

XENIA

WARRIOR PRINCESS

Intimate Stranger (*Callisto's Nightmare*)

BY

STEVEN L. SEARS

Season 2
Episode #9

Prod. #V0211

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Intimate Stranger"
("Callisto's Nightmare")

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SHOOTING DRAFT
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XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Intimate Stranger"
("Callisto's Nightmare")

CAST LIST

XENA
GABRIELLE

CALLISTO
JOXER
ARES
HADES
CYRENE
THEODORUS

ARLEIA
MORLAN
GRESSIUS
FISHERMAN #1

(ar-LAY-uh)

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Intimate Strangeo"
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SET LIST

INTERIORS:

VILLAGE HALL
UNDERWORLD
UNDERWORLD CAVERN
HIDING CAVE

EXTERIORS:

WOODS
WOODS #1
WOODS #2
WOODS #3
WOODS #4
NEAR WOODS #4
WOODS NEAR AMPHIPOLIS
WOODED PATH
NEAR WOODS EDGE
CLEARING NEAR HUGE BOULDER
LAKE
ROAD

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XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Intimate Stranger"
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CHRONOLOGY

NIGHT 1

SCENES # 1 - 15

DAY 2

SCENES #16 - 26

NIGHT 2

SCENE #27

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Intimate Stranger"
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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. WOODS - NIGHT

1

Dark and moody, a mist creeps along the forest floor. A BEAT, then two WARRIORS enter the frame with their swords drawn. Complete silence... not even the bugs are making noise. The warriors move cautiously, then head off into the brush. A second later:

XENA

drops down from the trees, landing in a cat's crouch, silently. She pauses, "feeling" her surroundings. Then, without looking, she motions to:

GABRIELLE

who enters the area cautiously and kneels next to Xena. They speak in low tones as they talk.

GABRIELLE

Are these men with Theodorus?

XENA

Yes. They're sure to be heading back to him.

(noticing)

Are you going to be okay?

GABRIELLE

Yeah. I'm all right. It's just... anything to do with Callisto...

XENA

I understand. But that's why he has to be brought to justice. All of Callisto's men.

(then)

You think you can find your way back to Argo in the dark?

GABRIELLE

Sure.

XENA

Good. I'm going to see if I can catch one of them.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

Gabrielle nods and heads off into the dark. Xena draws her sword and stands to move forward when:

CYRENE'S VOICE

Daughter... Xena, welcome home...

Xena spins to see her mother, CYRENE, standing near the wood's edge.

XENA

Mother! What are you doing out here?

CYRENE

You're on your way home. I came out to meet you.

XENA

But, I'm not. This is dangerous. You shouldn't be here.

CYRENE

But you are coming home. Back to where you're loved and needed. Back where you belong.

Xena's eyes flash with suspicion.

XENA

Who are you?

Cyrene laughs and MORPHS into Ares.

XENA

Ares... What do you want?

ARES

Want? I told you. I just wanted to welcome you back into my fold.

XENA

I have no idea what you're --

ARES

I'm talking about revenge... and murder... and what you consider as justice. I'm talking about your execution of Callisto.

XENA

That's not what happened.

ARES

Didn't you serve as judge, jury and executioner?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 2

1

ARES (cont'd)

Or, am I missing something? A young girl was before you... she had committed... oh, unspeakable crimes, for certain... just like you. You were given a chance to reform. A chance you never gave Callisto.

Xena is frozen. Deep down, the accusation preys on her guilt.

XENA

That's not... that's not what happened...

Ares chuckles and points. Xena turns. CALLISTO is sinking into quicksand. She stretches her hand out to Xena.

CALLISTO

Xena! Help! You can't let me die, Xena. I am you.

XENA

No...

CALLISTO

Who are you to judge anything I've done? I can change!

Xena shakes her head but, even as she does, her hand lifts her sword and points it at Callisto. Xena looks at her hand in horror. She has no control over it. She grabs her wrist with her free hand, fighting to control it. The blade SLIDES INTO CALLISTO.

ARES

Welcome back, dearest.

Someone screams.

SMASH CUT TO:

2 EXT. WOODS #1 - NIGHT

2

Xena POPS UP INTO FRAME and comes out of the DREAM that she was in. Gabrielle is by her side immediately.

GABRIELLE

Xena! Are you okay?

Xena takes a BEAT, looking around, confused. Her sword is in its sheath. Xena looks terrible, though. As if she hasn't gotten a good night's sleep in weeks. She hasn't.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

We do notice, however, that there is the happy chirping of crickets and the like in the background.

XENA

Yes... yes, I'm fine.

GABRIELLE

Another nightmare. You screamed.

XENA

That was me?

GABRIELLE

Yeah. I just hope Theodorus and his men didn't hear it.

(then)

Maybe we should call this off. You haven't had a good night's sleep since we started tracking Theodorus.

XENA

No. If we wait, Theodorus might attack another village. I'll be okay. You get some sleep, though. One of us has to be awake tomorrow.

She tries a smile. Gabrielle returns it, but we can tell she's worried. Gabrielle goes back to her blanket and lays down.

XENA

is trying to keep her eyes open. Her head nods. Her eyes blink... Silence... the bugs have stopped. But somewhere in the distance, a woman's laugh is heard. Xena is on her feet immediately, sword drawn.

XENA

(whispering)

We've got company...

She quietly moves over to the sleeping Gabrielle.

XENA

Gabrielle... get ready. Something's happening...

She turns Gabrielle over. Instead of Gabrielle, we find Callisto again, in Gabrielle's outfit, staring up at her with lifeless eyes. Xena backs away... she sees blood on her hand... the blade of her sword is covered with blood.

SMASH CUT TO:

3 EXT. WOODS #1 - NIGHT

3

Again, Xena's eyes pop open. This time Gabrielle is shaking her shoulders.

GABRIELLE

Xena, come out of it!

Xena looks really lost right now. And a bit scared.

GABRIELLE

This is enough! We have got to get you some help. You're beginning to scare me!

XENA

Gabrielle... do you think I executed Callisto?

The mention of Callisto's name is not easy for Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE

Executed? Xena... you did what you had to do.

XENA

These dreams... they've been about her. With Ares taunting me... telling me that I murdered her. That I never gave her a chance to prove she could change. And... part of me... part of me believes it.

GABRIELLE

Callisto chose her path, not you. I'm sure, somewhere, there was a bit of goodness to be mined, but that's not your responsibility. Just because you didn't try to change her... just because you didn't show her the mercy that others have shown you... that doesn't make you a murderer.

Xena is staring at her friend. Gabrielle is staring strangely into Xena's eyes. We might notice, at this point, the absolute silence of the woods...

XENA

What are you saying?

GABRIELLE

I'm saying that if Hercules had treated you the way you treated her, we wouldn't be here right now. You'd be dead. And you'd deserve it, more than her. After all, she didn't create you.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

Xena's eyes widen, as we:

SMASH CUT TO:

4 EXT. WOODS #1 - NIGHT

4

As before, Xena's eyes blink open. The night is still, with the exception of the crickets. Gabrielle is sleeping nearby. Cautiously, Xena crawls over to Gabrielle. It is, indeed, Gabrielle sleeping. Xena touches her face, then falls back, exhausted. And scared.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

5 EXT. WOODED PATH - NIGHT

5

Xena leads Argo, working to keep her eyes open. Gabrielle walks alongside. If it helps, we can HEAR the sounds of the woods. Xena stops. She looks around, listening.

GABRIELLE

What is it?

XENA

Nothing. I thought I heard something.

GABRIELLE

I don't hear anything. Except the bugs and the wind...

(yawns)

Sorry. I'm not used to traveling at night.

XENA

We can make better time.

(beat)

Do you dream, Gabrielle?

GABRIELLE

I used to dream every night. In fact, my best stories came from my dreams. Mostly heroic things with heroic people. Good fighting evil. But... I haven't dreamed once since Perdicas died. And the stories... just aren't there anymore.

Gabrielle says nothing more, but keeps walking. Xena shakes her head sadly, then looks down and sees something. She kneels to examine the earth.

GABRIELLE

What's the matter? Are we still on their trail?

XENA

Yes. It looks like they're heading toward that deserted village on the other side of the river. But someone else is following Theodorus.

(beat)

And this someone's going to get himself killed.

Off this, we:

CUT TO:

6 INT. VILLAGE HALL - NIGHT

6

A large town hall for a deserted village. Several men are gathered around what appears to be a pinata. It is, in fact, JOXER. He is strung up, the rope wrapping around his midsection, binding his arms. As one man pulls a rope that raises Joxer, the other men have bludgeons and swords that they smack into the palms of their hands, eager to get the game started. THEODORUS walks up to Joxer.

THEODORUS

I'm trying to figure out if I want to give you any last words.

JOXER

You don't scare me!

Theodorus steps right into Joxer's face.

THEODORUS

Really?

JOXER

Well... you don't scare all of me. My fists, for example. If they were free right now, you'd be begging for your life.

THEODORUS

You're gonna feel such pain...

JOXER

I laugh at pain! Hah!

Theodorus punches Joxer in the face, spinning him around on his rope. The "Hah!" gets repeated until it becomes a painful "Houch!" Theodorus reaches out and stops Joxer's spinning by grabbing him by his jaw, scrunching his mouth.

THEODORUS

What were you doing following me?

JOXER

(through scrunched mouth)
I'm going to bring you to justice. The way Xena and I brought justice to Callisto.

THEODORUS

Callisto was a fool. I was going to kill her anyway. Xena saved me the trouble. Look who's alive now.

(to his men)

What do you say, boys? Should we see what the mighty Joxer is made of?

They all laugh, displaying their weapons.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

JOXER

Wait! I'm worth more alive. You'll need a hostage to get away from the Athenian Army!

THEODORUS

What Athenian Army?

JOXER

I didn't tell you about them?

With a yell, Theodorus grabs Joxer and pushes him, spinning him around the heads of his men as each one tries to nail Joxer with a sword or mace.

Suddenly, another sound is heard above the din. It is Xena's war yell! Theodorus stops his men.

THEODORUS

That's Xena!

JOXER

And the Athenian Army!

THEODORUS

Regroup! Into the woods. Now!

The men run out, heading for the hills, leaving Joxer suspended and kicking at one or two men as they pass.

JOXER

Come back, you cowards! Come on! One at a time!

The room is clear barely a second when a figure crashes through a shuttered window and rolls to her feet, sword out: Xena. She quickly scans the room.

JOXER

We're safe. I cleared the place out.

Gabrielle enters, staff ready.

XENA

They're gone.

GABRIELLE

Are we going after them?

JOXER

Hello...?

XENA

No. We've gotten as close to them as I want to at night. They won't be far.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

JOXER

Gabrielle... Uhm... I wanted to say something.

(clears his throat)

Being a warrior, as I am, I find it hard sometimes to talk to people. That is to say... well, strength is a weakness sometimes when you have something important to say.

GABRIELLE

Joxer, just spit it out.

JOXER

I'm really sorry... about Perdicus.

Gabrielle looks away.

JOXER

I know that there's nothing I could say that'll come close to making you feel better... in fact, I'm pretty good at saying the wrong things. But I've often thought that maybe... if I had been there when it happened... things might have been different. Maybe she would have gone after me instead of Perdicus. Or, maybe... I don't know.

(then)

Look, it's just dreaming on my part, but if I could have killed her when I had the chance...

Gabrielle turns back to him.

GABRIELLE

Joxer, don't. Please. Just... please.

She moves away from him. He watches her go and silently berates himself for not finding the right words.

XENA

stands near the window, staring out into the forest. Gabrielle comes over to her with a blanket. Xena doesn't look at her as Gabrielle puts it on Xena's shoulders. A BEAT, then:

XENA

I can't deny it anymore. I murdered her. My nightmares... it's all true. I realize that now.

Gabrielle leans against the wall, -frustrated.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: 2

7

GABRIELLE

This is such a mess. You wish you hadn't killed her. Joxer wishes he had killed her sooner. And I wish she had never been born.

(beat)

I guess Callisto won after all.

With that, she moves off to her own blanket, leaving Xena alone. Xena looks back out into the night and closes her eyes.

CALLISTO'S VOICE

Xena...

Xena's eyes open as she sees:

CALLISTO - NEAR WOODS EDGE (DREAM)

Silence from the woods. This time, though, we're not fooling anyone. Callisto motions for Xena to follow her. Xena looks back at her sleeping companions, then crawls through the window.

8 EXT. CLEARING NEAR HUGE BOULDER - NIGHT (DREAM)

8

Xena enters the clearing. Callisto is waiting. Xena walks up to her.

CALLISTO

Hello, Xena. I've missed you.

XENA

This is a dream.

CALLISTO

You're only half right. Dreams are the fine line between the real world and the Underworld. And, with a little help, that line can disappear.

XENA

What kind of help?

Ares appears, leaning against the boulder.

ARES

Help from a god, perhaps.

XENA

What are you doing, Ares? What's your plan?

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

ARES

My plan? My plan is what it's always been. To find that one special warrior who will lead the world into peace and prosperity.

XENA

Me.

ARES

Ahh... no. Not anymore. Funny, but I never really got to know Callisto until you killed her. She's got potential.

XENA

Too bad she's dead.

ARES

True. But... all things are possible. One last question, Xena. Do you now see that you're guilty of murdering Callisto?

XENA

(difficult)

Yes.

Callisto and Ares exchange a look.

CALLISTO

I've been waiting for you to say that.

And, suddenly, she grabs Xena by the arm and neck, and whirls her around, throwing her into the boulder. With a FLASH OF SPARKS:

SMASH CUT TO:

9 INT. VILLAGE HALL - NIGHT (REALITY)

9

Xena POPS UP INTO FRAME with a gasp. She looks around, getting her bearings. She moves quickly to Gabrielle and whispers to her.

XENA

Gabrielle! Wake up! I've figured out the nightmares.

GABRIELLE

What...? What is it?

XENA

Callisto is free. Somehow she's back. And I think she's working with Ares.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

Gabrielle reacts strongly to this. She looks away, then back to Xena, trying to control her feelings.

GABRIELLE

What can we do? If Ares is helping her...

XENA

We have to get to Amphipolis. I can't explain it, but that's where she's heading. She wants revenge. I think she's going to kill my mother.

Gabrielle is wide awake now. She starts to wake Joxer.

XENA

No! Joxer would only get himself killed. Gather up your things. I'll meet you outside.

Gabrielle nods. Xena creeps away.

10 EXT. NEAR WOODS EDGE - NIGHT

10

Xena leaves the Hall. A BEAT, then she looks over to see Ares standing nearby. Without a word, he walks right up to her.

ARES

(smiling)

You look lovely.

Xena smiles, grabs the back of his head, and pulls him into a hungry kiss! He returns it with lust. After a BEAT, they pull apart.

ARES

Welcome back, Callisto.

It should be obvious by now; this is Callisto in Xena's body (henceforth to be referred to as CALLISTO-X).

CALLISTO-X

I wonder how Xena likes her new surroundings?

And, to answer that, we:

CUT TO:

11 INT. UNDERWORLD - NIGHT

11

Where we find Xena in the body of Callisto (XENA-C).
Confused, Xena-C looks around and realizes her situation.
Then she looks upward and screams:

XENA-C

Callisto!!

Off this, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

12 EXT. WOODS #2 - NIGHT

12

Callisto-X and Gabrielle walk along. Gabrielle is holding the reins to Argo. (NOTE: Argo is not being very cooperative.)

GABRIELLE

Xena. If Ares is helping Callisto...

CALLISTO-X

Then we'll just have to defeat him, too. We've done it before. You've done it.

GABRIELLE

So, what do you think her plan will be?

CALLISTO-X

She's going to try and get her army back. But I'm going to beat her to it. If I can remove Theodorus from power, his men might just be stupid enough to follow me.

Argo snorts and pulls back. Gabrielle tries to hold onto the reins.

GABRIELLE

Argo! What's the matter, girl?

(to Callisto-X)

Maybe you'd better take the reins. Something's bothering her.

It's pretty obvious to us what the problem is. Argo can "sense" that something is different with Xena. She pulls away from Callisto-X.

CALLISTO-X

No, you hold her. She's picked up on my feelings. She was like this the last time I went up against Callisto.

(beat)

Gabrielle... I have something important to say. You should have killed Callisto.

Gabrielle starts at this.

GABRIELLE

What?

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

CALLISTO-X

You had every right to, not me. From me, it was murder. And the guilt is going to destroy me. I don't think I can do it again.

GABRIELLE

She has to be stopped.

(realizing)

It's up to me...? Is that what you're saying?

XENA

No, Gabrielle. But she's going to kill my mother. And I don't know if I can bring myself to stop her.

Gabrielle doesn't reply. She just looks to the ground, troubled by this. Callisto-X gives her a look and a small, evil grin.

CUT TO:

13 INT. UNDERWORLD - NIGHT

13

As before, except this time, Xena-C is not alone. Hades stands with her. He is pacing back and forth.

HADES

This is ridiculous. What you're saying is impossible! And it's just what I would expect from you, Callisto.

XENA-C

She got to me through my dreams, Hades. Through my guilt. Ares helped her.

HADES

Guilt? Well... that is possible. The dead can invade the dreams of the guilty.

(then; smiling)

You are smart... so smart... I can see why Xena had to kill you.

XENA-C

I was down here with Marcus. Remember? You allowed him to go back up and help me get back your helmet!

HADES

That's no secret down here. And I'm not comfortable talking-about it.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

XENA-C

I stabbed Marcus in the heart because I love him. You saw it. Who else would know that but you?

HADES

(darkens)

No one except Marcus. And he wouldn't tell.

(rage)

I can't believe Ares would do this! He's really overstepped his bounds!

XENA-C

If you help me, we can defeat him.

HADES

You? Your guilt allowed her to escape, Xena. You're not totally innocent here.

(then)

I can only give you one full day to find Callisto. After that, someone goes to Tartarus. Take it or leave it.

Off this, we:

CUT TO:

14 EXT. WOODS #3 - NIGHT

14

Callisto-X is looking at Gabrielle's staff as they walk.

CALLISTO-X

I can fit the end of this with a dagger... A mere staff is not going to stop Callisto.

With that, she takes a stance that has the staff held like a pike. She jabs it forward. Then, hands it to Gabrielle.

XENA

Try it.

GABRIELLE

I'd rather take my chances without the dagger.

CALLISTO-X

There are no chances with Callisto. She doesn't allow "chance." Not when she knows I killed her family.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

GABRIELLE

But you didn't...

CALLISTO-X

I can't lie anymore. I knew there were women and children in that village. But I ordered it burned to the ground.

(then)

You can understand the pain Callisto feels... as if her very heart and soul were ripped out and burned to ashes... along with her family. What's death compared to that? And what would life have been without it?

A BEAT. Callisto-X is silent, as close to introspective as we've ever seen her. Then:

GABRIELLE

Xena... I can't feel sorry for her. Not after all she chose to do.

CALLISTO-X

(snaps)

As if you know what choices are really about!

(then)

I'm... sorry. It's hard for me to think about... my guilt.

GABRIELLE

This scares me, Xena. I'm seeing a side of you I never knew.

CALLISTO-X

And I had hoped you never would. But it's eating me away inside. I'm so afraid that it might destroy my soul. And I might become like Callisto.

This thought truly frightens Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE

No! I'm here for you. I'll do whatever I can.

CALLISTO-X

I know you will. I know.

They continue walking.

CUT TO:

15 EXT. LAKE - NIGHT

15

A couple of FISHERMEN are on the shore, throwing nets into the water. Their swords are on the ground. One of them feels something pulling on the net. He reacts. His friend comments:

FISHERMAN #1
That's a big fish!

They see their catch is:

FISHERMAN #1
It's... It's Callisto!

They turn to run, but Fisherman #1 gets tangled in the net and falls. Xena-C stands over him.

FISHERMAN #1
Please! I'm from Darman... you wiped out my village. Please, have mercy on me!

XENA-C
I'm not Callisto.

FISHERMAN #1
Okay! You're not Callisto! Just don't kill me, please!

XENA-C
Very well. But I'm taking your sword. Now, go. Run.

The man nods, scrambles to his feet and rushes off. This is going to be extremely difficult.

CUT TO:

16 EXT. SUNRISE - DAY

16

To establish the morning.

17 EXT. WOODS #4 - DAY - POV

17

Someone is watching Callisto-X and Gabrielle work out. Callisto-X is sitting on a stump, looking mildly bored and more than a little angry. Gabrielle holds her staff, trying to imitate the "pike" position we saw Callisto-X do earlier.

CLOSER - GABRIELLE AND CALLISTO-X

As Gabrielle lunges the staff into a tree.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

CALLISTO-X

Again!

Gabrielle hits the tree again.

CALLISTO-X

Again!!

She repeats it, frustrated.

CALLISTO-X

Come on! What are you doing? Focus on your enemy!

GABRIELLE

I'm trying! This is new for me, okay?

CALLISTO-X

It's not new, it's just buried. You had that fire when you went after Callisto the first time, remember?

GABRIELLE

Yes, I remember! And I don't want to go there again! Xena... I can't do this! The idea of killing...

CALLISTO-X

That's not what we're talking about. Callisto is already dead. She has to be sent back to Tartarus.

(re: the staff)

Now... this is your weapon. And this...

(re: tree)

...is your enemy. Strike!

Gabrielle hesitates, then jabs the staff against the tree.

CALLISTO-X

Harder! Brace your back foot! Lunge with your body!

Again. Still not energetic. Callisto-X stands right in front of her, her eyes flashing with anger.

CALLISTO-X

All right, Gabrielle. I'm Callisto! Right here, in front of you! I only look like Xena, but I'm really Callisto! Kill me!

Gabrielle jabs, but Callisto-X deflects it easily.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED: 2

17

CALLISTO-X

I said kill me, little girl! Here...
in the chest! Put me out of my misery!
Come on!

Gabrielle is getting angry. She jabs quicker, but Callisto-X is still able to deflect it.

CALLISTO-X

You're hopeless! I killed your love!
Remember? I put my sword through him
and felt his warm blood on my hand, and
you can't even avenge his --

With a YELL, Gabrielle shoves the staff forward, catching Callisto-X by surprise. The staff hits her in the chest and knocks her to the ground. Gabrielle can't say anything, she just breathes heavily, consumed by her emotions. Callisto-X looks up at her.

CALLISTO-X

That's good, Gabrielle. That's very,
very good.

She stands and takes the staff from her. As Callisto-X attaches her breast-dagger to the end of it:

GABRIELLE

I think I'm going to be sick.

Gabrielle drops onto the ground, exhausted and upset.

GABRIELLE

For a moment there... in my mind... you
were Callisto. And I hated you.

CALLISTO-X

Hatred is not something to be feared.
It's a part of all of us. And, for
some... it's all we've ever known.

(then)

I know it's not easy. And I'm proud of
you. Now, stay here and rest. I need
to talk to the man who's spying on us.

Gabrielle looks around. When she looks back, Callisto-X is gone.

18 EXT. NEAR WOODS #4 - DAY

18

The man, MORLAN, creeps along. Someone taps him on the shoulder. He turns...

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

CALLISTO-X

stands there. He pulls a dagger out but her hand strikes with the speed of a cobra, gripping his neck in a vice-like claw. She applies pressure and takes the dagger from him.

CALLISTO-X

Thank you.

(recognizing)

Morlan... how good to see you!

He only gurgles in response.

CALLISTO-X

How many times did I tell you to follow from the trees? But, no, you're too lazy. Oh, that's right. You don't know who I am. No matter. Now, I'm going to release your neck ever so slightly so that you can answer a question, okay? And don't try anything or I'll rip your spine out of your throat.

He nods. Her grip loosens slightly.

CALLISTO-X

Good boy. Now, where is Theodorus' camp? Hmmm?

MORLAN

At... at the base of the cliffs... near the rockfall... in the caverns...

CALLISTO-X

Thank you.

CLOSE ON CALLISTO-X

as the muscles in her arm tighten and we HEAR the sickening sound of flesh and bone being crushed. She smiles for a beat, then her demeanor changes and she spins with a SCREAM.

WIDER ON SCENE

Callisto-X pulls her sword just in time to deflect the blade of Ares! He smiles. Callisto-X returns it.

ARES

Very good, my sweet.

CALLISTO-X

Don't call me that.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: 2

18

Another attack and counter. And another. As serious as the attack is, it's just foreplay...

ARES

Oh, you'll be so good. As soon as I finish training you. Rebuilding your army is a good idea, but what are you doing with the brat?

CALLISTO-X

That's my business, I have plans for her.

ARES

Stop thinking about revenge. Xena is sure to have left the Underworld by now. Don't even think of taking her on yet.

Another clash of blades. Their faces are close.

CALLISTO-X

Don't think of stopping me.

She kisses him savagely, then pushes him back and swings at him. He blocks it.

ARES

Hades has given her only one day. After that, she'll be condemned to Tartarus for eternity in your place. You've only to avoid her until then. Now, kill the girl and move on.

CALLISTO-X

First things first. I promised you an army, Ares. I promised my allegiance to control this world. But, you promised me satisfaction!

He knocks her sword from her grasp and spins her around, until he holds her tightly in his arms.

ARES

I did, didn't I?

With that comes another savage kiss. As they drop out of FRAME:

DISSOLVE TO:

19 EXT. WOODS #4 - DAY

19

Gabrielle is practicing with the staff/pike. Argo's saddle is on the ground. Argo is tied to a tree. Gabrielle is concentrating as she jabs the staff forward, using her entire body to enhance the thrust. Then, in a move that Callisto-X obviously taught her, she twists the shaft as if ripping the flesh. She freezes for a moment, holding the image as her eyes close for a beat in pain. Argo's snort alerts her.

Callisto-X comes out of the woods, walking past Argo, who pulls back. Callisto-X barely gives Argo a look.

GABRIELLE

Xena! Who was following us?

CALLISTO-X

A spy. Or, an assassin. Or both. He told me Theodorus is taking the army to a cave not far from here.

GABRIELLE

Where is he? The spy, I mean.

CALLISTO-X

I let him go. With a warning to leave this area.

Callisto-X picks up the water canteen from the saddle and washes her hands. Argo snorts again. Callisto-X looks at her.

CALLISTO-X

We have to get moving now. There's always the chance that the spy didn't take my advice.

GABRIELLE

Okay. As soon as we get Argo saddled...

CALLISTO-X

No. Argo has to stay here. She's not herself. I don't want to risk her getting hurt.

GABRIELLE

Are you sure? I mean, she's just been a little skittish.

CALLISTO-X

Gabrielle, let's move along. I have to get Argo's reins off and hide the saddle. I'll catch up. Go.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

Gabrielle nods. She picks up her gear and takes off. Callisto-X takes a drink from the canteen and looks off after Gabrielle. When she is sure Gabrielle is out of sight, she turns back to Argo.

CALLISTO-X

You can't figure it out, can you? I look like Xena. I smell like Xena. But something tells you I'm not.

Callisto-X approaches Argo. Argo pulls back, but the reins hold her fast.

CALLISTO-X

Poor dumb animal. You don't know what's going on. You can't figure out whether to run or stay. Well... you should have run.

ARGO'S POV - ON CALLISTO-X

as she pulls her sword out of her scabbard, swings it overhead and down TOWARD CAMERA. As we imagine the impact, we go to BLACK:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

20 EXT. WOODS #4 - DAY

20

The same area that we just left. A BEAT, then Xena-C comes through the bushes, her sword out and ready, just in case. Suddenly, she looks toward camera and sees something that makes her freeze. A SMALL WHIMPER is heard. The CAMERA DROPS to include Argo's' bloody side into our frame.

XENA-C

Argo...

Xena-C drops her sword and rushes to her. Argo's eyes are wide with confusion. Xena-C tries to comfort her friend. She holds Argo's head for a moment, trying not to become incapacitated by her feelings. Tears form in her eyes.

XENA-C

It's going to be okay, girl. It is...
I'm so sorry... Hold still...

She looks Argo over. (NOTE: The angles are judicious enough to get the idea without seeing any gaping wounds.)

XENA-C

Okay... Okay, I know what she was
trying to do. It's not going to work.

She gives Argo a quick kiss on the forehead and rushes over to grab up her sword. She hacks through a tree limb. A milky white substance oozes out. She quickly tastes it. Bitter, but what she's looking for. She grabs up some leaves and soaks them. Then, she turns to find:

JOXER

standing between her and Argo. His horse is in the background. He bites his lip and tries to look as intense as possible as he holds his sword toward her.

XENA-C

Joxer!

JOXER

Stay back! I mean it, Callisto! I
won't give you a chance this time!

XENA-C

I don't have time for this. Get out of
my way.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

JOXER

No! This is Xena's horse! I don't know what you did to her, but you're not getting the chance to finish the job.

Xena-C takes a step toward him. He steps forward.

JOXER

I mean it!

XENA-C

Put down the sword, Joxer, and I'll explain.

JOXER

Oh, right! You'll explain over my dead body. Well, maybe. But you're not going to kill this horse.

Xena-C shakes her head and starts toward Argo. Joxer charges her, his sword over his head. She deftly dodges him, punching his wrist, sending his sword flying. Her foot against his ankle drops him to the ground. Xena-C kneels next to Argo and begins working, using the soaked leaves as a compress.

XENA-C

(to Argo)

This is going to hurt a bit, girl, but I have to put this against your lung.

She reaches inside the wound (that we can't see) with the leaves. Joxer has regained his feet. He charges her from behind. Without looking, she backfists him with her free hand. He plops flat on his ass.

XENA-C

Joxer, I want you to listen to me and listen good. This is going to be hard to believe, but I'm not Callisto. It's me, Xena.

Joxer has a comeback for that, but he doesn't know what it is. It's such a preposterous idea that he pauses to consider it.

XENA-C

Callisto is working with Ares. I talked Hades into letting me out. But I have only one day... less, now.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: 2

20

JOXER

Oh, right. You talked Hades into letting you out. Uh-huh. And for proof, you offer... what?

XENA-C

Have you ever seen Callisto use pressure points?

JOXER

No. Only Xena knows how to do that.

XENA-C

Come here. Look.

Joxer hesitantly comes over, looking at Argo, expecting her to do something on the horse. Quickly, Xena-C spins and hits Joxer with the "pinch." He drops again. His eyes grow wide.

JOXER

Okay! You've made your point! Release it!

She releases him and turns back to Argo. Joxer gets up and stares at Xena-C, studying the similarity.

XENA-C

Stop that and give me your dagger.

He hands her his "secret" mini-dagger. She takes it and uses it to open Argo's wound more.

JOXER

If you look like her... she looks like you!

XENA-C

And Gabrielle's with her.

JOXER

She's with her?

XENA-C

Callisto won't do anything to her until I show up.

JOXER

Did she try to kill Argo?

XENA-C

No. She didn't want to. She knew it would be more painful if I had to put Argo down. But I know-a few things she doesn't. Argo won't die...

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: 3

20

Joxer looks relieved. Then:

XENA-C

Thank you. For trying to defend her.
Only someone with a brave heart would
have stood up to Callisto for a horse.

JOXER

Yes. Well, that's me. A warrior's
warrior. Brave as they come.

(then)

You're welcome.

Xena-C is finished. She strokes Argo's brow.

XENA-C

Okay, girl. That's it. The rest is up
to you. You'll be able to walk in an
hour.

(to Joxer)

We'll wait for her to get to her feet.
There's a fishing village not far from
here. You'll have to take her there
and find someone to care for her.

JOXER

I should have killed Callisto when I
first met her.

XENA-C

No guilt, Joxer. Guilt has no place
when dealing with Callisto.

(back to Argo)

It's going to be okay, girl.

She strokes Argo's mane softly, but her eyes harden with the
thought of her enemy. Off this, we:

CUT TO:

21 INT. HIDING CAVE - DAY

21

This is the temporary headquarters of Theodorus and his men.
They are eating, cleaning weapons and the like. Suddenly, a
NOISE is heard from the entrance. A man comes staggering
back into the cave and falls to the ground at Theodorus'
feet. A BEAT, then Callisto-X enters the cave. The men
murmur, "It's Xena!" They start to pull their swords.

THEODORUS

No! Don't give her a reason! Put the
swords away.

(MORE) -

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

THEODORUS (cont'd)

(smiling)

She's not a threat if we're not a threat.

With that, he tosses his sword to the ground. As do all the other men.

CALLISTO-X

Really? Is that what you think of me?

THEODORUS

Oh, yes, Xena. You only kill when threatened. It's some sort of code you have. Callisto was stupid, she gave you an excuse to kill her. But not me. So, we talk.

CALLISTO-X

Talk? Well, I just don't feel much like talking.

THEODORUS

Then get out of here. Or kill me in cold blood. Oh, yes... there's that "code" of yours that stops you. I forgot!

He turns his back on Callisto-X, LAUGHING with his men. Callisto-X just smiles innocently.

Theodorus' LAUGH is cut short as Callisto-X grabs his hair, pulls his head back, and runs a dagger's blade across his throat, opening his neck like a Pez dispenser. Theodorus makes a GURGLING sound and drops to the ground. The other men stare in stunned silence. Callisto-X walks over to a man, GRESSIUS, and wipes the dagger on his shirt.

CALLISTO-X

Gressius... Who will you follow now?

GRESSIUS

You! Xena, Warrior Princess!

She looks around the room. They recover and, one by one, start to cheer "Xena!" At that moment, Gabrielle creeps into the cavern. One of the men reacts and grabs up his sword. Gabrielle uses the dull end of her staff to knock the sword down, then spins the pointed end toward him in a "pike" position, ready to jab forward... but she doesn't. He freezes.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: 2

21

CALLISTO-X

Leave her alone!
(smiles)
She's with me.

Gabrielle walks over to her as Callisto-X speaks to the men.

CALLISTO-X

Gather up your weapons! You'll be on
the march by this afternoon.

The men start to comply. Gabrielle looks down at Theodorus.

CALLISTO-X

I tried to talk him into surrendering,
but... I was forced to defend myself.
(then)
I have an army again.

GABRIELLE

Just to defend Amphipolis?

CALLISTO-X

Of course. Afterwards, I'll send them
away. I'll send them to Athens to
stand trial. Yes. But first, we have
to deal with Callisto. I'll have the
people of my village brought here.
With this Army protecting them, you and
I can double back and find her.

Gabrielle nods as Callisto-X moves over to Gressius. Away
from Gabrielle, she gives him his orders.

CALLISTO-X

You're to take my army to Amphipolis.
Capture the town and bring all the
people here. Don't forget any of them,
do you understand? And don't
kill anyone!

GRESSIUS

Yes, Xena.

Callisto-X can't resist a LAUGH at being called "Xena."
Gressius moves off. Callisto-X turns and sees:

CALLISTO-X'S POV - ON ARES

He stares at her firmly from across the cavern. He doesn't
look too happy. A BEAT, then he disappears again.

BACK TO SCENE - ON CALLISTO-X

She just smiles and turns to her work.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. ROAD - DAY

22

Joxer leads his horse, following Xena-C. Xena-C is looking at the ground, following a trail. (NOTE: They are a fair distance from the nearest brush)

JOXER

When you think back on it, Callisto and I never went at it one-on-one. It's a shame.

XENA-C

Amazing...

JOXER

Not really. She always had her army or I had the two of you to protect.

XENA-C

I mean it's amazing you've managed to live so long. Your heart's in the right place, Joxer, but you're going to get yourself killed.

JOXER

(triumphant)

Hah! Not if I kill myself first.

(then)

You know what I mean. Are we still on their trail?

XENA-C

Yes. They've picked up speed from where we found the body of the warrior. I'm guessing she got him to tell her where Theodorus is.

JOXER

Why would she want to know that?

XENA-C

She wants her army back. And I'm sure Ares wants her to have one.

JOXER

You think they're going to follow her? I mean, she looks like you now.

XENA-C

She can be persuasive.

JOXER

(sighing)

Once again... she has an army to protect her. Another opportunity lost.

Xena-C just shakes her head. Meanwhile:

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

POV - ON XENA-C AND JOXER

Someone is watching them from the brush. We can't hear them from here. PULL BACK to reveal Callisto-X and Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE

I don't believe it... Joxer wouldn't join with her. She must be forcing him.

CALLISTO-X

He could easily attack her, but he doesn't. No, Gabrielle... I suspected this. Remember when we first met Joxer? He wanted to join Callisto's army. Looks like he succeeded.

GABRIELLE

No... no, there must be something else. I know Joxer. He must think he has some sort of a plan to stop her.

CALLISTO-X

Stop trying to figure out why Joxer is with her and consider why Callisto allows it. He must be important to her for some reason.

GABRIELLE

You must be right. She would have killed him by now.

CALLISTO-X

I'm going to distract them. You circle around, use the underbrush for cover. Stay back until she's concentrating on me. Okay?

Gabrielle nods and starts to go. Callisto-X grabs her arm.

CALLISTO-X

She killed Perdicas. Keep thinking that. If we hesitate for a moment... she'll kill us.

She releases Gabrielle and she takes off. Callisto-X gets a big grin on her face and turns back to watch:

JOXER AND XENA-C

Xena-C stops and looks around.

JOXER

What? What is it?

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: 2

22

XENA-C

I don't know. It's hard for me to tell with this body, but... I think someone is..

A WHISTLING sound is heard. Xena-C realizes what is happening as the chakram heads straight for Joxer's slack jaw. Xena-C reacts, pulling her arm up and jamming her elbow into Joxer's face. This accomplishes two things: it drops Joxer to the ground and out of danger, and puts Xena-C's hand in position to catch the chakram. Which she does. Callisto-X FLIPS HEAD OVER HAND and comes to a stop a few yards from Xena-C. Xena-C pulls the chakram back, ready to let it fly.

CALLISTO-X

Uh, uh, uh. I'll just catch it and send it back.

Xena-C sends it flying... and into a tree trunk, where it wedges. She pulls her sword. Callisto-X slowly pulls hers.

XENA-C

Where's Gabrielle?

CALLISTO-X

Gabrielle? Sorry, but I'm Xena and she's my little friend. And if anything happened to her, Xena would be crushed, wouldn't she? Maybe something has happened to her. Perhaps I've already killed her and hung her body from the tree... there.

She indicates by looking up. When Xena-C looks up, Callisto-X charges her and the battle is on! The two combatants, so evenly matched, go at it using everything at their disposal. Callisto-X swings her sword and Xena-C does a dive over the blade, deflecting the counter blow to her back by swinging her sword behind her.

Xena-C spins, and stabs... and air, as Callisto-X flips over her. Xena-C spins, swinging her sword at Callisto-X's neck. Callisto-X drops down into an ankle sweep that catches Xena-C and drops her to the ground. Callisto-X slashes downward and Xena-C claps her palms together, catching the blade between them.

CALLISTO-X

Oh, I like that move!

Xena-C kicks at Callisto-X's knee, dropping her to the ground. The sword goes flying as Xena-C does a kip-up to her feet.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: 3

22

Callisto-X pulls the spy's dagger from her boot and brings it down. Xena-C launches herself through the air at Callisto-X, her legs spread apart and catching Callisto-X in a "scissors." She tightens and Callisto-X spins in the air and to the ground. With her dazed, Xena-C locks Callisto-X's arm, grabs the dagger from her hand, lifts it high...

GABRIELLE

Callisto!

Xena-C freezes. She turns her head. Not more than six feet away, Gabrielle has the pike pointed right at her neck. She is in a lunge position and is ready to go. Callisto-X WHISPERS so that only Xena-C can hear her.

CALLISTO-X

Go ahead, Xena. You can take her out with the dagger. Or you can let her kill you.

(smiles)

Looks like someone's going to die. And either way, I win!

Off this situation, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

23 EXT. ROAD - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

23

Gabrielle is braced, holding her staff/pike on Xena-C as she holds a dagger above Callisto-X. Joxer lies helplessly off to one side.

CALLISTO-X

Gabrielle! Kill her! Hurry!

Gabrielle tenses, but has yet to work up the nerve.

XENA-C

Wait! Gabrielle... listen to me... I'm going to tell you the impossible.
I'm Xena!

CALLISTO-X

Oh, that's great! That's very, very good, Callisto. Do you expect her to believe you? She's up to something, Gabrielle!

XENA-C

Callisto tricked me with my guilt. She's working with Ares.

Callisto-X looks directly at Gabrielle...

CALLISTO-X

Remember Perdicas...

Gabrielle stiffens. Then she brings the pike back ready to strike. Xena-C lowers the dagger a bit.

GABRIELLE

You killed Perdicas...

XENA-C

Ask her if she knows your dreams, Gabrielle.

Gabrielle pauses. Callisto-X looks to Xena-C.

XENA-C

Remember? You told me all you could dream about since Perdicas died was... what? Ask her.

GABRIELLE

(to Callisto-X)

What was it? What have I been dreaming?

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

CALLISTO-X
She's trying to trick you!

GABRIELLE
What was it?

Callisto-X is on the spot.

CALLISTO-X
It's obvious. You've been dreaming of
this moment. The moment you finally
get to avenge his death!

GABRIELLE
(shocked)
No... I haven't dreamt anything.
(to Xena-C)
Xena...?

A BEAT. Gabrielle stumbles back a step in shock. Callisto-X knows immediately that she's been had. She reaches up and twists the dagger out of Xena-C's hand as she puts an elbow into Xena-C's face and backflips from her.

Xena-C recovers, but Callisto-X has jumped onto the back of Joxer's horse and spurs him on, turning only long enough to throw the dagger at Gabrielle.

Xena-C leaps sideways and snags the dagger out of the air. She lands hard on her side. Callisto-X LAUGHS and, in a moment, is out of sight.

Gabrielle rushes up to help Xena-C, but hesitates. This is, after all, the face of the woman who killed Perdiccas.

GABRIELLE
Are you... are you okay?

Xena-C gets up.

XENA-C
Yeah.

GABRIELLE
I almost killed you!

XENA-C
That was her plan.

Gabrielle smashes the end of the pike on the ground, breaking the dagger off the end.

GABRIELLE
How could this happen? -How did she...?

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: 2

23

XENA-C
I'll explain later.

She picks up the breast dagger as we hear a MOAN. Joxer is coming to. He opens his eyes and sees Gabrielle. He starts a bit.

JOXER
Ah! Gabrielle!
(then; seeing Xena-C)
AHHH!

He jumps up. Then, clears his head.

XENA-C
It's me, Joxer.

JOXER
Yeah. Right. Just a reflex.
(looks around)
She got away from me again, didn't she?

Xena-C starts heading out, but not in the direction that Callisto-X left by.

XENA-C
We have to hurry. I don't have much time left before Hades calls me back to Tartarus.

GABRIELLE
Xena! Callisto has your village. She said she was going to have them all taken to a cave.

JOXER
To use them as hostages?

XENA-C
No. She wants them to die the way her village died; by fire. And she wants me there to see it.

JOXER
What's the plan?

XENA-C
We have some things to get first. But Callisto used my guilt to betray me. I have to turn that back on her.

Off this, we:

CUT TO:

24 INT. HIDING CAVE - DAY

24

In the background, we can see people being herded into a large cage. Gressius is in charge here. Callisto-X enters. The men cheer "Xena." She goes up to Gressius.

CALLISTO-X

Is this everyone?

GRESSIUS

Everyone we could find.

CALLISTO-X

Have the men throw hay in with them. Then get torches and stand by. Xen... Callisto is coming. When she shows up, we burn them all. Understand?

GRESSIUS

No. But it will be done.

He heads off. Then:

CYRENE

Xena!

Callisto-X turns to find Xena's mother in the cage. Callisto-X walks over to her, fascinated in a sense at meeting Xena's real mother (as opposed to the image Ares used in the dream).

CYRENE

Xena, what are you doing? Please, let us go!

CALLISTO-X

Look into these eyes, old woman. Xena's not home. But she'll be here. And she'll get to see me kill her mother the way she killed mine!

CALLISTO

(shocked)

Who are you?

CALLISTO-X

Just another loving daughter.

And she moves away from the cage to Gressius.

CALLISTO-X

(re: Cyrene)

That woman. Make sure the first torch lands at her feet.

Gressius gets his torch and stands next to the cage with the rest of the men. Callisto-X stands by herself.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

CALLISTO-X

Come on, Xena... you don't have much time. Come to me, Xena.

Ares appears next to her. He is pissed.

ARES

What do you think you're doing? If you can just wait, you'll have it all! In a short time...

CALLISTO-X

In a short time, Xena will be back in the Underworld and I won't have my satisfaction.

ARES

You think you know her, but you don't. I do. And you're giving her every opportunity to defeat you. I forbid it!

CALLISTO-X

You? Forbid me?

(laughs)

No one, god or man, forbids me from anything! All my anger, all my hatred, it's mine for Xena, not yours. When I'm done with her, you can have what's left. I won't care.

ARES

This was not my plan.

CALLISTO-X

Funny. This was always my plan. Yes, I used you. But you can still claim victory if you let me finish what I came here for!

Ares is so angry, he doesn't reply. He disappears as:

Something comes sailing through the air and lands at Gressius' feet. Whatever it is, it breaks open, splashing Gressius with some sort of black liquid. He freezes, takes some in his hand and smells it.

GRESSIUS

It's oil! Put out your torches!

More of the objects come sailing in, splashing the other men. Gressius jams the torch into the cavern wall, grinding it out like a cigarette.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: 2

24

CALLISTO-X
Stand your ground!

GRESSIUS
We'll all be burned alive!

ANGLE - JOXER AND GABRIELLE

They are in another area of the cavern, behind some rocks. They have a barrel of the black liquid. They are dipping these "balloons" into it and launching them over the rocks.

BACK TO SCENE

The balloons keep coming and the men are running for their lives, a frustrated Callisto-X SCREAMING at them. Finally, she is alone in the middle of this cavern. She looks around.

CALLISTO-X
Where are you, Xena? Time is not on your side right now! Show yourself!

Xena-C pops up on top of a large rock and flips into the area.

XENA-C
I'm here.

She attacks Callisto-X. The swords clash and Xena-C backs off. Callisto-X turns to the cage, where Cyrene stands. Cyrene backs away. Callisto-X slashes at the ropes binding the door. But, before she can enter, Xena-C lands behind her.

XENA-C
Callisto!

Callisto-X spins and the battle is on.

CALLISTO-X
It makes no difference. If Hades takes you back, you'll still know that I killed her! Just like you killed my mother and sister!

At that moment, Xena-C starts to fade. We can see through her.

XENA-C
It's happening, Callisto...

CALLISTO-X
Go ahead, I still have my revenge.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: 3

24

She turns her back and walks toward the cage and Cyrene.

The fading Xena-C suddenly pulls out a dart and throws it! It hits squarely in Callisto-X's neck. She reacts and jerks it out. She looks to Xena-C, but she has now faded... gone back to the Underworld. Callisto-X LAUGHS and turns back toward Cyrene. But... something is wrong. Her steps are not sure, her vision becomes blurred. She stumbles a few steps, then drops to the ground. As she hits the floor, we:

CUT TO:

25 INT. UNDERWORLD CAVERN - DAY

25

Callisto-X pops up INTO FRAME and scans the room suspiciously. This place looks as spooky as we can make it. The cavern in front of her is dark with shadows, a large wall of rock is behind her.

Xena-C steps out of the shadows.

CALLISTO-X

Xena... you put me to sleep. This is a dream.

XENA-C

Only half right, Callisto. As you said, the dream is the border between the real world and the Underworld.

Callisto-X holds the sword in front of her threateningly.

CALLISTO-X

It makes no difference. I can wake up from this nightmare. And I have no guilt to make my dreams restless.

XENA-C

Don't you?

CALLISTO-X

As evil as you think I am, Xena, my soul is clean. Because it's all on you. You started it when you killed my family.

XENA-C

Are you thinking about your family? Because when you think of the dead...

ARLEIA

...the dead can hear you.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

Out from the shadows steps ARLEIA. A woman who looks not much older than Callisto. Callisto-X is shocked to see her.

CALLISTO-X

Mother...?

(to Xena-C)

Look at her, Xena. Look at my mother.
She's here to remind you of your guilt.

ARLEIA-

No! I'm not here because of Xena.
I've come because of you!

CALLISTO-X

(genuinely surprised)

Me?

ARLEIA

Yes. Every time you killed... you were
killing me.

XENA-C

How many of your victims had faces,
Callisto? How many had families? Sons
and daughters who loved their parents.
How many were just like your mother
when they died at your hand?

CALLISTO-X

No... you can't make me feel guilty.

XENA-C

You're right. Only you can do that.

Callisto-X has a hesitation in her voice. It's getting to her...

CALLISTO-X

No... You're responsible... it's
your guilt...

Some people move in the shadows. Faceless, but we can make them out.

XENA-C

I've got my own past to deal with.
But I'm not taking the weight of your
crimes anymore.

ARLEIA

Look around you, my daughter. These
people didn't need to die.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 2

25

CALLISTO-X

(panicked)

No! Go away! It's her! She did this,
not me!

XENA-C

You can't shut it out! It's like a
crashing wave. Once it starts, there's
no holding it back!

More people appear, moving in the shadows. They MURMUR her
name as they begin to close in on her. She backs up. For
the first time... we see fear in her eyes.

CALLISTO-X

Mother...!

ARLEIA

I love you, Callisto. You'll always be
my daughter. But you have to face your
crimes.

She turns and walks into the shadows. The crowd is pressing
in. Callisto-X is backed up to the rock wall behind her.
As her back hits it, HANDS BREAK THROUGH THE ROCK AND GRAB
HER. They gouge her body, the nails ripping into her flesh.

At that moment, Ares appears off to the side.

CALLISTO-X

Ares! Help me!

XENA-C

Stay out of this, Ares!

ARES

You're hardly the one to give orders to
the god of war!

Hades appears next to him, a stern look on his face.

HADES

What about me? Down here, I rule.
Now, get out of my Underworld!

ARES

(beat)

I wouldn't dream of interfering, Uncle.
(to Callisto-X)
You had your chance.
(to Xena-C)
And you... you'll have another. Some
day.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 3

25

With that, he blows a kiss to Xena-C and disappears.
Callisto-X SCREAMS as the hands tighten their grip and pull
her INTO THE ROCK with an explosion!

SMASH CUT TO:

26 INT. HIDING CAVE - DAY

26

Xena wakes up. A crowd of people are gathered around.
Joxer and Gabrielle have sword and staff pointed at her.
A BEAT.

GABRIELLE

When I was born... how many toes did I
have on my right foot?

XENA

Six.

Gabrielle smiles and throws herself into Xena's arms,
hugging her. Everyone relaxes.

JOXER

You had six toes?

Cyrene steps forward and hugs her daughter.

CYRENE

I'm a little confused, but I'm glad
you're back!

And, off the CHEERING of the crowd, we:

DISSOLVE TO:

27 EXT. WOODS NEAR AMPHIPOLIS - NIGHT

27

Xena is standing with Argo. Argo has dressing on her side
and neck. Xena is inspecting it. The SOUND of celebration
can be heard in the background.

XENA

What do you say we just walk you for a
few days?

Argo makes a noise. Xena smiles and strokes her neck.
Gabrielle walks up with her staff and pouch.

GABRIELLE

Okay, I'm here. Aren't you even going
to say good-bye to everyone?

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

XENA

They don't need good-byes from me.
Did you sleep well?

GABRIELLE

I slept great. How about you?

XENA

Yes. Yes, I did. I'm proud of you,
Gabrielle. Even when you thought
Callisto was about to kill me... you
couldn't...

GABRIELLE

(interrupting)

But for that moment... you weren't
sure, were you?

XENA

That's true.

GABRIELLE

When I thought you were about to die,
I didn't think. I reacted. It's
something I have to think about. I
mean... I'm still not sure what I would
have done. But I know I can't go back
on who I am. You taught me that.

XENA

No. You've learned that. There's a
difference.

GABRIELLE

(then; grinning)

I dreamed a wonderful story. Want to
hear it?

XENA

I'd love to.

They start to walk. Gabrielle begins her story...

GABRIELLE

I sing the song of Perdicas... The boy
I knew... and the man I love...

From this, we:

FADE OUT.

THE END