

Prod. #V0408

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"The Quill is Mightier..."

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Revised Pages: Set List, 32-35

Executive Producers  
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SHOOTING DRAFT  
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Prod. #V0408 - 10/24/97 - Blue

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"The Quill is Mightier..."

CAST LIST

XENA  
GABRIELLE

JOXER  
ARES  
APHRODITE  
MINYA  
THELONIUS  
MUNK  
BILLIUS  
SCABERUS  
BARBARIAN LEADER  
BARBARIAN  
PRIESTESS #1  
PRIESTESS #2  
TAVERNKEEPER  
MAN  
WOMAN  
PEDDLER  
VILLAGE WOMAN  
MAN #2

\*  
\*

Referred to in Dialog:

GAEA	(GUY-a)
CAUGHUS	(CAW-gus)
ECHENASIA	(EK-en-ay-sha)
PHILIADIS	(fill-EYE-a-diss)

Prod. #V0408 - 10/31/97 - Yellow

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"The Quill is Mightier..."

SET LIST

INTERIORS:

APHRODITE'S TEMPLE  
TAVERN  
FIRST CAVERN  
SECOND CAVERN  
THIRD CAVERN  
FOURTH CAVERN

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

EXTERIOR:

APHRODITE'S TEMPLE  
CAMPSITE  
ROAD  
FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD  
FIELD  
HIGH PROMONTORY  
TOWN  
CAVE  
NEAR CAVES  
CAMPSITE #2

Prod. #V0408 - 10/23/97 - Pink

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

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CHRONOLOGY

DAY 1	SCENES # 1 - 2	
NIGHT 1	SCENE # 3	
DAY 2	SCENES # 4 - 22A	*
NIGHT 2	SCENES #22B - 23	*
DAY 3	SCENES #24 - 40	*

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"The Quill is Mightier..."

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. APHRODITE'S TEMPLE - DAY

1

From inside we hear the CRASHING OF POTTERY and the familiar whine of Aphrodite.

APHRODITE (O.S.)  
Delinquent trash!

Two PRE-TEENS with paint brushes rush out of the temple.

2 INT. TEMPLE - DAY

2

The walls have been recently defaced with graffiti. Subtitles tell us it reads: ELECT XENA GOD. XENA RULES. XENA'S DA'BOMB. APHRODITE looks around, seething.

APHRODITE  
Xena this... Xena that...

She turns and yells out the door at the departing teens.

APHRODITE  
I've got half a mind to hit you with...

ARES (O.S.)  
A love bolt?

ON ARES

ARES  
It hardly seems a threat.  
(looking around)  
My, my... they certainly made a mess in here.

APHRODITE  
Back off, Ares. I'm bummed-out enough.

ARES  
You know what the problem is...

APHRODITE  
Duh! Your darling Xena, that's the grief.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

ARES

Gabrielle. Her friend. I only made the warrior, she made the legend. Have you read any of her so-called stories? A warrior who loves the common person. You'd think Xena was a goddess. Pretty soon, when people think of "Love," they're going to think of Xena, not Aphrodite.

\*

APHRODITE

(bitterly)

Xena!

\*

\*

\*

ARES

Don't blame her. It's Gabrielle and her busy quill that's your problem.

\*

\*

\*

And, with that, he disappears. Aphrodite steams for a moment, looks around, and:

APHRODITE

Then someone should have a nice sit-down with Gabrielle and straighten a few things out. Like her scrawny neck.

And with an angry wave of her hand, she disappears...

CUT TO:

3 EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

3

Xena and Gabrielle are bedding down for the night. Gabrielle reaches into her bag and pulls out a new scroll.

GABRIELLE <sup>3xccc -> 1:29</sup>  
I love starting a new scroll. It's so clean. So perfectly... empty.

Suddenly Aphrodite is there, visible to us, but INVISIBLE to Gabrielle and Xena. Xena turns as if she senses something. But, before she reacts, Gabrielle unrolls the scroll next to Xena's ear.

GABRIELLE  
Listen... the way it crinkles the first time you open in.

Gabrielle sniffs the parchment.

GABRIELLE  
The smell... that special, untouched scent...

Xena's head moves as if following Aphrodite. Gabrielle shoves the parchment in Xena's face, distracting her.

XENA  
It smells like stale leather.

GABRIELLE  
To the non-creative nose, perhaps. Now, let's see... your last adventure began with...

Aphrodite draws her hand back as if to deliver some bolt of "whatever" at Gabrielle. But, before she does...

XENA  
Don't you get tired of just writing down what I've done? Try creating other images. Other characters.

GABRIELLE  
You mean fiction? I've thought about trying it. Someday.  
(thinking)  
You really think I could?

Aphrodite leans forward, interested in this...

XENA  
Give it a shot. Quietly.

Xena rolls over to go to sleep. Gabrielle thinks. She starts to write.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

GABRIELLE

"Xena --"

XENA

And make somebody else the hero for a change.

Aphrodite moves in closer to read as Gabrielle writes...

GABRIELLE

"Xena... had gone off fishing. The lone warrior Gabrielle awoke with a jerk as five barbarians rode out of the woods. She twirled her mighty staff and delivered kicks of such fury..."

\*  
\*

She writes energetically, mumbling to herself as she goes. She turns to show Xena what she's written, but Xena is asleep. Having fun, Gabrielle goes back to her story.

\*

GABRIELLE

Yeah... this fiction stuff could be fun.

Aphrodite waves her hand.

\*

APHRODITE

Oh, yes. A lot of fun.

\*  
\*

Gabrielle yawns and sets down the scroll, laying back to fall asleep. Aphrodite looks at the scroll still in Gabrielle's hands. She smiles and snaps her fingers. A strange aura passes over the scroll.

APHRODITE

Have a ball, dearie.

\*

FADE TO:

4 EXT. CAMPSITE - NEXT MORNING

4

Gabrielle is asleep. Next to her, someone - we presume Xena - is huddled UNDER THE COVERS. Suddenly the SOUND of HORSES' HOOVES shakes the ground. Gabrielle jerks awake, grabbing her staff. She looks towards the woods, fear in her eyes.

WIDE

(CONTINUED)



4 CONTINUED:

4

FIVE BARBARIANS are riding out of the woods, straight for Gabrielle. She leaps to her feet.

GABRIELLE

Xena! I could use some help here. \*

The Barbarians unhorse themselves and charge at her. Gabrielle takes a quick look at the sleeping form beside her, then ATTACKS THE BARBARIANS.

She flips into the air and lands in front of them, jamming the staff into the ground. Grabbing it, she SPINS AROUND IT in a decidedly Xena-esque move, kicking the Barbarians away, spinning so fast that the staff drives itself into the ground. Her final move is on the ground, break-dance style, kicking the Barbarians away. Gabrielle screams out, more in surprise at her abilities...

GABRIELLE

Xena?!?!?!?

She looks over to see:

ON FIFTH BARBARIAN

poised over Xena's bedding with a dagger. The pile of bedding moves, and JOXER pops out! He sees the Barbarian and screams.

JOXER

Ahhhh!

Gabrielle reacts with shock, then launches herself in front of Joxer, taking the dagger thrust into her muscled abs... the dagger DEFLECTS with a definite "POING!"

The Barbarian looks at his dagger, then into Gabrielle's eyes...

BARBARIAN

Ahhhh!

...and runs off screaming in terror - the four other Barbarians close behind.

GABRIELLE AND JOXER

JOXER

And don't come back!

(to Gabrielle)

How'd you do that? You got armor under there?

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: 2

4

GABRIELLE

Did you see what I did? Backflips.  
Spinning kicks! I can't do backflips!

Joxer pokes Gabrielle in the abs. "POING!"

JOXER

Have you been working out?

GABRIELLE

Where's Xena? Who were those guys?  
Where did they...?  
(realizing)  
Wait a minute.

Gabrielle grabs her scroll and unrolls it, searching...

GABRIELLE

(reading)

"Xena'd gone... The lone warrior  
Gabrielle... Five barbarians...  
twirling around her mighty staff,  
delivering kicks... she bravely took  
the thrust of a knife... deflected by  
her mighty abs..." I wrote this!

\*

JOXER

Yeah, right. Like the whole world is  
controlled by what you write in th--

Gabrielle scribbles in the scroll. Joxer suddenly pulls her  
staff out of the ground, spins it once, and WHACKS himself  
in the forehead. Surprised, he then twirls one end behind  
himself and legsweeps himself off the ground onto his ass.  
He looks up at her, shocked.

JOXER

Why did I do that?

Gabrielle holds up the scroll for him to read.

GABRIELLE

Because I wrote it. I can write  
anything... and it comes true!

Off that, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

5 EXT. ROAD - DAY

5

Gabrielle and Joxer walk along. Joxer keeps looking at Gabrielle's stomach.

GABRIELLE

Maybe I'm being tested. To see how I handle this kind of power. Well, if "whoever it is" thinks I'm going to succumb to some kind of power lust, they've got another think coming.

JOXER

Maybe you could write me some abs of steel?

He pokes them again. "POING!"

JOXER

Sure would come in easy when facing my enemies.

GABRIELLE

Facing your enemies? I'd have to write you buns of steel, Joxer.

JOXER

(ponders)

That could work... Good in case of ambush.

He spins around as if expecting someone sneaking up behind him.

GABRIELLE

In my hands, this scroll can be a gift to mankind. When Xena gets back from fishing, she'll be so proud --

JOXER

Fishing!?

GABRIELLE

That's where I wrote her. Fishing.

Joxer grabs the scroll from her.

JOXER

Hey! What did you write to bring me here? A Mighty Hero appears? A man with the heart of a lion?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

JOXER (cont'd)  
The soul of a Warrior?  
(reads)  
"Xena had gone off fishing. The lone warrior Gabrielle awoke with a jerk..."

He stops suddenly, thinking. Gabrielle looks apologetically at him. She puts a sympathetic hand on his shoulder.

JOXER  
(still figuring)  
"The lone warrior Gabrielle awoke with a jerk..." Strange expression.  
(reads on)  
I can't find anything. I guess showing up really was just my idea.  
(hands her the scroll)  
What do we do now?

\*  
\*  
\*

GABRIELLE  
What do we do? What won't we do?  
Stories can be anything you want them to be. Happy endings truly happen.

Gabrielle looks over to see TWO OLD WOMEN in PRIESTESS VESTMENTS. She smiles and heads over to them, Joxer following with a puzzled expression on his face.

GABRIELLE  
Good morning. You're the Sisters of Gaea, right? Is there some way we can help?

PRIESTESS #1  
We're collecting goods for our Orphanage. Things we can sell at our shop in town. If you have anything...

One of the Priestesses points to Joxer's sword scabbard - near his crotch.

PRIESTESS #2  
That would fetch a pretty dinar.

JOXER  
(inflated)  
I'm sure it would. But it's not something I'd allow just anyone to have. Still, for the Sisters of Gaea...

\*

GABRIELLE  
She means your scabbard.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: 2

5

JOXER

(blushing)

Uh... I know. I know that! But...  
sorry. This was a gift from my father.  
The only thing he ever gave me. Had to  
get the sword myself. I wouldn't give  
it up for anything.

PRIESTESS #2

Too bad. Ceremonial Weapons and the  
like are a hot commodity in Caughus.

GABRIELLE

(as she scribbles)

I wouldn't worry. I think you'll be  
getting a surprise gift just about...

A MAN, carrying a JEWEL ENCRUSTED GOLD SWORD, runs up -  
looking over his shoulder as if he's being followed.

GABRIELLE

...now!

The Man hands the sword to the Priestess.

MAN

Here!

He looks over his shoulder again and rushes off. The  
Priestesses stare openmouthed at this incredible gift.

PRIESTESS #1

This will provide food for the orphans  
for... years!

Gabrielle pats her on the back - a little full of herself.

GABRIELLE

You're welcome.

She and Joxer walk off as they stare at her.

CUT TO:

6 EXT. FURTHER DOWN THE ROAD - DAY

6

The MAN is still running, looking over his shoulder, when he  
runs smack into a RICHLY-DRESSED MAN - SCABERUS.

SCABERUS

Give me back my kinsman's sword!

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

MAN  
(not sure why he did)  
I... I just gave it away. Why did I do  
that?

SCABERUS  
It doesn't matter now...

Scaberus draws his sword and moves towards the Man.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. FIELD - DAY

7

Aphrodite watches the Five Barbarians ride past. She puts  
her fingers to her lips and blows an EARSPLITTING WHISTLE.  
The Barbarians stop short and go flying off their horses,  
landing with a thud on the ground in front of Aphrodite.

APHRODITE  
Did the little blonde girlie scare the  
big hairy men?

BARBARIAN LEADER  
We're Barbarians. We fear nothing. We  
fight with the heart of a lion.

APHRODITE  
And you run with the feet of a chicken.  
Now get on your horsies and go back  
after her.

(they pause)  
The town. You know, like "thataway!"

The Barbarians MUMBLE, jump on their horses, and ride off.

APHRODITE  
(smiling)  
Can't write a good story without  
villains.

CUT TO:

8 INT. TAVERN - DAY

8

Gabrielle and Joxer are being served. The Tavernkeeper  
holds out a hand for payment. Joxer takes out his purse and  
shakes it. It's EMPTY.

GABRIELLE  
(whispers to Joxer)  
We don't need money. I've got it  
covered.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

Gabrielle scribbles, then looks up and smiles coyly.

GABRIELLE  
How much will that be?

TAVERNKEEPER  
It'll be... free!  
(to the Patrons)  
The food is free! And the drinks are  
on the house!

The Patrons all CHEER AND APPLAUD. The Tavernkeeper looks  
confused. Gabrielle gestures to the scroll.

GABRIELLE  
See? "All the food is free and the  
drinks are on..."

At that moment, a dribble of liquid falls down from the  
ceiling and hits Joxer on the head. Throughout the tavern,  
several dribbles occur. Joxer tastes the dribble...

JOXER  
Ale. Good ale.

GABRIELLE  
I've got to be careful about the way  
I word things.

\*  
\*  
\*

The Patrons grab up mugs and begin to fill them from the  
leaks in the ceiling.

CUT TO:

9 EXT. HIGH PROMONTORY - DAY

9

Overlooking a field, far on the outskirts of the town of  
Caughus. Ares and a foul-smelling warlord - THELONIUS.

THELONIUS  
No way, Ares. Not until I know for  
sure that Xena has left the valley.

ARES  
I'm giving you my word. I've taken  
care of it, she's gone.

THELONIUS  
Uh, huh. My men might believe that; I  
can barely hold them back. They want  
to loot that valley now, Xena or no  
Xena. But I'm not that stupid.

Ares grabs Thelonus by the throat and lifts him.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

ARES  
And how stupid are you? Stupid enough  
to call the God of War a liar?

THELONIUS  
Maybe. But I'm definitely not stupid  
enough to go up against Xena.

Thinking, Ares sets Thelonus down.

ARES  
Keep your men here. Wait for my  
signal, you'll know Xena is gone then.

THELONIUS  
But what is the signal?

ARES  
You'll know it when you see it.

\*

Ares disappears.

CUT TO:

10 INT. TAVERN - DAY

10

Gabrielle and Joxer have finished their meal. Gabrielle stands and heads for the door. The place has dozens of pitchers, bowls, etc. under the leaks in the ceiling. The Patrons have been imbibing a lot... too much. Joxer follows, catching some ale in a mug as they move.

GABRIELLE  
Time's a-wasting. Got a lot of good to  
do today. A lot of good.

A DRUNKEN MAN steps in her path and BELCHES in her face. The Tavernkeeper grabs him by the belt.

TAVERNKEEPER  
Come on, Billius. You've had enough.

BILLIUS  
Who are you to tell me when I've had  
enough?

Billius takes a swing. The Tavernkeeper ducks. Billius knocks a MAN onto the table, splashing people with food.

GABRIELLE  
There's always one drunk who spoils it  
for everyone!

(CONTINUED)



10 CONTINUED:

10

JOXER

One drunk?

They look around. Everyone has that lost, bloodshot, I'm-gonna-wake-up-in-a-toilet-and-I-don't-care look.

That's when the magic happens... One of the Patrons splashed with food BELCHES LOUDLY and PUNCHES BILIOUS in the face, knocking him into another group of Patrons.

JOXER

Maybe now would be a good time to leave.

The fight erupts.

\*

\*

GABRIELLE

This was not supposed to happen!

JOXER

I think it gets worse...

He points toward...

THE BARBARIANS

as they enter. The Lead Barbarian points his sword at Gabrielle.

\*

BARBARIAN LEADER

You! You think you can make fools of us? We are Barbarians. We will...

Gabrielle grabs her scroll and writes.

GABRIELLE

"And the Barbarians disappeared into the sunset."

The Barbarian Leader stops and turns to his men.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: 2

10

BARBARIAN LEADER

...go west. Yes. We will go west.

They exit. A WOMAN standing near Gabrielle looks out the window as the Barbarians ride off.

\*  
\*

WOMAN

The Barbarians are heading for the Sisters of Gaea orphanage!

GABRIELLE

(to Joxer)

Minor setback.

Aphrodite starts to LAUGH. Gabrielle scribbles again.

GABRIELLE

"They turn east."

\*

BARBARIAN LEADER (O.S.)

No! We go East!

\*

WOMAN

Now they're heading for Echenasia!

Aphrodite LAUGHS harder. Gabrielle scribbles faster.

GABRIELLE

"They disappear from the land."

\*

BARBARIAN LEADER (O.S.)

This way! To the boats! We'll become pirates and kill all who sail the seas.

\*

Gabrielle scribbles again, panicked!

GABRIELLE

"Then they went into the caves where they fell into a deep sleep!"

The Lead Barbarian brings them to a stop and:

BARBARIAN LEADER (O.S.)

Wait! To the caves!

(big yawn)

I'm exhausted.

\*

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: 3

10

Gabrielle leans back against the wall, exhausted. Joxer looks at her. \*

JOXER

So... this "good" you wanted to do...

GABRIELLE

Forget it! I'm never writing another word again!

Aphrodite just nods her head with a smile, turns, gives a victory gesture over her shoulder and disappears.

FADE TO:

11  
THRU OMITTED  
14A

11\*  
THRU  
14A\*

15 EXT. TOWN - DAY

15

Joxer and Gabrielle walk along.

GABRIELLE

I don't understand. My writing has always been... vivid. I must be missing something somewhere...

JOXER

Maybe it's too vivid. You know, maybe it needs work. Editing or something.

Gabrielle stops suddenly, realizing.

GABRIELLE

That's it! I'm not editing my work. No wonder things went wrong. I just have to be more careful. Now that I understand the power of the scroll, I could end hunger, disease. I could...

(wow)

I could end war.

A woman possessed, she writes...

GABRIELLE

Edit... simplify... get it right the first... Ah! Got it! "The will of mortals finally won out and War lost all its power."

Gabrielle looks up at Joxer, satisfied with herself.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

Suddenly, a startled Ares falls from above and lands in front of Gabrielle with a dull THUD. Ares sees Gabrielle, gets up, and goes for her.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

ARES

My powers? What happened to my powers??

(sees Gabrielle)

You! What have you done?

GABRIELLE

It's not my fault! Wait! I'll fix it!

(writing)

"The Force that enchanted the scroll is stripped of its powers."

Suddenly, Aphrodite falls from above and lands on Ares head, flattening him. She sits, stunned, dizzy, on top of a prone Ares.

APHRODITE

Whoa! Wipeout!

A pileup of Gods. On Gabrielle's shocked look:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

16 EXT. TOWN - DAY

16

As before. Ares and Aphrodite clearing their heads. Ares is livid at Aphrodite.

ARES

Are you out of your mind? You gave this blonde harpie powers of destiny?

APHRODITE

No, I enchanted the scroll! And don't act so surprised. You wanted me to do it!

ARES

No, I wanted you to go after her to get Xena out of the way!

APHRODITE

Exqueeze me! It worked! Kinda'.

GABRIELLE

Hold on! Wait! Everyone stop talking!  
(to Ares)

You wanted Xena out of the way so  
you...

(to Aphrodite)

....enchanted my scroll?

APHRODITE

Ares was being his usual manipulative self. He's got some army somewhere ready to pounce on this valley. He wanted Xena out of the way. So he wanted to get me mad at you.

ARES

You figured all that out?

APHRODITE

Don't believe everything you hear about blondes.

JOXER

Wait... if you knew he was doing it, and you knew she might do this, why did you both do what you did do?

APHRODITE

Shut up!

ARES

Shut up!

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

APHRODITE  
(to Gabrielle)  
Just write my powers back, little girl,  
and I'll unzip the scroll.

ARES  
Write mine back first. That army is  
waiting for me to give the signal that  
Xena's gone.

APHRODITE  
You're not helping your cause, Slick.

ARES  
I promise when I get my powers back  
I'll call off the attack.

APHRODITE  
And pigs can fly.

ARES  
You can.

JOXER  
If you undo the scroll, Xena will come  
back. And the army won't attack.

Gabrielle looks at him. It makes sense.

GABRIELLE  
That makes sense.  
(pause; she writes)  
"Aphrodite is as she was before."

Suddenly Aphrodite - POOF - disappears. Moments later there  
is a YELL and "as before" Aphrodite falls from above, lands  
on Ares and, "as before" flattens him. THUD!

JOXER  
That was how she was before. It's all  
in the wording.

Gabrielle unscrolls the parchment, looking at all the blank  
space.

GABRIELLE  
What happens if we fill the scroll  
completely? Will that end the curse?

APHRODITE  
Oh, now it's a "curse." Before it was  
a gift. And, no, when you run out of  
space, that's it. Everything stays the  
same as when you wrote it.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: 2

16

JOXER

Oh! What if you write that we all go  
back to where we began?

APHRODITE

We all go back to our baby cribs and  
you go back under your rock.

(to Gabrielle)

Did you write him here?

Gabrielle shows Aphrodite the scroll passage. Ares looks  
over her shoulder.

ARES

(reading scroll)

"Gabrielle awoke with a jerk..."

Aphrodite gives a DRY LAUGH.

JOXER

What? What's so funny about waking up?

Off this, we:

CUT TO:

17 EXT. PROMONTORY - DAY

17

Thelonius and his Lieutenant - MUNK - are watching the  
valley. In the distance they see a woman jumping up and  
down and waving her arms. Munk leans forward, anxious. The  
Men behind them also look anxious.

MUNK

Is that it? Is that the signal to  
attack?

A man runs up and embraces her. They step behind a tree.

THELONIUS

No... not the signal.

The Men look disappointed.

CUT TO:

18 EXT. TOWN - DAY

18

Gabrielle sits on a stump with the scroll on her lap,  
chewing on the end of the quill, thinking. Ares, Aphrodite  
and Joxer face her, each trying to help. NOTE: Aphrodite is  
beginning to show the wear and tear of being mortal.

(CONTINUED)



18 CONTINUED:

18

Nothing severe, just misplaced hairlocks and a bit of dirt on her cheek.

GABRIELLE

I have to deconstruct the story starting from the beginning. That means bringing back Xena first.

ARES

"Xena rides in at the head of an army." That's good.

GABRIELLE

We could end up with an army of ants. Or children. Or harpies.

JOXER

What if you describe her?

Gabrielle thinks about this and nods. Sounds good. She starts to write.

GABRIELLE

"Suddenly, there was the arrival of the... woman..."

ARES

Leather. Mention the leather.

GABRIELLE

"...wearing leather... and a metal breastplate... black hair... carrying her chakram..."

JOXER

Wait! Does anyone really know what the word "Chakram" means? Would the scroll know it?

Gabrielle pauses, paranoid about every word. Then, she smiles...

GABRIELLE

"...carrying the whip of Xena..."

A solid CRACK is heard. They all duck and turn to see:

CLOSE ON WOMAN'S FEET

CAMERA PANS UP the woman's body from behind. The sandals, the crisscrossing straps, the leather skirt, the breastplate. Over the woman's shoulder we see the astonished faces of Joxer, Gabrielle, Ares and Aphrodite. The figure SNAPS THE WHIP again.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: 2

18

GABRIELLE

Minya!?

She steps forward and we see that it is, indeed, MINYA.

MINYA

I'm here.

(then)

I'm not sure why... but I know I'm here to do something.

ARES

Who is this?

GABRIELLE

(defeated)

Minya is a friend of ours... who wants to be Xena... and has Xena's whip.

MINYA

Never leaves my side. Who's the stud, the dork, and the bottle blonde?

GABRIELLE

Minya, this is Ares, Aphrodite and Joxer.

MINYA

What? Ares, god of war? And Aphrodite... you're the goddess of love! And Joxer the... sorry, bub, I never heard of you.

APHRODITE

Okay! All right! I just figured something out! This thing going on down here...

(points to her stomach)

...this weird feeling... is hunger. Mortals have to eat and I'm getting pretty cranky!

And she heads off.

CUT TO:

19 EXT. PROMONTORY - DAY

19

Thelonius and his men again. All in various stages of boredom. Some snoozing, some playing "parchment, dagger." Thelonius sits on a stump, idly flipping his dagger and catching it by the handle. A BEAT, then angrily, he throws the dagger up at something. A BEAT, then an impaled bird drops down. The Men all rise and look hopeful. \*

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

MUNK

Was that...?

THELONIUS

No! It's lunch. Cook it.

The Men looked disappointed as Thelonius hands the bird to Munk.

CUT TO:

20 INT. TAVERN - DAY

20

Aphrodite scarfs down her food as Ares and Minya sit nearby. Ares is trying not to notice the gazes of Minya toward him and Aphrodite. Gabrielle sits at another table, thinking. Joxer sits at yet another table with some ale. Speaking of ale, the Tavernkeeper has placed pots all around the room and is on a ladder, trying to fix the leaks with little success. Aphrodite puts her mug under a stream and takes a long drink.

APHRODITE

You know one thing I like about being mortal?

(BELCHES LOUDLY)

That's such a trip!

\*

MINYA

You know, my boyfriend, Hower, thinks that the Goddess of Love is all beautiful and perfect.

(smiles broadly)

Wait'll he hears you're just as plain as dirt on a wagon wheel! Just like me!

Ares gives a DRY LAUGH. Aphrodite gives Minya a glare and blows the hair from her face.

ON GABRIELLE

GABRIELLE

I'm supposed to be the great bard with the wonderful stories. Some Bard. I can't even write happy endings without screwing up.

JOXER

Yeah, you can. Gab, I've read your stories. I like you... your writing. It makes me feel good. Isn't that enough of a happy ending?

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

She looks to him with a smile.

JOXER

And it's not like everything you wrote  
in that scroll was a disaster.  
Remember the orphans of the Sisters of  
Gaea?

He points over to Priestess #1 who has entered. The  
Priestess sees Gabrielle and walks over.

PRIESTESS #1

You know that sword that man gave us?  
We sold it for a king's ransom to  
Philiadis.

She points to Philiadis who wears the sword in his belt.

JOXER

See? You did do some good. For the  
orphans!

ANGLE ON DOORS

which burst open. SCABERUS from Act I enters and looks  
around until he sees Philiadis with his jeweled sword.

SCABERUS

You! That's my kinsman's sword. And  
you're a dead man!

Scaberus pulls his sword to attack Philiadis.

GABRIELLE

Wait! What's your name?

SCABERUS

(confused)  
My name is Scaberus. Why?

Gabrielle writes in the scroll. Scaberus gets a thought...

SCABERUS

The caves... I must go to the caves.

And he heads out.

ARES

Those caves are going to start getting  
pretty full.

Gabrielle - totally bummed - gets up and walks away. Joxer  
watches her, looking equally sad. Aphrodite BELCHES again.

CUT TO:

21 EXT. PROMONTORY - DAY

21

Thelonius and Munk, staring into a fire with a small bird cooking over it.

THELONIUS

Where's my drink?

A man carrying a large keg of drink walks over, trips, and dumps the alcohol into the fire. It EXPLODES with a ball of flame.

Thelonius is left with a fried face and costume. The Men all look expectantly at him.

THELONIUS

No, that was not the sign!

And he fumes (literally).

CUT TO:

22 OMITTED

22

22A EXT. TOWN - DAY

22A\*

Joxer, Minya, Gabrielle, Ares and Aphrodite walk along. Aphrodite is now limping, her hair slightly tilting to the side.

GABRIELLE

I tried, "Xena goes to her number one friend." But no Xena. "Xena rejoins the woman who brought her a new life." Still no Xena.

At that moment, TWO BURLY, HAIRY MEN - one blond, one dark-haired - dressed exactly like Xena and Gabrielle pass by in front of them. Everyone stares as they exit frame. Then, the group turns to look at Gabrielle. She shrugs.

GABRIELLE

Don't ask. That one didn't work either.

\*

(CONTINUED)

22A CONTINUED:

22A

GABRIELLE

(idea)  
Wait... I've been trying to bring her here. Maybe we should go find her. There can't be that many places to fish around here! That's it! Let's start looking for a trout stream. Or fishing hole. Wherever I sent her.

Joxer is watching:

APHRODITE

fussing with her hair, trying to get one lock to stay in it's place. Joxer walks over to her.

APHRODITE

Why won't it stay up? Basic hair care is such a drag when you're not a goddess.

JOXER

It looks good on you.

APHRODITE

Flattery works. Keep going.

JOXER

I had a question about Love. I've got this friend who loves someone, but she doesn't know he...

APHRODITE

Haven't you noticed? The Love Goddess is off the clock right now. I've got my own problems.

Joxer looks pathetic. Aphrodite succumbs.

APHRODITE

All right. Poetry. And if that doesn't work: Presents. Lots and lots of presents. Okay? Standard answer. Give me my space.

(CONTINUED)

22A CONTINUED: 2

22A

She gestures him away. Joxer goes back to where Gabrielle left her bag. He sits and ponders.

JOXER

Poetry...

Desperately he feels around until he grabs the first piece of parchment he sees from Gabrielle's bag. It's THE SCROLL, but he doesn't realize that. As he writes, FLUTE MUSIC is heard. He looks at the scroll. Turns it over. Suddenly realizing it is THE scroll. He looks up.

WIDE

THREE NAKED, DANCING GABRIELLES are in front of him. As he stares, we notice Ares, Aphrodite and Minya staring.

A beat, then Gabrielle enters frame. She stares in disbelief. Then, she looks to Joxer, who holds up the scroll.

GABRIELLE

You wrote on the scroll.

\*  
\*

JOXER

I was just trying to cheer you up with a limerick.

She grabs the scroll and reads:

GABRIELLE

(she reads)

A Warrior, Joxer the Mighty. Asked a boon from the God Aphrodite. And what a surprise. He saw with love's eyes. Three times --" That's it?

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

JOXER

I was having trouble finishing. Anyone know another word that ends in "itey"?

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

GABRIELLE

What's love's eyes got to do with me?

\*  
\*

Joxer looks like he is about to confess his true feelings.

\*

JOXER

I... You... See...

\*  
\*

GABRIELLE

Oh, I get it. Love's eyes. Aphrodite's eyes. She must have been looking at me when you wrote this poem.

\*  
\*  
\*  
\*  
\*

(CONTINUED)

"The Quill..." #V0408

26A.

10/24/97 - Blue

22A CONTINUED: 3

22A

JOXER

Yeah. That must be it.

(beat)

To the caves with them?

GABRIELLE

To the caves.

She scribbles on the scroll and the Three Gabrielles run  
off.

CUT TO:

\*  
\*  
\*

\*  
\*

\*



22B EXT. CAMPSITE #2 - NIGHT

22B\*

Aphrodite is SNORING up a storm. Everyone else is asleep as well. Except one... Joxer sits up and looks over to the sleeping form of Gabrielle.

JOXER

Presents... Aphrodite said presents.  
How do I buy you a present with no...

He pauses as his eyes spy his father's scabbard laying nearby. With an idea...

CUT TO:

23 EXT. TOWN - NIGHT - ON A PEDDLER'S CART

23

Joxer is examining a necklace.

JOXER

Will you trade for it?

PEDDLER

Yeah, I'll trade. But you gotta make it quick. It's late and I'm tired and...

Joxer holds out his scabbard. The Peddler's eyes light up.

PEDDLER

...I'm always open for business!

Off this:

CUT TO:

24 EXT. CAMPSITE #2 - NEXT MORNING

24\*

Gabrielle is waking up. She notices something heavy on her chest. It is the necklace.

GABRIELLE

What...?

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

Joxer is sitting nearby, staring at her with a grin on his face.

Like it? JOXER

It's beautiful. But why...? GABRIELLE

I wanted to get you something. To say how sorry I was about the three naked yous and all. JOXER

She looks at him for a moment in a way she has never looked at him before (except when under the influence of Cupid's arrows).

I had to trade my father's scabbard for it, but it was -- JOXER

What? You said you'd never ever part with the scabbard. GABRIELLE

Some things are worth more than -- JOXER

With a SCREAM, she grabs him around the throat and begins to throttle him. Everyone wakes up and stares.

The scroll -- I hid the SCROLL in the scabbard! Where is it now? GABRIELLE

The peddler! We can get it back! What are the odds he'll figure it out? JOXER

At that moment, the VILLAGE WOMAN enters holding her skirt which is filled with dinars. As she rushes by: \*

You'd better hurry! It's raining dinars in town! VILLAGE WOMAN \*

And she rushes off, as everyone looks at Joxer with death in their eyes.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

25 EXT. CAMPSITE #2 - DAY

25\*

Gabrielle is pacing back and forth as Ares, Aphrodite and Minya discuss their situation. Joxer is not to be seen.

\*

Gabrielle stops and snaps her fingers.

GABRIELLE

I got it! I know what to write.  
We got to get that scroll back right  
away.

\*  
\*  
\*

ARES

What are you going to write?

\*

GABRIELLE

It's my business until we get the darn  
thing. Aphrodite, you and Minya go to  
the town, try and find out where the  
peddler went. Ares and I will go to  
where it was raining dinars and look  
for him there.

JOXER'S VOICE

What about me?

ADJUST ANGLE to include Joxer, who is tied to the trunk of  
a tree.

\*

GABRIELLE

(untying him)  
You go to the caves and wait.

\*

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: 2 25

Off his dejected look, we:

CUT TO:

26 OMITTED 26

26A EXT. ROAD - DAY 26A

The peddler is pushing his dinar-loaded cart down the trail with the scroll in his back pocket.

CUT TO:

26B EXT. TOWN - DAY 26B

Aphrodite is leaning against a wall. She looks even more disheveled than before. A man walks by. She grabs him, adjusts his hair, and in her breathiest, sexy voice:

APHRODITE

Wait... excuse me... Have you seen a peddler?

\*

MAN #2

Call me when you've had a bath, Toots.

\*  
\*

She reacts, looking upset. Minya walks up.

\*

MINYA

Okay, the tavernkeeper said the peddler headed out of town.

(noticing)

What's wrong?

APHRODITE

(letting it out)

I'm going to end up being you!

\*

Aphrodite SOBS. Minya looks confused, then pleased.

CUT TO:

26C EXT. NEAR CAVES - DAY 26C

Gabrielle and Ares are following a trail of deep wagon ruts in the ground. At least, Gabrielle is following them.

(CONTINUED)

26C CONTINUED:

26C

GABRIELLE

These wagon ruts are deep. As if he's carrying a load of dinars.

ARES

Where did you learn to read trails like that?

GABRIELLE

Where else? Xena. You hang around her, you're bound to pick up something. You just have to focus.

ARES

I taught her that. When she came to me, she was just a lost warlord, hungry to kill. I gave her purpose.

GABRIELLE

Well, she's got a different purpose now.

ARES

Yes, I know. She's very good at it, too. What she did when I had her on trial for her life... Amazing.

GABRIELLE

What about what she pulled off with the Furies?

ARES

Brilliant. And she does it all with that steely look of hers.

GABRIELLE

(warming up)

Oh, yeah. I know what you mean. Like this.

She sets her face in a Xena-like stare. Ares CHUCKLES.

ARES

Almost. But she does something with her eyebrows.

GABRIELLE

Right.

Gabrielle cocks one eyebrow a la Xena.

ARES

That's it. You got it.

(CONTINUED)

26C CONTINUED: 2

26C

They share a LAUGH, and then stare at each other for a moment. They become uncomfortable with this bonding. Gabrielle glances down at the ruts.

GABRIELLE

He's heading for the caves.

ARES

Right.

They walk on a few steps.

ARES

We were warming up to each other a bit there.

GABRIELLE

Yeah, I guess we were.

A beat.

ARES

I didn't like it.

GABRIELLE

Coming right back at you.

27 INT. FIRST CAVERN - DAY

27

OPENINGS on FOUR sides of the cavern - NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST - each one leading into ANOTHER CAVERN - EXACTLY LIKE THIS ONE. Gabrielle and Ares enter.

\*

\*

Sleeping peacefully on the cavern floor lie the Five Barbarians. Standing over them, is Joxer. He's trying to get their swords. He sees Gabrielle and Ares.

\*

\*

JOXER

Shhhhh!... Very quiet! I'm trying to disarm them!

GABRIELLE

Joxer, don't! I don't know how, but you'll screw it up. Back away. Now.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

JOXER

I'm not going to screw it up. If they  
wake up while we're looking for the  
peddler...

Suddenly, the Peddler steps into the cavern from the WEST  
OPENING.

JOXER

(screams)

There he is!

The Barbarians start to wake up. Then, Scaberus enters from  
the NORTH OPENING.

BARBARIAN LEADER

What...?

SCABERUS

Who's got my kinsman's sword?

Scaberus swings his sword at the Peddler, causing the  
Peddler to duck and run, dropping the scroll. Scaberus  
chases the Peddler out the WEST OPENING.

The Barbarians are fully awake!

BARBARIAN LEADER

Kill them!

Joxer reaches out and snags the scroll, just as a Barbarian  
grabs him by the collar.

JOXER

Gabrielle!!!

Joxer tosses Gabrielle the scroll. She catches it.

JOXER

Run!

Gabrielle steps forward and BANGS the Barbarian on the head.  
Joxer gets loose and runs toward the door, running into  
Minya, whose impact knocks him flat on his back.

GABRIELLE

Go!

The other Barbarians pull their swords as Gabrielle, Ares,  
and Aphrodite (no Joxer) turn and run out of the SOUTH  
OPENING into...

28 OMITTED

28\*

29 INT. SECOND CAVERN - DAY

29\*

They all run through the cavern, Gabrielle in the lead WITH THE SCROLL. She makes a quick left into the EAST OPENING. Before Ares and Aphrodite can follow, Scaberus runs out - HOLDING THE SCROLL and waving it above his head. He threatens Ares and Aphrodite with his sword.

SCABERUS

My kinsman's sword!

\*

The Five Barbarians run in from the NORTH OPENING. Without skipping a beat, they pick him up like a log, and continue running SOUTH.

\*

ANGLE FROM BEHIND

As they run SOUTH, the Naked Gabrielles run in from the SOUTH OPENING. The Barbarians, still holding Scaberus like a log, reverse direction and chase after the Naked Gabrielles.

ANGLE FROM BEHIND

Scaberus holds the scroll up in front of him. As the Barbarians - chasing the Naked Gabrielles - carry Scaberus past the EAST OPENING, an ARM SHOOTS OUT of the EAST OPENING and grabs the scroll. The Barbarians, carrying Scaberus, disappear into the NORTH OPENING.

Joxer ENTERS from the EAST with the scroll. One Naked Gabrielle enters in each of the three other OPENINGS (WEST, NORTH, SOUTH) Joxer watches, frozen, as they dance together and then out the EAST OPENING.

Joxer turns as the Peddler runs in from the WEST and lunges for the scroll. Joxer crouches, and slips between the Peddler's legs.

\*

(CONTINUED)



29 CONTINUED:

29

The Barbarians come running through the SOUTH OPENING and trample him. As they run over Joxer, the Barbarian Leader picks up the scroll. They continue on through the NORTH OPENING.

\*  
\*

30  
THRU  
32

OMITTED

30\*  
THRU  
32\*

33 INT. THIRD CAVERN - DAY

33\*

As the Barbarians run through, (SOUTH to NORTH) Gabrielle's staff pokes out of the EAST OPENING. The Barbarians trip and fall into a tangled Barbarian pileup.

Gabrielle runs in, grabs the scroll, and runs out the WEST.

\*

34 INT. FOURTH CAVERN - DAY

34\*

Gabrielle rushes in from the EAST. Satisfied that she is alone, she starts to write.

Aphrodite and Joxer ENTER through the SOUTH, the Barbarians and Naked Gabrielles ENTER through THE EAST. Scaberus ENTERS through the NORTH. Gabrielle is surrounded.

JOXER

Gabrielle! Over here!

The Barbarians and Scaberus go for her. Gabrielle finishes writing and throws the scroll to Joxer.

CLOSE ON SCROLL

as it flies, end over end, through the air. A hand reaches up and snags it.

WIDE

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

The hand belongs to the Peddler. He turns on his heels and runs out the WEST, followed by Scaberus, the Barbarians and the Three Gabrielle's.

GABRIELLE

That's the way out of the caves.

JOXER

Minya!

Concerned, they follow.

CUT TO:

35 EXT. CAVE - DAY

35

The Peddler runs out of the cave, carrying the scroll, followed by Barbarians, Scaberus, etc. Seconds later, Ares rushes out, then Minya.

MINYA

Come on, they're getting away.

ARES

Me? I'm mortal. They could kill me.

MINYA

(disgusted)

Gods...

She pulls out her whip and CRACKS it as she chases them all OFF SCREEN. Gabrielle, Joxer, and Aphrodite rush out of the cave.

JOXER

What did you write in the scroll?

GABRIELLE

Instead of bringing Xena to the scroll, I sent the scroll to Xena. I just hope I phrased it right.

CUT TO:

36 EXT. PROMONTORY - DAY

36

Thelonius, still with his fried features, is startled by the distant SOUND OF SCREAMING Barbarians. He shakes his head, unable to believe what he sees: Minya chasing the Barbarians, Scaberus, the Peddler, and the Naked Gabrielles across a field. The Warriors all look puzzled. Then, Thelonius smiles.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

THELONIUS

If that's not a sign from Ares, I don't  
know what is.

Thelonus pulls out his sword.

THELONIUS

ATTACK!!!!

Off this, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

37 EXT. FIELD - DAY

37

Minya still chasing the Barbarians et al, as:

STOCK SHOTS

Warriors on the move.

38 EXT. CAVE - DAY

38

Gabrielle, Joxer, Ares and Aphrodite.

GABRIELLE

Ares, we have to catch up with your  
Warlord friend so you can call off this  
attack.

ARES

I can't stop them as a mortal! When  
I get my powers back, I promise I'll  
punish Thelonius and his whole army  
in some horrible and painful way.

GABRIELLE

Innocent people are going to die!

A blank return from Ares; he doesn't get her point.

ARES

Oh... yeah. Innocent people.

Joxer starts to sniff the air, noticing something.

GABRIELLE

With or without you, we're going after  
Thelonius.

APHRODITE

Exqueeze me.... who exactly is "we"?

JOXER

Do you smell something?

APHRODITE

Lay off me, jerk! I'm new to this  
mortal hygiene stuff!

Everyone starts to sniff.

JOXER

Not you... it's... fish!

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

GABRIELLE  
(turning)

Xena!

Xena walks up, holding the scroll in one hand. With her other, she pulls a huge wagon with the largest catch of fish ever seen.

XENA  
Looking for this? I took it off a peddler. Being chased by Barbarians. Chased by naked Gabrielles. And Minya. She's still chasing them. I read the scroll.

GABRIELLE  
I really made a mess of it, didn't I?

XENA  
Pretty much. I liked the limerick, though.

JOXER  
That was me.

XENA  
Figures.

GABRIELLE  
I tried to get you back. I wrote, "Xena meets with her number one friend."

XENA  
I went to visit a girl I haven't seen since I was five. My first friend.

ARES  
What about "Xena rejoins the woman who brought her a new life."

XENA  
My mother says thanks for all the fish. I did start back once, but then I was hit with an incredible urge to return to fishing. I figure that was when you wrote "Xena returns from her journey." I finally figured something was up. I visited just about every person who ever meant something to me... except you. That's why I was on my way back.

She puts an affectionate hand on Gabrielle's shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: 2

38

APHRODITE

I hate to be, like, the major  
impediment to a love fest, but LOOK AT  
ME! I'm not built to be mortal! We  
have put things back the way they were!

JOXER

And stop Thelonius from destroying the  
valley.

APHRODITE

(who cares?)

Whatever.

XENA

Aphrodite, tell me the charm you used  
for the scroll. Exact wording.

APHRODITE

"Lies shall make the world go 'round.  
Till truer words are written down."

XENA

So if you make something up, the scroll  
has the power to make it happen. But  
when "truer words are written," the  
power ends. That's it. We just have  
to write the truth.

GABRIELLE

How is that going to help us take care  
of the Warlord?

XENA

I have to take care of him. But you...  
you have to write down everything I do.  
No embellishing. No poetic stuff.  
Just exactly what you see. Got it?

APHRODITE

How will we know if it works?

XENA

When you get your powers back, we'll  
know.

Xena grabs the rope to her wagon of fish and rushes off.  
Gabrielle looks inexplicably concerned.

JOXER

Something wrong?

GABRIELLE

I... I've never been very good at  
writing... you know... action.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: 3

38

ARES

What? You follow Xena around all day,  
writing down stories about her. How do  
you do that without writing action?

GABRIELLE

I use metaphors like, "Xena burst on  
the scene in a blaze of glory."

JOXER

You write that and she'll explode.

On Gabrielle's worried look:

CUT TO:

39 EXT. FIELD - DAY

39

Thelonius and his Lieutenant, running. Suddenly - THWACK -  
Thelonius is hit in the face with a fish. THWACK - Munk is  
hit in the face with a fish.

ON A LARGE BOULDER

Xena is ensconced behind it with her supply of fish. Using  
a slingshot, she is FLINGING FISH at the attacking army.

ON AN ATTACKING WARRIOR

THWACK - hit in the face with a squid.

40 EXT. FIELD - DAY

40

Gabrielle, Joxer, Ares and Aphrodite, observing the battle.  
Gabrielle is poised to write.

JOXER

(Boxing announcer)

Xena leads with a pike. Then a trout.  
Then, bam bam, two quick bass. Ooo,  
he's taking it on the chin. That  
octopus came out of nowhere.

ARES

Write, "Xena hit the warrior with a  
squid."

JOXER

That was an octopus.

ARES

I know a squid when I see it.

(CONTINUED)