



BUFFY

The VAMPIRE SLAYER

BUFFY the Vampire Slayer

Written by
Joss Whedon

Directed by
Fran Rubel Kuzui

CAST

Buffy Summers	KRISTY SWANSON
Merrick	DONALD SUTHERLAND
Lothos	RUTGER HAUER
Pike	LUKE PERRY
Amilyn	PAUL REUBENS
Benny	DAVID ARQUETTE
Kimberly	HILARY SWANK
Nicole	PARIS VAUGHAN
Jennifer	MICHELLE ABRAMS
Jeffrey	RANDALL BATINKOFF
Cassandra	NATASHA GREGSON WAGNER
Andy	ANDREW LOWERY
Grueller	SASHA JENSON
Principal Murray	STEPHEN ROOT
Basketball Coach	MARK DeCARLO
Basketball Player	BEN AFFLECK
Joyce Summers	CANDY CLARK
Hank Summers	JAMES PARADISE
Zeph	TOM JANES
Charlotte	RICKI LAKE
Knight	DAVID SHERRILL
Reporter	LIZ SMITH
Robert Berman	PAUL M. LANE
Vampire Fan	TOBY HOLGUIN
Graveyard Vampiress	EURLYNE EPPER-WOLDMAN
Newscaster	ANDRE WARREN
Referee	BOB "SWANIE" SWANSON
Cheerleader	ERIKA DITTNER
Biker	J.C. COLE
Student	MICHAEL C. KOPELOW
Bloody Student	RICKY DEAN LOGAN

1 INT. MEDIEVAL CASTLE— NIGHT 1

A young noblewoman stands before an older man who is dressed in dark flowing robes.

TITLE CARD:

*Europe:
The Dark Ages*

NARRATOR
(v.o.)

Since the dawn of man, the vampires have walked among us—killing, feeding. The only one with the strength and skill to stop their heinous evil is the Slayer— she who bears the birthmark of the coven. Trained by the Watcher, one Slayer dies and the next is chosen.

The robed man stands and hands the young woman an ornately carved wooden dagger. She takes it reverently as the man kneels before her.

SLAYER

And I shall be His sword.

WATCHER

Let Satan tremble. The Slayer is born.

The Watcher bows his head in reverence to her as the Slayer raises the dagger above her head. Lightning flashes outside and, in the strobe, we

SMASH CUT TO:

2 INT. HEMERY HIGH SCHOOL (PRESENT)— GYMNASIUM— DAY 2

The dagger instantly changes to a cheerleader's pom-pom. Pull back to reveal a squad of high school cheerleaders in mid-routine. They jump, bounce and grind as a group to a frantic hip-hop beat.

The head cheerleader and center of attention is BUFFY SUMMERS. She is blonde, beautiful and popular— the quintessential southern California high school girl. She's a senior and rules the school.

While Buffy dances through her routine, she glances at the basketball team's bench and smiles at JEFFREY, her boyfriend. He smiles back, clearly pleased with the

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attention. He reluctantly turns his attention back to the team's COACH, who is clearly not qualified for the job.

COACH

Okay, people, they're psyching you out. Let's not be so defensive out there, okay? Now what do we say on the court? Repeat after me: "I am a person. I have a right to the ball."

The team looks at him like he's nuts.

COACH

Good! All right. Now here's our key play.

He picks up a playboard and turns it upside down in confusion.

COACH

We're gonna— uh, are we the X's or the O's?

ANDY

(exasperated)

We're the O's.

The coach flips the playboard right side up.

COACH

Oh! Oh, right. Okay...

CUT TO:

The squad, still doing their dance routine. The song comes to an abrupt end and the girls run off with bubbly enthusiasm as the players take the court.

CUT TO:

3 INT. L.A. SHOPPING MALL— DAY

3

TITLE CARD:

**Southern California:
The Lite Ages**

Buffy and her three best friends, JENNIFER, KIMBERLY and NICOLE, are in their native environment: another spending spree with their parents' money. As they mount the escalator to the second level concourse, Buffy turns to her friends, complaining.

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BUFFY

Mr. Howard is *so* heinous. He's always giving me a hard time. I get a C+ on the test and he tells me "you have no sense of history". *I* have no sense of history? He wears a brown tie!

NICOLE

You got a C+? I can't believe I cheated off of you.

BUFFY

Excuse me for not knowing about El Salvador. Like I'm ever going to Spain anyway.

As they top the escalator, Buffy's attention is suddenly drawn by something far more important.

BUFFY

Oh, wow! Look at that jacket!

She makes a beeline for the store and the others follow.

4 INT. SHOPPING MALL— CLOTHING STORE— DAY

4

Buffy runs up to a yellow leather jacket displayed on a mannequin.

BUFFY

Oh, this is *so* lush! Wouldn't you guys just love me in this?

KIMBERLY

Guys, what's the sitch? I'm bored.

BUFFY
(re: jacket)

What do you think?

KIMBERLY

Please! That's so five minutes ago.

JENNIFER

Yeah!

The three girls walk out of the store, leaving Buffy disappointed.

BUFFY

Oh...

CUT TO:

5 INT. L.A. SHOPPING MALL— CONCOURSE— DAY

5

The girls stroll along, debating what to do with their day.

KIMBERLY

What are we doing?

BUFFY

Oh, I don't know. Why don't we go see a movie?

KIMBERLY

Where?

JENNIFER

Omniplex?

NICOLE

No way!

BUFFY

No THX.

NICOLE

They don't even have Dolby.

JENNIFER

Sorry!

KIMBERLY

Beverly Center.

BUFFY

Oh, please. They show previews for porn movies.

KIMBERLY

Oh, yeah...

NICOLE

AMC?

BUFFY & KIMBERLY
(unison)

Bogus corn.

KIMBERLY

Totally stale and the ushers are like the acne patrol.

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JENNIFER

Totally.

The group reaches the elevator and Buffy pushes the call button. The doors open and they file inside.

NICOLE

How are we thinking: Pavilion?

BUFFY

Sounds toasty. We're going to the Pavilion.

JENNIFER

Excellent! What's playing there?

NICOLE

I don't know. Does it matter?

As the elevator doors begin to close, MERRICK, a tall man, late 50's, wearing an overcoat and a fedora stops them. The doors slide back open and he stands there, looking expectantly at Buffy.

BUFFY
(to Merrick)

Excuse much. Rude or anything?

KIMBERLY

Nice ensemble.

NICOLE

What a homeless.

Buffy pushes the button again and the doors slide closed.

Merrick steps over to the concourse railing and looks down, watching the girls as they head out of the mall, giggling and laughing between themselves.

CUT TO:

6 INT. HOLLYWOOD GALAXY THEATER— NIGHT

6

The four girls are watching the movie but paying little attention to it. Their gossip continues unabated, much to the annoyance of those around them.

NICOLE
(to Buffy)

Is Jeffrey really spending the night at your house?

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

BUFFY

That's the plan.

NICOLE

Oh, what a sitch!

JENNIFER

Your parents are always going away for the weekend. You're so lucky. Mine don't. I'm gonna die a virgin.

PIKE, a sardonic, rebellious type and his friend BENNY are sitting in the row directly behind Buffy and her friends. He's had enough of the vapid chatter and kicks the back of Buffy's seat.

PIKE

Hey! Would you guys shut up, please?

Buffy turns around and tosses a piece of licorice at him.

BUFFY
(sarcastic)

It could happen.

NICOLE
(mock accent)

Got a real 'tude.

PIKE

Boo! It's the Loch Ness monster!

NICOLE

God! Take a chill lozenge.

KIMBERLY

Like we don't have rights, too.

BUFFY

Ignore them, okay? Ignore them.

BENNY
(to Pike)

Oh, no, no! I can't believe these people. We paid good money to see this.

PIKE

No we didn't.

BENNY

Oh, yeah.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. HOLLYWOOD GALAXY THEATER— NIGHT 7

Jeffrey pulls up to the theater in his convertible with his friends ANDY and GRUELLER in tow. Andy is hooting and cheering the whole way.

ANDY

Look at the streets. They're all lining up for me because— I am the king! Whoo!

GRUELLER

Hey! Look at the moon, man. It's a *huge* moon. Guys, we gotta do something tonight. We gotta go out and party!

ANDY

You know, if you spent more time at home sleeping, you'd spend less time on the court sucking.

Grueller smacks Andy on the back of the head.

JEFFREY

(to Grueller)

You were a bonehead out there yesterday. Anyway, I'm booked. Got to spend some quality time with the little lady.

He looks up to see Buffy waving at him from the top of the escalator. Pike and Benny shove their way past the girls and down the steps, earning themselves hateful glares.

ANDY

(to Jeffrey)

Pushover! You're such a pushover.

Grueller hops out of the car.

GRUELLER

You guys, I'm blowing. Andy, you coming with me?

ANDY

No, I'll catch a ride with Jeffrey.

GRUELLER

Later.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

Andy holds up his hand.

ANDY

Slam dunk!

Grueller slaps it and heads off. Pike walks past, shakes his head at the jocks and keeps going just as Buffy runs up to the car. She leans across Andy and kisses Jeffrey, her perfect butt right in Andy's face. He looks at it with a mixture of lust and frustration.

ANDY

Jeffrey, I don't want to sound sexist or anything but can I borrow her?

BUFFY

Andy!

JEFFREY
(to Andy)

No way. You'd get her dirty. *(to Buffy; off her look)* He would, honey. He's an animal.

BUFFY

See you at my house.

She smiles slyly at him, then rejoins her friends. Andy's eyes follow her butt the whole way and Jeffrey smacks him on the back of the head.

JEFFREY

Don't look!

CUT TO:

8 EXT. COMMUNITY PARK— CAROUSEL— NIGHT

8

Grueller takes a shortcut through the dark and deserted park. He stops near the carousel when he hears a whispered breath from somewhere in the darkness.

GRUELLER
(to himself)

Oh, man. I'm not in the mood for this. *(loud)* Okay, whoever's behind me better be gone when I turn around.

He spins around to find the vampire AMILYN, smiling down at him from his perch atop one of the carousel horses.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

GRUELLER

What? Are you some kind of weirdo or something? Huh?

CUT TO:

9 INT. SUMMERS HOME— LIVING ROOM— NIGHT 9

The TV is on and a NEWSCASTER is in mid-report.

NEWSCASTER

The apparent cause of death was a severe neck wound that resembled, in the words of one bystander, “a really gross hickey”. In a related story, the body of a third slasher victim, Jason Doofey, has disappeared from the morgue...

Pull back to reveal Jeffrey watching TV and munching on a bag of chips.

CUT TO:

10 INT. SUMMERS HOME— KITCHEN— NIGHT 10

Buffy’s parents, JOYCE and HANK, are rushing about, on their way to a country club weekend.

HANK

(to Buffy; dismissive)

Have fun. Be good. Stay away from the Jag.

BUFFY

I know!

Joyce snaps her suitcase shut.

JOYCE

That’s everything.

Buffy heads into the living room.

BUFFY
(to Joyce)

Bye.

JOYCE

Kiss noise!

CUT TO:

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

11 INT. SUMMERS HOME— LIVING ROOM— NIGHT 11

Buffy walks in with a bag of popcorn and a disgusted look on her face as her parents wave on their way out. Jeffrey waves back.

JEFFREY

Bye!

Buffy sits on the couch next to him and offers popcorn.

JEFFREY

She thinks my name is Bobby?

BUFFY

It's possible she thinks *my* name is Bobby.

JEFFREY

Real quality-timer, huh?

BUFFY

Mmm. Something like that.

She smiles at him and leans over for a kiss.

JEFFREY

Yeah, works for me. I mean, if they want to leave you alone in the house, all helpless and vulnerable...

He starts kissing her neck and she responds eagerly, her arms encircling him in a passionate embrace.

CUT TO:

12 INT. EUROPE (DARK AGES)— CITY COTTAGE— NIGHT 12

The Slayer enters to find a vampire feeding on one of his victims. She raises her stake as the demon hisses and charges her, knocking her to the floor. The vampire bolts out the door and down the stairs and the Slayer turns and launches herself out the window, shattering the glass.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. EUROPEAN CITY STREET— NIGHT 13

The Slayer lands on top of the vampire and tackles him off his horse. She raises the stake and plunges it into the creature's heart, killing him.

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The Slayer looks up from the body of the dead vampire only to find four more approaching, led by Amilyn. A voice from above draws her attention.

VOICE
(o.s.)

Oh, please! Show me a real Slayer.

The master vampire LOTHOS floats to the ground before her.

SLAYER

Lothos...

LOTHOS

Will you people never learn... we can't be stopped.

The Slayer swings at him but he easily blocks her blow and spins her around, bringing a knife to her throat.

LOTHOS

This is our world now.

He pulls the Slayer's hair back and lowers his fangs to her neck.

DISSOLVE TO:

14 INT. SUMMERS HOME (PRESENT)— BUFFY'S ROOM— NIGHT 14

Buffy is tossing and turning in her bed, dreams of the Slayer's death disturbing her sleep. She starts awake with a gasp.

BUFFY

Wow...

Realizing it was just a dream, she hugs her stuffed bear and drifts off to sleep again.

CUT TO:

15 INT. LOTHOS' LAIR— NIGHT 15

Amilyn approaches Lothos' casket, set on a pedestal in the center of a great hall, and kneels before it. Candles burn brightly all around, lending the room the feel of a malevolent cathedral.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

AMILYN

Sleep, my Master, my own. Sleep. I have already begun building you a new family. Soon we will be legion. When you rise, we will claim this place as our own. Rubies will drip from your lips.

A gloved hand rises out of the casket and Amilyn kisses it reverently.

AMILYN

Soon...

CUT TO:

16 EXT. HEMERY HIGH— COURTYARD— DAY

16

Buffy and her entourage— Jennifer, Kimberly, Nicole and CASSANDRA— sit down at a table in the sunny school courtyard.

BUFFY

The environment. I'm telling you, it's totally key. The earth is in terrible shape. We could all die. Besides, Sting's doing it.

KIMBERLY

I thought he was doing Indians.

JENNIFER

How about the homelesses?

KIMBERLY

Aren't there any sicknesses that aren't so depressing?

Jeffrey and Andy arrive. Buffy smiles and kisses her boyfriend.

BUFFY

Hi!

JEFFREY

Hey, there.

ANDY

What're you guys doing?

NICOLE

Senior dance. We need to come up with a theme.

BUFFY

It has to be a socially conscious theme.

Cassandra reads from the student guidebook.

CASSANDRA

Yeah. "One that reflects the students' growing awareness of and involvement in the world around them".

JEFFREY & ANDY

Downer!

BUFFY

I still say the environment. That's my suggestion.

KIMBERLY

Yeah, me too.

JENNIFER

Yeah, that's a good one.

CASSANDRA

What are the most immediate threats to the world environment right now?

JEFFREY

Um... litter?

ANDY

Litter, yeah!

NICOLE

Forest fires?

BUFFY

Bugs?

KIMBERLY

Bugs, totally!

JENNIFER

Yeah, I hate bugs.

BUFFY
(smiles proudly)

Yeah!

CASSANDRA

Hey, guys, what do you think about the ozone layer?

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

KIMBERLY

What about it?

BUFFY

Yeah, we gotta get rid of that.

The bell rings and PRINCIPAL MURRAY breaks up their think tank.

PRINCIPAL MURRAY

First bell, people. Time marches on.

JEFFREY

What's your point?

PRINCIPAL MURRAY

Button it, Kramer.

Cassandra stands up, excited about the dance theme.

CASSANDRA
(to Buffy)

Let's meet tonight, okay?

KIMBERLY

Café Blasé?

NICOLE

Oh, cool! We can like figure decorations and stuff.

BUFFY
(sarcastic)

I don't know, guys... I really wanted to get a head start on my homework.

It takes Buffy's dim-bulb friends a second to get the fact that she's joking. When they do, they erupt in a torrent of giggles.

NICOLE

I love that one!

CUT TO:

17 INT. CAFE BLASE— NIGHT

17

Buffy and Nicole are sitting at a table waiting for the others to show up.

NICOLE

I don't see why we have to invite every single senior.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

BUFFY

Because it's the senior dance... just a shot in the dark.

NICOLE

So? I mean, like why do we have to invite Nadia? She's such a blemish.

BUFFY

I know. You're right— she is.

Jennifer and Kimberly arrive and Kimberly is wearing a brand-new yellow leather jacket, the same one Buffy was admiring at the mall.

KIMBERLY

Hi.

Buffy gives her a scornful look.

KIMBERLY

What?

BUFFY

I thought that look was over?

KIMBERLY

Well, it's... retro.

JENNIFER

Yeah, retro.

KIMBERLY
(relents)

You can borrow it sometime.

BUFFY

Okay, maybe I will. We were talking about the senior dance in case you're interested.

JENNIFER
(whispers)

You guys, look who's coming.

KIMBERLY

Eeewww! Sick...

NICOLE

Ugh.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

Pike and Benny sit down at the bar not far from the girls' booth. A waitress arrives to take their order and Benny drops a handful of coins on her tray.

BENNY

What does it look like?

WAITRESS

Two coffees or a hot dog—nothing on it, nothing inside.

Buffy's friends giggle like chipmunks as Buffy mouths the word "losers" to them.

WAITRESS

(to Benny)

I'm Charlotte, your waitress.

BENNY

Hi, Charlotte.

He makes the Mr. Spock "live long and prosper" sign to her and she walks off in disgust.

BUFFY

(to Pike)

You guys are thrashed.

NICOLE

Just a little!

BENNY

(to Pike)

Are we?

Pike takes a long swig from a flask.

PIKE

That would explain the slurred speech. *(to Buffy)* Thanks. What's your name?

BUFFY

Buffy.

PIKE

Yeah, figures. I'm Pike. This is Benny. *(beat; off her look)* And I'm... Pike.

BUFFY

Pike isn't a name. It's a fish.

The girls crack up.

BENNY
Don't we know you guys?

PIKE
Hey, wait a minute...

BENNY
You're the guys from the movies!

PIKE
We hate you guys!

KIMBERLY
Like we care, I'm sure.

JENNIFER
Yeah. Boo-hoo.

The waitress brings Pike and Benny their hot dogs and he takes a bite, talking around a mouthful of food.

PIKE
You guys— your behavior was shocking!

NICOLE
You just snuck in anyway.

JENNIFER
Yeah.

BENNY
Hey, Buffy. You hungry? I got something for ya!

He holds the hot dog in his crotch like a penis and shoves it right up in Buffy's face. Buffy snatches a knife off the table and with a lightning-quick flick of her wrist, slices the hot dog neatly down the center.

BENNY
(to Pike)
Aww, man. She wasted my dog.

Pike and the girls stare at Buffy in amazement.

CUT TO:

18 EXT. HOLLYWOOD HILLS— CANYON ROAD— NIGHT

18

Pike and Benny are stumbling along the cliffside, slightly inebriated.

PIKE

I'll have it running in about a week. All you need is some brake pads... shocks, new tires, new engines... maybe.

BENNY

You're totally drunk. When you get that car together, man, let's bail, get out of this town. Those rich bitches, they're a plague. They gotta be stopped.

PIKE

What? You didn't like them? Give me that.

He snatches his flask from Benny.

BENNY

I mean, they're all the same. They're just so stuck-up. (*mocking*) It's like they're not even human! I hate 'em.

PIKE

Yeah, but would you bone 'em?

BENNY

Yes, definitely! Definitely, please God! Especially the blonde. Oh, I'd give my right eye for a piece of that!

PIKE

Wait. She's not even human!

BENNY

Yes, but her yabows scoff at gravity.

PIKE

Man, you're disgusting. You don't even *like* her and you sleep with her. What is that?

BENNY

I got a newflash for you. (*re: flask*) Another shot of this and I'll have sex with *you*.

PIKE

(*sarcastic*)

Oh, yeah. Then you'll never call me.

Benny turns and looks over the edge of the cliff. The dizzying height unnerves him.

BENNY

I think I'm gonna ralph.

PIKE

Oh, hey, Benny, I'm here for you, man.

Pike turns to help him sit up but falls over onto the ground himself.

PIKE

(laughs)

I'm here for you, Ralph.

Headlights flash into Benny's eyes as a car pulls onto the shoulder nearby. Benny looks up at it just as Amilyn rises up behind him, fangs glistening. The vampire yanks Benny's head back and sinks his teeth into Benny's neck, pulling him over the cliff edge and out of sight.

The car pulls to a stop next to Pike who is still lying on the ground in a drunken stupor. Merrick gets out of the car just as Benny disappears. He looks down at Pike for a moment, then helps him up and into his car.

MERRICK

This is not a very safe place for you to fall asleep.

PIKE

(mumbles)

Okay... mom.

CUT TO:

19 INT. HEMERY HIGH— GYMNASIUM— DAY

19

Buffy is teaching her cheerleading squad the latest cheer.

BUFFY

(demonstrating)

Okay, dribble... shoot, shoot. Take that ball to the hoop, hoop.
All right.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

JENNIFER

That's cute. I like that. *(to Nicole and Buffy)* Hey, guys, I was thinking, for the senior dance, what if we made a big sign that says "Don't Tread On Me"? You know, on a picture of the earth.

BUFFY

How do you not tread on the earth? I mean, you kinda have to, right?

JENNIFER

Oh... yeah. I never thought of that.

NICOLE

I gotta bail. *(to Buffy)* You coming?

BUFFY

No, you guys blow. I'm waiting on Cassandra. She's gonna help me with my history. Wait, wait, wait... I kinda loaned her Kimberly's yellow leather jacket so... don't tell her, all right?

JENNIFER

Okay, I won't. See ya.

BUFFY

Bye.

Jennifer and Nicole head out of the door.

CUT TO:

Later. Buffy is practicing her gymnastic moves, executing one complicated maneuver after another, flawlessly. She starts with a gasp when she turns and finds Merrick staring at her from across the room.

BUFFY

Oh! God! You scared me to death. Where the hell did you come from?

MERRICK

That was very impressive. The tumbling.

BUFFY

What? Oh. I used to do gymnastics. Are you looking for somebody?

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

MERRICK

I was looking for you, actually.

BUFFY

Why? Am I in trouble or something? 'Cause if I am, I didn't do it.

MERRICK

No, you're not in trouble. I am. I'm years late. You should have been taught, prepared. But I wasn't certain until just now that it was you.

BUFFY

What are you talking about?

MERRICK

I'm saying that I've been searching everywhere for you, Buffy.

BUFFY
(confused)

Why?

MERRICK

To bring you your birthright.

BUFFY

My birthright? Is that like a trust fund or something?

MERRICK

I think it will be easier for you to understand this birthright if I show it to you. All right? So you come with me now... to the graveyard.

Buffy is slightly freaked by this creepy man.

BUFFY

No, no... my trust fund's in the graveyard? God, what's your damage?

MERRICK

Buffy...

BUFFY

You're one of those skanky old men that like attacks little girls and stuff, right? Well, forget you!

MERRICK

My name is Merrick and you have been chosen, Buffy.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

BUFFY
(sighs)

Chosen to go to the graveyard? Why don't you just take the first runner-up, okay?

She puts on her letter jacket and gathers her things.

MERRICK

Everything depends on you, Buffy. You must come with me now, to the graveyard, while there's still time.

BUFFY

Time to do what?

MERRICK

Time to stop the killing... to stop the vampires.

BUFFY

All right, let me get this straight, okay? You want me to go to the graveyard with you because I'm the Chosen One and there are vampires?

MERRICK

Yes.

BUFFY

Does Elvis talk to you? Does he tell you to do things? Do you see spots?

MERRICK

Spots? Yes, of course. That's your proof— spots. You bear the mark. You bear the mark of the coven.

He points to her shoulder.

BUFFY

What? That big old hairy mole? Eeewww... I had that thing removed. Besides, you knowing about my big old mole doesn't prove anything. Except that it's way past medication time for you, buddy. So why don't you stay away from me, okay?

She grabs her bag and walks off. Merrick stops her with a question.

MERRICK

Do you dream that you are someone else, Buffy?

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

BUFFY

Everybody does.

MERRICK

No, someone in the past. Someone real. A Magyar peasant girl, perhaps... or an Indian princess? A slave?

Buffy's suddenly not so sure of herself.

BUFFY

I was a slave...

MERRICK

In Virginia.

BUFFY

I don't know. There was like this big farm or something. There was this one where there were these knights and I'm a...

MERRICK

A servant girl— a bar maid.

BUFFY

Oh, my god... oh, my god! I never told anybody about this. There's this one where there's this man— I think he's a man, he's in my dreams sometimes— and I'm fighting him... always fighting. But he's so strong.

MERRICK

His name is Lothos.

BUFFY

How do you know all this?

MERRICK

Because it is your birthright and I am a part of it. Come with me to the graveyard and I will show you.

CUT TO:

20 EXT. LOS ANGELES CEMETERY— NIGHT

20

Buffy and Merrick enter the cemetery and make their way among the crypts and headstones.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

BUFFY

I can't believe I'm doing this. I can't believe I'm in a graveyard with a strange man hunting for vampires on a school night. Eewww...

MERRICK

Why did you never tell anyone about your dreams?

BUFFY

Oh, right! Tell everybody I'm crazy? Beauty idea.

She suddenly grabs her abdomen in pain.

MERRICK

Cramps?

BUFFY

None of your business. God!

Merrick stops before a fresh grave.

MERRICK

This is it. Robert Berman was killed three days ago. His body was found in the bushes by the canal. Extensive tissue damage... tearing... at the neck and shoulders. Take these.

He hands Buffy a long and pointed piece of wood and a crucifix.

BUFFY

Wait a minute...

MERRICK

No, you won't have to do anything. They're just for your protection. Sit there.

He points to a spot on the ground in front of Berman's grave and Buffy reluctantly complies.

MERRICK

I just need you to watch.

BUFFY

All right. What do we do now?

MERRICK

We wait for Robert Berman to wake up.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

BUFFY

Do you have any gum?

Merrick can't believe she's so vapid.

MERRICK
(sighs)

No.

CUT TO:

21 EXT. HEMERY HIGH— PARKING LOT— NIGHT 21

Cassandra is leaving school, heading for her car. She stops and looks around in confusion when a sudden breeze springs up and laughter echoes down from above.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. LOS ANGELES CEMETERY— NIGHT 22

Buffy is still waiting with Merrick. She sighs with boredom, then her attention is suddenly drawn to the grave where the dirt falls away and a hand emerges, clawing its way up.

Buffy jumps up and backs away in terror as Robert Berman erupts from the ground with a snarl of rage. Merrick takes out a stake of his own and approaches the vampire from behind as he stalks Buffy.

The vampire sense Merrick and suddenly turns and tackles him.

MERRICK

Buffy!

Buffy watches, dumbstruck, as they wrestle on the ground. She backs away, onto a second fresh grave. Another pair of hands shoots out of the ground and grabs her ankles as a female vampire rises and attacks.

Buffy kicks the creature in the head and breaks free as Merrick flips Berman off of him. Berman grabs Merrick and tries to bite him but Merrick manages to shove him off and into Buffy who reflexively stakes him through the back.

Berman drops to the ground, dead, and Buffy stares down at him in shock. She has little time to take it in, however. The female vampire races up behind her. Merrick tosses Buffy his stake.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

MERRICK

Behind you.

Buffy deftly catches the stake, spins around and rams it through the vampire's chest in one fluid motion.

Gasping and out of breath, she looks over at Merrick in shock and confusion.

CUT TO:

23 EXT. ZEPH'S AUTO SHOP— NIGHT 23

Establishing. Music comes from an upstairs room.

CUT TO:

24 INT. ZEPH'S AUTO SHOP— PIKE'S ROOM— NIGHT 24

Pike is asleep in his bedroom over the auto-repair shop where he works, the stereo blaring rock music. He stirs at the sound of rapping on the window and sits up to find Benny outside, knocking.

BENNY

Pike!

PIKE

Ben? Where you been, man? I tried to call your house like fifty times.

He staggers out of bed and goes over to the window.

BENNY

Hanging.

PIKE

Hanging? You left me hanging. I almost pulled a Hendrix.

BENNY

Come on, let me in.

PIKE

This weird guy gave me a ride home. I thought he was gonna hit on me.

Pike tries to open the window for him but it's stuck.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

BENNY

Come on, invite me in, Pike.

Pike looks up at him, suddenly realizing something's not right here.

PIKE

Wait a minute, man. What's wrong with you?

BENNY

I'm fine.

PIKE

You look like shit, man.

BENNY

Well, I feel... pretty.

He spreads his arms and slides back and forth. Pike looks down at Benny's feet.

PIKE

You on something?

BENNY

No.

Pull back to reveal Benny is floating in mid-air outside Pike's second-story window. Benny laughs maniacally.

BENNY

Let me in, Pike. I'm hungry!

PIKE

Go home, Ben.

BENNY

But I'm hungry!

PIKE

You're floating! Come on, man! Get away from here.

BENNY

I'm hungry! I'm hungry! I'm hungry!

Benny laughs again as Pike backs away from the window.

CUT TO:

25 EXT. SUMMERS HOME— NIGHT

25

Merrick's car pulls into the Summers' driveway and Buffy gets out.

MERRICK

Now, Buffy, you go to school tomorrow and act normally. Don't let anyone know you know what's happening. This is important. Because once the vampires find out who you are, you won't be hunting *them* anymore. You understand? They mustn't know your name.

This is all a lot for Buffy to absorb.

BUFFY

All right...

Merrick hands her a card.

MERRICK

Meet me at this address tomorrow after school.

BUFFY

I have cheerleading practice, okay?

MERRICK

You're going to have to skip it.

That's not what Buffy wanted to hear. She fumes for a moment.

BUFFY

They can't come in unless you invite them in. Is that true?

MERRICK

(nods)

That's true.

BUFFY

Good.

CUT TO:

26 INT. SUMMERS HOME— FOYER— NIGHT

26

Buffy enters and quietly closes the door behind her. She quickly heads for the stairs but her mother intercepts her.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

JOYCE

Do you know what time it is?

BUFFY
(hesitant)

Around ten?

JOYCE
(re: her watch)

Oh! I knew this thing was slow. You pay a fortune for something... *(yells; to Hank)* Honey, come on! We're gonna be late.

Disgusted, Buffy turns and heads upstairs.

CUT TO:

27 INT. SUMMERS HOME— BUFFY'S BATHROOM— NIGHT 27

Buffy is in her nightgown, preparing for bed and trying to clean the mud and dirt off her letter jacket. She finally gives up in disgust and heads back into her bedroom.

28 INT. SUMMERS HOME— BUFFY'S ROOM— NIGHT 28

Buffy sits down at her armoire and ties a red ribbon into her hair. She turns out the light and walks over to her bed where she reclines into Lothos' arms. He hands her stuffed bear to her and she closes her eyes and drifts off to sleep as we pull back to reveal that she is no longer in her bedroom, but rather Lothos' lair.

Buffy suddenly snaps awake with a gasp, back in her own bedroom and alone once again. Spooked, she reaches up to her hair and finds the red ribbon tied there just as in her dream.

CUT TO:

29 INT. LOTHOS' LAIR— NIGHT 29

Cassandra lies on her back on a small couch with Amilyn crouched over her, stroking her hair.

AMILYN

Wake up, sweetie. You'll be late for school. Are we having a nightmare, Cassandra? *(whispers)* He knows you're awake. Your heartbeat sounds out to him like thunder.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

Movement catches her eye and she looks up to see Lothos hovering overhead, cape extended like a giant bat. He drifts down next to Cassandra and chuckles menacingly.

CASSANDRA

Who *are* you?

CUT TO:

30 INT. HEMERY HIGH— GIRLS' LOCKER ROOM— DAY 30

Nicole and Jennifer grab their pom-poms and head for the gym just as Buffy enters.

JENNIFER

Oh, hi!

NICOLE

Wow. You're late.

BUFFY

I'm gonna practice.

NICOLE

Cool. See you out there.

BUFFY

Okay, bye.

Buffy goes to her locker and starts changing as Merrick appears from around the corner.

BUFFY

Oh, God! What are you doing here? This is a naked place.

MERRICK

You were supposed to meet me an hour ago.

BUFFY

I told you that I have practice.

MERRICK

And I told you to skip it.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

BUFFY

Listen, I think there's been a big mistake, all right? I mean, I appreciate that there are *real* vampires and that you're on this big holy mission but obviously somebody read their tea leaves wrong 'cause *I'm* not your girl. And I don't think I'm up to it. And just between you and me, neither do you.

MERRICK

You have missed years of training.

BUFFY

See?

MERRICK

And you are undisciplined, frivolous.

BUFFY

Don't I know it.

MERRICK

Quite possibly the most vacuous choice in my entire—

BUFFY

Okay, okay! I think we both get the point.

MERRICK

Right. Then I don't think there's anything more for us to say.

BUFFY

I guess not. Good luck and all.

Merrick turns to leave, then hesitates.

MERRICK

Oh, yes. There is one thing.

BUFFY
(exasperated)

What?

MERRICK

This.

He holds up a hunting knife, then whips it at Buffy. With lightning-quick reflexes, she catches it, the blade mere inches from her face.

MERRICK

Bravo.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

Buffy looks at the knife in shock.

BUFFY
(incredulous)

You threw a knife at my head.

MERRICK

Yes, I had to show you.

BUFFY
But... you threw a knife at my *head!*

MERRICK

And you caught it. Only the Chosen One could have caught it.

Buffy points the knife at him and backs him across the locker room.

BUFFY

Don't you get it? I don't *want* to be the Chosen One. I don't want to spend the rest of my life chasing vampires. All I want to do is graduate from high school, go to Europe, marry Christian Slater and die! Now it may not sound too exciting to a scone-head like you but I think it's swell. You come along and tell me that I'm a member of the Hairy Mole Club so you can throw things at me?

MERRICK

Buffy, it was necessary.

BUFFY

Last night you knew I was sitting in a fresh grave, didn't you?

MERRICK

Yes, because I had to make you aware of the implica—

Buffy punches him square in the face. Merrick gasps and holds his nose in pain. For her part, Buffy is surprised at her own strength.

BUFFY

Oh! Wow. I never hit anybody before.

MERRICK
(muffled)

Really? Well, you did it perfectly.

BUFFY

I didn't even break a nail...

CUT TO:

31 INT. ABANDONED BALLROOM— DAY 31

Merrick has turned the ballroom into a training facility. Buffy is working out, testing her newfound abilities. She boxes with a hanging bag, climbs ropes and tests her agility and weapons aptitude.

She spars with Merrick, punching his padded palms. He raises one hand high and when she goes for it, he sweeps her feet out from under her.

CUT TO:

32 INT. HEMERY HIGH— PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE— DAY 32

Principal Murray looks out his window and notes the time as Buffy runs into the school late.

CUT TO:

33 EXT. HEMERY HIGH— COURTYARD— DAY 33

Buffy jumps up from the table where she and her friends are eating when she spots Jeffrey approaching. She jumps into his arms and kisses him passionately.

CUT TO:

33 INT. ABANDONED BALLROOM— DAY 33

Buffy's training progresses, her talents honed, but she still needs work.

She executes a rolling flip and whips a stake at a hanging dummy. Much to Merrick's dismay, the stake embeds itself in the mannequin's thigh.

Buffy and Merrick spar again. However, this time when Merrick tries the foot sweep, Buffy easily avoids it and knocks him off his feet instead. She brings the stake down, stopping inches from his neck. He smiles and moves the stake over his chest.

MERRICK

The heart. Remember?

CUT TO:

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

Later. Buffy's training is over for the day.

BUFFY
So when do I meet this guy Lothos?

MERRICK
I don't know. When he comes to you in your dreams, what does he do to you? How does he make you feel?

BUFFY
He... he scares me.

CUT TO:

34 INT. HEMERY HIGH— PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE— DAY

34

The principal has Buffy in for a meeting. Buffy is exhausted and dozes while he lectures her.

PRINCIPAL MURRAY
Well, I think we can safely say that there's something going on with you, Buffy. Now there's nothing to be nervous about. You're not in any kind of trouble. Don't think of me as Gary Murray administrator. No, think of me as Gary Murray, party guy. A happenin' dude who can talk to the young. So tell me... it's drugs, isn't it?

Buffy yawns, then notices a fly buzzing about the office.

PRINCIPAL MURRAY
Hey, I know where you're coming from. Believe me, I've had my drug experiences. Oh, yeah, I did a lot— well, some— acid in the 60's.

Buffy reaches over to Murray's desk and takes a pushpin out of a jar. She tracks the fly with her eyes, ignoring Murray altogether.

PRINCIPAL MURRAY
See, I was at a Doobie Brothers concert and I could see the music flowing into me. It was bright red and electric. And I felt like I was a big toaster, you know? And I thought well, maybe I am a toaster and we're all molecules. You know, my friend Melissa, her head looked like a big party balloon and whoa, that scared me.

Buffy puts the pin in her mouth and then spits it at the fly, impaling it on the wall.

PRINCIPAL MURRAY

Then I... started to freak out.

CUT TO:

35 INT. ZEPH'S AUTO SHOP— GARAGE— DAY

35

Pike is making hurried repairs to his van.

PIKE
(yells)

You said you'd have the part by two o'clock. Christ, it's almost dark!

Pike slams the hood closed and dumps the tools in their toolbox. ZEPH looks up from his newspaper.

ZEPH

What crawled up your bungus? Where the hell are you going?

PIKE

I'm leavin', man. I'm bailin' town. This place has gotten way too hairy.

ZEPH

Where the hell am I gonna find a mechanic stupid enough to work for my kind of money?

PIKE

Seen Benny lately?

ZEPH

No. Hey, you want me to give him a message?

PIKE

You should think about leaving too, man. Sell this place. There's something going on around here. I don't know... something weird.

ZEPH

Hey, what do you want me to do if I see Benny?

PIKE

Run.

CUT TO:

36 EXT. LOS ANGELES STREETS— ALLEY— NIGHT

36

Buffy is on her first patrol, dressed in jeans and a stocking cap and carrying a backpack full of weapons.

BUFFY
(to herself)

Nice night for a walk.

She suddenly grabs her side as if in pain.

BUFFY

God, it's cold... dark.

She slowly makes her way down the alley, trying to look as defenseless as possible.

BUFFY
(sings)

Feelings... whoa, whoa, whoa, feelings. Boy, I'm feeling really helpless...

She grimaces as another cramp hits her. A furtive noise draws her attention.

BUFFY

Hello?

She turns around but there's no one there. Suddenly, a vampire drops down in front of her from directly above. It hisses and grabs her but she deftly rolls and flips him off. The creature scrambles to his feet as Buffy retrieves a stake from her pack.

Buffy executes a standing somersault and whips the stake at the vampire, impaling him cleanly through the heart, then runs at him with a flying kick and rams it home.

The vampire falls over dead as Merrick enters the mouth of the alley holding a stopwatch. He clicks it off, marking her time.

BUFFY

Toaster-caked him!

CUT TO:

Buffy and Merrick return from patrol and Buffy moves around the room, turning on the lights.

BUFFY

It was a trap, get it? I led him in.

MERRICK

It was a blind alley, get it? If there'd been any more of them you would be dead by now. You must never forget the cardinal rule, Buffy: one vampire is a lot easier to kill than ten.

BUFFY

Does the word "duh" mean anything to you?

MERRICK

You felt sick, didn't you? You had cramps?

BUFFY

Nice conversationalist! Yeah, I felt them a little. But I'm not due for another couple of weeks since you're so hot on the subject.

MERRICK

Of course you're not. It was a natural reaction on the part of the Slayer. A reaction to their unnaturalness. And you're going to be able to use that to track them.

BUFFY

Great. My secret weapon is PMS. That's just terrific. Thanks for telling me.

MERRICK

It's not a weapon. It's an alert system.

BUFFY

Well, aren't we kung-fu. I don't see you out there killing any vampires.

MERRICK

I play my part.

BUFFY

You can play with your part all you want but it's my neck on the block. I'm out there risking my life! I'm risking my life and you're not doing anything.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

MERRICK

I train girls to be Slayers. I have done so for a hundred lives and I shall continue to do so. I am born each time with the knowledge that my purpose is to prepare the Chosen One for her battle. I am not a Slayer and I must not interfere— even if I want to— even if I think that this time the girl... is truly exceptional.

BUFFY

So... what do you do? I mean, you just keep on living the same old life over and over?

MERRICK

Yes. Yes, until...

BUFFY

What? Until there aren't anymore vampires? Then what?

MERRICK

(smiles)

Then maybe I'll go to heaven.

BUFFY

Or maybe you'll just get a job.

MERRICK

(wistful)

Oh, a job... I would have been a wonderful boot maker.

BUFFY

That is so dull! I'm going to be a buyer.

MERRICK

Of what?

BUFFY

I don't know. It's just a job I heard of. Sounded pretty cool, you know? Buying, buyer, to buy. I like that.

She gets a bottle of water for herself and brings Merrick a cup of tea. Merrick seems uncomfortable discussing Buffy's future with her.

MERRICK

We should go to work.

BUFFY

Yeah, quick, before anybody has any fun. *(beat)* Merrick, I'm not gonna croak that easily. I have something that the other girls didn't have.

MERRICK

And what might that be, pray?

BUFFY
(smiles)

My keen fashion sense.

MERRICK

Oh, vampires of the world beware.

BUFFY
(laughs)

Merrick, you made a joke! That's good. Are you all right? Do you want to lie down? I know it hurts the first time. *(beat)* But it was a good joke.

CUT TO:

38 EXT. HOLLYWOOD HILLS— NIGHT

38

Pike is in his van, pulled over onto the shoulder, trying to turn the engine over. He's not having much luck.

PIKE

Come on, baby. Come on. You're close. This is not my night.

Pike looks up into the rearview mirror and sees nothing but empty road behind him. He turns at the sound of approaching footsteps and looks out the back window to find two men walking toward his van.

Pike turns around to crank the engine again and gasps at the sight of Amilyn floating toward him. He frantically turns the key in the ignition.

PIKE

Come on, baby. This is for the money. Make me proud. Come on!

The engine finally catches and Pike snaps the headlights on, blinding Amilyn.

PIKE

Yes, all right.

He drops the van into reverse and hits the gas. The van smashes into the two vampires approaching from behind, sending them sprawling to the pavement.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

Amilyn leaps onto the hood as Pike shifts into drive and speeds down the canyon road. Pike swerves from side to side, trying to throw the demon off, to no avail. Amilyn snarls at Pike through the windshield and stubbornly hangs on.

PIKE

Get off my car, dude.

Pike swerves off the road and into a wooded meadow. He heads for a large tree, intending to crush Amilyn between the van and the tree trunk, but at the last instant, Amilyn flips up onto the roof of the vehicle. Pike swerves madly to avoid the tree.

Amilyn punches down through the roof of the van and reaches for Pike. He fights off the vampire and accelerates toward another tree with low-hanging branches. The van shoots under and Amilyn looks up in shock as a tree limb sweeps him off the roof, separating him from his arm.

The vampire's arm falls into Pike's lap and he tosses it away in horror. Distracted, he looks up just in time to see a tree looming in the windshield. He screams as the van smashes to halt against the tree trunk. Pike's guitar case shoots out the windshield and comes to rest in the grass.

Dazed, Pike pulls himself out of the van only to find an armless Amilyn and his two minions approaching.

PIKE

Oh, give me a break.

AMILYN

You ruined my new jacket. *(to minions)* Kill him a lot.

The minions come for him and Pike takes off running. He trips and falls but spots his guitar case nearby. He opens it and takes out the guitar, wielding it like a club. He smashes it across the head of one of the vampires, shattering the guitar. The vampire, however, isn't even fazed. It tackles Pike and lunges for his neck. Pike punches the creature to no effect. The vampire retaliates with several blows of his own, doubling Pike over.

Suddenly, a kick comes out of nowhere, catching the vampire in the head and sending him reeling to the ground. Buffy jumps on top of him and quickly runs a stake through his chest.

She stands up and looks over at a stunned Pike.

BUFFY

Hi.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

Uhh... PIKE

Is that your van? BUFFY

Yeah, it was. I was— PIKE

The other vampire attacks, throwing Buffy to the ground and seizing Pike. Buffy picks up the neck of the shattered guitar, breaks it in half, and charges the vampire. She decks him with a roundhouse kick, then impales him with the guitar. As she stands up from the vampire's corpse, Merrick appears beside her.

Interesting choice. MERRICK
(re: guitar)

Last minute decision. *(to Pike)* Sorry about your guitar. BUFFY

Hey, you're that weird guy. PIKE
(to Merrick)

Merrick helps Pike to his feet.

You've been hurt. MERRICK

Oh, no... but they say any one you can walk away from is good... PIKE

He suddenly staggers and collapses into Buffy's arms, unconscious.

You know this guy? BUFFY

Well, somewhat. He's rather fond of passing out just as I happen by. MERRICK

Merrick takes Pike's feet and he and Buffy carry him away.

CUT TO:

39 INT. SUMMERS HOME— FOYER— NIGHT 39

Buffy and Pike enter and Buffy flips on the lights.

BUFFY
You doing all right? You okay?

PIKE
Yeah, I'm good. I kinda miss my knees, though.

BUFFY
Want some water or anything? Kitchen's in here.

PIKE
Nope. Got it covered.

He takes out his flask and follows Buffy down the hall.

40 INT. SUMMERS HOME— KITCHEN— NIGHT 40

Pike takes a healthy swig from his flask as Buffy goes to the fridge and takes out the ice bucket. She takes off her shirt and starts inspecting her injuries.

PIKE
So you do this a lot? I mean, is it like a hobby for you?

BUFFY
Not exactly.

PIKE
They were vampires, weren't they?

BUFFY
Yeah.

PIKE
God! Vampires. Unbelievable.

BUFFY
You had a car full of stuff. Were you leaving?

PIKE
Yeah, I was bailing. I got this friend and he's really... well, he's really a vampire, I guess. It's not a good scene. It's a bad scene and tomorrow I'm on a bus. I'm outta here.

Pike notices the wound Buffy is icing down. It's bleeding quite a bit.

Wow, you okay? PIKE

Yeah, I'm fine. BUFFY

You sure? PIKE

It doesn't hurt, okay? BUFFY

She turns and walks out of the room. Pike hesitates a moment, then follows.

Who *are* you? I'm sorry, but you seem like such a flake— and I mean that in a good way, really. Hey, I can keep talking until you strike me dead or not. I prefer not. PIKE

41 INT. SUMMERS HOME— LIVING ROOM— NIGHT

41

Things are kinda confusing. BUFFY

I'll buy that. PIKE

Three weeks ago, all I could think about was— well, I didn't actually think about anything— but I definitely didn't expect this. You know what it's like when everything is suddenly different? Everything you thought was crucial seems so... stupid. You find yourself babbling incoherently to a strange man in your living room. BUFFY

She looks away, embarrassed.

Are you calling *me* a man? PIKE

Buffy turns toward the stairs.

Listen, I'm gonna go to bed. If you want... to stay, you can stay in the guest room. BUFFY

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

PIKE

No, I'll stay right here. Make sure the sun comes up and everything.

BUFFY

Okay.

PIKE

I know what it's like.

Buffy smiles at him for a moment, then heads upstairs.

CUT TO:

42 INT. LOTHOS' LAIR— NIGHT

42

Lothos looms over Amilyn, furious.

LOTHOS

You fool. You left the others behind because of a little thing like this... on their first kill?

AMILYN

He took my arm.

LOTHOS

It's your own fault... reckless imbecile. The City of Angels is ours for the taking but you... twelve hundred years old and you behave like a child.

AMILYN

I had him in my grasp.

LOTHOS

Cheer up. You may still. Do something about that arm. It looks horrible. Honestly, I don't know how you made it through the Crusades. I'll be in my chamber...

He bends over and picks up a kitten.

LOTHOS

Having a little snack.

Lothos leaves and Amilyn stares after him, fangs bared in anger.

CUT TO:

43 INT. HEMERY HIGH— CORRIDOR— DAY

43

Nicole, Kimberly and Jennifer are on their way to class. Buffy follows behind, walking with them but not really a part of the group anymore.

KIMBERLY

And then they found Cassandra's body in the hills?

JENNIFER

I know. It'd been there for a week. It was all icky.

NICOLE

It's awful.

JENNIFER

Awful.

KIMBERLY

She still had my jacket.

NICOLE

The yellow leather? You didn't get that back from her?

JENNIFER

I'm *so* sorry!

KIMBERLY

I loved that jacket.

Buffy can't believe she used to call these people her friends.

Jeffrey and Andy walk in and head for their lockers.

ANDY

They're having some kind of memorial service or something tomorrow. You going?

JEFFREY

I don't know. Coach says I gotta work on my abs.

As Buffy walks past, Andy plants his hand on her butt.

ANDY

Oh, got to get some!

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

Buffy instantly reacts and flips Andy onto the floor, lifts him up and throws him against the lockers. Nicole, Jennifer and Kimberly look mortified.

ANDY

Whoa! Whoa! I'm sorry! I'm sorry! I don't actually need any right now.

JEFFREY
(to Buffy)

Hey, what is it with you?

BUFFY
(to Andy)

Don't grab me, okay?

ANDY
(terrified)

Absolutely. I see now the error of my mistake.

JEFFREY
(to Andy)

Hey, keep your hand off my thing. I'll pop you one. *(to Buffy)*
Did he scare you?

He puts his arm around Buffy but she shrugs him off.

BUFFY

I can take care of myself, all right?

JEFFREY

So I noticed.

She walks out and slams the door.

JEFFREY
(to himself)

Nice to feel needed.

ANDY

Yo, Jeff. Let's move out.

JEFFREY

Yes.

CUT TO:

44 INT. MERRICK'S STUDIO— DAY

44

Buffy is packing her cheerleading gear into a backpack.

BUFFY

I've missed three practices already and if I'm not at that game tomorrow, everybody's gonna start talking.

MERRICK

Another distraction. It isn't right.

BUFFY

Why? Because it isn't my fate? It isn't in the Book of All Knowledgefulness that I'll be cheering at the Riverview game tomorrow? Lighten up, Merrick.

MERRICK

None of the other girls ever gave me this much trouble.

BUFFY

And where are they now? Hello.

CUT TO:

45 INT. HEMERY HIGH— GYMNASIUM— NIGHT

45

The Coach is trying to explain his New Age strategy to his team.

COACH

Therefore, if we all work together, together it'll all work out! Are you with me? Now get out there! Score some... uh, points!

Grueller walks up to the bench, suited out to play.

COACH

Hey, wait! You missed practice again today. I think you better sit down and think about how that made me feel.

Grueller sits down and turns to his teammates, smiling wickedly. His ears are pointed and his teeth are long and sharp.

GRUELLER

Go team, go. Rah!

CUT TO:

The bleachers. Merrick makes his way through the crowd and takes a seat.

CUT TO:

The court. Buffy and the squad start their routine.

CHEERLEADERS

Ready? Okay. How funky is your chicken? How funky is your chicken? How loose is your goose? Our goose is totally loose. So come on all you hog fans, so come on all you hog fans, and shake your caboose, and shake your caboose.

The girls whoop and cheer and run off the court.

CUT TO:

Later. Hemery is losing, 69 to 72. The coach motions a player to the bench and points at Grueller.

COACH

Murph, come on out. *(to Grueller)* Okay, you're in and remember—you're special.

GRUELLER

Thanks.

He hands his warm-up jacket to the coach and trots out onto the court.

COACH

All right! Assert your personhood. Actualize. Actualize!

The opposing team inbound the ball to Grueller and he runs circles around the players, dodging and weaving with unnatural agility. This attracts Buffy attention on the sideline and she drops out of the routine to watch more closely.

On the court, Jeffrey waves his arm, trying to get Grueller's attention.

JEFFREY

I'm open. Grueller, I'm open!

Grueller ignores him and slam dunks the ball, floating back down to the floor.

GRUELLER

That'll show 'em.

The REFEREE runs over to the Hemery coach.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

REFEREE

Coach, we can't have this. That's not right. You gotta get him outta there.

COACH

I hear you. That's reprehensible... but the points count, right?

REFEREE

Get him out!

Grueller walks up to the opposing player who has the ball and bares his fangs. The player recoils and hands over the ball to Grueller.

PLAYER

Take it, man.

He backs away from Grueller as his teammates react in anger. The Hemery coach turns to the players on his bench.

COACH

Will you go get him out?

Buffy looks up at Merrick who nods.

On the court, Grueller is dribbling the ball alone, surrounded by the opposing team. His own team stands off to the side, watching with dismay.

ANDY

(to Jeffrey)

Grueller's pretty much abandoned the concept of zones.

One of the visiting players steals the ball from Grueller and breaks for the opposite end of the court. Grueller hisses in anger and chases after him.

Buffy drops her pom-poms and sweeps Grueller's feet out from under him as he runs past, sending him crashing to the floor.

FAN

There's a girl on the court!

Grueller stares at Buffy with rage, then bolts for the door. Buffy chases after him.

MERRICK

Buffy!

BUFFY

He knows who I am!

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

Buffy's friends can't believe what they've just witnessed. They slowly make their way off the court as the game ends and the crowd files out of the bleachers.

CUT TO:

46 EXT. LOS ANGELES— STREETS— NIGHT 46

Grueller runs up to a BIKER talking on a payphone and snarls at him, then runs off.

BIKER
(into phone)

Yeah, the gearbox— ah! Hey, Eric, must be halftime.

Buffy barrels into the biker a second later.

BIKER
Hey, babe. Want to get some real power between your legs?

BIKES
Yeah, I do.

She pulls one of the biker's friends off his cycle, gets on and drives off.

BIKER
Dyke! You're a dyke! I'm tellin' the world!

His buddies mockingly laugh at him, losing his bike to a girl.

Buffy chases Grueller down an alley. At the end, he leaps a chain-link fence and drops down on the other side.

BIKES
Grueller! Grueller! Come on...

She does a U-turn and speeds back out of the alley.

CUT TO:

47 EXT. LOS ANGELES STREETS— NIGHT 47

Pike and a friend are working on a motorcycle as Buffy speeds past.

PIKE
Buff!

He jumps on the bike, kick starts it and takes off after her.

CUT TO:

48 EXT. STORAGE LOT— NIGHT

48

Buffy follows Grueller into a storage lot. She passes a sign which reads:

Pasadena Parade Floats

Storage Yard

Parade Personnel Only

No Unauthorized Entry

Buffy rides into the lot on the motorcycle and hops off, letting the bike crash to a halt against one of the mothballed parade floats.

She makes her way among the colorful floats, holding her side in pain. She stops and looks around, taking her bearings.

A huge chipmunk head falls over on top of her, knocking her to the ground. She looks up to find Grueller looming over her, laughing evilly. Buffy winces in pain.

GRUELLER

Someone get an ouchy?

BUFFY

Grueller, it's me. Remember me? Buffy. We used to hang. My birthday party? You drank all the blueberry schnapps and lugged on my mom.

She backs away but two more vampires are there to restrain her.

BUFFY
(to Grueller)

You were my friend!

GRUELLER

Now I'm a god.

He walks toward her and she kicks him in the face, sending him staggering backward, right onto Pike's stake. Grueller's eyes go wide with shock as Pike drives the wood home.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

PIKE

And now you're a coat rack.

Grueller falls over, dead.

PIKE

Geek.

Buffy breaks free of the two vampires and one chases after Pike while Buffy beats the other one down. She breaks off a piece of one of the floats and impales the creature.

The second vampire chases Pike into a dead end. Pike swings at him several times but the demon ducks every blow. Pike points to the sky.

PIKE

Look, there!

As the witless creature looks up, Pike decks him. Behind the vampire, Buffy somersaults across the lot, leaping through the air and landing on the vampire's head. He crashes to the ground beneath her and she lands on top of Pike, their faces inches apart.

PIKE

Hi.

BUFFY

Hi. What are you doing here?

PIKE

What am *I* doing here? I'm saving your butt. (*off her look*) Well, there was sort of an exchange of butts. At least I didn't faint.

BUFFY

Pike, you shouldn't have come back.

PIKE

What am I gonna do, run? Where am I gonna go? These guys are everywhere and I want to do some damage. I'm good with damage.

Buffy smiles at him and stands up.

BUFFY

I better find Merrick.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

She helps him to his feet and they head off through the maze of floats. They round a corner to find Lothos and Amilyn standing atop a Pegasus float.

LOTHOS

I didn't expect to see you so soon.

Buffy stares at him, terrified.

PIKE
(to Buffy)

I know that guy. *That* is a bad guy. Can we go, please?

LOTHOS
(to Buffy)

Has our time finally come? Have you ripened so fast?

Lothos floats through the air and comes to rest across the lot from her.

LOTHOS

Come closer. Look at me.

Buffy does as he says without hesitation, moving as if in a trance.

PIKE

Does anybody here have a problem with this but me?

Amilyn snarls menacingly at Pike. Buffy stops before Lothos and he raises a flower to her face.

LOTHOS

Come into my eyes. Yes...

PIKE
(to Buffy)

Hey! Hello. This is not a caring nurturer here. This guy's a blood-sucking fiend from beyond the grave.

AMILYN

Will you be wagging that jaw of yours while I'm biting it off?

PIKE

Are you addressing I?

LOTHOS

Who's ready to stop me?

Merrick appears out of the shadows behind Lothos, a wooden dagger raised.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

LOTHOS

It's not you, Merrick. You finally brought me someone real. But is she ready?

MERRICK

Well, actually, she's quite a pain in the ass.

LOTHOS

What a pity.

PIKE

Your move, Merrick.

Lothos looks to Amilyn who moves toward Pike. Pike pushes him back.

PIKE

Come on, lefty. Remember what happened last time you messed with me?

Amilyn lifts Pike off the ground with his remaining arm.

AMILYN

I remember.

PIKE

Shit!

Amilyn throws Pike across the lot and into one of the floats.

MERRICK

She's not ready for you, Lothos.

LOTHOS

That's too bad. I had such high hopes. *(to Buffy)* Close your eyes.

As he lowers his fangs to Buffy's neck, Merrick steps forward.

MERRICK

No! Not this one, Lothos.

He raises the dagger but Lothos easily seizes his arms and stabs Merrick with his own weapon.

LOTHOS

Ashes to ashes...

Merrick turns to Buffy with the dagger protruding from his chest.

MERRICK

Oh, look... what I've done.

LOTHOS

Dust to dust.

Lothos abruptly turns and walks off.

LOTHOS
(to Amilyn)

We're leaving.

AMILYN

We're not eating?

Amilyn hesitates a moment, then runs after Lothos. Merrick staggers and Buffy helps lower him to the ground.

BUFFY

Stay still.

MERRICK

I am still.

BUFFY

We'll get some help.

MERRICK

You... you do... everything wrong.

BUFFY

Sorry. I take it back.

MERRICK

No... do it wrong. Don't play our game. Lothos is a... is a show. Remember about the music. Listen. When the music stops, the rest is—

Merrick's eyes close and his breathing stops as he dies.

BUFFY

Merrick? Merrick... oh...

CUT TO:

49 INT. MERRICK'S STUDIO— NIGHT 49

Buffy sits among Merrick's things and stares into space while Pike watches over her.

CUT TO:

50 INT. HEMERY HIGH— GYMNASIUM— DAY 50

Nicole, Jennifer and Kimberly are constructing decorations for the dance.

NICOLE

It really was mondo bizarre.

KIMBERLY

Oh, please! When she ran out into the court in the middle of the game? Wasn't that the most out of it thing ever or did I blink?

NICOLE

No. Way mental.

The door opens and Buffy enters. She picks up a basketball and walks over to her friends.

NICOLE

Oh... hi, Buffy.

BUFFY

Hi, guys.

NICOLE

You were supposed to be here at three.

BUFFY

Yeah, I know. I'm sorry. I forgot.

KIMBERLY

Buffy, what is your sitch? You're acting like the Thing From Another Tax Bracket. It's too weird.

BUFFY

Listen, a lot's been going on, you guys, okay? And I really wanted to talk to you guys about it.

They all look at her expectantly.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

BUFFY

See... a couple of weeks ago, I met this guy.

KIMBERLY

Oh, my God! You're having an affair?

NICOLE

Cool!

JENNIFER

Does Jeffrey know?

BUFFY

It's not about that. He's like old. He's fifty.

KIMBERLY

Eeeewww!

NICOLE

Sick!

JENNIFER

Gross!

BUFFY

Haven't you guys noticed what's been going here? The strange things? Haven't you noticed the people disappearing? Turning up dead?

NICOLE

What are you talking about?

KIMBERLY

Weird? You mean like hanging out with that homeless Poke?

BUFFY
(hard)

Pike.

NICOLE
(gasps)

Eeww. You're having an affair with him?

JENNIFER

He doesn't look fifty.

BUFFY
(angry)

Guys, I think reality stepped out of here about five minutes ago.

KIMBERLY

Oh, thank you very much.

NICOLE

Yeah, like you've got a grip.

KIMBERLY

You're so out of it. Jennifer says you've blown off cheerleading and now dance committee?

BUFFY

Excuse me for having something important to do.

KIMBERLY

And this isn't important? This happens to be *the* dance.

BUFFY

Right. It's a dance. It's a stupid dance with a bunch of stupid people that I see every stupid day.

NICOLE

Like now we're like stupid?

KIMBERLY

You know, Buffy, this doesn't happen to be just any dance. It happens to be the last dance of our last year.

NICOLE

Except for the semi-formal.

JENNIFER

Right. And the totally formal.

KIMBERLY

Oh, yeah.

NICOLE

Yeah and the senior prom.

KIMBERLY

Okay! Look, Buffy, if you want to play house with the unwashed masses, that's fine. But personally, I think you should spend a little time prioritizing. I really do.

BUFFY

What language are you speaking?

KIMBERLY

Get out of my facial!

Kimberly stands up in a huff and stalks off.

NICOLE

Well, I guess you got what you came for.

BUFFY

Nic...

NICOLE

Later for it.

She gets up and leaves also.

BUFFY

Jen...

Jennifer quickly follows the other two, leaving Buffy by herself.

CUT TO:

51 EXT. LOS ANGELES STREETS— NIGHT

51

Buffy is walking down the street alone, past the brightly lit storefronts. Pike pulls alongside her on his motorbike.

PIKE

Buff! What've you been doing? I looked all over for you.

BUFFY

I'm going shopping. Don't try to stop me.

PIKE

Cool. I need some Allen wrenches. What do you need?

BUFFY

A dress.

PIKE

For what?

BUFFY

A dance.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

PIKE

Come again?

BUFFY

I'm going to the senior dance.

PIKE

Second word sounds like dance.

BUFFY

I'm going to the dance!

PIKE

For what?

BUFFY

In order to dance, drink punch, be with my friends...
comprende?

PIKE

No, I don't *comprende*. I mean, here the world is under attack by legions of the undead—you're going to a mixer!

BUFFY

It's not a mixer. It's a senior dance. It's important. You wouldn't understand.

PIKE

No, I wouldn't understand. I mean, I thought you wanted to kill vampires.

BUFFY

I don't want to kill anybody, okay? And I don't want to talk about this anymore.

PIKE

What about Merrick? Is that what he'd want?

BUFFY

Merrick's dead.

PIKE

Cheap shot.

BUFFY

He's dead because of me. Because I couldn't lift a hand against Lothos. I'm in way over my head.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

PIKE

Look, life's a bitch. I'll give you that. But Buffy, you're the guy.
You are the chosen guy.

BUFFY

Right. I'm the Chosen One... and I choose to be shopping.

PIKE

Yeah, I should have known.

BUFFY

Just leave me alone, all right?

She walks off and Pike calls after her.

PIKE

You know, Benny was right. You're all the same. I'm not
disappointed, just angry!

He kick-starts the bike, revs the engine, and speeds away.

CU on one of those self-picture booths nearby. The curtain opens and Benny
emerges.

BENNY
(incredulous)

Buffy?

He smiles and walks off as the photo machine delivers the picture strip, all of
which are blank.

CUT TO:

52 INT. LOTHOS' LAIR— NIGHT

52

Lothos is reclining in his casket with Amilyn at his side.

AMILYN

Buffy.

LOTHOS

Lay out my suit. We will be attending a dance.

AMILYN

A dance? Master, what are we waiting for? The Slayer is
unmasked. Let's finish it.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

LOTHOS
We'll wait until Saturday.

AMILYN
Why?

LOTHOS
Because I want to dance.

AMILYN
I am yours to command.

CUT TO:

53 INT. ZEPH'S AUTO SHOP— PIKE'S ROOM— NIGHT 53

Pike is sitting on his bed sharpening stakes with a knife.

CUT TO:

54 INT. LOS ANGELES MALL— CLOTHING STORE— NIGHT 54

Buffy pensively holds a dress up in a mirror, the shopping experience not what it used to be.

CUT TO:

55 INT. ZEPH'S AUTO SHOP— PIKE'S ROOM— NIGHT 55

Pike stands before the mirror over his bathroom sink, his face covered in shaving cream. He uses a straight razor to shave his side burns and goatee off.

CUT TO:

56 INT. HEMERY HIGH— GYMNASIUM— NIGHT 56

The dance is in full swing, the gym festooned with "Save the World" decorations. Students gyrate on the dance floor to a frantic techno-pop beat.

Kimberly and Nicole stand off to one side, snidely commenting between themselves on their fellow students.

NICOLE
Look at that.

Kimberly giggles.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

NICOLE

This one doesn't have a mirror at home.

KIMBERLY

Shhh!

The door opens and Buffy enters, dressed in a white formal gown. She spots Andy on the dance floor and heads over to him.

BUFFY

Have you seen Jeffrey?

ANDY

If I say no are you going to hurt me?

BUFFY

No.

ANDY

No.

Buffy smiles and makes her way through the crowd to Nicole and Kimberly.

BUFFY

Hi, guys.

NICOLE

Hi.

BUFFY

Have you seen Jeffrey? Since the limo didn't show up, I thought maybe he'd be here. *(off their amused looks)* What?

Nicole and Kimberly merely laugh and shake their heads. Buffy turns and follows their gaze to find Jeffrey standing behind her.

BUFFY

Jeffrey, there you are.

JEFFREY

Buffy, what are you doing here?

BUFFY

I thought we were gonna come here together.

JEFFREY

I'm here with Jenny.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

Jennifer walks up, laughing, and hands Jeffrey a glass of punch.

BUFFY

I don't get it.

JEFFREY

Come on, Buff. You know what's going on. It's not working out at all. You gotta move on. I got needs, too. I told you about all this.

BUFFY

No, you didn't.

JEFFREY

Didn't you get my message?

BUFFY
(angry)

You left me a message?

JEFFREY

You weren't home. Like always.

BUFFY

You broke up with my machine?

JEFFREY

I'm out of here.

He snaps his fingers as he walks off.

JEFFREY

Jenny!

Jennifer looks awkwardly at Buffy for a moment, then scurries after him. Dejected, Buffy heads to the back of the gym to ponder her options.

The gym door opens behind her and a clean-cut Pike enters. He makes his way through the crowd until he spots Buffy. He buttons his shirt, takes a deep breath and heads over to her, pulling a fake rose off the wall as he goes. He taps her on the shoulder and she brightens when she sees him.

BUFFY

Pike!

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

PIKE

I crashed your party.

He hands the flower to her.

BUFFY
(smiles)

How shallow of you.

PIKE

Yeah, well, I'm pretty shallow.

BUFFY

I'm glad you came.

PIKE

Well, you seemed to be having a swell time... you know, Queen of the Cardboard Jungle.

She smiles coyly at him.

PIKE

Would I get my ass kicked if I asked you to dance?

BUFFY

Maybe.

He steps back onto the dance floor and she follows. He takes her hand and she wraps her arms around him, dancing cheek to cheek.

PIKE

You know, Buffy, you're not like other girls.

BUFFY

Yes, I am.

He nods in understanding as their lips meet in a tender kiss.

CUT TO:

57 EXT. HEMERY HIGH— GYMNASIUM— NIGHT

57

POV: Muted music and flickering lights come from the gym as someone or something approaches.

CUT TO:

58 INT. HEMERY HIGH— GYMNASIUM— NIGHT

58

Kimberly is sitting on a ledge by the window with her date, watching Buffy and Pike dance and kiss.

KIMBERLY

I can't believe it.

Suddenly, the window next to her shatters and a snarling vampire reaches in and seizes her by the arm. The students scream as other windows shatter and more vampires surround the building. The frightened high school kids huddle in the center of the gym.

ANDY

Is somebody kidding?

A student runs in from outside, bleeding profusely from a neck wound.

BLOODY STUDENT

Oh, man! There are vampires out there, man.

He looks down at his blood-smearred hands, then collapses to the floor.

BLOODY STUDENT

Oh, my God!

BUFFY
(to crowd)

Nobody go near the door!

The door flies open and five vampires stand in the threshold, laughing evilly.

VAMPIRE

Party time!

BUFFY
(to Pike)

Don't worry. They can't come in unless they're invited.

KIMBERLY

I already invited them. *(off Buffy's pissed look)* They're seniors!

VAMPIRES
(various)

Wanna dance? The Master wants her. We want her. We want Buffy. Send her out! Or we'll come in.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

The principal nervously steps forward.

PRINCIPAL MURRAY

Hey, I have detention slips here and I'm not afraid to use them!

Pike picks up his bag of stakes and rushes over to Buffy.

PIKE

We got a problem. I got a bag full of solutions. What are we gonna do about it?

Buffy takes the bag and opens it.

BUFFY

You're staying here.

PIKE

What?

BUFFY

If any of them come in here, it's gonna turn into a total stain.

PIKE

You say that like it's a bad thing.

BUFFY

It's a good thing one of us is prepared.

PIKE

I'm not gonna let you go out there by yourself.

BUFFY

Don't piss me off.

She gathers up the weapons, kisses Pike, and heads out the door.

PIKE

Buffy! Hey, Buff...

She turns and he tosses her his leather jacket. Buffy puts it on and kicks open the gym door and faces the horde of vampires.

CUT TO:

59 EXT. HEMERY HIGH— GYMNASIUM— NIGHT

59

About twenty vampires surround Buffy as she tosses down the stakes, somersaults into their midst and lashes out, kicking and punching and pounding the creatures down as they come for her.

Kimberly watches from the window.

KIMBERLY
(to crowd)

It's okay. I think they're going after her.

A young blonde vampire turns at the sound of her voice and smiles evilly at her.

Buffy leaps the chain link fence in the parking lot and takes off running. As she passes Jeffrey's convertible, Jennifer sits up, straddling Jeffrey in the back seat, having sex with him. Buffy pauses and looks down at them.

JENNIFER

Jeffrey... wow.

BUFFY
(sarcastic)

That was quick.

The vampire mob starts to scale the fence behind her as she heads off across the lot but Amilyn appears and holds up his hand, halting them.

AMILYN

Run, Buffy! Run!

CUT TO:

60 INT. HEMERY HIGH— GYMNASIUM— NIGHT

60

A vampire is dragging a student through the window as Nicole rushes forward and stabs him through the neck with a piece of wood.

NICOLE

Eeww!

The students are barricading the doors and windows with anything they can find. Pike is trying to see Buffy outside but is pushed aside and the window covered.

STUDENT

Look out, dude!

CUT TO:

61 INT. HEMERY HIGH— CORRIDOR— NIGHT 61

Buffy kicks open the door and enters the darkened school hallway, the pain in her gut warning her that vampires are near. Suddenly, Amilyn crashes through the window and tackles her.

AMILYN

Hi. How's it going?

He kicks her in the side and she gasps in pain.

BUFFY

(angry)

I'm fine. But you're obviously having a bad hair day.

AMILYN

Oh, funny.

Amilyn kicks her again, harder this time.

CUT TO:

62 INT. HEMERY HIGH— GYMNASIUM— NIGHT 62

The vampires have overrun the gym. Screaming students run in every direction.

CUT TO:

63 INT. HEMERY HIGH— CORRIDOR— NIGHT 63

Buffy kicks Amilyn back against the wall, then gets up and dashes down the hall. She tries one door, then another, finding them both locked. The third opens and she dashes inside.

AMILYN

Or she could go for what's behind door number three...

CUT TO:

64 INT. HEMERY HIGH— GYMNASIUM— NIGHT 64

Pike squares off against a vampire and delivers a vicious kick to his head, sending him sprawling. He turns to find Nicole and Kimberly fending off one of the

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

creatures and runs to their aid. Too late, he arrives just as Nicole is dragged screaming through the window.

Two stoner students calmly watch the melee from the sidelines.

STUDENT

This party sucks, man.

Pike comes crashing down on a table, thrown there by Benny.

BENNY

Come on, come on. Fight like a man.

He tosses Pike across the room again, then pins him by the throat.

BENNY

Isn't it great, Pike? Isn't it great? Finally, got those bitches on the run! You know, honestly, I leave you alone for five minutes and look who you're hanging out with. But it doesn't have to be that way. I could still change you.

PIKE

(gasping)

Give me a break, Benny.

Benny squeezes harder, choking Pike.

BENNY

Why do you like these people? They're sheep. Forget them. Live forever. We could start a band.

Pike manages to break free and staggers away from Benny.

CUT TO:

65 EXT. HEMERY HIGH— BASEMENT— NIGHT

65

Buffy runs down the stairs into the basement of the school and looks around. A work table is set up with a bunch of old band instruments strewn across it. She looks around, considering her options.

AMILYN

(o.s.)

I'll get you, Buffy, and you're little dog, too! I don't know what he sees in you. You don't think you can stand up to him, do you?

Amilyn suddenly appears directly behind her.

AMILYN

Admit it, Buffy. Aren't there times when you just feel less than fresh?

Buffy jabs Amilyn in the ribs, knocking him backward into the instrument repair bench. He picks up an old trumpet and swings it at her; she blocks it easily.

AMILYN

You're pathetic. You're not even fit to die for him. We're immortal, Buffy. We can do anything.

Buffy pins him against the wall and raises her stake.

BUFFY

Oh, yeah? Clap.

She freezes at the sound of a lone violin and turns to find Lothos standing in the shadows, playing. Amilyn smiles at his master in triumph but Lothos merely shakes his head at him and shrugs. Amilyn's eyes go wide with shock as Buffy rams the stake through his heart.

AMILYN

You're going to wish you died.

He grasps the stake protruding from his chest and sinks to the floor with an agonized moan. He twitches, moans, cries and bleats repeatedly until he finally falls over dead.

Lothos approaches Buffy.

LOTHOS

You know this is our night.

BUFFY

I do.

Lothos seizes her and whispers in her ear.

LOTHOS

It was good, wasn't it?

BUFFY

What?

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

LOTHOS

Killing him. So intimate. Your first real kill and my last gift to him.

CUT TO:

66 INT. HEMERY HIGH— GYMNASIUM— NIGHT 66

Benny pins Pike against the wall.

PIKE

Where is she?

BENNY

She's meat for the beast. The Master wants her... and Uncle Sam wants you!

Pike takes out his flask and splashes Benny in the face. He howls in agony as the holy water blisters his skin.

PIKE

Things change, Ben.

BENNY

Aww, what's up with that, Pike?

CUT TO:

67 INT. HEMERY HIGH— BASEMENT— NIGHT 67

Lothos has tied a red ribbon around Buffy's throat and holds her in his arms like a lover.

LOTHOS

It's time... to put away childish things.

He tilts Buffy's head back, exposing her neck.

CUT TO:

68 INT. HEMERY HIGH— GYMNASIUM— NIGHT 68

Pike throws Benny into the circuit breaker on the wall, electrocuting him and knocking out the power to the school.

CUT TO:

69 INT. HEMERY HIGH— BASEMENT— NIGHT

69

As the lights dim and the music stops, Buffy comes out of her trance. She pulls the ribbon from around her neck and stands up.

Silence...
BUFFY

Look at me.
LOTHOS

The rest is silence. That's it.
BUFFY

What?
LOTHOS

Merrick told me. I knew it all along. The music stopped.
BUFFY

Lothos puts his hand on her shoulder.

Look at me.
LOTHOS

It's too late.
BUFFY

You and I are one!
LOTHOS

He forces her head back but Buffy is no longer under his spell and she's not buying it.

One what? Cute couple? I don't think so!
BUFFY

Lothos turns her around to face him.

You and I— look at me— you and I are joined.
LOTHOS

We're joined? Please.
BUFFY

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LOTHOS
(enraged)

You stupid little bitch!

He throws her across the room. She lands on the workbench and rolls to the floor.

LOTHOS
How are you going to stop me? I am life beyond death and you are just like the other girls.

BUFFY
Well, maybe I'll surprise you.

She whips out a cross and holds it up before her.

LOTHOS
This is your defense? (*mocking*) Puh-leeze. Your puny faith?

He grabs the cross and it ignites in flame.

BUFFY
No. My keen fashion sense.

Buffy takes out a can of hairspray and shoots it into the flame, enveloping his head with the resulting conflagration. He gasps in pain as she flees up the stairs.

CUT TO:

70 INT. HEMERY HIGH— GYMNASIUM— NIGHT

70

The principal is going from one vampire corpse to another, dropping slips of paper on each.

PRINCIPAL MURRAY
Detention... detention... detention... I think that's all. No!
Detention... detention...

Andy notices Buffy as she enters the gym.

ANDY
Hey, look. It's Buffy.

Kimberly freaks out.

KIMBERLY
Buffy? No! No! Don't let her in. They'll kill us! Please keep her out.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

Principal Murray has had enough. He calmly knocks Kimberly out, then moves on.

ANDY

Buffy, I didn't think I was gonna see you again. Are you all right?

Buffy pushes him aside.

BUFFY

Get out of my way. Find my friend Pike.

Buffy spins around as Lothos crashes through the wall and unsheathes a samurai sword. Terrified students scatter before him.

LOTHOS

I'll have you beg. Split open like rotted fruit. All of you.

PRINCIPAL MURRAY

That is definitely not a student.

LOTHOS

(to Buffy)

You are my destiny. I could never hurt you.

He seizes Buffy by the back of her neck and shoves her to the side, then turns to the crowd.

LOTHOS

I'm going to send you screaming to the pits of hell! Trust me!

Buffy looks up and spots the California flag on a pole, barring one of the doors. She somersaults over to it, removes the pole and wields it like a sword at Lothos.

LOTHOS

I haven't finished with you, bitch.

He lunges at Buffy with his sword and she parries his blows. She sweeps him off his feet and he does the same to her. Suddenly, Pike is there, stake in hand, and charges Lothos, jumping onto his back.

PIKE

I got him!

Lothos knocks the stake from his hand and throws him to the floor. Lothos reaches down to pick Pike up by the throat.

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

PIKE
(choking)

Well, I had him.

Buffy lunges for Pike's stake but Lothos tosses Pike aside and kicks the stake away. She picks up a chair and blocks a crushing blow from Lothos' sword. The chair shatters, leaving Buffy holding nothing but a broken piece of wood. Lothos raises the sword again for another strike. Seeing her opportunity, Buffy darts forward and slams the piece of wood through Lothos' chest. He gasps and stares at her in shock.

LOTHOS

I'm really pissed off.

Buffy executes a spinning kick and drives the stake home.

LOTHOS

Oops.

The master vampire falls to the floor, dead. Buffy crouches down next to Pike and rolls him over.

BUFFY

Pike?

PIKE
(groggy)

I used to be.

BUFFY

Sorry.

PIKE

Are you okay?

BUFFY

Yeah, I'm all right. Are you okay?

PIKE

I can't move my legs.

BUFFY

Why?

PIKE

'Cause you're sitting on them.

She smiles and helps him up.

BUFFY

Okay, come on. I'll help you.

Pike stands and surveys the carnage around them.

PIKE

Did *I* do all of that?

BUFFY

No.

PIKE

Did *you* do all of that?

BUFFY

Yeah, I did.

Pike takes her hand and leads her onto the dance floor.

PIKE

I... saved you a dance.

BUFFY

Are you gonna ask me?

PIKE

I suppose you want to lead?

BUFFY

No.

PIKE

Me neither.

BUFFY

This is a good thing.

They hold each other and sway back and forth, their only music the approaching police sirens.

CUT TO:

71 EXT. HEMERY HIGH— PARKING LOT— DAWN 71

Pike kick-starts his motorcycle as Buffy climbs on behind him. He lets out the accelerator and they speed off into the approaching dawn.

End credits.

72 INT. HEMERY HIGH— BASEMENT— DAY 72

A television is on, tuned to a local news report. The REPORTER stands outside the trashed gymnasium, interviewing the students and faculty.

REPORTER

...and laid siege, if you will, to the Hemery senior dance.

ANDY

They had fangs. They were biting people. They had this look in their eyes. Totally cold. Animal. I think they were young Republicans.

PRINCIPAL MURRAY

It was like a nightmare in there. Of course, I had to keep my head. But I've been there, you know. Yeah, I saw a lot of action in Nam. *(beat)* Well, I saw *Platoon*.

KIMBERLY

(dazed, delirious)

I'm very happy to accept this honor and I will try very hard to fulfill my needs as your next Miss America.

PRINCIPAL MURRAY

I do think the students learned a valuable lesson about safety. Except the dead ones, I mean. Of course, well, they've learned it but they really didn't have time to implement it, you know, and... are we live?

JEFFREY

(nervous)

Well, I thought something was wrong so we really got out of there before... I mean, I heard stuff. We were nearby when we heard—

JENNIFER

(crying; to Jeffrey)

I can't believe I let you do that to me!

REPORTER

Details are still sketchy as to exactly who is responsible. Gang members, cultists— everyone seemed to see something different. This is Liz Smith in Los Angeles.

FADE TO BLACK

END