have near enough evidence to
put them away. No, you're going to
have to think of a more efficient
solution. And Mr. Trick... You'd
better think of it soon.

Trick gets the message.

INT. MANSION - NIGHT

CLOSE ON FAITH

Who wears a studied look of disinterest as we see ANGEL'S LEGS PASS IN FRONT
OF HER.

ANGEL (O.C.)

I know what's going on with you.

FAITH

Join the club. Everybody seems to
have a theory.

WIDEN TO INCLUDE

ANGEL, who stares her down. Intense.

ANGEL

But I know. What it's like, to take
a life. To feel a future, a world of
possibility - snuffed out by your own
hand. I know the power in it. The
exhilaration. It was like a drug for me.

FAITH

Yeah? Sounds like you need some
help. A professional, maybe.

ANGEL

A professional couldn't have helped
me. It stopped when I got my soul
back. My human heart.

FAITH

Goody for you.
(then)

If we're going to party, let's get on
with it. otherwise, could you let me
out of these things?

ANGEL

Faith. You have a choice. You've
tasted something few ever do. To
kill without remorse is to feel like a God-

Faith doesn't want to hear it. Starts to struggle.

FAITH
Right now - all I feel is a cramp in
my wrist. Let me go!

ANGEL
(ignoring)
But you're not a God. You're not
much more than a child. And this
path will ruin you. You can't
imagine the price for true evil.

A flicker. Like something he said hit the mark. But-

FAITH
Yeah? I hope evil takes Mastercard.

And she smiles. But Angel isn't biting (so to speak).

ANGEL
You and me, Faith, we're a lot alike.

FAITH
Well, you're kind of dead...

ANGEL
Like I said. A lot alike.

FAITH
Sorry, buddy. I'm alive and kicking.
In fact, I've got a bodily function
that needs attending to pretty quick here.

ANGEL
You're not alive. You're just
running. Afraid to feel. Afraid to
be touched...

Some part of her reacts to this truth. But she averts her eyes.

FAITH
Save it for Hallmark. I have to pee.

ANGEL
Time was, I thought humans existed
just to hurt each other.

Faith looks back to him now. Silent. But he's struck a cord.

ANGEL
But then I came here. And I found
out that there were other kinds of
people. People who genuinely wanted
to do right. They still make
mistakes. They fall down. But they
keep trying. Keep caring.

A long beat. Faith takes this in, clearly wanting to believe. Angel sees this. Moves to

her - speaks from the heart.

ANGEL

If you can trust us, Faith, it can
all change. You don't have to
disappear into the darkness.

She looks genuinely moved, confused. But the moment is lost as-

BOOM!

WESLEY bursts in through the main doors with a couple of henchmen. Wesley and one henchman hold Angel off with crosses - then the other THROWS A NET OVER HIM. Angel struggles, but he's completely tangled in the webbing.

ANGEL

No!

One of the henchman grabs the KEYS to the shackles from a peg on the wall. Tosses them to Wesley.

He moves to Faith. Angel sees this - cries out, infuriated.

ANGEL

Leave her! You can't help her!

ON FAITH AND WESLEY

As, ignoring Angel, Wesley takes one of her hands from the shackles and slaps a handcuff on it.

WESLEY

By the order of the Watcher's Council
of Britain...

He cuffs her other hand. Stands her up roughly, starts to walk her out.

CLOSE ON FAITH

WESLEY (O.C.)

I am exercising my authority and
removing you to England, where you
will accept the judgement of the
disciplinary committee.

As her EYES GO COMPLETELY DEAD. This is the last straw.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

Act Four

INT. WESLEY'S VAN - NIGHT

CLOSE ON FAITH

Who rides in the back of a van. Her hands are CUFFED in front of her - and the cuffs are chained to a METAL BRACKET embedded in the low wooden bench she sits on. She looks totally shut down. Impassive.

Across from her sit WESLEY and one of his HENCHMAN. The driver and passenger compartments are separated, but one can assume the other henchman is piloting the van.

WESLEY

I'm sorry for the extreme measures.
Unfortunately, this is a rather
extreme circumstance.

FAITH

Whatever.

WESLEY

(sincere)

Despite the... violence of your
apprehension, please believe - nobody
's rushing to judgement. The first
priority of both myself and the
council is to help you-

Now he notices that Faith has been subtly PULLING ON HER CHAINS - and the metal bracket is loosening.

WESLEY

Ah, now. None of that.
(to Henchman)

Tighten her restraints.
(to Faith)

Faith. There's no point in fighting
this, you know...

Faith, frustrated, looks away as the henchman moves near her with a WRENCH. He goes to tighten the bolt in the bench and, in a flash, Faith KICKS his legs out from under him. Then she positions HER FOOT ON THE HENCHMAN'S HEAD, which lies against the hard floor of the van - ready to CRUSH IT. It all happens so fast - a stunned Wesley barely has time to react.

FAITH

(to Wesley)

Have to disagree with you on that one.

The henchman groans, struggles. But Faith presses down more firmly on his temple.

FAITH

Now unlock me, or I'll pop this guy's
head like a grape.

Wesley hesitates. Eyes the WRENCH ON THE GROUND.

FAITH

Don't even think about it.

Wesley knows he's beat. Moves to her and uncuffs her. She massages her bruised wrists, glares at him.

WESLEY

You can't keep running, you know.

BOOM! She SLAMS him in the face. Wesley reels - but grabs the wrench from the floor. He moves to HIT Faith with it but SHE CATCHES HIS WRIST, bends it back until Wesley is wincing in pain and the wrench clatters back to the ground.

FAITH

Wrong again, Wes.

And she roughly head-butts him into unconsciousness. Bails out the back doors of the speeding van.

EXT. STREET - NIGHT

As we see Faith TUMBLE out of the moving van and onto the street. A beat as the van barrels off into the night. Then Faith gets to her feet, limps off.

INT. MANSION - NIGHT

Buffy returns with a small bag full of Faith's stuff. Sees the doors left standing open. She wanders in - sees that ANGEL has been left tied up in the net and Faith is gone. She rushes to him, starts to free him.

BUFFY

Angel. Are you all right?

ANGEL

I'm fine. They took Faith-

BUFFY

Who took Faith?

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

ANGEL

Now addresses Buffy, Giles, Willow and Xander. Xander is quiet and looking pretty shell-shocked - his neck covered in NASTY BRUISES.

ANGEL

The new watcher. He had a couple of guys helping him.

WILLOW

Then he figured it out. The murder-

GILES

Which means that Faith will soon be on her way to England to face the Watcher's Council.

BUFFY

And then what?

GILES

Most likely? They'll lock her up for

a good long while.

Buffy takes this in, worried.

BUFFY

So - we head them off at the airport.
Stop them.

Willow, looking tentative, pipes up again.

WILLOW

Can I- I'm just wondering. Why?

Everyone looks to her. She's definitely got their attention.

WILLOW

I'm not the most objective, I know.
I kinda have an issue with Faith
sharing my ... people.
(then)

But - she murdered someone and
accused Buffy. Then she hurt Xander.
I hate to say it, but maybe she
belongs behind bars.

Now Xander tries to add something - but his voice is completely shot. He falls silent, embarrassed and frustrated. Buffy is sympathetic, but resolute.

BUFFY

She's out of control, I know. But
Angel was getting somewhere with her.
She was opening up. If we can just
stop Wesley-

A VOICE STOPS HER.

WESLEY (O.C.)

That's no longer an issue.

They all turn to see WESLEY, who has come through the library doors, unnoticed. His face is black and blue - he looks terrible.

BUFFY

You let her get away?

WESLEY

"Let" wouldn't be the way I'd phrase
it, but - yes. She escaped.

ANGEL

Good work. First you terrorize her,
then you put her back on the streets-

WESLEY

That was hardly my plan. I was
trying to save the girl-

BUFFY

(hard)

Well, you didn't. You probably
destroyed her-

GILES
Buffy. That's enough.

Buffy backs off. Turns to the others.

BUFFY
We'd better find her before she does
any more damage.

Everybody rallies - with Buffy in command.

BUFFY
We should split up. I'll take the
docks - chances are, she's there.
Giles - you go to her place. Will -
you and Xander check her haunts.
(firmly)
Take weapons.

ANGEL
I'll try the airport.

WESLEY
What can I do? I want to help.

Buffy shoots him a withering glare.

BUFFY
Still got your plane ticket back to
the mother country?

And they head out, leaving Wesley to stew.

EXT. DOCK'S - NIGHT

Buffy walks along the docks, sees a cargo boat ahead - loading up. She approaches,
looking for any sign of Faith. Then a voice startles her-

FAITH (O.C.)
You don't give up, do you?

Buffy turns. There's Faith, looking a little worse for the wear. She's dressed for a
journey - carries a small bag.

BUFFY
Not on my friends.

Faith takes this in. Scoffs.

FAITH
Yeah. 'Cause you and me are such
solid buds.

BUFFY

Could be. It's not too late.

FAITH

For me to change and be like you, You mean? Little miss goody two shoes? Ain't gonna happen, B.

BUFFY

Faith. Nobody's asking you to be like me. But what you're doing - you can't keep going like this.

FAITH

It scares you, doesn't it?

BUFFY

Yeah, it scares me. You're hurting people. You're hurting yourself-

Faith takes this in. Smiles knowingly.

FAITH

But that's not it. That's not what bothers you so much. What bugs you is - you know I'm right. You know in your gut. We don't need the law. We are the law-

BUFFY

No.

Faith moves in closer. Sees that she's getting to her.

FAITH

Yes. You know exactly what I'm about. Because you have it in you, too.

BUFFY

No. You're sick, Faith-

FAITH

I've seen it, B. You've got the lust. And I'm not just talking about screwing vampires-

BUFFY

(warning)

Don't bring him into this-

FAITH

It was good, wasn't it? The sex? The danger? Bet a part of you even dug him when he went psycho-

BUFFY

No-

FAITH

See - you need me to tow the line

because you're afraid you'll go over it, aren't you, B? You can't handle watching me living my own way and having a blast - because it tempts you. You know it could be you-

That's it. Something snaps in Buffy. She rears back and POPS Faith a good one. Faith falls back, but she's smiling as she puts a hand to her bleeding mouth.

FAITH
(taunting)
There's my girl...

Buffy struggles to regain her composure. Puts her hands down.

BUFFY
No. I'm not going to do this.

FAITH
Why not? It feels good. Blood rising-

She'd go on but is stopped as an OVERHEAD CARGO CRATE LURCHES AND STARTS TO FALL FROM A CRANE. It's about to drop right on FAITH.

Acting on pure instinct, Buffy LUNGES for Faith - knocking Faith to safety and causing the crate to fall on her instead.

CLOSE ON BUFFY

Pinned under the crate and injured. She tries vainly to free herself.

ON FAITH

Who spins - sees that she and Buffy are SURROUNDED by TRICK and THREE MASSIVE BAD ASS vamps.

Trick and the three vamps ATTACK FAITH.

ON BUFFY

Who finally pulls herself out from under the crate. She's clearly hurt - but struggles to get to her feet.

ON FAITH

Who manages to get hold of VAMP #1 and VAMP #2 - and SLAM THEIR HEADS TOGETHER. They fall back, stunned, as VAMP #3 lunges for her.

ON BUFFY

As VAMP #2, still reeling from Faith's blow, practically FALLS INTO HER. Thinking quickly - Buffy grabs a pointed shard of wood from the shattered CARGO CRATE and DUSTS HIM.

Now Buffy turns - only to be confronted by TRICK.

ON FAITH

Who battles VAMP #3. He gets her in a headlock - moves in, teeth bared. But Faith manages to FLIP HIM off her. He goes OVER THE SIDE OF THE DOCK AND INTO THE WATER.

Faith recovers, only to encounter VAMP #1 again. They square off, start trading blows.

ON BUFFY AND TRICK

Who go at it. With Buffy hurt, Trick clearly has the upper hand. Buffy's getting pummeled.

Trick manages to DROP BUFFY with a brutal blow that leaves her dazed. Then he goes to the ground - lifts her into his arms and holds her against the crates.

ON FAITH

Who has just DUSTED VAMP #1. She turns and SEES Buffy about to meet her maker at the hands of Trick. Now Faith looks around - clearly has a chance for escape. She hesitates.

ON BUFFY AND TRICK

As Trick leans in to bite her.

TRICK
(licking his lips)
I hear once you've tasted a slayer?
You never wanna go back.

Buffy struggles, but is clearly lost. Trick's FANGS GRAZE HER NECK... But he suddenly STOPS. Eyes wide. A look of indignation crossing his features.

TRICK
Oh. No. No, this is no good at all-

And HE GOES TO DUST, revealing FAITH, who stands behind him - stake still hoisted in the air.

A long beat. Faith and Buffy just stare at each other - breathing hard. Then Faith silently extends a hand, helps Buffy off the crates.

FADE TO:

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

It's late. Buffy and Giles are doing a recap of the night's events.

GILES
Faith saved you?

BUFFY
(nods)
She could have left me there to die,
Giles. But she didn't.

Giles considers this - slightly encouraged.

GILES

And the fact that she opted to come back to town with you bodes well.

BUFFY

I really thought we were gonna lose her.

GILES

She still has a lot to face before she can put this behind her. But yes, she has a real chance. Because you didn't give up on her.

OFF BUFFY

Her expression lightened a tiny bit.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - NIGHT

The Mayor is gathering his coat and briefcase, getting ready to leave for the day.

He opens his office door to find FAITH standing there. Being mister invincible - he's more surprised than concerned.

FAITH

You sent your boy to kill me.

MAYOR

That's right. I did.

FAITH

He's dust.

MAYOR

I thought he might be. What with you standing here and all.

Now Faith moves a little closer - getting in the Mayor's personal space.

FAITH

Guess that means you have a job opening.

And she smiles. A beat as the Mayor gets her drift. Then he smiles... Steps out of the doorway, inviting her in.

Faith moves into the room. Takes a seat. And the MAYOR CLOSSES THE DOOR - BLOCKING OUR VIEW OF THE SCENE.

BLACK OUT.

THE END