

XENA

WARRIOR PRINCESS

A Fistful of Dinars

BY

R.J. STEWART

&

STEVEN L. SEARS

Episode #13

Prod. #76918

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"A Fistful of Dinars"

Written by

R.J. Stewart

&

Steven L. Sears

Directed by

Josh Becker

Revised Pages: 42-45, 48A-49A

Executive Producers
Sam Raimi & Robert Tapert

SHOOTING DRAFT
October 26, 1995
Rev. October 30, 1995 - Pink
Rev. November 1, 1995 - Blue
Rev. November 2, 1995 - Yellow
Rev. November 6, 1995 - Green
Rev. November 15, 1995 - White
Rev. November 15, 1995 - 2nd Pink

#76918

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS
("Three For Godhood, The Hard Way")

CAST LIST

XENA
GABRIELLE

PETRACLES
THERSITES
LYCUS
KLONIG
MARLEUS
CALICUS
HEAD VILLAGER

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"A Fistful of Dinars"

SET LIST

INTERIORS:

PETRACLES' TENT
TEMPLE OF DEMETER
GREAT TEMPLE OF ALL GODS
CAVERN
MYSTERY CHAMBER
TREASURE ROOM
AMBROSIA ROOM
MOUNTAIN CAVE
TUNNEL
HALL OF SILENCE
VOLCANO CAVERN

*
*

EXTERIORS:

WOODS
ANOTHER LOCATION IN WOODS
NEARING WOODS
EDGE OF WOODS
PAEUS WOODS
CHASM OF DEATH
CAMPSITE
ANOTHER AREA
CREST OF A RIDGE
TEMPLE OF DEMETER
GREAT TEMPLE OF ALL GODS
PATH
COUNTRY ROAD

#76918

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

("Three For Godhood, The Hard Way")

CHRONOLOGY

DAY 1	SCENES # 1 - 14
NIGHT 1	SCENES #15 - 18
DAY 2	SCENES #19 - 27
NIGHT 2	SCENES #28 - 29
DAY 3	SCENES #30 - 39

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"A Fistful of Dinars"

*

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. WOODS - DAY - CLOSE ON GROUND

1

A BEAT, then a leather pouch drops into frame, followed by a man. This is LYCUS, a man in his early forties. Fairly fit for his age, but his age has passed him by. He scrambles to pick up the pouch. We see the pain and exhaustion in his eyes. Also, the bruises and cuts on his face.

WIDER

as he tries to stand, clutching the pouch to his chest, a chest which has a bloody wound. There is a noise to his left... something crashing through the woods after him. He turns and runs on shaky legs into the brush.

2 EXT. ANOTHER LOCATION IN WOODS - DAY

2

Lycus bursts through the brush and is hit FULL IN THE FACE by a log. He reels backwards, flat on his back to the ground. KLONIG stands above him, a swarthy man with lots of muscle. He leans over and pulls Lycus to his feet. Lycus, still clutching the pouch, swings wildly at Klonig. In his normal state, Lycus would be formidable, but, wounded, his swing misses wildly. Klonig spins him, knees him in the back of his legs, and drops him to his knees. A kick to the back puts Lycus back on the ground. Klonig grabs the pouch, but Lycus won't let go.

KLONIG

You're a dead man, Lycus. And dead men
have no need for treasure.

Klonig pulls his sword.

LYCUS' POV - LOOKING UP AT KLONIG

The sword is raised and comes down... but stops midway as another sword blocks it. Klonig's surprised look lasts only long enough for him to receive a kick in the face.

WIDER

Klonig sails back, the pouch being thrown to the side. XENA has entered the fray. She stands straddle over Lycus, her sword at the ready. She has that half-smile on her face. A battle against a killer... the start of a good day. Klonig gets to his feet cautiously.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

XENA

Hi. I'm Xena. I thought you'd like to know that.

With her Xena yell, she charges him, driving him back, sword blow after sword blow.

Meanwhile, GABRIELLE rushes from the brush to Lycus to help him. Lycus starts to resist.

LYCUS

No! The pouch! Get the pouch!

Gabrielle moves to get the pouch.

Meanwhile, Klonig, still trying to fend off this furious attack, sees Gabrielle picking up the pouch. His eyes widen and he finds the strength to parry one of Xena's blows with enough energy to push her back. Not much, but just enough so that he can dive, roll and come up in front of Gabrielle. He kicks her in the chest, knocking her down and the pouch in the air. Klonig grabs the pouch and runs. Xena is right on his tail. But, he turns and throws his sword at Lycus.

Thinking quickly, Xena dives, catches the flying sword by the handle, and lands hard on her side. Klonig is gone. Lycus screams!

LYCUS

Xena! It's the Titan's Key! The pouch...!

Xena reacts. Her eyes widen and she leaps to her feet.

XENA

Take care of him!

Xena runs as if her life depended on it after Klonig. Gabrielle gets up, holding her chest where she was kicked. She moves to Lycus, as we:

CUT TO:

3 EXT. WOODS - DAY

3

Now, it is Klonig's turn to be chased. He, as Lycus, clutches the pouch to his chest as he runs.

A flying tackle from the trees brings him down. Xena rolls to her feet as Klonig stands to face her.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

XENA

Give me the pouch.

KLONIG

You think I tracked Lycus three months to give away the Treasure? This is the second clue!

He grabs up a fallen tree limb as a club and swings it at her. She dodges it, putting a fist into his side and a foot into his midsection. Klonig is strong, though. He remains standing, turns, raises the club high over his head and with a scream...

...he stiffens up. In his wide eyes, we see the passage from life to death as they become glassy and he falls forward, a dagger sticking in his back. Xena looks up to see:

THERSITES

crouching on a large rock, like an ugly gnome. Unattractive in any sense of the word, Thersites is a wiry man with a narrow face and slit eyes. He crouches when he walks, always prepared for an attack.

THERSITES

How're you doing, Xena?

BACK TO SCENE

XENA

Thersites. I'm not surprised to see you. You've got one of the four clues to the Sumerian Treasure.

Thersites hops down from the rock and approaches as Xena picks up the pouch.

THERSITES

Close. I've got two of the clues. Mine and Klonig's. He's the guy at your feet. He talks too much when he's drinking. And Lycus' clue...

XENA

Is in this pouch, right?

THERSITES

Right. And you're going to give it to me.

XENA

Oh, really?

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: 2

3

She opens the pouch and reaches inside. Thersites follows her every move with his beady eyes. She pulls out a beautiful gold ornament. Xena nods.

XENA

Sumerian... a part of the Treasure.
But hardly a clue. Unless, you mean
this...

She pulls out a small piece of parchment and scans it.

THERSITES

Give me that. It's useless to you.

With a smile, Xena pops the parchment into her mouth and swallows it.

XENA

The map was on that parchment. Now I
know where to go.

Off Thersites' angry look, we:

CUT TO:

4 EXT. ANOTHER LOCATION IN WOODS - DAY

4

Where we left Gabrielle and Lycus. Lycus has a blanket covering his face. Apparently he is dead. Xena and Thersites walk up as Theristes talks to Xena.

XENA

(to Thersites)
Petraclles has the fourth clue to the
treasure. I'll go to him. I know him
better than you do.

GABRIELLE

He died a little after you left. He
said he was following you.

THERSITES

Who's the brat?

GABRIELLE

I'm Gabrielle. Who are you?

THERSITES

Go away.

(to Xena)

We'll meet at the road near the wood's
edge. Make sure you bring Petraclles'
clue.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

And, with a sideways look to Gabrielle, he slinks away.

GABRIELLE

Who... rather, what was that?

XENA

That was Thersites. He's an assassin.
(then; sadly)
Lycus... was an old friend of mine.

GABRIELLE

What is going on here?

XENA

Have you ever heard of the Lost
Treasure of the Sumerians?

GABRIELLE

Have I? The entire wealth of the
Sumerians hidden away? More wealth
than mortal man can imagine? Yes, you
might say I've heard of it.

XENA

There were four clues to finding the
treasure. Four men each had one clue.
Now, Thersites knows two of the clues.
I know Lycus'.

GABRIELLE

Wait. I know you're not just after the
treasure. There's got to be more to
this.

XENA

Legend has it that with the Sumerian
Treasure can be found the Titan Key.
Only Lycus and I knew that. And with
the Titan Key, you will find Ambrosia.

GABRIELLE

Ambrosia? The Food of the Gods?

XENA

Yes. Any mortal who eats it, will
become a god.

(beat)

That's why we have to find it first.

Off this, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

5 EXT. PATH - DAY

5

Xena and Gabrielle walk along. Gabrielle has the pouch slung over her shoulder.

GABRIELLE

Why do we have to find the Titan Key now? The Ambrosia has been hidden since the Titans lost their war against the gods.

XENA

The Hall of Ambrosia is built into a cavern at the foot of Mount Poulis.

GABRIELLE

Poulis? That volcano's about to erupt.

XENA

Lycus knew that if it did, there'd be a chance that the cavern would open up and leave the Ambrosia exposed.

GABRIELLE

Can you imagine someone like Thersites as a god?

XENA

That's exactly why I have to find it first. He and Petracles know nothing about the Ambrosia. As far as they're concerned, this is only a hunt for treasure.

GABRIELLE

So, what's this Petracles like?

XENA

Petracles is a warlord. He's an ambitious, ruthless, conniving, dominating liar who says whatever he needs to get a woman to fall for him. Then, once he has her, he uses her.

GABRIELLE

Uhhh... I detect a bit of an attitude? Toward Petracles in particular?

XENA

He's also my betrothed. We were to be married.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

XENA (cont'd)

(then)

That's his camp up ahead.

That stops Gabrielle cold. Xena continues walking.

CUT TO:

6 INT. PETRACLES' TENT - DAY

6

Your typical well-to-do Warlord's tent. PETRACLES stands at one end of a room, dressed in his fine battle clothes, with his BODYGUARDS close by. He reeks of confidence. In his early thirties, he is tall, attractive, graceful, and has a "bad-boy" edge. At the moment, he is facing the HEAD VILLAGER of a local township. The Villager and his men cower before the warlord. They are dressed poorly and keep their heads bowed.

PETRACLES

This has me in a quandary. A puzzlement. I don't want to burn your village and enslave your families... I really don't. Not that I don't like those things.

He grins at them as if sharing a joke. Even with threats, this guy is friendly.

HEAD VILLAGER

But, you already have our cattle. And our horses. And weapons.

PETRACLES

Your weapons... Seriously, do you think those outdated tin plate swords are useful to me? No, no... I have to justify my efforts here or I lose face with my men. You can understand that, can't you?

That killer grin again. At that moment, from outside, we HEAR:

GUARD (O.C.)

Halt! What is your business --

A loud "THWACK" followed by a "THUD" is heard. A BEAT, then Xena enters the tent, followed by Gabrielle. Gabrielle looks back out the tent toward the ground.

GABRIELLE

(to Guard)

Soak it in warm water, it'll be fine.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

Petracles' bodyguards pull their swords. Xena ignores them and stares at a shocked Petracles. She doesn't smile. In fact, her gaze is killer.

PETRACLES

Xena...!

(then)

Xena. Yes. It's been a while, hasn't it? A while. Yes.

He pulls out a wineskin and takes a swig. Then, he turns and looks at her. That smile returns. He is in control.

PETRACLES

I can't imagine this would be a social call.

XENA

(cold)

This is pure business. Gabrielle.

Gabrielle comes forward with the pouch. She hands it to Xena as she stares at Petracles.

GABRIELLE

Hi. I'm Gabrielle.

He just gives her a smile, then focuses back on Xena as she opens the pouch and pulls out the gold ornament. Petracles reacts. She hands it to him.

PETRACLES

The Sumerian Treasure? Who had this?

Petracles stares at the gold, the greed overwhelming him.

XENA

Lycus. He's dead.

PETRACLES

Dead? That's too bad. He was a good man.

HEAD VILLAGER

Excuse me, Lord Petracles... are you done with us?

PETRACLES

Hmm? Yes, yes. Go.

HEAD VILLAGER

About the cattle...

XENA

Take the cattle. Just go.

*

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: 2

6

The Villagers look confused. Xena gives the Head Villager
the "get going" nod. Petraclles continues to stare at the
gold ornament.

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: 3

6

XENA

You have one of the clues. I have the other three. Interested?

His eyes widen. The Head Villager ventures:

HEAD VILLAGER

We can't herd the cattle without horses.

XENA

Then take your horses.

PETRACLES

How did you get the other clues?

HEAD VILLAGER

Excuse me, once again, but there are bandits on the road and we have no weapons...

Xena starts to say something, but Petracles stops her, turns and glares at the Head Villager, then looks to a guard.

PETRACLES

Have the armory issue them weapons. Now, go!

Richer for the experience, the Villagers quickly leave. Petracles turns back to Xena.

PETRACLES

Now... talk to me about Treasure...

Off this, we:

CUT TO:

7 EXT. PATH - DAY - ON VILLAGERS

7

Leading their horses, and all decked out in the latest warrior gear. They look pretty happy. They pass by Xena and Gabrielle as we HOLD on our heroes.

GABRIELLE

Petracles seems nice, for a Warlord. Pretty handsome, actually.

(nothing)

So you're really not going to talk about it?

XENA

No.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

GABRIELLE

Okay. It's none of my business anyway. I understand. I was engaged, too, you remember. I know what it's like to get cold feet.

XENA

It wasn't cold feet. Petracles isn't what he seems. It was a long time ago and I didn't know what love was back then.

GABRIELLE

He is handsome.

XENA

Yes. He is.

Petracles walks up leading his horse.

PETRACLES

My army has settled into camp. Where are we going?

XENA

First, we leave the horses here. Then we head west, toward Mount Poulis. We'll meet Thersites at the wood's edge.

*
*

PETRACLES

Thersites? That rat bastard? What do we need him for?

GABRIELLE

He has two of the clues.

PETRACLES

(to Xena)

I thought you had all the clues.

XENA

No. I have Thersites. And I have you.

A beat. Gabrielle breaks the mood with:

GABRIELLE

One big happy family, huh?

Petracles laughs.

PETRACLES

(remembering)

Ah, Thersites... Of all the people I missed killing, I miss him the most. What I wouldn't give to feel my blade across his throat.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: 2

7

XENA

I'm sure he feels the same for you.

PETRACLES

As you probably feel toward me.

Xena doesn't reply, she just turns and starts walking. Gabrielle gives a look to Petracles. He smiles and shrugs at her.

DISSOLVE TO:

8 EXT. NEARING WOODS - DAY - LONG ANGLE

8

We see the three of them walking: Xena; Gabrielle; then Petracles.

*
*

9 EXT. NEARING WOODS - DAY - CLOSER

9

Every now and then, Gabrielle looks behind her at Petracles. At one point, he catches her look and, with his finger, motions her closer.

PETRACLES

Do you always look behind yourself like that? I'd like to think it's because of me.

GABRIELLE

It's you. Xena said I shouldn't turn my back on you.

PETRACLES

She really hates me, doesn't she?

GABRIELLE

"Hate" is a pretty strong word. But, it might be the right one.

PETRACLES

But not you.

GABRIELLE

I don't know you. Just what I've been told.

PETRACLES

And that would be...?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

GABRIELLE

That you're a blood-thirsty warlord who doesn't care about anything or anyone but yourself. You'd sooner sell out your soul for a profit than keep an honest promise. That kind of stuff.

PETRACLES

Ah. Thanks for being upfront. As far as the blood-thirsty warlord bit... not quite.

GABRIELLE

What about those villagers you were threatening?

PETRACLES

Don't get me wrong, I'm not a nice guy. But I wasn't going to kill anyone. I was just bluffing.

(then)

So, what kind of clue did Xena get from Lycus?

GABRIELLE

Oh, no, no, no! Xena said you'd try this! You can't sweet-talk information out of me! Wrong target, believe me!

PETRACLES

(smiling)

Don't be too sure. Some people considered me the King of "Sweet-talk."

GABRIELLE

Well, hand over the crown, you just met your match. When I was five, I talked my parents into giving me my own pony.

PETRACLES

When I was fifteen, I talked a Warlord into giving me his army.

This is a friendly competition and they are laughing.

GABRIELLE

I once talked a cyclops out of his dinner. And I was the dinner!

PETRACLES

I talked Xena into marrying me.

A beat of silence. Gabrielle has no response to this one.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: 2

9

XENA

Gabrielle! Walk up here with me.

Gabrielle starts to head up there, but turns back to say:

GABRIELLE

You can keep your crown.

He watches her go to:

XENA AND GABRIELLE

as Gabrielle walks up.

XENA

You shouldn't talk to him. He's going to use you to get information. If he even suspected we were after Ambrosia...

GABRIELLE

He's not going to find that out. It was just a friendly conversation. He's... funny.

Xena shoots her a look.

XENA

I'm asking you not to talk to him.

Gabrielle is a little taken back by this. Then:

GABRIELLE

And I'm asking you to trust me. I'm an adult, remember?

A beat, then Xena nods her head.

XENA

Right.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. EDGE OF WOODS - DAY

10

Thersites sits on a rock, waiting (rock-sitting is his thing). He hops down as they approach.

THERSITES

(re: Petracles)

What's he doing here? I thought you said you were going to get his clue?

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

GABRIELLE

We got him instead.

THERSITES

Go away.

(to Petracles)

How're you doing, Petracles?

PETRACLES

Quite well, actually.

THERSITES

Too bad.

XENA

Let's get going.

THERSITES

Hold up. Something we're going to agree upon. I have two of the clues, therefore I get half the treasure.

PETRACLES

Half? If anything, I deserve half. A warrior is going to be a lot more useful on this quest than a murderer.

THERSITES

Assassin! I'm an assassin!

XENA

There's a difference?

THERSITES

Assassination is for pay. Murder is exercise.

GABRIELLE

Not that it means anything, but there are four of us.

Thersites leans in toward Gabrielle.

THERSITES

There doesn't have to be.

His head snaps back as Xena's fist connects with him. She gets in his face.

XENA

You don't threaten my friend. Do you understand that?

Thersites and Xena glare at each other for a moment. They look like they're about to tear into each other when:

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: 2

10

PETRACLES

Ah... friends, we have some company.

They look over to see:

A GROUP OF MEN

have emerged from the road. In the lead is MARLEUS, strong and vicious. He calls out.

XENA

Who's this?

THERSITES

My ex-employer. I was doing a job for him when I got distracted by Lycus. He's going to want somebody's head.

Off this, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

*
*
*
*

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

10A EXT. EDGE OF WOODS - DAY

As we left them.

MARLEUS

I thought we had a deal. I asked you for the head of Covenus.

THERSITES

Covenus still has his head. And he's going to keep it for a few more days. It'll be yours soon, as agreed.

MARLEUS

As agreed means on time. His death is nothing to me if I have to wait. If I can't have the head I want, I'll take four that I don't want.

His men draw their swords. Thersites holds up his hands in a gesture of exasperation.

THERSITES

Four heads? Marleus, don't be an amateur. I'm the one who kills. I'm the one who has all the tricks up my sleeve.

A "CLICK" is heard. Thersites' right sleeve snaps back as a dagger shoots out and nails Marleus in the chest. He staggers, looking down in surprise, and drops. His guards are startled enough for Xena and Petraclous to make their moves. The swordplay is quick and the other guards are run off. As they turn back, Thersites is standing over Marleus' body, counting coins out of a money pouch.

THERSITES

He already paid me five thousand dinars, so I'll take five more...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

10A CONTINUED:

10A

THERSITES (cont'd)
(to Marleus' corpse)
And I will finish the job, don't you
worry.

(counts money)
Oh, yeah... there were a few
expenses... four thousand should cover
it.

PETRACLES
Spoken like a greedy Sumarian.

THERSITES
(thinking)
You're right... I am Sumerian. Four
thousand dinars Sumerian tax. Let's
go.

They start to move out. He stops and turns to Xena.

THERSITES
And, just for future reference, Xena.
Next time you think of taking a shot at
me...

He pauses, looks at the dead Marleus, then back to Xena with
a smile.

THERSITES
I think you understand.

With that, he walks away. Stay on Xena, as we:

DISSOLVE TO: *

11 EXT. CREST OF A RIDGE - DAY

11

Our four reluctant partners walk along the crest of a ridge. Gabrielle and Xena walk in front. Petracles and Thersites walk behind, but not too close to each other. *

THERSITES AND PETRACLES

Thersites is a step ahead of Petracles. He glances here and there, always on the edge.

THERSITES

Listen, Petracles... here's my deal and I'm only going to offer it once. I'm not too wild about this four-way split idea. Two ways, I can deal with.

PETRACLES

Kill those two and take their share?

THERSITES

By the gods, you are so good! Of course that's what I mean. Xena stumbled into this after I had things moving. And her friend... she's a waste of space anyway.

PETRACLES

I'll keep the offer in mind.

THERSITES

Don't think too long or you'll become part of it.

PETRACLES

Don't threaten me, little man.

THERSITES

It's no threat. I'm good at what I do.

And he moves off.

DISSOLVE TO:

12 EXT. EDGE OF WOODS - DAY - ON SKULL

12

mounted on a sharpened stick. PULL BACK to reveal several of the same sticks arranged across the road. Our four stand in front of the structure.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

XENA

No doubt about it, we go through there.

*

*

THERSITES

This is Paeus territory. The Paens don't like visitors.

GABRIELLE

What are they like?

THERSITES

No one knows. That's how good they are at not liking visitors. No one's ever seen one.

(then; to Xena)

Lead on.

She gives him a look, then heads off down the trail, Gabrielle keeping close, followed by Thersites and Petracles.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. PAEUS WOODS - DAY

13

Play the suspense as they move along cautiously, watching the trees. Silently. In front, Xena has her sword drawn. Petracles brings up the rear, sword also drawn.

VARIOUS SHOTS - POV

from our different characters as they think they might see something moving in the brush.

BACK TO SCENE

Petracles stops. Faint drumbeats.

PETRACLES

Do you hear --

XENA

Yes. Stay close.

The drumbeats get louder. Play the suspense as we imply that the drumbeats are all around them. Suddenly, ARROWS FLY AROUND THEM!! Sailing from the trees, the attack is on!

XENA

Run!

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

Gabrielle takes off, Xena right beside her. Thersites crouches and runs, zigzagging. Petracles swings his sword, knocking down the arrows as best he can, as we go to:

14 EXT. CHASM OF DEATH - DAY

14

Or, at least, the Chasm of Annoyance, depending on what we can afford. There is a small wooden footbridge here which definitely looks the worse for wear. Xena turns and begins parrying arrows with her sword.

XENA

Petracles! Secure the other side! Go!

Petracles runs across the bridge, wooden slats falling. He dives and rolls to his feet and looks around.

PETRACLES

All clear! Come on!

Xena takes Gabrielle's staff, flings it across the chasm to the other side and:

XENA

One at a time! Gabrielle! Go!

Gabrielle runs across, Thersites close on her heels.

XENA

Thersites, wait!

Too late. The weight is too much and the bridge drops. Gabrielle and Thersites cling to it as it only falls halfway, at a steep angle. Thersites scrambles up quickly, OVER GABRIELLE, using her for footing. He doesn't even pause to help her as he makes it to the top. Petracles, however, leans over and tries to reach her, just out of his grasp.

PETRACLES

Gabrielle! Here!

GABRIELLE

I can't hold on... much longer...

Xena takes a running leap across the chasm and lands on the bridge, right next to Gabrielle. She grabs her around the waist and, holding on for the both of them, lifts her up. Petracles grabs Gabrielle's hand and pulls. The arrows can't reach them here. Xena crawls up. Resting, she gives a glare to Thersites. He returns her look with no guilt.

DISSOLVE TO:

15 EXT. CAMP SITE - NIGHT

15

Gabrielle has out a flint and small tuft of fabric. She strikes a spark, lights the fabric and applies it to the kindling. Thersites has his back to a tree, still watchful of his surroundings. Xena comes over and kneels next to Gabrielle.

XENA

You alright?

GABRIELLE

I'll be okay.

(re: Thersites)

That man scares me.

XENA

Believe it or not, I'm less concerned with him than I am with Petracles.

GABRIELLE

I can see that. But I don't understand it.

XENA

At least Thersites is upfront. There's nothing hidden about him. Petracles is different. He's good at reading people and using that to manipulate them. And once he has your sympathy... once he has your trust, he's got you.

Xena stands and moves away. Gabrielle stares at the fire, thinking.

XENA AND THERSITES

as Xena walks up to him.

THERSITES

Unless you're bringing me food or the offer of a backrub... go away. *

XENA

I'm not going to forget what happened back at the bridge.

THERSITES

(confused)

What happened?

XENA

You almost got Gabrielle killed with what you did. Then you didn't even bother to help her.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

THERSITES

Is that what you're upset about?
Seriously? What's the big deal? She
doesn't have any clues. More for the
rest of us.

XENA

If she dies, you die. I don't care
that much for the Treasure.

THERSITES

(beat)

No. No, I don't think you do.

XENA

And what's that supposed to mean?

THERSITES

You don't have that fire in your eyes.
That gold lust. Petracles has it. I
was born with it. But you... I'm just
a little curious as to why you're
looking for the Treasure.

XENA

Then you'll just have to stay curious.
Why would I even bother to tell you?

THERSITES

I know one thing; it's not greed. I
know greed.

Xena says nothing but turns around. A BEAT as she notices
that Gabrielle is nowhere to be seen.

16 EXT. ANOTHER AREA - NIGHT

16

Petracles is using his sword to chop some wood. His shirt
is off and his muscles flex with each move. He looks up as
Gabrielle walks out of the woods, some sticks in her arms.

GABRIELLE

I found some dry sticks near the
campsite.

PETRACLES

And you decided to bring them out here?

GABRIELLE

I guess that is kind of strange.
Actually... I wanted to talk to you.

PETRACLES

Sure.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

He stops working and sits on a tree stump. Gabrielle comes up to him. She puts the wood down.

GABRIELLE

I want to know what happened between you and Xena.

PETRACLES

What has she told you?

GABRIELLE

Nothing. She just warns me about you.

PETRACLES

Well, she's right to warn you. She probably said I was lying, manipulative, double-crossing... Have I hit it all?

GABRIELLE

You got a ways to go, but that's close.

PETRACLES

When Xena and I met, we were very young. Neither one of us knew what love was. We confused possession with passion. We had to own each other. I was a little better at it than she was. I asked her to marry me because I thought that was the best way to conquer her.

GABRIELLE

I'll bet you had a surprise coming there! If I know Xena...

PETRACLES

No, Gabrielle. It worked. She was mine. She gave herself to me completely.

(beat)

And when I realized I had her, I didn't want her anymore.

Gabrielle's eyes are moist, imagining the pain of her friend.

GABRIELLE

That's incredibly cruel...

PETRACLES

(nodding)

Yes. But I judged everything in terms of the battlefield.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: 2

16

PETRACLES (cont'd)

And, the funny thing was: when any battle was won, I lost interest in the spoils.

GABRIELLE

That must have been a very empty experience for you, too.

PETRACLES

You're very smart, Gabrielle. Very perceptive.

GABRIELLE

Do you regret what you did to her?

He drops his gaze at the question. A BEAT. Gabrielle lifts his chin up and stares into his eyes for the answer. And the answer is not what she expects.

He kisses her. Not a lusty, animalistic kiss. But soft and gentle. She doesn't fight it. In fact, she returns it.

When they separate, they stare briefly into each other's eyes, then Gabrielle realizes what just happened. She puts her hand to her mouth and, without saying a word, grabs up the sticks and heads back toward the camp.

Petracles watches her go, a bit of a smile on his lips.

CUT TO:

17 EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

17

Gabrielle comes out of the woods, drops next to the fire, and begins working on it. She looks upset. Xena, sitting next to a tree sharpening her sword, notices. A beat. Then Petracles emerges from the woods and drops his wood next to Gabrielle's. Gabrielle doesn't look up at him as he walks to another tree and sits. Off Xena's concerned look, we:

DISSOLVE TO:

18 EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT - LATER - ON CAMPFIRE

18

which has really burned down. Then:

ON PETRACLES

who is asleep, leaning up against a tree, his blanket around him. A BEAT, then a HAND CLAMPS OVER HIS MOUTH. His eyes open and he stares into the angry gaze of Xena.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

XENA

I've got one finger pressed against
your throat. You know what I can do.

Petracles nods as she removes her hand from his mouth.

XENA

Don't mess with my friend.

PETRACLES

What makes you think I am?

XENA

Because I know you. You're trying to
seduce her the way you seduced me.
You're giving her the same looks that
you used on me. It's all familiar
territory.

PETRACLES

If you didn't have your finger on my
life at the moment, I'd say you were
jealous. Are you?

XENA

You hurt my friend, and I'll rip your
throat out.

PETRACLES

Maybe you should consider the fact that
I'm not the same person --

XENA

Don't even think of telling me that!
You haven't changed. I can still
remember everything about you and
there's nothing new.

PETRACLES

Do you remember our wedding bracelets?
Silver, with chain links and a
bullshead charm attached?

XENA

Yes. I threw it in a fire. Just like
I do all my garbage.

PETRACLES

(beat; smiles)

Funny. I traded mine to an arms dealer
for weapons.

(then)

I'm not out to hurt your friend. I
only want my share of the Treasure.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: 2

18

PETRACLES (cont'd)

After that, we never have to see each other again.

XENA

I'm looking forward to it. Just remember my warning.

With that, she moves away. Petracles rubs his throat, thoughtful. Meanwhile:

XENA

moves past a sleeping Thersites to her tree and sits. We HOLD on Thersites... he's not quite asleep. His eyes are slitted and he's seen it all. With a smile on his gnarled face, he turns over and we:

CUT TO:

2 EXT. TEMPLE - DAY

19

A small temple with ornate, but inexpensive decor. In the front of the temple are TEMPLE WARRIORS with spears. A BEAT on this, then we go to:

20 EXT. NEAR TEMPLE - WOODS - DAY

20

where we find Thersites, Gabrielle and Petracles. They are stacking long sticks, looking like spears, in a pile. Xena comes out of the woods.

XENA

The Temple of Demeter is there, as you said.

THERSITES

Of course it is. That was Klonig's clue. "Retrieve the Heart of Demeter" from this temple. So, who's going in and who's staying?

XENA

Gabrielle has to go in, she's the one who has to talk to them.

PETRACLES

I'll go with her.

XENA

No. Thersites will go with her.

Gabrielle shoots her a look.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

PETRACLES

No? It's better to let your best friend go in with the assassin?

THERSITES

He's got a point. I'd rather just kill them all and take it. But you want to do it your way.

XENA

Petracles and I are better with spears, so we should create the distraction. Let's go.

They start to move. Gabrielle carries light-colored blankets. Thersites starts off after Gabrielle.

CUT TO:

21 EXT. TEMPLE - DAY

21

as Thersites and Gabrielle approach the temple, with their blankets serving as robes. *

GABRIELLE

Ah, the great Temple of Demeter! The place of meditation and consideration for all of the earth that we can be thankful for.

The Temple Warriors approach them warily. The head man is CALICUS, a noble priest.

CALICUS

You are strangers here. What is your purpose?

GABRIELLE

Purpose? Why, to pay homage to the mother of the earth, the goddess of the farm. Demeter. You see, we are from your sister temple in Nonameia.

CALICUS

I know of no temple in Nonameia. I've never even hear of the land.

GABRIELLE

It's across the waters. Big waters. Huge waters. We have come that far to honor our goddess and offer a gift.

With that, she pulls the Sumerian Gold Ornament from under her blanket. Calicus smiles.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

CALICUS

You must truly be one of our own.
Please. Come inside.

And he, and another Warrior, lead the two of them inside.

22 INT. TEMPLE - DAY

22

Not too ornate. A long table is at the end of the room, in front of an image of the beautiful Demeter. Calicus and the Warrior pause at the entrance and allow Thersites and Gabrielle to walk toward the table alone with their "gift." *

CALICUS

Please. Feel free to drink the ceremonial wine from the skin.

THERSITES

I could use a shot.

GABRIELLE

(quickly)

Thank you.

And they head toward the table. As they do, they look up to see:

DEMETER IMAGE

In the breast of the image is an egg-sized ruby, shining in the light.

BACK TO SCENE

Gabrielle whispers, almost in awe.

GABRIELLE

There it is!

They reach the table and place the Sumerian Ornament on it next to the wineskin. A BEAT as they stall.

THERSITES

Where are they? If they don't hurry up, I'm gonna start killing people.

GABRIELLE

They'll be here.

Thersites looks back and sees Calicus studying them. Thersites turns back to the wineskin and takes a swig. Not bad.

Suddenly, there are SHOUTS from outside! They all react as:

23 EXT. TEMPLE - DAY

23

Spears are flying from several locations at the Warriors on guard. They are dodging, trying to return fire.

THE WOODS - VARIOUS SHOTS

where we see Xena and Petracles running among the brush, carrying the sticks. They stop, throw one, then run to another location and repeat. The effect is a larger army attacking the temple.

24 INT. TEMPLE - DAY

24

as Calicus and the Warrior rush outside to help.

THERSITES

That's it! Let's move!

They climb on the table. Thersites climbs like a wiry fly up the face of the idol and grabs the jewel. They jump down. They race toward the door. Thersites grabs the wineskin, puts it under his cloak, and keeps going.

As he passes a chair, Thersites hits it hard... a reddish stain appears on his cloak.

25 EXT. TEMPLE - DAY

25

The Warriors are still on guard as Thersites and Gabrielle come out. The spear attack has stopped.

CALICUS

The attack is over. Bandits.

GABRIELLE

Then we'd best be on our way.

CALICUS

Wait! Your friend is wounded!

They see the red stain growing on his cloak. Thersites reacts. They grab him.

THERSITES

No, I'm fine! Get your hands off me!

They throw him on the ground and throw open his cloak. And, there, we find a broken wineskin... and the Heart of Demeter in his hand. A moment of shock. Then six spears are pointed in their direction. Off this, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

26 EXT. TEMPLE - DAY

26

Thersites lies with the spears at his throat. Gabrielle is pushed into the circle of spears, next to Thersites.

CALICUS

You have committed the most horrible sacrilege. For this you will die.

Thersites is hoisted to his feet by the Spearmen. He spots:

THERSITES' POV - XENA AND PETRACLES

They creep up behind the Spearmen. Xena mouths "On three." She holds up three fingers.

DIFFERENT ANGLE

as Xena and Petracles get into position. Xena drops one finger.

CALICUS

We will inflict on you the severest torture before ending your pathetic lives.

Xena drops another finger.

CALICUS

Your doom is assured.

Xena drops the third finger. Petracles, Xena and Thersites all do flying split kicks to the heads of Spearmen. Thersites catches two of them in the jaw. Xena and Petracles catch the other four in the back of the head. They all go down in a heap.

CALICUS

(eyeing his fallen Spearmen)

Or not.

Petracles grabs the ruby from his hands and they all make a run for it.

27 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

27

Thersites, Xena, Gabrielle and Petracles run along. Thersites slows down.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

THERSITES

We can relax. Those sheep don't want any more of us.

(to Petracles)

Give me the ruby.

PETRACLES

You got to be kidding?

THERSITES

I'm the one that risked my butt to get it. I carry it.

PETRACLES

You're the one that almost ruined the entire operation. You're lucky we let you carry your ugly head.

Xena reaches out and grabs the ruby out of Petracles' grasp.

XENA

I carry it.

Thersites moves to block her advance. Xena and he square off against each other. They look like they're about to tear into each other when the earth rumbles and quakes moderately.

XENA

Mount Poulis is about to blow. We better keep moving. I want to get the Treasure and get out of the area before it goes.

She moves past Thersites who follows with a scowl. Petracles and Gabrielle bring up the rear. Petracles checks to see if Xena is far enough ahead not to hear, before he speaks to Gabrielle.

PETRACLES

Gabrielle, we need to talk. Back there in the woods --

GABRIELLE

Look. It was something that shouldn't have happened. I don't usually let my guard down like that.

PETRACLES

I'll have to agree with you. It shouldn't have happened.

GABRIELLE

Excuse me?

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: 2

27

PETRACLES

Don't get me wrong, it was nice.
Bordering on great. I do like you.
But it could be dangerous if a certain
person found out.

GABRIELLE

You mean Xena?

PETRACLES

As you know, there's some bad blood
between me and her. And I'd just as
soon keep that blood in my veins.

GABRIELLE

You're overreacting. Xena's not going
to do anything.

PETRACLES

She already did. She threatened my
life if I hurt you.

GABRIELLE

(angry)
She did what? It's none of her
business. Who does she think --

Then, Gabrielle stops and puts her hands to her head, trying
to sort it all out.

GABRIELLE

Wait... wait! This makes no sense.
There's something else going on here
and I don't know what it is.
(to Petracles)
Xena could be right. You could be
trying to use me. Maybe you're trying
to pit me against her by telling me
this.

PETRACLES

I wouldn't do that. I'm asking you
not to tell her.

GABRIELLE

Don't talk to me. Don't. I want to
believe you, but I have to sort this
out. Talking to you won't do it. It's
between me and Xena.

And she walks away.

CUT TO:

28 EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

28

We see the shadowy figures of our four travellers standing around an unlit pile of kindling. Gabrielle strikes the flint a few times and lights another piece of fabric. The light of the glowing fire illumines:

THREE TOTEMS

These tall (about six feet) wooden poles planted in the ground each have three holes in them.

XENA
(eyeing the poles)
This is the place.

PETRACLES
What are we supposed to do with them?

XENA
Hopefully the clues will tell us.
(to Thersites)
Alright. You go first.

THERSITES
No way. You could kill me right after I said it.

PETRACLES
Well, now that I know how you think, I'm not going first either.

XENA
Somebody's got to go first. I promise I won't let anybody kill anybody.

Petracles and Thersites remain unconvinced.

XENA
Alright, then it's decision by duel, Spartan style. First one to take a fall tells his clue.

Thersites nods and squares off.

PETRACLES
He's got to get rid of his knife.

THERSITES
I'm not going to use it.

PETRACLES
(a facetious laugh)
And I'm supposed to take your word because you're an honorable man?

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

THERSITES

No. Because I'm a greedy man. I need your clue.

(turns to Xena)

Explain to this idiot that --

While his head is turned to Xena, Petracles gives Thersites a vicious kick to the side of his head. The fight is on. These guys fight dirty. Kicks to the groin, eye gauging, choking and every form of vicious martial arts maneuver. They're both very good martial arts guys. This is a hell of a fight. At one point Thersites gets Petracles in a headlock and is trying to throw him to the ground when Petracles chomps into Thersites' thumb.

ON XENA AND GABRIELLE

GABRIELLE

These guys have a different style than you.

ON PETRACLES AND THERSITES

as Petracles continues to bite into Thersites' thumb. Thersites finally howls in pain and lets go. Petracles does a neat maneuver and flips Thersites to the ground.

THERSITES

You almost bit my thumb off.

PETRACLES

You see, Thersites, you don't have to be an ugly weasel to be know how to fight.

Thersites leaps to his feet in a rage, his knife appearing in his right hand. It's the left hand that took the punishment. Suddenly, Xena's sword appears at Thersites' throat. He freezes.

XENA

Let's all calm down. We've got business to take care of. Remember? What's your clue?

THERSITES

From the bottom.

XENA

From the bottom? That's it?

THERSITES

Yeah. I figured it'd make sense once he said his.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: 2

28

They all turn to Petracles.

PETRACLES

South two.

THERSITES

From the bottom south two. That's nothing. You must have remembered yours wrong.

PETRACLES

I was thinking the same thing about you. Maybe I hit you in the head too many times.

XENA

(eyeing the totems)

South. Two from the bottom.

THERSITES

So what does that mean?

Xena takes the ruby out of a pouch and steps up to the totems. She glances up at the stars.

XENA

(pointing to the totem on her left)

This is the south one.

(counting the holes)

One... two from the bottom.

She places the ruby into the second hole from the bottom. It's a perfect fit.

THERSITES

Now what?

XENA

On the map, there was a sun sketched coming over a mountain and casting rays toward the Treasure marker. So, we wait for sunrise.

*
*
*

*

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: 3

28

PETRACLES

(gesturing at Thersites)

I say we tie him up if we plan to be
alive in the morning.

*

THERSITES

Just try it.

Petracles and Thersites glare ferociously at each other.

GABRIELLE

This is going to be a pleasant evening.

CUT TO:

29 EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT - LATER

29

Thersites and Petracles sit staring suspiciously at each other across the fire. Gabrielle sits a few feet away, with a thoughtful look on her face. After a moment, Gabrielle stands and walks toward:

XENA

who sits on a knoll looking east toward where the sun will rise. Gabrielle sits down next to her.

XENA

Listen. You can hear Mount Poulis rumbling. The Ambrosia could be exposed at any time.

GABRIELLE

Xena. We have to talk. About this whole thing with Petracles.

XENA

I'm listening.

Gabrielle takes a deep breath.

GABRIELLE

Okay. For a moment... just for a moment, imagine that I've just met you. And I don't know anything about you except what I remember being told.

XENA

I know where you're going with this...

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

GABRIELLE

Then let me get there. Please. If I only had the past to rely on, I wouldn't give you credit for who you are today. You'd still, and always, be that horrible Warrior Princess who led that victorious army.

XENA

Gabrielle, I know some people change. I changed. But Petracles is not one of those people.

GABRIELLE

That doesn't matter. Because this isn't about Petracles. It's about you. There's a part of you that hasn't changed. It's the part that was hurt by this man many years ago. You can't let go of that because you still have feelings for him.

XENA

That's ridiculous. I hate him.

GABRIELLE

Hate is a feeling. If you didn't care... he'd mean nothing.

(then)

Stop carrying this anger with you, Xena. It scares me. And it's a part of you I don't like. I don't think you like it either.

There is a long pause as Xena says nothing, but stares up into the sky. Gabrielle stands and starts to leave, when:

THE GROUND STARTS SHAKING!! This is not a moderate quake! Xena and Gabrielle are thrown back and forth. A beat, then it settles. Gabrielle looks to Xena.

GABRIELLE

I guess we're running out of time.

Xena looks to the sky.

XENA

The sun's coming up.

THE CAMPSITE - DIFFERENT ANGLE

as our four scramble to their feet.

ON THE RISING SUN

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: 2

29

as a piece of it pops over a saddle in the distant mountain.

ON XENA

as she carefully watches the beam of light that is thrown by
the first appearance of the sun.

THE HEART OF DEMETER

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: 3

29

The sunbeam hits it and sends out:

A RED BEAM

from the other side, directed at a large boulder on the western hillside.

ON XENA AND COMPANY

as they race for:

THE BOULDER

Gabrielle reaches it first. Then Thersites, Xena and Petracles.

THERSITES
(angrily toward Xena)
There's nothing.

XENA
Let's try to move the boulder.

PETRACLES
Right.

They all put their shoulders into moving the boulder. After quite an effort, it budes a bit. Thersites looks behind it.

THERSITES
(the goldlust building)
There's an opening back here.

They all give another ferocious effort and the boulder moves just enough to reveal:

A NARROW CAVE MOUTH

Xena goes in first. Thersites and Petracles eye each other.

PETRACLES
You first.

Thersites goes into the cave mouth backwards, keeping an eye on Petracles as he does.

30 INT. CAVERN - DAY

30

The chamber is barely illuminated by the little light from the cave mouth. The walls are covered by paintings and hieroglyphics. There's nothing else there. The place is empty. Petracles and Gabrielle enter to join Xena and Thersites. Xena is examining the chamber carefully.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

Thersites stomps around angrily.

THERSITES
Somebody's already hit it.

Xena is very interested in the floor of the cavern.

THERSITES
This has been a nice waste of time.

GABRIELLE
Maybe there's another clue we missed.

THERSITES
Go away...

He barely finishes his trademark statement when the ground starts shaking again! Thersites drops to the ground, gripping it like a cat. Gabrielle is thrown into Petracles: he holds onto her. Xena backs up against the wall. During this shaker:

THE BOULDER

at the entrance is moving. It is pushed away from the entrance.

BACK TO SCENE

as it settles down. Everyone takes a beat. Gabrielle looks at the wider entrance. The beam from the ruby now extends into the cave. She follows the beam with her eyes...

GABRIELLE
Look!

They all look to the end of the beam and see a LARGE RING embedded in the wall. Petracles walks over to it and examines it.

PETRACLES
Can't be a coincidence. I wonder what it's for?

Xena notices something on the floor, just as Petracles pulls the ring toward him.

XENA
Wait.

Too late. The floor suddenly gapes open in the middle -- a large trap door -- and all four of our treasure hunters drop out of sight. Then the floor flies back up into position, trapping Xena and company in god knows what.

31 INT. MYSTERY CHAMBER - DAY

31

Total darkness. Silence for a moment. Then:

THERSITES (V.O.)
(out of the blackness)
Nice move, Petracles.

PETRACLES (V.O.)
Shut up.

WE HEAR GABRIELLE STRIKING THE FLINT. Then the wick is lit for one moment to reveal, for a flashing second: THE FOUR OF THEM STANDING IN A ROOM OF BOXES OF JEWELRY, RAW RUBIES, DIAMONDS, EMERALDS, BEAUTIFUL GOLD SCULPTURES AND THE LIKE. The room is illuminated for a moment and then the light goes out. Long pause.

THERSITES (V.O.)
Do that again.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

Gabrielle strikes the flint again and this time successfully lights the wick. Xena grabs it and lights a torch on the wall as the four of them examine their environment.

ON THERSITES

as he picks up a diamond the size of a golf ball.

THERSITES

(in awe)

Look at this.

PETRACLES (O.C.)

You can keep that one.

Thersites turns to see:

PETRACLES

holding an emerald the size of a baseball. Thersites stoops down and runs his fingers through gold coins.

THERSITES

(breathless)

We're standing on a gigantic mound of gold coins and jewelry.

Petracles looks down and picks up two handfuls of riches and throws them carelessly in the air as he laughs. Thersites sits and slides down the mound and out of sight. Throughout all of this, Xena is looking with the torch for something. Gabrielle is also searching.

PETRACLES picks up a silver tablet and examines the strange lettering on it.

PETRACLES

This'll melt down just fine.

He spots a large gold idol and discards the tablet, just as Thersites appears from behind the pile of treasure and climbs on top of it. He spots the tablet.

THERSITES

(picks it up)

Hey, that's Sumerian.

(reading and translating)

Take the Titan's Key...

As he READS ON IN SILENCE, Xena thows an anxious look toward him and picks up the pace looking for the key.

Thersites squints as the last word is difficult to read. Xena spots the key hanging high on the wall.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: 2

31

THERSITES
(figuring it out)
Ambrosia!

He throws a look at Xena who is hurrying toward the key. She'll obviously get it before Thersites does. He leans into a huge gold ceremonial kettle and gives it a push.

THERSITES
Hey, Gabrielle. You can have this.

He lets the kettle slide down the pile of treasure toward: GABRIELLE who stands at the foot of the pile. The kettle is rolling toward her. She watches the kettle slide toward her.

ON XENA

She's almost reached the key, but when she see's Gabrielle is about to be crushed, she drops the torch and dives toward her, knocking Gabrielle out of the way of the kettle.

ON THERSITES

He picks up the torch and extinguishes it by sticking it in the treasure pile.

BLACK SCREEN for a moment, until Xena can relight the torch. When she does, we see:

THE KEY AND THERSITES ARE GONE AND SO IS GABRIELLE.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

32 INT. TREASURE ROOM - DAY

32

Xena is carefully examining the walls of the room.

XENA

He's on his way to the Ambrosia.

*

*

PETRACLES

That's a safe bet. And why didn't you tell me about it?

*

*

XENA

Why do you think?

PETRACLES

It's that trust problem of yours again, isn't it?

XENA

It's not that I don't trust you. It's what I trust you to do. Here it is.

Xena has knelt down by what looks like a small door. She tries to push it open.

PETRACLES

What is that? Is that a door?

*

*

XENA

Yes. The map mentioned a back way into the Ambrosia cave.

*

*

She sits down and starts pushing on it with both feet. It doesn't budge. Petracles sits down next to her and together they push.

PETRACLES

That rat bastard better not hurt Gabrielle.

XENA

(a suspicious glance)
Am I supposed to believe you really care?

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

PETRACLES

If I didn't care, I could just start moving my share of the treasure out. Before I do anything, I want to know Gabrielle is safe.

XENA

Are you sure it's not the Ambrosia you're interested in?

PETRACLES

I don't want to be a god. It's too much of a responsibility.

XENA

I don't believe you for a moment.

The door finally gives way.

XENA

Let's go.

PETRACLES

Wait a minute... If you knew this tunnel was here, why didn't you just use it? Why look for the key to the front door?

XENA

Because the back door might get us killed.

PETRACLES

Killed?

CUT TO:

32A INT. TUNNEL - NEAR ENTRANCE TO HALL OF SILENCE - DAY
(PREVIOUSLY SCENE 35A)

32A*

Strewn along the floor are large rocks and, partially under them, skeletons. Xena turns to Petracles and talks to him in a low voice.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

XENA

This leads to the Hall of Silence. It was mentioned on the map.

PETRACLES

(re: skeletons)

Did the map mention how those guys died?

(CONTINUED)

32A CONTINUED:

32A

XENA

Because they made too much noise. Tie everything down on you. Make sure that nothing makes any noise. If you hear anything, don't even wait, start running. If you have to sneeze, do it now.

*
*
*
*
*
*

33 INT. MOUNTAIN CAVE - DAY

33

Thersites pulls Gabrielle into a cave. Sunlight pours through an open door.

THERSITES

The Great God Thersites. It's got a nice ring to it, don't you think?

GABRIELLE

Definitely. Let me go now and I'll build a nice temple to you with my share of the treasure.

THERSITES

No. You're my insurance in case Xena catches up with me. She'll let me go or watch you die. You know what my first godly act will be?

GABRIELLE

Cure world hunger?

He laughs as if Gabrielle just told a good joke.

THERSITES

Cure world hunger. That's a good one.
No.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

THERSITES (cont'd)
The first thing I plan to do is bring a
plague down on the world. I never got
the respect from it that I deserve.
They'll respect me now!
(smiles)
Godhood. What a great job.

CUT TO:

34 EXT. THE GREAT TEMPLE OF ALL GODS - DAY

34

This imposing building sits in a pass between two mountains.

35
THRU OMITTED
35A

35*
THRU
35A*

35B INT. THE HALL OF SILENCE - DAY

35B

Play the suspense as Xena and Petracles walk carefully through the Hall, stepping over bones and rocks, twigs, anything that might make a sound.

Xena pauses for a second and touches Petracles on the arm. She indicates the exit at the other end of the Hall. He nods, steps forward...

"CRACK!!"

They freeze. Looking down, they see a partially crushed skull with Petracles' boot firmly implanted in it. They look at each other... then around. Nothing. Petracles smiles...

The rumble starts low, but builds quickly. Debris starts to drop.

XENA

Run!

And they do, pell mell toward the door, dodging boulders that drop and smash craters into the ground.

Finally, Xena makes it to the door. Petracles stumbles right at the entrance and falls. He rolls over to see a boulder heading down toward him. Strong hands grabs his arms and PULL HIM OUT OF THE WAY as the boulder smashes into the earth.

36
THRU
37A

OMITTED

36
THRU
37A*

38 INT. AMBROSIA ROOM - DAY

38

Xena pulls Petracles through the door as debris rains behind them. They stand and look at:

*
*

THE AMBROSIA

A small bowl sits in the middle of the room, holding what looks like petals from a flower. They glow with a silky shine.

ON XENA

She moves toward it.

THERSITES (O.C.)

Not so fast.

He stands by another door, leading out the back of the room. He has his knife to Gabrielle's throat and his normally slitted eyes are now wide with the madness that his lust for Ambrosia has created.

THERSITES

Get away from my Ambrosia!

Xena steps back from the Ambrosia. Thersites edges toward it, keeping Gabrielle between him and Xena.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

He's close enough to get it. He reaches toward it, the knife still touching Gabrielle's throat. Xena and Gabrielle share eye contact for a moment. Xena moves her head slightly. Gabrielle seems to understand what she means. As Thersites bends over, he has to move the knife slightly off Gabrielle's throat in order to reach the Ambrosia.

Gabrielle jerks her head to one side as Xena does a perfect kick to Thersites' arm, knocking it away from Gabrielle's throat. She pulls Gabrielle away from him, at the same time driving Thersites away from the Ambrosia with her sword.

Petracles, Thersites and Xena all stand equal distance from the Ambrosia.

XENA

Petracles. You get him from the left.
I'll come from the right.

THERSITES

And then she'll destroy the Ambrosia,
Petracles. Wouldn't you like to be a
god, too?

Xena throws a look at Petracles. He's hesitating as he thinks about this.

XENA

Petracles...

PETRACLES

Gabrielle's safe. That was my main
concern. But now that we're here, why
not become immortal?

XENA

If Thersites reaches it first, do you
think he's going to let you have any?

PETRACLES

Then I guess it's every man for
himself... so to speak.

DIFFERENT ANGLE

Xena, Petracles and Thersites face off against each other around the Ambrosia. The glow from the Ambrosia casts an eerie reflection on their faces. This is time for the Sergio Leone homage. This is a standoff a la the finale of "The Good, The Bad and The Ugly," complete with: CLOSE SHOTS of the squinting eyes of Thersites, the wide eyes of Petracles and the beautiful baby blues of the Warrior Princess. We're about to have a three-way fight. THERSITES moves toward the Ambrosia. Xena meets him with a drop kick to the chest that moves him back.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: 3

38

Thersites dances around her and lays a kick to Petracles who's made his move toward the Ambrosia. Petracles parries Thersites' kick, and drives him back with his sword. He then turns on Xena and drives her back from the Ambrosia. Both Xena and Petracles then turn and attack Thersites, who has almost reached the Ambrosia. Throughout all of this, Gabrielle tries to position herself to make a run for the Ambrosia.

This kind of violent cat-and-mouse goes on until Petracles pushes Xena back, then turns on Thersites. He just might have the edge on him when, suddenly, the hidden knife in the sleeve shoots out and nails Petracles IN THE CHEST! Petracles looks shocked, then falls to the ground. Xena and Gabrielle take a beat to register their shock. Thersites, however, takes no time in rushing for the Ambrosia.

BACK TO SCENE

Xena throws her sword at him, but he sees it, ducks, rolls, comes to his feet... and is tripped by Gabrielle!

Pissed, Thersites leaps up and, in one move, pulls his knife and grabs Gabrielle, murder in his eyes. He draws his dagger back. Xena rushes forward...

Suddenly, Thersites is hit with a FLYING TACKLE that drops him to the ground. It is Petracles, fighting to control the dagger.

THERSITES

(hissing)

You idiot! We could be gods!

PETRACLES

Go away!

Thersites stiffens as his dagger is forced through his black heart. His eyes glaze over and he is dead. Petracles rolls off of him. His is bleeding from the sleeve-dagger still embedded in his chest. Xena and Gabrielle rush to him.

XENA

You had it. The Ambrosia was there, you could have taken it. You'd be immortal.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: 3

38

PETRACLES

Xena... you never understood me...
That's not who I am. I'm sorry for
what I did to you. I've always been
sorry.

*
*
*
*

He reaches into his pocket and pulls out a small pouch. He
gives it to Xena. She opens the pouch and pulls out:

*

A SILVER BRACELET WITH CHAIN LINKS

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: 4

38

The bracelet they talked about earlier.

BACK TO SCENE

PETRACLES

Besides... I had to make a choice.
Ambrosia or Gabrielle?

*
*
*

He smiles. Gabrielle grips his hand as he dies.

Xena and Gabrielle mourn over the fallen Petracles.

39 OMITTED

39

DISSOLVE TO:

39A INT. VOLCANO CAVERN - DAY - ON FIERY VENT

39A

From the red glow and the HISSING sound we hear, we can tell it is hot. PULL BACK to find Xena and Gabrielle reacting to the blast furnace heat that comes from it. Xena holds the Ambrosia in her hands.

GABRIELLE

I can see how this would destroy the Ambrosia.

XENA

It won't be destroyed. Just returned to the gods. We don't need it here.

Xena moves toward the steaming vent and drops the Ambrosia inside. There is a FLASH from deep down in the earth. Then, Xena takes out the bracelet. She examines it, thinking... she looks at the vent.

GABRIELLE

(concerned)

Xena...

XENA

If I had the other bracelet, I would throw them in together. This one, by itself... I can't do it.

She turns to Gabrielle.

XENA

Does that make sense?

GABRIELLE

Yes. Yes, it does.

(CONTINUED)

39A CONTINUED:

39A

Xena moves away from the vent. She pauses next to Gabrielle, and, without looking at her...

XENA

I was wrong about Petracles. I hope he was able to forgive me.

GABRIELLE

Xena... He never blamed you.

Xena looks into her friend's eyes. Gabrielle smiles. Xena returns it, as we:

FREEZE FRAME

FADE OUT.

THE END