

CLASH OF THE TITANS

by

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CAST OF CHARACTERS

Perseus -- our hero, a young fisherman, unaware he is a demigod. Fathered by Zeus, his mother was a human, Queen Danae.

King Acrisius/Kalibos -- husband of Danae; his rage at Zeus is punished by transformation into monstrous Kalibos. *

The Wilting Girl/Vidalia -- a fading Earth Goddess, on assignment from Zeus to aid Perseus. *

Andromeda -- princess, daughter of King Kepheus and Queen Cassiopeia. Meant to be Perseus' bride, becomes a damsel in distress. *

Amoun -- wise man and wizard; former tutor to Perseus; now special advisor and "Magi Strategos" to King Kepheus.

Spyros -- Perseus' adoptive father; a tough fisherman. *

Peshet -- handmaid/protector, to Andromeda. *

King Kepheus -- ruler of Joppa, a leader of Men in the War.

Queen Cassiopeia -- vain, arrogant, doomed wife of Kepheus. *

Fantasos -- a zealot for Tiamat, bent on subverting Kepheus. *

Agenor -- Andromeda's boy toy; a convert to Fantasos' cult.

GODS AND MONSTERS:

Zeus -- God of Gods; father of Perseus.

Tiamat -- Goddess of the Deep, wants to subjugate Men; hopes to unseat Zeus on Olympus.

Set the Void -- an evil God; Tiamat's accomplice in misdeeds.

Thoth the Quick -- messenger of the Gods.

Medusa -- a serpent-woman monster, whose gaze petrifies. *

Leviathan -- the Kraken, the ultimate sea monster, roused by Tiamat to destroy Joppa and consume Andromeda.

ON THE EXPEDITION:

Mongke (father) and Tamburlane (son) -- monster hunters. *

Shaikh Suleiman -- a Djinn priest, devotee of Zeus. *

Praetorian Soldiers: Commander Draco and Kosmo, Abas, Icos,
Thad, Boreas, Krikor, Polluc. Each has his moment.
(But don't strain to keep them straight, they're all monster
fodder.)

*

FADE IN:

EXT. ALLEYWAY (VILLAGE) - DUSK

Gloomy, last light. From out of the shadows comes --

A DOG. A dog of war. Big, mangy, muscular, scary. As he moves down the alley, the way becomes increasingly choked with fallen structures and signs of tumult.

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DUSK

TRACKING WITH THE DOG as he comes onto a battlefield. The hellish scene is REVEALED TO US SLOWLY --

*
*

SERIES OF SHOTS

as the Dog traverses a landscape of --

BODIES, frozen in contorted death poses. This was furious, hand-to-hand fighting between human SOLDIERS and nightmare CREATURES, their corpses now in piles to the horizon.

*
*
*
*

The Dog climbs a mound of casualties. At the top, the Dog looks back across the battlefield. The Dog's eyes are sad, his expression weary and disgusted.

*
*
*

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE PALACE OF ACRISIUS - NIGHT

*

The entrance is patrolled by a dozen PALACE GUARDS. They don't see the Dog pad silently to a fissure in the palace wall and disappear inside.

*
*
*

INT. THE PALACE OF ACRISIUS - GREAT HALL - NIGHT

*

Bloodied and battered, the King's GENERALS are disagreeing loudly about strategy. A loud BANGING sound pierces the hubbub, and the officers quiet, turning to --

*
*
*

KING ACRISIUS, a striking man in his prime, his handsome face marked by one crooked scar on his jaw. He commands the room --

*
*
*

KING ACRISIUS

Now we end the debate about tactics... and begin to plan for victory.

AT THE BACK OF THE HALL

The Dog stares at the King. Then slips away. *

INT. THE PALACE OF ACRISIUS - GREAT STAIRS - NIGHT *

Unseen by exhausted Guards, the Dog bounds up the stairs. *

INT. THE PALACE OF ACRISIUS - ROYAL APARTMENT - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

The Dog approaches a doorway; stops to watch from the shadows. *

INT. THE PALACE OF ACRISIUS - BEDCHAMBER - DOG'S POV - NIGHT

In the dim bedchamber, the SILHOUETTE of QUEEN DANAE as a LADY-IN-WAITING removes her gown, revealing the Queen's perfect body as she slips into bed. The Lady-in-Waiting leaves. *

The Dog's eyes. He moves forward.

FLOOR-LEVEL

TRACKING WITH the Dog's legs as they MORPH INTO HUMAN LEGS. The CAMERA RISES BEHIND a towering male figure, who roughly pulls a curtain aside. *

In the bed, the Queen is startled, then pleased.

QUEEN DANAE
My King! Has the strategy been
set so quickly?

REVERSE ANGLE

The looming figure looks exactly like King Acrisius, including the distinctive scar. He regards her hungrily. *

QUEEN DANAE
Come to your Queen, my King.

INT. THE PALACE OF ACRISIUS - GREAT STAIRS - SUNRISE *

The real King Acrisius wearily climbs the stairs with AIDES and Guards. Suddenly, the King stops. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

On the wall above is the huge shadow of a four-legged creature -- and now it appears:

The Dog stops at the top of the stairs and regards the men without fear -- its eyes blaze with a God's power. Even Acrisius, who fears nothing, steps back. The others raise their weapons.

The Dog comes down the steps, eyes upon them, and passes close by. No one dare move. The Dog disappears into the shadows below.

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. THE SEA - ROCKY PROMONTORY - CLOSE ON KING ACRISIUS' HARDENED COUNTEenance - DAY

staring at --

ANOTHER ANGLE

Queen Danae, PREGNANT NOW, and weeping. Her arms are bound.

A ROYAL ENTOURAGE is gathered. The women weep, the men agonize.

Palace Guards lift the Queen into a chest and chain it closed. On the King's signal, the Guards carry the chest to the edge and drop it into the rough sea. We HEAR a SCREAM from within.

Some members of the Royal Entourage look with scorn at their King, outraged by this double murder. Acrisius registers their disapproving looks and angrily turns to leave the promontory.

WE SEE in his face what the others do not -- shame and doubt.

IN THE WATER BELOW, the chest rights itself and rides out on the tide.

EXT. SAND DUNES OF A LONELY BEACH - NIGHT

Two HORSEMEN gallop in the moonlight. The first Rider sways in the saddle and falls from his mount. He staggers to his feet, a skin of ale in his hands. It is King Acrisius, very drunk.

The second Rider, the King's STEWARD, dismounts to give aid, though he's also drunk.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KING ACRISIUS

(raging)
 My own subjects condemn me! They
 dare judge me? And what emboldens
 this treachery?...

STEWARD

You are mistaken, my King. None
 would risk your anger --

KING ACRISIUS

(oblivious to him)
It is Zeus who warps my
kingdom!... Zeus the ungodly, Zeus
 the defiler...

This talk sobers the Steward instantly; he looks about
 fearlessly.

STEWARD

Please, speak not these things --

Acrisius spins on him, out of control --

KING ACRISIUS

He cuckolds me in my castle, rapes
 my precious Queen! This is a low,
 conniving God... But I have bested
 him on this day and humbled the
 great Prime.

(swigs ale)

Tell me, Panos, who rivals Zeus on
 Olympos? Who does the Fearless
 One fear?

STEWARD

I beg you, Your Highness --

Acrisius pulls a dagger and holds it to the Steward's
 throat.

KING ACRISIUS

Tell me what the Priests say!

STEWARD

(terrified, halting)
 Tiamat... Tiamat, Queen of the
 Deep...

(whispering)

Those who dare, whisper she covets
 Zeus' throne and schemes to
 achieve it, the ambitious Goddess
 of the Dark Oceans...

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KING ACRISIUS
Yes, Tiamat! And today I have
honored her.

The King whirls and staggers up the crest of the dune.

KING ACRISIUS
I've taken Zeus' whore and the
bastard she grows in her belly and
thrown them to Tiamat in her rough
sea!

(toward the moonlit
ocean)
I honor Zeus' rival with all that
was dear to me --
(falters, ashamed)
-- and commit double murder in her
honor...

About to go to pieces, rage seizes him again --

KING ACRISIUS
... so that Zeus will know I
despise and disdain him and spit
on his foul name!

The Steward shrinks from this blasphemy, eyes darting in fear.

ON THE CREST the King is silhouetted in the moonlight, arms raised defiantly toward the heavens, when suddenly --

-- his figure is seized by some violent force, shaking his being. A HORRIBLE SOUND (MUSCLE TEARS, BONES CRACK) and THE KING'S BODY GROWS LARGER AS IT DISTORTS IN MISSHAPEN DISFIGUREMENT.

And thus, KING ACRISIUS BECOMES... KALIBOS!

The Steward SEES what we now cannot. An INHUMAN ROAR and the shadow of this new being falls upon the Steward. He SCREAMS, but it's too late -- the huge CREATURE grabs him by the neck and LIFTS HIM OUT OF FRAME. From the empty, moonlit dunes, we...

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. OPEN SEAS - DAY

Queen Danae's coffin/chest tossing in the rough water. Through the ROAR of the waves, we HEAR a BABY CRY.

FADE TO BLACK.

SUPERIMPOSE: TWENTY-FIVE YEARS LATER

FADE IN:

EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

A LITTLE BOY leads a blind OLD MAN along a road. *
Abruptly, the Old Man halts. Puzzled, the Boy scans *
ahead, SEES -- *

-- a SPRAY OF DUST, moving fast, behind a blurred BLACK *
FORM -- *

-- in an instant, the apparition blows past them -- wind *
and dust whip at them. In awe and fear -- *

OLD MAN
Thoth the Quick...
(sensing the boy's
confusion)
Messenger of the Gods. Bound for
Olympos.

The rushing Black Form crosses a field, leaving a *
violent wave in the long grass and suddenly -- *

EXT. FIELDS/WOODS/MOUNTAIN/OLYMPUS - DAY

-- WE ARE IN THAT RUSHING POV: the landscape is just a *
blur. But up ahead is a mountain: OLYMPUS. WE ZOOM UP *
TO the summit -- *

-- INTO the clouds above the peak. THROUGH the mist -- *
villas, classical facades: THE ABODE OF THE GODS. The *
polished stone of the grandest villa reflects THOTH'S *
dark form touching down. *

INT. ATRIUM (OLYMPUS) - DAY *

THOTH THE QUICK enters the wide courtyard, his cape *
billowing. He strides past the reflecting pool in the *
center of the courtyard, gravely acknowledging -- *

-- each of the TEN FIGURES seated around the perimeter... *
THE OLYMPIANS. APOLLO is here, and bronze-helmeted *
ATHENA; APHRODITE and muscular VULCAN -- we are dazzled *
and lose count. *

Thoth bows deeply before the throne of ZEUS, majestic, *
bearded, awe-inspiring. An EAGLE is perched on his arm. *

THOTH

My lord.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZEUS

(rumbles, like
thunder)

We have debated, we have voted,
and it is decided. We offer the
Humans peace. Thoth, you will
take them the terms of a treaty --

TIAMAT (O.S.)

(scornfully)

A treaty!

Zeus and his eagle turn their heads. The God's eyes are
familiar -- the blazing orbs we saw in The Dog. *

In the shadowed corner of the atrium stand TWO MORE
Olympians: SET THE VOID, whose countenance is death made
visible, and -- *

-- TIAMAT, QUEEN OF THE DEEP, the only God fearless
enough to challenge Zeus' rule -- *

TIAMAT

We don't negotiate with them! We
dictate to them. Their place is
to beg. They have forgotten their
role and have denied us the
sustenance of their prayers.

APHRODITE

Our mercy will give them reason to
be grateful. They will bow down
and whisper our names with more
passion than before.

TIAMAT

They will bow down when we snap
their backs! Mercy? We are Gods!
Some of us remember that and are
not afraid --

Zeus has had enough: furious ARCS OF LIGHTNING jump to
the walls, the eagle beats its wings in rage. *

ZEUS

Silence! Or learn what it is to
be afraid! The debate is over,
the votes cast...

Zeus points to a golden tray; it bears TEN chips of
alabaster versus TWO shards of obsidian. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZEUS

We guarantee an armistice, we
shield the bridegroom and the
Joppan royal family.

(turning again on
Tiamat)

And we do not interfere in their
actions. We leave them
undisturbed unless invoked by name
to enter their affairs.

SET

And if they refuse our terms?

ZEUS

They have suffered terrible
losses. They will not pass up a
chance for peace.

INT. ATRIUM - MAGIC HOUR (LATER)

Only Tiamat and Set now. Tiamat regards Zeus' throne.

SET

This is your rightful place to
take.

TIAMAT

Soon enough, Set. Zeus has grown
weaker than I knew.

Set gestures at the white chips on the tray as he picks
up the two black shards representing their votes. He
hands one to Tiamat.

SET

So have they all. They no longer
see clearly.

TIAMAT

(disdainful)

They're beginning to think like
Men. But you and I shall not.

Set agrees, his eyes searching her face.

TIAMAT

We will manage these thick-witted
Humans to our own ends.

(off his look)

Yes, we will be bound by great
Zeus' rules... until their fragile
membranes tear. We dare not
interfere with these insects...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIAMAT (CONT'D)
 but we may be invited to
intervene.

Tiamat flicks the obsidian into the reflecting pool --
 the whole pool darkens and choppy waves crash over the
 sides... a tiny tempest.

EXT. THE AGORA (MARKETPLACE) OF JOPPA - DAY

The long war with the Gods has wounded this city, but
 life goes stubbornly on. Among the war-torn buildings is
 a bustling market. CITIZENS eye the wares. MERCHANTS,
 PERFORMERS, noise, and MUSIC.

SUPERIMPOSE: JOPPA, CAPITAL OF THE DOMINION OF ILLYRIA

Suddenly the market falls SILENT. Fear grips the crowd.
 An occurrence rare in the world of Men -- AN OLYMPIAN
 APPROACHES.

The clouds stop dead. The crowd stops. TIME STOPS. A
 PRESENCE WE DO NOT SEE moves to the BASILICA, the royal
 residence and assembly hall.

INT. THE BASILICA - THRONE ROOM - DAY

KING KEPHEUS, the aging, worried ruler, sits on his
 throne, then stands, paces, sits again. Expecting
 someone.

Flitting nearby is his Queen -- CASSIOPEIA, a fading
 beauty, fiercely intelligent, but not wise; she can be
 impulsive and vain.

AMOUN stands calmly by -- he is special advisor (or Magi
 Strategos) to the King and will be central to our story.

AMOUN

The emissary approaches. Take
 your time in your responses,
 debate nothing...

KEPHEUS

(testy)
 I've received ambassadors before.

AMOUN

None like this.

KEPHEUS

I'm not cowed. If these arrogant
 Gods are so powerful, why are they
 the ones seeking a truce?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMOUN

(patiently)

I only recommend you take care
with the tone of the conversation.
A truce would benefit all...

KEPHEUS

In my palace, I decide how the
discourse proceeds, not some
messenger sent on errands by Zeus.

THOTH (O.S.)

You are correct, Your Highness, I
do the bidding of Zeus...

To their astonishment, the emissary is already in the
Throne Room, behind them. Startled, they turn to see --

Thoth the Quick, Messenger of the Gods, float forward.

THOTH

... as do all Gods... and all men.

Thoth removes his hood, revealing his crystal skull.

THOTH

(with an edge)

King Kepheus, as humble messenger
of Zeus, I've come to talk of
peace.

AMOUN

(deferential)

Thoth the Quick, I am Amoun, the
King's Magi Strategos. We welcome
you with humility, honored by your
visit from the realm of the Gods.

The King shoots Amoun a look, but he is still shaken by
Thoth's sudden appearance. Cassiopeia tries to recover
her composure.

KEPHEUS

I am a reasonable man. Everyone
wishes for the conflict to cease.

THOTH

Zeus above all. He has so long
desired the tragedy end, he made a
plan that began twenty-five years
ago.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CASSIOPEIA

Twenty-five years! How is that possible?

Amoun winces at her tone. Thoth sends a scary glance her way. Icy -- *

THOTH

Beauteous Queen, let Thoth limn for you the forethought and wisdom of Zeus, God of Gods.

EXT. THE AGORA OF JOPPA - DAY

The market, now quiet, tries to return to normalcy. But the crowd watches the Basilica, worried by the God's presence. *

INT. THRONE ROOM - DAY

Kepheus and Cassiopeia sit stunned. Amoun watches without surprise.

KEPHEUS

A treaty marriage?

THOTH

You have a daughter of age.

CASSIOPEIA

(gasps)
Andromeda!

KEPHEUS

Surely Zeus does not ask a mortal father to give his daughter to a God.

THOTH

No. Such a union would be unclean. Years ago Zeus created a scion of mixed blood. Half-man, half-God. Bred for just this union. That is how important Zeus considers this truce. *

CASSIOPEIA

Is my only daughter to marry a demigod, not of this earth? *

THOTH

A prince, of both Olympian and Human royalty. A chosen one.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

THOTH (CONT'D)

Zeus has given his son to the
cause of peace.

KEPHEUS

I have heard of no such demigod.

AMOUN

Majesty, if I may -- the young man
does exist. He lives in a small
fishing village on the isle of
Seriphos.

*
*

Kepheus turns, surprised at Amoun's foreknowledge.

KEPHEUS

You knew about this and said
nothing?

CASSIOPEIA

(accusatory)

Just which king do you serve?

AMOUN

My Queen, I serve only the great
order of things. I was the boy's
tutor years ago.

*

KEPHEUS

How haughty this boy must be, who
knows he is half-God.

*

AMOUN

He knows nothing and believes
himself an ordinary man. He has
never left his village. He can be
overconfident, but it is from
inexperience, not arrogance.

*
*
*
*

Kepheus and Cassiopeia exchange wary looks. Sharply --

*

CASSIOPEIA

What assurance do we have that our
daughter will be safe?

*

THOTH

(losing patience)

You have my word, as Ambassador of
the Gods.

*
*

KEPHEUS

With our daughter's future at
stake, we do not bestow trust
easily.

*

(threatening)

If any harm should come to her --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Amoun reacts, but it is too late -- Thoth has been irritated:

Suddenly, the WALLS GROAN, compressing with an AWFUL SHUDDER. The room TILTS. Kepheus and the Queen grab for a solid handhold, frightened.

The golden marbles on a tabletop roll from their pits and pile up in defiance of gravity. Wine goblets tilt toward Thoth.

THOTH

(icy)
The Princessa shall not be harmed.

AMOUN

(urgently, to the King)
Your Majesty...

KEPHEUS

(shaken)
Of course... of course your word is unquestioned here.

Thoth's demeanor changes. The marbles spill off the table, rolling across the floor to Kepheus' feet. TILT UP TO his intimidated face:

KEPHEUS

Where is the lucky young suitor?

EXT. UNDERWATER (THE AEGEAN SEA) - DAY

Perfectly blue, sunlight shafting from the surface.

A GREAT WHITE SHARK appears, ensnared in a fisherman's net. Panicked, the shark is diving as fast as it can. As the net passes we see --

ANTEROS, a hapless young fisherman, his legs entangled in the net, desperately trying to hold his breath. When they have disappeared, we see a FIGURE appear through the blue in pursuit. As he passes, we get our first look at --

PERSEUS, 25, wiry, bronzed from the sun, a stubbled jaw, a knife in his teeth. He swims with the power and grace of a porpoise -- beyond the ability of any normal man.

EXT. SEA FLOOR - DAY

The shark thrashes about, jaws snapping close to Anteros.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Perseus swims INTO VIEW and uses his knife to cut the net near the shark's snout. The shark tries to swim through the hole, but instead drags the net upwards. Perseus hangs on. *

One more slice and the shark zooms out of the net, bumping the young hero as it swims away. Perseus pulls Anteros toward the surface. *

EXT. FISHING TRAWLER - DAY

A CREW of FISHERMEN wait desperately at the rail. SPYROS, the oldest and toughest, watches in agony. *

Perseus breaks the surface, gasping, his lifeless friend in his arms. Five crewmen dive in to help, but Perseus is mad with despair. They have to pull him away. *

Spyros watches sadly. But also, relieved to see the one survivor. *

EXT. FISHING TRAWLER - DAY *

Spyros makes his way to the bow, where Perseus sits alone, downcast, in pain. Spyros watches in silence. Then, gruffly -- *

SPYROS

Your grieving does Anteros no good. It comforts only you.

PERSEUS

It's my fault he's gone.

SPYROS

He was careless with the net.

Perseus gives him a hard look.

PERSEUS

So it's his fault. Not mine, not fate, not the Gods?

SPYROS

(disdainfully)
The Gods delude themselves about their power and watch in envy while we act. We make our own history.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PERSEUS

(breaks down, crying)
 Now my history is I let my friend
 die in my arms. I made it back,
 why couldn't he?

SPYROS

What you do, no other man can do.
 Have you not noticed?

PERSEUS

To what purpose? I failed him.

SPYROS

(scoffs)
 Purpose! Looking for purpose is
 what ensnares men in the
 superstition of the Gods, as
 surely as your friend was caught
 in that net. And all the
 searching leads down to the same
 place.

The trawler is approaching its home island, Seriphos.
 Perseus looks off at the rocky coast. Collects himself,
 quietly --

PERSEUS

You always say that my abilities
 are greater than other men's. But
 they were not enough to save him.

SPYROS

You are still a man, confined by
 man's limits. You are just as
 likely to fail as succeed.

PERSEUS

How is that greater than other
 men?

SPYROS

Ordinary men fail most of the
 time.

The trawler rounds a point on the island.

Perseus spies a beautiful girl on the cliff. A closer
 look -- *

A huntress; a pagan leather bandeau hugs her lithe
 figure. Flowers in her golden hair -- wilted dahlias. *
 Young yet ancient. THE WILTING GIRL. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She watches Perseus intently as the boat passes. He turns to see if Spyros or his friends have seen her, but no one has. When he looks back, she's gone.

EXT. PROMONTORY NEAR THE HOME OF SPYROS - MAGIC HOUR

Perseus sits looking sadly at the sea that killed his friend. TEKLA, 14, Perseus' adoptive sister, runs up from the modest stone dwelling. She sees his mood and touches his arm gently.

TEKLA

Mother wants you to come in for supper.

(as he is unresponsive)

Perseus, why are you so sad?

This breaks his spell. He looks at Tekla warmly, gets up and puts a reassuring arm around her shoulders as they head inside.

INT. HOME OF SPYROS - KITCHEN - NIGHT

Perseus eats with his adoptive family: Spyros, his wife MARMARA, and Tekla. Spyros is patient and twinkly with his wife though he disagrees with her beliefs.

TEKLA

I still don't understand.

SPYROS

Your mother can explain. She believes everything has an explanation, even if we have to make it up.

(off Marmara's warning look)

It's one of the reasons I love you, Marmara.

TEKLA

Tell me! Why is there war between Man and the Gods?

Marmara and Tekla continue to bring out the food.

MARMARA

At the beginning of time, when Man was young, he prayed to the Gods. His belief in the Gods gave his life meaning. It was a good thing.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPYROS

If you consider superstition, fear
and darkness good things...

MARMARA

(ignoring him)
But Man grew, as children do, and
he turned away from the Gods. He
began to put his faith in other
things.

Perseus watches the debate with fiery eyes.

TEKLA

What things?

SPYROS

Learning, science... love.

PERSEUS

(passionate)
... self-determination! Those
things that give Man dignity and
independence.

MARMARA

But what of the Gods, who had
protected and guided us so long?
They must breathe our prayers to
survive. They hunger for
worship --

SPYROS

-- as lions hunger for blood.

MARMARA

Spyros!
(to Tekla)
Your father's mind is closed on
these matters.

SPYROS

The Gods were desperate to claim
our awe again.

TEKLA

Desperate... the Gods?

SPYROS

Yes, even the Gods. If they could
not earn our faith with love, they
would demand it with fear.
Whatever was necessary to ensure
their continued existence.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Marmara and the wide-eyed Tekla sit down. *

MARMARA

And that is how war broke out
between Man and Gods.

(turning to serve

Perseus)

Now eat your dinner, which the
Gods -- and your father -- have
provided.

INT. HOME OF SPYROS - PERSEUS' ROOM - NIGHT

Middle of the night. Perseus lies wide awake in his tiny
space. He stares, thinking about his friend. Suddenly,
a KNOCK at the door. *

INT. HOME OF SPYROS - DOORWAY - NIGHT

Perseus opens the door to the Wilting Girl. Her beauty
electrifies him. She glows from within, but her color is
oddly faded, washed-out. *

PERSEUS

You... I saw you watching our boat
at the cliff.

WILTING GIRL

It was not the boat I was
watching.

PERSEUS

Can I be of service?

WILTING GIRL

Yes, of service. I need you to
come with me on a journey.

Perseus gives her a look.

PERSEUS

Right now?

(as she nods)

It wouldn't take much persuading
to get me to leave this village,
but tonight is impossible. My
family can't wake and find me
gone. Where do you want me to go?

WILTING GIRL

It's not what I want. I am in the
service of others.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Perseus can't get over her beauty, the dulcet sound of her voice. Even so --

PERSEUS

Come back in the morning and we can talk about it.

WILTING GIRL

I'm sorry.

PERSEUS

For what?

Perseus doesn't notice the black widow spider scurry between her feet. Then a centipede, a scorpion. Then a swarm, racing toward him. *

He feels the first spider and looks down. The creatures climb his legs, biting. Weakening from the venom, he stumbles back into the table, loses his balance and falls. *

PERSEUS' WOOZY POV

The Wilting Girl standing placidly in the doorway watching him. *

BACK TO SCENE

He blacks out. *

EXT. SMALL SAILBOAT (OPEN SEA) - DAY *

A white sail, swollen with wind, draws the small boat swiftly across the sea. The Wilting Girl, alone, sits quietly at the stern, effortlessly steering.

CLOSER

We SEE that she is also watching Perseus, who is sleeping in a makeshift bed in the bottom of the boat. Her eyes slowly travel over his bronzed, muscled frame. There are bite marks on his legs and arms, but they seem to be healing as we look at them.

Perseus stirs and wakes, squinting up at the Wilting Girl. *

PERSEUS

How long have I been out?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILTING GIRL

This time? Only a few hours. The time before, almost a day. How was your rest?

PERSEUS

I had a dream. I fell into a dark pit. I thought I would never stop falling. But a beam of light formed a soft net, caught me and tossed me back.

The Wilting Girl watches him.

PERSEUS

When I came back up to the world, a beautiful woman appeared and spoke to me. But as she spoke she would sometimes disappear into the whiteness with a strange sound. *

PERSEUS' POV

The Wilting Girl listens to his story.

BACK TO SCENE

PERSEUS

When I could hear her, she spoke nonsense. She said that my father was a God and my mother a --

At that moment the blinding-white sail swings between them as she tacks, obscuring his view of her for a moment. The wind makes a LOUD SNAPPING SOUND in the cloth. Then she reappears, the sail on her other side. *

PERSEUS' FACE

as he realizes she is his vision. *

WILTING GIRL

You are special, Perseus. Your birth was ordained for this very purpose.

PERSEUS

I am an ordinary man.

WILTING GIRL

Do you ever lie awake during a storm and listen to the thunder?

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILTING GIRL (CONT'D)

And it sounds as though it matches
the beating of your heart?

He doesn't have to answer; it's written on his face.

WILTING GIRL

How long can you hold your breath?
Longer than the others? Are there
times when you know you should
feel pain, but you don't?

PERSEUS

None of that means anything.

WILTING GIRL

Look at your arms, Perseus.

Perseus watches the bites on his arm heal visibly.

PERSEUS

A good trick. You must be the
demigod, not me.

WILTING GIRL

("no")
I'm a Chthonian.

PERSEUS

A Chthonian?

WILTING GIRL

An Earth Goddess.
(off Perseus'
confusion)

The Gods have a caste system just
as Men do. The Olympians are our
nobility -- few but cosmic. The
Chthonians are the peasants. Our
abode is this earth, and we exist
as long as Men worship us.

PERSEUS

And when none worship you?

Sadness flickers through her extraordinary eyes.

WILTING GIRL

(softly)
We fade away.

This touches Perseus deeply. His tone changes. *

PERSEUS

And demigods, where do they stand
in your hierarchy?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

WILTING GIRL

Nowhere. Sorry.

PERSEUS

If demigods rank so low, why do
you need me? *

WILTING GIRL

For a marriage.

PERSEUS

What!

WILTING GIRL

Zeus, God of Gods, has proposed a
treaty to end the war. At the
center is the marriage of a mortal
with a demigod.

PERSEUS

Who, me?

WILTING GIRL

Zeus himself has chosen you. A
demigod may be less than a God,
but he's more than a Man. One
foot in Humanity, the other in
Divinity. Your marriage will be a
symbol of accord between our
races.

PERSEUS

Forget it.

WILTING GIRL

Such a union could save millions
of souls.

Perseus is struck by that. He looks off across the sea.

PERSEUS

And just who exactly am I supposed
to marry?

INT. BASILICA (JOPPA) - SCULLERY CLOSET - DAY

CLOSEUP: A hot embrace. In the blur of movement our
first good look is at the GIRL, a beauty -- PRINCESSA
ANDROMEDA, 18. *The BOY is AGENOR, a kitchen helper -- ripped and sexy. *
It's hard to tell who's the aggressor here. Gasping, *
Andromeda holds him at bay -- *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANDROMEDA

Do you think you can manhandle a
Princess this way?

(as he kisses her)

As though she was hungry and needy
as you, a mere servant?

Another steamy kiss. In between liplocks, she whispers
hotly --

*
*

ANDROMEDA

... very mistaken... a woman of my
station... never be attracted...

They go at it again.

*

EXT. BASILICA - COLONNADE - DAY

*

A NIMBLE GIRL hurries past SERVANTS hanging laundry in
the atrium.

*
*

She's PESHET, handmaid to Princessa Andromeda. She has a
feline quality -- eyes, grace, agility. She raps on the
scullery door.

*
*
*

PESHET

Princess... Princess!

ANDROMEDA (O.S.)

(muffled from inside)

The Princess is not here.

(a squeal)

Find another... Princess.

PESHET

The Queen approaches!

*

ANDROMEDA (O.S.)

I don't care!

*

PESHET

Andromeda! You'll care enough if
you're caught! Remember last
time...

From inside we HEAR complaining, more kissing and
moaning.

CASSIOPEIA (O.S.)

Peshet!

Startled, Peshet spins to see the Queen approach.

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CASSIOPEIA

Where is the Princess? *

INT. SCULLERY CLOSET - SAME TIME

Andromeda freezes at her mother's voice, stops Agenor, *
finger to her lips. *He ignores her, starts again. Andromeda does something *
below the frame that jolts him off. The girl can take *
care of herself.

EXT. COLONNADE - SAME TIME *

Peshet faces the Queen. *

PESHET

Is she not in her chambers, ma'am? *

CASSIOPEIA

She is not. You are expected to *
know her -- *A SQUEAL and WHISPERING from the closet stops Cassiopeia. *
She throws a perturbed glance at the door. Peshet looks *
guilty. *

CASSIOPEIA

(loudly)

Tell the Princess -- should you *
find her -- her father and I want *
to see her at once. *

She stalks away. Urgently, through the door -- *

PESHET

Princess, it's the King as well! *

INT. BASILICA - ROYAL PARLOR - DAY *

A lavish room. Cassiopeia and Kepheus sit in golden *
chairs, looking off. Andromeda ENTERS FRAME, furious. *
With conviction -- *

ANDROMEDA

To please you, I would submit to *
such a marriage... except I would *
rather die. Please let me know *
you're serious about this perverse *
plan so I can make arrangements to *
kill myself. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She stomps out. Their gaze follows until she's gone.
Finally: *

KEPHEUS

It will take more than half-a-God
to handle her. *

CASSIOPEIA

She'll be a great ruler one day. *

EXT. SMALL SAILBOAT (COAST OF JOPPA) - DAY *

Perseus can't take his eyes off the Wilting Girl, who
steers. She tries not to be self-conscious; she would
blush were she not so pale. *

WILTING GIRL

You're looking in the wrong
direction.

PERSEUS

I don't think so.

WILTING GIRL

Perhaps you should give some
thought to your immediate future.

PERSEUS

(laughs, flirtatious)
That's what I'm doing.

WILTING GIRL

Maybe you should take another
look...

She indicates the view behind him. Perseus turns, jaw
dropping. *

HIS POV

A breathtaking view of Joppa -- a city in two parts.

At sea level, tangled hovels, boats, and docks crowd the
working-class area -- the LOWER WHARF.

Above, twisting stone stairs climb the cliffs to the
ACROPOLIS with its gleaming villas, temples, statues, and
colonnaded towers, hugging the precipice.

EXT. STREETS OF JOPPA - DAY *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Wilting Girl leads Perseus through the city. He's never seen anything like it. He rubbernecks, awestruck as he passes a BLACKSMITH who takes a dragon skin from the coals and fashions armor by pounding the white-hot scales over a mold.

WILTING GIRL

All the goods, armies, and culture
of Man's dominion flow through
this port. He who reigns in
Joppa, rules the world.

Amidst the exotic chaos, Perseus is struck by the homeless refugees on the street and the ruins of once-proud buildings.

PERSEUS

The war has badly scarred this place.

WILTING GIRL

It is the war you have the power to end.

He throws her an angry look, grim.

PERSEUS

Don't joke about such things. I'd be useless before such a huge responsibility.

WILTING GIRL

Perhaps you would be...
(to herself)
... as you are now.

They pass an evangelist (FANTASOS) haranguing a crowd.

FANTASOS

(mid-speech)
-- one true God is not Zeus but
she called the Deep -- Tiamat!
(quoting from his
gospel)
'Before the first dawn, the eyes
of the Deep watched the earth.'
(to the crowd)
Bow down to the Goddess of Chaos
or know despair, for Tiamat will
rule the heavens and the earth.

Perseus is mystified by this talk. He turns to Vidalia for explanation, but she seems disturbed by the preacher and does not return Perseus' gaze.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Perseus and Vidalia round a corner and see the regal
Basilica. WORKMEN hang banners and decorations,
preparing for a big event.

*
*
*

PERSEUS
What are they celebrating?

WILTING GIRL
You.

INT. BASILICA - ROYAL PARLOR - DAY

*

Cassiopeia hurries down a corridor to the parlor. WE
FOLLOW to find:

Kepheus speaking sternly to Perseus, before him.

KEPHEUS
... before I am a king or a
peacemaker, I am a father. Do you
know what that means?

PERSEUS
I'm not sure, Your Highness. I
did not know my father.

KEPHEUS
(thrown)
Yes, well... it means I had no
desire for my little girl's
carefree springtime to be cut
short --
(to Cassiopeia,
irritably)
What is she?

*

CASSIOPEIA
(embarrassed)
I'm sure she's preparing herself
to make the best possible
impression.

*

Perseus suppresses a smile, amused by the royal couple.
Kepheus paces with mounting impatience.

KEPHEUS
(lecturing Perseus
again)
-- and all so she could be thrust
into a momentous conflict... of
which she knows nothing at all.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PERSEUS

She's not the only one, sir. I don't know much about the events for which I've been drafted.

KEPHEUS

(disarmed, but tough guy)

I take no comfort in that, young man. In fact, I find little to take comfort in here. You are a stranger from a distant place, and I am asked to entrust the welfare of my daughter to you.

(leaning into Perseus)

If you are not kind and patient with her, if any harm of any kind should come her way, I will have your head on a stake.

Kepheus thinks he sees a smirk on Perseus' face. He puts his hand on the hilt of his sword.

KEPHEUS

Is this amusing to you?

PERSEUS

Not even a little, my lord. It's just that I myself was waylaid -- snatched also, as you say, from my happy springtime...

Kepheus studies him to see if he's making jest of him.

PERSEUS

... I've been told I'm to play a part in events which serve a higher purpose... of which I'm not at all convinced.

KEPHEUS

Does a truce in the war between Men and Gods not strike you as a higher purpose?

PERSEUS

With all respect, I have never seen a God. On my island, they're no more than a story.

KEPHEUS

You will learn there is more to this universe than is found on your island.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KEPHEUS (CONT'D)

(to Cassiopeia)

This is supposed to be the son of
a God, yet he doubts their
existence!

CASSIOPEIA

(to Perseus)

They exist, young man. But if you
doubt their power, I join you --

KEPHEUS

(angry)

Cassiopeia! We have agreed such
talk has no place in this palace.

CASSIOPEIA

(defiant)

Have we?

PERSEUS

I can only proceed based on what I
have experienced, not on a faith I
do not possess.

KEPHEUS

Where does a young person get such
ideas?

PERSEUS

Perhaps from my adopted father,
sir. I admire him greatly, and he
believes in little he cannot hold
in his hand.

KEPHEUS

Is he a scholar?

PERSEUS

No, Your Highness, a fisherman.

AMOUN (O.S.)

I know this mentor who so
influences young Perseus.

Amoun has silently entered the chamber. Perseus reacts
in amazement.

PERSEUS

Master Amoun!

He hurries over to the older man, who embraces him
warmly.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMOUN

Porpoise... You've grown tall and strong since my departure.

*
*

Perseus laughs at his old nickname and holds Amoun at arm's length.

PERSEUS

What are you doing here?

*

AMOUN

I am honored to serve the King as an advisor. His Magi Strategos.

*

PERSEUS

From my village tutor to Magi Strategos... What a path!

*

The King's patience is exhausted. To Cassiopeia --

KEPHEUS

Where is Andromeda? At the least, the two should meet before tomorrow's ceremony...

PERSEUS

(freaked)

Tomorrow? Is the wedding so soon?

CASSIOPEIA

The wedding comes later. Tomorrow we will have the public announcement.

AMOUN

And a celebration of the treaty.

A Page enters and whispers in Kepheus' ear. Kepheus is irritated.

*
*

KEPHEUS

It seems our Andromeda has wandered away.

Cassiopeia reacts, upset.

AMOUN

Perhaps the thought of her new life has made her frantic to enjoy the vestiges of her old one.

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KEPHEUS

Perseus, if you're to take the
wild girl for a wife, this is a
good time to start your training.
Go into the city and retrieve her.

PERSEUS

How will I know her?

CASSIOPEIA

She is unmistakable.

PERSEUS

I'm a stranger here. Any hints?

AMOUN

Follow the lights and the sound of
profane music.

EXT. BASILICA - SIDE ENTRANCE - MAGIC HOUR

The Wilting Girl slips into the dusk like a thief.

EXT. ALLEYWAY - MAGIC HOUR

The Wilting Girl steals down the dark, narrow alley,
headed toward the outskirts of town.

Suddenly, a heavy wall shoots up from the cobblestones,
blocking her way. She startles, but does not stop. She
goes up to the wall, turns at an angle and slides right
through the stone, like a ghost.

On the other side, she emerges from the stone, breathing
hard. She looks around and hurries down an intersecting
passageway.

She's gone only a few steps, when just ahead of her,
thick vines shoot out and form a dense barrier. She
takes a breath and dives into the surging growth.

She almost makes it through, but at the last moment,
vines wrap her arms and legs, holding her prisoner. She
gives up, with a sigh. We HEAR the LAUGHTER of a God.

WILTING GIRL

Zeus?

Zeus' rumbling voice is held low, talking to her in an
intimate way -- a beautiful sound.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ZEUS (V.O.)

Why do we have to play these
games, my lovely girl? You know
you cannot leave.

The vines retract, freeing her. She rubs where they
gripped her.

WILTING GIRL

My part is finished.

ZEUS (V.O.)

It has just begun. Have you
forgotten your place in this?

WILTING GIRL

As I've lost my believers, the
future has become dimmer to me.

ZEUS (V.O.)

I still believe in you. Close
your eyes and see your tomorrow.

She closes her eyes and takes a deep breath. A single
tear runs along her cheek. She opens her eyes.

WILTING GIRL

It's too painful. I can't involve
myself. *

ZEUS (V.O.)

You you already involved. Such is
fate. We cannot hide from the
. trials of our future... no matter
how dark the alleyway. *

She looks back at the Basilica with profound sadness.

EXT. STREETS OF JOPPA - MAGIC HOUR

Perseus roams, taking in the city with interest. Rich
and poor mix in the crowded streets. As always, the poor
have suffered the most from the conflict. *

EXT. OCEAN TERRACE - MAGIC HOUR

Perseus follows the MUSIC and the sound of LAUGHTER to a
crowded terrace overlooking the sea. Upper class YOUNG
PEOPLE are partying en masse. *

Perseus moves through the revelry, looking at every girl,
testing his instincts. Suddenly, he stops in his tracks,
looking off -- *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Andromeda is dancing at the center of attention, her
sheer gown enhancing her sensuality. The MUSIC ends.
Andromeda laughs and tosses her curly mane.

*
*
*

A HANDSOME YOUNG NOBLEMAN embraces her. She gives him a
deep kiss, causing a sensation, then breaks away into the
crush.

*
*

EXT. BALUSTRADE - MAGIC HOUR

Andromeda glides to the balustrade to watch the sunset.
The Young Nobleman approaches, but her imperious gesture
stops him cold.

*
*
*

PERSEUS (O.S.)

Very beautiful.

Andromeda spins, petulant.

ANDROMEDA

Will you please give me some
peace --

The sight of the handsome stranger gives her pause.

ANDROMEDA

What did you say?

PERSEUS

I said, 'Very beautiful.'

ANDROMEDA

Do you think just anyone can make
intimate judgements on the royal
family?

*
*

PERSEUS

I meant the sunset.

*

She regards Perseus over her glistening bare shoulder.

*

ANDROMEDA

Do you always start a seduction
with an insult?

Perseus moves to the rail, very close to her, and looks
at the sea.

PERSEUS

I know nothing of seduction. I'm
a simple fisherman. My home is
across that water.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANDROMEDA

What brings you here?

PERSEUS

To Joppa? I was kidnapped.

ANDROMEDA

I mean here, tonight.

He looks over at her a long moment.

PERSEUS

I've come to see my future wife.

Startled, Andromeda suddenly realizes who he is. A mad mix of emotions crosses her face.

EXT. GARDENS OF THE BASILICA - NIGHT

Perseus and Andromeda walk in moonlit gardens. She stays close, attracted to him.

ANDROMEDA

It's not personal. You're not a bad-looking boy.

(as Perseus laughs)

I'm too young. I don't want to be married.

PERSEUS

Me either.

ANDROMEDA

Then why are you doing it?

PERSEUS

No one asked me. And now that I've met you, I don't know if I can go through with it.

(off her look)

It's not personal. Seeing you makes it real. I think a man should make his own decisions. I won't be the pawn of a King or a God.

She looks at him with new interest.

ANDROMEDA

Since we agree, it's settled. No marriage.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PERSEUS

I don't think it's going to be
that simple.

Ignoring that, she takes his arm, moving even closer.

ANDROMEDA

That doesn't mean we can't be
friends. Get to know each other.
I want to show you something.

She leads him into a tall, hedged garden maze. *

EXT. THE BASILICA - GARDEN MAZE - NIGHT

Beautiful in the moonlight. She hurries him quickly
around one turn, then another, and another. He laughs at
her excitement. *

PERSEUS

I'm already lost. *

ANDROMEDA

I'll take care of you.

They take two more jogs and find themselves in an odd
sylvan chamber. Soft plants have been stacked in what
could be mistaken for a bed.

ANDROMEDA

This is my special place. No one
can see or hear or even find us
now.

PERSEUS

(looks around the
chamber)

I don't suppose I could escape
without your aid.

ANDROMEDA

Do you want to?

When he turns back to her, she melts into his arms and
gives him a long deep kiss. He's surprised, but handles
it well. When she tries to continue, he slows things
down, holding her at bay.

ANDROMEDA

Do you not find me attractive?

PERSEUS

One of the most beautiful women
I've ever seen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANDROMEDA

Of course, you haven't been much
in the world.

PERSEUS

True. Maybe a lot of girls look
like you.

ANDROMEDA

Don't you want to make love to
your almost-wife? Maybe we'll
find we're not compatible.

PERSEUS

What if we find we're very compat--

She stops him with another kiss. He starts to surrender
to his desire, but again, he stops. Her voice is a low
PURR --

ANDROMEDA

Is it true you're a demigod?

PERSEUS

(makes a face)

It seems what everyone wants to
believe.

Her face is inches from his. She looks into his eyes.
Sexy --

ANDROMEDA

I don't see it.

(as Perseus laughs)

But let's find out for sure...

She kisses him yet again, pulling him toward the bed of
foliage. He can no longer resist. Together they fall
into the softness. He kisses her passionately as their
bodies begin to move together. She breaks the kiss for
only a moment, her voice husky --

ANDROMEDA

I think I'm becoming a believer...

They start to make love.

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

SPEEDING OVER moonlit ocean TOWARD a dark castle on a
cliff. WE begin to HEAR the VOICES of Tiamat and Set.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SET (V.O.)

Tiamat, I know this place, but I
know not why.

EXT. THE PALACE OF ACRISIUS - BEDCHAMBER - NIGHT

The chamber, deserted for 25 years, is in decay, dead
vermin everywhere.

TIAMAT (V.O.)

In this chamber Zeus defiled the
Queen Danae and begat the anointed
demigod, who would facilitate this
foul truce.

INT. THE PALACE OF ACRISIUS - GREAT STAIRS - NIGHT

POV DESCENDING the great stairs. The skeletons of dead
guards and soldiers litter the stairs.

SET (V.O.)

Ah, the former palace of the
cursed Acrisius.

TIAMAT (V.O.)

The King who stood against Zeus
and was crushed for it, though he
was not the offender. But this is
not his former home...

INT. THE PALACE OF ACRISIUS - GREAT HALL - NIGHT

MOVING POV ACROSS the stones of the hall where we first
saw King Acrisius and his generals. Now, only bones and
rotting things.

TIAMAT (V.O.)

... still he dwells in rancid
hate, having killed his generals
and sucked their bones. We cannot
break the rules of Zeus and
interfere with the humans. But
this poor creature can do our work
and visit the would-be groom.

SET (V.O.)

What form of monster do you visit
upon Perseus?

There is an awful SOUND from the darkness of an archway.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIAMAT (V.O.)

What form, dear Set? Why this...

In the half-light appears the huge, deformed changeling:
KALIBOS.

TIAMAT (V.O.)

(to the monster)

My Servant, your lonely solitude
now ends... It's time to leave.

EXT. THE BASILICA - GARDEN MAZE - SUNRISE

Perseus wakes on the bed of foliage, looks around.
Andromeda is gone. He thinks, smiles. Then he remembers
his situation. The smile fades.

INT. THE BASILICA - GREAT HALL - EVENING

Perseus, in a white tunic and polished ceremonial armor,
moves through the crowd of REVELERS. The grandiose room
is hemmed by columns and statues. The royal family sits
on the dais. Andromeda motions Perseus up beside her.

ANDROMEDA

You're late.

PERSEUS

I didn't know how to get this
outfit on.

ANDROMEDA

I want to thank you for seeing me
home. I was so flushed with wine
I can't recall much of the
evening.

Perseus half smiles and turns to the crowd.

PERSEUS

Me either.

PERSEUS' POV - THE WILTING GIRL

watches from the back of the hall. When they make eye
contact, she quickly looks away.

BACK TO SCENE

Perseus is surprised by his feelings. Andromeda has seen
her, too. He has a guilty moment and averts his eyes.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANDROMEDA

At what point do you plan to tell
them we're not getting married?

PERSEUS

Tell who?

ANDROMEDA

(a sweeping gesture)
Them...

FROM BEHIND THEM

We see the ecstatic crowd of thousands, all celebrating
the union. MUSIC STOPS and the crowd begins to settle.

*
*

ROYAL HERALD (O.S.)

The Queen will speak!

The room QUIETS as Cassiopeia moves front-and-center of
the dais with a cup of wine, not her first.

*

CASSIOPEIA

I won't be long-winded. You all
know I am a modest person, no
matter my rank.

Some of the crowd react silently. Andromeda watches her
mother with trepidation, but not as much as Kepheus,
watching from his throne.

CASSIOPEIA

(with edge)
This is not a celebration of a
betrothal...
(as Kepheus is on
alert)
... not the celebration of the
happiness of two parents, or of
our good people.

*
*
*
*
*
*
*

Mild confusion in the hall, concern from the Royal
Entourage.

*
*

CASSIOPEIA

This union represents new hope for
a lasting peace! That is the only
cause for celebration.

*
*
*
*

The crowd reacts with exclamations and applause. Amoun
wills her to stop. Cassiopeia takes another drink, looks
over at the Princess.

*
*
*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

CASSIOPEIA

(moist-eyed)

My sweet Andromeda... grown into a
fine young woman, confident and
sure. Look at her! Isn't she
beautiful?

Her subjects agree loudly. Andromeda wishes this would
end. Cassiopeia raises her glass.

CASSIOPEIA

To my beautiful daughter... more
beautiful than all the women of
Joppa. More beautiful than the
Gardens of Nineveh...

Kepheus is about to pull her away. She throws him a
spiteful glance.

CASSIOPEIA

More beautiful than the turquoise
ocean and its sublime Goddess of
the Deep... Tiamat herself! My
daughter is a beauty even a
Goddess must envy.

Amoun reacts in dismay. A distressed MURMUR roils the
crowd. Andromeda goes to her mother.

CASSIOPEIA

I've gone on too long --

She stops with a look of sudden dread. The Great Hall
DARKENS. The torch flames TURN BLACK. The temperature
drops. The statues lining the hall shut their eyes and
the doors burst open.

TIAMAT, QUEEN OF THE DEEP, floats forward, parting the
terrified celebrants. Perseus sees his first Olympian.
Tiamat arrives at the dais. Cassiopeia drops to her
knees.

TIAMAT

You have blasphemed powers beyond
understanding... You, a stupid
braying goat before the
unfathomable galaxies. You dare
put this frivolous, scrawny
slut...

(as Andromeda
flinches)

... above the infinite Goddess of
the Deep!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Tiamat tears off her cloak and STANDS NAKED. Her body,
made from the elements of the sea, is magnificent -- sexy
and terrifying. *

Fantasos, the priest who proselytizes for Tiamat in the
streets, is in the throng. His reaction is a mix of
religious ecstasy and outright lust. *

The celebrants shield their eyes, but Cassiopeia can't.
She crumples, aging before our eyes. Every word shakes
her frame -- *

TIAMAT

Look upon the sublime and know
your error. You'll not blink.
Tell me now, mortal, how bright
your preening urchin shines?

No one dare look long at the Goddess. No one but
Perseus. Tiamat notices Perseus... and his boldness. *

TIAMAT

People of Joppa, hear me. For the
sacrilege of this arrogant
creature, I will loose Leviathan
upon you.

The people react in terror. Cassiopeia starts to faint,
but Tiamat snaps her back to consciousness -- *

TIAMAT

I'm not finished. Hold your gaze.
(to the people)
For thirty days, Joppa shall
suffer the scorn of Leviathan.
And on the final day, you will be
wiped from the earth. *

(as the crowd quakes)
Unless... *

Instant silence.

TIAMAT

... unless you sacrifice that body
so impertinently compared to this
Goddess --
(turning to
Andromeda)
-- your beloved, worthless
Princessa.

Andromeda GASPS. Shock everywhere. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIAMAT

This is my will, Joppa.
Desolation or sacrifice. Choose
your penance. You can thank
your...

(looks at Cassiopeia)
... sickly, aged Queen.

Clouds of black sea ink swirl and swallow Tiamat, then
implode. Tiamat is gone. Cassiopeia, palsied and
withered, collapses. Kepheus and Royal Aides rush to
her.

EXT. OCEAN FLOOR - NIGHT

An immense school of fish is SUDDENLY SPOOKED. An EERIE
GLOW swells in the gloom -- Tiamat glides TOWARD us, *
stops and raises her palm. The silt SWIRLS and RIPPLES. *

A VAST PRIMORDIAL SHAPE SLOWLY RISES in clouds of ocean *
mud. It's impossible to see what this creature looks *
like, but it is big. We hear a deafening ROAR, which *
drives a SHOCKWAVE across the silt. *

EXT. OCEAN SURFACE - NIGHT

The sea bulges and a TSUNAMI rolls toward the shores of *
Joppa. *

EXT. JOPPA'S LOWER WHARF - NIGHT

Dark docks and shanties under the cliffs, populace *
asleep. *

A lone FISHERMAN unloads nets from his boat. Suddenly, *
the water under his boat is sucked out to sea. A deep *
RUMBLE shakes the ground. *

The fisherman is mesmerized as the horizon CLIMBS higher *
and higher, a WALL OF WATER. In seconds, the colossal *
wave breaks and falls, obliterating the boat, the docks *
and the low-lying shanties. *

INT. ROYAL CHAMBERS - NIGHT

Cassiopeia lies blank and wan. A LOW DRONE grows. *
Kepheus rushes to the window. And then, a deep, EARTH- *
SHATTERING BELLOW from the creature. The room SHUDDERS. *

KEPHEUS

Leviathan awakes...

INT. BASILICA - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

A figure passes by a window in silhouette -- Andromeda steals through the shadows toward the Throne Room. *

INT. BALCONY ABOVE THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Andromeda edges into position to see the room below. *

AMOUN (O.S.)

... Leviathan -- First dweller of the deep. Hewn by Tiamat from the dark blood of the earth...

HER POV

A council of VICEROYS and MINISTERS gathered before Kepheus, who seems lost in thought, head down. Perseus stands off to the side. *

INT. THRONE ROOM - NIGHT

Amoun reads from a scroll. *

AMOUN

... All monsters of the sea are but shadows of Leviathan the Kraken -- colossal, rapacious, and nigh indestructible. *

The men turn to Kepheus; when he raises his face, he looks exhausted. *

KEPHEUS

My Queen lies near death. Am I now to choose between the survival of our state... and the life of Andromeda, my only child? *

Amoun watches Perseus, at the fringe of the group, expectantly. But Perseus looks only perplexed, an observer. *

MINISTER OF DEFENSE

I beg you, do not even consider such a sacrifice -- *

KEPHEUS

(raging)
Do you tell me only what you think I wish to hear!

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KEPHEUS (CONT'D)

The citizens of Joppa are fighting
for their lives. Would you have
me gamble the city to save one
girl?

Again, Amoun looks to Perseus.

MINISTER OF DEFENSE

You need make no such choice, Your
Highness. Andromeda must be
saved, and the city too.

KEPHEUS

Impossible.

AMOUN

(turning from
Perseus)

No... We need only the will to do
it.

KEPHEUS

You spoke the words -- the monster
is indestructible!

PERSEUS

(quietly)

How can that be?

Amoun alone takes notice: he spins toward Perseus, with
relief.

AMOUN

Perseus! You had something you
wanted to say to the King?

All eyes turn to Perseus, who shrinks before them, self-
conscious.

PERSEUS

What? No, Master Amoun. I'm
listening.

AMOUN

You're 'listening'? We're talking
about the precious life of your
betrothed.

Perseus meets his gaze, confused.

PERSEUS

I'm a newcomer here. I would not
presume to tell these men --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMOUN

Exactly! A newcomer with a fresh perspective. Share your thoughts with the King, your future father-in-law.

*
*
*
*
*

The Ministers are puzzled by Amoun's persistence. Perseus, uncertainly --

*
*

PERSEUS

I know that I am young and have not seen much of the world, but it seems to me that nothing is indestructible.

The Ministers react to the young man's arrogance.

SPYROS (O.S.)

I am far from young and have seen much of the world... and I agree with my son.

Everyone turns to the new arrival: Perseus' adoptive father, Spyros. Perseus goes to embrace him.

*
*

PERSEUS

Father, how did you find me?

KEPHEUS

I thought this boy's father was a God. How does a stranger walk unmolested into the Throne Room of the King?

AMOUN

I sent for him, Lord. This good man raised Perseus from infancy. He will help him now.

*
*
*

KEPHEUS

Help him with what?

SPYROS

With whatever is needed...

Perseus approaches the King. Surprising himself --

*

PERSEUS

He will help me destroy Leviathan.

Spyros does a double-take, then swallows: "Yeah, okay, sure."

UP ON THE BALCONY *

Andromeda reacts, falling in love with Perseus. *

IN THE THRONE ROOM *

KEPHEUS

But how?

Perseus has no idea. *

AMOUN

Majesty, we can seek the counsel
of the Norn Sisters of Skolothia.
They know the hidden ways of the
Gods. If Leviathan can be slain,
they'll know how to do it. *

PERSEUS

We have thirty days to find its
weakness.

MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR *

Twenty-nine.

PERSEUS

(flashes him a look)
We'll leave tonight.

KEPHEUS

With what army? I dare not weaken
our forces when the city is about
to be besieged. *

PERSEUS

(uncertain, glances
at Spyros)
We'll go alone. *

SPYROS

(catching up)
Yes. Give us a map. *

Amoun laughs. When some of the others join in, the King
gives them a look that stops them dead.

AMOUN

My King, with your permission...

The King assents, seemingly lost. Amoun speaks to
Perseus.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMOUN

I'll give you a map and much more.
 I'll go with you and bring a small
 band of comrades to help you on
 your mission. We can leave at
 first light.

(to his Aide)

Diokles, the map.

The men move to the work area, where the Aide selects a
 map from dozens. Something catches Perseus' eye.

PERSEUS' POV

Andromeda, up in the balcony, has made herself visible
 only to him. She silently mouths these words --
 "Thank... you."

AT THE MAP

which has been hung for all to see, Amoun uses a pointer.

AMOUN

We head north on the Via Dahlia.
 If we can make it to the Disputed
 Territories...

MOVE IN ON the tip of Amoun's pointer on the map...

AMOUN (O.S.)

... we'll join the Cleon desert
 legion, the most formidable unit
 in all the army... With their
 escort, we can safely reach our
 destination in Skolothia, which
 lies to the east...

We DISSOLVE THROUGH the map and pointer, which remain
 LIGHTLY SUPERIMPOSED over the following:

EXT. VIA DAHLIA - DAY

MUSIC SWELLS as we see THE FULL EXPEDITION on horseback,
 on the main road north. As they come over a rise, Amoun
 identifies them:

First, two fearsome Mongols, MONGKE and TAMBURLANE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMOUN (V.O.)

Our guides will be Mongke and
Tamburlane, father and son monster
hunters from the Kingdom of the
Iron Horde. *

Next, THE PRAETORIAN GUARD, commanded by a square-jawed
old soldier, DRACO. His men, in heavy armor: KOSMO,
Draco's lieutenant, and the soldiers ABAS, ICOS, THAD,
BOREAS, KRİKOR, and POLLUC. *

AMOUN (V.O.)

Our escort will be a detachment of
the Praetorian Guard, led by
Commander Draco -- the staunchest
security force in Joppa. *

Next, on a stunning pale horse, a pale rider -- the
Wilting Girl. *

PERSEUS (V.O.)

Why do we bring the Earth Goddess
into this danger? *

AMOUN (V.O.)

I thank the stars we have her.
Besides, she takes her orders from
an authority much greater than I. *

Next, Spyros; horseback riding is not one of his many
skills. Behind him, Perseus and Amoun ride talking -- *

PERSEUS

Amoun, it seems an odd coincidence
you came into my life as tutor, so
long ago, and now, once again you
instruct me. *

AMOUN

(laughs)

No matter what you believe,
Porpoise, some things are fated.
I've been looking forward to this
journey for a long, long time. *

He spurs his horse, riding ahead. Spyros drops back
beside Perseus.

SPYROS

Who would have thought we'd be on
a journey like this? Two simple
fishermen.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PERSEUS

I'm afraid I've dragged you into
real danger, Father, when I have
little idea of what I'm doing.

*
*
*

SPYROS

Living at the mercy of the sea so
long has convinced me some
adventures are unexpected and some
dangers unavoidable. It's all in
your attitude.

*
*
*
*
*

PERSEUS

What's our attitude about
destroying Leviathan?

*

SPYROS

The Kraken is just another big
fish.

*

Perseus smiles, but is not as sanguine.

*

EXT. TIAMAT'S PALACE-GALLEON (OCEAN) - PROW - NIGHT

*

Tiamat's Palace-Galleon is bigger than anything man can
construct. Tiamat is at the prow of the vessel, using
all her godly power to STIR THE ELEMENTS. With great
effort, she sends a hurricane down on Joppa.

*
*
*
*

Set the Void approaches the prow.

*
*
*

TIAMAT

The demigod and his retinue are
joined. They march for the
counsel of the Norn Sisters, to
seek the frailty of my Leviathan.

SET

(concerned)
The Sisters...

TIAMAT

Yes. I beseech you, track the
expedition.

SET

To plainly thwart them would
betray our intentions and draw the
wrath of Zeus and the others.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIAMAT

That, we cannot have. I merely
suggest that the road to Skolothia
is hazardous.

*
*

SET

I take your meaning. And your
loyal brute, he is fixed upon the
hunt?

*
*
*

TIAMAT

Fear not, he is about and he will
do his share of damage.

*
*
*

Set leaves. Tiamat resumes stirring the storm clouds.

*

INT. THE BASILICA - ANDROMEDA'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT

Tiamat's storm is pounding Joppa. LIGHTNING stabs
through the dark clouds. RAIN POUNDS the tiles outside
Andromeda's lavish bedroom.

*

Peshet glides to Andromeda, who's wide awake, red-eyed,
distressed.

*
*

PESHET

You must sleep.

(off no reaction)

Princess! You must take care of
yourself.

A CRACK OF THUNDER. Andromeda looks over at her,
thinking.

*
*

ANDROMEDA

My father was ready to sacrifice
me to the monster.

PESHET

I'm sure that is not so.

ANDROMEDA

I saw it. I heard the words. My
loving father, his beloved child.
Only Perseus stayed his decision.

*
*

(tears come)

And do you know the worst part,
Peshet? He was right.

Peshet's feline eyes widen. More LIGHTNING.

ANDROMEDA

The city is besieged, the people
suffer.

*
*

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANDROMEDA (CONT'D)
Because of me, because he did not
offer me up. Is that right?

PESHET
Go to sleep, my lady.

ANDROMEDA
(wiping her eyes)
Sleep? Sleep will come soon
enough for me, faithful one. In
one month... at the latest.

The palace shakes with the ROLLING THUNDER. *

EXT. THE VIA DAHLIA - NIGHT

The sound of that same DISTANT THUNDER as the Expedition
follows the road. To the south behind them, LIGHTNING
FLASHES over faraway Joppa. *

SUPERIMPOSE: THE VIA DAHLIA, NORTH OF JOPPA... 28 DAYS
REMAINING

Perseus and the Wilting Girl ride side by side. Perseus
looks back at the distant storm. *

PERSEUS
Joppa is pummelled by the Dark
Goddess.

WILTING GIRL
(without looking)
It will not stop. Tiamat knows no
mercy. *

The moonlight illuminates a crumbling, limestone arch on
which time-worn letters read: "VIA DAHLIA."

PERSEUS
By what name may mortals call you? *

WILTING GIRL
I have no name.

PERSEUS
Who do your worshippers pray to?

WILTING GIRL
I can't remember.

PERSEUS
Perhaps that is why they are
falling in number?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Wilting Girl flinches, and Perseus feels guilty about his jest.

PERSEUS

I have to call you something...
(thinking)
Since we're naming you on this
road, what about 'Via Dahlia'?

She gives him a sharp look. Is he mocking her? He's defensive.

PERSEUS

That's a pretty name. Wait,
better yet -- 'Vidalia'? How's
that... 'Vidalia'? That's more
than pretty, beautiful really,
just as you are.

She is pleased, self-conscious, concentrating on the road ahead.

PERSEUS

You don't like it?
(as she murmurs)
What's that? I missed it --

WILTING GIRL

(just loud enough to
hear)
I do not object.

She picks up the pace, moving her horse a little ahead.
He smiles.

EXT. FOREST CLEARING (VIA DAHLIA) - NIGHT

They've camped for the night in a clearing. A fire
burns, food cooks.

Mongke and Tamburlane emerge from the woods with armfuls
of timber and kindling. Draco glances up from striking
his flintstone. Gruffly --

DRACO

More.

The Mongols stare -- either not comprehending or ready to
fight.

DRACO

It must last all night. Get some
more.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PERSEUS
 (suddenly between
 them)
 I'll find some more.

ABAS
 Commander, I'll get some, too.

Perseus and Abas head off into the woods in different directions.

EXT. VIA DAHLIA WOODS - NIGHT

Perseus hacks branches and picks up deadwood. He slashes at a tree -- TING! Under the vines is a stone column. He climbs mossy steps.

EXT. ABANDONED BATH (THERMAE) - NIGHT

The ruins of a public bath, its marble pool fed by a stream.

Perseus sees Vidalia on the far side, her back turned. Perseus freezes as she drops her garment. He peers through the vines.

HIS POV

The leaves offer tantalizing cover to her naked body. She dives in with a quiet SPLASH.

BACK TO SCENE

PERSEUS
 Now is when an honorable man would
 turn around and walk away...
 (doesn't move)
 ... but they say I am not really a
 man.

Vidalia surfaces and drifts on her back, looking sadly into the sky.

Perseus fixates on the sadness in her eyes. His expression changes, and the tenor of this stolen vigil is altered.

RAINDROPS fall as the SKY OPENS and a CLOUDBURST pelts the pool. Vidalia opens her lips to taste the rain and smiles. LIGHTNING.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Perseus' HEART POUNDS in his ears as he watches. KRA-KOOM! The ROLLING THUNDER hits exactly on his heartbeat -- BOOM, BOOM, BOOM!

Vidalia instantly knows he is nearby. She looks around quickly and huddles in the water.

Perseus retreats. After a few yards, he stops, face flushed with the awareness of a whole new dilemma. *

PERSEUS

Vidalia...

EXT. ELSEWHERE IN THE VIA DAHLIA WOODS - NIGHT *

Abas uses his sword to HACK at dried wood. He bends to pick up a branch when he HEARS the CRACK of wood. He whirls, sword at ready. But there is nothing there. *

Embarrassed, he picks up the firewood. Now he HEARS something unidentifiable -- is that BREATHING? Spooked, he turns to head back to camp -- *

A DARK FIGURE is standing behind him, larger than a man, grotesquely misshapen. Abas raises his sword, but a twisted PAW swats it away with a ROAR. Abas tries to raise the sword again and realizes his arm is gone. He looks up in horror as the Creature envelops him -- *

-- KALIBOS! *

EXT. CEDAR FOREST - DAY *

Only a few streaks of sunlight penetrate the canopy of tall cedars. *

SUPERIMPOSE: THE CEDAR FOREST OF THE ILLYRIAN BORDER...
24 DAYS REMAINING

Here slumbers an enormous hybrid creature with human features and a leathery, scaled hide -- HUMBABA. *

Suddenly, Set the Void appears. The evil God strokes the sleeping monster's head, then reaches inside Humbaba's skull. The animal goes stiff; its leg twitches. *

SET

Hear me, my pet. Let my instructions be seared to your primal mind as natural law.

The monster's eyes shoot open; its pupils shrink to pinpoints.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SET

You are starving. Your gut says
you'll soon perish. No earthly
meat will still that hunger. What
you need, what you ache for, is
the flesh of... a demigod!

EXT. CEDAR FOREST ROAD - DAY

Nearby, the Expedition (minus Abas) rests. Not here:
Perseus, Draco, Icos, and Boreas. *

EXT. CEDAR FOREST CLEARING - DAY

A herd of winged horses, PEGASSI, graze. *

Draco, Boreas, Icos and Perseus -- thrilled -- hide in a
thicket.

DRACO

Pegassi, stallions of the Gods.

ICOS

Perseus. How long do you think
you could stay on one of those?

Icos and Boreas exchange a sly look. *

BOREAS

Don't goad the boy, Icos. No Man
can ride a Pegasus.

ICOS

Did not Bellerophon tame the Great
White Pegasus?

BOREAS

You're right. But he was a
demigod... *

PERSEUS

(eager)
Then this will be a good way to
find out just what I am. *

DRACO

Stop it, rogues. One of our own
has disappeared without a trace
and all you can think is to cause
mischief. What if Perseus is
bucked to his death from a
thousand feet up? *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

BOREAS

Don't worry, Commander, the boy
won't even get on its back.

*
*

With a "watch this" grin, Perseus rises. Draco pulls him
back down.

*
*

DRACO

Don't do this. If we go back to
camp right now, we can avoid
trouble and keep our goal in
sight. A true leader will not be
distracted.

*
*
*
*
*
*

PERSEUS

I'm not the leader, Draco, Amoun
is. I'm too young to start
avoiding trouble.

*
*
*
*

Perseus jumps up and approaches a roan Pegasus, speaking
soothingly. It WHINNIES and threshes its wings,
buffeting Perseus with gusts.

*
*

The Pegasus rears up, and leaps over Perseus' head. It
lands behind him, bucks its hind legs, and kicks Perseus
face-first into the dirt.

*
*

Icos and Boreas are laughing, but when Draco gives them a
dark look, Boreas jumps up, sobered, and heads into the
clearing.

BOREAS

I'll collect him right now,
Commander.

Suddenly, Humbaba erupts from the thicket with a HOWL.

*

The Pegassi take flight, but the Humbaba grabs one and
swallows it whole. Humbaba turns and SNIFFS the air,
homing in on Perseus.

*
*
*

DRACO

Perseus, get out of there! Icos,
fetch the others.

*
*

Icos bolts. Draco and Boreas leap into the clearing with
swords drawn to draw the monster's attention. Perseus
does the same.

*
*
*

DRACO

I told you to run, boy. You'll
make things worse.

*
*

EXT. CEDAR FOREST ROAD - DAY

Hearing the ROARS, the Expedition is already up. Icos arrives.

A Humbaba!
ICOS

Mongke and Tamburlane fly into the woods; the others follow.

EXT. CEDAR FOREST CLEARING - DAY

The reinforcements arrive to see Humbaba pin Boreas with its talons.

Boreas!
DRACO

Draco hacks at the monster's leg, to no avail. It rips off Boreas' head and swallows his body.

Perseus CRIES OUT and leaps at the creature, sword swinging.

AMOUN
No, Perseus!

VIDALIA
Get back!

Vidalia spins her shepherd's sling to pitch lead sling-bullets. Spyros leaps between Perseus and the monster and thrusts his weapon -- a VICIOUS-LOOKING HARPOON/BOAT HOOK.

Tamburlane hoists an ancient BAZOOKA. Mongke lights the fuse and backs away. KA-BOOM! The weapon belches fire and metal.

The Humbaba staggers from the shot, but lunges and swallows Mongke whole. Spyros sinks his harpoon in one leg, but has it ripped from his hands.

VIDALIA
A delusion is planted in its mind.
It thinks it's starving and it
wants to feed on --
(suddenly
understanding)
-- YOU!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Humbaba's eyes bulge with surprise as a saber pierces its nose. From inside, Mongke pries open the beast's mouth with his saber. *

VIDALIA

I can't reverse the powerful curse. But if the monster's hungry, I can feed it.

Vidalia raises her arms and shuts her eyes. A cyclone of CAWING RAVENS descends from the sky and dives straight into the monster's mouth. As the Humbaba tries to shake them away, Mongke is thrown clear. *

VIDALIA

(to Draco)

Now! The belly! Slash the belly!

Draco moves to do that when Perseus leaps forward, lunges and sweeps his blade up Humbaba's belly at the same moment Draco sweeps down. The two blades barely miss each other, opening a huge X in the belly. The others are shocked and impressed by Perseus. Steaming purple entrails spill over Perseus and Draco. HUMBABA CRASHES TO THE GROUND.

The flock of ravens, liberated from Humbaba's gut, shake the viscera from their feathers and take flight.

EXT. THE CEDAR FOREST - STREAM - DAY *

Perseus, somber, washes the creature's guts from his arms and legs. He turns to find Vidalia standing above him, furious.

VIDALIA

I should cast a spell upon you and leave you forever a stone upon this stream.

PERSEUS

I didn't beckon the Humbaba.

VIDALIA

You did, with your childish recklessness, and Boreas has paid the price! *

Perseus, already rife with guilt, is stung by the truth. *

VIDALIA

Your safety is entrusted to me by the mightiest power on Olympos. *

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VIDALIA (CONT'D)

But without a thought, you risk
life and limb, your own and your
fellows'.

*
*
*

PERSEUS

The monster killed my friend. I
could not contain my rage. But
you, Goddess, are aloof from the
emotions of Men.

*

Vidalia's eyes narrow, enraged.

VIDALIA

Yes, a tyrannical Goddess, who
dares question your mad rush to
annihilation.

(quietly intense)

The hopes of multitudes reside
with you. You're late in learning
you cannot act upon every impulse.

*
*

She whirls and walks away. Perseus is left with the
weight of his culpability... and the beginning of
knowledge.

*
*
*

INT. SECRET SANCTUARY OF TIAMAT (JOPPA) - NIGHT

*

A CADRE of REVOLUTIONARIES led by Fantasos is gathered.
Agenor, the handsome scullion who made love to Andromeda,
leads Peshet in from the rain. She is frightened; Agenor
has misled her.

*
*
*
*

PESHET

Where have you brought me?

AGENOR

It's okay...

*
*

Peshet tries to leave, but Agenor stops her.

*

AGENOR

Just listen to this good man. He
needs your help.

Fantasos comes forward. He fixes her with a hypnotic
gaze.

*
*

FANTASOS

Do you know who I am, child?

PESHET

You are the Priest of the Streets.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FANTASOS

That's right. You know that the good common people of Joppa trust that I will look after their welfare.

PESHET

Some do...

FANTASOS

Do you love the people of Joppa, Peshet?

(as she nods,
frightened)

Do you want them to be destroyed by this awful curse?

(as she shakes her
head)

No, of course not. You want what's best for the people.

PESHET

I have always served the royal family.

FANTASOS

Yes, you have, good Peshet. And now you may be in a better position than anyone to help the Princessa save the city.

EXT. PHRYGANA SCRUBLAND - NIGHT

Amoun smokes his pipe by the dying campfire. Perseus approaches.

PERSEUS

Master Amoun... You knew about me, didn't you? When you came to our village?

AMOUN

Your birth was written in the stars. I sought you out and took it as my cause to teach you.

PERSEUS

You chose a poor student. I have learned little and my mistakes cost dearly.

AMOUN

Understanding that is the first step toward knowledge.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PERSEUS

It won't do Boreas any good.

AMOUN

You can honor Boreas by the way
you act from this moment forward.

PERSEUS

I'm no demigod, Tutor. I'm not
even much of a human.

AMOUN

It is not your choice. You are
what you are. *Amor fati*, Perseus.
'Love thy fate.'

PERSEUS

I do not believe my fate is to be
half a God. No demigod could feel
as confused as I do tonight.

AMOUN

Concentrate on the task before
you. All answers will come with
that.

PERSEUS

Tell me of the Cleon Desert
Legion.

AMOUN

A fierce group. Trained to
fight...

Amoun's DESCRIPTION CONTINUES as we --

CUT TO:

EXT. SIROQUE VALLEY - NIGHT

SUPERIMPOSE: CLEON DESERT LEGION BIVOUAC, THE DISPUTED
TERRITORIESThe desert camp of the Legion is lit by torches. The
LEGION SOLDIERS are handsome, powerful career warriors,
going about their evening business -- eating, cleaning
weapons, washing.

AMOUN (V.O.)

... behind enemy lines.

A LOOKOUT peers into the dark desert, listening. Now he
HEARS something, turns and shouts to another SENTRY:

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

LOOKOUT

The Night Patrol returns on the
Gorge Road!

That message is shouted along from Sentries to Guards in
the camp.

OUT IN THE DARKNESS on the dusty Gorge Road, a dozen
Soldiers gallop in GROUND-SHAKING FORMATION toward the
firelit encampment.

AMOUN (V.O.)

... They've been chasing Djinn
Raiders in the mountains for
years.

PERSEUS (V.O.)

Djinn Raiders?

AMOUN (V.O.)

Yes, Godly zealots, supposedly
insane. They fight like Hades
himself is keeping score...

From the dark SURROUNDING DESERT, WE SEE the Night Patrol
ride into camp and dismount.

AMOUN (V.O.)

... That's how the Desert Legion
came to be called 'God-slayers.'
I'm not ashamed to say I'll be
relieved to have their protection
the rest of the way...

Amoun's Voice FADES. TILT DOWN TO the barren, desert
flats. Suddenly, a miracle transforms the moonlit
scrub --

Strange, beautiful MAGENTA FLOWERS sprout magically where
there had been only dirt and cacti. The LOTUS BLOSSOMS
surround the camp.

EXT. MOUNTAIN RIDGE (SIROQUE VALLEY) - NIGHT

The Cleon camp is just twinkling lights from here on the
mountain. Startlingly, a huge DEFORMED PAW/CLAW/HOOF
scrapes onto a boulder. Pulling himself INTO VIEW in
repulsive CLOSEUP -- Kalibos. (There, within his
frightening visage, is the distinctive crooked scar we
noticed on the jaw of Acrisius in his human form.)

When his twisted body has gained purchase, he looks up
the mountain. AN EERIE LIGHT illuminates his awestruck
countenance. Above him --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

-- Tiamat, ensconced in a natural throne of rock.
Turning a Lotus blossom in her hand, she smiles on
Kalibos, like a benevolent mother.

TIAMAT

My loyal friend. It is beneath
you to stalk this band of infidels
one by one. Events demand more
decisive action.

Kalibos' SPEECH is as tortured and deformed as his body --

KALIBOS

Grorashnrd... I to be... ruler...
rhodirs... made whole...
sovfrenty... kingdom mine...

TIAMAT

Yes, Kalibos, the time is nigh
when I restore you to your
rightful form -- proud Acrisius.
With me, your protector, on the
throne of Olympos... the violator
Zeus deposed.

Kalibos reacts, with what must be satisfaction.

TIAMAT

Go down into this valley. See
what I am building for you -- an
army dangerous and fearless as
you, their leader.

EXT. CLEON LEGION BIVOUAC - PREDAWN

Several Soldiers have been drawn from camp by the
IRRESISTIBLE FRAGRANCE of the Lotus flowers. They pluck
petals and chew them.

The rest of the Legion filters out between the tents to
take their fill of the drug.

Kalibos watches the handsome, powerful warriors from
across the field of Lotus blossoms.

INT. THE BASILICA - ANDROMEDA'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT

Peshet comes into the dark room and looks at the lump on
Andromeda's bed. On instinct, she hurries to the bed and
throws off the covers -- a pile of cushions, no
Andromeda. Peshet races out.

EXT. THE ACROPOLIS - NIGHT *

Peshet sprints through the RAIN, dodging the REFUGEES and CITIZENS like a cat, peering under each hood, searching for her mistress. *

EXT. THE ACROPOLIS - COVERED PLAZA - NIGHT *

On the plaza, a rabid throng of Refugees. Fantasos, the Revolutionary leader, exhorts the mob, surrounded by BODYGUARDS, including Agenor. As before, Fantasos seems to have actual hypnotic powers. *

FANTASOS *

How much are we meant to suffer? *
Where is your mighty King? Safely *
cloistered above the flood... on *
the high ground, with the high- *
born -- the privileged gentry!... *

The angry crowd responds, fists shaking. Peshet moves through the throng, desperately looking for Andromeda. She passes close to the rostrum and Fantasos registers her presence. *

FANTASOS *

... Does Kepheus worry about you? *
No! Only the Princessa... And *
still, the Kraken comes! Does the *
King build his defenses at the *
water's edge? *

"NO!" cries the crowd. Peshet is shocked to find herself replying with them -- "NO!" Fantasos motions for Agenor to continue the harangue, while Fantasos hurries off the stage. *

AGENOR *

No! He makes his stand at his *
daughter's chamber door!... We *
will show Kepheus we're not *
sacrificial fodder. We will *
tremble the walls of his Basilica! *

RABID SUPPORT from the mob. Peshet stops suddenly, peering ahead. *

HER POV *

at the fringe of the crowd, Andromeda herself watches from the anonymity of a hooded cloak, terrified. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

 AGENOR (O.S.)

 Andromeda is the one Tiamat wants!
 We die so she may live...

As the crowd EXPLODES, Andromeda hurries away in tears.
Peshet fights through the crush to follow her.

EXT. THE ACROPOLIS - ALLEY - NIGHT

Peshet rounds a corner, frustrated. Andromeda is gone.
A hand grabs Peshet's shoulder, startling her. It is
Fantasos.

 FANTASOS

 Peshet, you've come at the right
 time.

Fantasos engages her with hypnotic power. Peshet nods,
trance-like.

 FANTASOS

 One night soon, a gong will sound
 three times. When you hear it,
 unlock the back gate of the
 Basilica. Then go to Andromeda's
 chambers...

 (hands her a dagger)
 ... and bring the Princess out.
 My men will take her to Leviathan.

Peshet just stares at the dagger, hands trembling.

 FANTASOS

 Do you understand me?
 (harshly, off her non-
 response)

 Peshet, do you understand how
 important your part is?

She nods, horrified by her predicament.

EXT. ROAD (THE SIROQUE MOUNTAINS) - DAY

SUPERIMPOSE: THE SIROQUE MOUNTAINS, THE DISPUTED
TERRITORIES... 19 DAYS REMAINING

The Expedition moves through a mountain pass. Perseus
eyes a cliff. Amoun and Draco stop. Glimpses of CLOAKED
FIGURES in the boulders.

 AMOUN

 You wanted to know about Djinn
 Raiders. Here they are.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DRACO
(to the others)
Look sharp. Watch your surround.

EXT. SIROQUE VALLEY - DAY

Vidalia warily eyes the carpet of magenta flowers. *

VIDALIA
The Alkali Lotus...

She stops, spotting something in the distance. Kosmo
pulls up. *

VIDALIA
What is that? *

THEIR POV

shimmering through the desert heat -- tents and flags.

BACK TO SCENE

KOSMO
(smiles)
An army bivouac... flying the flag
of Joppa. It's the Cleon Legion. *

EXT. CLEON LEGION BIVOUAC - DAY *

The Expedition enters the abandoned camp. They look
around in dismay. *

DRACO
Where is everyone? *

Spyros HEARS something and follows the SOUND to a tent,
weapon ready.

INT. TENT - DAY

Spyros looks inside. A cauldron BUBBLES over a fresh
fire. ALKALI LOTUS blossoms bob on the boiling broth.
Spyros, uneasy, backs out.

EXT. CLEON LEGION BIVOUAC - DAY *

Spyros comes out.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPYROS

Draco, tell me what this --

Everyone is standing perfectly still.

DARK FIGURES surround them. The transformed Cleon Legion lurches INTO VIEW. The only resemblance to the soldiers they were is their armor. Now they're monstrous creatures: LOTOPHAGI.

CLOSE ON A DEFORMED FOOT

as it plants in the dust. The companion foot lands beside it -- completely different. TILT UP TO: Kalibos.

Perseus stands by Vidalia, watching the monsters. Kalibos immediately focuses on the demigod. He sniffs the air around Perseus.

VIDALIA

(whispering)
Lotophagi. Lotus-eaters. We should leave... now.

PERSEUS

I won't do anything rash. I've learned my lesson.

VIDALIA

This time you must do something rash. We all must.

Kalibos leans close to Perseus.

KALIBOS

Tosharicana... demigod...
expulsotat... Zeus!

PERSEUS

No... Perseus.

PERSEUS WHIPS OUT HIS SWORD. The whole Expedition comes to life as --

THE LOTOPHAGI ATTACK, swift and brutal. Long arms thrash and rip at the Praetorians.

Mongke and Tamburlane BLAST the swarm with HANDGONNES. Spyros lobotomizes one with his harpoon. Amoun opens a leather sack of sand.

AMOUN

Muster to me!

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Thad, Krikor and Perseus are the first there. Amoun tosses an arc of the black sand around them all. The ring of sand transforms into a dense, swirling swarm of insects. Amoun shouts to the others, still fighting.

AMOUN

Come on! You can pass through!

Draco bolts for the barrier. A Lotophagi spears Kosmo, killing him. Draco slides inside the swarm. He looks back at Kosmo in horror.

Polluc slashes zombies and runs toward the swarm. He's almost there when one of the Lotophagi lands on him, sinking fangs into his skull. Polluc sticks his sword into the creature; they both fall over dead. Icos and Spyros fight their way to the swarm and jump inside.

Mongke and Tamburlane kill a Lotus-eater and leap over the corpse into the protected circle.

The tide of HOWLING and SHRIEKING Lotophagi claw at the barrier of insects to no avail.

AMOUN

Only humans can penetrate the shield!

Perseus takes quick stock of the group inside the swarm, thinking.

PERSEUS

Only humans...

He looks over the Lotophagi and sees Vidalia out there, alone, flinging sling-bullets as she fights her way toward the barrier.

PERSEUS

Drop the barrier!

AMOUN

No! It's too late for her!

PERSEUS

Drop it, Amoun!

At that moment, Kalibos grabs Vidalia and drags her to the top of an outcrop. At the top, he turns, LOOKS DIRECTLY AT PERSEUS and HOWLS, his message clear: "If you want to save her, come and get her." He hungrily rips her leather bandeau. Perseus turns to Amoun.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PERSEUS

Take the barrier down or I'll go
through it!

AMOUN

Have you learned nothing? If you
break out now, we're all at risk.

On the boulder, Kalibos grabs Vidalia's white flesh.
Perseus is anguished; he knows he's in love.

PERSEUS

I've learned one thing for
certain!

Perseus shouts at Thad, the massive Praetorian.

PERSEUS

Get down!

Perseus backs away three steps. To the others --

PERSEUS

Get ready to defend yourselves!

Perseus runs, plants a foot on Thad's back and leaps out
through the swarm, which immediately dissipates around
the humans. They have only a moment to react as the
stunned Lotophagi come to their senses.

DRACO

Let's kill these freks!

Perseus runs over the backs of the Lotophagi. Hurtling
off them, he scrambles up and knocks Kalibos off Vidalia.
Kalibos rolls, flips onto his feet and gives Perseus a
look: "You're the one that I want."

They face off, looking for an opening. Perseus lunges,
thrusting his sword. Kalibos dodges, springing up the
rocks and then down toward Perseus, acrobatic as an ape.
Perseus rolls out of the way.

Perseus sweeps his sword at Kalibos' head. The monster
catches the blade in his jaws and SNAPS IT IN TWO!
Bloody spittle flies from his tongue.

Kalibos pounces, pins Perseus. He opens his jaw and
sinks his teeth into Perseus' shoulder. Vidalia cracks a
rock into Kalibos' head. The creature whirls on Vidalia
and careens toward her, head bloody.

Perseus leaps in the air and catches Kalibos in the back
with both feet, knocking him over the edge.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Kalibos slams down on the jagged boulders and ricochets off, pinwheeling through the air. The grotesque figure hits the lower rocks head-first and his neck CRUNCHES. He slams into the dust, dead. *

Perseus lands on his back, weak from the bite. When he tries to rise, his legs are rubbery. Vidalia catches him as he falls forward and lowers him gently, looking at the bloody puncture wounds. *

VIDALIA

(soothing)

Okay... sshh... I've got you.

A THUNDEROUS SOUND SURGES in the distance. Vidalia scans the horizon.

DOWN BELOW

Draco, Spyros, Amoun and the others hack away, fending off the Lotophagi. Outnumbered, they won't last long. The earth VIBRATES. The Lotophagi are distracted, looking around nervously. *

Over a rise stampede SCORPIOCHS, rhino-sized scorpions. Riding them, DJINN RAIDERS, flowing black silk masking all but their blue eyes. *

They lay into the Lotophagi. The Scorpiochs skewer the beasts with HUGE PINCERS. The Djinn use flashing SCIMITARS to cut them down. *

ATOP THE ROCKS

in Vidalia's arms, the fading Perseus watches as the Djinn turn and surround the Expedition members, closing in.

PERSEUS

Vidalia... we need to help them...

He blacks out. Vidalia cranes to look over the edge of the cliff where Kalibos fell. She is mystified by what she sees: *

The deformed monster Kalibos is gone. In his place, neck broken, lies a handsome, aging noble, finally at peace -- King Acrisius. *

EXT. SIROQUE MOUNTAINS - DJINN CARAVAN - NIGHT

A STRING OF LIGHTS, each a lantern hanging from a Scorpioch's tail. The Expedition members ride on the Scorpioch with the Djinn. Some of the huge scorpions carry small box/rooms (palanquins) on their backs.

*
*
*
*

INT. PALANQUIN - NIGHT

Perseus lies sprawled on cushions, unconscious. Vidalia replaces the dressing on his bite wound. Knowing he cannot hear her --

*
*

VIDALIA

To save me, you risked everything
-- your mission, your friends...
the fate of multitudes. Men need
better judgment in the one who is
meant to lead them...

*

No longer able to lecture, she regards him with love. Tenderly --

*
*

VIDALIA

You shouldn't have risked your
life for me. It is a waste to
save me when I'll be gone so soon.

*

She strokes his hair and kisses his forehead.

*

VIDALIA

Thank you for your reckless
disregard. Thank you, Perseus...

Vidalia holds her palm above the floor and mutters a quick incantation. A small shoot APPEARS and SPROUTS FAT PODS. Vidalia squeezes the salve from a pod and covers Perseus' wound.

*
*
*

The wound bulges, then squirms deeper into Perseus. Perseus shoots up, clutching his chest. Vidalia gently lays him down.

*
*
*

Perseus gags. A VIPER WRIGGLES from his throat and slithers away with the fat lump of infection in its stomach.

*
*
*

VIDALIA

The poison is gone now.

PERSEUS

Where... Where are we? The
Djinn --

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VIDALIA

In the Djinn caravan. They're
escorting us to the Skolothian
border.

*

PERSEUS

But I thought the Djinn...

VIDALIA

We all did. But their leader,
Shaikh Suleiman, has some special
interest in you.

*

(off his confusion)

Just sleep.

*

She waves her palm over his face, and he does sleep.

EXT. CLEON LEGION BIVOUAC - DAY

*

Surviving Lotophagi chew on the bones of the fallen. One
reaches hungrily for an Alkali Lotus in the sand, but
suddenly the petals blacken and curl. The creature,
spooked, sniffs the air.

*

*

*

*

All at once, the Lotophagi age years in seconds and keel
over, dead. The cause: Set the Void glides over,
surveying the battlefield.

*

*

EXT. VILLAGES IN SKOLOTHIA - DAY

*

The Expedition rides through a war-ravaged village of
stucco and thatch. DOORS and SHUTTERS CREAK shut as they
pass, UNSEEN INHABITANTS skitter about.

*

*

*

SUPERIMPOSE: FRONTIER OF SKOLOTHIA... 15 DAYS REMAINING

*

DRACO

The Skolothians have suffered more
than their share in this war. The
Legions of the Gods have battered
them.

SPYROS

It's no wonder they shy away from
all strangers.

Perseus looks ahead, where the Expedition is parting
company with the Djinn Raiders. Only one of the Djinn is
staying -- SHAIKH SULEIMAN, a veiled priest.

*

*

*

PERSEUS

Why does this Djinn priest stay
with us?

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMOUN

Because of you. You're the reason
they saved us. *

PERSEUS

Me? I don't understand. *

AMOUN

Why don't you ask him?

PERSEUS

I thought they didn't speak.

AMOUN

They have no mouths. That doesn't
mean they do not speak. *

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. MOUNTAIN ROAD - SERIES OF SHOTS - DAY

The Expedition climbs through rugged country. At a turn,
Amoun looks up. Dead ahead, wreathed in fog -- sheer
granite pinnacles, one towering above the others. *

AMOUN

The Pillar of Moirai. Lair of the
Norn Sisters. *

PERSEUS

Tell me of them.

AMOUN

They're witches in the form of
Strix. Not a pleasant sight, a
Strix. They have powerful magic
and dreadful habits. Baby-eaters,
among other things. *

(off Perseus' shock)

But they owe me a favor. When the
war broke out, they lent their
power to men against the Gods in
exchange for infant sacrifice. *

Tiamat struck them blind for their
treachery. When they came for
help, I fashioned them an
artificial eye, for their Second
Sight. *

PERSEUS

You made only one eye? *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMOUN
(pleased with his
foresight)

Yes. They have to take turns. If
they all could see at once, they
would be invincible, which one
cannot risk in beings so
grotesque.

EXT. CAMP (SKOLOTHIA) - NIGHT

The Expedition sleeps in a drizzle.

WHISPERS. Shaikh Suleiman moves toward Perseus. The
WHISPERING comes from behind his veil. He pulls a
GLEAMING BRONZE SICKLE from his cloak. The priest, blade
poised, stands over the sleeping Perseus.

OUT OF THE DARKNESS runs Spyros, his harpoon raised for a
strike.

SPYROS

Stay away from my boy!

Without touching him, the Shaikh throws the fisherman
over his head, where he lands hard with an "UMPH!"

Perseus jolts awake. He reaches for his sword, but has
none. Spyros struggles to his feet to start another
charge.

Suleiman raises his hand and freezes Spyros in his
position. The Shaikh's veil has fallen, revealing his
frightening countenance: scaled skin of charred wood;
eyes like slots in a furnace. Perseus listens to the
WHISPERING.

PERSEUS

Spyros, he means me no harm.

The Shaikh lowers his hand: Spyros falls into the dirt.
The Shaikh pulls his veil over his face. He kneels
before Perseus, head bowed.

PERSEUS

I hear you and I understand you.
But I don't know how.

SHAIKH SULEIMAN

*Moi ne epos ae'prostiti, mene
daeva.*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PERSEUS

You are praying to me? There must
be a mistake. *

The Shaikh proffers the gleaming bronze sickle which has
a zig-zag, LIGHTNING BOLT PATTERN engraved on the blade,
honoring Zeus.

PERSEUS

An 'offering'? I thank you and
take it humbly, as a gift from a
friend, not an offering. *

He takes the weapon and bows his head, surprising the
Shaikh.

SHAIKH SULEIMAN

Tuj patir esti ho theos kosmosr.

PERSEUS

You honor my father? You honor
Spyros?

SHAIKH SULEIMAN

Ho Zeus Patir... Zeus...

Perseus reacts, taken aback to hear it from this
mysterious stranger. *

EXT. MOIRAI PILLAR - NIGHT

The Expedition ascends the sheer pinnacle via rain-slick
stairs and GROANING ROPE BRIDGES. *

EXT. SUMMIT OF MOIRAI PILLAR - SUNRISE

In a morning fog, the Expedition enters a circle of FREE-
STANDING MONOLITHS white with bird crap. All around:
regurgitated food, shredded garments and tiny human baby
bones. *

A FLAP of WINGS and suddenly perched atop the stones are
the NORN SISTERS: URD, VERDANDI, and SKULD -- human-
sized owls with the gray faces of old crones (Strix). *

Each has one central EYE SOCKET; they share one
ARTIFICIAL ORB. The Strix toss the Eye between them and
pop it in to study the arrivals. *

URD

(low, hoot-owl)

Amoun... So sorry to see you
again.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMOUN

Likewise, Urd. I seek your
counsel. *

VERDANDI

(shrieking)

You want us to tell you about
Leviathan.

AMOUN

You know already... of course. *

VERDANDI

We know this -- the Kraken cannot
be defeated.

SKULD

(piercing)

You've wasted a journey. I trust
it was not a taxing one. *

The Sisters CACKLE HORRIBLY. Skuld SWOOSHES down. Icos
and Krikor, terrified, hit the deck. Skuld tosses the
Eye back to Urd. Perseus watches with growing
irritation. *

AMOUN

Surely the beast from the sea has
some weakness. You owe me this
answer at least.

URD

The Sisters owe nothing to you or
any Man! *

She tosses the Eye to Verdandi, who focuses her attention
on Perseus.

VERDANDI

There's something wrong with that
one. I don't like having him
here.

SKULD

Let me take a look.

Verdandi tosses the Eye to Skuld. Perseus leaps and
snags the Eye out of mid-air. The Strix SCREECH. *

Perseus goes to the precipice. *

PERSEUS

Tell us what we want to know or
your Eye has seen its last.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The Norns flap their wings and puff up their feathers.
To Amoun:

VERDANDI

You've brought a thief into our
nest!

URD

A villain!

SKULD

Scum!

AMOUN

No, good Sisters... the son of
Zeus.

The Strix react in horror and all land on the same
monolith.

PERSEUS

Since you cannot see, let me tell
you what's about to happen. I'm
about to throw this evil Eye to
the rocks far below. I fear its
journey will be a taxing one.

The members of the Expedition are impressed; Vidalia,
too: the young demigod shows growing leadership. The
Strix are panicked --

URD

We can't tell you. We don't dare
betray Tiamat again.

VERDANDI

She sees all! Her touch is felt
in every evil thing!

SKULD

A second offense and she will
destroy us!

PERSEUS

You don't have to tell us the
secret. But you will have to live
as blind as she made you.

SKULD

No! Give us the Eye and we'll
tell.

PERSEUS

Tell me first. If I like the
answer, you get your Eye.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VERDANDI

We need the Eye to see the answer!

AMOUN

You know the answer sure as you
already knew the question.The Norn Sisters confer, enclosed in a curtain of wings.
Then --*
*

SKULD

Leviathan can be destroyed...

VERDANDI

The beast has one weakness.

SPYROS

Tell us now!

The Strix are torn, frightened. Finally --

URD

The stare of Medusa. No creature
can look directly in her eyes and
still survive.The answer hangs in the silence of the stunned
Expedition.

AMOUN

They're lying, Perseus.

Perseus studies the Sisters, weighing his response.

PERSEUS

I believe them.
(tosses the Eye high)
Here's your second sight.Verdandi launches and catches it in her beak, pops it in
her socket.

PERSEUS

(to the Norns)
And Medusa! Where does she abide?

SKULD

In Tartaros, beyond the frozen
Tethys Sea. Only Charon's ferry
dare challenge the ice.*
*

PERSEUS

How can she be slain?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VERDANDI

With extraordinary cunning and
unimaginable luck.

Skuld flaps to the pitch-black portal to an UNDERGROUND
VAULT. *

SKULD

And the proper tools. Explore our
cache of spoils. You may find
such a tool.

Perseus stares into the black entrance.

DRACO

Don't go in there, Perseus. It's
a trap.

VERDANDI

No. We have guaranteed the rage
of Tiamat with this revelation...

SKULD

... we ask only that the young God
mention our aid...

URD

... to his Father.

PERSEUS

(nods)
If ever I should meet him.
(turns toward the
vault)
I need a light.

The Shaikh holds a branch near his eyes until the end
bursts into flame and hands it to Perseus, who disappears
into the blackness. *

INT. VAULT OF THE NORN SISTERS - DAY

Perseus fights through cobwebs and hanging roots. The
torch REVEALS piles of armor, bones, and broken weapons. *

A round edge catches his eye. He pulls it free -- A
SHIELD, TARNISHED AND DENTED. Unsure why it attracted
him, he shoulders it and leaves. *

EXT. OCEAN - NIGHT

The STORM RAGES around a FLEET OF SHIPS, manned by armored CREWMEN, that rises and falls on hundred-foot mountains of water.

EXT. DECK OF LEAD SHIP - NIGHT

The FIRST MATE shouts to the stalwart CAPTAIN.

FIRST MATE

Captain, the storm is too great!

CAPTAIN

Joppa is under siege! King
Kepheus needs these supplies!

*
*

Something huge breaches the surface. The Captain squints through the rain... and sees the GIGANTIC SCUTED TAIL of Leviathan. IT GOES RIGHT PAST THEM, miraculously leaving the fleet untouched.

*
*
*
*

But then -- they HEAR a sound BIGGER than the typhoon. The dark sky gets darker as an ENORMOUS BLACK SHAPE appears behind the Fleet, bearing down on them at impossible speed --

*
*
*
*

TIAMAT'S PALACE-GALLEON so dwarfs the Fleet that it PLOWS THROUGH the other ships without noticing, obliterating them in seconds, sending all hands to the depths.

*
*
*

EXT. TIAMAT'S PALACE-GALLEON - PROW - CLOSE ON TIAMAT'S FRIGHTENING VISAGE - NIGHT

*
*

Lit by FLASHES OF LIGHTNING. The Goddess smiles in satisfaction at the devastation.

*
*

EXT. JETTY (THE TETHYS SEA) - DAY

A bleak shore. A boulder jetty juts into the cold pewter sea and fades into the fog. Chunks of ice bob on the lapping waves.

SUPERIMPOSE: THE TETHYS SEA... 12 DAYS REMAINING

The Expedition, miserably wet, waits for passage around a campfire on the frigid beach. Perseus, polishing the shield he got from the Norns, looks to Amoun, who sits smoking.

*
*
*
*

PERSEUS

Tell of the Gorgoneion.

*
*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

His cloak ripples as SHAPES PUSH THROUGH THE SPECTRAL *
 FOLDS -- the girl's reaching fingers, her screaming face. *

AMOUN (V.O.) *

He ravished her on the cold floor. *
 She felt the heartless passion of *
 a God. *

SAME SCENE - LATER *

Alone, Medusa crawls with bloody fingernails toward the *
 altar. *

AMOUN (V.O.) *

Despoiled and broken in the shadow *
 of Tiamat's altar, she prayed for *
 comfort and pleaded for courage... *
 But the Goddess of the Deep *
 regarded Medusa with disdain. The *
 prayers of such a frail and filthy *
 mortal angered Tiamat. *

A bust of Tiamat chiseled from black crystal opens her *
 BLAZING eyes, THROWING A LONG SHADOW OF MEDUSA onto the *
 wall. *

AMOUN (V.O.) *

The Goddess twisted young Medusa *
 into a loathsome new thing... *

The contorting shadow shows the transformation. Legs *
 twist and snap and become a slithering tail. Snake heads *
 wriggle from her skull. *

EXT. JETTY (TETHYS SEA) - BACK TO THE CAMPFIRE - DAY *
 (PRESENT) *

The Expedition all hang on Amoun's every word. *

AMOUN *

... and cursed her with a hateful *
 stare that petrifies to stone all *
 that look upon her. *

Grave silence. Draco realizes he's burned his dinner on *
 the fire. Spyros shakes his head. Perseus just stares, *
 a believer. *

NOISES come from the fog: SPLINTERING ICE; SLOSHING *
 OARS. A SHAPE emerges -- an ice-cutting THREE-TIERED *
 GALLEY, oars moving with precision. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMOUN
Charon's ferry.

EXT. THE TETHYS SEA - DAY

The prow of the galley cuts through ice. Rows of oars slice the frigid water, pulling the boat through at a steady clip. *

INT. GALLEY - BELOW DECK - DAY

Dark, hot and loud: PIPES, STEAM, GEARS and PISTONS. *

CHARON, a grizzled old sea captain, shovels coal and slams the furnace closed. He walks past his "crew" -- MECHANICAL OARSMEN of tarnished brass, rowing tirelessly. Charon dons furs, then climbs up to -- *

EXT. GALLEY - UPPER DECK - DAY

-- an icy, slick deck, snow. The Expedition huddle around stoves, miserable. We HEAR the OARS BEAT, the HULL GROAN, the ICE CRACKING. Charon CHORTLES, his VOICE deeper than the sea -- *

CHARON
Better stoke those fires, boys,
it's going to get cold soon.

INT. HOLD - DAY

In a small space among the stores, Vidalia circles Perseus, whose eyes are shut. Suddenly, she sweeps his legs out. He lands hard. *

VIDALIA
She's got a tail and she'll use it
just like that.

Perseus opens his eyes.

VIDALIA
Keep your eyes shut! Open them
with Medusa and it will be your
last look. *

PERSEUS
(closes eyes)
You're enjoying this too much. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

He can't see her smile. Or that she regards him with something hotter than amusement. She tries to punch him, but he blocks it. *

VIDALIA

Good!

Pleased, he doesn't sense her right cross, which knocks him down. *

VIDALIA

Do you think the Gorgon will hit once and then surrender her head?

He gets up, eyes closed, and resumes the defensive position, turning as she moves around him. *

VIDALIA

Listen... you will hear her muscles coil. Feel her hunger in your gut. Ask, how will she feed it? *

PERSEUS

I wish it, but I can't perceive the world that way.

VIDALIA

You can. You're the son of a God. *

PERSEUS

Nothing I have done has convinced me of that. *

VIDALIA

You do not see yourself clearly yet. In time, your actions in crisis will sharpen your view. *

Her faith touches him deeply. She resumes the lesson: *

VIDALIA

You can do those things, Perseus, and much more. *

He shadows her movements more closely, back and forth. *

VIDALIA

We think a room is silent until someone points out the wind. Then the wind is all we hear. *

She strikes. He dodges and locks her neck. Pleased, she flips him. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Surprisingly, he lands on his feet, and immediately sweeps her legs. She starts to fall backwards, but -- *

SLOW MOTION as Perseus dives forward and cradles her gently as they both fall to the floor. A move beyond human. She looks up at his closed eyes, worried. Their lips are inches apart. REGULAR SPEED -- *

PERSEUS

I'm beginning to hear the wind.
(senses something,
confused) *

Vidalia... why are you afraid? *

She kisses him, deeply. He returns it. Suddenly, she rolls free and stands up, turning away from him. *

PERSEUS

Wait...

She is already climbing the ladder. She stops for only a moment -- *

VIDALIA

You've learned enough for now.

EXT. GALLEY - UPPER DECK - DAY

Spyros is at the rail, looking over the ocean of ice. Perseus, troubled, arrives. Spyros looks at him closely. *

PERSEUS

What?

SPYROS

Nothing.

PERSEUS

What do you see?

SPYROS

A look I know well.

PERSEUS

From me?

SPYROS

Never before.

PERSEUS

Then where?

Spyros smiles, puts his huge, calloused hand on Perseus' shoulder. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPYROS
In my own mirror, son.

PERSEUS
When does it go away?

SPYROS
If we're lucky... never.

EXT. COAST OF TARTAROS - DAY

A landscape of volcanic rock. Lava pouring into the sea
raises VEILS OF STEAM, through which the Expedition
disembarks from the galley. *
*
*

SUPERIMPOSE: COAST OF TARTAROS... 10 DAYS REMAINING

EXT. TARTAROS - DAY

The Expedition crosses the black terrain, lava vents here
or there. *
*

EXT. TEMPLE OF TARTAROS - LAVA FIELD - DAY *

In the distance, dark ruins -- an ominous tilted facade,
half-sunk in the dried lava flow. *
*

SHAIKH SULEIMAN
*Jaggous temploi Tartaros de
Gorgoneion maitress.*

AMOUN
The Temple of Tartaros... Medusa's
lair. *
*

Mongke and Tamburlane exchange words and point. They all
look -- *
*
*

TWO STONE STATUES flank the entrance: a pair of enormous
CENTAURS -- NESSUS and IXION, their eyelids sewn shut. *
*
Icos and Krikor exchange distressed looks. *

AMOUN
Medusa must have turned them to
stone. *
*
*

Perseus swings his sickle, measuring its balance, and
adjusts his shield. He checks a canvas sack on his belt. *

PERSEUS
I'm going into the Temple.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

DRACO *
I am with you. *

SPYROS *
(steps forward) *
I go with my boy. *

Perseus, Spyros, and Draco split off toward the temple. *

Suddenly, the two "statues," Nessus and Ixion, shake off *
their dusty skins and COME TO LIFE. They GALLOP down the *
ridge, hooves shaking the ground. They raise fearsome *
spiky maces of jagged iron. *

Vidalia readies her sling. The Shaikh draws his *
scimitar. Mongke and Tamburlane load their handgonnes, *
the others draw swords. *

EXT. TEMPLE OF TARTAROS - PORTICO - DAY *

The Temple group arrives at the steps. Draco speaks to *
Perseus -- *

DRACO *
Are you afraid? *

PERSEUS *
Of what? *

DRACO *
Good boy. *

PERSEUS *
Yes. You? *

DRACO *
(nods) *
Stay close and I'll steer us *
through. *

They tie on blindfolds and feel their way into the *
Temple. *

EXT. TEMPLE OF TARTAROS - LAVA FIELD - DAY *

Nessus and Ixion arrive. Ixion's mace catches Krikor, *
flinging him to his death in an open lava vent. Icos *
CRIES OUT for his friend and charges in. Ixion smashes *
him to oblivion. *

Thad, enraged, races at Nessus, but the Centaur dodges *
the massive Praetorian and kicks him in the chest, *
killing him. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Nessus charges Amoun. Amoun throws a handful of sand, *
 which becomes a hail of STEEL-BARBED DARTS in midair, *
 which lash the Centaur's flesh. *

Tamburlane rolls under the beast and fires his weapon. *
 Nessus hurls the monster-hunter against a boulder and *
 goes for him when -- *

-- Shaikh Suleiman jumps between them. His scimitar *
 slashes but is ripped from his hands. The Shaikh BOWS *
 HIS HEAD. *

Nessus' mace shatters Shaikh Suleiman's head of charred *
 wood. BLUE FIRE shoots out his neck, ENVELOPING THE *
 CENTAUR. The burning Centaur crumples, dead. *

Ixion SLAMS his mace down, just missing Amoun. Suddenly, *
 Vidalia's sling-bullets slice his flesh. Ixion turns and *
 leaps at Vidalia. *

INT. TEMPLE OF TARTAROS - DAY *

In the subterranean temple, we HEAR Ixion landing above; *
 dust rains into the cavern. SUNLIGHT angles through *
 holes in the roof. *

Draco, Spyros and Perseus move blindly through the *
 debris. CORPSES everywhere, faces frozen in stone *
 screams. *

The men can't see it, but one wall suddenly frames a *
 silhouette of MEDUSA: HAIR OF HISSING SNAKES atop a *
 woman's torso, the body of a mammoth reptile. *

WE SEE only GLIMPSES of Medusa as she slides through the *
 shadows. Her forked tongue tastes the air. *

CUTTING BETWEEN Spyros, Perseus and Draco, moving *
 silently on opposite sides of the sanctuary. *

OUR VIEW of Draco is suddenly BLOCKED by Medusa -- she *
 coils around Draco without touching him. He HEARS the *
 RASP of SCALES ON STONE. *

DRACO

I hear her, Perseus. She's near! *

Her torso behind him, she RATTLES her tail in front. *
 Draco spins and slices the air. The RATTLE stops. Draco *
 waits, confused. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PERSEUS (O.S.)
 (from across the
 room)
 Draco, be wary -- !

Medusa gingerly tugs Draco's blindfold free. Draco sees the tail before him. Unthinking, he instinctively spins and looks.

Medusa's face is inches from Draco's. His muscles lock and his flesh hardens to scabrous stone, emanating SMOKY GAS. Medusa breathes in the vapors ecstatically.

AT THAT MOMENT a hole blasts through the roof of the cavern as Ixion crashes down in a cloud of dirt -- dead, a gaping wound in his head.

Medusa regards her fallen minion in horror, loosing a MOURNFUL SIGH.

Spyros HEARS HER and blindly hurls his harpoon toward the sound.

WITH THE HARPOON as its sails cleanly through slanted pillars and debris, WHOOSH, WHOOSH, until it comes through a tiny opening and --

THUDS into Medusa's body! The Monster SCREAMS, whipping about. She tries to pull the harpoon out, but can't.

SPYROS (O.S.)
 Perseus, I think she's hit!

PERSEUS (O.S.)
 Where?

SPYROS (O.S.)
 Near to the left!

Medusa's enraged attention shifts back and forth between the VOICES of the two men, deciding which to attack.

Perseus tries to control his shakes, jumping at every sound, head swiveling blindly. From a distance --

SPYROS (O.S.)
 Perseus... I don't hear her near
 me!

Perseus steps back and BUMPS into a column.

ABOVE HIM

Medusa is coiled around the column, harpoon stuck in her bloody side. She CRAWLS DOWN toward Perseus.

Perseus against the column. FROM THE TOP OF FRAME, Medusa's fingers reach for his blindfold. She pulls the knot and the blindfold falls.

Eyes closed, Perseus slashes the air, sweeping the sickle about until it SMASHES into the column -- BRINNING! The SOUND ECHOES, then FADES.

Perseus waits and listens. Then, PING!, one drop of Medusa's blood lands on his shield.

Perseus opens his eyes and peers into his shield. In the reflection on the bronze, he SEES: Movement. Snakes. Searing eyes... Medusa!

Eyes shut, he windmills his weapon above him. Medusa's talons DEFLECT the blade and the sickle flies from his grip.

Perseus scrambles for it on his hands and knees. Behind him, Medusa SLITHERS down the column and heads for Perseus.

Perseus reaches the sickle. He lifts his shield up in front of him and sees Medusa's reflection growing closer behind him.

He shuts his eyes and wheels around, blade sweeping. A soft F-THMMP as the blade slices through something...

SILENCE. Perseus turns away and opens his eyes, looking into the shield. Still, Medusa looms behind him!

But suddenly, Medusa's head THUDS and rolls on the ground. The headless reflection topples over, dead.

EXT. TEMPLE OF TARTAROS - MAGIC HOUR

THE AFTERMATH: the survivors -- Vidalia, Amoun, Mongke, and Tamburlane -- take mournful stock of their losses. Mongke sees something, smiles and SWEARS in his language. They all turn to see:

Perseus and Spyros, spent and saddened, stand at the top of the Temple steps. Perseus grasps the canvas sack. Now it holds Medusa's head, which bloodies the whole bag and sends a crimson drip to the stones. There is still movement in there -- squirming serpents.

EXT. JOPPA'S LOWER WHARF - NIGHT

Rain and waves pound the Lower Wharf, the water choked with debris and rotting corpses.

EXT. THE BASILICA (JOPPA) - HIGH PARAPET - NIGHT

Kepheus stands in the rain with his MINISTER OF DEFENSE and GENERALS at his side. A massive tent town has been pitched in the piazza. VOICES -- frequent and angry -- SHOUT CURSES at the Basilica.

KEPHEUS

The relief fleet is lost.
Monsters gather outside our walls.
Soon I won't be able to keep my
own people at bay. And still, no
word from the Expedition.

Kepheus raises a spyglass to survey the view beyond the city walls.

SPYGLASS POV - TIAMAT'S ARMY

on the plain outside the city. BONFIRES RAGE, monster regiments assemble. Siege towers roll toward the city.

BACK TO SCENE

KEPHEUS

Tiamat commands a massive horde.
How many days remain?

MINISTER OF DEFENSE

Four, Majesty...

Kepheus lowers the glass, looking grim.

GENERAL ANDOR

Our forces prepare. We have cards
yet to play. We'll buy the time
we need until...

KEPHEUS

Until the Expedition perhaps
returns?... Until we're saved by
the fisherman's son?

MINISTER OF DEFENSE

My king, remember and take hope...
he is not truly the son of a
fisherman.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

KEPHEUS
(skeptical)
From your lips, I pray, to his
true father's ear. *

Andromeda has appeared. All are shocked to see her. She
addresses the others with an authority we've never seen. *

ANDROMEDA
I would speak with the King in
private. *

MINISTER OF DEFENSE
Princess, let us find a protected
place -- *

ANDROMEDA
We can speak here, in the elements
our subjects endure. *

The King's men exchange looks, then bow discreetly away,
leaving father and daughter alone. Andromeda looks down
at the tent city. *

KEPHEUS
They take refuge from the Lower
Wharf. A sight I wish you'd never
seen. *

ANDROMEDA
You've sheltered me too long from
the hard things in this world. *

KEPHEUS
I would have it no other way. *

ANDROMEDA
And I thank you for the gift of my
cosseted youth. But now, with
Mother so...
(turns to him)
It's time I shared this burden
you've carried so long. *

Filled with emotion, he puts an arm around her. *

KEPHEUS
You make me proud, but you are
only a child... my little one. *

ANDROMEDA
No, no longer. Your protection of
me has brought hardship to our
people... *

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

ANDROMEDA (CONT'D)

and to me, perhaps, new
understanding. I must ask you
something, Father.

She turns away from his gaze and looks down at the city.

ANDROMEDA

If you could end this siege with
just one unselfish act, would you
do it?

KEPHEUS

To save my people, yes, of course.

ANDROMEDA

Such an act is within my power.

He studies her a moment, then becomes alarmed.

KEPHEUS

Stop it! I forbid you to
entertain such thoughts.

ANDROMEDA

Perseus and the others were
willing to give everything.

KEPHEUS

(turns her to him)

Listen to me. By the time this is
over, your mother and I may well
be gone. But I guarantee the day
is coming when Joppa will know
glory under Queen Andromeda.

She embraces him, head upon his shoulder, where he can't
see her resolve.

ANDROMEDA

Be at peace, Father, I will not
cause you any more sadness than I
already have.

EXT. OLIVE GROVES (ILLYRIA) - MILESTONE - DAY

An ancient walled road curves over the pastoral orchard
hills.

SUPERIMPOSE: MILESTONE, HILLS OF ILLYRIA... 3 DAYS
REMAINING

The exhausted Expedition is now six: Perseus, Vidalia,
Amoun, Spyros, Mongke, and Tamburlane. They've stopped
at a well beside a MILESTONE.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Spyros studies the ancient words carved into the milestone: "Polis of JOVE PATER : XI stadia S."

SPYROS

Eleven stadia to the South... What is 'Polis of Jove Pater'? I'm ignorant of this.

AMOUN

Jove the Father is another name by which Zeus was known. This milestone dates from when city states were named for their patron deities.

Perseus, filling his canteen, peers at the marker as Amoun uses one hand to cover the letters "-VE" and the other the letters "-TER."

AMOUN

'The Polis of Jove Pater' is the ancient name of --

PERSEUS

-- Joppa.

AMOUN

Yes, Joppa... once the most sacred site in the worship of Jove.

PERSEUS

(dawning on him)

Tiamat chooses the city of Zeus to take hostage. *

(as Amoun confirms *

this) *

She compels the people to make human sacrifice of the Princess Andromeda...

AMOUN

... and transforms Joppa into the new church of Tiamat. The ancient abode of Zeus...

VIDALIA

(quietly)

... becomes the new home of Tiamat, granting her sway to supplant him as the God of Gods.

(urgently to Perseus)

You can't allow Tiamat to rule Olympos. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Perseus holds her look. "No," he won't let that happen.
But in his eyes are fear and doubt.

EXT. FOREST TRAIL (ILLYRIA) - MAGIC HOUR

The Expedition passes through deep woods. Spyros and
Perseus ride side by side. *

PERSEUS *

Father, we've seen much on this
journey we cannot hold in our
hands. Yet these things are real
enough. At each turn, we find
monsters and Gods. *

SPYROS *

Yes, the evidence is everywhere
once we leave our island. That's
why I so rarely leave. These
Gods, what do you make of them? *

PERSEUS *

As you always said, they're petty,
vengeful... and dangerous. *

SPYROS *

Yes, as bad as men.
(as Perseus smiles)
And would you have that sort guide
your life? *

PERSEUS *

No. Men must be accountable to
themselves. Otherwise we serve
poor masters. *

SPYROS *

That's my boy. *

Amoun rides up. *

AMOUN *

We should stop for the night.

PERSEUS *

We must keep moving. Time is
running out. *

SPYROS *

If we don't rest the horses, they
won't make it to Joppa.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

AMOUN

(to Perseus)

We all need rest. If you don't
save yourself, you'll have nothing
left when you face the Kraken.

Riding behind them, Vidalia (paler and more ephemeral
than ever) is suddenly alert. She peers into the woods,
agitated. Then she EXCLAIMS SOFTLY, dismounts and runs
into the woods. *

PERSEUS

Vidalia!

Perseus slides from his horse and follows her. Mongke
says something to Tamburlane; they LAUGH. Amoun to
Spyros: *

AMOUN

Why don't we stop here tonight? *

Spyros smiles, looking off after Perseus. *

EXT. FOREST (ILLYRIA) - DARK GROVE - MAGIC HOUR

Vidalia darts through the trees. She stops, closes her
eyes, moves off again. *

THROUGH A STAND OF TREES, Vidalia appears again, and
stops, searching her senses. Perseus arrives and watches
her. *

VIDALIA

I know this place...

Suddenly, she hurries to the trunk of an ancient tree.
She probes the foliage, steps forward... and descends
into the ground, out of sight. *

Following, Perseus pulls away greenery, revealing an
opening in the tree's massive roots. *

INT. UNDERGROUND SHRINE - MAGIC HOUR *

Perseus drops into a dim, earthen den. Vidalia stands
motionless before a bare altar. *

VIDALIA

This is my church. Where I was
born to the world. Where my
people prayed to me.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PERSEUS

Who were they? *

VIDALIA

(uncertain) *

I know they were humans. They
 seemed so fragile. I sheltered
 them because I thought the harsh
 world would break them. Now I
 know I underestimated them. *

Her eyes pierce Perseus. *

VIDALIA

When I saw you come out with
 Medusa's head, I saw that a Man
 had done an impossible thing.
 Beautiful, yes, but not fragile.
 Resilient. Fearless. *

PERSEUS

I was mad with fear. I was no
 hero. I just didn't want to die. *

Perseus turns toward the altar. *

PERSEUS

What is this? *

A marble tablet sits on the altar, its surface defaced.
 Vidalia runs her fingers along the scoring. *

VIDALIA

. When the war began, Men ranged
 through the hills, stamping out
 any trace of God-worship they
 found. *

(touching the tablet)

My true name was carved here.
 When it was obliterated, my
 worshippers lost faith and my last
 season began. *

PERSEUS

How long do you have? *

VIDALIA

Only days.

PERSEUS

What will happen? *

VIDALIA

I will vanish, quick as dew
 evaporating at dawn. *

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VIDALIA (CONT'D)

No one will notice the moment
because all thought of me will be
gone.

PERSEUS

What about me? *

VIDALIA

Nothing can save me. *

He takes her in his arms. Vidalia is riven by anguish
and desire. *

PERSEUS

I don't believe that. Will love
not buy another day, Vidalia? *

VIDALIA

(tears flowing)
I was cut free of earthly longing.
Why did you have to give me a
name? *

The light is almost gone now. They kiss. The wilted
blossoms in her crown slowly open with color. They begin
to make love.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. UNDERGROUND SHRINE - NIGHT *

Perseus and Vidalia lie together, listening to the SOUNDS
of nightingale, cricket and owl. *

PERSEUS

When you vanish, I'll find you. *

VIDALIA

Close your eyes. *

PERSEUS

I'd rather look at you.

VIDALIA

Do what I tell you.
(as he does)
I'm going to give you a spell. *

PERSEUS

Don't give away your secrets. You
still have need of them. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

VIDALIA

Let me give you this sliver of
 magic. I'll write it on your
 instinct. When the time comes,
 you'll know how to use it.

*
*
*

She takes his head in her hands, pressing her forehead to his. Gently, her fingers slip into his mind. A TEAR runs down her cheek.

PERSEUS' POV

In QUICK FLASHES: A white lid opens to a black eye. Reflected in the eye -- clouds roll over a stormy sky. Then:

Feathered WHITE WINGS beat the air. Then:

Racing over the surface of a blue SEA, and then down, down, to SMASH THROUGH the surface, into the depths.

INT. TEMPLE OF TARTAROS - NIGHT

Tiamat and Set the Void stand over the corpse of Medusa. Baby snakes and beetles spill out of her neatly-sliced neck. Tiamat is furious.

*
*
*

TIAMAT

How did he do this? They were not
 even to reach Medusa.

*

SET

Fate has begun to shift. The
 future ripples with uncertainty.

*
*
*

TIAMAT

Spare me your pitiful maundering!
 There is no Fate beyond my actions
 and no uncertainty in the face of
 my will.

*
*
*
*
*

SET

(cowed)
 I meant only that the demigod
 bends the path without knowing it.
 He is ignorant of the rules, or
 unconcerned with them.

*
*

She turns on him with such a violent look, he flinches.

*

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

TIAMAT

Then there shall be no rules!
 Prove to me you have not lost that
 which makes you most valuable.

Set absorbs her tirade, stung.

SET

And Zeus... the others?

TIAMAT

I am your ally. That is all you
 need to know. Bloody your hands
 and rid me of this pestilence.

SET

You have liberated me, my Queen.
 Watch as your desires are quickly
 satisfied.

Set disappears.

INT. UNDERGROUND SHRINE - SUNRISE

Perseus jolts awake. He reaches for Vidalia, but she is
 gone. Amoun stands over him, his manner severe.

PERSEUS

Where is she?

AMOUN

This is my fault. I've permitted
 this infatuation to progress too
 far.

PERSEUS

It is not yours to permit,
 Master... with respect.

Vidalia comes down into the shrine, her apron full of
 berries.

VIDALIA

Look what I've found for us --

She startles when she sees Amoun, dropping the berries.

AMOUN

(to Vidalia)

Have you forgotten Perseus is
 engaged to the Princessa?

PERSEUS

I won't marry Andromeda.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Both Amoun and Vidalia are surprised. *

AMOUN *

If by some miracle you survive
this encounter with Leviathan, the
hand of the Princessa is your
reward. *

PERSEUS *

I want no reward. *

AMOUN *

Are you so selfish? Would you
risk everything for the foolish
love of -- *

A BLAST of HOT DESERT WIND blows into the Shrine. The
berries turn brown and shrivel. *

Amoun grabs his chest. Perseus and Vidalia crumple in
agony. *

SET THE VOID COMES INTO THE SHRINE. Amoun tries to
invoke a spell, but Set touches his chest and Amoun
splits open. *

Set points at Vidalia, slamming her into the earthen
wall. The God is there in an instant, strangling her. *

Perseus staggers up and swings his sickle, but Set
points, ripping the weapon from Perseus' hand. It flies
across the shrine and sinks with a CLANG into the tablet
that once held Vidalia's true name. *

Still choking Vidalia, Set grabs Perseus' arm. Perseus
doubles over, paralyzed by the God's touch. Suffocating,
Vidalia FADES MORE. *

Immobilized, Perseus watches her struggle and searches
his being: *

PERSEUS *

(low, rasping)
I am half God... and now is the
time... *

Perseus rises. He cocks his arm and clobbers Set with an
ear-splitting CRACK OF THUNDER and a sparking BURST OF
WHITE ENERGY. Set drops Vidalia and lurches back,
aghast. BLACK BLOOD shoots from his mouth. *

Perseus, his face contorted in rage, chokes Set. The
God's body SPASMS and deforms in DEATH THROES. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Perseus slams the God down in a ghastly heap, which
liquefies into thick black blood. It seeps into the
sandy floor, leaving an ugly stain. *

Perseus rushes to embrace Vidalia, who is more evanescent
than ever. They look with pain at the remains of Amoun. *

VIDALIA

I'm so sorry, Perseus.

A look of brutal, determined resolve grows in Perseus'
face. *

VIDALIA

(in awe)

You faced a God in lethal
combat... and vanquished him.
Never have I heard of such a
thing. *

He looks at her, mind racing, then lifts her as he
stands. *

PERSEUS

We must go quickly now.

He pulls the sickle from the marble with a BRINNG! The
light flashes off Zeus' LIGHTNING BOLT PATTERN on the
blade.

PERSEUS

The combat has just begun.

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. HIDDEN SANCTUARY OF TIAMAT (JOPPA) - NIGHT

Fantasos and the LEADERS of the Revolution are gathered
around a SACRIFICIAL FIRE. They fill the room with their
CHANTING. *

SUPERIMPOSE: JOPPA... THE EVE OF THE 30TH DAY

FANTASOS

We invoke thee, Queen of the Deep. *

We attend thee only to listen and
obey.

Fantasos moves through smoke to an altar, on which is a
fearsome IDOL OF TIAMAT, unlike any representation we've
seen. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

FANTASOS

We serve your will so that we may
 be absorbed into your
 perfection... Holy of holies...
 Tiamat!

*
*
*

The Sanctuary is suddenly filled with the VOICE of --

*

TIAMAT (V.O.)

Loyal servants...

It may be an illusion, but the Idol seems to have taken
 on the most subtle of life. It does not move, but it
 breathes.

*
*
*

TIAMAT (V.O.)

You have sown the seeds of revolt.
 Now comes the harvest. My legions
 stand ready at the gates. Only
 one rite of consecration remains
 before the Ascension.

*
*
*

Fantasos, closest to the Idol, flinches, buffeted by an
 unseen draft.

*
*

TIAMAT (V.O.)

The hour of sacrifice is upon us.
 Offer up the Princess Andromeda to
 Leviathan.

*
*
*

INT. THE BASILICA - ROYAL CHAMBERS - NIGHT

A GONG sounds ONCE in the night. Kepheus sleeps fitfully
 on a divan by the bed of the desiccated Cassiopeia.

*
*

INT. ANDROMEDA'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT

The GONG sounds again. CLOSE ON Andromeda's tortured
 face staring down at the city -- too CLOSE to see exactly
 where she is.

EXT. THE BASILICA - BACK GATE - NIGHT

The GONG sounds a THIRD TIME. Peshet opens a lock and
 sets the heavy gate ajar. She looks at the dagger in her
 palm and hurries inside.

*
*

After a moment, four CLOAKED REBELS slip through the open
 gate.

*
*

INT. ANDROMEDA'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT *

Peshet enters, dagger held at her back. No sign of Andromeda.

PESHET

My lady? Princess Andromeda?

She goes deeper into the rooms, then GASPS, looking off, alarmed -- *

Andromeda stands on the balustrade of her balcony, preparing to jump to her death. She turns at the sound, teetering. *

Peshet rushes to her but stops when Andromeda raises a knife of her own. Peshet is shocked, not afraid. *

ANDROMEDA

Peshet, stop! I know what I am meant to do. *

PESHET

My lady, please --

ANDROMEDA

I was afraid, Peshet. Afraid to understand that the fate of so many could rest with me. *

PESHET

Princessa, give me your hand. Andromeda, please. Please. *

ANDROMEDA

(looks at the drop) I'm not afraid anymore. I will do what I must. I will die so that they may live. *

She turns, but Peshet leaps and grabs her, pulling her to safety. They fall to the floor, both daggers CLATTERING on the marble. *

PESHET

I won't allow it, my lady. Today, you are only a Princess. One day your people may need a Queen ready to die for them. *

Peshet snatches up the dagger from where she dropped it.

PESHET

Come, we have to hide you... right now. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She stops, picks up Andromeda's knife and hands it to her. Andromeda accepts it with resolve.

PESHET

Good.

EXT. CORRIDOR OUTSIDE ANDROMEDA'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT

Peshet leads Andromeda out.

ANDROMEDA

We must get to my mother and father.

A VOICE from the darkness:

AGENOR (O.S.)

Your father is dead and your mother has been relieved of her suffering.

The four Cloaked Rebels step into the light. Agenor wipes his bloody dagger on his cloak as all four advance.

AGENOR

The Princessa is coming with us. She has a rendezvous to keep.

Peshet WHIPS HER DAGGER through the air; it THUDS into the neck of the First Rebel, killing him on his feet. Before he can fall, Peshet leaps to him and pulls out her knife. She plants herself in front of Andromeda.

PESHET

Come and get her.

Agenor and the other two circle Peshet. She moves with feline agility, but is separated from the Princess. To the Second Rebel --

AGENOR

Take the Princess -- alive!

The Second Rebel circles around Peshet toward Andromeda.

PESHET

Run, Princess! Save yourself.

Peshet leaps on the Third Rebel.

Andromeda runs away from the Second Rebel, who easily closes the gap.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SECOND REBEL

You're not going anywhere, Your
Highness.

He grabs her in a bear hug from behind. She spins, tiny within his massive arms, and is suddenly facing him. He JOLTS in surprise, Andromeda's knife in his belly. He falls on her, dead.

Peshet wins her struggle with the Third Rebel, sinking her dagger in him. She GASPS. Agenor has thrust his blade into her ribs. She totters and COUGHS -- deep and bloody. Peshet falls against the wall.

Andromeda WALLS at the sight. She is pinned beneath the dead weight of the Second Rebel, unable to move. Agenor finishes off Peshet and turns to the Princess.

EXT. WOODED RIDGE - DAY

The survivors -- Perseus, Vidalia, Spyros, Mongke, and Tamburlane -- crest a hill in the RAINY DAWN LIGHT. Vidalia is almost transparent. The Expedition reacts in shock to what they see.

FROM BEHIND THE GROUP

They're on a shelf above the wide, flat basin that lies outside Joppa. A limitless INHUMAN ARMY -- Centaurs, Minotaurs, Monsters of every stripe -- fills the plain, right up to the city walls.

EXT. BEHIND THE WALLS OF JOPPA - DAY

Among the regiments of Joppans waiting nervously for the battle are ranks of fifteen-foot AUTOMATA (CLOCKWORK SOLDIERS). OPERATORS feverishly work the mechanisms of the steel soldiers, which flex their artificial limbs and weigh their massive weapons.

EXT. WOODED RIDGE - DAY

Mongke and Tamburlane exchange words. For the first time, they look impressed -- but also delighted. This is what they live for.

Spyros looks over at his adopted son.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

SPYROS

If it should come to pass, tell
your mother and sister I loved
them much.

Perseus reaches out and touches his foster father warmly. *

PERSEUS

You'll have to tell them yourself.

Vidalia's voice has become weaker.

VIDALIA

The people are frightened. But
they can triumph. They need only
one thing. *

Perseus turns to her, a question on his face -- "Tell
me..."

VIDALIA

A hero. They're waiting for you,
Perseus.

Perseus looks back toward the city. At last, there is no
uncertainty in Perseus -- *

PERSEUS

I will not fail them. *

He turns toward the Goddess, but Vidalia is gone. *

PERSEUS

Vidalia?
(realizing,
anguished)

No. *

It's too late. She's disappeared. *

EXT. CLIFFS OF JOPPA - DAY

PELTING RAIN. HUNDREDS OF ONLOOKERS have gathered. *

An IRON WINCH sits on a GRANITE PLATFORM on the cliff's
edge. Fantasos and his cohorts wait beside a huge BRONZE
GONG. *

Agenor brings Andromeda barefoot through the mud. The
Onlookers jostle for a better view, some spiteful, some
sad, all curious. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Agenor removes Andromeda's cloak, revealing her tattered nightgown. Fantasos inspects the MYSTERIOUS SYMBOLS inked on her naked back, streaked by rain. *

Agenor's thugs chain her to the winch at the precipice, hundreds of feet above the raging sea. As the winch is cranked, the chain lifts Andromeda upside down from the ground. *

Agenor pulls Andromeda close and flashes a cruel grin. She spits in his eye. He wipes his eyes and lets go of the chain. *

ANDROMEDA'S POV

As she RISES: The cliff drops straight down the jagged wall to the churning waves. *

BACK TO SCENE

FANTASOS
(incantation)
O Leviathan, firstborn of the
Deep, accept this offering of
mortal flesh... for the exaltation
of your Cosmic Mother. *

EXT. OCEAN - DAY *

OFF THE COAST OF JOPPA, a dark shape emerges from the squall -- Tiamat's enormous Palace-Galleon. *

The Goddess is at the prow, looking toward the cliffs of Joppa expectantly. *

EXT. CLIFFS OF JOPPA - DAY *

As the huge GONG IS STRUCK -- *

CUT TO:

THE FACES OF THE ONLOOKERS *

Then... GONG! Fantasos continuing his incantations, then... GONG! Andromeda's face, her frightened eyes searching the ocean. Everyone looks out to sea, waiting. *

EXT. WOODED RIDGE - DAY

Perseus, Spyros, Mongke, and Tamburlane hear the far-off GONG, GONG, GONG. The Mongols speak to Perseus in their language, worried. *

SPYROS

The sacrifice has begun. *

PERSEUS

I must get to the cliffs! *

SPYROS

How? *

They all look at what separates them from the city --

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

The MONSTER ARMY OF TIAMAT surges forward with savage BATTLE CRIES. *

The GATES OF THE CITY swing open. Out march the giant mechanical AUTOMATA, followed by streaming legions of JOPPAN INFANTRY. The two armies slam together -- *

The battle is joined. THEY FIGHT. *

EXT. CLIFFS OF JOPPA - DAY

GONG! The wind rocks Andromeda on her CREAKING CHAIN. She watches...

A mile offshore, a BULGE OF WATER SWELLS and plows toward the coast.

The Onlookers watch in terrified awe as the swell races closer. *

Leviathan explodes from the surface, too huge to be seen whole. It shoots straight up, up, up the three-hundred-foot cliffs. *

The Kraken's jaws hurtle up at Andromeda. Onlookers recoil. Fantasos stumbles in panicked retreat. The creature's BELLOW is deafening. *

At the apex of its surge, it SNAPS ITS JAWS SHUT with a booming THUNDERCRACK... just millimeters from Andromeda's dangling head -- and FALLS BACK. Churning surf surrounds its endless SLIDE back down. *

ANDROMEDA'S POV

The Kraken slips underwater and its vast shadow immediately begins to circle wide for another attempt.

EXT. WOODED RIDGE - DAY

Spyros, Mongke and Tamburlane mount their nervous horses. *

PUSH IN ON Perseus, who does not mount up. From his saddle, he takes the bloody canvas bag with Medusa's head inside and slaps his horse away. He MURMURS the INCANTATION Vidalia planted in his mind. *

FLASHES OF WHAT PERSEUS SEES *

A white lid opens to a black eye... Feathered WINGS beat the air... The rippled flanks of a WHITE CREATURE. *

BACK TO SCENE

Perseus HEARS the BEATING OF THE WINGS and looks toward the forest. *

PEGASUS WHOOSHES over the treetops, BANKS and LANDS in front of Perseus. It bows, inviting Perseus aboard. Perseus climbs on and rides up to the others, who are flabbergasted. *

PERSEUS *

May we all have a good ride today!

He spurs Pegasus. It beats its wings, launching from the ridge with astounding power. *

MONGKE AND TAMBURLANE

Qi chin yang hung xian!

SPYROS

No shit.

They raise their weapons and spur their horses down the slope to war. *

EXT. CLIFFS OF JOPPA - DAY

CLICK-CLACK-CLICK-CLACK. The chain lowers Andromeda toward the sea. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

Andromeda manages to get herself swinging back and forth until she builds enough momentum to reach up and grasp the links above her. With effort, she climbs the very chain she dangles from, leaving a slack loop beneath.

Leviathan's eyes break the surface below, watching Andromeda. With a HOWL, Leviathan HURTLES UPWARDS, jaws wide.

FROM ABOVE - ANDROMEDA

Leviathan grows huge as it leaps for her. UP, UP, UP. The JAWS SNAP CLOSED... just below her climbing feet. So close, it BITES ON THE DROOPING SLACK OF CHAIN!

The monster slides back down, clutching the chain in its jaws. The Princessa plummets with it.

UP ON THE PLATFORM

The chain unreels wildly, pulls tight... and rips the platform from its anchors. It careens over the edge, taking Fantasos, Agenor and their Thugs to their screaming death.

A SHADOW glides over the shocked Onlookers. One by one, they tear their gaze from the sea and look up, GASPING at --

PERSEUS AND PEGASUS descending. Perseus sees Andromeda splash down and get pulled under.

The winch platform SLAMS into the cliff face, pulled by Leviathan.

PERSEUS' DIVING POV

Exactly the image he saw when Vidalia first planted the spell in his mind -- down, down toward the dark sea.

BACK TO SCENE

Perseus and Pegasus arrive a moment before the crashing winch. Perseus dives off with the bloody Medusa bag in hand. With his free hand, he catches the chain just ahead of the winch and goes under.

EXT. UNDERSEA - DAY

Leviathan hurtles downward. Andromeda flails, bound to the chain. *

FAR ABOVE

Perseus grips both the chain and the bag in his hand. *

Leviathan spirals on, but THE WINCH CATCHES ON A REEF and the chain SNAPS! Andromeda, suddenly separated from the monster, sinks, weighted by her shackles. *

Perseus, swimming with the raw power of a porpoise, dives after her, but loses his grip on the bag. Desperate, he looks back and forth: Andromeda, the sack -- both sinking. Perseus goes after the sack. *

Leviathan realizes it has lost the Princess. Huge eyes darting, it spots Andromeda and surges down after her.

Andromeda, drowning, passes out. Tiny bubbles leak from her nose. Leviathan swims down to her, eye as big as her entire body. *

The wreck of a SUNKEN WHALER rests on the ocean floor. The Medusa sack FALLS INTO VIEW and catches on a harpoon wedged in the deck. Perseus appears, snags the sack and is about to kick upward. On impulse, he grabs the harpoon. *

Leviathan opens its huge jaws. Andromeda is sucked toward the maw. *

Perseus swims upward toward Leviathan's tail. Perseus concentrates -- a sparking BURST OF WHITE ENERGY shoots through his forearm to the harpoon in his grip. LIGHTNING CRACKLES and BOILS the water. He plunges the harpoon in the Kraken's tail -- *

-- at the same moment Leviathan inhales the unconscious Andromeda.

Contact -- an ELECTRIC FLASH-POINT FLARES and a charge races up Leviathan's spine. Jolted, the monster spits Andromeda out. *

The Kraken twists to lock its enraged gaze on Perseus. *

Perseus shuts his eyes and yanks Medusa's head from the sack. Medusa's hellish eyes ignite channels of boiling energy into Leviathan's enormous eyeballs -- hardening them to boiled eggs, then rocky spheres. *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

The monster thrashes, tries to turn -- but unbending stone races its length, freezing the gargantuan curves -- the scuted tail locks mid-flail into a final, permanent hook.

Dead in the water, the grotesque mass sinks like a mountain range, picking up speed as it plunges into the abyss --

Perseus must swim like a God to snatch Andromeda from the downward tug. The stone Kraken barely misses them as it drops --

-- and CRASHES in a cloud of silt, SHAKING THE OCEAN FLOOR like an earthquake. A CRACK opens in the seabed and sucks back the silt. The trench deepens and streaks away across the seabed, swallowing all the water above it, creating a giant opening to the sky.

EXT. TIAMAT'S PALACE-GALLEON (OCEAN) - PROW - DAY

Tiamat's face contorts, sensing her beloved Leviathan is dead. She turns at the sound of GHASTLY CREAKING -- the immense length of the galleon buckles into a hole in the ocean. As the towering masts drop below wave-level, Tiamat raises her arms to the sky --

TIAMAT

I damn you, Zeus! You will hear
my curses forever in the crash of
surf --

Walls of water collapse, burying the Goddess, her ship, and her malediction deep in her realm. We HEAR a world-rocking ROAR, which booms off toward --

EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

Tiamat's Monster Army is DEAFENED by the BOOM, losing all spirit with the unmistakable certainty that their Goddess is gone.

THE TIDE TURNS IN THE BATTLE as the Joppans and their steel allies, the Automata, wade into the ranks of creatures.

Mongke and Tamburlane, in the center of the battle, find the opposition turning tail. They roar and lift their weapons high, surviving yet another fight. Spyros, bloodied but unbowed, smiles wide and sits down in the mud, exhausted.

EXT. OCEAN SURFACE - DAY

The water stills. The sea calms. No sign of Perseus or Andromeda. WIND and QUIET... *

CHOOM! Perseus surfaces with Andromeda in his arms, *
GASPING FOR AIR. *

EXT. CLIFFS OF JOPPA - DAY

The Onlookers rejoice.

EXT. OCEAN SURFACE - DAY

BACK WITH Perseus and Andromeda. He looks at her *
lifeless countenance in agony -- has he failed again as *
he did with Anteros the fisherman?? *

Distraught, his muscles go taut around Andromeda, and a *
short powerful burst of electric energy shoots from his *
arms into her still body -- SHE JOLTS TO LIFE! *

Movement! Breath! Color returns to her face. Perseus, *
too, breathes again, relieved. *

For the first time since the start of the adventure, they
find themselves alone, holding each other.

PERSEUS

Hello.
(as she smiles,
relieved)
Are you all right?

She takes a moment, doing an inventory. Finally, she
nods.

ANDROMEDA

I think I am. *

He smiles. She'll never know how close they came to *
oblivion. *

ANDROMEDA

Are you ready to become a king?

His expression is kind, but unmistakable. "No." She *
accepts that, rueful. *

PERSEUS

Are you ready to become a queen?

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

She thinks about it, her face beginning to light with confidence.

ANDROMEDA

Yes. Yes, I am.

PERSEUS

Then you're ready to go home. *

Perseus raises one arm. The AIR reverberates to a LOUD BEATING OF WINGS. Andromeda looks up in wonder. *

Pegasus appears out of the sun's glare, gracefully alighting on the water. Perseus helps Andromeda up and then climbs on behind her. *

Pegasus takes off. TILT UP WITH them until they are lost from sight. *

DISSOLVE TO:

EXT. BLUE SKY AND WHITE CLOUDS - DAY

Black smoke RISES to dirty the perfect sky. TILT DOWN TO:

EXT. SACRED GROUND - DAY

The Sacred Ground of Joppa in the verdant hills, above the sea, is so beautiful it might be mistaken for Olympos. *

TWO FUNERAL PYRES burn. The citizens of Joppa, by the thousands, commend King Kepheus and Queen Cassiopeia to the afterlife. *

MOVING OVER THE CROWD, WE PUSH THROUGH the flame to find the new ruler of Joppa. Mournful, but cloaked in regal dignity and strength -- QUEEN ANDROMEDA. *

CUT TO:

A DISTANT POV OF THE QUEEN

The ceremony and the heavenly setting.

PERSEUS

Perseus views the scene from a nearby hill. Behind him, Pegasus waits patiently, grazing the grass. Until -- *

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

-- the equine suddenly WHINNIES and REARS UP. Just as quickly, Pegasus goes silent and BOWS DOWN. Perseus looks in that direction, to find -- *

ZEUS the Prime, God of Gods, an eagle perched on his arm. He couldn't look more imposing. *

ZEUS

Am I to understand you do not intend to make this union with the Queen Andromeda?

PERSEUS

Yes.

ZEUS

Despite my will and intention that you do so?

PERSEUS

Yes.

ZEUS

Would you choose to condemn Men, your own people, to suffer more of this devastating War?

PERSEUS

I have no people. You have stranded me between realms, neither Man nor God.

ZEUS

(sternly)

Do you reproach Zeus? *

PERSEUS

No. I thank you... Father.

Zeus, mighty God, reacts to the word. His expression softens and he looks on Perseus with growing pride.

PERSEUS

You have freed me. I will not be a pawn for Men or Gods.

ZEUS

Does that absolve you suddenly of your responsibilities?

PERSEUS

You've made me understand that my responsibility is to myself. So it is with us all. *

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUED:

PERSEUS (CONT'D)

(intimately)

You've put me to a great test. In the midst of it, I found the courage in my heart to defy Gods. I do not know how much of that comes from you, Father... and how much from my Mother, who I never knew.

Zeus starts, subtly, at the mention of Queen Danae.

PERSEUS

It matters not. Whatever the source, I am only grateful.

He looks off toward the funeral pyres and the human throng.

PERSEUS

This war will end the moment you choose for it to end... and Men agree. I think, perhaps, that is the free will that all realms share.

Zeus looks at him, proud, yet wistful -- what an offspring, what a creation! *

ZEUS

What will you do, Man of free will?

Perseus motions Pegasus forward, and swings up onto his back.

PERSEUS

I'm going to find Vidalia.

ZEUS

So... my Son, you will be a pawn for love?

PERSEUS

(laughs)
Yes, Father, gladly.

Perseus spurs Pegasus and launches into the sky. And soars away.

FADE OUT.

THE END