

# ANGEL

"Live by the Sword"

by

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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. LOS ANGELES - NIGHT. 1

The city is in hell. Fire is FALLING from the sky, destroying every single thing in sight. Slowly coming in on the destruction, we come across --

2 EXT. HYPERION HOTEL - NIGHT. 2

The structure has broken. Smoke is rising hastily, and the entire place is lit. Flames RUSH up to the screen, wiping us out to --

3 INT. HYPERION HOTEL - NIGHT. 3

We slowly push through the destruction and mayhem, passing several boards and boards of rubble. We come in on the BROKEN picture of TEAM ANGEL, from the happier days, the image now burnt, except for Angel's face. On the image, we TURN ONTO:

KATE. Lying under boards and boards of rubble, she awakens. A small GASP as she tries to move; but can't. Her heart is racing, the smoke getting into her lungs. Struggling to break free, but can't!

KATE

Connor! Connor are you okay!?

(beat)

Connor where are you?!

On Kate's distressed call, we PAN ALONG the ground, coming in on several blocks of ceiling and poles that lie on top of one another. A hand, covered with blood, FLOPS into view. Blood running down in a stream. PULL BACK to:

Kate. She pushes the boards off, kicking them away, and struggles up to her feet. Slowly LIMPING down the chaos, she looks up, noticing the fire continuing to fall from the sky.

She remembers the army was coming this way and turns around to face the street. But the hotel itself collapsed into itself, much like the factory. She makes her way to the window, looking out.

ANGLE: KATE'S P.O.V

An army is headed this way, destroying everything in its sight. Loud ROARS and CRIES escape them as they RUSH down the streets. We pull back in on her:

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

Kate steps away from the window, turning to face Connor who is still yet to be seen. As she heads down the long chaos, we:

FLASH TO:

4 INT. UNDERGROUND - BURIED FACTORY - NIGHT.

4

Lying under boards and boards of destruction, Illyria slowly begins to awaken. She STRUGGLES up to her feet, smashing through the rubble that resides on top of her.

She hastily walks through the chaos, searching for --

SPIKE. Being pulled up quickly, Spike is YANKED into view, being held up by Illyria's hand.

ILLYRIA

Rise to your feet, vampire. We have a war to engage.

Spike drops to his feet --

SPIKE

Give it up, luv. Los Angeles is too far gone. There's nothing left to fight for. The city's up in flames!

ILLYRIA

Wesley needs our help.

Spike faces her.

SPIKE

He's dead! In the end, pet, he's dead!

ILLYRIA

I'm aware of that. But his passing will not commence until he's out of here. It's our duty to --

SPIKE

You really care for the transparent sod, don't ya.

ILLYRIA

(beat)

This mortal coil knew him. Loved him. He cares a great deal for her, therefor I shall care a great deal for him. I show nothing but respect to Wesley. He is a brave warrior. He deserves a warrior's death.

(CONTINUED)

SPIKE

Right then, whatever suits you fancy.

Spike TRAILS off, approaching the buried bodies of Gunn and Gwen as rubble is stacked on top them, piled up.

ANGEL (V.O)

How can I save them?

On Illyria's face, we:

FLASH TO:

5 INT. UNKNOWN LOCATION - NIGHT.

5

A pitch black room that stores ANGEL, and the AGENT of the POWERS THAT BE. A small light FLICKERS back on, glistening over them, illuminating the two --

PTB AGENT

The powers that be have managed to make a hole in the portal. The barrier shielding the city off from the so called "real world" will soon wipe out every living thing here.

(beat)

What your mission is ... what you're being asked to do ... is quite a difficult task. But, the fate of the world --

ANGEL

(interrupting)

...depends on it. Yeah, yeah, I get the picture. So when can I get this show on the road, huh?

A sudden EXPLOSION of light and CORDELIA CHASE appears, making her way from behind Angel, to in front of him --

CORDELIA

Hey tough guy. Didn't think they'd let you leave without me, did ya?

Angel turns around, facing her.

ANGEL

Cordy? Does this mean you're --

CORDELIA

It's only temporary.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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5 CONTINUED:

5

CORDELIA (CONT'D)

The Powers that Be figured you needed  
a familiar face to guide you through  
Japan and all that --

Angel is shocked --

ANGEL

Japan?!

He turns to the PTB AGENT:

PTB AGENT

There is a sword. It stores the power  
to rid the portal. But there are  
several tasks in which you must  
complete before you can be welcomed  
into their temple.

ANGEL

A temple?

PTB AGENT

Yes. I can't stress this enough,  
Angel, but you can not show sympathy  
on these people. They have been  
through a lot. Wars. Death. Famine. I  
need you to stay strong because in the  
end ... you will have to betray them.

(beat)

If you want to save Los Angeles.

As Angel contemplates the possibilities, we:

**BLACKOUT:**

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

6 EXT. STREETS OF LOS ANGELES - NIGHT.

6

Racing through the streets, the demonic army is destroying everything in sight. Falling into view with CONNOR in her arms, Kate re-enters the picture --

She stays on her knees, looking down at the unconscious Connor with fear in her eyes.

ANGLE: KATE'S P.O.V.

We catch a GLIMPSE of her vehicle, not too far in front of her. A few seconds CLOSING IN ON IT, before we PULL BACK to:

Kate. She gets back up to her feet, picking Connor up and carrying him in her arms, as she STUMBLES over towards her car. Opening it up, she throws Connor in the back seat, to sleep comfortably. Closing the door, she turns around to the front, getting in --

CUT TO:

7 INT. KATE'S CAR - LOS ANGELES - NIGHT.

7

Slamming the door shut, Kate encloses herself in the car. She begins to start the engine, but its slowly failing --

KATE  
(angered)  
Come on, damn it! Work!

Finally! The vehicle picks up speed and she begins to drive off in a hasty matter. Going way over the SPEED LIMIT --

FLASH TO:

8 EXT. JAPAN - STREETS - DAY.

8

Several small RIPPLES shoot out throughout the street of Japan. The sun SHINES brighter than anything we've seen before, like an angel watching over us. The portal grows bigger and cars separate from it, as do people, running and screaming in fear. The purple energy COLLAPSES into itself and take the form of Angel and Cordelia --

Beginning to SIZZLE, the sun burns through Angel and he HISSES with pain. He throws his jacket over his head and rushes towards the closest shop.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

Leaping through the exterior of a local newsagency, Angel SMASHES his way into the darkness, fleeing the sun. Large shards of glass SHATTERS across the screen and we --

CUT TO:

9 INT. JAPAN NEWSAGENCY - STREETS - DAY.

9

Dropping into the room, he ROLLS up to his feet, still HISSING, and leaping around a rack of magazines. Entering the store, Cordelia makes her way towards a PANTING Angel --

CORDELIA

Man. You sure don't get out much nowadays, do ya?

ANGEL

Asides from the fact that I've been living in a hell dimension, I'm also a vampire! Or have you forgotten.

CORDELIA

Come on, big guy, lets go do what we do best --

Cordelia holds out her hand and Angel takes it.

GUNN (V.O)

Wh-where are we going?

On the two hands meeting, we:

FLASH TO:

10 EXT. STREETS OF LOS ANGELES - NIGHT.

10

The four FIGURES stumble down the streets of L.A limping in agony. Slowly CLOSING in on them, we reveal the straddling figures, Spike, Illyria, GUNN, and GWEN --

SPIKE

We're going somewhere safe.

GUNN

Safe? Unless you're in a different hell dimension, does this look safe to you?

GWEN

Hey Gunn, panic-stricken doesn't really scream "you".

(CONTINUED)

GUNN

In case you forgot, this is all you're fault, Gwen! You're the one who nearly killed us all back there.

GWEN

Suck it up, Charlie. I was trying to kill them, not us. But hey, going out like that ... man. Now that's a worthy death.

SPIKE

P-p-please! I was wiped out during the battle against the first evil! Getting buried alive isn't all that heroic.

GUNN

Yeah, but you died coz you were wearing the wrong sorta bling-bling.

(beat)

Or are we forgetting a certain amulet.

Spike STOPS --

SPIKE

Who told you that.

GUNN

Who do you think?

Spike continues walking --

SPIKE

Angel's a ponce! You know he was supposed to stick around for the battle to end all battles ... or at least on Sunnydale, but he chickened out. Therefor, I wore the amulet. Ya know that Lilah chick gave it to him.

(beat)

My guess is, this was their plan all along. They saw Angel as a liability, not an asset, gave him the amulet so he'd die saving the world. Then, bring him back only to find the world in hell, and his friends all dead.

GWEN

Why would they bring him back, after going through that much trouble.

(CONTINUED)

SPIKE

Coz they had the trigger that would make him suddenly solid. They'd sooner or later convince him that there was nothing left to live for, and soon, the Wolf, Ram, and Hart, would destroy the rest of the world with Angelus by their side --

GUNN

Well now no one aint got Angel fighting on their side. And by the looks of things, we don't have time to worry about the demons. The city is being sucked into oblivion. And we're being dragged down with it.

On the team we:

CUT TO:

11 INT. SEWER TUNNELS - HIDDEN ROOM - NIGHT.

11

Back to where she began this season, Kate enters the hidden room in the sewer tunnels with the bleeding, stumbling body of Conner. She places him down on the table as blood is pouring out from his gut. She slowly UNVEILS his shirt to reveal a large chunk of metal JAMMED in his gut, with blood all around it; DRIPPING --

KATE

Oh god. You're not doing too good.

CONNOR

Kate --

Kate looks into his eyes, applying pressure on his wound, while brushing her fingers through his hair.

KATE

Yeah?

CONNOR

I-I-I'm not going to ... to make it through this, am I?

KATE

Shh. Everything's going to be fine, kid. Just keep breathing --

(CONTINUED)

CONNOR

I-I can't. It ... it hurts too much to breathe. What was that? What happened back there?

KATE

We got hit. City's falling to bits. Fire falling from the sky an all that other religious crap --

CONNOR

Rain of fire? Can't the Forces of Darkness come up with something original?

KATE

What? This happened before?

Connor smiles --

CONNOR

T'yeah. I thought you've been here for a long time?

KATE

I only arrived in town a few months back. Tried to sign back on the force, wasn't accepted, got into the vigilante gig, then decided to head out. Wish I would have sooner --

Connor nods his head. He opens his mouth, as if to talk, before pausing. His eyes are motionless, and Kate looks at him in complete confusion --

KATE (CONT'D)

Connor?

A small chunk of blood COUGHS out of his mouth, spraying all over Kate and Connor drops back, SHAKING intensely --

Kate tries to hold him still, but he is out of control. The pain is excruciating. A small GASP and his body FLINCHES up, SHRIEKING before it flops down straight, DEAD --

KATE (CONT'D)

Sleep well, kiddo.

Turning away from the dead body, Kate drops to her knees, instantly vomiting all over the ground. She looks up, hair frizzled, and GAGS --

WHITE OUT TO:

12 INT. SEWER TUNNELS - JAPAN - DAY.

12

Two FIGURES step from out of the shadows, and into the light, revealing themselves to be Angel and Cordelia. They journey through the sewers --

CORDELIA

To be honest with you, I do not miss this at all.

ANGEL

Really? You're telling me you don't miss the demon fighting? The late night stake outs? The apocalypses?

Angel STOPS:

ANGEL (CONT'D)

Man, I wish I was dead.

CORDELIA

Uh, Angel, sweetie, you are dead.

ANGEL

Right now, I'm starting to regret missing you so much.

Cordelia GRUNTS, following on as she was drifting behind.

CORDELIA

Well you don't have to worry about me for that much longer, buddy. The Powers that Be have a frikkin expiration date on this body of mine. Soon I'll be floating up to the heavens or whatnot and you can enjoy your new life in the real L.A.

ANGEL

Where is this temple?

CORDELIA

Oh, right. The temple.  
(laughs)

Well, I don't exactly know where it is. Neither do the Powers That Be, but we do know how to get there, so don't worry. Alls we need to do is find the gatekeeper, steal his key, unless he hands it over nicely, and make the rest of this sweet journey over to the temple where you'll be fighting for your life to save the world ... again.

(CONTINUED)

ANGEL "Live by the Sword"

11.

12 CONTINUED:

12

On Angel's misery we:

FLASH TO:

13 EXT. STREETS OF LOS ANGELES - NIGHT.

13

The FOUR staggering figures, falling to the wall of a supermarket shop, PUFFING and PANTING. Demons are tearing the place up, and fire is falling from the sky. It's a wonder they haven't been hit yet --

SPIKE

We need to keep moving, pet. If we stop, we'll risk getting --

Illyria cuts in.

ILLYRIA

Risks are meaningless. They originate from a scared, pathetic creature; afraid to do the inevitable because it frightens them. I will not stand for that kind of incompetence. Understand, vampire?

BANG! A large fireball drops from the sky and hits the building in front of them. Rubble HURLS down, FALLING towards them. The ground SHAKES, and Illyria falls to the wall.

ILLYRIA (CONT'D)

But then again --

Gwen helps Gunn back up to his feet.

GUNN

Thought I was hit for a second then.

GWEN

Don't worry, Charlie. You know I've always got your back.

Gunn smiles.

GUNN

Just like old times --

Gunn goes to touch her face but she stops him with her glove covered hands.

GWEN

Gunn, stop. I can't --

(beat)

I don't have L.I.S.A on me anymore.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GWEN (CONT'D)

I can't ... do that sort of thing  
anymore. Or at least not until I get  
it back.

Gunn takes his hand away.

GUNN

I'm sorry, I didn't mean to --

BANG!

Another fireball smashes to the ground, and it completely  
ERUPTS -- our four heroes are lifted up in a massive  
EXPLOSION and catapult away from each other.

ANGLE: GUNN

Gunn hits the corner of a shop, rebounding off of it and  
sliding into the alleyway, out of sight --

ANGLE: GWEN

Gwen SMASHES through the window of the shop, entering the  
building and rolling off out of sight --

ANGLE: SPIKE

Spike is THROWN back in a trance, legs up in the air, arms  
flailing about. He HURLS over the other side of the group,  
and ends up on the road; but as for Illyria --

ANGLE: ILLYRIA

Illyria SMASHES through the side of a building, hits the  
ground, and rolls over to reveal blood rushing out of her  
face, and body. Her arm PLOPS down, blood all over her hands,  
and she lays there -- dormant.

We PULL BACK to Gunn. He slowly gets back up to his feet,  
brushing himself off. Running out of the alleyway, he looks  
at the chaos. There is a HUGE hole in the ground, metres  
long, and metres DEEP --

The first person he spots is Spike before more fire begins to  
drop, destroyed the buildings around him.

He RACES over to Spike, picks him up from off of the ground,  
and begins to run with them. We then PULL BACK to:

Gwen. She slowly gets up and looks out the window.

ANGLE: GWEN'S P.O.V

(CONTINUED)

A large fire ball from the sky is SHOOTING DOWN, right at us. Flames spiral around it, consuming it as it makes its way towards us. PULL BACK to:

Gwen. She turns away from the window and heads for the door, foolishly trying to open it, but its locked. She CHARGES up and arm and BLOWS her way out, staggering to her knees.

Looking over her shoulders, she spots Illyria, lying bloodied on the ground. She rises up and begins to head over to her before --

BANG!

The building EXPLODES, glass SHATTERING out at every point. We see a flailing Gwen, being lifted up in the air and THROWN away from the building from the impact.

She hits the ground rolling, SLAMMING her head against the pavement and rolling into view with a massive head wound. On that we:

CUT TO:

14 INT. GATEKEEPER'S PALACE - JAPAN - DAY.

14

That's right, a palace. Huge interior with expensive art, and decorations everywhere. Two familiar faces step into view, Angel and Cordelia come into view, entering:

CORDELIA

Holy crap. This place is gorgeous.

ANGEL

Bit too big for my taste.

CORDELIA

Your taste?

ANGEL

Just ... tell me where I can find this gatekeeper guy so I can --

(beat)

Ugh!

A large arrow PIERCES through Angel's shoulder and comes out the other side. He looks to it, turns around, and spots the GATEKEEPER --

Cordelia SHRIEKS in shock, not noticing the arrow until now. She rushes over to him before another arrow is SHOT.

(CONTINUED)

Angel pushes Cordelia out of the way. She hits a table in the room, it smashes, and she rolls to the wall.

The Gatekeeper RETRACTS a large blade and puts it to Angel's throat.

GATEKEEPER

Vampire! You are not worthy of my presence. I shall kill you for that.

ANGEL

Hey, if you don't, I know a girl who speaks exactly like you.

Taking a big SWING, the Gatekeeper goes for the kill. Angel grabs the blade, pulls him in and throws him to the wall.

He stands back up, forming a mystical ripple in his hands.

THROWING it at Angel, it TEARS through the room, destroying everything in sight before hitting Angel. Blood SPLATTERS from Angel and onto the ground as the ripple cuts straight through him. He gets lifted up off the ground and thrown at the wall.

Falling to his knees, the champion is wounded. The gatekeeper enters, sword in hand, fierce look on his face.

GATEKEEPER

For centuries I've been protecting that temple, and I'm not about to give up now. Do you understand?

ANGEL

Yeah, I understand. Doesn't mean I'm gonna listen --

Angel stands up, GRUNTING from the pain, but going on.

ANGEL (CONT'D)

You think you're all strong and mighty. Well you just pissed off your worst nightmare --  
(vamps out)  
Now you're dead.

Angel LEAPS in the air, towards him, and tackles the Gatekeeper to the ground. He FLIPS off of him, and starts using everything in sight as a weapon, hitting the man with it. He soon ends up with the Gatekeeper by the wall, GROWLING to intimidate, to frighten --

(CONTINUED)

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14

GATEKEEPER

Who the hell do you think you are!?

On that, Angel smiles --

ANGEL

I'm Angel.

He HEADBUTS the Gatekeeper and he is completely knocked out, sliding to the ground unconscious. Cordelia enters.

CORDELIA

Wow. All that, and where am I. Trying to get off my ass after you push me. Jeez Angel, I spent three years by your side, fighting the good fight, and you think I'm a helpless whatnot, scared of people like him!

The gatekeeper awakens, grabbing Cordelia's foot. She looks down, SCREAMS and Angel KNEELS down, grabs him, and hurls him out the window.

Cordelia stumbles to the wall.

ANGEL

You were saying.

CORDELIA

Hurry up and get the key. This place is givin' me the wiggins.

As Angel SEARCHES for THE key, we:

FLASH TO:

15 EXT. STREETS OF LOS ANGELES - NIGHT.

15

Waking up in the streets of Los Angeles, Gwen slowly regains her vision. She spots several demons, heading this way, and slowly CRAWLS back in fear.

She gets up and spots Illyria, still lying there with stained blood all over her. She checks her pulse and then SIGHS --

SHE'S DEAD.

Gwen looks over her shoulder to see the demons circulating, she turns away and RUNS off --

CUT TO:

16 INT. SEWER TUNNELS - HIDDEN ROOM - NIGHT.

16

The door opens and in steps Spike and Gunn. Kate stands to welcome them, tears in her eyes. They are confused, but spot Connor's dead body.

GUNN  
Jesus Christ!

Gunn turns off and Spike walks further in.

KATE  
We were hit. Back at the hotel. Its,  
its nothing but a bunch of rubble now.  
He was fine ... when I found him. But -  
-  
(beat)  
He just ... he just --

Gunn comes in and WRAPS himself around Kate, cradling her as she sobs.

GUNN  
Its okay. We're going to get out of  
here. We're not going to die.

SPIKE  
Yes we are.

Gunn and Kate look to Spike.

SPIKE (CONT'D)  
I didn't want to tell you this, but, I  
can feel it. The end. Its not coming,  
its not near --  
(beat)  
Its now! This is it. Sorry I'm being  
so blunt about it, but Angel isn't  
dead. He was yanked out of here. He is  
saved. We're left behind, like always.

KATE  
Angel's gone?

GUNN  
He disappeared after this happened.  
One second her was here, and then --

SPIKE  
He's gone, Kate. There's no use  
fighting off the demons, coz more and  
more will be coming. The city can't  
survive in hell. Neither can we.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

SPIKE (CONT'D)

Well ... I might ... don't know about  
you two.

KATE

Any terms of a plan?

Spike walks towards the entrance door --

SPIKE

We need to board this place up. Demons  
will be down here soon, and if they  
find us they will kill us.

GUNN

No, we have to go back out there. We  
have to save Gwen and Fre --

(stops)

And Illyria.

SPIKE

We can't, Charles! We're going to die!

GUNN

You can stay here, hide. But Angel  
would fight. He wouldn't leave anyone  
behind.

SPIKE

Guess that's the difference between  
Angel and me.

KATE

Gunn, Spike is right. There's no  
point. I don't want to remember the  
rest of my life with everyone dying  
around me. Just stay --

GUNN

No.

Gunn steps out, closes the door behind him, and retreats from  
view. Kate goes to the weapon's cabinet and grabs out a  
shotgun, and two handguns, stocking up.

SPIKE

Where you going?

KATE

I won't let him die alone. You in?

Kate rushes out and Spike follows. On that we:

FLASH TO:

17 EXT. TEMPLE - JAPAN - DAY. 17

A large temple, standing tall on a hill, comes into view as we slowly close in on it. On the establishing shot, we:

CUT TO:

18 INT. TEMPLE - ENTRANCE - DAY. 18

Inside, we slowly come in on two slightly closed doors. There is a small gap between where the doors meet, not fully closed. Large ripples of energy begin to ERUPT and soon, we can see the energy SHINING through the gap.

A sudden BANG and the doors SHOOT open to reveal Angel and Cordelia, standing within the light of day. We slowly push in on them --

CORDELIA

Open sesame.

As Cordelia looks to Angel with a smile on her face, we suddenly come to a complete:

**BLACKOUT:**

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

19 INT. TEMPLE - TRAINING ROOM - DAY.

19

The large doors open and our champions enter, following after a bald man in a long patterned robe. He approaches the center of the room, Angel and Cordelia not far behind.

ANGEL  
(whispering)  
So, who's this guy?

CORDELIA  
He's the Master of the temple. I believe they call him 'Hakuta Matatu'.

ANGEL  
Hakuna Matata?

CORDELIA  
That's the *Lion King*, dumb-ass!

They reach the Master HAKUTA MATATU --

HAKUTA MATATU  
Silence! This a holy place. A sanctuary to my brethren. I do not welcome strangers into this sanctuary, and unless you can prove yourself worthy of my attention --  
(beat)  
Well, lets just say you won't be sticking around!

ANGEL  
You can trust us! We're trying to save Los Angeles. The world!  
(beat)  
We are not your enemy.

HAKUTA MATATU  
Our temple has been betrayed before. I can see through you, vampire, and I see sadness. I see the good in you --  
(then)  
But I've been fooled before. I'm sorry but, you must be proven worthy of my trust. There is no other way --

(CONTINUED)

About TWENTY NIJA'S drop from the ceiling, landing in unison of one another. Hakuta Matatu takes a step back and we PUSH in on a confused and worried Angel --

ANGEL

Did you know this was going to happen?

CORDELIA

Do I look like someone who is in the "know".

The first NINJA charges, SHRIEKING in a sort of warcry with the large wooden pole in his hand. He takes a SWING, and Angel blocks the attack -- grabbing the weapon and pulling the ninja in by it.

ANGEL

You really don't want to do this.

The Ninja PULLS BACK, swiping his stick UP and clobbering Angel in the face. Angel is THROWN back, hurling away towards the wall. He hits the ground, rolls into the wall, and hisses out in anger -- VAMPING OUT!!

Cordelia looks from Angel to the Ninja's --

CORDELIA

Game on.

An intense battle breaks out, the two champions battling it out with the warrior ninja's. Cordelia is bombarded first. She manages to disarm one of them, obtaining a weapon, and begins to fight back.

Knocking two out with the stick, she gets back into the fight with a large ROUNDHOUSE kick, knocking another to the ground. We PULL BACK to:

Angel. He runs away from five ninja's hastily rushing at him with their blades. He reaches the wall, running up it, before BOUNCING off, turning around mid-air and FLINGING his leg out, kicking them down. He lands on his feet, GROWLING --

PUSHING up past Angel, we come back in on Cordelia, after she manages to knock three more down. As Angel catches up with her, they go in for more before we hear two sudden CLAPS and all the ninja's disappear in a sudden mystical explosion, falling to dust. The two champions SPIN AROUND to face Master Hakuta Matatu.

HAKUTA MATATU

Enough. You have proven yourself worthy to stay in my temple.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HAKUTA MATATU (CONT'D)

Now state your reason for being here,  
vampire?

(beat)

What exactly is it that you want?

Angel's face MORPHS back into his not-so-vamped-out one.

ANGEL

Oh, so now you want to talk!

HAKUTA MATATU

Speak!

Angel sighs --

ANGEL

I want to join you. You're brethren. I  
want to learn the power that the Earth  
stores within itself ... and you know,  
all that other crap.

Cordelia nudges him a bit --

HAKUTA MATATU

You? A vampire?

(laughs)

You are nothing but a soulless --

He stops, sensing something.

HAKUTA MATATU (CONT'D)

Oh my. You are quite the opposite.

ANGEL

So is it possible? Can I join you?

HAKUTA MATATU

I must advise you that there are  
several tasks in which you must  
complete, to prove yourself worthy of  
our cause.

CORDELIA

God. What's with all the "worthy-ness"  
jibberish. Can't he just like, fill in  
an application?

HAKUTA MATATU

How dare you mock --

ANGEL

Oh no. She wasn't mocking. She's just,  
uh, slightly off today.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

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19 CONTINUED: (3)

19

ANGEL (CONT'D)

You see, she's been dead for a while  
now, and --

(beat)

Okay, not the best excuse. But,  
understand her suffering. She died  
from a coma.

Cordelia folds her arms, angry at Angel.

CORDELIA

If we survive this, I'm so staking  
you're sorry ass.

ANGEL

See. What'd I tell you.

The Master gives off an odd expression, and on that we:

FLASH TO:

20 EXT. LOS ANGELES - CITY - NIGHT.

20

On an establishing shot of the city, we spot the destruction  
and chaos causing it to crumble to bits. Slowly dropping into  
the streets, we PAN through it, in between buildings and  
slowly rising up to --

21 EXT. ROOFTOP - LOS ANGELES - NIGHT.

21

On a rooftop stands WESLEY. His eyes are consumed in  
darkness, his entire entity taken over by the SHADOW's dark  
soul. Wesley looks over the city, spotting a struggling TEAM  
ANGEL, as they trudge through the city --

On Wesley suddenly ERUPTING in black smoke, we:

CUT TO:

22 EXT. STREETS - LOS ANGELES - NIGHT.

22

Team Angel -- Kate, Gunn, and Spike -- are walking through  
the streets with weapons wielded in their hands. The city is  
falling to bits around them, but the fire has stopped raining  
from the sky. Small little EARTH SHAKES occur, very minor,  
but they are causing large RIPS in the ground.

Wesley RE-APPEARS before the team --

WESLEY

(possessed; dark)

You people are pathetic. You're city  
faces annihilation, and you stand  
here, ready to take on my army.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

WESLEY (CONT'D)

(beat)

How much stupider can you get? Coz this, well ... what can I say that hasn't already been said --

(then)

Its pathetic.

Kate COCKS her gun, aims it, and PULLS the trigger but Gunn nudges her arm, causing her to miss.

KATE

What the hell are you doing?!

Wesley steps forward, pushing his arm back and charging up his strength. He SLAMS his open hand forward, hitting Kate on the chest --

She is THROWN back, hits the ground and slides out of view. We then PULL BACK to:

Spike and Gunn. They look at Wesley in horror --

GUNN

Wesley, if you're still in there --

SPIKE

(to Gunn)

Save the speech, Gunn. Wesley's gone. His soul's been taken over. He's moved on. Just what he wanted.

Spike pulls the blade in closer to his chest.

SPIKE (CONT'D)

Which means we can beat every square inch of this ponce's ass!

Spike SLASHES the blade and Wesley catches it.

WESLEY

I am an ancient being of great power. You are nothing but a vampire.

SPIKE

The name's Spike! Better learn it, you git, coz its the last name you'll ever hear!

Spike pulls the blade in, Wesley being pulled in too. Spike throws a punch, knocking Wesley out of his stance. He then ROUNDHOUSE kicks the possessed friend in the face; causing him to stumble to the ground. Gunn runs back to help Kate, and as he retreats from view, we FOLLOW on --

(CONTINUED)

ANGLE: KATE & GUNN

Gunn reaches down for Kate, and helps her up. She pulls her gun back into view --

KATE  
You gonna explain that back there?

GUNN  
Sorry. Wesley's like a brother to me. Seeing you like that, about to blow him to bits, I don't know, it just got me is all.

KATE  
That's not Wesley.

GUNN  
I know.

Kate COCKS her gun once more, APPROACHING Spike and Wesley as they battle it out, taking hits, and making them, all at the same time --

Kate ready's her gun, aiming straight at Wesley's chest.

ANGLE: SPIKE

He looks over his shoulder to spot Kate, ready to take the shot. He turns back in on the possessed Wes, and takes one final SWING.

Wesley hits the wall, and slides down against the building behind him. Spike leans back --

SPIKE  
G'night English --

And as Spike depletes the scene, Kate re-enters, aiming straight down at him. Wesley looks up. His eyes FLICKER from black to normal, and Kate places her finger on the trigger.

The spirit LAUNCHES out of Wesley as she takes the shot.

BANG!

The bullet goes straight through Wesley, and hits the wall. Large chunks of the wall FLY out and meet with Kate, throwing her down. The Spirit begins to give birth to itself, GROWLING at the TEAM as they look up at it.

Wesley SHIMMERS in and out, regaining his ghostly form.

(CONTINUED)

The spirit SNARLS at Spike and RUSHES straight at him, meeting with his chest and SURGING through him. Spike is turned around to face Gunn from the impact of the collision.

He is being taken over by the dark force --

SPIKE (CONT'D)

This is it, Charlie-Boy. Take the swing!

GUNN

What?

Spike raises his voice --

SPIKE

Kill it while its still --

He GROWLS, vamping out, and falling to his hands and knees. A loud SHRIEK and the spirit almost has full control. He looks up, a twitch in his eye; the last sign of Spike before Gunn SWINGS the axe down -- Spike's head comes right off, the spirit obliterating, and Spike falling to dust.

Kate leans up, looking to see the champion vampire slowly fading away into nothing but a pile of dust. Wesley looks on, now realizing that this was it. The end was now --

Gunn DROPS the axe and turns away from the TEAM, leaning up against the wall with sympathy in his eyes. He couldn't believe he just killed his friend. The one man that believed in his full potential. That saw him as not only the muscle, but a true warrior.

As Gunn faces us, with tears building up in his eyes, we:

FLASH TO:

23 INT. TEMPLE - JAPAN - DAY.

23

The Master, Angel, and Cordelia step into view, walking into a large, open room. The two champions follow in foot, behind the Master as he sits in a meditating position --

HAKUTA MATATU

Please, sit with me, vampire.

Angel looks from Cordelia to the Master, sitting down in the same sort of position, in front of him.

ANGEL

So, what now?

(CONTINUED)

Cordelia steps around them, and leans against the wall, watching on, as she isn't apart of this.

HAKUTA MATATU

I must cleanse you're aura. Bring you soul to the surface. And all inner truths will arise from within the surface.

Angel looks confused --

HAKUTA MATATU (CONT'D)

Close your eyes, and relax.

The Master closes his eyes, and joins hands with Angel; who looks on over to Cordelia, and nods his head. Cordelia doesn't quite understand at first, but then remembers why they're here in the first place --

CORDELIA

(whispering, to herself  
The Sword --

On that, she walks off, out of the room and we PULL BACK to:

Angel. His eyes suddenly LIGHT UP with energy and he GASPS, we SHOOT into his eyes and find ourselves --

24 INT. SECRET CHAMBER - FLASHBACK - NIGHT.

24

In the secret meeting chamber of the CIRCLE of the BLACK THORN, the members are gathered in a meeting --

IZZY produces a cylindrical document holder, pulls a document out of it, and unrolls it on the table in front of Angel.

ANGEL

This is the Shanshu Prophecy.

SEBASSIS

A paranoid person might think you're trying to manipulate us in an attempt to fulfill this prophecy.

FLASH THROUGH MORE OF IT, REALLY FAST to where Angel grunts, as he pulls the pen out of the back of his hand, and signs his name on the document -- little does he know, it wasn't the shanshu, but a backup plan if the Black Thorn is defeated, and on that we:

FLASH TO:

25 INT. TEMPLE - JAPAN - DAY. 25

The Master Hakuta Matatu SHUDDERS from the flashback, seeing the same thing Angel was seeing --

FLASH TO:

26 EXT. LOS ANGELES - FLASHBACK - NIGHT. 26

The once beautiful vision now chaotic and monstrous. A large DRAGON, spiraling into view. A sudden STOP as it spots us. An immediate SCREECH followed by the devil's flames, spinning and twilight at us --

FLASH TO:

27 INT. WHITE ROOM - FLASHBACK - NIGHT. 27

Angel stumbles back, to look around --

ANGEL

There are always casualties in war.  
There's nothing you can change about that.

LILAH

Yes, we are aware of that.

ANGEL

We?

LILAH

The Senior Partners, dumbass!

On that we:

FLASH TO:

28 INT. TEMPLE - JAPAN - DAY. 28

Master Hakuta Matatu JUMPS UP from Angel in shock, retracting a blade from his large robe and holding it out in front of him; whilst Angel sits, realizing the inner truth of this whole scenerio --

ANGEL

(whispering, to himself)  
The senior partners. I know how to save Los Angeles --

Hakuta Matatu is enraged --

(CONTINUED)

HAKUTA MATATU

Traitor! You work for Wolfram & Hart.  
The darkest force that walks this  
earth!

Angel stands --

ANGEL

Whoa, calm down, gramps. I don't work  
for --

HAKUTA MATATU

What really brings you to our  
sanctuary? What is it that you're  
after?

A MESSENGER runs in, panic-stricken.

MESSENGER

Master! The ancient sword of Rambaldia  
has been stolen!

The Master looks over to Angel with his eyes widened in  
horror. He pulls his sword back.

HAKUTA MATATU

I should have seen passed the lies and  
deciet of you, vampire. You have a  
soul. But it writhes in darkness.

(beat)

Now, I'm going to cut it out!

He runs in, blade held back, as he then SLASHES the weapon  
down at Angel, who shields his face from the attack. A large  
cut SLICES on his arm, and Angel STUMBLES in his path.

A small HISS and he VAMPS OUT, looking up at the Master in  
his most darkest expression --

ANGEL

Okay, that's it!

Angel SPINS around with his leg FLICKED out, kicking the  
Master back a few steps, before rising into view --

Entering the room, Cordelia reveals herself once more, sword  
in hand, and a determined expression on her face.

CORDELIA

Angel, catch!

Cordelia THROWS the sword up in the air, and Angel JUMPS up,  
catches it, and lands back in front of Hakuta Matatu.

(CONTINUED)

HAKUTA MATATU

No!

He gets back into the battle, SWINGING his sword. But, as Angel blocks it with his weapon, the Master's blade EXPLODES with a massive forcefield.

Shards of the weapon fall to the ground, and Angel LEANS in towards him.

ANGEL

You saw, in my flashback, that Los Angeles is in trouble. And you know, that I started all of it. But you have to believe me when I say, it wasn't intentional. I didn't know what I was getting L.A int.

(beat)

Which is why I need to use the power of the sword, to save everyone in the city.

HAKUTA MATATU

We live by the sword, demon! You're not taking it. Its what brings hope to my peopel!

ANGEL

This is the only thing that can help save my friends!

HAKUTA MATATU

You're friends. Ha. You're friends are long gone! All that remains are ashes.

(beat)

The city is gone, as are they. And its your fault!

Angel UNVAMPS --

ANGEL

Not if I can help it.

On that, he FLIPS up his leg, kicking the master down, before TURNING and running with Cordelia, towards the exit.

ANGEL (CONT'D)

(whilst running)

You know how to get us out of here?

CORDELIA

(whilst running)

I'd thought you'd never ask.

(CONTINUED)

ANGEL "Live by the Sword"

30.

28 CONTINUED: (3)

28

Cordelia reaches into her pocket and throws it at the exit and soon a large PORTAL tears open and our champions disappear within it.

As they fade from view, we suddenly:

BLACKOUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

29 EXT. STREETS - LOS ANGELES - NIGHT.

29

The mutant-freak drops into the streets, from an alleyway, peering out on the run from the army of darkness. Looking out as they destroy everything in sight.

GWEN  
(to herself)  
Come on Gwen, don't do chicken out,  
babe, you can do this.

She looks at her hand as it CHARGES up with massive surges of energy. She looks at that, to the army, and steps out --

SHOOTING the large electro-surge out near them.

The hundreds of demons all turn around to face her as a large smile forms on her face --

GWEN (CONT'D)  
That's right, boys. Come and get me.

The demons ROAR with rage, and CHARGE towards her. Gwen looks to the telegraph pole next to her, putting her hand on it. Small FLICKERS of electricity surge from all the powerlines in the city and into Gwen. Her hair begins to blow back, electricity surging through her as well.

As the demons near, and Gwen close to death; she pulls her hand back, CHARGING all of the city's currently dead power into her hand. Though the city is in a complete BLACKOUT, the power still remains somewhere, and she's channelling it --

GWEN (CONT'D)  
Light's out, gorgeous.

She begins to CACKLE, laughing before holding her hand out and sending a massive RAY of energy out through all the demons. They begin to ERUPT, and so does she.

Her skin is breaking into small bits of blue energy and she is lifted up off the ground. The electricity is deep within her heart -- a light illuminating from her chest -- and on that she SCREAMS --

BANG!

A large RING of electricity EXPLODES out of her; Gwen dissipating into smoke that RISES up into the air --

(CONTINUED)

ANGEL "Live by the Sword" 32.  
29 CONTINUED: 29

We instantly PULL BACK to --

30 EXT. LOS ANGELES - CITY - NIGHT 30

A large RING OF ELECTRICITY blankets the city, cutting through every single building and thing walking. Buildings collapse, and fall into nothing but rubble, and as everything falls in sight, we --

CUT TO:

31 INT. UNKNOWN LOCATION - NIGHT. 31

Angel appears in PURPLE mist, arriving with the sword in their GRASP. The PTB AGENT turns to face him. He looks to see Cordelia is gone --

ANGEL  
Cordelia?

But she was gone --

ANGEL (CONT'D)  
Where did she --

He is interrupted.

PTB AGENT  
What took you so long?

ANGEL  
Doesn't matter! Can you pull this off?

PTB AGENT  
Hand me the blade.

As Angel hands over the blade, the PTB AGENT begins to hum, the sword lighting up in a bright yellow energy. As it becomes too strong, we --

FLASH TO:

32 EXT. LOS ANGELES - STREETS - NIGHT. 32

A large WAVE of yellow energy brushes over the city, and all the flames, and dragons, and demonic creatures DISAPPEAR, but the rubble and dead bodies remain --

Appearing after the SWIPE, like they were already there, is Angel, and the PTB Agent --

ANGEL  
Oh my god --

(CONTINUED)

PTB AGENT

I was afraid this might come to pass.

Angel steps forward, looking at his city as it is nothing but ash, rubble, and piles of corpses --

ANGEL

No. No. This isn't --

(turns to agent)

I thought you said this would save them. That we'd be saved!

PTB AGENT

We were too late.

ANGEL

No! This isn't what was supposed to happen. Can't you, bring them all back. Reverse time!

(beat)

Just do something!

PTB AGENT

The Powers that Be's collective power has been weakened, trying to connect with you, since the beginning of this.

(beat)

If we were to do this, we'd ultimately be destroyed, and all that has happened may repeat itself --

Angel falls to his hands and feet --

PTB AGENT (CONT'D)

You are alive, Angel. That is what the Powers that Be wanted. That was all they wanted. We bid you farewell --

Angel looks up --

ANGEL

Wait, don't go!

The PTB Agent fades into thin air.

ANGEL (CONT'D)

Damn it!

Angel stands up, and picks up a bunch of rocks whilst doing so. He THROWS them out into the destruction and YELLS at the sky.

FADING IN behind him, was LILAH MORGAN --

(CONTINUED)

LILAH (O.C)

Hmm. Its weird how these things turn out in the end, isn't it.

Angel turns around, spotting Lilah.

ANGEL

Wh-wh-what are you doing here?

LILAH

Oh come on, Angel. You know why I'm here, and you know what we want.

On Angel's face we:

FLASH TO:

33 INT. WHITE ROOM - FLASHBACK - NIGHT.

33

The screen DIMS DOWN from the WHITE and Angel appears with Lilah, standing directly in front of her. Angel stumbels back and looks down.

ANGEL

What are we doing here?

LILAH

Making a deal.

ANGEL

About what?

FLASH FORWARD TO:

34 INT. WHITE ROOM - FLASHBACK - MOMENTS LATER - NIGHT.

34

We're slowly pushing towards Angel --

ANGEL

Lilah!

LILAH

Your soul. The partners are willing to reverse the damage you've made by taking away you're soul --

(beat)

And destroying it.

On that we:

FLASH TO:

35 EXT. LOS ANGELES - STREETS - NIGHT.

35

Angel comes out of his flashback, and shakes it off.

LILAH

Listen closely, stud. The Senior Partners are willing to re-offer the deal. Give you a second chance at making the right answer this time.

(beat)

This way, your friends ... your team; they'll be alive. As will the city.

ANGEL

No.

LILAH

Excuse me?

ANGEL

I know what the Senior Partners are up to, and I know how to save the city. You see, I should of just done this in the first place, but, I had to be certain. And back then, I wasn't exactly thinking straight.

LILAH

What the hell are you talking about?

ANGEL

I'm talking about all of last year. The Partners offering me Wolfram and Hart. They must have known that in the end I'd be corrupted, go evil, but I didn't. That's when the Black Thorn stepped in. Hamilton.

Angel steps closer to Lilah.

ANGEL (CONT'D)

Get me to sign the city into hell, and then mislead me into making a deal with you to save it. But when I didn't, things got worse. They made Los Angeles fall deeper into hell, and soon, destroyed it.

(beat)

Now, you're back to make the same offer and you think I don't know why.

(CONTINUED)

LILAH

You think you can save your friends.  
This city. Without the Senior  
Partners' help.

(beat)

Heck, the Powers that Be aren't even  
going to do something about it.

ANGEL

You see, Lilah. That's where you're  
wrong. They did do something.

On Angel's face we:

FLASH TO:

36 INT. HYPERION HOTEL - VISION FLASHBACK - NIGHT.

36

All chaos is gone and Angel is literally inside the vision,  
wandering about. He is trapped within it, and he SPINS around  
as a presence stands behind him. We PULL BACK to reveal:

Cordelia. Standing in his midst with a smile on her face.

CORDELIA

Listen, I don't have much time to talk  
so I'm gonna make this simple. Don't  
give up hope. You can fight this. I  
know you can.

ANGEL (V.O)

The Powers that Be knew the only way  
for me to figure out how truly  
manipulative you guys are, was to make  
me learn it all on my own. But when I  
was going down the wrong path, they  
gave me a vision. A vision of the one  
thing that could of convinced me that  
there was a big difference between  
good and evil. That hope was not lost.

Angel sighs --

CORDELIA

I've seen your future, Angel, and this  
is not how it ends. Trust me, when  
this is all over things will be better  
than ever, you'll see --

FLASH TO:

37 EXT. LOS ANGELES - STREETS - NIGHT.

37

Angel turns towards Lilah, out of the memory --

ANGEL

But it isn't over, yet. Now is it.

LILAH

Well done. So you figured out the Senior Partners are you're greatest enemy. Who do you think you've been fighting for five years straight, huh? The Lollipop Guild?

(beat)

Face it Angel, you're only hope, is your greatest nemesis. And, luckily for us ... well, that's just it, its us.

The DARK CITY is slowly shedding LIGHT, the sun is beginning to rise -- and Lilah spots it.

ANGEL

No, Lilah. This is my last hope.

Angel faces the sun, welcoming it.

LILAH

What are you doing?! Are you crazy, you're going to kill yourself out in this sun!

ANGEL

That's the point.

LILAH

Whoa. Maybe all this talking has gotten to your head.

ANGEL

I'm done talking, Lilah. All this. All that has happened. Its all because of them. Like you told me, the Senior Partners have been watching me.

(beat)

They're the reason why I'm still alive. They wouldn't let me die.

LILAH

Which is why I'm here, dumbass.

(CONTINUED)

ANGEL

Exactly. You can't let me die. I play a pivotal role in the apocalypse, and that's why, in the end, you are going to help me. To save me.

(beat)

To bring me back.

LILAH

Keep dreaming, Angel. We don't care about you.

ANGEL

You've never been a good liar. And, it took someone who meant the world to me, to finally figure that out.

(beat)

As much as I'm trying to understand all of this, and sound tough at the same time, this was how the Powers that Be foresaw how it was going to end. That's why they didn't get involved. That's why they pulled me out of here when they did.

(beat)

And that's why I'm here now.

Angel looks to Lilah, the Sun rising up, and burning through him. A smile forms on his face, as his skin begins to ERUPT--

ANGEL (CONT'D)

For the first time, the Senior Partners are going to have to clean up my mess. I'll be seeing you around, Lilah --

Angel faces the light, raising his arms up as the sun pierces through him. A small GASP and catches alight, burning, crumbling, and falling to dust. It blows through the breeze and on that we:

FLASH TO:

38 EXT. ALLEYWAY - LOS ANGELES - NIGHT.

38

On Angel's eyes, we slowly PULL BACK to reveal him standing there with all his team behind him. That includes, Gunn, Spike, Kate, Connor, Illyria, Gwen and a still, very ghostly, Wesley Wyndam Pryce --

Standing in front of them, is Lilah, hand on hip and shaking her head.

(CONTINUED)

ANGEL "Live by the Sword"  
38 CONTINUED:

39.  
38

LILAH  
Okay. You win. Happy now?

A smile begins to form on Angel's face as we slowly come to a sudden:

**BLACKOUT:**

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

39 EXT. LOS ANGELES - CITY - MORNING. 39

The gorgeous sun glows a bright yellow, surging throughout the city, and showing it off in all its glory. We come in on it, peering into the streets, before TAKING off --

Flying in between buildings and up over rooftops, we soon come in on --

40 EXT. HYPERION HOTEL - MORNING. 40

Stopping at an establishing shot of the hotel, we slowly begin to come in on the entrance, passing the large gate blocking the view and finding ourselves --

41 INT. HYPERION HOTEL - ENTRANCE - MORNING. 41

Angel stands, in the shadows, peering out at the sun with a smile on his face. He turns around from it, to face Spike --

SPIKE

So that's it then. Its over? We fought the apocalypse and we --

ANGEL

All died trying to fend off hell itself?

Spike sighs with a small chuckle --

SPIKE

Guess you could look at it that way --

ANGEL

This wasn't the apocalypse, like we thought it was. It was just a meaningless, senseless war, that I started.

SPIKE

And the Senior Partners?

ANGEL

The Partners have just upped their playing field. We're not safe anymore. Or, as safe as we used to be.

(CONTINUED)

SPIKE

Right then, so we still got something to look forward to --

(beat)

Looks like English over there doesn't seem to happy about it.

On Wesley. He stands in the corner of the room, still transparent, quiet and with no movement, nor sound --

ANGEL

He ... I'm not sure about. The weird thing is, time reset itself, and everyone still remembers. Everyone remembers what we went through because it ... well it actually happened.

(beat)

I'm guessing Wesley's loop has taken its toll on him.

SPIKE

You think he'll ever be back to normal?

ANGEL

I'm not sure. All I know is that the Senior Partners have just declared war. And soon --

(beat)

We'll be forced to battle with all that they stand for.

SPIKE

The wolf. The ram. The hart.

ANGEL

Exactly. Its time we saw them for what they really are!

PULL BACK from Angel and Spike, coming in on Kate and Connor, who stand inside Angel's office, talking --

Connor has stopped, he is looking down at his feet, a miserable expression wipes across his face. He is almost depressed.

KATE

Spill it, kid, what's the matter?

CONNOR

I don't know. I know I should feel happy and all that ... now that we're not dead an all, but --

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONNOR (CONT'D)

(sigh)

I don't know. Before all this happened, I was confused. Confused about what world to live in. Which path to take. And now, remembering another life intertwined with these other two I just --

(beat)

It's just so confusing.

KATE

Well, maybe I'm the wrong person to be talking about this too. I'm not exactly sure what you've been through, but, from what I can tell you've had a rough life. Or, at least, one of them was rough --

(beat)

Do I have to go with the "three" lives analogy? Coz that's a bit --

CONNOR

For years I thought I lived in a nice, normal house with a normal family and normal friends. Then, I met him.

(beat)

My father. Soon, all my memories came flooding back and ... It was like I was too different people. On being the tortured teenager, with a grudge against Angel; and the other being a normal kid, that looks up at Angel, and see's him as a champion.

(then)

And now, I've been to hell and back, but not really --

KATE

It happened, Connor. And what did happen, was a part of the "Connor" you are today. Not the old, tortured Connor. But the brave, fierce --

(pause)

The Connor that Angel is proud of to have as his son.

Connor looks from Angel and over to Kate --

CONNOR

Thanks Kate.

(CONTINUED)

Kate smiles back at him, places her hand on his shoulder, and looks into his eyes. A small nod and she walks off, out of the office to let Connor think about that for a moment.

We PUSH UP and over them, and head towards Gunn and Gwen --

Gwen has a bag in her hands, and is standing near the back garden of the hotel.

GUNN

So you're really leaving, huh? After all this? You're packing your bags and headed out.

GWEN

What can I say. A girl's gotta stay on the run. Especially if they have a lethal amount of electricity running through their veins.

GUNN

Gwen. Why are you doing this? We could really use your help, you know, in stopping the Senior Partners. Wolfram and Hart, and all those other nasty's.

GWEN

I aint cut out for all that demon fighting business, Charles. I'm more of a *hit and run* kinda gal.

(beat)

Keep on the move, and all that, you know. Besides, now that I've seen how much power I really do store in my body, I'm not sure you'll want me around.

GUNN

There's a war coming, Gwen. When the time comes --

Gwen interrupts.

GWEN

What? You want me to blow up the city, and kill everyone in it whilst doing so? I could never do that.

(beat)

I just want to be normal. As normal as I'll ever be. Freaks like me don't get the chance to be like that. So I take every opportunity I can get.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

GWEN (CONT'D)

So fighting off the Senior Partners,  
here, in Los Angeles. Is a big step  
into the realm of "not so normal".

(then)

And I've already got too much of that.

Gunn sighs.

GWEN (CONT'D)

Hey, why don't you come with me. Get  
away from all this madness. Forget  
about Wolfram and Hart!

GUNN

Sorry. I've been fighting these guys  
way too long to give up now. Besides,  
running aint my thing.

GWEN

Too bad. We could have had quite a  
ride, you and me. Hitting the road,  
raiding organizations --

(beat)

Earning money like it was the easiest  
thing in the world.

GUNN

I see you're getting back into the  
thief business, then, huh?

GWEN

Nah. I think I'm gonna try something  
new, you know. This girl has been in  
the thief business for way too long.

(beat)

Its time to spice up my life a bit.

GUNN

And what, demon fighting won't do that  
for you?

GWEN

Goodbye, Charles!

Gunn laughs as Gwen slowly takes steps back --

GUNN

You better come back and visit!

GWEN

You bet your ass I will.

(CONTINUED)

GUNN

Oh, and next time some demonic mob is trying to kill you, maybe you should call us. Save us the trouble of another vision!

Gwen laughs, turns off with a small wave goodbye, and heads out of view. He slowly enters back into the room, to find everyone at home with the world.

Angel FOLLOWS Wesley into his office --

ANGEL

Wesley, come on. What are you doing?

WESLEY

Look, Angel. I fought the good fight. I tried to move passed all --  
(looks at hands)  
This! But its not enough. I'm dead!  
But I'm not moving on!

ANGEL

Maybe the Powers that Be have bigger plans for you than you realize.

WESLEY

Like what, huh? I'm nothing but a transparent grump, with nothing to do but sit around and mope about sitting around and moping!  
(sighs)  
A part of me wishes that I can move on and be with ... but there's something, deep within me, that knows I'm not ready. I know you may think that its silly to go through all of this nonsense, just for a girl but --

Angel cuts in --

ANGEL

Wesley. Its Fred. The love of your life. I know what it feels like. I don't see what you're doing as nonsense -- its love. It makes people crazy. When I was with Buffy, all I wanted to do was become human so that I can be with here, grow old with her.  
(then)  
Now, with Cordelia. Ever since she passed, a part of me wished that I had died with her.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ANGEL (CONT'D)

Just to be with her, forever in --

(pause)

Wherever it is she was! You wanting to be with Fred, is natural. But, Wesley, there are more people here, that need you now. That need your help. I need your help!

Silence falls in the room, Wesley thinking; contemplating the facts, the possibilities --

WESLEY

You know, when I asked you to let me rest in peace; after all this was over. I've changed my mind.

Angel leans against the wall, a small widening smile, as he folds his arms. He can tell that Wesley wants to survive.

WESLEY (CONT'D)

I want to feel again. To, move on in a different way. To be alive again.

(beat)

I guess, this week has been a good week for inner realizations. I for one, know in my heart that Fred will forever be the love of my life, but that's just it --

(beat)

My life has really, only just begun. I have a few good years left, if I ever get back in my body, and want you, Angel, to help me live them.

ANGEL

Its good to have you back Wes!

WESLEY

Yeah, well. It'd good to --

BANG! Angel disappears in a sudden explosion of mystical energy, the falls into tiny yellow balls of power and SHOOT up through the ceiling, into nothingness.

WESLEY (CONT'D)

(confused)

...be back --

On Wesley's confusion we:

FLASH TO:

42 INT. UNKNOWN LOCATION - NIGHT.

42

Appearing in a swirl of bright yellow energy, Angel comes into view, his arms still folded. He suddenly notices he's somewhere else, and finds himself standing before the PTB Agent seen earlier on --

ANGEL

Oh god, please don't tell me I have another apocalypse to prepare for!

PTB AGENT

No. The Senior Partners have used a lot of their collective power to reverse the damage. Fortunately, the contract you signed has been turned to ash, and so never again will we have to face this issue again.

ANGEL

Well ... good. But wait, before you do whatever it is you've brought me here to do, I want some answers!

PTB AGENT

I am more than happy to answer them.

ANGEL

Uh, okay. What the hell is going on with Wesley!?

PTB AGENT

Hmm...yes. Wesley is a formality that was never supposed to come to pass. His fate is literally sitting on the fence. As, we have come to notice, are his feelings on the situation. Him not moving on does in fact mean he is most likely going to see it through till the end. But how he gets there, is up to what choices he makes, and the actions he does --

ANGEL

So, what? Any moment he can be turned into solid form, or just ... die?

PTB AGENT

Exactly. Although, he won't just happen to return to solid form. Unless you and your ... team ... help him.

(CONTINUED)

ANGEL  
Of course it is.

Angel sighs and begins to walk back and forth in a trance --

ANGEL (CONT'D)  
What about the Shanshu Prophecy? The Apocalypse. The big apocalypse. The final. Well, for me anyway. When, and how will this "come to pass".

PTB AGENT  
The prophecy still remains. If you are successful in stopping the apocalypse, you will be granted mortal life. And become human; as it is read, so shall it be. The apocalypse ... we aren't sure of. We believe --

(then)

Our suspicious are --

(then)

That the final battle against you and the Senior Partners will hold truth to your destiny. The Wolf, Ram, and Hart are ancient beings. Ancient evil. One in which you've been fighting to stop for five years. We, the Powers That Be, are more than sure of the fact that if you do defeat them, the Shanshu will kick into effect. That they are what will be come to known as "the" apocalypse. Whether you defeat them or not, it is up to the choices and actions that you --

ANGEL  
Yeah, yeah. I get it. Free will and all that. Last question --

(beat)

What am I doing here?

PTB AGENT  
It seem the Powers that Be have noticed how well you performed in this battle against the Senior Partners.

(beat)

And are aware of how much pain you went through to learn that you are in control of the outcome.

ANGEL  
So, what? I get like a bonus or something?

(CONTINUED)

PTB AGENT

The Powers that Be have decided to reward you. For five years, you've been fighting a battle, in honour of them. Working for their cause.

(beat)

Its time they gave you a reward.

ANGEL

A reward?

Angel's confused expression deepens, as he looks on towards us with much anticipation --

CORDELIA (O.S)

Hey, big guy.

Angel turns around to face, CORDELIA --

ANGEL

Cordy?

CORDELIA

Looks like you'll have to put up with me for a little longer than you hoped.

On Cordelia's huge smirk, we suddenly:

**BLACKOUT:**

END OF ACT FOUR

END OF EPISODE

(CONTINUED)

# ANGEL

"Live by the Sword"  
by  
Jack D. Malone