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"The God You Know"
production #V1415
episode 14

written by

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Full Script

Blue

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"The God You Know"
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Cast List

Xena/Mosca
Gabrielle/Cynda

Eve
Ares
Aphrodite
Archangel Michael
Caligula
Priest
Captain
Elijan Man *
Guard

Romans (non-speaking)
Holy Men (non-speaking)
Praetorian Guards (non-speaking)
Musicians (non-speaking)
Noblemen/women (non-speaking)
Serving Girls/Boys (non-speaking)
Slave Couples (non-speaking)
~~Elijans (non-speaking) *~~
Beggar (non-speaking) *

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 OMITTED

1A EXT. FIELD - DAY

BODIES everywhere. Carnage. Dead innocents. We PAN OVER this killing field till we settle on:

XENA

She stands staring out at this display of brutality. GABRIELLE joins her. Suddenly, Xena draws her sword and wheels around to place her sword at the throat of:

THE ARCHANGEL MICHAEL

He stands facing Xena.

XENA

What do you want, Michael?

MICHAEL

I sense hostility. I want you to know I'm all right with that.

XENA

That's very generous of you considering the last time I saw you you tried to have me thrown down into Hell.

MICHAEL

Desperate times warrant desperate measures. As you see, some new desperate times have arrived.

CONTINUED.

CONTINUED:

XENA

Who did this?

MICHAEL

Caligula. These people were the last supporters of Octavius. They were murdered in cold blood. What have you heard about Caligula?

GABRIELLE

I've heard he thinks of himself as a great charioteer.

XENA

He's kind of your run-of-the-mill Roman emperor. A psycho, a sex addict, a murderer, thinks he's a god...

MICHAEL

No! He is a god.

Xena and Gabrielle react. This is major news.

XENA

He's immortal? How did that happen?

MICHAEL

I don't know. What's important is that the god of Eli gave you the power to kill gods. You're the only one who can stop Caligula. He killed Octavius to get in power, murdered every last member of his family to protect his throne from successors, he's killed hundreds of Romans who questioned how he's governed. And now he's a god! In his quest for ultimate domination, he'll destroy anyone who won't submit to him.

XENA

That includes angels no doubt.

MICHAEL

And followers of Eli.

This gets Xena's attention.

XENA

Is Eve in danger?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

MICHAEL

Your daughter has the courage of her convictions, Xena. She's gone to Rome to spread the faith of Eli, and to confront Caligula's persecution.

GABRIELLE

(surprised)

She's in Rome?

XENA

I'm betting that winged boy here sent her to make sure I do his bidding.

MICHAEL

As you know, your daughter obeys a higher power than me.

XENA

I better not find out you're lying to me about any of this, Michael. Remember, I can kill angels, too.

CUT TO:

OMITTED

2 *

EXT. ROMAN PUBLIC SQUARE - DAY

2A *

A CROWD of Roman spectators is assembled. Before them, a line of HOLY MEN in costumes befitting their various religions. They're surrounded by the PRAETORIAN GUARD. The Holy Men look with fear at the chariot being drawn past them by CALIGULA, a regally handsome man with a maniac's eyes. He stops in front of a young PRIEST from the Far East. A CAPTAIN of the Praetorian Guard steps forward and speaks:

*

*

CAPTAIN

*

Behold before you the supreme incarnation of immortality on earth. Behold, the all-powerful god-emperor Caligula, who fears nothing and cannot be vanquished.

He hands the Priest his sword. After a hesitation, the Holy Man plunges his blade into Caligula's gut. The Spectators react as Caligula smiles and withdraws the blade, unharmed.

PRIEST

We submit, my lord. We pray for your favor.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CALIGULA

A wise choice.

There's a commotion in the crowd and TWO GUARDS drag EVE up the line of Holy Men and throw her down. One of the Guards steps toward Caligula and whispers in his ear. Caligula looks down at Eve.

CALIGULA

So this is Eve of the Elijans. I wish I wasn't in the provinces when you were Lydia. I'm sure I would have gotten more satisfaction out of meeting the bitch of Rome.

EVE

These days, I'm the bitch for Rome, and her people. The god of Eli is the god of love, an unconquerable force once it has entered the soul. As his message spreads, your days of tyranny are numbered.

CALIGULA

You're rather attractive. You used to be a whore. I bet you're good at that. I may put you back to work at what comes natural to you.

The Guards laugh. A distant COMMOTION can be heard. Caligula looks towards it.

CALIGULA

What is that?

The CAPTAIN of Caligula's guard steps forward.

CAPTAIN

A new gladiator has arrived at the city gates. A female. She's causing quite a stir.

GABRIELLE (O.S.)

And she'd love to pay homage to the Emperor.

Caligula turns to see:

GABRIELLE

emerging from the Crowd.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GABRIELLE

The great Mosca has travelled from
distant Gaul to bow to the might of
the great god Caligula.

Gabrielle bows in submission to Caligula.

CALIGULA

(to the Captain)

You say the people find this gladiator
pleasing?

CAPTAIN

She's been the talk of the city since
she arrived last night.

CALIGULA

Then open the gates and let her
approach.

CAPTAIN

But my lord, aren't you concerned
that--

Caligula shoots an iron grip around the Captain's throat.

CALIGULA

Caligula fears no mortal. Open the
gates.

He releases his grip and the Captain rushes off to do the
Emperor's bidding. Caligula turns back to Gabrielle.

CALIGULA

And who are you?

GABRIELLE

Cynda of Thrace. I represent Mosca's
financial interests.

Caligula chuckles.

CALIGULA

Well, there may be some gold in your
future if she can entertain me. The
only downside to being ruler of the
world and immortal is boredom.

Gabrielle bows and shoots a look toward Eve who appears
frustrated at this interference from Gabrielle and her mom.
More commotion causes Caligula to look up to see:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

A HORSE-DRAWN CHARIOT THUNDERS ITS APPROACH

Xena, in a glamorous charioteer costume and gold mask (NOTE: **XENA WEARS THIS MASK WHENEVER SHE'S IN PUBLIC UNTIL ACT IV**), races toward Caligula. The Captain doesn't like the speed at which she approaches.

CAPTAIN

She's coming too fast.
(to the Guards)
Stop her.

Guards attempt to slow down the charging chariot but Xena and her vehicle knock them aside like flies. Caligula's face lights up with a lust for the challenge. He kicks his horses into gear and heads right at her. Just as their chariots draw close, Xena leaps from hers, flips in the air and lands in Caligula's chariot.

CALIGULA

I don't know who you are, but I like your style.

XENA

Yeah? Well, how do you like this?

She raises her knife, about to kill him, when a MAN leaps from out of the Crowd and lands on Xena. As they roll to the side, Xena realizes...this is ARES.

XENA

Ares...what are you doing?

ARES

I can't let you kill my sister.

She follows his eyes to see APHRODITE being led toward Caligula on a litter carried by studly SLAVES. Her dress and manner are markedly more tacky and slutty than usual.

ARES

Their lives are bound together. If he dies...so does she.

Xena absorbs this new dilemma.

FADE OUT:

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3 OMITTED

3 -

3A EXT. ROMAN PUBLIC SQUARE - DAY - CONTINUING

3A -

Xena and Ares are grabbed and pulled to their feet by Praetorian Guards while Caligula and Aphrodite approach.

CALIGULA

(to Xena)

Either you're incredibly brave, or you've heard there's nothing I enjoy more than a good surprise. Well, perhaps there are a few things, but...

Aphrodite runs her hands along Ares' muscular body. Then suddenly she kisses him. Xena watches as Ares takes a moment of enjoyment before pushing sis away.

ARES

There's romantic love, there's platonic love, and then there's forbidden love. Know what I'm sayin'?

APHRODITE

Not really.

She starts to kiss him again. Caligula leaps forward, grabs a spear from one of the Guards and he knocks Ares down with the butt of the spear.

CALIGULA

Take him to the prison.

ARES

Prison? I just saved your life.

CALIGULA

I'm a god, you idiot. Gods don't need saving.

The Guards drag Ares off.

CALIGULA

(to Aphrodite)

And my queen, if you could try to control your passion...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Aphrodite is indifferent and throws a playful wink at Xena. Xena is watching all this carefully. She strolls up to Eve and speaks to her surreptitiously.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XENA

You all right?

EVE

I'm fine. You shouldn't be here.
This is my mission.

XENA

And my mission is protecting you.

CALIGULA

Take Eli's whore to the dungeon.
We'll have some fun with her later.

The Guards take Eve off. Caligula turns to Xena.

CALIGULA

So. Mystery lady of the mask. Before
I kill you, tell me what exactly did
you think you were doing?

GABRIELLE

thinks fast. Pushes her way to the Emperor.

GABRIELLE

Allow me to explain, my lord. What
you experienced was merely my way of
getting your attention in hopes that
you might favor us with a chance to
compete before you in a more official
capacity. Of course, we knew that
there's no way we could injure an
immortal. If that buffoon hadn't
interfered, Mosca would simply have
challenged you to a chariot race.

CALIGULA

(eyeing Xena)

Really? Sorry, I missed that.

(to Gabrielle)

A rather bold marketing ploy, Cynda of
Thrace.

GABRIELLE

There's nothing we won't do for the
chance to appear before the supreme
lord Caesar.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CALIGULA

Well, Cynda, you clearly have an eye for talent. What would you say if I asked you and Mosca to be my guests of honor at the palace?

GABRIELLE

I'd say we'll give you a show you won't forget.

INT. PALACE - XENA & GAB'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

4

A lavish room complete with a large sunken bathtub. Gabrielle and Xena bathe and dress for the party.

GABRIELLE

I love juggling.

*

XENA

Juggling?

*

GABRIELLE

I mean keeping so many missions in the air, so to speak. First, we have to keep Caligula from killing Eve. Then we have to kill Caligula...

*

XENA

Without hurting Aphrodite.

GABRIELLE

Which means we have to figure out why they're connected the way they are.

XENA

And break the connection.

GABRIELLE

Then of course we have to save Ares.

XENA

Yeah, I guess we do.

GABRIELLE

Not to mention keeping Caligula from committing the idle genocide.

*

XENA

Maybe we can find a cure for the plague in our spare time.

*

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GABRIELLE

Maybe we can.

*

XENA

But first you need to go on to the
party and talk to Aphrodite. Try to
find out how she got into this mess.
I'm headed for the dungeon to talk
with Eve and Ares.

*

CUT TO:

5 OMITTED

5 *

6 INT. PALACE - MAIN ROOM - NIGHT

6

An ultra-lavish party. MUSICIANS entertain; half-dressed,
intertwined NOBLEMEN and WOMEN are served by almost naked
SERVING GIRLS and BOYS.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

In large cages, SLAVE COUPLES kiss and engage in pseudo/almost-sex/S&X acts. Gabrielle sits beside Caligula, who has Aphrodite on his lap.

GABRIELLE

So. The union of an emperor and a goddess. That's a pretty powerful combination. How long have you two been together?

APHRODITE

Not very, though it seems like forever.

She moves off Caligula's lap. He seems very concerned about her attitude.

GABRIELLE

Was it having that whole immortality thing in common, or did the promotion to godhood come afterwards?

Aphrodite doesn't respond but gets up and walks away. Caligula is about to follow.

GABRIELLE

I'll fetch her for you.

She runs off after Aphrodite as Caligula broods.

ON APHRODITE AND GABRIELLE

Gabrielle catches up with the goddess.

GABRIELLE

Aphrodite, are you all right? We're here to help you.

APHRODITE

You're being rather familiar considering I'm a goddess and you're a butt-kissing parasite.

GABRIELLE

You don't even know me, do you?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

APHRODITE
(sizing her up)
What's to know?
(spots something)
Oh, he's sending his guards for me.
What a clinging vine he's turned out
to be. And he has such a rep for
being a swinger.

TWO GUARDS approach. Aphrodite then walks back toward
Caligula as Gabrielle eyes her carefully before following.
Aphrodite sits on one side of Caligula, Gabrielle sits on the
other. Caligula turns to Gabrielle:

CALIGULA
Where is your Mosca? She insults both
the emperor and the god by her failure
to appear. Perhaps I'll take my best
Praetorian guards and hunt her down.
Then she might learn the importance of
punctuality.

Gabrielle jumps up.

GABRIELLE
But, my lord, you don't mean you'd
leave before my performance?

CALIGULA
Performance?

GABRIELLE
Let's just say the first talent I ever
managed was my own.

INT. PALACE - PRISON - NIGHT

Ares is moping inside his cell, rubbing his sore jaw. He
looks up as Xena appears on the other side of the bars.

XENA
Where's Eve?

ARES
That pompous angel Michael was here a
few minutes ago. He worked some
celestial magic and got her out.

XENA
Michael! That son of a--

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ARES

What is this, ingratitude day? I save Caligula's life and he throws me in prison. Michael bails out your kid and he's a son of a--

XENA

He didn't do it out of love. He wants to use Eve as a chit in a sick game of manipulation he's playing against me.

ARES

Huh. He and I should compare notes.

XENA

What do you know about this bond Caligula and Aphrodite have?

ARES

I received a message from Cupid who said he thought his mother was losing her immortality as well as her mind. Poor Sis. She's become Caligula's sex slave. Not that there's anything wrong with that.

XENA

How do you think Caligula pulled it off?

ARES

She must have voluntarily committed to a bond that would tie them together.

XENA

That's why he's so afraid of her attention to others.

ARES

If she forsakes him, it'll break the bond. The opposite is also true. If he's unfaithful to her, then the tie is broken. Maybe Aphrodite will come to her senses and break the bond herself. Unfortunately, right now she looks pretty whipped. Ever since I lost my immortality, Aphrodite has been acting strangely. It's almost as if without the God of War the Goddess of Love is imbalanced.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XENA

Hang tight. I've got a plan.

She starts to exit.

ARES

Ah, Xena. Aren't you going to let me out?

XENA

Can't. It'll blow my cover. You're safe down here. See you later.

She exits to Ares' dismay.

ARES

Xena. Xena!!

B INT. PALACE - MAIN ROOM - NIGHT

The Musicians begin playing. Immediately, the room grows enthralled with Gabrielle's sensuous moves. Possibly using fans or scarves, she performs a dance unlike any we've seen. At one point, Gabrielle spins around and comes face to face with Xena. Xena begins dancing with her. As she does, she catches Gabrielle up on what's happened.

XENA

Michael took Eve out of prison. He's not going to let her go till I carry out his mission. Did you talk to Aphrodite?

GABRIELLE

Sort of. She doesn't remember any of us.

XENA

So in leaching off her immortality, he's also sapping her memories.

(MORE)

(CONTINU

CONTINUED:

XENA (cont'd)

Well, an ex-God of War just told me that if anyone came between the two of them, their immortal bond would be broken.

GABRIELLE

Well, I guess someone's going to come between them.

XENA

You got that right.

Xena spins around, landing at Caligula's feet, eyeing him seductively.

CALIGULA

Mosca, the chariot race is a wonderful idea. Finally someone around here understands how to stimulate my appetites.

APHRODITE

An appetite is only of use to one who has interest in eating, my lord. Which is why I've prepared one of your favorite dishes, as well as mine... Bring it in, boys.

TWO SLAVES enter the room, dragging a thick rope that's tied to a large cage on wheels. Inside the cage is ARES. Xena and Gabrielle react.

APHRODITE

As soon as I laid eyes on this, this--

ARES

Spartacus.

APHRODITE

Well, I knew he'd make the perfect player for a game of "Friend or Foe."

ARES

(hopefully)

And what exactly was it about me that led the goddess to choose me above all others? Something familiar, maybe?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ARES (cont'd)

A look or a gesture that stirred
something inside of you...?

APHRODITE

Oh, it's a look that stirred me, all
right -- the look your head's gonna
have when she--

(looks at Xena)

--serves it up on a platter.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

7 INT. PALACE - MAIN ROOM - NIGHT - CONTINUING

7

Ares stares at his sister in shock. Xena eyes Ares for a moment and then looks back at Caligula.

XENA

You sure you don't want in on this?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Caligula definitely wants in on this but he throws a nervous look at Aphrodite who looks indifferent. Caligula looks back at Xena who looks so damn good. But he's terrified of something coming between him and Aphrodite.

CALIGULA

It's tempting but I can't.

XENA

Fine. But let me give you a taste of what you're missing.

She leans forward and kisses him passionately. He's into it but pushes her away in spite of himself. As he pushes her back, she bites his lip. He likes it.

CALIGULA

Oh, you're the savage one.

XENA

You have no idea. Now, let me entertain you.

She gets up and moves toward Ares. Caligula looks on with breathy anticipation. Aphrodite continues to look bored and Gabrielle is trying to figure out what Xena is up to.

ON XENA AND ARES

Xena sidles up to Ares.

ARES

You know, I fantasized this happening in a hundred different situations but I never got to this scenario. That doesn't mean I have a problem with it.

XENA

Well, don't get too fond of the idea. In about thirty seconds, all tartarus is going to break loose.

ARES

Do you know what the word "tease" means?

She grabs him by the hair and pulls him toward her.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

ON APHERODITE AND CALIGULA

They watch what they think is going to develop into a sex show. Caligula picks up a goblet of wine and brings it toward his lips. As he does:

A DROP OF BLOOD

falls on the sleeve of his garment.

ON CALIGULA

He stares at the blood for a moment before it sets in what's happened. Another drop of blood sits on his lip. He touches it and looks in horror at the blood on his hand. He leaps to his feet and points at Xena.

CALIGULA

Guards, I want that woman put in chains immediately.

The Guards grab Xena and chain her.

XENA

Chains. That's a nice touch.

CALIGULA

I want everyone out of here, now.

APHERODITE

(re: the sex show)

Hey, I was just getting into this.

CALIGULA

I want this hall cleared of everyone.
Now!

Everyone scurries to obey the Emperor. Ares is taken away. Guards exit. Aphrodite leaves, followed by Gabrielle. A Guard passes Caligula on the way out. Caligula grabs him by the arm.

CALIGULA

You stay here.

Everyone else leaves. Caligula is alone with the Guard and Xena.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CALIGULA

(to Guard)

Take out your dagger and stab me in
the arm.

(off the Guard's hesitation)

Do it.

The Guard pulls his dagger and jabs it into Caligula's arm.
He pulls it out. Caligula examines his arm. Nothing. He
puts his leg on a chair and gestures toward the thigh. The
Guard jabs Caligula in the thigh. Nothing. Caligula laughs.
He gestures for the Guard to go. The Guard exits.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (4)

CALIGULA
(laughing madly)
I still have it. My sweet immortality.

He laughs again and then stops as he remembers his lip. He touches it again with his finger. There's a trace of blood on his finger. His lip is still bleeding a bit. He turns to Xena who smiles back at him.

CUT TO:

8 INT. PALACE - XENA & GAB'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

8

Gabrielle is trying to bring Aphrodite back to reality. Aphrodite is under Caligula's spell and in complete denial about the things Gabrielle is saying.

GABRIELLE
Listen to me. You've entered into
some pact with Caligula and he's not
to be trusted.

Aphrodite picks up a hand mirror and tidies her hair.
Gabrielle pulls the mirror out of her hand.

GABRIELLE
You can break the bond between you and
him if you choose to do so.

Aphrodite goes to a make-up shelf and begins patting herself with a powder puff. Gabrielle grabs the make-up and tosses it into the bathtub.

GABRIELLE
You're going to listen to me whether
you like it or not. Caligula isn't
good for you.

Aphrodite turns her back on Gabrielle and begins adjusting her dress. Gabrielle grabs Aphrodite's dress and tears it off. Aphrodite falls to floor, crying, naked both physically and emotionally.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GABRIELLE

You're my friend and we're not leaving
this room till I get you back.

CUT TO:

9

9 INT. PALACE - MAIN ROOM - NIGHT

Caligula paces thoughtfully around the chained Xena.

CALIGULA

When you bit my lip, you made me
bleed. How is that possible? I'm
immortal.

Xena stares at him for a long moment and then breaks into a
laugh.

XENA

Well, you've got me. I hadn't
intended to reveal myself so soon, but
I just couldn't resist nibbling on
those succulent lips of yours. I'm a
god. Or goddess if you're into the
gender thing.

CALIGULA

You're a goddess?

XENA

I'm the Celtic goddess of sex. I
heard that the Olympians had met with
an accident and I thought there may be
some opportunities for me here. When
I heard you were immortal, I thought
we might want to unite forces and get
something going. You know, kind of a
ground floor Olympus thing. Hey, what
powers do you have?

CALIGULA

None that I know of. I'm just
immortal.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XENA

Huh. Of course, you do rule most of the world, that ain't a bad thing to bring to the table.

CALIGULA

What powers do you have?

XENA

You already experienced my power. The blood on the lip, Cal. I can pierce through the immortality of other gods and make them bleed, ergo I can kill them. That's not that common, you know. So you get your immortality from Aphrodite?

CALIGULA

If you're a goddess, you'd know the answer to that question.

XENA

Well, let me take a guess. You can share her immortality as long as you're faithful to each other, body and soul. From the looks of things, that's not going well.

CALIGULA

I'm still immortal.

XENA

I guess you can't underestimate the power of codependence. You still do have a bond of sorts, but how much better would it be if two healthy gods like you and me were using each other.

CALIGULA

You'd like to take her place.

XENA

Oh, yeah.

She steps up to Caligula, her face close to his. He steps back.

CALIGULA

My relationship with Aphrodite is working for me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

He begins to exit.

XENA

Are you leaving me in these chains?

CALIGULA

If you're truly a goddess, you'll get out of them.

He exits. Xena smiles, leaps in the air and kicks a decorative metal shield that hangs on the wall. The shield ricochets off another wall like her chakram and zooms back at Xena. She raises the chains and lets the shield sever one of the links. She takes off the chains and drops them in the middle of the floor and she exits.

CUT TO:

10 INT. PALACE - MAIN ROOM - DAY

10

Caligula enters and notices the chains on the floor. He picks them up and walks thoughtfully toward his throne. Suddenly:

TWO LARGE WINGS

explode out from either side of the throne.

CALIGULA

grabs his sword and jumps to see what's in his throne. It's Michael.

CALIGULA

Who are you?

MICHAEL

I work with Mosca. You know her, the goddess that can kill other gods.

CALIGULA

Yes, I know her.

MICHAEL

She wants a favor. If you do it, she'll be very pleased and maybe, just maybe, she'll leave you alone.

CALIGULA

All right, what do you want from me?

MICHAEL

You know Eve?

CALIGULA

Yes.

MICHAEL

We want you to kill her. With your own hands.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

11 INT. CATACOMBS - DAY

11

Eve feeds soup to a hungry BEGGAR. Suddenly, she becomes aware of someone behind her. She turns to see Michael looking down at her.

*
*
*
*
*

MICHAEL

It's time to meet your destiny, Eve.

CUT TO:

12 INT. PALACE - MAIN ROOM - DAY

12

Michael shows Eve into the main hall.

EVE

So this is my fate.

MICHAEL

Only if you wish. If you want to leave, go right ahead.

EVE

No. To bring the message of Eli to the Emperor himself is worth dying for.

MICHAEL

I thought you'd feel that way. And who knows? You may actually convert him.

A door opens and Caligula enters and approaches Eve. Eve falls to her knees.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EVE

I give unto Caesar what is Caesar's.
But I bring also the message of Eli,
the only true path to redemption.

CALIGULA

Oh, you're so earnest.
(turns to Michael)
This is going to be fun.

But Michael is gone. Caligula turns back to Eve.

CALIGULA

Go ahead, my sweet. Preach to me.

He pulls out a dagger and holds it behind his back.

EVE

Let go of lust and violence and give
your heart to the way of love.

CALIGULA

Believe me, I'm heavily into the way
of love and I don't feel the slightest
need to forsake violence or lust.

EVE

I'm talking spiritual love.

CALIGULA

Well, here's your spiritual love.

He raises the dagger above his head.

XENA (O.S.)

Oh, this is great!

He turns to see Xena striding towards him.

XENA

You're going to waste that whiney do-
gooder.

Eve leaps up and approaches Xena.

EVE

I don't want you to interfere with--

Xena silences her with a straight right to the jaw. Eve falls
to the floor unconscious.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XENA

That was enjoyable.

She looks up at Caligula who is staring at her in amazement.

XENA

Go ahead, off her.

(he's about to do it)

Just curious, why now?

CALIGULA

The man with wings said this would please you.

XENA

Oh, winged boy. Oh, he's always looking out for my interest. A bit of a kiss ass, really. But he's right, I'd love to see this loser die. What I was asking was why kill her now, alone in a palace for no money or credit.

CALIGULA

Credit?

XENA

You want to get a nice following of Caligula worshipers, don't you? I mean supplicants aren't absolutely necessary but they're great for a god's self-esteem. And killing the messenger of Eli in front of thousands...that could be the start of a big rep.

CALIGULA

Yes, that would be a dynamic way to illustrate my new cult of blood.

XENA

Does Aphrodite make suggestions like that?

CALIGULA

When she's coherent, all she cares about is her make-up.

XENA

And you prefer her to me because...?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

CALIGULA

It's not that I prefer her. She's a necessity.

XENA

I have big plans for you and me. Wouldn't you at least like to hear about them?

CALIGULA

Yes, tell me your plans.

They begin strolling out of the throne room.

XENA

First you need temples. And I'm talking some serious buildings...

She tosses a look back at Eve and, as an afterthought:

XENA

Oh, yeah, why don't you have little Eve thrown in with that slave you had in the cage earlier? That might make some interesting entertainment later on.

CALIGULA

I love the way you think. Guard!

CUT TO:

13 INT. PALACE - XENA & GAB'S QUARTERS - DAY

13

Aphrodite sits on the floor, stripped naked. Gabrielle is walking around her, keeping her from any escape from the naked truth so to speak.

APHRODITE

Why don't you leave me alone? What do you want?

GABRIELLE

I want my friend Aphrodite back.

APHRODITE

I don't know what you're talking about. I never saw you before today. I can turn you into a mosquito, you know.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

GABRIELLE

You could have done that hours ago.
But you didn't. And I know why. Deep
down inside, you know who I am and you
won't hurt me.

APHRODITE

If we're such good friends, why can't
I remember you?

GABRIELLE

Because you've given up your identity
to that maniac.

She gets down on the floor with the frightened Aphrodite.

GABRIELLE

Aphrodite, I want you to look at me.

Aphrodite looks up at Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE

Do you remember when you turned Joxer
into the dashing warrior with your
little bell? To tell you the truth,
I actually found him attractive for a
few moments. Frightening.

Aphrodite is looking at Gabrielle, struggling to remember.

GABRIELLE

Do you remember the time everything
I wrote in the scroll came true, but
I had to worry about the wording so
much? Sorry about what happened to
your dress and all.

Aphrodite is looking at Gabrielle a little more intensely now.

GABRIELLE

Remember that little girl you wanted
to adopt? It was all for the best
that she ended up back with her mother.

Aphrodite eyes now are beginning to focus more clearly on
Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE

Hey, there's something I never told
you.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GABRIELLE (cont'd)

Thanks for helping us when Xena was
battling your family. That took
courage. I guess in a way I owe you
my life. I wish I had the chance to
tell you this before.

She looks fondly at Aphrodite.

GABRIELLE

Oh, Aphrodite, I do so want you back.

She reaches out and touches Aphrodite's hair. Aphrodite pulls
away and curls up in a corner in a prenatal position.
Gabrielle takes a blanket and puts it on Aphrodite. Suddenly,
Michael starts MATERIALIZING around Aphrodite. He holds a
sword in his right hand.

GABRIELLE

Michael, what are you doing?

Michael raises the sword over Aphrodite.

MICHAEL

Clearing the path for Xena to finish
her mission.

GABRIELLE

You can't kill gods.

MICHAEL

Don't you see what's happened? She's
not a god anymore. She's lost her
immortality.

As he starts moving the sword toward Aphrodite's head, Xena
bursts in and pushes Michael aside. They face off together.
Xena draws her sword.

XENA

You were willing to let Eve die to
force my hand. Now you're willing to
kill Aphrodite. Let's go, Michael.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (3)

And with that, Michael flies at Xena. What starts out as a fistfight becomes a wrestling match. Michael gets Xena in a chokehold. Xena succeeds in using her legs to get him off of her. They grab each other again. But it's an equally matched standstill; neither can get the other to the floor. This a titanic struggle, Jacob vs. the Angel, Steve Austin vs. China. Finally, Xena manages to pick Michael up over her head and slam him to the ground. She grabs his sword from his scabbard and brings it up over her head.

GABRIELLE

Xena, no.

Before Xena can bring the sword down, a BRILLIANT LIGHT bursts forth from above. **NOTE: This should look like the light that has come from above in Eve and Motherhood.**

Xena is frozen for a moment. Then she drops the sword and collapses to the floor. Gabrielle rushes to her.

GABRIELLE

Xena, are you all right?

XENA

He just took it away.

GABRIELLE

Who? What are you talking about?

XENA

The power to kill gods. Eli just took it from me. Now there's no way to stop Caligula.

FADE OUT:

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

14 OMITTED

14 ~

14A INT. PALACE - XENA & GAB'S QUARTERS - DAY - CONTINUING

14A ~

Xena, Michael and Gabrielle react to what has happened.
Aphrodite is still out of it.

MICHAEL

If you had killed him when I told you
to--

XENA

Aphrodite would be dead. That wasn't
gonna happen.

Aphrodite suddenly reacts:

APHRODITE

You ruined my dress!

Gabrielle turns to Aphrodite who's pointing an accusing finger
at her.

APHRODITE

And the horror you put me through on
that scroll adventure of yours.

GABRIELLE

Aphrodite! You're back.

APHRODITE

Of course I'm back. I never went
anywhere.

XENA

Do you forsake your relationship with
Caligula?

APHRODITE

Caligula? Yuk.

XENA

She's broken the connection. That
means Caligula has lost his
immortality. I can kill him now.

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

15 INT. PALACE - MAIN ROOM - DAY

15

Xena enters. Caligula stands in front of the hall chatting with some of his Guards. He spots Xena coming. She walks with resolute determination.

CALIGULA

Mosca. Look, I've worked out a special way to demonstrate my immortality to the masses.

(to a Guard)

Go ahead.

The Guard moves away a few feet, grasping an axe. Caligula stands with his arms outspread. Xena watches this with a wry smile. The irony.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She's not going to have to kill him after all. The Guard hurls the axe. It hits Caligula in the heart. He stands frozen for a moment. Then he smiles and jerks the axe out. There is no wound.

CALIGULA

Pretty dramatic, huh?

He turns to talk to his Lieutenants about further plans. Gabrielle enters and walks up to Xena.

GABRIELLE

We've got problems.

XENA

Tell me about it.

GABRIELLE

Aphrodite tried to blink herself back to Greece but it seems she's lost her immortality.

XENA

Yeah? Well, I know who found it.

She steps toward Caligula.

XENA

Caligula. May I suggest at the chariot race you and I compete to see who executes that whore Eve?

CALIGULA

Splendid idea. By the way, Mosca, I believe you and I have quite a future together.

Off Xena's forced smile, we:

CUT TO:

16 INT. PALACE - PRISON - NIGHT

16

Eve sleeps on one side, Ares on the other. The door opens and the Guard lets Xena in. She squats down next to Eve. Xena brushes back Eve's hair. Eve stirs.

XENA

Hello, sweetheart.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

EVE

Did you kill him?

XENA

No. He absorbed all of Aphrodite's immortality. He truly is a god now.

EVE

You're not going to beat yourself up over that, are you? You torture yourself so much over failing at missions that no one else can accomplish.

XENA

That's interesting coming from my daughter, the would-be martyr.

Eve can't resist a smile.

EVE

I guess we are cut from the same cloth, aren't we?

XENA

I suppose so. Eve, I need to tell you about my plan.

EVE

Let me guess. You've dreamed up some way to get me out of the city without my hair getting mussed. Some clever way to protect me from the reality of my life.

XENA

Not exactly.

CUT TO:

17 EXT. ROMAN PUBLIC SQUARE - DAY

17

Xena drags a bound Eve behind her on a chain to the cheers of savage Roman Citizens. She ties Eve to a post and then walks toward:

CALIGULA AND GABRIELLE

They stand before two regal chariots.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CALIGULA

Cynda, I know your gladiator is actually a goddess. Does that make you a priestess?

Gabrielle thinks about it for a moment and then shrugs.

GABRIELLE

Sure.

Xena walks up to them.

XENA

(to Caligula)

May I tell the people what we're racing for?

CALIGULA

Be my guest.

Xena climbs on a podium and addresses the People.

XENA

People of Rome. We're going to have a deathmatch chariot race between Caligula and myself.

The People roar their approval. Caligula smiles at the grand fun of it all.

XENA

If Caligula wins the race, he gets the honor of killing Lydia, the whore of Rome.

The People roar. Caligula beams.

XENA

And if I win, I get the honor of killing Caligula.

Silence. Caligula does a stunned double take. Then the People roar their approval. Gabrielle leans toward Caligula.

GABRIELLE

My goddess doesn't race for small stakes.

Xena strides back to Caligula.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

XENA

Did you think I was really interested in spending my life with you? I just want your empire and the adulation that comes with it. But look at the bright side. If you win, I won't kill you. It does me no good. These people wouldn't worship a goddess who couldn't win a chariot race. Now, let's ride.

She leaps onto the chariot. A flustered Caligula climbs on the other chariot. The race begins.

18 EXT. ROMAN STREET - DAY

18

This is the greatest chariot race in television history. Xena starts pulling away but Caligula jerks his horses towards her chariot. She veers aside and Caligula bursts into the lead.

THE RACE

Around the square and through the streets, the race roars on. Caligula at one point slashes his whip at Xena. She jerks the whip from his hand and tosses it away. They gallop on. Caligula draws his sword and slashes at the leather ties that bind her chariot to the horses. The ties break loose. Xena leaps off her chariot and lands on the ground behind the horses. She's dragged for awhile. Caligula tries to run over her with his chariot. She pulls herself up onto the crossbar that holds the horses together and guides the horses from there.

19 EXT. ROMAN PUBLIC SQUARE - DAY

19

Xena and Caligula race for the finish line. Caligula makes one last attempt to slam into Xena, but she leans out of the way and Caligula loses control of his chariot, hits a wall and wipes out. Xena crosses the finish line to loud cheers from the Crowd. Caligula gets up and watches Xena approach, drawn sword in hand. Xena proceeds to drub Caligula: kicking him, punching him, dragging him by his hair. The People are hooting their disdain at Caligula. Xena turns to the Crowd and raises her hand in the air, thumb sideways.

*
*
*

ON THE CROWD

as they lower their thumbs.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ON XENA

She raises her sword and is about to shove it home when feigned compassion comes across her face.

XENA

They're laughing at you, Caligula.
They think you're a joke. You'll be
remembered much more kindly if you do
yourself.

*
*

She turns the sword around and offers him the sword butt. He takes it as the Crowd cheers wildly. He places it against his chest. He then pitches himself forward and lets the sword pierce his stomach. Blood drips from his mouth. The People cheer. Xena kneels down next to him.

XENA

Your place in history is secure. As
an idiot. I lost the power to kill
gods yesterday. You were the only one
around who could do the trick. Thanks
for the assist.

Caligula dies and Xena walks over to Eve and releases her to the cheers from the Crowd.

CUT TO:

20 INT. PALACE - MAIN ROOM - DAY

20

Aphrodite sits on the throne. Eve paces thoughtfully. Gabrielle sits writing in a scroll and Ares sits dreaming of days gone by when he could do cool tricks. Xena enters.

XENA

It's all taken care of. Claudius, a
young cousin of Caligula's is headed
toward Rome to accept the throne. I
understand he's not a murderer or a
pervert so it's got to be a step up.

APHRODITE

Did you get me my immortality back?

XENA

How was I going to do that?

APHRODITE

I don't know. You do things like that.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

XENA

Well, who knows what the future will bring? But for now us mortals better move on. This isn't our place.

Aphrodite starts to exit. She pauses before Gabrielle.

APHRODITE

When you were trying to communicate with me, a couple of times you referred to me as your friend. Did you mean that?

GABRIELLE

Oh, yes.

APHRODITE

How cloyingly sentimental.
(then with a sincere, warm smile)
And very much appreciated.

She gives Gabrielle a hug and moves on. Ares walks with her.

APHRODITE

How do we get back to Greece?

ARES

Like mortals do. Horses, boats, wagons, that kind of stuff.

APHRODITE

How depressing.

ARES

Tell me about it.

Eve approaches Gabrielle.

EVE

What are your writing?

GABRIELLE

I'm catching up on my scrolls.

EVE

Which adventure are you working on?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED: (2)

GABRIELLE

Well, I'm rewriting "The Haunting of Amhipolis." I think I've gained some new insights into your relationship with Xena. I just wanted to add on an observation.

XENA

Like what?

EVE

Yeah, like what? Let's hear it.

GABRIELLE

All right.

(reads)

"Xena and Eve are like two wild horses. They're bound to compete, clash and race for some unknown finish line. But no matter what the challenge, what the cause, what the conflict, they'll always be united by a spiritual power so ineffable, so profound -- the love between a child and her mother."

Gabrielle puts the scroll down and shuffles through some memories. Eve cuddles up next to Xena. Xena puts an arm around Gabrielle. We:

FADE OUT:

THE END