

BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER PILOTS

BUFFY COMPARISON:

Comparing script structure and execution requires looking at how each piece handles its core narrative burden. "New Sunnydale" functions as a complete, traditional network-style pilot (establishing the world, the threat, the origin, and ending on a cliffhanger), whereas "Chosen" operates as Part One of a two-part event, designed primarily as a fast-paced foundation layer.

Determining which script is "better" ultimately depends on what you value more in a continuation: a polished, traditional TV pilot structure or a deeply character-driven, fan-centric setup.

1. Plot & Pacing

- "New Sunnydale" (Complete Pilot Arc):
 - Structure: It executes a textbook 5-act pilot structure. It successfully introduces Nova's everyday life, plants the mystery of Mr. Burke's corruption, awakens Nova's Slayer powers (the iconic "arrow catch" turning point), unites the Core Three (Nova, Hugo, Larkin), and culminates in a climax at the pit where they defeat the immediate threat (Shirley) while setting up the broader season arc (Vampire Burke and the Hellmouth opening).
 - Pacing: Balanced. It gives room for characters to breathe, establishes high school dynamics, and ends with a solid tag showing Buffy in NYC as an actuary—providing a clear bridge to the original series.
- "Chosen: Foundations Part One" (Setup-Heavy Part 1):
 - Structure: Because it is explicitly the first half of a two-part pilot, the plot is almost entirely anticipatory. It spends its pages setting up multiple parallel storylines: Ruby discovering her Slayer powers, Miller meeting "Internet Joy," Lennox and Cassian trying to complete the seal beneath the museum, and Willow at Blackwood University.
 - Pacing: Extremely rapid and cross-cut, but structurally incomplete by design. The main climax of this episode isn't a final battle, but a dramatic cliffhanger at the museum attack—punctuated by the reveal that "Joy's Aunt Buffy" has arrived to save the kids.

2. Character Dynamics & Dialogue

	Chosen: Foundations Part One
embracing "Nova the Vampire Slayer" feels complete within 50 pages.	Ruby: Gritty, cynical, artistic, carrying trauma over her mother
card. Larkin adds a comedic activist angle.	Riot & Miller: A tight-knit "outsiders unite" dynamic with sibling
newly-turned villain gives the climax personal weight for the kids.	Cassian & Lennox: Cassian feels like an ominous, ancient thr

3. Legacy Integration & Nostalgia

- "New Sunnydale": Treats the original lore as half-remembered urban legends in a gentrified Silicon Valley-esque town. It drops clever winks (like referencing Wesley Wyndam-Pryce's rogue demon hunter guide) and keeps Buffy off-screen until the literal last page to show her living an "Anne" persona in New York.
- "Chosen": Nostalgia is woven directly into the core engine. It leans heavily into direct lineage:
 - Willow appears as a botany professor.
 - References to the "Class Protector" umbrella and the '99 Prom.
 - The twist reveal that Joy is Buffy's niece (meaning Geddy/Ged is likely Xander or a relative) brings Buffy into the active narrative right at the end of Part One.

The Verdict

- Choose New Sunnydale if you prefer: A self-contained, structurally sound, traditional TV pilot experience. It cleanly delivers an origin story, assembles the team, resolves a monster-of-the-week threat, and clearly defines the show's identity from start to finish.
- Choose Chosen if you prefer: High-stakes serialized drama, punchier dialogue, deeper emotional angst, and an immediate connection to the original Buffy cast. While it leaves you on a cliffhanger, its character beats feel punchy and its multi-location setup gives it a massive scale.

Here is a head-to-head rating across key scriptwriting elements out of 10.

Keep in mind that Chosen is evaluated knowing it's the first half of a two-part pilot, meaning its structure is intentionally built around setting up payoffs for Part Two, whereas New Sunnydale aims for a standalone pilot arc.

Breakdown & Ratings

1. Structure & Pacing

- New Sunnydale: 9/10
- Why: Text-book classic network pilot structure. It handles the five-act structure cleanly: introducing the status quo, triggering the hero's awakening (catching the arrow mid-air), assembling the Scooby gang, hitting a high-stakes climax at the construction pit, and resolving the immediate monster-of-the-week while leaving the door open for the main villain.
- Chosen (Part One): 7.5/10
- Why: High energy and excellent momentum, but restricted by being a "Part One". Because the climax is an interruption/cliffhanger rather than a resolved battle, it feels slightly fragmented—jumping between Sunnydale, Boston (Willow), and cross-cutting character threads. It does its specific job (setting the stage) very well, but structural completion relies on Part Two.

2. Dialogue & Voice

- New Sunnydale: 7/10
- Why: Clean, readable, and witty, though occasionally leans heavy into explicit pop-culture quipping (e.g., "You're the hero that saves us all... Mua'dib. Luke Skywalker. The boy who lived"). The comedy works well for a modern teen show, but feels a bit standard for contemporary YA TV.
- Chosen (Part One): 8.5/10
- Why: Snappier, punchier rhythm with strong natural subtext. The banter between Ruby and Riot feels organic, and Miller's back-and-forth over "Internet Joy" hits that classic Whedonesque blend of self-aware and charming without trying too hard.

3. Character Construction & Leads

- New Sunnydale (Nova): 7.5/10
- Why: Nova's arc from an asthmatic, introverted bookworm who avoids confrontation to someone stepping up to fight is clear and satisfying. Her dynamic with her protective dad (Abe) gives her strong emotional groundedness.
- Chosen (Ruby): 8.5/10
- Why: Ruby feels slightly more complex and edgy right out of the gate. Her internal struggle, drawing her prophetic nightmares, resisting grief over her mom, and her raw, desperate fight in the art studio give her a gritty, compelling Slayer awakening.

4. Villains & Supernatural Threat

- New Sunnydale: 8/10
- Why: Making Mr. Burke—the chill, progressive history teacher—the primary turned vampire adds great personal stakes and irony. His speech about being tired of "woke culture" post-vamp turn is a fun, dark twist.
- Chosen (Part One): 8.5/10
- Why: Cassian brings an ancient, refined, cold threat reminiscent of classic Buffy villains like The Master or Marcus. Lennox and Fallon provide the aggressive, modern vampire muscle, giving the villain hierarchy multiple layers of danger.

5. Legacy & Lore Integration

- New Sunnydale: 7.5/10
- Why: Takes a gentrified, tech-corp approach to Sunnydale ("VoreTechs"). Treating Buffy as an urban legend and using small nod references works well. The tag revealing Buffy working as an actuary named "Anne" in NYC is a great post-script.
- Chosen (Part One): 9/10
- Why: Seamlessly weaves legacy into the main plot driver. The "Internet Joy" reveal—turning out to be Joy/Buffy's niece coming to town—is a fantastic structural trick that brings the legacy cast naturally into the conflict right at the climax.

Scorecard Summary

Category	New Sunnydale	Chosen (Part 1)
Structure & Pacing	9 / 10	7.5 / 10
Dialogue & Voice	7 / 10	8.5 / 10
Characterization	7.5 / 10	8.5 / 10
Villains & Threat	8 / 10	8.5 / 10
Lore & Integration	7.5 / 10	9 / 10
TOTAL	39 / 50	42 / 50

Final Take

- New Sunnydale wins on traditional pilot execution. If an executive reads page 1 to 59, it delivers a neat, fully realized pilot episode that checks every procedural box.
- Chosen (Part One) wins on character depth, atmosphere, and dramatic hooks. It relies on Part Two to finish its engine, but page-for-page, its tone, dialogue, and character connections hit with more emotional weight.

Here is a character-by-character head-to-head evaluation, comparing how each counterpart functions in their respective script.

1. The Chosen Slayers: Nova vs. Ruby

- Nova (New Sunnydale): Brainy, bookish, asthmatic, and quiet. Her arc is the classic "reluctant hero" who uses her intellect and sudden physical awakening to protect others. She feels like a spiritual successor to early Willow who gets handed Buffy's powers.
- Ruby (Chosen): Gritty, artistic, sardonic, and carrying deep grief over her mother. Her drawings reflect her repressed prophetic visions, and her awakening fight in the art studio is raw, violent, and desperate.

- The Verdict: Ruby wins (9/10 vs 7.5/10). While Nova's asthmatic-to-agile arc is charming, Ruby's internal angst, artistic outlet, and sheer instinct in her fight scene give her a more visceral, compelling Slayer energy right out of the gate.

2. The Mentor / Educator: Mr. Burke vs. Ms. Callaghan

- Mr. Burke (New Sunnydale): The chill, progressive history teacher with a man-bun who cares about student mental health—until he gets turned into a vampire and turns into an anti-"woke", cynical killer who taunts his students.
- Ms. Callaghan (Chosen): The weary, experienced history teacher who secretly attended the original Sunnydale High during the Hellmouth era. She recognizes the signs immediately, helps Ruby process the vampire kill, and acts as an organic "Watcher" proxy.
- The Verdict: Tie (8.5/10 vs 8.5/10). They serve completely different structural functions and both execute them brilliantly. Burke turning into the main active antagonist gives New Sunnydale a great personal twist, while Callaghan provides a fantastic bridge of Sunnydale institutional memory.

3. The Tech / Geek Sidekick: Hugo vs. Miller

- Hugo (New Sunnydale): The ultra-wealthy, pop-culture obsessed tech kid who uses his dad's Amex card to buy vampire hunting gear. He's the explicit "guy in the chair" hype-man who helps name Nova a Slayer.
- Miller (Chosen): Effortlessly cool yet deeply loyal, Miller acts as the glue of his friend group while secretly pining over "Internet Joy". He brings an earnest, protective sibling energy to the gang.
- The Verdict: Miller wins (8.5/10 vs 7/10). Hugo is funny, but his quips can occasionally feel like standard modern YA comedic relief. Miller's dynamic feels more grounded, and his long-distance plot line pays off massively when Joy arrives in town.

4. The Wildcard / Activist Friend: Larkin vs. Riot

- Larkin (New Sunnydale): An over-zealous, chronic do-gooder and activist protesting the development company. She has a tragic background (her brother died) and a crush on Mr. Burke, which gets exploited when he attacks her.
- Riot (Chosen): Sharp-tongued, hilarious, and unapologetic. She serves as Ruby's emotional anchor, constantly pushing her to open up, while delivering some of the tightest comedic banter in the script.
- The Verdict: Riot wins (9/10 vs 7/10). Larkin is a fun caricature of modern teen activism, but Riot feels like a living, breathing best friend. Her voice and dynamic with Ruby give Chosen its emotional heart.

5. The Protective Father: Abe vs. Daniel (Dan)

- Abe (New Sunnydale): A photojournalist and single dad. He is fiercely protective due to a past trauma (Nova was briefly kidnapped as a child), driving his anti-screen, low-tech parenting style.
- Daniel (Chosen): An architect/historian who helped design the museum. He's warm, supportive, cooks for Ruby, but is deeply involved in the very event that gets attacked by vampires.
- The Verdict: Daniel wins (8/10 vs 7.5/10). Abe has a solid backstory, but Daniel stepping up to physically tackle a vampire during the museum outbreak to protect a stranger makes him an immediate standout.

6. The Antagonistic Rich Girl: Faux Slayer / Gracie vs. Marnie

- Gracie & Faux Slayer (New Sunnydale): Gracie is a ultra-religious student looking for Joan of Arc/Buffy parallels, while the Faux Slayer represents the shallow influencer culture around the festival.
- Marnie (Chosen): The classic, wealthy, self-absorbed high school queen bee who treats school like her personal playground because her parents funded the museum.

- The Verdict: Marnie wins (8/10 vs 6.5/10). Marnie captures that classic Cordelia Chase energy—obnoxious, entitled, yet deeply funny in her interactions with authority figures like Principal Hartley.

Overall Character Comparison Summary

Character Matchup	New Sunnydale	Chosen (Part 1)	Winner
The Slayer (Lead)	Nova (7.5)	Ruby (9.0)	Chosen
The Mentor	Mr. Burke (8.5)	Ms. Callaghan (8.5)	TIE
The Geek / Tech	Hugo (7.0)	Miller (8.5)	Chosen
The Best Friend	Larkin (7.0)	Riot (9.0)	Chosen
The Father	Abe (7.5)	Daniel (8.0)	Chosen
The Mean Girl / Foil	Gracie/Cosplayer (6.5)	Marnie (8.0)	Chosen

Takeaway

While New Sunnydale has an arguably more tightly plotted pilot engine for its main trio, Chosen takes the lead across almost every individual character matchup. Its core group (Ruby, Riot, Miller) feels more organic, distinct, and rooted in classic Whedon-style ensemble dynamics.

1. Set-Pieces & Visual Interest

Both scripts bring strong visual concepts to the table, but they lean into very different cinematic styles:

- New Sunnydale (Vampire Weekend & Construction Pit):
 - Visual Highlights: The script plays heavily on colorful, neon-lit meta imagery. You have a RenFaire-style "Vampire Weekend" filled with cosplayers, a stake-throwing booth, faux Slayers posing for TikTok, and blood donor trucks. The climax takes place in a sprawling, multi-tiered golf course construction pit with heavy machinery, a glowing sigil filled with blood bags, and an electric force field.
 - Action Moments: Nova catching a speeding crossbow arrow inches from Carson's face, and later executing parkour off scaffolding onto an excavator bucket to drop into a magical force field.
- Chosen (Art Studio & History Museum Siege):
 - Visual Highlights: Leans much heavier into moody, atmospheric, and high-stakes chaos. The opening in the fog-drenched Restfield Cemetery sets an immediate Gothic horror tone. The climax in the newly built Sunnydale History Museum is visually grand: champagne glasses shattering, display cases exploding, vampires dropping from the mezzanine, Chumash tribal statues being used as improvised stakes, and ancient artifacts being looted.
 - Action Moments: The intimate, claustrophobic art studio fight between Ruby and Jamie—where paint jars smash, bright colors splatter like blood across the floor, and a digital whiteboard shatters.
 - Verdict on Visual Interest: Chosen Wins. While New Sunnydale's construction pit parkour is fun, Chosen's set-pieces feel more cinematic and visceral. The visual contrast of bright paint splattering like blood in a quiet studio, paired with the chaos of a full-scale vampire assault on a slick, modern museum, gives it a richer visual texture.

2. Storyline

- New Sunnydale Storyline:
 - Engine: A classic, self-contained origin story. Nova gets her powers, figures out what is happening, gathers her friends, faces the villain (her turned history teacher), defeats the immediate ritual threat, and accepts her destiny as a Slayer—all while keeping Buffy's broader legacy in the background until the final scene.

- Strengths: Clear narrative arc, high structural integrity, satisfying resolution of the immediate episode threat.
- Chosen Storyline:
 - Engine: A multi-layered mystery and event setup. It juggles multiple locations (Sunnydale, Boston) and parallel narrative threads: an ancient vampire plot to complete a broken seal, a mysterious missing artifact, teenagers sneaking out on state lines, and a prophetically gifted Slayer coming into her own.
 - Strengths: Massive scope, higher emotional stakes, and a structural masterstroke in the "Internet Joy" reveal—which seamlessly connects the new teen cast directly to Buffy Summers herself without feeling forced.
 - Verdict on Storyline: Chosen Wins (by a hair). New Sunnydale has the cleaner self-contained pilot structure, but Chosen builds a far more compelling, high-stakes engine. The way the "Joy" subplot collides with the museum siege to bring Buffy back into the fold makes for a significantly more exciting narrative hook.

3. Dialogue

- New Sunnydale Dialogue:
 - Style: Very modern, high-energy YA quips. It relies heavily on explicit pop-culture namedrops ("Mua'dib. Luke Skywalker. The boy who lived. Neo. Frodo"), self-aware meta jokes about social justice activism, and deliberate quip-awareness ("Dammit. I keep forgetting to quip").
 - Tone: Lighthearted, bouncy, and distinct, though it can occasionally feel like it's trying slightly too hard to be contemporary.
- Chosen Dialogue:
 - Style: Sharp, rhythmic, and grounded in character dynamic. The banter between Riot, Ruby, and Miller feels natural and effortless ("You say 'nothing' the way other people say 'don't call the police'"), while the villains (Cassian and Lennox) speak with a terrifying, old-world elegance ("They rebuilt this whole damn town—and left the best part to us").
 - Tone: Strikingly close to the classic Whedon balance—snarky without being overly cartoonish, allowing emotional beats (like Ruby's grief or Dan's parental concern) to land heavily.
 - Verdict on Dialogue: Chosen Wins. Chosen captures a more authentic, natural cadence. Its humor comes organically out of character dynamics rather than pop-culture reference lists, and its villain dialogue carries genuine menace.

Summary Verdict

Category	New Sunnydale	Chosen (Part 1)	Winner
Set-Pieces & Visuals	Creative meta festival & pit parkour	Art studio fight & museum siege chaos	Chosen
Storyline	Complete, clean origin pilot arc	Multi-threaded, high-stakes mystery	Chosen
Dialogue	High-energy pop-culture quips	Snappy, organic, classic Whedonesque rhythm	Chosen

Across visuals, story engine, and page-by-page dialogue, Chosen takes the crown. It feels larger in scale, deeper in character voice, and delivers a far more visceral visual punch.

The Verdict: Chosen Has the Superior Buffy Reveal

Both scripts recognize that bringing Buffy Summers into a legacy show is the ultimate mic-drop moment, but "Chosen" executes a far superior reveal. It makes her entrance an active, emotional catalyst that directly impacts the main plot, whereas "New Sunnydale" treats her appearance as a clever, detached post-script tag.

1. Chosen: Foundations Part One Reveal

The Scene

After a full-scale vampire assault at the museum, Miller, Riot, and Joy are cornered in a dead-end alley. A vampire lunges to kill them, only for a wooden stake to burst through its chest. The vampire turns to dust, a hand catches the stake out of the air, and Buffy Summers steps into the light.

JOY: "Aunt Buffy?"

BUFFY: "Oh, you are so grounded till you graduate."

Rating: 9.5 / 10

Why It Works

- Narrative Integration: The reveal is the direct payoff of a plotline running through the entire episode—Miller talking to "Internet Joy". What seemed like a cute, secondary teenage plot thread turns out to be the main engine for bringing Buffy back into Sunnydale.
- Active Agency: Buffy doesn't just show up to be looked at; she drops into a life-or-death situation, slays a monster, saves the kids, and delivers a line that perfectly blends heroics with her new role as a protective family figure.
- The Cliffhanger Engine: Ending Part One on Buffy's unexpected familial connection to Joy creates a massive emotional and structural hook for Part Two. You immediately want to know how Buffy ended up raising/guarding Joy and how she will interact with the new Slayer, Ruby.

2. New Sunnydale Reveal

The Scene

In a quiet "Tag" after the pilot's main story resolves, we shift to New York City. We follow a sharply dressed corporate employee into a massive insurance office building. She sits at her desk, wearing a nameplate that reads "ANNE SUMMERS". As she heads into a boring meeting, red flag alerts flood her computer screen detailing mysterious deaths, property damage, and subterranean activity back in Sunnydale.

Rating: 6.5 / 10

Why It Doesn't Work as Well

- Detached from the Main Plot: Buffy is completely isolated from Nova, Hugo, Larkin, and the main story in California. Her appearance feels like an post-credits bonus scene rather than an organic conclusion to the pilot's events.
- Passive Positioning: Buffy spends her reveal sitting at a cubicle, completely unaware of the alerts popping up on her monitor. While the "Anne" alias is a great nod to Season 3's Anne episode, presenting the legendary Slayer as an oblivious actuary ignores her active agency when a Hellmouth reopens.
- Lack of Emotional Stakes: Because she doesn't interact with any of the pilot's characters, there is no immediate relationship or dramatic friction established between Buffy and Nova. It functions purely as a teaser for a potential future crossover rather than an active dramatic beat.

Comparison Summary

Metric	New Sunnydale Tag
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Chosen Cliffhanger

Execution Style Standalone post-credits scene in NYC

Active climax intervention in Sunnydale

Pacing & Energy Low energy / Corporate satirical tone

High stakes / Action-horror transition

Character Connection Zero contact with the new Scooby gang

Direct connection (revealed as Joy's aunt)

Lore Payoff Callback to her "Anne" alias

Callback to her role as Class Protector / Slayer

Final Word: Chosen wins because Buffy's entrance feels earned, necessary, and instantly charges the narrative with high emotional stakes. New Sunnydale gives fans a fun easter egg, but Chosen gives them a dramatic turning point.

1. Better Slayer Activation Moment

Both scripts take a fundamentally different visual and emotional approach to the "awakening" beat:

- New Sunnydale (Nova's Awakening):
 - The Moment: Nova's power manifests in a split-second, instinctual reaction during a mundane moment at Vampire Weekend. A stray flaming arrow is triggered from a fairground booth, zooming straight at Carson's face. Nova snatches it out of the air mid-flight with zero warning. Later, during her confrontation with Jack in the alley, her reflexes completely take over as she headbutts him, parkours off dumpsters, slides across the pavement, catches a wooden arrow, and dusts him.
 - The Vibe: Fun, superhero-esque, comedic, and lighthearted ("Kung Fu upgrade"). It relies on Nova being shocked by her own physical dexterity.
- Chosen (Ruby's Awakening):
 - The Moment: Takes place in a dark, quiet art studio where paint jars and brushes line the room. Her former classmate Jamie (turned vampire) attacks her, throwing her across tables and shattering easel wood. When Ms. Callaghan intervenes and gets grabbed by the throat, Ruby's sensory perceptions overload—hearing keys rattling, distant traffic, and air conditioning simultaneously. She kicks Jamie across the room into a digital whiteboard, then impales him through the heart with a broken wooden paintbrush.
 - The Vibe: Visceral, claustrophobic, survival-driven, and emotionally intense. Intercut with Willow's university lecture on "dormant seeds waiting for the precise trigger," the sequence feels mythic and heavy.

The Verdict: Chosen Wins (9.5/10 vs 8.0/10)

Nova's arrow catch and dumpster parkour are fantastic popcorn-movie beats. However, Ruby's fight in the art studio is superior page-for-page.

By intercutting the violent art-studio struggle with Willow's monologue about dormant potential, Chosen turns Ruby's awakening into a cinematic, high-stakes moment of survival. Using a broken paintbrush as an improvised stake is poetic, and the sensory overload description grounds the magic in terrifying reality.

2. Better Handling of Buffy Lore

Lore integration is where these two scripts diverge most dramatically in philosophy:

- New Sunnydale (The Modern/Corporate Lore Approach):
 - Integration: Treats the original series history as a semi-forgotten, urban-legend disaster. Sunnydale's original destruction is framed as a subterranean geological collapse. The local high schoolers view Buffy as "conspiracy claptrap online" or a "cheerleader who died in the sinkhole".

- Nods: Lore drops feel like Easter eggs—Gracie wearing a cross, a nod to Wesley Wyndam-Pryce's self-published demon-hunting guide, the "Keeper of the Hellmouth" developer mindset, and Buffy living under her Season 3 "Anne" persona in New York.
- Weakness: It intentionally distances itself from the original continuity to build a fresh, Silicon Valley/tech-charter world ("VoreTechs"). As a result, the deep mythology can feel a bit diluted into background satire.
- Chosen (The Direct Lineage / Mythic Lore Approach):
 - Integration: Deeply respects and actively builds upon established canon without treating it like trivia. The opening image of the Vampyr book flipping its own pages, references to Cleveland, the 1999 Sunnydale High Prom "Class Protector" umbrella, and the PCP epidemic cover story show a deep reverence for the original series.
 - Nods: Bringing back Willow as a Botany Professor at Blackwood University fits her character's natural trajectory post-Sunnydale. Having Ms. Callaghan be a survivor of the original Sunnydale High who remembers Buffy Summers gives the town an organic generational bridge.
 - Strength: It understands that Buffy lore isn't just monster rules—it's about emotional legacy. The reveal that Joy is Buffy's niece seamlessly weaves the original canon directly into the main narrative engine of the new characters.

The Verdict: Chosen Wins (9.5/10 vs 7.5/10)

While New Sunnydale's corporate gentrification angle ("VoreTechs" building over the Hellmouth) is a clever modern premise, Chosen handles the lore with far more emotional weight and narrative precision. Chosen doesn't just reference the past; it uses the past to fuel the present. Using the "Class Protector" yearbook photo, bringing in Willow, utilizing Ms. Callaghan as a Watcher figure, and framing Buffy as an active guardian makes the script feel like a true, authentic continuation of the original series' DNA.

Final Head-to-Head Breakdown

Category	New Sunnydale	Chosen (Part 1)	Winner
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- Slayer Activation Fun, energetic, arrow-catch parkour
- Visceral, intercut art-studio paintbrush kill
- Chosen
- Buffy Lore Integration Easter eggs & gentrified urban legend
- Direct canon continuation, Willow & Class Protector
- Chosen

The Definitive Verdict: Chosen is the Superior Continuation

Taking everything into account—the lore, the characters, the tone, the visuals, and the emotional engine—"Chosen: Foundations Part One" is the better continuation of the Buffy the Vampire Slayer legacy. While both scripts bring brilliant ideas to the table, they approach continuing a legendary franchise from two fundamentally different creative philosophies:

- New Sunnydale approaches it like a modern reboot/reimagining. It treats the original series as distant urban legends, shifts the focus to a gentrified Silicon Valley-style town ("VoreTechs"), and builds a standard YA superhero-origin pilot.

• Chosen approaches it like a genuine, prestige legacy continuation. It respects the emotional weight of the original series, expands the lore organically, and weaves the original characters into the new story without sacrificing the fresh teen cast.

1. Why Chosen Wins as a Continuation

A. It Inherits the True "Whedonverse" Voice

The hardest thing to capture in a Buffy continuation is the delicate balance of witty, rhythmic banter, sharp pop-culture awareness, and raw emotional vulnerability.

- New Sunnydale occasionally leans too hard into explicit modern quips ("You're the hero that saves us all... Luke Skywalker, Frodo") which can feel like standard modern teen TV.
- Chosen nails the subtext and character-driven snark ("You say 'nothing' the way other people say 'don't call the police'"). The banter between Ruby, Riot, and Miller feels like a modern evolution of the original Scooby Gang.

B. The Lore is Active, Not Just Background Trivia

In New Sunnydale, the past is largely sanitized—Buffy is a myth, the Hellmouth collapse was a "geological event," and Buffy herself is hidden away sitting in an insurance cubicle in New York.

Chosen understands that the history of Sunnydale is rich dramatic territory:

- Ms. Callaghan isn't just a teacher; she's an original Sunnydale High survivor who carries the institutional memory of the Hellmouth.
- Willow's appearance as a Botany Professor at Blackwood University feels like a natural, mature progression for her character.
- The "Class Protector" Prom '99 umbrella and the PCP cover stories are woven into the story seamlessly.

C. The "Internet Joy" / Buffy Reveal

The single strongest story beat across both scripts is the "Internet Joy" thread. What starts as a relatable, modern teen subplot—Miller talking to a girl online whom his friends suspect is a catfish—turns out to be the main narrative bridge connecting the new kids to the original Slayer.

When Joy's "Aunt Buffy" steps out of the shadows, stakes a vampire, and tells Joy she's grounded, it bridges two generations of characters instantly. It's a masterclass in structural storytelling.

2. Where New Sunnydale Still Excels

To give New Sunnydale its due credit, it performs remarkably well as a stand-alone network pilot:

- Structure: It gives a complete 5-act arc—introducing Nova, giving her a clear hero's journey, assembling her team, defeating Shirley at the construction pit, and setting up Mr. Burke as a recurring big bad.
- Concept: The idea of "Vampire Weekend" (a RenFaire-style festival exploiting Sunnydale's dark history) and gentrified developers ignoring Hellmouth warning signs is a sharp, funny satire on modern California real estate.

Final Comparison Summary

Metric	New Sunnydale	Chosen (Part 1)	Winner
Slayer Awakening	Energetic & comedic arrow catch	Visceral, intercut art-studio fight	Chosen
Core Trio Dynamic	Nova, Hugo, Larkin (Fun, archetypal)	Ruby, Riot, Miller (Organic, emotional)	Chosen
Villain & Threat	Mr. Burke (Personal & satirical)	Cassian & Lennox (Gothic & menacing)	Chosen
Buffy's Reveal	Passive tag scene in NYC	Active, high-stakes alleyway entrance	Chosen
Pilot Arc Completeness	Full 5-act standalone origin	Part 1 setup / Cliffhanger	New Sunnydale

Metric	New Sunnydale	Chosen (Part 1)	Winner
OVERALL CONTINUATION	8 / 10	9.5 / 10	Chosen

The Bottom Line

If you want a clean, traditional TV pilot that wraps itself up in 50 pages, New Sunnydale is a great read. But if you want a true, authentic continuation that captures the heart, grit, humor, and mythic scale of Buffy the Vampire Slayer, "Chosen: Foundations Part One" is the clear winner.