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FROM: Maggie Hickerson, Script Co-ordinator

RE: "SHORELINE" #V0622 - Beat Sheet by Steven L. Sears

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Prod. #V0622

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Shoreline"

by

Steven L. Sears

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. L. Sears', with a flourish extending from the top right.

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BEAT SHEET
December 15, 1998

SHORELINE

Steven L. Sears

TEASER:

1. **EXT. TOP DECK OF BOAT - DAY -** Xena and Gabrielle arrive at Haifa, where they are met by **CARMINUS** (from a Good Day) and **AGNICIUS**, a centurion in Pompey's army. Mercenaries from Pompey's defeated army are heading home on this ship. Most of them wounded, bandages wrapped around arms and legs. Agnicius has an offer for Xena. He offers her Pompey's head. She tells him that Pompey isn't worth killing. He tells her that the deed has already been done. Carminus pulls out a box and in it (discreetly hidden from the audience) is a head. Gabrielle reacts. Xena examines it. Then agrees to buy the head. Gabrielle looks on in shock. Xena doesn't reply. Agnicius tells her they can make their arrangements on the boat back to Minos, where they will part ways.
2. **EXT. SHIP SAILS - DAY -** Where we can see two ships, the lead ship with Xena and our cast, and the follow ship.
3. **EXT. SHIP - TOPDECK - DAY -** As Gabrielle demands to know what is going on. Has Xena given in to her hatred for Caesar again. Xena tells her that something is up. That head is a pretty good likeness of Pompey, but it's not Pompey. For one thing, Pompey now has a scar on his face that wasn't on the head. Gabrielle looks at Xena; "When did he get a scar?" Xena turns to a man with a bandaged face, rips the bandage from his head and says "Why don't you ask Pompey?" We can see that it is, indeed, **POMPEY**, a small scar on his forehead. **END OF TEASER.**

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ACT ONE:

1. **EXT. SHIP - TOPDECK - DAY - Xena, Gabrielle and Pompey.** Pompey hurriedly pulls the bandages up over his face. Xena demands to know what is going on. Pompey tells her that this is none of her business. Let's just say that what he has to do, Xena will be very happy. Xena already knows. Pompey is going to kill Caesar. Pompey smiles. Ptolemy is worried about Caesar's interest in his sister, Cleopatra. So he and Pompey faked his death. The head is of someone who looks similar. The plan is that the head, and the mercenaries, will be presented to Caesar at the same time. At that moment, Pompey and his men (there are several disguised as mercenaries) will kill Caesar and take over Rome. An alliance with Ptolemy will follow. Agnicus doesn't know. Carminus is in on it. All Pompey asks is that Xena stay out of his way. Or, if she is still interested, become the ally that she already is. Xena is not interested. Pompey walks away.
2. **POMPEY AND CARMINUS -** Having a talk. Carminus is nervous, worried that Xena will try to disrupt their plan. Pompey tells him that she is no threat. But Carminus wants to tell his men to be ready in case something happens. Pompey nods.
3. **XENA AND GABRIELLE -** In private, Xena tells Gabrielle she is less worried about Pompey than she is with Agnicus. There is no way Xena can believe that Agnicus wanted to sell Pompey's head to her.
4. **EXT. SHIP - NIGHT -** To show passage of time.
5. **INT. BELOW DECKS - NIGHT -** As we see Xena, Gabrielle and the others sleeping. Figures moves among them. Several of them carrying a net. Their intent is clear; capture Xena. One of them carefully moves Xena's sword and sheath out of reach. They toss the net on her and hold the edges down. Surprisingly, Xena doesn't struggle. She opens her eyes and smiles. "Oh, please... like this is the first time someone's tried this..." Her Chakram flashes as she raises it, slicing through the net and freeing her. She lays into the men immediately, joined by Gabrielle.

Carminus hears the noise and screams to his men "They are on to us!" Pompey hisses for him to be quiet.
6. **ALL TARTARUS BREAKS LOOSE** (not literally) as Pompey's men lift their swords and drop their pretensions. Agnicus and his men retaliate. The fight is on and continues to the;

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7. **EXT. SHIP - TOPDECK - DAWN (DAY FOR NIGHT) -** As the battle rages for control of the ship. During this, the ship is veering wildly off course. Heading for some convenient rocks. Xena tries to gain control of the wheel, but can't with the battle raging. Finally, the ship heads towards;

8. **EXT. THE DANGEROUS REEF - DAWN -** And hits it, straight on. As the waves wash over the deck, we hear Xena screaming to Gabrielle to "swim toward the sun!" Whether she heard or not, Xena can't tell as the ship goes under.... **END OF ACT ONE.**

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ACT TWO:

1. **EXT. LOSSO ISLAND - BEACH - DAY -** Near rocks. We scan the bare beach for signs of life and see nothing but bits of wreckage. **PANNING ACROSS THE ROCKS**, we can only see the rough surf until a **HAND** reaches up over a rock and grips a cleft. Pulling herself up is a wet and injured Xena. She has a gaping wound in her side. She ignores it for the moment. As she pulls herself up, she finds the body of **CARMINUS**, dead. She takes his sword, puts it in her own sheath and checks to make sure that her chakram is okay. It isn't there. She's lost it. Great. She looks out toward the ocean and sees... nothing. Calm seas and an island in the distance. She whispers the name "Gabrielle", then moves inland...
2. **EXT. MENDENO ISLAND - DAY -** Also on beach. Laying face down, we find the body of Gabrielle. Clutched in her hand is Xena's Chakram. In the sand next to her is her staff. She lies there, face down. As she does, we **SEE** a shadow move across her. Then, a stick **ENTERS FRAME** and pokes at her. She doesn't move. Then, the stick pokes at the Chakram, trying to slide it from Gabrielle's grasp. It slides loose and the stick pulls it a little ways.... Gabrielle moans and starts to stir. Whatever was doing the poking drops the stick and the shadow rushes off. Gabrielle raises herself up and mutters "Xena...?" She looks around, realizing that she is alone and, looking at the Chakram, realizing that Xena might be dead. Taking up the chakram and the staff, she heads inland, walking right over the strange tracks in the sand...
3. **EXT. MENDENO - ISLAND - NEAR WATERFALL - DAY -** A beautiful lagoon with waterfall. Gabrielle comes upon it and tastes the water. It's clear and sweet. She leans down and starts to drink it. Suddenly, an **HAND** reaches out of the water and grabs her head! It pulls her into the lake. The water churns with the struggle, but whatever it is that grabbed her, it's not having the best of times with it. Gabrielle emerges from the water, rolling up onto the shore and grabbing her staff. "Whoever you are, you can't stay down there forever." A beat, then the water **ERUPTS** in a splash as a figure launches itself out of the water and lands near Gabrielle. It is a young man, about Gabrielle's age. Very handsome in a rugged way. And obviously strong. He wears a tattered pair of shorts similar in style to Persian pants. He will be known as **MACKHO**. But for right now, he isn't saying anything. Gabrielle demands an explanation. He just stares at her as if he's never seen anything like her. And, indeed, he hasn't. He sniffs at her. Then, he turns to walk away. He stops at the brush and turns back to look, waiting. Gabrielle realizes he wants her to follow.

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4. **INT. MENDENO ISLAND - CAVE - DAY** - As Mackho leads her into his cave; his home. This is where he lives. Gabrielle looks around and finds remnants of his life. She finds a few scrolls, some trunks, an old crib and a couple of skeletons. She quickly figures it out; Mackho is a castaway and has lived here all his life. The skeletons are of his parents. She reads the scrolls out loud. They basically say that this island is so far away from the shipping lanes that there is no way that they will ever be found. They will stay there until they die. And they have. She pulls out a map of the island and the surrounding sea. At that moment, Mackho offers her food. She takes it, still in a daze over her predicament. Then, he does a strange thing. He sits down next to her leg and leans against it, as like a child. Gabrielle pulls away. He follows. She tells him that he can't do that. He walks over to one of the skeletons and touches what remains of the hair. It is golden, like Gabrielle's. Mackho sits next to the (covered) leg of the skeleton and leans against it. Gabrielle realizes that this was his mother. And when he was little, this was his way of clinging to her. He looks so sad. Gabrielle understands and speaks to him of Xena. As she does, he moves back to her and sits next to her leg. She pats him on the head as he rests his head on her knee. She wonders where Xena is right now.
5. **EXT. LOSSO ISLAND - NEAR INLAND ROCKS - DAY** - Where we see someone is collecting wood for a fire. Next to the fire is a dead pig. Someone has been hunting. Xena moves into the area, still cautious, but not wanting to arouse any fear in anyone. She calls out. No one answers. She picks up the pig. Right at the last moment, she hears the sound of a **BLADE** begin unsheathed. She spins and the blade goes into the pig. She tosses it aside to find Pompey! He looks a bit worse for wear, but has no obvious injuries. Xena draws her sword. Just as Pompey collides with her, the ground underneath them **COLLAPSES**. Then fall down into;
6. **EXT. LOSSO ISLAND - CLIFF SLIDE - DAY** - As both Xena and Pompey slide down this muddy gully, heading for;
7. **EXT. LOSSO ISLAND - CLIFF - DAY** - As they launch out of the gully into mid-air, Xena turns and manages to catch a branch. With her other hand, she grabs Pompey's cloak. They slam back into the wall, Xena perilously holding onto the branch while holding onto Pompey.
- END OF ACT TWO.**

ACT THREE:

1. **EXT. LOSSO ISLAND - CLIFF - DAY** - As we left Xena and Pompey, hanging on. Pompey tells her to let go, she's going to kill him anyway. This way, she won't be able to take his body back to Caesar. She says she has no intention of killing him. She starts to pull him back up, but she is weakened by the wound. She tells him he has to grab her leg and hold on. There is a moment where we aren't sure what he will do, but he grab her leg. Then, she begins to pull them back up to a ledge.
2. **EXT. LOSSO ISLAND - LEDGE OF CLIFF - DAY** - Xena has one hand over the ledge and looks up. Suddenly, she freezes and lowers herself down. A boot comes into frame. **PAN UP** to reveal Agnicius. Turns out he was rescued by his follow ship. But he is positive that the bodies of Xena and Pompey are here. And he wants them. They might not be as valuable dead, but they will still be valuable. He then moves on. A beat, then Xena pulls Pompey up onto the ledge. She tells him that they have bigger things to worry about than each other or Caesar. They have to get off this island. And Agnicius must have a boat nearby. They have to find it. Pompey tells her that Agnicius wouldn't leave it unguarded. She doesn't care. It's their only shot. But they have to work together. After a beat, Pompey agrees. First, though, they have to find a place to hide. It will be dark soon and any fire will be seen. They have to get out of the open. Xena suggests they move down the cliff to see if there might be any caves. **Meanwhile:**
3. **EXT. MENDENO ISLAND - BEACH - DAY** - Where we find Gabrielle looking across the water toward the island in the distance. She holds the map from the cave. Mackho comes up. Gabrielle tells him that she has been all over this island and hasn't seen any sign of anyone else. But she thinks she has seen some movement on the other island. Xena might be there. She wants to build a raft. There is a chance to get to the other island, find Xena (if she's there) and take the raft out into the channel to be found by a passing ship. Mackho doesn't quite get it, but when she goes to pull a log onto the beach, he starts to help. She notes that it's late in the day.
4. **INT. LOSSO ISLAND - CAVE - NIGHT** - Where we **PAN ALONG** the rocky walls as we **HEAR** Pompey and Xena in discussion. They sound as if they are in a battle. When we finally come to them, they are rolling dice. Pompey always keeps dice to consult the gods. And they are useful at times like this. This is our "campfire" scene. Pompey asks Xena if she thinks her friend survived. Xena is certain she did, but won't tell him why (alluding to prophecy). If Gabrielle swam toward the sun, she should be near the island south of them. If she's alive and if Agnicius hasn't captured her. When we get the boat, we will find out.

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Then we have a discussion between the two of them of their destinies and how it has been tied to Caesar. Pompey is very upfront about his own place in history. He knows he will be the one to kill Caesar. One way or another. Xena isn't so sure. She has a feeling that Caesar's end will only come as a result of his own arrogance. Xena goes into detail about the affect that Caesar has had on her life, the affect that Gabrielle has felt. In her discussions, we might see a bit of understanding from Pompey. It seems that he has connected slightly. A long silence. Then, Pompey says "you realize when we get off this island, I'll have to kill you". "Oh, that's a given" Xena replies. "No offense", Pompey says. "None taken" Xena says. Then, they both laugh. The laughter soon dies off into silence as they both consider the possible truth of their words. Then, something catches Xena's eye. She looks out one of the openings toward the sea and sees a light, flickering in the distance.

5. **EXT. MENDENO ISLAND - MOUNTAIN TOP - NIGHT** - Gabrielle is sitting next to a fire, trying to read the map. Mackho is there also, watching her. she tells him that she will be able to take him away from here. He only nods. So, she tries to communicate with him. She points to the map. And, through gestures, makes him understand. He becomes alarmed and upset, shaking his head. Gabrielle tries to make him understand, but he suddenly leaves.
6. **EXT. MENDENO ISLAND - BEACH - DAY** - Where we find the small half built raft. Mackho sits by it, sadness in his eyes. Then, in a fit of anger, he attacks it, destroying it. Meanwhile;
7. **EXT. LOSSO ISLAND - BEACH** - Where we find a small longboat with a few soldiers around. Xena and Pompey stalk the longboat and, at the right moment, they attack and take it. All they have to do now is find the ship and board it. Where is it hidden? They grab one of the soldiers and interrogate him. He tells her that Agnicus has gone to the other island. Xena immediately becomes alarmed.
8. **EXT. MENDENO ISLAND - BEACH - DAY** - Where Gabrielle comes upon Mackho destroying the raft. She tries to stop him, but he is determined. Then, they are interrupted by Agnicus. He knows that wherever Gabrielle is, Xena can't be far behind. **END OF ACT THREE.**

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ACT FOUR:

1. **EXT. AGNICIUS'S SHIP - DAY** - Gabrielle and Mackho are caged. As Agnicius sends a party to shore to find Xena and tell her of his captives, we see;

NEAR STERN - As Xena and Pompey, both wet from their swim, crawl over the railings with swords. They creep slowly into position, Xena using her hand signals to move Pompey across the ship. Still, the idea that they can take down all these men is pretty daunting. Suddenly, Pompey stands and calls to Agnicius. Xena reacts. Pompey is betraying her! He tells Agnicius that they he can deliver Xena if he agrees to leave him at the nearest port. Agnicius agrees, thinking that he can still use the fake head ploy on Caesar. Pompey reveals Xena's hiding place. Xena steps out. She vows not to be taken alive. Pompey asks Agnicius if it would be okay to kill Xena. Agnicius sees no way around it. Pompey asks for the pleasure.

Xena and Pompey square off. They begin their fight with the crew cheering them on. As they go at it, they seem very well matched. But we begin to notice a pattern... the way they move around the deck, it's almost as if they are herding the crew into the bow section. At the right moment, both Pompey and Xena climb the scaffolding. As the crew looks up, watching, Pompey and Xena grab the ends of the sail, cut the ropes, and slide down to the deck **BRINGING THE ENTIRE SAIL WITH THEM!** It covers the crew, trapping them.

All accept Agnicius and his immediate guard, who attack. Xena slices at the cage and Gabrielle and Mackho are freed. Mackho tries to protect Gabrielle, but she pulls him out of danger.

Meanwhile, the battle with Agnicius continues. Finally, Xena kills Agnicius and Pompey is mortally wounded. As Xena lays him down to the deck, we hear him recant some of his past actions. Cocky to the end, he tells Xena she never defeated him in direct battle. But she did manage to change him. And he dies.

2. **EXT. SHIP - DECK - DAY** - As a wrapped body is dropped into the surf. Gabrielle, Xena and Mackho stand there. Xena and Gabrielle say a few words about how they feel. They hug each other, glad to be back together. Mackho watches, then backs away... When they turn to look for him, he is gone. Gabrielle wants to go and get him. Xena tells her that this is his world. And is it really any worse than what their world has to offer. They start to get ready to sail.
3. **EXT. MENDENO ISLAND - DAY** - As Mackho drags himself out of the surf. He looks back to see the ship getting under sail. He watches for a beat, then waves... **THE END**