

XENATM

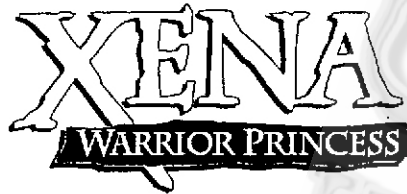
WARRIOR PRINCESS

"COMING HOME"

**Written by
Melissa Good**

**SEASON 6
EPISODE #1**

Sam Raimi, Executive Producer
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"Coming Home"
production #V1411
episode 9

written by

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directed by

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Shooting Draft
Full Script

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XENA

WARRIOR PRINCESS

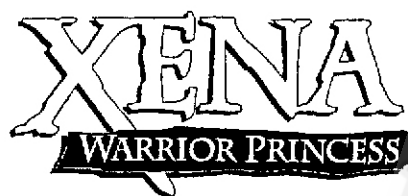
"Coming Home"
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Cast List

Xena/Fury Xena
Gabrielle/Fury Gabrielle

Ares
Eve/Fury Eve
Varia (pronounced Var'-reeya)
Marga
Captain
Soldier #1
Armorer
Fury #1 *

Amazons (non-speaking)
Soldiers (non-speaking)
Wounded Amazon (non-speaking)
Blacksmith (non-speaking)
Injured Soldier (non-speaking)
Fury #2 (non-speaking) *
Fury #3 (non-speaking) *



"Coming Home"
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Set List

Interiors:

Ares' Tent	5, 7, 9, 13
Amazon Village - Marga's Quarters	6
Amazon Village - Meeting Hut	10, 27 *
Amazon Village - Sweat Lodge	10A *
Amazon Village - Hut	20, 24, 28 *

Scenes:

Exteriors:

Forest - Road	1, 17
Forest - Clearing	2, 11, 22, 23 *
Amazon Village	3, 8, 16, 18, 19, 20A , 25 *
Ares' Army Camp	4, 12, 14
Mountain Pass	15, 21
Battlefield	26, 28A *

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. FOREST - ROAD - MORNING

1

XENA, GABRIELLE and EVE move through the forest.

EVE

Ares' message said to meet him here,
in these woods?

GABRIELLE

Yes.

EVE

These used to be Amazon lands.

GABRIELLE

That's right. I was hoping we'd run
into some.

EVE

There may not be as many of them as
there once were.

GABRIELLE

I doubt that. Amazons are real
survivors.

Gabrielle notices Xena seems distant and thoughtful.

GABRIELLE

This message from Ares really has you
going, doesn't it?

XENA

He's calling in a favor, a big one.

GABRIELLE

I guess we do kind of owe him.

EVE

He gave up his immortality to save
Gabrielle and me. From his point of
view, that was quite a sacrifice.

GABRIELLE

Maybe he just wants to see you again,
Xena. He does "have a thing" for you.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XENA

No. He wants something.

GABRIELLE

My point exactly.

XENA

I mean something else. Owing the God of War a favor is not a good place to be.

(CONTINUED)

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

CONTINUED: (2)

Their discussion is interrupted by the SOUND OF A BATTLE coming from far off. They rush ahead into the forest.

CUT TO:

2 EXT. FOREST - CLEARING - MORNING

2

FIVE AMAZONS are battling TEN SOLDIERS. Leading the Amazons is MARGA, a talented, wise warrior. She and three of the Amazons are taking on five of the soldiers. The other five Soldiers are occupied with fighting one incredible, deadly, beautiful warrior -- VARIA. She fights with an intense ferocity, crashing feet and fists into the Soldiers' heads with grace and blinding speed. But even she might not be enough to balance the odds as FIVE MORE SOLDIERS come to reinforce the other ten.

MARGA

Varia, let's go. There's too many of them.

But Varia ain't one to retreat. She turns on the new Five as the other Five close in on her. She's landing some good blows but the odds are overwhelming and she's beginning to absorb some punishment. Then, the XENA WARCRY FILLS THE FOREST.

Xena flies into the midst of the Soldiers, kicking serious butt. Marga is being pressed by a couple of Soldiers. She stumbles. A Soldier attacks her. Varia sees, but is too far away to help. Eve leaps between the Soldier and Marga and deflects the blows with the tree branch she's now carrying. She stands defending the fallen Marga against oncoming Soldiers. But she won't strike back, she's only parrying blows. SHE DOES A NEAT BEHIND THE BACK MOVE THAT DISARMS THREE SOLDIERS. Gabrielle comes to her aid, wielding her sais effectively. The Soldiers are driven back by the Amazons, helped by Xena and Gabrielle. The Soldiers realize they are defeated and run off. The Amazons gather around Xena, Gabrielle and Eve. Varia takes up an aggressive stance just behind Marga. Eve goes to one of the fallen Amazons and begins administering Mycenaean first aid.

*
*

MARGA

We don't often have such welcome strangers on our lands. Thank you.

GABRIELLE

Glad to help, but we're not exactly strangers.

Varia eyes the three of them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VARIA

(gestures toward Eve)

Yeah, that one looks familiar.

Eve looks up from her work and smiles gently at Varia's suspicion. *

MARGA

I am Marga, Queen of the Amazons.

Marga and Xena clasp arms.

XENA

Xena.

A beat as all the Amazons react.

XENA

And this is Gabrielle and this is Eve.

The Amazons whisper and point, amazed but a little wary.
Marga clasps Gabrielle's arms.

MARGA

No strangers indeed. Gabrielle, you
are an Amazon queen yourself.

(to Eve)

And you a princess.

(to Xena)

And you are the best friend the
Amazons ever had. We've heard such
stories. Xena, is it true you have
the power to kill gods?

XENA

Yes.

MARGA

Our luck has turned, it seems. We've
been under attack for days, Xena. Our
numbers are thinned by recent raids.
We need your help.

XENA

Who's attacking you?

MARGA

Ares, the God of War.

Xena reacts.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

VARIA

He's trying to drive us off our land.

*
*

Gabrielle and Eve look at Xena.

MARGA

And it seems only you can stop him.

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3 EXT. AMAZON VILLAGE - DAY

3

The Amazons are recovering from the attack. Eve helps a WOUNDED AMAZON walk. Xena stands apart and watches. Gabrielle walks over to her.

GABRIELLE

Why is Ares attacking the Amazons?
They were never his enemies.

*

XENA

And why would he send for me?

GABRIELLE

It makes no sense. He knows you'd
never fight the Amazons.
(beat)

Right?

Xena is troubled.

XENA

I don't know what he knows. I'm going
to check out his army, see how strong
he is. You talk to Marga, see if she
has any idea what Ares is up to.

*

*

GABRIELLE

Right.

*

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XENA

And Gabrielle, be careful of that one.

She gestures toward Varia who is wiping BLOOD off her sword.

XENA

She reminds me of myself when I was her age.

GABRIELLE

That's a scary thought.

DISSOLVE TO:

4 EXT. ARES' ARMY CAMP - DAY

4

SOLDIERS are walking around carrying weapons and armor. To one side, a BLACKSMITH is hammering on a sword. A tent stands to one side with a large banner next to it. ARES stands outside it, his arms crossed, surveying his domain. A CAPTAIN AND A SOLDIER approach, helping an INJURED COMRADE.

ARES

Did you take the Amazon village?

CAPTAIN

No, Lord Ares. We had them defeated, then reinforcements showed up.

ARES

You let a few Amazons stop you?

SOLDIER #1

A few? No...it was dozens of them, sir! We need more men!

Ares punches the Soldier in the face. He drops like a rock.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARES

Bad answer. No more excuses. I want that village.

The Captain looks at the unconscious Soldier.

CAPTAIN

But, sir, why don't you use your powers to blast them into oblivion?

ARES

Where's the fun in that? Now get moving. I want those Amazons on their knees before the end of the day.

The Captain leaves with the Injured Soldier. Ares looks around, then grimaces and shakes his hand. That hurt! He turns and enters his tent.

CUT TO:

5 INT. ARES' TENT - MOMENTS LATER

5

Ares enters, goes to a table. A fly BUZZES around his head. Annoyed, he attempts to zap the fly. Nothing happens. He lets his hand drop, seemingly at a loss, then picks up a cup and throws the cup at the fly. FURY XENA is watching this from the entrance. She enters.

FURY XENA

The great god Ares can't even hurt a fly.

Ares looks up and is startled to see her.

ARES

Xena! You came!

FURY XENA

I'm afraid I did.

"Xena" reaches out, catches and kills the fly.

ARES

I'm calling in a favor. I think you know what I'm talking about.

FURY XENA

Yeah, yeah, I know. So spit it out, what do you want?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARES
My godhood back.

DISSOLVE TO:

6 INT. AMAZON VILLAGE - MARGA'S QUARTERS - DAY

6

This is a small hut with various artifacts on the wall, including a very old, battered Amazon Queen's mask. Gabrielle is inside. She walks over and looks at the mask, then reaches out and touches it. Marga's voice from the doorway startles her:

MARGA (O.S.)
Queen Ephiny wrote in our history that
of all the women to wear that mask,
you were the bravest.

Gabrielle is surprised to hear this. Marga enters and walks to her.

GABRIELLE
I'm not sure why she'd say that.

MARGA
She said because you accepted the role
of queen for us, not for yourself.

Gabrielle eyes the mask with a tinge of sadness.

GABRIELLE
Ephiny. How I miss her. Tell me,
Marga, why do you think Ares is
attacking your village?

MARGA
It's a mystery. We always had an
uneasy rapport with the God of War.

GABRIELLE
Is there something you may have that
would be of use to him?

MARGA
No. I've heard outrageous rumors but
they don't make sense.

GABRIELLE
What rumors?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARGA

Well, one of the soldiers we captured says Ares wants ambrosia from us.

GABRIELLE

Ambrosia?

MARGA

How crazy is that? Why would a god even need ambrosia? He's immortal already.

Off Gabrielle thoughtful look, we:

DISSOLVE TO:

7 INT. ARES' TENT - DAY

7

Ares sits down in his big chair and examines his hand.
"Xena" examines him carefully.

ARES

Being mortal stinks. I'm over it.

FURY XENA

So you want the ambrosia the Amazons have.

*
*

ARES

They do have it! I knew it! My sister Artemis visited me from the other side in a dream and told me they had their own stash. Of course, they don't admit it to anybody.

*
*

FURY XENA

They'll never give it up. Not to you anyway.

*

ARES

Yeah. That's where you come in. They trust you. You go in and get the ambrosia and we don't have to go to war.

*
*
*
*

"Xena" sits on the arm of Ares' big chair.

FURY XENA

I've got a better idea.

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARES

Shoot.

FURY XENA

I take command of your army and slam
into that village. Once I've defeated
them, it won't be a problem finding
the ambrosia.

Ares is stunned by this reaction. It's too good to be true.

FURY XENA

(off Ares' look)

It's been a while. I'm looking
forward to a little war.

Ares is in the Elysian Fields (figuratively).

ARES

Xena...you're sounding like your old
self. Wait a minute. This is too
easy. What are you up to?

FURY XENA

Do I have to be up to something? That
greater good thing gets old after a
while. You should know that.

ARES

Never tried it.

FURY XENA

Sure you did. Aren't you regretting
giving up your godhood right now?
Having to walk everywhere, depending
on other people to do things for you?

ARES

Well...now that you mention it...

FURY XENA

Having to ask me for help?

ARES

Yeah, that sucked.

FURY XENA

All 'cause you did a good deed.

"Xena" runs a finger over Ares' lips.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

FURY GABRIELLE (cont'd)

You and Xena taught me that warriors
rule the world, not philosophers. You
like the new version better?

*
*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

FURY XENA

Was it worth it?

Ares seems stunned.

ARES

Let me get back to you on that.

"Xena" leans close to Ares. They're about to kiss. FURY GABRIELLE enters.

FURY GABRIELLE

Xena, what are you doing?

Ares and "Xena" turn to look at her. "Xena" moves away from Ares. Ares looks at "Gabrielle" in disgust.

ARES

And to think I actually saved your life.

FURY GABRIELLE

(to "Xena")

I thought we were partners.

FURY XENA

I thought I told you to watch the Amazons.

"Gabrielle" walks over to them.

FURY GABRIELLE

The Amazons know what he wants. They're not going to give it up.

FURY XENA

Then we'll take it from them.

There's a tense pause as we wait for "Gabrielle" to react to "Xena's" insanity. Then:

FURY GABRIELLE

They're weak. It won't take much.

ARES

What happened to the peace-loving blond chick you used to be?

FURY GABRIELLE

That Gabrielle's been gone a long time, Ares.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

"Xena" and "Gabrielle" sit on the chair arms. "Gabrielle" reached over and gets a grape, offers it to Ares. "Xena" glares at her.

ARES

I think I could get used to this.

DISSOLVE TO:

8 EXT. AMAZON VILLAGE - DAY

8

Eve stands in the middle of the village, peacefully enjoying her new surroundings. Varia stands not far away, studying Eve with interest. She walks up to Eve.

VARIA

I can't place where I've seen you before.

EVE

Maybe I have a common look.

VARIA

Oh, yeah, right. You showed some nice moves when we were battling earlier.

EVE

I was just trying to keep people from getting hurt.

VARIA

That's a strange thing to be doing in the middle of a fight.

EVE

I don't fight.

VARIA

You don't fight?

EVE

No.

VARIA

You travel with those two, and you don't fight? You've fought before. I could tell by the way you moved. You have experience.

*
*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EVE

I don't like to talk about my past.

VARIA

All right. Let's stick to the present. Which is me. I want you to fight me. Now.

(pokes Eve)

C'mon, hit me.

EVE

I don't want any trouble.

VARIA

Well, I live for trouble. Let's go. Give me your best shot.

She goes to poke Eve again, but Eve grabs her wrist with blinding quickness.

EVE

Believe me, you don't want to get me angry.

She turns and walks away. Varia yells after her.

VARIA

That's where you're wrong. I think you'll be beautiful when you're angry.

Varia watches her go.

CUT TO:

9 INT. ARES' TENT - DAY

9

Ares sits in his chair. FURY EVE enters the tent. She is clearly angry.

FURY EVE

Did you forget about me so soon? I didn't always take second place to Xena, remember?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARES

Well, well...if it isn't the chip off the old block. Do I hear jealousy?

FURY EVE

I should be leading your army. Not her!

"Xena" and "Gabrielle" saunter in.

FURY XENA

You'll have to wait your turn, kid.

ARES

This is getting better and better. What happened to your new path?

FURY EVE

I got over it. Those Amazons really rub me the wrong way. When do we start?

Ares is basking in all this. He stands up and saunters between the three women.

ARES

I'll go let my troop commanders know we're ready for a full-scale assault.

He stands still as if he expects to disappear. Then he sighs.

ARES

I'm telling you, I've got to get that ambrosia. I'll never get used to having to walk every place.

He starts to exit.

FURY XENA

Ares.

He turns back.

FURY XENA

We're splitting the ambrosia between the four of us.

(off Ares' look)

We'll do a whole new Olympus thing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ARES

Sounds great. You know, when I told my commanders that I was sending for you, they looked at me as if I was crazy. Can you imagine, I'm spinning brilliant and those idiots think I'm insane. What a joke.

Ares walks out of the tent, leaving the three women behind. They look at each other and explode into laughter.

FURY XENA

If he isn't insane, I'm not a Fury.

The three women MORPH into THE FURIES.

FURY EVE

He certainly bought the Artemis vision.
(to Fury Xena)
That was inspired, Sister.

FURY XENA

And when we planted the idea about sending for Xena, he thought it was genius.

They all erupt in laughter again.

FURY GABRIELLE

We'll pit Xena and Ares against each other.

FURY XENA

One of them has to die. Maybe both. Then the Olympians will be avenged. And the path will be clear for us to rule mankind.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

10	OMITTED	10 *
10A	INT. AMAZON VILLAGE - SWEAT LODGE - AFTERNOON	10A*
	Eve sits nursing a WOUND she received in the battle. It's on her thigh. We can see an older SCAR from a much bigger, deeper wound above the recent wound. Varia enters. Eve looks up at her, ready for trouble.	* * * *
	<p style="text-align: center;">VARIA</p> <p>Take it easy. I just want to talk. (notices the wound) You all right?</p>	* * * *
	Eve nods.	*
	<p style="text-align: center;">VARIA</p> <p>So you took care of all my sister Amazons before you took care of yourself. Thank you.</p>	* * * *
	<p style="text-align: center;">EVE</p> <p>My wound was a small one.</p>	* *
	<p style="text-align: center;">VARIA</p> <p>I guess so.</p>	* *
	Varia kneels down and examines the old scar with interest.	*
	<p style="text-align: center;">VARIA</p> <p>That old scar is a bad one.</p>	* *
	<p style="text-align: center;">EVE</p> <p>Yes.</p>	* *
	<p style="text-align: center;">VARIA</p> <p>Take a look at this.</p>	* *
	She pulls off her top and turns around, displaying her bare back. A jagged SCAR runs across her left shoulder.	* *
	<p style="text-align: center;">VARIA</p> <p>A Roman short sword. The man who did it died before the sun went down.</p>	* * *
	Eve stands up, pulls her shirt off, turns around and displays her bare back. Around her waist is a vivid red SCAR.	* *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EVE

A Gallic spear. The man who did it,
his entire regiment, his village and
two neighboring villages were
destroyed before the sun went down.

Varia and Eve smile at each other, a mutual respect kindling.
As they put their shirts back on:

VARIA

(re: the scars)

So I was right about you being a
serious warrior some time in your past.

Eve nods.

VARIA

Don't you miss it?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

EVE

Some of it. The quiet after a tough battle. The victory snatched from the jaws of defeat. Death so close and then suddenly driven away.

*

VARIA

Wow! I'm the same way. I love that stuff. Hey, I noticed a move you made with that tree branch back there in the fight. Will you teach it to me?

*

*

EVE

You'll use it to hurt others?

VARIA

You can bet you sweet life on it.

Eve can't resist smiling at Varia's youthful enthusiasm. Off Eve's smile, we:

*

CUT TO:

11 EXT. FOREST - CLEARING - AFTERNOON

11

Gabrielle climbs out of an overgrown path into a clear space. She looks around, then starts across. Xena appears on the other side, and they meet in the center.

GABRIELLE

Ares for some reason thinks the Amazons have ambrosia, Xena.

XENA

How'd he get that idea?

GABRIELLE

I don't know and neither does Marga.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XENA

Well, at least now we know why he's attacking the Amazons. He thinks it's a way to get his godhood back. I've circled his entire camp. He has enough men to do serious damage to the Amazons but they may not be enough to totally defeat them. That's probably why he needs to talk to me.

*

*

GABRIELLE

We set up some defenses, but it's not much. It won't hold them for long.

XENA

Let's go talk with his godship. Maybe we can straighten him out.

*

*

*

DISSOLVE TO:

12 EXT. ARES' ARMY CAMP - AFTERNOON

12

The army gets ready to advance on the Amazons. Ares, "Xena," "Eve" and "Gabrielle" walk towards a group of men. An ARMORER runs up to Ares carrying a large suit of armor. He speaks to Ares, but CANNOT SEE THE FURIES next to him.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARMORER

Lord Ares! Lord Ares...I finished it.

FURY XENA

What's that?

ARES

My new armor.

ARMORER

Yes, m'lord.

FURY XENA

What do you need it for?

ARES

Can't be too careful.

(beat; looks around)

You know.

ARMORER

Beg pardon, m'lord?

FURY GABRIELLE

People might wonder why the God of War needs all that.

ARES

You think?

ARMORER

No, sir, I try not to.

FURY XENA

She's right. Word gets out about your little problem, you could be in trouble.

ARES

Shhh! Not so loud.

ARMORER

(whispers)

Beg pardon, Lord Ares.

ARES

You got a point there.

ARMORER

Where? I thought I filed them all down.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GABRIELLE

What are you talking about?

ARES

War, baby. C'mon. You were all hot for it before.

XENA

Ares, there's not gonna be any war.

ARES

More like a massacre, huh? Love the modesty.

Ares backslaps Xena, then walks out of the tent. Xena and Gabrielle exchange stares.

GABRIELLE

What was that?

XENA

He's seems to have lost his mind.

GABRIELLE

You mean living as a mortal has driven him insane?

XENA

I think he might have had a push in that direction.

GABRIELLE

Furies?

XENA

I'd bet on it.

Xena and Gabrielle rush out of the tent.

DISSOLVE TO:

14 EXT. ARES' ARMY CAMP - AFTERNOON

14

Ares army is moving. Ares joins "Xena," "Gabrielle" and "Eve." *

FURY XENA

What took you so long? We were getting antsy.

Ares looks at Fury Xena, then looks over his shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

FURY XENA
Get rid of it, Ares. Act invincible.

ARES
I changed my mind. Scrap it.

ARMORER
Sir? But--

ARES
(shouts)
Did you hear me? What does the God of
War need with armor? Get lost!

The Armorer starts to leave, very confused.

ARES
(to the Furies)
You stay here.

The Armorer stops.

ARES
I'll get my sword, then we can start
the attack.
(to the Armorer)
I said get lost!

Ares leaves. The Armorer turns in a circle, bewildered. The
Furies laugh.

DISSOLVE TO:

13 INT. ARES' TENT - A FEW MOMENTS LATER

13

Ares is strapping on his sword. Xena and Gabrielle enter his
tent. He looks up and sees them.

ARES
I told you to wait outside.

Xena and Gabrielle look at each other.

XENA
You haven't told me anything yet.
What's going on?

ARES
Get ready, Xena. We're going to roll
right over the Amazons.

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARES

I thought--

FURY XENA

Stop thinking. It's time to fight!

FURY GABRIELLE

Death to the Amazons.

ARES

Now you're talking. Death to the Amazons!

Everyone CHEERS. Xena and Gabrielle arrive from between the tents.

XENA

Ares!

FURY XENA

Get moving! C'mon!

XENA

Ares!!!!

Ares hears his name. He turns to look back at the real Xena. Fury Xena appears between them to block his view of Xena. She grabs Ares' arm and pulls him forward. Fury Eve helps her.

FURY XENA

Give the order, Ares! Let's go kill them all!!!

Ares hesitates, then gives into the pulling and raises his sword.

ARES

Kill them all!

The army starts forward.

GABRIELLE

It looked like he was talking to himself.

XENA

He was talking to me...at least the version of me that the Furies have put in his head. Let's go.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

Xena and Gabrielle exit. The army marches off, yelling for blood. *

DISSOLVE TO:

15 EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS - AFTERNOON

15

Xena and Gabrielle climb up the side of the mountain. The army is approaching through the pass.

Xena throws herself against a huge rock. Gabrielle joins her. They struggle to move the rock. Just as the army reaches the pass, they push the rock over, causing a LANDSLIDE that blocks the pass. Xena and Gabrielle slide down the other side with some rocks, ending up in a pile of rubble and dust.

XENA

That won't hold them for long. We better get back to the village.

16 EXT. AMAZON VILLAGE - AFTERNOON

16

The Amazons village is an armed camp. The Amazons are in full regalia and are preparing for war. They're getting weapons ready, putting on armor, etc. A FIRE is lit in the center of the village. Amazons stand by it, tipping their arrows with something BOILING in a pot. The SMOKE drifts through the village.

Eve is watching Varia do the move Eve taught her and she's doing it very well.

EVE

That's very good. You're a natural.

VARIA

Thanks. Come on, teach me another one.

EVE

No, I really shouldn't.

VARIA

Admit you liked teaching me that one.

EVE

It was all right.

VARIA

Just one more. Your best move.

Eve thinks about it and nods.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EVE

All right, if you're being charged by two lines of infantry and you don't have the angle to flip over them, you should do this.

She runs at Varia, leaps up, pushes off Varia's shoulders with her feet and lands behind her.

ON EVE

as she lands.

EVE

You see, that move will put you right between--

She turns around to find:

VARIA

holding a sword to her throat. The youthful enthusiasm and has been replaced by a brutal realism.

VARIA

I've only seen one warrior do that move. I knew I recognized you from some place. You're Livia, the bitch of Rome.

*

Off Eve's concern, we:

CUT TO:

17 EXT. FOREST - ROAD - SAME TIME

17

Xena and Gabrielle approach the Amazon village. They reach the entrance and see a crowd of Amazons yelling and shaking their weapons.

XENA

Now what?

GABRIELLE

Maybe they're trying to get their spirits up.

Two Amazons move, and they see Eve in the center of the circle, being threatened by Varia. Xena and Gabrielle run towards the village.

18 EXT. AMAZON VILLAGE - DAY

18

Xena and Gabrielle push their way through the Crowd until they are at the center.

XENA

Hold it! There's no time for this!
There's an army headed straight for
us!

Varia steps out from behind Eve, holding a knife to her throat.

VARIA

And why should we trust you. You
brought this murdering whore into our
village.

EVE

They know who I am, Mother.

XENA

Well, we'll talk about that later.
Right now we've got to--

EVE

Mother. You don't understand. I'm
why the Amazons are in a weakened
state.

MARGA

Her army attacked us at night.

VARIA

Many of our best warriors were killed.

MARGA

They were the lucky ones.

GABRIELLE

Lucky?

EVE

The ones I captured, I sold into
slavery. You see, Mother, their
problem with me is of a personal
nature.

Off Xena and Gabrielle's stunned response.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

19 EXT. AMAZON VILLAGE - CONTINUING

19

As before.

GABRIELLE

You sold Amazons into slavery?

VARIA

Are you trying to tell us you didn't know?

XENA

We didn't, but that doesn't make any difference now. You've got a new threat and we're here to help you with it.

MARGA

It's not that simple, Xena. Your daughter murdered and kidnapped Amazons. Our laws say that Eve must die.

GABRIELLE

I can't let that happen, Marga.

MARGA

Are you challenging me?

GABRIELLE

I hope it doesn't come to that, but if you force the issue, then yes, I'm challenging you.

Gabrielle stares Marga down.

MARGA

(to Varia)

The Roman whore did save my life. And we do need Xena. So we'll wait till after all of this is resolved before we deal with her.

VARIA

After what she did to our sisters, she should--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

MARGA

Varia, you will obey me. Take her to
a hut and bind her now!

In disgust, Varia begins to drag Eve off. Eve loses her
balance and falls. Xena steps in front of Varia and leans
down and pulls Eve to her feet.

XENA

(to Varia)

I'll go with you.

Varia stares into Xena's eyes for a moment and then moves on,
Eve and Xena following.

CUT TO:

20 INT. AMAZON VILLAGE - HUT - DAY

20

Varia brings Eve in and begins to tie her to a post. Xena
enters and watches carefully.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Eve watches Varia carefully.

EVE

I think I remember you from the night of the raid. A lone beautiful warrior taking out a dozen of my best men. If we would have taken you captive, I would have had you executed. It would have been good for morale.

VARIA

And your point is?

EVE

I'm just very happy that didn't happen. You go ahead and do what you feel you must.

Varia eyes Eve curiously.

VARIA

That peaceful stuff isn't going to work on me. Mommy won't save you this time.

EVE

If that's my destiny, so be it.

Varia glares at Xena and exits. Xena watches Varia go and then kneels at Eve's side. Eve bows her head in shame.

EVE

I'm so sorry, Mother.

XENA

Being sorry doesn't help. Just keep on doing good. It'll never wipe the slate clean, but it helps.

She puts a comforting hand on Eve's head and then exits.

20A EXT. AMAZON VILLAGE - DAY

20A*

Xena moves away from the hut toward Gabrielle who stands at the end of the village. She passes Varia who stands sharpening her sword. Xena stops and looks at her.

XENA

(re: the sword)

That better be for Ares' men.

Varia doesn't respond but keeps sharpening the sword.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XENA

What my daughter did to this village
is unforgivable. But she is my
daughter. And if anything happens to
her while she's in your custody,
you'll deal with me, and believe me,
you're not ready for that.

Varia looks deep into Xena's eyes.

XENA

Understand?

Varia nods and walks away. Xena continues on to Gabrielle.
Gabrielle is still anguished.

GABRIELLE

She should have told us, Xena.

XENA

Probably, but it's not the easiest
thing to do, to remind your loved ones
of the monster you used to be. It was
years before I could speak to you
about some of the things I did.

Gabrielle understands.

XENA

Let's find Ares. I'm going to make
him listen to me. It's possible to
outthink the Furies even while they're
twisting your mind. If I reason with
him, maybe we can weaken their hold on
him.

They set out in the direction of Ares' camp.

DISSOLVE TO:

21 EXT. MOUNTAIN PASS - DAY

21

Ares watches as his men clear the rocks. He is starting to
show visible signs of madness.

ARES

Faster!!!

Fury Xena (in the form of the Fury) comes up behind Ares. She
then MORPHS into XENA.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FURY XENA

Pathetic. Look at you. You can't
even get a few rocks moved. I'm out
of here.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ARES

Xena...you can't mean that. You can't betray me!

FURY XENA

Sure I can. I got a better offer. You'll never beat the Amazons. You're a pathetic, whining mortal who couldn't think his way out of a papyrus sack. You make me sick.

ARES

You can't say that to me! You owe me, Xena! Your little friend and your crazed brat would be dead if it wasn't for me.

*
*

FURY XENA

What a pitiful sight. It's almost as funny as you saying you loved me...me and Gabrielle had a good laugh about that.

ARES

I'll kill you.

FURY XENA

You can't. You were barely a match for me when you were a god, Ares.

Ares lunges for "Xena." "Xena" leaps out of the way and watches him crash to the earth. "Xena" laughs, then ducks behind a rock and VANISHES. Ares jumps after her and crashes into the rock. He is stunned for a moment, then gets up and sees the real Xena standing nearby.

ARES

I knew I should never have trusted you.

Ares lunges at Xena. Xena catches him by the vest and pushes him away. Ares swings at Xena. Xena dodges and moves around to the other side of Ares.

XENA

It's the Furies. Do you hear me? It's the Furies, Ares -- they're driving you insane!

ARES

No! YOU are driving me insane!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

Ares pulls out his sword and goes for Xena. Xena evades him.

XENA

C'mon, Ares -- think! You know the Furies, you know how they work, you -- you were a god, Ares. Fight them! Fight the Furies.

Ares stares at her, swaying. For a moment, it appears Xena is getting through to him. Then:

ARES

No. You hate me. You always have, Xena. I offered you everything. I offered you Olympus...anything...but you stabbed me in the back every chance you got.

XENA

We just didn't want the same thing.

ARES

Liar. You want it. You want the power. You're just too much of a coward to admit it to yourself.

Ares lunges at Xena again. He almost catches her, as she ponders the truth of his accusations.

XENA

I know that. There's a part of me, the dark side, that will always be yours, Ares. It's just a lot smaller part than it used to be.

ARES

You took it all from me, Xena. Then you betrayed me...well, you won't live to enjoy it.

Ares hacks at Xena with his sword. Xena dodges the blows, but they're getting close. Ares lets out a roar and attacks Xena wildly. Xena stumbles backwards.

ARES

You're going to die, Xena! I won't stop until I kill you and those Amazons, and anything else that gets in my way!!!!

Xena manages to escape, jumping through the gap the soldiers have made in the pass. Ares' voice follows her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

ARES (O.S.)

I'll kill you all!

Xena leans against the rocks, listening to Ares blindly chop at the stone behind her. She realizes she's failed.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. FOREST - CLEARING - DAY

22

Xena sits on a rock, alone in the clearing. Gabrielle appears at the other end of the clearing, watches Xena for a moment, then crosses to Xena and sits down next to her.

GABRIELLE

No luck?

XENA

The Furies have too strong a grip on him.

GABRIELLE

Is there any way to get the Furies out of him?

XENA

I could kill him.

GABRIELLE

That's a bit final.

XENA

Or...

GABRIELLE

That's a loaded "or."

XENA

If he does what they want him to, they may come out.

GABRIELLE

But they want him to kill you.

XENA

Exactly.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

23 OMITTED 23 *

24 INT. AMAZON VILLAGE - HUT - DAY 24

Eve succeeds in working her hands free from the ropes that bind her. She gets up and nonchalantly exits.

25 EXT. AMAZON VILLAGE - DAY 25

Varia kneels at the defenses, waiting for the attack. We can see Eve approaching her from behind. She's almost on top of her when suddenly Eve shoots her hand out towards Varia's head. Varia senses she's there and whirls around but freezes when EVE CATCHES AN ARROW JUST BEFORE IT HITS VARIA'S HEAD.

EVE

There's a sniper in that large oak over there.

THREE AMAZONS race toward the large oak as Varia eyes Eve. Eve hands her the ropes that held her. *

EVE

I can teach you how to tie a knot that will hold the strongest of warriors. That little thing you tied couldn't hold a lamb for slaughter.

Eve kneels down and looks toward the direction of Ares' army.

VARIA

You certainly are a strange one.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EVE
You have no idea.

Gabrielle approaches Varia and signals her to follow. Varia
rushes off as Eve watches them.

*
*

CUT TO:

26 EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

26

Ares leads his army towards the Amazons. Xena steps out in
front of him.

*
*

XENA
Ares!

ARES
No more talk, Xena.

XENA
You're right.
(beat)
But you don't need an army. This is
between you and me. Just the two of
us.

ARES
It's too late for that.

Ares prepares to have his army charge.

XENA
That's what your legacy is going to
be, Ares? That you were afraid to
meet me one-on-one?

ARES
Afraid? The God of War doesn't know
what fear is!

*

XENA
Don't hide behind your army. If
you're the God of War, prove it!

*

ARES
I could take you with my bare hands,
Xena!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XENA

All right. You're on.

Xena removes her sword.

ARES

You're a fool.

Ares draws his sword and advances on Xena.

XENA

And you're a coward.

Ares stops. He stares at Xena, then he throws his sword away. He is sweating and twitching, and obviously completely mad. They circle each other.

ARES

Ready to die, Xena?

XENA

Been there, done that.

They start fighting, a true fist fight. John L. Sullivan vs. Gentleman Jim Corbett. We've never seen Xena box like this before. They're both soon covered with bruises, but neither seems to be getting the advantage. Ares is getting frustrated. He growls and starts driving Xena backwards with a flurry of punches. She stumbles down a hill toward:

AN ICY POOL

Blocks of ice floating in this thing tell us it ain't warm. Xena gets to her feet, pulls her chakram and throws it at the charging Ares. He ducks and the chakram flies past.

ON THE CHAKRAM

as it bounces off trees and rocks.

ON XENA AND ARES

Ares leaps on Xena and grabs her by the neck. They fall back together into the icy waters of the pond. Ares forces Xena's head back and under the water.

ON THE CHAKRAM

as it continues to ricochet off rocks, trees, walls and a few Soldiers' helmets.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ON ARES AND XENA

Ares is still holding Xena's head under water. She manages to struggle out from under the water to gasp for a breath but Ares pushes her right back under.

ON THE CHAKRAM

It slices a few spearheads off, hits another wall and flies back toward the river.

ON XENA AND ARES

Ares holds her down. She struggles for a few more moments, lets out her last breath, a few bubbles appear on the surface, then her hands go limp. Ares lets go his grip on her. She floats out into the pond, face down. He stands and laughs maniacally.

ARES

You thought you could make a fool out of me, huh, Xena? Out of me, the God of War!!

He points to himself. Suddenly, the Furies (looking like themselves) emerge out of Ares and stand by his side. He stands for a moment looking at them, confused.

FURY #1

You just killed your loved one, Ares.

All the Furies laugh. Ares stares into the pool for a horrified moment.

ARES

Xena. Xena!

He staggers into the pool to get her out. The Furies look on in delight.

FURY #1

We have avenged the death of the Olympians. Now, Ares, align with us or we'll--

She stops as she hears a BINGING SOUND coming from somewhere behind them. They turn to see:

THE CHAKRAM

flying toward them.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

THE THREE FURIES

freeze in horror as the chakram DECAPITATES all three of them.
They fall dead as the chakram ZOOMS ON.

ON ARES

He drags Xena to shore.

ON GABRIELLE, VARIA AND THE OTHER AMAZONS

They emerge out of the forest carrying bearskins. Ares
carries Xena on shore.

ARES

(to Gabrielle)

I killed her. I'm so sorry. I never
would have--

GABRIELLE

I know, the Furies made you do it.
Put her down. We have to warm her up.

Ares puts her down. The Amazons cover her with bearskins.
Varia and Gabrielle tear off their clothes till they're naked.
They then crawl under the bearskin with Xena and cuddle up
next to her.

GABRIELLE

(to Ares)

She drowned in icy water. Her organs
are still alive. We've got to warm
her up and get her breathing. Give
her a good sock over the heart.

Ares kneels down and punches Xena softly around the heart area.

GABRIELLE

No. Much harder.

Ares hits her again.

GABRIELLE

Give it all you've got.

Ares pounds on the heart. Xena sits up with a gasp, spits out
water and gasps for air.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

GABRIELLE
How're you doing?

XENA
Fine.

She reaches out and catches the CHAKRAM THAT IS WHIZZING BY.

GABRIELLE
Good plan.

Xena shrugs modestly. Off Ares' stunned look, we:

DISSOLVE TO:

27 INT. AMAZON VILLAGE - MEETING HUT - DAY

27

Gabrielle stands gazing up at the artifacts on the wall.
Marga, Eve and Varia enter.

MARGA
We've debated the issue. Eve saved
the lives of both Varia and myself,
and you and Xena have done so much for
us, we decided to pardon Eve if she
never enters an Amazon village again.

Varia takes the ropes off Eve and gives her a shove towards
Gabrielle. Eve catches her balance and turns to face them as
Gabrielle moves forward.

GABRIELLE
Thank you.

Marga and Varia turn and walk to the door.

EVE
Varia.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Varia hesitates for a moment, but doesn't turn around. Then she exits with Marga. Eve watches her go.

EVE

We were almost friends, for a little while. It was nice.

Gabrielle gives Eve a compassionate look.

GABRIELLE

Give it some time. Maybe she'll come around.

Eve shakes her head sadly.

DISSOLVE TO:

28 OMITTED

28 *

28A EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

28A*

Ares and Xena stand face to face. Ares is rubbing his jaw.

*

ARES

You got one wicked right jab. Mortality stinks. Not to mention hurts.

*

XENA

Yeah, it does sometimes.

*

ARES

I guess those Furies had me looking pretty foolish.

XENA

Not any worse than I looked when they were inside me.

ARES

Thanks for the help.

*

*

Xena gives him a nice, full kiss. She comes up for air.

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XENA
Thanks for my daughter and thanks for
Gabrielle.

She starts to leave.

Xena. I do-- ARES

XENA
I know. And thanks for that, too.
She exits leaving a reflective Ares behind.

FADE OUT:

THE END

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