

21 CONTINUED: 2

21

XENA

I brought you here because I thought we could get in a good day's fishing together.

GABRIELLE

No! There is no such thing as a good day's fishing. In fact, any day without fish is good!

XENA

Amazing... Sitting there like that, it's amazing how much you remind me of... Lyceus. He even used to argue with me about fishing. Said he hated it, but I could tell. He had the same fire for it that you and I...

GABRIELLE

Unless your brother was an Adonis, he and I are nothing alike!

Gabrielle stands in frustration, picking up her bag.

GABRIELLE

Isn't there anyone who appreciates how special and wonderful I am?

Just then, we hear a lusty JUNGLE CALL, followed by:

JOXER (O.C.)

Attis appreciate, my love!

Gabrielle looks up to SEE the naked Joxer headed right for her, swinging on his vine. He lands next to her.

GABRIELLE

(shocked)

Jo-- Jox...

JOXER

Don't speak. Attis take you as bride.

Joxer lifts Gabrielle into his arms, grabs his vine and swings off with her. Xena, watches them fly away... then shrugs and goes back to her kite.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

22 EXT. WOODS - UP IN THE TREES - DAY

22

With a MIGHTY JUNGLE CRY, Joxer the naked Jungle Man, sails from vine to vine with the terrified Gabrielle nestled in his arms. He lands nimbly on a branch high in the air. He clings to Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE

Joxer! Have you totally lost your mind?! Let go of me! Now!

Gabrielle stops as she finally takes a full gander at the naked Joxer. She hesitates for a BEAT. Joxer smiles, realizing that she's looking at him. He beats his chest.

JOXER

Princess Gia like Attis?

GABRIELLE

(trying to ignore his nether region)

Attis is... quite a surprise.

(then; shaking herself)

We've got to find you some clothes.

Gabrielle reaches in her bag for something... anything. As she does, Joxer moves closer and...

JOXER

Attis make you happy. You see.

He LICKS her cheek. She pushes him off.

GABRIELLE

Ugh.

Joxer sees a pretty, frilly thing in Gabrielle's bag and pulls it out. It's Mycenaean lingerie. Gabrielle snatches it away from Joxer.

GABRIELLE

No. I bought that when Xena was shopping for her kite material. A garment of this quality needs to adorn a perfect body. It would be a crime for anyone to wear it but me.

Joxer stands and stretches. Gabrielle takes one more look at his manhood, turns away and extends the lingerie.

GABRIELLE

Fine! Just put it on. Quick.

CUT TO:

23 EXT. LAKE - DAY

23

Xena picks up her kite and looks around for:

XENA
(calling out)
Gabrielle?

No answer. Xena shakes her head...

XENA
(yelling)
Monkey Man, bring her back?

No answer.

XENA
You're both beginning to irritate me
with these obsession of yours. I GOT
SOME FISHING TO DO!!!!

She ties her line to a tree, and stomps into the woods.

CUT TO:

24 EXT. WOODS - DAY

24

Joxer, now wearing the lingerie, drags the protesting Gabrielle through the woods.

GABRIELLE
Joxer! Joxer!!

His primitive mind spots an ANT HILL. He stops beside it, pulling Gabrielle down with him.

JOXER
Bride want food?

He takes a long stick and puts it into the hill. He pulls it out, now COVERED WITH ANTS, and offers it to Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE
No thanks. I had a late breakfast.

JOXER
Then now sex.

XENA (O.C.)
Gabrielle? Where are you?

Joxer furrows his brow. He clasps his hand over Gabrielle's mouth, but not before she can call out:

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

GABRIELLE
She's come for me. I knew she would.
She really can't stand to be without me
even for a few moments. Not that I
blame her.

Joxer responds to Xena's voice.

JOXER
(to Gabrielle)
You no worry. Attis protect.

With that, Joxer grabs Gabrielle and takes off:

CUT TO:

25 EXT. WOODS - UP IN THE TREES - DAY

25

Joxer swings Gabrielle through the trees on his vine.

GABRIELLE
(yelling at him)
Joxxxx-eeeer!

CLOSER - FAVORING JOXER

as he hangs on to Gabrielle.

He lights on a limb, pausing briefly. Then, he lets out a
LOUD MONKEY YELL. It echoes in the forest. Joxer smiles.
But then, after a BEAT, he hears a response: XENA'S WAR CRY
echoes through the forest. Joxer is taken aback.

JOXER
Ugh?!

Feeling threatened, Joxer immediately takes off with
Gabrielle, swinging on his vine, when something sudden
and fast SWINGS towards them. Whatever it is, it takes
Gabrielle. After it passes, Joxer looks over to his empty
arm. He turns around to look for Gabrielle...

JOXER
Where she go?!

He turns back, just in time to see:

JOXER'S POV:

A large tree is directly in his path.

RESUME JOXER

He slams, crotch first, right into the tree trunk.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

JOXER

Oooh. That not feel so good.

He slides down the tree, breaking off branches as he goes, finally landing in a heap on the ground.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Xena, with Gabrielle in her arms, lands on the forest floor.

GABRIELLE

Thank you, Xena. You saved me. The world will long remember you for rescuing a beauty unrivaled in --

Xena drops Gabrielle like a sack of potatoes.

XENA

Come on, we've got a fish to catch.

CUT TO:

26 EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY

26

Gabrielle is squishing berries and rubs the red juice onto her lips ever so daintily. She's reddening her lips. WIDEN TO Xena, now tending her fishing line, finally noticing her.

XENA

What are you doing?

GABRIELLE

There's nothing wrong with highlighting perfection with berry juice.

XENA

Maybe not, but those aren't berries. It's bait. Looks good on you, though.

She reaches out and jerks the little basket away from Gabrielle. Gabrielle reacts, rubbing her lips as quickly as possible.

XENA

Hey, Gabrielle, remember that diamond that we were looking for earlier?

GABRIELLE

Diamond? Was that today?

XENA

Yes. I've never seen it, but I hear it's perfect... Just like you.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

Gabrielle perks up.

GABRIELLE

Well, I'm glad you can finally admit that, Xena. It must have been difficult. I'm aware of the envy I inspire.

XENA

Right. Anyway, that's why Aphrodite wanted it. I realize that now.

GABRIELLE

What do you mean?

XENA

Well, she thinks of herself as the perfect female, immortal or otherwise, and she obviously thought the perfect diamond was something she should wear.

GABRIELLE

She thinks she's the perfect female?

XENA

Well, you know how deluded the gods can be.

GABRIELLE

Oh, yes. 'Tis sad but true.

XENA

Anyway, she'll be wearing that diamond soon as a kind of a badge announcing her as the most beautiful creature in the universe.

Gabrielle leaps to her feet.

GABRIELLE

Let's go, Xena.

XENA

Where?

GABRIELLE

We've got to get that diamond. If it's perfection, I should possess it.

XENA

Sorry, Gabrielle, I'm about to get a bite, I feel it. But Maecenus should be passing by this lake soon with it. You might want to --

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: 2 26

She has to say no more as Gabrielle dashes off into the woods on a mission.

DISSOLVE TO:

27 EXT. WOODS - DAY 27

Maecenus and his Thugs make their way along a path. Maecenus holds the pouch that contains the diamond.

ANOTHER ANGLE

In a tree, Gabrielle, poised for a strike, spots Maecenus and the Thugs. She smiles.

RESUME SCENE

As Maecenus and his Thugs continue on, just then... we hear Gabrielle's version of the WAR CRY!

28 EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY 28

Xena is busy fishing. She hears GABRIELLE'S WAR CRY.

XENA

Go, Gabby.

29 EXT. WOODS - DAY 29

Maecenus and the Thugs are looking around for Xena. Suddenly, Gabrielle drops from the tree, FIGHTING STAFF in hand. She gets the drop on Maecenus, swatting the pouch out of his hand and HIGH IN THE AIR. Gabrielle catches the pouch on the run, and takes off.

MAECENUS

(shouting at his men)

After her!

Maecenus and his Thugs take off after Gabrielle and...

THE CHASE IS ON

Gabrielle uses her fighting stick to catapult past BOULDERS and FALLEN LOGS. Maecenus and his men chase after her.

CUT TO:

30 EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY

30

Xena continues fishing, her eyes intent on the water. She starts calling out over her shoulder.

XENA

Hey, Monkey Man. What's his name?
Attila, Attis, whatever, come here
if you want the princess.

A moment later Joxer flies out of the trees, lands next to Xena and hands her his leafy crown.

XENA

What?

JOXER

Attis not King of Jungle. If anyone
King, it you.

XENA

Uh-huh. Thanks, but I don't want your
crown. Listen, Attis, you want the
princess?

JOXER

Attis need mate with princess very
much.

XENA

All right, I'll tell you what you need
to do...

DISSOLVE TO:

31 EXT. WOODS - DAY

31

Gabrielle, still holding the pouch, rushes through the woods. Not far behind, Maecenus and his Thugs, now ARMED WITH SWORDS, are gaining on her.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Gabrielle makes her way through a GROVE OF TREES only to find herself in:

31A EXT. BOX CANYON - DAY

31A

She turns around to escape, but she's too late. Maecenus and his Thugs arrive on the scene and close in on her. She turns to face them, exuding confidence.

(CONTINUED)

31A CONTINUED:

31A

GABRIELLE

Hold up, boys. You think I'm not used to men chasing me? It's the same old story. My beauty can be a curse in that department. Besides, I know that even people of your ilk can appreciate perfection, right?

MAECENUS

Right. Kill her.

Off this, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

32 EXT. BOX CANYON - DAY (CONTINUOUS) 32

As before, Gabrielle is still trapped.

MAECENUS

You're trapped. Now, give us the diamond and we'll make sure your loved ones can identify the body.

GABRIELLE

This body? Are you mad? Have you no appreciation of absolute, inviolate beauty?

Maecenus and his Thugs exchange glances. Then:

MAECENUS

Guess not.

Maecenus nods to his Thugs who RUSH AT GABRIELLE. As she lets out a BLOODCURDLING SCREAM:

CUT TO:

33 EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY 33

Xena fishes. Just then, Gabrielle's SCREAM echoes in the distance. Xena looks off for a moment, then shakes her head and continues fishing. As she WHISTLES peacefully, we:

CUT TO:

34 EXT. BOX CANYON - DAY 34

Maecenus and his Thugs are about to grab Gabrielle.

JOXER

swings in on a vine, grabs Gabrielle, and swings away with her!

Maecenus and his Thugs stand there for a moment, stunned, their mouths agape. Maecenus snaps himself out of it.

MAECENUS

(to his Thugs)

After them!

The Thugs drop their swords and take out CROSSBOWS. They rush out after Joxer and Gabrielle:

CUT TO:

35 EXT. WOODS - UP IN THE TREES - DAY

35

Joxer swings off with Gabrielle in his arms. They land on a tree limb.

GABRIELLE
(stunned)
Joxer! You saved me...

She gives him a peck on the cheek. Joxer blushes, then grabs Gabrielle for a big hug.

JOXER
Attis knew you'd come around.

Gabrielle struggles to get free, when an ARROW flies in and sticks in the tree between them.

JOXER
(pointing to the arrow)
Funny bird.

Just then, a second, then a third arrow flies in. Joxer and Gabrielle look down to spot Maecenus and his Thugs.

GABRIELLE
(to Joxer)
Let's get out of here!

Joxer hesitates.

JOXER
Attis not afraid of funny bird.
Attis King of Jungle.

A fourth arrow flies in, landing just below Joxer's crotch.

JOXER
(voice too high)
Attis now afraid.

With that, Joxer grabs Gabrielle and swings off:

CUT TO:

36 EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY

36

Xena continues to fish. She smiles to herself for a moment, then:

XENA
(counting)
Five, four, three, two...

ANOTHER ANGLE

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

Nearby, Joxer SWINGS IN with Gabrielle. Maecenus and his Thugs are right behind them!

Gabrielle calls:

GABRIELLE
Xena!

Xena starts to tie up her fishing line when --

SHE GETS A BITE!

And this is no nibble.

XENA
This is it...

Xena looks to the lake where she sees:

A TREMENDOUS FISH jump out of the water, caught on the line. Xena smiles, realizing:

XENA
Saularus!

Xena turns her full attention back to the fish. Meanwhile... Maecenus and his Thugs cut off Gabrielle and Joxer from Xena. They draw their swords and move in for the kill.

MAECENUS
No games this time. Now, you die!

GABRIELLE
(calling to Xena)
Xena!

ON XENA

She struggles with Saularus on the line.

XENA
Gabrielle! I've got Saularus!
I finally got him!

ON GABRIELLE

as Maecenus moves even closer.

GABRIELLE
Xena! We're gonna die!

ON XENA

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: 2

36

She looks over at Gabrielle, then back at Saularus, then back at Gabrielle...

XENA
(calling)
Gabrielle! Toss me the diamond!

ON GABRIELLE

GABRIELLE
(dodging a bad guy)
No. It's mine by right of --

Just before Maecenus can kill her, she shows that discretion is also the better part of perfection and tosses the pouch high in the air.

ON THE POUCH

Maecenus and his Thugs WATCH IT FLY... until Xena catches it with her free hand.

XENA
(calling)
Come and get it, boys!

Maecenus turns to his Thugs:

MAECENUS
Get her!

Maecenus and his Thugs attack. Xena never lets go of her fishing line as she struggles with Saularus...

THE FIGHT IS ON

Using one free hand, and two feet, Xena fends off Maecenus and his Thugs. Meanwhile, Saularus tugs at the line, moving Xena back and forth across the shore... making the fight that much more difficult.

ON GABRIELLE AND JOXER

still pinned to the tree. Gabrielle watches, helpless. She calls to Xena:

GABRIELLE
Drop the fishing line, Xena... Forget about Saularus!

ON XENA

She continues to struggle with the fish and with the Thugs.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: 3

36

XENA

Are you crazy? Never! Not after all
this time...!

Finally, a determined Xena YANKS the line, pulling the
mighty fish, reeling it to shore...

With Saularus on the ropes, Xena uses the slack in the line
to her advantage.

She TIES THE LINE AROUND MAECENUS, then FLIPS HIGH in the
air, smacking each of the Thugs on the way down. They're
out cold. Saularus yanks at the line, pulling Maecenus into
a tree, knocking him out cold as well.

Xena lands and grabs her fishing line. Unfortunately...
the line has gone slack. Xena looks out to the lake,
realizing...

XENA

He's gone.

Xena reels her line in, then crosses to Gabrielle and Joxer
and releases them. Gabrielle reads her disappointment.

GABRIELLE

He got away, huh?

XENA

Yeah. But it worked! Did you see it,
Gabrielle? It all worked beautifully!
Except...

GABRIELLE

He still got away.
(then)
Give me my diamond.

Xena takes the diamond out of the pouch and turns it over in
her hand.

XENA

It is beautiful.

GABRIELLE

You were right to think that only I
should wear it.

Xena darts a look out at the lake and then reexamines the
diamond.

GABRIELLE

Are you going to give it to me or not?

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: 4

36

Xena holds it out of Gabrielle's reach as she continues to study the lake.

XENA

I've got an idea.

DISSOLVE TO:

37 EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY - LATER

37

Xena has bent down two trees on the shore line and tied them off.

She ties the diamond onto a fishing line and suspends the fishing line from a branch overhanging the lake. She looks out at the lake, draws her sword and waits for something.

GABRIELLE

What are you doing?

XENA

I'm sending the North Star back to The Heavens before nightfall. I'm hoping the powers of the Mystic Diamond will guide it home.

Gabrielle steps between Xena and the diamond.

GABRIELLE

But it's mine.

XENA

Just think, when people look up at the sky at night and see the perfect star, they'll think of you. This will be a symbol of your beauty for all time to come.

GABRIELLE

It's so sad that everyone can't see the real thing. But I suppose a symbol is the best we can do. Fire away.

Gabrielle watches as Xena continues to stare out at the lake.

GABRIELLE

What are you waiting for?

XENA

Gabrielle, there's no reason why I can't get in one last bit of fishing before we do this.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

Gabrielle realizes what's going on.

GABRIELLE

You're using my diamond as bait?

Xena's eyes glow with a manic obsession.

XENA

It's just crazy enough to work.

Saularus leaps out of the water and swallows the diamond, just as:

XENA

cuts the rope.

SAULARUS AND THE DIAMOND

are sent zooming up into the sky where it flashes into magical light...

ON XENA AND GABRIELLE

They look at the fish disappear into the heavens.

GABRIELLE

I think you just put a fish in
The Heavens.

XENA

I dedicate that fish to Lyceus.

Suddenly, Xena staggers as if hit on the head. She shakes her head as if waking up and looks around. She gains her bearings and then smiles.

GABRIELLE

Are you alright, Xena?

XENA

I was obsessed with fishing, wasn't I?

GABRIELLE

I haven't really been paying much
attention to your petty activities.
I have more important things to occupy
me.

She lounges by the lake and studies her face in the water.
Xena sits next to her.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: 2

37

XENA

Gabrielle, I realized what it was that was driving me and when I said it, the obsession was gone. It wasn't really fishing. It was all that was left unresolved with my brother. I felt I still owed him something and when I acknowledged that, I was out from under the spell.

GABRIELLE

I love the way my eyes glow when the sun hits them.

XENA

Gabrielle, there's something that's bothering you that you have to get in touch with.

GABRIELLE

You're right about that.

She reaches out to touch her reflection but her fingers send ripples through her reflected face.

GABRIELLE

But everytime I try, that happens.

XENA

(grabbing Gabrielle's hands)
No. Think. What is it about yourself that's bothering you?

GABRIELLE

The sun is so harsh on my skin.

XENA

No, think.

She grabs Gabrielle's face in her hands.

XENA

There's something about yourself you're not satisfied with.

GABRIELLE

You mean other than the fact that no one gives me credit for anything and everyone thinks I'm nothing but a silly sidekick.

Gabrielle pulls back suddenly as if hit on the head. She shakes her head as things become clear to her.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: 3

37

GABRIELLE
Oh!!! I got a headache.

XENA
There. See? You're back to normal now, Gabrielle. And I promise, I'm gonna make sure you get more credit for the things you do from now on.

GABRIELLE
So it was insight that released us from the spell.

XENA
That's all it takes.

DISSOLVE TO:

38 OMITTED

38*

39 EXT. FIELD #2 - ON THE SKY - NIGHT

39

The moon is high, stars twinkle, establishing night. Just then, a SHOOTING STAR lights high in the sky, and we HIGHLIGHT a CONSTELLATION that looks like SAULARUS!

CUT TO:

40 EXT. FIELD #2 - NIGHT

40

Xena and Gabrielle lie on the ground, looking at the stars.

GABRIELLE
It does definitely look like a fish. Which one's the North Star?

XENA
That big one there.

GABRIELLE
Huh. It's pretty. Thanks for figuring out that insight thing. Who knows how long we would have been under that spell if it wasn't for you.

XENA
I couldn't have done it without you, Gabrielle. Any good I'm able to do in this world is because I do it with you.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

XENA (cont'd)
Everyday you make an important
contribution to what we're doing and
I'm gonna make sure everybody knows
that from now on.

GABRIELLE
You don't have to do that. But it's
nice to be reminded that you feel that
way.

Xena returns the smile and then they both look up at the sky
again. After a moment, Joxer skitters into frame, running
past, dragging his knuckles.

JOXER
Hoo, hoo, hoo, hoo!

GABRIELLE
(pause)
You still have to take care of Joxer.

XENA
Tomorrow.

And they continue staring at the stars, as we:

FADE OUT.

THE END