



**DARK
HORSE
COMICS**

SEASON 9
No. 9

ANGEL & FAITH™



**DADDY
ISSUES
PART FOUR**

**CHRISTOS
GAGE**

**REBEKAH
ISAACS**

EXECUTIVE PRODUCER
**JOSS
WHEDON**



Executive Producer
JOSS WHEDON

Script
CHRISTOS GAGE

Art
REBEKAH ISAACS

Colors
DAN JACKSON

Letters
RICHARD STARKINGS and Comicraft's
JIMMY BETANCOURT

Cover **STEVE MORRIS**
Alternate Cover **REBEKAH ISAACS** with **DAN JACKSON**

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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and Daniel Kaminsky.

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"Daddy Issues"

PART
FOUR







I MEAN,
I REMEMBER IT
ALL. MY DAD, THE
MAYOR, EVERYTHING
THEY DID TO
ME...

...BUT
I DON'T
CARE.



THAT JONES
FOR A FAMILY THAT
ALWAYS GETS ME
BURNED... THAT LITTLE
VOICE SAYING I DESERVE
EVERY CRAPPY
THING ANYONE'S
EVER DONE TO
ME...

...IT'S
GONE.



WHAT
ELSE IS
GONE?

A FEW YEARS
AGO YOU KILLED
AN INNOCENT MAN,
PROFESSOR WORTH. A
LONELY OLD GUY WHO
NEVER BOTHERED
ANYONE.

HOW
DO YOU
FEEL ABOUT
THAT?

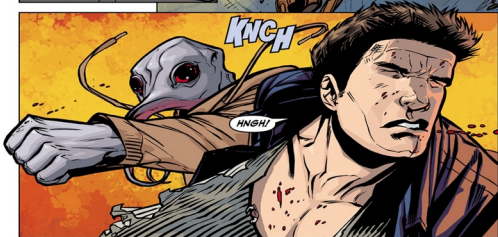


FIVE BY
FIVE?













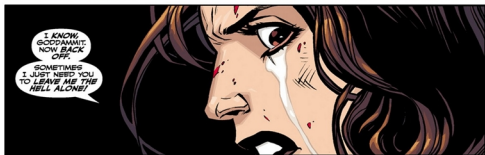




















THEY'RE STILL AFTER US, SEARCHING THE STREETS.

DAMMIT. I DIDN'T WANT TO LEAVE DRUSILLA OUT THERE, ESPECIALLY NOT...LIKE THAT.

WE'LL PUT OUT FEELERS. SHE'LL TURN UP.



YOU WORRIED FOR WHO SHE MIGHT MEET? OR FOR HER?

SHE'S NEVER GONNA BE YOU, Y'KNOW... OR EVEN SPIKE.



SOME PEOPLE YOU GOTTA WRITE OFF.



GOING TO DRUSILLA... THAT WASN'T YOU, FAITH.

IT WAS SEEING YOUR FATHER. WHAT HE DID TO YOU.



SOMETIMES WHEN YOU SEE SOMEONE FROM THE PAST, IT TAKES YOU RIGHT BACK.

YOU SLIP INTO OLD PATTERNS.

LIKE NOTHING'S CHANGED.





I'M NOT SURE WHAT I BELIEVE ANY MORE, BUT I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I KNOW!

YOU DON'T GIVE UP ON PEOPLE.

AND YOU'RE RIGHT, I DON'T EITHER.

SO LET'S DO THIS THING.



YOU MEAN--

I'M IN, DRINKING THE KOOL-AID, ON BOARD THE RESURRECTION TRAIN.

SO LET'S HAVE IT, THE WHOLE NINE, DID I FIGURE IT ALL OUT, OR IS THERE STUFF YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD ME?



...NO. NO, YOU'RE UP TO SPEED.



HOLD ON, WHAT I SAID ABOUT US NOT GIVING UP...I DIDN'T MEAN DRUGILLA.

SOULLESS, OKAY. CRAZY, I CAN WORK WITH. BUT SOULLESS AND CRAZY...THAT'S A BRIDGE TOO FAR. THE CHICK'S A MESS.

YEAH, SHE IS.



BUT BEFORE SHE MET ME, SHE WAS BEAUTIFUL.

The End

SLAY^{the} CRITICS



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

Thanks for a lot of positive feedback this month, folks. We're sure the story line in Buffy is going to elicit some negative mail before very long, but we're gonna enjoy this glow while it lasts. This book is unlikely to do anything to really seriously annoy you, at least.

Also, if you missed Free Comic Book Day, stop by a local shop and see if they have our Guild, Buffy, Serenity, and Star Wars comics available. All good stuff, all free.

Hey Scott, and everyone involved with *Buffy* Season 9 and *Angel & Faith*,

I found the first four issues of *Buffy* Season 9 to be really interesting, but issue #5 just blew my mind! I had to read the issue twice to make sure I read the end reveal correctly. Initially, I was only going to read *Buffy* Season 9, but decided to give *Angel & Faith* a chance. After reading the first issue I was glad I did. Rebekah Isaacs's art is wonderful. I love the way she captures the characters' likenesses, but it doesn't seem so realistic that it would look out of place in a comic book.

The writing by Christos Gage was also a nice surprise. Not only do *Angel* and *Faith* sound like I remember them from the show, but he infuses them with a new attitude appropriate to where the characters currently find themselves. I love how Giles makes appearances through flashbacks and journal entries. After his death I didn't expect him to appear during Season 9, so I was happy to see one of my favorite characters—as well as having his background explored.

The twist at the end of the sixth issue of *Angel & Faith* made my jaw drop. I thought *Buffy* being pregnant was a game changer, but now our heroes have a sane Drusilla to deal with! Damn you, Joss Whedon and Dark Horse, for making me wait for the next issue to find out what happens!

Keep up the good work and thank you for making my jaw drop and mind explode.

Andy T.
Sydney, Australia

Hey Scott,

I sent a lot of letters complaining about how Season 8 got too "comic booky" in the worst sense of the phrase. After reading the first several issues of Season 9 and the new *Angel & Faith*, I've gotta say there's an amazing improvement. Ten times better. It may sound odd that stories involving vampires and demons should be

realistic and down to earth, but these recent issues really are so much better. *Buffy/Angel/Faith* comics that are about characterization and witty dialogue will trump the ones about mecha Dawns and flying Slayers any day of the week.

Jeremy Patrick
Toronto, Ontario

Dear Scott and *Buffy* creators,

Season 9 is a delight! I just finished reading *On Your Own Part 1* with tears in my eyes. The illustrations were so true to the original actors; I felt like it could have been an episode from Season 7. I follow all the *Buffy* and *Angel* comics and this is truly one of the best you guys have produced. Thank you for bringing my friends back to life—even Wood endeared himself to me. The writing is so thoughtful, so dynamic, so emotional, so human... so *Buffy*! The complementary artwork jumps off the page. I fell in love again. Nikki, Buffy, Spike—only someone who understands and loves these characters could capture things like a Spike head tilt, the tone of a Spike cigarette rant, the Slayer pout, or keep the dialogue so true to each character. Thank you for this story. It was a love letter to everything great about Slayers and a compliment to your fans. Thank you!

Kudos!
Eve E.

Las Vegas, Nevada

Dear Scott,

During Season 8 I wrote you a letter, which you printed in the letters section. I realize that, while I did try and mention how huge a fan I am and how much I appreciate all the hard work that goes into creating *Buffy*, the main thrust of the letter was criticism. While enjoying Season 8, I never put pen to paper to say, "Thank you! This is great!" I only finally chimed in when I was displeased. In Season 9, I wanted to make amends early. I now write to you and everyone who makes *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* Season 9 happen and say thank you! This is great! I appreciate all your hard work so much!

I recently finished reading issue #6 and *whoa!* You guys are pulling no punches. The personal turmoil I felt over the idea that a fictional character I love had decided to get an abortion made me realize that this is exactly the kind of edgy storytelling that should keep me reading. While I cannot endorse *Buffy's* choice, I recognize that it

is a choice faced by thousands of women and debated by millions of people in this country. It is socially relevant to the readership and personally relevant to the character. I applaud the courage of the creative team that creates *Buffy* for pursuing such a story line. Hang in there through the blowback that is sure to come. If any readers feel that they must stop reading *Buffy* because of this one issue, I would advise them to stick to comics with heroes in colored tights—who have no flaws and only a cardboard humanity. I'll stick with *Buffy* through her ups and her downs, because she helps me get through mine.

Your friend,
Andrew Turner
Salinas, California

P.S. Some other thoughts while I have your attention: Thank you for giving us a Faith spinoff! As much as I love *Buffy*, Faith has always been my favorite Slayer. I love that she is now in a regular starring role in a comic and I think you all have done a superb job with her character development and the *Angel & Faith* story arc. What an interesting pair they make! *Angel & Faith* is my new favorite comic. Keep 'em coming!

Hey Scott, Andrew, and crew,

I just read *Buffy* Season 9 #5 and can I say I feel like my head is going to explode. I only know of two Slayers that have had children before—one being Nikki Wood and one being a Slayer in *Tales of the Slayers*. I assume the child is *Angel's*? It couldn't be anyone else's, could it?

We know from past experience that *Slayer* kids are awesome—Robin Wood—and that *Angel's* kids are alarming in many ways—Connor—so what will the child of a *Slayer* and a souled *Twilight* vampire be like? *The implications are enormous.*

I never saw Season 9 going this way but I guess it makes sense. Is this baby the Big Bad of Season 9 or the newest hero of Earth? Or, is *Buffy* giving birth to Clark Kent and this space thing was really all for show? Also, the scythe can bring back magic? I dunno. Is this what turns Willow into the horrid character we were introduced to in *No Future for You*?

I feel like, if it does bring back magic, maybe that's milking the scythe a little too much. Yeah, I can just about buy that the Guardians imbued it with extra *Slayer* powers—which Willow was able to call on to unlock the potential in all potential *Slayers* everywhere—but this new idea—the scythe as the new seed—I don't know. I doubt it will work.

Even if it did something, the effects must be limited, as Fray clearly gets the scythe, and if it was the source of magic, dark future Willow would not give it up, would she? The mind truly boggles.

Thank you so much for writing this series. I am lost without *Buffy*, but no longer have to be. Also, really enjoying the *Angel & Faith* book, and the recent issue, *Daddy Issues* Part 1 (where we see mini Giles as head boy in Watcher training), is very cool. Keep coming with the flashbacks.

We at this side of the Atlantic, once upon a time, hoped

for a BBC-produced show by the name of *Ripper*, starring Anthony himself. Thank you for giving us those dreams in a way that I never expected.

God bless you all,
David Cowpar
Cork, Ireland

Next month in *Angel & Faith* #10, Chris Gage is joined by Chris Samnee, his collaborator from the graphic novel *Area 10*—the book that inspired us to hire him to write this series. It's very exciting to see these two working together again, and actually, Mr. Cowpar, issue #10 will bring some of the characters from the proposed BBC *Ripper* series, which Tony Head was very excited to hear about in San Diego last year.

I'm cowriting the current issue of *Buffy* with Andrew Chambliss. Cliff Richards is doing the art—he's very busy right now. As am I, also doing a stint right now writing B.P.R.D. Hell on Earth with Mike Mignola. And please take a chance on a new creator-owned series now on sale from The Dreaming veteran Caitlin R. Kiernan—Alabaster, about a young woman chosen to fight monsters and sick of being manipulated. Sound familiar? I promise a fresh take. Check it out—lots of good supernatural adventure here at Dark Horse.

Scott Allie

On the following pages check out a preview of *The Massive* from Brian Wood and Kristian Donaldson.



BUFFY SEASON 9 #9
ON SALE MAY 9!