



Once More, With Feeling

Written by
Joss Whedon

Directed by
Joss Whedon

Original Songs, Music & Lyrics by
Joss Whedon

Episode 6.06

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CAST

Buffy Anne Summers
Xander Harris
Willow Rosenberg
Dawn Summers
Spike
Anya Jenkins
Tara Maclay
Rupert Giles
Sweet
Mustard Man
Parking Ticket Woman
Handsome Young Man
Demon/Henchman
Henchman
Henchman
Henchman
College Guy #1
College Guy #2

SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR
NICHOLAS BRENDON
ALYSON HANNIGAN
MICHELLE TRACHTENBERG
JAMES MARSTERS
EMMA CAULFIELD
AMBER BENSON
ANTHONY STEWART HEAD
HINTON BATTLE
DAVID FURY
MARTI NOXON
DANIEL WEAVER
ZACHARY WOODLEE
SCOT ZELLER
TIMOTHY ANDERSON
ALEX ESTRONEL
MATT SIMS
HUNTER COCHRAN

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Once More, With Feeling

ACT I

Note: All sung lyrics are indicated by the Δ symbol.

1 INT. SUMMERS HOME— BUFFY'S ROOM— DAY 1

BUFFY's alarm clock rings. It's 7:00 AM. She picks up, looks at it, then puts it back down.

CUT TO:

2 INT. SUMMERS HOME— BUFFY'S ROOM— DAY 2

WILLOW, TARA and DAWN go about their morning routine, making beds, brushing hair, getting ready for school.

While fluffing the pillows, Tara finds the flowery herb Willow used to make her forget their fight lying in the bed. She picks it up, sniffs it and smiles.

CUT TO:

3 INT. THE MAGIC BOX— DAY 3

ANYA and XANDER look through *Tomorrow's Bride* magazine. Xander points something out and smiles; Anya frowns, then moves off to help a customer.

GILES finds Dawn reading a magick book and takes it away from her. Tara and Willow are researching ancient texts while Buffy passes the time sketching. Giles approaches with a battle axe and looks at Buffy expectantly. She puts down her pad, takes off her sweater and follows him into the training room.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. SUNNYDALE CEMETERY— NIGHT 4

Buffy walks alone through the graveyard, on patrol.

BUFFY
(Δ)

Every single night, the same arrangement.
I go out and fight the fight.

Still I always feel the strange estrangement.
Nothing here is real, nothing here is right.

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A vampire attacks and Buffy fights it while she sings.

BUFFY
(Δ)

I've been making shows of trading blows,
Just hoping no one knows
That I've been going through the motions,
Walking through the part.
Nothing seems to penetrate my heart.

She slams her stake through the vampire's heart. She turns and sees a horned demon and two vampires nearby. The vampires charge her and attack.

BUFFY
(Δ)

I was always brave and kind of righteous.
Now I find I'm wavering.

Crawl out of your grave,
You'll find this fight just
Doesn't mean a thing.

She punches a vampire. He punches her back and knocks her to the ground.

VAMPIRE
(Δ)

She ain't got that swing.

BUFFY
(Δ)

Thanks for noticing.

The vampires and demon surround her, dancing. Buffy leaps to her feet and grabs a ceremonial sword in the grass nearby.

VAMPIRES/DEMON
(Δ)

She does pretty well with things from hell,
But lately we can tell
That she's just going through the motions.
Faking it somehow.

Buffy decapitates one vampire, kicks another away from her and stabs the demon in the gut.

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DEMON

(Δ)

She's not even half the girl she... oww!

Buffy strides through the graveyard with the sword, approaches a tree and cuts the ropes binding a MAN to it, freeing him.

BUFFY

(Δ)

Will I stay this way forever?
Sleepwalk through my life's endeavor?

MAN

(Δ)

How can I repay you?

BUFFY

(Δ)

Whatever.
I don't want to be
Going through the motions,
Losing all my drive.
I can't even see
If this is really me.
And I just wanna be alive!

The last vampire attacks again and she stakes him.

CUT TO:

5 INT. THE MAGIC BOX— DAY

5

Buffy enters the store to greetings all around.

GILES

Good morning, Buffy.

WILLOW

Hey, did Dawn get off to school all right?

BUFFY

What? Oh, yeah. I think so.

Willow is puzzled at Buffy's response. Buffy heads over to the reading table where Xander sits with donuts. ANYA bustles about, tending to the store.

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XANDER

Respect the cruller and tame the donut!

ANYA
(deadpan)

That's still funny, sweetie.

BUFFY

So no research? Nothing going on? Monsters or whatnot? (*they shake their heads*) Good! Good. So did anybody... last night, did anybody um... burst into song?

Everyone stops and stares at her, then comes to life in a flurry of agreement, talking over each other in their excitement to share.

XANDER

Merciful Zeus!

WILLOW

We thought it was just us!

GILES

Well, I sang but I had my guitar at the hotel...

TARA

It was bizarre. We were talking and then it was like—

BUFFY

Like you were in a musical!

GILES

That would explain the huge backing orchestra I couldn't see and the synchronized dancing from the room service chaps.

WILLOW

We did a whole duet about dish washing.

ANYA

And we were arguing and then everything rhymed and there were harmonies and the dance with coconuts.

WILLOW

There was an entire verse about the cous-cous.

XANDER

It was very disturbing.

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GILES
(to Buffy)

What did you sing about?

BUFFY
(evasive)

I don't remember. But it seemed perfectly normal.

XANDER
But disturbing and not the natural order of things. And do you think
it'll happen again?

GILES
I don't know. I should look into it.

WILLOW
With the books.

TARA
Do we have any books on this?

XANDER
Well, we just gotta break it down. Look at the factors before it
happens again because I for one—

GILES
(Δ)
I've got a theory,
That it's a demon,
A dancing demon—
No, something isn't right there.

WILLOW
(Δ)
I've got a theory,
Some kid is dreamin'
And we're all stuck inside
His wacky Broadway nightmare.

XANDER
(Δ)
I've got a theory,
We should work this out.

XANDER, GILES, ANYA, WILLOW, TARA
(Δ)
It's getting eerie.
What's this cheery singing all about?

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XANDER
(Δ)

It could be witches,
Some evil witches.
(off Willow's look)
Which is ridiculous,
'Cause witches, they were persecuted
Wicca good and love the earth
And women power and I'll be over here.

ANYA
(Δ)
I've got a theory,
It could be bunnies.

Silence. Crickets chirp, everyone stares at her.

TARA
(Δ)
I've got a theory—

ANYA
(Δ)
Bunnies aren't just cute
Like everybody supposes!

They got them hoppy legs
And twitchy little noses!

And what's with all the carrots?
What do they need
Such good eyesight for anyway?

Bunnies! Bunnies! It must be bunnies!
(pyrotechnics; off everyone's stunned look)
Or maybe midgets?

WILLOW
(Δ)
I've got a theory,
We should work this fast.

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WILLOW & GILES

(Δ)

Because it clearly
Could get serious before it's passed.

BUFFY

(Δ)

I've got a theory,
It doesn't matter.
What can't we face if we're together?
What's in this place that we can't weather?

Apocalypse? We've all been there.
The same old trips. Why should we care?

ALL

(Δ)

What can't we do if we get in it?
We're working through with every minute.

We have to try.
We'll pay the price.
It's do or die...

BUFFY

(Δ)

Hey, I've died twice.

ALL

(Δ)

What can't we face if we're together?
What's in this place that we can't weather?
There's nothing we can't face...

ANYA

(Δ)

...except for bunnies.

XANDER

See, okay that was disturbing.

WILLOW

I thought it was neat.

BUFFY

So what is it? What's causing it?

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GILES

I thought it didn't matter.

BUFFY

Well, I'm not exactly quaking in my stylish, yet affordable boots, but there's definitely something unnatural going on here and that doesn't usually lead to hugs and puppies.

ANYA

Well, is it just us? I mean, is it only happening to us because that would probably mean a spell or...

Buffy turns and heads for the door. She opens it to find people dancing in the street in front of the dry cleaners across the way.

CUT TO:

6 EXT. SUNNYDALE BUSINESS DISTRICT— DAY

6

A man holds up his dry cleaned shirt and sings triumphantly.

MAN
(Δ)

They got the mustard out!

CROWD
(Δ)

They got the mustard out!

CUT TO:

7 INT. THE MAGIC BOX— DAY

7

Buffy closes the door and turns back to the others.

BUFFY

It's not just us.

CUT TO:

Later. The door swings open and Dawn runs in, excited.

DAWN

Oh, my god! You will never believe what happened at school today!

BUFFY

Everybody started singing and dancing?

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Dawn is disappointed that her news isn't news.

I gave birth to a pterodactyl.

DAWN

Oh, my god. Did it sing?

ANYA

So you guys, too, huh?

DAWN

Tara whispers to Willow.

So what'd you sing about?

XANDER
(to Dawn)

Math.

DAWN

Tara and Willow are giggling to themselves. Tara suddenly turns to the others, covering.

That's right! The volume. The text.

TARA

What text?

GILES

The volumey text.

WILLOW

You know...

TARA
(evasive)

The Marinffrrd Report.

WILLOW

Tara nods eagerly.

The what now?

XANDER

There's just a few volumes back at the house that deal with mystical chants, bacchanals... might be relevant.

TARA

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Dawn looks down at the counter and sees a pendant and chain lying on the glass. She surreptitiously slips it into her pocket.

WILLOW

Yeah, we could—

GILES

Well, I'm a hair's breadth from investigating bunnies at the moment, so I'm open to anything.

WILLOW

Great! We'll check it out and we'll give you a call.

TARA

Yeah, this could blow the whole thing wide open.

They both stand up and quickly make for the exit.

CUT TO:

8 EXT. SUNNYDALE PARK— DAY

8

Willow and Tara stroll through the sun-dappled park surrounded by people picnicking, throwing Frisbees, etc.

TARA

Do we have any books at all at home?

Two college guys approach from the opposite direction and their gaze follows Tara as she and Willow walk past.

WILLOW

Well, who wants to be cooped up on a day like this? The sun is shining. There are songs going on. Those guys are checking you out.

TARA

(surprised)

What? What are they looking at?

WILLOW

The hotness of you, doofus.

TARA

Those boys really thought I was hot?

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WILLOW

Entirely!

TARA

Oh, my god... I'm cured! I want the boys!

She turns to follow them, laughing, and Willow pulls her back.

WILLOW

Do I have to fight to keep you? 'Cause I'm not large with the butch.

TARA

I'm just not used to that. They were really looking at me?

WILLOW

(smiles)

And you can't imagine what they see in you.

TARA

I know exactly what they see in me. You.

She smiles at Willow as they come to a stop near a pond.

TARA

(Δ)

I live my life in shadow,
Never the sun on my face.
It didn't seem so sad, though.
I figured that was my place.
Now I'm bathed in light.
Something just isn't right.

I'm under your spell.
How else could it be
Anyone would notice me?

It's magick, I can tell
How you set me free,
Brought me out so easily.

I saw a world enchanted,
Spirits and charms in the air.
I always took for granted
I was the only one there.
But your power shone
Brighter than any I've known.

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Two of the picnickers stand up and dance in harmony with Tara.

TARA
(Δ)

I'm under your spell.
Nothing I can do.
You just took my soul with you.

You worked your charm so well.
Finally I knew
Everything I dreamed was true.

You made me believe!

Tara sweeps Willow into her arms and they dance together.

WIPE TO:

9 INT. SUMMERS HOME— MASTER BEDROOM— DAY

9

Tara and Willow twirl in each other's arms and suddenly we're in their bedroom.
They sit down on the bed, holding hands and smiling lovingly at each other.

TARA
(Δ)

The moon to the tide,
I can feel you inside.

Tara falls backward onto the pillows.

TARA
(Δ)

I'm under your spell.
Surging like the sea
Wanting you so helplessly.

Willow leans over her, smiles seductively, then moves backward out of frame.

TARA
(Δ)

I break with every swell.
Lost in ecstasy,
Spread beneath my willow tree.

You make me complete!

Tara rises blissfully off the bed, levitating.

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TARA
(Δ)

You make me complete.
You make me complete.
You make me...

SMASH CUT TO:

10 INT. THE MAGIC BOX— DAY

10

Xander and Buffy are at the table, reading the books.

XANDER

I bet they're not even working.

BUFFY

Who now?

XANDER

Willow and Tara. You see the way they were with each other? The get-a-roominess to them? I bet they're... *(sees Dawn at the counter)* ...singing. They're probably singing right now.

GILES

I'm sure Willow and Tara are making every effort.

XANDER

Oh, yeah.

BUFFY

Xander...

DAWN
(smiles)

Buffy, it's okay. I do know about this stuff. Besides, it's all kinda romantic.

BUFFY/XANDER
(unison)

No, it's not.

DAWN

Come on! Songs, dancing around... what's gonna be wrong with that?

CUT TO:

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11 EXT. SUNNYDALE STREETS— ALLEY— NIGHT

11

A man stands in the alley alone, tap dancing. As he dances, his steps get more frantic, it's obvious he can't stop. A look of panic crosses his face as smoke begins to seep from beneath his clothes. He bursts into flame with an agonal scream and incinerates. He drops dead at the feet of SWEET, a devilish-looking demon in fashionable and flashy clothes.

SWEET
(laughs)

That's entertainment.

FADE OUT

ACT II

12 INT. XANDER'S APARTMENT— CONTINUOUS— MORNING

12

Anya and Xander wake.

ANYA
Hey, baby. You don't have to go to work?

XANDER
No, I shut the crew down for the day. My guys started dancing around me. I don't know if I can deal. It's a flab thing. So... waffles?

ANYA
Will you still make me waffles when we're married?

XANDER
No, I'll only make them for myself but by California law, you will own half of them. (*kisses her*) Hey, how about omelets? You know, I can do an omelet...

Anya throws back the covers and sits up.

ANYA
(Δ)
This is the man that I plan to entangle.
Isn't he fine?
My claim to fame was to maim and to mangle.
Vengeance was mine.

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But I'm out of the biz.
The name I made I'll trade for his.
The only trouble is...
I'll never tell.

XANDER
(Δ)

She is the one,
She's such wonderful fun,
Such passion and grace.

Warm in the night
When I'm right in her tight—
Embrace! Tight embrace!

I'll never let her go.
The love we've known can only grow.
There's just one thing that— no.
I'll never tell.

They both look slightly nervous.

XANDER & ANYA
(Δ)

'Cause there's nothing to tell.

They get up and head into the living room. Xander heads for the fridge while Anya sits at the table.

ANYA
(Δ)

He snores.

XANDER
(Δ)

She wheezes.

ANYA
(Δ)

Say "housework" and he freezes.

XANDER
(Δ)

She eats these skeezy cheeses that I can't describe.

He opens the fridge and picks up a slice of green and yellow cheese and sniffs it dubiously.

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ANYA
(Δ)

I talk, he breezes.

XANDER
(Δ)

She doesn't know what pleases.

ANYA
(Δ)

His penis got diseases from a Chumash tribe.

XANDER & ANYA
(Δ)

The vibe gets kind of scary.

XANDER
(Δ)

Like she thinks I'm ordinary.

ANYA
(Δ)

Like it's all just temporary.

XANDER
(Δ)

Like her toes are kind of hairy.

XANDER & ANYA
(Δ)

But it's all very well.
'Cause god knows I'll never tell.

ANYA
(Δ)

When things get rough he
Just hides behind his Buffy.
Now look he's gettin' huffy
'Cause he knows that I know.

XANDER
(Δ)

She clings, she's needy,
She's also really greedy
She never—

ANYA
(Δ)

His eyes are beady!

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XANDER
(Δ)

This is my verse! Hello?
She—

Anya suddenly starts dancing like a 20's flapper.

ANYA
Look at me! I'm dancing crazy!

Xander watches her for a moment, then does the same, matching her moves and sweeping her around the apartment.

XANDER & ANYA
(Δ)

You know...

XANDER
(Δ)

You're quite the charmer.

ANYA
(Δ)

My knight in armor.

XANDER
(Δ)

You're the cutest of the Scoobies
With your lips as red as rubies.
And your firm yet supple—
Tight embrace!

ANYA
(Δ)

He's swell.

XANDER
(Δ)

She's sweller.

ANYA
(Δ)

He'll always be my feller.

XANDER
(Δ)

That's why I'll never tell her that I'm petrified.

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ANYA
(Δ)

I've read this tale.
There's wedding then betrayal.
I know there'll come the day
I'll want to run and hide.

They both crawl onto the dining room table and meet in the middle, their lips inches apart.

XANDER & ANYA
(Δ)

I lied, I said it's easy.
I've tried but there's these fears I can't quell.

XANDER
(Δ)

Is she looking for a pot of gold?

ANYA
(Δ)

Will I look good when I've gotten old?

XANDER
(Δ)

Will our lives become too stressful
If I'm never that successful?

ANYA
(Δ)

When I get so worn and wrinkly
That I look like David Brinkley?

XANDER
(Δ)

Am I crazy?

ANYA
(Δ)

Am I dreamin'?

XANDER
(Δ)

Am I marrying a demon?

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XANDER & ANYA
(Δ)

We could really raise the beam
In making marriage a hell!
So thank god I'll never tell.
I swear that I'll never tell.

XANDER
(Δ)

My lips are sealed.

ANYA
(Δ)

I take the fifth.

XANDER
(Δ)

Nothin' to see. Move it along.

XANDER & ANYA
(Δ)

I'll never... tell!

They fall backward onto the couch, laughing.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. SUNNYDALE STREETS— DAY

13

Xander, Anya and Giles walk along the sidewalk. In the background, various people dance and sing as they pass by. Xander and Anya are talking over each other in their anxiety over what just happened in their apartment.

XANDER

It's a nightmare! It's a plague!

ANYA

It has to be stopped!

XANDER

It's like a nightmare *about* a plague!

ANYA

It's like we're being watched. Like there was a wall missing from our apartment.

XANDER

I didn't want to be saying things but they just kept pouring out!

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ANYA

Like there were only three walls and not a fourth wall— my toes aren't hairy!

XANDER

And they rhymed and they were mean— and my eyes are not beady! Giles, you gotta stop it.

GILES

Well, I'm looking into some leads and—

ANYA

Of course! Clearly our number is a retro pastiche that's never going to be a breakaway pop hit.

XANDER

(to Giles)

Work with me, British man. Give me an axe and show me where to point it.

GILES

Xander, it's not quite that simple but I have learned about some disturbing things. Basically...

A WOMAN notices a cop writing her a parking ticket and runs over to him.

WOMAN

(Δ)

I'm asking you, please no!
It isn't right, it isn't fair.
There was no parking anywhere.
I think that hydrant wasn't there.
Why can't you let it go?

XANDER

...as in burnt up? Somebody set people on fire? That's nuts!

ANYA

I don't know. One more verse of our little ditty and I would have been looking for a gas can.

GILES

Well, clearly emotions are running high but as far as I can tell, these people burned up from the inside, they spontaneously combusted. I've only seen the one. I was able to examine the body while the police were taking witness arias.

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XANDER

Okay. But we're sure that the things are related... the singing and dancing and burning and dying?

GILES

We're not sure of much. Buffy's looking for leads at local demon haunts. At least in theory she is but she doesn't seem to...

XANDER

She's easing back into it. We pulled her out of an untold hell dimension. Ergo the weirdness. The important thing is to be there for her.

GILES

I'm helping her as much as I can but...

He shakes his head in frustration. Anya awkwardly pats him on the shoulder, trying to comfort him.

CUT TO:

14 INT. SPIKE'S CRYPT— NIGHT

14

SPIKE climbs up into the crypt from the lower level as Buffy enters.

SPIKE

The sun sets and she appears. Come to serenade me?

BUFFY

So you know what's going on?

SPIKE

Well, I've seen some damn funny things the last two days. Six-hundred pound Chirago demon making like Yma Sumac. That one'll stay with you. I remain immune, happy to say.

He holds up a liquor bottle.

SPIKE

Drink?

BUFFY

A world of no. So any idea what's causing this?

SPIKE

Oh. So that's all. You just come to pump me for information.

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BUFFY

What else would I want to pump you for? (*cringes*) I really just said that, didn't I?

SPIKE

Yeah, well... don't want to bore you with the small talk.

He goes over to the door and holds it open.

SPIKE

Don't know a thing.

BUFFY

What's up? You're all bad moody.

SPIKE

It's nothing. Glad you could stop by. (*off her look*) It's nothing.

BUFFY

What?

SPIKE

(Δ)

I died so many years ago.
You can make me feel like it isn't so.
And why you come to be with me,
I think I finally know.

You're scared, ashamed of what you feel.
And you can't tell the ones you love,
You know they couldn't deal.
Whisper in a dead man's ear,
It doesn't make it real.

That's great but I don't wanna play,
'Cause being with you touches me,
More than I can say.
And since I'm only dead to you,
I'm sayin' stay away.
And let me rest in peace.

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Let me rest in peace, let me get some sleep.
Let me take my love and bury it
In a hole six-foot deep.
I can lay my body down
But I can't find my sweet release.
So let me rest in peace.

You know you got a willing slave
And you just love to play the thought
That you might misbehave.
Until you do, I'm tellin' you,
Stop visiting my grave
And let me rest in peace.

CUT TO:

15 EXT. SUNNYDALE CEMETERY— NIGHT

15

Pallbearers carry a coffin toward a graveside service. Buffy and Spike approach from the distance.

SPIKE
(Δ)

I know I should go
But I follow you like a man possessed.
There's a traitor here beneath my breast
And it hurts me more than you've ever guessed.
If my heart could beat, it would break my chest.
But I can see you're unimpressed

Spike leaps onto the coffin as the pallbearers pass by.

SPIKE
(Δ)

So leave me be and let me rest in peace,
Let me get some sleep.
Let me take my love and bury it
In a hole six-foot deep.
I can lay my body down
But I can't find my sweet release.
Let me rest in peace.

Spike lets his vampire rise to the surface as he scatters the mourners, tossing their chairs around and grabbing the priest by his vestments.

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Buffy pulls him off the priest and they both tumble into the open grave. Buffy lands on top of Spike, face to face.

SPIKE
(Δ)

Why won't you let me rest in peace?

Buffy gets up out of the grave and runs off into the night.

SPIKE

So... you're not staying, then?

CUT TO:

16 INT. SUMMERS HOME— DAWN'S ROOM— NIGHT

16

Dawn dumps her purse out on the bed. Tara stands in the door, watching.

TARA

Lot of homework?

DAWN

Math. It seemed cooler when we were singing about it.

TARA

Willow said they have a lead on the whole musical extravaganza evil. This demon that can be summoned— some sort of lord of the dance— but not the scary one. Just a demon.

DAWN

Do they know who summoned it?

TARA

They don't even know its name yet but Willow will find out. She's a brainy type.

DAWN

I'm glad you guys made up.

TARA
(confused)

What?

DAWN

That fight you guys had about magick and stuff? It gives me belly-rumblings when you guys fight.

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TARA

Dawn, Willow and I never fought about—

DAWN

It's okay. It's just you guys are so great together. I just hate it when you... but that was the only fight I've seen you guys have anyway. But I'm still glad it's over.

Tara looks down at her shirt where she's wearing Willow's magickal herb. It starts to dawn on her what the herb is for.

TARA

Dawn, I... there's something I need at the shop. Will you be okay for a little while?

DAWN

Yes, the fifteen-year-old can spend half an hour alone in her locked house.

TARA

I won't be gone long.

Tara quickly leaves and Dawn heads over to her dresser. She opens her jewelry box and takes out the inside partition revealing a stash of stolen jewelry, charms and talismans.

She picks out the pendant she stole from the store earlier and puts it on.

DAWN
(Δ)

Does anybody even notice?
Does anybody even care?

She turns around and comes face to face with a life-size and living ventriloquist's doll. The creature seizes her as two others just like him throw a burlap sack over her head.

FADE OUT

ACT III

17 INT. THE BRONZE— NIGHT

17

The club is deserted, empty. Dawn wakes up on the billiard table. She gets down and tries to get away but the three living dolls block her and thwart her. Their movements

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aren't normal, however. The entire escape attempt is a well-choreographed ballet sequence.

She slides across the floor to the foot of the stage and looks up to find Sweet looming over her. He tap dances down the stairs and smiles at her.

SWEET
(Δ)

Why'd you run away?
Don't you like my... style?

He snaps his fingers and his cherry red zoot suit instantly changes to electric blue.

SWEET
(Δ)

Why don't you come and play?
I guarantee a great big smile.

He pulls his mouth off his face and holds it out to her. The disembodied mouth continues singing.

SWEET
(Δ)

I come from the imagination
And I'm here strictly by your invocation.
So what do you say—
Why don't we dance a while?

I'm the how to swing.
I'm the twist and shout.
When you gotta sing,
When you gotta let it out.

You call me and I come a-runnin'.
I turn the music on, I bring the fun in.
Now we're partyin', that's what it's all about.

Dawn stands up and matches Sweet's moves with her own, eventually dancing with him, ballroom style.

SWEET
(Δ)

'Cause I know what you feel, girl.
I know just what you feel, girl.

DAWN

So you're like a good demon? Bringing the fun in?

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Sweet chuckles.

SWEET
(Δ)

All these melodies, they go on too long.
Then that energy starts to come on way too strong.

A door drops out of the ceiling and lands in the middle of the dance floor.

SWEET
(Δ)

All those hearts lay open— that must sting.
Plus some customers just start combusting.

Sweet opens the door and a charred and smoking corpse falls through. Dawn recoils in horror.

SWEET
(Δ)

That's the penalty when life is but a song.

You brought me down into this town
So when we blow this scene,
Back we will go to my kingdom below
And you will be my queen.

Sweet waves his hand and Dawn's jeans and sweater turn into a silver ball gown.

SWEET
(Δ)

'Cause I know what you feel, girl.

DAWN
(Δ)

No, you see, you and me
Wouldn't be very regal.

SWEET
(Δ)

I'll make it real, girl.

DAWN
(Δ)

What I mean, I'm fifteen
So this queen thing's illegal.

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SWEET
(Δ)

I can bring whole cities to ruin
And still have time to get a soft-shoe in.

DAWN
(Δ)

Well, that's great but I'm late
And I'd hate to delay her.

SWEET
(Δ)

Something's cooking, I'm at the griddle.
I bought Nero his very first fiddle.

DAWN
(Δ)

She'll get pissed if I'm missed,
See my sister's the Slayer.

Sweet freezes mid-step.

SWEET

The Slayer?

DAWN

Uh-huh.

Sweet chuckles and turns to his minions.

SWEET

Find her. Tell her... tell her anything. Just get her here. *(to Dawn)* I
want to see the Slayer burn.

Dawn cringes, realizing she may have made mistake.

SWEET
(Δ)

Now we're partyin'.
That's what it's all about.

CUT TO:

18 INT. THE MAGIC BOX— TRAINING ROOM— NIGHT

18

Buffy smashes a inch-thick plank held by Giles with one kick.

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GILES

Good. Good.

BUFFY

I feel like I should bow or have honor or something.

GILES

It may seem hokey but we need to work on precision and concentration as much as power. I'm still not sure what we're facing.

BUFFY

You'll figure it out. I'm just worried this whole session's going to turn into some training montage from an 80's movie.

GILES

Well, if we hear any inspirational power chords, we'll just lie down until they go away. Anyway, I don't think we need to work that much on your strength.

BUFFY

Yeah, I'm pretty spry for a corpse.

Buffy flips up onto the vault and does a perfect handstand on the rings.

GILES

Have you spoken to Dawn about that incident at Halloween?

BUFFY

Oh. I thought you took care of that?

Troubled, Giles nods.

GILES

Right.

BUFFY

What would I do without you?

She finishes stretching.

BUFFY

Okay. I'm ready.

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GILES

(Δ)

You're not ready for the world outside.
You keep pretending but you just can't hide.
I know I said that I'd be standing by your side
But I...

He takes a set of throwing knives off the wall and whips them at Buffy one at a time. She easily dodges or deflects them, reacting with preternatural speed.

GILES

(Δ)

You're path's unbeaten and it's all uphill
And you can meet it but you never will.
And I'm the reason that you're standing still.
But I...

I wish I could say the right words
To lead you through this land.
Wish I could play the father
And take you by the hand.
Wish I could stay here
But now I understand...
I'm standing in the way.

CUT TO:

19 INT. THE MAGIC BOX— STORE FLOOR— NIGHT

19

Giles continues in voice over as Tara rushes into the store and ducks past Willow. She climbs the ladder into the upper loft where the magick books are stored.

GILES

(Δ)

The cries around you, you don't hear at all.
'Cause you know I'm here to take that call.

CUT TO:

20 INT. THE MAGIC BOX— TRAINING ROOM— NIGHT

20

Buffy does flips and acrobatic moves in slow motion while Giles watches.

GILES

(Δ)

So you just lie there when you should be standing tall.
But I...

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I wish I could lay your arms down
And let you rest at last.
Wish I could slay your demons
But now that time has passed.
Wish I could stay here,
Your stalwart standing fast.
But I'm standing in the way.
I'm just standing in the way.

Buffy comes back into real time with Giles.

BUFFY

Did you just say something?

CUT TO:

19 INT. THE MAGIC BOX— STORE FLOOR— NIGHT

19

Tara flips through a book on magick herbs. She finds a picture that nearly exactly matches the flowering plant she holds in her hand. The caption reads:

Lethe's Bramble. Used for augmenting spells of forgetting
and mind control.

Tara turns and looks down at Willow talking to Buffy in the front of the store.

TARA
(Δ)

I'm under your spell.
God, how can this be?
Playing with my memory.

You know I've been through hell.
Willow, don't you see?
There'll be nothing left of me.
You made me believe.

Giles enters from the back and sings in counterpoint to Tara.

GILES
(Δ)

Believe me, I don't want to go,
And it'll grieve me 'cause I love you so.
But we both know...
Wish I could say the right words

TARA
(Δ)

And it'll grieve me 'cause I love you so.
But we both know...
Wish I could trust that it was just this once

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To lead you through this land.
Wish I could play the father
And take you by the hand.

But I must do what I must.
I can't adjust to this disgust
We're done and I just

Wish I could stay here.
Wish I could stay here.
Wish I could stay here.
Wish I could stay.

Wish I could stay here.
Wish I could stay here.
Wish I could stay here.
Wish I could stay.

The door opens and Spike pushes one of Sweet's living ventriloquist dolls into the store.

SPIKE

Looky-looky what I found.

TARA

Is this the demon guy?

Willow turns and smiles.

WILLOW

Tara!

Tara ignores Willow and approaches Spike and his captive.

SPIKE

Works for him. Has a nice little story for the Slayer, don't you?
Come on, then. Sing.

He kicks the dummy forward into the room.

DUMMY

My master has the Slayer's sister hostage at the Bronze because she summoned him and at midnight he's going to take her to the underworld to be his queen.

GILES

What does he want?

The dummy points at Buffy.

DUMMY

Her.

Spike steps forward and grabs the creature.

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SPIKE

If that's all you've got to say, then—

The dummy slips Spike's grip and runs off.

SPIKE

Strong. Someday he'll be a real boy.

BUFFY

So... Dawn's in trouble. Must be Tuesday.

TARA

I just left her for a few minutes.

BUFFY

Oh, it's not your fault. *(to Giles)* So what's the plan?

XANDER

Plan schman. Let's mount up.

GILES

No.

ANYA

Dawn may have had the wrong idea in summoning this creature but I've seen some of these underworld child-bride deals and they never end well. Maybe once.

WILLOW

We're not just going to stay here?

GILES

Yes, we are. Buffy's going alone.

SPIKE

Don't be a stupid git! There is no—

GILES

If I want your opinion, Spike, I'll— *(beat)* I'll never want your opinion.

WILLOW

A little confusion spell could—

TARA

No! *(flustered)* I mean, I don't think it'll help.

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SPIKE
(to Buffy)

Forget them, Slayer. I got your back.

BUFFY
I thought you wanted me to stay away from you. Isn't that what you sang?

XANDER
(mocking)

Spike sang a wittle song?

ANYA
Would you say it was a breakaway pop hit or more of a book number?

XANDER
Let it go, sweetie.

SPIKE
(to Buffy)
Fine. I hope you dance till you burn. You and the little bit.

He glares at Buffy and leaves.

BUFFY
(to Giles)
You're really not coming?

GILES
It's up to you, Buffy.

BUFFY
What do you expect me to do?

GILES
Your best.

CUT TO:

20 EXT. SUNNYDALE STREETS— NIGHT

20

Buffy pauses before a burning trash can. She warms her hands as the citizens of Sunnydale dance a hellish ballet in the light of the fires burning along the street.

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BUFFY
(Δ)

I touch the fire and it freezes me.
I look into it and it's black.
Why can't I feel?
My skin should crack and peel.
I want the fire back.

DISSOLVE TO:

21 INT. THE BRONZE— NIGHT

21

Sweet pushes Dawn down into a chair and Buffy sings in voiceover.

BUFFY
(Δ)

Now through the smoke, she calls to me
To make my way across the flame.
To save the day or maybe melt away,
I guess it's all the same.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. SUNNYDALE STREETS— NIGHT

22

Buffy continues on toward the Bronze.

BUFFY
(Δ)

So I will walk through the fire
'Cause where else can I turn?
I will walk through the fire
And let it...

CUT TO:

23 EXT. SUNNYDALE STREETS— ALLEY— NIGHT

23

Spike sits in the darkened alley, brooding.

SPIKE
(Δ)

The torch I bear is scorching me.
Buffy's laughing, I've no doubt.
I hope she fries;
I'm free if that bitch dies.

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(gets up and follows her)
I better help her out.

INTERCUT WITH:

24 INT. THE BRONZE— NIGHT

24

Sweet stands up and smiles at Dawn.

SWEET
(Δ)
'Cause she is drawn to the fire.
Some people never learn.
And she will walk through the fire.
And let it...

SPIKE
(Δ)
She will never learn.
And she will walk through the fire.
And let it...

CUT TO:

25 INT. THE MAGIC BOX— NIGHT

25

Giles is having second thoughts.

GILES
(Δ)
Will this do a thing to change her?
Am I leaving Dawn in danger?
Is my Slayer too far gone to care?

XANDER
(Δ)
What if Buffy can't defeat it?

ANYA
(Δ)
Beady Eyes is right! We're needed.
Or we could just sit around and glare.

They all stand up and head for the door.

ALL
(Δ)
We'll see it through,
It's what we're always here to do.
So we will walk through the fire.

CUT TO:

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26 EXT. SUNNYDALE STREETS— VARIOUS— NIGHT

26

Buffy walks alone in the night. The scene rotates between the various players and groups as they make their way to the Bronze.

BUFFY
(Δ)

So one by one they turn from me.
I guess my friends can't face the cold.
But why I froze, not one among them knows
And never can be told.

TARA
(Δ)

What can't we face
If we're together?

ANYA

She came from the grave much graver.

SPIKE

First he'll kill her, then I'll save her.

TARA

Everything is turning out so wrong.

SPIKE

No, I'll save her, then I'll kill her!

GILES

What it going to take to strike a spark?

SWEET

She will come to me!

SWEET

So one by one, they come to me.
The distant redness as their guide.
That single flame
Ain't what they had in mind.
It's what they have inside.

BUFFY

Going through the motions...

WILLOW

I think this line's mostly filler.

BUFFY

These endless days
Are finally ending in a blaze.

ALL
(Δ)

And we are caught in the fire.
The point of no return.
So we will walk through the fire
And let it... burn.

Spike leaps the fence behind the Bronze.

ALL
(Δ)

Let it burn.

Buffy strides up to the front door.

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ALL
(Δ)

Let it burn. Let it burn!

Buffy kicks the door and it splinters off its hinges and smashes to the floor.

SWEET
(chuckles)

Show time...

FADE OUT

ACT IV

27 INT. THE BRONZE— NIGHT

27

Buffy walks in, taking in Sweet and his henchmen.

SWEET

I love a good entrance.

BUFFY

How are you with death scenes? You got a name?

SWEET

I got a hundred.

BUFFY

Well, I oughta know what to call you if you're going to be my brother-in-law.

DAWN

Buffy, I swear I didn't do it.

BUFFY

Don't worry. You're not going anywhere. I am.

DAWN

What?

Sweet leans forward, interested.

BUFFY
(to Sweet)

Deal's this. I can't kill you, you take me to Hellsville in her place.

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What if I kill you?
SWEET

Trust me. Won't help.
BUFFY

That's gloomy.
SWEET

That's life.
BUFFY

Come now. Is that really what you feel? Isn't life a miraculous thing?
SWEET

I think you already know.
BUFFY

Sweet smiles impishly.

Life's a show and we all play a part
And when the music starts,
We open up our hearts
BUFFY
(Δ)

Buffy shrugs out of her coat and takes note of the three dummy henchman arming themselves with pool cues in the shadows.

It's all right if some things come out wrong.
We'll sing a happy song
And you can sing along.
BUFFY
(Δ)

The henchman attack and Buffy beats them back.

Where's there's life,
There's hope.
Everyday's
A gift.
BUFFY
(Δ)

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Wishes can
Come true.

Whistle while
You work.

So hard
All day.

Giles and the gang arrive.

BUFFY
(Δ)

To be like other girls
To fit in in this glittering world.
Don't give me songs.

GILES

She needs backup. Anya, Tara...

Anya and Tara run up behind Buffy and dance and sing backup for her.

BUFFY
(Δ)

Don't give me songs.
Give me something to sing about.
I need something to sing about.

Life's a song
You don't get to rehearse.
And every single verse
Can make it that much worse.

Still my friends
Don't know why I ignore
The million things or more
I should be dancing for.

All the joy
Life sends.

Family
And friends.

All the twists
And bends

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Knowing that
It ends.

Well that
Depends...

On if they let you go,
On if they know enough to know
That when you bow
You leave the crowd.

Buffy mounts the stage. Sweet knows what's coming and smiles with a flourish of his hand.

BUFFY
(Δ)

There was no pain,
No fear, no doubt
Till they pulled me out
Of heaven.

Buffy turns to look at her friends whose faces register shock and dawning horror.

BUFFY
(Δ)

So that's my refrain.
I live in hell
'Cause I've been expelled
From heaven.
I think I was in heaven.

Willow takes a step backward as the enormity of what Buffy has revealed sinks in.

BUFFY
(Δ)

So give me something to sing about.
Please give me something.

Sweet shakes his head and Buffy leaps off the stage, dancing in an uncontrollable frenzy. The tempo increases to a frenetic pace; Buffy starts to smoke and burn. Sweet leans forward in anticipation of the inevitable.

Suddenly Spike is there. He stops Buffy in mid-step before she can burst into flame.

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SPIKE
(Δ)

Life's not a song.
Life isn't bliss.
Life is just this.
It's living.

You'll get along.
The pain that you feel
Only can heal
By living.

You have to go on living.
So that one of us is living.

DAWN

The hardest thing in this world is to live in it.

Sweet smiles and claps.

SWEET

Now that was a show-stopping number. Not quite the fireworks
that I was looking for—

WILLOW
(venom)

Get out of here.

SWEET

Hmm... I smell power. I guess the little missus and I should be on
our way.

GILES

That's never going to happen.

SWEET

I don't make the rules. She summoned me.

DAWN

I so did not! He keeps saying that.

Sweet strokes the pendant around Dawn's neck.

SWEET

You have my talisman on, sweet thing.

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DAWN

But no... I... this... at the Magic Box. It was on the floor. I was cleaning and I forgot... but I didn't summon anything!

SWEET

Well, now. That's a twist.

GILES

If it was in the shop, then one of us probably...

Giles looks at each of them in turn. Finally Xander raises his hand.

ANYA

Xander!

XANDER

Well, I didn't know what was gonna happen! I just thought there was gonna be dances and songs. I just wanted to make sure we'd work out, get a happy ending.

SWEET
(laughs)

I think everything worked out just fine.

Xander looks at him fearfully.

XANDER

Does this mean that I have to... be your queen?

SWEET

It's tempting... but I think we'll waive that clause just this once. Big smiles everyone! You beat the bad guy.

(Δ)

What a lot of fun.
You guys have been real swell.
And there's not a one
Who can say this ended well.

All those secrets you've been concealing,
Say you're happy now... once more, with feeling.
Now I gotta run.
See you all in hell!

Sweet throws his arms wide and disappears in a swirl of blue and red energy, leaving everyone standing silently and awkwardly, not sure what to do or say to each other.

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DAWN
(Δ)

Where do we go from here?

ALL
(Δ)

Where do we go from here?

GILES
(Δ)

The battle's done
And we kind of won

GILES & TARA
(Δ)

So we sound our victory cheer.
Where do we go from here?

ANYA & XANDER
(Δ)

Why is the path unclear
When we know home is near?

ALL
(Δ)

Understand we'll go hand in hand
(everyone joins hands)
But we'll walk alone in fear.
(everyone breaks apart)
(Tell me) Where do we go from here?

When does the end appear?

Spike stops dancing and turns to leave.

SPIKE

Bugger this.

ALL
(Δ)

When do the trumpets cheer?
The curtains close on a kiss not known.
We can tell the end is near.
Where do we go from here?

CUT TO:

Spike stalks out of the club as the others continue with their song. Buffy comes out after him.

Hey.
BUFFY

You should go back inside. Finish the big group-sing. Get your kum-bay-yayas out.
SPIKE

I don't want to.
BUFFY

The day you suss out what you *do* want, there'll probably be a parade. Seventy-six bloody trombones.
SPIKE

Spike...
BUFFY

Look, you don't have to say anything.
SPIKE

BUFFY
(Δ)
I touch the fire and it freezes me.
I look into it and it's black.
This isn't real but I just wanna feel...

SPIKE
(Δ)
I died so many years ago
You can make me feel...

They move closer and closer until their lips are inches apart, then Spike sweeps Buffy up into a passionate kiss.

ALL
(Δ)
Where do we go from here?

THE END

FADE TO BLACK