

XENA[™]

WARRIOR PRINCESS

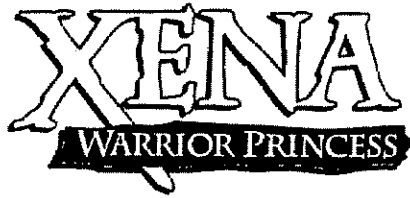
"MOTHERHOOD"

**Story by
Rob Tapert**

**Teleplay by
R.J. Stewart**

**SEASON 5
EPISODE #22**

Sam Raimi, Executive Producer
Rob Tapert, Executive Producer
R.J. Stewart, Executive Producer



"Motherhood"
production #V0923
episode 22

story by

Rob Tapert

teleplay by

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R.J. Stewart (pink)

current revisions by

R.J. Stewart (blue)

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Shooting Draft

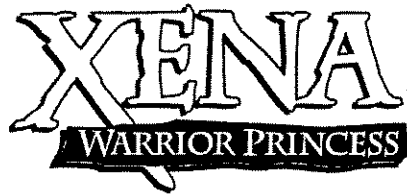
Full Script

Pages: 13, 14, 14A, 19, 20/20A, 32, 36, 36A, 37/38

March 8, 2000

Pink March 13, 2000

Blue March 15, 2000



"Motherhood"
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episode 22

Cast List

Xena
Gabrielle

Joxer

Ares

Eve

Athena

Aphrodite

Hades

Hephaestus

Virgil

Hope

Discord

Demios

Artemis

Alecto

Cullar

Horseman *

Shepherd

Baptist (Confesser) *

4 Lesser Gods (non-speaking)

Tisiphone (non-speaking)

Megaera (non-speaking)

Poseidon (non-speaking)

20 Men (non-speaking)

Man with a Rope (non-speaking) *

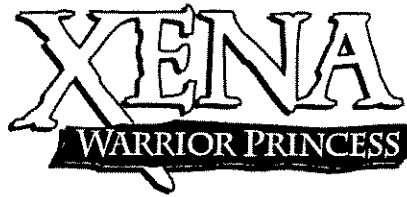
4 Elijians (non-speaking)

Jeb (non-speaking)

Burly Man (non-speaking)

Burly Man's Wife (non-speaking)

Pilgrims (non-speaking)



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Set List

Interiors:

Palace of the Gods	2, 6 , 22A, 32, 34 *
Palace of the Gods - Corridor	33
Shepherd's Hovel	5
Joxer's Tavern - Museum Room	11, 14, 16, 18, 20, 21, 23, 25, 27 , 29 *
Joxer's Tavern - Main Room	12, 24, 28, 30

Scenes:

Exteriors:

Wilderness	1, 3, 4
Country Road	6A *
River	7, 8
Field	9, 35
Joxer's Tavern	10, 11, 13, 15, 17, 19, 22 , 26, 31 *

Scenes:

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY

1

LONG SHOT OF A HUMAN BEING IN A SPASM OF AGONY. We see in the distance a woman throwing herself to the ground, beating on her breast. The terrain in which she's suffering is bleak and barren, to match her mood.

CLOSER

We see who the sufferer is. EVE. She squats down, picks up two handfuls of gravelly dirt and rubs it onto her face.

EVE

Someone give me an answer!!

She jumps up and paces in anguish, unable to understand her fate.

EVE

I knew where I was going once. I was to be ROME!!

She screams "Rome."

EVE

But now what am I? Someone tell me, please.

She falls screaming to the ground.

MONTAGE OF EVE'S AGONY

We see her staggering through the desert and beating herself with her fists, her lips becoming chapped in the sweltering sun. Finally, she hurls herself to the ground.

ON XENA

Xena sits amongst some large boulders watching her daughter's soul pass through a dark night. A single tear runs down her cheek. We can tell it isn't the first tear she's shed today. Gabrielle appears at her side.

GABRIELLE

Why don't we go to her?

XENA

She knows I'm here. When she needs my help, she'll ask for it.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

GABRIELLE

I don't know whether I want to help her or...

Gabrielle fights back a tear of her own.

GABRIELLE

She killed Joxer, Xena. How can we ever forgive her?

XENA

When I realized the evil I was doing, I mourned for the innocents I killed and dedicated my life to redeeming myself. But I never expected to be forgiven. Nor should she.

She looks out at her daughter who is now groaning in deep psychic pain.

XENA

She's lost now. Just as I was. I was lucky. I found you. Now I have to see if I can help her find her way. I'll understand, of course, if you can't--

Gabrielle reaches out and gently touches Xena's lips to silence them.

GABRIELLE

Xena. It pleases me to please you. Let's save your daughter.

Xena gives her a warm smile and then resumes her protective vigil.

CUT TO:

2 INT. PALACE OF THE GODS - DAY

2

The GODS are in the midst of a heavy powwow. Present are ATHENA, ARES, HADES, APHRODITE, HEPHAESTUS, DISCORD, DEMIOS and ARTEMIS as well as FOUR OTHER LESSER GODS. There's a lot of tension in this room. They're training their eyes on Ares.

ARES

Look, I don't know what you're so upset about. I'm the one who figured out Livia was Eve.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

HADES

You should have told us immediately.
The prophecy said she'll bring about
the end of the gods. What if she's
already developed the power to kill us?

ARES

I guarantee you the only thing this
girl's developed lately is an
inferiority complex.

HEPHAESTUS

He's right. I hear she's a babbling
idiot. Let's move on her right away.
What's the challenge?

ATHENA

Xena is the challenge, Hephaestus. As
a warrior princess, she was dangerous
enough. Xena the warrior mother is
terrifying. That's why some of the
other gods have fled. They know the
danger of underestimating the power of
motherhood.

APHRODITE

Then what will we do?

Athena raises a hand above her head and summons:

ATHENA

Furies!!

The Three Furies, ALECTO, TISIPHONE and MEGAERA appear in
front of Athena.

ALECTO

(speaks in rhyme)

We heard your call and came without
delay. If making mortals mad is what
you need, we'll save the day.

ARES

I already gave them their shot at
Xena. It didn't work.

ATHENA

My plan is a bit more subtle. I plan
to fight her motherly protective
instincts with motherhood itself.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: (2)

2

Aphrodite steps up to Athena and speaks softly so the others can't hear.

APHRODITE

Will the bard have to be hurt in all this?

ATHENA

Don't tell me you've gone soft on Xena's sidekick.

APHRODITE

She understands love...I respect that. Maybe not my kind of love, but love all the same. We've become friends.

ATHENA

Well, then don't watch what's about to happen. Because Gabrielle's about to experience the wrath of the Olympian gods.

*
*
*

Off Aphrodite's concerned look, we:

CUT TO:

3 EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY

3

CLOSE ON EVE'S HAND as it draws a PENTAGRAM in the dirt. WIDER TO SHOW her bent down now, her clothes torn apart, hanging on her by threads, her face darkened by dirt and sunburn, her lips spotted with blisters and blood. She's a few feet from a large, gnarly tree.

*
*

ON XENA AND GABRIELLE

as they watch Eve. Suddenly, Xena's face goes from compassion to intensity as something's not right. She leaps up, grabs her chakram and hurls it toward Eve.

ON EVE

Oblivious to her surroundings, she continues to draw in the dirt. She looks up to see the chakram coming right at her. Before it can hit her, it collides with TWO JAVELINS headed for her chest. The javelins are broken in two and fall harmlessly to the ground. The chakram bounces off a rock and flies back toward:

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

XENA

She runs toward Eve, catching her chakram coming back at her as she goes. Gabrielle is right behind her.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (2)

3

DIFFERENT ANGLE

From the rocks behind Eve, TWENTY MEN emerge, carrying spears and swords. They charge toward Eve. The leader of this mob is a large bully named CULLAR.

CULLAR

Death to the monster Livia.

He runs at Eve but pulls up short when he sees Xena flying through the air, letting out a Xena cry as she goes. She kicks Cullar in the stomach while knocking another member of the mob in the teeth with the butt of her sword. Gabrielle leaps into the fray, sais a whizzin'.

A MAN WITH A ROPE

appears from behind the rocks. The rope he carries has a noose at its end. While Xena and Gabrielle are fighting off the mob, he tosses the noose around Eve's neck and throws it over a branch of the tree. Other members of the mob grab the rope and start pulling Eve up off the ground.

Xena pulls her chakram, throws it and cuts the rope. She and Gabrielle lay into the mob. Soon the mob is on the run.

Xena runs over to Eve.

ON A SHEPHERD

who is looking at all this in wonder.

ON XENA

She hugs Eve and holds her close.

EVE

You should have let them kill me.

ON GABRIELLE

She sees Cullar has regained his feet and is moving toward Xena and Eve. Gabrielle leaps up, lands with both feet on Cullar's chest and knocks him down. She stands over him.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: (3)

3

GABRIELLE

What is your business with Eve?

CULLAR

She's not Eve, she's Livia, the scourge of Rome. All of us have lost someone to her brutality.

He struggles to charge Eve again. Gabrielle knocks him unconscious with one of her sais. She turns back to:

XENA

She still cradles Eve. But now, to our horror, THE THREE FURIES STAND BEHIND HER. NO ONE SEES THEM BUT THE AUDIENCE. Gabrielle approaches Xena. The Furies begin moving around Xena. But suddenly, they move away from Xena toward:

GABRIELLE

They surround Gabrielle and begin whispering in her ears. WE HEAR GABRIELLE'S THOUGHTS BUT CLEARLY IT'S THE FURIES SPEAKING THROUGH HER:

GABRIELLE (V.O.)

Xena, you're obsessed with saving your daughter. But she'll only break your heart. There'll be no peace for you until Eve is dead.

Off Gabrielle's troubled stare, we:

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 EXT. WILDERNESS - DAY - CONTINUING

4

Xena continues to comfort Eve.

ON GABRIELLE

The Furies are still surrounding her, whispering in her ears.

GABRIELLE (V.O.)

She killed Joxer. Poor, sweet,
harmless Joxer. Who will be her next
victim?

Gabrielle stares at Eve, who is shivering from exposure.

GABRIELLE

Xena.

XENA

Gabrielle, we have to get Eve to
shelter.

Gabrielle shakes her head as if clearing it.

GABRIELLE

Yes, of course.

Suddenly, she becomes aware of the Shepherd who has shyly
approached Xena.

SHEPHERD

Excuse me. You called that woman Xena.

GABRIELLE

Yes?

SHEPHERD

Our scripture tells us that our
founder knew someone named Xena. She
was a great warrior. We call her the
Defender of the Faith. But it
couldn't be the same woman. She would
be much older now.

GABRIELLE

Your founder? Was his name Eli?

The Shepherd is surprised Gabrielle has heard of him.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

SHEPHERD

Yes.

GABRIELLE

Well...

(nods toward Xena)

That's the defender of your faith.

The Shepherd is flabbergasted. He falls to his knees in front of Xena.

SHEPHERD

What a glorious miracle. Your friend looks hurt. It would be a great honor if you'd all take shelter in my home.

CUT TO:

5 INT. SHEPHERD'S HOVEL - DAY

5

Xena sits on the floor, Eve's head on her lap. Gabrielle sits on a stool. She's surrounded by FIVE ELIJANS who sit on the floor. The Shepherd sits right at Gabrielle's feet.

GABRIELLE

He was love itself. Every living thing was a treasure to him.

SHEPHERD

Is it true he could breathe fire?

GABRIELLE

No. He was very much a real man of flesh and blood. That's what made his mission so important. He had all the pressure on him the rest of us do, but he always stayed so serene and gentle.

The Shepherd turns to one of the other Elijians, A YOUNG MAN, JEB.

SHEPHERD

You see, Jeb. Now I want you to take that breathing fire stuff out of your scroll.

(to Gabrielle)

Tell us more, please.

GABRIELLE

He gave us all hope that everyone can be saved by love.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

EVE

Well, he was wrong.

Eve sits up, her face wracked with pain.

EVE

How can I be saved? The things I've done. You don't know the horror!!

She pulls violently at her hair. Xena grabs her hands.

XENA

Eve, you should listen to what they say about Eli. It may help you.

SHEPHERD

If you've done something bad and are tormented by guilt, Eli teaches that even you can find comfort in love. Certainly I've done things I'm not proud of but--

Eve laughs a bitter laugh.

EVE

You? What have you done? I've wiped out entire villages because they wouldn't pay me tribute. I've drunk the blood of men I've tortured to death. I killed their best friend. Now, your turn.

ON GABRIELLE

She looks on sympathetically but the Furies appear behind her, whispering in her ear. *

GABRIELLE (V.O.)

She's gloating about killing Joxer. I shouldn't allow her to alone with Xena. Who knows what she's capable of.

DIFFERENT ANGLE

The shepherd is shocked by Eve's statement. *

XENA

Eli used to initiate sinners into his Way of Love with a ceremony. *

(CONTINUED) *

5 CONTINUED: (2)

5

SHEPHERD

Yes. There's a man who continues that tradition. We call him the Baptist.

*
*
*

XENA

Well, then that's where we're headed, to see the Baptist.

*
*
*

CUT TO:

6 OMITTED

6 *

6A EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

6A *

Xena and Gabrielle walk along, leading their horses. Eve sits on Argo II mumbling to herself in anguish. Xena throws a look back at her.

*
*
*

XENA

It kills me to see her tormented like that.

*
*
*

GABRIELLE

Do you think this Baptist can help?

*
*

XENA

I know that she's in this world because Eli's god sent her. So maybe Eli's disciple can cure her.

*
*
*
*

(off Gabrielle's conflicted look)

*
*

Look, I know there are many people who think Eve deserves to die. I can understand that. But I'm going to do everything I can to save her. I want my daughter back, Gabrielle.

*
*
*
*
*

Gabrielle nods in sympathy but then frowns as the three Furies APPEAR around her, whispering in her ears.

*
*

GABRIELLE (V.O.)

It's so sad. Xena's heart will be broken again when this monster shows her true nature.

*
*
*
*

CUT TO:

*

7 EXT. RIVER - DAY

7

THE BAPTIST, a rail-thin man, age 40, stands in the waters of this narrow river. A BURLY MAN kneels in the water before him. Several other PEOPLE stand on the shore, watching. Xena, Gabrielle and Eve approach. The Baptist speaks to the kneeling man.

*
*
*

BAPTIST

Do you admit your trespasses?

*

The Burly Man begins to cry. He nods and holds his head back. The Baptist lays a hand under the man's head and lowers him back into the water.

*

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

BAPTIST

I now clean your body with these sweet
waters and initiate you into the Way
of Love.

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (2)

7

The Burly Man stands up and walks toward the shore. He's still very emotional. He's greeted on the shore by his WIFE, who gives him a big hug. The Baptist is walking toward the shore when he spots Eve. He stops in his tracks and stares transfixed at her.

EVE

What are you looking at?

BAPTIST

Suffering. Horrible suffering.

Eve is overcome by emotion. She staggers toward him and falls to her knees in the water. Xena is very touched by this.

EVE

I'm so evil. Nothing can save me. I should die for my deeds.

BAPTIST

You're right. You must die to the things of the flesh and be reborn in the spirit of selfless love. Let me initiate you into the Way of Love.

ON XENA

A BLINDING LIGHT

headed toward her.

DIFFERENT ANGLE

From the heavens, a brilliant LIGHT is bathing Xena in its golden glow.

INTERCUT:

EVE

being baptized.

ON XENA

She drops her arms to her sides as she seems to be receiving some kind of spiritual transfusion. A few moments pass before Xena speaks:

XENA

If that's the way it has to be, I'm ready.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (3)

7

Eve falls back into the Baptist's arms. He lowers her into the water. Eve walks from the waters, deep in thought. Xena simply embraces her.

*
*

ON GABRIELLE

She can't help but be touched. Then the Furies step into frame and whisper to her.

*
*

GABRIELLE (V.O.)

Look at Xena. She's just setting herself up to be hurt again. You know, there's no reforming Eve.

ON XENA AND EVE

as they continue to hug. Suddenly, Xena notices the waters in the river swirling unusually. She gently pushes Eve away. The Baptist approaches them.

*

BAPTIST

(to Xena)

Would you like to be initiated? I'm sure you too can be forgiven.

*

*

XENA

No thanks, old man.

(draws the sword)

That's not for me.

Suddenly, POSEIDON explodes out of the RIVER and towers over everyone. The Baptist and the other pilgrims run for cover. Gabrielle readies herself for a fight. Eve stands staring up at Poseidon, ready to accept whatever happens. Suddenly, a FIREBALL hurtles down toward the earth. Xena has to dive to shove Eve out of the way of it. Poseidon lets a watery fist fly at them. Eve, Gabrielle and Xena are knocked down by this wall of water.

*

THE ATTACK

Hephaestus, Artemis, Discord, Demios and Hades APPEAR around our fallen heros. Xena leaps up and is desperately holding off the gods as they charge Eve. Gabrielle is at her side.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (4)

7

Hephaestus throws a hammer at Eve. Xena pulls her chakram, hurls it and deflects the hammer away from Eve and back toward Xena. Xena catches the hammer and hurls it back at Hephaestus. It hits Hephaestus square in the chest. He hurls back and lands on the ground. HE LETS OUT A DEATH RATTLE AND DIES. The ground RUMBLES and the EARTH SPLITS OPEN. Discord throws a FIREBALL at Xena. Xena pulls her sword and deflects the fireball into Poseidon. He DISINTEGRATES into a burst of steam. Discord charges Xena, swinging a sword as she runs. Xena sidesteps her and decapitates her with her chakram.

ON THE OTHER GODS

They're stunned. Xena takes advantage of the situation to grab Hephaestus' chains. Athena APPEARS with Ares. Athena goes up and looks at Hephaestus, half his body sticking out of the crack in the ground. Ares picks up Discord's head. *

ARES

Hey, Dis.

No response.

ARES

Nobody home.

ATHENA

That's because she's dead!!! *

She turns to Xena who stands with sword and chakram ready. *

ATHENA *

Xena can kill gods. *

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

8 EXT. RIVER - DAY - CONTINUING

8

As before. The gods are afraid to move toward Xena as they realize they're mortal. *

XENA

How does it feel to smell your mortality? There's nothing more pathetic than a dead god, so show some intelligence and don't follow us. *

Xena, Gabrielle and Eve exit. When they're gone, Athena turns on the gods. *

ATHENA

You fools. If you'd waited for the Furies to do their work, we may have gotten through this without losing anyone. *

ARES

Xena will be very tough to kill. *

ATHENA

We don't have to. Her daughter must somehow give her that power. It's Eve who must die!! I still say the Furies are our best chance. *

ARES

Then we need to distract Xena while the Furies do their work. *

CUT TO:

9 EXT. FIELD - DAY

9

Xena, Gabrielle and Eve enter this field. Eve falls to the ground. *

EVE

I'm the cause of all this violence, aren't I? *

Gabrielle has something else on her mind. She's staring at Xena in wonder. *

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

GABRIELLE

You can kill gods! How is that possible?

XENA

While Eve was being initiated...I was visited by a spirit. He told me Eve's cleansing gave me the power to kill gods.

GABRIELLE

What kind of spirit?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

XENA

It was sent by the Archangel Michael.
He told me that Eve will prepare the
way for the rule of the God of Love.

GABRIELLE

And you're to protect her.

XENA

Yes. That's why I was chosen to be
the mother of the messenger. As long
as Eve is alive, I can kill gods.

ON GABRIELLE

GABRIELLE (V.O.)

That spirit could have come from any
source. Dahak himself could be
controlling Xena.

Gabrielle takes a step to one side. WE SEE THE FURIES
STANDING BEHIND HER, GRINNING.

*

ON EVE AND XENA

EVE

What's happened to me is all so
confusing. When I was being
initiated, I felt one load being
lifted only to be replaced by another
just as frightening.

*

*

XENA

You're not obsessing on your guilt
anymore. You're trying to figure out
how to make amends. And that can be
terrifying.

EVE

Yes. I've done so many terrible
things. It's overwhelming. Where can
I start?

*

*

*

XENA

By facing someone you've wronged.

*

*

EVE

Yes. That's what I should do.

*

*

Xena kneels next to Eve and gently strokes her head.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (2)

9

XENA

But it shouldn't be to make you feel better. The purpose of facing those who you've hurt is to give them some opportunity to express their pain.

(MORE)

*

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: (3)

9

XENA (cont'd)
It's not up to them to forgive. It's
up to you to accept their judgement.

Eve nods at this tough statement.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. JOXER'S TAVERN - DAY

10

VIRGIL sits on the porch writing on a scroll. A packed bag
sits next to him. *

VIRGIL
(reading what he wrote)
My father's ghost began to soothe my
grief... *

He stops as he chokes up a bit. He looks up and sees Xena and
Gabrielle standing in front of him.

VIRGIL
Xena...Gabrielle. Did you get her?
Did you kill that demon?

Gabrielle steps aside to reveal:

EVE

She looks at Virgil with tears in her eyes.

DIFFERENT ANGLE

as Virgil draws his sword and charges Eve. Xena throws a
restraining arm around Virgil. Eve drops to her knees and
bows her head, ready to take anything that's dished out to her.

VIRGIL
Let me cut her throat.

XENA
No.

Xena steps between Eve and Virgil. Virgil sees the steely
resolve in Xena's eyes and knows he'll never get to Eve.

EVE
I don't expect you to forgive me.

VIRGIL
Good. Because that's not happening.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

EVE

If my death could bring your father back, I'd accept it joyfully.

VIRGIL

You know, in my entire life, I never saw my father be cruel to man, woman, child or beast. He brought joy to everyone who knew him.

Virgil sways for a moment, his internal pain almost too much to bare. Xena walks up to him and gives him an embrace.

XENA

He can hear your thoughts, Virgil. He's not as far away as you think.

Virgil nods and walks out toward Joxer's grave that sits on a grassy knoll in the bg. Gabrielle follows after him. Xena kneels next to Eve and places a gentle hand on her shoulder.

XENA

That kind of reaction comes with the territory.

GABRIELLE AND VIRGIL

They sit together on the grassy knoll next to a grave. She puts a loving arm around him. Then she notices that Virgil is grasping the scroll he was working on. She takes it from his hand and examines it.

VIRGIL

I dreamed his ghost visited me last night.

GABRIELLE

(reads)

"My father's ghost began to soothe my grief. But no tears or cries can give the dead relief. I wished to speak but horror tied my tongue. Then he turned, his final exit had begun.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: (2)

10

GABRIELLE (cont'd)

Stay, stay, I cried, and talk with me now. This may be the last meeting fate will allow. But light as an empty dream at break of day, or a blast of wind, he rushed away."

Gabrielle weeps. She regroups.

GABRIELLE

It's very beautiful.

VIRGIL

My mother was mad with grief. She took my brothers and sisters to stay with relatives in Athens. I'm going to catch up with them.

He kisses the mound of dirt over his father, gives Gabrielle a hug and moves on.

CUT TO:

11 INT. JOXER'S TAVERN - MUSEUM ROOM/EXT. JOXER'S TAVERN - LATER 11

Gabrielle sits leaning against the wall staring at Eve who's reading Gabrielle's scrolls. Xena is at the weapons rack, examining the arsenal, glancing occasionally out of the windows, looking for trouble. Eve looks up at Gabrielle.

EVE

You've preserved Xena for all the ages in these scrolls, Gabrielle. Thank you.

(to Xena)

I understand now how you dealt with your guilt. You used it to motivate you to do good. That's the way to redemption.

Xena smiles at her daughter's insight. Then:

XENA

Gabrielle, this is as good a place to make a stand as any. Good visibility out the windows, weapons rack and ready supplies.

EVE

Will you have to kill them all?

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

XENA

I hope not but the one's who aren't into this have fled. The gods that will show up here will be ready to fight.

Then something outside catches the corner of her eye.

XENA'S POV - ON ARES

He stands outside the tavern by the some trees.

ON XENA

She draws her sword and moves toward the door.

XENA

Gabrielle, watch the back.

Gabrielle nods, stands and pulls her sais as Xena exits to the outside. Gabrielle looks toward the Main Room.

MAIN ROOM - GABRIELLE'S POV

We see through the open door some movement.

ON GABRIELLE

She tosses a look at Eve and then enters:

12 INT. JOXER'S TAVERN - MAIN ROOM - DAY

12

Gabrielle moves cautiously into the room. Suddenly, someone stumbles in front of her and falls at her feet. She looks down as a man is getting up off the ground. She's shocked to see it's JOXER. He's the young Joxer and his helmet is out of whack.

JOXER

How can a ghost trip? I thought I could walk through everything.

GABRIELLE

Joxer.

She hugs him and kisses him all over the face.

*

JOXER

There was a time I would have died for this kind of attention. Well, I guess I did.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

GABRIELLE

I'm so happy to see you.

JOXER

I'm glad to see you, too.

(looks around)

Is Meg here? *

GABRIELLE

No. She's in Athens. *

JOXER

I wanted her to see me once more like *

I was in my prime. You know, when she *

fell in love with me. *

GABRIELLE

I'll make sure she gets a full *

description.

JOXER

So are you going to kill Eve? *

Gabrielle is drawn up short by this comment.

ANOTHER ANGLE

shows the three Furies standing behind Joxer.

JOXER

Or are you just going to stand by and
watch her kill someone else's child. *

HOPE (O.C.) *

Good question. *

Gabrielle turns to see: *

HOPE

She stands before her. The THREE FURIES STAND AROUND HOPE,
GRINNING AT GABRIELLE. GABRIELLE SEES HOPE BUT NOT THE FURIES.

HOPE

Hello, Mother.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (3)

12

Gabrielle steps back, stunned.

GABRIELLE

Hope. What are you doing here?

HOPE

I'm half human. I can haunt as well as the next ghost.

GABRIELLE

What do you want?

HOPE

Mother, Xena's making a terrible mistake in trying to save Eve. The same mistake you made when you didn't kill me when you had the chance.

Gabrielle's is stunned.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. JOXER'S TAVERN - DAY

13

Xena is looking for Ares who is now not in sight. Suddenly, he APPEARS before her.

ARES

Hello, Xena.

14 INT. JOXER'S TAVERN - MUSEUM ROOM - DAY

14

Eve sits reading the scrolls. Gabrielle enters with Hope right behind her. The Three Furies are also escorting her. Eve's back is to Gabrielle. Eve cannot hear or see anyone but Gabrielle.

HOPE

When you gave in to that sentimental motherly instinct to save me, it led to the death of Xena's son and many others. Are you going to let Xena make the same mistake?

Gabrielle turns toward Eve. Hope steps up next to her and grabs Gabrielle's right wrist.

HOPE

You can do it, Mother.

- 15 EXT. JOXER'S TAVERN - DAY 15
 Xena and Ares face off.
- ARES
 You're not going to kill me, are you?
- XENA
 Why wouldn't I?
- ARES
 Because I love you. There I said it.
 I love you, I love you, I love you.
- 16 INT. JOXER'S TAVERN - MUSEUM ROOM - DAY 16
 Hope leads Gabrielle toward the kneeling Eve. Hope raises Gabrielle's arm up over Eve. The sai is pointed down toward Eve's back.
- 17 EXT. JOXER'S TAVERN - DAY 17
 Ares and Xena continue to face off.
- XENA
 If you're here to make another play to get me--
- ARES
 I'm here to say good-bye. One of us isn't long for this world. That's obvious. I just wanted to say it's been sweet.
- 18 INT. JOXER'S TAVERN - MUSEUM ROOM - DAY 18
 Gabrielle holds the sai above Eve.
- HOPE
 For me, Mother. Kill her for me.
 Remember Joxer. Let vengeance be yours.
- Hope moves Gabrielle's arm down hard. The sai sinks into Eve's back. *
- 19 EXT. JOXER'S TAVERN - DAY 19
 Xena is facing Ares. Suddenly, a sixth sense causes her to spin around and see: *

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

GABRIELLE - XENA'S POV

Through the window of Joxer's house, we see Gabrielle plunging the sai into Eve's back.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: (2)

19

ON XENA

She grabs her chakram and hurls it toward Gabrielle as Ares VANISHES.

20 INT. JOXER'S TAVERN - MUSEUM ROOM - DAY

20

Gabrielle is stabbing Eve again when the chakram HITS HER IN THE BACK OF THE HEAD. SHE FALLS TO THE GROUND, THE BACK OF HER HEAD SPLIT OPEN. The Furies stand around looking at this scene with joy. Xena bursts in and stares down at Gabrielle and Eve. She pauses for a moment and then screams.

XENA

The Furies!!

She swings her sword around in a wide arch, slicing Tisiphone's stomach open. She falls down dead. The other two Furies back up in horror.

XENA

I can't see you but I know you're here.

She throws the chakram. It caroms around the room at almost every level. It strikes a ducking Alecto and kills her and then bounces around a few more times before connecting with Megaera's throat, killing her. Xena catches the chakram, looks at the godly blood trickling from it and then stares down at Gabrielle and Eve. Gabrielle lies very still. Eve is still conscious but is seriously wounded, losing blood quickly.

Off Xena's concern, we:

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

21 INT. JOXER'S TAVERN - MUSEUM ROOM - DAY - CONTINUING 21

As before. Xena drops to her knees and cradles Gabrielle's head. It's a mess. Eve groans. Xena moves to Eve and examines her wounds.

EVE

How is Gabrielle?

XENA

Not good.

Eve coughs up some blood.

22 OMITTED 22 *

22A INT. PALACE OF THE GODS - DAY 22A*

The gods await the outcome of a discussion between Ares and Athena. *

ATHENA *

You were supposed to distract her. *
How was she able to stop Gabrielle? *

ARES *

You know her. She just does those *
things. She was a tad angry with the *
Furies. *

ATHENA *

She killed them? *

He nods. The gods gasp. *

ATHENA *

All right. Now we have no choice. We *
launch a full-scale attack. *

CUT TO: *

23 INT. JOXER'S TAVERN - MUSEUM ROOM - DAY 23

Xena is nursing the wounded Eve when:

THE GODS

APPEAR around Xena.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

ATHENA

Give us your daughter, Xena. It's a
lost cause. It's true you can kill
gods, but it's ten to one. Not great
odds.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED: (2)

23

XENA

You're right. See if you can dig up
forty more immortals and we might have
an interesting match up.

Xena leaps up, tips over a table to protect Eve and lays into the gods, driving them back with her sword. Hades throws FIREBALLS at her. She dives behind the table for cover. The fireballs EXPLODE around her. She sees Gabrielle lying close to the FIRE. She tries to reach for her hand, but her hand begins moving back. As a matter of fact, Gabrielle's entire body is being dragged into the Main Room of the tavern by Aphrodite. Xena and Aphrodite exchange looks. Xena allows her to continue to drag Gabrielle to safety.

24 INT. JOXER'S TAVERN - MAIN ROOM - DAY

24

Aphrodite gets Gabrielle into the main room and sits next to her. She tries to stop the blood flow with her dress.

25 INT. JOXER'S TAVERN - MUSEUM ROOM - DAY

25

Xena dashes to the weapons rack amidst a FLURRY OF FIRE. Ares tries to block her way.

XENA

Out of my way, lover boy.

She runs up his chest and slams her foot into his face. As he crashes to the ground, she continues to the weapons rack. She grabs the weapons and dives back around the table. She stands and throws a javelin at the gods and then ducks back down. Eve has already loaded a crossbow and hands it to Xena.

XENA

Thanks. We make a good team.

EVE

You left Gabrielle with a god.

XENA

That's Aphrodite. She's Gabrielle's friend.

She fires the crossbow as Eve hands her a more conventional bow with the arrow in place. Xena stands and fires it as Eve loads the crossbow and so on. Suddenly, Eve coughs up some blood. Xena examines Eve's wounds.

XENA

Nice thrust, Gabrielle.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

EVE

You taught her pretty well.

XENA

Yeah, I did.

A FIREBALL lands close to them. BURNING DEBRIS lands on Eve. She's on FIRE. Xena throws her body on Eve and rolls. Together they roll behind the bar. As Xena goes, she gets an arrow in her side.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (2)

25

BEHIND THE BAR

Xena pulls the arrow from her side. Eve coughs up some more blood. Xena grabs bottles of liquor off the shelves behind the bar.

EVE

Thirsty?

XENA

Desperate.

She starts shoving bar towels down their necks.

EVE

What are you doing?

XENA

We need a distraction to get you out of this room.

She grabs a LANTERN that still has a glimmer of a flame. She puts the flame to one of the bar towels and waits till it burns down to the bottle. Then she hurls it out toward the gods. There's a thunderous EXPLOSION.

XENA

On this next one, I want you to try to get into the main room.

Xena lights the towel, lets it burn and is about to throw it when:

HADES

appears at the end of the bar and hurls a FIREBALL right at Eve.

XENA

grabs one of the shields from the weapons rack and dives between Hades and Eve. The FIREBALL hits the shield and shoots right back at Hades who has to dive out of the way to save himself. The force of the fireball hitting the shield sends Xena slamming against the wall at the other end of the bar. She hits her head and falls to the ground, unconscious. The bottle she was lighting lies close to her head, the towel still burning down. Eve slides across the floor toward Xena. She reaches the bottle just as the towel has burned down to the neck. She picks it up and hurls it over the bar.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED: (3)

25

ON THE GODS

They watch the bomb land in the midst of them. It EXPLODES. They stand horrified for a moment, looking for the shrapnel wounds or burns. Nothing.

HADES

No damage. Xena's lost whatever power she had to hurt us. Eve must have died.

He strides confidently toward the bar.

BEHIND THE BAR

Xena is regaining consciousness. She hears Hades' footsteps. Eve hands her a loaded crossbow. Hades reaches the end of the bar. Eve is lying with her back to him. As far as he can tell, she's dead.

HADES

You've lost your power over us, Xena.

He lifts up his arm to throw a fireball. Just then, Eve turns to look at him. He freezes, realizing Eve isn't dead. Xena leaps up and fires the crossbow right into Hades' chest. He staggers back. Eve hands her a LIT BOMB. Xena throws it at Hades. It EXPLODES. Hades is on fire as he staggers around the bar, the other gods looking on in horror.

ON EVE

With Xena's help, she makes it into the main room. Xena stays in the museum room. NOTE: IT'S IMPORTANT THAT IT APPEAR THAT THE GODS DIDN'T SEE EVE GO INTO THE OTHER ROOM OR ELSE THEY'D SIMPLY ATTACK THERE.

ON HADES

He staggers for a few more moments and then falls dead. The gods are shocked.

ON XENA

She leaps up from behind the bar, throwing knives, spears, lances, javelins and bombs. A spear goes through the heart of one of the lesser gods. A knife kills Demios. The gods dive for cover. Ares takes a javelin in the thigh and staggers out to:

26 EXT. JOXER'S TAVERN - DAY 26

He falls to the ground and tries to pull the javelin from his leg.

27 OMITTED 27 *

28 INT. JOXER'S TAVERN - MAIN ROOM - DAY 28

Eve has crawled in and is making her way across the floor. Aphrodite is still attending to Gabrielle and hasn't noticed Eve yet. She hears a noise and turns. Aphrodite and Eve are face to face. There's a tense pause, then Aphrodite grabs one of Gabrielle's sais and leaps to her feet. She can finish this whole thing right now. Eve stares up at her, exhausted and in pain. There's a tense moment. Then she drops the sai. The door bursts open and Ares enters. He's gotten the javelin out of his leg. Now he's looking for something to bind the wound. He grabs a sheet and begins to wrap it around his leg.

ARES

(to Aphrodite)

This bleeding thing sucks.

Then, suddenly, he sees Eve.

29 INT. JOXER'S TAVERN - MUSEUM ROOM - DAY 29

EXPLOSIONS everywhere. Artemis DISAPPEARS. Xena throws still another BOMB, this one bigger than the rest. It EXPLODES, killing the rest of the Lesser Gods and wounding Athena in the arm. THE ONLY GODS LEFT ALIVE AT THIS POINT ARE APHRODITE, ARES, ARTEMIS AND ATHENA.

30 INT. JOXER'S TAVERN - MAIN ROOM - DAY 30

Ares limps toward Eve. He draws his sword. Aphrodite looks at Eve's pained expression. Just as Ares is about to strike, Xena enters with scrolls tucked under her arm and her chakram cocked. Aphrodite kicks Ares in his bad leg. He staggers back, sees Xena and then, with a cry of rage, he DISAPPEARS.

CUT TO:

31 EXT. JOXER'S TAVERN - DAY 31

ON XENA, GABRIELLE AND EVE *

Xena sits on the ground stroking Gabrielle's forehead which lies in her lap. Eve leans against her. The two people she loves most in her life are dying. *

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

XENA

Neither one of you are going to leave
me, do you hear?

(to Gabrielle)

You're the only pure thing in my life.

(to Eve)

And you're my great hope. I won't let
either of you go.

She gets up and grabs Hephaestus' chains which lie on the
ground. Aphrodite approaches.

APHRODITE

It's so sad.

XENA

If you care so much, why don't you
cure her?

APHRODITE

Gods can only heal with Athena's
blessing. That's not going to happen.

XENA

Then transport us all to Olympus.

APHRODITE

Why?

XENA

I'm going to offer them a deal.

APHRODITE

And if they don't accept?

(off Xena's tough look)

You'll kill them. You expect me to
take you into the home of my brothers
and sisters so that you can butcher
them?

XENA

Aphrodite, I don't want to have to
kill you but if you don't do as I say,
the butchery can start right now.

She sways her sword threateningly under Aphrodite's jaw.

APHRODITE

All right. I'll take you to Olympus.

She looks up at the skies.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED: (2)

31

XENA

Athena! Ares! If you can hear me.
Know this. I'm coming and I'm
bringing death with me!

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

32 INT. PALACE OF THE GODS - DAY

32

Ares wears a bandage around his wounded thigh. Artemis is nursing Athena's arm. Athena is glaring at Ares.

ATHENA

Are you telling me Aphrodite stopped you from ending all of this?

ARES

You got it.

ATHENA

When this is all over, we'll spend eternity making her pay.

ARTEMIS

The good news is you're healing fast.

ATHENA

It doesn't do a bit of good if we can't destroy that girl.

ARTEMIS

She was seriously wounded. She may die.

ATHENA

With Xena around, I doubt it. We need an entirely new strategy.

(to Ares)

You may have to pay one more visit to your love.

CUT TO:

33 INT. PALACE OF THE GODS - CORRIDOR - DAY

33

Xena, Eve, Gabrielle and Aphrodite MATERIALIZE in the corridor. Xena is carrying Gabrielle over her shoulder. Eve, semiconscious, is leaning on Xena. Aphrodite looks frightened.

XENA

Which way?

APHRODITE

They're probably in the main hall of the palace. It's down here and to the right.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

Xena nods and stares at Aphrodite.

XENA

Get out of here. Things are going to get ugly.

Aphrodite gently strokes Gabrielle's head.

APHRODITE

Good-bye, little one.

She DISAPPEARS. Xena makes her way down the corridor. Eve is staring up at Xena with great admiration.

EVE

(weakly)

Mother.

XENA

Yes, Eve?

EVE

Nothing. I just wanted to say it. I've never called anybody mother before.

Xena is overwhelmed by emotion. She gently lies Gabrielle down and gives Eve a hug.

XENA

I'm so sorry I wasn't there for you, Eve.

EVE

Now don't do that. Don't blame yourself for what I did.

XENA

No. It's not that. I'm just so sorry I didn't see you grow up. I bet you were a beautiful little girl.

EVE

(a little smile)

I was.

(thinks for a moment)

I liked spiders.

XENA

Really? So did I.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (2)

33

They savor this moment, then Eve coughs up some blood. It's a reminder of the urgency of the mission. She picks up Gabrielle and they move on down the corridor. Suddenly, Ares APPEARS in front of them.

ARES

That's quite a load you got there,
Xena.

Xena raises a crossbow toward Ares.

ARES

I'm here to present an offer.

EVE

Like she's going to trust anything you
say, you lying sack of--

ARES

(to Xena)

We'll make you a god.

XENA

What about Eve and Gabrielle?

Ares shrugs.

ARES

I suppose we could negotiate
Gabrielle. But Eve...she's our death
warrant. She's got to die.

(off Xena's look)

Come on, Xena. We're offering you
eternity as an immortal. You can have
dozens of Eves if you like.

He leans toward her.

ARES

You know, this is the second time
since you became Xena, Slayer of Gods,
that we faced off one-on-one, and you
still haven't been able to pull the
trigger. Funny. I think maybe you do
have something for me after all.

He leans forward to kiss her. Then he roars with pain as Xena fires her crossbow into his leg. With lightning quickness, she puts down the women, throws Hephaestus' chains around Ares and locks them.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (3)

33

ARES

You know, I already got it once in the
leg today.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED: (4)

33

XENA

Well, I'll make you a promise. The next time I shoot you, it won't be in the leg. Now let's go.

CUT TO:

34 INT. PALACE OF THE GODS - DAY

34

Athena sits alone on a chair. Suddenly, the main door bursts open and Ares stands in the doorway. Xena's behind him, a crossbow in either hand. She's using Ares as a shield. We can see Gabrielle and Eve lying in the corridor behind her.

XENA

Here's the deal. You heal Eve and Gabrielle, and then I leave you alone.

ATHENA

Not a chance.

Suddenly, Artemis springs out of an alcove with a bow and arrow and fires at Xena's back. Xena reaches behind her head and CATCHES THE ARROW just before it penetrates the nape of her neck. Athena leaps off the chair and slashes at Xena with her sword. Ares is pushed aside. He collapses in pain, his two bad legs refusing to support him. Xena dodges Athena's attack just in time to GRAB another Artemis arrow. She dives to avoid still another Athena attack. As she does, she throws the two arrows back at Artemis.

ON ARTEMIS

as the arrows PENETRATE her chest. She looks up at Athena in sorrow and then keels over dead.

XENA AND ATHENA - THE FIGHT

The sword fight of the year. Two master warriors having it out. First Athena drives Xena back. Then Xena does the same to Athena. Xena does a flip over Athena's head. As she does, Athena stabs up at her. Xena claps her hands around Athena's blade and for a moment balances on the sword. Then she flips back, jerking the sword from Athena's hands.

ON ATHENA

She stands weaponless as Xena lands in front of her, holding a sword in either hand.

XENA

Any second thoughts about my offer?

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

ATHENA

Never.

She kicks out and knocks her sword out of Xena's hand. Athena catches it and she and Xena go at it once again.

ON ARES

He notices he's got a clear path to Eve. He begins crawling toward her.

ON XENA AND ATHENA

They go at it for all they're worth. Athena notices Ares crawling toward Eve. She deliberately backs up to draw Xena further from Eve. Xena lands a vicious sword blow to one of Athena's legs. She goes down on one knee.

XENA

You sure you don't want to reconsider?
Heal those two women and I leave you
in peace.

Athena's answer is to spit on this uppity mortal. Xena slams her sword butt into Athena's head. Athena goes down in a heap.

ON EVE

She's getting weaker. Her breathing is uneven and her eyes are glazed.

ON ARES

He's almost reached Eve now.

ON XENA AND ATHENA

Athena gets to her knees, blood trickling down her forehead.

XENA

Are you sure you understand the
options? You heal my friends and give
me your word you'll leave us alone,
then go on your way, or I can kill you
now.

*
*
*

ATHENA

I will not be dictated to by a mortal.

Athena leaps up and, even with one bad leg, drives Xena back with a couple of strong sword strokes.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (2)

34

ON EVE

Eve gives out a death gurgle and dies.

ON XENA AND ATHENA

Xena grabs Athena behind the neck and pulls her toward her so that she's impaled on her sword. The sword goes into Athena's stomach. A tense pause. Then Athena smiles.

ATHENA

I didn't feel a thing. You've lost the power to kill gods. Your little girl is dead.

Xena throws a horrified look back toward Eve. This gives Athena the opportunity to go on the attack again. But Xena's crazed now.

*
*

ON ARES

He's reached Eve and Gabrielle. He glances out at:

XENA

She's fighting so beautifully with such controlled fury.

*

ON ARES

He positions himself so that he can touch both Eve and Gabrielle with either hand.

ON ATHENA

She's fighting recklessly now. She knows Xena can't kill her. Xena lunges forward. Athena lets the sword thrust pass through her. She freezes and looks down in shock. After a moment, blood starts to trickle from her mouth. She throws a look at:

ARES

He sits between Gabrielle and Eve. Both young women have begun to stir.

DIFFERENT ANGLE

Athena looks at Ares, dumbfounded.

ATHENA

How could you heal them without my blessing? That's impossible.

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED: (3)

34

ARES

I gave up my immortality to save them.

ATHENA

(dumbfounded)

Why?

Ares shrugs and nods toward Xena.

ARES

I got a thing for her.

Athena takes a step back. She drops her sword and falls to her knees. She wavers for a moment before she pitches forward, dead. Xena rushes over to Eve and Gabrielle. They're just coming to. She throws herself on them, covering them both with kisses. She looks up at Ares who's gotten up.

XENA

Thank you.

Ares nods as he watches the woman he loves being so happy.

CUT TO:

35 EXT. FIELD - DAY

35

Xena and Ares stand examining each other.

ARES

So I'm mortal. That's not the end of the world. I may experience things I never could as god of war.

XENA

Like what?

ARES

Like you.

Xena smiles.

XENA

You never give up, do you?

ARES

You mean after what I did for Gabrielle and Eve, my standing hasn't changed one--

He's interrupted by Xena's tongue in his mouth. They kiss for a long moment. Then she surfaces.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

ARES

So I'm finally getting to you.

XENA

You always got to me. But you were bad for me. And you still are.

She begins to walk away.

ARES

What does that mean? Are you saying we can never be together?

XENA

Never's a long time. I'll see you around, Ares. Try to be a better human than you were a god.

Ares watches her walk away.

ARES

Good-bye, Xena.

He stands there for a moment as if he expects to disappear. Then he realizes he just has to walk, which he does.

Xena walks over and sits next to Eve who has a spider crawling on her hand. Gabrielle sits next to Eve. Eve holds out the spider to Xena. Xena lets it crawl onto her hand. Xena examines the spider for a moment.

XENA

That's a good one.

Eve nods in agreement. Xena holds the spider out to Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE

No, thanks. I'm not quite into spiders as much as you two.

EVE

Gabrielle...about Joxer.

XENA

Eve, why don't we just move on from here.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED: (2)

35

Eve nods. After a moment:

GABRIELLE

Back on Olympus...I died for a moment...and I saw him. He seems happy. He likes what we're thinking about him.

Eve smiles. This gives her a little peace. After a moment:

EVE

I love you, Gabrielle.

Gabrielle doesn't respond.

EVE

It may take awhile, but maybe one day you might...

GABRIELLE

Yeah. I think that's a definite possibility.

Eve takes the spider from Xena and moves off to let it go in the grass. Gabrielle looks after Eve, then she turns to Xena. *

GABRIELLE *

Well, you got your daughter back. *

XENA *

We've got our daughter back. *

Off their peaceful smiles, we: *

FADE OUT:

THE END