

# Graduation Day Part Two

April Fools Day, 1999 (White)

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## Teaser

EXT. ROOFTOP - NIGHT

Buffy is still at the ledge, the truck with Faith's body long gone. Buffy stands, wearily. She looks at the knife in her hand. Letting it drop, she buries her face in her hands. Thinks.

A moment, then she climbs down a ladder over the side of the building. As she disappears, the camera arms away toward the window she and Faith crashed through. Looks up to the window as the Mayor arrives, looks out of it, too late to see anything of Buffy.

INT. FAITH'S APARTMENT - NIGHT

The Mayor turns as a VAMP HENCHMAN enters from the kitchen.

VAMP HENCHMAN  
There's nobody here, sir.

MAYOR  
No. No, she'd take the fight outside.  
My Faith doesn't like to be cooped up.

He crosses back to the middle of the room, brain still working furiously.

MAYOR (cont'd)  
We have to find them. Put everyone  
on it, do it now.

VAMP HENCHMAN  
But sir, the Ascension is --

MAYOR  
FIND THEM!

The vamp leaves. The Mayor looks around him, trying to maintain his composure.

MAYOR (cont'd)  
Faith's a good girl. She can handle  
anything they throw at her. She's  
gonna be all right.

The camera moves in at him as he repeats, mantra-like:

MAYOR (cont'd)  
She'll be all right. She'll be all right.

END OF TEASER

## Act One

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT (PREVIOUSLY SCENE A)

Giles is looking through books as Xander enters with two cups of coffee from a machine.

XANDER  
Any word from Buffy?

GILES  
Not yet.

XANDER  
Here's your coffee. Brewed from the  
finest Colombian lighter fluid.

GILES  
Thank you.

He gulps a portion down.

GILES (cont'd)  
Horrible.

He finishes it.

XANDER  
Aren't you supposed to be drinking  
tea, anyway?

GILES  
Tea is soothing. I wish to be tense.

XANDER  
Okay, but you're destroying a perfectly  
good cultural stereotype here...

GILES  
Look through the Kippler volumes.  
Any reference to the Demon Olvikan...  
powers, weaknesses, hat size... there's  
got to be something.

XANDER  
You still battin' zero? But, I mean,  
in cricket?

GILES  
So far. But don't give up.

Cordy enters, in a hell of a huff.

XANDER

Cordy. Wassup?

CORDELIA  
I demand an explanation.

XANDER  
For what?

CORDELIA  
Wesley!

XANDER  
Uh... inbreeding?

CORDELIA  
So very funny. Any minute now I'm  
sure to laugh.  
(to Giles)  
I just got off the phone with him.  
He could hardly speak, he was so upset.  
He said there'd been a fight, or  
something and-  
(to Xander)  
TAHAHA what a witty comment-  
(to Giles, never  
missing a beat)  
-he said he was leaving the country.

GILES  
Shall I assay remorse?

CORDELIA  
Just tell me what's going on.

There is honest pain in her entreaty. Giles replies with somewhat more gravity:

GILES  
Buffy has quit the Council. She'll not be  
working with Wesley from now on.

CORDELIA  
But he's her watcher!

GILES  
Buffy no longer needs a watcher.

CORDELIA  
Well, does he have to leave the country?  
I mean, you got fired and you hang  
around like a big loser, why can't he?

XANDER  
Cordelia!

She stops.

XANDER (cont'd)  
We're trying to stop a massacre here.

You wanna give us a hand?

Half a beat, then:

CORDELIA  
Sure.

As she moves to join them, she mutters:

CORDELIA (cont'd)  
That's just such a typical Buffy thing  
to do. She's always thinking of herself.

INT. ANGEL'S BEDROOM - NIGHT (PREVIOUSLY SCENE B)

Willow sits with Angel. He is sweating, breathing shallow. Hardly conscious. Willow dabs his forehead with a cloth. He shudders, opens his eyes. Looks at her with sudden clarity.

WILLOW  
You're awake.

ANGEL  
You've been watching over me?

She nods. He weakly takes her hand, tenderly kisses the palm of it. Willow's a little confused.

WILLOW  
Well, we've been taking turns...

ANGEL  
I thought I'd never... see you again.  
I can't leave you. I was wrong... I  
need you.

WILLOW  
Oh. You mean you need Buffy?

He smiles, warmly, the fever on him like a heated blanket. Suddenly it clears a bit, and he looks harder.

ANGEL  
Willow.

WILLOW  
Yes! Right. Good.

ANGEL  
Where is she?

WILLOW  
She'll be back soon...

He drifts back to sleep. A moment, and Willow exits.

INT. MANSION - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

She finds Oz by the door to the garden, looking out at the night sky. He meets her.

OZ  
Any change?

WILLOW  
He's delirious. He thought I was Buffy.

OZ  
You too, huh?

WILLOW  
I hope she comes soon. I mean, she'd  
better, if...

OZ  
Yeah.

WILLOW  
I feel so... I feel so guilty.

OZ  
Guilty?

WILLOW  
Well, things are just so terrible,  
everything's coming apart, and I'm  
just... in some ways it's the best night  
of my life.

OZ  
The best?

WILLOW  
The best.

He kisses her. It becomes passionate -- and Buffy enters from the front. Oz and Willow break guiltily apart, Willow blurting out:

WILLOW (cont'd)  
I just checked on him just now!  
We're watching.

But Buffy is too preoccupied to have noticed their indiscretion.

OZ  
Did you find Faith?

Buffy nods.

WILLOW  
You didn't... she's not here?

BUFFY  
(shakes her head)  
How is he?

OZ

Comes in and out... I think the pain  
is... less, now.

Buffy knows full well what that means. There is a moment of silence between the three of them.

BUFFY  
Why don't you guys... I'd like to be  
with him.

OZ  
Of course.

WILLOW  
We can keep looking for another cure.

BUFFY  
Thanks.

They exit. Slowly, Buffy closes the door behind them.

She turns from the door with an entirely different expression. One of purpose. She crosses toward the bedroom.

INT. ANGEL'S BEDROOM - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

Buffy enters, crosses to Angel. She sits on the bed and touches him. He awakens with a start, looks at her.

ANGEL  
Buffy... It's you?

BUFFY  
It's me.

He smiles, weakly.

ANGEL  
I didn't want to go without... seeing you...

BUFFY  
Angel, I can cure you.

ANGEL  
It's okay... I'm ready...

BUFFY  
Angel, listen to me. Sit up.

She hoists him to a sitting position, looks right in his eyes.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
You're gonna live. You have to live.

ANGEL  
What do I--

BUFFY

Drink.

He looks at her, almost comprehending. She pulls off her jacket, moves her tanktop gently aside.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
Drink me.

A moment more, and he jerks away from her.

ANGEL  
No.

BUFFY  
It's the only --

ANGEL  
Get away!

He gets up from the bed, stands swayingly before her.

BUFFY  
It'll save you.

ANGEL  
It'll kill you.

BUFFY  
Maybe not, if you don't take all...

ANGEL  
You can't ask me to do this.

BUFFY  
I won't let you die. I can't. The blood  
of the Slayer is the only cure.

ANGEL  
Faith...

BUFFY  
I tried to... I killed her.

ANGEL  
Then it's over.

BUFFY  
No.

She moves to him. He shoves her aside and exits.

INT. MANSION - CONTINUOUS - NIGHT

He makes it five steps before stumbling, sitting heavily on the coffee table, scattering items (including a metal water jug) to floor.

Buffy follows him out and jerks him roughly to his feet.

ANGEL  
It's over!

BUFFY  
It's never over. I won't let you die. Drink.

ANGEL  
Please...

She hits him in the face. He takes the hit, looks back at her, weak and uncomprehending. She hits him again. He looks at her, understanding flooding into his eyes. She hits him again.

He looks back at her, in vampface.

She tears her tanktop aside. Grabs the back of his head, and slams it down on her neck.

He drinks.

Long, shuddering gulps, as his hands tighten around her, a stream of blood trickling down her back as he pulls her hard to him, overbalances her, they fall --

-- in extreme slow motion, they hit the ground, Angel on top, face still burrowed in her flesh... Buffy winces, mouth opening in a silent cry, unable to catch her breath --

-- Buffy's hand flails, finds the water jug, squeezes it, bending the thick metal --

Her leg curls up around him -- then shoots out in a sudden spasm, slamming into the table and breaking it in half.

He can't stop. Her eyes are wide and wet, panic and ecstatic pain whirling through them, as his animal feeding brings her close to the dark edge -- and she finally does scream, a hoarse, primal call that fills the room --

He hears. He wrenches himself free, throwing himself backwards onto the floor, breathing intensely hard, blood on his lips. A few racking breaths and he morphs back to human. Still lying there, he feels the fever break in him. He is strong again.

Getting his bearings, he looks over at Buffy.

ANGEL (cont'd)  
Buffy?

She lies very still, blood pooled around an ugly wound on her neck. Her eyes open and unmoving. He moves to her, quiet panic filling him.

ANGEL (cont'd)  
Buffy?

She does not move.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

## Act Two



INT. HOSPITAL - NIGHT

Angel bursts into the emergency ward, Buffy in his arms.

ANGEL  
I need help!

A NURSE approaches him --

ANGEL (cont'd)  
She's lost a lot of blood.

NURSE  
What happened?

ANGEL  
She needs blood!

The nurse has led him to an operating table, he deposits Buffy onto it.

NURSE  
Try to stay calm.

DR. POWELL approaches as Angel talks, looks over Buffy.

ANGEL  
Something bit her. She needs a transfusion  
right now.

POWELL  
You found her?

ANGEL  
Yes.

POWELL  
Was she conscious?

ANGEL  
Yes.

POWELL  
Are you sure?

ANGEL  
I'm sure.

POWELL  
(to the nurse)  
I need a type and cross match. Get her  
on two lines of ringers lactate and watch  
for hypovolemic shock.

He pulls Angel aside, looks at him hard. Angel is practically tripping, unable to contain the energy of Buffy's blood in him.

POWELL (cont'd)  
Tell me what happened.

ANGEL  
Something bit her. I don't know what.

POWELL  
(to the nurse)  
I'll need a rabies shot treatment.  
(to Angel)  
Any allergies?

ANGEL  
None. Just help her!

He is holding onto a doorframe -- and he RIPS it off in his urgency. The doctor eyes him, warily.

POWELL  
You two been doing drugs?

He eyes the doctor.

POWELL (cont'd)  
You want her to live, you'll be straight  
with me.

ANGEL  
She's clean.

POWELL  
All right. Wait outside. Let us work.

ANGEL  
A phone.

POWELL  
Right out there.

Reluctantly, Angel steps outside, back into the waiting area he came through. He moves to the phone and begins dialing. The camera moves on past him, to another room, where we find a DOCTOR GOLD talking to someone, both of them standing by another bed. After a time it becomes clear who the other person is. The Mayor.

GOLD  
The bones will set, and the damage to her  
kidney is repairable, but... The head trauma  
is simply too severe. It's a wonder she's alive  
at all, with the blood loss. I'm sorry, sir,  
there's almost no chance she'll ever regain  
consciousness.

And the camera finally settles on the unmoving face of Faith, lying on the bed, tubes in her nose, arms, tethering her to a frail and mindless life.

The Mayor looks at her.

GOLD (cont'd)

We did everything possible...

The Mayor ignores him, and he steps quietly away. The Mayor reaches down and moves a strand of hair from Faith's face.

MAYOR  
It's your day...

ANGLE: DR. GOLD

As the nurse comes up to him.

NURSE  
We have another young girl, severe blood loss, Dr. Powell wants you to prep to assist on an antecubital cut down.

GOLD  
All right.

The Mayor hears this. Slowly he turns, heads to where they are keeping Buffy.

ANGLE: BUFFY

Unconscious, an IV hooked up to her arm.

The Mayor walks calmly up to her and clamps his hand over her mouth and nose. She starts to thrash weakly, but he doesn't move. Finally the nurse notices.

NURSE  
Oh my god! Sir, no!

She tries to pull him off. He won't budge.

NURSE (cont'd)  
Somebody call security!

Angel grabs the Mayor by the throat, pulls him away.

ANGEL  
Don't do that.

MAYOR  
I will. I'll do that and worse. Murderous little fiend, did you see what she did to my Faith?

ANGEL  
Hadn't made plans to weep over that one.

MAYOR  
Well, I'd get set for some weeping if I were you. I'd get set for a world of hurt. Misery loves company, young man, and I'll be looking to share mine with you and your whore.

Angel throws him back -- through the wall (thin drywall to the next room, not the

outer wall). (And if that's not doable, then into or over something. The point is, Angel's unnaturally strong, so it's probably a ratchet gag.)

Everyone backs off, appalled. The Mayor gets up and dusts himself off. He takes a few steps back towards Angel, the old smile returning to his face.

MAYOR (cont'd)  
Well. Looks like someone's been  
eating his spinach.

A security guard arrives on the scene. Stops, unsure what to do.

MAYOR (cont'd)  
Okay, folks. Show's not over but there  
will be a short intermission.  
(to Angel)  
Don't wanna miss the second act.  
All kinds of excitement.

ANGEL  
I'll be there.

They eyeball each other a moment. The Mayor exits, Angel's eyes never leaving him.

INT. WAITING AREA - A BIT LATER - NIGHT

Angel waits near the door. Giles, Willow, Xander and Oz rush in.

GILES  
How is she?

ANGEL  
She's fine. She's sleeping.

OZ  
You seem all right too.

ANGEL  
Yeah.

XANDER  
So what happened?

WILLOW  
We left her, she was fine? Did Faith --

ANGEL  
Faith's out of the picture. Buffy put her in a coma.

XANDER  
And...

Xander doesn't like what he's starting to get. None of them does.

ANGEL  
Buffy cured me... made me...

GILES  
You fed off her.

He's ashamed, but he's not going to try and weasel out of it.

ANGEL  
Yes.

GILES  
How much?

ANGEL  
She's gonna be fine.

XANDER  
Well, it's just good to know that when  
the chips are down and things look grim,  
you'll feed off the girl who loves you to  
save your own ass.

No one has any kind of reply, least of all Angel.

GILES  
You'd best go, Angel. We can watch  
over her.

ANGEL  
I don't want to --

GILES  
The sun'll be up soon.

Angel nods. Goes.

XANDER  
Gosh I'm gonna miss him when he  
leaves town.

GILES  
Let's see how Buffy's doing.

INT. FAITH'S APARTMENT - DAY

Buffy is on her feet, in her street clothes. Entering the room to find it empty.

The window is still broken. Clothes and weapons are laid out on the couch - there are packing boxes everywhere. Moving day. A cat jumps onto the bed. Buffy looks at it.

BUFFY  
Who's gonna look after him?

Faith crosses behind Buffy, replies:

FAITH  
It's a she. And aren't these things supposed  
to take care of themselves?

BUFFY  
A higher power, guiding us?

FAITH  
I'm pretty sure that's not what I meant.

She turns to the window.

BUFFY  
There's something I'm supposed to  
be doing.

FAITH  
Oh yeah. Miles to go. Little Miss Muffet  
counting down from seven three oh.

BUFFY  
Oh, great. Riddles.

FAITH  
Sorry. It's my head. Lotta new stuff.

She looks out the window. In the foreground, the cat on the bed dissolves to Faith herself lying unconscious then back. (these are simple split screen dissolves, not expensive CGI.)

FAITH (cont'd)  
They're never gonna fix this, are they?

BUFFY  
What about you?

Faith turns back, indicates her face.

FAITH  
Scar tissue. It fades, it all fades.

Buffy looks down at her hand. For a moment, Faith's knife is in her palm, then gone.

Faith moves toward Buffy.

FAITH (cont'd)  
You wanna know the deal? Human  
weakness. It never goes away. Even his.

BUFFY  
Is this your mind or mine?

They both smile at that -- Faith even laughs a little.

FAITH  
Beats me.  
(a beat)  
Gettin' towards that time.

Buffy looks around her, at the boxes.

BUFFY

How are you gonna fit all this stuff?

FAITH  
Not gonna. It's yours.

BUFFY  
I can't use all this.

Faith stands before her, looks at her with quiet regard.

FAITH  
Just take what you need.

Buffy nods.

FAITH (cont'd)  
You ready?

She puts her hand to Buffy's cheek.

INT. HOSPITAL - MORNING (DAY)

Buffy wakes, suddenly.

She looks around her -- she is alone for the moment. She gets out of bed.

In the next section is Faith, also unattended. Buffy goes over to her bed, looks down at her.

After a moment, she leans down and kisses Faith's forehead lightly.

INT. THE WAITING AREA - MOMENTS LATER (DAY)

The gang, minus Angel, all wait -- and all start up as Buffy enters.

WILLOW  
Buffy!

XANDER  
Are you okay?

GILES  
How do you feel?

BUFFY  
Where's Angel?

OZ  
He had to leave. Got kind of sunny.

BUFFY  
Get him. Get everyone.

XANDER  
What exactly is up?

GILES  
Buffy, are you sure you're all right?

BUFFY  
(nods)  
I'm ready.

WILLOW  
Ready for what?

She takes just the slightest beat before answering, her voice calm.

BUFFY  
War.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

## Act Three

INT. FOUNTAIN QUAD - MORNING (DAY)

The camera looks down at the lower level, at the bicycle racks, then arms over the stairs to see the quad. It's empty, the chairs and decorations awaiting the ceremony silently.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY (PREVIOUSLY SCENE D)

Buffy is addressing the gang (Xander, Giles, Willow, Angel, Cordy and Oz). She is weak, but in control. The gang is a tad non plussed, staring at the girl.

BUFFY  
That's the basic plan. So. Am I crazy?

WILLOW  
Well, "crazy's" a strong word --

GILES  
Let's not rule it out though.

BUFFY  
(to Giles)  
You don't think it can be done.

GILES  
I didn't say that. I might, but I haven't yet.

CORDELIA  
Okay, well, I personally don't think it's possible to come up with a crazier plan.

OZ  
We attack the Mayor with hummus.

A beat.

CORDELIA  
I stand corrected.



OZ

Just keeping things in perspective.

CORDELIA

Thank you. My point, however, is crazy or not, it's pretty much the only plan. Besides, it's Buffy's and she's slay-gal, you know. Miss Like-to-Fight, so...

XANDER

I think there was a 'yea' vote buried in there somewhere.

BUFFY

Well, I need you all on board. Especially you, Xander. You're kind of the key to this figure here.

XANDER

Key? Me? Okay, pride... humility... and here's the mind numbing fear. What do I have to do?

BUFFY

Do you still remember any of your military training from when you became soldier guy?

XANDER

Ooh! Rocket launcher?

BUFFY

Rocket launcher's not gonna get it done. Took a volcano to kill one of these things last time.

GILES

Buffy, all of this is dependant on your being able to control the Mayor. How do you plan to do that?

BUFFY

Faith told me I'd have to play on his human weakness. That's the way I'm gonna get to him.

WILLOW

Faith told you? Was that before or after you put her in a coma?

BUFFY

After.

WILLOW

Oh.

GILES

The Mayor's weakness.

BUFFY  
Right.

GILES  
Which is what?

BUFFY  
(defensively)  
You know, I do all his planning, I'm in charge even though I'm not feeling my best, and now I'm supposed to come up with every little detail...

GILES  
Well, let us think.

OZ  
Angel, you hung out with him the most.  
Is he afraid of something?

ANGEL  
Well, he's not crazy about germs --

CORDELIA  
Of course! That's it! We attack him with germs!

BUFFY  
Great. We'll get him cornered and then you sneeze on him.

CORDELIA  
No no, we get a canister of ebola virus, and and, or it doesn't have to be real, we could just have a box that says "ebola" on it, and we could chase him... with the box...

Her voice gets littler and littler as she realizes the suckiness of her plan.

XANDER  
Okay, I'm starting to lean towards the hummus offensive.

OZ  
He'll never see it coming...

ANGEL  
Faith.

BUFFY  
Faith. You think?

ANGEL  
At the hospital, he was grieving.  
Seriously crazed, and not just in a homicidal, I-wanna-be-a-demon way.  
She's his weak link.

BUFFY

(wheels turning)  
Okay. Good. I can work that.

WESLEY  
You haven't an enormous amount of time.

He has entered unnoticed.

XANDER  
Hey, it's Mister States-the-Obvious!

BUFFY  
The Council isn't welcome here. I got  
no time for orders. I need someone to  
scream like a woman, I'll give you a call.

WESLEY  
I'm not here for the Council. Just tell  
me how I can help.

There is a moment, as everyone takes this in.

CORDELIA  
Oh, you are SO classy. Isn't he  
just so classy?

BUFFY  
(pleased)  
It's a start.

WESLEY  
So there is something I can do? Besides  
scream like a woman?

BUFFY  
There's plenty. Chores for everyone.  
Okay, this is how it's going to lay out...

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

They Mayor is in the middle of his own prep. SIX VAMPIRES are in the room, all at  
attention. We cut to the Mayor in mid-sentence (in classic Greenwaltian fashion)

MAYOR  
This is how it's going to lay out. The  
transformation should begin at exactly  
three-twenty-eight. I'll just be finishing  
my speech -- you know it's too bad you  
fellas are gonna have to miss that.  
'Cause I think it speaks to every one  
of us... I mean, heck - I've been working  
on it for a hundred years, it better be good.  
Well. They'll try to run, of course, and that's  
when I need you boys in flanking position.

VAMP  
Sir, the sun.

MAYOR

Not a problem.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY (PREVIOUSLY SCENE F)

Everyone has divided into sections, talking about their plans. Wesley is reading to Buffy, Xander and Angel:

WESLEY

"Darkness will follow, the day become night..."

BUFFY

An eclipse.

WESLEY

Standard procedure during an Ascension.

ANGEL

That puts me back in the game.

BUFFY

Yes it does. I'll need you and Xander working in sync here. Can you guys handle that?

XANDER

I'm still Key Guy, right?

BUFFY

Right.

XANDER

Great, then Angel -- in his non-Key Guy capacity -- can work with me.

ANGEL

What fun.

XANDER

Hey, Key Guy's talking...

BUFFY

Oh, good, let's bicker! That'll work great.  
(off their shame)  
You're like little old ladies.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

He is pointing to a map of the school

MAYOR

You'll come up through the sewers here. The important thing is containment. I'll need to feed, it's crucial in the first few minutes, to sustain the change. What does that mean? No snacking! I see blood on your lips and it's a visit to the woodshed for your boys. Kill. Don't feed.

INT. LIBRARY - DAY (PREVIOUSLY SCENE G)

Buffy approaches Oz and Willow. (Giles is discussing something with Cordy in the background. He points to the shelves of books.)

BUFFY  
How are we on volcano detail?

OZ  
I think we can work it.

WILLOW  
Fun with chemistry.

Giles joins them, Cordy peeling off.

BUFFY  
Xander should be able to locate the materials.

OZ  
Who's gonna stoke it up?

Buffy turns to Giles.

BUFFY  
Feel up to it?

GILES  
I suppose it should be I. It's fitting, in  
a grotesque fashion.

BUFFY  
Okay.  
(to the kids)  
You guys start reaching out.  
(to Giles)  
Giles, weapons weapons weapons.

GILES  
What about you?

BUFFY  
There's something I need to get.

INT. MAYOR'S OFFICE - DAY

His men are leaving.

MAYOR  
Remember, fast and brutal. Gonna be  
a whole new world come nightfall,  
don't wanna weaken now. And boys --

The last ones stop, look back.

MAYOR (cont'd)  
Let's watch the swearing.

INT. HALLWAY/CLASSROOM - DAY (PREVIOUSLY SCENE E)

It's between classes. Harmony is in the classroom chatting with some friends. Xander enters from the hallway, pulls Harmony aside.

XANDER  
Harmony. Listen, I need to talk to  
you for a sec.

HARMONY  
You mean, in front of other people?

Exasperated he pulls her out of the class.

INT. CAFETERIA - DAY

Willow approaches Percy , who is trying on his robe for a friend.

PERCY  
I'm gonna look stupid in this.

WILLOW  
Percy --

PERCY  
Do I look stupid in this? Be honest.

WILLOW  
You look great. You got a sec?

INT. LIBRARY - DAY (PREVIOUSLY SCENE C)

Cordelia and Wesley are taking books from the shelves and loading them into boxes. They are both silent for a while. Finally Wesley begins.

WESLEY  
Cordelia...

CORDELIA  
Yes?

WESLEY  
You know that... when this is over...

CORDELIA  
Yes?

WESLEY  
Well, should we prevail, I... I'll be  
returning back to England.

CORDELIA  
(crest fallen)  
I know.

WESLEY  
With Buffy no longer working for the  
Council, there's really no place for me here.

CORDELIA  
I guess not.

They are inching imperceptibly closer to each other.

WESLEY  
No reason to stay...

CORDELIA  
No...

WESLEY  
No cause to hope... That I might be needed...

CORDELIA  
Needed...

WESLEY  
Or wanted...

CORDELIA  
Wanted...

Unable to contain themselves any longer, they come together in a passionate embrace, lips meeting...

...and lips not really getting along. It's a sad excuse for a kiss, and gives our lovers pause. They try again. Mouths incompatible much effort but no reward.

They stop, let go of each other. Puzzled and uncomfortable. A beat.

CORDELIA (cont'd)  
Okay, so good luck in England.

WESLEY  
Yes, thanks. I'll drop a line sometime.

CORDELIA  
That'd be neat.

They resume packing books.

INT./EXT. OZ' VAN - DAY

Oz and Willow are hoisting a sack of fertilizer, handing it over to JONATHAN and LARRY. They put it in a shopping cart with a bunch of others.

OZ  
Put these with the others. And don't touch anything.

LARRY  
We got it.

JONATHAN  
What do we do then?

OZ

Nothing.

WILLOW  
Just relax, have a good time.

JONATHAN  
(nervously)  
Uh, okay...

Larry looks around conspiratorially.

LARRY  
It's clear. Let's move.

The two of them drive the cart off, closing the doors on Oz and Willow.

WILLOW  
I guess that's it. Won't be long now.

OZ  
Nervous?

WILLOW  
Only in a terrified way.

He comes close to her.

OZ  
We'll make it through this.

WILLOW  
Are you sure?

OZ  
I should pretty sure, don't I?

WILLOW  
Yeah...

OZ  
Then I must be sure.

WILLOW  
Was that just a comforting way of not  
answering the question?

He stops her, hand to her face. They kiss. It becomes passionate.

WILLOW (cont'd)  
(amidst kisses)  
How long till graduation?

OZ  
Little while...

INT. GILES' OFFICE - DAY (PREVIOUSLY SCENE H)

Angel is there, stocking weapons, when Buffy arrives. She carries something



wrapped in an old rag.

ANGEL  
You get what you needed?

BUFFY  
I did.

She looks over the weapons, brushing past him.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
We're gonna need more than this.

ANGEL  
Giles is on it.

He reaches out for her, touches her neck near the bandage.

ANGEL (cont'd)  
How are you?

BUFFY  
I heal fast. Like you. Have you and  
Xander worked out your timing?

ANGEL  
I'm not saying goodbye.

She stops, drops the businesslike demeanor.

ANGEL (cont'd)  
We make it through this, I'm just  
gonna go.  
(beat)  
Do you understand?

A moment, and she nods.

ANGEL (cont'd)  
There's just too much to --

She holds up her hand. No more. He nods, turns to collect some weapons. She watches him, keeps watching as he exits the office. Finally she turns to the bundle she brought in. Unwraps it.

It's Faith's knife. Still dark with her blood.

EXT. FOUNTAIN QUAD - DAY

The ceremony is underway. The students file into their seats as the (unseen) band plays some processional.

Buffy is the last into her seat, in front near the middle. Willow's seat is next to hers, and conspicuously empty.

The music stops, and Snyder, who sits on the podium with the Mayor and a few teachers, steps up to the microphone.

SNYDER

Congratulations to the class of 1999.  
You've all proved more or less adequate.  
This is a time for celebration, so sit  
still and be quiet.  
(to one student)  
Spit out that gum.  
(to the class)

Please welcome our distinguished guest  
speaker, Sunnydale's own Mayor, Richard Wilkins III.  
(to the same student)  
I saw that gesture. You see me after  
graduation.

Snyder sits by the diplomas as the Mayor takes the podium.

ANGLE: BUFFY

Eyes him from her seat. Waiting.

Willow scurries into her seat next to Buffy (as Oz slips into his further back). Buffy  
looks at Will, whose hair is luxuriantly mussed.

WILLOW

Am I late? Did we fight?

Buffy shakes her head, looks back to the stage.

The Mayor pulls out some 3x5 cards, looks over them.

MAYOR

Well. What a day this is. Special day.  
Today is our centennial, the one hundredth  
anniversary of the founding of Sunnydale.  
And I know what that means to all you  
kids. Not a darn thing. 'Cause today  
something much more important happens.  
Today you all graduate from high school.  
Today all the pain and the work and the  
excitement is finally over, and what's  
a hundred years of history compared  
to that?

Something horrible dawns on Buffy.

BUFFY

My god... he's gonna do the whole speech.

WILLOW

Oh, man... just ascend, already!

BUFFY

Evil.

MAYOR

But you know what, kids? Maybe the  
two things are connected. Maybe you  
have a place in Sunnydale's history,  
whether you like it or not. It's been a

long road getting here, for you, for  
Sunnydale... there's been achievement,  
joy, good times... and there's been grief.  
There's been loss. Some people who  
should be here today, aren't.

He's looking right at Buffy. She's looking right back.

MAYOR (cont'd)

But we are. Journey's end. And what  
is a journey? Is it just distance traveled?  
Time spent? No. It's what happens on  
the way, it's the things that shape you.  
At the end of the journey, you're not the  
same. Today is about change. Graduation  
doesn't just mean your circumstances change,  
it means you do. You ascend to a higher  
level. Nothing will ever be the same. Nothing.

And as he speaks this last, the sun disappears in an eclipse -- the Mayor, Buffy and  
all the students looking up as night falls suddenly upon them. This causes it to be:

EXT. FOUNTAIN QUAD - NIGHT (YET SOMEHOW CONTINUOUS)

The Mayor feels the change start. It's painful, but he struggles to continue:

MAYOR

So as we look back on...

There is a murmur along the students as he goes on...

MAYOR (cont'd)

...on the events that have brought us  
to this day... we...

PUSH IN on Buffy, waiting for it...

BUFFY

Come on...

MAYOR

We must all... AHH. It has begun.  
My destiny. Little sooner than I expected --  
(re: 3x5's)  
--I had a whole section about civic  
pride, but...

He looks up, death in his eyes.

MAYOR (cont'd)

I guess we'll just get to the big finish.

And he transforms, suddenly, horribly -- his clothes ripping off him as he grows too  
big for them, too big by far, the camera rushing back in awe to look up at this, this  
new creation, this unholy big-ass snake thing.

BLACK OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

# Act Four

EXT. FOUNTAIN QUAD - NIGHT

The students clamor to their feet, looking up in awe and terror.

Snyder looks up as well, reason slipping away from him.

SNYDER  
This is simply unacceptable.

ANGLE: THE PARENTS

Turn tail and run.

ANGLE: THE LOWER AREA

As twenty vamps form a line, looking up the steps at the hapless class.

ANGLE: THE MAYOR

ROARS in triumph.

ANGLE: BUFFY

Looks up at the Mayor -- and then calls out:

BUFFY  
NOW!

As one, the class drops their robes (hats already off). Every single class member has weapons underneath.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
Flame units!

As either end of the front row are guys -- one of them being Larry -- with flame throwers. They fire up at the Mayor, causing him to recoil.

Buffy turns to Xander, nods.

Xander stands on the low wall by his chair, calls out:

XANDER  
First wave!

Other students in the front row have harpoon guns, spears, crossbows -- they aim at the Mayor --

The Mayor swoops down, avoiding the flames, and grabs a kid, makes a meal of him.

XANDER (cont'd)  
Fire!

Assorted projectiles fire at the Mayor, some of them striking true.

OZ  
Xander!

He is watching the line of vamps, as a couple of students try to flee down the stairs and get eaten for their troubles.

XANDER  
Bowmen!

ANGLE: A LIGHTER

is held to the end of an arrow, cloth wrapped round the tip.

And a row of ten arrows is raised, tips all aflame.

XANDER (cont'd)  
Fire!

A volley is fired.

A couple of vamps take hits -- one in the arm, one right in the chest. Others stumble back, shield themselves in confusion.

Another row of flaming arrows is raised.

Amidst the second volley, the vamps turn tail.

Angel is behind them. Flanked by Wesley, Percy, and six other heavy looking fellows.

The vampires stop, trapped.

Angel smiles... and charges.

He hits them -- and easily engages a few, while his companions do their best with stakes.

ANGLE: LARRY

His flame thrower putters out.

LARRY  
Dammit!

He drops it and picks up a fallen spear -- but the Mayor's tail lashes out and slams into him, sends him flying. His neck cracks sickeningly as he hits the ground.

BUFFY  
Fall back!

ANGLE: SNYDER

Is looking up at the Mayor -- and at the kids -- becoming increasingly irritated.

SNYDER  
This is not orderly. This is not disciplined.

(to the Mayor)  
You're on MY campus, buddy, and  
when I saw I want quiet--

The Mayor eats him.

BUFFY  
(to the students)  
Fall back! Get back!  
(to Willow)  
Go.

WILLOW  
Good luck.

BUFFY  
Xander! Take 'em down.

XANDER  
Everyone! Hand to hand!

The class drop their bows and harpoons, pulling out stakes, axes, bats and the like.

XANDER (cont'd)  
Ready!

ANGLE: THE LOWER LEVEL

Angel is just kicking ass. The vamps are torn -- finally one calls out:

VAMP  
Get the kids!

And heads up the steps. The others follow -- and are met by a wave of students, the entire graduating class pouring down on them, yelling, weapons in hand, they meet on the stairs and fuggin Braveheart ensues.

Amidst the carnage, we see our kids: Willow, Oz, Cordelia, all engaging. Jonathan also managing to hold his own.

We see Harmony as a vamp pulls her aside and bites the shit out of her.

We see Wesley getting knocked on his ass (after some decent fighting on his part) and landing painfully.

Xander socks a vamp down the stairs, calling out:

XANDER  
Right flank! Close on them! Close!  
(to students, peeved)  
Jason, Doug, you guys are the right flank!

He goes to help them.

ANGLE: THE MAYOR

Swallows the last of Snyder and hears:

BUFFY  
Hey!

He (it) looks around. Buffy is standing alone, the rest of the kids still booking down into the field of play below.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
Remember this?

She holds Faith's bloody knife up.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
I took it from Faith and I stuck it in  
her gut. Slid in like she was butter.

The Mayor reacts to this. He does remember.

BUFFY (cont'd)  
You wanna take it back from me, Dick?

The Mayor lunges at her --

--and she runs, runs through the arches, down the corridor, away from the students, the camera chasing her, most snake like.

INT. LOUNGE/HALLS - NIGHT

Buffy runs in -- and a moment later the Mayor crashes through the window, shooting down the hall after her. She motors toward the library, he follow and gets stuck in the door way. Smashes his head into it and breaks it off the walls, bringing it with him as he follows her.

She runs into the library --

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

--and through, jumping to the second level (the camera holding her in close-up the whole time, never really seeing the room) and out the back door.

INT. STACKS - NIGHT

She runs through --

EXT. SCHOOL - NIGHT

--and BURSTS through a window, landing in a roll at Giles' feet.

INT. HALL - NIGHT

The Mayor snakes in after her, bursting through the library doors --

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

and into the room, stopping to see:

POV: THE ROOM

Has no books in it. It does, however, have many big metal drums, many bags of

fertilizer, many sticks of dynamite strapped to the railings, and many wires leading out the back of the room.

EXT. SCHOOL - NIGHT

Giles hits the plunger.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Room go boom.

EXT. LIBRARY ROOFTOP - NIGHT

As does the skylight --

EXT. FOUNTAIN QUAD - NIGHT

As does, piece by piece, the whole school, ending with:

EXT. FRONT OF SCHOOL - NIGHT

The front doors and windows blast right the hell out, fire and debris in their wake.

EXT. SCHOOL - NIGHT

Giles and Buffy step back, light and wind playing on their faces.

EXT. LOWER LEVEL - NIGHT

Clearly the victors in the vampire fight, our gang also watch the fireworks. They look at each other, impressed.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. FRONT OF SCHOOL - NIGHT (LATER)

Fire trucks and ambulances have arrived, the smoking ruin of the school just hidden by them. People are helping the wounded into ambulances, milling about in postwar shock, leaving, talking, hugging, crying (probably not crying, they're extras, but we can always hope).

ANGLE: WESLEY is in a gurney, being loaded into an ambulance.

WESLEY

If I could just get something for the  
pain, it's rather a lot of pain... an  
aspirin.. anyone... if I could just be  
knocked unconscious...

He is loaded up and roundly ignored.

We see Buffy and Xander talking.

XANDER

We got off pretty cheap, considering.

BUFFY



Seems like we did.

Her eyes are elsewhere, searching. Xander understands.

XANDER

He made it through the fight. Guess  
maybe he took off after.

She nods. They part ways. Buffy running into Giles.

GILES

How are you?

BUFFY

Tired.

GILES

I'd imagine so. Quite a couple of days.

BUFFY

My brain hasn't processed everything yet.  
It's not really functioning at the higher  
levels; it's pretty much, "fire bad, tree  
pretty". Anything more complex...

GILES

Understandable. Well, when it starts  
working again, congratulate it on a  
good campaign. You did very well.

BUFFY

Thanks.

GILES

(reaching into his pocket)

I uh, I ferreted this out of the wreckage  
for you. You may not have any interest, but...

It's her diploma. He hands it to her.

GILES (cont'd)

I'd say you've earned it.

She takes it gratefully. He looks out at the wreckage of the school (need I say we  
don't see it?)

GILES (cont'd)

There is a certain dramatic irony in  
the way things turned out. A synchronicity  
that almost borders on predestination,  
one might say.

BUFFY

Fire bad. Tree pretty.

GILES

Right. Sorry. I'd best check on Wesley,  
see if he's still whimpering.

He goes. Buffy looks at her diploma, looks around her.

She feels him before she sees him. Turns.

Angel stands some twenty yards away, looking at her. People coming and going in between.

They both stop. The noise fades away. They stare at each other.

Angel turns and walks away.

Buffy stands and watches him. After a moment, she goes in the opposite direction.

EXT. SAME (FRONT OF SCHOOL) - A BIT LATER

The gang (Oz, Willow, Xander, Cordelia) is together by the curb. Buffy joins them.

CORDELIA

Well, that was the most fun you can  
have without having any fun.

WILLOW

What about the part where we kicked  
demon ass? I didn't hate that.

XANDER

Guys, we blew up the school! It's the  
best day ever!

WILLOW

Why do demons even come here anymore?  
Don't they know how bad we are?

BUFFY

I think we've done pretty much everything  
we can. You guys wanna take off?

CORDELIA

I'm for it.

WILLOW

(to Buffy)  
You okay?

Buffy considers the question.

BUFFY

Yeah. I'm okay. I just... I could use a  
little sleep.

WILLOW

Yeah.

BUFFY

If somebody could just wake me up  
when it's time to go to college, that'd  
be great.

OZ  
Guys. Take a moment to deal with this.  
We survived.

BUFFY  
It was a hell of a battle.

OZ  
Not that battle. High school.

They all think about it. It IS actually kind of cool.

OZ (cont'd)  
We're taking a moment.  
(beat)  
And we're done.

They head off. As they recede in the distance, they continue:

XANDER  
You know what the best part of high  
school was?

BUFFY  
When we blew it up?

XANDER  
Yeah! That ruled. 'Cause you know the  
thing that made it so special...

BUFFY  
Was that the school blew up?

XANDER  
Exactly!

BUFFY  
I begin to find you troubling.

XANDER  
Oh, come on, you know you're all  
thinking it.

BUFFY  
Well...

And then, overlapping:

WILLOW  
I was.

CORDELIA  
Pretty much.

OZ  
Uh huh.

BUFFY

Yeah.

Their chatter dies away as they grow smaller in the frame, the camera finally tilting down to find a partially burnt yearbook lying on the ground

Sunnydale, '99

The future is ours.

BLACK OUT.

END OF SEASON