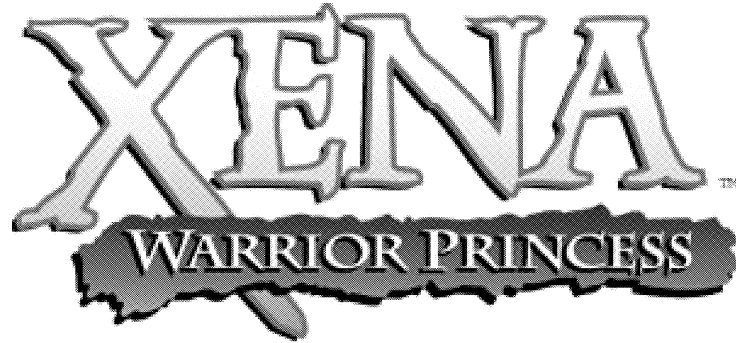


XENA - "SINS OF THE PAST" (PILOT)



**"Sins of The Past"
(Pilot)**

Story
by

Robert Tapert

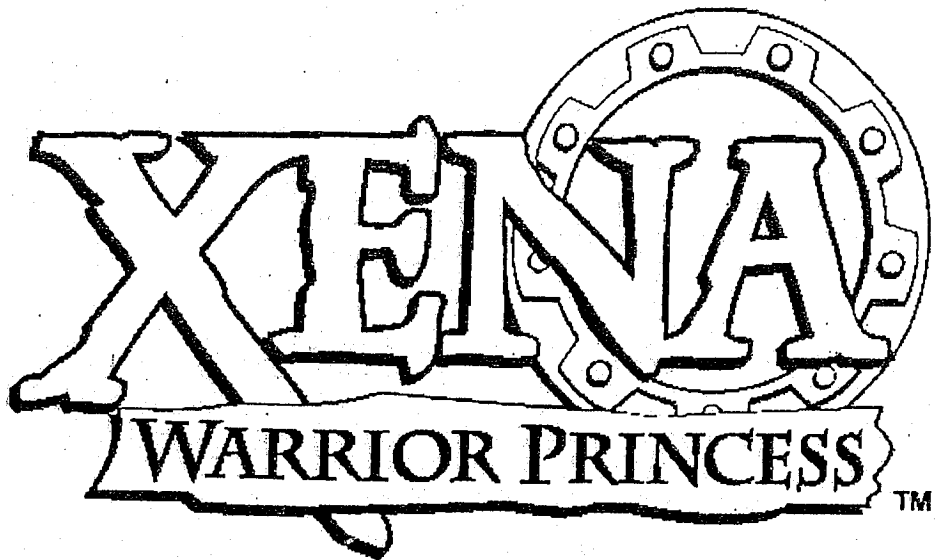
Teleplay by

R.J. Stewart

SHOOTING DRAFT
Prod. #76901
Revised Through June 27, 1995

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Prod. #76901

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Sins of The Past"

(pilot)

Story by

Robert Tapert

Teleplay by

R.J. Stewart

SHOOTING DRAFT

June 14, 1995

Rev. June 21, 1995 - Pink

Rev. June 27, 1995 - Blue

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Sins of The Past"

CAST LIST

XENA
GABRIELLE

HECTOR
HECUBA (HEC-you-ba)
PERDICAS (PER-di-cas)
HERODOTUS (he-ROD-dot-us)
DRACO (DRAK-o)
GAR
BOY
LILA
CYCLOPS
OLD MAN
CYRENE (CY-reen)
KASTOR
FIRST CITIZEN

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Sins of The Past"

SET LIST

INTERIORS:

GABRIELLE'S HOUSE
TENT
INN
TAVERN
VILLAGE MEETING HALL

EXTERIORS:

FIELD
TENT
BURNT-OUT VILLAGE
VILLAGE
COUNTRYSIDE
GORGE EDGE
MOUNTAIN ROAD
RIVER
SNOW-COVERED BARREN HILLSIDE
WINDSWEPT CAMPSITE
COUNTRY ROAD
INN
DRACO'S CAMP
CAMPFIRE

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Sins of The Past"

CHRONOLOGY

DAY 1	SCENES #1 - 2
NIGHT 1	SCENES #3 - 5
DAY 2	SCENE #6
NIGHT (FLASHBACK)	SCENE #7
NIGHT 2	SCENE #8
DAY 3	SCENES #9 - 14
NIGHT 3	SCENE #15
DAY 4	SCENES #16 - 22
NIGHT 4	SCENES #23 - 25
DAY 5	SCENES #26 - 29
NIGHT 5	SCENE #30

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Sins of The Past"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. FIELD - DAY

CLOSE ON a recently dug trench in the ground. Suddenly a blood covered sword is dropped into the trench, then a gore splattered dagger, followed by a partially shattered shield. The shield is put in place over the weapons by two hands speckled with blood. We PAN UP from the hands along two strong but definitely feminine arms. They too are covered with blood as well as dirt and sweat. We continue to PAN UP until we reach the strong, beautiful and strangely sad face of XENA.

XENA - DIFFERENT ANGLE

She's sitting in an open field. She picks up her chakram and eyes it carefully as if she's trying to determine if it's an old friend or an enemy. After a reflective moment she drops it on top of the shield and begins pushing dirt into the trench. She's burying her weapons. She's doing this with great intensity as if the fate of her soul depends on it. Suddenly, A SCREAM from the distance causes her to look around and see:

PEASANTS

ON THE RUN. A group of 15 men, women and children are running for their lives over a hill and down into the field where Xena sits. They're being pursued by TEN WARRIORS on foot and TWO MORE on horseback. One of the horsemen, a vicious slime named HECTOR, is cracking a bullwhip over the heads of the fugitives.

The peasants are herded into a mass around Xena. They seem to be protecting some YOUNG GIRLS, ages 15-22, around whom they form a protective wall.

Hector circles the group on horseback and then dismounts.

HECTOR

(with a cheerful smile)

We can do this one of two ways. You can let us have the girls and go back to those hovels you call home. Or we can hack you all into little pieces and take the girls anyway.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

The peasants appear tentative.

HECTOR

I can see the wheels turning.
(grabs the tip of his
chin as if he's
contemplating a tough
decision)

Hacked to pieces... go home. Hmm,
it doesn't seem like that tough a
decision to me.

ON A YOUNG WOMAN

About 18 years old. She pushes her way out of the crowd. Her name is GABRIELLE and she's a knockout. She protectively pushes her younger sister, LILA, age 15, back into the crowd.

GABRIELLE

Take me. Let the others go.

An older woman, HECUBA, Gabrielle's mom, lets out a moan.

ON XENA

as she watches this confrontation. She seems keenly interested in the fate of this spunky young woman.

ON HECTOR

He steps forward and plays with Gabrielle's hair.

HECTOR

Nice try. But we'll take you and whoever else we want.

Gabrielle slaps his hand away. He laughs, steps back and cocks his bullwhip.

HECTOR

It's never too early to start training a slave girl.

He starts his arm forward to lay some serious leather to Gabrielle's hide.

ON XENA'S HAND

as she intercepts the bullwhip and lets it wrap around her hand.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 2

1

XENA AND HECTOR

Xena jerks the whip out of Hector's hand and then faces off against him.

Hector stands stunned for a moment and then regroups.

HECTOR

(with a chuckle)

I got to admit this village makes tough women.

(draws his sword)

Alright, now we take the gloves off.

(to his cohorts)

Start hacking.

He lunges toward Xena, only to receive a devastating kick to his throat. The fight is on.

Xena meets the charge of the other warriors with a charge of her own. She seems almost suicidal in her maniacal recklessness. She catches the warriors off guard at first, landing most of the blows (we're talking fists and feet, she's unarmed). After the first shock wears off, the warriors become more methodical and begin surrounding her.

HECTOR

(with a sore throat,
to two of his men)

You round up the girls. We'll take care of this one.

(facing off against Xena)

Who are you?

Xena gives a reflective answer.

XENA

That's a good question.

She gives Hector another kick to his throat. Another warrior closes in from behind.

GABRIELLE

Behind you!

Xena heeds the warning and almost beheads the guy with a round kick. All the warriors charge from different directions.

Gabrielle kicks one of the warriors. Her kick is pretty pathetic compared to Xena's. The warrior turns to split her in two with his sword but Xena leaps in front of Gabrielle and takes a glancing blow off her side.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 3

1

She manages to lay this guy out with a crushing kick to his groin, in spite of blood trickling out of her wound.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 3

1

She punishes her adversaries brutally for a few more blows before one manages to land a strike to her back with a club. This sends her sprawling to the ground. HER HANDS FLOP INTO THE PARTLY COVERED TRENCH AND SHE FEELS SOMETHING UNDER THE DIRT.

The warrior who nailed her with the club moves in for the kill. Xena, wounded and exhausted, looks defeated.

Suddenly, she leaps to her feet, SWORD IN ONE HAND, CHAKRAM IN THE OTHER. She lays into these guys with the sword and at an opportune moment hurls the chakram. It disables three warriors before returning to Xena's grasp.

It's getting pretty ugly for the bad guys. Even the townspeople jump into the fray.

Gabrielle takes an awkward swing at one of the warriors, misses, and goes head first into the trench. Soon all the warriors are incapacitated or on the run. Hector is struggling to get to his feet. Xena walks over to him. Their eyes meet. SHE TEARS A GREEN EPAULET OFF HIS SHOULDER.

XENA

(examines the epaulet)

You're with Draco.

He nods.

XENA

Tell him Xena says hello.

She hammers the butt of her sword into his throat and leaves him gasping for air.

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

2 INT. GABRIELLE'S HOUSE - DAY

2

Xena sits on a table, holding up her shirt so that Hecuba can bandage her wound. Gabrielle looks on with awe. Standing next to her is Lila, Gabrielle's sister. This humble room holds two beds. This is where the girls sleep.

GABRIELLE

(hyper)

That thing you did with the little hoop, oh, that was amazing. Where'd you get that? Did you make it yourself? And that kick you do.

She tries to imitate Xena's round kick and falls flat on her butt. She bounces up and doesn't miss a beat.

GABRIELLE

You have to teach me that.

Lila gives Gabrielle an affectionate look. She thinks her big sister is pretty silly.

The front door opens and HERODOTUS, GABRIELLE'S FATHER, a gaunt angry looking man enters, followed by a few other townspeople. They're all heavily armed. A man, about 30, PERDICAS, moves to stand next to Gabrielle. Perdicas is a kindly, cheerful and somewhat dull fellow. He puts a loving arm around Gabrielle. Gabrielle shoots a mournful look at Perdicas. This obviously isn't the man of her dreams.

HERODOTUS

Xena. We'd like you to move on.

GABRIELLE

Move on! Father, she should rest here until her wound is healed.

HERODOTUS

Daughter! Hush!

(to Xena)

We don't want any trouble with you, Xena. We know your reputation. We just want you to leave, join up with your army and move on.

XENA

I don't have an army.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

The townspeople all glance at each other curiously. Is this the Xena?

HECUBA

(finishing up her wound
care)

Of course she doesn't. That's why she befriended us. She wants to recruit our young men for the slaughter.

GABRIELLE

Mother, that's not fair. You're not giving her a chance.

HERODOTUS

Gabrielle, hold your tongue.

GABRIELLE

But she --

XENA

It's alright. I plan to move on anyway.

HERODOTUS

Don't take too long.

Herodotus, Lila and Hecuba exit, followed by the other townspeople, leaving Xena with Gabrielle and Perdicas. Xena walks to the wash basin and begins washing the blood off her hands and arms.

PERDICAS

Let's go, Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE

Hey, just because we're betrothed, doesn't mean you can boss me around. I want to stay and talk to Xena.

A frustrated Perdicas exits. He obviously doesn't have a clue of how to handle this spunky young woman.

As soon as the door is closed behind him, Gabrielle is all over Xena.

GABRIELLE

You've got to take me with you. Teach me everything you know. You can't leave me here.

Xena gives this hyper kid a bemused look.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: 2

2.

XENA

Why?

GABRIELLE

Did you see the guy they want me to marry?

XENA

He seems like a gentle soul. That's rare in a man.

GABRIELLE

It's not the gentle part I have a problem with. It's the dull, stupid part. I'm not cut out for this village life. I was born to do so much more. I could be very valuable to you.

XENA

(amused)

How could you be valuable to me?

GABRIELLE

I've studied the stars, spoken with philosophers and I have the gift of prophecy.

XENA

Then you know already I'm not taking you with me.

GABRIELLE

Oh, please Xena, I know I'm just a silly, innocent girl, but I don't want to be.

XENA

Don't be in such a hurry to lose your innocence. Once it's gone, it's gone forever.

GABRIELLE

But I want so much to be like you.

Xena eyes her with disdain.

XENA

Like me? Why? Look at all you've got in your life. A home, a mother, a father, a nice guy who wants to marry you. Don't be a fool. You don't want to be me.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: 3

2

Xena stands and puts on her sword belt.

GABRIELLE

I guess you're right. I got it pretty good here.

(beat)

Where are you headed now?

XENA

Home.

GABRIELLE

Where's home?

XENA

Amhipolis.

GABRIELLE

That's in Thrace, isn't it? I love to study maps and place names.

(beat)

What route do you usually take?

XENA

(throws a vicious glare at Gabrielle)

Don't even think about it!

GABRIELLE

What?

XENA

Following me.

(toe to toe with Gabrielle, a very bad cop)

You don't want to see me mad, do you?

Gabrielle wilts and shakes her head "no." Xena moves toward the door.

XENA

Goodbye, Gabrielle.

She exits, leaving a thoughtful Gabrielle behind.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. MOUNTAIN ENCAMPMENT - NIGHT

3

We meet DRACO, warlord. This guy likes being called a barbarian.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

His savage good looks are marred by an UGLY SCAR running down the middle of his face from his forehead to his chin.

He stands shirtless in front of FOUR MEN with bows and arrows. Gar, a big hulk of a man, and several other warriors stand by watching.

Hector, who we met in the teaser, sits nursing the bruises given him by Xena.

DRACO
(points to one of the archers)

You first.

The chosen archer looks around nervously, raises his bow, draws back the string and lets fly an arrow toward Draco's chest. With blinding quickness Draco slashes the arrow in two with a chop of his hand just before it pierces his heart. Okay. Now, he's warmed up.

DRACO
Alright. Now all four of you.

All four archers look around nervously. They draw their bows and take aim at Draco's chest.

DRACO
Gar, give the word.

Gar studies the four archers, who are quaking with nerves.

GAR
Now!!

All four arrows hurl through the air toward Draco's chest. He whips his hands through the air and shatters three of the arrows.

The fourth one he catches just as it pierces the flesh of his stomach. He looks down.

CLOSE ON his stomach. A trickle of blood runs toward his navel.

ON DRACO as he examines the arrow that drew blood. It's feathers are green. He looks up at the four archers.

DRACO
Who has the green arrows?

One of the archers, quivering with fear, raises his hand. Draco watches him for a long, tense, moment. Then:

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: 2

3

DRACO

(to Gar)

Sign him up. Ares has smiled on him.
Get the others out of my sight.

Draco walks toward his tent. As he passes Hector he throws a disgusted look at him.

DRACO

How's your throat, Hector?

HECTOR

(with a croaky voice)

I'll kill her if I ever see her again.

DRACO

Pray to the gods that you never have
to deliver on that boast.

He enters:

4 INT. TENT - NIGHT

4

Draco goes to a table where maps are spread out.

XENA

Hello, Draco.

He spins, sword drawn, to see her coming out of the shadows of one corner of the tent.

DRACO

Xena! You look good.

XENA

So do you. Except for that nasty
scar.

DRACO

(runs his finger over the
scar)

It was nice of you to give me
something to remember you by.

XENA

You picked the wrong woman to get
rough with.

DRACO

It never would have happened if you'd
been more cooperative.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

DRACO (CONT'D)

(beat)

What are you doing here? If you
wanted to kill me --

XENA

You'd be dead. I want to ask a favor.

DRACO

(laughs)

A favor! The last time you saw me you
cut my face in half. Why would I owe
you a favor?

XENA

Because I cut only your face when I
should have cut your throat.

Draco thinks about this for a moment.

DRACO

What do you want?

XENA

Your men were at a village today.

DRACO

(an admiring chuckle)

I heard they got a large dose of the
warrior princess.

XENA

I want you to spare that village.

DRACO

Why do you care about those peasants?

XENA

One of them reminds me of myself, a
long time ago.

DRACO

(with a shrug)

It sounds like fool's talk to me but
I could have mercy on that village...
if!

XENA

If what?

DRACO

You join with me. We'd make an
invincible team.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: 2

4

XENA

I can't do it, Draco. I'm out of that business.

DRACO

What does that mean?

XENA

That means that on my last raid I heard screams.

DRACO

What are you talking about? You've heard screams before.

XENA

This time I heard them in here.

(taps her chest)

I never want to hear innocence scream like that again.

DRACO

This is crazy. You're having some kind of breakdown. You're not thinking straight.

XENA

I'm thinking straight for the first time in my life. From here on out, I fight against evil.

DRACO

(angry, almost indignant)

Alright. Fine. If it's evil you want to fight, draw your weapon right now. Because you'll look a long time before you find worse than me.

Xena doesn't blink as Draco brandishes his sword around her neck. Draco examines her calm face and drops his sword to his side.

DRACO

I've dreamt of being with you in love or against you in battle. You won't give me the satisfaction of either, will you?

Draco eyes her. He smiles.

DRACO

I'll spare the village. For old times sake.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: 3

4

She nods her appreciation and moves towards the back of the tent.

XENA

I'll leave the same way I came in.

DRACO

Where are you headed?

XENA

Home.

DRACO

Home? Amphipolis?

(bitter laugh)

What do you expect to find there?
Forgiveness?

*

XENA

No. Just a second chance.

*

DRACO

Forget it, Xena. I tried to go home once. My father tried to beat me to death with a blacksmith's hammer. I had to kill him to stay alive. You'll get the same treatment.

*

XENA

Good-bye, Draco.

She lifts the flap at the rear of the tent and exits.

Draco stares ahead for a reflective moment. He exits from the tent.

5 EXT. TENT - NIGHT

5

Gar stands out front talking with Hector. Draco joins them, still in a reflective mood.

GAR

A scout from Arcadia tells us that they had a good harvest this year. The looting should be sweet. Shall we move south?

DRACO

No. North.

GAR

North?

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

DRACO
Yes. Towards Amphipolis.

*

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

GAR

Why?

DRACO

Because I've got to teach an old friend that you can never go home again.

CUT TO:

6 EXT. BURNT-OUT VILLAGE - DAY

6

Xena rides through the ruined buildings of this little town.
HER RIDE IS INTERCUT WITH:

7 EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT (FLASHBACK)

7

as Xena and her men sack this very village.

RESUME PRESENT ACTION

Xena reflects over her destructive handiwork as she continues her ride through the village.

A noise draws her attention to:

A LITTLE BOY

Age 10. He stands in the door frame of a shell of a house staring out at Xena. He's scared, dirty and hungry.

XENA

Hello.

BOY

You got any food you can spare?

XENA

Food's scarce everywhere these days.
Nobody has any to spare.

The boy nods and begins to walk away.

XENA

Where are your parents?

BOY

On the other side. They were killed by Xena, the warrior princess.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

BOY (CONT'D)

She came down on us out of the sky in a chariot, throwing thunderbolts and breathing fire.

Xena eyes the boy for a long moment and then turns her horse and rides away. As she goes, a POUCH falls from the horse onto the ground. The little boy sees it and picks it up.

BOY

(yelling)

You dropped something.

Xena doesn't respond but gallops over a distant hill. The boy examines the pouch for a moment, opens it and pours onto the ground its contents: Two loaves of bread, a round of cheese and a wad of beef jerky.

Off the boy's wide-eyed joy, we:

CUT TO:

8 INT. GABRIELLE'S HOUSE - NIGHT

8

We're in the same room we were in before. Gabrielle and Lila are in bed. Suddenly Gabrielle's head pops up and stares over at Lila to make sure she's asleep. Gabrielle gets up, pulls a small bundle out from underneath the bed and starts edging toward the door. Lila turns over and Gabrielle freezes. Lila settles down and Gabrielle continues to creep toward the door, her head turned back toward Lila now. She doesn't see a stool in her path and proceeds to do a header, landing with a resounding thump in the middle of the floor.

Lila turns to see Gabrielle picking herself up. They stare at each other for a moment.

LILA

What's in the bag?

Gabrielle throws a glance towards her parents' room and then sits on the edge of Lila's bed.

GABRIELLE

Lila, I'm going to join up with Xena.

Pause. Then Lila bursts out laughing. Gabrielle clamps a hand over Lila's mouth.

Lila gets a handle on herself and removes Gabrielle's hand from her mouth.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

LILA

Are you serious?

GABRIELLE

Absolutely. I'm gonna be a warrior.
Like her.

LILA

A warrior? Gabrielle, I can beat you
up.

GABRIELLE

Well, you're very strong for your age.
Besides, I have other talents.

LILA

(sarcastic)

You mean like the gift of prophecy.

GABRIELLE

(lying)

I mentioned it to Xena and she was
very impressed.

LILA

Did you tell her you predicted a
drought last year just before the
flood?

GABRIELLE

The important thing is I knew there
was a weird rain thing about to
happen. Lila, you know I'm different
than everybody else in this town.

LILA

I know you're crazy.

GABRIELLE

Well, call it whatever you like, I
don't fit in here. And the idea of
marrying Perdicas --

LILA

He loves you, you know.

GABRIELLE

But I don't love him. And Mother and
Father don't understand me at all.

LILA

They can be pretty hard on you
sometimes.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: 2

8

GABRIELLE

I've got to do this, Lila.

Lila throws her arms around her big sister.

LILA

I'll miss you so much.

Gabrielle is very moved by this outburst, but she puts on a happy face.

GABRIELLE

Hey, cheer up. You'll finally have a room of your own.

Gabrielle pats Lila lovingly on the head and then gently breaks away from her grasp.

GABRIELLE

Take care of Mother. Don't let her carry the water from the well by herself. Her back can't stand the strain.

LILA

Alright.

GABRIELLE

Bye.

Gabrielle walks towards the door, throws one more look back at her sister and exits. We hold on Lila for a moment as a tear runs down her cheek.

CUT TO:

9 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

9

Xena rides toward a huge gorge. An old shaky bridge spans the chasm. She reaches the bridge, but her horse is reluctant to move out on it.

XENA

Come on, boy. We can make it.

She manages to get the horse out onto the bridge and headed toward the other side, but the animal is very skittish. She prods the horse on until she's almost at the other side. The steed doesn't want to go on and rears up.

XENA

What is the problem?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

Suddenly Xena gets the answer to her question.

ON A GIANT CYCLOPS

as it appears from behind a boulder and growls ferociously
at Xena and her panicked horse.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

10 EXT. GORGE EDGE - DAY

10

Xena's mount is backing out onto the bridge as the Cyclops bellows menacingly. He stoops over and extends a huge grasping hand toward Xena but inexplicably misses her by quite a bit. She spurs her horse forward and manages to get onto the gorge edge, but as she does this the Cyclops brushes her shoulder and knocks her to the ground. She lies in a very vulnerable position and looks like easy meat for the hungry monster, but rather than pouncing on her he sniffs the air and feels around with his hands. Now we notice that his eye has been gouged out. HE'S BLIND.

Xena leaps up and darts behind a boulder. The Cyclops stands sniffing the air, a troubled look on his face.

XENA
Familiar smell?

The Cyclops' face twists in fury.

CYCLOPS
It's you!

He lunges toward the sound of her voice and she dances gracefully out of his reach.

XENA
You lost some weight since the last time I saw you. I guess that job I did on your eye has cut down on the people eating.

He screams in rage and dives toward her. Once again she bounds away.

CYCLOPS
Ever since you blinded me, a day hasn't gone by when I haven't dreamt of tasting your flesh.

He charges toward her. This time she doesn't budge but instead pulls out her chakram and lets it fly toward the Cyclops' midriff. It pierces his belt in two, causing his pants to drop to his ankles. He stumbles and crashes to the ground. He lies still for a moment and then begins groaning in a state of impotent, almost tearful, rage.

XENA
Ah, cheer up. You needed a new belt anyway.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

He's about to get up.

XENA

Don't try it.

The Cyclops buries his face in his hands, whimpering pathetically.

XENA

Come on, be a Cyclops. You're embarrassing yourself.

CYCLOPS

You lied to me. You said you wanted to be my woman. That's the only way you got close enough to blind me.

XENA

(mock remorse)

Ahh, I lied to the people-eating Cyclops. How will I ever live with myself?

He groans in tearful anguish. She eyes him for a moment and manages to work up a little sympathy for this murderous oaf.

XENA

Why don't you find a different line of work?

CYCLOPS

Like what? I'm a blind Cyclops for crying out loud.

XENA

You could hire yourself out to a village as a protector. Even a blind Cyclops would scare most folks off. The villagers would probably toss you a sheep once in a while for payment.

CYCLOPS

Sheep! You can't start eating mutton when you're used to human flesh.

XENA

Suit yourself.

She mounts up and gallops away leaving the Cyclops to pull his pants up.

CUT TO:

11 INT. DRACO'S TENT - DAY

11

Draco stoops over his maps, studying them by candle light. Gar and Hector enter.

GAR

Xena was spotted riding towards the Strymon pass.

DRACO

(thinks for a moment)

Hector, take two men and cut through the Strymon pass. Pick up her trail and send word as soon as she's entered her home valley. When we hear from you, we'll force march right into Amphipolis and torch everything in sight. We'll also spread the word that we're doing it on Xena's orders. Then she'll know.

*
*
*

GAR

Know what?

DRACO

There's no rest for the wicked.

CUT TO:

12 EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

12

Xena rides through a driving rain storm along a precipitous path. She looks wet, tired and determined.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. RIVER - DAY

13

Xena fords this dangerous river, driving her horse hard but herself harder.

CUT TO:

14 EXT. SNOW-COVERED BARREN HILLSIDE - DAY

14

Xena scurries up this slippery, precarious slope on foot, leading her horse behind her. This is a woman on a mission.

CUT TO:

15 EXT. WINDSWEPT CAMPSITE - NIGHT

15

Xena sits by her campfire shivering. She's watching a pot over the fire. She reaches out with a big spoon, ladles out some broth from the pot and tastes it.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

She tosses the spoon aside and curls up next to the fire under a bearskin. She'd rather go hungry than eat any more of her own cooking.

CUT TO:

16 EXT. GORGE EDGE - DAY

16

A weary Gabrielle reaches the bridge that spans the gorge. She peers into the gorge, takes a deep breath and nervously starts across the bridge. She closes her eyes for most of the crossing, holding onto the bridge railing as she goes. She reaches the other gorge edge and leaps onto solid land. Very pleased with herself she stands up and looks down into the gorge with her hands on her hips.

GABRIELLE

Being an adventuress isn't that hard.

She begins to revise her opinion when a HUGE CAGE drops around her. Gabrielle looks up in horror at the drooling face of a BLIND CYCLOPS.

GABRIELLE

(horrified)

What are you going to do with me?

CYCLOPS

Guess.

He opens his salivating mouth and licks his lips.

GABRIELLE

(winging it)

Immortal father Zeus in heaven, curse this brute if he eats me. Torture him with the slain serpent's blood and the crow's droppings. Make him beg for one thing only, the power to die, but make him live on in agonizing --

CYCLOPS

SHUT UP!! I hate chatty food.

GABRIELLE

I know Xena the warrior princess.

CYCLOPS

I hate Xena the warrior princess. She blinded me. It'll be a pleasure to rip one of her friends apart with my teeth.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

GABRIELLE

Friends? Who said anything about friends. I hate the bitch. I've been tracking her to kill her.

The Cyclops hesitates.

CYCLOPS

How could a young thing like you kill Xena?

GABRIELLE

That's the point. She'd never let a man get close enough to do her. At least, not that kind of "do" her. But a young innocent-looking girl like me, I'll catch her totally off guard, cut her evil throat and hack off her Cyclops-blinding hands.

CYCLOPS

You're really going to mess her up, huh?

GABRIELLE

(getting into it)
You know what I think I'll do to her?

CYCLOPS

(digging the fantasy)
What?

GABRIELLE

Blind her. Gouge out them eyeballs and bring 'em back to you. Make a nice little appetizer, don't you think?

CYCLOPS

You'd do that for me?

GABRIELLE

I feel we're bonded in our hate for this she-demon.

The Cyclops thinks for a moment and removes the cage.

CYCLOPS

Go on. If you could bring a leg too, I'd appreciate it.

GABRIELLE

A leg? She's got two, doesn't she? You'll get 'em both.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED: 2

16

CYCLOPS

And a -

GABRIELLE

Hey, let's not get greedy.

CYCLOPS

Sorry.

GABRIELLE

(a la a battle cry)

Xena's blood or die!!

She begins walking away.

GABRIELLE

(under her breath)

Thank the gods for dumb Cyclopes.

CUT TO:

17 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

17

Xena canters along on her way home. WE FOLLOW her as she rides into A FOREST and out of sight.

After a few moments, Hector and his TWO MEN ride into view. They're obviously following Xena. They enter:

THE FOREST They're riding in single file. When the last warrior passes under a large tree, XENA DROPS from an overhanging branch onto the horse behind him, and thumps her sword butt into the back of his head. His unconscious body slips off the horse as Xena rides up close to the second rider, leaps on the back of his horse and again hammers her sword butt into his head.

She pushes his unconscious body into a clump of bushes and continues on, riding behind the unsuspecting Hector. He rides into:

A CLEARING

where Xena's horse stands idly grazing on grass. Hector stops his horse, dismounts and draws his sword. Xena dismounts and stands right behind him. Hector throws a confused look around the meadow.

HECTOR

(over his shoulder, to
his men, his voice still
raspy)

What do you think?

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

XENA

I think you got a sore throat.

Hector throws a shocked look at Xena. Xena applies the Xena "pinch" to Hector. He falls to the ground. He appears paralyzed.

XENA

Unless I undo the pinch, you'll be dead in twenty seconds. Now, tell me why you're following me.

Hector tries to move his arms. He's completely disabled.

XENA

You got about ten seconds of life left.

HECTOR

Draco. He sent me.

XENA

Draco?

HECTOR

He plans to destroy your home valley.

Xena reverses the pinch and mounts her horse. Hector still lies motionless on the ground.

XENA

You'll regain feeling in your limbs in about two minutes.

She gallops off.

CUT TO:

18 EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - DAY

18

An OLD MAN drives a one-horse wagon along the road. He pulls his horse to a stop when he sees something in the road ahead.

OLD MAN'S POV - GABRIELLE

She lies in the road, flat on her back, her arms spread out to her sides, her eyes closed.

ON THE OLD MAN as he gets off the wagon, approaches Gabrielle cautiously, and leans over to examine her.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

OLD MAN

You dead?

Gabrielle opens her eyes and peers into the Old Man's face for a moment. Suddenly she reaches up, grabs the front of his shirt and pulls herself up so she's nose to nose with him.

GABRIELLE

Where are you headed?

OLD MAN

Amhipolis.

She leaps to her feet and throws her arms in the air a la Joe Montana after throwing a touchdown.

GABRIELLE

It worked. I've been lying here supplicating myself to the great god Hermes, guide of travellers, begging him to send someone who's on their way to Amhipolis. And here you are! It's a miracle. Don't you think?

OLD MAN

Not really. This is the road to Amhipolis. Anybody that'd come along would be headed there.

GABRIELLE

Yeah, but not everybody is a kindly old man who'll give me a ride.

OLD MAN

You're right about that.

(walks back toward his wagon)

I know I'm not gonna give you a ride.

GABRIELLE

Oh, but you've got to. I'll never make it by myself. I didn't bring enough food, I've already gotten lost twice, I wore the wrong shoes...

(takes off her shoe)

Look at this blister.

OLD MAN

(climbing onto his wagon)

Sorry, don't have any room.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: 2

18

GABRIELLE

My father will give you a handsome reward when we reach Amphipolis. He's very rich and powerful.

OLD MAN

What's his name?

GABRIELLE

(winging it)

Dolon.

OLD MAN

Dolon, the horse breeder?

GABRIELLE

Best horses in Thrace. I'll make sure he gives you a fresh steed for your troubles.

OLD MAN

There are no horse breeders in Amphipolis. It's sheep country.

The wagon begins to move. Gabrielle runs alongside.

GABRIELLE

I've been told I'm very pleasant company on a trip.

The Old Man is unmoved.

GABRIELLE

I can sing.

(sings a few bars)

I know several poems which I recite with great passion. A travelling bard once gave me lessons.

(reciting from memory)

I sing of Oedipus, King of Thebes, the most tragic of men.

The Old Man stops his wagon. Gabrielle doesn't notice but continues trotting on, reciting as she goes.

GABRIELLE

The fates smiled not on his --

She notices the wagon has stopped and scurries back to the Old Man, who wears an angry scowl.

GABRIELLE

What's the matter?

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED: 3

18

OLD MAN

You're gonna tell me about Oedipus?
I knew Oedipus. I grew up in Thebes
when he was king. *

GABRIELLE

You knew Oedipus? I'd love to hear
all about it.

OLD MAN

(dying to tell a whopper)
Well, I guess I could make room for
you in the back there.

GABRIELLE

No need. I can just sit on top.

She climbs on top of his load and the wagon moves on.

OLD MAN

(facetious)
Oedipus, the most tragic of all men.
Ha. Biggest fool of all men is more
like it.

GABRIELLE

You knew him personally?

OLD MAN

Well, not personally but I saw him
around plenty.

As the Old Man gives his version of Oedipus, we:

CUT TO:

19 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

19

Xena rides up a slope. When she reaches the crest of the
hill, her eyes light up as she looks out on:

A VALLEY

Lush, fertile, beautiful, this is Xena's home.

ON XENA as she gallops into the valley looking youthful and
refreshed. She savors every sight along the way. She stops
at one point to listen to SOME WOMEN singing as they work in
the fields.

She laughs and rides on, now joyfully singing the same song.

CUT TO:

20 EXT. INN - DAY

20

Xena rides up to the inn, dismounts, looks around at her surroundings and smiles peacefully. She's still riding the high of being home. She enters:

21 INT. INN - DAY

21

The humble place has a homey feel. Xena walks through the crowded inn. THE CROWD REACTS to her as, slowly, one by one they begin to recognize her. Some scoot out the door while others take strategic positions around the inn and eye her with hostile intensity.

Xena makes her way toward a bar. Suddenly she's brought to a halt as she sees: CYRENE

A strong, noble, attractive woman in her late 40's. She's chatting cheerfully with some CUSTOMERS. She throws a glance in Xena's direction, does a quick double take and then fixes on Xena, her face full of emotion. Xena approaches Cyrene with a childlike look of joyful expectation on her face.

XENA

Mother.

Cyrene answers Xena's greeting with a VICIOUS SLAP across her face, and to top off the homecoming, she spits on her daughter. We hold on Xena's pained face before we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

22 INT. INN - DAY

22

Xena and Cyrene stand facing each other as the other customers in the inn look on in shock at this display of fury from the usually mild Cyrene.

CYRENE

You murderous bitch! You shame me and all your kinsmen.

Xena looks destroyed.

CYRENE

Look at you. You're about to cry.

(with a bitter laugh)

What did you expect? For me to take you in my arms and say everything's alright. Ha. Every night I pray to Athena, begging her to give someone the power to bring your worthless life to an end.

XENA

Mother, I understand your anger but you need to listen to me. The warlord Draco is moving on this valley. We need to organize a defense.

CYRENE

Oh, I suppose you're a fighter for justice now.

XENA

Yes.

CYRENE

Well, you could prove your new interest in justice one way.
Kill yourself.

*

A devastated Xena exits the inn.

CUT TO:

23 EXT. DRACO'S CAMP - NIGHT

23

Draco sits on a stool by the campfire staring down at Hector, who kneels before him. Draco is sizzling with anger.

Gar and several soldiers stand around.

DRACO

Hector, I don't know what to do with you. I sent you to follow her so we'd know what she's doing, not to tell her what we're doing.

*

HECTOR

I had no choice.

*

DRACO

Really? Well, then, neither do I.

*

Draco proceeds to brutally beat Hector to death with a variety of acrobatic martial arts maneuvers.

He finishes him off with a crushing blow to his spine and stands over his dead body.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

DRACO

(to Gar)

Get the men ready for a forced march.

Gar moves to exit.

DRACO

Gar. When we find her... she's mine.

CUT TO:

24 EXT. TAVERN - NIGHT

24

This rundown place is quiet, except for one VOICE carrying out from the open front door.

GABRIELLE (O.S.)

(reciting)

And Oedipus was led to Colonus by his daughter.

25 INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

25

A pretty rough crowd sits around this Mycenaean truckstop listening to Gabrielle tell the story of Oedipus. The Old Man who picked her up sits listening, just as riveted as everybody else. She's not a great actress but she's really into it and besides, what do these galoots know about acting.

GABRIELLE

And here the most tragic of men lived out his days.

She pauses. It takes a moment before it dawns on the audience that the performance is over and then the crowd erupts in applause. The Old Man is particularly enthused. Then he catches himself.

OLD MAN

That really wasn't how it went down.

He's hooted down by the others. A big teamster, KASTOR, hands Gabrielle a cup of wine and holds his cup up in a toast.

KASTOR

To the prettiest storyteller I ever come across.

The other traders and teamsters join in the toast.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

KASTOR

Where you headed?

GABRIELLE

Amhipolis.

KASTOR

You'll reach there tomorrow. You got friends in Amhipolis?

GABRIELLE

Well, yes, one. Xena.

The smiles fade from the faces of the group. ONE BIG TOUGH gets up, goes to the door and closes it. Gabrielle swallows hard.

KASTOR

Young lady, you were kind enough to tell us a story. Let me return the favor and tell you one. Xena grew up in the next valley, outside of Amhipolis. She was a natural born leader, even as a teenager. When a warlord tried to enslave Amhipolis, the people looked to her to save them. She organized an army of locals and they went off to fight the warlord.

OLD MAN

I remember that army. They were full of goodness and hope. And they beat that warlord. They say Xena herself cut his throat.

KASTOR

And she liked doing it. Too much. She fell in love with blood and power. The young army that had started out wanting to save the world turned into a tool of Ares.

OLD MAN

They were all dead within a year. But that didn't stop her. She just recruited a new army.

KASTOR

Be careful, young lady. A lot of people who trusted Xena are dead.

Off Gabrielle's thoughtful look, we:

CUT TO:

26 INT. INN - DAY

26

Cyrene is busy cleaning up around the now quiet inn. The door opens and Xena enters. Cyrene glares at her.

XENA

Mother, you have to leave this valley. Your life's in danger.

CYRENE

I don't believe a word you say.

(beat)

What is it you want! Why did you come back?

XENA

I want to start over again. *

CYRENE *

That's impossible. Oh, Xena. I tried my best to raise you with a sense of right and wrong.

XENA *

It's not your fault.

CYRENE *

Maybe I shouldn't have let you be so independent.

XENA *

It breaks my heart to hear you blaming yourself.

CYRENE *

I don't believe you. If you had a heart to break, you never would have done those terrible things.

Cyrene walks toward the back door.

XENA *

Mother, listen to me, please. I've changed. I've dedicated my life to fighting evil. I'll be good at it. I fight it in myself every day. *

CYRENE

Xena, how I wish I could believe you. Please go now.

Xena gives a resigned nod and moves toward the exit. Just before she leaves, she pauses and looks back at Cyrene.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

Cyrene takes a long moment and then shakes her head no. Xena gives a resigned nod as she realizes she'll get nothing from her mother.

The sound of angry voices draws their attention to the front door, which bursts open.

THE LYNCH MOB

Angry citizens carrying an assortment of weapons - swords, spears, pitchforks, shovels and stones - start piling into the inn.

FIRST CITIZEN

Here she is. We know what you're up to, Xena, and we won't let you get away with it.

XENA

What are you talking about?

FIRST CITIZEN

Your army is already burning fields in the west valley.

XENA

That's a lie.

FIRST CITIZEN

(to Cyrene)

She's hooked up with Draco.

Cyrene eyes Xena with tearful hatred.

XENA

Mother, I have nothing to do with Draco. I came to warn you about him.

CYRENE

Maybe your father was a monster come up from Hades.

(to the mob)

Do what you will with her.

Xena stands devastated as the crowd eyes her carefully. Very afraid of the warrior princess, they stand around waiting for someone else to make the first move. Xena taunts them.

XENA

What are you waiting for, you cowards? Take your revenge. It's true what they say. It is sweet.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: 2

26

Still, no one makes a move. The mob begins surrounding Xena. Still no one makes a move.

XENA

What? One woman is too much for you?

(draws her sword)

Let me even the odds.

(tosses the sword away)

One unarmed woman may be more to your tastes.

An old woman hurls a stone at Xena. It bounces off her shoulder. She sneers defiantly.

A YOUNG GIRL steps out of the crowd and hurls a rock at Xena. It bounces harmlessly off her chest but the LOOK OF HATE on the young girl's face slices Xena's soul.

Another member of the crowd picks up a cup and throws it. Xena doesn't flinch as it bounces off her shoulder. She seems fatalistic, resigned to her fate.

Realizing she's not going to put up much of a fight, everyone in the mob starts looking for things to throw at her. This is about to get real ugly when:

GABRIELLE

steps between Xena and the mob.

GABRIELLE

You don't know me, I'm new in town, but I can assure you, Xena is a changed woman. I saw her do some heroic things in the name of good.

FIRST CITIZEN

Unless you're suicidal you better get out of the way. She's called Draco down on our valley.

GABRIELLE

Draco? He's a scary guy. I understand why you're upset. But let me throw some logic at you.

XENA reacts to the guts of this kid.

GABRIELLE

Let's say you stone Xena to death. First of all, I might point out you didn't bring enough stones in here for a really good stoning.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: 4

26

The citizens look around to check out the stone supply.

GABRIELLE

But lets say there's a whole rock quarry down the road and you're able to really lay it to her. What do you got when you're done? If I'm right, and Xena's on the side of good, you just killed your only ticket out of this mess.

FIRST CITIZEN

You're wasting your breath. We'll never put our faith in Xena again. The last time we did that, we lost a whole generation of young men. I buried two sons because of her. Now get out of the way.

GABRIELLE

Now hold on.

(changing her tactics)

Let's say you're right and she's Draco's buddy, let's say she's even Draco's girlfriend, what have you accomplished? You think Draco is bad news now, what do you think he'll be like when he hears you knocked off his woman? So far he's burned a couple of fields. Maybe you could still strike a deal with him. But once he's heard you off'd his lady, oh boy, it gives me the creeps even to think about it.

The First Citizen thinks about this for a moment and then turns to confer with some other citizens.

Gabrielle turns and throws a wave and a smile at Xena, who can't believe this kid.

FIRST CITIZEN

Alright. But we want Xena out of here right away.

GABRIELLE

That's not a problem.

Gabrielle and Xena exit.

*

27 EXT. INN - DAY

27

Xena strides toward her horse, mounts up and begins to ride away. Gabrielle trots up to her and extends her arms up toward Xena as if she wants her to pick her up. Xena gives her an odd look.

XENA

What?

GABRIELLE

Shouldn't I get up there behind you?

XENA

What are you talking about?

GABRIELLE

You're not gonna just leave me here, are you? I came all this way to see you.

XENA

That's your problem.

She rides away.

GABRIELLE

(indignant)

I just saved your life.

Xena reigns up her horse, thinks about this for a moment, rides back toward Gabrielle, grabs her by her forearm and pulls her up on the horse behind her. She gallops off out of sight, Gabrielle hanging on for dear life.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

28 INT. VILLAGE MEETING HALL - DAY

28

The Amphipolis villagers (the same bunch that wanted to stone Xena) sit around this large hall waiting for something. The First Citizen paces nervously in front of the crowd. A SCAFFOLDING towers behind him. Some repair work on the hall has been interrupted by the crisis. We PAN over the tense faces of the citizens. They look like death row prisoners waiting for a reprieve. We SETTLE ON CYRENE who wears a particularly mournful look. Everyone's attention is drawn to the SOUND OF HORSES HOOVES as they clatter outside. All heads turn to stare in nervous expectation toward:

A LARGE DOOR

at the back of the hall. Suddenly the door bursts open and DRACO, GAR AND A FEW OTHER WARRIORS APPEAR. Draco enters the hall and smiles. The crowd's nervousness turns to abject fear.

DRACO

Which one of you lambs consider yourself a leader?

The First Citizen raises his hand. Draco strolls up to him.

DRACO

Your emissary said you were interested in making a deal. I found that amusing enough to agree to this meeting. What do you have in mind?

FIRST CITIZEN

(quivering with fear)

We've taken the liberty of putting together a few wagons of loot, some very valuable things as well as supplies. We hope you'll take that and leave us in peace.

DRACO

Why would I want to do that?

FIRST CITIZEN

Well, we thought that if we were to pledge to supply your troops whenever you're in the area that might be very valuable to you. More valuable than a bunch of dead villagers.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

DRACO

But not nearly as entertaining.

The mood in the hall moves to fatalistic despair.

DRACO

However, perhaps there is a deal to be made. You do have something I want.
Xena.

FIRST CITIZEN

Xena. She's not here.

Draco kicks the First Citizen in the stomach. He collapses to his knees, whimpering pathetically.

DRACO

Where is she?

FIRST CITIZEN

I don't know.

DRACO

(drawing his sword)

Let me show your fellow citizens what happens to those who don't cooperate with Draco.

FIRST CITIZEN

Please don't kill me.

DRACO

In a few minutes you'll be begging me to do just that, you lying sack of --

XENA (O.S.)

He's not lying.

Draco looks up to see:

XENA

She stands in the doorway of the hall. Gabrielle's head pops out from behind her.

Instantly, Gar and the others have their swords at Xena's throat. She doesn't blink.

*

XENA

Hello, Draco.

DRACO

Xena. How was the homecoming? Did they throw you a party?

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: 2

28

XENA

What do you want?

DRACO

I want you. One way or the other.

He walks up to Xena.

DRACO

We could be great together. You must know by now you'll never escape your past. Xena, celebrate your dark side, don't run away from it. Ride with me.

Xena looks around the room at the faces of her kinsmen who hate her. She pauses on her mother. Cyrene looks away, her face still cold. She looks at Draco and reflects for a moment. Then she throws a glance at:

GABRIELLE

Her hopeful innocence is undeniable.

ON XENA

The traces of a smile can be detected on Xena's lips as she looks at Gabrielle. Then she turns back to Draco.

XENA

You said one way or the other. It's the other.

DRACO

Pick the weapons.

XENA

You pick the weapons. I'll pick the conditions.

DRACO

The conditions?

XENA

We fight on that scaffolding up there. The first one that touches the floor, dies.

Draco eyes the scaffolding for a moment and then turns back to Xena.

DRACO

Staffs.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: 3

28

Xena nods, jerks a staff out of one of the warriors' hands and strides toward the scaffolding. Draco snaps his fingers and a staff is thrust into his hands by another warrior. He follows Xena.

DRACO

(to some archers)

Kill the first one that touches the floor.

*

THE SCAFFOLDING

Xena climbs to the top. Draco bounds up effortlessly. The archers get into position to obey Draco's orders. Xena and Draco face off for a moment before they flail into each other with insane intensity. The first round is a stand off but Xena starts getting the edge when she lands a blow to Draco's knee cap. He backs dangerously close to the edge of the scaffolding and it looks like he's about to be forced off. Xena lunges forward to administer the finishing blow with the staff but Draco gracefully sidesteps her and slams his staff into her back, sending her falling off the scaffolding.

*

*

ON XENA as she plummets toward the floor. She reaches out and grabs some ROPES that dangle from the scaffolding and by entwining herself in them, manages to break her fall just before she hits the ground.

She's dropped her staff in the process.

ON DRACO as he watches her climb back up the rope toward him. He's pissed and ready to greet her when she gets there.

She manages to roll onto the top level of the scaffolding, only to have to weather a relentless attack from Draco. She manages to parry a few blows but is at an extreme disadvantage now that she doesn't have her staff. Draco drives her toward the edge of the scaffolding with his attack and it appears inevitable that Xena will take a fall. She teeters back on the edge of the platform as Draco lands a full blow to her shoulder.

ON XENA as she flies off the scaffolding, does a full twist in the air and lands ON THE FIRST CITIZEN.

That's right. On the First Citizen.

She stands with one foot on his head and another on his shoulder.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: 4

28

GABRIELLE tosses Xena her staff and the warrior princess smiles tauntingly at Draco. DRACO charges toward Xena, stepping on the heads of his men as he goes. They now continue the fight ON THE TOPS OF THE HEADS OF THE CITIZENS AND WARRIORS. The exchange is brutal and evenly matched for a while until Xena makes a mistake and tries to use GAR'S SHOULDER as a foot hold. He grabs her ankle and allows Draco to strike home with his staff.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: 5

28

ON XENA as she falls back into the citizens. She catches herself by grabbing the shoulder of one of the citizens but it looks like her head will touch the ground when GABRIELLE CATCHES IT and helps her climb back up on the shoulders of the citizens. Xena nods her thanks to Gabrielle and charges toward Draco, KICKING GAR IN THE FACE as she goes. She lands a couple of clean blows to Draco and when he counters with a blow toward her legs she leaps in the air.

ON XENA as she somersaults through the air and lands with both feet squarely on Draco's chest. The momentum carries both of them flying toward the floor. Xena keeps her balance and stays on Draco's chest as his back crashes against the floor. She stands on his chest for a moment and grins down at him.

XENA
I haven't touched the floor yet,
Draco. But you have.

She glances up at the archers, who aren't ready to kill their boss.

XENA
Well, it looks like I'll have to
finish you off myself.

She grabs a sword from the scabbard of a near-by warrior, raises it and brings it flying down toward Draco's forehead.

ON DRACO

as he watches the sword stop a millimeter from his head.

ON CYRENE

as she watches this with a mixture of fear and hope.

ON XENA

as she grins down at Draco.

XENA
Of course, now maybe you'll be willing
to make a deal.

Draco stares up at the sword and nods.

XENA
If I let you live, you and your army
clear out of the valley by sundown.

Draco nods.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: 6

28

XENA

Swear it on the Head of Ares.

DRACO

I swear on the Head of Ares, god of war, to be out of the valley by sundown.

XENA

(stepping off his chest)

Then go.

ON GAR

as he's about to run Xena through with a sword. Draco deflects the blow and cuts Gar's throat. Draco looks up and his eyes meet Xena's.

DRACO

A deal's a deal.

Xena nods her appreciation.

DRACO

We'll do this again some day.

XENA

I can't wait. It's a great workout.

Draco can't resist a smile before he exits, followed by his men.

Xena turns to THE CITIZENS, who stand looking at her with a mixture of fear and awe.

FIRST CITIZEN

You can have the loot wagons, of course.

Xena seems sad as she realizes they'll never trust her again, no matter what she does. She looks at:

THE PEOPLE OF HER VALLEY

They still hate her.

ON XENA

who accepts her fate as an outcast.

XENA

(to the first citizen)

I don't want anything.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: 7

28

XENA (CONT'D)
(looks up at Cyrene)
Except to be left alone.

She exits, followed by Gabrielle.

*

28A INT. INN - DAY

28A*

Xena enters and looks around for her sword which lies on a table. She picks it up. As she turns to leave she comes face to face with:

*

*

*

CYRENE

*

She looks into her mother's eyes and sees something she's wanted to see again with all her soul. Love.

Cyrene steps close to her and cradles her face in her hands. Xena throws her arms around Cyrene's legs, drops to her knees, and buries her face in her mother's stomach.

*

XENA
Forgive me. Please.

CYRENE
I forgive you my little one. I forgive you.

She kneels next to her daughter.

Gabrielle enters and observes.

*

CYRENE
I'm so happy to have you back again.

XENA
I won't be able to stay for long.

CYRENE
I understand. There's too much bad feeling in this valley toward you.

ON GABRIELLE as she looks on with tears running down her cheeks.

XENA
Mother. Can you tell me about my father?

Pause. And then:

(CONTINUED)

8A CONTINUED:

28A

CYRENE

When I was a young woman, about your age, a handsome warrior came to Amphipolis. His name was Nelo. He wore a medallion from Argos. He said he was related to the King of Mycenae. I fell madly in love with him. I was so happy. And then one day he was gone. Back to Argos, I suppose. It broke my heart. For months I cursed him. And then you were born. After that I praised him to the gods for bringing such joy into my life.

(she begins to cry)

That joy was gone for a long time.

XENA

I know mother. I'm so sorry I hurt you.

CYRENE

The joy is even sweeter now that I have it again. Welcome home, Xena.

As they embrace we:

CUT TO:

29 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

29

Xena gallops into view. Gabrielle sits on the horse behind her. Xena stops the horse and Gabrielle dismounts.

GABRIELLE

I'm so saddle-sore I can barely walk.

XENA

Well, you'll have to. Your village is about two hours on foot toward the setting sun. Go home while you still can. I'm headed north toward Argos.

*
*

GABRIELLE

You're looking for your father, aren't you?

XENA

Have a good life, Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE

Xena, listen, I want to say --

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

She doesn't get to say it because Xena has galloped off towards the horizon without so much as a wave.

CUT TO:

30 EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

30

Xena sits at the campfire, watching her latest batch of soup simmer. She ladles out a spoonful and sips it. She spits it out in disgust. A rustling in the bushes causes her to leap to her feet.

Gabrielle walks out of the bushes and collapses next to the campfire. Xena stares at her in amazement.

GABRIELLE

I was gonna follow you until you were in some jam, and then show you how useful I can be... but it's so cold out there and I couldn't get a fire started and the mosquitoes are as big as --

XENA

You don't get it, do you? I want to travel alone.

GABRIELLE

Oh, come on. Admit I came in pretty handy a couple of times.

XENA

You're headed back first thing in the morning.

GABRIELLE

Give me a chance. I can be very useful.

XENA

Look, I don't need a kid tagging along with me. I'm no nursemaid. You're gonna be more trouble than you're worth. There's no way --

GABRIELLE

I can cook.

Pause.

XENA

You sleep over there. I want rabbit stew in the morning.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

You got it. GABRIELLE

As they settle down to sleep, we:

FADE OUT.

THE END