

The logo for 'The Vampire Diaries' features the word 'the' in a small, lowercase, sans-serif font, followed by 'Vampire Diaries' in a larger, serif font. A red, stylized flourish or ribbon-like element arches over the 'V' and extends to the right, ending in a small red teardrop shape.

Episode #415

#2J6665

“Stand By Me”

Written by

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Based on the novel by L.J. Smith

Directed by

Lance Anderson

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THE VAMPIRE DIARIES

Episode #415

“Stand By Me”

Production Draft

CAST LIST

Elena
Stefan
Damon
Jeremy
Bonnie
Caroline
Matt
Rebekah

Meredith Fell
April (voice)
Professor Shane
Vaughn

THE VAMPIRE DIARIES

Episode #415

“Stand By Me”

Blue Revisions

SET LIST

Interiors

Caroline's House
 Caroline's Bedroom
Crypt
Elena's House
 Downstairs
 Elena's/Jeremy's Bedroom
 Foyer
 Foyer/Kitchen/Family/Living Room
 Foyer/Living Room
 Jeremy's Bedroom
 Kitchen
 Upper Landing
 Upper Landing/Jeremy's Bedroom
Island Tunnels
Matt's Truck
Well House

Exteriors

Bonnie's House
Elena's House
 Front Porch
 Front Yard
 Street
High School
 Stoner Pit
Island
 Beach
 Camp
 Quarry
 Quarry Ridge
 Water
 Woods
Street

"Stand By Me"

ACT ONE

1 INT. ELENA'S HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT 1

ELENA stands in the foyer. The house is eerily silent. She picks up a photo that's fallen over on the shelf. It's of her with Jeremy. They're young. Smiling. She brushes glass from the cracked frame, eyeing the photo.

Her face is inscrutable. Blank. We hear a horrified CRY.

ELENA (PRELAP)
JEREMY -- !

SMASH CUT TO:

2 INT. CRYPT - NIGHT - **FLASHBACK** 2

Elena cradles JEREMY'S lifeless body in a panic. She checks his finger for his Gilbert Ring.

ELENA
It's fine, it's fine. You're going
to be okay. The ring will bring
you back.

*
*

DROP WIDE to see the chamber in its entirety. The gnarled vines that held the desiccated body of Silas is EMPTY.

Blood stains the ground where Bonnie used to lie. There's no sign of VAUGHN the Hunter.

But Elena is aware of none of this. She's singularly focused on her brother. Repeating her words like a mantra.

ELENA (CONT'D)
You're fine. You're going to be
okay. You're fine.

*
*

STEFAN watches her from the entrance, his face pained.

DAMON (PRE-LAP)
How did this happen?

3 INT. ISLAND TUNNELS - NIGHT - **FLASHBACK** 3

STEFAN and DAMON talk quietly. Urgently.

STEFAN

It was Katherine. She must have been following us the whole time.

DAMON

What about the cure? Or Silas?

STEFAN

If there was anything in there at all, it's gone.

Damon's head is spinning with questions.

DAMON

And where the hell is Bonnie?

STEFAN

I have no idea. She went looking for Jeremy last night and she never came back.

(then, serious)

Damon. Elena's in there waiting for the Gilbert ring to bring Jeremy back to life.

DAMON

Okay. Fine. We'll wait with her.

STEFAN

Damon, listen to me. Jeremy was one of the Five. A Hunter.

*

Stefan stares at him a beat, waiting for him to realize --

DAMON

He's supernatural. The ring won't work anymore.

Stefan nods. Pained. Damon absorbs this, the enormity of it almost knocks him over. A terrible beat, then -

DAMON (CONT'D)

She won't survive this. I'll find Bonnie. You need to get Elena off this island.

*

Stefan nods again, too shell-shocked to argue. As the two brothers stare at each other in shocked, stunned silence...

TITLE CARD.

4 INT. ELENA'S HOUSE - FOYER - DAY 4

Caroline is in the kitchen on her hands and knees, scrubbing the SCORCH MARK where Kol's body burned.

The front door opens. Elena enters, Stefan behind her. He carries Jeremy's body wrapped in a blanket. Neck bandaged.

CAROLINE
(entering)
You're home. I was trying to clean
the burn mark where Kol --

*

She sees Jeremy's body. Locks eyes with Stefan. He gives her an imperceptible head shake. She trails off.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)
I couldn't get the spot out...

*

ELENA
Come on, let's get him upstairs --

*

Caroline watches them go upstairs. Her heart in her throat.

5 INT. ELENA'S HOUSE - JEREMY'S BEDROOM - DAY 5

Stefan lays Jeremy's body on his bed. Elena sits down next to him, loosening the blanket. Her hand grabs her brother's. Her thumbs touch the Gilbert Ring like a lifeline.

Stefan watches her with heartache and concern.

STEFAN
Can I get you anything?

ELENA
No, I'm fine. I'm just going to
sit here and wait with him until he
wakes up.

*

*

(then)
Let me know if you hear anything
about Bonnie, okay?

*

STEFAN
Sure.

*

He retreats, stealing one last glance at her as she sits with Jeremy. Pain swimming in his eyes.

6 EXT. ISLAND - CAMP - DAY 6

Damon moves through the clearing that contains the abandoned tents. It's quiet. Empty. He checks the tents.

An outside POV. Someone's watching him. He stops, suddenly alert. His vampire eyes FLARING.

DAMON

Unless you're a blonde, a Bennett witch, or a doppelganger, I suggest you steer clear.

*
*
*

Silence. Troubled, he peers into the cabin. Empty. He turns back -- REBEKAH is standing inches from him. Pissed.

REBEKAH

Where is it? The cure. I know someone got it.

*

DAMON

Someone, yes. Katherine.

REBEKAH

Katherine? The doppelganger?

*

DAMON

Yeah, sneaky little bitch must've been spying on us for weeks.

*

(beat)

She killed Jeremy. Or somebody did.

*

Rebekah has the grace to be shocked by this. Saddened, even.

*

DAMON (CONT'D)

(annoyed)

He killed your brother, so let's not with the fake sad-face.

REBEKAH

I didn't say I was going to miss him. But I'm not heartless. He was Elena's only family.

DAMON

Good, well, you can send flowers. After you help me find Bonnie.

*
*

REBEKAH

What about Katherine.

*

DAMON

If there's one thing on this miserable earth I can guarantee, it's that Katherine Pierce is long gone. I'm finding Bonnie.

(starting off)

(MORE)

6

CONTINUED: (2)

6

DAMON (CONT'D)

Oh, and beware the 'immortal
Silas.' If he was asleep in that
cave, he's awake now.

*
*
*

She looks around the empty camp. Suddenly unsettled. A
beat, then she follows Damon into the brush.

7

EXT. ISLAND - WOODS - DAY

7

CLOSE ON BONNIE as her eyes DRIFT OPEN. She's disoriented,
lying on the ground in the gnarled woods of the island. The
trees cast stark shadows. The air is cold. Silent.

She slowly sits up, trying to gather her bearings.

*

SHANE (O.C.)

Don't touch it.

She turns to see SHANE as he enters the clearing. Carrying a
pail of WATER that he sets over a small CAMPFIRE.

SHANE (CONT'D)

I used some of the island's herbs
and berries to help treat the
wound, but not being an actual
witch, I can't guarantee much.

BONNIE

How are you healed?

*

SHANE

It was Silas. He helped me. You
did it, Bonnie. He's risen.

*

Shane takes a step towards her. She pulls herself to her
feet, wary of him.

BONNIE

Get away from me.

*

SHANE

I know you're angry with me. But
now you'll see, everything I did --
all those lives lost, they weren't
in vain. Silas is going to bring
back them back.

BONNIE

What you want to do isn't natural,
Shane. You can't bring back the
dead.

*

7 CONTINUED:

7

SHANE

I think you'll change your mind
now.

She stops cold. Suddenly unsettled.

BONNIE

What do you mean, 'now?'

SHANE

When Silas awoke, he had to feed to
gain his strength. He'd been
desiccating for almost 2000 years.
He needed blood. *

(beat)

Jeremy was there. *

BONNIE

What are you saying to me?

SHANE

He drained him of his blood,
Bonnie. Jeremy's dead.

As horror crashes over her --

8 INT. ELENA'S HOUSE - JEREMY'S BEDROOM - DAY 8

Elena sits by Jeremy's side. She touches his face, putting a
stray piece of hair back in its place. *

9 INT. ELENA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY 9

Stefan and Caroline talk as they clean up together.

CAROLINE

How long has she been like that?

STEFAN

Since we found his body. She
hasn't said anything except that
she's waiting for him to wake up.

CAROLINE

But he's not going to wake up. She
knows that, right?

Stefan shoots a look up above, putting his finger to his
lips. He turns on the faucet to cover their voices.

STEFAN

Look, deep down, I think she has
to. But we're talking Elena. *

(MORE)

STEFAN (CONT'D)

She feels grief more powerfully than anyone else. I think her denial is the one thing protecting her from letting it all in right now.

*

CAROLINE

But she can't stay like that forever --

STEFAN

I know. But I don't want to be the one who breaks her out of it. Not until we know Bonnie's safe. Not until we get Damon over here to, you know...

*

CAROLINE

...to use the sire bond to convince her that everything will be okay.

Stefan nods. Caroline sits, heavy. Then --

ELENA

I'm not in denial.

They turn, surprised to find her standing there. Stefan turns off the water. Caught.

ELENA (CONT'D)

I know that he was supernatural. But did you see? His tattoo was gone. The tattoo had the spell that opened Silas's chamber. Maybe it being gone means he fulfilled his supernatural destiny. Maybe he's back to normal. I mean, it's possible, right?

*

*

*

CAROLINE

Elena...

ELENA

It's possible, Caroline. There's a chance. It might be miniscule, but it's hope. And I'm going to hold onto that hope with everything I've got, because there is no way that --
(choking up)
There's absolutely no way that my brother is dead.

*

CONTINUED: (2)

A long beat as they stare at her. Not knowing what to say. She stares at them, as if challenging them to disagree.

ELENA (CONT'D)

I'm not in denial.

She exits. Leaving Caroline and Stefan sitting there quietly, pensively in her wake.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

10 EXT. ELENA'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - DAY 10

Caroline is on her phone. Leaving a message. Anxious.

CAROLINE (INTO PHONE)

Hey. I know I'm not supposed to be
calling. But something's happened.

*
*

As she talks, Stefan steps out on to the front porch.

CAROLINE (INTO PHONE) (CONT'D)

I need to talk to you, Tyler.
Please call me.

She hangs up. He hands her a cup of coffee.

STEFAN

Do you know where he is?

CAROLINE

As far away from Klaus as he can
get. Klaus said he wouldn't stop
until he found him.

*

STEFAN

(trying to be reassuring)
Well, Katherine has been dodging
Klaus for five hundred years. It's
not easy, but it's possible.
That's probably why she stole the
cure, she wants to bargain for her
freedom.

*
*
*

CAROLINE

I can't believe after all that, the
cure is just -- gone.

STEFAN

Yeah. I mean, talk about denial.
In my head there was no way Elena
was going to stay a vampire
forever. And now, without a
family...

*
*
*

Caroline is growing increasingly more anxious.

CAROLINE

We can't think about that right
now. We have to make plans.
Lists. We need a funeral, or a
cover-story...

(MORE)

10

CONTINUED:

10

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

or a funeral and a cover-story.

(then)

I should go tell my mom. She'll know what to do.

STEFAN

We should get Matt here too.

CAROLINE

You're right. I'll do that. I'll call Matt. Then see my mom. Then I'll make a list, or a casserole, or, I don't know, do something people are supposed to do, or make, in these situations...

(then, troubled)

What's that smell?

Her gaze travels up. Stefan's head tilts as he tries to latch onto the scent. His eyes widen, then close, defeated, as he realizes...

STEFAN

It's his body. He's starting to decompose.

*

They're suddenly both numb.

STEFAN (CONT'D)

Tell your mom to get Dr. Fell over here.

*

Caroline nods. Wordless.

11

OMITTED

11

*

12

EXT. ISLAND - QUARRY - DAY

12

Damon and Rebekah walk along the base of the quarry.

REBEKAH

Do you think Bonnie's dead?

DAMON

I never thought I'd say this, but I hope not.

*

Rebekah looks around, feeling on edge.

REBEKAH

I don't like being out in the open like this.

DAMON

What, afraid of the big bad Silas?

*

REBEKAH

(yes)

No.

DAMON

Fraidy-cat.

REBEKAH

I'm not a fraidy-cat. My brother Kol drove himself mad worrying about Silas rising. It would benefit us to be a bit concerned.

(then, annoyed)

And you're one to talk about being afraid. You're so scared you're 1200 miles away from where you're supposed to be.

DAMON

Someone had to stay to find Bonnie.

REBEKAH

Stefan could've done that. Aren't you Elena's current love? It's so hard to keep track. Shouldn't you be home comforting her? Or are you terrified of being there when she realizes her brother is dead --

*

THWACK. Damon GRABS her, spinning her in front of him. A WOODEN ARROW FLIES INTO her back. She stares at him, pained.

REBEKAH (CONT'D)

Ow.

DAMON

Sorry. Better you than me.

As she drops in pain, Damon's eyes scan the ridge, spotting their ASSAILANT.

It's VAUGHN, the Hunter, who lets another arrow FLY. Damon catches it, tossing it aside. He takes off in pursuit.

Vaughn TAKES OFF, sprinting along the ridge.

DOWN BELOW, Damon keeps pace. A series of VAMP-JUMPS gets Damon closer to Vaughn, who races towards the TREES.

13 CONTINUED:

13

WHOOSH. Damon tackles him, taking him down, disarming Vaughn, using Vaughn's own weapon against him.

DAMON

Just the guy I wanted to see.

(beat)

Not really.

WHACK. Damon SLAMS his head down. Knocking him out cold.

14 EXT. ISLAND - WOODS - DAY

14

Bonnie's eyes are flowing tears. She chokes back agonizing sobs. Shane approaches with a tin mug of steaming liquid.

SHANE

Bonnie, here. Drink this. It will calm you down.

*

She lashes her hand out with angry gesture. The mug goes FLYING from Shane's hands. Shane steps back, startled.

BONNIE

I don't want any of your stupid teas, Shane. Jeremy's dead.

Her furious eyes flick to the fire. It ROARS UP angrily.

SHANE

Bonnie, be careful. Don't let your magic get out of control --

The fire SPITS and SPARKS. Shane takes control. He takes her hands. Connecting with her. Persuading her.

SHANE (CONT'D)

Bonnie, Bonnie, I'm not gonna let you fall apart. I won't let you. Silas needs you. He can bring Jeremy back. He can bring everyone back. And you're going to help him, okay? You're going to see Jeremy again.

*

*

Off Bonnie, her eyes locked into his as the fire subsides.

15 INT. ELENA'S HOUSE - ELENA'S/JEREMY'S BEDROOM - DAY

15

Jeremy still lies on his bed. THROUGH THE BATHROOM DOORS, Elena finishes changing her clothes in her room. She pulls out her journal. Grabs a pen. As she moves back through into Jeremy's room --

*

MEREDITH

Elena?

*
*
*

Elena turns to see MEREDITH FELL standing at the doorway.

*

ELENA

Meredith? What are you doing here?

MEREDITH

I came to check on your brother.
May I?

She's kind about it. Respectful. Good bedside manner.

ELENA

You won't get any vitals. It's the
same thing Ric used to go through.
He'd be dead until he wasn't. Once
I remember it took almost a whole
day...

*
*

Meredith busies herself with checking the body. Elena sets
the journal down, starts to rattle on nervously.

ELENA (CONT'D)

Ric died, like, four times before
he lost his mind. Jeremy's died a
few times, three, I think. So
we'll need to keep an eye on him.
Because I don't want him to go
crazy like Ric did...

*

*

Stefan has appeared in the doorway, listening. Meredith
looks to Stefan, then back to Elena. Her expression becoming
stoic. More clinical. This is the hard part of her job.

MEREDITH

Elena, it looks like Jeremy died of
extreme blood loss. His neck also
appears to be broken. The lack of
blood explains why there's no
lividity, but his muscles have
tightened past the point of rigor
mortis.

Elena shakes her head. She doesn't want to hear this.

ELENA

No.

MEREDITH

If he is left unattended to, soon
he'll start to bloat. Within a few
hours, his skin will discolor --

ELENA

(getting angry)

No. Stop. Just stop. He's not
dead. *

Stefan reaches out to her, but she brushes him off. Meredith
stands, facing her. Trying to remain clinical.

MEREDITH

I need you to release the body to
me. We'll get him to a funeral
home and prepare him for a viewing
where you and his friends can say
goodbye. *

WHOOSH. Elena VAMPS Meredith against the wall. Eyes vamped.

ELENA

HE'S NOT DEAD.

In an instant, Stefan is behind Elena, his arms pinning her.

STEFAN

Elena. Elena, stop --

ELENA

(raging)

Now you're all about science?
Where was your science when you
used vampire blood to save my life?
There is no science here. This is
magic. We need magic. *

Stefan gets a tighter grip, pulling her away from Meredith.
Meredith is terrified by Elena's rage.

ELENA (CONT'D)

I need Bonnie. Bonnie can fix
this. Somebody get me Bonnie.

MATT

Elena.

Elena turns. Matt's standing in the doorway. His eyes fall
on Jeremy's body in horror.

ELENA

No. No. Matt, it's fine. *

He looks at her with teary eyes. It strikes her right in her heart. She softens in Stefan's grip. He releases her. She strides over to Matt, hugging him.

ELENA (CONT'D)

It's okay. Bonnie will be here
soon. She'll fix everything. It's
all gonna be okay. It's gonna be
fine. It'll be fine.

*
*
*
*

As they hold each other...

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

16 INT. ELENA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

16

Elena sits at the island, absentmindedly toying with the snap on her JOURNAL. Matt places tea in front of her.

ELENA

You're not dosing me again, are you?

MATT

(faking offense)

Poison your best friend once and suspicion follows you forever. Where are Bonnie and Damon?

*
*

ELENA

We lost Bonnie on the island. Damon stayed behind to find her.

MATT

That's funny. Doesn't he hate her?

ELENA

He doesn't hate her. I think he actually kind of loves her. You're mean to the people you care about.

*
*

MATT

That's some messed-up logic.

ELENA

Damon logic.

*

He tips his tea mug at her. Takes a sip, then...

MATT

Listen, I want you to go somewhere with me.

ELENA

I can't leave him, Matt...

MATT

Elena, there's nothing you can do right now. Stefan can stay here with him. Come with me. Please?

He holds out his hand. A long beat, and then she takes it.

17 EXT. ISLAND - QUARRY RIDGE (OR INT. WELL HOUSE) - DAY 17

Damon has Vaughn tied up. A HUNTING KNIFE pierces his throat, drawing BLOOD.

DAMON

Here's the thing. I was completely willing to accept that you were one man on a lonely mission to kill old Silas. But then I get boned by my vixen nemesis Katherine Pierce, and I start to think, there's no way this could be a coincidence. So what do you know?

*
*
*
*

Vaughn stares at him in contempt. Silent. Damon SLICES more into his neck. More BLOOD. Rebekah appears.

DAMON (CONT'D)

Took ya long enough.

REBEKAH

Sorry, I had to dig the arrow out of my spine. Thanks for that.

DAMON

You want a lead on Katherine? Here's your guy.

*

He digs the knife in a bit more. Twists the tip a little.

VAUGHN

Torture me all you want. You can't kill me. The Hunter's Curse will torment you forever.

DAMON

It'll be worth it.

Rebekah intervenes. She puts her hand on Damon's shoulder.

REBEKAH

He's right. We can't kill him.
(kneeling down, to Vaughn)
But that doesn't mean we can't tear him apart piece by piece, nerve by nerve, until the pain is so severe your brain shuts it off, trying to give you just one tiny moment of blessed relief. And then we can heal you, and do it again. And again. And again.

*

DAMON

You are creepy.

*

REBEKAH

Thank you.

She looks at Vaughn expectantly. Finally, he speaks.

VAUGHN

I was tracking dens of vampires across Colorado. Katherine found me, said she could help me find Silas. She already knew about the Hunter's Mark, the cure.

REBEKAH

How?

VAUGHN

She had someone on the inside. Some werewolf girl. Friends with your Professor.

*

*

Damon digs back, remembering.

DAMON

Hayley. Tyler Lockwood's friend. I knew she was shady. Where'd Katherine find her?

VAUGHN

New Orleans. That's all I know.

Damon assesses his face. Nods, stands. Looks to Rebekah.

DAMON

Good. Throw him into the well. If he starves to death, it's not our fault. I'm going to find Bonnie.

*

*

REBEKAH

(surprised)

We have a lead on the cure, Damon. I'm not waiting. I suppose you're fine with that. You never wanted Elena to be human again anyway.

Damon glares at her.

DAMON

I wanted that cure for her. Because it's what she wanted.

(MORE)

17 CONTINUED: (2)

17

DAMON (CONT'D)

You might think I'm afraid to go
back, but I'm not. Because I know
what she needs -- and that's for me
to bring her best friend home.

*
*

He strides out of the well. Rebekah smiles at Vaughn, then
grabs him --

*
*

18 EXT. ISLAND - WOODS - DAY

18

Shane walks with Bonnie, leading her somewhere.

SHANE

We have to get you home if you're
going to help Silas raise the dead.

BONNIE

I don't understand what I can do.

SHANE

Silas can't do magic. He was a
witch, but once he became immortal,
that ended. You can be a witch or
a vampire, never both. That's why
I've been teaching you Expression.
So you can do his work for him.

*

BONNIE

What? How?

SHANE

Using the power of three massacres.
Each massacre of twelve marks the
earth with power. You can use
Expression to tap into that power.

BONNIE

(in horror)

Three? You've had 36 people
killed?

SHANE

I've had 24 people killed. 12
humans at the Young Farm, 12
hybrids. You and I are going to
complete the triangle.

*

BONNIE

We're what?

SHANE

Look, there needs to be one more
massacre. But it's okay. Because
they'll come back. It's worth it.

*

BONNIE

I'm not helping you kill twelve
people, Shane.

He grabs her arm, holding her firmly. His eyes dark.

SHANE

Wouldn't you? If it meant you
could see Jeremy again. Your
Grams. Everybody you or your
friends have ever lost. I think
you would.

*

BONNIE

NO.

She rips her arm away from him and takes off running,
desperate to get away.

But just as she reaches the trees, she stumbles over
something. She bites the dust, her face embedded in the
leaves. Dazed, she turns her head to find...

JEREMY lies there. Dirty. Bleeding. Breaths shallow.

JEREMY

Bonnie...

BONNIE

Jeremy??

She crawls to him. Tears streaming as her hands find his
chest, his face.

JEREMY

It hurts. Help me.

*

BONNIE

I'll help you. I can help you.

She puts her hands over his chest. Closing her eyes. A WIND
WHIPS UP. Leaves SCATTER. PUSH IN ON BONNIE as she
concentrates. The wind FIERCE around her. Until suddenly...

It stops. She opens her eyes. Jeremy's GONE.

BONNIE (CONT'D)

No.

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

Shane watches her, keeping a safe distance. Bonnie looks up at him with tear-streaked eyes. Traumatized. *

SHANE

He asked you to help him, didn't he? He needs your help. You can do it, Bonnie. You know you can.

BONNIE

I'll do whatever it takes. *

19 INT. ELENA'S HOUSE - UPPER LANDING - DAY

19

In Jeremy's room, Meredith covers him with a BLANKET out of respect. She moves outside, makes an adjustment on the thermostat. Stefan cleans up broken pictures in the hall.

MEREDITH

I'm bumping the AC, but we're not going to be able to leave him in there for much longer.

STEFAN

I know.

Frustrated, he sets a picture down. She eyes him, sympathetic.

STEFAN (CONT'D)

I've been alive for almost two centuries now. You would think that with the amount of people I've seen die, it would hurt less each time. But it never does. *

MEREDITH

No, it never does.

(then)

I see this every day. Sometimes I think the denial is the worst part for people like us, because we know the truth. We can see they're on a collision course with it, and all we can do is brace ourselves for impact. *

They sit there quietly for a moment. His phone BUZZES. He stands, quickly answering it.

STEFAN

Did you find her?

20

EXT. ISLAND - WATER - DAY

20

Damon stands at the edge of the water on the satellite phone.

DAMON

No, I'm still looking. How is she? *

STEFAN

She's losing it, Damon. We can do what we can here to delay things, but we gotta get Jeremy to the morgue. Before it gets ugly. *

Damon swears to himself. Frustrated. Angry at himself.

DAMON

I can't leave her behind. I can't show up without Bonnie.

Stefan is pained. Hating this decision.

STEFAN

I think you have to. At this point the sire bond is probably the only thing that's going to keep Elena together. I can go back to find Bonnie.

Damon nods. Accepting this instruction.

DAMON

I'm on my way.

He hangs up. A RUSTLE in the brush suddenly gets his attention. He puts his guard up, on alert, when --

BONNIE walks out of the tree line towards him. Damon's relief is palpable as he heads towards her.

DAMON (CONT'D)

I could actually hug you right now. *

And he does. She lets him. It's genuine.

DAMON (CONT'D)

Where have you been? How did you find me?

BONNIE

Shane led the way. He told me what to do, Damon. I know how to bring Jeremy back.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

21 EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - STONER PIT - DAY

21

The school grounds are empty. Matt's truck pulls up to the Stoner Pit. He and Elena get out of the car.

ELENA

You brought me to the Stoner Pit?

MATT

I wanted you to see something.

He takes her hand, leading her to the wall below the loading dock. It's covered in graffiti and other art tags.

MATT (CONT'D)

There.

Elena takes a close look. There's a tag that says VICKI.

ELENA

Vicki.

MATT

Remember when Jer was so into my sister?

ELENA

When our parents died. It was his rebel phase. *

MATT

I found this after Vick died. It made me smile. And this...

He points to another one. "J & V"

ELENA

Jeremy and Vicki. Did he do that? *

MATT

(nods, then --)

After they found Vick's body, I remember thinking that things didn't feel over. There was no possible way she could be gone forever. And then she wasn't. *

(MORE) *

21

CONTINUED:

21

MATT (CONT'D)

My point is, this town, this freaky-ass world that we live in, sometimes not being willing to accept that someone's gone is because maybe they're not. Not completely.

*

ELENA

Is that really what you believe?

*

MATT

Yes.

ELENA

If I compelled you to tell me the truth, what would you say?

A long beat, then --

MATT

I would tell you that it's okay to have hope. Because sometimes it's all that keeps me going.

*

*

*

ELENA

Thank you, Matt.

She smiles at him, truly grateful. A moment, then her phone BUZZES. She answers it.

ELENA (CONT'D)

Stefan?

22

INT. ELENA'S HOUSE - JEREMY'S BEDROOM - DAY

22

Stefan enters the bedroom on his phone.

STEFAN

Hey, Damon found Bonnie. The plane is there waiting for them when they get off the island. They'll be home in a few hours.

*

INTERCUT:

ELENA

Thank god. Is she okay?

STEFAN

Yes. He said she's fine. Listen, Elena. You might have been right. There might be something...

Relief floods Elena's face.

ELENA

She knows what to do, doesn't she?

STEFAN

Let's just see what she says when she gets home, okay? *

ELENA

Okay. We'll be home soon.

Stefan hangs up. He settles in to sit with Jeremy.

Rebekah sets Vaughn's tied-up body down on the well floor. *

VAUGHN

You know, if you're smart, you'll use the cure to kill Silas. *

REBEKAH

Killing Silas is your supernatural destiny, not mine.

VAUGHN

Well, you be careful up there. He's out there runnin' about. *

She looks up to the top of the well, creeps out.

REBEKAH

You sure about that? *

VAUGHN

Don't believe me? Check my pack.

She goes to his bag, pulling out an iron MASK. Silas's mask.

VAUGHN (CONT'D)

Found that it in the chamber where he laid.

(then)

They say no one's seen him. No one knows his face. How do you hide from the devil when you don't know what he looks like? Who knows. Maybe I'm him. *

The hair on Rebekah's neck stands up as a wave of fear passes over her. She eyes him carefully. *

23 CONTINUED:

23

VAUGHN (CONT'D)

Mark my words, if you don't use
that cure to kill him, it won't
matter if you're human or vampire.
You're doomed. We all are.

*

She's had enough. She turns to go. Vaughn calls after her.

VAUGHN (CONT'D)

G'luck to you, lass. You lot
brought this on yourself. May you
all rot in it.

*

WHOOSH. Vaughn's left alone in the empty cavern. Rebekah's
gone, leaving the creepy Silas mask behind.

24 EXT. ELENA'S HOUSE - STREET - NIGHT

24

Caroline gets out of her car on the phone.

CAROLINE

Tyler, it's me. Again. So, I was
thinking about it and you probably
ditched your phone -- which is the
smartest thing that you could do --
so I don't know when you'll get
this. But things were looking kind
of bleak for a minute here, but I
don't know, maybe they're turning
around. So when you get this, call
me back and I'll tell you
everything.

*

*

*

*

*

She hangs up as HEADLIGHTS pull up behind her. It's Damon's
car. Bonnie gets out of the passenger side.

Caroline hurries to her. Throwing her arms around her.

CAROLINE (CONT'D)

Thank god. We were so, so worried.

*

BONNIE

I'm okay.

They hold each other. Damon comes around the side of the car.

DAMON

Could you get Stefan out here?

*

Caroline picks up on his tone, suddenly worried.

24 CONTINUED:

24

CAROLINE
What's wrong?

FLASHBACK TO:

25 EXT. ISLAND - WOODS - DAY

25

Shane talks to Bonnie after her Jeremy hallucination. *

Bonnie looks at him, traumatized, as the scene continues past what we already saw...

BONNIE
I'll do whatever it takes.
Whatever you ask of me, I'll do.

SHANE
Then you will see him again.
There's just a few things we have
to do first... *

CUT TO:

26 INT. ELENA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

26

Bonnie tells Elena, Caroline and Matt what she learned.

BONNIE
It's called an Expression Triangle.
I have to complete it for Silas.

MATT
What?

CUT TO:

27 EXT. ELENA'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - NIGHT

27

Damon fills Stefan in.

DAMON
She's lost her mind, Stefan. The
nutty professor has her totally
brainwashed. *

CUT TO:

28 INT. ELENA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

28

Bonnie's calm in the face of her stunned friends.

MATT

Bonnie, you can't kill twelve people.

*
*

BONNIE

I know it sounds crazy, but it's the only way to get enough power.

CAROLINE

To do what??

CUT TO FLASHBACK:

The scene between Bonnie and Shane continues...

SHANE

When Silas was buried by the witch Qetsiyah, she left him with the cure and two choices: stay immortal and rot, or take the cure and eventually die in there of old age.

BONNIE

He's been trapped for two thousand years. At some point wouldn't death by old age have been better?

SHANE

No, because you see Qetsiyah had already one-upped him. She knew he wanted to die so he could find peace and be reunited with his one true love. So she created the Other Side as a purgatory for all supernatural beings, ensuring that if he died, he'd end up there forever. That's where you come in.

*

*
*

BONNIE

Why me?

SHANE

You, as Qetsiyah's descendent, can make the Other Side go away.

BONNIE

What? How??

CUT TO:

30 EXT. ELENA'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - NIGHT 30

DAMON

The whole plane ride home all she did was talk about how she was the one who could drop the veil that separates our side from the Other Side.

STEFAN

Drop the veil? What does that even mean?

DAMON

It means that the myth of Silas being able to raise the dead? It's not just one, or some. It's every supernatural being over there.

*
*

CUT TO:

31 INT. ELENA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT 31

Elena stares, numb, as Bonnie continues.

BONNIE

When the veil is dropped, the Other Side doesn't exist anymore. There's nothing separating us. We're all just one.

*

CUT TO:

32 EXT. ELENA'S HOUSE - FRONT YARD - NIGHT 32

Damon continues explaining to a shocked Stefan.

DAMON

Three massacres, three hot spots, and the witch spell of the century, and every supernatural thing on the Other Side is back with a vengeance.

*

The horror of it all is starting to sink in to Stefan.

CUT TO FLASHBACK:

33 EXT. ISLAND - WOODS - DAY 33

BONNIE

I can't do that -- *

Shane grabs her hands. Connecting with her. Speaking in his calm, hypnotic tones.

SHANE

Yes you can, yes you can. All the witches, your ancestors, who have been persecuted throughout time... Your Grams. Jeremy. They'll all be back. You can do this. You will do this. *

CUT TO:

34 INT. ELENA'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - NIGHT 34

CAROLINE

Bonnie, you are talking like a crazy person. You are not killing 12 people. And you sure as hell can't invite every single monster who's ever died back into this world. *

CLOSE ON ELENA'S face as she listens to this debate.

MATT

Caroline, she knows that --

BONNIE

No, I can do it. I have the power. We can bring everyone back. Jeremy. Alaric. Vicki.

CAROLINE

Bonnie, stop it! You can't just say these things. *

The camera keeps pushing CLOSER on Elena. CLOSER STILL. As all SOUND DROPS OUT and we're just on Elena's face while her friends continue to argue around her, angrily debating the ultimate *what would you do?* scenario. Suddenly --

The PHONE RINGS. The sound PIERCES Elena back into reality. It's the house phone.

They shut up. Stefan and Damon come through the front door.

ELENA

I'll get it.

MATT

I got it, Elena --

ELENA

I said I'll get it.

She moves in numb silence to the phone. Answers it.

ELENA (CONT'D)

Hello?

A VOICE comes through the other side.

APRIL (FILTERED)

Elena. Hey, it's April. Young. I
was looking for Jeremy? His cell
phone keeps going straight to
voicemail.

*
*

Elena pauses. A long moment.

ELENA

Jeremy can't come to the phone
right now. He's not.... I'm sorry.
He's dead.

*
*

A hideously long beat as Elena hangs up and quietly walks out
of the kitchen. Past her friends. Past Stefan, then Damon.
Not saying a word as she heads upstairs.

END OF ACT FOUR

ACT FIVE

35 INT. ELENA'S HOUSE - UPPER LANDING/JEREMY'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 35

Elena walks up the stairs towards Jeremy's room. Jeremy's covered body is visible on the bed.

CLOSE ON ELENA as she closes her eyes, bracing herself. But when she opens them -- *

Back with Elena as she stares at the blanket covering Jeremy's body. She reaches for it. Her hands trembling. Tears starting to creep out of her eyes.

She pulls the blanket back, revealing his PALE FACE. She GASPS, as if she's seeing him dead for the first time.

DAMON

Elena.

Damon's at the door. His heart breaks when he sees her face.

ELENA

He's dead.
(starting to cry)
He's dead, Damon.

She's breathing heavily. Hyperventilating, almost.

ELENA (CONT'D)

He's been dead this whole time, and
I --
(realizing)
Oh my god, I can smell him. How
long has he smelled like that?

She's losing it. Damon reaches out for her.

DAMON

Elena, please, talk to me, I'm
going to help you.

ELENA

How are you going to help me,
Damon? How??

Her anguish is devastating. He's at a loss, suddenly realizing he doesn't know. She wipes away a tear. Focusing.

ELENA (CONT'D)

We have to take care of his body.
Bring him downstairs. *

35 CONTINUED:

35

DAMON

We shouldn't --

ELENA

Carry him. Please.

She brushes past him, moving down the stairs as he moves to pick up Jeremy's body.

36 INT. ELENA'S HOUSE - FOYER/KITCHEN/FAMILY/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT 36

STAY WITH ELENA as she descends the stairs. She enters the kitchen. Stefan's there with Caroline.

(NOTE: THE FOLLOWING SCENE PLAYS OUT IN ONE CONTINUOUS PIECE THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE DOWNSTAIRS OF THE HOUSE.)

ELENA

Where's Bonnie?

STEFAN

We told Matt to take her home. We thought it was best --

*

ELENA

Then I guess we'll have to do this the old-fashioned way,

CAROLINE

Do what?

They look at each other. What does that mean? Damon comes down the stairs with Jeremy's body. Elena sees him.

ELENA

Put his body on the couch.

*

Damon moves into the living room to set him down as Elena moves to the kitchen cabinet, rummaging through things.

She moves into the dry pantry. Pulling out a bottle of BOURBON. Uncorking it. She digs into other cabinets.

CAROLINE

Elena. Elena? Need help finding something?

*

ELENA

I got it.

She sets a bottle on the counter. It's LIGHTER FLUID.

STEFAN

What are you doing?

Elena pops the top, SPRAYING IT ALL OVER the kitchen. Over the island, her journal, the kitchen table.

ELENA

We need a cover-story, right? Did you think I didn't hear you out there talking earlier? What do we say? Animal attack? A tumble down the stairs? No. We burn down the house down with him inside it.

*

She SPLASHES the curtains on the french doors. Moving into the FAMILY ROOM -- Stefan follows, panicking a little.

STEFAN

Elena, stop.

ELENA

Why? You don't want me to be in denial? You want me to face the truth? This is the truth, Stefan. I don't want to live here anymore.

*

SPLASH. She splashes the couch. The TV. The video games.

ELENA (CONT'D)

I don't want these sketches.

*

She sprays the coffee table. Picks up his SKETCH PAD.

ELENA (CONT'D)

I don't want this Xbox.

*

She DRENCHES IT. The bottle EMPTIES. She grabs a bottle of BOURBON.

ELENA (CONT'D)

I don't need bourbon anymore. Alaric's not here to drink it.

She moves for the living room, where she sees Damon.

ELENA (CONT'D)

Unless you're willing to bring back every supernatural creature on the Other Side to get him back. I know you miss your drinking buddy. Would you, Damon? Because I wouldn't. Does that make me a bad person? I have no idea.

*

*

She passes him, opening the bourbon, splashing it over Jeremy's body. She sees the Gilbert RING, pulling it off, tossing it to Damon.

ELENA (CONT'D)

Here. He's not gonna need that anymore. *

She keeps splashing the body with liquor. Stefan and Caroline move in from the other side of the room.

CAROLINE

Elena, please, you're scaring me.

ELENA

What else are we going to do with the body, Caroline? There's no room in the Gilbert family plot. Jenna and John took the last spots.

She sees the picture of Jenna and Alaric. SPLASHES IT with bourbon. Moves to the fireplace. Grabs a box of fireplace MATCHES. She STRIKES ONE.

STEFAN

No, no, no, Elena, STOP. *

She turns on him, tears streaking her face. Her sobs coming harder, faster. She's choking on them.

ELENA

There's nothing here for me anymore, Stefan. Every inch of this house is filled with memories of people I love who died. *

The long match flickers in her hands.

ELENA (CONT'D)

My mom. My dad. Jeremy, Jenna, Alaric, and John -- even John. They're all dead. How am I -- I can't even -- there's nothing left for me. *

The match BURNS her fingers. She DROPS IT. Damon VAMPS to her side, catching it before it falls. Extinguishing it.

DAMON

Elena, I need you to calm down.

Suddenly a WAIL escapes her as she drops to her knees. A horrific, agonized CRY that seems like it will never end.

Caroline stares, tears streaming. She's helpless. Stefan's in his own anguish, watching Elena completely fall apart.

ELENA

No, no, no. I can't. I can't. It hurts. Just make it stop. Please make it stop. It hurts.

*
*
*

STEFAN

Damon -- help her, please.

CLOSE ON DAMON as he stares down at Elena. Her cries shattering his heart. Finally, he makes a decision.

In one quick move he gets down on the floor with her. His arms wrapped around her. Cradling her. Holding her.

DAMON

Elena, I can help you.

*

She looks at him. Asks one final time, desperate to put an end to her agony.

ELENA

How?

He takes her face in his hands.

DAMON

Turn it off.

STEFAN

What? No --

He makes a move, but Damon puts up a hand to stop him.

DAMON

Just turn it off. Everything will go away. It's what you have to do. It's what I want you to do. Just turn it off.

*
*
*
*

And then, suddenly, she does. Her eyes glaze over, the pain giving way to a coldness.

After an endless moment, she looks around, taking in the room. Stefan. Caroline. And then, finally, Damon.

Her tears stop, and suddenly there's nothing but cold silence filling the room as she sits there, quietly, utterly still.

END OF ACT FIVE

ACT SIX

37 INT. CAROLINE'S HOUSE - CAROLINE'S BEDROOM - NIGHT 37

Caroline enters her room, exhausted. Spent. She's leaving another message for Tyler.

CAROLINE

Hey, it's me. Look, I hate to
leave this on your voicemail, but I
think that you need to know.

(drawing a breath)

Jeremy's dead, Tyler. I'm so
sorry, I thought that you would
call and I could tell you. But
then you didn't, so just call me
when you get this. I need you.
There's no way yesterday was the
last time I'm ever gonna see you,
or talk to you. It can't be. So
just call me, Tyler. Please...

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

Feeling forlorn and drowning in her own denial, Caroline lies down and curls up, hugging herself for comfort.

38 EXT. BONNIE'S HOUSE/INT. MATT'S TRUCK - NIGHT 38

Matt pulls his truck to a stop. Inside, Bonnie reaches for the door. But then she touches his hand gently.

BONNIE

It's going to be okay, Matt.
You'll see. I'll bring him back.

*

Matt stares at her, pain in his eyes.

MATT

Get some sleep, Bon. We'll talk
tomorrow.

*

She gets out of the car. Matt watches her walk away. Fighting his emotions. When she gets to her door, he pulls away.

38A EXT. STREET/INT. MATT'S TRUCK - NIGHT 38A

Matt tries to keep driving, forcing back his emotions. Finally, he gives in. Pulls over. A SOB escapes him. He tries to fight it off, but it overpowers him.

He lowers his head onto the steering wheel and cries.

39 EXT. BONNIE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

39

Bonnie steps up to her door, digging in her pack for her keys.

SHANE

Did you tell them?

She looks up. Shane is there, hidden by the shadows.

BONNIE

They don't think I can do it.

SHANE

They're just scared. They're afraid to believe.

BONNIE

I've been thinking. You said if I drop the veil to the Other Side that the dead will return. But that's only for the supernatural. What will happen to the 12 people that died at the Young Farm?

*
*

SHANE

They were a necessary sacrifice for the greater good. They've passed on. They've found peace. That's all anyone wants. That's all Silas wants.

He steps up to her, his eyes warm, focused.

SHANE (CONT'D)

We'll do this together, you and I.

(beat)

We are the beginning.

40 EXT. ISLAND - BEACH - NIGHT

40

Rebekah returns to the beach, shining her flashlight, searching for a zodiac. She spots the last one marooned on the beach. She heads for it, pulling it towards the water.

As she approaches the shoreline, she sees something. A dark form. Her flashlight passes over it. It's a BODY. She leaps back, terrified.

REBEKAH

Blast it --

40

CONTINUED:

40

Angry at herself for her fear, she approaches it. Turning it over. Shining her light on its face --

It's PROFESSOR SHANE.

REBEKAH (CONT'D)

Shane.

*

She leans down, checking for any signs of life. Finding nothing, she releases him. She turns to go, when suddenly he GRABS HER FOOT.

She shrieks in fright, KICKING him off. He collapses, uttering one final word that sends chills down her spine...

SHANE

Silas.

41

INT. ELENA'S HOUSE - FOYER - NIGHT (SAME AS SCENE 1)

41

It's the scene from the opening. The house is eerily silent. Elena picks up a photo that's fallen. It's of her with Jeremy. They're young. Smiling. She brushes glass from the cracked frame, eyeing the photo.

Her face is inscrutable. Blank.

42

EXT. ELENA'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

42

The boys are on the porch.

STEFAN

It was a mistake.

DAMON

It wasn't, and you know it. This is only way she'll survive. We'll help her. Keep an eye on her. And eventually, when she's ready, I'll use the sire bond to bring her back.

STEFAN

(anguished)

Her humanity, Damon. It was all she had left.

*

DAMON

Humanity means nothing when you don't have anyone to care about.

STEFAN

She had you.

42

CONTINUED:

42

This silences Damon. A beat, then he admits --

DAMON

She lost her brother. I'm not
enough. Not for this.

They stand there in pained silence. Stefan stares at his
brother. Suddenly moved by a wave of emotion.

STEFAN

Damon, listen. I know you and I,
we've been through some bad
spots... especially when it comes
to her.

DAMON

Yeah, well... I guess none of that
matters anymore. *

STEFAN

I just... I want you to know that, *
uh -- *

DAMON

I know, Stefan.

Damon puts his hand on his brother's shoulder. *I love you
too.* Off the two brothers...

43

INT. ELENA'S HOUSE - FOYER/LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

43

Elena sets the photo down. Moving into the living room. Her
eyes scan the mess. Her gaze lands on the fireplace matches.

She moves to the box, picking it up. She pulls out a match.
Striking it. A long beat as it burns...

The door opens and the boys step inside. They see the match.
They're both resigned. They know what she's doing.

DAMON

Elena, don't do this. We can find
another cover story.

ELENA

This is the best one. No one will
ask questions.

STEFAN

If you burn down the house, it will
be gone. What if one day, when
this is all over, you want to come
home again?

43 CONTINUED:

43

She stares at them. Her eyes cold. Clinical.

ELENA

I won't.

And then she drops it. A puddle on the floor IGNITES.

44 EXT. ELENA'S HOUSE - FRONT PORCH - NIGHT

44

The front door opens. Elena walks out, followed by Damon, then Stefan. Stefan shuts the front door of the house, and the three of them walk down the sidewalk.

Stefan steals a final look back to the house. Regretful. But Elena never looks back.

45 INT. ELENA'S HOUSE - DOWNSTAIRS - NIGHT

45

The fire catches, following the trail of bourbon and lighter fluid to Jeremy's body. It ignites.

In an EERIE SERIES of cuts:

The Xbox goes up in flames. Jeremy's sketches. The curtains. A picture of Alaric and Jeremy. Elena's Converse shoes that were kicked, forgotten into a corner.

The kitchen. The island. And finally, Elena's JOURNAL.

As the Gilbert House continues to burn....

BLACKOUT.

END OF EPISODE

*