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SEASON 12
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Buffy

THE RECKONING

the vampire slayer™

JOSS WHEDON CHRISTOS GAGE
GEORGES JEANTY KARL STORY





THE 23RD CENTURY.

NNAAGGGH!

I'LL STOP THE PAIN, BUT ONLY AS LONG AS YOU LISTEN. ATTENTIVELY.

ANY SORCERER WORTH THE NAME KNOWS THE LEGEND OF THE RECKONING. THE LAST STAND OF THE LAST SLAYER, OVER TWO HUNDRED YEARS AGO.



"THE SLAYER AND HER ALLIES FACED AN APOCALYPTIC ARMY OF DEMONS.

"BY THE TIME IT WAS DONE, SO WERE THEY. THE DEMONS BANISHED TO A HELL DIMENSION. VAMPIRES ALL BUT WIPED OUT, DEVOLVING INTO PRESENT-DAY LURKS.

"THE SLAYER HERSELF GONE, AND NO OTHERS CALLED...UNTIL MELAKA FRAY, JUST RECENTLY.

"THAT'S THE LEGEND, ANYWAY, VAGUE AND UNRELIABLE, AS LEGENDS ARE."



BUT MY SOURCES TELL ME THAT YOU, LITTLE LURK, ARE FRAY'S TWIN BROTHER, HARTH.

AND THAT, WHILE SHE GOT THE SLAYER'S POWER, YOU ENDED UP WITH THE MEMORIES...OF EVERY SLAYER THAT EVER WAS.

WHICH MEANS YOU KNOW WHAT REALLY HAPPENED DURING THE RECKONING. AND YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME.



IT... WASN'T JUST DEMONS. IT WAS VAMPIRES, TOO. AND THEY WEREN'T FIGHTING ONE SLAYER, BUT MANY.

THE SLAYERS DID MEET THEIR END THAT DAY. THEY WEREN'T ALL KILLED. MOST JUST LOST THEIR POWERS AND MEMORIES. BUT SHE WAS GONE FOREVER.

BUFFY SUMMERS. YES...



"...THE SAME BUFFY SUMMERS WHO CAME TO OUR ERA NOT LONG AGO. AND BY DOING SO, MADE THE TIMELINE...WOBBLY.

"LEFT A TRAIL, IF YOU WILL, BACK TO HER TIME. A TRAIL THAT CAN BE FOLLOWED..."



...WITH THE SCEPTER OF THE VEILS, WHICH I'VE SPENT COUNTLESS CREDITS AND LIVES TO ACQUIRE.

NOW I CAN GO BACK TO BUFFY SUMMERS' ERA. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE RECKONING TO MAKE MYSELF ALL-POWERFUL.

THEN RETURN HERE, KILL YOUR SISTER, AND RULE THIS WORLD.



I LIKE IT. ONE NOTE: IT SHOULD BE ME.

HA HA HA! YOU? A COMMON LURK? WHO CRUMBLES TO ASH AT A SIMPLE STAKE THROUGH THE HEART?

YOU'RE FUNNY, HARTH. I BELIEVE I'LL KEEP YOU AROUND. YOU MIGHT YET HAVE USEFUL INFORMATION, AND YOU AMUSE ME.



BUT NEVER FORGET, I CAN DESTROY YOU UTTERLY--

WHAT ARE YOU DOING, IDIOTS? GET BACK! YOU'VE RUINED MY THREAT! NOW I HAVE TO START OVER--



--URKK!

SUCH CONTEMPT FOR US LOWLY "LURKS." SO MUCH, YOU DIDN'T BOTHER TO DO YOUR RESEARCH...



...HARDLY ANYONE TODAY KNOWS THAT LURKS--VAMPIRES-- CAN ASSUME HUMAN FORM. EVEN THEY'D FORGOTTEN.

UNTIL I SHOWED THEM HOW.



THANK YOU FOR THE SCEPTER. I COULDN'T GO BACK IN TIME WITHOUT IT, AND I HAVE TO ADMIT, YOUR DEFENSES ARE MORE THAN WE COULD BREACH.

SO IT WAS NICE OF YOU TO INVITE ME IN...BUT ONLY FAIR, AFTER THE EFFORT I WENT TO, TURNING YOUR MINIONS ONE BY ONE.

YOUR SOURCES--ME, IN CASE YOU HADN'T GUESSED--WERE RIGHT. THERE IS UNLIMITED POWER TO BE HAD.



PRESIDING OVER THE END OF THE SLAYERS IN TWO DIFFERENT TIMELINES...

...IS JUST BLOOD-ICING ON THE CAKE.

THE TROUBLE WITH CHANGING THE WORLD IS...THE WORLD CHANGES.--BUFFY SUMMERS, EARLY 21ST CENTURY. (FROM TALES OF THE SLAYERS, WATCHER PRESS, 2027.)

