



**"BEEN THERE DONE THAT"**

by

**Hilary J. Bader**

**SEASON 3  
EPISODE #2**

Prod. #V0473

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Been There, Done That"

Written by  
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Directed by  
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Revised Page: 39

Executive Producers  
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SHOOTING DRAFT  
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XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Been There, Done That"

CAST LIST

XENA  
GABRIELLE

JOXER  
EDOS  
TYBELUS  
NERON  
HERMIA  
LORD LYCOST  
LORD MENOS  
CASCA  
ALTARA  
PERION  
TIUS  
MAN #1  
MAN #2  
APOTHECARY

(EE-dos)  
(TIB-el-us)  
(NEAR-on)  
(HER-mi-a)  
(LIE-coast)  
(MAY-nos)  
(CAZ-ca)  
(al-TAR-a)  
(PER-ee-on)  
(TIE-us)

Referred to in Dialog:

LENARUS (le-NAR-us)

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XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Been There, Done That"

SET LIST

INTERIORS:

STABLES

EXTERIORS:

TOWN SQUARE  
ALLEY  
MOUTH OF ALLEY  
STABLES  
STABLES' ROOF  
TOWN HALL  
LYCOST COURTYARD  
JOXER'S FUNERAL PYRE  
CAMPFIRE

Prod. #V0473

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Been There, Done That"

CHRONOLOGY

DAY 1

SCENES # 1 - 4  
SCENES # 6 - 11  
SCENES #14 - 43  
SCENES #45 - 52

NIGHT 1

SCENE # 5  
SCENES #12 - 13  
SCENE #44

DAY 2

SCENE #53

xenagabriele.com



1 CONTINUED:

1

XENA  
(to Edos; taking horseshoe  
from around Joxer's neck)  
Reminds me. Where can I get my horse  
shoed?

EDOS  
There's a blacksmith, other end of  
town. He can fix you up a set, and I  
can shoe her right here.  
(wary)  
He's from a rival House, though.  
You'll have to pick them up yourself.

XENA  
Fine. We'll be back this afternoon.

FADE TO:

2 EXT. TOWN SQUARE - LATE AFTERNOON

2

Gabrielle, Joxer and Xena walk across the square, heading  
for an ALLEY. Joxer carries FOUR NEW HORSESHOES. He holds  
ONE in his right hand, aiming across the square. He swings  
his arm back. Gabrielle catches his arm on the backswing  
just before it hits her jaw. She's had enough.

GABRIELLE  
I think I'll get us some goose eggs for  
the road.

JOXER  
(eagerly)  
I'll go with you!  
(then; suave cover)  
After all, strange town, it could be  
dangerous.

GABRIELLE  
(idea dawning)  
Y'know, you're right. Maybe Xena  
should go.

Seeing what Gabrielle's up to, Xena shoots her a wry look as  
Joxer takes the bait.

JOXER  
Why? You think I can't handle it?  
I'm the one who got us those eggs to  
begin with. You want a big goose egg,  
I'm your man. You'll see.

And turning, he strides off as the women watch. Then:

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

XENA

What happens when he finds out you hate  
goose eggs?

Gabrielle just smiles, and the two continue past...

The center of the square where TYBELUS - a gruff, angry  
teenager - and NERON - a smaller, gentler lad - argue  
loudly. Both wear swords as their kinsmen hover around the  
square, waiting to see the outcome of the confrontation. A  
pretty teenage girl - HERMIA - watches closely.

TYBELUS

What jackass taught you people how to  
drive a cart?

NERON

I heard about Casca, Tybelus.

3 EXT. ALLEY - LATE AFTERNOON (CONTINUOUS)

3

Ignoring what seems like a trivial argument, Gabrielle and  
Xena turn down the alley. TWO MEN lean against the walls on  
opposite sides of the alley eyeing one another, while O.S.:

NERON (O.S.)

It was a terrible accident.

TYBELUS (O.S.)

There are no accidents between the  
House of Menos and the House of Lycost.

JOXER (O.S.)

Let me just interject a thought here.

TYBELUS (O.S.)

Casca is dead! And now --

Xena HEARS Tybelus' SWORD being drawn out of it's SHEATH.

XENA

Joxer!

JOXER (O.S.)

Menos. Lycost. What's in a na--

Whirling, Xena runs back up the alley, Gabrielle behind her.

4 EXT. TOWN SQUARE - LATE AFTERNOON (CONTINUOUS)

4

Xena RUSHES into the square, sword drawn. But as soon as  
she sees Joxer, she stops. She knows! Joxer stands with  
HIS BACK TO XENA. His hand is to his chest.

(CONTINUED)



4 CONTINUED:

4

Neron and Tybelus face Joxer; their swords dangle at their sides. (The extremely observant might notice a spot of red on Tybelus' sword.)

A beat later, Gabrielle follows Xena out of the alley. She sees Joxer. Annoyed and relieved, she strides up to him.

GABRIELLE

Joxer! I thought you were getting those eggs.

XENA

(softly; sadly)

Gabrielle.

Joxer turns to face Gabrielle. He stares at her, a look of surprise, wonder, horror all at once.

GABRIELLE

Joxer?

Joxer takes his hand from his chest and looks at it. Then he looks up at Gabrielle, showing her the hand. It is covered in blood. He smiles. Then, as his eyes roll back into his head, he collapses FORWARD into her arms.

GABRIELLE

JOXER!

The FEUDING KINSMEN turn and flee. Hermia rushes up to Neron. They clasp hands and run off together.

As Gabrielle lowers Joxer into her lap, he turns and we see his chest is covered in blood. His eyes stare blankly. He is DEAD! Poor Joxer.

GABRIELLE

(barely a whisper)

Joxer!

As Gabrielle weeps, Xena places a hand on her shoulder.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. JOXER'S FUNERAL PYRE - NIGHT

5

Flanked by Xena, Gabrielle stands by the smoldering pyre SINGING a FUNERAL DIRGE. Finishing, she eyes the burning embers guiltily.

GABRIELLE

If I hadn't sent him chasing after goose eggs...

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

XENA

Gabrielle, Joxer died a hero. Just like he always wanted. There is no blame here.

Gabrielle kneels by the pyre. As Xena kneels behind her and rubs her shoulders, she catches a glimpse of Hermia and Neron, watching from across the field.

XENA

We should get some sleep.

GABRIELLE

I don't think I can.

Xena rubs Gabrielle's temples in a special XENA way. Then, as if by magic, Gabrielle yawns and drops backwards into Xena's arms.

XENA

Sleep, Gabrielle. It will hurt less tomorrow.

Xena lies down on the ground, Gabrielle nestled in her arms.

CLOSE ON XENA

Her eyes grow heavy. She blinks, then drifts off to sleep.

MATCH FADE TO:

6 INT. STABLES - DAWN

6

CLOSE ON XENA, ASLEEP. A ROOSTER CROWS. Xena's eyes pop open immediately sensing something is wrong. She reaches for Gabrielle - who was right there next to her when they fell asleep "last night." No Gabrielle! She leaps to her feet and looks around the stables! Something is very wrong!

An OVERLY CHEERFUL Joxer strides in, holding a helmet full of goose eggs.

JOXER

Rise 'n shine, everybody. Rise 'n shine.

ON XENA

Thinking: "What the hell is going on?"

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

7 INT. STABLES - DAWN (CONTINUOUS)

7

XENA

Joxer! You should be dead!

JOXER

A man like me should have died a thousand times if not for my prodigious skill, and nerves of steel.

Overcome by her emotions, Xena reaches out, grabs Joxer around the neck and rubs his head hard with her fist. (In Brooklyn it's called a Noogie.)

JOXER

Ow, ow, ow, ow!

XENA

(almost to herself)

I had the strangest dream last night.

Slowly, the pile of hay next to them stirs. Gabrielle, sleepy-eyed, digs her way out of the pile.

GABRIELLE

(grumbling)

"Rise 'n shine..." I'll rise. But I refuse to shine.

JOXER

I brought us all breakfast.  
(holds out helmet)  
Goose eggs!

Suddenly, Xena becomes wary.

XENA

Something's wrong here.

Xena pushes Joxer aside.

JOXER

Hey! You don't have to eat 'em.

A HORSESHOE falls from the rafters and hits the spot where Joxer was standing.

EDOS sticks his head out of the rafters.

EDOS

Sweet Equestra!! I'm... I.. I hope I didn't hit anything...

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

Xena's eyes narrow. She is assessing, thinking.

XENA

That was no dream.

FADE TO:

8 EXT. TOWN SQUARE - LATE AFTERNOON

8

As before, Gabrielle, Xena and Joxer are crossing the square on their way to the alley. Joxer carries the horseshoes. We come in mid-conversation.

JOXER

You know, we warriors all have second sight. I always know if something is about to ha--

He trips over a bench, and lands on his face. Gabrielle picks up on what Joxer just said.

GABRIELLE

Could it have been some kind of vision?

XENA

No. It was too real. Too clear.

JOXER

What if I'm dreaming?

GABRIELLE

Can you feel this?

She pinches him.

JOXER

Ow! Yes.

GABRIELLE

Then I guess you're not dreaming.

Slowly, unnoticed by the threesome, the same people who we saw before begin to line the square.

GABRIELLE

(to Xena)

So you're saying I've forgotten everything that happened yesterday.

XENA

It isn't yesterday that you forgot. And you didn't just "forget it." It never happened to you.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

GABRIELLE  
If it never happened, then what's to  
forget?

XENA  
Today!

GABRIELLE  
But today hasn't happened yet.

XENA  
It happened for me.

GABRIELLE  
Yesterday?

XENA  
No, the other "today."

GABRIELLE  
Okay. Let me get this straight.  
You're saying that today is really  
yesterday for you. But for us, today  
is today because we can't remember  
yesterday was today... right?

XENA  
(beams)  
Right.

GABRIELLE  
I don't get it.

Suddenly Joxer has an idea. He raises his hand like a first  
grader who is certain he has the answer.

JOXER  
Ooh, ooh, ooh, I know.  
(as they eye him dubiously)  
What if none of this is real. We're  
all inside someone else's mind, and  
they're making us up.

Xena and Gabrielle just stare at Joxer for a moment. Then:

XENA  
(to Gabrielle)  
You don't even remember Joxer's death?  
The sword, shoved into his heart?

Joxer looks down and puts a worried hand to his heart.

XENA  
His chest covered in blood?

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: 2

8

Joxer is getting woozy.

XENA

His eyes staring blankly at the sky?

Faint, Joxer FALLS OUT OF FRAME with a THUD.

XENA

We had a funeral. You cried over his body.

Instantly, Joxer POPS UP INTO FRAME, beaming at Gabrielle.

JOXER

You cried over me?

GABRIELLE

(rolls her eyes)

I think I'll go get us some goose eggs for the road.

JOXER

I'll go with you!

XENA

No! We stay together.

Behind them - FROM OFF CAMERA - they HEAR:

TYBELUS (O.S.)

What jackass taught you people how to drive a cart?

NERON (O.S.)

I heard about Casca, Tybelus.

JOXER

Do you think I'd be stupid enough to step in between two guys with swords?

XENA

Yes.

GABRIELLE

Yes.

NERON (O.S.)

It was a terrible accident.

XENA

I'll take care of this. You two wait for me in the alley.

9 EXT. ALLEY - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

9

Gabrielle and Joxer turn down the alley where TWO MEN lean against the walls on opposite sides of the alley, eyeing one another. Joxer bumps into one.

MAN #1

Menos clod!

JOXER

Actually, I'm an unaffiliated clod.

MAN #2

(to Man #1)

You insult my House!

10 EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

10

Tybelus and Neron are arguing as Xena starts toward them.

TYBELUS

There are no accidents between the House of Menos and the House of Lycost.

Suddenly, from the alley behind her, Xena HEARS:

JOXER (O.S.)

Let me just interject a thought here.

Immediately recognizing the words, and the SOUND of a SWORD being UNSHEATHED, Xena reacts.

XENA

Son-of-a-Bacchae.

11 EXT. ALLEY - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

11

Man #1 and Man #2 have drawn their swords. As Man #1 prepares to lunge at Man #2, Joxer steps closer to them.

Xena comes running into the alley, sword drawn. As Joxer steps between the duelers, Xena somersaults through the air...

JOXER (O.S.)

Menos. Lycost. What's in a na--

...and lands next to Man #1, just as his sword is thrusting towards Joxer. Knocking his sword down, she pushes Joxer out of the way.

Enraged, Man #1 turns and accidentally impales himself on Man #2's sword. He falls DEAD.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

A crowd has gathered - following Xena. LORD MENOS and LORD LYCOST - older men - step out of the crowd.

LORD LYCOST  
(to Lord Menos; re: Xena)  
So now you're hiring mercenaries to do  
your killing for you.

LORD MENOS  
We don't need strangers to do a job  
we're glad to do ourselves.

LORD LYCOST  
You realize this means all-out war.

LORD MENOS  
I relish it.

The two sides approach one another. We sense a huge  
rumble (which we will never have to stage) is about to begin  
when:

XENA  
Sorry, boys. Change of plans.

And moving quickly, she disarms Lord Lycost and Lord Menos.  
Their swords fly into the air, then fall neatly across two  
well-placed stones where Xena brings her own sword down on  
them, breaking the adversaries' swords in two.

XENA  
Now go home 'til you can play nice.

LORD LYCOST  
(to Lord Menos)  
This isn't over.

LORD MENOS  
You got that right.

They signal their men. Slowly, grumbling, the two sides  
disperse, carrying off Man #1's body.

LORD LYCOST  
(to Xena)  
Don't know you. But as far as we're  
concerned, you're one of them now.

He turns on his heels and storms off.

GABRIELLE  
It was just like you described it. The  
duel. The swords. Except...  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



11 CONTINUED: 2

11

GABRIELLE (cont'd)  
(looks at Joxer)  
It's as if you were given a second  
chance to keep Joxer alive.

JOXER  
Please... I had it totally under  
control.

XENA  
Joxer may be alive, but someone else is  
dead. And now there're a lot of angry  
people in this town who consider us the  
enemy. So watch your step.

DISSOLVE TO:

12 EXT. STABLES - DUSK

12

Xena carries the horseshoes as the trio approaches the  
Stable where they see Edos, beaten and bloody, weeping in  
front of the stable doors. They rush up to him.

XENA  
What happened?

EDOS  
I wouldn't tell them which was yours.  
So... they killed 'em. Killed 'em all!

XENA  
(a whisper)  
Argo!

Xena rushes to the stable doors and looks in.

ON XENA

Her face turns to ice.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

13

Xena leans against Argo's saddle, staring into the fire.  
Joxer, subdued, approaches.

JOXER  
Xena. If this day really did happen  
again, just so you could save me...  
then, in a way, Argo's death is my  
fault.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

Xena looks at Joxer without emotion.

XENA  
You didn't kill Argo.

Xena turns back to stare at the fire. Joxer is about to say something more, but Gabrielle comes up behind him and nods, "no." They leave Xena staring into the flames.

MATCH FADE TO:

14 INT. STABLES - DAWN

14

CLOSE ON XENA, ASLEEP. A ROOSTER CROWS. Xena's eyes pop open. She leaps to her feet in an instant. She whirls left, looks across the stable, and sees...

XENA'S POV

...Argo, happily munching on some hay. Argo lifts and shakes her head in a greeting, then goes back to munching.

ON XENA

XENA  
Argo!

An OVERLY CHEERFUL Joxer enters, carrying a helmet full of goose eggs!

JOXER  
Rise 'n shine, everybody. Rise 'n shine.

Slowly, the pile of hay next to them stirs. Gabrielle, sleepy-eyed, digs her way out of the pile.

GABRIELLE  
I'll rise. But I refuse to shine.

XENA  
Joxer, move!

JOXER  
Why?

XENA  
Just move.

JOXER  
Why?

XENA  
Fine, don't move.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

Suddenly a HORSESHOE falls from the rafters into Joxer's helmet, smashing the eggs and covering him with yolk.

EDOS sticks his head out of the rafters. Xena says his lines along with him.

EDOS & XENA  
Sweet Equestra!! I'm... I... I hope  
I didn't hit anything.

Gabrielle and Joxer stare at Xena in amazement.

CUT TO:

15 EXT. TOWN SQUARE - AFTERNOON

15

Gabrielle and Joxer trail Xena across the square. This is the second time she has had to explain it all to them, and she is showing a trace of frustration. In the background - as the scene progresses - we see Tybelus, Neron and their kinsmen begin to enter the square.

GABRIELLE  
Maybe it--

XENA  
It's not a vision. It's not a dream.

Gabrielle checks Xena's pupils.

GABRIELLE  
Maybe it was something you ate?  
(checks Xena's neck)  
...or a poison dart.

XENA  
I'm fine. It's not me. The day is  
repeating.

GABRIELLE  
(dubious)  
Right... I hate when that happens.

XENA  
I'm telling you, this town is on the  
verge of an all-out blood feud.  
Something that happens today -  
something only I can change - causes  
it.

GABRIELLE  
Why do you think it's up to you?

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

XENA

Because I'm the only one who seems to remember it.

JOXER

Okay, for the sake of argument, let's assume you're right about this feud thing. There's an easy way to end it.

(Xena just looks)

"The enemy of my enemy is my friend."

He waits for them to get it. They don't.

JOXER

If they had a common enemy they'd have to work together.

GABRIELLE

And who's the common enemy?

JOXER

We are! I declare our hatred of both Houses. Then, when they bond together to kill us, we throw down our weapons, and I invite them to join us in Peace.

Gabrielle and Xena just stare.

JOXER

Oh, come on. It's a great plan. I've known lots of people who've bonded over their mutual hatred of me.

(puts an arm around them both and squeezes)

You two, for example.

GABRIELLE

He's almost got a point.

XENA

It's easier to stop a fight before it starts. First, I have to break the cycle.

Across the square, Tybelus approaches Neron.

TYBELUS

What jackass taught you people how to drive a cart?

NERON

I heard about Casca, Tybelus...

ON XENA

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: 2

15

XENA  
(realizing)  
Casca!

NERON (O.S.)  
It was a terrible accident.

XENA  
I have to find out more about Casca,  
and save him. Then Tybelus will have  
no reason to go after Neron. There'll  
be no fight. No duel. No blood bath.  
No need for the day to repeat.

CUT TO:

16 INT. STABLES - DAWN

16

CLOSE ON XENA, ASLEEP. A ROOSTER CROWS. Her eyes pop open.  
She leaps to her feet and rushes for the door as an OVERLY  
CHEERFUL Joxer strides in, holding a helmet of goose eggs.

JOXER  
Rise 'n --  
Xena blows by Joxer. He spins, almost upending the eggs.

17 EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY (MOMENTS LATER)

17

A few early morning tradespeople are scattered in the square  
when an old man wearing a tall hat, CASCA, heads up the  
alley towards the square.

Suddenly, a cart appears in the square, traveling a little  
too fast, headed across his path.

TOWNSPEOPLE  
Casca! Stop! Look out!  
He doesn't hear. He just keeps walking.

TOWNSPEOPLE  
CASCA!!!

Suddenly, Xena comes rushing into the square, looking across  
it to see Casca about to step in front of the oncoming cart!  
Reacting, Xena gives a WAR CRY and flips across the square,  
seizing Casca as the cart heads straight toward them!

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

18 EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

18

The cart continues straight at them as Xena quickly yanks Casca backwards, seconds before the cart speeds past and off.

XENA  
Are you alright?

CASCA  
(deaf)  
Heh! Speak up, girl.

XENA  
ARE YOU AL--

He sees his hat all crumpled on the ground and picks it up.

CASCA  
Look what he did to my hat!  
(shakes fist after cart)  
Stupid Menos driver.

As Xena reacts...

CUT TO:

19 EXT. TOWN SQUARE - LATE AFTERNOON

19

Gabrielle and Joxer trail Xena across the square. This is at least the third time she has had to explain it all to them and her exasperation is growing.

GABRIELLE  
(skeptical)  
And every morning you wake up back in the stable?

XENA  
That's right.

Gabrielle and Joxer share dubious looks.

JOXER  
What if you stayed awake all night?  
I'd stay up with you. Talk to you.  
Sing to you. That'd keep you awake.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

XENA

Don't you think I've tried that? I've tried everything. But no matter what I do, I always wake up in the stable and it's still today!

The same people we saw before begin to line the square.

GABRIELLE

But, Xena, that doesn't make sense. Who --

XENA

It's not the Fates. It's not Ares.

(displaying her pupils)

It's not something I ate.

(displaying her neck)

No poison dart marks. No bites.

JOXER

(examining her neck)

Is that a hickey?

Xena and Gabrielle just give him a cold stare.

XENA

Believe me. Don't believe me. It doesn't matter. Today has happened before. Hopefully, by saving Casca, it won't happen again.

IN THE BACKGROUND, Tybelus comes storming up to Neron.

TYBELUS

Keep your eyes off of my cousin. She wants nothing to do with you.

XENA

This feud is worse than I thought. They'll find any excuse to fight.

NERON

Why not let her decide that, Tybelus?

XENA

It's gonna take more than saving Casca to end this kind of hate.

JOXER

You know, "The enemy of my enemy --"

Hermia SCREAMS. EVERYONE turns and sees Neron and Tybelus dueling. Xena shoves Joxer into Gabrielle's hands.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: 2

19

XENA  
Get Joxer to safety! Now!

As Gabrielle drags a protesting Joxer away, Xena rushes to intercede between the duelers. She knocks Tybelus' sword from his hands. As he turns, about to impale himself on Neron's sword, Xena kicks Neron out of the way.

Then, turning, she scans the square for more fights when she sees... Gabrielle and Joxer disappearing into the alley.

XENA  
Not the alley!

Running towards the alley, she HEARS...

MAN #2 (O.S.)  
You insult my House.

GABRIELLE (O.S.)  
Joxer! No!

XENA  
(to herself; as she runs)  
I can't be everywhere.

20 EXT. ALLEY - LATE AFTERNOON (CONTINUOUS)

20

Xena rushes into the alley to see Gabrielle has stepped in front of Joxer to protect him, and taken a fatal sword thrust from Man #1.

XENA  
Gabrielle!

Catching Gabrielle as she collapses, Joxer lowers her to the ground, mute with horrified grief. Looking up, his anguished eyes beg Xena to do something. Trembling with rage, Xena stares intently, assuring Joxer as well as herself that...

XENA  
It'll be alright, Joxer. It will.  
It has to be.

CUT TO:

21 INT. STABLES - DAWN

21

CLOSE ON XENA, ASLEEP. A ROOSTER CROWS. Xena's eyes pop open and she leaps to her feet in an instant, rushing to the pile of hay. Plunging her hands into it, she feels around anxiously.

(CONTINUED)



21 CONTINUED:

21

Then, grasping something, she PULLS a startled, sleepy, but very-much-alive, Gabrielle out of the straw.

XENA

Gabrielle!

Vastly relieved, she throws her arms around Gabrielle as Joxer strides in, holding a helmet full of goose eggs.

JOXER

Rise 'n --

He halts. Then, beaming, he drops the helmet, rushes to Xena and Gabrielle, and throws his arms around them.

JOXER

Group hug!!!

22 EXT. STABLES - DAWN (CONTINUOUS)

22

ON STABLE DOOR. SOUND of horseshoe hitting the floor.

CUT TO:

23 EXT. TOWN SQUARE - LATE AFTERNOON

23

Xena, Gabrielle and Joxer.

XENA

Every day the rooster crows, Joxer comes in, the horseshoe falls. I save the old man, I stop the duel, and then it begins all over again.

JOXER

Maybe it's the rooster.

ON XENA, thinking.

CUT TO:

24 EXT. STABLES' ROOF - DAWN

24

The rooster begins to CROW. CAMERA PANS TO CHAKRAM flying through the air. As the CHAKRAM flies O.S., the rooster's CROW is CUT SHORT. Feathers explode up onto the screen.

25 EXT. STABLES - DAWN (CONTINUOUS)

25

Xena has a satisfied look.

CUT TO:

26 INT. STABLES - DAWN

26

CLOSE ON XENA: ROOSTER CROWS. Xena's eyes pop open. Damn!

CUT TO:

27 EXT. TOWN SQUARE - LATE AFTERNOON

27

Xena is talking to Gabrielle and Joxer. "The Usual Suspects" begin to fill the square.

JOXER

But why do we have to stay here?

XENA

Because I'm telling you to.

GABRIELLE

Joxer, sometimes it's best to just do what Xena wants. She'll explain later.

(to Xena)

You will explain later, right?

JOXER

I'm not staying here unless I know why. I'm a man of action.

XENA

You're staying here because I need you to stay here!

JOXER

(light bulb!)

Oh... I get it! I'm a diversion. A decoy.

(then; walking away)

But wouldn't it be better if I was over on the other side of the --

XENA

(stopping him cold)

Gabrielle, did you know that Joxer absolutely adores you?

JOXER

(sotto to Xena; urgent)

Uh, could we talk privately?

XENA

That he would walk to the ends of the earth just to sit at your feet?

JOXER

(sotto; desperate)

Xena, ixnay on the ovlay talk.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

XENA

That he worships you like a goddess?  
Isn't that right, Joxer?

Joxer and Gabrielle stare at one another in stunned silence.

XENA

Now, stay!

She pats them on the back, draws her sword, and rushes off.

JOXER

(after a beat)

Wow... she's really lost it.

GABRIELLE

(nods)

Totally.

CUT TO:

28 INT. STABLES - DAWN

28

CLOSE ON XENA: ROOSTER CROWS.

CUT TO:

29 EXT. TOWN SQUARE - LATE AFTERNOON

29

Xena disarms Neron and Tybelus, then rushes into...

30 EXT. ALLEY - LATE AFTERNOON (CONTINUOUS)

30

...where she disarms Man #1 and Man #2. Gabrielle and Joxer  
come running up.

GABRIELLE

Xena, there's another fight starting  
across the square.

XENA

I stop one fight, another one breaks  
out, then another. It's a lot easier  
to cause a feud than to end it.

GABRIELLE

I don't get it. They worship the same  
gods. Suffer the same hardships.

XENA

These people have forgotten how much  
they have in common.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

GABRIELLE

I wish we had the time to remind them.

XENA

(light bulb)

I have all the time in the world.

Xena has an idea. As she starts across the square, she hears a CRUNCH of glass under her foot. She reaches down and picks up a broken Apothecary's vial. She sniffs it.

XENA

Nightbane. Lethal stuff.

JOXER

You know, "The enemy of my enemy ---"

XENA

(end of her rope)

Joxer...

(then; why the hell not)

Fine. Go ahead.

JOXER

Really? But you don't even know what I was --

(stops; realizing; elated)

I knew this would happen someday. You and me on the same wavelength. Two minds, one thought.

GABRIELLE

(sotto; to Xena)

A half wit.

XENA

(shrugs)

What've we got to lose?

(to Joxer)

Do it.

Thrilled, Joxer strides into the middle of the square, followed by Xena and Gabrielle.

JOXER

Hear me, cowards! I...

(arms around Xena and Gabrielle)

We are your true enemies. We spit on your Houses. We curse your names. We laugh at your ancestors.

Lord Menos and Lord Lycost stare at each other for a moment.

(CONTINUED)



ACT THREE

BLACK

ROOSTER CROWS

FADE IN:

32 INT. STABLES - JUST PAST DAWN

32

ON XENA getting ready for the day. Tightening her leathers. Fastening her chakram in place, etc. Behind her we HEAR TWO MUFFLED VOICES pleading urgently but incomprehensibly. Sheathing her sword, Xena turns to leave as...

CAMERA PULLS BACK and we see the muffled voices are coming from... Joxer and Gabrielle, sitting on the floor of the stable, GAGGED AND TIED TOGETHER.

Xena exits, leaving the stunned, protesting pair behind.

CUT TO:

33 EXT. MOUTH OF ALLEY - DAY

33

Casca is about to step out of the alley as Xena leaps in and yanks him backwards, just as the cart speeds past.

CUT TO:

34 EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

34

Xena is talking with the local APOTHECARY. He has a CART OF VIALS AND BOTTLES through which he is rummaging.

XENA

And you've treated both Houses?

APOTHECARY

Treated. Cured. Buried. I'm the closest thing to a doctor they have. What was that you said you wanted?

XENA

Nightsbane.

APOTHECARY

It might help if I labeled them. But then again, I can't read.  
(can't find it)  
Funny, the Nightsbane is missing.

XENA

Sure you didn't sell it?

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

APOTHECARY

A sale like that, I wouldn't forget.  
It's lethal, you know. Drink it and,  
next day, you're on a one-way trip to  
Tartarus.

XENA

So, anyone turn up dead lately?

APOTHECARY

Not from poison. Had a boy fall off  
the roof of the town hall this morning,  
though. Broke his neck. Nothing I  
could do.

XENA

A boy from which House?

APOTHECARY

(smiles and winks)  
Now there's a question with an  
interesting answer.

XENA

(returning his smile)  
I'm all ears...

CUT TO:

35 INT. STABLES - DAWN

35

CLOSE ON XENA, ASLEEP. A ROOSTER CROWS. Her eyes pop open.

CUT TO:

36 EXT. TOWN HALL - DAY (MOMENTS LATER)

36

Xena leaps over a horsedrawn cart filled with hay. She runs  
a few yards and reaches out - like a receiver in the end  
zone waiting for the Hail Mary pass - just as the BOY falls  
from the roof into her arms.

CUT TO:

37 EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

37

Xena sits talking to ALTARA, an elderly matron.

XENA

Must be hard, being a midwife in a town  
where kids are taught to hate from  
birth.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

ALTARA  
It's not easy, that's true. Still,  
I've been bringing Menos babies into  
the world now for more than forty  
years.

XENA  
(shakes her head; impressed)  
You must have lots of stories.

ALTARA  
(clearly willing to share  
them)  
That I do, young woman. That I do.

CUT TO:

38 INT. STABLES - DAWN

38

CLOSE ON XENA, ASLEEP. A ROOSTER CROWS. Xena's eyes pop  
open. She smiles. Today is the day. An OVERLY CHEERFUL  
Joxer strides in. Xena cuts him off.

XENA  
Rise 'n shine, everybody. Rise 'n  
shine!

CUT TO:

39 EXT. TOWN SQUARE - LATE AFTERNOON

39

Xena, Gabrielle and Joxer are waiting as "The Usual  
Suspects" enter the square.

GABRIELLE  
And we've repeated the day that many  
times?

XENA  
Yes.

GABRIELLE  
But --

Xena turns from Gabrielle to Joxer to Gabrielle, answering  
their unasked questions.

XENA  
No. No. Yes. I don't know. No. No.  
I tried that. Yes, both ways. No.  
Any more questions?  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)



39 CONTINUED:

39

XENA (cont'd)  
(off their mute head-  
shakes "no")

Good.

Turning, she strides up to Tybelus and Neron as they begin to argue.

TYBELUS  
Keep your eyes off of my cousin. She  
wants nothing to do with you.

NERON  
Why not let her decide that, Tybelus?

Sword drawn, Xena steps between the two duelers, speaking to Tybelus and Neron, but loud enough for everyone to hear.

XENA  
Put up your swords.  
(to crowd)  
It's time to talk peace.

TIUS of the House of Menos draws a sword and approaches  
LENARUS - House of Lycost.

TIUS  
It's time to fill the streets with  
Lycost blood, you mean.

LENARUS draws and the two swords CLANG.

XENA  
(to Tius)  
They say a man who kills his own  
brother is cursed forever. Is that  
what you really want, Tius?

Grabbing each of them by the wrist, Xena twists until she has them both with their sword hands pulled behind their backs, their faces next to one another.

XENA  
Lenarus is also your father's son.

ANGLE - ALTARA

The elderly midwife nods, confirming to the crowd that it's true. As the crowd reacts...

PERION - House of Lycost - steps forward, sword drawn.  
Flanking him is his father, CASCA.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: 2

39

PERION

I know who my ancestors are. My father was almost run down today because of the careless driving of Menos scum.

As he brings the sword down on an N.D. MENOS, Xena blocks it.

XENA

Your father was almost killed because he was too deaf to hear the warnings.

LORD LYCOST

(stepping forward;  
protesting)

Enough! We don't need lectures from a stranger.

XENA

Lycost. You almost lost your wife and son in childbirth, true?

Lord Lycost pales, shocked she knows about this painful memory.

LORD LYCOST

(nods)

The midwife was sure they'd both die. But thank the gods, she was wrong.

XENA

It isn't the gods you should thank, but your enemy's wife. While you were away fighting the wars, Lady Menos came to your house and saved your wife and son.

Lord Lycost takes a step back, stunned.

LORD LYCOST

She... She was a good woman.

LORD MENOS

Yes, she was.

XENA

...who hated this feud.

Lord Menos steps forward.

LORD MENOS

(to Lord Lycost)

Maybe she's right. Perhaps it is time to talk.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED: 3

39

LORD LYCOST  
Yes... perhaps it is.

LORD MENOS  
(to Xena)  
How do you know so much about us? Are you an oracle? A god?

XENA  
Just someone with a lot of time on her hands.

LORD LYCOST  
(extends hand to Menos; tentative)  
Menos...?

Equally tentative, Lord Menos takes it, and the two ancient enemies shake hands, then embrace. The crowd CHEERS, and a spontaneous celebration erupts.

Satisfied, Xena moves through the crowd when she sees Neron and Hermia staring sadly at each other. Reacting, Xena looks thoughtful as Gabrielle and Joxer join her.

GABRIELLE  
Congratulations! You saved two lives, stopped three duels, made peace between lifelong enemies. Seems like you've changed everything that needs changing. That should stop the day repeating, right?

JOXER  
'Course it will. Come on, Xena, you've done it. Let's party.

XENA  
Maybe later.

Xena stares across the square where she sees...

XENA'S POV

Hermia rests in Neron's arms. She is weeping. CAMERA MOVES CLOSE ON Hermia's hand which holds an Apothecary vial.

ON XENA

Thinking. Disturbed.

CUT TO:

40 INT. STABLES - DAWN

40

CLOSE ON XENA. A ROOSTER CROWS. Xena's eyes pop open, then roll in total frustration.

CUT TO:

41 INT. STABLES - DAY

41

CLOSE ON XENA

XENA

(working it out)

The first day seemed normal, 'cept for Joxer being killed. The next day I fix that, and Argo gets killed. The third day I know there's something I'm supposed to do, and that it's somehow tied in with the blood feud. So, I find out about the old man getting hit by the cart, and save his life. But then the fighting starts anyway, and Gabrielle gets killed. So now I've got to save the old man, keep everyone else from getting killed, and make peace between the houses.

(a breath)

I learn everything there is to know about these people. Then, I wake up, save the old man, save the kid, use all the information I've got to make peace, and it still isn't enough.

(annoyed with herself)

I'm missing something. Something small.

(light bulb!!)

And I think I know what it is.

CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal Joxer and Gabrielle, sitting on the floor at Xena's feet, like children listening to a story teller. Joxer holds his helmet full of goose eggs in his lap. Both their mouths are wide open in stunned silence.

XENA

Thanks. Just needed to say it out loud.

Joxer and Gabrielle exchange worried glances.

CUT TO:

42 EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

42

Xena walks purposefully into the square. She strides up to Hermia who waits patiently for her Neron.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

XENA

Where's the vial?

Hermia looks up, frightened by Xena's no-nonsense attitude. She takes the vial from her pocket and hands it to Xena. Xena turns it upside down -- EMPTY -- then sniffs it.

XENA

Nightbane. When did you take this?

HERMIA

Just after sunrise.

XENA

So you're the one who's causing this whole problem.

As Hermia looks confused, Neron arrives, having overheard Xena's accusation.

NERON

No! It's not her. It's me. And there's nothing you can do.

(takes Hermia protectively  
in his arms)

Her house is at the north end of town. The stables you're in are at the south. So, no matter how fast you run...

XENA

(realizing)

...I'll never get there in time to stop her.

And on this troubling dilemma...

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

43 EXT. TOWN SQUARE - MORNING

43

Having sent the confused Hermia away, Neron talks with Xena.

XENA

I still don't see why she took poison  
in the first place.

NERON

Because we're in love. Only, since our  
families hate each other, her father  
was gonna make her marry someone else.

XENA

So she decided to kill herself.

NERON

(nods sadly)

I had a plan for us to elope. But when  
I told her about it, she began to cry.

XENA

She'd already taken the Nightsbane.

NERON

(another sad nod)

When the day was over, I couldn't face  
the thought of life without her. So, I  
prayed to Cupid for help.

XENA

Cupid! I should have known.

NERON

"Hermia must die tomorrow," he said.  
But because my love for her was true,  
he granted me one wish.

XENA

So you wished that tomorrow would never  
come.

NERON

Yes. "The day will repeat," he said,  
"until a hero comes who can fix  
everything." Save Hermia, save me, and  
end this pointless feud.

XENA

So, when you saw me in the village, why  
didn't you ask for help?

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

NERON

(chagrined)

Frankly, I was expecting Hercules, or at least Sinbad. Besides, I'm not allowed to interfere.

XENA

(reacts; then)

So, somehow I've got to save Casca and the boy, stop the duel, and keep Hermia from taking the poison right after the rooster crows.

NERON

It's impossible. No matter how fast you run, there just isn't enough time.

XENA

(never say die)

We'll see.

CUT TO:

44 INT. STABLES - NIGHT

44

CLOSE ON XENA as she begins to get ready for bed, taking off her chakram, sword, etc. She talks to someone O.S.

XENA

Well, we'd better get to sleep. Today is going to be a busy day tomorrow.

CAMERA PULLS back to show Joxer and Gabrielle - just as we left them in the morning - sitting on the floor, legs crossed, mouths agape, Joxer's helmet still in his lap.

CUT TO:

45 INT. STABLES - DAWN

45

CLOSE ON XENA. ROOSTER CROWS. Her eyes bolt open. She leaps to her feet and runs into Joxer as he strides in...

JOXER

Rise 'n --

...knocking him on his ass.

CUT TO:

46 EXT. LYCOST COURTYARD - DAY

46

Hermia sits alone in the courtyard, drinking from the vial of RED POISON. Xena leaps in over the wall: TOO LATE! A frightened Hermia drops the empty vial, and runs off. Xena sits in Hermia's place. She lifts the empty vial to her lips, then raises her arm as if checking an angle.

CUT TO:

47 EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY

47

Xena is a woman possessed. She rushes around the square measuring distances. Checking angles. We have no idea what she is doing. Neron and Tybelus fight IN AND OUT of the BACKGROUND. Xena ignores them - and measures on. Joxer and Gabrielle, staff in hand, rush up to her.

GABRIELLE

Xena, quick. You have to stop them.

XENA

Been there, done that. Didn't work.

We hear the O.S. GRUNT of someone being skewered with a blade.

GABRIELLE

Xena!

XENA

I'm a little busy right now, Gabrielle.  
(shoves Joxer at her)  
Here. Play with Joxer a while.

As Gabrielle reacts, Joxer shakes his head, deploring Xena's condition.

JOXER

It's too late, Gabrielle. She's gone.  
But you still have me.

Suddenly Gabrielle is attacked by a Club-Wielding Man. As she fights him, Xena continues measuring.

GABRIELLE

Hey! I could use a little help here.

JOXER

(springing to her side)  
Never fear, Joxer is her--

He gets bonked on the head, and is out cold. Gabrielle raises the staff high above her head and starts to bring it down on the Club-Wielding Man when Xena reaches in and grabs it just before it whacks the guy on the head.

(CONTINUED)



47 CONTINUED:

47

XENA

May I?

She yanks it away. Gabrielle, distracted and weaponless, gets bonked with the club. Now she's mad!!!

Man #1 and Man #2 emerge from the alley, dueling. Xena double WHACKS them out of her way, then uses the staff to check angles. Finished, she drops the staff and walks on.

Gabrielle, doing her best not to get BONKED again, sees her staff on the ground. As the Club-Wielding Man swings for her head, she ducks and rolls and comes up with the staff. Now she's really, really mad!!

EXTREME CLOSE UP ON XENA

As she measures and calculates, we keep hearing the O.S. SOUND of fights. Then Xena smiles, calculations complete.

XENA

Got it. Gabrielle?

And turning, she exits as CAMERA PULLS BACK to reveal a scene of utter destruction. Townspeople bloodied and beaten or unconscious on the ground.

In the middle of it all: Gabrielle! Dirty, exhausted, leaning on her staff and GASPING for air. She is so out of breath she can't speak. She can only gesture in utter dismay at the scene of devastation.

CUT TO:

48 EXT. STABLES - DAWN

48

Joxer walks to the door. ROOSTER CROWS. Xena bursts through the doors, flattening Joxer against the side of the stable.

Holding her chakram, she stares at something above her head. She takes careful aim and, with all her strength, she lets it fly.

CAMERA FOLLOWS CHAKRAM as it BOUNCES off of walls, trees, etc., until it comes to...

49 EXT. ALLEY - DAY

49

Casca is about to step out of the alley into the path of the speeding cart. The chakram flies in and knocks his hat off. He turns back down the alley and bends to pick it up as the cart that would have run him down, speeds across his path.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

CAMERA RESUMES ON CHAKRAM

...as it BOUNCES off of more walls, trees, etc., until it comes to...

50 EXT. TOWN HALL - DAY

50

...a horsedrawn HAY CART. The chakram flies in and skims the horse's flank. Bolting, the horse drags the cart forward just as the Boy falls from the roof and, THIS TIME, he lands safely in the hay.

CAMERA RESUMES ON CHAKRAM

...as it BOUNCES off of more walls, trees, etc., until it comes to...

51 INT. LYCOST COURTYARD - DAY

51

Hermia raises the vial of poison to her lips. The chakram flies in and shatters it, spilling RED liquid on the ground.

Neron bursts into the courtyard and sees the broken vial. He rushes to Hermia and scoops her up in his arms.

NERON

Hermia.

Xena leaps over the wall and catches the chakram on its final bounce. Neron turns to her, smiling.

NERON

Now, can you make peace between our Houses?

XENA

Try and stop me.

CUT TO:

52 EXT. TOWN SQUARE - DAY (REPLAY END OF SCENE 39)

52

Lord Menos steps close to Lord Lycost.

LORD MENOS

Maybe she's right. Perhaps it is time to talk.

LORD LYCOST

Yes... perhaps it is.

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

52

Slowly, tentatively, the ancient enemies shake hands, then embrace. The crowd CHEERS, and a spontaneous celebration erupts.

Xena pushes through the crowd until she finds Hermia and Neron who are waiting with Joxer and Gabrielle. This time they are happy. Thrilled.

NERON

I think, now, I'll be able to ask Hermia's father for her hand in marriage.

GABRIELLE

And I'm betting he'll say yes.

NERON

Thank you, Xena. Because of you, we can all look forward to tomorrow.

Neron and Hermia kiss and embrace. Joxer looks longingly at Gabrielle. Xena just looks relieved.

CUT TO:

53 INT. STABLES - DAWN

53

BEGIN CLOSE ON XENA, ASLEEP. A ROOSTER CROWS. Xena's eyes pop open. Wary, she rises as...

...an OVERLY CHEERFUL Joxer strides in, holding a helmet full of (something that looks like goose eggs).

JOXER

Rise 'n shine, everybody. Rise 'n shine.

Slowly, the pile of hay next to them stirs. Gabrielle, sleepy-eyed, digs her way out of the pile.

GABRIELLE

I'll rise. But I refuse to shine.

Xena stares. Not Again!!!

JOXER

I brought us all breakfast.  
(holds out helmet)  
Turnips!

XENA

Turnips?!

She lets out a WHOOP of celebration.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

JOXER

Now there's a woman who really likes  
her vegetables.

GABRIELLE

(rising)

Xena, you alright? What's going on?

XENA

(grins)

Life, Gabrielle -- life's going on at  
last. So, seize the day because you  
don't know...

A HAMMER falls from the rafters, BONKS Joxer on the head,  
and knocks him out. \*

XENA

(reacting to his perennial  
bad luck) \*

...tomorrow may never come. \*

And ON their shared grins, we...

FADE OUT.

THE END