



XENIA
WARRIOR PRINCESS™
the scripts

GIRLS JUST WANNA HAVE FUN

Prod. #V0202

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Girls Just Wanna Have Fun"

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Revised Pages: Set List, Chronology, 8, 10, 12, 13, 19, 20,
22-26, 30-35, 37, 42

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SHOOTING DRAFT
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Prod. #V0202 - 4/17/96 - Pink

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Girls Just Wanna Have Fun"

SET LIST

INTERIORS:

BACCHUS' LAIR
ORPHEUS' HOUSE
VILLAGE HALL
CATACOMBS
DEEPER IN CATACOMBS
ELSEWHERE IN CATACOMBS
CATACOMBS/BOTTOMLESS PIT
CATACOMBS/ENTRANCE OF BACCHUS' LAIR

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EXTERIORS:

WOODS
ANOTHER PART OF THE WOODS
PATH IN WOODS
PATH IN WOODS/ROCKY HILL/MOUNTAIN RIDGE MONTAGE
CAMP IN WOODS
COUNTRY ROAD
ROAD INTO ANTHISTERIA
VILLAGE OF ANTHISTERIA
HILLSIDE PATH
HILLSIDE
GRAVEYARD

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CHRONOLOGY

DAY 1	SCENES # 1 - 8
NIGHT 1	SCENE # 9 - 18
DAY 2	SCENE #20
NIGHT 2	SCENES #21 - 33
DAY 3	SCENE #34

*

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Girls Just Wanna have Fun"

TEASER

BLACK SCREEN

Over which we HEAR someone running -- OUT OF BREATH.

FADE IN:

1 EXT. WOODS - SURREAL ANGLES - DAY 1

ON BOOTS

racing through the woods.

WIDEN TO REVEAL

the BACK of an UNKNOWN MAN, darting around trees and over bushes, as he tries to escape...

WOLVES

THREE of them, giving chase through the underbrush. With snarling jaws and dripping saliva, the Wolves are out for a kill.

As they gain ground on their intended victim, we:

DISSOLVE TO:

2 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY 2

Gabrielle stands, bathed in sunlight, near the edge of the woods. She looks in, curiously. Behind her, and out of earshot, Xena speaks with a concerned VILLAGER. She nods, then crosses back to Gabrielle as the Villager scurries off.

GABRIELLE

What did he say?

XENA

Three more girls kidnapped from a neighboring village. That brings the total to six.

GABRIELLE

Who would do this?

XENA

Shhh. Listen.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

They stand quietly for a BEAT, listening to the SILENCE of the nearby woods.

GABRIELLE
I don't hear anything.

XENA
That's your answer. This is the Bacchae forest.

GABRIELLE
Hunting grounds for Bacchus, the god of wine, and his Bacchae followers...
(off Xena's nod; realizing)
Then we should hear Orpheus. His music is said to tame the Bacchae.

XENA
And without it, these woods aren't safe.

GABRIELLE
So you think the Bacchae took those girls?

XENA
There's only one way to find out.

We FOLLOW Xena and Gabrielle into the woods with Argo.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. WOODS - DAY

3

Moments later, Xena and Gabrielle move cautiously through the woods.

GABRIELLE
Are the stories people tell about the Bacchae really true?

XENA
Some are, some aren't. What've you heard?

GABRIELLE
(launching into a story)
They say a single bite from a Bacchae turns a young, innocent woman into a wild, soulless creature whose only allegiance is to Bacchus. Once bitten, she's lured into his lair to drink his blood.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

GABRIELLE (cont'd)
If she does, there's no way to save her
-- she becomes a Bacchae forever...

DISSOLVE TO:

4 EXT. WOODS - ALL SURREAL ANGLES - DAY

4

Back on those same creepy woods. All looks quiet, as we hear:

GABRIELLE (O.S.)
...It's said that Bacchae women take
many forms... sometimes roaming the
forest as wolves...

Just then, Gabrielle's story comes to life, as we see the
WOLVES, still in pursuit of the UNKNOWN MAN.

GABRIELLE (O.S.)
Driven by an unquenchable thirst for
blood, they track their intended victim
relentlessly...

The UNKNOWN MAN leaps a small boulder, barely ahead of the
pursuing Wolves. In his arms he carries a BAG.

GABRIELLE (O.S.)
...until they corner him, and tear him
limb from limb.

As the Wolves close in on his heels, the Unknown Man runs
for all he's worth, crashing through the undergrowth, as we:

CUT TO:

5 EXT. PATH IN WOODS - DAY

5

All is quiet as Xena and Gabrielle continue down the path.

GABRIELLE
If you ask me, the stories are
exaggerated. You know, made up to give
people a good scare --

Suddenly, the Unknown Man, JOXER, bursts out of the woods,
CRASHING INTO Gabrielle and knocking her to the ground.

JOXER
Help! Wolves!

He sprints past Xena and UP A TREE. Just then, the Wolves
bound out of the woods after him.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

Xena pulls Gabrielle behind her as TWO of the Wolves surround them. A THIRD Wolf rushes to Joxer, now up the tree.

Xena grabs her BULLWHIP --

XENA
(to Gabrielle)
Stay behind me.

The Wolves close in on Xena, bearing their teeth. They circle, poised to strike. Meanwhile...

Joxer, just out of reach, looks down at the Wolf who is barking and snarling.

JOXER
Ha! Outsmarted you! You brainless
flea-bitten mutt...

-- In the middle of which, the branch he's on starts to BEND, dangling him dangerously close to the Wolf! It leaps, grabbing onto his boot --

JOXER
(panicky)
Uh... Good doggy. Nice doggy...

As he tries to shake himself free...

Xena snaps her whip at the Lead Wolf, backing him off, but the Other Wolf advances. She counters with another whip snap, then finally lands a stinging blow to the Lead Wolf's snout. He whimpers, and the Wolves quickly scuttle off into the forest.

The Third Wolf, realizing he's alone, lets go of Joxer and follows the others.

Xena and Gabrielle cross to Joxer as he climbs down from the tree.

GABRIELLE
Joxer!? Are you all right?

JOXER
Me? Never better. Why do you ask?

XENA
Could've been that cry for help.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: 2

5

JOXER

Oh, that? All an act. The secret to fighting a wolf pack is wearing 'em down. I appeared defenseless to keep 'em on the hunt. Actually, I had those mongrels right where I wanted 'em.

XENA

(wry smile; then)

Uh-huh. So, what brings you to these parts?

JOXER

A mission to save the world... and you.

Xena looks puzzled as Joxer hands her the BAG.

JOXER

A package. From Orpheus to Xena.

XENA

(suspicious)

Orpheus?

Xena looks at the bag.

GABRIELLE

(re: the bag)

What is it?

JOXER

(glad to be rid of it)

Oh, I'd say it speaks for itself.

With that, Xena reaches inside the bag and pulls out --

THE HEAD OF ORPHEUS

Eyes shut, face expressionless. Xena holds it by the hair. Gabrielle looks sick.

XENA

(pained)

Orpheus.

Just then, Orpheus' EYES POP OPEN and he lets out a BLOOD CURDLING SCREAM! Off this horror, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

6 EXT. ANOTHER PART OF THE WOODS - DAY

6

Orpheus' SCREAM continues until he finds the word --

ORPHEUS

Ahhhhh! -- OUCH!

Joxer rushes over, taking Orpheus in his hands.

JOXER

Never pick him up by his hair.

Joxer looks at Orpheus, smoothing his hair.

JOXER

(he's done this before)

And he parts on the right.

Xena, not amused by Joxer's antics, focuses on Orpheus.

XENA

Orpheus. What happened?

(then; realizing)

Bacchus did this to you.

ORPHEUS

I thought you'd recognize his handiwork.

(then)

Since we last met, I pledged my life to stopping Bacchus. And for a long time, my music worked. But now he's cursed me. He took my body, but left me eyes and ears to see and hear all of the horror he brings to the world. For as long as Bacchus lives on earth, I will live in agony.

GABRIELLE

Then it was Bacchus who took those innocent girls...

ORPHEUS

Yes. And tomorrow night, he'll make them full-fledged Bacchae.

JOXER

(jumping in)

Unless we stop him. That's where I fit in. Orpheus and I have a plan to settle the score with that bloodsucker.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

ORPHEUS

(to Xena; re: Joxer)

This incompetent was my only hope of finding you.

(to Joxer)

You can go now. Run along.

JOXER

He doesn't mean that.

(aside; to Gabrielle)

Underneath it all, he's a likable guy. He's just got a big chip on his... uh, you know what I mean.

XENA

(confirming; to Orpheus)

You want my help.

ORPHEUS

I've hated you for a long time, Xena. And you're the last person I'd ask for a favor. But you're the only one who knows Bacchus well enough to do the job.

XENA

(considering; then)

Do you still have your lyre?

ORPHEUS

I've kept it hidden in town with my friend Melodus. He can play it while I sing.

XENA

Knowing Bacchus, it won't be safe for long. Come on.

ORPHEUS

(stopping her)

Not so fast, Xena. I want to remind you there are innocent lives at stake. Maybe this time you'll be more careful.

Xena gives Orpheus a hard look; she's heard it before.

XENA

(to Joxer; re: Orpheus)

Find a way to make him presentable, then we'll go.

Joxer and Orpheus exit. Gabrielle turns to Xena.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: 2

6

GABRIELLE
(re: Orpheus)
What was that all about?

XENA
My army fought Bacchus a long time ago.
The day of the final battle, an
innocent woman was caught between my
army and Bacchus' forces. The
fighting was fierce. We couldn't
protect her, and she was killed. I'm
sure it was Bacchus who killed her,
but Orpheus has always blamed both of
us.

*
*
*
*
*
*

(off Gabrielle's curious
look)
That woman was Orpheus' wife.

Off Gabrielle's surprised look, we:

DISSOLVE TO:

7 INT. BACCHUS' LAIR - DAY

7

CLOSE ON A FIRE, the only light in this otherwise dark,
gloomy cave. Shadows play across jagged walls, as we PAN
ACROSS to:

THREE SETS OF YELLOW EYES

in the darkness. They move CLOSER to the fire to reveal --

THREE WOLVES

The same ones seen earlier. The First Wolf suddenly MORPHS
into a WILD-EYED YOUNG WOMAN, a Bacchae, seated by the
fire (BACCHAE #1). As she turns, we SEE a WHIP MARK
streaked across her face. This is Xena's work.

The Other Wolves cross to her and begin LICKING her wounded
face. CLOSE ON the WHIP MARK as it miraculously disappears.

BACCHUS (O.S.)
Did you bring me the head of Orpheus?

In the SHADOWS, we SEE the silhouette of a large, hulking
figure. This is BACCHUS.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

Bacchae #1 bows in submission.

BACCHAE #1
No, Master. He got away.

BACCHUS
You fools! How could you let this
happen?!

BACCHAE #1
He and his idiot companion were
rescued... by Xena.

BACCHUS
(intrigued)
Xena...? It's been too long...
(then)
She must have taken Orpheus back for
the lyre. Call the others. I have a
little job for you.

DISSOLVE TO:

8 EXT. ROAD INTO ANTHISTERIA - DAY

8

Gabrielle and Joxer follow Xena (and Argo). Up ahead, A
MARDI GRAS-LIKE FESTIVAL spills out of the village gates and
onto the road. Gabrielle notices --

GABRIELLE
A festival. Looks like fun.

JOXER
Yeah. Every year the villagers dress
up to scare away the Bacchae. They
give a prize for the best costume.
(then)
Guess we know who's winning this year.

Joxer gestures in front of them to Xena, walking Argo. HOLD
on Argo, then, PAN UP to SEE --

ORPHEUS

His head is now atop a SCARECROW tied to Argo's saddle. He
feels as ridiculous as he looks. Off his scowl, we:

DISSOLVE TO:

9 INT. ORPHEUS' HOUSE - NIGHT

9

Xena, followed by Gabrielle, Joxer and "Scarecrow" Orpheus,
enter a room filled with assorted musical instruments.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

ORPHEUS
(calling out)
Melodus?

No answer.

ORPHEUS
He must be in back.

Xena crosses to a CURTAIN separating a back room. She opens it and they PEER IN. What they see causes them to react in pain and anger --

ORPHEUS
(horrified)
No... Melodus...

XENA
I'm sorry.

JOXER
The Bacchae did this?

ORPHEUS
And they've taken the lyre.

XENA
From the looks of things, they were just here.

Xena starts off. Gabrielle follows.

GABRIELLE
I'll go with you.

XENA
(stopping her)
No. I need you to protect Orpheus.
Without him, we don't stand a chance.

*

Xena rushes out and, off Gabrielle's distress:

DISSOLVE TO:

10 INT. ORPHEUS' HOUSE - NIGHT

10

Later, a worried Gabrielle looks out the window for a sign of Xena.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

In the b.g., Joxer peruses the musical instruments with Scarecrow Orpheus.

JOXER

You play all these?

Joxer lifts one awkwardly, bumping it, making a NOISE.

ORPHEUS

Don't touch anything!

JOXER

Didn't anyone ever tell you playing music is for sissies?

(then)

Sword-fighting, now there's a man's hobby. When I was a kid I wanted to take lessons, but... "No, it's too dangerous..." My mother wanted me to take music lessons. Can you believe it? Me? A musician?

ORPHEUS

You can be a warrior and a musician. I was.

JOXER

(sarcastic)

Right. And a Hydra makes a good house pet.

Meanwhile, Gabrielle HEARS the faint SOUNDS of a MELODY playing outside. She looks outside to SEE:

THE VILLAGE HALL

VILLAGERS stream inside. A COUPLE of pretty YOUNG WOMEN seem to be pulling a THIRD WOMAN into the hall against her will.

Alarmed, Gabrielle quickly crosses past Joxer and Orpheus --

GABRIELLE

There's something I have to take care of. I'll be right back.

JOXER

Gabrielle?!

Joxer starts to get Orpheus and follow her, but it's too late. She's out the door.

CUT TO:

11 OMITTED

11*

12 INT. VILLAGE HALL - NIGHT

12

Gabrielle enters a room packed with Villagers dancing and carrying on. Wine flows, and the music is LOUD. She looks around, but sees no sign of the Woman in trouble. Alert to danger, she makes her way through the crowd, when...

A HIDEOUS BACCHAE startles her! She's about to scream when...

The Bacchae Face comes off, revealing a sweet, innocent Young Woman. It was only a MASK! The Young Woman laughs, then takes Gabrielle's hand and leads her to --

A Second Young Woman. As the music BLARES, the Women begin to dance seductively around Gabrielle.

As they get CLOSER, we NOTICE the Women wear IDENTICAL WOLF CHOKERS. Maybe they're not so innocent after all. They spin around Gabrielle, faster and faster, as we:

CUT TO:

13 EXT. HILLSIDE PATH - NIGHT

13

TWO OTHER YOUNG WOMEN, wearing those same WOLF CHOKERS, carry Orpheus' GOLDEN LYRE.

BACCHAE #1
(strumming the lyre)
Isn't it beautiful?

A few lovely NOTES SOUND from the lyre, until --

TWO THIEVES step in front of them, blocking their path.

THIEF #1
Need some help, ladies?

THIEF #2
Yeah. That hunk a' gold is too heavy
for pretty things like you...

The Bacchae exchange a wicked smile, then:

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

BACCHAE #1

How nice. Come closer and we'll let you have it.

The Thieves trade a look: like candy from a baby. Thief #1 moves closer, grabbing Bacchae #1 by the waist.

He moves in for a kiss. But Bacchae #1 quickly MORPHS into HORRID BACCHAE! Her EYES burn with unholy light, her FANGS extend fully like a serpent's.

As Thief #1 reacts in horror, Bacchae #1 opens her jaws and attacks him viciously, slicing him up and propelling him into a tree.

Bacchae #1 and #2 turn their attention to Thief #2. They start towards him, about to strike, when...

Xena FLIES IN from a nearby BOULDER, landing a flying kick right at Bacchae #1, sending her sprawling. She quickly rolls to her feet, turns to Xena and SNARLS.

XENA

(to Bacchae #1)

That's a good look for you...

Thief #2 SPOTS the LYRE. Ever greedy, he sneaks towards it, as...

Xena uses a quick martial arts combination against Bacchae #1.

Meanwhile, Bacchae #2 rushes her from behind, jumping on Xena, jaws wide. She's about to sink her teeth into Xena, as...

Xena spins and we LOSE SIGHT OF Bacchae #2. Does she bite? Then, with all her strength, Xena flips her attacker, sending her flying on top of Bacchae #1, incapacitating them for the moment.

Thief #2 grabs the Lyre, racing up the hilly path towards the woods.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: 2

13

He glances back to check on his pursuers -- no one -- but as he turns back -- BACCHAE #1 IS RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM! He screams and does a quick about-face, but BACCHAE #2 is RIGHT THERE!

THIEF #2
(in shock)
What the...?

Before the Bacchae strike, HANDS grab Thief #2, and pull him away. The Bacchae quickly take the Lyre and escape into the dark woods. They're gone.

Thief #2, now safely with Xena, thankful to be alive --

THIEF #2
I gotta find a new line of work.

DISSOLVE TO:

14 INT. VILLAGE HALL - NIGHT

14

Joxer enters the hall to find the same crowded room of Masked Revelers. He holds a pole in his hands as he scans the room.

JOXER
(up the pole)
Do you see her?

PAN UP THE POLE to find Orpheus' head, scanning the room!

ORPHEUS
I don't see anything.
(then)
Wait. There she is. In the middle of the room, with two women...

JOXER
(alarmed)
Just as I thought... Bacchae! Those crafty little harlots don't fool me.

Joxer quickly shoves Orpheus' pole in the ground.

JOXER
I'm going after her. Don't move.

ORPHEUS
Funny.

JOXER rushes into the crowd. Meanwhile...

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

Gabrielle is still dancing with the same Women. As they spin around, out of Gabrielle's view, we SEE what just might be their BACCHAE FANGS! Meanwhile...

Joxer continues his way through the crowd. He SPOTS Gabrielle and the Women moving in on her. Joxer makes a beeline for her..

JOXER
(calling)
Gabrielle! I'll save you!

He pushes through the crowd, shoving people aside, drawing his sword...

JOXER
Unhand her!

He arrives just in time to pull Gabrielle to safety.

GABRIELLE
(pulling away from him)
What are you doing?!

JOXER
Are you kidding? They were Bacchae!

GABRIELLE
(shaking her head)
Joxer, I'd know a Bacchae if I saw one.

They continue on towards --

ANOTHER PART OF THE HALL

Joxer and Gabrielle, now with Orpheus, meet up with Xena at the entrance to the hall.

ORPHEUS
(to Xena)
Did you get the lyre?

XENA
No. I found the Bacchae who took it,
but someone else got in my way.
(then)
Don't worry. We'll get it back.

JOXER
So, let me get this straight. First,
we find the lyre. Then, we find
someone to play it. Orpheus sings.
The Bacchae sleep. Meanwhile, the rest
of us fight Bacchus, kill him, then
free the innocent girls.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: 2

14

XENA

Exactly.

JOXER

Sounds easy enough.

ORPHEUS

Don't be a fool.

(to Xena)

Bacchus has the lyre safely in his catacombs by now. If you go in there, he'll kill you.

XENA

I'm willing to take that chance.

JOXER

I couldn't agree more. That's been my strategy from the get-go. Stage a frontal assault! Catch them off guard, then...

(realizing; to Orpheus)

Run that "he'll kill you" part by me again.

XENA

Don't worry, Joxer. You're not going.

(to Gabrielle)

Come on.

They start off. Joxer stops them.

JOXER

Wait a minute! If she's going, I'm going. I assembled this team. Without me, you guys are nothing!

(off her non-response)

Fine. My mistake. I guess you don't need someone who...

(dramatic)

PLAYS THE LYRE!

ORPHEUS

You?!

JOXER

I took the music lessons, all right?!

Xena and Gabrielle exchange a look.

GABRIELLE

You play the lyre?

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: 3

14

 JOXER
 (looking around)
Hey. Don't advertise. I have a
reputation to maintain.

 XENA
All right. Let's go.

She gestures for Joxer to follow. Elated, Joxer joins them.

 JOXER
You won't be sorry.

As Xena turns to get Argo --

CLOSE ON XENA'S NECK

We SEE a BLOODY WOUND! Joxer REACTS. A BACCHAE BITE!!

 JOXER
 (aside; to Gabrielle)
Do you see that? Blood! On Xena's
neck! She's been bitten!

CLOSE IN on Gabrielle, EYES WIDE, as we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

15 EXT. ANTHISTERIA - NIGHT

15

Xena heads out of town, leading Argo with Scarecrow Orpheus aboard. Joxer and Gabrielle FOLLOW a few paces back.

GABRIELLE

So? She has blood on her neck. She was in a fight. It could be anything... a scratch.

JOXER

Believe me, I've seen every kind of wound encountered by man or beast. Most of them on this very body. That, my friend, is a bite. Specifically, a Bacchae bite.

GABRIELLE

Then why hasn't she turned into one?

JOXER

These things take time. Trust me, any moment now, Xena will be sporting a new set of teeth. Big ones.

(then; realizing)

No wonder she didn't want me on the mission. She knows I'm the one man who can stop her.

Gabrielle rolls her eyes.

GABRIELLE

We can settle this right now. I'll just ask her.

JOXER

Go ahead. But be warned, the wrong question could propel her into a Bacchian frenzy.

Joxer grabs Gabrielle's fighting staff.

JOXER

I'd better make a point on the end of this. It may come in handy.

GABRIELLE

Don't be ridiculous.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

JOXER
You're right. We don't want to draw
attention to ourselves. Better to act
nonchalant.

Up ahead, Xena notices them lagging behind.

XENA
Hurry up. What are you two doing back
there?

JOXER
(anything but nonchalant)
Nothing! Just sharpening our weapons!

Gabrielle grabs her fighting staff back and marches ahead of
him.

JOXER
Fine. Go ahead. But when Xena bites
your head off, don't come running to
me.

DISSOLVE TO:

16 EXT. CAMP IN THE WOODS - NIGHT

16

Gabrielle cooks over an open fire. Joxer watches every
move Xena makes. Gabrielle drops a KNIFE near Xena, but
before Xena can retrieve it, Joxer rushes over and picks it
up. *

JOXER
I've got it.
(re: the knife)
Can't be too careful with these things.
One slip up and everyone's hacked to
pieces.

Xena looks at Joxer as if he's gone nuts, then --

XENA
(to Gabrielle)
Be right back.

FOLLOW XENA as she gets up and crosses to Orpheus who is
resting against a tree. *

XENA
You all right? *

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

ORPHEUS

I'm a musician without my hands. How should I feel? Just because you've agreed to help me doesn't make us friends. My wife died in your war camp. And you did nothing to protect her.

XENA

There was nothing I could do. Most of my men had already fallen. I did my best to hold off Bacchus in hope that she could escape.

ORPHEUS

But you failed.

XENA

Eurydice shouldn't have been there in the first place.

A silent BEAT, then --

ORPHEUS

I can still remember how beautiful she was the day of our wedding. Her eyes were so filled with promise. We were going to start a family. Our children would grow up with the love of music...

(darkening)

But you changed all that. I don't know why Eurydice thought she could befriend a ruthless warrior like you...

(angry; to Xena)

Her blood is on your hands.

Xena looks at Orpheus; there's nothing she can say.

RESUME Gabrielle and Joxer cooking over the campfire.

GABRIELLE

Xena is not a Bacchae. I don't want to hear another word.

JOXER

Fine. Whatever you say.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: 2

16

Xena CROSSES PAST them, still angry about Orpheus. She grabs a KNIFE and tosses it hard into a tree trunk.

Joxer watches all of this -- eyes wide.

JOXER
(to Gabrielle; re: Xena)
Tell you one thing: No one sleeps
soundly tonight.

CUT TO:

17 EXT. CAMP - NIGHT

17

Later, Joxer sleeps soundly. Just then, behind him --

Xena rises, an intense look on her face. She creeps towards Joxer, with a KNIFE. As she comes CLOSER, a twig SNAPS --

Joxer's eyes pop open. He hears something behind him. Play the suspense as Xena draws the knife over his head. Joxer grabs for his sword, but it's just out of reach. Then, Joxer turns, just as --

Xena plunges the knife right at him! He SCREAMS, rolling to avoid her. Then, he turns back to SEE --

Xena has stabbed A GIANT SPIDER. She holds it up for him.

XENA
Spider.

JOXER
(frazzled)
Right.

XENA
Something wrong?

JOXER
Wrong? What could be wrong?
(then)
Now that you ask... Not that I haven't
handled my share of Bacchae but, what's
the best way to kill them?

XENA
There's only one way to kill a Bacchae.
We'll find what we need on the way to
the catacombs.
(then)
Get some sleep.

Xena crosses back, leaving Joxer alone, eyes wide open.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

JOXER
Sure. No problem.

DISSOLVE TO:

18 INT. BACCHUS' LAIR - NIGHT

18

A NUMBER of wild-eyed BACCHAE dance to frenzied DRUMS, as we PAN ACROSS this spectacle of women.

A WINE GOBLET and a matching BOWL are on a TABLE. A FEW BACCHAE dance about the table, pouring WINE in the bowl as they dance. This continues for a beat, then EVERYTHING STOPS. We PAN BACK to:

BACCHUS

A cross between a handsome rogue and a Satyr, he stands before his Bacchae.

He gestures and the DRUMS SOUND AGAIN. This time, the Bacchae rise and circle him. Bacchus takes a KNIFE and cuts his HAND! draining his BLOOD and mixing it with the wine.

BACCHUS
Under the light of the Bacchae moon,
our initiates will drink my blood and
become one of us.

Everyone SHRIEKS in delight, then:

BACCHUS
By this time tomorrow, there will be a
new race of eternal Bacchae... And one
of them will be Xena!

As the DRUMS BEAT LOUDER, the Bacchae DANCE and SHOUT with glee. Bacchus takes the Knife and LICKS HIS OWN BLOOD off of it! As we:

DISSOLVE TO:

*

19 OMITTED

19*

20 EXT. PATH IN WOODS/ROCKY HILL/MOUNTAIN RIDGE MONTAGE - DAY 20

As the day passes, Xena leads Argo and Orpheus, followed by Joxer and Gabrielle, on their way to Bacchus' lair.

-- They weave through a *PATH* in the *WOODS*;

-- They climb a *ROCKY HILL*;

-- They pass along a *RIDGE* as, in the distance, the *SUN* *BEGINS TO SET* behind a *LONELY GRAVEYARD*.

XENA (V.O.)

We can get weapons to fight the Bacchae
up ahead.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

JOXER (V.O.)
Where? I don't see anything...

DISSOLVE TO:

21 EXT. GRAVEYARD - NIGHT

21

Xena, Gabrielle, Joxer and Orpheus (on Argo) arrive to find a CLUSTER OF GRAVES, surrounded by twisted, leafless trees. A few PARTIALLY DECOMPOSED CORPSES hang in the trees.

JOXER
This is it? When you said weapons, I was thinking more of a blacksmith's shop...

XENA
No. We need something special.
(then; heading in)
Be quiet and don't step on a grave.

Xena and Joxer start into the graveyard. Gabrielle hesitates.

JOXER
(looking at a headstone)
Dryads? What's a Dryad?

XENA
Sworn enemies of Bacchus. A Dryad bone through the heart is the only way to kill a Bacchae.

Gabrielle slowly walks in, keeping her distance.

GABRIELLE
You mean we have to dig them up?

XENA
Not exactly.

JOXER
Well, they're not gonna jump out at us...

*

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

FOLLOW JOXER until he stops. Something has caught his leg.

Joxer LOOKS DOWN to see A BONY HAND reaching out from a grave and holding onto his boot! Just then, a SECOND HAND reaches for his other leg! Before he can say anything -- the Hands PULL HIM INTO THE GRAVE! Xena and Gabrielle rush over, but he's gone!

GABRIELLE

Joxer!

Xena reaches into the grave, searching blindly, until she gets a hold of Joxer's ARM. She pulls! The arm comes out, but there's nothing connected to it! Gabrielle screams! Xena reaches back in for the rest of him, until --

Joxer emerges, reaching out, both arms intact. (Obviously, that was someone else's arm). He gasps for air. Xena grabs hold and pulls, but Joxer isn't moving.

JOXER

It's still got me! Pull harder.

Gabrielle grabs his other arm and pulls. But the Dryad pulls back. Joxer's caught in a ghoulish tug-o-war! Finally, Xena and Gabrielle yank him out. He's in one piece, but missing his BOOTS.

JOXER

(relieved)

That was close.

(then; noticing his feet)

My boots! They cost fifty dinars!

(to the grave)

Stupid, good-for-nothing bag of bones.

Just then, THREE MORE DRYADS explode from their graves! FLYING WINGED SKELETONS, with razor-sharp CLAWS, these things may be dead, but that hasn't slowed them down any.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: 2

21

JOXER
(to the Dryads)
I meant that in a good way.

The Dryads swoop down. Gabrielle and Joxer dive for cover, but Xena draws her SWORD. DRYAD #1 lashes at Xena. She tumbles to avoid the blow, then springs back to her feet.

*

Dryad #1 attacks Xena again. This time, Xena uses her sword to intercept the bony creature. With one perfectly timed swipe, Xena shatters it to pieces. Bones fly everywhere.

Dryad #2 and Dryad #3 start to fly off.

*

JOXER
(to the escaping Dryads)
Go on! Fly away, you cowards!

Xena takes Orpheus' head off the Scarecrow and puts it in her pack.

*

XENA
Gather those bones. We've got to get going.

Joxer picks up a Dryad bone.

JOXER
These things are sharp as nails. No wonder they can kill Bacchae.

Curious, Joxer points the sharp bone at Xena's chest, testing her. Xena doesn't flinch.

JOXER
You're not afraid of this?

XENA
No, should I be?

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: 3

21

JOXER

Well, no. It's just, Gabrielle had this theory that you were a Bacchae and...

(then; off Xena's look)

Okay. So maybe I thought you were one, too.

Xena shakes her head, then helps gather the bones.

JOXER

Hey, you had blood on your neck. It was an innocent mistake.

XENA

Sorry to disappoint you.

JOXER

I was just looking forward to that first kill is all. Yep. There's nothing like staking a Bacchae to get the blood flowing... Bacchae blood, that is. You know, I love blood -- the sight of blood, the smell of blood. In fact, if I don't spill blood at least once a day, I get cranky. And believe me, you don't want to see me cranky...

As Joxer speaks, we see Gabrielle's back. Something is happening to her. Then, in an instant, she turns around, revealing the face of a HORRID BACCHAE. In one incredible leap, she dives at Xena, as we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

22 EXT. GRAVEYARD - NIGHT

22

Gabrielle, now full-on Bacchae, flies at Xena. Xena notices just in time to dive out of the way. Gabrielle flies over her, flipping in the air, and landing on her feet. She turns to face off again --

XENA
(in shock)
Gabrielle...?

JOXER
(alarmed; re: Gabrielle)
I knew it! What did I tell you?

Xena tosses the pack with Orpheus to Joxer, just as Gabrielle takes another running leap at her. Xena quickly falls to her back, catching Gabrielle with her feet, and propels her over her head. Gabrielle tumbles behind Xena. They both jump to their feet, then --

XENA
(easing her)
It's all right, Gabrielle. I can help you...

But Gabrielle isn't listening. She makes a grab for the Dryad bones, but Xena quickly kicks them away. Gabrielle flies past her and SPOTS a black, yawning cavity of tremendous size. This is the OPENING to the BACCHAE CATACOMBS. Gabrielle rushes towards it and escapes inside.

XENA
Gabrielle! Wait!

JOXER
Where's she going?

XENA
The catacombs. Come on.

Xena rushes in. Joxer picks up Gabrielle's fighting staff and follows.

CUT TO:

23 INT. CATACOMBS - NIGHT

23

Joxer follows Xena as they creep along the dark passageway. Then, we HEAR a MUFFLED VOICE.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

JOXER

(to Xena)

Did you hear that? Someone's trapped.
It sounds like he's right on top of us.

Xena reaches for the pack on Joxer's back.

XENA

He is.

She takes out Orpheus.

ORPHEUS

You're wasting time! We should be in
Bacchus' lair by now.

JOXER

We're looking for Gabrielle. She's
turned into a Bacchae.

ORPHEUS

There's no time for that. We have to
kill Bacchus before midnight. Forget
the girl.

XENA

I can't do that.

ORPHEUS

I never should have trusted you. Once
again your selfish desires come first.

(then)

Don't you understand? Bacchus is
using Gabrielle against us. If you try
to save her, you'll fall right into his
trap.

XENA

(her mind made up)

Save your breath. I'm going after
Gabrielle.

ORPHEUS

Then Bacchus has already won.

Xena looks back into the dark catacombs, concerned for
Gabrielle, and the rest of the world.

DISSOLVE TO:

24 INT. DEEPER INTO CATACOMBS - NIGHT

24

Moments later, Xena leads Joxer and Orpheus (held by Joxer)
deeper into the catacombs.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

Joxer holds Gabrielle's fighting staff as he peers into the vast darkness.

JOXER
I can't see a thing.

XENA
It's all right. Just follow me.

They continue on, Xena several paces in front of Joxer, as Orpheus whispers to Joxer.

ORPHEUS
That's right, Joxer. Follow Xena
blindly to your death.

JOXER
We know what we're doing.
(then)
What do you mean?

ORPHEUS
Gabrielle's been bitten. It's only a
matter of time before she bites Xena
and makes her a Bacchae, too.
(then)
Xena's friendship with Gabrielle has
blinded her to the mission. You have
to take control. The world is counting
on you, Joxer.

Joxer considers, then throws down Gabrielle's fighting staff, and takes out a Dryad bone.

JOXER
All right. If Gabrielle gets in our
way again, I'll do what I have to.

Joxer puts Orpheus back in the pack. As he passes, we SEE Gabrielle, lurking in the dark shadows. She scurries backwards, up the wall, like a lizard in reverse.

CUT TO:

*

*

25 OMITTED

25*

26 INT. CATACOMBS - NIGHT

26

Xena leads Joxer deeper into the catacombs. Gabrielle is right behind him.

XENA
(calling back to Joxer)
Keep your eyes open. She's around here
somewhere.

Joxer grips his Dryad bone.

JOXER
Don't worry. I'm ready for anyth--

Then, a SCREECH and a BAT flies at Joxer. He SCREAMS and ducks. It flies off...

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

JOXER
(relieved)
Ha. Just a bat...

Suddenly, when he least expects it, Gabrielle flies out of nowhere, RIGHT AT JOXER! and lands on his back. Joxer spins out of control...

JOXER
(calling)
Xena!!!

Just before Gabrielle takes a chunk out of him, Xena flies at her, knocking her off. They slam against the cave wall and land on the ground. As they recover from the blow --

Joxer retrieves his Dryad bone and goes after Gabrielle. He raises his arms to stake her, hesitates, and then:

XENA
Joxer! Don't!

Xena rushes Joxer, knocking him over. Meanwhile, Gabrielle scrambles to her feet and flies at Xena. Xena avoids her with a series of BACK-FLIPS, but Gabrielle MATCHES HER, MOVE FOR MOVE! The two friends go at it, Xena countering every Gabrielle attack with a defensive martial arts move.

Finally, Xena grabs hold of Gabrielle and flips her high over head. She lands hard, but quickly springs to her feet. Gabrielle looks at Xena with a menacing smile, then rushes deeper into the catacombs.

XENA
(to Joxer)
After her! Come on!

Xena chases after Gabrielle. Joxer breathes a heavy sigh, then follows.

CUT TO:

27 INT. CATACOMBS/BOTTOMLESS PIT - NIGHT

27*

Xena and Joxer, still chasing Gabrielle, round a corner and put on the brakes. Xena peers down into:

*
*

A BOTTOMLESS PIT

*

GABRIELLE

*

is on the other side, standing with Bacchus. Suddenly, a FEW Other Bacchae drop from the ceiling, surrounding Xena and Joxer.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

XENA
 (calling to Bacchus; re:
 Gabrielle)
 Stay away from her.

Bacchus smiles, petting the wild-eyed Gabrielle like a dog.

BACCHUS
 She's mine now, Xena. Soon, you'll be
 mine, too.

XENA
 Never.

BACCHUS
 Don't resist me, Xena. With your
 beauty and fighting skills, you'd be
 the perfect leader for my growing
 legion of Bacchae. Join us.

The Bacchae begin a low CHANT of "join us," as:

XENA
 You don't charm me, Bacchus. I see the
 evil that's in you. I see how you
 destroy innocent lives...

BACCHUS
 Well, then. Perhaps your little friend
 here will be more convincing.
 (then; to Gabrielle)
 She's all yours.

With that, Gabrielle LEAPS over the pit, landing near Xena. She moves closer, revealing her fangs. The Other Bacchae also move in -- backing Xena up toward the pit. *

XENA
 Gabrielle! You're not one of them yet!
 You can fight him!

The Bacchae continue to advance. Xena takes out TWO DRYAD BONES. She jabs at her attackers. *

BACCHUS
 Give up, Xena. There's no way out.
 You won't kill your friend. Let her
 bite you, and become one of us.

Gabrielle draws nearer, opening her mouth, ready to taste Xena's blood. Xena backs closer to the pit, then -- *

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED: 3

27

XENA
(to Bacchus)
I'd rather die than join you.
(calling to Joxer)
Joxer! Take Orpheus and run!
(sadly; to Gabrielle)
I'm sorry.

With that, Xena takes a final step back, and PLUNGES INTO
THE BOTTOMLESS PIT!!

*

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

28 INT. CATACOMBS/BOTTOMLESS PIT - NIGHT (CONTINUOUS) 28*

Joxer stands for a beat, in total shock.

JOXER

Xena...

He regards the Bacchae, who begin to surround him, then takes off into the dark catacombs.

Bacchus looks into the pit, saddened... *

BACCHUS

(shaking his head)

What a waste...

Bacchae #1 approaches him.

BACCHAE #1

Shall we go after the others, Master?

BACCHUS

Don't bother. It was Xena I wanted.

(then; announcing)

Back to the lair. The Bacchae moon will soon appear. It's time to initiate your newest sisters!

The Bacchae SHRIEK with delight as they fly off towards Bacchus' lair.

We HEAR the SOUND of SOMEONE GRUNTING. Ever hopeful, we MOVE down into the pit to find -- *

XENA, hanging from the wall by two Dryad Bones she jammed in on her way down. The heat is intense, as Xena uses the bones to slowly climb out.

CUT TO:

29 INT. ELSEWHERE IN CATACOMBS - NIGHT 29

Orpheus is held by a shaken and discouraged Joxer.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

JOXER

I can't believe she's gone.

ORPHEUS

Once again Xena fails me. She should have died killing Bacchus...

JOXER

(getting angry)

You know something, you're one ungrateful, bitter man. Not even a man. Just a head!

(then)

Xena gave her life to help you and this is the thanks she gets?!

(leaving without him)

You can find your own way out of here.

Joxer stomps off for a few steps, then stops. He has no idea how to get out of there.

JOXER

(back to Orpheus)

Do you remember how we got in here?

Orpheus stews for a minute, then --

ORPHEUS

It was my fault.

JOXER

Okay... What are we talking about?

ORPHEUS

Eurydice.

(then)

She went to Xena's camp that night because of me. I was so foolish, I thought I could defeat Bacchus on my own. I refused to team up with Xena's army. Eurydice knew I was wrong. She was just trying to save me from my own stupid pride.

Joxer picks up Orpheus and looks at him sympathetically.

JOXER

You don't know how many times Xena saved my butt. I should've been there for her, backing her up, fighting those she-demons but I, uh... had to guard you. That's it. My hands were tied...

Joxer hesitates. His blustering dissipates as Xena's demise really sinks in.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED: 2

29

JOXER

Who am I kidding? I didn't fight because I'm a coward. I always have been and I always will be. My mother was right, I should've been a musician.

ORPHEUS

(with an idea)

You are a musician... and a warrior. And you can stop Bacchus.

JOXER

I can? How?

ORPHEUS

(with a smile)

Play the lyre.

Joxer and Orpheus trade looks. Are they really gonna do this?

CUT TO:

30 INT. CATACOMBS/BOTTOMLESS PIT - NIGHT

30*

ON JOXER'S FEET

as they cross the narrow ledge around the pit.

*

ON JOXER

as he carries Orpheus.

ORPHEUS

Watch your step.

Just then, Joxer looks into the pit and sees SOMEONE --

*

JOXER

(hopeful)

Xena?!

Joxer reaches down into the pit. Suddenly, a BACCHAE drops from above, grabbing hold of Joxer!

*

She's about to take him apart when --

Xena JUMPS OUT of the pit, wielding a Dryad Bone. She stops the Bacchae cold, driving a stake right through her heart!

The Bacchae's face contorts in horrid pain as the Dryad bone burns through her with a nightmarish SIZZLE. She shrieks and falls back into the pit.

*

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

Xena turns to the slack-jawed Joxer --

XENA

What are you waiting for? Come on.

Xena races towards Bacchus' lair. Joxer shakes his head in amazement, then falls in behind her.

CUT TO:

31 INT. BACCHUS' LAIR - NIGHT

31

A single RAY OF MOONLIGHT filters into the chamber and SHINES down on Bacchus' BOWL and GOBLET of wine/blood. Other Bacchae DANCE to the SOUNDS OF BEATING DRUMS.

High atop a ROCKY PRECIPICE, Bacchus sits on his THRONE. Next to him is ORPHEUS' GOLDEN LYRE. He SEES the moonlight, then --

BACCHUS

(calling out)

It is time!

The DRUMS stop. Bacchus FLIES OFF his throne, down to the Bowl and Goblet where the INITIATES, all dressed in WHITE GOWNS, eagerly fall in line before him. One of them is Gabrielle.

Bacchus takes the Goblet, dips it in the Bowl, then looks down at the innocent face of the FIRST INITIATE.

BACCHUS

Drink. And you will be one with me... forever.

The First Initiate looks lovingly at Bacchus, completely transfixed. She takes the Goblet to her lips and drinks.

Her body begins to tremble as her features turn HORRIFIC! She's now a full-on Bacchae! The Other Bacchae SHRIEK in delight, as --

Behind her, NEXT IN LINE, we see --

GABRIELLE, eagerly awaiting her turn.

CUT TO:

32 INT. CATACOMBS - NIGHT

32

Xena leads the way as she and Joxer race through a myriad of dark passageways.

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

They follow the SOUNDS of the ceremony to:

THE ENTRANCE OF BACCHUS' LAIR

Before they enter, Xena and Joxer regroup. Joxer pulls Orpheus out of the pack, then --

XENA

(to Joxer)

Remember, your job is to find the lyre and play it as soon as you can. That'll give me time to reach Bacchus.

JOXER

Right.

ORPHEUS

(to Xena)

I owe you an apology. I just miss Eurydice so much... I guess I was looking for someone to blame.

XENA

I understand. Bacchus has caused you a lot of pain.

(drawing her sword)

Maybe now we can bring you some peace.

Xena and Orpheus exchange a smile, then:

CUT TO:

33 INT. BACCHUS' LAIR - NIGHT

33

Gabrielle, with vacant eyes, steps into the glow of the moonlight. Bacchus hands her the Goblet, and she looks deeply into his eyes. A BEAT of hesitation, then:

BACCHUS

Go ahead, child. Be one with me.

She raises the Goblet to her lips, but before she can drink --

-- A CHAKRAM slices through the air, knocking the drink from her hand, then ricochets off the cave walls and back to --

-- Xena, standing at the mouth of the cave, flanked by Joxer and Orpheus.

XENA

She's not interested, Bacchus.

Bacchus smiles.

(CONTINUED)

