



Buffy

the Vampire Slayer™

THE WATCHER'S GUIDE

VOLUME 2

THE 2nd OFFICIAL
COMPANION TO
THE HIT SHOW

Nancy Holder with Jeff Mariotte and Maryelizabeth Hart
Based on the hit TV series created by Joss Whedon

Buffy

the vampire slayer™

THE WATCHER'S GUIDE 2

BY **NANCY HOLDER**

WITH **JEFF MARIOTTE** AND **MARYELIZABETH HART**



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DEDICATIONS

To my daughter Belle, and to the members of our "Big Family": Jeff and Maryelizabeth and their children, Holly and David. You have blessed my child and me in so many lovely and loving ways.

—N.H.

To my two wonderful cowriters, who did most of the work. Sleep now? —J.M.

To David ("To be, or not to be—that is the vampire!"), Belle ("yi yi yi yi yi yi!") and Holly, who missed many first-run episodes so we could watch in peace.

—Me.H.

FOREWORD

Over the past eight years Joss Whedon has transformed *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* from her original one-note movie incarnation of horror and comedy into a young woman any Watcher would be proud to be associated with. Since the television show first aired in 1997, Buffy Summers and her circle of family and friends have been shaped by fantastic expressions of the horrors every adolescent encounters in the growing process. Their demons manifest in the flesh, but the fears they bring with them are universal. Fear of isolation, of being an outsider. Fear of making the wrong choices in romance. Fear of losing a loved one.

In the time it has been on the air, *Buffy* has truly reached the status of “cultural phenomenon.” This means more than appearing on refrigerator magnets and door hangers (although this edition of *The Watcher's Guide* covers that aspect as well). It means that Buffy and the other residents of Sunnydale have become a part of the world's vernacular. People who don't watch the show are at least acquainted with the premise. And people who do watch, embrace the characters and feel their trials and triumphs along with them.

In addition to fans' fascination with the characters, *Buffy* also has a strong element of metafiction. Viewers are both aware and appreciative that the situations and dialogue they view each week come from the minds of Joss and his fellow writers.

This book contains more information on both levels of the Buffyverse. It contains a complete episode guide for Seasons Three and Four, with cross-referenced continuity and in-depth character descriptions. It also contains more behind-the-scenes information—including a day-by-day look at the making of Season Four's pivotal episode, “The I in Team,”—than has ever been available before. We documented the process of turning ideas, words, photographs, and sketches into a televised episode in two weeks.

Our goal in assembling this material was to include everything we believe a true fan desires to know. We hope we have met that goal for you.

Nancy Holder

Jeff Mariotte

Maryelizabeth Hart

CONTENTS

v | Foreword

1 | Buffyverse

43 | The Character Guide

111 | The Pain

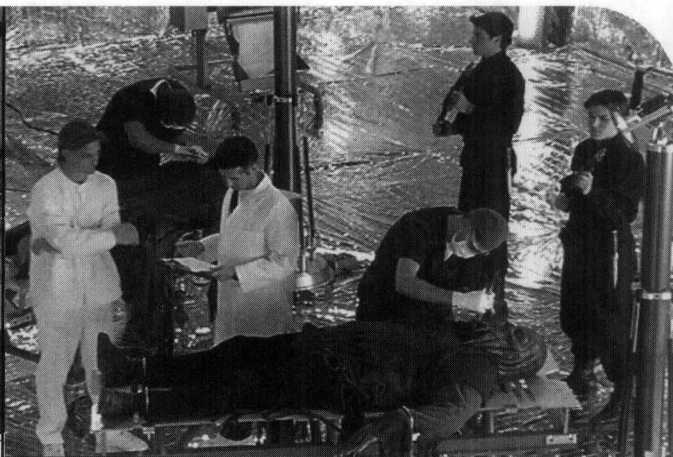
139 | Episode Guide

255 | Cast Profiles

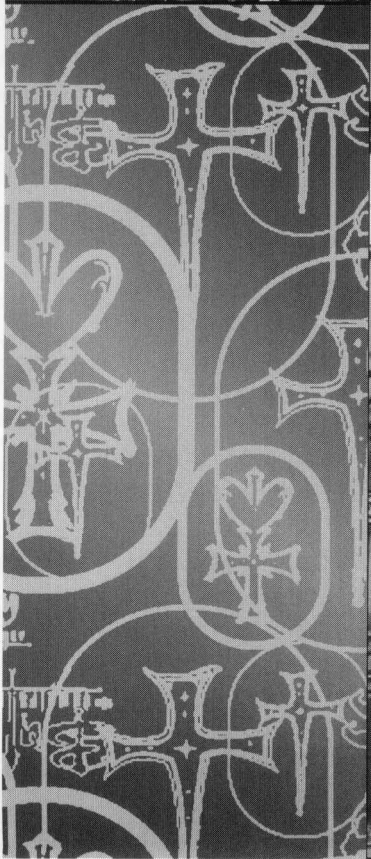
319 | Creating Buffy

453 | The Bands of Buffy

467 | Merchandising



BUFFYVERSE



PREVIOUSLY, ON *BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER* . . .

Though grounded in the very real emotions of growing up and finding one's way in the world, the universe of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* deals just as seriously with fantasy and the supernatural—evil portents, alternate dimensions, ghosts, witches, spells, and prophetic dreams.

According to *Buffy* lore, demons were the first inhabitants of the planet Earth. Eventually they were forced into other dimensions or made into hybrid creatures by mingling in various ways with the human usurpers, who came after them. They have been trying to take back this world ever since. They are considered to be the forces of evil.

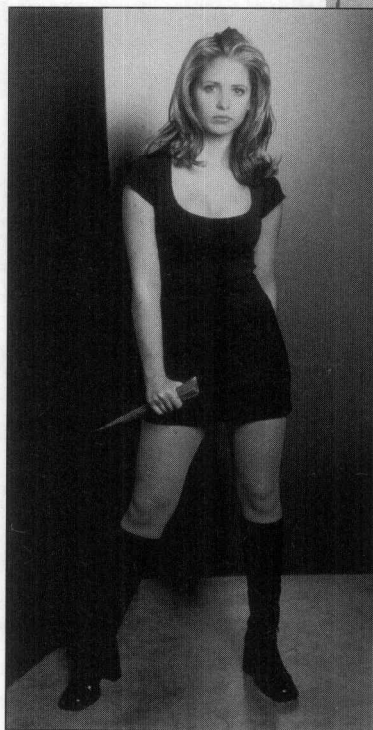
The champion of good is the Slayer: "In every generation there is a Chosen One. She and she alone will fight the demons, the vampires, and the forces of darkness. She is the Slayer." Her Watcher assists her, training and mentoring her, and providing information about how to combat the many different forms of evil she encounters. This system is "older than civilization," according to the Watchers Council.

Buffy Summers first learned about her destiny when she was fifteen. Her first Watcher, Merrick, approached her in Los Angeles, where she began her career fighting vampires. However, Merrick was killed, and Buffy was thrown out of Hemery High for, among other things, burning down the gym (to slay vampires, of course).

Her parents divorced, and Buffy and her mother moved to the small town of Sunnydale, two hours on the freeway from Los Angeles. Buffy thought her slaying days were over, and that she could return to the life of a normal teenager. However, her new Watcher, Rupert Giles, was already waiting for her. Sunnydale, it seems, is situated on a hell-mouth—an opening into the demon dimensions—and its supernatural energy both draws and strengthens the forces of darkness. To Buffy's initial dismay, there was plenty of evil to fight in the deceptively boring "one-Starbucks town."

Though Buffy is technically the current Slayer, she does not fight alone. Through a fluke, Kendra, an additional Slayer, was called (Buffy drowned, but was revived with CPR). When Kendra died, Faith was called.

Buffy is also one of the only Slayers ever to have a band of friends help her with her battles. These are other students at Buffy's new school, Sunnydale High. Xander Harris and Willow Rosenberg came on board as fellow sophomores to fight the good fight. Cordelia Chase (reluctantly) joined soon after, followed by Oz. The group often refers to itself as the Slayerettes or the Scooby Gang.



Angel, a vampire “cursed” with his own human soul, had also arrived in Sunnydale with the intention of helping Buffy. She and he soon fell in love.

Dynamics within the group shifted with the mundane pressures of high school, romance, and the more arcane pressures of demon fighting as a lifestyle. Cordelia continued to help occasionally too, even after her falling out with Xander. Then, in Season Four, she left for Los Angeles after graduation. Angel also departed, forcing closure on a relationship with the only woman he has ever loved in over two hundred and forty years of life—Buffy.

By the end of Season Three, Buffy had quit the Watchers Council. Giles had already been fired for letting his “fatherly love” for Buffy override his objective use of her as a weapon in the Watchers’ battle against evil. Buffy’s new Watcher, Wesley Wyndam-Pryce, also eventually opted for fighting at Buffy’s side on her own terms, over remaining within the Council.

In Season Four, Buffy found love with a new man—Riley Finn, a Teaching Assistant by day who was really a soldier with the super-secret Initiative, an antidemon military operation located beneath UC Sunnydale. Anyanka—introduced in Season Three as a demon dedicated to punishing men who cheat on their wives and girlfriends, and who was ultimately stripped of her powers—fell in love with Xander. She became a member of the Scooby Gang. Oz, who had been Willow’s boyfriend, abandoned her in order to explore his werewolf nature. The blossoming Wiccan, Willow, discovered a deep and lasting bond with another witch, Tara, choosing her over Oz when faced with the decision.

At the end of Season Four, the Slayer continues to fight evil surrounded by her band of friends—Giles, Xander, Anya, Willow, and Tara. Spike the vampire is a most reluctant footsoldier in Buffy’s small army. Faith wrought havoc, then fled to Los Angeles where Angel, Cordelia, and Wesley help the hopeless. With their help Faith regained some semblance of her conscience, and turned herself in to the authorities. Presumably she is still in jail, and her future is uncertain.

What does the future hold for the Slayer and her supporters?

Only time will tell. . .

THE SLAYER

“But, but that’s who you are and stuff, right?”

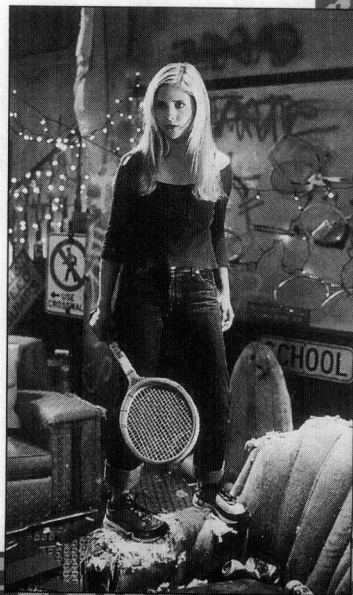
I mean, you help people...” —LILY, IN “ANNE”

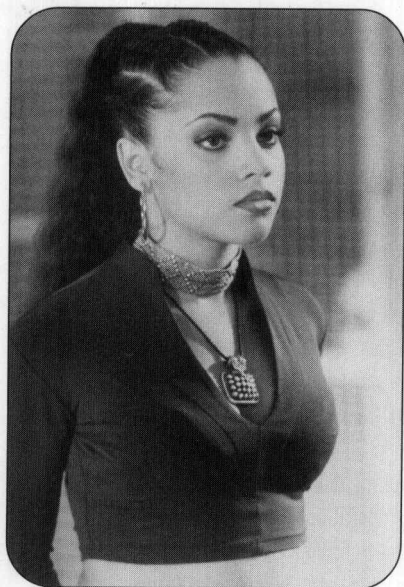
AS WE LEARNED IN SEASONS ONE AND TWO, the Slayer is the Chosen One, who will fight the forces of darkness. Though she has to work out to stay in shape, and trains with weapons, she possesses superhero strength, reflexes, and agility, and she heals faster than other human beings. All these facets of the Slayer’s identity are reinforced during both Seasons Three and Four.

SUNDAY: “This arm’s not looking so good. It might have to come off.”

BUFFY: “You want to know the truth? I only need one.”

—“THE FRESHMAN”





RILEY: "No weapons. No backup. You don't go after a demon that size by yourself."

BUFFY: "I do."

—"DOOMED"

We also learned that the Slayer has a mentor, called a Watcher, and that there is a federation of Watchers called the Watchers Council. When one Slayer dies, a new one is called to fight the forces of darkness. When Buffy drowned at the hands of the Master, Kendra was called. Drusilla killed Kendra and Faith was called:

BUFFY: "The only way you get a new Slayer is when the old one dies."

JOYCE: "That means you . . . when did you die, you never told me you died!"

BUFFY: "It was just for a few minutes."

—"FAITH, HOPE & TRICK"

We discovered in Season Two that there is a *Slayer's Handbook*, and that Buffy had not been given it because Giles figured she was too unconventional to adhere to it. We also learned that there is no way to abdicate one's duty as the Slayer; i.e., she can't quit:

"I know you didn't choose this. I know it chose you. I've tried to march in the Slayer pride parade, but . . ."

—JOYCE, IN "FAITH, HOPE & TRICK"

"It's an adventure, great, but for me it's destiny. It's something I can't escape, something I can't change. I'm stuck."

—BUFFY, IN "DOOMED"

We have also known for two seasons now that Buffy yearns for a normal life:

"I thought, Homecoming Queen; I could open a yearbook someday and say, 'I was there. I went to high school and had friends and for just one minute, I got to live in the world.' And there'd be proof. Proof that I was chosen for something other than this."

—BUFFY, IN "HOMECOMING"

ANGEL: "But you have no idea how fast it goes, Buffy.

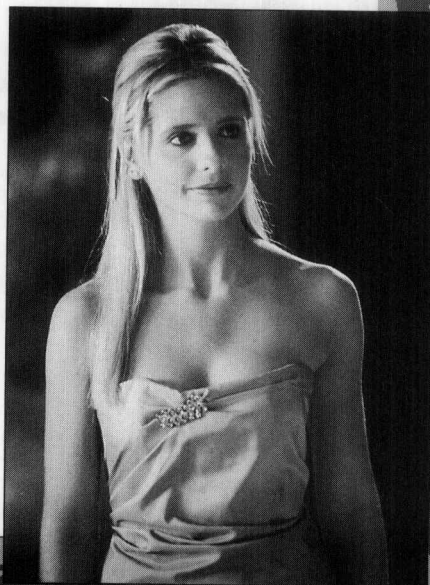
Before you know it, you'll want it all—a normal life."

BUFFY: "I'll never have a normal life."

ANGEL: "Right. You'll always be a Slayer." —"THE PROM"

ANGEL: "Come on. Don't be that way."

BUFFY: "...I'm not being that way. I say 'prom' and you turn all grouchy."



ANGEL: "I'm sorry. I'm just worried that you're getting too... invested in this whole thing."

BUFFY: "In what 'whole thing'? This is the stuff I'm supposed to get invested in. Going to a formal. Graduating. Growing up."
—**"THE PROM"**

But as wistful as Buffy is for more mundane teenage living, her life seemed full and rich compared to the far more restrictive existence Kendra experienced—one that was presented in Season Two as more in keeping with the traditions of the slaying life. Buffy found her Spartan existence and her suppression of all emotions—not to mention her supreme awkwardness around boys—to affect to her performance as a Slayer (after all, Buffy did outlive her). Then along comes Faith:

JOYCE: "So you're a Slayer, too. Isn't that interesting. Do you like it?"

FAITH: "I love it."

BUFFY: "Mom..."

JOYCE: "Just a sec, honey. Buffy never talks that way. Why do you love it?"

FAITH: "When I'm fighting, the whole world goes away and I know only one thing: I'm gonna win and they're gonna lose. I like that feeling."

BUFFY: "Well, sure, it's better than that dead feeling you get when they win and you lose."

FAITH: "I don't let that kind of negative thinking in."

JOYCE: "Right, right. That could get you hurt. Buffy can be awfully negative sometimes."
—**"FAITH, HOPE & TRICK"**

Giles explains Faith's attitude:

"You yourself said she killed one of them. She's a plucky fighter who got a little carried away. Which is natural. She's focused on slaying. She doesn't have a whole other life here like you."
—**GILES, IN "FAITH, HOPE & TRICK"**

Also new was the revelation that slaying brings with it certain side effects:

"God, I could eat a horse! Isn't it crazy? Slayin' always makes you just hungry and horny."
—**FAITH, IN "FAITH, HOPE & TRICK"**

Buffy herself confirms the euphoria of slayage later in Season Three:

BUFFY: "It was intense. It was like I just let go, and became this force. I just didn't care anymore."

WILLOW: "Yeah, I know what that's like—"

BUFFY: "I don't think you can. It's kind of a Slayer thing. I don't even think I'm explaining it well."

—**"BAD GIRLS"**

"Great thing about being a Slayer. Kicking ass is comfort food."
—**BUFFY, IN "THE PROM"**



In Season Three it was reinforced that a Slayer may not take human life.

BUFFY: "A group of . . . human beings. Someone with a soul did this?"

GILES: "I'm afraid so."

BUFFY: "Okay, so while you're looking for the meaning of the squiggly mark, maybe you could turn up a loophole in the 'Slayers don't kill people' rule." —GINGERBREAD

"Being a Slayer is not the same as being a killer." —BUFFY, IN "BAD GIRLS"

Unfortunately, while patrolling, Faith accidentally stakes the deputy mayor, who was seeking them out to warn them about the evil Mayor. The cardinal rule has been broken. Buffy is stricken. But Faith, her "shadow self," the opposing viewpoint of life as a Slayer, shrugs off the killing as a mistake and nothing more.

BUFFY: "I know what you're feeling because I feel it too. . . . Dirty. Like something sick creeped inside you and you can't get it out. And you keep hoping what happened was just some nightmare. But it wasn't, Faith."

FAITH: "Is there gonna be an intermission in this?" —"CONSEQUENCES"

FAITH: "Anyway, how many people do you think we've saved by now? Thousands? And didn't you stop the world from ending? In my book, that puts you and me firmly in the plus column."

BUFFY: "We help people. That doesn't mean we can do whatever we want."

FAITH: "Why not? This guy I offed was no Gandhi. We just saw. He was mixed up in dirty dealing."

BUFFY: "Maybe. But what if he was coming to us for help?"

FAITH: "What if he was? You're still not looking at the big picture, B. Something made us different. We're warriors. We were built to kill—"

BUFFY: "To kill demons. But it does not mean we get to pass judgment on people, like we're better than everybody else—"

FAITH: "We are better. That's right. Better. People need us to survive. In the balance? Nobody's gonna cry over some random bystander who got caught in the crossfire."

BUFFY: "I am." —"CONSEQUENCES"

As Faith unravels, it's clear why the edict against killing humans is fundamental to the role of Slayer.

"See, you need me to toe the line because you're afraid you'll go over it, aren't you, B? You can't handle watching me living my own way and having a blast, because it tempts you. You know it could be you."

—FAITH, IN "CHOICES"

Faith is right. When Buffy learns that the blood of a Slayer will cure Angel, who is dying from a poisoned arrow shot by Faith, she goes after the renegade Slayer. But there is one important difference: Buffy has already quit the Council when she makes the decision to take a human life. She is no longer bound by their code of morality . . . only by her own.

Xander is concerned:

XANDER: "I don't mean to play devil's advocate here, but are you sure you're up for this?"

BUFFY: "It's time."

XANDER: "We're talking To The Death."

BUFFY: "I can't play kid games anymore. This is how she wants it."

XANDER: "I just don't want to lose you."

BUFFY: "I won't get hurt."

XANDER: "That's not what I meant."

—"GRADUATION DAY, PART ONE"

Buffy makes the leap:

FAITH: "You know you're not gonna take me alive."

BUFFY: "That's not a problem."

FAITH: "Well, look at you, all dressed up in big sister's clothes."

BUFFY: "You told me I was just like you, Faith. That I was only holding it in."

FAITH: "You ready to cut loose?"

BUFFY: "Try me."

—"GRADUATION DAY, PART ONE"

Buffy does indeed stab Faith. Faith manages to escape and does not die; she lapses into a coma. When she wakes up in Season Four she sums up Buffy's attempt to kill her from her point of view:

"I wake up to find out this blond chick isn't even dating the guy she was so nuts about before. She's moved on—to the first college beefstick she meets. Not only has she forgotten 'the love of her life,' she's forgotten all about the chick she nearly killed for him."

—FAITH, IN "THIS YEAR'S GIRL"

With a magickal mechanism left for her by the Mayor, Faith switches bodies with Buffy. She intends to flee, but as Faith lives inside Buffy's skin, she moves from cynicism:

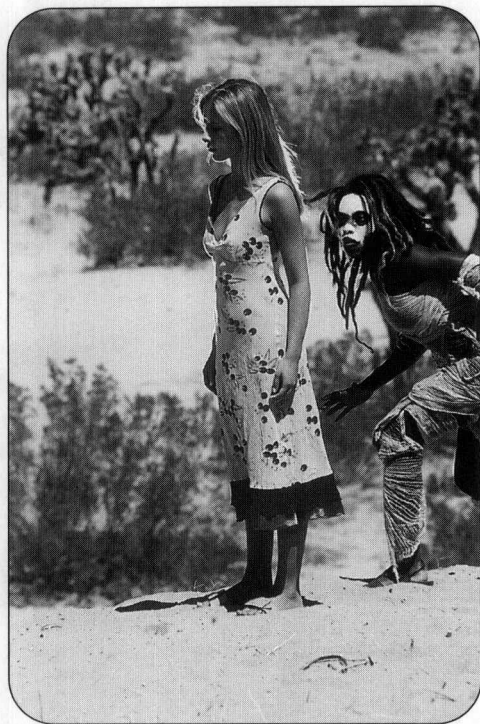
BUFFY: "Faith, these are innocent people."

FAITH: "No such animal." —"THIS YEAR'S GIRL"

... to a true Slayer. She's seen how people react to her, act with her, treat her as someone special while she has adopted Buffy's persona. How Buffy's own moral code and life choices gives her the respect from others she deserves. Airplane ticket in hand, her getaway assured, Faith chooses instead to risk her own life in order to save others:

FAITH: "You're not gonna kill these people."





BOONE: "Why not?"

FAITH: "Because it's wrong." —"WHO ARE YOU"

Confused by this turn of events, and disgusted to be back in her own body, Faith flees Sunnydale. (She turns up in L.A., where Angel finally sets her on the path to redemption—starting with what might be a first for the Council: a Slayer behind bars.)

Faith's departure for parts unknown leaves Buffy and company free to focus on a new threat—Adam, one of the Initiative's secret projects, a fighting machine made of various demon parts (and a computer processor). His strength and intelligence threaten everyone Buffy loves:

BUFFY: "I could barely fight him. It sounded like Maggie designed him to be the ultimate warrior. He's smart, and fast.... He gave the commando guys the slip with no problem."

WILLOW (shaken): "There's got to be a flaw—"

BUFFY: "I'd say the part where he's pure evil and kills randomly was an oversight...."

—"GOODBYE IOWA"

In "Primeval" and "Restless," the primal source of the Slayer is tapped, and Buffy becomes imbued with not only the strengths and abilities of her friends, Giles, Willow, and Xander, but also with that primal force. She becomes, according to the script, "ÜberBuffy," and she informs Adam, "You cannot hope to understand the source of our power." Once Adam is defeated, that source seeks retribution on Buffy, Willow, Xander, and Giles, by sending the First Slayer (also known as the Primitive) into their dreams to dispatch them. But Buffy thwarts the First Slayer, stating boldly, "You are not the source of me."

Tara murmurs to her in a voiceover as the season ends: "You think you know. What's to come, what you are. You haven't even begun."

.....

THE SLAYERS: Buffy • Kendra • Faith

OTHER SLAYERS: The First Slayer • Korean slayer in the 1930s. • Two Slayers killed by Spike, one in China during the Boxer Rebellion between 1903–1904. • The Civil War Slayer mentioned in the series premiere (Virginia, 1866). • Chicago Gangland-era (1927) Slayer mentioned in the series premiere.

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THE WATCHER

AS WE HAVE LEARNED IN SEASONS ONE AND TWO, each Slayer has a Watcher. Giles knew he was to be a Watcher by the time he was ten years old, and he rebelled by leaving Oxford and dabbling in the Black Arts. However, he eventually came around and spent his time waiting to be called—if called he would be—among the collections of the British Museum. Then he was sent to Sunnydale, in the guise of a librarian, to meet his new Slayer.

In Season Three, Giles continued on in his role as Watcher. He had become accustomed to the realities of Buffy's life as a Slayer, but that doesn't mean he didn't continue to face challenges posed by them. For example, he dealt with the resentment of Buffy's mother, Joyce, for being kept ignorant of her daughter's calling for so long:

JOYCE: "I can hardly leave the house, I'm so afraid she'll call, that she'll...need help."

GILES: "Buffy is the most capable child I have ever known. She may be confused, unhappy, but I honestly believe she's in no danger."

JOYCE: "I just wish I could talk to her. The last thing we did was fight..."

GILES: "Joyce, you mustn't blame yourself for Buffy's leaving."

JOYCE: "I don't... [looking him in the eye] I blame you."

—"ANNE"

Traditionally, Watchers exert control over Slayers. Despite the superhuman strength and healing powers of Slayers, they are, after all, still young girls, who need guidance and information to stay alive and do their jobs:

BUFFY: "What if he's mad?"

XANDER: "Mad? 'Cause you ran away and abandoned your post and your friends and your mother and made him lie awake every night worrying about you? Maybe we should wait out here."

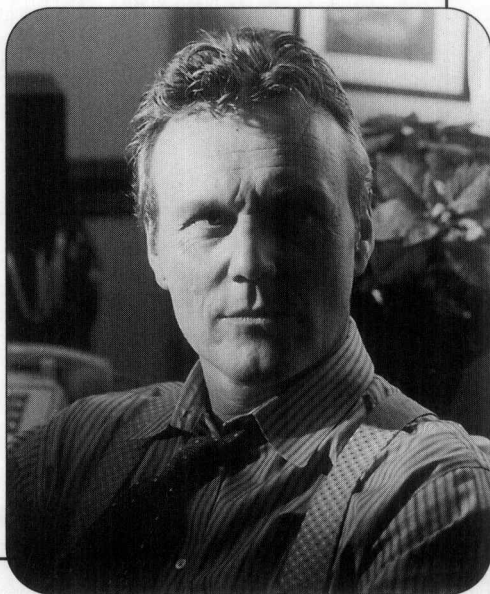
—"DEAD MAN'S PARTY"

Xander raises an interesting point when Buffy returns to Sunnydale: If a Watcher has no Slayer to watch over, is he still a Watcher?

"Check it out. The Watcher is back on the clock. And just when you were thinking career change. Maybe becoming a 'Looker' or a 'seer.'"

—XANDER, WATCHING BUFFY AND GILES' REUNION, IN "DEAD MAN'S PARTY"

But when a Watcher is charged with the care of the Chosen One, he is *the* Watcher. And the Watcher is always on the clock:





GILES: "Buffy, good timing. I can use your help. I trust you remember the demon Acathla—"

BUFFY: "Giles, please, contain yourself. Yes, I'm finally back in school but you know how it embarrasses me when you gush so. Why don't we just skip all that and get right to work."
—"FAITH, HOPE & TRICK"

MRS. POST: "You wanted to see me, Mr. Giles?"

GILES: "Yes. I do apologize for bringing you in at this late hour."

MRS. POST: "Please. A good Watcher must be awake and alert at all hours."
—"REVELATIONS"

In "Faith, Hope & Trick," Willow celebrated the theme of Season Three: "It's the freedom!" A Watcherless Faith rolled into town to see Buffy, whom she assumed likewise would be Watcher-free. But Giles cannot be spared for the Watcher's retreat:

BUFFY: "Ow!"

GILES: "Sorry."

BUFFY: "Why do I put up with this?"

GILES: "Because it is your birthright and because I just bought twenty 'coco-rific' candy bars."

BUFFY: "Okay, now you're just doing this to take funny pictures of me."

GILES: "I'm testing your awareness of an opponent's location during a fight in total darkness. You're to wait five seconds, then throw me the ball."

BUFFY: "You ran out of training ideas about a week ago, didn't you? Okay. Five, four, three-two-one." —JUST BEFORE BUFFY NAILS GILES WITH A KICKBALL, IN "BAND CANDY"

Still, despite his lot, Giles does maintain his sense of humor:

"We've got to find Buffy. Something terrible's happened. Just kidding. Thought I'd give you a scare. Are those finger sandwiches?"

—GILES, IN "HOMECOMING"

The Watcher—at least, this Watcher—watches out for the Slayer's morale. He must also maintain his authority, even when his mental state has reverted to that of a teenager:

"You're my Slayer. Knock those teeth down his throat!"

—GILES, IN "BAND CANDY"

Watchers are responsible for training their Slayers in the ways of, well, slayage:

MRS. POST: "You telegraph punches, leave blind sides open, and, for a school-night slaying, you both take entirely too much time. Which one of you is Faith?"

FAITH: "Depends. Who the hell are you?"

MRS. POST: "Gwendolyn Post. Mrs. Your New Watcher."

—"REVELATIONS"

MRS. POST: "I'm going to be very hard on you, Faith. I will not brook insolence, or laziness. I won't allow blunders like last night's attack. You will probably hate me a great deal of the time."

FAITH: "Ya think?"

MRS. POST: "But I will make you a better Slayer, and that will keep you alive. You have to trust that I'm right. God only knows what Mr. Giles has been filling your head with."

—"REVELATIONS"

GILES: "And this one?"

BUFFY: "Amethyst."

GILES: "Used for?"

BUFFY: "Breath mint?"

GILES: "For charm bags, money spells, and cleansing one's aura."

BUFFY: "Okay, so: How do you know when your aura's dirty? Somebody come by with a finger and write 'wash me' on it?"

GILES: "Buffy, I'm aware of your distaste for studying vibratory stones, but as it's part of your training, I'd appreciate your glib-free attention."

BUFFY: "Sorry. I just figure with Faith on one of her unannounced walkabouts someone should be out patrolling."

GILES: "Faith is not interested in proper training, so I rely on you to keep up with yours."

BUFFY: "I hate being the 'good' one."

—"GINGERBREAD"

You can take the Watcher out of the man, but it's hard to teach a former Watcher new tricks: After Giles reveals the nature of the Cruciamentum to Buffy (in "Helpless") he's relieved of his duties:

FAITH: "These babes were wicked rowdy. What's their deal?"

GILES: "I wish I knew. Most of my sources have dried up, since the Council has relieved me of my duties. I was aware that there was a nest here, but quite frankly I expected it to be vampires. These are new."

BUFFY: "And improved."

—"THE ZEPP0"

When Giles is replaced, the new Watcher, Wesley Wyndam-Pryce, apprises him of changes in the Watchers' training:

WESLEY: "Of course, training procedures have been updated quite a bit since your day. Much greater emphasis on field work."

GILES: "Really?"

WESLEY: "Oh, yes. It's not all books and theory nowadays. I have in fact faced two vampires—under controlled circumstances, of course."

GILES: "Well, you're in no danger of finding any here."

WESLEY: "Vampires?"

GILES: "Controlled circumstances."

—"BAD GIRLS"