

Buffering the Vampire Slayer
Episode 5.15: I Was Made to Love You

Laura: Hey, you beautiful Scoobs. This is Laura Zak from Angel on Top.

Brittany: And I'm Brittany Ashley, also from Angel on Top.

Laura: For the last year or so, it has been our great honor to host a sister podcast to Buffering the Vampire Slayer in which we rewatch every episode of the Buffy spin-off, Angel, in tandem with the equivalent Buffy episodes.

Brittany: If you've not yet taken the journey from Sunnydale to Los Angeles to brood with us, and even if you've never watched an episode of Angel in your life, we're here to tell you that Season 2 is a magnificent time to join our family.

Laura: The second season of Angel is jam-packed with objectively good television. And you can expect more of your favorites, like Cordelia coming into her own powers, Wesley battling inner and outer demons, Angel walking his cluttered path to redemption, cameos from Buffy regulars like Faith, Spike and Willow, and—

Brittany: More Darla, Darla, Darla! Plus you'll get to know new characters who are some of the best in the entire Whedonverse, like Charles Gunn, defender of downtown LA's most vulnerable, and Lorne, the emotionally intelligent demon who runs a karaoke bar.

Laura: Our Angel on Top community is growing every day and we'd love for you to join us for queer feminist analysis, new jingles and every episode, a new poem from Angel's point of view.

Brittany: You can find Angel on Top on iTunes, Spotify and Google Play.

Laura: Until then, see ya at the next crossover.

Brittany: Ooh!

Brittany: Hey Laura Zak, quick question for you.

Laura: What's that, Brittany Ashley?

Brittany: Do you remember Buffy's ex?

Laura: Who, Faith?

Brittany: No, the other one, that soft-spoken broody guy with the dark past?

Laura: Oh, you mean *Angel*, the ensouled vampire with a heart of gold on a quest to atone for past sins?

Brittany: Yeah, that's the one. We should do a rewatch podcast about his aptly-titled spin-off, *Angel*.

Laura: Brittany, we already have one. We're in Season 2.

Brittany: Oh right, hi, we're the hosts of *Angel on Top*.

Laura: An *Angel* rewatch podcast that releases episodes every other Wednesday in tandem with *Buffering the Vampire Slayer*.

Brittany: Wait, do you remember the episode in Season 1 where Faith shows up and there's *so much* sexual tension between the three of them?

[CHIME]

Jenny: Hey, everybody! [sings triumphant tune] Before... we get started...

Kristin: [singing] "And I was made to love you..." [clears throat] Sorry.

Jenny: Uh...

Kristin: Excuse me. [laughs]

Jenny: What?

Kristin: You know?

Jenny: What...

Kristin: I changed the words to...

Jenny: Okay, cool. I thought maybe this was just a classic case of... [Kristin laughs] you thinking the words to a very popular, very well-known song were something completely different than what they actually are.

Kristin: No. It was me, surprise, being the natural talent that I am—

Jenny: [quietly] Oh god.

Kristin: And taking a popular song and a title of this episode and combining them so you could hear the dulcet, dulcet tones of my vocal chords.

Jenny: Okay.

Kristin: [laughing] Okay!

Jenny: Congratulations.

Kristin: [laughs] Hello. Before we get into today's episode, a few things, besides my singing. Um. I wanna repeat at the top of this episode, because I know many of you listened to the mailbag, but just in case you missed it. We are going—

Jenny: Cornography! Hot, hot cornography.

Kristin: Yeah, I mean, if you didn't—right. If you didn't listen for any other reason, you should listen for that reason. But we have really jam-packed schedule coming up here. And most of you we know are familiar with the series, Buffy the Vampire Slayer. But some of you we also know are watching for the first time with us. And so we want to, as always, be careful with spoilers, but we also wanna be really careful with your hearts and your minds as we move through the next few episodes, the arc that begins at the end of today's episode. So today, we'll have a fun jaunt. But the arc that begins at the end of today's episode and runs through Episode 17 of Season 5, Forever, will have a focus on loss and grief. And these themes, even though they're really hard, will probably help us come together in really powerful ways. But it might not be the time in your life where you wanna go on that journey. So do what feels best for you, and if you have any questions, if you have any concerns, if you have any thoughts, you can always send them our way at bufferingthevampireslayer@gmail.com. And I will personally be paying special attention to the email inbox over the next few weeks. [sings triumphant tune]

Jenny: Guess what else? There's some stuff. That's gonna happen. Are you ready? [laughs]

Kristin: [laughs] *I'm* ready.

Jenny: On Saturday, May 16th, at 11 AM Pacific, [whispers] 2 PM Eastern, [normal voice] we will be group watching Buffy Season 3 Episode 21 and 22, Graduation Day Parts 1 and 2. Together!

Kristin: Woo!

Jenny: On Instagram live!

Kristin: So exciting.

Jenny: And I'll tell you what else, that's not all! [Kristin laughs] The following Saturday, [imitating echo] Saturday, Saturday! May 23rd—

Kristin: This is really a new thing with you. [laughs]

Jenny: Uh... just trying to spice it up, you know?

Kristin: Uh-huh.

Jenny: Saturday, May 23rd, I will be conducting another Xena: Warrior Princess hang for our patrons at 4 PM Eastern, 1 PM Pacific. Not exactly sure what the precise shape of this Xena hang is going to be. Last hang was me—

Kristin: Probably Amazonian, is the shape, I would imagine.

Jenny: [laughing] Okay. The last hang was just me desperately trying to recap every episode from Season 1. [Kristin laughs] This one's gonna be a little more focused, I think. [both laugh] Um, but details to come—

Kristin: Amazing.

Jenny: Before the actual date.

Kristin: Yes, and that's a Patreon party. And we have a bunch of stuff happening in Patreon, as you likely already know. I have a new podcast with Joanna Robinson that is only available to the patrons over at Buffering's Patreon and also Joanna's Storm podcast Patreon. It's called Feels Like the First Time. We are about to get really deep into Thunderdome and Fury Road—

Jenny: Wow.

Kristin: So that's what's next. We're doing some Mad Max next. We've done Alien, Indiana Jones and Lord of the Rings. I watch movies that, shockingly, I have never seen before. It's really fun. I'm having a great time with it. And episodes go up all the time, whenever we feel like it. There's not even a schedule, it's crazy. I also am running—still running a book club. We just finished Gideon the Ninth and we are onwards to two new books for May. We're reading Wilder Girls first. And the book club for that will be May 9th, Saturday, at 1 PM Eastern, 10 AM Pacific. And after

that, we're gonna be reading a book that I have never read called *Tipping the Velvet*, which is just a classic queer book that I am so excited to get into as well. So all that coming up. Jenny, what do you have to say about that? Like, does it—is there, like, a word that begins with a W, ends with a W—

Jenny: [loudly] Well! [Kristin laughs] Wouldn't... we... all wonder whether... I might *want*... to say a *word* that starts with W?

Kristin: Mm.

Jenny: Like... for instance...

Kristin: Mm.

Jenny: Just off the top of my head. Wow? Wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow, wow? [both laugh] Uh, I could not be more thrilled, oh my gosh, to tell you, oh my gosh, that we have a very beautiful new addition of our wow—excuse me, my wow, wow-wow-wow-wow, pin. Slash Kristin's mom, mom-mom-mom-mom-mom, pin. [Kristin laughs] Up in the shop. We had gotten this special edition made for Prom, but of course, Prom is not happening right now. So we made them available in our store right now for you, should you be wishing to ally yourself with me.

Kristin: Yes.

Jenny: Or Kristin.

Kristin: Or me.

Jenny: Depending on which way you wear the pin.

Kristin: Or, you know, every other day, you can flip the pin around and ally with a different person.

Jenny: True.

Kristin: [laughs] So. Yes. As always, bufferingthevampireslayer.com/shop. Or just click on Shop and you will find—

Jenny: Oh my gosh!

Kristin: Yes.

Jenny: If you tilt the pin to the... right, vertically, it could say EOE. And then if you flip it around the other way, it could say BOB.

Kristin: Okay.

Jenny: So basically... no matter how you wear this pin, you're allying with someone. [Kristin laughs] I don't know who EOE is, but. Sounds cool.

Kristin: Okay. Somebody get your shepherd's crook and pull her off stage.

Jenny: Okay.

Kristin: We have jingles. You probably know this about us, we have jingles. And as I was editing today's episode, I was like, wow, there are a lot of jingles in this episode. And we have not told people where they can get jingles in a long time. So just so you know, most of our jingles are in at least one if not many places. And all of that is consolidated into one jingle page on our website, bufferingthevampireslayer.com and you just go the Listen section. Or slash jingles, and you will find all of that information. Jenny, I have some Spooky News. It's the first time that we're getting some Spooky News that is not a retelling of The Death of Old Man Seeever. Are you ready?

Jenny: I'm... and I can't stress this enough... so ready for some—not that I didn't enjoy Old Man Seeever, but—

Kristin: Mmhmm.

Jenny: I feel like it's been a while since I've been spooked by something you didn't write when you were 11.

Kristin: I agree, I agree. I'm ready to get back into it. And also, if you find spooky news that you want to hear read in this little tiny segment we do at the start of the episodes, email us, bufferingthevampireslayer@gmail.com. I love to get Spooky News submissions from you, sometimes. Sometimes I'm very upset by them, but that's the point.

Jenny: Ha!

Kristin: Let's get into it.

[SPOOKY NEWS jingle plays]
Spooky news!

Kristin: Okay, Jenny. This story comes from our listener, Camina. Camina, I'm hoping I'm saying your name right. And it is an Australian story. The headline of the story from ABC Australia is "Rats were the 'first curators' at Sydney's museum Hyde Park Barracks." This is—

Jenny: I'm listening.

Kristin: Yeah. And you know, like, I actually don't find this to be as spooky as I do adorable. But maybe I've just, like, watched Ratatouille too many times. I've never seen Ratatouille.

Jenny: [simultaneously] Yes!

Kristin: Anyway! [laughs]

Jenny: Oh my god, Ratatouille rocks. Ratatouille will change how you feel about rats if you don't feel good about them.

Kristin: I mean, honestly, even the trailer has, so. These rats—these are some old rats. These are, like, years and years ago rats. They basically went underneath the floorboards of this museum and they hoarded scraps in their rat nests. And then you know, rats die, like any other [laughing] animal or life being. And so these rats died, right, and in 1979, they discovered that basically these rats had preserved all of these incredible archaeological artifacts underneath the floorboards. They had been undisturbed for up to 160 years.

Jenny: Oh my god.

Kristin: Yeah, and like, the materials contained objects that don't usually survive in an archaeological deposit. Scraps of convict uniform, pieces from women's clothing, pages from prayer books, just like really cool shit. And so, to take this—I mean, I guess this is not spooky except for "rats," you know?

Jenny: Uh-huh.

Kristin: But I just loved it so much. And so, what I love too, and I guess this gets a little spooky, is that in this museum, the story of the rats is now going to be integrated into a new exhibition experience. Where there's a challenge to locate 14 mummified rat carcasses that will be displayed across three stories of the museum. [laughs]

Jenny: Cool.

Kristin: And on your interactive audio tour, you will hear, in the background of the recording, what sounds like rats scurrying in the walls. Jenny. Last thing before we get into today's episode about this Spooky News story is that the sounds of the rats scurrying were done by a sound designer based in San Francisco who actually recorded his daughter's pet rat. So...

Jenny: Oh, hell yeah.

Kristin: This Spooky News has something for everybody. [laughs]

Jenny: Oh my god. Yeah, what a great bit of news.

Kristin: Yeah, yeah. And you know, this story goes out to Amy, still a rat. Uh... that has been your Spooky News.

[SPOOKY NEWS jingle plays]
Spooky news!

Jenny: Mm, speaking of things that haunt you for who knows how long, it's time for the Sexual Tension Awards! [Kristin laughs] [sings triumphant tune]

Kristin: Great job, Jenny. Ooh, who is up for the win? I would love to know. Tell us, tell us the results.

Jenny: Well! Uh, with a very disappointing 19% of the vote in fourth place, it's Harmony, Spike and Charlize Theron.

Kristin: Oh my god. As somebody who just finished watching Prometheus, that's even more disappointing to me than it would have been—

Jenny: Mm!

Kristin: Before watching it. But you know, 19% is not a poor showing, I have to say.

Jenny: It's alright. And everybody's pretty close, everybody's in the ballpark here.

Kristin: Yeah.

Jenny: In third place, Joyce and Giles take 25% of the vote.

Kristin: Alright, okay, good job. Good job to Joiles.

Jenny: Spike and Dru, in second place, take 26% of the vote.

Kristin: Wow.

Jenny: Uh, yeah. And then in first place, just barely nosing out ahead, it's Spike and Roleplay Harmony with 30% of the vote, first place.

Kristin: Wow!

Jenny: Congratulations, guys!

Kristin: Congratulations! So that's exciting and also, I will say that—it's very exciting to me that the votes were that evenly split. We don't get that often, so what a great—

Jenny: No, no.

Kristin: What a great—I mean, Crush—

Jenny: You usually let us know pretty clearly who you don't like.

Kristin: Yeah. But I like that Crush had a split. So great work, everyone.

Jenny: Amazing.

Kristin: Trophy's in the mail.

Jenny: Yeah.

Kristin: Alright, Jenny. Um. Are you ready to get into [singing] "I was made to love you"?

Jenny: Oh my god, help! Help! [Kristin laughs] Uh... yes, I am. Away! Let's go!

[Buffering theme plays]

Jenny: Hello. [imitates echo] Hello! [Kristin laughs] And welcome—

Kristin: [imitating echo] And welcome!

Jenny: [simultaneously and enthusiastically] And welcome! To Buffering the Vampire Slayer, a podcast—podcast!—where we are watching and discussing every

episode of Buffy the Vampire Slayer, one at a time, spoiler free! [Kristin laughs] I'm Jenny Owen Youngs.

Kristin: I can't keep up with that energy! I am, though, in fact, Kristin Russo. This week, we are talking about Buffy—Buffy!—just kidding.

Jenny: Ha!

Kristin: Season 5, Episode 15, I Was Made to Love You. Stay tuned at the end of this podcast every other week for an original song, written by Jenny, recapping the Buffy episode we are discussing. And if you have not yet started listening to our Angel podcast, Angel on Top, hosted by Brittany Ashley and Laura Zak, what in the holy hell are you doing?

Jenny: Yeah, I mean. Speaking of angels, you know?

Kristin: I do know what you mean.

Jenny: Just some podcasting angels...

Kristin: I know.

Jenny: They're so great. Um! [Kristin laughs] I Was Made to Love You was written by Jane Espenson and directed by James A. Contner!

Kristin: Ugh, beautiful team.

Jenny: And originally aired on February 20th, 2001.

Kristin: Mm. [pause] Just giving you the time that you need to possibly let us know...

Jenny: No comment.

Kristin: Great.

Jenny: No comment.

Kristin: Great. This is the one, according to IMDB, where Buffy and her friends encounter an incredibly strong female robot with only one thing on its mind: love. [laughs]

Jenny: Aww!

Kristin: Got a little—got a little dramatic, IMDB.

Jenny: Yeah. The hero of this episode is definitely April the robot.

Kristin: Yeah. I mean, we'll get there, obviously. But the ending scene, April, woof! Going in for it. All the feelings.

Jenny: Mmhmm.

Kristin: I also thought it was really interesting, in the IMDB description, that it's—that, like, it went out of its way to say "female robot," but then also seemed to go out of its way to not use a pronoun and say "thing on its mind." I hadn't really thought about the gender of a robot—

Jenny: That's weird.

Kristin: Right? But, you know, it's like, obviously there's a lot of like, she is a girl. There's a lot of—hey, why don't we just jump right into the jingle that I'm sure we'll play more than once in this episode? 'Cause there's a hell of a lot of...

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

Kristin: In this episode! Isn't there, Jenny?

Jenny: Uh, there's more than enough to go around. You know what I think it is? I think it's like when you think of a male robot. [laughs] When you think of a robot you're projecting maleness onto, you're thinking of like, a robot that like, lifts 400 pounds—

Kristin: Right.

Jenny: Of pallet weight in your warehouse, or—

Kristin: Right, right.

Jenny: A robot that chops down that tree and makes firewood for you real fast.

Kristin: Sure.

Jenny: But when you think of a girl robot, you think of what everybody thinks of all the way through this episode—

Kristin: Right.

Jenny: Which is that somebody made a sex bot.

Kristin: Totally. 100%.

Jenny: Hmm, interesting.

Kristin: And that is—we already played the jingle for you, but of course, that is why. I also just saw Alien for the first time, Jenny, and I have to say that now when I think of a robot, I think of the most horrific thing I've ever seen in my life. Which is when the android dude, Ash, on that spaceship gets busted open and he's all milky. He's full of milk!

Jenny: [gagging sounds] Um...

Kristin: Yeah, so luckily, April is not full—

Jenny: Probably room-temperature milk.

Kristin: Probably. Anti-gravity, lukewarm milk. Thank you, no thank you.

Jenny: Sick.

Kristin: Anyway. April's not full of milk, which I'm very thankful for.

Jenny: You know what's weird? The, like, level of shock and disgust—I don't know. Buffy is so shocked and so disgusted and everyone is so, like, unanimously shocked and disgusted. It's like... okay—

Kristin: About Spike having feelings for her?

Jenny: About Spike being into Buffy.

Kristin: Yes.

Jenny: And it's like... alright everybody, yes, Spike is a vampire. He has no soul, sure. But he also, like, you know, helps out. He has definitely, like, shown people what is up with their friend—like, helped all of these people improve their relationships. You know? He's—

Kristin: [doubtful sound] Well, yes. No, no—

Jenny: He's like, popping in to be like, hey, you guys are idiots. Like, this one of you is having a problem with this, it's obvious to me. Why can't any of you see it? I just like—

Kristin: I agree. No, I agree with—

Jenny: Also, Spike's very hot.

Kristin: Yes. Yes. Totally. And—

Jenny: Couldn't everybody just acknowledge that Spike is hot?

Kristin: Okay, so here's the thing, Jenny, is I think that yes, you're right. When it comes to Giles and the Scooby gang sort of like—and none of them are as—they're not as upset as Buffy. And I think that's important to point out because of what I'm about to say. But I do think there's probably more room for them to be a little less, like, whatever. Like, he's been around, he's been in the Scooby gang for better or for worse for a long time. But where Buffy is concerned, especially in this episode, it is much more—and she says it directly. "Something about *me* had to make *him* attracted to me." She's really putting it on her because she's wrestling—we saw the Previously On, right. And the Previously On—I would like to call this the peak of the season—Crush was the peak of the season. Because we—like, the Previously On here pulls from every single point in this season.

Jenny: Mmhmm.

Kristin: We have learned that Dawn is the Key. Dawn has learned that Dawn is the Key. Everyone knows that Dawn is the Key. We know Glory is a god, we know Ben is Glory, is Glory Ben? Hmm.

[BEN IS GLORY jingle plays]

Ben is Glory! Glory is Ben!

Ben is Glory! Glory is Ben!

In case you forget, I'll say it again

Ben is Glory and Glory is Ben!

Kristin: We know that Riley is gone. We know that Spike loves Buffy. It's like we have all these massive elements on the table. We're ready to go in. And I think that, you know, Riley is in the Previously On because of the narrative that we'll get with the robot. But I also think that that's super in play with Buffy being so upset that Spike has fallen for her, because also Riley has left her. And she doesn't understand, like, what is wrong with her? It's very much—surprising, I know, to

everybody—but for Buffy, it's very much about like, her and what she has done and who she is. So I think that that's why she's disgusted.

Jenny: Fine.

Kristin: [laughs] Big question I have. Why is Xander in this puffy suit apart from just that it's hysterically funny?

Jenny: I think that's the reason.

Kristin: Right? 'Cause like—

Jenny: Like, Buffy has a heavy bag. And it's not like Xander is like a, you know, a great warrior who's going to, like, spar with her.

Kristin: Right, he can't even move.

Jenny: He's just standing there to get pummeled.

Kristin: Right, right. So I think—I would love—I mean, god, one day, if somebody could compile all these, like, ridiculous questions that we have. I just—some of these things, I would love to know, like, how did that come to be? How did it wind up that Nicholas Brendan got, like, sewn into—'cause it's essentially, like, the seamstress on set was like, I'm gonna make a suit for Xander but it—I'm gonna use gym mats [laughing] for the shirt and pants.

Jenny: Mmhmm, mmhmm.

Kristin: So Xander, apart from being wrapped in a puffy Xander suit, is just—he has some *really* incredible moments in this episode. And it starts here.

[Clip from episode plays]

Buffy: Maybe I could change. You know, I could—I could work harder. I could spend less time slaying. I could laugh at his jokes. I mean, men like that, right? The joke-laughing-at?

Xander: Or maybe you can just be Buffy, he'll see your amazing heart and he'll fall in love with you.

Buffy: Xander, that's... aww. [light thud]

Xander: This is the day you choose to hug me?

Kristin: So—and Xander also says at the end of this, like, dialogue, you know, "well, also Buffy, maybe it's because we're on the Hellmouth. It's kind of hard to build anything on a Hellmouth."

Jenny: Yes. And this is so lovely. So lovely a moment that Xander has—I just. I really—Xander's really got me in this episode. That's all.

Kristin: Yeah, and he—

Jenny: It's so nice.

Kristin: Yeah. We, like, see—I think we see so much of the fact that somehow, the healthiest relationship that we have in this television show right now is Xander's. That Xander and Anya have this, like, incredibly balanced, mature communication lines. They—you know, Anya is—[laughing] you know, letting—

Jenny: Anya's very secure, as we see throughout this episode.

Kristin: Right. 'Cause Xander's, like, talking about like, women being hot and blah blah blah. And I think also, this is a narrative that we see all the time, even today in television and in movies, where like, it's—it seems to be portrayed that like, if you're in a relationship, you cannot voice that you find anyone else attractive. Because that will make the other person as jealous as Tara is when this happens with Willow. [Jenny laughs] And we see—but we see how secure Anya is. And Xander's feeling good and like, they just are in a great place. And I think that that is why Xander is starting to really be such a rock for Buffy and able to, like, really help her. So that's—I'm very happy to see that.

Jenny: And then at the Espresso Pump. [Kristin laughs] A car pulls up and a girl we've never seen gets out. She's wearing a little pink dress. And, uh, the guy's like—[laughs] this is funny 'cause the guy's like, "are you sure you want me to drop you off here? This place is kinda..." Like, what—

Kristin: I know, who is that guy? Right. [laughs]

Jenny: Is this guy saying, like—A. How dare you.

Kristin: Yeah.

Jenny: B. Are you saying the Espresso Pump is like, trashy or seedy or dangerous in some way?

Kristin: Or like, Sunnydale? Yeah.

Jenny: Well, maybe he has heard about the mortality rates in Sunnydale. [laughs]

Kristin: Right. Right. Also, like, it's confusing why they even had her dropped off in a car. I guess 'cause they wanted to conceal the, like, robot nature of her for the first scene, you know? Because otherwise, I mean, what we learn of April. Like, she straight-up would have just walked from the campus, no matter how long or far it took—you know, she would—that's—she's a robot. She would have just walked.

Jenny: She would have, but also, like, look at her. She's like exactly the—she's the target market for dudes looking to give somebody a ride.

Kristin: Yes. That's true. That's true, and she would have totally taken a ride from—which is interesting, too, because it means that she took a ride from this dude that she didn't know, and he didn't try a damn thing. 'Cause we know if he did, he would be not alive.

Jenny: She would have kicked his ass. Yeah.

Kristin: Yeah, she would have kicked his ass. I wanna talk about—real quick, Jenny. 'Cause you mentioned her dress, and I find it really hilarious that you mentioned her dress and not her shoes. Because her shoes to me are like, the way that you know that she is a robot designed by Warren, a dude. Like, no—I don't understand if—they're like, platforms. But it looks like she's gonna fall off of them every step she takes. Like, they're—they just are so impractical. They are not attractive shoes. And I just feel like they are exactly what Warren would have picked out for a girl. And if April was not a robot, she would have been like, fuck off, dude. I'm gonna go over to Glory's house and pick myself out a nice pair of pumps.

Jenny: Mmm. Mmhmm.

Kristin: Okay, sorry. I have a *huge* fact that I learned when researching this episode, Jenny. I don't know if you found it, but I'm gonna tell you anyway.

Jenny: I'm ready.

Kristin: Do you know who was cast to play this role before it was given to, eventually, Shonda Farr. 'Cause Shonda Farr was not the original person slated to play the robot in *I Was Made to Love You*.

Jenny: Can you give me one hint?

Kristin: I mean, I can, but I don't... okay, um. Let's see. The hint I will give you is... um... bikini. It's very hard to give you a hint, 'cause all of my hints are dead giveaways. So that is probably too broad, but...

Jenny: Bikini. Um...

Kristin: Yeah. And I'll—

Jenny: Cindy Crawford.

Kristin: No.

Jenny: Heidi Klum.

Kristin: And I'll add one word to it and I think adding one word to it might give it away. So bikini plus snake.

Jenny: Britney Spears?

Kristin: Britney! Fucking—

Jenny: Are you kidding me?!

Kristin: Britney motherfucking Spears! I lost my shit. I lost it. Like, my fuck—like, literally, I'm still losing it. Like, even—you're the first person I've told, so. [laughs]

Jenny: Dude. What?

Kristin: *Britney Spears* was cast to play this role and she pulled out of the role. I found this little article where, like, Marti Noxon was talking about how, like, they were moving the episode to later in the season, but it was gonna be fine. Like, they were still keeping the role and they were gonna re-cast it. Can you imagine a reality in which Britney Spears was the fucking robot? Oh my god.

Jenny: That is... so disappointing.

Kristin: It is and it isn't. It's like, it is 'cause I really—I mean, I love Britney Spears. I was *obsessed* with Britney Spears.

Jenny: But it probably would have just, like, made this episode about the fact that Britney Spears was in it—

Kristin: Yes.

Jenny: Instead of being about, like, everything else.

Kristin: That's exactly why I'm not necessarily—like, I'm disappointed from like, a pop culture standpoint. But from like a—integrity of the episode standpoint, I am not. 'Cause we—'cause it's all we would be talking about. [laughs]

Jenny: Right.

Kristin: Uh... and also, like, fun twist. Shonda Farr was also in Crossroads. She played Kit's friend. So—

Jenny: Yes.

Kristin: No big deal.

Jenny: That, I did find.

Kristin: [laughs] I'm so glad that you didn't know. It's so fun to, like, reveal a thing like that, live on the air.

Jenny: Wow!

Kristin: Yeah, so. In another reality, in Cleveland—yeah.

Jenny: [simultaneously] Puts a whole new spin on "Hit Me Baby, One More Time."

Kristin: [laughs] I know. When you were like, give me a clue, all I could think of was like, all of the one-line hits that Britney Spears has had.

Jenny: Right. Bikini. That's a weird clue for Britney Spears.

Kristin: [laughing] I know, I'm sorry.

Jenny: But with snake, it makes a lot of sense.

Kristin: Yeah.

Jenny: Okay! So what is this robot looking for—I mean, what is this lovely young girl looking for in Sunnydale, this dude who gave her a ride asks. Why, true love.

Kristin: True love.

Jenny: And off she goes. And then, it's the credits! And then, we're back!

Kristin: And then "va-va-Joyce" is my next note. Because—

Jenny: Yeah. Yeah. Joyce is like, babe'ing out.

Kristin: Joyce is wearing a dress that I think is, like, the exact perfect hybrid of what Dawn and Buffy say it is. It's like, the perfect meld of Mom and sexy to be just like, over-the-top yes. Her nails are on point. Her lipstick matches her nails. Like, she probably called up Faith in prison and asked for a couple pointers, if you know what I'm saying.

Jenny: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Kristin: And they are, you know, having a good time with Joyce. They're making her spin around in the dress a few times. [Jenny squeals a little] Because she's going on a date with Brian, who she met, like a big art gallery nerd, at her art gallery.

Jenny: Yeah, yeah, yeah. And Dawn suspects he may be a gigolo and asks if his shirt was "all shiny."

Kristin: Yes. I did some research into gigolos, believe it or not, Jenny, because of this. Because I—the first thing that I thought of when I heard the word "gigolo" was Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo. Because I think that probably—it was the first time I had ever heard the word. And that—

Jenny: Mm.

Kristin: That movie came out in '99, so it is sort of like, perhaps—I don't know, maybe people were saying gigolo way more than I knew. But that was the first time I had heard it and so I don't know if that, like, brought the word back into, like, some of our younger minds. But I learned that the word—it comes from, uh... it was like, gigolo and gigolette were dancers. Gigolo, in case you don't know, is—refers to basically a male escort, usually for an older woman. And I have a lot of feelings about this. Most of which could probably be summed up by another Patriarchy jingle, but we have to play it so many times that I'm not going to play it right here. But I just thought, hmm, isn't it funny that like, there's a comic—they call it a "sex comedy," Deuce Bigalow: Male Gigolo. It's like a funny romp—

Jenny: Hmm.

Kristin: About what's-his-face playing this male gigolo. And I thought, well, that's funny, right? It's—you can make a really funny, ha-ha-ha movie about this dude who's a male escort, but like, that—you don't ever see that flipped on its head. And don't even try to Pretty Woman me, 'cause that is not a sex comedy. That's very—there's a lot of serious shit in that. And I just feel like, you know, there's some patriarchy in there when it comes to, like, how we look at a male escort, versus how we look at a female escort. Uh... slash, you know, sex workers of different genders. So that's all.

Jenny: I'm glad that you brought up Pretty Woman, Kristin. Because it might interest you to be made aware that there was a huge film called American Gigolo that came out in 1980, starring Richard Gere. As a male escort.

Kristin: Oh—oh my god! Wow.

Jenny: I don't know how popular the word "gigolo" was in terms of escortism before that movie, but...

Kristin: Mmm. Interesting. I mean, the word gigolo has been around for a very long time, because it's like, ety—etymology? No, that's bugs. What do you call it, with words? [laughs]

Jenny: No, no. Etymology.

Kristin: Is it words?

Jenny: *Entomology* is bugs. Right?

Kristin: Entomology, okay. [laughs] I know the word has been around for a long time. I just—I—you know, I think maybe—like, films, media, obviously these things bring it into more public consciousness than they would have been otherwise. So, um. Jenny. Tara and Anya are hanging out. And I fucking love it.

Jenny: Yeah!

Kristin: The whole reason this scene exists is really just so we can see them see April, right?

Jenny: Right, right, right. But love—love seeing, um, Xander's girlfriend and Willow's girlfriend hanging out together—

Kristin: Mmhmm.

Jenny: Just talking about what they talk about, which is Anya's financial growth.

Kristin: Yeah. Anya's like, really encouraging Tara to get into online trading. Tara... [both laugh] Tara is—Tara is so upset because when she goes on the internet, she realizes how horrible everyone is at spelling.

Jenny: Uh-huh.

Kristin: If that is not a relatable mood, Tara, that is—ugh.

Jenny: Fair.

Kristin: Also, fucking Anya is like, "I tripled my money," giving us a great "money-money-money" from Tara. And she says to Tara that she wants to buy something, like, large with her earnings, like an antelope. [laughs]

Jenny: The greatest sign of luxury in 2001 was having your own antelope, actually.

Kristin: Mmhmm, mmhmm.

Jenny: Not a lot of people realize this.

Kristin: Well, now you know. Also, Anya has set up the website for The Magic Box, and she wants everyone to know that it is a large photo of herself. [both laugh] So good. That GIF that you see of Anya all the time where she's, like, counting her money, actually was sourced by Anya herself. She made it for the back drop of The Magic Box website.

Jenny: Right. Of course. Of course.

Kristin: [laughs] Okay, so we see April. Shonda Farr, by the way, is fantastic. She's fantastic in this episode as this robot, where like, you just feel—I don't know, I—I shouldn't speak for all of you. But I feel so sad for her. From the very beginning, even when she's like, throwing people across the room. She does a great job of having that, like, singular mission of finding Warren.

Jenny: Yeah. It's like... yeah.

Kristin: [laughs] It's great. That was great commentary, Jenny. Really deep.

Jenny: I love her! I want her to be happy.

Kristin: I know, I want her to be happy too.

Jenny: But it is not to be.

Kristin: It is not. So we go to the party. It's a spring break themed party. And there is the biggest oyster shell that has ever been oyster-shelled, in the world, at this party. It's like full of punch. And I'm both pleased with it and so upset by a thing of punch that big. That's just vessel of germs.

Jenny: So... just wanna say... that—

Kristin: It's not an oyster shell?

Jenny: It's a clam shell. [laughs]

Kristin: Ohh-kay!

Jenny: I think, because it has the—

Kristin: You're right.

Jenny: It's white and it has the big, deep, dramatic ridges.

Kristin: Yes. It has, like, the little wiggly ridges. You're right, you're right. I wanted it to be an oyster shell. I don't know why. But you're right. It's a—

Jenny: Hmm.

Kristin: It's not even a clam shell. A clam shell doesn't have those ridges. I have had many a—

Jenny: Uh... Google image search "clam shell." Not all clam shells, but some clam shells.

Kristin: Some clam shells? 'Cause my clam shells have always had—[laughs] you know what? I gotta go. [laughs]

Jenny: Uh, hmm.

Kristin: So, we already talked about Anya—

Jenny: It's actually—sorry, it's a giant clam shell.

Kristin: Okay, so—

Jenny: So giant clams have that kind of shell and they are fucking enormous.

Kristin: Okay. So it wouldn't—you wouldn't eat that kind of a clam.

Jenny: I mean, *I* wouldn't. [Kristin laughs] I don't wanna yuck anybody's yum.

Kristin: [laughs] Okay, well, if you know if a giant clam is edible, please email us at bufferingthevampireslayer@gmail.com. We'll—

Jenny: Have you or someone you love ever eaten a giant clam? Please call us at 1-866-BUFFY.

Kristin: [laughs] So we talked about Anya already. This is a—you know, Xander's dancing with Buffy, and Anya's like, "I let him do that." [Jenny laughs] "I totally told him that he could do that, so waiting for my—"

Jenny: "I'm expecting a big karmic reward any second now."

Kristin: [laughs] There are so many people at this party with sunglasses on. They are playing limbo. This is like a really great spring break party that they are throwing, wherever they are. Buffy looks amazing. Wanna say. And Ben is at the party. I have a lot of questions about Ben and Glory.

[BEN IS GLORY jingle plays]
Ben is Glory! Glory is Ben!
Ben is Glory! Glory is Ben!
In case you forget, I'll say it again
Ben is Glory and Glory is Ben!

Kristin: Okay so, Ben and Buffy, right, they're sort of like, flirting with the idea of dating. They are literally flirting and they are flirting with the idea of going on a date, having coffee, et cetera. And I just like—it opened up sort of a Pandora's box of questions for me, in terms of... how does Ben hold down a job? How would—what would happen if Ben and Buffy got together and they were, like, making out and then—and then Ben and Glory—like, wh—I just... it doesn't seem like there's any—

Jenny: Also, how long have they been sharing a body?

Kristin: Right. Because—

Jenny: Like, did he used to have a normal life?

Kristin: And like—

Jenny: 'Cause she only recently got kicked out of that joint.

Kristin: Right, but he talks all the time about how this always happens with her.

Jenny: Hmm.

Kristin: So it seems like they have always shared a body.

Jenny: Interesting.

Kristin: But why would he have even a job? And—'cause if it was like, you know—if Glory was like, I get Monday, Wednesday, Friday. You get Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday. We split Sundays. You know, then like—then at least he could, you know, work around that, make sure that he plans his date for the days he knows he's gonna be Ben. But he doesn't know, and so, I just—it seems crazy risky to me that he is not only living a life, working in a medical establishment, but also that he's, like, considering dating? It just seems like a one night stand might be the most that Ben should shoot for here, because... [laughs] I don't know.

Jenny: Well, you know, it's not up to Ben, that he has to share his body with a god.

Kristin: Yeah, but he knows that she—

Jenny: And if he wants to look for love.

Kristin: I don't know. He's—

Jenny: The heart wants what the heart wants.

Kristin: That is what Selena Gomez says, but... is that what Selena Gomez says?

Jenny: Uh, I think Selena Gomez says the heart wants what it wants.

Kristin: Yeah, so. I guess what I'm trying to say is I feel like Ben perhaps is putting others at risk, both patients at the hospital and Buffy, by pretending as though he is just a normal boy. He is not a normal boy. He shares his body with a very destructive god. So, you know. Think on it, chew on it, do with it what you will. But that is what I was wrestling with while I was watching this episode.

Jenny: Speaking of chewing on it, [Kristin laughs] Anya has discovered Chex Mix and says, "That's craftsmanship!" This is a really great episode—

Kristin: It is.

Jenny: For Anya.

Kristin: Jane. Jane, Jane, Jane.

Jenny: Um. That girl in the pink dress shows up at this part—okay, everybody's at this party. Ben's at this party, Spike's at this party. The girl in the pink dress is at this party. How does everybody know about this part—well, I guess the pink girl's just wandering around. Spike probably followed Buffy here. But what's Ben doing here?

Kristin: Yeah, right? Ben doesn't even go to college. What is he doing here?

Jenny: Yeah. Hmm.

Kristin: Great question. Great question. But every—this is the hottest club in town. It has clam shells, it has limbo, it has vampires.

Jenny: It has Chex Mix!

Kristin: It has robots! Okay. So, um, there's this amazing—I love the comedy of, you know, Anya basically being like, "She speaks with a strange evenness and selects her words too precisely." And Xander being like, "Some of us like that in our women." It's *very* cute—

Jenny: Nice.

Kristin: And very funny. And then, like, Anya's all proud of herself because she makes the connection, and... just good shit. And then, um, guess who else is at this party? Did you already say that Warren is at this party?

Jenny: No, I didn't mention Warren.

Kristin: Warren is here. Warren, a former Sunnydale high school student, and maker of April, as we'll find out later, is here at this party with his current girlfriend, who he treats like a piece of shit stuck to the bottom of his shoe that he left at the back of his fucking closet, Katrina.

Jenny: Warren sucks. Bless this actor for being so amazing at being the worst person you've ever seen.

Kristin: He is. He is just like that guy. Like, they were like—you know, in the casting room, they were like, okay, who are we looking for to play Warren? And they were like, you know that guy? [laughing] And they were like, yeah, yeah, oh, I know that guy. [Jenny laughs] And boy, did they find him. You know, here's the second play of the Patriarchy jingle, because we have just met Warren. So please, without further ado...

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

Kristin: Okay. So... Spike walks in. "If looks could stake," he says, which I love. Jenny...

Jenny: Oh... god!

Kristin: It's too much. Buffy—the last time we saw these two, Buffy told him to get the fuck outta town. And he was so hurt, but in true Spike form, he has like, transformed his pain into, like—like, he got his hair done again and he fucking greased up his leather jacket.

Jenny: Yep, yep.

Kristin: Strolled in with no cares in the world.

Jenny: He says... I believe that he says, "if you want me to leave, you can put your hands on my hot, tight, little body and make me"?

Kristin: You are correct. As a matter of fact, Jenny, I had it written down the play the sound clip. But now that you have said it, I think that that will do it. And why don't we give Spike his jingle in honor of Jenny saying that line?

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

Kristin: "My hot... tight... little body." The addition of "little" is what really—[laughs]

Jenny: [laughing] It is such a choice!

Kristin: It really is.

Jenny: Such a choice.

Kristin: Um, okay. So Ben, meanwhile, is now back with Buffy. He gives her his number, it's very cute. He's like, I'm gonna give you my number before you see me dance so like, maybe we can get coffee. Spike is losing his shit.

Jenny: I love the, like—Buffy being like, ooh, it's just that when I get coffee with people, uh, terrible things—all these terrible things happen. And Ben is like, well... I know we're risking a tragic chain reaction, but I just really... [both laugh] wanna get some coffee.

Kristin: He's like, little did you know that I have a history all my own.

Jenny: Yeah. And Spike's side-eyeing this from across the room and is like, I'll show her. [Kristin laughs] Uh, I see a girl in a pink dress. What's up... with her? And she throws him through a window!

Kristin: Yeah so, Jenny, so she says to Spike, "I'm looking for my fella," first of all. And then Spike leans over to her and whispers in her ear. Do you have any guesses as to what Spike whispers into April's ear that makes her throw him through that window?

Jenny: Not—it's not fit for a family podcast, Kristin.

Kristin: [laughs] I just like—I don't know. I just wonder—because we see her, you know, she really gets to the "throw people through a window" thing pretty fast. So I just—like, I wondered if he had said something like—

Jenny: It must have been very... graphic. [both laugh]

Kristin: Also, Spike, work on your moves, man. Is that really working for you? I don't know. It just... yeah, so Spike—

Jenny: Uh, yeah.

Kristin: Spike goes through a window. I can't—I'm tape—

Jenny: Buffy loves it.

Kristin: Yeah, I'm taping this podcast now in a house with my family, so I can't even make any guesses. I'm just—I just have to lean on—

Jenny: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Kristin: Yeah. So, okay. "No one but Warren can touch me," says April, and then she throws Buffy pretty hard. And this is the moment when April the robot becomes, you know, like, a bit heart wrenching. Because she hurts Buffy and then she's like so—she feels so bad. And she says, "I'm sorry, and I hope your boyfriend will take care of you." And we're all like, womp womp. Her boyfriend's on a helicopter in the jungle. [both laugh]

Jenny: There are, like, so many instances of people just like jamming salt into that particular wound in this episode.

Kristin: Yeah. Yeah, totally.

Jenny: April's definitely the vehicle, the primary vehicle for that. And um... love Xander being like, whoa, wow, uh, let me do a little quick math here. This is a—whew, some serious damage. Can you—ugh. [Kristin laughs] So serious about the financial implications of Spike getting thrown through a window. And everyone is like, I think that, uh, April's a robot. Oh yeah, definitely a robot, robot, robot, robot. [both laugh]

Kristin: I love the—it's like the season—it's like the nod to Season 5, that we're in the fifth season. It's like, yeah, we don't need to even—yeah, of course she's a fucking robot.

Jenny: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Kristin: Moving on. Do we even need to deal with it today? They're basically like, nah, we'll just deal with it tomorrow, fucking robot, whatever. Also, Buffy has an incredible line in the start of this scene which I don't wanna miss, where she says, "I've had it with super strong little women who aren't me." [laughs]

Jenny: Tight, yeah.

Kristin: Yeah.

Jenny: Us too, Buffy.

Kristin: Right, it's really great. So then we go to the Summers' house where Giles has been babysitting Dawn. First of all, he's right. She's fucking 14, why does she have a babysitter?

Jenny: Because there's a hell god—

Kristin: [simultaneously] I guess 'cause she's the Key. Right.

Jenny: On the loose.

Kristin: I forgot. Okay. Good point. Moving along. [laughs]

Jenny: But Giles is wrung out from all—from eating all that cookie dough and talking about boys.

Kristin: [laughing] Yeah, and he makes a comment about like, he listened to music—"she made me listen to music that was, like, sung by people who are very good at dancing." Like— [laughs]

Jenny: Yeah, yeah.

Kristin: Seemed like perhaps a dig at Britney Spears who had dropped out of this episode, just saying.

Jenny: Oh!

Kristin: Oh! No, I mean, I love Britney Spears, but you know. So, okay. Joyce then, just as things were getting so bad for Giles, because he's had to listen to Dawn talk about boys all night long, Joyce rolls up from her date, walking on air. And he—and—

Jenny: And *she* wants to talk about boys.

Kristin: Yes. "Who wants to hear everything?" And then he's like, I'm fucking outta here. [both laugh]

Jenny: And it's good that he left because Joyce is getting on about how she left her bra in the car? No, the restaurant? No, on the dessert cart? Ahhh!

Kristin: Oh my god. Joyce is *going* for it. I—like, I think the combination of like, her having a really great date and then walking in to see Giles, who she has slept with on the hood of a police car, is just like—

Jenny: Sure, sure.

Kristin: Really making her imagination run wild. And Buffy is like, mortified and runs upstairs. [laughs] April, meanwhile, is going door to door. It's like, three in the fucking morning.

Jenny: Oh my god!

Kristin: It's so sad. It's just fucking—ugh.

[AD BREAK]

Kristin: Okay, so. We go to The Magic Box. And I've been talking this season about Tara and like—you know, they've really been like, showing us how, like, proper Tara is, you know? She's—she usually is very polite. She's very reserved. And they've been, like, really hammering that home. A couple episodes ago, maybe even last episode, Tara was wearing some eye shadow. And right now, we get a line from Tara where we're like, what? [both laugh] Tara says...

[Clip from episode plays]

Tara: She practically had "genuine molded plastic" stamped on her ass.
[pause] Just... trying a little spicy talk.

Kristin: Um, so... just wanna know, like, what's going on behind the scenes with Tara. You know, like what's making her come out of her shell. But she's doing a great job.

Jenny: Mmhmm! [Kristin laughs] So... I love that we get Xander basically complimenting—[both laugh] Anya tries Chex Mix and she's like, now that's craftsmanship. And Xander sees a sex bot and he's like, now that's craftsmanship! [both laugh]

Kristin: This is an *amazing* moment, uh, with the women of Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Because it's like, Tara, Willow, Buffy—is Dawn there too? Like, it's just like, a lot of ladies around the table. And Xander's like, you know, a sex bot, who doesn't want a sex bot? It's just there to please you and blah blah blah. And then he like, looks and it just pans around, like, That 70s Show style around the table. [laughs]

Jenny: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Kristin: And each one of them has their own brand of fuck you, dude, on their face.

Jenny: Yeah. No takers.

Kristin: [laughing] Yeah.

Jenny: Also, I love that Giles is like, "we have no idea what his motives are for building this thing!" [Kristin laughs] Giles! Think back to your Ripper days.

Kristin: We get—

Jenny: I guess Giles has, like, always been able to get it.

Kristin: Oh, wow.

Jenny: So he's never had to, um...

Kristin: *Wow*, Jenny. *Wow*.

Jenny: Never had to wish for a sex bot. Um...

Kristin: Oz gets a nice shout in this scene. We haven't heard of Oz—

Jenny: Yes.

Kristin: Uh, Oz's name in a long time. And Xander's like, wish Oz was here, he wouldn't say anything but he would get it. [laughs]

Jenny: Would he, though?

Kristin: No. I don't think he would.

Jenny: I don't think so either.

Kristin: Yeah, I don't think Oz is that kind of a dude.

Jenny: Okay, and then we get Tara saying how sad it is that this guy couldn't find a nice normal person to, like, share a relationship with.

Kristin: Right.

Jenny: And then we get this meaningful look on Buffy's face. And she's like, oh fuck, I guess I better call Ben. [Kristin laughs] I guess I better try to find a nice

normal person. Of course, Ben is busy transforming back into himself from Glory. And um...

Kristin: Wearing that red dress. Looking good, Ben.

Jenny: Ooh, yeah.

Kristin: Really into Ben in that red dress.

Jenny: Yes.

Kristin: Fits him wonderfully. Metaphysics at play there.

Jenny: Mmhmm.

Kristin: So... I just wanna, like, open up the larger can of metaphorical worms here. Because I went back and forth on—and I think perhaps the answer is that the metaphor goes both ways, with Buffy identifying with April, the robot, but also with—like, being afraid of some of Warren's reasonings and his journey too. So before I even say any more, Jenny, do you have, like—were you like, oh no, this was obviously Buffy—like, this storyline was here to show us, like, Buffy lining up with April? Or do you feel like there were elements from both too?

Jenny: I felt like the strongest thing in the episode is, like, all about Buffy's sort of self reflection. And using, you know, the idea of April—or like, the concept of April and Warren, like, as a window into a new sort of like aspect—or forcing Buffy to kind of like, look at that part of her life more closely.

Kristin: I guess what I mean to say is that there were moments—and we'll get to these scenes. But there were moments where Warren is sort of saying, like, I'm—I, like, made her to be all the things that I thought I would want. But then, like, she was just, like—she was too nice. She was too good, she was too all these things. And so when Warren was saying those things, I was like, oh man, this is like—I wonder if she's reflecting on how she viewed Riley. Like, it's this guy that was so—had all these things down on paper. And like, why couldn't she get past that point? But then, the bigger metaphor I felt was landing with April, of course. I mean, I think that's the one that you're supposed to get. But I just—I don't know. I don't know, Jenny.

Jenny: But no, I think—I think that's right on. I think it's like, pretty major. Like, I think it's like, right there for you. Because when Warren is kind of like talking through that revelation of like, you know, thinking I would have been in love with somebody who, like, was giving me everything that I thought I wanted—

Kristin: Right.

Jenny: But I just wasn't. You know, that's... that's valid. That's—I mean, that's a valid kind of thing to look at the Buffy/Riley relationship through. For sure.

Kristin: Right, and that—right, and then in this scene, like, the thing—the reason I spring-boarded it over here from this scene is because, you know, she's I think identifying with the fear of being a Warren, of like, being somebody who couldn't find anyone, who like needed to find a companion—who needed to *make* a companion because he couldn't find one out there in the world.

Jenny: Right.

Kristin: So we'll get deeper into the obvious April/Buffy parallels as the episode goes on. But I just wanted to, like, put a little pin in the fact that I do think that there's a larger, um... introspection, I think you said, Jenny, or something like that—going on for Buffy where she's really seeing, like, the inner workings of this very messed up dynamic between Warren and April. And like, yeah, what is it showing her about, like, some of her own experiences.

Jenny: Yeah, yeah.

Kristin: Okay, so I would like to talk for a moment, if I may, about the fact that when we go to Glory's and Ben transforms back into Ben from Glory—there's some connection there, I'm not exactly sure what it is. But I—you know, I just feel like there's something between Ben and Glory. We're at Glory's apartment. And it's the—I believe it's the first time we see these really big paintings. And we're gonna see them again, so I'll probably get even more in depth in future discussions. But one of our listeners, Maggie, sent me an email way back in May of last year, and was like, "do not fucking miss this." And Maggie, I will not, because of you.

These two paintings that we see on the wall—they're huge. And they are done by a Polish-born art deco painter, a transplant to France and the US, whose name is—and I'm sorry if I'm pronouncing it wrong—Tamara de Lempicka. She had a 60-year-long career of painting stylized nudes and portraits of aristocrats, interspersed with glamorous socializing in the mid-20th century. She married a baron after her first divorce and took many lovers before and after as a somewhat renowned bisexual. In spite of having access to—

Jenny: [laughs] Like friend of the pod, Gaby Dunn. [Kristin laughs]

[GABY jingle plays]

She loves being mentioned
Ooh, that Gaby Dunn

Kristin: Wow, will Gaby... does Gaby—this is when we find out if Gaby is still listening to Buffering the Vampire Slayer. [laughs] Um, so yeah, and then Maggie just finished by saying, in spite of having access to wealth and social status her entire life, she lived fiercely independently and worked and played hard to create the life she wanted for herself. So it's like—it feels like there's this very, very deep choice to put these paintings in Glory's apartment.

Jenny: Mmm.

Kristin: And I wanted to share that, 'cause I just thought it was so cool, and I've been looking for them. Since I got this email, I've been looking for them. And we'll see them again more. And Maggie sent me this amazing article, I'll put it up on social media, done by Whedon Studies that talks more about Glory and these paintings, and the choice of these paintings by this particular artist. So. What do you got?

Jenny: Well, she's a Taurus.

Kristin: [laughs] Oh! Get out. Get out of my—you're fired.

Jenny: Well, I figured when she said that she—when you said that she, like, worked hard for, like—to have the kind of life that she wanted to have, I was like, she's definitely either a Capricorn or a Taurus.

Kristin: Wow.

Jenny: And here we are.

Kristin: I'm so proud of you.

Jenny: Cool, I rock, carry on.

Kristin: All the queer people in the universe are very proud of you right now, Jenny.

Jenny: Are they or are they like, Jenny, please shut up?

Kristin: Well, we're an equal—

Jenny: We're trying to listen to a podcast.

Kristin: [laughing] We're an equal mix. Okay, so.

Jenny: Hmm. [laughs] Hell?

Kristin: So Warren—this is where Warren treats Katrina the worst, maybe, in the episode. I don't know, there's so many bad moments. But he's basically like, go wait in the kitchen. And shut up. To her.

Jenny: Dude.

Kristin: Fuck you!

Jenny: This sucks so bad.

Kristin: Dude, he is such a fucking asshole. And [laughs] there's this great comedic exchange where he's just like, "Buffy, there's something you couldn't possibly know, I'm telling you, there's some—you're gonna—your mind is gonna be blown! [Jenny laughs] She's a robot." And she's like, yeah, dude. Fucking shut up. [both laugh] Dawn—we go back to The Magic Box. Dawn gives us a great Ted throwback. Which is really fun when you think about it, because like, we know Ted from whatever the hell season it was. But we—

Jenny: Dude, yes, I love this.

Kristin: Right? 'Cause we know that Dawn wasn't alive, but that she's been given the memories. And so that includes her, like, mom's boyfriend Ted, the robot.

Jenny: Yeah. So awesome.

Kristin: Yeah.

Jenny: A great little tasty throwback to an episode we'd all sooner forget. [both laugh]

Kristin: Yeah. The original robot. Also, do you remember who we had on the episode Ted?

Jenny: Shannon Woodward, of course.

Kristin: Shannon Woodward! From West World, which is—that was just, like, one of the more fun guest overlaps that I think we ever did. Where we were like, robot,

you say? Ding-dong, Shannon? [both laugh] Okay, so yes. We're in The Magic Box and—oh, your favorite! The little match girl comes running in.

Jenny: Oh my god, yeah. You know when you're selling matches but then your blanket—you accidentally set your own blanket on fire that you're using to cover yourself with your matches?

Kristin: [laughs] Yeah, it's the story of the little match girl. Um...

Jenny: A tale as old as time.

Kristin: Tale as old as time. Spike is on fire. He has—I mean, Spike is great comedy, Spike, in several moments in this episode. He screams "Fire! Fire!" Very reminiscent of "A bear! A bear!" [both laugh] Stomps out the fire. And then he—he begins what he thinks is gonna be a nice, easy Spike jaunt through—you all love me because I'm hot, I'm Spike. Like, you know—

Jenny: And charming.

Kristin: And charming, right.

Jenny: Charisma up the wazoo.

Kristin: And then, we are not gonna go any further, Jenny, without hearing, together, Giles be the hottest Giles of all time, when he tells Spike where the fuck to stick it.

[Clip from episode plays]

Spike: I'm trying to explain. She might have said some things that sounded like I expressed some kind of—[thudding noise]

Giles: We're not your friends. We are not your way to Buffy. There is no way to Buffy. Clear out of here. And Spike, this thing? Get over it.

Spike: I don't know what you mean.

Giles: Yes, you do. Move the hell on.

Jenny: Now we'll just give you all a brief moment to mop up. [Kristin laughs] Towel off.

Kristin: [singing] "Hot dad! When he was older, he was—" I mean, "younger he was..." whatever. You get it.

[GILES jingle plays]
Giles! Hot dad!
When you were younger you were real bad
But now you're older, you got glasses
That help you watch over us!
Thank you, Giles!

Jenny: Daddy Giles takes off his glasses to fucking tell Spike what's what.

Kristin: [laughs] Yeah!

Jenny: And Spike's like, oh shit. And he gets out of there. Not even Dawn is glad to see him.

Kristin: No. 'Cause he—he fucked up. Real bad.

Jenny: Yeah... it's not great.

Kristin: It's not great. You know what else is not great, Jenny, is these fucking tool bags—

Jenny: These teen fucking goons.

Kristin: Oh my god.

Jenny: Fuck these guys.

Kristin: Fucking asswipes over at the Espresso Pump, being like, "oh, yeah, your friend Warren? We just saw him, he's over there." Thunder clap, patriarchy, you get it. We could play it—we could have made this whole episode just one long patriarchy jingle. And then we get the—we've kinda talked a little bit about this conversation here. We go to Warren's and Buffy and Warren are having as much of a heart-to-heart as they'll get here. Where he's saying, I really feel like everyone deserves to have someone. And she's not—you know, his argument is—she—[laughs] which is interesting when we see the inside of April's computing. But he's like, she's not a sex bot, right? She's—she is my girl—like, I made her to be my girlfriend. She's not a toy, I made her to love me.

But it's a very... especially coming off of Crush, where we had like, larger discussions of who can actually love, what love does look like. Does Spike love

Buffy or, like, is that even possible? And it's like, you know, Warren's idea of what love is is also obviously extremely warped. Because there is—it's not a two-way street in the least. It's entirely one-way. He's saying that he made this robot to love him, but what he really means is he made this robot to think that he is the best thing on Earth and never, ever, ever have an opinion of her own.

Jenny: Yeah. Not great!

Kristin: Not good, dude. Not good. Not the best. And, you know, to top it all off, he made this—he thought that that would be perfect. And of course, it fucking wasn't. Because... [groans, then laughs] the end.

Jenny: Yeah... yeah.

Kristin: So Warren—Buffy is horrified by a lot of this, as she should be, as most of us are. And we find out in this conversation that Warren not only left—like, just wait for her fucking batteries to die, dude! Like, just stick it out for a couple extra fucking—

Jenny: Or just be like, hey, I have to put you to sleep so I can fix some things.

Kristin: Right.

Jenny: And then like, don't power her back—like, what are you—bruh!

Kristin: Something, anything! Don't just leave her.

Jenny: Bruh!

Kristin: And so this is obviously very triggering for Buffy, who's just been left also by her boyfriend and she—

Jenny: Oh my go—this—yeah, this whole—like, Buffy's take. Like, you didn't give her a chance to fix what was wrong? Buffy, she's still a robot. Buffy. [laughs]

Kristin: Yeah...

Jenny: You're fighting too hard.

Kristin: But Buffy—and if you listen to our mailbag last episode, last week, we had a really amazing email talking kind of about this, that like, as much as we had a back and forth about Riley, there was this huge glaring thing that, you know, Riley really didn't tell Buffy directly what he needed until the very end. And it was very

close to when he got on that helicopter and flew away. She had very little time to, like, process, and that's what she's processing here. She—you know, via April. She's just like, I don't—I don't understand how you could do that. I don't understand how you didn't even—you didn't even tell her? You just left her there? You just left her all alone? And like, you know, that is fucked up. And then there's this *amazing* line, where she asks Warren if April is dangerous. And he says, like, no, I just made her to love. And Buffy's like, then she's fucking dangerous.

Jenny: [sings suspenseful tune]

Kristin: Probably the most dangerous.

Jenny: Yeah. [exhales] This is like... [groans uncomfortably] yeah. Um. [exhales] Okay. Hell hath no fury like a robot scorned. [Kristin laughs] Because April finds Katrina and she's like, "have you seen Warren?" And Katrina's like, "fuck all you bitches! Warren's my boyfriend!" First of all, the fact that anybody is fighting for Warren who hasn't been programmed to do so, it's like, mm. And then April starts kind of a—mm, she grabs Katrina's arm and she's like, "you have to stay here and stop lying."

Kristin: Yeah.

Jenny: Like, you have to tell the truth. And then she puts Katrina in a bear hug. I think we hear like a rib crack—

Kristin: Yeah, we do. And actually, if you had the closed captioning on, it would say "ribs cracking." [laughs]

Jenny: Oh my god.

Kristin: It is for sure a rib cracking. And—

Jenny: I—can I tell you something? [laughs]

Kristin: Please.

Jenny: Um, I just want you to know that my friend recently started dating a cool guy who I like a lot. And I was chatting with him, and he was like, "oh, you have a Buffy podcast? I used to work for a transcription company that did all the closed captionings for Buffy."

Kristin: What!

Jenny: When—yeah! And I was like, oh my god. I have some questions for you. Um, what's up with—I just watched an episode where the closed captioning says, like, "tendons snapping." [Kristin laughs] And he was like, yeah, when there's sort of like, sounds happening, that's like, dealer's choice. Whoever is doing the closed captioning can, like—

Kristin: Wow.

Jenny: Editorialize to their heart's content.

Kristin: Wow, that is very fun.

Jenny: So I was like, nice.

Kristin: Yeah. [laughs]

Jenny: I thought you would want to know.

Kristin: I love that. Yeah, thank you. So yeah. Katrina's ribs snap, crack, pop, whatever you wanna say. And we get this really quick cut [trying not to laugh] to Spike's lair. And I love it so much because he is being such a drama—like, he has gone past Angel in drama in this scene. He, like, is throwing papers in the bin, but he's making it like 40 times as difficult as he needs to make it to get the papers into the box. [Jenny laughs] It's like a three—it's literally like a three-second cut. But it just, like, kills me, it's so funny.

Jenny: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Kristin: We get even more patriarchy, patriarchy frosting on a patriarchy cake, when Buffy learns that Warren has programmed April so that if she does not answer him when he calls her, it hurts her. Um... cool.

Jenny: Dude...

Kristin: Cool, cool, cool, cool, cool, cool, cool. Also, I mentioned just a few moments ago that, you know, Warren is saying, she was more than just a toy. She was more than just something to please me, she was in love with me. When we see the inside in this moment of her little machine head, the files are basically like, fetish, fetish, fetish, fetish, position, position, position, position, [laughing] sex, sex, sex, sex. Like, there's like three that have to do with anything that are not sex. So I just feel like, ah, Warren? Not sure, buddy.

Jenny: Yeah. We don't see any of her files on making sweaters, but she apparently made five sweaters for him while she waited.

Kristin: Do you think in the parallel of Buffy to April, do you think that Buffy has made any sweaters? And do you think that, like, she probably only made two and a half because her sweaters have to be, like, twice as big as the sweaters that April's making for Warren? [both laugh]

Jenny: Ah, so broad a shoulder-span. It takes a lot to cover.

Kristin: Warren makes a horrible decision. But listening to Buffy, who's making horrible decisions because Buffy, as you said, is just like, wrapped up in her own shit. And instead of being like, of course I love you, April! Let's go back to my house, I just have to fix a couple of things. Uh, tells this robot, April, that he doesn't love her. [laughs] And then... now this is good. She fucking growls at Buffy, and it's great.

Jenny: Dude. And Buffy's like, "you made her so she growls?"

Kristin: [laughs] We get—

Jenny: A fair question.

Kristin: Yeah, we get a good fight scene between April and Buffy. She, like, snaps this seesaw in half and uses the—

Jenny: Oh, yeah!

Kristin: Oh, it's great. It's great, great, great, great stuff. Katrina and Warren just straight up leave. Like, Katrina has every right to leave but Warren is like—

Jenny: Well, okay, but first—but first she sees—like, Buffy hits April and like, some circuitry becomes evident. And Katrina's like, that's a robot! And Warren's reflexive reaction is, "she wasn't just for sex!" And then Katrina's like, "*that's* your ex-girlfriend?"

Kristin: [laughs] Yeah, Katrina's fuck—Katrina already was out of here. Also, just a side note, new playground. This is not Dru's playground. This is a brand new playground. [Jenny laughs] So...

Jenny: Uh, April's about to win this whole damn thing.

Kristin: Yeah.

Jenny: But then her batteries finally start to die, just as she has Buffy by the throat.

Kristin: And then there's like this heartbreaking scene. Which I always think is the last scene in the episode, and unfortunately for everyone, it is not.

Jenny: There's like four more scenes after that. [laughs]

Kristin: [laughs] There's so many more scenes. But this scene is *really* beautiful. It's beautifully shot, it's beautifully written, it's beautifully acted. We see Buffy on one swing and April on the other. And April's sort of like, slouched in this amazing, like, half-dead robot position. And she's asking Buffy, like, what she exists for. If she doesn't exist to love Warren, then why is she here?

Jenny: Yeah.

Kristin: She's saying, like, "it's getting dark." It's so sad!

Jenny: Yeah.

Kristin: And like, what if—and Buffy now is like, understanding how to deal with April so that she doesn't have to be more scared than necessary. And she's just like, you know, what if he comes back? What if Warren comes back and he can't find me in the dark, 'cause it's so dark. And Buffy's like, I'll—don't worry, like, I'll help him find you. And then she sort of has this fantasy, I think, about like, what it could look like if, you know, Riley came back. And Buffy says to April, he'll come back and he'll tell you how sorry he is. She says, he told me how proud he was of you and how he didn't mean to hurt you.

Jenny: [exaggeratedly clears throat]

Kristin: Ugh, yeah! Yeah. It's pretty gutting. Because it's—you know, we talked about the episode where Riley flies off. And then the episode after that, which—you know, I mean, that was a heart wrenching episode. But then they used, I think, a really good vehicle of comedy to like, help us through. We get the Olaf—the troll episode. And so we haven't, like—we've seen little glimmers of Buffy mourning the loss of Riley. But it's—you know, as we've talked about already, like, it's more than Riley, right? It's sort of like, what—who is she? And why does she feel like she can't be loved? And so this beautiful, beautiful scene is us really getting to see the things that she wishes for and wants for and mourns not having. And sort of, you know as she's saying it, but she knows, you know, Riley's not gonna come back. And he's

not gonna say these things to her, and it's beautiful. Jane Espenson. Standing ovation here. Good lord.

Jenny: Yeah. What the fuck. [both laugh] Um...

Kristin: "Things are always darkest before..." and you think the last line there is probably "the dawn," but we don't hear it. And the camera, big pan up here, big dolly camera situation. The camera goes way, way up. And then we go to [laughs] the location in my notes—

Jenny: Xander's carpentry corner.

Kristin: Yeah!

Jenny: I love hearing all about shimmying the window if the opening is not level, but the window frame is.

Kristin: Yeah.

Jenny: Hell yeah.

Kristin: I would like a shirt that says, "the jam can be shimmed to be a square." [laughs]

[HELLMATH jingle plays]
Hellmath!

Jenny: Uh, you know, I've always said that. [Kristin laughs] I think I might have been the first person to say that.

Kristin: Yeah, I think you—originated, definitely.

Jenny: Buffy's talking about how April was like, devoting everything that she had to, like, making one person happy. And with him gone, there was no reason for her to exist anymore. And like, you know, she's saying this about April and clearly, like, thinking about her relationship. And... then she's sort of like, okay, I need to get comfortable, like, being by myself. I need some, like, Buffy time.

Kristin: Yeah.

Jenny: And she calls Ben and leaves a message for him, saying she's not ready for coffee. And listening to Ben's answering machine is not Ben, but it's Glory! [Kristin

laughs] Who's like, "what's Ben planning, what's Ben scheming? But most importantly, she turned us down?"

Kristin: Hot. Hot! [both laugh] I'm gonna use that "hot" to segue us into the Sexual Tension Award segment. But first, before we get there, I just wanna have my moment with the wood jam scene.

Jenny: Hell yeah.

Kristin: 'Cause I do wanna say that I am just in so much love with the line exchanged between Xander and Buffy where Xander says, "robots are the strangest people." And Buffy says, "people are the strangest people."

Jenny: Yeah.

Kristin: And I also wanted to say that I—I really got some serious Becoming Part Two vibes from this exchange. Because, you know, Buffy saying, "I need to get comfortable being around me" is really, like—it's like she's back in a place where she was when she caught that sword. And she realized, like, she had her. She still had her, but this is a new understanding of what that looks like, and a new place. She's older now, she's seen a lot of loss, she's, you know, moved through different relationships. And so she's coming to that place again, and I think that there's so much truth to that in our own lives and the way we live our lives. That like, how many times in your life have you been like, you know, I really need to sit with myself and like, be with myself and figure out who I am.

Jenny: Mmhmm.

Kristin: It doesn't happen one time. It happens so many times as we learn new sides of ourself and new versions of ourself. And I think that it happens throughout your life, no matter how old you are. So I just think that that was really beautiful and I wanted to talk about it. And now that I have, we can get sexy, if you would like to.

Jenny: I would like to!

[SEXUAL TENSION AWARD jingle plays]
Sexual tension award!

Jenny: Ah, yes. Welcome back to the coziest corner of our podcast. Well, it's the Sexual Tension Awards, of course! [Kristin laughs] The nominees for this episode for your consideration are as follows. In the first slot... no pun intended, we've got Xander and April. He sure is into that robot.

Kristin: Aww yeah!

Jenny: In the second slot, no pun intended, we've got Willow and April. She sure is into that robot. [Kristin laughs] In the third slot—you know. Taking the concept of penetration to a whole new level—

Kristin: Wow, Jenny.

Jenny: It's Buffy... and Spike getting thrown through a window. Hell yeah!

Kristin: So that was a segue I did *not* see coming. Uh...

Jenny: So sorry—heh! No pun intended.

Kristin: No puns ever intended during this segment of the Sexual Tension Awards. And last, a nomination that I fought for because I think it is mystically wondrous, which is the threesome requiring only two bodies, but three beings, which is Buffy, Ben and Glory. When will they change?

Jenny: One of them a god, one of them a Slayer, one of them we assume a regular old mortal who's sort of the vessel of a god.

Kristin: Wow. Just think of what they could do together!

Jenny: Something for everyone.

Kristin: [laughs] So, as you probably know by now, you just follow us on Twitter, @BufferingCast. The poll goes up the day the episode goes up, stays up for seven days. You vote, you choose. And then, hey. In just a handful of episodes, we'll be at the end of Season 5 and we do the big vote-off run by Emily McLongstreet. Emily, I hope you're ready out there.

Jenny: Wow.

[SEXUAL TENSION AWARD jingle plays]
Sexual tension award!

Jenny: Okay. Two more things happen in this episode and they are both regrettable.

Kristin: Yeah. So the first one is Spike rolls up to Warren's mom's house, I guess. Didn't realize it was his mom's house till the end. [laughs] And he takes his

dramatically filled box of Buffy sketches and photos and I think even the wig? And he—

Jenny: And perhaps the sweater?

Kristin: Perhaps the sweater, yes. And he says, here are your specs. And Warren's like, no way, man. And Spike's like, yeah way, man.

Jenny: Uh-huh, uh-huh.

Kristin: And wow. [Jenny makes sound of disgust] Guess we'll see what happens there.

Jenny: Um. Yikes and gross. And also... just—I wanna shout out, for me, it's historically been hard to separate the actor Adam Busch from the character of Warren, who is such a skeeve.

Kristin: Mmhmm.

Jenny: But I just wanna like, shout him out one more time because I feel like his performance of a total—

Kristin: Yeah.

Jenny: Scumbag who's trying to not get a—to get a girl to not hang up on him is so amazing in this scene?

Kristin: [laughing] It's true, it's true. Yeah, no. He—I mean, he does. He gives an incredible performance, there's no question. But I also have a difficult time with that separation.

Jenny: Yeah, yeah, it's tough. What if I told you—Kristin, maybe you know this, maybe you don't. What if I told you that Adam Busch and Amber Benson who plays Tara dated for an extended period of time?

Kristin: Oh, that makes me soften towards Adam Busch, actually. That makes me feel a little bit—

Jenny: Yeah, it helps chip away, right?

Kristin: Yeah, it does, it does. So thank you, I did not know that.

Jenny: Okay, so. Buffy comes home.

Kristin: Yes. Brian has sent flowers, which is very sweet. And Buffy makes a comment about, you know, some guys are still getting it right. She calls for her mom. She makes a comment sort of about, maybe I should pick up Dawn from school. And then she turns around.

Jenny: And something's... not right. Joyce is on the couch. And something's not right. To be continued.

Kristin: Yes. To be continued. Uh, we will be back next week and the week after with a double episode for Season 5, Episode 16, The Body. And... we... are gonna go into a song now, Jenny, that you wrote about, like, Buffy and some robots. Right?

Jenny: Definitely.

Kristin: Great! So happy to hear it.

Jenny: Hurray! [Kristin laughs] Uh, but before we get to that song, I'll tell you that I'm Jenny Owen Youngs! When I'm not watching Buffy, I am writing and recording songs. You can learn more about me at jennyowenyoungs.com. You can hear some of those songs there or on whatever digital platform you prefer for music-listening. You can give me a shout on Twitter, @JennyOwenYoungs. I also, you know, put out an EP in November called Night Shift that you can check out. And furthermore, you can listen to me talk about another petite, blond protagonist over on my other podcast, Veronica Mars Investigations.

Kristin: Hell yes. I am Kristin Russo. You can find me on Twitter and on Instagram, @KristinNoeline. That's K-R-I-S-T-I-N N-O-E-L-I-N-E. You can also find me inside of our Patreon now, doing a special podcast with Joanna Robinson called Feels Like the First Time, which is super fun and I'm having a blast. I also would like to tell you that that spelling can bring you to my website, kristinnoeline.com, where you can find out about the work that I do with queer community, work that I've been doing for near to a decade now, at this point. And yeah, what about us? What about us, Jenny?

Jenny: Well! Buffering the Vampire Slayer is on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @BufferingCast. You can email us at bufferingthevampireslayer@gmail.com, or you can leave us a voicemail at 216-30-BUFFY.

Kristin: Hell. Yes. And you can support us, if you'd like, over on our Patreon page, patreon.com/bufferingcast. You can learn all about us on our website, bufferingthevampireslayer.com. From there, you can find the Patreon. From there, you can find our store. From there, you can find any scheduling things that you

have questions about. It is a website that is full of information for your ears. And... with that, I believe... we have finished Season 5, Episode 15, Jenny.

Jenny: Wow. I guess it's time for me to say, till next time...

Both: Awwwooooooooooooo!

Jenny: [sings the ending] Yeah!

[Jenny performing "I Was Made to Love You" off the album Songs from Season 5 by Buffering the Vampire Slayer]