



SEASON 9
No. 10

ANGEL & FAITH™

CHRISTOS
GAGE

CHRIS
SAMNEE

JOSS
WHEDON
EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



women of a
certain **age**



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While keeping the streets of London safe, Angel and Faith struggle with their sin-filled pasts. For now, Faith finds some peace in guiding a group of Slayers—one of whom has a lethal grudge against Angel. With reluctant assistance from Faith, Angel seeks to undo his greatest sin and resurrect Giles from a natural death . . . somehow . . . in a world without magic.

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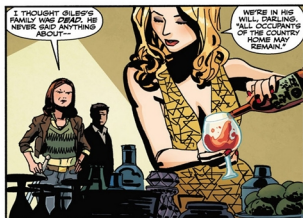
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Women of a Certain Age























YOU SURE YOU WANT TO DO THAT NOW? THAT'S THE LAST OF THE SPARE DOORS.

GOOD, 'CAUSE SOMETHING'S BEEN BUSSING ME.

NO NEW VISITORS FOR TEN MINUTES. I THINK IT'S OVER.



GILES NEVER SAID WORD ONE ABOUT YOU TWO. NEVER.

BUT HE HAD YOUR PICTURE ON THE WALL, SO OBVIOUSLY HE DIDN'T TOTALLY DESPISE YOU.

I JUST SLICED UP TWENTY MONSTERS FOR YOU. I WANNA KNOW THE FAMILY DRAMA.



RUPERT HAD A... DIFFERING VIEW OF HOW ONE SHOULD EMPLOY ONE'S MYSTICAL GIFTS.

ALL THAT HONOR AND DUTY NONSENSE HE GOT FROM OUR SISTER.

OH, RUPERT ADORED HIS GRAN EDNA. THOUGHT SHE WAS SO BLOODY MORALLY SUPERIOR JUST BECAUSE SHE GOT WRINKLY AND DIED.



THERE'S MORE TO IT THAN THAT. I'VE BEEN READING THE WATCHER'S FILES. BETWEEN THE LINES, SOMETIMES.

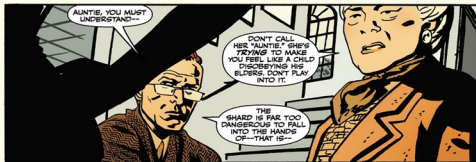
GILES MENTIONED YOU HERE AND THERE. "CONSULTING THE GIRLS," IS HOW HE PUT IT. SEEMED LIKE A GORE SUBJECT...AND THIS IS A GUY WHO'S PRETTY UP FRONT ABOUT HIS MISTAKES.

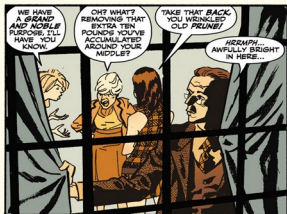
TELL US THE WHOLE STORY. WE EARNED IT.



HH.

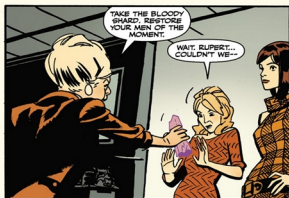
HE WANTED TO BE A FIGHTER PILOT. DID YOU KNOW THAT?



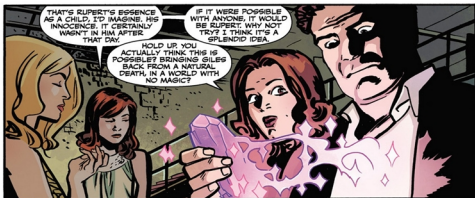














I'M SO GLAD
WE FINALLY HAVE
A MOMENT
ALONE.

UH...I'M
KIND OF...WELL,
NOT SEEING ANYONE,
EXACTLY. IT'S MORE
THAT I'M...FREAKED
OUT BY YOU.

OH, THAT'S
ADORABLE. MY DEAR
ANGEL, IF I WANTED
TO SHAG A CORPSE,
I'D HAVE GOTTEN
MARRIED.



NO, THIS IS ABOUT
RUPERT. YOUR PLAN TO
RESURRECT HIM.

DON'T LET
ANYONE TALK
YOU OUT OF IT.
DO WHATEVER
YOU MUST.

THE WORLD
NEEDS HIM. BUT MORE
IMPORTANTLY...*WE*
NEED HIM.

DON'T WE,
DARLING?



HOW AWKWARD. I JUST
REALIZED THIS MUST BE
WHERE YOU AND RUPERT
USED TO...WELL.

WHAT? I
WASN'T SLEEPING
WITH HIM!

NO, OF
COURSE NOT.
MIDDLE-AGED MEN
LEAVE EVERYTHING
THEY OWN TO
YOUNG LADIES OUT
OF FATHERLY
AFFECTION.

BUT THAT'S
BEHIND THE POINT.
THERE'S SOMETHING
IMPORTANT I NEED
TO DISCUSS
WITH YOU.



THIS PLAN OF ANGEL'S...
HE MEANS WELL. BUT I
DON'T HAVE TO TELL YOU,
HE'S PLAYING WITH DAMP
DYNAMITE.

YOU'RE CLEARLY
THE LEVEL-HEADED ONE.
LET HIM PLAY THE TORTURED
SOUL SEEKING REDEMPTION
IF HE LIKES. BUT IF IT LOOKS
AS THOUGH HE'S GOING TO
MAKE A DOG'S BREAKFAST
OF THINGS...

...IT'S
DOWN TO YOU TO
STOP HIM, MY DEAR.
WHATEVER IT TAKES.



EVERYTHING
ALL RIGHT?

FIVE
BY FIVE ON
MY END.
YOU?

SURE, YEAH.
SAME.



OH, RUPERT. I
CAN FEEL YOU
SCOWLING AT ME.
COME NOW,
LOVE.

WE HELD OUR NOSES AND
LET YOU GET OLD. BUT I'LL
BE BUGGERED IF WE'LL
PERMIT OUR NEPHEW TO DIE
LIKE SOME COMMONER WHO
SLIPS IN THE BATH. NOT
WITHOUT A FIGHT.

IF THERE'S
A WAY TO BRING
YOU BACK, ANGEL
WILL FIND IT. WE'LL
SEE TO THAT.



AND IF
HE MUST BE
STOPPED BEFORE
HE DOES SOMETHING
HORRID TO YOU--OR THE
WORLD, I SUPPOSE--
WE'LL SEE HE IS.
COURTESY OF
FAITH.

I KNOW WHAT
YOU'D SAY. THAT AFTER
ALL THESE YEARS WE'RE
STILL USING PEOPLE. BUT
ALL WE'RE DOING IS HELPING
THEM PLAY THE ROLES THEY
SO DESPERATELY WANT.

YOU
WATCHED OVER
PEOPLE LONG ENOUGH,
DEAR BOY. IT'S TIME
TO LET YOUR AUNTIES
WATCH OVER YOU.



HOW
LONG DO YOU
THINK THEY'LL
STAY?

LONGER
THAN WE WANT
THEM TO--

**KNOCK
KNOCK**

OH,
COME
ON.



LISTEN, PAL,
I'VE HAD A
LONG DAY AND
I DON'T HAVE
THE PATIENCE
TO MESS
AROUND WITH
YOU.



IF YOU'RE
STILL THERE
WHEN I OPEN THIS
DOOR, I'M JUST
GOING TO SNAP
YOUR NECK
LIKE A...



...TOOTHPICK...



UH-HUH,
KINDA YOUR
WHEELHOUSE,
ISN'T IT?

WILLOW?

The End

SLAY^{the} CRITICS



Send your letters to Buffy@DarkHorse.com
Check out the Buffy Zone at DarkHorse.com

Thanks to the excellent Chris Samnee, artist of *Serenity: The Shepherd's Tale*, for jumping in on this issue to give Rebekah a much-needed break.

This letter represents the deluge of mail we got responding to some of the plot developments over in *Buffy*. If you haven't read up to issue #7, please go read those before reading the letter below.

Hey *Buffy* crew,

I have to say that I've lucked out again, by keeping my nose to the ground and not looking at advance solicitations! I was never spoiled by the infamous "Angel is *Twilight*" slip, and now with Season 9 #7, I didn't see the "Buffy's a Robot" cover. I actually still haven't seen it, since the letter column in this issue doesn't show the next issue's cover. I definitely didn't see this coming.

Really, I've been agonizing over whether or not *Buffy* will have this baby, and how things will never be the same again. In the later years of the TV series I was always wondering if this issue would be tackled, and with Principal Wood we were given some insight into the idea of a *Slayer* pregnancy. I had always thought if a *Buffy* pregnancy story occurred, it would be in the final season, so that a baby wouldn't have to be wrangled into the episodic storytelling. We'd see *Buffy* as a mother in the series finale, and maybe a flash-forward to give us some future highlights. But now after all the debating in my head over whether or not adding a baby to *Buffy*'s entourage would hinder the book, *Buffy*'s a "f\$%cking robot!" I never saw this coming. How in the world did this happen, and what the heck is going on?

I'm loving *Buffy* Season 9. I find it a lot easier to follow with fewer characters in the mix, and with a normalized setting again. I'm of course also reading *Angel & Faith*, though I haven't read the last few yet, but I did buy them. I went and bought the entire IDW series and I am trying to read through those before I continue with *Angel*'s story. Between both series, my big question is: Where's *Illyria*? I absolutely loved her on the show, and wish she would've had a chance to do more before the series ended. Will she be showing up now in *Dark Horse* comics? Even if it's only for a single story arc, I'd still like to see her. I'm also glad to see *Drusilla* over in *Angel & Faith*. And I heard that *Juliet Landau* will be writing a miniseries that is coming up? I'm all over that! Well, keep up the good work, guys! Thanks for continuing the thrill ride that is the *Buffyverse*!

Mark McCracken
Shavertown, Pennsylvania

Thanks, Mark. We do have plans for *Illyria*. Stay tuned. The *Drusilla* series remains on hold as of this writing, but there may be more news on that before long.

Dear *Angel & Faith* team,

I am so excited that *Drusilla* is back. Not only is she crazy as ever, but she is going by the name that suits her best: "Mother Superior." *Dru* seems hell bent on finally getting her revenge on *Angel*, and I can't really blame her, given their history. On the other hand, the interactions between *Faith* and her father are nothing short of captivating. *Faith*'s family and extensive past are stories I've been waiting years to read. Thank you so much for bringing life back into *Angel* and *Faith* in the comic world. These two characters are the two most interesting and complex in the entire *Buffyverse*, and the whole creative team is knocking it out of the park.

Daniel Bellay
Fairmont, West Virginia

Hey team,

Just wanted to say how much I'm loving the *Angel & Faith* comics; I prefer them over *Buffy* Season 9 because *A&F* has a layer of emotion that I think is missing from *Buffy*. For example: the conflicting emotions running through *Angel*'s head in issue #3 when *Faith* proposes he use the *Mohra* blood to make himself human again, or the single-panel flashback in issue #6 to when *Faith* murdered the deputy mayor in Season 3. These emotions of remorse for one's prior actions produce powerful stories as *Angel* and *Faith* struggle to counteract the damage they've inflicted upon others in past lives, with the memory of *Giles* keeping them together.

Thanks,
Zack
Kingston, Ontario, Canada

Oh my God. It's *Drusilla*, one of my favorite characters that I loved the most to see being fleshed out in front of me with great acting (and writing, of course). I couldn't help myself and started picturing how *Juliet Landau* would act that scene in the church...

And I should know better, but just a few pages later you guys got me all over again... Oh. My. God. *Drusilla* is sane. From there the trail of thought just ran wildly: Oh my God! How could they do this? *Drusilla* isn't like herself? Why? Oh my God! She is sane! How can I be complaining right now about this?

Thank you for opening this new book on Drusilla that I didn't know existed. I can't help but wait anxiously for you to tell the story, on the pages of *Angel & Faith!*

sirroman

Hey Scott,

This is my first time writing a fan letter and, since English is not my first language, I apologize for any errors you may find.

I just want to say how much I'm enjoying both *Buffey* and *Angel & Faith*. It's good to see that you've taken a more down-to-earth path than Season 8, which seemed way too much at some points. But there is one thing that is really bugging me for a while now, and it's the reason that I'm exercising my English and writing here.

Angel had a good run in IDW. At least in the beginning. *After the Fall* was the perfect Season 6 and I think you guys should really start thinking about connecting that arc to Dark Horse's *Buffeyverse*. The universe created in *Angel* has its own fan base and a lot to explore. It's just sad that it is all being ignored like that. I know you probably have plans to bring those guys back. But still, there's this void that needs to be filled, and I'm scared that you may ignore one of *Angel*'s best seasons (*After the Fall* was better than Season 4; let's face it). (And to make life easier for you, IDW's *Angel* issues #19–#44? Those you can ignore.)

Carlos Amorim
São Paulo, Brazil

I have been a huge *Buffey* fan since episode 1. I was so glad to learn that the series continued in comics. A little disappointed that all the other *Buffey* fans I know aren't interested in the series enough to pick up an issue and read it—but they all want to know about it. I love the direction this season is going. Every issue I read leaves me waiting for the next one. I wasn't a huge fan of *Angel*, but the spinoff series is very well written and keeps me interested. Keep up the great work, guys!

Patrick D. Palacios

Hello all,

All my best to the team working on *Angel & Faith*. This comic started solid and is now one of my favorite *Buffeyverse* tales. Rebekah Isaacs's art is clean and bold and strong—well suited for these characters.

Christos Gage's story is personal and political, as it were—universal because it is specific and entrenched in the *Buffeyverse*. Dangling threads and long-lost consequences are favorite themes of mine, and *Angel & Faith* is all about those.

Dan Jackson's colors do that exceptionally difficult thing: they stay out of the way. I truly appreciate how clear the color work is—not muddled with effects and stunts. Ditto the lettering.

I appreciate Dark Horse publishing this story. It's quiet and heavy and a bit morose, and that all might not sound like big sales. But it's good, solidly good, a tale of betrayal and guilt and crime. If noir wasn't such a desperately over-used term, I'd say it was noir. Noir adjacent, at any rate.

My thanks to you all, and best wishes.

Sigrid Ellis

Thanks, Sigrid! This series is getting a lot of love, with many *Whedon* fans saying it's their favorite of the two main books. And soon there will be more to choose from... We can only hope that each title—*Buffey*, *Angel & Faith*, *Willow*, and *Spike*—becomes someone's favorite.

Next issue *Rebekah* is back, and we'll see what *Willow* has planned. I'm sure you can guess where her priorities are, and advance looks at covers have shown fans that it has something to do with Connor. It's gonna be good...

In a couple of weeks in *Buffey*, we wrap up the robot story line, and Cliff Richards and I wrap up our run, before Andrew Chambliss and Georges Jeanty take the reins back.

But—now on sale, be sure to check out Felicia Day and Wil Wheaton's collaboration, *The Guild*: Fawkes, getting down and dirty with the nasty son of a bitch Wil played on the live-action series. Also, please give my standalone B.P.R.D. one-shot a try—with a cameo by Hellboy and a complete story told in one issue, *The Transformation of J. H. O'Donnell* is a great way to try out the world of Mike Mignola. And don't miss the spectacular, oversized, ten-issue collection *Buffey Season 8 Library Edition Volume 1*, with more sketchbook material than you've ever seen from the great Georges Jeanty. And Georges also graces the cover of the second *Guild* trade paperback, out in July.

Dig it—

Scott Allie



BUFFY SEASON 9 #10
ON SALE JUNE 13!