

Buffering the Vampire Slayer
Episode 4.20: The Yoko Factor

Jenny: Oh hello! Wow. Hello. It's us.

Kristin: Wow.

Jenny: In the plural sense of the word.

Kristin: Jenny, when was, I almost called you Jennifer because I was so moved by your presence in the intro.

Jenny: Wow.

Kristin: When was the last time you were in an intro with me?

Jenny: I don't even know. I'm a totally different person now. I live in a cave. I have a long beard and a mouse lives in it. Uh, who can say how long ago? That was. How many moons have passed since then. But I'm back and that's all that matters. Hello.

Kristin: I thought that it would be very special to have you up here in the intro since you and I are not taping this episode together and since you and I had just finished, uh, having our hearts torn out of our chest by the power of the Scooby fandom at prom in New York City. I just wanted to like hang out with you for a second.

Jenny: What a magical weekend. What a time to be alive. That was so wild. That was so great. Do you know that I have a lab coat now?

Kristin: I do. I have a lab coat as well. Jenny and I were gifted customized lab coats. Mine says my name and um, Erotic Poet Laureate as my title.

Jenny: True.

Kristin: Uh huh. Very true.

Jenny: And mine says my name and Hunkologist! [laughter] We were, and they, each lab coat came with a tiny praying mantis finger puppet. Ahh!

Kristin: Oh my God.

Jenny: Well, tiny compared to Natalie French, but large compared to an actual praying mantis. They're about, like seven inches long.

Kristin: My praying mantis finger puppet is on the handle of the cabinet that I keep the cat food in. So every time I feed the cats I laugh to myself about the tiny praying mantis. And it gets me every time.

Jenny: That's such a, that's such a good idea. Um, mine is sitting on my dresser. But now I'm going to look for a vertical handle somewhere that I can slip it onto.

Kristin: You're welcome.

Jenny: Thank you.

Kristin: Uh, Jenny and I are coming back in two weeks together to bring you Primeval and we taped Primeval literally the day after or two days after prom. So we talk a little bit more about it in that episode, but it was so special. And I think the thing that is important to communicate is how much we love you all and how it seems to just keep building on itself, this community.

Uh, the way that you all support each other and support us. It's just so powerful. We had so much fun with you all. Um, we hope to do a prom every year until the end of time. So hopefully all of you will someday share space with us at a Buffy prom because it is, it's just really powerful. We had so many of you, uh, you know, tweeting and, and sharing on Instagram your posts.

You can follow the hashtag, it's #buffypromnewyorkcity, and so many of you shared photos, you know, saying things like, "This is my first prom. And like, look at my photo. You can see that I don't feel small. You can see that I'm wearing the things that I want to wear. You can see—"

Jenny: Ahh! Ahh!

Kristin: I know. It's just really special and we love you.

Jenny: Last prom was my first prom.

Kristin: Oh, Jenny!

Jenny: And this was my second prom.

Kristin: Wow. I guess I'm up to four.

Jenny: So I can, yeah, I mean, I can vouch for, um, how special it is to get to go to prom the way that, um, I want to go to prom.

Kristin: Right.

Jenny: It's really, it's really something. Also everyone, Kristin stage dived, stage dove, dove off the stage, floated, surfed, crowd surfed across the crowd. Uh, I'd also, yes?

Kristin: I, I just can't stop thinking about it. Like I think about it every day. I think about how the crowd carried me to the back of the room and I, and that I am—

Jenny: Yeah.

Kristin: Like, I thought that I would never achieve that level of punk and I did it.

Jenny: Mhmm. I think we are all our most powerful in the context of Buffy prom. I think that that's the takeaway here. Also. Uh, some of you may know and some of, some of you may have already seen, but I was gifted through our Patreon, uh, holiday exchange, a beautiful, like, almost life-size decal of Riley from the waist up.

And I decided, uh, well Kristen and I executively decided together that, you know, 'cause he had been, uh, living with me here in California for some months and then I thought, Oh my gosh, wouldn't it be funny if Riley was my prom date and if everyone could have the opportunity to take a photo with Riley in our photo booth at prom. So we attached him to some cardboard, which some might say is appropriate.

Kristin: Uh huh.

Jenny: I would just say it was convenient and sturdy, like Riley himself actually. [laughter] Uh, but a lot of people took, uh, various kinds of photos with Riley. There was a lot, there were a lot of um, uh, uh, hateful, angry, well hopefully lovingly hateful.

Kristin: Yes. My middle finger photos were loving.

Jenny: Yeah. And also some people who seemed to be team Riley, um, getting, getting snuggly with him in the photo booth. So I just want you know, to make sure you all were aware of that.

Kristin: Convenient and sturdy.

Jenny: I mean...

Kristin: As much as I would love to hang up here in this intro with you, Jenny, forever, um, I am going to tell you a couple more things about prom and then we're going to get on our way because I still have to tell you a whole Spooky News segment. So, buckle up.

Jenny: Oh my gosh, yes, of course.

Kristin: Okay. So, okay. First of all, with respect to prom, um, Jenny played two live sets during prom, that fucking ruled. Kate Leth sang two of the songs—

Jenny: Two songs.

Kristin: Kiss Me and Torn. So—

Jenny: That's right.

Kristin: —It was amazing. Also, staff from Adult Mom, who if you don't know, Oh my God, you should, sang Linger. Uh, you know, The Cranberries with Jenny. It was so special. I wore a praying mantis mask and all of those live songs are up for our patron supporters on our secret Facebook. They were streamed live.

So if you are a patron, you can see those. If you become a patron, you will be able to find those. They're pretty fun. Uh, also we had some leftover cassette tapes and some prom tote bags and other little, uh, ephemera, if you will.

Jenny: I will.

Kristin: They are, uh, in our store now, for pretty, you know, just a couple of bucks for a lot of that stuff. So if you want to grab some memorabilia, you can do that in our store, bufferingthevampireslayer.com, just click on shop.

And uh, last but certainly not least in the prom bin. If you go to the prom page, which is bufferingthevampireslayer.com/prom, you will find the full gallery of photos done by Molly Adams, the best photographer in the entire world, perhaps?

Jenny: Incredible, so incredible.

Kristin: She's the best. And the photos are incredible. You can download any of them, all of them do what you will. And I also put up links to the playlist that we played during doors and also sort of a compilation playlist of all the songs we played that you danced to that night. So you can just, you can, you can live prom

every day if you want. You can just play those songs and dance till your heart's content.

Jenny: Absolutely. And if you sweat through all of your t-shirts from dancing, uh, let me be the first to alert you that we have a new shirt in the buffering store designed by the one and the only Christine Tuna. It is sort of like a more realistic take on our logo. It's the fist, it's the steak, it's the moon, it's the cemetery. It's so beautiful and so cool and she did such an incredible job and we're so happy with how it came out. And you can snag that now at bufferingthevampireslayer.com. Just click on shop.

Kristin: It's so cool. It's so cool. I cannot wait to wear my uh, my copy, my copy, my whatever, my shirt. A couple of things for our patrons. Um, if you don't know, Patreon is a pretty big community over here at Buffering the Vampire Slayer. You can find it on that website that we've talked about a few times. You just click on Patreon and there are a ton of things that you get when you donate and you support the show. Um, a couple of things I want to just alert you to.

There is a new level, I guess it's not new anymore, but we have a high level now of giving, which is \$25 a month. And at that level you get an exclusive merge bundle once every three months. You get an enamel pin and a t-shirt and no one else in the, in the world will ever get those things. Just you. They're very special. This, uh, April, the batch that's shipping out is so fun. It's a Hostile 17 t-shirt and an enamel pin that is the cheese man, which if you've already seen the episode, you know what I'm talking about and if you don't and you're confused, so you'll see eventually. But, um, both of those items are really fun. They're shipping out in April and if you want to get on that train, basically, you know, there's a deadline for each batch.

And so if you want to get on the next train for the next batch of exclusive merch, you have to begin in that level by the end of March. Um, so you have to get in there by, um, by the end of this month and then you'll get the next batch that ships out. So heads up there and another heads up. Jenny and I have been doing live events for a bit now and you like them, it seems, and that's fun because we like them too.

Um, and so we are starting something new over in the land of Patreon, which means that if you are a patron at any level, you'll be getting some, um, links to tickets before anyone else. And we are doing some fun shit. In season five we are going to be announcing, uh, perhaps you know, a show, you know, to launch the season, you know, whatever in a couple of weeks. So if you are a Patreon you will be getting a notification about that stuff ahead of time so you can snag tickets before anybody else. So heads up.

Jenny: MmHm. Consider yourselves warned.

Kristin: Uh, speaking of considering yourself, warned Jenny, uh, we're about to move into something pretty spooky.

[SPOOKY NEWS jingle plays]
Spooky news!

Jenny: I'm scared. I've never been here for spooky news before.

Kristin: Jenny, your first spooky news! Okay. Are you ready?

Jenny: Um, I guess so.

Kristin: Okay. So this is a news story out of Russia, different 'cause so many of our—

Jenny: No!

Kristin: Oh well yeah. And so it could be going in so many directions really. But this is a story that is 60 years old, but the case is being reopened as of about a month ago. [Jenny gasps] Yes. This is so fun. I never have any response to my spooky news in real time. So, okay. So here's the deal. In 1959, nine hikers went missing in Russia. It was the entire group of hikers.

Jenny: Oh!

Kristin: Do you know about this?

Jenny: The Dyatlov Pass?

Kristin: Oh my gosh. Yes. I'm so glad you pronounced it so nicely.

Jenny: I mean, I actually have no idea if that's the right way to say it, but oh my gosh, I love this story.

Kristin: You know—

Jenny: Why the Holy heck are they reopening this case? This is amazing.

Kristin: Okay. So, well, okay, so you already know. So maybe I'm going to tell you things you know. I just learned about this, um, because somebody, one of our listeners sent me the article. Um, so basically this group of hikers goes out, right? There's nine of them. They all disappear.

Um, they don't return and when they're not, when they don't return when they're expected to return, a search party immediately goes out looking for them because it should not have been like a fatal or dangerous hike that they were on. Um, so a little after a week. Now I'm, now I'm quoting from an article on Vice. Okay. A little under a week after setting off, the party found the tent that the group had set. It had been abandoned and was sliced open from the inside.

Jenny: Inside.

Kristin: What the fuck! While the camp was deserted, the hikers had left all their belongings and shoes. They seemingly left in a hurry leaving behind eight sets of footprints. Also. Why eight? Like was Jesus carrying one of them? What's happening? [laughter] Some of them in socks, some of them in barefoot, others wearing just one shoe. A few days later they found some of the bodies, the first of the bodies were found a mile from camp.

They were both stripped down to their underwear. It looked like someone had climbed a tree to search for something in the distance. Then near that tree, a couple of other bodies were found. Now here's where it gets even fucking creepier. The last four bodies were not found until the snow melted two months later. The four who died there, where they were found were completely dressed. And initially nobody thought too much of it, except for these last people that were found.

Some of them had severe injuries. One was found with no eyes and no tongue. And two others were found to have major chest fractures. And then the fourth one had extensive skull damage. The injuries were likened to that one would suffer any major car accident and no one knows why this happened. And so, uh, as of the start of February, Jenny, they have decided to reopen this case.

Jenny: What is the cause of the reopening of this case?

Kristin: Okay, so this doesn't say exactly why they've decided to reopen it. Apart from that, there's all of these theories. It's never been, you know, the case has never been solved yet, et cetera. But the article says that they, um, they'll be flying investigators out to the office to investigate the deaths. Um, cause there's like 75 theories, but they're only going to look into three explanations, um, of the deaths.

And the, and the three that they're looking into was, are an avalanche, a snow slab or a hurricane. And I think, I don't know about you, but I feel like they're missing like demons. You know what I mean?

Jenny: Yeah. They're definitely missing some obvious options.

Kristin: [laughs] Yeah. So, Jenny, thanks so much for being here, for part of, uh, your, your inaugural spooky news.

Jenny: Um, thank you so much for having me. And I'd just like to add from my personal knowledge of reading this Wikipedia article many times that also, all— Either all or most of, uh, the hikers, uh, that, that were recovered. Um, their, their skin I believe had like an orange sort of burnt hue to it.

Kristin: Yeah.

Jenny: Uh, cause for, um, raised eyebrows.

Kristin: Yeah. There's a note about radiation, like minor amounts of radiation. Um, yeah, so pretty fucking spooky.

[SPOOKY NEWS jingle plays]
Spooky news!

Jenny: Well, Oh my gosh, we're almost out of the intro. How exciting. But before we go into the episode, just want to thank as always, Lauren Klein, our beautiful sound engineer who you can follow on Instagram @LaurenTaylorKlein. Thank you Lauren for being the best.

Kristin: Yes, thank you, Lauren. And uh, I'm going to be popping my head back into this episode for the Sexual Tension Award segment. And Jenny thought that I was going to do it by myself, but then I dragged her into the segment with me so you'll have us both over there. Holy shit. But for now, Angel's back in town.

[Intro Music]

Jenny: Hello and welcome to Buffering the Vampire Slayer, a podcast where we are watching and discussing every episode of Buffy the Vampire Slayer one at a time. Spoiler free. I am Jenny Owen Youngs. And on this blessed day I am joined by not one but two very special guests. Uh, they drove up from L.A to Sunnydale to be with me this evening. I am joined by Laura Zak and Brittany Ashley of Angel on Top fame. Hello.

Laura and Brittany: Oh my God.

Laura: This is a delight.

Brittany: Wow.

Jenny: You both look great.

Laura: Oh my God. Thank you. Are you just saying that because we talk so much about how good *you* looked in our last episode.

Brittany: Yeah. Tell me it's real.

Jenny: Couple things. I was not thinking about that, but earlier today I did have a panic moment where I was like, Oh no, I have to uh, dress nice again for— Dress nice again, whatever that means.

Brittany: Yeah, no. I love your tuxedo.

Jenny: [laughing] Right? Thank you. I was like, Oh wow, I should look cool for Brittany and Laura when they come over to tape later and, but then I just forgot about that and instead I'm wearing sweatpants but—

Laura: But here's the thing. Okay. Yes. I absolutely agree with you that you looked cool when we recorded that episode—

Brittany: So cool.

Laura: But it wasn't, it wasn't that we were appreciating an aesthetic, it's that like, there was something so like softly dignified. [everyone laughs] Like there was like, there was something like that that you weren't trying super hard, but it was just like you were so comfortable in your skin in that outfit.

Jenny: Yes.

Brittany: It was gentle, gentle, but really aggressive.

Jenny: Thank you? Okay. Anyway, my point is you guys look great and I that wasn't a got to get them back with a compliment.

Brittany: Yeah, I am wearing a turtleneck for the first time and I'm glad that we're all talking about it.

Jenny: And off air we did confirm that Brittany *can* wear a turtleneck since you asked. I did ask. Yeah. Ah, looks fantastic.

Laura: We also confirmed that it's not because of hickies.

Jenny: We didn't actually, I mean we got a verbal confirmation but...

Laura: No, no, no. She showed, she did a little flash.

Brittany: Yeah, I'm 30. I don't do hickeys anymore.

Jenny: I'm 30. I don't do hickeys anymore.

Laura: I think this is starting really well.

Jenny: [clears throat] Hello and welcome. Thank you so much for joining me for this episode. This is the episode for season four, episode 20 The Yoko Factor. Stay tuned at the end of this episode and every episode, uh, for an original song written by me recapping the Buffy ep we are discussing. The Yoko Factor was written by Doug Petri, directed by David Grossman and originally aired on May 9th, 2000. And I'm here to say, if you don't mind—

Laura: Not at all.

Jenny: This episode is impactful. Uh, for many reasons. You're here for many reasons. Buffy was just in L.A. with Faith and Angel and there was a little whole kerfuffle. We talked about it for *two whole* episodes of Angel on Top. And you're here because of that for certain, but you know why you're also here? You know why, why else this episode is notable? Because it is...

Laura: Sorry. Why Jenny?

Jenny: Thank you! Because it's episode 4:20 of Buffy and now there are 69 episodes left. [laughter] Did you know that?!

Brittany: Those are our two interests.

Laura: Speak for yourself. But yeah, totally. [laughter]

Brittany: I was speaking for both of us, man.

Jenny: Sorry that I don't have any complimentary weed or sex, uh, to offer you. But hopefully we can have a meaningful—

Brittany: We'll find it.

Jenny: —Discussion about all of these points without it.

Laura: I just am really—

Brittany: Wait, I do have weed! No I do!

Laura: Let's get into it first. Yeah. And I do want to say too, I don't know how many of your listeners are also watching Angel, but I think for those who have maybe not ventured into Angel yet, the last two episodes, Five by Five and Sanctuary are so strong. I saw on IMDB that they were tied for the highest rated first season Angel episodes with, I will Remember You. I mean obviously I think people were really feeling the crossovers, but they also are just narratively so strong.

Jenny: Yeah.

Laura: So highly recommend watching those two if you haven't.

Brittany: And if you did not watch Sanctuary, um, Buffy was on it and it directly leads into this episode. It's the preface for *why* Angel came back here. So if you want to see what happened, you watch that Angel episode.

Jenny: And then you can listen to us talk about it. All three of us on Angel on Top if you haven't already.

Laura: We've spent so much time together. I really love it.

Jenny: We've really got to stop meeting like this.

Laura: All right, so should we talk about what happened on Angel? Very briefly to—

Jenny: Yeah. Quick run down for anybody who's not watching Angel—

Laura: Please.

Jenny: This is what just happened in L.A. Please. You're the experts.

Brittany: Please. Me, please. So Faith went to L.A. after she fucked shit up at Sunnydale. Angel is a person who wanted to help Faith redeem herself. He kind of became her sponsor in a way. And when Buffy got wind that Faith was in L.A., she was like, hang on, I got to go to L.A. and I got to see what is going on. And she happened to have walked in at the exact moment that Angel had his shirt fully unbuttoned and was embracing Faith in, you know, we've all been there. One of our friends has just been killing a bunch of people and we want to tell them that they no longer have to kill people. We can help them through it, yada, yada, yada.

Laura: We're freshly out of the shower. We're only half dressed...

Brittany: Yes. And Buffy walks in on that. And in a way Buffy interpreted Angel kind of taking Faith's side in a way. So they had a very tumultuous meeting in L.A. where it ended with Buffy telling Angel that she has her own life in Sunnydale and she loves someone else, Angel telling Buffy to get out of my town. You can't just come here with all your judgments, get outta here. And then Buffy leaves obviously very upset and Angel's like, "Fuck, I have to go talk to her don't I? I have to go apologize." So, we are led to believe that Angel will be coming to Sunnydale to try and make things right with Buffy once more.

Laura: That was a very strong recap.

Brittany: Thank you. And I didn't script it and it really just shows me that I should trust myself more. All the information's there, you know?

Laura: Yes.

Jenny: Agreed. Fantastic. So beautiful.

Brittany: I'm a planner. I'm working through it.

Jenny: 10 out of 10. Okay. So now we have context and the first scene of this episode that we get is a reminder that the Initiative exists. Letting us know that the show writers have not forgotten, uh, that they have a whole frat house full of soldier boys that they have to account for with, um, you know, goals and motives. We learn some important maybe stuff, uh, which is that capture ratios are up and this new commanding officer gives a review of Riley, which is the boy thinks too much, which I feel like some of our listeners might like to argue with and a review of Buffy, which is, she's just a girl.

Brittany: Which is hilarious because that's all Buffy ever wanted in high school to just be a girl. Yeah. But to completely juxtapose that Spike does *not* underestimate Buffy the same way this commander general does and he's telling Adam that she is

a *real* threat and that they need to do something about it, which I found kind of sweet.

Laura: Yeah. It was a sign of respect at the very least.

Brittany: Completely.

Jenny: Yeah. Yeah.

Brittany: And Adam questions why, if she, if you've killed two slayers before, what is the difference with Buffy? Like why can't, why can't you kill this slayer? And obviously that raises as many questions of why Spike hasn't been able to.

Jenny: Right. I mean he's seems like maybe he hasn't even really thought about it before.

Brittany: I think he's really, I mean obviously as we see in this episode, I think he rather than just killing her, the way that he's killed other slayers, I think he's really interested in kind of being obsessed with her and like fucking up her interpersonal dynamics, which is what he does. Like he kinda wants to like, if he does want to destroy her, he wants to do it from the inside.

Jenny: Especially now that he can't physically hurt her. Um, he does seem to be making up for that a lot in the, um, torturing her and being a general pain in the ass department.

Brittany: But can I say one thing?

Jenny: Yeah.

Brittany: Adam is a poet.

Laura: Oh. Oh. And I mean, I've been excited to be on this show because I know you have Sexual Tension Awards—

Jenny: Dude.

Laura: —And I felt like this scene was just...

Jenny: You could cut it with a chainsaw.

Laura: Do you disagree Brittany? I feel like I just thought—

Brittany: Oh no, I wrote #biforAdam. Like from Spike's POV.

Jenny: Dude.

Laura: Yeah!

Jenny: [imitating Adam's speech] I will make you a savage again.

Brittany: Oh, I wrote it all down if you guys want to give me some snaps and maybe a cymbal or perhaps a baseline. [imitation of slam poetry backbeat]

"You feel smothered, trapped like an animal, pure in the ferocity, unable to actualize the urges within. Clinging to one truth, like a flame. Struggling to burn within an enclosed glass. That a beast this powerful cannot be contained. Inevitably, it will break free and savage the land again. I will make you whole again. Make you savage." Thank you so much. My name is Adam. You can find me at the bar.

Jenny: [laughing] Jesus.

Laura: Ah, should we all go on tour together? [laughter]

Brittany: That's what I'm saying.

Jenny: Yes. I think that's something we just learned. That was beautiful. Right. Adam is great at talking. Wonderful motivational speaker, which leads Spike to make this Tony Robbins reference, which, is that still a reference?

Laura: He's still around.

Jenny: He's still doing the thing?

Brittany: He had a weird Me Too comment, no?

Laura: I actually don't know about that.

Brittany: He made some weird comment or it was just like, ah, you're, yeah, you're out of the loop, man.

Laura: Well, the reason I personally resent him.

Jenny: [laughing] Yes?

Brittany: He was in the film Shallow Hal.

Laura: Was he?

Brittany: Yeah.

Jenny: Wow.

Brittany: Shallow Hal got locked in the elevator with him.

Laura: The second reason I personally resent him is that— So one of my best friends was the producer on Where Shall We Begin, the Esther Perel podcast, which Brittany and I are obsessed with. And they were in L.A. for a women in podcasting event and Eva, my friend, was like, "Come to dinner with my boss, Esther." and I was going through a breakup. Like, "Esther will like, make it all better." and I didn't really quite know how into her I was yet. But then she had to cancel last minute because she got caught up with Tony Robbins.

Jenny: No!

Laura: Tony kept Esther—

Brittany: From you, yeah.

Laura: —And me apart. Yeah.

Jenny: That's trash. I'm sorry for your loss.

Laura: Yeah, no worries.

Brittany: Yeah. Even though Adam is a kind of weird, weak villain in my opinion in terms of all the Big Bads, there was something very captivating about him in this episode that I didn't see before. Because I was really paying attention.

Laura: It kind of makes me more captivated by Professor Walsh. 'Cause she's the one who—

Brittany: She implanted that shit.

Laura: —Gave him these capacities.

Jenny: Right, right. Wow.

Laura: R.I.P., but...

Brittany: No, I feel like Professor Walsh is your type.

Laura: Oh, completely! I mean, thank you.

Brittany: Yeah, you're welcome.

Laura: My old type that I'm trying to break but yes, absolutely.

Jenny: Sure, sure. Old type, trying to break. Got it.

Laura: Is this too much personal information?

Jenny: No, this is the exact right amount of personal information. Please keep it coming. Uh, because we're friends and if I were the slayer, uh, you guys would be the variables that would make me harder to kill.

Laura: Aww that is so nice of you!

Brittany: That is so sweet!

Laura: So we'd be the ones that Spike would be master manipulating.

Jenny: Well he'd be trying, but I think you guys are too emotionally intelligent—

Laura: On the ball. Yeah, I think that's true actually.

Brittany: Yeah.

Jenny: So Buffy's home from L.A. and um, the establishing shot, do you know how many times the cameras zeroes in on the chocolate poster that Buffy and Willow have on the inside of their dorm door?

Laura: Oh, I thought it was for Chocolat.

Jenny: No, I think it's just straight up, like we're girls and we like chocolate.

Brittany: But it makes me so uncomfortable because whenever I see—

Laura: Like how boys have basketball. [crosstalk] [inaudible]

Jenny: Riley literally has the balls poster! In his room.

Laura: That's what I think about when I see it. I only think chocolate balls.

Brittany: Wait, what was in— What poster in your dorm room? 'Cause I can tell you mine and I'm sure so many of the listeners had the same exact one.

Laura: I had a couple of pretty embarrassing ones.

Brittany: Tell me.

Laura: I had one that was just a huge black and white still of Matt Damon in Good Will Hunting.

Brittany: What?!

Laura: I know.

Jenny: Interesting.

Laura: I have changed so much. And another one that was just a big orange cat. Not Garfield, but a different big orange cat that like, was—

Brittany: 'Cause they didn't want them to come up against copyright issues?

Laura: I don't know.

Brittany: It was called Fargield?

Laura: I don't know what it was called, Brittany. But it was angry looking and it said on the poster, "I *am* smiling." [laughter]

Brittany: Wait, Jenny, what did you have?

Jenny: I had on my actual door, the door that faced out into the apartment, um, a almost life-sized poster of Britney Spears. It was like, door-sized and on the inside, um, I think was Avril Lavigne.

Laura: Oh. Oh, I also—

Brittany: Yeah, it's the dichotomy. It's the two genders.

Jenny: Sure, sure.

Brittany: Mine was um, that Calvin Klein poster that was like—

Laura: No! The kissing women?

Brittany: Yeah. It was two girls in bed.

Laura: Oh, *Brittany!* [laughter]

Brittany: You had a fucking *Garfield* poster!

Laura: Exactly! That is *way* less embarrassing.

Brittany: And I remember my cousin came to visit me and she, and I wasn't out at the time, and she was like, "Oh. I see."

Jenny: Were you like, did you make a case for just being generally open minded?

Brittany: I was just like, "Oh, it's just like, beautiful. I dunno."

Jenny: Yeah. I wonder why.

Brittany: What— My gay guy friend gave it to me. Okay. And I was like, and this was again when I was not out and I was like, "I don't know, I guess it like, looks cool, I'll take it." And then he'd call me a dyke and I'd be like, "Oh my God, stop. Keep calling me that though."

Jenny: Okay. So Riley is living in the burnt-out high school and he's got, he doesn't even have a door to hang a poster on.

Laura: And lest us not forget that Xander makes a comment about how as soon as Buffy gets home from L.A., of course she's going to see you. But she doesn't, she just goes straight into her dorm room and thinks.

Jenny: Dude, yes. Also, this is the scene where Riley learns what the tri— We're led to believe, by the end of the last episode of Buffy that, uh, she's going to tell him like, what's up with Angel and, uh, that she dated a vampire and you know, some stuff. But she, I guess left out the fact that they had sex, which I guess—

Brittany: Okay.

Jenny: —Is, uh, hang on, just hang on one second. Which I guess is reasonable if you're talking to your, your boyfriend about your old boyfriend. Maybe you're not gonna be like, "And then we had sex." Maybe that's just, you know, maybe that

would've been a round two of the conversation, thing. Right. But up to this point, Riley had no idea that that was the trigger. And I guess I had no idea that Buffy and Angel had sex. Discuss.

Brittany: Okay. Why wouldn't he assume that they've had sex? She had sex with Parker. She's had sex with him.

Laura: Does he know that she had sex with Parker?

Jenny: Yeah, we don't know that he knows that she had sex with Parker.

Brittany: Well, that's *her* problem.

Jenny: Although Parker did say that dumb shit when Riley punched him.

Brittany: Yeah. Like I believe that he knows that she had sex, because okay. If she didn't tell him that she had sex with Parker, he, I guess was under the impression that she was a virgin. Which I believe is something that you generally disclose to someone, especially as a woman. You feel like you have to disclose that in a way. Um, so again, I, we talked about this off air. I do not understand why he is so angry that he's learning now that she had sex with Angel because why wouldn't she? It was the most major other romantic relationship she's ever had. She's had sex with two other people.

Jenny: That we know of.

Brittany: Like she, she's had sex with Parker. She's had sex with him. Why wouldn't she assume that she had sex with Angel? I don't get it. It feels weird and like property-esque.

Jenny: Maybe the thing that, um, is so jarring to Riley about it is that they had a whole conversation about her arc with Angel and she didn't disclose it *and* it was not just a fact of their relationship but also like *the trigger* that created, um, that, you know, uh—

Laura: Turned him.

Jenny: That turned him and, and it makes sense also that, that she would have shame and guilt about that. But I could just see him being like, why of all the things, why am I like finding out this piece of information from Xander? I think it's layered. I think there's more than just like, she had sex with Angel.

Brittany: I feel like she should be more comforted. But I, I, she, I feel like *he* should be more comforted by the fact that it's the trigger because he knows that they won't allow it to happen again. Like honestly, if you heard that about an ex of yours, you'd be like, Oh shit. So it will never happen again because you know the weight of it.

Laura: I get the sense that she gave very much like the truncated version of the story though. Like, clearly, I mean, jumping ahead lightly, like the fact that he even a little bit suspects that Angel was bad later in the episode suggests that he doesn't really appreciate the severity of what it actually means for Angel to be bad.

Brittany: Oh yeah. He thought that that was bad is hilarious.

Laura: Yeah. But so I, I think part— One of the other layers as well is the vampire thing.

Brittany: Yeah, I guess so.

Laura: I mean we can't like minimize that.

Brittany: Yeah. And I guess that I guess it's like when you find out— I was just reading, um, so, *Tiny, Beautiful Things* is one of my favorite books. It's a Cheryl Strayed book. It's all of her advice columns for *The Rumpus* when she was Sugar. Um, and I was just rereading this column about, you know, this woman who is totally in love with this guy that she's dating, but she found out that he had an orgy and it made her feel very distanced from him.

And perhaps in a similar realm, he feels very, like, that's like sexually explorative to him. Like, you know, 'cause dating a vampire is, in this series, we've kind of established as being queer in a way and it, and, and being somewhat like adventurous in a way, and him being more vanilla, him knowing that she had sex with someone who isn't vanilla and it kind of represents this like kind of queer relationship, perhaps that was really triggering to him or it made him feel really insecure.

Laura: Yeah. And I think, I mean that's also why her coming out to him about that was the same episode as Willow and Tara and coming out to Buffy. Yeah.

Jenny: Also, why do all of Xander's clothes look like clown clothes?

Laura: All of a sudden? I never noticed that before.

Jenny: Only when he's loaning stuff out, really. To Spike. To Riley. It's bad.

Laura: It's really bad, yeah. He is not um, a style mogul.

Jenny: So, Giles has not stopped playing acoustic guitar.

[clip from show of Giles singing Free Bird by Lynyrd Skynyrd]

If I leave here tomorrow,
Would you still remember me?
Well, I must be traveling on now,
There's too many places I've got to see.

Laura: Swoon!

Jenny: Last we spoke.

Brittany: I'm so into it.

Laura: I love it.

Brittany: I love that he's like, "I no longer have a job. I'm going to get more into my guitar. I'm going to wear Henleys"

Laura: I feel like he's *you*.

Brittany: I'm wearing a turtleneck, you bitch. [laughter] And I have a job. Thank you!

Laura: No, I mean like getting into self-expression through the guitar.

Brittany: Yeah, no, for sure. I'm incredible at guitar. We, all of us in this room can say that. Um, but I, but I do think it's funny that as we're watching this scene, like a few seconds into what— I'm saying, I'm saying like, you know, seven seconds in you're like, oh, this is nice, but like, who is this for? Why are we watching this? Is this for the audience? Like I don't really understand why there's like this mini concert of watching Giles kind of fumble down unemployment.

Jenny: Um, like, I mean, he sounds great. I think the reason that it's happening is because—

Laura: Of the reveal.

Jenny: Joss Whedon likes how Anthony Stewart Head sings. Like I think he could've been doing anything that he wouldn't have wanted Spike to walk in on. But I think like the guitar thing started because like, Joss was into it.

Brittany: I have two fun facts.

Jenny: Hit it.

Brittany: One fun fact is that in *Where the Wild Things Are*, uh, Anthony Stewart Head did not play the guitar for *Behind Blue Eyes*. Uh, and it was actually the music supervisor. However, in *this* episode he *does* play *Free Bird* on the guitar while he's singing it. Again, the golden retriever of classic rock songs.

Jenny: Dude, that's an insult to golden retrievers.

Brittany: You're telling me.

Jenny: I really don't care for *Free Bird*.

Brittany: Second fun fact is that, I'm sure other people know this, but, uh, Joss Whedon would have cast members over and they would kind of like, sing songs and whatnot, and that's when he, that so many of the cast is very, are very musically talented and that obviously—

Laura: Planted the seed for later.

Brittany: Planted the seed for perhaps a later episode, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah.

Jenny: Uh huh, uh huh, uh huh.

Brittany: But, I think when he started to realize that Anthony Stewart Head had a lot of musical talent, he was like, all right, how can I build this into Giles' arc?

Jenny: I mean, yeah! And like, how can I create more licensing fees for the show to have to pay for us to be able to use this performance? Speaking of planting seeds, Spike is here as you revealed, boo! And also he's here to sow some seeds of discontent, implying that Giles is washed up, that Buffy does, doesn't need him and doesn't *respect* him. Um—

Laura: Really just like digging into Giles' biggest insecurity.

Brittany: I really feel like Spike would have been a great competitor on survivor.

Jenny: So Giles starts drinking a bunch of scotch, um, which I think is a great thing to do, uh, or at least a relatable thing to do when you are, uh, being, uh, pummeled, uh, with your own insecurities, uh, by, you know, some random English vampire

Laura: And also, Spike is dangling information that, uh, that he might want from the Initiative. But he's using words. It's like, it's like someone clearly making up that they have intel. He's like, Oh yeah, for sure. I can get you some secrets, some mission statements, some design schematics. [laughter] It's just like, cinnamon, cinnamons [laughter]. It's just like synonyms for like, what would I find in like an official place?

Jenny: Yeah. It's like, A, it's this all very boiler plate and you'd think that he would've put a little more effort into it, but also B, it seems like maybe this group was ready to, um, experience some implosion?

Laura: Yeah, I mean, the point, it's the point Spike makes later that we'll talk about. The titular point, the Yoko factor. But yeah, it does feel like everyone was just looking for a scapegoat and looking for a reason to let their feelings come out about the others.

Brittany: Totally. I mean, you know, season three to season four was a huge transition. I think the college years as you will, uh, started a completely different transition for everyone where nobody is really clear of what their role is. And so I think this was the episode that really showed all of their insecurities on full display. Miss Kitty Fantastico.

Jenny: Yeah. The next scene involves, uh, one of the many stages of lesbian sex, which is adopting a kitten together.

Laura: Yeah. What base is this?

Jenny: Uh, seventh base, I think? I think this is seventh base. Also, what the?! I've said it before and I won't stop saying it. What is up with Tara's dorm room? She lives in the dorm just like everybody else.

Laura: It is so cool.

Jenny: It is the coolest room! She has like—

Laura: You can like your walls black?

Jenny: It's like, it doesn't even look like she painted them black. It looks like she, it's like velvet wallpaper or something. Like it's so, uh, luxurious and goth in there.

Brittany: Yeah, she really got a suite, uh, that freshmans should not get.

Jenny: Is she a freshman? Also? Do we know?

Brittany: That's a great question because I mean, we don't know.

Jenny: So um, eighth base then I think is when you say, uh, that the cat is ours. I mean yours. Uh, and then you flounder about a bit and then you bring up what are you doing for housing? No reason. Just wondering what are you doing?

Laura: Well after the, "She could be ours if you want."

Jenny: Dude. How many, how much are they going to talk about who belongs to what? Like, everybody's always looking over their shoulder being like, I'm yours. She could be ours. Stop!

Laura: No, they love that.

Brittany: Oh my God, that scene where she's— Honestly, I watched it during a very dark time. When Tara turns and she's like, "I am, you know. Yours." Sobbed. I've seen that scene probably 20 times. I watched it a couple of months ago. Full Sobs.

Jenny: So one important thing that we should probably mention before we leave, uh, Tara's too nice dorm room and go to Buffy's dorm room one more time, is that Willow talks about how she doesn't know where she's necessarily gonna live next year, or next semester because she's been feeling kind of distant from Buffy.

Brittany: Yeah.

Jenny: So the table's already been set.

Brittany: She like built, [singing] *she built her life around Buffy*.

Jenny: Oh my God.

Brittany: [singing] *But times*— Yeah, that was Landslide. Um, but yeah, it's kind of showing the tension between Buffy and Willow and kind of the inevitable drift of their friendship.

Jenny: Yes. And then we inevitably drift back to the chocolate poster. One more close up shot of the chocolate poster and uh, 'cause Riley's knocking on the door of Buffy's dorm. She never went to see him!

Laura: No. And this was an uncomfortably relatable scene. I feel like many of us have been there, or at least those of us who are like, into talking things out and more direct and when you're with someone who's like, evasive or like, someone. At least for me, when, when it's someone who needs to take a lot of time to process on their own before revisiting with me, like your mind always goes to the worst case scenarios and I really felt like I understood Riley in this moment.

Jenny: Yeah, I mean I think if I were Riley, like, I feel like he's pretty, pretty relatable, uh, in this. Like if, if *his* girlfriend went to see her ex because her kind of, her other ex? Went to L.A?. And like her two exes were together essentially. And um, Riley's just like hiding out lonely in the burnt out high school.

Laura: I don't know if I agree with any of this.

Jenny: Dude. I think it's not about like possession, it's not even about like, it's not about what I'm saying is not about possession. Like I feel like it's just respectful. If you say you're going to like check in with somebody, like do it.

Brittany: But I think also the fact that she didn't check in means that she's not okay. And I think Riley's first thing that he should've said to Buffy is like, "How are you feeling? Are you okay? You just went through this really traumatic thing where you fucking switched bodies with someone who's trying to ruin your life and then you had to go follow her to see this ex who you have a really tumultuous relationship with. Like are you okay?"

Laura: But hold up. Does Riley know about the switched bodies?

Brittany: Yes! I think that, um, my major critique of Riley for the most part, is that it's very me, me, me, me, and he doesn't think...

Jenny: Well Buffy is very, very, very me, me, me.

Brittany: She has to be. She's the chosen one!

Jenny: So he has to be because he's not, he is his only advocate within the relationship!

Laura: No, I agree.

Jenny: Like, he's the only person standing up for himself.

Laura: I feel like, Brittany, you're looking at it in a very like, big picture way of understanding the inner workings of all the characters. But if you really grounded yourself in the emotional identity of where Riley would be in this moment, like if, if you had, if you were dating someone who you knew that like their ex was like a very important love connection and they went because they were concerned about them, and then you knew they had been back for awhile and that they hadn't even checked on you. I feel like Buffy could have even just sent him a message. I don't know how they messaged in those days, but even just, you even just say like, "Hey, I'm back but I'm going to need a minute."

Brittany: Well they didn't have cell phones.

Laura: I'm not talking about cell phones.

Jenny: Xander's bringing him clothing delivery. Like, there's a lot of ways that it can—

Laura: You can leave a note at his door and say, "I'm just going to, you know, like I'm fine. Just going to need a minute."

Jenny: He also goes to see her and says like, "Hey, like, you didn't, uh, check in with me, but you're back. Okay, cool." And as soon as it's apparent that she like, is not able to talk about it, he's like, "Oh, I'm gonna go."

Laura: I'm going to remove myself. I'll, I'll get out of your face.

Jenny: Like, that's so respectful. It's, when you're in a relationship with somebody, you can hold them accountable just to be respectful of your feelings. Like I don't think that crazy possessive of him.

Brittany: Yeah. I think he puts a lot of pressure on her and she's already under so much pressure.

Jenny: Well, being in a relationship sometimes, like uh, there's pressure.
[inaudible] Totally reasonable.

Brittany: I mean, which is, which is why I believe that they're not right for each other.

Jenny: Okay.

Laura: But I also believe that if Buffy is choosing to be in a relationship with him, that means that she is also responsible.

Brittany: I think it has kind of just happened.

Laura: You don't think she wants...

Brittany: I think it was one of those relationships that you kind of just like, you keep going with, and then it just kinda happens. You just end up in a relationship. Then you're like, fuck, I guess I'm in a relationship.

Jenny: I dunno. She seemed pretty into him over the course of their courtship.

Brittany: I think she really wanted to be.

Jenny: Okay, so Anya had some In-N-Out. Um, we see. Uh, while she and Xander are dropping off some army clothes at Spike's crypt. In-N-Out. Nobody? For those of you who don't live where In-N-Out is, it's a place that makes hamburgers. They have little red Palm trees on their cups, which you can see on Anya's takeout cup. Here we find out a number of things. Spike's tactic for alienating Xander is to, Jesus H. Christ.

Laura: Such a strange—

Jenny: It's such a weird tack. He's like, "Oh yeah, everybody was talking about how you're going to join the army because that's all you're good for." We find out though, one important thing, one other thing he's good for is being a viking in the sack. And also he was fired from a phone sex line. These are my two main takeaways from this episode.

Laura: But they loved Anya. So it may have been a tandem, a couple experiment that they did.

Jenny: Wait, what?

Laura: There was a line though where he was saying something like, "Oh, but they loved you though."

Jenny: Oh my God! That's what that line was?

Laura: I think so! That was my take on it.

Jenny: Hell, yeah!

Brittany: That makes sense.

Jenny: Nice, guys.

Laura: But Spike is going to dig into the insecurity of Xander's, which is that because he's not in college and because he, uh, isn't around his two best friends day to day, he's kind of useless in a way. And that the only thing left to do is I guess just join the army.

Jenny: Yeah. Useless. Also like tying into, obviously Buffy has her power and Willow's power is growing every day. Giles' power seems to be kind of on the wane. Uh, but his guitar playing is going up and up.

Brittany: And then we also learned that um, Spike can't even point a gun. Even if it's decorative, it makes his chip act up.

Jenny: Fascinating. That is fascinating.

Brittany: I think it's, I think it's about intention. I think the fact that— I think if, if the intention in Spike's brain is to hurt someone that he can't do it.

Laura: Does that mean that when he pointed that at them, he had the intention to shoot them?

Brittany: I think he believed that it was a real gun.

Laura: That he could, if he was able to.

Jenny: Yeah. Is it the intention or is it like, desire?

Brittany: They're both pretty similar.

Jenny: Hmm. Okay. Okay. Speaking of pointing guns at stuff, um, Buffy is out with a blaster and so is Forest.

Brittany: Yeah. And Forest basically makes Adam climax with that electric ray gun. He was like, "Aw, Thank you!"

Jenny: I really didn't care for seeing that at all. Um...

Brittany: And it's a very quick death. It's a death that kind of comes out of nowhere and then you don't *really* know he's dead until later on when Buffy is like, "By the way, he's dead."

Jenny: Right. And there's like a couple of things that I have an issue with in this scene. The first is that Buffy is like really taking the high road, uh, with regards to the Initiative as she puts it, murdering demons. Which is what literally she does every day. Uh, so I think that's interesting. She precedes it with torture, uh, which obviously is less cool than murder or like more psychologically, uh, questionable, I guess, than murder.

But, uh, maybe that's not exactly what I mean. But I feel like there's a, uh, association with like, if the Initiative was just taking out demons as like, sort of a pest control, uh, function or something like that, um, which is kind of what Buffy is doing with vampires, that would make more sense. If they weren't like doing experiments and testing their pain thresholds and stuff that's getting into like serial killer, uh, territory.

The second thing that's a problem is that after Forest gets killed, Buffy runs out of the cave. She trips and rolls down a hill and hits her head on a rock, which I feel like does a good amount of work in terms of undermining like the three and a half seasons of Buffy is a strong independent woman groundwork we've seen laid. That just like felt very like cheap and dumb.

Okay. So next installment of Spike breaking shit up. He gets all heavy breathy, runs into Giles and is like, "Here are the discs. I lost them. I shook them. I'm such a good vampire. Give me my free blood. And uh, your vow of protection." And Giles—

Brittany: Is drunk!

Laura: Yeah, he's in peak form. Turns out I love a drunk Giles.

Brittany: Who doesn't?

Jenny: Um, he's a fun drunk. Uh, I mean, I hope that he's like taking care of himself and everything, but, uh, he definitely is fun to watch, uh, for the rest of the episode. And Spike, Spike's laying into the, and I quote, "The whole Wicca thing" end quote, which is obviously interchangeable with the fact that Willow and Tara are dating and says that her friends were saying it's a phase, you'll get over it.

Brittany: Right. Computers have become a place holder for men. Witchcraft has become a place holder for women. Tara slash witchcraft is a phase. Xander said you were just being trendy. Obviously there's a ton of subtext going on that Willow, you know, having just come out to Buffy, uh, is feeling really insecure about the fact that she believes that her friends don't accept the fact that she is dating a woman now. And now also, obviously the whole like Faith taking over Buffy's body kerfuffle with Faith being an asshole about Tara and Willow as well. It's a, it's a very sensitive time.

Jenny: Sure. And I mean the 90, or 2000 was a very sensitive time.

Brittany: Yeah, the millennium. It was hard to come out, I'm sure. And she is like, "I knew Buffy was freaked." And so in a way, yeah, I think that Spike is like bringing out these insecurities that in a way are like prophesy fulfillments for these characters. They're like Xander's like, "I knew that they thought that I was useless."

Jenny: Right.

Brittany: Giles is like, "I knew that Buffy thought that I wasn't useful anymore." Willow's like, "I knew that Buffy and Xander or I, I mean, I knew Buffy was freaked out about me coming out."

Laura: He's just tipping them over the edge.

Brittany: Yeah.

Jenny: Meanwhile, while all this is going on, uh, Riley is tuned into the Initiative frequency with his flip phone.

Laura: They need backup!

Jenny: They need immediate backup. He's on the move. Those are his brothers. He rolls up and, oh fuck. Who's in the spotlight? Angel! We can't talk about it yet because we have to go to a word from our sponsors, but we'll be right back to dig in. So in a world where two dudes are standing in front of each other looking into like some kind of fun house mirror that either makes you butterscotchy or just kind of project some Venetian blind shadows falling across you, uh, where you hadn't seen them before. Basically what I'm saying is they're two, six foot two, broad shouldered men with similar shaped faces but different hair and also different states of being alive, and here they are face to face for the first time ever.

Laura: Mask on mask.

Jenny: Mask on mask. They really both need like this is, you know what this is?

Laura: What is it, Jenny?

[THE PATRIARCHY jingle plays]
The patriarchy! [thunder clap, evil laughter]

Brittany: Riley getting thrown into various trash piles and construction materials is, I honestly think my new kink.

Jenny: Jesus, dude! What'd this guy ever do to you?

Brittany: Too much.

Jenny: Okay. This is like a really embarrassing—

Brittany: I love Angel, okay? I have an Angel podcast.

Jenny: This is an embarrassing show for both of them. They both look so stupid for most of the rest of this episode. Angel basically being like, "I don't know, maybe we fucked. That's between me and Buffy." Like, "Oh, I'm going to see an old girlfriend." Like, just like, take them out and see which one is bigger.

Laura: Also the fact that Angel immediately knew who Riley was. It's like, thirsty much?

Jenny: Yeah, right? It's not like— There's no Facebook! Or was there Facebook in 2000s? Probably just limited to colleges.

Laura: Absolutely not. No.

Brittany: Like, we all agree the Angel's way cooler than Riley?

Jenny: Dude— [laughter]

Laura: Not in this scene, honestly.

Jenny: Honestly, neither one of them looks cool.

Laura: Nobody looks cool. Lose lose.

Jenny: They both look so stupid. But also— Hey, Angel can still fly, which is cooler than not being able to fly.

Brittany: And he can make Riley fly.

Jenny: Yeah. Um, this is a fight. They fight each other. They fight each other because they don't know how to talk about their emotions. They can't have meaningful conversations about anything. They just want to punch each other until only one of them is left to be whatever they are to Buffy. So after Angel tosses Riley into some plastic barrels and scampers up the side of that building, he goes to Buffy's dorm where the chocolate poster is still hanging.

Laura: And where she's admiring her shiner but her white sweater is still pristine.

Jenny: Dude, that sweater. Now that's a turtleneck!

Brittany: Not everyone can pull off a turtleneck. [laughter]

Jenny: But, but Buffy looks almost as good in hers as, as you do in yours, Brittany.

Brittany: Thank you. It's so thick. Hers.

Jenny: It's very thick. Do they even make turtlenecks that thick anymore? I don't think so.

Brittany: Maybe in like, Alaska.

Laura: Sick burn.

Brittany: Thanks, dude.

Laura: What's up to the listeners in Alaska. Much appreciation and love to you.

Jenny: Stay warm.

Brittany: So Buffy says something like, "Let me guess, you thought of something else really hurtful to say?" And then Riley shows up with a *gun*?!

Jenny: Okay. To be just, contextually fair. Riley is a soldier. His gun is his weapon. I'm not pro— I'm not here to say like, hooray guns or anything, but, but uh, Angel has a weapons built into him and he, he also just beat the shit out of him.

Brittany: He's much stronger. We've established that. There's like an organ music cue and then there's like a pulp fiction style angle on Riley with a gun looking like a fucking mad man. And! Okay. Guns are very divisive in this universe. And so him holding a gun to Angel, and Buffy not really saying like, "Hey, put that gun down, psycho"

Jenny: It literally wouldn't kill him. There's no threat.

Brittany: It was just a very weird... I mean that's aggressive, like take the context away.

Laura: It's meant to be aggressive.

Brittany: Your current partner holds your ex at gunpoint. What? What kind of lesbian shit is that?

Jenny: Well, your ex partner just threw that current partner like halfway across the alley into a bunch of barrels. Like neither one of them is, uh, morally pure here.

Laura: And actually based on what Buffy says later, I think that she holds *Angel* more culpable than Riley. Because A, she knows Angel is stronger than him and B, she feels like it's hypocritical to the things that he was expressing to her in L.A.

Brittany: Well, I think also that she knows Angel better and she's almost like—

Laura: She does— I would argue she knows Riley better to be honest.

Brittany: Whoa.

Jenny: I would actually—

Laura: I think she loves Angel more, but I think she has spent more cumulative time with Riley.

Jenny: And Riley is more inherently knowable.

Laura: Yeah, he's less complicated.

Jenny: Than Angel could ever be. Also, can I run something by you guys? Riley's like, "I think he's up to his old tricks." Buffy is like, "He won't hurt anyone. Tell him." Angel's like, "Might hurt you." Riley's like—

Brittany: I'm excited for what's coming.

Jenny: —Not happy about it and he's threatening Angel than Angel is like, "You can barely stand." Then Riley's like, "My trigger finger feels okay." and then Angel's like, "You actually sleep with this guy?" One of those people is like 19 and one of them is 243.

Laura: Truth.

Jenny: So who is like kind of like looking dumber? I mean neither one of them looks great. But maybe like, I don't know, use 243 years to *develop* a little bit to not be threatened by this 19 year old who's been dating your ex for a couple months.

Brittany: I think, "You actually sleep with this guy?" is my favorite line of the entire season. Because it came at such an incredible point where it's like, we're just waiting for one of them to call out how fucking stupid they're both being, and it was just like, ah yes. Finally.

Jenny: Buffy's like, "I need to talk to Angel for a minute." and Riley's like, "I'm not leaving this room."

Brittany: And then they leave the room. No, yeah.

Jenny: Without saying anything. Just like the nod.

Laura: And then the shit eating smirk.

Jenny: Totally. On Angel's face.

Brittany: We're in the dorm hallway. Angel and Buffy are talking. It's high tension. They're working out their drama that they had in Los Angeles. And basically Buffy is like, "Why'd you come here? I don't get it." And Angel's like, "I was trying to make things better by beating up on your boyfriend." And it's one of the rare moments where the show kind of laughs at itself for how dramatic the Buffy and Angel tension can be sometimes. And they do a fun tension release where they both kind of laugh at the fact that Angel thought that it would make things better by beating the shit out of Riley.

Laura: And I thought it was cool that when we talked about Sanctuary and that final showdown between Buffy and Angel, we were talking about like being on Angel's side in *that* argument. And this argument, I really felt more so on Buffy's side. And I think it's fitting that like, for each of their respective shows, they were sort of like had the moral high ground for that argument.

Brittany: Totally.

Jenny: I think it's really, correct me if I'm wrong, but I feel like when they first get out into the hallway and Angel's like, cutting Buffy off and saying like, "I really don't have a lot of time for like, whatever this like drama situation is." But all he— And she's like, "Whoa, what's wrong? What's going on?"

All he was going to do was apologize, but he somehow like *undermined* her before making the apology. Like, I just feel like it's a really weird tack and it feels maybe just kind of like what the, like the vibe that they wanted to create for them to be having this conversation. But I feel like it doesn't make any sense for him to be like a dick and so curt about just trying to apologize and make things better.

Brittany: Well he's got to get back to his office baby.

Jenny: I don't know. I feel like he's just like cutting himself off at the knees. If you're like, I'm sorry and also fuck you. It, I dunno. It feels like less of an, I'm sorry and more of a fuck you.

Brittany: Yeah, I mean— Listen, you have to also realize that the time before last was him experiencing what pure bliss of being with Buffy with a soul feels— Like as a human feels like and he's still harboring all this like, what ifness of it all. And so I'm sure it's really difficult to see her with someone else and to watch her move on when he can't move on. You know, I mean we—

Jenny: Mhmm, mhmm, mhmm.

Brittany: That was talked about in Sanctuary obviously, but I think that, I'm sure it's insanely hard.

Laura: We're not always our best selves.

Brittany: No, not at all. You can't always be very graceful when your emotions are leading. And Buffy has had some time to marinate on what their last interaction was and you know, she says, "It means a lot that you came." and I think that my, another one of my favorite lines of this season is, "Oh and Riley. I don't like him."

Laura: That was a good one.

Brittany: Yeah. 'Cause it also—

Laura: I liked that, that she was like, "Thank you." Like, she understood that he was kind of giving his approval.

Brittany: Yeah. Like in a way it means he kind of *does* like him. Because he is so fiercely trying to combat Angel for him.

Laura: He likes how into Buffy he is.

Brittany: Yes.

Jenny: Mhmm.

Laura: Like, he would not, if it was a Parker, he just would have ripped him a new one.

Brittany: Yeah, no. He would have been like, "Fuck that fucking guy. I will murder him and I'll rip his throat out." But I think the fact that—

Laura: And I would watch that.

Jenny: Hell yeah.

Brittany: But I think the fact that he did feel so threatened by Riley was proof that there was something there.

Laura: Tight.

Jenny: So you admit there's something there!

Brittany: You know, I think that— God. [Jenny laughing] Do you want? Ugh, listen.

Jenny: Let's just make some meaningful eye contact.

Laura: I think this is again realistic.

Brittany: I've been the Riley many times. Most times. I've been, I've been the Riley.

Laura: Okay. All I was going to say is that I feel like this makes the show more realistic though. That Riley is not necessarily the ideal partner, but is like, a solid person to date who is flawed and like has these moments where you wish he was different. And I think that makes total sense. Like, the next person she finds after

the presumably the love of her life is not going to be— Narratively it would be like super unrealistic for that to be the person—

Brittany: Yeah.

Laura: It's a very realistic college relationship.

Brittany: Of course. And it shows, truly that you could be with someone who on paper seems kind of perfect but you're not ready for them. They're not ready for you, you don't mesh with them. Like it really takes a lot of work to find someone who meshes with you despite the fact they could be a really wonderful person.

Laura: And that like, people aren't always on the same timeline and on the same page at the same time as each other.

Brittany: Yeah. I'd like to be clear. Like, I think that, I don't think that Riley as a person is bad. I think he's actually very good. I, because we're watching this through the POV of Buffy and because she's dating him— And I think I conflate my feelings about Riley as a person with their relationship and I just don't like their relationship. I don't think that it is the best thing for either of them. It's not healthy for either of them.

Jenny: You know, there was another relationship one time that a lot of people didn't like and that was a relationship between John Lennon and Yoko Ono.

Laura: Yeah, let's talk about this.

Jenny: Please can we talk about this. Spike is so pleased with himself for having broken up or viewing himself to have broken up a Beatles of sorts. Uh, what do you guys think?

Brittany: About the, about like, in general, the like idea around Yoko Ono and the Beatles?

Jenny: Yeah.

Brittany: Oh, I think it's like so patriarchal. I think blaming the woman for something that like men were all involved in is insanely sexist.

Laura: Yeah. I thought this was kind of a feminist Spike moment.

Brittany: Yeah. Same.

Jenny: Feminist Spike!

[SPIKE jingle plays]
Spike! I love you
Spike! So dreamy
Spike! Your trench coat
Spike! I love you
Spike! Your black nails
Spike! Peroxide

Brittany: He takes the stance that we take, which is that like, oh, that's actually really fucked up. Like she was just there while it was happening, but people blamed her.

Laura: And he's calling himself the Yoko. That he just, he just tipped everyone over the direction they were perfectly willing to go. Yeah. And that it was, it was the Beatles that did this to themselves.

Jenny: Yes.

Brittany: [singing] Feminist Spike.

Jenny: So it's time for Buffy and Riley to have an emotional conversation.

Brittany: If you're going to break my heart, do it fast.

Jenny: Reasonable requests.

Brittany: What?!

Jenny: You're going to fucking— Even that? Even that— You can't grant him a request for a quick death?

Laura: Honestly, I feel like Riley in some ways is a bigger lesbian than Willow and Tara. [laughter] What?

Jenny: Remember when he hung that banner up?

Laura: I'm not kidding! He is such a lesbian! And I feel like you're being so harsh on our people. [laughter] Like he's so like—

Jenny: Processy?

Laura: Always too needy and like, really needs to to go there all the time. And Buffy is totally like the dude.

Brittany: Well I think it's because emotionally Buffy is unavailable and so naturally it forces him to be extra available, and extra needing something from her. I dunno if he's inherently that way. Maybe.

Laura: I mean it's hard to say. I don't think any of us are inherently the way that we are in one specific relationship that's about the specific chemistry that we have with that person. Like I feel like every relationship we are a different self. And a lot of it has to do with like, the cumulative experiences and lessons. And, and a lot of times wounds of what came before.

Brittany: But you don't think it's kind of wacky that like, okay, my girlfriend who is a slayer, is trying to do her job and she had to go on a business trip and I'm just going to assume she slept with her ex boyfriend?

Jenny: Well...

Brittany: Like that's a jump.

Laura: It wasn't a business trip.

Jenny: It was— Any business trip that involves Buffy and Angel is going to by— Any business trip that involves Buffy and Angel or Buffy and Faith is going to have heightened emotions. That's just the nature of those relationships within the context of this work and also their personal lives. Um, but she came back and gave him nothing, gave him less than nothing. Planted, just like weird seeds, seeds of doubt and, and then just like left him to simmer with it and then he got pummeled by her ex. And I, I think it's like, very reasonable for him to feel like, I don't know where we stand right now.

Brittany: You don't. But like it's not, I don't know where we stand right now. It's you slept with him, didn't you? While you were gone.

Laura: No, it was him being like, "I don't know. I guess I thought you slept with him." And her being like, "Oh my gosh, I can't believe that you thought that." It wasn't him being like, "You slut! you slept with your ex!" It was like, yeah, this, I mean—

Brittany: No, it was even worse because he was like, "I already accepted the fact that you slept with him." And it's like, what? How did you jump from point A to

point D? But I mean obviously we also get the pivotal line, "He's the deadest man in Deadonia." so it's like, hard to discount this entire conversation.

Laura: And we get the other pivotal line that, "It's the whole billowy coat King of Pain thing, and girls really like that." [laughter]

Jenny: Also, I mean I think it's like pretty evolved of Riley to come out with like, "Things happen between exes sometimes."

Brittany: I mean I think he's just saying that.

Jenny: I don't know, man.

Brittany: I don't know if he actually believes exactly what he's saying. I don't know. I don't know.

Laura: Okay, but how—

Brittany: He doesn't trust her. He doesn't trust her at all.

Laura: Why should he? I wouldn't trust Buffy if I dated her.

Brittany: Then you shouldn't, then you shouldn't date Buffy. If you're going to date someone that you don't trust, you shouldn't date them.

Jenny: Brittany's like, get out of the way and let *me* date Buffy.

Brittany: Yeah. [laughter]

Jenny: As if Riley wasn't having a bad enough day. Turns out Forest is dead. Which like, okay. I can accept that.

Laura: Which part?

Jenny: That Forest is dead.

Brittany: Yeah. I was fine with it.

Jenny: I mean, rest in peace, Forest, but also— Man, I was getting really tuckered out on his incessant, um—

Brittany: Bi for Riley-ness.

Jenny: Yeah. Yeah. Bi for Riley, venom for Buffy. Just like, enough, dude. *There's* somebody who needs to know it's over! And let him let himself move on.

Brittany: Yeah.

Laura: I don't like to see queer characters killed though.

Brittany: Yeah, that is sad.

Jenny: True. True.

Brittany: But now we're in this crazy ass fight and I mean, the beauty of this writing is that as the audience, we know everyone's insecurity. We know where everyone is coming from. And only us and Spike truly know what's going on in these moments.

Laura: I love being in cahoots with Spike. [laughter] Feminist Spike and us.

Brittany: Do you want to hear a fun fact?

Jenny: Please.

Brittany: During the scene where Anya and Tara are hiding in the bathroom, the voices arguing in the background, that's actually, uh, from the argument in season four episode eight Pangs where Willow and Giles are arguing about what to do regarding the indigenous vengeance spirit.

Laura: Whoa.

Jenny: Wait, was that scene shot then or that—

Brittany: They use that dialogue. They use the audio.

Jenny: Wild.

Laura: TV magic, man.

Brittany: But yeah, I mean all these characters are really just leaning into radical honesty and it's kind of, it's a huge climax for season four. And again, season four is a huge transition for each character. Just kind of about like, you know, getting out of high school and what are you doing with your life and what do you wanna do? Who do you want to be? What's important to you? And everyone is feeling

really insecure about where they stand and yeah, their insecurities are just like, on full display. It's really good.

Jenny: Super drunk Giles saying, "You never train with me anymore. He's going to kick your ass."

Brittany: Or, "Oh bloody hell."

Jenny: Yeah. Everybody's finding out that Willow and Tara are dating. I mean obviously Buffy already knew.

Brittany: Yeah, this is also—

Jenny: Xander's finding out. Giles is finding out.

Laura: This is not a great—

Brittany: Wait. Yeah. So Tara was in the bathroom, so she didn't really hear Xander's response. But. Knowing that Willow and Xander are actually closer than Willow and Buffy, it's surprising that she never told Xander, but she told Buffy. Does that make sense?

Jenny: It feels like even though Willow and Xander have the longevity, like because of, uh, the nature of what they all do together, especially. Uh—

Brittany: And like, college and living together and all that.

Jenny: Yeah. It feels like their relationships are all equal. It, it feels like everybody's on, on equal friend footing. Like—

Brittany: In a way. I mean, I guess I'm just like, I'm most well versed in the high school episodes and knowing that like Xander and Willow had been best friends for x amount of years and have been this close. It was just kind of, I mean, maybe she didn't come out to him because of history and I know that's very hard as well, especially because it'll emasculate Xander, yada, yada, yada. Um, but I thought it was a, a real gloss over Xander finding out.

Jenny: Well, she also literally just told Buffy like, in the last episode.

Brittany: It's true. I'm not faulting Willow by any means, I just thought that it was a really, like it was really quick for something that I thought would be, it would have a bit more weight to it. And Xander's response was not super great.

Jenny: I mean, I think, "Tara is your girlfriend?" is like a pretty reasonable, it just— [inaudible]

Brittany: But it's also like, dude, do you have eyeballs?

Jenny: Well everybody, nobody's paying attention.

Laura: Except for Spike. He clocked the lesbian right away.

Brittany: And so did Faith. Yeah.

Laura: Queer icons.

Brittany: Yeah. No they are. And that's how they were able to see it.

Laura: Yeah.

Brittany: And obviously the audience as well, but we all knew that.

Laura: We saw it. We were, the audience was just seeing what they see.

Brittany: Yeah.

Jenny: Witch stuff? What exactly do you mean by witch stuff?

Brittany: But I think that the, the largest takeaway was, well, one, most of their feelings are valid, but I think Buffy's, is the most, um, grounded in the last four seasons. Which is, I guess this is why there isn't an ancient prophecy about the slayer and her friends.

Jenny & Laura: Oooh, yeah.

Laura: Rough.

Jenny: Deep burn.

Brittany: Fear that she is— The fear that she has always had throughout this entire thing is no, I am actually alone throughout this whole thing. And so just seeing the way that like, they, that it's culminated to this point is the largest tipping point for her. Like everyone else's things that are going on like somewhat recent developments in a way, I guess you could argue. But Buffy's has been building for truly the last four seasons.

Laura: And Buffy is in the dark in this conversation about why everyone's acting like this. So she genuinely is focused on the bigger picture of like, what are you even saying you can do to help me in this particular way when I go to Adam? And all of her friends are so caught up in their shit that they're only actually talking about themselves.

Brittany: Totally. Yeah. They're not actually like— I mean Buffy's, Buffy's mind *always* has to be on the big picture. I mean that's like her life. And so that's why again, that's why it is harder for me to sympathize with Riley because it's like, oh my God, she doesn't have fucking time for this, man. Like she has so much other shit going on. Like you can't possibly understand. And so when her friends are also doing it too, and it's just like a pile-on of like, she also fell on a rock earlier.

Laura: Lest we forget.

Brittany: There's a lot of stuff she's dealing with. Yeah, there's a lot she's dealing with and so like, this is just the final culmination of like, oh my God, I cannot deal with this fucking drama right now. Like the world may end again and I have to save it because it is only my responsibility. I can't deal with this shit.

Laura: So she says, "I'm going to go find someone I can count on." Who would that be? Is that answered?

Jenny: Is it answered?

Laura: I just don't know if that was a pointed thing. And then we see that Riley has taken matters into his own hands and shows up to Adam.

Jenny: Yeah. What the hell is going to happen? To be continued!

Laura: This is just cliffhangers on cliffhangers on cliffhangers. Okay, May 2000, I see you.

Jenny: Yeah! Whole lot up in the air. I think we had just gotten through Y2K, nobody's computer broke. All of the kind of like anxiety leading up to that was like, tapering off, you know, for a few months. And then May, everybody started to feel very confident in themselves again. And it's just like mega intense drama cliffhangers. Here we are. What's going to happen? We won't know until we watch all of the rest of the episodes. [sharp exhale] I think there's only one very important part of this episode left to discuss and that's the Sexual Tension Awards for which I must kick this over to Kristin Russo. Please tell us who's nominated.

[SEXUAL TENSION AWARD jingle plays]
Sexual tension award!

Kristin: Oh, hello there. Um, Jenny so wonderfully introduced me as your host here for the Sexual Tension Awards segment, but little did she know I would demand that she accompanied me here! Jenny, are you here?

Jenny: [singing] *Reunited in the Sexual Tension Awards and it feels so good!* In the Sexual Tension Awards. [laughter] Wow. It's good to be back in team formation.

Kristin: Well, we make such a beautiful pyramid, the two of us. [laughter]

Jenny: Yeah, I'm, it's confusing, isn't it?

Kristin: It's the two cats on the bottom and then, uh, Jenny and I on the top.

Jenny: Oh, nice. Yeah, they look strong.

Kristin: Yeah! They can hold us.

Jenny: So, uh, before we get into the nominees for this episode, uh, should we tell our listeners what they've won from last episode?

Kristin: Yes. Yes. Tell them. After New Moon Rising had its way with us, we were left with some sexual tension. Thankfully.

Jenny: Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes. And I have to say this did not go the way that I was really hoping it would. I'm, I'm pretty, I'm pretty disappointed in you, in all of you and also in myself for not selling this harder.

Kristin: Wow.

Jenny: Okay. I'm not disappointed in anybody, but I do wish I had ended up on the top of the STA pyramid with Riley. But first, in fourth place for New Moon Rising, with just 6% of the vote, and it's amazing that he got that much. It's Riley and anarchy.

Kristin: I have to say, like, I mean, I get it like we're not a, we're not a Riley crew over here in en masse, but I was very turned on by Riley and anarchy. So like, I'm just saying. Like, I think it was a valid submission.

Jenny: Listen, nobody, uh, doesn't like— Let me try that again. Everybody loves to see a good boy be a bad boy. I gotta— [laughter]

Kristin: *Fantastic.*

Jenny: Well, anyway. In second place, womp womp. With a measly 10% of the vote. It's me and Riley doing pushups. Now as the, as one of the two, uh, chief executive officers of the Sexual Tension Awards. I'm going to do something that I, that people in power occasionally can and do do for themselves, which is to award myself and Riley doing pushups an auxiliary Sexual Tension Award. For, for wrangling precisely 10% of the vote, which is the number I predetermined would make me the auxiliary STA winner.

Kristin: God, it's like the trophy

Jenny: I award myself a trophy of Riley doing pushups.

Kristin: I don't know. I think that the auxiliary award, it's like the real award is the trophy, and then the auxiliary award is like a condom stapled to a business card. You know what I mean?

Jenny: How dare you. Also, it's stapled. Now you can't use it.

Kristin: Exactly.

Jenny: Ugh, well, okay. After this crushing defeat, I must soldier on. The show must sally forth and 20% of the vote gets Spike and Giles the second place position. And you relentless maniacs. Up on the top of the heap again with 64% of the vote. It's Willow and Tara.

Kristin: If only it was 69%. You know what I mean?

Jenny: I know! That is the great tragedy. I would give up, I guess five of my 10% to get that to 69. But what can you do?

Kristin: Congratulations, Willow and Tara, I mean, let's be real. They blew out the damn candle at the end. Uh, and in the words of Kate Leth from, from two weeks ago, "Uh, they're not just gonna kiss. They 'bout to *fuck*." is what Kate Leth said.

Jenny: Wow.

Kristin: So—

Jenny: I'd say that.

Kristin: 64% to you ladies. Uh, shall we move into the nominees, Jenny?

Jenny: Please.

Kristin: I really, really, really want, they wanted to nominate this pair, but they didn't make the cut. But I want you to know that in my heart, Tara and Anya in the bathroom together, I just feel like there could be a little fan fic. Thank you so much.

Jenny: And also feel free to just go ahead and write in if you want to vote for Tara and Anya.

Kristin: Right. But our four, our four nominees, again, you just follow us on Twitter @bufferingcast and this poll will be up for you to participate in the vote. Four nominees are; Spike and Giles.

Jenny: Um, nice.

Kristin: Yeah, I mean, Giles is playing that guitar. He's always leaving a door open for all sorts of riff raff.

Jenny: *Oops.*

Kristin: Oh no. Is it you, Ethan? Oh, it's Spike. Oh no! [laughter] Second nominee here. We have Adam and Spike, um, who just want to be *bad* together, you know?

Jenny: Yeah, yeah, yeah. And Adam is, you know, he's a great speaker. It's a whole thing.

Kristin: Yeah. I mean that poem that Brittany read to your snaps was pretty intense.

Jenny: Yeah. You got the picture.

Kristin: I did. Third nominee is of course, Angel and Riley. Two dudes—

Jenny: I mean! If they don't take it in a landslide I'm quitting.

Kristin: Just two dudes rippling uh, with power and insecurity face to face. Ready to fuck. Uh, so...

Jenny: You know what, you know what, um, Riley and Angel remind me of?

Kristin: What?

Jenny: There's gotta be some— There, there used to be these candy commercials. I feel like where, a bit, much ado would be made about the various components and how— Like they like, wouldn't mix well or like, chocolate wants to come out on top but peanut butter is like, also a contender. Don't you feel like they're a commercial, this— In this episode they're a commercial for like, a dark chocolate caramel candy bar?

Kristin: Yes, I do.

Jenny: Who will be victorious?! I mean and then, *spoiler alert*, the conclusion of the commercial is you are the winner because you get to eat both of them at the same time.

Kristin: Wow, Jenny. That got dirty quick. I—

Jenny: Well, you know what I mean.

Kristin: So yeah, everybody's rooting for, um, Angel and Riley. *But* our fourth nominee, because we don't get to nominate them often and there was a lot of tension in this episode is Buffy and Angel.

Jenny: Hurray. [laughter]

Kristin: So @bufferingcast on Twitter, you can cast your vote. The poll's open for a week and then we do it all over again and two weeks. It's just beautiful isn't it?

Jenny: The circle of life. The wheel of fortune.

[SEXUAL TENSION AWARD jingle plays]
Sexual tension award!

Jenny: Wow. That was an emotional roller coaster. Was this the most emotional episode of both this television show—

Brittany: And my life. Yeah I mean—

Laura: [laughing] And my life.

Brittany: Me and Laura had to take like a 10 minute therapy break to really talk through our stuff.

Laura: Jenny gave us the space and walked out of the room and we like worked through it and, and it was right before the scene about Willow and Buffy feeling distant.

Brittany: Yeah. Wow.

Laura: I mean—

Laura & Jenny: Art imitating life.

Brittany: Art imitating life. Me too. [laughter]

Jenny: Dude!

Brittany: Oh am I the Xander?

Laura: Jenny, you know, you know how how sound works. You can just layer hers on to ours.

Jenny: Yeah, we'll just overdub Brittany.

Laura: Can that actually be a jingle, Jenny? Can it just be you and me synchronize saying art imitates life?

Brittany: Wait, what about me?

Laura: [singing] Art imitates life, me too. [laughter]

Jenny: Wow. That was so beautiful. I'm going to be holding on to that for some time. Um, the two of you are such special treasures upon this earth. Uh, I can't think of any two people I would rather have discussed this intense ass episode with. Not, not the least of which, because you have, uh, differing opinions on Riley and Angel. Like it's just, I feel like there was a lot, there were a lot of like shifting perspectives, a lot of like turning and turning and turning and I love it. Thank you for being down.

Laura: Thank you. And it's almost as if people could hear more of this unique dynamic we have on another sister podcast.

Jenny: That sounds too good to be true, Laura.

Laura: Au contraire, Jenny Owen Youngs. There is a show called Angel on Top, that um, any of you that haven't checked us out, come on over.

Brittany: Yeah. Let this be just a little preview into mine and Laura's antagonistic relationship.

Laura: Loving antagonistic.

Brittany: Loving antagonistic, yeah. We're very good friends. Arguably best friends?

Laura: Arguably best friends.

Brittany: Oh, Yay!

Jenny: Whew. Wow. That was a little touch and go for a sec.

Brittany: Yeah. You're telling me, man. [laughter]

Jenny: Um, independently, um, can you tell the good people listening who, uh, if *the fools* may not yet be aware of your individual, uh, work as well. Can you just like, uh, let everybody know where to find you individually in addition to Angel on Top?

Laura: Sure. I am on all the social medias. Writing, acting, producing content. Uh, my website is laurazak.com. I'm on Instagram @LauraZak, Twitter @lawa.

Brittany: Yeah. Uh, I'm Brittany Ashley and I am a writer and an actor as well. And you can find me on socials @Britt27ash. That's two Ts. Or you can go to brittanyashleyfunny.com. And I also have another podcast called Don't Tell the Babysitter Mom's Dead, where I interview other people who have lost their mothers, and I dunno why I'm smiling.

Jenny: Hell, yeah. Yes. And I am and shall ever remain Jenny Owen Youngs. When I'm not making this podcast I am making music. You can hear some of it and learn more about me at jennyowenyoungs.com/buffering. Buffering the Vampire Slayer is on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram @bufferingcast. And you can always email us at bufferingthevampireslayer@gmail.com. If you've been listening to this podcast and you like the cut of our jib and you're just wondering, wow, how could I support the wonderful people who make this podcast? Well, there's a few ways.

First of all, you could pop over to iTunes and leave us a review and rate us. I'm not here to tell you what to do, but if you felt like giving us all five stars, wow, that would rock and hey, it helps people find the podcast who aren't already listening, so you're kind of doing a public service in addition to making me and Kristin feel good.

Another way that you could support our work is by giving yourself the gift of Buffering the Vampire Slayer merchandise. We've got Smash the Demon Lizard Patriarchy t-shirts and hoodies and diner mugs. We've got Randy for Giles pins. We've got Buffering socks, we've got a lot! You can gaze upon it yourself and see what works for you by going to bufferingthevampireslayer.com and clicking on shop, perusing our wares, placing an online order, waiting by the mailbox, and then squealing with delight when your package finally arrives. Hurray!

One final way you can support us is by joining our incredible community over at Patreon. You can find us, uh, also by going to bufferingthevampireslayer.com and clicking on the Patreon link. Our Patreon community is incredible. There's a Facebook group just for patrons, which might be the most beautiful place on the internet? You can support at the level of your choice for as little as a dollar a month.

And patrons get really cool rewards like online group Buffy watches with me and Kristin, downloads of our episodic songs before they're released to the general public. And we recently introduced a new tier for exclusive merge just for patrons. It's really, really fun over there. Come check us out and support us if you want to. Okay. Laura Zak, Brittany Ashley, esteemed hosts of Angel on Top and esteemed individuals, uh, doing lots of other things besides that. Thank you so much for joining me on this blessed occasion. Until next time...

Brittany, Jenny & Laura: [howl] A-woo!

[Jenny performing "The Yoko Factor," off the album "Songs from Season Four" by Buffering the Vampire Slayer]

My boyfriend and my ex

I never thought that they'd be friends

But the tension's serious

Between my boyfriend and my ex

Cause they fight like two alpha dogs

I guess i'm the bone

I got not time for this

I should be on patrol

Tall drink of water and a

Tall drink of blood

Angel's got an attitude and Riley's got a gun

And I don't want to be near either one

My boyfriend and my ex

And their pissing contest

Makes me barely want to have sex

With my boyfriend or my ex

Yeah they fight like two beta fish

All worked up in a bowl

I got not time for this

I should be on patrol

Tall drink of water and a

Tall drink of blood

Angel's got an attitude and Riley's got a gun

And I don't want to be near either one

My boyfriend and my ex ex ex

My boyfriend and my ex ex ex

My boyfriend and my ex ex ex

My boyfriend and my ex ex ex

Willow could you spare a hex

For my boyfriend and my ex

Yeah they got me like thank you next

M-m-my boyfriend and my ex

One's a tall drink of water

One's a tall drink of blood

If they're so thirsty

They should drink the other one

My boyfriend and my ex ex ex

My boyfriend and my ex ex ex

My boyfriend and my ex ex ex

My boyfriend and my ex ex ex