



SEASON EIGHT
#16 | \$2.99

JOSS WHEDON • KARL MOLINE
ANDY OWENS • MICHELLE MADSEN • RICHARD STARKINGS

Buffy

the vampire slayer™

THE
RETURN
OF

FRAY

JOSS WHEDON'S
SEASON EIGHT

TIME OF YOUR LIFE
PART 1





**DARK
HORSE
COMICS**

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BUFFY

the Vampire Slayer™

Based on the television series created by Joss Whedon

SEASON EIGHT

Today thousands of Slayers populate the world—forming squadrons, fighting vampires, demons, and, more recently, the U.S. military. Buffy and Xander continue to train an elite force of Slayers in the highlands of Scotland where they prepare to duel their fiercest foe to date: Twilight.

Buffy's fresh from another doomed relationship, and Xander has suffered another great loss. Now a mystical vision has directed Willow toward New York City and clues to the future of magic. And as for Dawn, well... she's *still* experiencing some serious growing pains.

Cover by Jo Chen

Alternate Cover by Georges Jeanty,
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Associate Editor Sierra Huhn • Editor Scott Allie

Publisher Mike Richardson

Special thanks to Debbie Olshan at 20th Century Fox and Natalie Farrell.

Advertising Sales: (503) 652-6815 x570

Comics Shop Locator Service: (888) 266-6126

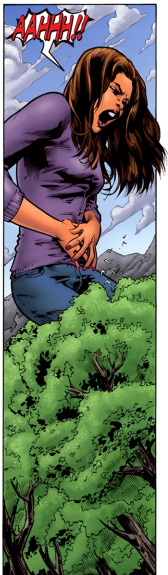
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THEY'RE BOTH
FIGHTING FOR
THE SAME REASON

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THE SAME REASON





MAN, YOU REALLY HAVEN'T LIVED TILL YOU'VE HAD SCOTTISH CHINESE TAKE-OUT.

ANYBODY WANT SOME MORE SWEET AND SOUR HAGGIST?

I THINK IT'S CHICKEN, XANDER. ALTHOUGH I'M NOT GONNA GUESS WHICH PART--

AH, QUITTER GROSSIN'. TWO DAYS' TIME WE'LL BE IN THE HOME OF THE BEST CHINESE TAKEOUT IN THE WORLD.

WELL, AFTER SAN FRANCISCO.

AND I SUPPOSE, SOMEWHERE CHINA.



BHT WHLY NHH YRK? IS HT RULLLN N GHND UNDEA N GHU NOW?



CHEWBACCA HAS A POINT, WILL.

DO WE REALLY WANT TO BE ABANDONING THE FORT ON THE BASIS OF SOME SOTH VAMP SPEAKING IN TONGUE?



SHE WASN'T SPEAKING AT ALL.

SOMEONE WAS USING HER TO SEND ME A MESSAGE, FROM... ELSEWHERE.



AND THAT SOMEONE WOULDN'T HAPPEN TO BE A REALLY HOT-EVEN-THOUGH-SHE'S-GOT-KIND-OF-A-SNAKE-BODY DEMON LADY BY ANY CHANCE?

HOOT? BART? NO NO, YOU'RE MAKING UP MADE-UP THINGS...



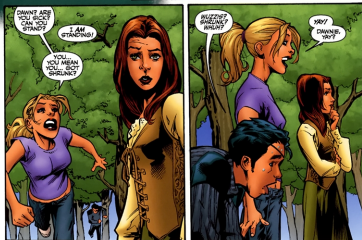
OKAY, EXPLAIN HOW YOU KNOW THAT, SLOWLY, WITH MANY VISUALS.

WHAT, YOU GUYS THINK I'M IN CHARGE JUST CAUSE I CAN HIT THINGS?

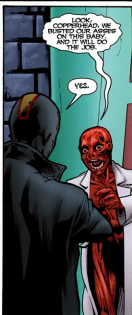
ONLY MOSTLY...

AND, MOVING ON...

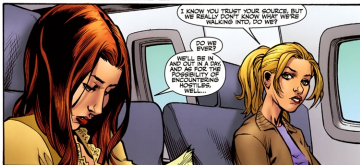














"...I SENT AN
ADVANCE TEAM."



HEY,
RED.
DIDN'T
MISS YOU.



DIDN'T
EVEN THINK
ABOUT
YOU.

KINDA
FORGOT
YOU.

AND
I WOULD
KNOW YOU
FROM...?



THE BOSS
OF BOSSSES
NEED A HAND
WITH THAT?

NO,
I'M GOOD, I'M
BALANCED...





WE'VE GOT MYSTICAL TURF WARS RAGING IN ALMOST EVERY SECTION OF THE CITY-- AND THAT'S JUST MANHATTAN.

THERE'S DARK MAGICS GATHERING IN TRIBECA, HARLEM IS OVERFLOWING WITH FWARLS, AND THERE'S A BLOOD WAR IN THE FINANCIAL DISTRICT, WHICH IS ACTUALLY STATUS QUO.

OH, AND AN ANGRY SPIRIT IS ATTACKING THE CAST OF KANARU, DON'T ASK ME WHY.



ALL OF WHICH MEANS THAT TRACING THE MYSTICAL SIGNATURE WILLOW SENT OUR WICCAN SQUAD HAS BEEN... A LITTLE TRICKY.

WE THINK--OPERATIVE WORD "THINK"--IT'S COMING FROM THIS HIGH-RISE ON BROAD AND LEX, BUT IT SEEMS TO BE COMING AND GOING.

IT WOULD BE.



I WAS LOOKING FOR A... THERE'S NOT A WORD FOR IT THAT WE CAN SAY, BUT IT'S SORT OF THE OPPOSITE OF AN ECHO.

CAN I USE YOUR BOARD A SEC?

CAN YOU EVEN BELIEVE SHE'S STRANGING RIGHT HERE?



THIS IS TIME, AS WE EXPERIENCE IT.

THERE'S THE PAST, THERE'S NOW, AND THE FAR-OFF FUTURE.



THE EVENT HAPPENS... SOMETIME AROUND HERE. BUT IT'S A TEMPORAL ANOMALY, WHICH MEANS IT AFFECTS THE TIMESTREAM, ALMOST EXACTLY LIKE A PEBBLE THROWN INTO A POND...

...AND WHAT YOUR GIRL'S ARE PICKING UP...



--I HEAR WHISPERING AND WE ARE NOT PLAYING Pictionary SO CLAM THE HELL UP--

...IS THE LAST SUBSIDING RIFPLE OF THE EVENT, AN EVENT COMPLETELY FLUID TEMPORALLY...







MMM, THIS
FOOT TASTES
DELICIOUS...

AH, WHAT ARE
YOU GONNA DO?
WHO CAN FATHOM
THE MYSTERY THAT
IS HORSE-SLASH-
WOMAN...



WHAT IS
THAT...



NO!!

INCOMING!
INCOMING!



Fwuh

POW!



"IT'S QUIET."



ARE YOU ABOUT TO SAY THAT IT'S TOO QUIET, DEAR?

NO, I'M GONNA SAY I THINK WE'RE OKAY, NOT TO JINX...

I THINK YOUR SOURCE PLAYED US STRAIGHT.



COURSE, I STILL WOULDN'T HAVE A HINT AS TO WHO YOUR SOURCE IS...

OR ANY INDICATION AT ALL ABOUT WHAT'S SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN HERE...



WE'RE ON THE FURTHEST EDGE OF A TEMPORAL RIFT.

YEAH, I SAW A DIAGRAM.

OH, RIGHT. SO, THE EVENT IS IN THE FUTURE. BUT EVERY TIME THOSE RIFLES SWELL, ANOMALIES CAN OCCUR. SOMETHING MAY BE COMING THROUGH TO US, HOPEFULLY SOMETHING HELPFUL.



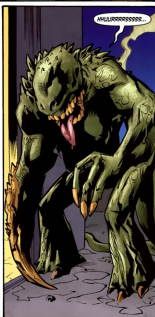
IT'S ABOUT THE SCYTHE.

YES.

AND BUFPY HAS THE SCYTHE.

YES.

BUT WE DON'T HAVE BUFPY.





SO.

RAIN.



SLAYERS!

FLANK AND
CONTAIN!

NEW RAIN.

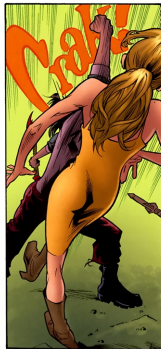
MOST RAIN.



DAMN...



AND JUST WHEN YOU
THINK IT'S NEVER
GONNA END...





To Be Continued...

DISCOVER HORSEPOWER DARK HORSE JUNE 2008



LEFT TO RIGHT - DIRK WOOD, SEAN STERLING, MATT NOLMBO, AND JONATMAN RAYMOND GLEEFULLY AVOID THE REALITIES OF THE REAGAN ERA.

I went to my first comic-book convention in 1982, at the Masonic Temple in Portland, Oregon. I couldn't have known it then, but it was an event that would alter the course of my life, or at least my eventual choice of occupation. I had no idea what to expect, but when I walked in, my mind melted. It was as if someone had super-sized my beloved comic-book shop. An ocean of long buses, the musty odor of my preteen dreams . . . I couldn't believe it. You might say my emotional development halted right there. (However, I've carried it with me since, neatly preserved in a Mylar snap.)

A few years, a lot of miles, and a ton of comics later, and I have the privilege of representing Dark Horse at comics conventions, book fairs, and trade shows all over the world. To say I enjoy that aspect of my job would be a bit like saying Frank Miller has passing admiration for Will Eisner. Working the shows is a bit like being on the frontlines of the industry. There are few things I enjoy more than rubbing elbows with our press contacts at New York Comic-Con, chatting

with our international publishing partners at the Frankfurt Buchmesse (loose translation: Book Mess), or most importantly, getting feedback from our fans anywhere from San Diego Comic-Con International to Wizard World Chicago. After all, that's what most of us still are in the comic business—fans.

Some things have changed since 1982. While "conventioning" is still probably the best way to fill that pesky hole in your collection, these events are no longer simply seas of long boxes; they're pop-culture bonanzas, cinematic and interactive explosions. There's something for everyone. Games are your thing? Check. Want to see sneak previews from the latest Hollywood movie? Got it in line. Want to buy toys unavailable anywhere else? You got 'em. Looking for Lou Ferrigno? There he is.

Sure, conventions have become giant media-driven behemoths; yet there's a spirit of togetherness that remains from the early days that can't be killed by exposure. What I love most about this business is that everyone's invited. No matter what's happening in your life, no matter how young or old you are, no matter how much money you make, you can pick up a copy of *The Goon* or *Blade of the Immortal* and be taken away. There is no test for being a fan; you just sign up. Nowhere is this more on display than a comic show. When I see a *Star Wars* fan talking to a *Star Wars* artist, and they both have the same excitement in their eyes, that's a beautiful thing.

As I write this, we're hitting the ground running on our World Tour 2008. Maybe I've already seen you at Toy Fair, or at the Wellboy II cast signing in our booth in New York, or even at London Book Fair. If not, I hope to see you in our booth in San Diego, or Chicago, or . . . Well, you never know where we're going to show up, but you can bet we'll have great creators there, fantastic giveaways, and a staff full of fans, just like you.

Sometimes my life feels like an endless series of hotel rooms, Sharpies, pallets, boxes, and shrink-wrap. Then the doors to the show open, fans rush in, and I'm back in the Masonic Temple, age 11, with my buddy Sterling, smelling the dusty past, and seeing my future.

See you on the circuit.

—Dirk Wood
Director of Marketing

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→ DARK HORSE HEROES



Art Director **Lia Ribacchi** celebrates ten years with Dark Horse this month! Her greatest extravagance—a recent seven-day immersion in intensive Feng Shui training, where she discovered her most treasured possessions: her keen intellect, a romantic heart, and the newly discovered knowledge that the universe loves her (Thank you, intuitive Feng Shui training).



Robert E. Howard expert **Mark Finn** loves Austin, Texas. He also loves his job as part owner and operator of a movie theater in a small Texas town. His favorite heroes of fiction (who can choose just one!) are Harry Flashman, Sailer Steve Castigan, and Philip Marlowe.