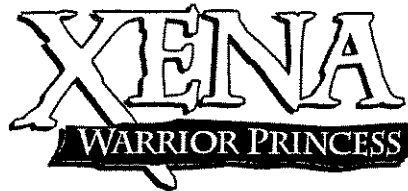


"ANTONY & CLEOPATRA"

by
Carl Ellsworth

**SEASON 5
EPISODE #18**

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"Antony & Cleopatra"
production #V0904
episode 19

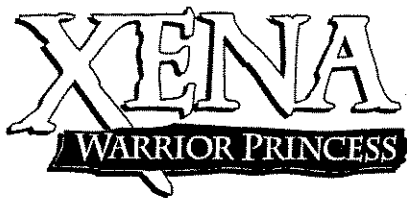
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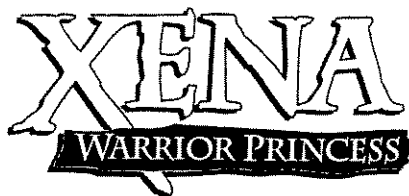
"Antony & Cleopatra"
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Cast List

Xena
Gabrielle

Joxer
Cyrene
Marc Antony
Octavius
Brutus
Shiana
Cleopatra
Advisor #1
Antony's Lieutenant
Brutus' Lieutenant
Soldier

Eve (non-speaking)
Advisor #2 (non-speaking)
Messenger (non-speaking)
Octavius' Lieutenant (non-speaking) *
Roman Soldiers (non-speaking)
Egyptian Soldiers (non-speaking)
Cleopatra's Court (non-speaking)



"Antony & Cleopatra"
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TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE/PRIVATE LAGOON - NIGHT

1

ON A STONE STATUE OF THE EGYPTIAN GOD OSIRIS

A green-fleshed, bearded figure, wearing a crown and wrapped like a mummy with his arms projecting from the wrappings as if beholding the sight beneath him: we PULL BACK to reveal, bathing in the lagoon, CLEOPATRA. She's attended to by her lead servant, SHIANA. Two MILITARY ADVISORS brief the Queen:

ADVISOR #1

Cleopatra, Rome is on the brink of all-out civil war.

CLEOPATRA

And why should this interrupt my bath?

The Advisors exchange nervous glances.

ADVISOR #1

You command the most powerful navy in the world. A strategic prize if your name is Brutus or Antony. Whichever one of them gets control of your navy will rule the empire.

CLEOPATRA

Well, it sounds like they'll both be courting me.

ADVISOR #1

Or trying to eliminate you. There are those who say that if you were out of the way, the Egyptian navy would go to the highest bidder.

CLEOPATRA

You worry too much. I've always known how to protect Egypt, my people and myself. I'll keep the Romans at bay. Anything else?

ADVISOR #1

No, my Queen.

The Advisors bow and leave. Cleopatra turns to Shiana.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

CLEOPATRA

Is it me, Shiana, or do crises always
happen when I'm naked?

Shiana smiles, looks over to see a cowering MESSENGER peeking
in the doorway.

SHIANA

(moving to Messenger)

It's not you.

Shiana returns with a scroll.

SHIANA

An urgent message from Rome.

Shiana hands the scroll to Cleopatra, then leaves. Cleo
reclines back against the wall of the pool, gently unrolls the
scroll. Her eyes scan the blank parchment.

ANGLE: THE SCROLL

as Cleo unrolls it to the sudden, HISSING, SLITHERING form of
an ASP hidden inside! Cleopatra jumps back, but this asp is
quick. It slithers right off the parchment and onto Cleo's
shoulders. She screams, leaps up out of the lagoon, dropping
the scroll to the floor. Cleo grasps at the asp that's now
wrapped around her neck. She gets a good grip on it and pulls
it away. She actually rips the snake in two and throws the
pieces into the lagoon.

A moment of calm follows with Cleo catching her breath. But
something's not right. She slowly raises her hand to her neck.

ON CLEOPATRA'S NECK

are two distinct, bleeding wounds of a snake bite. The
realization begins to set in. Cleo stands in stunned silence
for a beat. Her eyes then flutter. She spots

THE SCROLL

on the floor. She steps toward it, but controlled steps
quickly turn to stumbling ones. The poison is working fast.

Cleo picks up the scroll, rips off a piece of the blank
parchment, then staggers for a nearby table on top of which is
a jar of ink and a brush. It's all Cleo can do to get herself
to the table. She grabs for the brush and starts writing.
This as

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: (2)

1

SHIANA

enters, sees Cleopatra suddenly collapse.

SHIANA

My Queen!

Shiana races to Cleopatra, supports the dying Queen in her arms. Cleo shoves the parchment into Shiana's hands.

CLEOPATRA

Take this to Xena.

SHIANA

I will, my Queen. Now try not to speak.

As we PUSH IN on Cleopatra's dying eyes, we:

CUT TO:

2 INT. TAVERN - DAY

2

CLOSE ON THE SCROLL that held Cleo's asp. WIDER TO REVEAL XENA sitting, reading the scroll. Shiana stands behind her. GABRIELLE approaches and stands by her side, holding EVE.

GABRIELLE

Xena, what is it?

XENA

It's from Cleopatra.

She takes Eve in her arms.

XENA

Well, sweetie, we're going to Egypt.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. SHIP DECK - NIGHT

3

Xena and Gabrielle stand on the deck looking out into the darkness. We see CYRENE in the bg. holding Eve. JOXER is being delighted by the baby playing with his forefinger.

XENA

We'll find a safe place for my mother and the two kids in Alexandria.

GABRIELLE

Two kids?? Oh...Joxer...right.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

XENA

Then we deal with Rome.

GABRIELLE

Should we try to enlist Brutus as an ally?

XENA

No. I say we determine everyone's position before we make a move.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. HARBOR - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING

4

On Marc Antony's ship as it arrives in the harbor. The full moonlit pyramids and Cleopatra's palace loom in the distant bg.

5 INT. MARC ANTONY'S SHIP - PRIVATE QUARTERS

5

In a room decorated with Roman military weaponry and memorabilia, we find MARC ANTONY, mid 30's, youthful, darned good looks. He reclines casually on a plush sofa, his feet propped up. He speaks to his LIEUTENANT who sits across from him.

ANTONY'S LIEUTENANT

There's a rumor that Brutus is in Egypt.

ANTONY

I hope it's true. That will save me the trouble of finding him.

ANTONY'S LIEUTENANT

If he gets control of Cleopatra's fleet, we may not want to find him.

ANTONY

There's no reason to believe he's any closer to that than we are.

There's a knock at the door.

ANTONY

Yes.

A SOLDIER opens the door.

SOLDIER

Sir, Queen Cleopatra bids you welcome and has sent you a gift.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

Antony is surprised.

ANTONY

Cleopatra's sent me a gift? Are you sure?

SOLDIER

Yes, sir.

ANTONY

Then bring it in.

TWO more SOLDIERS enter, carrying a heavy, tightly-rolled carpet which they set on the floor in front of Antony.

SOLDIER

It's a carpet, sir.

ANTONY

I see that. Was there a note with it?

SOLDIER

Just this.

He hands Antony a small scroll.

ANTONY

(reads)

"Will Rome enter Egypt?" Now what could that mean?

He looks down at the carpet.

ANTONY

All right, you're all dismissed.

Everyone exits leaving Antony alone with the carpet. He pours himself a glass of wine and then walks over to the carpet, reaches down and begins to unroll it...end over end...We follow the carpet...faster and faster toward the sofa. The last bit unrolls to suddenly reveal a NUDE FEMALE FIGURE wrapped inside. Her ANKLES are SHACKLED together.

Antony steps back in surprise. He peers down at the figure as she rises to her feet.

We MOVE AROUND Antony and stop behind him, his upper body blocking our view as her SHACKLED ARMS, linked by a two-foot chain, reach up and over Antony's shoulders. We then follow

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

ANTONY'S GAZE

up and into the eyes of...XENA.

XENA
Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt. Welcome.

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

6 INT. MARC ANTONY'S SHIP - PRIVATE QUARTERS - CONTINUING

6

As before. Xena's chain-linked arms remain wrapped around a speechless Marc Antony.

XENA

Cat got your tongue?

She leans close to his lips.

XENA

I hope not. I have uses for it.

ANTONY

Queen Cleopatra, I see your reputation for not wasting time is well-deserved.

Xena is amused. She rubs her shackled hand over her lips and then kisses Antony. He doesn't pull away but is startled by something about the kiss. He reaches into his mouth and pulls out a key which has just been transferred from Xena's mouth.

XENA

(re: chains)

I am a slave to Rome. Will you free me?

ANTONY

Is that what you want? Or is this about you capturing me?

XENA

If that was my plan, I would have had a different entrance.

ANTONY

I don't mean taking me in chains. I mean trapping me in desire...as you did Caesar.

XENA

Such distrust. Never look a gift queen in the mouth...especially when there are so many other things to do with it.

Antony smiles. Then he lowers the key toward the leg shackles.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

CLOSE ON THE LEG SHACKLES

He penetrates the lock with the key.

ON ANTONY AND XENA

as he turns the lock. The leg shackles fall off.

XENA

Good place to begin.

He looks at her, battling off his desire. He then reaches for the hand shackles.

ON HAND SHACKLES

One again the key penetrates the lock. He turns it.

ON XENA AND ANTONY

The hand shackles fall off.

XENA

Now I am free. How about you?

ANTONY

Let's just say your conquest is not complete.

XENA

Of course not. I didn't expect the great Antony to surrender so easily. I simply guessed you might be the type who enjoys surprises -- especially ones you can unroll...only to find something hidden inside.

ANTONY

I came here to form an alliance with you. One built on trust and openness.

XENA

I think we've got the openness part covered. And I certainly trusted you by coming here in a rather vulnerable position. Now you trust me.

(off Antony's look)

Come to my palace and spend the night.

As Antony considers this invitation:

CUT TO:

7 EXT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - NIGHT - ESTABLISHING 7

8 INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - RECEPTION ROOM - CONTINUOUS 8

BRUTUS slams through the door. Shiana spins to face him.

SHIANA

Brutus!!

BRUTUS

I must speak with Cleopatra at once.

SHIANA

Is she expecting you?

BRUTUS

No, she's not, but I fear for her safety.

GABRIELLE (O.S.)

What does Cleopatra have to be scared of, Brutus?

Brutus turns to face Gabrielle.

BRUTUS

Gabrielle!!

He walks up and gives her a big hug.

BRUTUS

It's true! You survived the crucifixion!

GABRIELLE

That's a long story.

BRUTUS

What are you doing here?

GABRIELLE

Paying a visit that was long overdue. It's okay, Shiana, I'll handle this.

Shiana quickly leaves the room.

BRUTUS

And Xena?

GABRIELLE

She's with Cleopatra.

BRUTUS

Then I'll see them both.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

GABRIELLE

They're catching up. This isn't a good time. But I'd be happy to relay your concerns about her safety.

BRUTUS

I'd just as soon do that in person.

Brutus takes a seat. Folds his arms, patiently waiting. Off Gabrielle, we:

CUT TO:

9 INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - GUEST QUARTERS - NIGHT

9

Xena enters with Marc Antony. Shiana is there to open the doors for them. They make their way to the balcony where the pyramids are once again visible.

XENA

Relax while I slip into something more comfortable.

As Xena passes Shiana, she whispers in Xena's ear.

SHIANA

Brutus is in the palace.

Xena smiles.

XENA

Good idea, Shiana. I'm sure Rome would love a tour of Egypt's palace.

ANTONY

Yes. That would be excellent.

XENA

I'll meet you at the bath.

CUT TO:

10 INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - RECEPTION ROOM - MOMENTS LATER

10

Brutus is now pacing, not so patiently. Suddenly, he walks past Gabrielle down the corridor.

BRUTUS

Gabrielle, I'm sorry but this is ridiculous. I've got information that could save Cleopatra's life. I insist on seeing her.

11 INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - HALLWAY - NIGHT

11

Brutus strides down the hallway with Gabrielle dashing to cut him off.

GABRIELLE

Brutus, being rude isn't going to endear you to Cleopatra.

BRUTUS

No, but warning her that her life is in danger will.

He reaches the door to Cleopatra's chamber and opens it as Gabrielle tries to stop him.

12 INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - CLEO'S PRIVATE BEDCHAMBER - NIGHT

12

Xena is just fastening her gauntlets to complete her Xena dress when the door opens and Brutus enters.

XENA

Brutus. You're in a queen's bedchamber.

GABRIELLE

I tried to stop him from making such a fool of himself but he just bulled past me.

BRUTUS

That's because this is a matter of life and death. I've come to warn Cleopatra that there are people plotting against her. She should not under any circumstances trust either Antony or Octavius. They both want her dead.

XENA

Octavius? Caesar's adopted son?

BRUTUS

Yes. He claims he's the rightful heir to Rome. He's actually just a murdering opportunist.

XENA

I'll let Cleopatra know. I'm sure she'll appreciate your concern.

BRUTUS

I'd like to see her myself.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

XENA

She's busy.

(off Brutus' determined
look)

What are you going to do? Bull past
me?

Brutus sighs.

BRUTUS

All right, Xena. If you could convey
to Cleopatra my concern, I'd be
grateful. I'm happy you and Gabrielle
are well.

Xena nods and Brutus exits. As soon as he's gone, Xena's
tearing her breastplate off.

XENA

(to Gabrielle)

Got a date with Antony at the bath.

CUT TO:

13 INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE/PRIVATE LAGOON - NIGHT - CONTINUOUS

13

Xena and Gabrielle enter the bath area, Xena tearing her Xena
clothes off as Gabrielle interrogates her.

GABRIELLE

If Brutus is right, then Antony may
try to kill you now.

XENA

I think he has some other business he
wants to conclude with me first.

ANTONY (O.S.)

The expense of this palace could arm
ten armies.

Xena doesn't have her leather skirt off yet. She drops the
rest of her clothes behind a rock and drops into the water.
Water splashes up onto the rocks surrounding the lagoon.
Gabrielle tries to hurry off but she slips on the rocks and
falls into the water and disappears from sight just as Antony
and Shiana enter.

ANTONY

A beautiful palace, Cleopatra. How
much--

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

He's interrupted when Gabrielle suddenly surfaces from the water. He stares at them both for a stunned moment.

XENA
(to Gabrielle; a coquettish
giggle)
What were you doing down there? Rub
my back.

Gabrielle starts rubbing Xena's shoulder.

ANTONY
Interesting bathing attire.

Antony nods to Xena's forearms that she's resting on the floor outside the pool: Xena forgot to remove her gauntlets!

XENA
I've really got you wondering now,
don't I? Antony, this is my...
companion, Gabrielle.

ANTONY
Marc Antony. How are you?

GABRIELLE
(being as companion-like as
possible)
Great. How are you?

XENA
Would you care to join us?

Gabrielle darts a nervous glance at Xena but then re-musters her companion smile. Antony considers it for a moment and then shakes his head.

ANTONY
No, thank you. I think I'll hit the
sack early. By morning, I hope we can
put the trust issue behind us and move
on.

XENA
Can't wait.

Antony bows with a smile and leaves the lagoon.

GABRIELLE
Thank the gods. I thought he was
going to accept your invitation.
How'd you know he wouldn't?

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED: (2)

13

XENA

I didn't.

(beat)

What do you think of him, Gabrielle?

Gabrielle is getting out of the lagoon and ringing out her clothes.

GABRIELLE

What's there to think? He's your typical, egotistical Roman.

XENA

(half to herself)

I'm not so sure.

(more to Gabrielle)

Did you find him attractive?

GABRIELLE

Not really. Did you?

XENA

A little. Of course, I did have my tongue in his mouth 30 seconds after I met him. Maybe I'm not thinking with my head.

CUT TO:

14 INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - CLEO'S PRIVATE BEDCHAMBER - NIGHT

14

ON THE CRUMPLED PIECE OF PARCHMENT

We recognize it as the message Cleopatra wrote. We TILT UP to reveal it is being read by Xena. Gabrielle sits next to her, drying her hair.

XENA

Cleopatra was murdered by one of the three: Antony, Octavius or Brutus.

GABRIELLE

I don't think Brutus would do that. And Octavius is just a kid. I think your friend Antony is the most likely suspect.

XENA

You may be right. But either way, I'm going to de-fang all of three of these snakes. Now, go get some sleep.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

Gabrielle exits.

A CLOAKED, HOODED FIGURE

makes his way quietly over the outside balcony and drops silently to the floor, unnoticed by Xena.

XENA

moves through the silky curtains and crawls into the bed, her back facing our

INTRUDER

As he makes his way toward the bed, WE NOTICE A SWORD dangles from his belt. He reaches his arm out when suddenly

XENA'S FOOT

whips up and into the guy's lower chin. He stumbles backward, grabbing the curtains as he goes, pulling them off the bed, entangling himself. He tries to throw the curtain off, but Xena's on top of him. She grabs the curtain and pulls, putting our guy into a spin. The curtain comes free. Xena moves in, rips the sword off our now dizzy Intruder who staggers a bit. Xena watches as he falls to the floor with a thud. Xena yanks the cloak and hood off to reveal a 19-YEAR-OLD BOY wearing a Roman uniform. This is OCTAVIUS. He looks up, makes eye contact with Xena for the first time.

OCTAVIUS

Are you Cleopatra?

XENA

Are you my assassin?

OCTAVIUS

Me. No. I was coming to see you!

XENA

We've got a front door for that.

OCTAVIUS

But this was the only way, believe me!

Before Octavius can utter another word, a sudden

BARRAGE OF FLAMING ARROWS

come flying through the balcony window, setting the room ABLAZE. Xena shoves Octavius under the bed, grabs the bedside table, raises it as a shield as more arrows BOMBARD THE ROOM.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: (2)

14

A couple of them stick into Xena's "shield" as she makes her way for the door. Just before she gets to it, another weapon comes through the balcony window: a MOLOTOV COCKTAIL-ESQUE, MINIATURE FIREBALL that sails into the room, just over Xena. It drops to the floor in front of her, engulfing the path to the exit in FLAME. Xena moves back to Octavius as more arrows and cocktails are fired into the room. Off Xena and Octavius, surrounded by a rapidly spreading inferno, we:

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

15 INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - CLEO'S PRIVATE BEDCHAMBER - 15
CONTINUING

As before. Xena and Octavius surrounded by FIRE. Xena scans the room, looking for escape. When Octavius isn't looking, she leaps in the air and does a flip over the flames. Octavius turns back around and notices Xena gone.

OCTAVIUS

Cleopatra!

16 INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 16

The FLAMES are billowing out of the bedchamber. Xena explodes out of the flames and grabs hold of a fountain statue. She's about to slide it to the door to Cleo's bedchamber when Antony runs up, grabs the fountain and pushes it toward the fire. Xena lets him do this; after all, she's now Queen of Egypt, not a warrior princess. He spills the fountain toward the fire.

17 INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - CLEO'S PRIVATE BEDCHAMBER - 17
CONTINUOUS

The water spills into the room, making a path in the FLAMES. Octavius runs through the path out into:

18 INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - HALLWAY - CONTINUOUS 18

Antony leaps into the room to put out the rest of the fire. In the confusion, he doesn't recognize Octavius. Octavius, however, does recognize Antony and starts to run. Xena grabs him by the neck and slams him against the wall. Gabrielle joins them.

XENA

Where do you think you're going?

OCTAVIUS

Away from Antony. He wants me dead. Those assassins were after me.

XENA

Aren't we the center of attention? Isn't it more likely they were after me? I mean, that is my bedroom they just torched.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

OCTAVIUS

That's why we must ally. They want us
both dead.

XENA

And who are you?

ANTONY

Octavius.

DIFFERENT ANGLE

Antony appears from the bedchamber, carrying a water-soaked
blanket that is charred in places. He apparently used it to
put out the fire. He approaches Octavius.

ANTONY

Queen Cleopatra, may I introduce the
grandnephew and adopted son of Julius
Caesar.

(to Octavius)

How are you, Traitor?

OCTAVIUS

I'm a traitor? What would Caesar
think of his closest friend denying me
his throne?

ANTONY

Uncle Julius was too busy to notice
that you're an imbecile.

(to Cleopatra)

Turn him over to me.

OCTAVIUS

(pleading to Xena)

No, please. He'll kill me.

SLAP! Xena silences Octavius with a smack across his face.

XENA

Silence! Gabrielle, lock him up.
I'll take care of the worm later.

(to Antony)

Until I'm certain what part he played
in this attempt on my life, he's my
prisoner.

ANTONY

Of course.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (2)

18

XENA

And how do I know you weren't part of that attack?

He leans close to her, turning on the charm.

ANTONY

I'm the one that put out the fire.

XENA

You're not bad at lighting them either.

ANTONY

What are you doing for dinner tomorrow?

XENA

You.

Gabrielle, who is about to lead Octavius away, gives Xena an odd look.

XENA

I mean, you're welcome to dine with me.

ANTONY

Good. We can resolve some unfinished business.

XENA

Definitely.

He walks away. Gabrielle is studying her carefully. She turns to Octavius.

GABRIELLE

Stay put or I'll sic Antony on you.

She walks up to Xena and eyes her carefully.

XENA

What?

GABRIELLE

What exactly is your plan? Are you going to flirt him to death?

XENA

I'm winning his trust so I can get what I want from him.

GABRIELLE

Be careful. He's your type.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (3)

18

XENA

What does that mean?

GABRIELLE

You like those rough and tumble bad boys, I know that. Borias, Marcus, Caesar, Ares...

XENA

Ares? Are you out of your mind?

GABRIELLE

Oh, like there's not electricity between you and Ares.

XENA

When I think it's useful.

GABRIELLE

All right. Just make sure all the electricity between you and Antony is useful.

XENA

I will.

GABRIELLE

Good. Now, why the dinner?

XENA

He has to seduce me into letting him use my navy.

GABRIELLE

Pardon?

XENA

If he makes his forces dependent on my navy, I can pretty much do what I want with him.

GABRIELLE

Good.

(beat)

What is it you want to do with him?

XENA

I want him on his knees. Figuratively speaking, of course.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: (4)

18

GABRIELLE

Of course.

CUT TO:

19 INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - BANQUET ROOM - EVENING

19

We PULL BACK from the trays of food and fruit to reveal Xena and Marc Antony, dressed in his Roman best. They sit on the floor, reclining on huge, cushy pillows. Gabrielle and Shiana stand in the bg. Gabrielle watches as Antony grabs a handful of grapes, plucks one from the bunch, holds it to Xena's mouth. She bites half of it...Xena finds a strawberry, returns the favor to Antony.

Antony's eyes light up as he anxiously rolls another strawberry around Xena's mouth in what plays as a very steamy, food-as-foreplay scene. He then drops it in her mouth. They begin eating and feeding each other as "Tom Jones" meets "9½ Weeks." The sensual tension grows to an almost unbearable pitch as Gabrielle watches with bewilderment. Suddenly, Xena raps a leg around Antony's waist. She pulls Antony toward her. He's about to climb on top of her. Xena doesn't seem to mind. Gabrielle looks horrified. She leans so her torso separates Xena and Antony.

GABRIELLE

Queen Cleopatra. Don't forget your meeting with your advisors.

XENA

Yes. My advisors, of course.

She stands and fixes her clothes.

XENA

We'll continue this discussion at another time.

ANTONY

(a tad frustrated)

All right. But I hope it's soon. Rome is not used to waiting.

He exits.

XENA

(to Gabrielle)

You didn't have to do that. I had things under control.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

GABRIELLE

Really? Well, just how far were you going to let that go?

XENA

Until he begged for my naval...ah... navy.

GABRIELLE

Well, I don't know how he'd do that with you sticking food in his mouth every few seconds.

XENA

I know what I'm doing, Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE

Xena. What if he's the one that killed Cleopatra?

XENA

Then he's the one I'll kill if I have to. I have no real feelings for him, Gabrielle, believe me.

Shiana enters with a bouquet of flowers.

SHIANA

Xena, Antony had his servant pick these for you.

XENA

(loving it)

Really?

SHIANA

And he invites you to meet him tomorrow night under the pyramids.

XENA

Tell him yes.

Shiana exits. Xena turns to Gabrielle who's looking at her with some disapproval.

XENA

I've got him just where I want him.

CUT TO:

20 EXT. EGYPTIAN DESERT AT GIZA - NIGHT

20

And blowing sand bathed in the brilliant light of the full moon. We reveal the SPHINX (the nose still very much intact). The PYRAMIDS loom in the near bg.

A SILHOUETTED FIGURE

appears in the foreground: Xena, alone, walks through the sand, makes her way to the summit of a small dune where we reveal the figure of

MARC ANTONY

staring in awe at the sight before him.

ANTONY

(re: pyramids)

They can sure put a man in his place, make him recognize just how brief a time in this world he really has, how he's just got one chance...

(turns to Xena)

You know I came to Egypt with one goal.

XENA

My navy.

ANTONY

Of course. But that's changed.

XENA

It has?

ANTONY

Yes. As a matter of fact, I don't want you to give me your navy. You would always suspect that's all I wanted from you.

XENA

So what do you want from me?

He reaches up, cradles the back of her head in his hands and draws her toward him.

ANTONY

Your love.

They kiss. Long and tender. She surfaces.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

XENA

My love won't be very useful to you in
your fight against Brutus.

ANTONY

I don't care. From the first time I
saw you...rolling out of the carpet...
I knew...That woman is worth giving up
an empire for. Nothing I've learned
since then has changed my mind.
What's the matter? You don't like
what I'm saying.

XENA

I'm just worried--

ANTONY

Tonight, let's not worry. Let's live.

With that, Antony kisses again, long but not as tender. They
both like it a little rough. Xena comes up for air,
hesitates -- but then gives in. As her arms find Antony's
shoulders, both drop out of frame, leaving us only to the
scenery beyond, and we:

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

21 EXT. EGYPTIAN DESERT AT GIZA - CONTINUING

21

ON XENA AND ANTONY

as the sand swirls around a passionate embrace that's gotten pretty intense during the break. Antony rolls on top of Xena, moves his mouth down to her neck. Xena tilts her head back, about to close her eyes, but instead they shoot wide open as Xena sees

FOUR DARK FIGURES

appearing over a nearby dune.

XENA

Antony!

Antony sees them. He jumps to his feet, draws his sword as the guys, ROMAN SOLDIERS, jump him. Xena rolls out of the way, but she can't very well play the warrior princess role right now. But that doesn't stop her from lending assistance to Antony who is dueling the soldiers two at a time. He kicks one away, sending him tumbling over to Xena. Xena, noticing Antony isn't looking, backhands the guy in the chops. Out cold.

ANTONY

offs two more of the Soldiers, but another one is about to get him from behind. Xena sees him, whips out the key Antony gave her and hurls it at the Soldier where it lodges in the back of his neck. Xena tumbles and rolls toward the guy, all unseen by Antony. Xena flips up and yanks the key out of the Soldier's neck. Xena looks over. Antony almost has her in his sights. Xena thinks fast: She screams and jumps on the SOLDIER'S BACK, her arms flailing, smacking the SOLDIER'S FACE.

ANTONY

whirls around as the Soldier throws Xena off his back. The Soldier tries to raise his sword, but his neck wound is getting the best of him. A couple of weak defensive moves and Antony does him in. Three dead, one barely conscious.

Antony moves to Xena.

ANTONY

Are you all right?

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

Xena nods with a smile. She and Antony make their way to the Soldier who's coming to. Antony inspects his uniform.

ANTONY

One of Brutus'.

Antony is about to finish him off when Xena raises her arm, stops Antony.

XENA

No, let him live.

(leans down to Soldier)

Tell Brutus he missed -- that Antony and Cleopatra are alive, well -- and together.

The horrified Soldier staggers to his feet and runs off. Xena turns to Antony, locks eyes with him for an extended, trusting beat, then she looks away sadly as she realizes what's happening in her heart.

CUT TO:

22 INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - HOLDING CELL - DAY

22

Octavius sits in the cell, tears running down his cheeks. Gabrielle approaches the bars with a tray of food and slides it under the door.

OCTAVIUS

Do you think I tried to kill Cleopatra?

GABRIELLE

I don't know.

He rubs the tears off his cheek and examines the moist spot they leave on his hand.

OCTAVIUS

Tears are for boys. I need to put them behind me.

GABRIELLE

I know some men who could use a good cry.

OCTAVIUS

Yes, well, maybe one day again but for now I have to stop feeling sorry for myself and think of my people.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

GABRIELLE

The people of Rome?

OCTAVIUS

And all who are under Rome's protection. My uncle exploited the peoples of the world for his ambition. I want to correct that and bring them Roman peace. Pax Romana in my mother tongue.

GABRIELLE

Many men have dreams like that. Few carry it out once they have the power.

OCTAVIUS

A few years ago, I went off to Greece to study philosophy. I was a happy schoolboy when I heard of my uncle's assassination. I was saddened by his death, but I also knew he wasn't a good man. Then I heard that he had proclaimed me his heir before he died.

GABRIELLE

Quite a responsibility.

OCTAVIUS

Yes. At first, I wanted to run away from it. But then I realized this is my chance to put the ideas of the great philosophers into action. To help people. To be Plato's philosopher king. And that's what I plan to do. Do you think I'm foolish?

GABRIELLE

No. I don't.

CUT TO:

23 INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - CLEO'S PRIVATE BEDCHAMBER - DAY

23

Xena sits on the bed, looking sad. Gabrielle enters.

GABRIELLE

There you are. I was worried about you.

(notices Xena's sadness)

What's wrong?

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

XENA

You were right. I've got a soft place for those bad boys. What's even worse is a bad boy who loves like a mad fool.

GABRIELLE

What happened?

XENA

He wouldn't take my navy. He said he wants my love instead. And I think he meant it.

GABRIELLE

Well, maybe you can enlist him as a real ally.

XENA

And when he finds out I'm not Cleopatra, that I've duped him this whole time? A man like him can be very dangerous when he's angry.

GABRIELLE

What are you going to do?

XENA

I can't let him get control of the empire. There's plenty of blood on those hands of his; he sheds it easily, that I can tell. He may be a bad boy with a heart of gold, but he's a bad boy all the same. And Octavius?

GABRIELLE

Very impressive young man. Maybe a bit idealistic, but his heart's definitely in the right place. I wonder if it's possible for Antony and Octavius to work together.

XENA

It's a long shot...but worth a try.

CUT TO:

24 INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - GUEST QUARTERS - NIGHT

24

Antony sits at a table looking at maps. Xena enters.

ANTONY

Hello, my Queen.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

He pulls her toward him. She kisses him and then examines the maps.

XENA
Making travel plans?

ANTONY
I'm trying to outguess Brutus. He obviously has forces here in Egypt, but how strong? And where?

XENA
If you defeat him, what will you do?

ANTONY
Well, first I'd execute him and all his men.

XENA
All of them. Even the common soldiers.

ANTONY
Oh, yes. There has to be consequences to opposing Marc Antony. There's nothing like a few mass executions to get everyone's attention. I know it sounds bad, but once you've done it a few times, you get used to it.

XENA
(softly to herself)
I know.

ANTONY
What?

XENA
And Octavius?

ANTONY
He has to die, of course.

XENA
My companion says he's a good man.

Antony laughs.

ANTONY
He may be a good boy, but he'll never be a good man. I'll see to that.

Xena is resigned. She takes a deep breath and turns to Antony.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED: (2)

24

XENA

Antony. I want you to use my navy
against Brutus.

ANTONY

But I--

XENA

I insist. This gesture of yours is
very sweet, but you've made your
point. I know you love me for more
than my navy. Know you can depend on
it against Brutus. I've received
reports that his fleet is approaching
the mouth of the Nile. You should
draw him into battle there with your
fleet. At the appropriate time, my
navy will reinforce you, and Brutus
will be destroyed.

ANTONY

Thank you, Egypt. Rome will be
eternally grateful.

He gets down on one knee and kisses her hand. Xena looks down
at him sadly as she plays with his hair.

CUT TO:

25 INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - RECEPTION ROOM - DAY

25

Xena paces back and forth. Gabrielle sits on a chair watching
Xena's anguish carefully. The door opens and Shiana shows
Brutus into the Reception room.

BRUTUS

Xena. I received a message that
Cleopatra wished to see me. Where is
she?

XENA

You're looking at her.

BRUTUS

What?

XENA

I've been acting the part of Egypt.
Your first attempt at killing
Cleopatra was successful, Brutus.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

Brutus darts his eyes around nervously. Is Xena going to kick his butt?

BRUTUS

You have to understand. I needed that navy and I knew I couldn't compete with Antony for the affections of a beautiful woman. I thought if she were gone, I had a chance to negotiate with her admirals.

GABRIELLE

And that's your justification for murder?

BRUTUS

When I killed Caesar, I crossed the Rubicon of blood.

(to Xena; his hand on his sword)

So what have you called me here for?

XENA

Relax, Brutus. We have a common enemy once again. Antony.

BRUTUS

You see what a dangerous man he is.

XENA

Yes, I do. Antony's fleet is moving toward the mouth of the Nile. Meet him there and I'll reinforce. Together we'll chop him up into little pieces.

BRUTUS

Why should I trust you, Xena?

GABRIELLE

I'll go with you.

BRUTUS

Well, I can't ask for a better guarantee than that.

(to Xena)

Thank you, Xena. You won't regret this.

(to Gabrielle)

I'll send a guard to escort you to my ship by sundown.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

Gabrielle nods. He exits. Gabrielle approaches Xena and puts a gentle hand on her shoulder. *

XENA

The trap's been set.

GABRIELLE

Perhaps you won't have to...

XENA

Kill Antony. Perhaps.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

And as Xena sadly considers her course of action, we:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

26 EXT. MARC ANTONY'S SHIP - UPPER DECK - NIGHT

26

Xena and Antony stare out into the night.

ANTONY

After we take care of Brutus, we should journey down the Nile on one of your barges.

XENA

Why?

ANTONY

Just a romantic vacation. What's the matter? You seem distracted.

XENA

We're about to go into a major sea battle.

ANTONY

But with your navy backing me up, I can't lose.

He leans over and kisses her.

ANTONY

Thanks for trusting me.

Off Xena's look, we:

CUT TO:

27 EXT. BRUTUS' WARSHIP - UPPER DECK - NIGHT

27

Brutus is looking out for Antony's fleet. Gabrielle stands at his side. *

BRUTUS

Once we engage Antony, you'll send Xena the signal. *

Gabrielle nods. *

BRUTUS

Then we'll see who will become Rome.

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

GABRIELLE
You've become a very ambitious man,
Brutus.

*
*
*

BRUTUS
People change, Gabrielle. I remember
when you spoke only of peace. Now
you're a warrior.

*
*
*
*

GABRIELLE
And you're a murderer.

*
*

BRUTUS
I killed Cleopatra for the good of
Rome.

*
*
*

GABRIELLE
How many people will die for the good
of Rome?

*
*
*

BRUTUS
You're talking to me like I'm Caesar.

*
*

GABRIELLE
I wouldn't waste my breath on Caesar.
He was a bad man. But you had a good
heart once upon a time.

*
*
*
*

BRUTUS
It's still there.

*
*

GABRIELLE
We'll see.

*
*

CUT TO:

28 EXT. OCTAVIUS' WARSHIP - UPPER DECK - NIGHT 28*

Octavius stands on the deck. His LIEUTENANT stands next to him. *

OCTAVIUS *

(to his Lieutenant) *

Be ready to move as soon as we get *

Xena's signal. *

A resolved Octavius readies himself for action. *

CUT TO:

29 EXT. MARC ANTONY'S SHIP - UPPER DECK - NIGHT 29

Antony walks around the deck, looking out into the night.
Xena lights a torch, ready for a signal. Suddenly, Antony
sees something in the night.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

ANTONY

Look. It's Brutus' flagship. He's
going to ram us.

(to Xena)

Now would be a good time.

Xena takes the TORCH and waves it.

30 EXT. OCTAVIUS' WARSHIP - UPPER DECK - NIGHT

30*

Octavius sees a FLAMING ARROW shot into the sky.

*

OCTAVIUS

(to his Lieutenant)

Brutus' signal. That we ignore.

(beat)

There!

*

*

*

In the distance, we see XENA'S TORCH waving. Octavius lights
a TORCH of his own.

OCTAVIUS

(to his Lieutenant)

Launch the Egyptian fleet on both
Antony and Brutus.

*

*

He signals the other Egyptian ships.

CUT TO:

31 EXT. MARC ANTONY'S SHIP - UPPER DECK - NIGHT

31

Antony and his men await Brutus' ram.

32 INT. MARC ANTONY'S SHIP - UNDER DECK - NIGHT

32

The prow of Brutus' ship explodes through the side of the ship.

33 EXT. MARC ANTONY'S SHIP - UPPER DECK - NIGHT

33

The force of the collision causes some of ANTONY'S MEN to fall
overboard.

34 EXT. BRUTUS' WARSHIP - UPPER DECK - NIGHT

34

ARCHERS run to the side of the ship and shoot down at Antony's
men in the water.

35 EXT. UNDER THE WATER - NIGHT

35

We see some of Antony's men under water. The arrows come into the water and pierce them. RED BLOOD billows through the water.

36 EXT. MARC ANTONY'S SHIP - UPPER DECK - NIGHT

36

Brutus' men leap onto Antony's deck. The fight. Roman
against Roman. Antony stands swinging his sword, fighting for
his life. Brutus leaps into the fray. Gabrielle is right
behind him. *

ON XENA

She watches all this carefully.

ON BRUTUS

He's hacking at Antony's men. His LIEUTENANT joins him. *

BRUTUS' LIEUTENANT
The Egyptian ships are attacking our
fleet.

BRUTUS
What?!

He looks around and sees: *

OCTAVIUS *

leaping onto the deck of Antony's ship from his ship. *

ON BRUTUS *

His eyes are burning with anger. He charges Octavius like an
enraged bull. He's almost on him when, suddenly, Gabrielle
steps up and plunges her sword into his stomach. He staggers
back, catches sight of Xena and screams: *

BRUTUS
Xena, you bitch...

He pitches forward. A confused Antony looks up at Xena.

ANTONY
Xena?

Antony's Lieutenant runs up to Antony.

ANTONY'S LIEUTENANT
The Egyptian navy is attacking both
Roman fleets from the rear.

ANTONY
Both Roman fleets?

Antony looks back at Xena, his mind racing as he pieces things
together.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

ANTONY

You really are Xena?

Xena hooks a toe under Brutus' sword and flips it up so she catches it in the air.

XENA

Afraid so.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

It's Antony's turn to scream in rage and attack Xena. She deflects his blow.

XENA

Antony, this isn't necessary.

ANTONY

For you, maybe. For me, I have to taste your blood or die.

He charges again. Again, she parries.

XENA

I don't want to kill you.

ANTONY

You'll have to if you want to leave this ship. You win my trust, my heart, my soul. And then you betray me. One of us must die.

He charges again. He and Xena mix it up pretty good. Xena sees an opening but does not take it.

ANTONY

You don't get it, do you?

With every sentence, he swings his sword at Xena's head.

ANTONY

I'm going to kill everything you hold dear. Your companion, your mother, your child...

This last statement makes Xena realize there's no other way out. She dodges an Antony thrust with a stabbing motion to his heart. She connects. He drops to his knees, his sword clattering to the deck. He falls forward. She catches him and cradles him in her arms. He looks up at her.

ANTONY

I did love you.

His eyes close. Xena's head bows in grief.

CUT TO:

37 EXT. OCTAVIUS' WARSHIP - UPPER DECK - NIGHT 37*

Xena, lost in thought as Gabrielle and Octavius look on behind them, Marc Antony's and Brutus' warships slip further and further into the waters...

DISSOLVE TO:

38 INT. CLEOPATRA'S PALACE - RECEPTION ROOM - DAY 38

Xena addresses a silent crowd of EGYPTIAN SOLDIERS, various members of CLEOPATRA'S COURT. She's joined on either side by Gabrielle, Octavius and Shiana.

XENA

...in the interest of the Egyptian people, Cleopatra has forged a new alliance with Octavius, soon to be the next leader in Rome. She recognized that along with such a change must come a change in leadership.

Xena hesitates as everyone in the room shares sorrow-filled looks. Then:

XENA

Cleopatra -- by giving her own life -- died the noblest of deaths, putting the well-being of her kingdom far ahead of her own...in hopes that the Egyptian people might, for the first time, choose their next great leader.

DISSOLVE TO:

39 EXT. OPEN FIELD - DAY 39

Xena and Gabrielle walk side by side.

CYRENE (O.S.)

Xena! Xena, over here!

Xena and Gabrielle approach Cyrene, Joxer and Eve.

XENA

Hi, Mom.

(taking Eve)

Hi there, sweetie...

JOXER

Uh, hello there, welcome back!

XENA

Oh, hey Joxer.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

CYRENE

Everyone's talking about the tragic
affair between Antony and Cleopatra.
It sounded so sad.

XENA

Yes, it was.

CYRENE

Did they really love each other?

XENA

Yes, I believe they did.

(beat)

How was Alexandria? Did you show Eve
the library?

CYRENE

It burned to the ground, dear.

GABRIELLE

What?

JOXER

The darndest thing, it happened not
five minutes after I went inside.
Y'know, to see how late they were
open...FWOOSH! I barely got out
before the whole place went up...

FADE OUT:

THE END