

= Adam (Buffy the Vampire Slayer) =

Adam is a fictional character in the fourth season of the fantasy television series Buffy the Vampire Slayer . Portrayed by George Hertzberg , he is a monster created from a man and the collected parts of demons , vampires , and technology : the product of a perverse experiment carried out by military scientists . The series ' main character , Buffy Summers , encounters and ultimately defeats him in the fourth season . Adam is the creation of Dr. Maggie Walsh (Lindsay Crouse) , the head of a military @-@ like organization called The Initiative that studies how to alter the harmful behavior inherent to demons . Adam and the Initiative are the fourth season 's primary antagonists , or Big Bad .

The premise of the series is that Buffy (Sarah Michelle Gellar) is a Slayer , endowed with superhuman strength to fight vampires and evil creatures in the fictional town of Sunnydale . In the fourth season , Buffy begins attending college , where she discovers that her psychology professor , Walsh , is a scientist for the Initiative . Adam is Dr. Walsh 's horrible masterpiece , an allusion to Frankenstein 's monster , whose first conscious act is killing his creator . Adam 's search for understanding himself and his true nature , combined for his penchant for chaos , leads him to orchestrate a massacre between demons and humans , after which he will be able use body parts leftover from the melee to create an army of monsters to set loose on Sunnydale . Buffy 's effectiveness as a Slayer is increased because her close friends and family , called the Scooby Gang , assist her in her battles . By the end of season four the members of the group have become estranged and must come back together in order to defeat the apparently invincible Adam .

Buffy studies scholars have critically examined the character of Adam , noting that he is a clear reference to Frankenstein 's monster . Throughout the action of the novel , the monster constantly asks what he is and why he was created , much like Adam . Whedon wanted Adam to be inquisitive and introspective , directing George Hertzberg to " find the stillness " in the character . The presence of Adam also serves to questioning tradition and authority , specifically institutional authority , which is a repeated theme on the show . Adam has a " design flaw " : Adam supplants Dr. Walsh 's existence with technology , finding her unnecessary and killing her ? an act of questioning authority . Critical reception to Adam has been largely mixed , with critics ' opinions ranging from negative to positive . Some commentators felt his subplot was confusing and unconvincing . Others enjoyed the concept and praised the make @-@ up and special effects used to create the character .

= = Character arc = =

= = = Television appearances = = =

Adam makes his first appearance on the thirteenth episode of season four , " The I in Team " . The first twelve episodes of the season establish the overarching themes , with increasing focus on the mysterious activities of the Initiative . Buffy and Willow begin attending college , an experience which overwhelms Buffy immediately as she finds herself far outside her comfort zone . In the season premiere , Buffy and Willow begin attending a challenging psychology class taught by Dr. Maggie Walsh (Lindsay Crouse) . She also meets Dr. Walsh 's teaching assistant Riley Finn (Marc Blucas) and they become attracted to each other . Riley is in charge of a military commando organization that hunts vampires and demons , and captures them for research . It is not revealed to audiences that Dr. Walsh is the head of the research branch of Riley 's military organization , called the Initiative , until the seventh episode .

The Initiative 's goals are gradually made clearer . A recurring character since the second season is Spike (James Marsters) , a mercenary vampire who has fought both against and with Buffy in the past , depending on what suits his interests . Recently wanting to kill Buffy , Spike is captured by the Initiative before he can get to her and implanted with a chip in his brain that causes intense pain if he tries to attack humans to feed on them , or even to fight them . Buffy begins enthusiastically training with the Initiative , spending more time with Riley , and trying to impress Dr. Walsh . At

different times , Willow , Xander , and Giles caution Buffy that she does not know the Initiative 's true motives and there are questions about their mission that are unanswered . Buffy begins asking questions during " The I in Team " . After being sent after a Polgara demon , a being with a skewer in its arm , she wants to know why the demon must be captured alive and unharmed as she is used to killing demons . Her questions at first confound Dr. Walsh ? who answers to no one ? then cement Dr. Walsh 's decision to remove Buffy from the Initiative . After a botched attempt to kill Buffy , Dr. Walsh consoles herself by going into laboratory room 314 and speaking to her pet project , Adam who is laying on a table , apparently unconscious . Adam rises and impales Dr. Walsh with the skewer in his arm ? the one taken off the Polgara demon . His first word is " Mommy " , which he says as Dr. Walsh falls to the floor , dead .

Riley , meanwhile , learns of Dr. Walsh 's death and his comrades Forrest (Leonard Roberts) and Graham (Bailey Chase) suspect Buffy to be her murderer . Extremely agitated and showing signs of drug withdrawal , he follows Buffy and demands to know the truth in " Goodbye Iowa " . None of them are aware of Adam until he re @-@ emerges in the underground laboratories of the Initiative , killing Dr. Walsh 's assistant and another soldier . He tells Riley that he knows Dr. Walsh created them both , that she gave Riley chemicals to strengthen him , which makes them brothers . When Riley refuses to acknowledge their bond , Adam skewers Riley , and knocks Buffy across the room while Forrest and Graham are trying to enter the locked door . Adam leaves and the Initiative are tasked with hunting him down and killing him . When one of Sunnydale 's residents , Jonathan Levinson (Danny Strong) , casts a spell making him the center of everyone 's attention in " Superstar " , Adam is the only character in town who realizes it is an illusion . He explains his insight by saying he is " aware " . His uniqueness has set him apart . Adam is interested in how the illusion will play out , however , and watches it unfold . During the illusion , Jonathan ? temporarily a part of the Initiative ? discovers Adam 's only weakness : a uranium power core source which , effectively , will never allow him to die .

Spike simultaneously discovers Adam to be communicating with the town 's demon underworld , asking for favors through a charisma he has over them . Adam promises if Spike can drive apart Buffy and Riley and their friends , he will remove Spike 's microchip . The plan to drive Buffy , Willow , Xander , and Giles apart works for a while ; at their lowest , the four refuse to speak to each other , but each of them realizes in " Primeval " that they were manipulated by Spike and return , apologetic . They realize that Adam has been orchestrating the capture of the town 's vampires and demons so he can release them in the Initiative ; the Initiative 's holding cells are becoming overcrowded and the soldiers spread very thin and overworked . The soldiers and demons will then proceed to kill each other . Adam then intends to use the resulting carnage to create an army of monsters much like himself .

Buffy , Willow , Xander , and Giles realize they must work as one unit to defeat Adam . They are captured sneaking into the Initiative , but Adam trips the power , releasing all the demons and a fight breaks out all over the facility . Buffy , Willow , Xander , and Giles get themselves into a room adjacent to 314 as Willow starts to cast the spell to join them all temporarily . Riley distracts Adam 's demonoid minions while Buffy confronts Adam . However , Adam , after modulating his arm to dispense a minigun , is able to overpower her . Suddenly , the spell begins to work : to function as one unit , Willow becomes the spirit , Giles the mind , Xander the heart , and Buffy the hand , or strength of their ensemble . They work through Buffy to neutralize Adam , telling him " You could never hope to grasp the source of our power " . Adam , alone but intrigued , shoots at them to no avail . Adam then shoots a missile , which is changed into doves , and his gun is reverted into his arm . They are able , through Buffy , to punch inside Adam 's chest , remove his uranium core , destroying him .

Adam 's most significant influence following his death is in the next episode " Restless " , where the cost of defeating Adam is made apparent . Buffy 's fourth season was a first in the series in that the Scoobies ' defeat of the Big Bad did not occur in a two @-@ part grand season finale . " Primeval " is not the last episode of the season . Joss Whedon felt so strongly about the importance of the four core characters that he dedicated the finale to exploring their development . " Restless " opens with Buffy , Willow , Xander , and Giles arriving at Buffy 's mother 's house still brimming with the energy

of the spell that bound them together in " Primeval " . Each of them falls asleep quickly , however , and their dreams are a pastiche of enigmatic episodes that both reveal much about each character , but also foreshadow what will occur in seasons to come . Their dreams also mirror their roles in the spell they performed to kill Adam . The magic they used to defeat the influence of science creates an inverse crisis , violating the series ' set of laws . Both Riley and Adam , now only in human form , appear in Buffy 's dream . They are wearing business suits , sitting together at a glass conference table as Buffy walks into the room , telling her they are naming things ? as Adam did in the Garden of Eden ? and making plans to take over the world . Buffy asks Adam what his name was before he was a monster , but he cannot tell her . Adam appears once more in the series as one of the faces of the First Evil , the seventh season 's Big Bad , in " Lessons " .

= = = Graphic novel appearance = = =

According to the comic book series Haunted , Adam was once a human member of the Initiative tasked with protecting Professor Walsh . The ghost of Mayor Richard Wilkins , however , took over the body of a vampire , which was then captured by the Initiative . Desperate to escape , the Mayor moved to the body of a dead demon and killed Adam . Having been one of her favorite agents , Professor Walsh vowed to bring him back to life and placed his body in her 314 Project . However , due to the complex nature of the Buffyverse , this chain of events may not , in fact , be canonical .

= = Development = =

= = = Creation and casting = = =

Series writer David Fury cited graphic novel author Alan Moore 's Promethea ? a story combining science fiction , mysticism , and a female superhero ? as inspiration for the storyline , and another nod to Frankenstein as its original title was Frankenstein ; or , the Modern Prometheus . In addition , series creator , Joss Whedon has long been interested in science fiction . He wrote the script for the film Alien Resurrection (1997) , where an extraterrestrial creature is bred from a human and an alien in a laboratory , and went on to develop the space western television series Firefly . Buffy uses both science and magic as narrative devices . According to author Andrew Aberdein , the series employs science in three ways : to demonstrate what contemporary science explains , to posit what science may be able to accomplish , and the dominance of supernatural forces over science . According to Aberdein , Adam , a " kinematically redundant , bio @-@ mechanical demonoid " , is the series ' deepest exploration of scientific potential . Series writer Doug Petrie states that Adam is the embodiment of the invasion of science in a world where magic is the most powerful force . The series relied on its own form of magic to explain Buffy 's superpowers and other supernatural occurrences up to the fourth season . Adam is " what happens when people who believe in science use demons for military gain " , according to Petrie . The result is that science " gets its ass kicked " by magic .

Buffy the Vampire Slayer had been very successful in its first three seasons on television , but some of the characters left the series and storylines ended , creating a need for an entire shift in location and mission . Buffy and the core group of friends who fight with her graduate from high school , while the school itself was blown up in the third season finale . The fourth season , therefore , presents viewers with Buffy , her best friends Willow (Alyson Hannigan) , Xander (Nicholas Brendon) , and mentor Giles (Anthony Head) at a crossroads . Series creator Joss Whedon called it a " strange , sort of schizophrenic season " with a " weird incoherence " , but also stated that the episodes in the fourth season were among the series ' best . The writers set out to explore the characters ' trials as they discover more about themselves following the defining years of high school . Although they had been a cohesive group of friends in the first three seasons , situations arise in the fourth to separate them . The writers focused on each of the four core characters individually throughout the season to increase the impact of their finally coming back together in the

penultimate episode , " Primeval " , when they merge their essences to form a super @-@ Buffy in order to defeat Adam .

George Hertzberg , a University of Southern California graduate with experience in sitcoms and commercials , was chosen based on one of Adam 's monologues he was given to read for the audition . Hertzberg counted luck and being in the right place at the right time in helping him get the role . Many recurring characters on Buffy start with one or two episodes , and when the writers or producers like their chemistry with other actors , they often make them a regular part of the cast . Hertzberg , however , understood at his reading that Adam was to be a major part of the fourth season . Casting Director Amy Britt needed someone physically imposing for the part , with the 6 @-@ foot @-@ 4 @-@ inch (1 @.@ 93 m) Hertzberg fitting the bill . Britt stated , " this is a guy we 're going to want eventually to have some affinity for . We can 't just see him as an evil being . He is evil to the core [and] should scare us with his actions ; but there 's also innocence . Like the Frankenstein monster , you realize that they 're only doing what they know . Or what they 've been programmed to do . These aren 't born creatures , these are creations . "

= = = Make @-@ up = = =

When he auditioned , Hertzberg had no idea what Adam would look like in full costume and make @-@ up . Buffy used a company named Optic Nerve to build the materials to make Hertzberg look like a demonoid . Almost immediately after Hertzberg got the part , Optic Nerve sketched and sculpted Adam 's appearance . They had Hertzberg come in to have molds made for prosthetic parts to fit his head and face , arms , chest , and legs , then he was fitted for contact lenses . They also created separate hands and a chest to film for close @-@ up shots . Adam has a floppy disk drive mounted on his chest which , when used , had to be filmed without Hertzberg behind it . The entire construction of Adam 's appearance took about two weeks . Hertzberg 's voice was also modified post @-@ production . When he saw the full Adam prosthetic and costume , his biggest concern was being able to show nuanced facial expressions under so much latex . It took hours to get Hertzberg into his full costume , but even after it was fully applied on set , often he would have to wait even longer before he went in front of the cameras . He spoke of the need to stay focused during all the waiting while sweating underneath everything he wore for the part .

= = Themes = =

Buffy studies scholar Roz Kaveney states that estrangement from the self and others is the primary theme of the fourth season . To illustrate the absolute search for identity , the series writers created Adam , who is more truly alone than is anyone else . He is a creature assembled from a man , vampires , demons , and cutting edge cybernetic technology . Adam was not the first re @-@ animated corpse to be presented in the series . " Some Assembly Required " in the second season also had a Frankenstein monster @-@ like creation and " Beauty and the Beasts " in the third includes references to Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde ; both touch on the misuse or abuse of science . Adam is a clear reference to Frankenstein 's monster , who in the novel Frankenstein (1818) tells his creator that he is the " Adam of your labours " . Mary Shelley wrote the novel to highlight the problems progress , science , and industry create for humanity . Throughout the action , the monster constantly asks what he is and why he was created . Likewise , Adam escapes from 314 and makes his way out into the world , and much like Frankenstein 's monster , he finds a little boy and asks the boy who and what he (Adam) is , then murders and dissects him . Adam is a curious character , seeking the truth and pontificating on what he has learned , even if he gained the knowledge through heartless violence . Whedon wanted Adam to be inquisitive and introspective , directing George Hertzberg to " find the stillness " in the character . Roz Kaveney notes that Hertzberg 's " flawed but impressive performance " includes Adam 's interesting idiosyncrasy of pausing each time he speaks , as if he is creating meaning with his own words and must consider the implications of what he is saying . Author Nikki Stafford connects Adam 's need to learn about the world around him to Frankenstein 's monster : Adam must understand why other people are

here and why he has emotions , a peculiarity of his creation as Dr. Walsh never encouraged others to question her . One Buffy studies writer draws comparisons between Dr. Walsh and Victor Frankenstein , both of whom build monsters out of body parts " to compensate for human vulnerability " . The moral of Shelley 's novel is that what science can accomplish is not necessarily what it should .

Questioning tradition and authority , specifically institutional authority , is a repeated theme on the show . Buffy was created to subvert the media trope of a young , petite girl who easily falls prey to a male monster . Resisting patriarchy is exhibited in Buffy 's opposing the first season 's Master (Mark Metcalf) , the leader of a cult determined to cause the apocalypse , and again in the third season where exploring the issues of power and its abuse is a primary theme . Buffy opposes Sunnydale 's secretly evil Mayor (Harry Groener) , who is planning to transform into a giant demon and feed on the graduating class of Sunnydale High School . The military @-@ industrial complex is at the heart of the authority question in season four , again drawing comparisons to Frankenstein . Where Frankenstein 's monster had no parental love , Adam has a " design flaw " . Unlike Frankenstein 's monster , who needs his creator to make him a mate , Adam supplants Dr. Walsh 's existence with technology , finding her unnecessary and thus he kills her . Adam is the embodiment of the lack of moral guidance in pursuing scientific and technological advancement . He represents the cannibalistic nature of relentless and unchecked power : what that power wreaks comes back to devour its source . Buffy , however , subverts Shelley 's novel in the way Adam is defeated . Both Frankenstein and the monster must suffer alone . Frankenstein itself is an inversion of the Romantic era ideal of a solitary hero who must endure struggles , by portraying the monster and its creator as isolated and miserable . Buffy , as the embodiment of the postfeminist Romantic hero , further subverts this because the source of her success , according to Anita Rose , is that she fights with friends . Only then is she able to defeat Adam .

= = Reception = =

Critical reception to Adam was largely mixed , with critics ' opinions ranging from negative to positive . Nikki Stafford , in her book *Bite Me ! : The 10th Buffyversary Guide to the World of Buffy the Vampire Slayer* , was critical of Adam as well as the series doing several Frankenstein @-@ inspired episodes so close together , noting that " *Some Assembly Required* " was aired " just two seasons " prior . Stafford called the entire ending sequence of " *Primeval* " , which featured the reanimated corpses of several minor characters as well as the death of Adam , " stupid and disgusting " and wrote that the scene was a main reason she was " happily bidding adieu " to the plot involving Adam and the Initiative . Jenna Busch , in her book *Joss Whedon : The Complete Companion* , called Adam " one of Buffy 's least interesting Big Bads " and argued that his story @-@ arc involving the Initiative was " rather unconvincing and somewhat off @-@ putting " .

Other reviews were more accepting of the character . Noel Murray from *The A.V. Club* was slightly more positive towards the concept of Adam . He wrote that he " love [d] the idea of Adam " but was having a hard time understanding the coherence of his application to the main plot . He cited inconsistencies in Adam 's existence , noting , " Adam killed Professor Walsh weeks ago , and yet The Initiative is still fully operational , and no one seems overly bothered by the fact that one of their leaders was building a monster . " Murray , however , did conclude that the show 's writers and producers " did a decent job of bringing [the plot involving Adam] to a conclusion " . Despite critiquing the larger plot , Murray was " always impressed with [Adam 's] costume / make @-@ up " . Furthermore , he was positively surprised that it " took [him] a minute to recognize " Adam 's appearance in " *Restless* " sans makeup .