

Fate
1x06: "Burning"

by

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Based on characters by Joss Whedon

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TEASER

FADE IN:

INT. HOTEL, NADYA'S ROOM - NIGHT

It's your standard conformist hotel room. Bed. TV. Yes folks, we're back on the normal edge of the world.

A CANDLE is lit.

NADYA lines up the LINKING CRYSTALS around a MAP of a densely populated city. She concentrates seriously on what she is doing.

There is a BOWL with GLITTERY POWDER in it next to her hand.

A GIGGLE from the side.

DEVON and DAWN sit on either side of her. Devon looks bored, Dawn hides her mouth behind her hand.

NADYA

For the last time Dawn, it's not a joke. Blast that bloody show for making this seem routine.

DAWN

Sorry. Really. But is the power of three thing really that realistic?

Nadya gives her a withering glare.

NADYA

Three is a powerful number. You'd be surprised the amount of things that come in triplicate. Now, hold hands.

Dawn nods seriously, too seriously. She takes one of Nadya's hands, while looking over at Devon and pulling a face.

Devon shakes her head and gets to business.

DAWN

Okay... so what do we have to do?

NADYA

You two do nothing. The more I use the linking crystals, the better I get at instinctively sensing the keys. Hopefully, I can break through the protective barrier around the key and finally pinpoint its exact location.

DAWN

As if looking for the keys wasn't hard enough, some bright spark puts a spell on it to stop other keys from finding it. I think that's rude. Technically, the keys are a set and--

NADYA

Dawn.

DAWN

Right. Shutting up now.

Nadya shuts her eyes and takes a deep breath.

Dawn watches.

Waits.

Nothing.

DAWN

Maybe the boys will find something.

She earns two glares from two different directions.

INT. HOTEL, JASON'S ROOM - SAME

SAMUEL sits in a comfy armchair reading the newspaper. JASON wears spectacles and sits in front of a computer. He's relaxed, and even humming to himself as he clicks and mouses around.

JASON

Think the girls are doing the spell now?

SAMUEL

(still reading)
Possible.

Jason types something.

JASON

I bet they're talking. About us.
It's what girls do when the guys
aren't there to keep an eye on them.

Samuel raises his eyebrows.

SAMUEL

Or perhaps they've found whoever
took the key.

Jason shrugs. Reads the screen. Slouches back in the chair.

JASON

No, they're talking about us.

INT. HOTEL, NADYA'S ROOM - NIGHT

The girls are still holding hands, though Nadya is the only
one concentrating. Her eyes are still closed.

DAWN

And then, he tries to butter it
over with some romantic sounding
European language. Men and their
tongues.

DEVON

(bland)

The true evil of the world.

DAWN

Yeah, okay. I've learned my
Italian gigolo lesson. What about
you? There's gotta be some loser
guy worthy of the exalted altar
of loserliness.

Devon frowns.

DAWN

Fine, it sounds stupid, but come
on, I can't be the only reject in
the shipper 'capades.

Dawn pouts for good measure. Devon sighs.

DEVON

Once upon a time, I knew a guy.

DAWN

And?

DEVON

That's it.

DAWN

Not fun. One day I will wrench
free your dating past wily one.
Oh yes, there will be tales. With
popcorn, chocolate and marshmallows.

NADYA

Shhh.

Dawn ducks, and grins.

NADYA

I've almost... just a little...

The bowl beside her starts to SHAKE. A glow rises from the
map on the table between the crystals.

Glitter RISES from the bowl and FORMS A CLOUD OVER THE MAP.

PUFF

It blows out in all directions. Nadya starts to sneeze.

NADYA

Urgh I give up. This key is
impossible to find.

INT. HOTEL, JASON'S ROOM - SAME

The computer gives a small PING. Jason glances over the screen.

JASON

Found it.

FADE OUT.

END TEASER

ACT I

FADE IN:

INT. HOTEL, JASON'S ROOM - NIGHT

The gang are seated around Jason and the computer, apart from Dawn who stands and stares at the screen.

DAWN

De-bay? There's a De-bay! Why didn't I know this? I used to stea... uhm work part-time at a magic shop. No one ever told me about this.

JASON

That's because not many people know about this. You have to go through a lot of mystical defences before you even get to the homepage of the decoy Russian bride entrance.

The girls all fold their arms and glare.

JASON

Don't knock me. What better way to keep man and woman from finding the site?

Dawn shrugs and finds herself a seat.

DAWN

Boy, world sure has changed. Demons in commerce and mystical defences on the net. Ya think little demon programmers work for Microsoft?

JASON

Wouldn't surprise me. A few years back a chaos demon got on the net, bad business all around. The demon network is now one of the most secure. Government's been trying to head-hunt some of their programmers for years.

DAWN

And by head hunt you probably
really mean... never mind. So
how'd you get onto it?

Jason smiles and winks. The computer gives an audible BEEP.

ON SCREEN: YOU HAVE MAIL!

The sender lists it as Hughly Brown.

Jason clicks on the message and reads.

DEVON

So, where is the key?

JASON

Here, Los Angeles. Nadya got us
this far. But... there's a problem.

SAMUEL

What is it?

JASON

Trust a demon to get out of paying
shipping. This guy, you want
something, you have to meet in
person. I've got the bucks. but
problem is, he's got a strict
demon-only policy.

(reads more)

And there's an Oftipia demon on
staff.

SAMUEL

That would literally sniff out a
human in the vicinity.

JASON

And play havoc with the inner
electrics. Call me crazy, but I'm
wary.

DEVON

(peers at screen)

Not a problem.

JASON

I know what you're thinking, but
he doesn't deal with humans, not
even edible ones.

DEVON

Leave it to me.

Nadya holds her hand in the air.

NADYA

Before we engage in any risky business, how about I look around first? Agreed?

DAWN

Well when you make it sound sensible like that...

EXT. LOS ANGELES - DAY

The younger quartet of the gang are out and about. It's not Los Angeles finest neighbourhood. Jason takes a deep breath.

JASON

Aah smell the smog. Good memories.

Devon braces herself. She knows what's coming next. Sure enough--

JASON

(putting his arm around her)

Dev, recall the day we first met.

DEVON

(shrugs him off)

Rather not.

JASON

Los Angeles. A day like today. World in peril. You and me all that stood between a happy ending and complete chaos.

DEVON

We found a pot.

JASON

Urn. Mystical, magical urn of save the day. Why don't you cherish our memories like I do?

(to Dawn)

Enough about me and the missus, didn't you used to live here?

DAWN

Yeah, back before my sister was a slayer. Then she killed a whole bunch of vampires by means of extreme burning down half the school, got expelled and we moved to Hell. Happily ever after.

JASON

Why do you always have such cool stories?

DAWN

Just lucky I guess.

NADYA

I've never been to this city before. I can't say I'm overly impressed. This place has the supernatural depth of a raindrop in the desert.

DAWN

Actually, Los Angeles used to be pretty rife with evilness. Then a year ago we got word something big happened to drive the scary demons out. My sister's ex-boyfriend must have left at the same time, otherwise we could have asked him to get the key for us. He's the undead.

DEVON

How many sisters do you have?

DAWN

Just the one and only.

DEVON

(slowly)

A Slayer was with a vampire.

DAWN

Yeah, but he had a soul.

JASON

Hey, I know about him!

DAWN

(cont.)

And technically, the other one got a soul too, so it's not like she was, you know, completely breaking the Slayer rules.

JASON

(cont.)

Not about the other one though.

DEVON

Two. She dated two? Did her
Watcher know about this? Does
Samuel?

JASON

Relax Dev, you're like a little
old lady listening to rock music.
Move with the times. If a Vampire
Slayer feels like dating vampires,
then hey, embrace the new century.
'Sides, Samuel probably wouldn't
mind. Why didn't he wanna come
with anyway? All this stale air
is good for a guy.

DEVON

It's his leg, moron.

She's a tad more snappish than usual, but Jason shrugs it off.

NADYA

He hasn't gotten that seen to yet?

Dawn shakes her head. Jason frowns.

DEVON

We're here.

EXT. SANGUINE - DAY

They stand outside a brick warehouse, windows completely
BLACKENED. Nothing too glamorous or in the least bit
indicative of some importance.

DAWN

Huh. I expected something more...
more.

NADYA

I agree.

Wistful, she examines the building up close. She touches one
of the linking crystals from her pocket and runs her hands
along the brick wall.

DEVON

They're not meant to look
impressive. The last thing they
need is to attract the attention
of Slayers or Hilton heiresses.

DAWN

But don't they want humans?

DEVON

To eat. But not to actually meet.
Only select humans wrangle access
to a place like this.

JASON

And the odds that we're one of them?

DEVON

I told you I'd take care of it.

Nadya pauses and steadies her hand on the wall.

NADYA

I think I can feel the key here.
I might be able to-

A SPARK OF LIGHTNING hits her hand and she jumps back.

NADYA

Bastard! I only gave a little
push. Bloody barrier spells.

JASON

What if you push harder?

Nadya shakes her head.

Jason turns to Devon.

JASON

Okay, so what's this cunning plan?

INT. HOTEL, ROOM - DAY

The entire group is assembled around Devon. She opens her
bag, the ever-present one with all the VIALS.

DEVON

I can get in there by myself, but
this vampire won't talk business
with a human so...

She pulls out a wickedly mystical-looking POTION with swirly
shapes of scary black and gray.

Samuel straightens in his seat.

DEVON

Jason takes this. He gets in,
buys the key, gets out. It'll
probably take less than an hour.

SAMUEL

What is that?

He already knows the answer is something he won't like.

DEVON

It has many names. I think you'll know it as Death's Bane.

Samuel takes a calming breath.

SAMUEL

That's been illegal in this dimension for over two centuries.

DEVON

I doubt any Watchers or witches are going to stop me at an airport and fine me. Besides, the ban will work to our advantage. The vampires barely knew about it then, they shouldn't know about it now.

SAMUEL

It's dangerous.

Devon brings out another vial of blue liquid.

DEVON

If he takes this at the same time, it should negate a lot of the side effects.

(offhand)

If not, we'll tie him to a chair and get Nadya to do some naked cleansing rituals.

JASON

Question. Is she in the room at the time?

Nadya thumps him good-naturedly.

JASON

Okay, that wasn't really my question. What are you intellectuals talking about this time? Exposition for dummies mode please.

DAWN

Yes please.

DEVON

It's--

SAMUEL

It's a narcotic. Powerful. Extremely addictive. In the beginning of the nineteenth century, the elite, and only the elite gentry, discovered, or were more likely deceived into using this concoction.

JASON

What does it do?

SAMUEL

Allows a human to mimic the beasts. Vampires. A human will gain the strength, the senses, the hunger, but crosses and sunlight have no lasting effect on them. When the potion wears off, they are simply men.

JASON

That doesn't sound too bad.

SAMUEL

Those men were driven crazy by the need for the potion. It became the blood they fed on. The only reason the Council knew about this was because a Slayer killed a man under the influence of it.

JASON

(to Devon)

But I only need to take it once right?

DEVON

Yes, but if we had more options, you wouldn't be taking it at all.

JASON

(subtly affronted)

Why not?

DEVON

Because you need to use your head and not whatever it is you use most of the time. Vampire urges are difficult enough to control for a broken-in man. You...?

(shakes her head)

Everyone else in this room is out of the question. I'd take it myself, but given my history...

JASON

Oh man, don't tell me you'd be expecting those looney chanting vampires? I felt like I was in an Andrew Lloyd Weber musical.

DEVON

This is serious.

JASON

Dead serious. So we'd better get ready.

He stands up and holds his hands out for the vials. She hands them both to him.

DEVON

Black one first, right before you get there. That dose will only be good for three or four hours.

DAWN

What about us?

Devon looks Nadya and Dawn over.

DEVON

(shakes her head)

They'll smell a witch.

(to Dawn)

They'd just eat you. It's better as just us two. Less danger. I've gotta go. There's some things I need to get.

(an afterthought to Jason)

I'll meet you there in case you need back up. Try and behave.

He nods in a placating sort of way, mostly rolling his eyes. She makes to leave with her bag.

SAMUEL

Devon.

She stops.

SAMUEL

We're going to have a conversation
about what else you're carrying
in that bag of yours.

Devon nods without commitment, and leaves, shutting the door
behind her. Samuel watches the door, shaking his head.

JASON

Well, I've also got arrangements
to make. And--

There's a KNOCK at the door. Jason smiles.

JASON

Perfect timing.

He goes to the door and opens it, inviting the person on the
other side in.

DOCTOR ELIZABETH KARVAN, Australian, in her thirties, very
relaxed. She carries a DOCTOR'S CASE in one hand and a
CRYSTAL BALL in the other. Jason grabs the ball and hefts it
around.

JASON

Brilliant! He got it!

KARVAN

This morning, bright and early.

Jason leads Karvan to Samuel and hands him the ball. Samuel
quirks a confused eyebrow at it and places it on the table
next to him.

JASON

This is your patient. Stubborn as
hell, but I'm sure you'll work
your magic.

KARVAN

Someone more stubborn than you?
This I have to see. Hello Samuel,
my name is Elizabeth and I'll be
your doctor for the duration of
your stay in this dimension.

She smiles at a dumbfounded Samuel.

Jason joins Dawn and Nadya as he heads back toward the door.

DAWN
(impressed)
Way to go, sneak.

JASON
It's what I'm good at. Now if
you'll excuse me, it seems I have
to die.

He exits out the door first.

DAWN
And us?

NADYA
What do you think?

EXT. SANGUINE - NIGHT

There is a crowd of people, all dressed to impress, standing in a queue. Two large BOUNCERS (Larry and Moe) selectively choose people to go past the roped off area and into the club.

In the crowd, Nadya - vamped out, in the bombshell sense, and Dawn - equal parts gothic and generous eye candy.

Both women get admiring glances from the men, and even some of the women, around them.

NADYA
Who needs to be dead to get some
of the action?

FADE OUT.

END ACT I

ACT II

FADE IN:

EXT. SANGUINE - NIGHT

MUSIC: GARBAGE - SHUT YOUR MOUTH

A classically cool car pulls to a stop. The bouncers and crowd turn to look at it. This is not the type of place with valet.

Dawn and Nadya peer around some people in the crowd.

NADYA

Now that's an entrance.

Jason slides out of the car. His entire appearance screams "killer". Fashionable hair, clothes that draw the right kind of attention - watch out ladies.

Nadya and Dawn approve of what they see. Dawn notices Nadya's laser stare.

DAWN

There's a vampire worth being bitten by, right?

Nadya gives a puritanical shake of the head, but she can't hide a huge smile. She and Dawn take another generous look.

Jason approaches the bouncers. People know enough to get out of his way. Larry looks at him boredly, and lifts a clipboard.

LARRY

You on the list?

JASON

Mmm. Let me see.

He makes toward the clipboard. Larry pulls it back.

LARRY

Like I'm really gonna let--

Jason SOCKS him in the nose. There's a lot of power behind the punch.

Larry goes down on his ass a few steps away.

Jason grins and flexes his fist, pleased.

He tosses his car keys down to Larry.

JASON

Park my car. I've got business
with your boss.

He turns to enter the club.

Moe stands in his way.

Jason smirks, almost daring the guy to start a fight.

Moe steps aside with an impressed grin.

Jason enters.

Moe looks down at Larry and laughs. He takes his post as
Larry gets up and heads toward the car.

DAWN

(half impressed, half
worried)
Definitely an entrance.

INT. SANGUINE - NIGHT

The club has a definite affinity for the colour red.

The clientele are mostly in VAMP FACE, but there are some
obvious human partygoers necking in the dark. It's packed
enough to be fashionable, but not enough to be crowded. No
mirror balls in this place.

The club itself is one floor down from the entrance, as
though it were a basement. Jason goes down the steps.

A LIVE BAND is on the stage. All in VAMP FACE. They look
like they are stuck in the cool parts of the eighties. They
thrash out a version of BERLIN'S LIKE FLAMES.

Jason heads to the bar. The BARTENDER, also a vamp, slams a
glass in front of him.

BARTENDER

What'll it be? We got the best AB
neg and a lovely O positive,
freshly squeezed.

JASON

No thanks. I ate someone on the
way here. Bourbon.

The bartender shrugs and brings out a bottle.

JASON
I'm looking for Xaxxix. He around?

BARTENDER
(filling the glass)
Depends on who's asking.

Jason pulls a WAD OF CASH out of his jacket and lays it on the table. The bartender raises an eyebrow.

JASON
That's a grain of sand compared to what I can offer him. If he's interested in business, I'm the man that's got it. If he's not...

Jason looks away boredly. The bartender considers.

BARTENDER
Well, you can ask him yourself. He should be here soon enough. Can't miss him. He'll remind you of you.

The bartender moves onto another customer. Jason drinks and examines the room.

His eyes are immediately drawn to a DOOR at the back of the club.

INT, HOTEL, ROOM - NIGHT

Samuel buttons up his shirt. Karvan places the stethoscope back in her bag.

KARVAN
All right. That wasn't so hard, was it?

Samuel merely gives an uncomfortable little smile.

Karvan sits next to a table and pulls out a pad.

KARVAN
I'll prescribe some anti-inflammatory for the knee, but I strongly suggest you follow my recommendation and go to physio. I'm not sure how long you'll be here, but while you are, you need to rest and exercise it properly.

Samuel sits down opposite her. He seems unsure of how to go about something. She notices.

KARVAN

You have been caging me all night. Is there something you want to ask? I assure you, even though I make house calls I still uphold the same doctor-patient confidentiality that you're be used to.

SAMUEL

Well, that's it. You're not quite what I'm used to.

KARVAN

(teasing)

A woman? Or because I'm from the land Down under?

SAMUEL

(quick to assure)

No no. It's just... you know.

KARVAN

You mean I know about your travelling to worlds that are not this one? Demons? Magic?

(laughs)

Yes. Once you enter the world of Jason, you'll find everything is very much in control.

Samuel raises an eyebrow.

KARVAN

Oh that sounded terribly creepy didn't it?

(picks her words carefully)

He likes making things better. He really does have a lot of heart. It's a rash and impulsive heart at times, but it's in the right place.

Samuel shrugs and smiles, nodding.

KARVAN

(reflexive)

He doesn't particularly enjoy it when bad things happen to people in his circle. But then, who does?

(on to other subjects)

You'll meet Hughly Brown soon enough. Jason's second hand, I suppose you could call him. He knows what Jason needs before Jason does. I was informed of your journeys after Jason disappeared from the train and emerged in England. Hughly wanted me to be ready.

(smiles)

But knowing Jason, I'm always ready. The amount of times I've had to fly out to obscure regions to patch him up.

SAMUEL

You mean, you don't live here? In Los Angeles I mean.

KARVAN

No, I live near Jason's base of operations. He funds all my research there. Since meeting that boy, my life has been anything but ordinary.

SAMUEL

I could say the same. My life has been noisier.

KARVAN

(chuckles)

Hmm that mouth of his. But he still has it. That ability to see the best in people and find something to smile about. I wish there were more of us like that.

SAMUEL

Mmm yes.

KARVAN

So... do you feel better about me now?

SAMUEL

(genuine smile)

Yes, I believe I do.

KARVAN

(serious)

Good. Because I want to say something as a friend.

He sobers.

KARVAN

(cont.)

Normally, I wouldn't consider this something to worry about, but if you're sharing Jason's sort of lifestyle... Your blood pressure is only slightly elevated, but that coupled with the slow healing of your knee might indicate a problem that is developing. I'd like to run more tests. We can do it here or fly out to my lab in Houston.

SAMUEL

Thank you for voicing these concerns, but I cannot ask that we stay any longer than we have to. We don't know our enemy, their plans or their progress - we only know that we must continue while we can. Swiftly and without pause.

KARVAN

Then stay behind.

SAMUEL

They need me.

(smiles)

I'm just old and I know my limits.

(off her look)

I do not look to put myself in harm's way. I would be useless to them if I were not well. I am still strong, and I will see them through this safely. I would not risk them with my health. Believe me when I say that I am not in danger from my own body.

KARVAN

I hope you're right.

SAMUEL

I know I am.

His smile is too bright. She notices and says nothing.

EXT. SANGUINE - NIGHT

Nadya and Dawn are now nearer the front of the line. Bored and showing it.

NADYA

Are they taking in only one person a year? By the time we get in there everything will be over.

DAWN

What if we don't get in? Look! He just sent away a perfectly skanky looking ho. We look edible right?

VAMPIRE

Uh huh. Yeah, sure.

The two turn and glare at the eavesdropper. He's the type that will never be the alpha of any pack.

VAMPIRE

Say, hey! You wanna come over to my place? We can, you know, share fluids if you really wanna?

NADYA

Consider your entire existence. When was the last time a girl even had a bloody nose in your direction? Scoot along.

VAMPIRE

But...

He drifts off, mouth open. Nadya and Dawn can't help it. They watch in horror as drool forms at the corner of his mouth. Then they notice that the rest of the vampires are also watching something carefully.

The girls turn--

MUSIC: SUPREME BEINGS OF LEISURE - NEVER THE SAME AGAIN

A shoulder is bared. SCARRED SKIN criss-cross in between slits of teasing black material.

Devon stands in front of bouncers. Hot and glowing. She's not showing off a lot, but her violent history can be seen clearly on the skin that she is revealing.

She has fingerless black gloves that taper up her arm to just above her elbow, and a choker around her neck.

She also has an impressive metal thumb tack with a sharp point at the end.

MOE
(regretfully)
We're booked up on humans tonight.

Devon smiles slowly. She reaches up with an equally slow ease to take her choker off. The choker hides--

TWO PAIRS OF VAMPIRE TEETH SCARS

-- Devon nicks her neck with the tack.

The reaction is immediate. Moe goes into VAMP FACE. The vampires closest to them do the same. It seems reflex. They're like a cats watching a mouse, only the mouse might really be a hawk.

Moe quickly steps out of the way, and Devon puts the choker back on as she goes into the club.

NADYA
I have a feeling she's done this before.

DAWN
Yeah. Really? I just hope she knows what she's doing.

NADYA
I hope they both do. This is in their hands now.

INT. SANGUINE - NIGHT

The live band has given way to thumping tunes.

Jason currently has his hands in a jiggy. Or a jive. Either way, if it weren't for his getup his dance moves might be get him kicked off the social calendar. He's having a fine old time with a bevy of BUXOM BABES around him.

To his side he sees-

FOUR VAMPIRES and an extremely tall WOMAN, a demon with a wide and slitted nose, part the crowd as they head toward a couched section.

MUSIC: KIDNEY THIEVES - PLACEBO

XAXXIX, tattooed, mid-forties and clearly the leader, is stopped by a girl in black. The vampires and demon ignore this and take their seats on the couches.

Jason can't see who Xaxxix is with, at this point, doesn't really care. He moves closer, peering through the crowd. The dance is slow and suggestive. Xaxxix's full attention is on the girl with him.

Jason stops. He finally sees who it is, but doesn't really believe it. All signs of the good time he was having disappear.

Devon dances with Xaxxix. And not in a Julie Andrews musical way. Xaxxix wouldn't be remiss in thinking he was a very lucky vampire.

Jason can only stare. He sees the scars on her back. Sees Xaxxix pulling her in close and removing her choker.

The vampire leans closer to her neck.

Jason's eyes DILATE. For a moment they are pitch black--
--then contract to an animal YELLOW.

He leaps forward.

FADE OUT.

END ACT II

ACT III

FADE IN:

INT. SANGUINE - NIGHT

Xaxxix hits the deck, but quickly recovers and returns to his feet, ready to attack.

Jason growls and is more than ready for that.

Devon pushes herself between the men. She grabs Jason's hands, a little shocked. She stares pointedly into his eyes, trying to get his head back in the game. He stops, not because of her hold, but because of her neck. Some blood trickles down her skin from a tiny nick.

Jason glares at Xaxxix. There is blood on the vampire's lips.

DEVON

Honey!
 (almost chokes on that)
 Don't be so possessive. What's a little sharing between business associates?

Jason glares at his "business associate". Xaxxix quirks an eyebrow.

XAXXIX

Business? With a child-vampire that can't control himself over a meal.

DEVON

(flirty)
 I'm more than a meal.

Xaxxix licks the blood off his lips.

XAXXIX

True. Your blood has quite a kick. I haven't tasted anything quite like that since 45. It was a Slayer. But you... you're something else.

DEVON

Better I hope.

Xaxxix looks over Jason with a superior sneer.

XAXXIX

Maybe too good.

Jason bristles at the subtle dig.

JASON

Stop looking at my meat. Can we do business or not?

Xaxxix looks at the female demon (Offara). She nods her head. Xaxxix motions over the couches.

Devon smiles and leads Jason to one of the couches. Xaxxix takes a couch opposite, next to Offara. She places a hand on his knee, and waves over to the bartender.

XAXXIX

So, how did you two love-birds meet?

JASON

Like that's any of your--

DEVON

He died for me.

XAXXIX

How romantic.

DEVON

Not really. He was insufferable lout when he was alive. Arrogant, pithy, unfocused, temperamental...

JASON

And now I'm king of the underworld. Ain't love grand? Business!

Xaxxix laughs.

XAXXIX

I wish I could remember what it was like to be so impatient.

JASON

It's not impatience, it's passion. The little missus here wants something. What she wants, I get.

XAXXIX

And what, exactly, does your alluring partner need that, it seems, only I can give her.

DEVON

(cuts Jason off)

You called it the Empty Eye. It's pretty. I want it.

XAXXIX

Hmm. Got a problem with that.

DEVON

You won't let my idiot buy it for me because I'm a human? Or is it because he's an idiot?

She subtly thumps Jason out of sight. He grimaces.

XAXXIX

Oh I could make a deal with you. One I'm sure you'd like. The problem is... it's already sold.

EXT. SANGUINE - NIGHT

Dawn and Nadya walk along the empty alley beside the club.

DAWN

We're not good enough! How can not be good enough? I'm a hottie! A vampire almost ate me once. He said I was special, then I killed him with my pencil. But I felt wanted. There was no want here.

(she kicks litter)

And now Devon and Jason are in the thick of things again, rescuing the key. They have all the fun.

NADYA

(lost in thought)

Hmm, they do seem a team at times. Strange, considering the lack of good will between them.

DAWN

(not listening)

I bet I could steal it. In fact, I should steal it. I'm not just the Slayer's bratty sister you know. I'm capable and smart and tall. What kind of skill does theft need anyway?

NADYA

Actually... not that much if you
have a way in. Which we don't.

DAWN

Urgh. We travel bazillion miles
to different worlds in the blink
of an eye, but can we even get
through a simple wall?

Nadya stops dead in her tracks. Her mouth forms an "O" as
she stares at Dawn.

DAWN

What? What I say?

NADYA

(starts to giggle)
Oh I have an idea.
(grabs Dawn's hand)
Come on!

They rush off.

INT. SANGUINE - NIGHT

Jason shakes Devon's hand away from him, he leans forward.

JASON

Unsell it! We can make a better
offer.

Xaxxix ignores him and looks at Devon.

XAXXIX

He's not even going to live to be
a century. Are you sure you
wouldn't rather find a better
prospect?

DEVON

(biting it out)
He's a hot lover.
(quick change of topic)
But my deadbeat has a point. We
do have lots of money.
(subtly bares her neck)
Among other things.

JASON

(seeing her)
Like what exactly?

XAXXIX

If you want to be a true immortal,
little boy, you use the mind not
the hunger. I gave my word to
them and I will keep it.

(gently to Devon)

As tempting as the better offer is.

He flicks dark eyes at Devon, chocolatey with meaning. She
doesn't look away.

XAXXIX

(cont.)

But, hunger is easier to satisfy.

A waitress brings over two shooters. FILLED WITH BLOOD.

Xaxxix takes one, offers the other to Jason.

Devon looks worried.

Jason takes it without flinching. He sniffs it.

XAXXIX

AB negative. The best part is
that it was given to me freely,
and will be again and again.

JASON

Corpse is still alive?

XAXXIX

(nods)

Hunting and killing is so
antiquated. You see I understand
what other vampires do not. We
are more than the demons inside
of us. We can become future. We
are immortal.

(smiles)

Does that idea shock you?

JASON

Not especially. I might live for
my passions, but I'm not stupid.
What I do is greater than who I am.

XAXXIX

And what is that?

JASON

Change the world.

Xaxxix holds his glass in a salute.

XAXXIX

To the world of the future.

JASON

(raises glass)

Definitely.

Xaxxix downs his. Jason makes to do the same.

Devon places a hand on his.

DEVON

Honey badger. You know how I get about other people's blood.

JASON

Relax, my little she-devil. You'll always be the only neck for me.

He shrugs her off and downs the glass.

Devon moves from worried, to really really worried, with just a touch of grossed out.

JASON

(licks his lip)

Wow. That's interesting.

He shutters his eyes and breathes out deeply. Then leans back on the couch, smiling. A little blitzed.

Xaxxix smiles at Offara and nods. She grins widely.

With vampire speed, Xaxxix grabs Devon and pulls her away from Jason. Offara immediately straddles Jason and holds him down.

INT. HOTEL, ROOM - NIGHT

Samuel is studying the crystal ball on a table next to his chair. He taps it, loses interest and picks up his newspaper. He lifts a cup of tea.

LAUGHTER

-- comes from the other side of the door.

Curious, he places paper and cup back on the table and limps over to the door.

EXT. HOTEL, ROOM - SAME

Nadya and Dawn rush past holding the KEY from episode 4.

INT. HOTEL, ROOM - SAME

Samuel shuts the door as if he never saw them.

INT. SANGUINE - NIGHT

Jason sees Devon being dragged to a quiet corner and makes to get up. Offara places her hands on his head. There is a visible jolt as ELECTRICAL ENERGY passes from her to him. He gasps. Not in pain, but pleasure.

JASON'S POV

He sees a flash of red each time she jolts him. Each jolt mimics the rhythm of a heart beat.

He's lost in a twisted ecstasy and is no help to--

DEVON

Xaxxix has her up against a pillar. The older vampire is playing it hot and seductive, the hard sell.

XAXXIX

Leave him. I can offer you more.
You know I can.

DEVON

I want him.

XAXXIX

No you don't. Not in any real way.

DEVON

I do.

XAXXIX

You're lying. You're eyes give
you away. So sad. So empty. You
have an untouched heart.

(places a hand on her
heart)

It's cold, like mine, but it beats.
It's warm and flows with this
beautiful life. This heady rush
of promise. I can make you feel
so many things that he can't. He
hasn't been able to, has he?

Devon makes no move to answer. That is answer enough for Xaxxix.

XAXXIX

Truthfully, he can't. He can't know. Your soul is as old as mine and he's just a child. He still feels alive, still believes the world is his. His pain is fleeting.

DEVON

And yours?

XAXXIX

Ours. Our pain is the deepest winter that never ends.

(brushes her lips with his)

But it doesn't need to be. Stay with me. Give me your life. And when you wish it, I will give you such a gift you will spend eternity in moon-glow summers. Share yourself with me. I will give you anything you could ever want.

DEVON

(dreamy)

Anything?

XAXXIX

Anything.

(oops)

Well, except the Empty eye. They're coming tomorrow to collect that.

(back to suave)

But anything else you ask is yours.

DEVON

(still entranced)

Okay. Good.

(dead serious)

Then tell your bitch to get off my man.

EXT. SANGUINE - NIGHT

Nadya runs her fingers along the wall outside the club.

Dawn holds the key protectively.

NADYA

It's here and this key has already shown an attraction for buildings.

Nadya tosses some powder in the air.

It GLITTERS and sprinkles over the pair of them like shiny snow.

NADYA

There. A perfect glamour.
 (takes the key from
 Dawn)
 Now I can work in peace.

DAWN

Great. What are we doing again?

NADYA

(grins)
 You'll see. It was your idea.

INT. SANGUINE - NIGHT

Devon rejoins Jason as Offara climbs off him. He's rather dazed.

Xaxxix sighs regretfully.

XAXXIX

You sure about this?

DEVON

Pretty sure. But if bloodchuck
 here doesn't work out...

She smiles and grabs Jason's hand, yanking him to his feet. Xaxxix nods.

XAXXIX

Well, here's to hoping he screws up.

Jason darts a look to an unseeing Devon.

DEVON

(with meaning)
 Thanks. For the hospitality.

XAXXIX

Feel free to partake whenever you
 want.

MUSIC: BALLIGOMINGO - HEAT

She gives a little smile and moves away through the crowd, Jason with her.

She pushes Jason to the middle of the dance floor, well out of range of Xaxxix, but he can still view them. Jason's blinks a lot and tries to focus.

Devon peeks over at Xaxxix who watches them closely. She wraps her arms around Jason's waist. They speak in a whisper.

DEVON

Here's the real show. Dance with me.

Obediently he moves his arms around her too, and they sway in time to the music.

Jason leans a bit heavily on Devon.

JASON

This is a nice song. I'm glad it's ours.

DEVON

Yeah whatever. You heard us.

JASON

Ooh yeah. Vampire hearing rocks.
(smirks)
I never knew you felt that way about me. Will I be your man tomorrow?

DEVON

Grow up. We have to figure out where it is.

As they move, she studies the room anew. Her eyes rest on the back door.

JASON

Huh?

DEVON

The buyers. Ring a bell. They're coming to fetch the key tomorrow.

JASON

Hey that means that we can--

DEVON

Do what we do best. Yeah.
(re: the door)
It's gotta be back there.

Her head is tilted toward the back, exposing her neck to Jason. He sees the dried blood; it holds him rapt.

JASON
 (voice low)
 Risky. Very risky.

He moves his hand up to hover behind her, very close to her neck.

She doesn't notice, but she does notice Xaxxix watching them closely.

Putting on a show, she wraps a hand around the back of Jason's head tenderly. She leans in and whispers in his ear.

DEVON
 That's never stopped us before.
 Come on lover.

She takes his hand and leads him across the dance floor to the door at the back. He follows in a daze.

XAXXIX'S POV

Jason and Devon look very much the loving couple who can't wait to do unspeakable things.

They open the door and go in.

DOWNSTAIRS CORRIDOR

The sounds of the club dull into a muted thud. It's almost like sudden silence.

Devon immediately drops Jason's hand. He leans against the door.

JASON
 Sound proof. Thank god. My head
 feels like it's a blood drum.

Devon shrugs and looks down the hall. There is a janitor's closet and two doors, male and female toilets.

DEVON
 I doubt it's down here.

She looks up the metal stairs, then turns back to Jason. He still leans, eyes closed, breathing heavy.

Devon frowns and reaches for him. His eyes jump open at the contact.

DEVON
 Still cold.

She feels his neck.

DEVON

No pulse. It's not wearing off yet.

JASON

Then why do I feel like I'm
burning up.

DEVON

You shouldn't have had that blood.

JASON

Blood was nothing.
(dreamy)
It was like strawberries. You
smell like them. Hey where'd you
hide that?

Devon hands him a tiny vial of the blue cleansing potion. Instead of taking it off her, he touches her outfit in a few places. Not entirely appropriately.

JASON

There's no room to hide anything
in there. Just you.

DEVON

Shut up and take it.

She pushes the container into his hands and then hurries away up the stairs.

UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR

There is a heavysset door behind a couple of couches that are quite near the stairs. Devon stands in front of it.

Jason arrives behind her. He stands very close to her, interested in her, ignoring the door.

DEVON

I can't feel my way. The shield
must numb against mental intrusion,
but I think it only protects
against magic or weapons. I should
be able to move the bolts on the
other side if I can get in the
right vicinity.

(sighs)

Okay deadbeat, you'll need to use
your superhearing and tell me if
I'm moving anywhere close to the
locks.

She turns and startles. He's very close to her, almost looming. Devon is unsettled by his closeness.

DEVON

You don't need to be this close to hear.

He holds up the empty vial.

JASON

Did you bring more because you knew I couldn't handle being dead?

DEVON

I brought it for emergencies. We have work to do.

JASON

That's not the answer to my question. Do you think so little of me that you thought I'd screw up? Or maybe you were hoping I would.

He makes no move to back away and there's nowhere for Devon to go.

DEVON

Is this because of what he said? This is just a precaution. That's all.

She turns and looks back at the door, more as an escape than a job.

JASON

(whispers)

Tell me the truth. I can hear your heartbeat and I know you too well. You're lying.

DEVON

I'm not.

JASON

(very low)

Just tell me.

DEVON

I didn't think... I thought...

JASON

What?

DEVON

You're too alive. You have too
much heart to be one of them.

They stand in absolute silence for a moment. She starts
turning her head to look at him--

-- He slides his arms down hers, locking her in a grip--

-- His mouth heads to her neck.

FADE OUT.

END ACT III

ACT IV

FADE IN:

INT. UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Jason has his mouth clamped on Devon's neck. His hands move to get a better hold.

She's shell-shocked for a moment, before her senses return and--

-- Jason is invisibly THROWN against the door.

Devon stares at him; she shows real shock; and clutches her hand to her neck.

Jason's eyes are dark in the shadows. He watches her closely.

EXT. SANGUINE - NIGHT

Nadya meditates, at least it vaguely resembles meditation, with the key in her hands. Dawn sits on a crate, head on hand, watching. Once again, bored. She sighs loudly.

Nadya matches it with a hrumph of her own.

Chastised, Dawn looks at her nails in silence.

VAMPIRE (O.S.)
...private booth. What's he got I
don't?

Dawn freezes.

TWO VAMPIRES walk toward them, drunk and in full vamp face. One's doing all the talking, the other is a Silent Bob.

VAMPIRE
I could be a master, know what
I'm saying?
(taps his head)
All up here. Man, I need someone
to eat. They're watering down the
blood. I'm telling ya.

Dawn looks around for a weapon. She spots a piece of wood on the ground and grabs for it. She stands at the ready. The two vampires don't even bat an eye in her direction. They move past Nadya and continue their drunken ramblings.

NADYA

I told you, no one can see or smell us. Relax. They're just vampires anyway.

Dawn tosses her stake to the ground and wipes her hands on the back of her outfit.

DAWN

(mumbling)

Yeah, well. You weren't around the last vampires I was.

NADYA

Alright, I'm ready.

DAWN

Great! And again with the what?

Nadya smiles and holds the key between both of her open palms.

NADYA

Through stone and mortar and veil it lies. Cut and shift and find the prize. The doorway opens.

Nothing happens. Dawn grimaces.

DAWN

Is the spell supposed to sound that kooky?

NADYA

(latin)

Now!

A SHAFT OF LIGHT spears out from the key and right through the wall of the building.

The air around the light BUBBLES OUT at the point where the light meets the building.

It grows and grows until it becomes a TRANSPARENT PORTAL. One that forms a direct path to the room inside.

AN OFFICE.

DAWN'S POV

The portal has cut a perfect circle through the wall, desk, and SAFE, where the next KEY, a crystal set within a metal contraption and resembling a murky eye, rests ripe for the taking.

DAWN

Okay. I take it back. Kooky rhyme
or not, that's impressive.

Nadya smiles at her handiwork.

NADYA

Everything will return the way it
was after we leave. With luck, no
one will notice it's missing until
long after we've left this
dimension.

Dawn grins.

DAWN

Guess we're not such bad thieves
either.

She heads into the elongated portal and makes her way toward
the safe.

INT. UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Devon and Jason haven't moved.

Devon remembers to breathe. Jason has the same dark look on
his face, dangerous.

DEVON

What the hell was that?

JASON

I didn't bite you.

DEVON

Yeah, I felt that. Whatever. Keep
your vampire urges to yourself
and we can get back to--

JASON

I could if you wanted me to.

DEVON

What?

He inches forward again.

JASON

It's what you want. Plain as
sunlight.

DEVON

I don't know what you're talking about. No more trippy drugs for you. You've had a little too much fun in lalaland.

JASON

And you haven't had any fun at all. But you almost did, right? Like a little lamb, offering yourself to any monster that would have you.

DEVON

Offering myself? If you think that I want demons anywhere near me then you are gravely mistaken.

JASON

No no. Not monsters. Not luck. Not chance... those are the things you wish would fade away. No, I know what you want. I've noticed a lot more than you think I have. I'm not the stranger you want me to be. I know you.

He pins her with those dark eyes again and moves with slow ease, a predator trapping its prey by sights. His voice is low and as quiet as it needs to be.

JASON

(cont.)

Sleep. Empty sleep.
(waits for her
reaction)

You're looking for the one who can make it happen. It's all you want. It's why you're here. Not just here with me, in this faceless room, but why you're on this roundabout quest. You don't care about the keys. You don't care about worlds you haven't seen, 'cause you don't even like the one you're in. No, you're hoping that maybe you'll go somewhere, meet someone, someone who can touch you. Really touch you. Someone who can cut past that curse floating about you and finally give you what you really crave. The rich, sweet dark.

DEVON

(whispers)

You don't know what you're talking about.

JASON

(cont.)

Don't I? But you seem so afraid. You can stop me anytime you want. So what is it you really fear? Not dying, no. Not scars either.

(quiet)

Something deeper. Closer. Am I making you feel?

DEVON

Just stop it.

He's within touching distance again.

JASON

You think I don't know pain? You think I don't get you? You're not that complicated. You can't repress or rationalise the beatings of a heart. Telling yourself you don't care doesn't make these walls any thicker. Pushing people away doesn't protect you. On the outside you're cold and you're hard and you like to think that's what you want to be.

She steels herself as he talks, leaning against the wall as though unaffected. She looks to the side, showing disdain.

JASON

It's not. You are what you are. Human. Alive. Your blood burns just as hot like mine.

He reaches out and brings her face to his. She's afraid.

JASON

Is it really so wrong to let it?

She shuts her eyes; if she doesn't see it, it can't hurt her.

JASON

You're looking for death. And baby, tonight I'm it.

He lunges for her neck again. She just lets him.

He plants a palm on the wall, the other snakes around her waist. But his attack isn't brutal, it slows and stops as he nears her. He merely hovers over her neck, waiting for a sign, any sign.

Her eyes open; they're like a lost little girl's. By lord, she really does want what he's offering. She squeezes her eyes shut, as if in pain, and wraps a hand around the back of his neck, pulling him in closer.

MUSIC: TRACY BONHAM - SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL

He moves his mouth over her neck, and then moves away. There is no bite mark, no fresh blood. He leans into her cheek for a moment before continuing with his original action. He plants kisses on her neck, her jaw and finally her mouth.

He lifts her and they both get with the major smoochies.

Equally. She's as into it as he is. Hot and forbidden. Quest for Key forgotten. Hang the do not disturb sign on the door for the weekend. These kiddies are on fire.

EXT. SANGUINE - NIGHT

Dawn holds The Eye in her hand and exits the office. She and Nadya look rather smug.

NADYA

Right. Time to put everything
back the way I found it...

(witch eyes)

The path is clear, the prize is
found. Return what was, stone,
mortar, veil and ground.

The light and portal recedes replacing the hole they caused with the original brick work--

-- Dawn, grins, impressed, until--

CRASHHHH

INT. SANGUINE - SAME

All the vampires turn toward the sound, though the club itself is intact. The music stops.

Xaxxix jumps to his feet.

Offara and his cronies follow him as he races across the room to the back door.

EXT. SANGUINE - SAME

The same wall and part of the roof COLLAPSES. The office and safe is in a similar state. It's a disaster.

Both girls freak at the sight.

NADYA

Uhhh...

DAWN

Run!

They both get the hell out of there.

INT. UPSTAIRS CORRIDOR - NIGHT

Jason and Devon are on one of the couches, pretty much entangled in each other. They haven't heard a thing.

Xaxxix runs up the stairs and briefly takes note of them.

XAXXIX

Guess I was wrong.

Jason and Devon startle at the sound, and start to disengage themselves from each other as Xaxxix gets his office door open.

Devon won't meet Jason's eyes.

Offara smirks at them as Jason tries to get his fingers out of the strands of Devon's top. They both look seriously kissed; clothes aren't exactly in a neat condition either. They stand and try to see what's the hubbub.

Jason sneaks a peak at Devon. She doesn't look in his direction at all; she's a bit shell-shocked.

The door opens. The duo nudge forward to take a look inside too.

OFFICE

Xaxxix takes in the chaos and the open safe. Offara sniffs the air as she inspects the room.

OFFARA

(strong accent of some kind)

Portal.

XAXXIX

Are you sure?

She nods.

XAXXIX
Anything else?

OFFARA
Nothing.

Xaxxix growls.

OFFARA
They never leave a trace.

Xaxxix, deeply disturbed, turns to see Jason and Devon. They freeze, very sober.

JASON
Uh problem?

XAXXIX
Perhaps vampires are the only beings I can trust. I should have made a deal with you after all.
(to Offara)
Put out the word. I don't care how powerful Melarna is, her sons have broken their word to me. That will be righted. They will honour the deal we made. Find them in whatever world they are hiding and tell them I want payment for this trinket. No one crosses me.

OFF Jason and Devon with this information.

INT. HOTEL, ROOM - NIGHT

Samuel is bemused as Dawn and Nadya regale him.

DAWN
And then, booom, and we ran and we're here. With the key. See.
(holds it up)
We're the Aladdin in this tale.

NADYA
(quickly)
But I've put a cloaking spell over all the keys.
(MORE)

NADYA (CONT'D)

No one will be able to track us immediately. However, we should put as much distance between us and Los Angeles as soon as we can. I'm not entirely sure what kind of power the vampire has.

SAMUEL

(without hesitation)

We can leave for the next world immediately.

JASON (O.S.)

Easy on the immediate. How about tomorrow... afternoon? I need to have a coma.

Devon and Jason enter.

Jason shuts the door behind them. Devon is closed off. Jason is visibly tired.

He tosses himself into a chair and watches Devon as she very obviously keeps away from him.

SAMUEL

Are you feeling any...?

JASON

Addictions? No. In fact, I've never been so glad not to hear my pulse coming back. Which it has by the way. Cinderella is a pumpkin again. You guys can keep your super-secret vampire happy pill to yourselves. I like my meat cooked.

Samuel stares pointedly at Devon.

SAMUEL

Good.

Jason sees The Eye.

JASON

So that was your handiwork?

DAWN

(giddy)

Yeah! My idea. Kinda.

(sobers)

Uhm. You don't mind do you? I know you had a plan and all, but spur-of-the-moment wickedry.

JASON

Nah. We weren't really that close to getting it. Don't think we would have either.

He shoots a look at Devon; ignored.

DEVON

We did get something though.

JASON

A name. One I've definitely heard before. Melarna.

DAWN

Melarna... Melarna. Wait! The cavern with the keys. That was the name those demons were chanting when they thought they had the complete Key set.

JASON

Yeah, our first time together. Wasn't it special?

DEVON

The vampire said her sons were after the key. I'm guessing the Savortes on the train worked for them.

JASON

Makes sense. Especially if these sons can make portals. The vampire thinks they backed out of the deal and stole the key instead.

NADYA

Well, that's good right? If the people after the keys are otherwise occupied, it gives us more time.

Jason shrugs.

SAMUEL

Hmmm. Mister Giles and I thought the entity they were summoning was merely incidental to their plans. We could find no reference to this Melarna. But if she is their ultimate goal... We need more information. Mister Giles told me he'd be tracing as much literature as he could on the keys and the circumstances in which we found them while we were otherwise engaged. It's possible he has some answers now.

(stands up slowly)

I think we may need to risk contacting him. I do have channels that may keep us out of harm's way if he is, as he suspected, being watched. I need to make a phone call.

He exits the room.

DEVON

(stands and goes to the door)

I need to get changed.

DAWN

(rushes forward)

Oh God. Your neck! Did someone bite you?

Devon and Jason both startle at the question. Jason looks a little guilty.

DEVON

It's okay. I'm just a little stung.

She leaves the room. Dawn is worried.

Nadya sits closer to Jason. There's an uncomfortable tension radiating from him that she doesn't notice. Dawn does.

NADYA

So what was it like? Being dead?

JASON

(after much thought)

It burned a little.

(gets up)

I need to get out of this skin too. Good night.

He leaves Dawn and Nadya. Dawn watches him go, concerned.
Noticing Nadya's confusion--

DAWN
Well... I think we did a good
job. Go girl power!

Nadya shrugs, not altogether happy at how the night has gone.

EXT. HOTEL, DEVON'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jason raps on the door.

Devon opens it. She's in her usual garb, covered from tip to
toe. Safe.

JASON
Hey.

DEVON
Hey.

JASON
I just wanted to uh... I think we
need to talk.

DEVON
We don't need to.

JASON
Yeah we do, tonight was, and I
was, but mostly it was--

She holds up her hand.

DEVON
It was a potion. Just some magic
in a bottle. So no, we don't need
to talk about it. We don't even
need to think about it. It
happened. It's forgotten. That's
all. Good night.

She shuts the door. He stares at it.

OFF JASON

FADE OUT.

END SHOW