

Reflections of Society in the Buffyverse

By Lauren Burdolski

"Into every generation a slayer is born. One girl, in all the world, a Chosen One. One born with the strength and skill to hunt the vampires..."

"The stop the spread of their evil blah blah I've heard it, okay?"

"I don't understand this attitude. You've accepted your duty, you've slain vampires before..."

"Well, I have both been there and done that. And I am moving on."

-"Welcome to the Hellmouth"

Sunnydale is your average American town that lies atop the Hellmouth, an interdimensional portal between our reality and untold millions of demon-dimensions. Evil is attracted to the Hellmouth, bringing vampires, demons and other hell spawn. Buffy Summers is the one girl chosen in an entire generation to keep this evil at bay. With her Watcher, Giles, and a small gang of friends led by Willow and Xander, Buffy continually fights against vampire predators, conniving demons, and various attempts to bring about the Apocalypse.

All the while, Buffy hides her identity from the outside world, tries to maintain schoolwork, and retain any sense of a normal teenage life. Despite the supernatural elements, the Buffyverse is firmly rooted in what most of us know as *reality*. Aside from trying to slay vampires and save the world, Buffy and her friends worry about school, family, love and their future, just like any young adult. Many of the supernatural forces the group encounters are manifestations of problems kids meet in real life: unpopular kids so ignored they feel invisible;

abusive boyfriends; experimentations with drugs and alcohol that go wrong; broken relationships; deaths in the family, etc. In Sunnydale, these often have a supernatural cause, but the consequences are just the same: strife, heartbreak and growth. The following is an examination of every episode of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and the reflections of society within.

Season One Episodes		
Name	Number	First U.S. Airdate
<u>Welcome to the Hellmouth / The Harvest</u>	4V01/4V02	March 10, 1997
Series premiere; Buffy moves to Sunnydale and must stop the Master from rising.		
Reality: Just when you thought moving on with life would get rid of the past – it catches up with you. Buffy moving to Sunnydale only increased her Slayer duties.		
<u>The Witch</u>	4V03	March 17, 1997
Buffy and Giles must stop a witch who's wreaking havoc on cheerleaders.		
Reality: Cheerleaders. Perfect. Beautiful. Dying to be #1. Possibly drawing on the story of Wanda Holloway of Channelview, TX, who hatched a murder plot to make her daughter top cheerleader.		
<u>Teacher's Pet</u>	4V04	March 25, 1997
Xander has a dangerous crush on a new substitute teacher who's not what she appears to be.		
Reality: Again, possibly drawing from cases like Pamela Smart or Mary Kay Letourneau. Xander learns that just because she is smart and beautiful, doesn't mean she is perfect.		
<u>Never Kill a Boy on the First Date</u>	4V05	March 31, 1997
Being the Slayer conflicts with normal teenage desires when Buffy wants to date cute-guy Owen.		
Reality: You want to go on a date, but mom makes you stay home and do laundry, homework, watch your little brother. Or you simply have to work.		
<u>The Pack</u>	4V06	April 07, 1997
After a school trip to the zoo, Sunnydale's cool group — and Xander — start to act like savages		

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savages.

Reality: School field trips are a way to cut loose. There were always those few kids that would get crazy and disobey the tour guide.

Angel

4V07

April 14, 1997

Buffy and Angel share their first kiss, and she finds out who he really is.

Reality: Sometimes your new boyfriend won't tell you EVERYTHING there is to know about him. He may leave out the fact that he got kicked out of highschool, or the fact that he is a vampire.

I, Robot... You, Jane

4V08

April 28, 1997

A demon is unleashed onto the Internet and lures Willow with a false identity.

Reality: Internet dating can be scary. You can be cyber stalked or he may end up looking like Jabba the Hutt.

The Puppet Show

4V09

May 05, 1997

The gang participates in the school's talent show, where someone (or something) is harvesting human organs.

Reality: The weirdoes always come out of the woodwork for the talent show.

Nightmares

4V10

May 12, 1997

People (including Buffy and pals) are haunted by waking nightmares as fear becomes reality.

Reality: Everyone has the fear of showing up to school in their underwear, becoming the profession they despise, etc. What if it REALLY happened?

Out of Mind, Out of Sight

4V11

May 19, 1997

A perpetually ignored student becomes invisible and seeks revenge on perpetually popular Cordelia.

Reality: Ignoring the weird kid in class – or anyone for that matter – can seriously cause trouble. The neglected kids are the ones they will end up coming after you – just look at Columbine!

Prophecy Girl

4V12

June 02, 1997

A book of infallible prophecies predicts that Buffy will face the Master in a battle to the death — hers.

Reality: Just because somebody says something will happen – doesn't mean it will. There are false "prophecies" in every day life – be it a due date for a pregnant woman or the weather for tomorrow.

Season Two Episodes

Name

Number

First U.S. Airdate

<u>When She Was Bad</u>	5V01	Sept. 15, 1997
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Buffy's got a new, not-so-nice attitude; the Anointed One plans to resurrect the Master.

Reality: Time off from school or work – be it spring break, summer break, or a simple “mental health day” gives way to new attitudes. Sometimes that extra day helps you focus the next and get down to business.

<u>Some Assembly Required</u>	5V02	Sept. 22, 1997
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Someone is building a woman using body parts from different girls — and Cordelia's head is on the wish list.

Reality: Sometimes, your pretty best friend is simply that – Just a pretty face. Or, beware of the psychos in the world – they may want to harm you for being beautiful. Could have been the case with Ali Kemp. She was beautiful and that more than likely angered her killer.

<u>School Hard</u>	5V03	Sept. 29, 1997
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Spike and Drusilla come to town, and Spike invades Parent-Teacher night.

Reality: That cool new couple in town that defies authority may just be bad, bad, bad and up to no good! Could you be attracted to that bad boy years from now?

<u>Inca Mummy Girl</u>	5V04	Oct. 06, 1997
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Buffy and Joyce offer to take in a foreign exchange student, but instead get a life-sucking mummy who's taken an interest in Xander.

Reality: Just because she is beautiful and mysterious and foreign (ala Penelope Cruz or Selma Hayek??) doesn't mean she is perfect. Doesn't your best guy friend seem to always fall for these types?

<u>Reptile Boy</u>	5V05	Oct. 13, 1997
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Buffy accompanies Cordelia to a frat party, but it's not much fun — they're offered as sacrifices to a reptilian demon.

Reality: Frat Boys = Bad. Plain and Simple!

<u>Halloween</u>	5V06	Oct. 27, 1997
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Someone from Giles' past wreaks havoc on Halloween, causing Buffy and the gang to be transformed into their costumes.

Reality: Halloween is a time to become someone else. Sometimes literally! In the case of Buffy, sometimes being the one in charge doesn't always happen!

<u>Lie to Me</u>	5V07	Nov. 03, 1997
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Buffy's childhood crush comes to town, but he's not looking to reminisce — he's looking for immortality as a vampire.

Reality: Sometimes you may ask, “What happened to....?” Sometimes it's best to leave these questions unanswered.

<u>The Dark Age</u>	5V08	Nov. 10, 1997
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Ethan returns and Ms. Calendar is in danger when a demon from Giles' darker days comes to Sunnydale.

Reality: See above

Reality: See above.

What's My Line, Part One

5V09

Nov. 17, 1997

As the gang endures career week, Spike sends assassins after Buffy and sets out to cure Drusilla; a new Slayer comes to town.

Reality: Remember when you died for a split second last year? Ever wonder what consequences bringing you back from the dead had? Playing God is good or bad? The bad couple is going to get your in trouble – again!

What's My Line, Part Two

5V10

Nov. 24, 1997

Buffy must team up with Kendra to save Angel when it turns out that his death is necessary to cure Drusilla.

Reality: Save your boyfriend from that girl who just wants him for his body – not his true self.

Ted

5V11

Dec. 08, 1997

Everyone except Buffy loves Joyce's new beau, who turns out to be more than meets the eye.

Reality: Your mom's new boyfriend is such a jerk – he is has to be inhuman for sure!

Bad Eggs

5V12

Jan. 12, 1998

The gang must adopt eggs as "babies" for their Health class, but there's more than yolk inside these eggs.

Reality: Everyone had to do experiments like this in school. Also, commenting on pregnancy fears?

Surprise (Part One of Two)

5V13

Jan. 19, 1998

Drusilla reassembles the Judge, an unstoppable demon; Buffy and Angel consummate their relationship.

Reality: Those damn bad people! Maybe you shouldn't celebrate with sex...

Innocence (Part Two of Two)

5V14

Jan. 20, 1998

Angel loses his soul and his demon self takes over; Buffy must deal with him and stop the Judge.

Reality: You went and had sex and now your boyfriend wants nothing to do with you. For shame.

Phases

5V15

Jan. 27, 1998

The gang tries to save a werewolf from a poacher; Oz makes the startling discovery that he is the werewolf in question.

Reality: Remember when we talked about those little secrets your new beau could hide from you? Those may include being a werewolf, or an "animal", also.

Bewitched, Bothered, and Bewildered

5V16

Feb. 10, 1998

Things get dangerous when all the women in Sunnydale - except Cordelia - are after Xander due to a love spell gone wrong.

Reality: No, seriously, You DON'T want every girl to want you and only you!

<u>Passion</u>	5V17	Feb. 24, 1998
<p>Angel continues to torment Buffy; Jenny tries to curse Angel with a soul again, but he stops her - permanently.</p> <p>Reality: That crazy boyfriend of yours may end up stalking you and trying to kill you!</p>		
<u>Killed by Death</u>	5V18	March 03, 1998
<p>A raging fever sends Buffy to the hospital, where her fever enables her to see a normally invisible monster that preys on children.</p> <p>Reality: Everyone gets sick – sometimes that little cold could be something worse and you can end up in the hospital. High fevers cause hallucinations, also.</p>		
<u>I Only Have Eyes For You</u>	5V19	April 28, 1998
<p>The tortured ghost of a former student haunts SHS, reenacting the murder/suicide he committed.</p> <p>Reality: History repeats itself.</p>		
<u>Go Fish</u>	5V20	May 05, 1998
<p>When it appears that something is targeting the swim team, Xander goes undercover to find the truth.</p> <p>Reality: All about steroids and their risks.</p>		
<u>Becoming, Part One</u>	5V21	May 12, 1998
<p>Angel prepares a ritual to awaken a demon that will suck the world into hell; Buffy prepares to kill him, but is torn when Willow discovers the ritual that could restore Angel's soul.</p> <p>Reality: Your boyfriend has tried to hurt you, but he is still “a good person” part of the time. Domestic violence and the women that keep “going back”.</p>		
<u>Becoming, Part Two</u>	5V22	May 19, 1998
<p>Buffy's life is a mess when her mother discovers her secret life, and she's expelled from school and forced to make a heart-wrenching decision when both Angel's and Willow's rituals succeed.</p> <p>Reality: You'll get caught by your parents doing something they don't approve of. You may just want to run away.</p>		

Season Three Episodes

Name	Number	First U.S. Airdate

are far greater evils in the big, bad world.

Dead Man's Party

3ABB02

Oct. 06, 1998

Buffy finds her homecoming to be awkward and unwelcoming, but the gang must put aside their frustrations to deal with an army of zombies.

Reality: You are throwing a huge party – and of course someone is going to crash it and ruin the fun.

Faith, Hope & Trick

3ABB03

Oct. 13, 1998

There's a new Slayer, a new villain, and a new love interest for Buffy... and the return of another character as well.

Reality: There is a new girl in town – and she is “cooler” than you and it drives you mad! Your ex-boyfriend is lurking around, too, just when you found someone new!

Beauty and the Beasts

3ABB04

Oct. 20, 1998

Oz-wolf is the suspect of a brutal murder, and Buffy secretly discovers that Angel is back from hell.

Reality: Your boyfriend could be suspected of doing something awful – even murder – and you have to choose what you believe.

Homecoming

3ABB05

Nov. 03, 1998

Buffy and Cordelia compete for Homecoming Queen and are hunted in a competition of a different kind; Willow and Xander's friendship takes a turn.

Reality: Running for Homecoming Queen can be like being hunted for dead by the other candidates!!

Band Candy

3ABB06

Nov. 10, 1998

Candy sold by the SHS band causes the adults to behave like teenagers, with some interesting outcomes.

Reality: Sometimes you don't want to realize that your parents were once kids and did crazy stuff, too – like having sex! Eww!

Revelations

3ABB07

Nov. 17, 1998

Faith's new Watcher comes to town; Buffy is in trouble with the gang when they find out that she's been hiding Angel's return.

Reality: You've been talking to your ex and no one is happy about it. Remember he tried to hurt you?

Lovers Walk

3ABB08

Nov. 24, 1998

A broken-hearted Spike returns without Drusilla; relationships are torn apart due to a liaison between two members of the gang.

Reality: That bad boy is back in town. Do you take pity on him? Or kick his butt?

The Wish

3ABB09

Dec. 08, 1998

The demon Anyanka grants Cordelia's wish that Buffy never came to Sunnydale, creating an alternate reality in which vampires rule.

Reality: Wishing someone was never born or they were dead or anything of that matter may

Reality: Wishing someone was never born or they were dead or anything of that matter may not be the best idea. It may come back to bite you in the...

Amends

3ABB10

Dec. 15, 1998

At Christmas-time, evil haunts Angel, torturing him with visions of his murderous past and urging him to kill Buffy.

Reality: Those "bad" forces and things your ex did may rid him with guilt. Aww.

Gingerbread

3ABB11

Jan. 12, 1999

Haunted by her discovery of two murdered children, Joyce rallies the town into a witch hunt.

Reality: Just because you are interested in Wicca doesn't mean you are going to sacrifice babies! The thickheadedness of society about earth religions!

Helpless

3ABB12

Jan. 19, 1999

Buffy's 18th birthday means a secret rite-of-passage test by the Watcher's Council, putting Buffy at risk and Giles in an awkward position.

Reality: You are an official "adult" now that you are 18. Life is going to put you to the test.

The Zeppo

3ABB13

Jan. 26, 1999

Feeling left out by the gang, Xander makes new "friends" and finds his own adventure and danger.

Reality: Your "cool" new friends are really just bad seeds.

Bad Girls

3ABB14

Feb. 09, 1999

Buffy's new Watcher comes to town; Faith lures Buffy into her world of reckless abandon, with fatal results.

Reality: You decide to hang out with the new girl and realize she is up to no good and just wants to party!

Consequences

3ABB15

Feb. 16, 1999

Buffy struggles with Faith's lack of remorse over last week's incidents; Faith initiates an alliance with the dark side.

Reality: The new girl did something you consider bad and immoral and you can't figure out why she can just do things like that and not care.

Doppelgängerland

3ABB16

Feb. 23, 1999

Anya wreaks havoc again when a spell goes awry, bringing Willow's vampire doppelgänger into the Buffy-verse.

Reality: What if _____ happened? You really think life would be better? Don't look back with regret – live in the now!

Enemies

3ABB17

March 16, 1999

Faith and the Mayor conspire to steal Angel's soul, but they aren't the only ones with a secret conspiracy.

Reality: Just when you think everything is going right for you – someone else has a different agenda.

<u>The Harsh Light of Day</u>	4ABB03	Oct. 19, 1999
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Spike is back, searching for a gem that will make him invincible; Buffy is distracted by her first attempt at getting back into the dating pool.

Reality: That bad boy is back, AGAIN, and he wants to cause trouble. You, on the other hand, just want to go out and see all the boys at college.

<u>Fear, Itself</u>	4ABB04	Oct. 26, 1999
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The gang finds themselves in a real-life house of horrors at a Halloween party, in which a Fear Demon feeds on their individual fears.

Reality: Frat parties always end up horrific, it seems.

<u>Beer Bad</u>	4ABB05	Nov. 02, 1999
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Buffy drowns her sorrows by drinking with some upperclassmen, but Xander grows concerned when they start to get in touch with their primordial roots.

Reality: Getting drunk with upperclassmen isn't always such a good idea. You could get in a lot of trouble, too.

<u>Wild at Heart</u>	4ABB06	Nov. 09, 1999
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Oz and Willow's relationship is up in arms when Oz is powerfully drawn to a female werewolf.

Reality: Your boyfriend may cheat on you. It will suck.

<u>The Initiative</u>	4ABB07	Nov. 16, 1999
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Spike is imprisoned in an underground demon-research facility; Riley realizes he has a crush on Buffy.

Reality: Your TA for psych may get a crush on you. He may also be part of a research facility that is experimenting on the bad boy.

<u>Pangs</u>	4ABB08	Nov. 23, 1999
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Angel secretly arrives in Sunnydale to protect Buffy; Buffy tries to have a perfect Thanksgiving.

Reality: Thanksgiving is supposed to be nice – but of course, something has to go wrong – be it family bickering or ancient spirits coming to get you.

<u>Something Blue</u>	4ABB09	Nov. 30, 1999
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A spell by Willow goes awry, causing Giles to go blind and Buffy and Spike to fall in love and get engaged.

Reality: Again, making wishes isn't always such a good idea.

<u>Hush</u>	4ABB10	Dec. 14, 1999
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After the residents of Sunnydale lose the power of speech, Buffy battles strangely silent assailants alongside an incredulous Riley.

Reality: Sometimes you may feel like no one can hear you or is listening right when you need them the most.

<u>Doomed</u>	4ABB11	Jan. 18, 2000
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Buffy and Riley struggle with the knowledge of each others' secrets; the gang must head back to high school to stop another apocalypse.

school to stop another apocalypse.

Reality: You find out the secrets about your new love – will it tear you apart? The past comes back to haunt you sometimes!

<u>A New Man</u>	4ABB12	Jan. 25, 2000
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When Giles is turned into a demon, he turns to an unlikely source for help while an unknowing Buffy hunts him down.

Reality: Sometimes you feel like the bad guy and everyone is out to get you.

<u>The I in Team</u>	4ABB13	Feb. 08, 2000
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The gang worries about Buffy's involvement with the Initiative; Walsh sends Buffy on a dangerous mission.

Reality: People will try and harm you – you just have to fight back.

<u>Goodbye Iowa</u>	4ABB14	Feb. 15, 2000
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Buffy discovers the Initiative's secret weapon; Riley becomes disoriented and paranoid after the death of his mentor.

Reality: Someone you looked up to may die and it will be hard to cope.

<u>This Year's Girl</u> (Part One of Two)	4ABB15	Feb. 22, 2000
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Faith wakes up from her coma and goes after Buffy, seeking revenge and armed with a mysterious gift left behind by the Mayor.

Reality: That new girl is back and out to get you.

<u>Who Are You</u> (Part Two of Two)	4ABB16	Feb. 29, 2000
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While Buffy is mistakenly kidnapped by the Watcher's Council, Faith wreaks havoc in Buffy's life.

Reality: Sometimes you may feel like no one knows the real you.

<u>Superstar</u>	4ABB17	April 04, 2000
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Buffy must put aside the turmoil she feels about Riley and Faith's night of passion to investigate why a former nerd is suddenly a superhero.

Reality: That nerd in highschool may actually have a plan of his own. (Bill Gates?)

<u>Where the Wild Things Are</u>	4ABB18	April 25, 2000
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When Buffy and Riley rouse a supernatural force, they are held hostage by ghost-children who have returned to exact revenge for past abuses.

Reality: Having sex has consequences. Like evil ghost children that want to harm you. Could they be a metaphor for the fear of pregnancy?

<u>New Moon Rising</u>	4ABB19	May 02, 2000
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Oz returns to Sunnydale and is captured by the Initiative during a full moon; a conflicted Willow tells Buffy about her new relationship with Tara.

Reality: Your boyfriend cheated on you and now is back to reconcile. How do you tell him you are kind of gay now?

The Yoko Factor (Part One of Two)

4ABB20

May 09, 2000

Riley spars with Angel when Angel visits Sunnydale; Spike conspires with Adam to bring Buffy to her knees.

Reality: You ex is back in town and your new beau and him aren't too happy to meet each other.

Primeval (Part Two of Two)

4ABB21

May 16, 2000

Adam's plan to craft a master race of human-demon hybrids unfolds while Buffy is at odds with Giles and the others; Adam captures Riley.

Reality: You aren't getting along with your group of friends because of something you did that they don't approve of.

Restless

4ABB22

May 23, 2000

A primordial spirit haunts the dreams of Buffy, Giles, Willow and Xander, making them each face their innermost fears.

Reality: Sometimes life is scary. Sometimes you have to face your worst fears and having your friends near is the only thing to get you through it.

Season Five Episodes

Name

Number

First U.S. Airdate

Reality: Wow, your little sister really ISN'T human?! Someone you love, maybe a parent, will become very ill and you will have to deal with it.

Family	5ABB06	Nov. 07, 2000
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Tara's family makes a surprise visit to Sunnydale for her birthday, threatening to reveal a shocking secret that could endanger all of their lives.

Reality: Your family may sometimes feel like your enemies.

Fool for Love	5ABB07	Nov. 14, 2000
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When Buffy forces Spike to recount how he was able to kill two Slayers, his flashbacks reveal his first meeting with Drusilla.

Reality: No matter how much you hate the bad boy, he may be the only one you know who can help you out sometimes.

Shadow	5ABB08	Nov. 21, 2000
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In order to protect her sister, Buffy must face a horrible beast that has been conjured by the powerful demon Glory to help seek out "The Key."

Reality: You have to protect your family. It is your duty.

Listening to Fear	5ABB09	Nov. 28, 2000
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As Buffy and Dawn help their mother prepare for brain surgery, an extra-terrestrial demon fixates on a disoriented Joyce and infiltrates the Summers' home.

Reality: Your loved one may have to have major surgery – the fear it produces can consume you.

Into the Woods	5ABB10	Dec. 19, 2000
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Buffy is thunderstruck when Spike informs her of Riley's furtive nights spent in the dark embrace of a vampire.

Reality: Your boyfriend may cheat on you with one of your enemies. Ick.

Triangle	5ABB11	Jan. 09, 2001
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Emotions are charged between Willow and Anya when they are left in charge of the magic shop and Willow accidentally conjures an enormous troll.

Reality: Your friend thinks she knows what she is doing – but she ends up screwing something up. And you have to pay the price.

Checkpoint	5ABB12	Jan. 23, 2001
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The Council of Watchers possess insight into Glory, but are less than forthcoming with the information, and are also threatening to deport Giles if Buffy doesn't perform well on a test of her Slayer skills.

Reality: You are put to the test in life – and if you fail, you may lose something you love!

Blood Ties	5ABB13	Feb. 06, 2001
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Dawn's entire world crumbles around her after she learns that she is the Key, and dealing with the truth proves to be even harder than anyone had anticipated.

Reality: Your little sister may be "adopted" and finding out the truth hurts.

Crush	5ABB14	Feb. 13, 2001
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Buffy is appalled by Spike's admission of love for her, but Drusilla is waiting in the wings, intent on returning Spike to his killer ways.

Reality: The bad boy has a crush on you?! Oh my god! Where did this come from?!?

I Was Made to Love You	5ABB15	Feb. 20, 2001
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Buffy must stop a heartbroken young woman — a robot who was manufactured to be the perfect girlfriend — from destroying the city.

Reality: The geek made himself the perfect girlfriend. Again, just because she's beautiful doesn't mean a damn thing in the Buffyverse!!

The Body	5ABB16	Feb. 27, 2001
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Buffy and the gang are overcome by grief when tragedy strikes and they are robbed of someone they hold dear.

Reality: One of the absolute best reality episodes of Buffy. Someone you love will die. It will hurt badly. You will have to deal with it – but your friends will be there to console you.

Forever	5ABB17	April 17, 2001
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Buffy is comforted by Angel, who comes back to Sunnydale after he hears of Joyce's death. Meanwhile, Dawn decides to perform a spell to bring her mom back to life.

Reality: You may want to bring your dead loved one back. God makes decisions for a reason. Don't try and play God.

Intervention	5ABB18	April 24, 2001
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The Scoobies mistake Spike's custom-made romance with his Buffybot for the real thing; Glory's minions kidnap Spike in the belief that he is the Key.

Reality: The bad boy's crush on you may get a little creepy. He may make a "shrine" to you – maybe in pseudo-human form???

Tough Love	5ABB19	May 01, 2001
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While Buffy is preoccupied with being her sister's keeper, Glory sets out to grab the person whom she now believes to be the Key — Tara.

Reality: The new bad girl in town may set her sights on her one of your friends.

Spiral	5ABB20	May 08, 2001
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When Glory finds out who the real key is, Buffy and company flee. Meanwhile, the Knights of Byzantium have their own plans to deal with Dawn.

Reality: You may have to leave town to fight off the evil in life.

The Weight of the World	5ABB21	May 15, 2001
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Willow psychically enters Buffy's subconscious in an effort to reach the Slayer, who has been rendered catatonic by Glory's abduction of Dawn.

Reality: Your little sister had been kidnapped, and you are going to do anything to save her.

The Gift (100th Episode)	5ABB22	May 22, 2001
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Buffy must square off against a true god when Glory prepares to use Dawn to break down the walls between the dimensions and unleash Hell on Earth.

Reality: To save your little sister, you end up sacrificing yourself.

Season Six Episodes

Name	Number	First U.S. Airdate
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gives the Scoobies amnesia. This is the last straw for Tara, who breaks up with Willow and moves out.

Reality: Amnesia sucks.

Smashed	6ABB09	Nov. 20, 2001
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Spike discovers that his chip now allows him to hurt Buffy; it seems Buffy came back wrong somehow. Willow reverts Amy to human form and the two party with magic. Buffy and Spike have sex.

Reality: You may fall for the bad boy and end up having sex with him.

Wrecked	6ABB10	Nov. 27, 2001
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Buffy's tryst with Spike leaves the Slayer shaken. Willow nearly gets Dawn killed after going to see a warlock for a dose of magic, and thus decides to go told turkey on the magic.

Reality: Now that you've had sex with the bad boy, you are going to have to hide it from your friends. Your best friend gets in a car wreck with your sister.

Gone	6ABB11	Jan. 08, 2002
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A social services worker threatens to take guardianship of Dawn. Meanwhile, the Geek Trio accidentally turn Buffy invisible with a ray gun.

Reality: Social services may pay you a visit!! Wouldn't being invisible solve everything??

Doublemeat Palace	6ABB12	Jan. 29, 2002
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The Slayer takes a job at a burger joint, and suspects that something demonic might be going on. Anya gets a visit from an old demon friend who questions her relationship with Xander.

Reality: Ick...what WAS in that Big Mac? Working fast food is not fun.

Dead Things	6ABB13	Feb. 05, 2002
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Buffy finds out that she didn't really come back wrong. Warren kills Katrina and frames the Slayer for it. Buffy violently takes out her emotions on Spike.

Reality: What if you thought you had caused someone's death? The guilt is overpowering.

Older and Far Away	6ABB14	Feb. 12, 2002
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Dawn feels like the odd-girl out on Buffy's birthday, leading to a fateful wish that leaves the Slayer and her friends trapped in the Summers' home with a demon.

Reality: You are getting older. Your little sister feels left out of your life. She may do something drastic to get attention.

As You Were	6ABB15	Feb. 26, 2002
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Buffy is jolted by the reappearance of Riley, who needs her to help him — and his new wife — track a demon egg nest. It turns out that Spike is guarding the eggs.

Reality: Your ex is back — and he's married. You sleep with the bad boy again to feel better.

Hell's Bells	6ABB16	March 05, 2002
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On the day of his wedding, Xander gets cold feet after he's shown a disturbing glimpse into the future. Xander bails on the wedding, leaving Anya heartbroken. Anya is offered her old job back, as a vengeance demon.

Reality: You may get left at the altar. It happens everyday.

Normal Again

6ABB17

March 12, 2002

A demon's venom causes Buffy to hallucinate, convincing the Slayer that she's a normal girl in a mental ward, that her parents are alive, Dawn never existed, and her Slayer life is a delusion.

Reality: What if life was different? What if you made one different decision? Would anything be the same? An exploration of mental illness.

Entropy

6ABB18

April 30, 2002

Anya, secretly a demon again, attempts to get vengeance on Xander but fails. She finds comfort by sleeping with Spike, but the Geek Trio's cameras reveal the tryst to the gang. Meanwhile, Willow and Tara arrange a coffee date.

Reality: Your bad boy and your friend sleep together. But hey! Your gay friends are reconciling!

Seeing Red

6ABB19

May 07, 2002

Willow and Tara reconcile. Warren acquires a pair of demonic orbs that imbue him with strength and invulnerability, and he faces off with Buffy but loses. He comes back with a gun, and shoots both Buffy and Tara.

Reality: Everything seems to be going well right when someone comes along and ruins Christmas.

Villains

6ABB20

May 14, 2002

Tara's sudden death pushes Willow over the edge. After magically saving Buffy from her own wounds, Willow — consumed by anger and dark magic — hunts down Warren and tortures and kills him.

Reality: The love of your life is gone and the anger consumes you.

Two to Go (Season Finale, Part 1 of 2)

6ABB21

May 21, 2002

Buffy and Xander must protect Jonathan and Andrew, who are next on Willow's list. The Slayer is no match for Willow, who has drained Rack of all his powers. Giles arrives to test Willow's conviction that she's unstoppable.

Reality: Sometimes, you feel like there is nothing plausible but revenge.

Grave (Season Finale, Part 2 of 2)

6ABB22

May 21, 2002

Giles faces off with Willow, but she drains him of his powers. This much power causes her to feel all the suffering in the world, so she decides to end it — the world, that is. Xander finally gets through to her, and he saves the day by doing so.

Reality: You've lost your love – your life – and the only thing that seems right is making everyone else suffer. You want to end the world. But the ones that love you, your friends and family, will stand by you until the end.

Season Seven Episodes

Name	Number	First U.S. Airdate
Lessons	7ABB01	Sept. 24, 2002
<p>Buffy and Dawn fight off vengeful spirits in the newly rebuilt Sunnydale High. Meanwhile, Spike struggles with his sanity, and Giles rehabilitates Willow in England.</p> <p>Reality: You have to teach your little sister the lessons of life.</p>		
Beneath You	7ABB02	Oct. 01, 2002
<p>The gang deals with a giant underground worm, the result of a wish Anya granted. Buffy finds out that Spike has a soul. In England, Willow prepares to return home.</p> <p>Reality: Moving on with your life isn't always easy.</p>		
Same Time, Same Place	7ABB03	Oct. 08, 2002
<p>Buffy, Xander and Dawn are unable to find Willow, who has inadvertently made herself invisible to her friends, and vice versa. Willow's return to Sunnydale is marred further by a demon, Gnarl, who relishes the skin of his victims.</p> <p>Reality: After returning home, you may feel guilty for what you've put your loved ones through. The guilt may be so strong that you feel like being invisible may be easier. Ultimately, you may alienate yourself to the point where you almost literally ARE invisible.</p>		
Help	7ABB04	Oct. 15, 2002
<p>Novice counselor Buffy begins trying to help the students at Sunnydale High, including Cassie Newton, a girl who predicts her own death. Unfortunately, a Slayer is no match for fate.</p> <p>Reality: Sometimes fate is a bitch. Everything happens for a reason, though.</p>		
Selfless	7ABB05	Oct. 22, 2002
<p>After Anya grants a particularly gruesome wish, Buffy feels that she must kill Anya. Xander tries to stop her, but the problem is solved when Anya requests to take it back and leave the vengeance demon fold.</p> <p>Reality: Sometimes you may do something you regret. And it will make you utterly sick. You will be overridden with guilt and will seek to right all your wrongs.</p>		
Him	7ABB06	Nov. 05, 2002
<p>Dawn and Buffy (and then Willow and Anya) fall for the school quarterback, whose jacket is enchanted. Meanwhile, Xander and Spike become reluctant roommates.</p> <p>Reality: You have a big crush on the cutest boy in school. So does everyone else. Who will he choose?</p>		
Conversations with Dead People	7ABB07	Nov. 12, 2002
<p>Buffy chats with a former classmate and current vampire, Dawn is visited by Joyce, and Willow is visited by an imposter pretending to have a message from Tara. Meanwhile, Jonathan and Andrew return from Mexico.</p> <p>Reality: Talking to loved ones (dead or alive) sometimes helps with life's struggles.</p>		
Sleeper	7ABB08	Nov. 19, 2002
<p>As Dawn and Willow recover from their chaotic night at the Summers house, Buffy probes a series of grisly murders that may be the work of Spike.</p>		

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Reality: Is the bad boy up to no good – again? It hurts you to think so.

Never Leave Me	7ABB09	Nov. 26, 2002
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Spike is held captive in the Summers home while the Scoobies ponder their options in the aftermath of his murder spree; a squeamish Andrew tries to master killing but ends up another Summers house captive.

Reality: The bad boy was bad. Are you nice and try and help him? Or get rid of him for good?

Bring On the Night	7ABB10	Dec. 17, 2002
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Giles arrives with three apprentice Slayers, the Scoobies research the origins of the First to find a way to rescue Spike, and Buffy fights the Ubervamp.

Reality: You may think that you are all high and mighty when someone comes along and beats you down – big time. All the while you are supposed to be taking care of and teaching a younger generation how to deal with life's evils.

Showtime	7ABB11	Jan. 07, 2003
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Buffy stages a showdown with the Ubervamp with the Slayers-in-training as her audience, and then rescues Spike. Giles and Anya seek advice from Beljoxa's Eye.

Reality: Teaching isn't always easy. Sometimes you have to take drastic measures to get your point across.

Potential	7ABB12	Jan. 21, 2003
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Buffy and Spike establish a boot camp to prepare the potential slayers for combat with the First, while a spell from Willow reveals another potential living in Sunnydale.

Reality: Your little sister, feeling left out, may think she is actually special enough to gain your respect and attention. But you end up ignoring her again.

The Killer in Me	7ABB13	Feb. 04, 2003
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Courtesy of a bitter Amy, Willow turns into Warren after kissing Kennedy; Buffy contacts the government to get help with Spike's misfiring chip.

Reality: You have found a new love – but you are so guilty about your former, that you end up acting like a different person.

First Date	7ABB14	Feb. 11, 2003
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Buffy accepts a dinner invitation from Principal Wood, who reveals that he's a former Slayer's son; Anya is jealous when Xander has a date (who, as usual, turns out to be a demon).

Reality: You haven't dated in forever. How does that go again?

Get It Done	7ABB15	Feb. 18, 2003
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The Scoobies are rocked by a suicide within their ranks. After lambasting everyone, Buffy jumps through a portal on a quest for knowledge.

Reality: Dealing with suicide is difficult – but you have to move on and learn from other's mistakes in life.

Storyteller	7ABB16	Feb. 25, 2003
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Andrew films the Scoobies for a documentary on Buffy, while Sunnydale High is rocked by a sudden outbreak of student violence. Xander and Anya reconsider their relationship.

Reality: Reality TV is overdramatic sometimes!

Lies My Parents Told Me	7ABB17	March 25, 2003
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When the Scoobies fail to nullify the First's hold on Spike, Principal Wood and Giles team up to kill him. Meanwhile, Spike relives the day he became a vampire.

Reality: Your parents were there to guide you in life. Sometimes they told you things to make you feel better. They were lying.

Dirty Girls	7ABB18	April 15, 2003
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Faith returns to Sunnydale just in time to meet the First's evil agent, Caleb. Buffy leads the troops into a battle with Caleb, which ends with two dead Potentials and a seriously wounded Xander.

Reality: That first bad girl is back but now she is "good"! Also, Priests...good or bad?

Empty Places	7ABB19	April 29, 2003
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Buffy takes another beating from Caleb, she tries to lead the troops back to the wine cellar. Instead, she gets kicked out of her house as the gang decides Faith would make a better leader.

Reality: Priests are not always the ones to look up to. Also, you may lose your status and power. We'll have to tune in this week to see how you are supposed to deal with it.

Touched	7ABB20	May 06, 2003
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A depressed Buffy gets comfort from Spike. Meanwhile, the Scoobies capture and interrogate Bringer, and Faith leads an attack on the Bringers' arsenal.

Reality: Those who love you will be there for you (see previous season).

End of Days	7ABB21	May 13, 2003
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Faith and some of the Potentials are injured by a bomb. Buffy retrieves a mystic scythe and uses it against Caleb; Angel turns up to give her a hand.

Reality: Your ex-boyfriend will show up and tell you things you want to hear. Remember your mission in life is NOT to give in to flattery.

Chosen (Series Finale)	7ABB22	May 20, 2003
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Buffy comes up with a plan: The gang makes an attack on the First's army, aided by Willow, who performs a powerful spell to imbue all of the Potentials with Slayer powers. Meanwhile, wearing the amulet that Angel brought, Spike becomes the decisive factor in the victory, and Sunnydale is eradicated. Buffy and the gang look back on what's left of Sunnydale, deciding what to do next...

Reality: Your ex-boyfriend sacrificed his life for you. Your town has crumbled into nothingness. You've saved the world. You deserve to go shopping. Do you want to go to the mall tomorrow?