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XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Is There A Doctor In The House?"

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SHOOTING DRAFT
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XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Is There A Doctor In The House?"

CAST LIST

XENA
GABRIELLE

EPHINY
GENERAL MARMAX
HIPPOCRATES
GALEN
DEMOCRITUS
THESSALIAN GUARD
POW LEADER
MITOAN WARRIOR
GANGRENE MAN
HEAD WOUND MAN
RUNNER
HYSTERICAL WOMAN
BLIND SOLDIER

Referred to in Dialog:

BOEOTIA	(bo-EE-sha)
MITOAN	(mi-TOE-an)
PEREUS	(pe-REE-us)

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

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SET LIST

INTERIORS:

TEMPLE - MITOAN AREA
THESSALIAN AREA
SIDE AREA
ALTAR
TRIAGE
RECOVERY AREA

EXTERIORS:

WOODS
CLEARING
TEMPLE STEPS

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Is There A Doctor In The House?"

CHRONOLOGY

DAY 1
NIGHT 1

SCENES # 1 - 17
SCENES #18 - 27

DAY 2

SCENES #28 - 32

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Is There A Doctor In The House?"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. WOODS - DAY

1

It's noon. But you'd never know it, because very little light permeates through the thick, black smoke wafting through the trees. The sound of men fighting echoes all around. XENA and GABRIELLE stealthily make their way through this bleak landscape. They crouch down near a clearing and watch an off-screen battle.

GABRIELLE

Maybe we should take the southern route.

XENA

(nods in the direction of the battle)

This is the shortest way to Athens.

GABRIELLE

Yeah, but there's a war going on here.
(looks at the raging battle and shakes her head in disgust)

It's so senseless.

XENA

This one's more senseless than most. It's a civil war. Brother against brother. That's Ares favorite kind of conflict.

GABRIELLE

Why are they fighting over this area? There's nothing much around.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

XENA

For the same reason we're here. That pass up ahead is the only way between Thessally and Mitoa. Whoever controls it, controls the war. *

Our heroines hear a moaning nearby.

GABRIELLE

What was that?

Xena motions silently for each of them to approach the sound from the opposite direction. As Xena moves off, Gabrielle grabs her staff and guardedly moves in, while Xena comes around from the other side. The sound is louder now. Gabrielle raises her staff to defend herself, when she sees Xena kneeling next to a woman, examining her wound. It's EPHINY, distraught and weak, sitting on the ground against a tree. She has a nasty gash on her head.

GABRIELLE

Ephiny!

EPHINY

Gabrielle!

Gabrielle sits next to Ephiny and cradles her head in her lap. Xena grabs a leaf off a nearby bush, crumbles it between her hands and places it on the wound. Then she ties it to Ephiny's head with a rag she rips from Ephiny's outfit. That's when we notice that Ephiny is nine months pregnant. *

XENA

(touching Ephiny's belly)
It's due soon.

EPHINY

Yes. I've already had some pains.

GABRIELLE

What are you doing here?

EPHINY

We were on our way to Athens. Phantes and I wanted the baby to be born there.

XENA

Where is Phantes?

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 2

1

EPHINY

(pained)

He tried to find a safe way around the battle, but...

She breaks off as the thought of what happened is just too painful.

XENA

What happened?

EPHINY

He was captured and killed by the Mitoans.

Xena sits back in shock and anger.

GABRIELLE

When?

EPHINY

I've been hiding here for, I don't know, two, three days now. I can't tell anymore.

She buries her face in her hands, emotionally drained.

EPHINY

He died protecting me. Some Amazon, huh?

GABRIELLE

Don't blame yourself, Ephiny. There's nothing you could have done.

Xena stands and scouts the area around them with a thoughtful expression. Gabrielle makes a pillow for Ephiny with a blanket and joins Xena.

GABRIELLE

Why would they kill Phantes?

XENA

He got in the way. It's a war, Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE

(angrily)

I can't bear to think of all the innocents who suffer because of this madness. Somebody ought to stop it.

*
*
*

Xena darts a look at Gabrielle's pained expression and then looks out at the battlefield.

*

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 3

1

It's Gabrielle's turn to dart a glance at Xena, who wears a determined look.

*
*
*

GABRIELLE

Oh, come on Xena. Not even you can stop an entire war.

(off Xena's look)

Hey, I didn't mean that as a challenge.

The sound of the battle is very close. They can hear voices through the trees.

XENA

Stay with Ephiny.

She moves forward toward the sounds.

GABRIELLE

Xena, what are you going to do?

XENA

I'm gonna find a safe place for Ephiny to have her baby and then...

(tosses a look back at Gabrielle)

...I'm gonna stop this war.

She moves on. We stay with:

GABRIELLE

as she moves back toward Ephiny.

GABRIELLE

(to herself)

I've got to learn to keep my mouth shut.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. CLEARING - DAY

2

GENERAL MARMAX of the Mitoan army stands in front of four subordinates. One aide holds his horse, while another holds a map. Marmax is older, proud, a complete warrior. Think General Patton. He wears the ornate armor, head dress and other indications of his rank. He indicates a large open field on the map, where a temple-like building has been drawn.

ON XENA

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

She's watching the proceedings from behind a bush.

RESUME MARMAX

MARMAX

...One giant push will destroy the Thessalians once and for all. Then we'll march on into their city, free men at last. We've fought long and hard for liberation, for the right to worship our gods. Victory is near. The Thessalian tyrants are about to feel the hand of justice around their throats. May the gods bless the Mitoans on this day. Dismissed!

The subordinates disperse. Marmax mounts his horse and heads into the battlefield.

ON XENA

She watches Marmax intently and grabs her chakram.

ON MARMAX

He rides away from his troops to see the battle from a better vantage point. He's isolated for the moment. Xena lets fly with the chakram.

ON MARMAX

The chakram cuts the reins to his horse. Unable to control it, his horse rears and he falls off, hitting his head on the hard ground. His horse bolts and Marmax is sprawled, unconscious, in the dirt.

Xena strides over. She picks up a discarded spear on the ground and raises it high in the air over her head.

ON THE SPEAR

as it plunges down onto Marmax.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3 EXT. TEMPLE STEPS - DAY

3

Our group approaches the Temple of Asclepius, adorned by huge columns with sculptural serpents wound around them. While Gabrielle supports Ephiny, Xena drags Marmax painfully up the steps. He has a large, bloody wound on his left shoulder, as well as a badly bruised head. He's also been stripped of his armor and any obvious ranks and honors. He looks like any other Mitoan now. Marmax is strenuously resisting going into the temple, but Xena has a strong grip on him.

XENA

You're going in!

MARMAX

(quietly to Xena)

Are you insane? I'm a Mitoan! And this is a Thessalian healing temple!

XENA

Well, you need to be healed, don't you?

MARMAX

You obviously know nothing of war. The Thessalians are the enemy of the Mitoans. They'll kill me.

XENA

Nah. They'll keep you alive. You're good slave material.

MARMAX

You don't understand. They're going to want to execute a man of my rank.

XENA

What rank? You look like just another foot soldier to me.

Marmax looks down at himself and sees his honors gone. He stares accusingly at Xena.

MARMAX

Did you do this?

XENA

Do what? Hey, I risked my life to save you. Show a little gratitude. Now move it.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

A THESSALIAN GUARD hears the fracas outside and emerges in the doorway.

XENA

I found this soldier. He's wounded.
And we have a pregnant woman.

THESSALIAN GUARD

(scrutinizing Marmax)

Looks like more Mitoan scum. This way.

Marmax immediately assumes a humble posture. He's certainly not going to give away his identity now.

CUT TO:

4 INT. TEMPLE - DAY

4

The temple is a spacious, square area. The centerpiece is an altar, where the giant, marble statue of Asclepius holds out his right hand cupped, while the left holds the rod and serpent. This motif is continued throughout the building. Every inch of space is occupied by the bodies of critically wounded soldiers and civilians, who look like they've been left to die. This is not a pretty sight.

Our group enters. Gabrielle is stunned by the sight of all this carnage. The Thessalian Guard takes Marmax to:

5 THE MITOAN AREA

5

where a group of separated Mitoan POWs look with surprise at their latest comrade. They are guarded by three Thessalian guards. Marmax is quite weak. The POW LEADER tries to salute his general, but Marmax grabs his arm to stop him. By the looks of the Mitoan group, they are not receiving any medical care at all.

POW LEADER

General, your...

The Thessalian Guard looks their way.

MARMAX

Shhh...

The Guard is distracted by other business and leaves. Marmax breaths a sigh of relief.

TEMPLE SIDE AREA

6

Xena and Gabrielle have just found a seat for Ephiny. Gabrielle is visibly shaken by all the carnage and ill-treatment of people.

XENA
(to Ephiny)
How do you feel?

EPHINY
Not good. My body is tired and my soul feels like it was sliced with a razor.

Xena kneels down next to her.

XENA
Ephiny, Phantes is gone but what you and he created is inside of you, ready to come into the world. You have to go on.

GABRIELLE
And you're not alone. You have friends and family here with you.

EPHINY
Family?

GABRIELLE
I'm your sister Amazon, remember?

EPHINY
(a little smile)
Right. You were given the right of cast.

GABRIELLE
Xena and I will take care of you.

The BLOODCURDLING SCREAM from a wounded man draws their attention to:

7 THE THESSALIAN SECTION

7

Xena walks towards a young priest, HIPPOCRATES, who is trying to move a Thessalian soldier who has a serious stomach wound. Hippocrates' simple, white robes are a contrast to the gore around him. Every tug on the patient brings screams of agony.

XENA
Put him down. Can't you see he's in terrible pain?

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

HIPPOCRATES

But we have to put him on the altar.

Hippocrates points to:

THE ALTAR

where GALEN, the head priest, is decked out in ornate, white robes, denoting his higher priestly rank. He holds a smaller rod with a serpent entwined and has a man lying on a large slab. Another simply-dressed priest, DEMOCRITUS, assists. All the priests wear a large medallion of a rod and snake. *

RESUME THESSALIAN AREA

XENA

What's your name?

HIPPOCRATES

Hippocrates.

XENA

Well, Hippocrates, a man with a wound like that shouldn't be moved.

HIPPOCRATES

But Asclepius, the god of Medicine, has to empower Galen with the proper knowledge and drugs on the altar. So we have to move him. That's Galen's orders.

Xena looks around at the other patients and then jerks her thumb over her shoulder in the direction of the altar.

XENA

Is that Galen?

Hippocrates nods and Xena strides over to:

THE ALTAR

Galen removes herbs from the large, marble hand of Asclepius. He sprinkles some on top of his patient and bows his head. Democritus waves a rod over the body.

GALEN

O Mighty Asclepius, we beseech you and trust in thy healing powers to make this man whole again. *

XENA

The gods don't care if these people live or die.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: 2

7

GALEN

Who is this woman?

XENA

I've spent a lot of time healing men on the battlefield. You could be helping a lot more people if you spent more time with them and less with your god.

GALEN

Am I supposed to believe that some harlot knows more about healing than the priests of Asclepius?

Running, a Mitoan WARRIOR carries another Mitoan COMRADE over his shoulder. The COMRADE has an arrow through his neck and can't breathe.

MITOAN WARRIOR

Help me. Please. Somebody. He can't breathe. He's dying.

GALEN

Put him with the other Mitoan dirt.

Xena strides over to the Comrade, as the Warrior lowers his friend to the floor. Curious, Hippocrates and Democritus follow her to watch. Xena immediately starts stanching the blood around the wound.

XENA

(to Hippocrates)

I need a piece of hollow reed. And some rags.

Hippocrates hesitates.

XENA

Now!

Hippocrates rushes off to get what has been requested.

GALEN

This is OUR temple. WE decide who'll be treated.

Xena points at Marmax.

XENA

You. Over here.

Marmax is incredulous.

XENA

Do you want to see another Mitoan die?

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: 3

7

Marmax reluctantly moves to help Xena. Xena pulls out her knife as a surgical tool. Marmax reluctantly bends over the patient, his pride barely intact. Hippocrates has returned with the rags and reed. Democritus is mesmerized. Galen is outraged.

GALEN

Go ahead. If you kill Mitoans with your ignorance, it doesn't matter. Just don't touch a Thessalian.

XENA

(to Marmax)

Hold him down.

Marmax holds down the Comrade's chest. Xena slits a small opening in the trachea and places a thin piece of reed in the opening, but it doesn't take.

The man is really bleeding now. She furthers the cut.

MARMAX

You're killing him!

XENA

Shut up and concentrate.

(indicating)

Push down here. Harder!

After a moment, the Comrade starts to gasp his first labored breaths. Galen, seeing this, stands over Xena to watch her work.

XENA

Grab the arrow here.

Marmax grabs the point of the arrow. Xena cuts the arrow point off.

XENA

Give me that mass of cobwebs up there.

Marmax reaches in a corner, grabs a hunk of cobwebs and give them to Xena. Hippocrates, entranced, hands her compresses without thinking. Galen is growing irate.

HIPPOCRATES

What are you doing?

XENA

The cobwebs help stop the bleeding.

DEMOCRITUS

So you just bandage him up?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: 4

7

XENA

Not quite. Stand back.

Slowly, Xena pulls out the arrow. Blood spurts from the wound. The priests jump back, but not before getting hit with the spray. Galen takes a particularly messy spray all over his beautiful robes. He reacts vocally in disgust.

Marmax holds down the compress on one side, while Xena does it on the other, as she winds a bandage around the neck to hold the compresses in place.

XENA

Keep the pressure constant. Don't let go.

The priests are shocked. Gabrielle comes over to make the patient more comfortable. Democritus watches her carefully. The patient is conscious and his breathing stabilizes. As Xena checks his dressing, the priests fall out of earshot.

*
*
*

HIPPOCRATES

Amazing.

*

DEMOCRITUS

(looking at Gabrielle)

She is beautiful.

*
*
*

HIPPOCRATES

I meant the healing woman.

*
*

DEMOCRITUS

Yes. She's amazing, too.

*
*

GALEN

There's nothing amazing about that.

HIPPOCRATES

But we've never seen anything like...

GALEN

It's an antiquated and impure form of healing. Not of the gods. You both should know better.

DEMOCRITUS

Yes, Galen.

CUT TO:

8 EXT. TEMPLE STEPS - DAY

8

Hippocrates and Democritus try to get a moment alone to discuss the miracle they just witnessed. Hippocrates is quite riled up, while Democritus is still concerned.

DEMOCRITUS

Do you think Galen is right? That it's a lower form of healing?

HIPPOCRATES

I don't know if there are higher or lower forms. If it gets the job done, isn't it all the same?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

HIPPOCRATES (cont'd)

If I had to deal with that neck wound,
the man would be dead. She knows what
she's doing. I can learn from her.
I'm going to watch her carefully.

Galen appears behind them.

GALEN

Watch her all you like. You'll see
that her methods lead only to death.
But she better stick to killing
Mitoans. If she touches one of ours,
she leaves. I'm going to find more of
our brave Thessalian wounded out on the
field.

Galen leaves.

CUT TO:

9 INT. TEMPLE - DAY

9

Xena is walking among the untreated wounded. She directs
the ambulatory patients to help her move some bodies.

XENA

(to a patient)

I want all these people over there with
the walking wounded. We're clearing
this area.

She points to the right side of the temple, which is turning
into the recovery area. The patient nods. She bends down
to examine a POW. She immediately starts working on him.
Blood covers her hands as she ties off a vein. Hippocrates
and Democritus approach her.

HIPPOCRATES

We'd like to observe your work.

XENA

These people need care, not another
pair of eyes staring at them. You've
got a lot of customers. Get to work.

Hippocrates and Democritus look at each other for a moment
and then start to help. Hippocrates moves toward a severely
injured man nearby.

XENA

It's too late for him, but there are
others who can be saved.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

XENA (cont'd)

And you need to separate the ones that
can be helped from the ones that can't.

HIPPOCRATES

How can we know that?

XENA

You have to choose.

HIPPOCRATES

I don't know if I can do that.

XENA

You have to. Lives depend on it.

Xena indicates another, female patient, next to him.

XENA

She could use your help right now.

Hippocrates immediately begins on the woman's bleeding
chest. Gabrielle approaches. Xena looks at Gabrielle and
then gestures to Marmax.

XENA

Gabrielle, I want you to change his
bandages.

Gabrielle starts working on Marmax's wounds.

MARMAX

Ouch.

GABRIELLE

Sorry. Medicine isn't my strong suit,
anyway.

MARMAX

What is your strong suit?

GABRIELLE

I'm a bard.

MARMAX

A bard. Huh. Well, go ahead.

GABRIELLE

What do you mean?

MARMAX

Tell me a story.

Gabrielle thinks for a moment as she continues to work on
Marmax's bandages.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: 2

9

GABRIELLE

There was once a King named Liberius.
He was a brave warrior and a great
hunter.

MARMAX

I like him already.

GABRIELLE

He was so proud of his hunting skills
he decided to test them in the sacred
forest of the great goddess, Artemis.

MARMAX

That sounds like a mistake.

GABRIELLE

Artemis was so angry that she turned
him into a deer.

MARMAX

He became the hunted. The worse thing
that can happen to a great hunter.

GABRIELLE

That's what he thought, at first. But
he became so fond of the peaceful ways
of the deer, that he grew to love them.
Of course, he still missed his human
friends and family, and often he was
very sad. Finally, Artemis took pity
on him and turned him back into his
human form.

MARMAX

A happy ending. But what a nightmare
for a warrior to have to live the life
of a deer.

GABRIELLE

Actually, it was the best thing that
ever happened to him. He became a
better King after that experience and a
much happier man.

MARMAX

Why is that?

GABRIELLE

He'd learned that the true secret of
life is to find peace in yourself and
share it with the world.

Marmax studies Gabrielle with a sadder-but-wiser smile.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: 3

9

MARMAX

It's a pretty story. Too bad it has
nothing to do with real life.

GABRIELLE

Life is only what we make it.

As Marmax thoughtfully watches Gabrielle work on his wound,
we:

CUT TO:

10 INT. TEMPLE - A SHORT WHILE LATER - DAY

10

The once chaotic temple is now filled with ordered groups of casualties. Near the door is the triage area, for the new and untreated cases. The center altar has become an operating theater, with additional tables for patients on either side. The right side of the room is the recovery ward. The left side has Marmax and the POWs with a few Thessalian guards watching them.

Xena is checking Ephiny near the altar. Gabrielle and Marmax are working with Mitoans. Hippocrates is collecting bloody rags and stirring them in a boiling cauldron to clean them. Democritus is in triage, ministering to patients.

11 TRIAGE

11

Four Thessalian guards, carrying two stretchers, run into the temple. One stretcher holds a Mitoan soldier. Blood spurts from his neck and covers everything around him as he moans. The other carries a Thessalian soldier. He can't breathe and is turning blue. His gasps are terrible to hear. Democritus sees them first.

DEMOCRITUS

We need help here!

Xena bounds over. She points to the altar.

XENA

Over there! Gabrielle!

12 ALTAR

12

The guards carry the two patients to the altar, while Xena examines them as they run. Democritus is carrying compresses and cobwebs. As they are placed down, Gabrielle is at Xena's side. Xena has a knife in her hands.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

XENA
We'll need to alternate.

She slices a small hole in the Thessalian's rib cage.

XENA
(indicating the Mitoan)
Stop the bleeding.
(to Democritus)
I need a reed. And some kind of animal
bladder.

DEMOCRITUS
We slaughtered a pig this morning.

XENA
That'll have to do.

Democritus runs off. Gabrielle gets covered with blood from the spraying jugular until she grabs the compresses that Democritus left her and applies pressure. Xena has her fingers in the Thessalian's chest.

Democritus returns with the pig's bladder and a reed. Xena grabs them from him and sticks the reed in the chest hole she's made. She starts pumping, using the bladder as a lung pump. The Thessalian's breathing starts to normalize.

XENA
(to Gabrielle)
Switch.

Gabrielle puts one hand on the lung pump, as Xena gets her hand on the Mitoan's neck wound. They switch patients without missing a beat. Gabrielle pumps the bladder.

XENA
Keep pumping. Follow his breathing
pattern.

Xena picks up a needle and starts to repair the severed jugular. Galen storms in with Thessalian guards bringing in Thessalian patients. They put them down.

GALEN
What have you done to my temple?

Xena and Gabrielle continue to operate.

XENA
Is there a problem?

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: 2

12

GALEN

She has a Mitoan on our altar. And
she's murdering our brave soldiers.

(to the guards)

She must be stopped. Throw her out and
if she resists, kill her!

Two Thessalian guards run up to Xena with their swords
drawn. Gabrielle is trying to pump the lung of the
Thessalian, while stanching the gushing blood of the Mitoan.
Xena looks to her sword. It's not in her back-sabbard.
It's tied to a patient's leg as a splint. She's unarmed.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

13 INT. TEMPLE/ALTAR - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

13

The Thessalian guards are ready to attack. Hippocrates and Democritus can't get past the guards to help Xena. But Marmax has moved closer, very slowly. Gabrielle sees him.

GABRIELLE

(to Marmax)

Help me. He's dying.

The two guards move toward Xena. Never letting go of the jugular, Xena slams her foot down on the giant spoon in the cauldron. Boiling rags fly out and land on the guards faces. As they screech in agony, Xena donkeykicks them in the head. Marmax grabs the reed and allows Gabrielle to work on the bleeding Mitoan. She tries to apply pressure, but it's not working.

GABRIELLE

I can't stop the blood.

Xena immediately begins working on the Mitoan with Gabrielle, as Marmax continues to pump the Thessalian's lung.

XENA

(to Galen)

If you want me out of here, you'll have to do better than that. Or do you like watching people die?

GALEN

Of course not.

Galen hold up the medallion from around his neck.

GALEN

I've devoted my life to Asclepius, to stop human suffering. But you've stormed in here with your appalling lack of respect for the gods.

XENA

You don't heal. You wait for some god to help when he feels like it.

GABRIELLE

Xena! He's stopped breathing!

XENA

These people need us. All of us.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

GALEN
Hippocrates! Democritus! Get away
from that woman!

But the two priests don't move.

XENA
(to Galen)
Just keep out of my way.

Xena ignores him and turns to attend to the Mitoan. But he's grey from loss of blood.

XENA
Come on. Hang in there.

She tries new compresses. With a shudder, the Mitoan dies. Gabrielle is emotionally drained. She slumps down next to the dead man. Marmax continues pumping the Thessalian's lung. After a moment, Xena, now furious, turns to the Thessalian and sews up his lung puncture.

GABRIELLE
Why? We worked so hard. Why?

GALEN
I told you. Only Asclepius can choose
who lives and dies. Now you see his
power.

XENA
He lost too much blood. It's as simple
as that.

GALEN
But you can't heal that, can you?

XENA
No. I can't.

CUT TO:

14 INT. TEMPLE/RECOVERY AREA - DAY

14

Xena finishes up and gathers the stunned Gabrielle under her arm. They walk to the side.

GABRIELLE
I'm sorry. I wanted so much to help
and I feel...

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

XENA
It wasn't your fault. Death is a part
of this work. You need to get used to
it.

GABRIELLE
(pulls herself together)
I will. I'll do anything you need me
to do.

XENA
I want you to help Democritus.

Gabrielle nods and moves towards Democritus. Xena turns to
see Marmax staring at her.

MARMAX
She's a lovely young woman.

XENA
Yes, she is.

MARMAX
She shouldn't be here. Why would you
bring her into a war zone?

XENA
Since when are you so concerned about
people's welfare.

MARMAX
That's what I'm fighting for. The
welfare of young people just like her.

XENA
What about the Thessalians' young
people?

MARMAX
You don't understand. The Thessalians
tried to take away our right to worship
our gods. They tortured our people to
submit to their religion.

XENA
And total annihilation of Thessaly is
the only alternative?

MARMAX
We're securing our freedom from the
butchers.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: 2

14

XENA

You're beyond securing your freedom.
You crossed that line when this became
a bloodbath. We passed a Thessalian
village on the way here.

MARMAX

That village was a supply base for
their army. It was necessary to
neutralize it.

XENA

Neutralize it? There wasn't a living
thing in sight. Neither man, woman nor
child.

(beat)

Who's the butcher now, Marmax?

Xena moves away, leaving Marmax to contemplate this.

15 TRIAGE

15

Gabrielle is applying salve to the face of a YOUNG MAN who
has burns around his face and hands. As she works she hums
a sweet, soothing tune. The Young Man's eyes are growing
heavy. Democritus is helping a patient not far away. As he
works he watches Gabrielle with admiring eyes. Finally, the
Young Man, lulled into a dreamy state by the gentle sound of
Gabrielle's humming, drifts off into the healing oblivion of
deep sleep. Gabrielle finishes applying the salve, moves
quietly away to the next patient and starts attending to his
bandages. She's right next to Democritus now.

DEMOCRITUS

That was wonderful.

GABRIELLE

What?

DEMOCRITUS

The way you relieved that boy's pain.

GABRIELLE

It was the salve.

DEMOCRITUS

No, it was your voice and smile. It
gave him a sense of peace. You have a
remarkable gift for healing.

GABRIELLE

No, that's Xena's specialty.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

DEMOCRITUS

When a man's in pain, his soul is in need of healing just as much as his body. That's what you did. It was a beautiful thing to watch.

GABRIELLE

(with a modest blush)

Thank you.

She continues to work on the bandages as Democritus continues to admire her.

16 ALTAR

16

Xena looks over Galen's shoulder. He is sprinkling an herb over a Thessalian soldier, with a gangrenous leg. GANGRENE MAN moans and mumbles fitfully in delirium.

GALEN

O Mighty Asclepius...

XENA

He'll die unless we amputate that leg.

GANGRENE MAN

What! Lose my leg? I don't want to lose my leg.

GALEN

Can't I work in peace?

Hippocrates comes over.

HIPPOCRATES

You can't cut off a man's leg. That's cruel.

XENA

I've seen it before. That color is disease. If you leave the leg, men die. If you cut it off, they live.

(to Gangrene Man)

What do you want? It's really up to you.

Gangrene Man stares at his leg for a moment and then nods.

GANGRENE MAN

Do it.

Galen is surprised at Gangrene Man's reaction.

Hippocrates and Galen are frozen with indecision.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

XENA
(to Marmax)
You! Here!

MARMAX
But that's a Thessalian!

XENA
Unless you'd like a matching wound in
the other shoulder, I'd get over here.

Marmax looks at his wound, then at Xena and realizes she could have wounded him in the first place. He reluctantly approaches. Xena gives Gangrene Man a series of pinches.

GANGRENE MAN
I can't feel anything! My body is
numb.

XENA
(soothingly)
I know. You'll be fine.
(to Marmax; indicating)
Hold him down here. He'll be more in
shock than in pain. And someone bring
me a torch and a metal shield.

Marmax's face is inches from Gangrene Man's. Democritus comes over with Xena's requests. She places her sword and metal shield in the flame of the torch. The priests look green around the gills. She lifts her sword above her head and chops down. Gangrene Man SCREAMS. Marmax holds him down, but is overwhelmed by the man's distress. He can't avoid the man's tortured face. We hear the sound of the burning flesh as the shield hits the wound and see the reactions in the faces of the priests -- a mix of horror, disgust and fascination. Gangrene Man passes out. Marmax sees relief there for the first time. Shaken, Marmax looks up at Xena. They exchange knowing looks. These are two warriors face-to-face with the horrors of battle.

Off Marmax's thoughtful face, we go to:

17 MITOAN AREA

17

Gabrielle is with the Mitoans. As she binds a chest wound of one man, another next to her, HEAD WOUND MAN, grabs at Gabrielle's arm.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

HEAD WOUND MAN
Miss. Please. Miss. Someone has to
go out there and get Pereus.

GABRIELLE
Who's Pereus?

Gabrielle finishes the chest bandage. Democritus comes over
to them from triage.

HEAD WOUND MAN
He's my friend. Please. He wasn't
brought in. But I know he's still out
there. Someone's got to go get him.

GABRIELLE
Where is he?

HEAD WOUND MAN
He fell by the stand of trees near the
river. He was alive when they took me
away.

GABRIELLE
I'll find him.

HEAD WOUND MAN
Thank you.

DEMOCRITUS
You can't go out there.

GABRIELLE
His friend is out there wounded.

DEMOCRITUS
Promise me you'll be careful?

Gabrielle takes his hand.

GABRIELLE
Of course I will.

Gabrielle leaves the temple.

18 INT. TEMPLE/ALTAR - DUSK

18

Ephiny cries out in pain. Everyone else is busy. Marmax
hurries over.

MARMAX
What's wrong?

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

EPHINY

The baby. I think it's coming.

MARMAX

What should I do?

Ephiny grabs his hand as he sits with her. He's awkward around her.

MARMAX

You said earlier you were a warrior.
An Amazon?

EPHINY

Yes.

MARMAX

And what are you doing in Thessaly?

EPHINY

We were on our way to Athens. My
husband, Phantes, and I wanted the baby
to be born there.

MARMAX

Why Athens?

EPHINY

(in pain; not clear-headed)
They're more tolerant.

MARMAX

Tolerant? About what?

Ephiny realizes she's said too much and darts him a concerned look.

EPHINY

Nothing. Never mind.

Ephiny has a labor pain and squeezes Marmax's hand tighter.

MARMAX

Why isn't your husband here? *

EPHINY

He was killed.

MARMAX

By who?

EPHINY

A Mitoan war party.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: 2

18

MARMAX

That's unfortunate. I'm sorry. They must have thought he was fighting for the Thessalians. Sometimes my soldiers are too zealous in their desire for freedom. You don't know what evil tyrants the Thessalians are. My family was thrown to a pack of starving wolves for not bowing to their gods. The monsters have to be destroyed.

EPHINY

My husband was ripped apart by Mitoan hunting dogs while your soldiers watched and laughed.

Marmax is deeply disturbed by the similarity.

MARMAX

That can't be.

EPHINY

Phantes was once my sworn enemy. But I learned forgiveness. And from that I learned love. I just hope our child lives in a world that's free from your blind hatred.

MARMAX

You despise me for this.

EPHINY

I don't despise you. But you have to think about the children. Is bloodshed all you want them to know?

Ephiny cries out in pain again. Marmax is moved.

CUT TO:

19 INT. TEMPLE - NIGHT

19

The temple is now lit by torches. There's a lull in the patient load. Marmax still sits with Ephiny. Democritus moves among the Mitoans.

20 RECOVERY AREA

20

Xena and Hippocrates walk among the patients, checking on their status.

DEMOCRITUS (O.S.)

Help!

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

Xena looks to see Democritus at the door of the temple. Four guards bear two stretchers. One contains a Mitoan soldier, unconscious and still holding a bloody knife. The other contains a bleeding Gabrielle.

CLOSE-UP OF XENA'S HORROR-STRICKEN FACE.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

21 INT. TEMPLE/ALTAR - NIGHT

21

CLOSE-UP of Xena's bloody hands putting down a knife and picking up a bone needle and coarse thread.

Working by torchlight, Xena examines Gabrielle on the altar. She has multiple knife wounds, but is still conscious. Xena works on her wounds, stanching blood and sewing up gashes throughout the scene. Marmax helps the Mitoan on a table next to her. Worried, Ephiny has waddled over. Democritus and Galen stand by.

GABRIELLE

Xena, I'm sorry.

XENA

Shhh. Just relax. You'll be okay.

(to Marmax)

Keep that soldier awake. If he falls asleep, he may never wake up.

GALEN

If she had hit him an inch lower, she could have killed the monster.

XENA

She knew that. That's why he's alive.

MARMAX

Are you telling me that she'd rather die than take the life of a man she doesn't even know?

XENA

She lives by her own code and that code doesn't include killing.

MARMAX

As I said before, a girl like that shouldn't be brought into a war zone.

Marmax's counterattack on Xena's guilt has hit it's mark. She darts a look at Marmax and then back to Gabrielle.

DEMOCRITUS

(bitterly to Marmax)

It was your man who did this.

MARMAX

He didn't know who she was.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

DEMOCRITUS

He knew she wasn't a Mitoan and that made her the enemy? I can't believe I let her go alone.

GABRIELLE

Ephiny?

EPHINY

I'm right here.

GABRIELLE

I want you to have my Right of Cast.

Xena and Ephiny look at each other in shock.

EPHINY

Stop talking like that.

GABRIELLE

No. This is important. I won't be needing it anymore.

Gabrielle passes out.

DEMOCRITUS

What did she mean? Right of Cast?

EPHINY

It's a right passed on by Amazons on their death. But I won't take it. I won't lose her, too.

DEMOCRITUS

Death? She's going to be all right. Isn't she?

Xena looks extremely worried.

A RUNNER comes in the door and hurries to Galen. He's exhausted, and gasps.

RUNNER

Galen! The battle is near! The Mitoans are over the next ridge and they're heading this way.

Marmax looks over to his POWs. They've heard the news as well and smiles break out across their faces. The POW Leader quietly confers with his men. But Marmax knows the temple will be overrun. Xena looks accusingly at him.

GALEN

I'm not leaving. They won't dare desecrate my temple.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: 2

21

XENA
They'll destroy anything at this point.
They smell victory.

Outside, our group hears the screams of people fleeing the war. Democritus and Galen look to each other and run outside.

22 EXT. TEMPLE STEPS - NIGHT

22

The temple steps are lit with torches. Arrows fly nearby intermittently. Democritus is organizing a group of women and children for the oncoming attack. He tries to calm an HYSTERICAL WOMAN.

DEMOCRITUS
Please! You have to follow the rest to
higher ground. You'll be safer there.

An arrow lands near them.

HYSTERICAL WOMAN
We'll all be killed!

DEMOCRITUS
You won't be killed if you follow the
others.

He pushes her towards the rest of the group. Suddenly, an arrow hits Democritus in the chest. The woman SCREAMS and flees. The others see him fall and run from the steps. Democritus looks down at the arrow in amazement. Galen sees him hit, scoops him up in his arms and runs with him into the temple.

23 INT. TEMPLE - NIGHT

23

Galen carries Democritus into the temple, cradled in his arms. With tears silently coursing down his checks, he stumbles up to the altar. Gabrielle has been moved to the table adjacent, where Xena looks after her. Galen puts Democritus on the altar and looks up at the impassive and unmoving statue of Asclepius. Then he turns to Xena.

GALEN
(to Xena)
Please. You have to help him. I don't
know what to do.

Xena examines Democritus.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

XENA
Hippocrates...

*

HIPPOCRATES
I know. Rags, cobwebs, and a knife.

*

*

XENA
Right.

*

*

Hippocrates runs back with the supplies. Xena removes the arrow and tries to stop the severe internal bleeding. Marmax, Galen and Hippocrates are gathered around them. Democritus is looking at Gabrielle on the table next to him.

DEMOCRITUS
What about Gabrielle?

XENA
Marmax. Hold this down.

GALEN
You've got to save him.

XENA
I'm trying.

Democritus coughs up blood. He looks over to Gabrielle and sees her comatose.

DEMOCRITUS
Forget about me. Help Gabrielle.

XENA
I've done everything I can do. It's up to her now.

DEMOCRITUS
You've got to save her!

Democritus closes his eyes in exhaustion.

GALEN
Is he dead?

XENA
No. He's passed out from the pain.
He's going to be all right.

Xena and Galen look at each other. Galen lowers his head in shame. He realizes how right Xena has been all along. Hippocrates puts his arm around Galen and escorts him away to rest.

Xena walks up to Gabrielle and gently caresses her forehead.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: 2

23

XENA
I'm so sorry, Gabrielle. If I could do
it over again, I'd take the southern
route.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: 3

23

Marmax joins her.

MARMAX

She's strong. She may pull through.

Xena throws Marmax an exhausted look.

XENA

You were right. I shouldn't have brought her here.

MARMAX

(thoughtfully)

We all make mistakes.

XENA

My pride may have killed my best friend.

As Marmax thinks of what his pride might have killed, we:

CUT TO:

24 INT. TEMPLE/MITOAN AREA - LATER THAT NIGHT

24

Marmax is checking on his fellow Mitoans. He walks among them and they all reach out an arm in thanks and respect. One arm of a BLIND SOLDIER gropes out to him. Marmax puts his hand in the Blind Soldier's and sits down next to him. His eyes have been wrapped with cloth.

MARMAX

How are you doing, soldier? Do you need anything?

BLIND SOLDIER

(whispers)

Is it true? Is General Marmax really here?

MARMAX

(whispers back)

Yes, he is. What's happened to you?

BLIND SOLDIER

A flaming arrow flew by my eyes. The priest said I'd never see again. Thessalian dog! I'll see again. I know it. Hey.

MARMAX

Yes?

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

BLIND SOLDIER
I want to go back to the front.

MARMAX
But...

BLIND SOLDIER
I want to go. Please let me die with
honor.

MARMAX
I can't...

A sudden impact from outside rocks the entire temple.

25 ALTAR

25

Xena, tending to Ephiny and Gabrielle, and Hippocrates,
checking Democritus, look up. Another huge jolt shakes the
building.

HIPPOCRATES
What was that?

XENA
Catapults.

MARMAX
It's the Thessalians. We don't have
catapults.

Galen, resting on a floormat, bolts up.

GALEN
Gods preserve us!

HIPPOCRATES
Calm down, Galen!

XENA
We're caught in the crossfire of the
Thessalians' defense from the Mitoan
advance.

*

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

MARMAX

My forces are converging on this temple. If we overrun them in this valley, we've cut off the kingdom.

XENA

They're surrounded. The Thessalians will be crushed for good.

HIPPOCRATES

Where can we go?

XENA

Anywhere, just out of the building. They're going to demolish it.

HIPPOCRATES

But many of these patients can't be moved.

XENA

I know. I'll stay with them. Marmax will get his men to higher ground and allow you safe passage with the rest.
(to Marmax)
Won't you?

MARMAX

Of course.

HIPPOCRATES

But you'll die!

Xena gives Hippocrates a look that says, "Don't bet on it." A more violent impact hurls a catapult rock right into a temple wall and brings it crashing down, sending debris everywhere.

As the dust settles and the sounds of the battle and catapults continue. Xena checks on Gabrielle and Ephiny.

XENA

Ephiny! Are you okay?

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 2

25

EPHINY

Yes.

Xena checks on Gabrielle. The impact of the debris didn't help. Gabrielle's breathing is labored. Democritus still sleeps.

XENA

Marmax. Stay with Ephiny. We'll get the patients ready.

Galen wanders to the collapsed wall.

GALEN

My temple!

Small groups of the ambulatory are already heading out the door. Marmax sits with Ephiny. Her contractions are frequent.

MARMAX

We have to leave.

EPHINY

I can't. The baby. It's coming. Now!

As Marmax reacts, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

26 INT. TEMPLE/ALTAR - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS)

26

Marmax is attending Ephiny.

MARMAX
What do you do? Push?

EPHINY
I'm pushing.

Marmax puts his hands on her belly.

MARMAX
That was a strong kick. This is going
to be a healthy little centaur.

Ephiny looks up in surprise into Marmax's eyes.

MARMAX
I knew when you said you wanted the
baby to be born in Athens because
they're more tolerant. Phantes was a
centaur. *

EPHINY
Yes. Have a problem with that?

MARMAX
No. Centaurs are brave. That's
something I admire.
(feels her stomach)
But it hasn't come down at all. Not
since your labor started.

EPHINY
I said I'm pushing!

MARMAX
Xena! Get over here!

XENA
What's wrong?

EPHINY
I keep pushing, but nothing happens.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

Xena places her hands on Ephiny's stomach and feels the baby's position.

XENA

It's breech. We have to cut it out.

MARMAX

What!

XENA

If she can't deliver it, the baby and she will die.

EPHINY

Do it, Xena. Save my baby.

Ephiny cries in another painful contraction. Xena grabs a candle nearby and comes close to Ephiny's head.

XENA

Ephiny. Look at this candle.

Xena holds the candle in front of Ephiny's face.

XENA

Now concentrate. Watch it very closely. Think about Phantes and how proud he'd be of his little child. Stare at the flame so hard, you can see him in it.

(whispers to Marmax)

Get me hot water, clean knives, a dozen needles and as many clean rags as you can find.

Marmax runs off. Many of the patients are leaving, escorted by some guards. But the POWs watch intently. Ephiny is dazed as she watches the candle. The hypnosis is working.

XENA

Now Ephiny, you'll feel no pain. We're all here with you. Your baby will be healthy. Just relax.

Hippocrates comes over with some needles.

HIPPOCRATES

Marmax is coming with the rest.

XENA

What are you still doing here? And why are the Mitoans still here?

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: 2

26

HIPPOCRATES
(points to Marmax)
They're not leaving without him. And
I'm not leaving you.

Xena takes the needles and places them in the acupuncture
meridian points.

XENA
And Galen?

Galen sits among the debris, carefully picking through it.

HIPPOCRATES
He's too shocked to do anything without
us.

Marmax comes over with the rest of the supplies.

XENA
Ready?

MARMAX
Yeah.

Xena has exposed Ephiny's stomach and cuts into the abdomen.
Marmax is stanching the blood flow with compresses.

MARMAX
Be careful. There's a centaur in
there.

XENA
Very observant.

Xena cuts into the uterus. She puts the knife down and
carefully reaches in and lifts out the baby centaur. She
holds it by it's four legs and gives it's rump a slap. It's
little hooves squirm around. It cries lustily.

XENA
Cut the cord.

Marmax cuts the umbilical cord. Xena holds him up to the
light and scrutinizes him.

XENA
Ephiny, you're the proud mother of a
perfect little baby.

MARMAX
It's beautiful.

(CONTINUED)

