

Prod. #76920

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Callisto"

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Executive Producers  
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SHOOTING DRAFT  
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XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Callisto"

CAST LIST

XENA  
GABRIELLE

CALLISTO (cal-EES-toe)  
JOXER  
MELAS (MAY-lus)  
THEODORUS  
AKTEON  
TALL VILLAGER  
OLD MAN  
TALL MAN  
FAT WARRIOR

Name Said in Dialog:

Kineta (kee-NAY-ta)

\*

\*

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

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SET LIST

INTERIORS:

ATTICA TAVERN  
DELPHI TAVERN

CALLISTO'S STRONGHOLD  
DELPHI JAIL

EXTERIORS:

VILLAGE #1  
VILLAGE #2  
DESERTED VILLAGE  
DELPHI - VILLAGE  
    TEMPLE  
    STREET  
    ALLEY  
    JAIL

CALLISTO'S STRONGHOLD  
CAMPSITE  
COUNTRY ROAD #1  
COUNTRY ROAD #2  
COUNTRY ROAD #3  
ROAD

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XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Callisto"

CHRONOLOGY

DAY 1	SCENE # 1
DAY 2	SCENES # 2 - 7
DAY 3	SCENES # 8 - 11
NIGHT 3	SCENE #12
DAY 4	SCENES #13 - 34

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Callisto"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. VILLAGE #1 - DAY

1

This village is being systematically destroyed by a band of looters. We see:

A WOMAN

defenseless and afraid, being run through with a sword held by A RUTHLESS WARRIOR.

A GROUP OF PEASANTS

take shelter in a hut.

A WARRIOR

runs up and sets the thatch roof ablaze. We hear screams from inside. When the peasants run out, the warrior cuts them down.

A SMALL BOY

runs for his life as A HERD OF WARRIORS chase him. The boy slips and falls. He looks up to see:

BOY'S POV - WARRIORS

They trample over us. This is the last thing this little boy will see of this world.

ON TWO VILLAGERS

One is tall and is wielding a sword. The other is stocky, well-muscled and has a staff. They battle heroically against three of the warriors and successfully drive them away. The Tall Villager spots:

A WOMAN .

being roughly handled by a warrior. The Tall Villager runs up and attacks the warrior. He's joined by the Stocky Villager. Together they succeed in dispatching the warrior. The woman runs away. The Tall Villager turns to see:

ANOTHER WOMAN

standing in front of him. She's beautiful, buff and stands with her right hand behind her back. Her name is Callisto.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

TALL VILLAGER

Run, woman. They're trying to kill us all.

CALLISTO

Trying? I think we're succeeding.

She brings her right arm forward. She's grasping a large broadsword. She attacks the Two Villagers with a fury. She splits the staff of the Stocky Villager in two and then slashes his chest open with a stroke of her sword. She effortlessly sidesteps a blow from the Tall Villager and then launches a counterattack on him. He backs up, desperately defending himself as he goes but he's no match for this demon. She knocks his sword from his hand and runs her sword through his midriff.

ON AN OLD MAN

He stumbles and flees from a warrior, THEODORUS. This guy works at being cruel and heartless and he's good at it. The old man collapses in exhaustion. Theodorus stands over him and is about to bring a spear down into the old man's heart.

CALLISTO (O.C.)

Hold it! Let him live.

Theodorus stays his spear and looks toward:

CALLISTO

who approaches the old man lying cringing in the dirt.

CALLISTO

Tell the world what we did here. Let them know what devastation awaits anyone who defies me.

OLD MAN

Who are you?

CALLISTO

I'm Xena. Warrior Princess.

CUT TO:

2 INT. TAVERN - DAY

2

Xena sits at a table, drinking from a flagon of wine. The sound of the tavern door opening draws her attention to:

MELAS

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

He's 30 with sensitive good looks. At the moment he looks overwhelmed with pain and grief, his eyes are dark and haunted, his body bent with fatigue and stress. He walks to a table and flops down on a chair.

MELAS  
(to the innkeeper)  
Wine, please?

The innkeeper is busy waiting on GABRIELLE who stands at a counter ordering food.

MELAS  
(his voice weary, almost  
desperate)  
Innkeeper, please, wine.

The innkeeper still doesn't respond but before Melas can ask again, a flagon of wine is placed in front of him. He turns to look at:

XENA

who has reached over and placed her wine in front of him.

XENA  
You look like you could use that more  
than me.

He takes a long sip of the wine. He has a strong thirst, not just for the wine but also for the relief from the pain it might bring.

XENA  
(seeing his pain)  
Is there anything I can do?

MELAS  
No. But thank you for your kindness.  
(extending his hand)  
My name is Melas.

XENA  
(taking his hand)  
I'm Xena.

MELAS  
Xena? The Warrior Princess?

XENA  
Some people call me that.

(CONTINUED)

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\*

2 CONTINUED: 2

2

Suddenly, Melas pulls a dagger and tries to drive the blade into Xena's chest. Xena catches his wrist, rolls backwards and flips Melas over her head with her feet. Melas scrambles to his feet and faces off against Xena. Gabrielle watches with concern. Melas charges Xena who knocks the dagger out of his hand, then flips him to the ground and places her foot on his chest. \*

ON MELAS

as he stares up at Xena.

MELAS

Go ahead. Murder me. Just like you murdered my son. \*

ON XENA

She's stunned by this accusation.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER



ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3 INT. TAVERN - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

3

Xena picks Melas off the floor and plops him on a chair. Melas tries to spring at her again but she slams him back on the chair and puts her hand on the butt of her sword to get the point across.

XENA  
What are you saying?

MELAS  
I found a man from my village lying half dead on the road. He said you and your army had murdered everyone but him.  
(with great emotion)  
Even my two-year-old son--

\*  
\*

XENA  
That's a lie.

MELAS  
Then why does every traveller between here and Corinth have a story about an army led by Xena? They say she's slaughtering the people and laying waste to the land.

\*  
\*  
\*

XENA  
What village do you come from?

\*

MELAS  
Kineta.

XENA  
I know it. It's east of Corinth.

MELAS  
Not anymore.

Xena stares into Melas' hate-filled eyes. She's very disturbed by what she sees there.

XENA  
(to Gabrielle)  
Let's go. We got to find out what's happening.

She starts to exit.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

MELAS

I'll avenge my son's life. I won't rest until you're dead.

Xena looks back at Melas. Once again his tortured face bothers her.

XENA

You're after the wrong person. But do what you think you have to do.

\*

She exits, followed by Gabrielle.

4 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD #1 - DAY

4

Xena and Gabrielle travel.

XENA

We'll head towards Corinth. See if we can make sense of anything he said.

ON THE ROAD AHEAD

A group of peasants move along. They're refugees, pulling behind them carts containing their worldly possessions. One of the peasants, a TALL MAN, approaches Xena and Gabrielle. He looks parched. Xena leans over and hands him her canteen. He takes a big swallow. Gabrielle takes her canteen to share with the others. She's out of earshot of this conversation.

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\*  
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\*

TALL MAN

Is there any water ahead?

XENA

Yeah. There's a fresh lake in the next valley.

TALL MAN

Good. We've been travelling for days with very little to drink. She's poisoned most of the wells, you know.

XENA

Who has?

TALL MAN

Haven't you heard? Xena, the Warrior Princess is back. She's worse now than she ever was.

He takes another swig of water.

\*

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

GABRIELLE

\*

(calling out)

\*

These people are in a bad way, Xena.

\*

The Tall Man spits out the water when he hears that name  
(he fears the water may be poisoned).

\*

\*

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: 2

4

TALL MAN  
(glancing at the carts  
behind him)  
Xena, this stuff is just worthless  
junk. If you'd like it though, please  
be our guest. Take anything you want.  
Just spare our lives.

Xena is very troubled by all this.

XENA  
I don't want your things.

She walks through the villagers. Word spreads through their  
ranks that Xena is there among them. Xena examines the:

FRIGHTENED FACES

of the villagers as she passes.

ON XENA

She clears the villagers and walks on, deep in thought,  
trailing Argo behind. Gabrielle catches up to her. She  
notices Xena's troubled look.

GABRIELLE  
Are you alright?

XENA  
Did you see the hatred and fear on  
their faces? I used to want to see  
that look in people's eyes. It meant I  
was doing my job right.

She appears disgusted with herself.

ON JOXER

as he hurries to catch up with Xena and Gabrielle. JOXER is  
short and looks a little like a weasel, no offense meant to  
weasels. He wears a sheathed broadsword and has a crossbow  
strapped to his back. He catches up to Xena.

JOXER  
Xena.

XENA  
Yeah?

JOXER  
Joxer the Mighty at your service.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: 3

4

XENA

Get lost.

JOXER

Don't judge me because I was travelling with those sheep. I can be very valuable to a woman like you. I'm a warrior of some repute.

GABRIELLE

I never heard of you.

JOXER

I'm not talking to you, little girl.

(to Xena)

I'm fearless and I have a lust for blood. As a matter of fact, if a couple of days go by and I haven't shed some blood I get depressed. Blood and me go together like a horse and chariot. I once bathed in a tub of blood. My nickname is Bloody --

XENA

(grabbing him by the shirt and lifting him off his feet)

If you're so fond of the sight of blood, keep talking.

She shoves him away and he runs to a safe distance.

JOXER

I'm disappointed in you, Xena. I thought you'd recognize talent when you saw it.

Xena throws him a look and he dashes away and out of sight.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. DESERTED VILLAGE - DAY

5\*

Xena and Gabrielle are entering this village.

\*

AMIDST THE BUILDINGS

\*

warriors crouch in ambush, waiting for Xena's approach. This is a desperate-looking bunch of scoundrels.

ON XENA AND GABRIELLE

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

as they enter the village. Xena is eyeing the buildings suspiciously.

ON FIVE WARRIORS

They step out into Xena's path. A LARGE WARRIOR steps out from the rest. He's an amiable, giant of a man. His name is AKTEON. He covers a cruel heart with his joviality.

AKTEON

Hello, Xena.

DIFFERENT ANGLE

as all the warriors, including the ones amidst the buildings, stand up and cheer, waving their spears in celebration of her arrival.

XENA

Hello, Akteon.

AKTEON

As soon as I got your message I did as you suggested. There's nothing left standing in the Mani.

XENA

(playing along)

Good. You'll make a very useful ally.

AKTEON

Why me, Xena? We were never close.

XENA

You aren't still angry about that thing in Macedonia? That was years ago.

AKTEON

You lied to me. There was no gold in Askos. No food, even. My army almost died of starvation.

XENA

(with a shrug)

Hey, I had to make sure you were out of the way so I could loot Salonika by myself.

(beat)

You know what they say about love and war, Akteon. But I'm going to make it up to you now. I have a plan.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: 2

5

AKTEON

I know. Your messenger said our armies  
should rendezvous outside Thebes. The  
plundering should be rich around  
there.

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XENA

There's been a change of plans.  
There's a big shipment of gems coming  
into Piraeus.

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(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: 3

5

AKTEON

Piraeus? Athens' entire army and fleet  
are there.

XENA

You haven't heard about the expedition?

AKTEON

No.

XENA

Most of Athens' army is headed toward  
Anatolia on board the fleet. I figure  
if you close from the west and I  
from the east, we'll crush the  
garrison in Piraeus in hours.

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\*

AKTEON

Brilliant.

(suspicious)

How do I know you'll really be there?

XENA

Wait for me north of Athens. If I  
don't show up, then don't go ahead.

(off his look)

You can trust me, Akteon. I trust  
you. Look, I've come to see you  
without my army.

(the closer)

This is a rich haul, but if you're not  
interested I could go to Draco.

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AKTEON

No. You got a deal.

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CUT TO:



\*

6 OMITTED

6

7 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD #2 - DAY

7

Xena and Gabrielle leave the village behind.

GABRIELLE

I take it the Athenian army isn't  
really on an expedition.

XENA

No. They usually camp where I told him  
to wait for me. They'll chop his army  
into little pieces. The most important  
thing is I kept him from joining forces  
with "Xena." And now I know she's  
headed toward Thebes.

Suddenly, Xena jerks her head back to neatly avoid being  
decapitated by:

A BATTLE AXE

wielded by Melas. He's on a suicide mission to kill Xena.  
He powers ahead, swinging the axe with wild abandon. He  
drives Xena back a few feet before she lays a drop kick to  
his knee cap, which sends him to the ground. She grabs the  
battle axe and tosses it aside.

XENA

You're a slow learner.

She picks him up and proceeds to tie him to a tree.

7 CONTINUED:

7

MELAS  
(tortured with hate)  
I don't care how long it takes, I'll  
see you dead one day.

She finishes tying him up and walks away. A sympathetic  
Gabrielle approaches Melas.

GABRIELLE  
You know if she was the monster you  
think she is, she'd have killed you by  
now.

MELAS  
She likes seeing me helpless in my  
rage.  
(to Xena)  
I will continue to hunt you, even if  
it costs me my life.

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(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: 2

7

GABRIELLE

This hate is twisting you into another kind of monster.

MELAS

Well, maybe I have to become one to destroy one.

Gabrielle studies his pain-wracked face for a moment. She tucks a folded up blanket behind his head so he'll be comfortable against the tree.

XENA

Those knots I tied you with aren't very strong. You should be able to work your way out of them in a few hours. I'm going to stop whoever it is that's doing these raids. So be smart and stay out of my way.

She walks away. Gabrielle looks sympathetically at Melas.

GABRIELLE

Goodbye, Melas. I hope you find peace.

MELAS

I will once I know her evil heart has stopped beating.

Saddened, Gabrielle hurries to catch up with Xena.

CUT TO:

8 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD #3 - DAY

8

Xena and Gabrielle come over a hill and freeze when they see:

A ROAD

lined with crucified peasants. In the distance we can see smoke billowing up from a village.

XENA

looks tense as she mounts Argo and gallops toward the village.

9 EXT. VILLAGE #2 - DAY

9

Warriors are pillaging the town. Xena rides in amongst them, kicks one unconscious with a foot to his jaw, leaps off her horse and starts kicking butt.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

THREE WARRIORS

come out of a hut, dragging children with them.

ON XENA

She grabs her chakram and throws it.

ON THE CHAKRAM

We follow it as it disables each of the three warriors and sails back toward Xena. It flies into:

A WOMAN'S HAND

We think it's Xena's hand.

DIFFERENT ANGLE

Xena is in the background. In the foreground is CALLISTO. She just caught the chakram for gods' sakes!

CALLISTO

If you want your chakram, come and take it.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

10 EXT. VILLAGE #2 - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

10

Xena stares at Callisto for a moment, then her face cracks into a raging snarl. She leaps onto Argo and charges Callisto.

THE FIRST PASS

Xena and Callisto slash at each other with their swords as they pass. Callisto wears a buckler on her left arm which she uses to skillfully block Xena's blows while she takes a swing at her with her broadsword.

ON MELAS

He appears in the village and watches the entire confrontation.

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THE SECOND PASS

The two warriors turn their horses around and charge again. Once again Callisto blocks Xena's blow and this time manages to nick Xena's arm, drawing blood. Xena eyes her slight wound and then glares at Callisto.

CALLISTO

I'm good. Maybe as good as you. And why not? You made me.

She spurs her horse for another charge.

THE THIRD PASS

Callisto doesn't strike towards Xena's body this time but lands a blow on her sword hand. Xena whips her sword around and knocks Callisto's sword from her hand. Callisto, who seems unphased by this, reins her horse around and grins at Xena. Xena eyes her carefully.

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XENA

It was you who shot me with the poisoned dart.

\*

CALLISTO

Yes. I made the dose just strong enough to keep you out of action for a while. It left me free to revive your reputation as a wanton killer of women and children.

\*  
\*  
\*

XENA

I never killed women and children.

(CONTINUED)

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10 CONTINUED:

10

CALLISTO  
Well, you have now.

THE FOURTH PASS

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: 2

10

Callisto charges, unarmed. Xena charges too. As she gallops toward Xena, Callisto leans over and picks up a staff that lies by a fallen warrior. Carrying it under her arm like a medieval knight would his lance, Callisto charges Xena. She lands the tip of the lance full in Xena's chest, sending Xena flying off her horse. As she flies back, Xena grabs hold of the lance and tears it out of Callisto's hands. Xena lands on her feet and uses the lance to club Callisto off her horse.

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ON XENA

She watches as Callisto scrambles to her feet and pulls a dagger. Xena picks up her sword. They face-off on foot.

\*  
\*

XENA

What did you mean when you said I made you?

CALLISTO —

Do you remember Cirra?

Xena's face grows dark and troubled.

Callisto lets out a bloodcurdling screech, nothing like Xena's yell, more like the cry of a banshee. She charges Xena. Xena plants herself for the onslaught.

ON CALLISTO

Just as she reaches Xena, she does a somersault in the air, flies over Xena's head and lands on her horse. She then gallops away.

MELAS

tries to stop her, but Callisto rides past him.

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\*

XENA

is about to give chase when the sound of combat brings her attention to:

GABRIELLE AND THEODORUS

fighting. Gabrielle is holding her own with her staff but Theodorus is backing her up. One vicious blow by him knocks Gabrielle's staff from her hand. He's about to kill off our sidekick when Xena appears behind him and does the "pinch." He keels over as Xena stalks around him.

XENA

I've just blocked off the flow of blood to your brain.

(MORE)

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\*

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: 3

10

XENA (cont'd)

You'll be dead in seconds unless I  
release you. Who is that woman?

\*  
\*

Theodorus tries desperately to move his limbs.

XENA

Don't bother. It's hopeless. Now sing  
like the nightingale you are.

(CONTINUED)



10 CONTINUED: 4

10

THEODORUS  
Her name is Callisto.

XENA  
What did she have to do with Cirra?

THEODORUS  
Her family died there.

Xena flinches as if hit with a slap.

XENA  
What does Callisto want?

Theodorus once again struggles to get up.

XENA  
You've got only seconds to live unless  
you answer my questions.

THEODORUS  
She wants the world to see you as a  
demon. Then she wants to kill you in  
combat.

XENA  
Where's she headed now? Answer quick.  
You're almost out of time.

THEODORUS  
Delphi. She plans to murder the Oracle  
and blame it on you.

XENA  
When?

THEODORUS  
At tomorrow's Apollo sacrifice.

Xena leans down and releases the pinch on Theodorus.

XENA  
Tell her this. She's right, I made  
her. So I'll have to destroy her.

He scrambles to his feet and runs off. The sound of  
footsteps turns Xena's attention to:

MELAS

approaching.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: 5

10

XENA  
(pointing a warning finger  
at him)  
Be careful. I'm in a bad mood.

MELAS  
I saw everything. I know now it  
wasn't you who killed my son. I'm  
sorry. I --

\*

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: 6

10

XENA

Save your breath. I don't want your apology.

MELAS

Let me travel with you. I'll do anything to help you kill her.

XENA

I don't need help.

MELAS

Look, I'm gonna go after her anyway. Why not work with me?

XENA

(thinking for a moment)

I suppose I could keep you from getting killed.

(beat)

Alright. Just remember this. When we catch up with her, don't try anything on your own. She'll eat you alive.

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\*

Off Melas' nod, we:

CUT TO:

11 INT. CALLISTO'S STRONGHOLD - DAY

11

A barracks type of building with multi-leveled sleeping quarters for her men. A multitude of ladders connect the different levels.

CLOSE ON CALLISTO'S FEET

They're balanced on a thin beam. Suddenly, a staff whips into frame directed at her feet.

WIDER TO SHOW CALLISTO

standing on the beam. Two of her warriors hold staffs and are trying to knock her off the beam. She dances gingerly over the blows, honing her skills. Another staff lashes at her feet. Then another. She's a woman on a mission. She's determined to be the best.

ON THEODORUS

He enters and watches Callisto fight the warriors. He walks toward her. She spots him.

CALLISTO

Alright, enough for today.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

She jumps off the beam and faces Theodorus.

CALLISTO  
Did she put her "touch" on you? \*

THEODORUS  
Right away.

CALLISTO  
And you told her everything?

THEODORUS  
Everything. Just as you wanted.

CALLISTO  
You didn't make it too obvious, I hope.

THEODORUS  
I was so convincing I almost died.

CALLISTO  
Good. And then she let you go with a message. Something heroic about stopping me. \*

THEODORUS  
Yes. You were right about everything. \*

CALLISTO  
(to the air) \*  
Xena, I can call your every move. \*  
I've made quite a study of you. \*

There's a mad glint in her eyes. This isn't the first time she's talked to somebody who isn't there. \*

A commotion brings their attention to the entrance.

JOXER

is being dragged in by a FAT WARRIOR. He's thrown down at Callisto's feet.

FAT WARRIOR  
We found this scum hiding in a supply wagon we stole from the last village. He says he has something valuable to offer you.

JOXER  
Warrior Queen, forgive my intrusion.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: 2

11

CALLISTO  
(savoring the words)  
Warrior Queen. I like that.

JOXER  
It's so much better than Warrior  
Princess.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: 3

11

CALLISTO

Yes, it is. Now what is it you have to offer me?

JOXER

My services.

CALLISTO

Really? What is it you do?

JOXER

I'm a warrior.

CALLISTO

You're a warrior? You look like an idiot to me. \*

JOXER

I cultivate that look. It makes me less threatening. People don't fear worthless idiots so it's easy for me to get the drop on them. For instance, are you afraid of me right now? \*

CALLISTO

Not in the least.

JOXER

You see. It works.

Callisto chuckles.

CALLISTO

So you want to do something to prove yourself to me?

JOXER

Anything. Please.

CALLISTO

You know who Xena is, don't you?

Joxer nods.

CALLISTO

She travels with someone.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: 4

11

JOXER

An irritating little blonde, I know.

CALLISTO

Her name's Gabrielle. Bring her to me  
and you can join my legion as a  
warrior.

JOXER

Consider the deed done, My Queen.

He exits.

CALLISTO

(off Theodorus' questioning  
look)

Who knows? He might actually be able  
to capture the girl. But even if he  
doesn't, every distraction for Xena  
will help us carry out our plan. It's  
close to completion, Theodorus.  
Tomorrow, Xena will be seen at Delphi  
when her weapon is buried in the  
Oracle's skull.

She pulls out the chakram and hurls it.

ON THE CHAKRAM

as it ricochets off several objects and then collides  
with:

A MELON

sitting on a table. The chakram sticks in the melon.

CUT TO:

12 EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

12

Melas sits staring at the fire, nursing his hatred.  
Gabrielle is feeding kindling to the fire. She glances up  
at Melas' exhausted face.

GABRIELLE

Melas, when was the last time you got  
some sleep?

MELAS

The night before I buried my son.

GABRIELLE

Why don't you lay down and close your  
eyes? You might just drift off.

(CONTINUED)

"Callisto" #76920

21A.

2/1/96 - Pink

12 CONTINUED:

12

MELAS

Drift off? You don't get it, do you?  
I don't want to drift off.  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



12 CONTINUED: 2

12

MELAS (cont'd)

I'm not trying to run away from the pain. I want to satisfy it. The only way I can do that is with Callisto's blood. You'd feel the same way if you lost what I did.

GABRIELLE

(sadly)

Maybe.

She stands up and walks over to Xena who sits moving her arm around, working her shoulder. Gabrielle gives her a sympathetic look.

\*  
\*

GABRIELLE

Did you hurt your shoulder when she knocked you off Argo?

\*  
\*  
\*

XENA

A little.

\*  
\*

Gabrielle starts massaging her shoulder. As she does, Xena looks off into the night with a troubled stare. Gabrielle notices.

\*  
\*  
\*

GABRIELLE

Do you want to talk about it?

XENA

What?

GABRIELLE

Cirra.

Xena sighs and nods as Gabrielle continues her massage.

\*

XENA

It was just another town to conquer. Nothing out of the ordinary. Somehow a fire broke out. I don't know if it was one of my men or an accident but there was a strong wind and the flames swept through the town like a wave of death. The people were all huddled inside their homes because they were afraid of my army.

\*  
\*

(pausing as the memory  
ravages her soul)

You could smell burning flesh for miles. It was the only time my army was responsible for the death of women and children. There was only a handful of survivors. Obviously, Callisto was one of them.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: 3

12

GABRIELLE  
And now she'll do anything for revenge.

XENA  
Can't blame her.

GABRIELLE  
(a little indignant)  
I can. Where will it end? Look at  
poor Melas. I can tell he's a nice  
man.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: 4

12

GABRIELLE (cont'd)  
 But this hatred has put him on the way  
 to becoming an obsessed killer.  
 If everyone continues the cycle of  
 blood and hate, it'll go on forever.  
 Someone has to say no to the lust for  
 revenge.

XENA  
 That's a hard thing to do.

GABRIELLE  
 You did it. After your village was  
 attacked you were infected with the  
 bloodlust. But you overcame it.

XENA  
 I was lucky. I saw what I'd become,  
 and was able to turn it around. But  
 if something happened to my mother, or  
 Hercules... or you... Who knows? I  
 might do the same thing.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

GABRIELLE  
 No. Promise me you won't turn into a  
 monster if something happens to me.  
 There's only one way to break the  
 cycle of hatred. Through forgiveness  
 and love.

\*  
\*

XENA  
 (touched)  
 I hope this world never changes you,  
 Gabrielle. I like you just the way  
 you are.  
 (beat)  
 Get some sleep.

\*  
\*  
\*

GABRIELLE  
 No! Not until you promise me!

Xena stares into Gabrielle's passionate face.

XENA  
 I promise.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. DELPHI VILLAGE - DAY

13

Xena, Gabrielle and Melas approach the temple where a crowd  
 has already assembled to listen to the Oracle's prophecy.  
 The temple is on the outskirts of a small village.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

GABRIELLE

The Oracle should be arriving soon to give her prophecy.

XENA

Alright, let's spread out and look for Callisto. Give a yell as soon as you see her.

They spread out and start moving through the crowd.

WE FOLLOW GABRIELLE

as she studies the crowd carefully. She moves down an alley to check out an alcove that would be a good hiding place.

ON JOXER

as he follows her down the alley. He's holding a net.

ON GABRIELLE

She peers into the alcove carefully. As she does, Joxer hurls the net over her and drags her out of sight inside the dark alcove. We hold for a dramatic moment as if this is the act break. Then we hear A LOUD THWACK! Joxer stumbles out of the alcove holding his ear. Gabrielle comes out of the alcove, taking off the net and holding her staff in a defensive posture.

JOXER

You want a fight, huh. Fine with me.

Joxer draws his broadsword which is bigger than he is and attacks. Gabrielle slams her staff into his stomach, pops him under the chin and slams his sword hand. Joxer drops his sword.

JOXER

You've made me mad now, little girl.

He pulls his dagger and charges Gabrielle. Gabrielle slams her staff against his throat and stomps on his toe. He drops the dagger and staggers back.

JOXER

You've just made a serious mistake.

He takes his crossbow off his back and levels it at Gabrielle. He fires. Gabrielle ducks. The arrow flies harmlessly over her head. She charges and strikes the crossbow with her staff.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 2

13

                  JOXER  
                  (eyeing his crossbow)  
You broke my crossbow.  
                  (with a snarl)  
That did it! Now I'm gonna tear you  
apart with my bare hands.

He charges with a roar. As Gabrielle lands a vicious whack to his forehead, we go to:

14 EXT. DELPHI STREET - DAY

14

THE ORACLE moves down the street, surrounded by priests. The Oracle is a BEAUTIFUL YOUNG WOMAN.

ON XENA

as she carefully examines the faces in the crowd.

ON MELAS

He stalks through the crowd with his eyes burning for vengeance.

EXT. ALLEY - DAY

15

Gabrielle is pummeling Joxer with her staff. He goes down in a heap. He struggles to get up.

                  GABRIELLE  
What are you doing? Stay down.

                  JOXER  
Oh, you'd love that, wouldn't you? You  
know I got you just where I want you.

He pulls himself up and charges, only to receive a whack on his shin. He hobbles on one foot. Gabrielle gives him a good konk on the head and he goes down again.

                  GABRIELLE  
Now, please, stay down. There's  
something I've got to do.

She walks out of the alley.

                  JOXER  
                  (flat on his back)  
Go ahead, run, you coward.

CUT TO:

16 EXT. TEMPLE - DAY

16

The Oracle is climbing the steps.

ON XENA

She scans the crowd.

XENA'S POV - THE CROWD

We PAN the crowd from Xena's POV. She passes over a CRIPPLED OLD WOMAN and moves on. Suddenly, we PAN back to the old woman. She's taking the chakram out of a waist pack.

ON XENA

She charges Callisto.

ON THEODORUS AND ANOTHER MAN

\*

Dressed as peasants they leap into Xena's path. Xena knocks them aside but not before:

\*

CALLISTO

throws the chakram toward the Oracle.

ON XENA

The chakram whizzes over her head toward the Oracle. It's past her. How will she stop it?

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

17 EXT. TEMPLE - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

17

Xena grabs her dagger and flings it at the chakram.

ON THE CHAKRAM

It's heading toward the Oracle's head. The dagger collides with it and both weapons fall harmlessly to the ground.

ON THE ORACLE

The priests realize that weapons are in the air and form a protective circle around the Oracle.

ON CALLISTO

She sees that her plan has been ruined. A SPECTATOR points a finger at her.

SPECTATOR

It was her. She threw it.

Callisto tears off her old woman's robe and makes a run for it.

XENA

scoops up her chakram and gives pursuit.

ON CALLISTO

She leaps on her horse and gallops away.

ON XENA

She leaps on her horse and gallops after Callisto.

THE CHASE

Now we have a good old-fashioned American Western-style horse chase. Over hill and dale Xena gives chase to Callisto. At one point she exploits a shortcut, gets an angle on Callisto and closes with her.

ON XENA

She stands on Argo's back. As she closes with Callisto she leaps up, catches Callisto's upper torso between her legs and, with a vicious twist, slams Callisto to the ground.

ON CALLISTO AND XENA

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

Xena stands over the fallen Callisto. Callisto tries to get up but the body slam took the wind out of her. Xena starts tying Callisto's hands behind her back.

CUT TO:

18 INT. DELPHI TAVERN - DAY

18

Melas paces impatiently. Gabrielle sits watching him.

GABRIELLE

Xena will get her.

MELAS

And if she does, what then?

GABRIELLE

She'll bring her back here to stand trial for trying to kill the Oracle. She'll be punished.

MELAS

With what? Imprisonment. No. That's not enough. I hope Xena kills her and if she doesn't, maybe there are enough men in this town with the mettle to do what has to be done.

GABRIELLE

I don't like the sound of that.

MELAS

You don't have to.  
(to the crowd in the tavern)  
Callisto tried to kill your Oracle. She has no respect for anything decent. If Xena brings her back, I say we hack her into little pieces.

Several of the townspeople respond with hurrahs. Gabrielle pulls Melas aside. \*

GABRIELLE

Melas, the hate you're spreading can't be turned on and off. \*

MELAS

I want revenge and I'll do whatever I must to get it. \*

GABRIELLE

Callisto couldn't have said it better. \*

This brings Melas up short. \*

(CONTINUED)



18 CONTINUED:

18

GABRIELLE  
Can't you see? You're becoming what  
you hate.

\*  
\*  
\*

Melas stares into Gabrielle's beautiful eyes for a moment.  
The gentle fire he sees there seems to soften him a bit.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: 2

18

MELAS

You have a gentle soul, Gabrielle.  
(softening even more)  
So did my son.

He's close to tears. So is Gabrielle. Suddenly, Melas takes a deep breath and steels himself again.

MELAS

This is no time for tears. Callisto is a mad animal who must be destroyed.  
(turning to the crowd)  
Who's with me? Who wants quick justice for the beast who tried to kill what's most holy to you?

\*

\*

Still more people join in celebrating Melas' cry for revenge.

Off Gabrielle's troubled look, we: \_\_\_\_\_

CUT TO:

19 EXT. ROAD - DAY

19

Xena leads Argo. Callisto is sitting on Argo, firmly bound. Callisto's horse trails behind. Callisto tries to get Argo to run by digging her heels into his flanks. Argo doesn't budge.

XENA

Argo won't obey you and if you don't stop kicking him I'll break your ankles.

CALLISTO

The "good" Xena. What happened? One day you just decided to fight for justice?

XENA

Something like that.

CALLISTO

And all the shattered people you left behind were now supposed to cheer you, is that it?

XENA

No.

(turning to Callisto)  
What happened to your family was terrible. It was my fault. I'm sorry.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

CALLISTO

(mock sweet)

Oh, that makes all the difference. We can be best of friends now.

(spits in Xena's face)

That's what I think of your apology.

Xena wipes the spittle away and moves on. Gabrielle appears on the road ahead and rushes to Xena.

GABRIELLE

Xena. Melas has gone crazy. He's organizing a lynch mob.

Xena glances back at Callisto.

CALLISTO

I'm not afraid to die if that's what you're worried about. But what about you? How will it feel to watch your creation executed without a fair trial?

Gabrielle notices a troubled look on Xena's face.

GABRIELLE

Xena, don't listen to her. You can't torture yourself over what she became.

CALLISTO

No. Of course not. It's not her fault I dream every night about my mother's screams coming from my burning home. Tell me, Xena, do you sleep well at night?

XENA

No, I don't.

CALLISTO

Well, I can face whatever you think I have coming to me, Xena. But tell me, were you ever tried for what you did? Were you ever turned over to an angry mob who wanted revenge? I'm just curious.

XENA

What would you do if I let you go?

GABRIELLE

Xena, what are you saying?

XENA

I changed. So can she.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: 2

19

GABRIELLE  
No, Xena. Her heart is eaten away with  
hatred.

\*

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: 3

19

\*

Their debate is interrupted by Callisto's vicious laugh.

CALLISTO

The sight of Xena, Warrior Princess arguing in my behalf amuses me. Let me answer your question, Xena. If you let me go, I'll dedicate my life to killing everything you love, your friends, your family, your reputation, even your horse. I'm being so honest because accepting your mercy would be worse than death for me. You see, Xena, you created a monster with integrity. Scary, isn't it? Now, take me to the mob.

CUT TO:

20 EXT. DELPHI VILLAGE - DAY

20

Xena enters, leading Callisto on Argo. Gabrielle brings up the rear. Xena pauses as she sees:

THE MOB

forming at the end of the street. Melas is at their head.

ON XENA

She continues to lead Argo and Callisto down the street. Melas and the mob move toward her.

MELAS

You did well, Xena. We thank you for bringing her in. Now hand her over to us.

XENA

I'm taking her to the town jail where she'll wait for her trial.

She moves forward. Melas stares her down for a moment, then loses his nerve and steps aside. Xena moves through the crowd, staring them down as only Xena can. We stay on Melas as Xena moves on.

MELAS

(to the others)  
We'll get her. Don't worry.

21 INT. JAIL - DAY

21

Callisto sits behind bars. Xena sits in front of the cell, deep in thought. The sound of the clamoring mob can be heard outside.

CALLISTO

They're gonna come, you know that.  
What will you do? How many of them  
will you kill?

Xena gives her an angry stare. \*

CALLISTO

You're beginning to hate me. You've  
fought it because of some silly sense  
of guilt. But now I'm becoming a  
painful reminder of what you used to  
be. And how you'll never leave it  
behind. \*

The sound of the angry mob grows. \*

CALLISTO

That crowd wants my blood. Why not  
let them have me? It's the easy way  
out. Nobody'd blame you. \*

XENA

I won't let anything happen to you  
without a fair trial. \*

CALLISTO

You know, there used to be respect  
mixed up with my hatred for you. Not  
any more. Your petty scruples are an  
embarrassment. As a villain, you were  
awesome. As a hero, you're a  
sentimental fool.

The crowd noise grows.

CALLISTO

But watching you kill foolish villagers  
to protect me will be very satisfying.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. STREET - DAY

22

Gabrielle is watching the mob grow more violent. Suddenly, a rope with a noose on the end flies out from an alley and lands harmlessly on her shoulder. She gives it a tug and Joxer comes popping out of the alley on the other end of the rope.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

Got ya. JOXER

Are you kidding me? GABRIELLE

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: 2

22

JOXER

You wish.

He pulls violently on the rope. Gabrielle lets go and Joxer lands unceremoniously on the seat of his pants. He then scrambles to his feet and faces off against her.

JOXER

You are a slippery one. That's alright. I like the challenge.

GABRIELLE

Why are you doing this?

JOXER

Once I have you, I'm trading you for Callisto. She'll reward me well.

He goes into a chop saki stance and then attacks. Gabrielle dodges a pretty lame kick and dances away.

GABRIELLE

You know, you're not real good at this.

JOXER

Oh, yeah? Watch.

He does a spastic drop kick that has a lot more drop than kick. He lands in a heap, then scrambles to his feet.

GABRIELLE

You're being ridiculous.

JOXER

Is that all you can do, call me names? You better have more than that in your arsenal.

He lets out his battle cry that sounds more like a puppy whining and charges. Gabrielle lands a vicious hit to his nose with her staff. He staggers back and grabs his nose.

JOXER

Ah! You broke my nose. I hate when that happens.

CUT TO: \*

22A INT. TAVERN - DAY

22A\*

Gabrielle leads Joxer in. He's holding his head back to stop the nose bleed. She takes him over to a chair and sits him down.

\*

\*

(CONTINUED)



22A CONTINUED:

22A

GABRIELLE  
Keep your head back. \*

She takes out a scarf and gives it to him.

GABRIELLE  
Use this. Why do you keep attacking me?

JOXER  
I'm a warrior and I'm trying to make a name for myself.

GABRIELLE  
I got some bad news for you. You're not a warrior.

JOXER  
Go ahead, hit a man when he's down.

GABRIELLE  
Listen, I've knocked the stuffing out of you both times we met. \*

JOXER  
But you don't understand. I come from a long line of warlords. I'm just carrying on the family tradition.

GABRIELLE  
Sorry. You just don't have that warrior thing.

JOXER  
(sadly)  
You don't think so, huh?

GABRIELLE  
Nah. But that's alright. There's lots of other things you can do. What interests do you have?

JOXER  
(thinks)  
I like to steal.

GABRIELLE  
Other than that.

JOXER  
I like fishing.

(CONTINUED)

22A CONTINUED: 2

22A

GABRIELLE  
There you go. You'd make a great  
fisherman.

JOXER  
You think so?

GABRIELLE  
Yep. I got a feel for people.

JOXER  
(gooey, sentimental)  
Thanks.  
(holding out his hand)  
I'm Joxer by the way.

GABRIELLE  
(laying down her staff and  
extending her hand)  
Gabrielle.

Suddenly, Joxer grabs her hand and tries to bend her arm  
behind her and get her in a head lock.

JOXER  
I got you this time.

She gives him a vicious elbow to the jaw, sending his head  
bouncing off the wall.

GABRIELLE  
You're hopeless.

She picks up her staff and walks away as Joxer sits rubbing  
his head.

CUT TO:

23 EXT. JAIL - DAY

23

Melas leads his gang to the jail and sets a torch to the  
thatch roof.

MELAS  
This will bring them out.

24 INT. JAIL - DAY

24

Smoke is spreading throughout the jail.

CALLISTO  
Perfect. I'm gonna die just like my  
family. Kind of full circle, isn't it?

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

Xena watches the fire spread. She looks concerned. A beam above them sags.

CALLISTO

Don't worry, I won't scream like my sister.

The burning beam falls. Xena has to act. She unlocks Callisto's cell and is in the process of tying Callisto's hands behind her back when another burning beam falls on top of Callisto, knocking her down. Callisto is covered with flaming debris. Xena quickly pulls Callisto from danger. Callisto returns the favor by shoving Xena under a collapsing portion of the roof.

25 EXT. JAIL - DAY

25

Callisto bursts out of the burning jail, knocks over Melas, leaps onto her horse that is tied out front and digs her heels into his flanks. She gallops away.

GABRIELLE

walks out of an alley as Callisto rides toward her. Gabrielle tries to get out of the way, but as she does Callisto leans over, hooks Gabrielle under the arm, brings her up on the horse and thunders out of town with her.

26 INT. JAIL - DAY

26

Xena manages to free herself from the collapsed roof but she's trapped, surrounded by flames.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

27 INT. JAIL - DAY 27

Xena looks at the furnace surrounding her. Things look hopeless. She grabs a fallen beam, uses a chair as a fulcrum, and stands on one end of the beam. Another part of the roof collapses and lands on the other end of the beam. \*

28 EXT. JAIL - DAY 28

Melas watches, stunned, as the jail burns. Suddenly, we HEAR THE XENA YELL.

ON XENA

Phoenix-like, she explodes out of the flames, does a flip in the air and lands on her feet in front of Melas. \*

XENA

Where is she?

Melas looks horrified.

XENA

What's the matter?

MELAS

(cracking)

She was right.

XENA

Who? What are you talking about?

MELAS

(close to tears)

Gabrielle. She said my hate would lead to others being hurt. \*

XENA

What are you saying?

MELAS

Callisto captured Gabrielle on her way out of town. What have I done, what have I done? I've betrayed everything I believed in.

He begins to cry. Xena is not unmoved but she doesn't have time for sentiment. She mounts her horse and is about to ride off but she pauses and looks at Melas.

(CONTINUED)