

Scene 3: The Mall (later)

LIGHTS UP on BUFFY picking her teeth. She has obviously been waiting for a while. She is dressed rather frumpily. BUFFY idly examines a rack of clothes. On the makeup counter there is a large sign that reads "back in ten minutes."

BUFFY:

I've been waiting so long, I've actually lost my will to shop.

(WILLOW enters. She is dressed in a severe corporate outfit.)

WILLOW:

Buffy!

BUFFY:

Willow!

WILLOW:

It's so good to see you! It's been too long!

BUFFY:

I know! I haven't seen you since your funeral!

WILLOW:

Oh, don't remind me. You and Xander take practical jokes too far.

BUFFY:

Where is the Xan man?

WILLOW:

He and Giles are waiting out front.

BUFFY:

Aw, Giles is waiting outside? Giles is waiting outside! I haven't picked anything out yet! What do you wear to your 10 year high school reunion?

WILLOW:

Well, if it's anything like the last time we were all together, be sure to accessorize with crossbows and flamethrowers.

BUFFY:

I can't wear flamethrowers. I'm a winter.

WILLOW:

They're so last year anyway.

BUFFY:

I just want to make a good impression for once. I'd like them to see more than The Girl Most Likely to Still Be Alive In Ten Years.

(Buffy flips through clothes on rack, holds up a couple of dresses.)

WILLOW:

I knew we should have allowed for Buffy time.

BUFFY:

Hey, I'm frequently prompt. With the exception, of, well, most times.

WILLOW:

Oh, like the time you were almost too late to stop the Third Ritual of Acatla.

BUFFY:

Excuse me, I stopped that ritual with half an hour to spare.

WILLOW:

Lucky for us that ancient prophecy didn't take Daylight Savings Time into account, because if it had, hello, hell on earth.

BUFFY:

In Sunnydale, who would have noticed?

WILLOW:

No kidding. It must be kinda nice for you to not be living here anymore, hunh? A chance to move up the corporate ladder.

BUFFY:

If you can call managing the Double Veggie Palace in L.A. climbing the corporate ladder...

(WILLOW's cell phone rings)

WILLOW:

Excuse me. *(into phone)* Hello? We got the contract! That's great! Who's the best personal assistant? *(signals to Buffy to keep shopping)* Now you tell them we low-balled the bid and we expect full cooperation on their end. No one dicks around Rosenberg Enterprises. Oh, and send a fax to Bill Gates. "Dear Bill, Look over your shoulder. Love, Willow." Okay, bye.

BUFFY:

Wow, Will, quite the executive.

WILLOW:

Sorry, this cell phone is becoming part of me.

BUFFY:

Cell phones. Too bad we didn't use them more back in the day. When we were in full monster mash mode, it would have been great for us all to carry a mobile phone.

WILLOW:

Yeah, that would have made a lot of sense. I'm not big with thwarting evil these days. Oh, but last year I disenchanting a magical muffin tin that was the source of Martha Stewart's power.

BUFFY:

I wondered what happened to her.

WILLOW:

Speaking of unspeakable evil...

BUFFY:

Yup, Xander's cooking dinner for us tonight.

WILLOW:

Try not to think about it.

BUFFY:

Well, it's either that or worry about him starting to date another demon girl while he's living in my old house. He did always have a thing for dating demons.

WILLOW:

Let's look at the record: two Slayers, Praying Mantis Lady, Inca Mummy Girl, Anya the Vengeance Demon, Henrietta the Home Depot Demon...oh, and he finally admitted he used to have a crush on Angel.

BUFFY:

I so didn't need to hear that.

WILLOW:

What?! I thought you knew. It was so obvious, I can't believe you didn't pick up on it.

BUFFY:

Well I was busy. What with slaying, saving the world from destruction, passing history class.

GILES enters

GILES:

Ahem.

WILLOW:
Dating really hunky vampires.

GILES:
I said, ahem.

BUFFY:
Giles!

GILES:
Buffy.

BUFFY:
Careful, Giles, I detect warmth in your voice. We might have to skip our usual tango of repressed feelings.

GILES:
I assure you, Buffy, that my demeanor is a crumbling facade that will be shattered with one hug.

(they hug)

BUFFY:
It's so good to see you.

GILES:
And you.

WILLOW:
It's so great to be all together again.

BUFFY:
There's just one thing missing.

GILES:
An impending apocalypse?

BUFFY:
Close. Xander.

GILES:
Yes. He stopped at the food court. Let's collect him and have a proper group hug.

BUFFY:
Check out the new and improved, touchy-feely Giles.

WILLOW:
He's been reading Robert Bly.