

I'D NEVER SEEN

Buffy

the vampire slayer

— UNTIL —

I WATCHED
EPISODE 7 SEASON 5
TEN TIMES
IN 17 HOURS

Its 7:51PM on the 8th of July 2019.

I have just inserted disc two of Season 5 of Buffy the Vampire Slayer (Collector's Edition)

Let's get this party started.

For context, I was discussing borrowing my best friend's Buffy DVDs (I've never seen Buffy) when I suggested watching all of season 1 and then writing a review about it. The idea was that they could do the same and then we could be zine buddies and everyone could enjoy our opinions about Buffy. But then I stupidly suggested that maybe I should just watch one really good episode of Buffy 10 times and then try and guess what Buffy is about based on that one episode. So now I'm doing that. I am going to watch season 5 episode 7 Fool for Love 10 times, for a total of 6.66 hours. As I write these words the DVD menu music is playing and its ominous as fuck and I am slightly worried about how insane I might go tonight. Anyway, wish me luck.

WATCH 1:

Its 7:57pm on Monday Night

Okay so now its 8:40PM and I just heard the "GRRR" and "ARGH" that mean that Buffy the Vampire Slayer Episode 7 Season 5 is over. Wow. What a time. I think I'll save any predictions or synopsis for watch two, but for now let me just say that the cute ginger gal's pink fluffy bucket hat is amazing and I'm obsessed. Other stand-outs for me included killing multiple vampires with a hand grenade (that definitely sounds like cheating to me), the weird energy in the scene between Spike and his cockney lover and her sappy antler lover is really wild, (also I really hope that the antler people are an ongoing thing that seems great) and the kickass performances from the two flashback slayers. Wow. Outstanding. Anyway stay tuned, lets go round two.

WATCH 2:

Its 8:45pm. Its still Monday night.

So to recap, the episode opens with a lil "previously on" Buffy and we get some nice exposé on who the fuck Spike is and all about how he loves and wants to kill Buffy, and then straight into a scene where Buffy does heaps of flips and kicking on a stinky rock and roll vampire. I wanna say that I was really surprised by how many flips there are in vampire killing, just not a tone that I expected? I thought maybe silver guns or long technical spikes? Spike guns??? Anyway, Buffy got stabbed by her own stake for some reason and then almost gets killed by the stinky vampire except that a guy saves her that ends up being her boyfriend I guess. He's not a slayer tho? But likes killing vampires as a hobby I guess. Then we get to see Buffy wearing one of the worst shirts I've seen in such a long time. It's like a fleshy beige with weird folds and crunkles on the front? Is this is the 90's or is this just bad Buffy fashion??? At this point I started to question whether Buffy is a teen or if she just happens to live at home in order to allow her to more efficiently slay vampires? Does she have a job?

Does she study? Or just kill vamps full time?

I can't think of where I've seen Buffy's teen sister Dawn she's super familiar... also Buffy's mum is definitely a human I should recognise but everyone is just so damn young in this its almost like they're hard to look at? Like they're not quite in focus yet until they become older and more recognisable.

Now it's my favourite part of the episode where the cute ginger friend is wearing her signature pink floppy bucket hat. Three very incompetent people and one very competent one go to a cemetery to look for vampires because Buffy has a serious stab wound, but the mission seems mainly about eating chips. Then we cut to Buffy and her book dad researching other slayers to see how they died. Her dad seems sad because he's worried that Buffy will die soon. Sure hope she's not actually a teen...

Also its suddenly nighttime again, so no clues to see what Buffy gets up to during daylight hours. Anyway she's interviewing her vampire ex about how he murdered some gals a while ago and his accent is all over the bloody place.

Is he British? American??
Both??? Also Buffy has a big wad of cash, I guess she must have some kind of job. Also they are in a bar so I guess she's over 21?

Anyway, now we have a nice flash-back to before Spike was a vampire and his weird creeping on women and writing bad poetry. He's kind of handsome I guess? Can't decide if the peroxide blonde Spike is better or this bookish auburn glasses wearing fellow. Also they allude to the fact that maybe this guy killed some men before he became a vamp? The line "They call him William the Bloody, because his poetry is bloody awful" is amazing - I might not have got the wording quite right on that but hopefully on the next go.

Anyway Spike loves a girl with a weird dress and she's not into it, and then he ends up crying in the street and a weirdly sensual woman approaches him and I think she asks his consent to make him into a vampire? And he says yes and she does the deed and they do a great slide down the wall like they're making out but actually she's biting his neck and he's saying OW OW OW loudly and with precise intonation.

Anyway now we're back to the graveyard with the shitty vampire hunters and they're closing in on stinky rock and roll vampire who is hanging out with their friends having a cool party in a mausoleum, because I guess that's where Vampires get together to drink and tell gross stories about Buffy?

And now it's time for flashback two: Spike/William the Bloody is in a mineshaft getting into fights with his vampire friends. One of the vamps makes an improvising stake out of broken pick: I think it doesn't really matter what kind of stake it is, just that it's a stake? Anyway, Spike now knows about slayers and he has become obsessed so he starts to track them down. Now we're in China in 1900 and they have a big fight flipping around in a Chinese temple and eventually William wins and then fucks his vampire lover in the burning building. Something about slayer blood being an aphrodisiac? Anyway, Buffy is offended by this, and Spike accuses her of getting off to killing vampires. When he asks her how many vampires she's killed she says "not enough". Damn she's so tough. Then Spike punches her in the stab wound in front of a whole bar of people and no-one intervenes?

And now we're back to the subplot of Buffy's boyfriend killing vampires: he very easily(???) kills a vampire with a stake and then kills his buddy with a grenade. Buffy mentions that she has special slayer powers so I don't know why the boyfriend could just do it? Maybe he just loves violence.

Now Spike and Buffy are out in an alley play fighting and discussing how Spike killed the two previous slayers. The second slayer is so cool! She's black and has this great fro and a long black leather jacket and these pants that lace up along the whole side??? I can't really place the timing of this event, but from Spike's kind of punk rocker look I'm thinking late 70's maybe early 80's? They're on a train and Spike eventually kills her and says the way he did it was because she wanted to die. That all slayers have a death wish. Anyway, Buffy is super rattled and tells him to fuck off. Also he tries to kiss her? I know they have a history but I don't know how it ended. Bad ex? Probably, he is a vampire. AND THEN Buffy delivers a sick burn and leaves Spike crying in the alley. Good STUFF.

Now Spike is real mad because she made him cry, and he goes and gets a shotgun.

There's a blonde woman at his cool crypt house, maybe his vampire sister? She seems very sensible. But he doesn't listen. Now it's time for a flashback to 1998, which I guess is before season 5 but seems very recent.

Spike's vampire lover from before is fucking a really sticky Antler man in a beige suit. He has deer hands. He has deer hands? What does any of this mean. Anyway he apologises and says he didn't realise that she was seeing someone and awkwardly walks off, it's really good. Spike and his vamp lover have a fight about Spike being obsessed with the slayer.

Now suddenly a change of pace: Buffy's mom is sick! She's going to hospital! But kind of in a chill way? Anyway Buffy is understandably upset but doesn't let it show. She goes to the back of her house to cry and there is Spike, ready to kill her with his cool gun. But hey, the lesson of the episode is sometimes you just love Buffy the vampire slayer too much to kill her, especially if she's crying out the back of her house, so instead you go and sit with her and ask her what's wrong. It's pretty nice actually.

WATCH 3:

Its 9:27. Monday Night.

Here are my 10 favourite things about "Fool for Love" (Episode 7 Season 5 Buffy the Vampire Slayer):

1. Ginger friend's pink floppy bucket hat
2. When Spike is being turned into a vampire and he goes from quietly saying ow to screaming OW with a total of 13 ow's. All extremely annunciated.
3. Subway slayer's outfit. Aforementioned long black leather coat, black flared pants with lacing along the outer thigh and calf, heeled tan boots.
4. Spikes outfit in the same scene. Cutoff black singlet with heaps of zips and safety pins, acid wash jeans, spiked up platinum blonde hair, two dog tags and a lock chain around the neck, big black boots.
5. Spike's silver nailpolish
6. When Buffy throws a bunch of money onto Spike as he cries on the street.
7. When Buffy says "Gotta love a gal with an anvil"
8. That spike keeps his possessions in a very old looking piratey chest?

9. When the blonde vampire says "I think our boys are going to fiiiight!" in this bizarre singsong voice

10. Buffy is drinking out of a shitty blue plastic cup AT A BAR. What is this world.

WATCH 4:

Its 10:12 PM. Monday the 8th of July.

Things I know about vampires from watching Buffy the vampire slayer episode 7 season 5 for a total of four times:

- † They look like regular humans until they suddenly look really bad
- † You can put a chip in the head of a vampire and it can stop them from killing Buffy
- † The government knows about vampires I guess
- † Slayers are chosen ones, who are very good at killing the vampires, always a 'she'
- † There are a lot of vampires in the world
- † Vampires can be stinky
- † You gotta kill them with a stake? Unless you have a grenade then that's fine too
- † Tasers work on vampires
- † Vampires like to hang out at graveyards

† Buffy is good at killing vampires but regular people can too as long as they believe in themselves

† There are people who write about the slayers and the vampires and they are called watchers. Buffy's dad is one which is convenient. Or maybe all the watchers are the slayer's dads?

† Vampires can eat and drink, and have opinions about it

† Becoming a vampire can transform you from a bookish bad poet into a bloodlust horny asshole

† Becoming a vampire cures your vision troubles

† A vampire can create another vampire with a simple bite, as long as the victim gives consent and then says "ow" very clearly

† Vampires can be in gangs

† Vampires are pretty strong and broke a pickaxe in half one time

† Vampires can wear the same leather jacket for 20 years

† Vampires can get scars

† When vampires turn into their gross form, they are bad at talking in the same accent as before

† Vampires can have sex. I think.

† Vampires kill because they want to, but not sure about the blood drinking part, that seems superfluous? I guess they eat human food so they don't need the sustenance.

† Vampires can smell fear

† And they like it

† Vampires hair can grow, if convenient to that vampire

† Vampires like wearing dramatic clothes

† Vampires can have up to 3 different accents at any given time

† I think it's easier to kill vampires in the morning

† Vampires are horny

† Vampires can only live in very dramatic locations like crypts

† Vampires can fuck weird sappy wet deer men

† Vampires taste like ashes

† Vampires are capable of human emotion

WATCH 5:

Okay I stopped for a quick hot milk break. Its 11:05pm.

Things I've learned about Buffy in the past 3 hours:

- † Buffy had sex with a vampire one time
- † Buffy's outfits in previous linear time were much better than the ones from this episode
- † Buffy is fit as hell
- † Buffy bleeds human blood
- † Buffy is interested in romantic connections
- † Buffy lives with her mum and sister
- † Her boyfriend has medical combat training, but is unable to count when it comes to vampires
- † Buffy is in the best physical shape of her life
- † Buffy has a very young younger sister who plays a shitty character in Gossip Girl years later
- † Buffy doesn't want her mum to know she's tough and good at killing vampires
- † Buffy has super healing powers
- † Buffy has terrible green striped wallpaper and a penchant for butterfly stickers
- † Buffy's friends are goofy as hell
- † Buffy likes lip gloss

† Buffy is old enough to drink in bars

† Buffy has bad taste in men

Okay, I almost fell asleep for a second there, time for bed. See you bright and early tomorrow.

WATCH 6:

8:59 AM. I just woke up and I have a hot cup of coffee. Its Tuesday morning 9th July.

So I thought for this watch I'd have some speculations about different characters in the show. Here goes:

COMBAT MEDICAL TRAINING

BOYFRIEND: Buffy describes this boyfriend as a "summer bonus" at one point, so that makes me think that maybe they haven't been dating very long. There's no affection in any of the scenes, and Buffy doesn't seem to actually trust this guy. Maybe she just got out of another relationship? Maybe with a vampire or some tough guy? And this is the sensible nice guy rebound? But also the fact that this kid kills like 5 vampires no problem and "moves like a jungle cat" makes me think that Buffy doesn't give him enough credit and maybe he's gonna end up being a sneaky secret vampire bad boy.

BUFFY'S KID SISTER: this kid has the most amazing silky hair and perfect lip gloss and skin, so I think maybe she's an immortal. No pubescent teen looks like this. She seems keen to slay and thinks stab wounds are cool so I think Buffy should recruit her for a badass sister/sister slaying combo.

BUFFY'S CUTE MOM: she is great at being worried about grocery lists, and pretending to be more than fine when she probably has a brain tumour? She seems nice but is bad at conveying how she actually feels about things. Maybe that's where Buffy get it from.

GILES THE BOOK DAD: Such a calming dad presence wow. He seems to know a lot and how to read old books. I reckon he'll end up crying over Buffy's dead body probably. Foreshadowing.

BUFFY'S CUTE GINGER FRIEND: wow what a cutie! I wish this episode was about her she seems fun! She puts like 20 chips in her mouth at once! And such a good fashion sense! I think she's probably a goofy sidekick kind, rushing into danger and getting into trouble. Never takes anything seriously enough.

BUFFY'S GOOFY BRUNETTE

FRIEND: This guy seems like a genuinely incompetent fool, but I guess he must have some redeeming features? Maybe he accidentally killed a vampire one time. I like his huge lanky body and yellow jumper.

BUFFY'S CHILL AS HELL BLONDE

FRIEND: How can a characters main feature be ditsy? Anyway, she seems like a cutie but in this episode she mainly just flips her scarf over her shoulder a lot. There's a few moments where she looks like she'd like a line but they just don't give her one.

SPIKE: wow there's a lot to unpack for Spike this episode, its mainly flashbacks to his backstory. But at its essence he seems like a tough boy who's actually a softie deep down, and really just wants someone to love him and see him as worthy. I really wish someone would love and value this boy but he seems surrounded by people who only make him feel like he needs to be tougher and harder and meaner. I guess that's the vampire life. ANYWAY He and Buffy have a nice moment at the end and I makes me hope that they'll have a nice blossoming friendship where they can support each other in their vampire exploits. But knowing TV, Buffy will probably just end up cheating on her Combat Medical Training boyfriend with Spike.

MY FAVOURITE SCENE



THANK YOU SUBWAY SLAYER

BUFFY: From this episode alone, I think Buffy is worried about seeming weak to the people immediately around her - maybe at the start of her being a vampire slayer she was more vulnerable, but in season 5 I guess she's been doing it enough that she thinks she's an expert and also that she needs to be an expert. She seems kind of reluctant to receive help from her friends and even though she's injured she still goes out to drink with a dangerous vampire in a bar. Buffy is really tough and self-sufficient, but I think that's something she's been working on for the past few seasons. I reckon in the next few seasons she'll arch back down to becoming more reliant on the people around her, maybe even fall in love? And then she'll be vulnerable to vampires who might kill that love. That seems like a TV show for sure.

Okay to break structure for a second, I just wanna talk about what it's like to watch the same episode of Buffy 6 times in the course of 12 hours. It sucks.

I'm getting to a point where I can see certain parts of the episode coming up and I just really don't want it to happen. Like not this again. Please Joss whedon.

Don't let Spike awkwardly hit on Edwardian women who don't like him. I don't want to see it again! And I mean really Spike should know better after all this time, it hasn't worked any of the other times.

Also everytime that the actors do a really bad acting or a bad take I just wanna shake them and tell them to do a better job. Like why was this the facial expression you chose for this line! This is nothing! Being a vampire isn't an excuse!

WATCH 7:

Its 10:01AM, I've had a shower and now have a hot porridge breakfast. I feel mentally prepared to watch Buffy the Vampire Slayer Episode 7 Season 5.

I've been thinking, it's very strange that Buffy's boyfriend just leaps out of the darkness at 03:18 to save Buffy in her exact moment of need, but also asks her immediately "what happened?" like he wasn't watching? Was he just passing through the cemetery for a nice night time walk? He continues to ask questions about the fight hours later when he's attending to Buffy's injury, like seriously is he short sighted?

I love the idea that Buffy's mum is so keen to ask Buffy if they can go over the grocery list she walks into her daughters bedroom where she might be having sex. Maybe she doesn't want her to be having sex? But she looks about 27 so that seems kind of strange.

Buffy offloads all of her duties, like household chores and vampire patrol, because she's too injured but then immediately decides to go to do vampire sleuthing and playing pool in a bar. This is a real dickhead move Buffy. Maybe Buffy just hates doing the dishes?

why are Buffy's "gang" so incompetent and chilled out? Its Season 5! Surely they've seen some real shit by now, don't they know that they could die at any time? Maybe they want to die??? Or I guess maybe they're not actually just teens but actually they're immortal beings who are impossible to kill. Werewolves??

Is it always night time in Buffy episodes? I really wanna know what Buffy does during the day!! I guess maybe she just sleeps if she's been vampire slaying all night.

Turning slightly to the right to order buffalo wings makes Buffy's stab wound hurt, but later she has a full on rough and tumble fight with Spike

and is fine? Maybe she really does heal very fast. Or maybe she was trying to get out of ordering those buffalo wings.

"Patrol" seems to consist of mainly hanging out in the cemetery and eating chips loudly - do vampires only hang out in one place? In this very specific location in America? I guess they'd have to for Buffy the Vampire Slayer to make sense.

Spike's hair continues to grow over time, but his vampire buddies look exactly the same. Do they slightly trim their hair every few months? Do they have to shave to stay clean shaven?

The Chinese Slayer is really show offish in her fighting style and constantly shows her back to her enemy just to do cool flips and whip her sword around. I guess this could be on purpose to show how she wanted to die? Also its really wild to me that this takes place in this big Buddhist temple, I wonder if its a set or an actual real place.

The 4 vampires are just casually walking through this city being burned to the ground, and they stick out like a sore thumb but no-one takes any notice of them. Being a vampire doesn't make you invisible! Or does it...

I still can't believe that a bar full of people see a woman attacked at a pool table and watch her scream out in pain, but then just let her walk out of there with the guy who did it without checking she's okay.

Combat Medical Training boyfriend says he's gonna come back and kill the vampires at daybreak, but he is letting off grenades in mausoleums at the same time that Buffy is leaving the bar, and there's no way that its day break because she goes and talks to her mum immediately after this! why is he lying to the gang about when he's gonna kill the vampires? Is he trying to prove himself? Or is he a sneaky sneak thief??
www.Badboy.com

why doesn't Buffy kill Spike? Is she in love with him? Or is it against slayer code to kill helpless vampires?

Spike gets his head thrown through a subway window and doesn't bleed at all. Vampires must be super tough. But he did start bleeding from a sword attack to the head previously so I guess it just depends on how they're feeling on the day?

I think Vampires maybe can't feel the cold, because Spike seems to just wear whatever he thinks would be cool rather than something that matches the actual temperature. People around him might be wearing heavy leather jackets but he's gonna wear a black punk singlet because that's what he's into.

The blonde vampire that lives in Spike's crypt house asks that he doesn't drive a spike through her heart "like last time", but she's not dead so... I guess vampires can't kill other vampires with stakes? Or maybe that's just a fun thing vampires say to other vampires.

Buffy gets home from drinking at a bar and getting told that she wants to die and being upset about it AND IMMEDIATELY writes a grocery list for her mum??? What a good daughter. She also takes the time to put on a cute new outfit and necklace in order to go cry on the back porch. So considerate.

WATCH 8:

Its 10:55AM, I just brushed my teeth, let's do this thing.

I thought I might give you a run down of my favourite weird moments and some random thoughts I usually have when I watch episode 7 season 5 of Buffy the Vampire Slayer:

- ‡ Marc Blucas is a super dumb name.
- ‡ The bit in the opening credits where Spike does a pose for the camera gets me every time.
- ‡ Fuck Buffy's baby blue sweater and black scarf combo in the opening scene. Is that really what you want to be wearing when you go to kill vampires??
- ‡ When Buffy says she wants to be more "like a cheeto".
- ‡ When Spike says "as I thought... some nasty thing got a taste of you" in this totally incongruous southern accent.
- ‡ The facial expressions of everyone at Spike's pre-vampire 1880 London party, it's so overdone.
- ‡ When Spike says "I know I'm a bad poet, but I'm a good man."
- ‡ When Spike's vampire lover says "that burning baby fish swimming all around your head" and makes a circular motion over her belly?? I still haven't been able to work that one out
- ‡ When Spike says "Oh yes... I mean no! I mean, Mother's expecting me..." Really good way to react to any offer really.
- ‡ I really enjoy Spike's performance of turning into a vampire, he keeps saying "ow" like she doesn't realise how much it's hurting.
- ‡ How the blond side-kick character has to constantly flip her scarf over her shoulder, she does it about 6 times. Also it seems like she's really struggling to pay attention to the scene and what's happening. She looks cold? Maybe she's just really cold.
- ‡ The bar that Spike and Buffy are in is really wild. It has a food counter with glass cases with pies or cakes in it? And also a stage with a full drum kit on it and nothing else, and a wrought iron hanging chair covered in vines right next to the pool table? And a lot of people drinking out of blue and red plastic cups??

- ‡ When Spike accuses the vampire dad of being a “poofster”. Feels really out of place. But I googled it and apparently that was something you could say to someone else in 1880.
- ‡ Everytime the vampires turn into their gross selves I think wow that must have taken a while in the makeup chair did they really need to do that?
- ‡ I love how the vampire squad is all wearing a mix of red and black, very powerful gang look.
- ‡ When fucking Spike just sucks on a lime and throws it away, except they never show where the lime came from or where it went??? Like they’re playing pool, where are you throwing this lime? Mr whedon why was this a decision you made???????
- ‡ I love how everytime at minute 29:19, Buffy’s boyfriend pulls the pin on a grenade, makes eye contact, slowly puts it down and then runs out of the Mausoleum and the vampires just never really react? Do they not know what grenades are? Also the idea that Buffy’s boyfriend really doesn’t give a shit about blowing up a sacred resting place is great.

- ‡ I love everything about Subway Slayer’s look: like where was she going in these powerful lace up pants and floor length leather jacket but also a super comfortable casual brown cotton top? SO POWERFUL.
- ‡ Spike’s punk singlet in the subway scene is also really wild, there must be about 40 safety pins on it and they are spread pretty uniformly across only the front of the shirt. It’s the most orderly anarchy I’ve ever seen.
- ‡ Buffy’s walking style as she struts away from a crying Spike.
- ‡ Spike’s sniveling as he rushes to pick up Buffy’s money while crying.
- ‡ WHY IS THERE A VERY WET AND STICKY ANTLERED MAN I HAVE TO KNOW ITS WILD. IS THIS JUST A THING??? IS THE STICKY ALL THE TIME OR IS IT A SEX THING???????
- ‡ Do you think Spike dyes his own hair?
- ‡ Buffy’s mum’s bedspread, curtains and overnight bag match so perfectly.
- ‡ The theme music is recorded by someone called Nerf Herder.

WATCH 9:

Its 11:42 AM, the dog is asleep on my bed, and it’s time for the penultimate watch.

Can I just say, Buffy’s hair looks so much better in the opening credits. Maybe the overarching character trend for Buffy is to get worse and worse hair and clothes. Anyway, I’m gonna have some thoughts about what the overall Buffy story arch is, based on episode 7 season 5 of Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

So Buffy is the best physical shape of her life, so I can only assume that over the last 5 seasons she’s been getting ripped and learning martial arts, and boning up on slayer lore with her book dad Giles. I assume that someone appeared in the night to let her know that she’s the chosen slayer to kill vampires, and from that point onwards she had a variety of increasingly difficult tests of vampires coming to get her? Or maybe she becomes aware that there are vampires all around and she just keeps running into them. I think for at least 10 episodes she tries to keep her friends and kid sister in the dark about vampires, but by season 5 obviously it’s all come out and they’re helping her slay vampires.

I do know for sure that Buffy has a type, which is “bad boy and/or vampire”, so she probably has slept with at least 3 vampires and 5 bad boys by this point. I’m gonna hedge my bets on at least 2 distinct love triangles. I predict that there might be some chunky romantic conflict coming up between Buffy’s current boyfriend and Spike.

Buffy doesn’t seem to have a special weapon, but I think that she might end up with one by season 7 – some kind of super vampire killing weapon! Like a really loooooong spike! I do also have a suspicion that she might end up as either a vampire or some kind of immortal being by the end of all the seasons, or maybe even slightly before the end so that we can explore the ramifications of that on screen. I think that if it hasn’t already happened, one of her sidekick friends will get seriously injured/killed/ or turned into a vampire. I could totally see Buffy’s boyfriend ending up as a vampire that’d be classic. I think by season 7 Buffy will have found out about some kind of big bad: maybe a big vampire coven or even the source of vampirism? Maybe someone trying to turn everyone into a vampire? Some kind of huge evil that only Buffy can defeat (with the help of her friends of course).

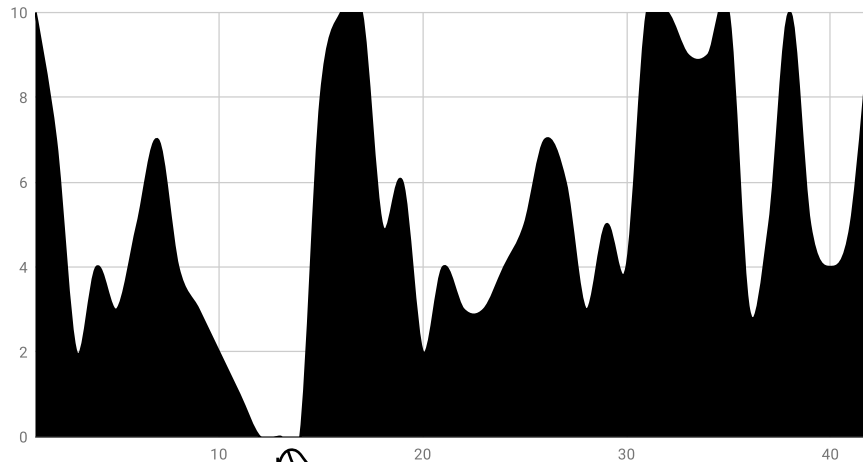
WATCH 10:

Its 12:26 PM on Tuesday the 9th of July.

This is the last time I have to watch the Buffy the Vampire Slayer episode Fool for Love.

I feel a great sense of relief seeing Spike doing his terrible awkward thing up on the screen and knowing it's the last time I have to watch it. It hasn't been as hard as I would have thought to watch this same 42.43 minute piece of media 10 times, but it hasn't been super easy either. The awkward moments and bad acting get more and more grating everytime, while the things I enjoyed about the original watch become more and more intense in their brightness in comparison. I have attached a graph to plot my general mood and enjoyment across the episode, and you'll see that while there are intense highs there are also great lows - and also just patches of complete mediocrity. Do you think that the editors had to watch this episode 10 times in order to make it? Did they have any sense by the end of the it whether it was a good episode of Buffy the vampire slayer?

How good is it (by the minute)



this bit is when Spike is writing his terrible poetry.



THIS IS MY SECOND FAVOURITE SCENE. ITS REAL GOOD.

This specific episode was recommended to me by a complete stranger and I can see why they would like it: Spike seems to be a recurring character and you get to know all sorts of weird things about his backstory that seem very incongruous to his current flavour of standoffish asshole. I have a feeling that this episode might be pretty different to other episodes, from what I know about Buffy from general pop culture: there's no hunt, there's no mystery, it's just exposing background on some characters we've already met while some other big bad is brewing in the background.

I will say that those kind of episodes are my favourite in other series I've watched so I get it. It'll be interesting to go back and watch Season 1 of Buffy with this tiny glimpse into her future, especially knowing how much of a dick Spike is and that she sleeps with him. I wish I could warn her not to! But I guess Buffy is her own dad and she can take care of herself.

If I could say one thing to Buffy it would be: don't trust your Combat Medical Training boyfriend he seems like a shady character.

Thanks for reading my ramblings about
Buffy the Vampire Slayer "Fool for Love"
(episode 7 season 5)

This zine was written and produced in the
space of 20 hours so please be gentle.

I went a little insane.

If you ever want to chat very specifically
about this episode, hit me up on instagram
@dr.jesseddi

But please, no Buffy spoilers.

This zine was created on the
stolen lands of wurundjeri
people of the Kulin nation.

I pay my respects to Elders
past, present and emerging and
acknowledge that sovereignty
has never been ceded.