

XENA

WARRIOR PRINCESS

Mortal Beloved

BY
R.J. STEWART

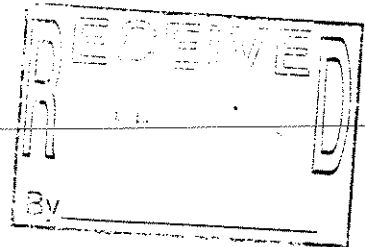
Episode #15

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Mortal Beloved"

Written by
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Directed by
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Revised pages: Cast List, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17

Executive Producers
Sam Raimi & Robert Tapert

SHOOTING DRAFT
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XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Mortal Beloved"

CAST LIST

XENA
GABRIELLE

MARCUS
CHARON
HADES
TOXEUS
ATYMINIUS
BRIDE'S FATHER
FIRST TRAVELLER
YOUNG WOMAN

*

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Mortal Beloved"

SET LIST

INTERIORS:

TAVERN
HADES' PALACE
HADES' QUARTERS
BRIDE'S HOME - MAIN ROOM
BRIDE'S HOME - BEDROOM
PASSAGEWAY

EXTERIORS:

ALCYONIAN LAKE
ALCYONIAN LAKE - UNDERWATER SHOT
RIVER STYX
TARTARUS
ELYSIAN FIELDS
HADES' PALACE
HADES' PALACE - COURTYARD
BRIDE'S HOME
WOODED PATH
FOREST
CAMPSITE
COUNTRY ROAD
VILLAGE STREET
POND

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Mortal Beloved"

CHRONOLOGY

NIGHT 1	SCENES # 1 - 3
DAY 2	SCENES # 4 - 5
NIGHT 2	SCENES # 6 - 7
DAY 3	SCENES # 8 - 10
NIGHT 3	SCENE #11
DAY 4	SCENES #12 - 18
NIGHT 4	SCENE #19
DAY 5	SCENES #20 - 25
NIGHT 5	SCENES #26 - 33
DAY 6	SCENE #34
NIGHT 6	SCENE #35
DAY 7	SCENE #36
NIGHT 7	SCENE #37
DAY 8	SCENES #38 - 39

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Mortal Beloved"

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 EXT. WOODED PATH - NIGHT

1

A YOUNG WOMAN walks along a path in the moonlight. She stops when she becomes aware of:

A SHADOWY FIGURE

in the darkness in front of her. She stops.

YOUNG WOMAN
Who's there? What do you want?

No response. The young woman turns and starts walking the opposite way. She stops as she sees:

ANOTHER SHADOWY FIGURE

in the path in front of her -- or is it the same one? The silhouette in the moonlight looks identical to the first one. She throws a look over her shoulder to where she first spotted the figure. Nothing. She throws a look back the other way.

THE FIGURE

is moving toward her. She turns to walk the other way but freezes as the figure is now in front of her again. It seems like the same figure is blocking her path no matter which way she turns. But how can that be? The figure starts moving toward her. It seems to be gliding over the earth. She turns to run.

DIFFERENT ANGLE

from over the shoulder of the Shadowy Figure. Once again the figure is obstructing her path. We watch the growing horror on the Young Woman's face as she watches the figure approach. She SCREAMS and darts into the woods.

CUT TO:

2 INT. TAVERN - NIGHT

2

Xena and Gabrielle are seated at a table eating. They hear a scream and then the Young Woman bursts into the tavern. She's close to hysteria.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

YOUNG WOMAN
A ghost. I saw a ghost.

XENA
Where?

YOUNG WOMAN
In the woods outside of town.

GABRIELLE
Why do you think it was a ghost?

YOUNG WOMAN
It was all around me, everywhere I
moved. It seemed to glide over the
earth. It was horrible.

XENA
(to Gabrielle)
I'll go take a look.
(expecting a protest)
You stay here.

GABRIELLE
(not real anxious to go
ghost-hunting)
No problem.

CUT TO:

3 EXT. WOODED PATH - NIGHT

3

Xena makes her way along the path, carefully peering into
the woods. We play the suspense for a few beats before we
hear:

GHOSTLY VOICE (O.C.)
Xena.

She spins to see where the voice came from. Nothing. She
moves on.

GHOSTLY VOICE (O.C.)
Xena. I'm here.

She turns and sees:

The Shadowy Figure.

XENA
What do you want?

GHOSTLY VOICE (O.C.)
You, Xena. You.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

The figure glides toward her. Xena assumes a defensive stance, but her face dissolves into shocked amazement when the figure moves into the moonlight and we can see his face. IT'S MARCUS.

XENA

Marcus.

She reaches out to touch him but as she does, sparks explode into the air off her fingertips. She pulls back. He's gone.

XENA

Marcus?

He appears behind her.

MARCUS

Behind you.

She turns to look at him.

MARCUS

I'm a ghost, Xena. The living can't touch me.

XENA

Marcus, I've missed you so much.

MARCUS

I've missed you, too, Xena.

XENA

I'm glad you've come. There's so much I have to talk to you about.

MARCUS

(gently)

We don't have time for that now.

XENA

What's wrong? Why are you here?

MARCUS

Something terrible has gone wrong in the Underworld. Good souls are in danger. You must come and help.

XENA

How?

MARCUS

The Alcyonian Lake. If you --

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: 2

3

FOUR OTHER GHOSTS burst into reality and attack Marcus. He fights them. Xena instinctually draws her sword and jumps into the action, but the first blow she strikes sends an explosion of sparks off her sword and knocks her back onto the ground. She scrambles to her feet to watch:

MARCUS

being subdued by the other shades. He and the other shades begin to disappear from reality.

XENA

Marcus!

MARCUS

Xena, hurry!

Off Marcus' anguished cry, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

4 EXT. ALCYONIAN LAKE - DAY

4

Xena and Gabrielle stand on the shore. Xena is donning very sexy and marketable swimming attire for her dive.

GABRIELLE

I know how much you care about Marcus.
But you shouldn't be doing this.

XENA

Why?

GABRIELLE

For starters, you said he didn't even finish his instructions. Maybe he didn't mean for you to dive to the bottom of a lake known for being unusually deep.

XENA

(as she straps her sword
sheath to her back)
What else could he have meant?

GABRIELLE

Consider the consequences if you're wrong. Even if you reach the bottom, you won't have enough air left to make it back to the surface.

XENA

Then I'll make it to the Underworld one way or the other, won't I?

GABRIELLE

That's not funny.

XENA

Gabrielle, the man I love asked for my help to save good souls. I have to try this.

GABRIELLE

(a stoic nod)

I guess you do. I'll camp out here and wait.

Xena gives her an encouraging smile and dives into the lake.

5 EXT. UNDERWATER SHOT - DAY

5

Xena swims toward the bottom of Alcyonian Lake. She goes deeper and deeper. We see on her face the strain as she's running out of air. She reaches the bottom and suddenly disappears from sight.

CUT TO:

6 EXT. THE RIVER STYX - NIGHT

6

CHIRON paces nervously on his boat. Suddenly, Xena appears on the shore. Chiron gives her a scowl.

XENA

You must be Chiron.

CHIRON

(irritable)

Of course, I'm Chiron. Who else would be doing this?

(pacing nervously again)

Although with all the changes going on around here, I've got to wonder if I may be out of a job soon.

Xena moves to step aboard the boat.

CHIRON

Hold it. Do you have your coin?

XENA

No.

CHIRON

Of course not. Nobody has any respect for tradition any more. Well, no more Mr. Nice Guy. I refuse to take any more dead people across without their coin.

XENA

Chiron, I'm not dead.

CHIRON

You're alive?

XENA

Yes.

CHIRON

Oh, great. Is that what things have come to? What are you, a tourist? Do you think this is an amusement ride? Go away.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

XENA

I know something has gone wrong on the Other Side.

CHIRON

Oh, that's the understatement of the age. Everything's turned upside down. The wicked are in the Elysian Fields enjoying paradise while the good are in Tartarus suffering.

XENA

I want to help set things right.

Chiron gives her a long stare and then lets out a bitter laugh.

CHIRON

You're going to help when Hades can't do anything about it? Ha! This I have to see. Hop aboard.

Xena comes aboard. Chiron rows across the river.

CHIRON

You know, you're going to be back here very soon under different circumstances, if you know what I mean. Bring a coin next time.

XENA

(getting off on the other shore)

I'll keep that in mind. Thanks.

WE FOLLOW Xena as she approaches:

A CLOUD OF ETHER

She enters it and disappears.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. TARTARUS - NIGHT

7

This is hell. But it's not populated by the violent, cruel types that we'd expect. The FACES OF THE OCCUPANTS look innocent and gentle. SEVERAL CHILDREN stand huddled in a corner, frightened and confused. Not far from them is the cloud of ether.

XENA

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

appears out of the ether. The children look up at her with frightened faces.

XENA

Don't be scared. I'm not going to hurt you. I'm here to put things right.

MARCUS (O.C.)

Xena.

She turns to see:

MARCUS

standing in front of her. He is no longer a shade, but appears to have a corporal existence. They embrace.

XENA

It's feels so good to hold you. I've thought about you a lot:

MARCUS

I know.

(off her look)

Whenever a living being thinks about us, we can hear it. Thanks. It's meant a lot to me.

Xena nods. She fights off a wave of emotion. She looks around.

XENA

I know the problem. The innocent are in Tartarus. How did it happen?

MARCUS

You ever hear of a madman named Atyminius?

XENA

Of course. The old men in my village used to try to scare young girls by saying if we weren't good, he'd come and get us. The story had it that he specialized in killing brides before their weddings.

MARCUS

Not just killing them. He liked cutting them into little pieces. This guy stands out as a bad one even down here. Somehow he managed to steal Hades' Helmet of Invisibility.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: 2

7

MARCUS (cont'd)
He's used it to confine Hades and turn everything upside down. He loves torturing innocents and rewarding fiends.

XENA
Where is he now?

MARCUS
He moves around but he likes the pleasures of the Elysian Fields. That's the best place to find him.

XENA
Can we go there?

MARCUS
I know a way.

XENA
Good. We need to know what he's up to.

MARCUS
(walking)
Come on.

Xena strides along with Marcus.

XENA
You know, I have to admit, that as terrible as all this is, I'm actually happy about something.
(beat)
You're among the good. That's a big relief.
(off Marcus' troubled look)
What's the matter?

MARCUS
I know you worried a lot about that.

XENA
That's right, you could hear my thoughts.

MARCUS
I'm glad you know now I'm alright.

XENA
Or at least you will be once we set things back the way they were.

MARCUS
Right. This is the place.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: 3

7

XENA

When we go in, will they notice we
don't belong?

MARCUS

Nobody's paying attention to much of
anything in the Elysian Fields.

He leads her toward a hollow in a wall. There's a blinding
light, and we:

CUT TO:

8 EXT. ELYSIAN FIELDS - DAY

8

Total chaos. Evil people in paradise. It's sick,
debauched, violent and ugly in every detail. Even the
beautiful environment is showing signs of litter and waste.

ON XENA AND MARCUS

They appear suddenly in the Fields. As they walk along they
observe:

TWO MEN FIGHTING OVER A WOMAN

The men are mad with lust and the woman seems delighted with
their battle.

FOUR PEOPLE

sit at a table gluttonously consuming an enormous amount of
food and wine. It's an ugly thing to watch. One of them
reaches for a flask of wine. Another wants it. Suddenly, a
terrible fight is raging over the wine flask. At one point
the flask is knocked out of one of their hands. It sails
through the air.

CLOSE ON XENA'S HAND

as it grabs the flask out of the air.

WIDER ON XENA

as she slips the flask into her belt. Xena and Marcus watch
the debauched scene.

XENA

They have everything they could want
and yet they want more.

MARCUS

It's a strange thing. Somehow they're
not happy, even in paradise.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

TOXEUS (O.C.)

*

Xena.

Xena turns to see:

TOXEUS

*

walking toward her from a distance. He wears a fierce glare.

ON XENA AND MARCUS

MARCUS

You know him?

XENA

I killed him.

MARCUS

Uh, oh.

Toxeus walks up to Xena. There's a tense moment as they stare each other down. Then, suddenly, Toxeus erupts into laughter.

*

*

TOXEUS

*

You ended up with the wicked after all, Xena. I guess it's hard to make up for a lifetime of evil with a few good deeds at the end. Tell me, who got the pleasure of killing you?

XENA

Nobody. My horse threw me and I broke my neck.

TOXEUS

*

Oh, I love that. You didn't even go out like a hero. Well, listen, I want you to know, there's no hard feelings. Sure I hated you for a while, but when this change happened down here, I was actually grateful to you. It's great to be wicked and dead.

XENA

I hear we owe this all to Atyminius. Is he running the place?

TOXEUS

*

For the moment. Between you and me, Xena, this is one very sick man.

XENA

You would know. Is he around?

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: 2

8

TOXEUS

He may be. You never know. He can make himself invisible with Hades' Helmet.

XENA

You mean he could be standing here listening to our conversation right now? He might even have heard you call him a sick man.

TOXEUS

Yeah, I guess he could have.
(paranoia strikes deep)
I meant that as a compliment, of course.

XENA

Of course.

TOXEUS

(changing the subject)
You enjoying yourself so far?

XENA

I'm still trying to figure out the rules.

TOXEUS

That's the great thing, there are none. At least for us. We have the run of the whole place, even Tartarus if we want. The good, on the other hand, have to stay where they are. Isn't death grand.

With a laugh, he moves off. Xena throws Marcus a curious look. Marcus looks uncomfortable.

MARCUS

Let's keep looking around.

XENA

Marcus.

MARCUS

Yeah?

XENA

How were you able to travel from Tartarus to the Elysian Fields if only the wicked have the run of the place?

MARCUS

Xena, the place is in chaos. I just --

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: 3

8

XENA

Marcus. Tell me the truth.

He looks at her sadly. She understands.

XENA

You were put among the wicked when you died, weren't you?

MARCUS

Like your friend said. It's hard to make up for a lifetime of evil with a good deed at the end.

XENA

So if we succeed in putting things back in order, you'll spend Eternity in Tartarus with the very people you're in the process of betraying.

He nods.

XENA

Then why are you doing this?

MARCUS

I died doing a selfless act. You taught me how sweet that can be.

(beat)

And I knew you'd do the same thing if you were in my place.

Xena is very moved. Before she can say anything, their attention is drawn towards SOUNDS OF A FIGHT.

ON A GROUP OF THE WICKED

as several of them seem to be knocked around by an unseen force. One flies through the air and lands at the feet of:

XENA AND MARCUS

XENA

I take it Atyminius has arrived.

ON ATYMINIUS

He appears, standing on the face of one of the Wicked he just knocked down. He's a tall, thin man whose otherwise good looks are twisted by a fierce cruelty that permeates his face. Lying on his back is the bright GOLDEN HELMET OF INVISIBILITY. It's kept in place by the chin strap which is now around his neck. The Wicked look at him with fear and suspicion. He stares back at them for a moment before letting a smile cross his face.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: 4

8

ATYMINIUS
(to the crowd)
Why the glum faces? I'm in a wonderful mood. The thought of travelling always cheers me up.

TOXEUS
Where are you going, Atyminius?

Atyminius' foot shoots out and catches Toxeus in the mouth.

ATYMINIUS
I understand you were a king among the living, Toxeus. But here you're my slave. It's Lord Atyminius to you.

TOXEUS
Forgive me, Lord Atyminius.

ATYMINIUS
And I don't owe you an explanation for my activities.

TOXEUS
Of course.

ATYMINIUS
However, I will share my plan with you all because it's so delightful. I'm going among the living soon to resume my old hobby of killing brides. The wonderful twist now is, I'll be sending those innocent ones to an eternity of torment. Marvelously evil, isn't it?

The crowd murmurs their approval. Suddenly, Atyminius starts sniffing the air. He looks angry.

TOXEUS
What's the matter, Lord Atyminius?

ATYMINIUS
(continues to sniff the air)
Wearing the Helmet of Invisibility has greatly improved my sense awareness.
(throwing a glare around the Fields)
I smell mortality. One of the living is among us.

ON THE WICKED

as they look around paranoically, trying to determine who it may be.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: 5

8

ON ATYMINIUS

 ATYMINIUS
 It's that woman - there!
 (points to Xena)
 We need to make her one of us.

ON XENA

as she plans her next move.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

9 EXT. ELYSIAN FIELDS - DAY

9

The Wicked move toward Xena.

XENA

(calling out)

This isn't going to work, Atyminius.

(to the others)

Go ahead, try to kill me. You'll just find he's lied to you. He wants to cast suspicion on me because he knows I've been asking the wrong questions.

ATYMINIUS

That's nonsense. What questions?

XENA

Like why do you get to keep the Helmet?

MARCUS

That's right. Just because he stole it from Hades doesn't give him the right to lord it over all of us for Eternity.

XENA

Toxeus. Do you like being bullied by this maniac?

*

ATYMINIUS

This is ridiculous. Run a sword through her and see if she's telling the truth.

Xena draws her sword.

XENA

I may be dead but I'm not gonna let you all mutilate me without a fight. Of course, that's what he wants, us fighting among ourselves when we should be fighting him for that Helmet.

TOXEUS

Good point, Xena.

*

Suddenly, he springs toward Atyminius and grabs the Helmet. He's unable to pull it away, since it's fastened to Atyminius' neck. Atyminius and Toxeus start wrestling over the Helmet.

*

A WARRIOR

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

loyal to Atyminius hacks at Toxeus with a sword. A Thug, interested in overthrowing Atyminius, slams the Warrior with a club. Soon, other evil ones jump into the fray, some fighting for Atyminius, some fighting against him, some fighting just for the hell of it.

*

A FREE FOR ALL

The most wicked men and woman in history are hacking and clubbing each other and none of them can die since they're already dead. They're turning the Elysian Fields into a butcher's yard.

ON ATYMINIUS AND TOXEUS

*

They're rolling on the ground. Atyminius is trying to put the Helmet on as Toxeus tries to pull it out of his possession.

*

ON XENA AND MARCUS

as they battle their way toward Atyminius.

ON ATYMINIUS

He manages to throw Toxeus off him and put on the Helmet. Suddenly, he's vanished. Toxeus leaps to his feet, only to have his head sliced off his shoulders with an unseen sword swipe.

*

*

ON TOXEUS' HEAD

*

It lies on the ground with a disgusted look on it's face.

ATYMINIUS' VOICE

Enjoy Eternity without a body, Toxeus.

*

ON MARCUS AND XENA

MARCUS

We'll never get to Atyminius in this mess. We better get out of here while we can.

Xena reluctantly nods at this wisdom.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. ALCYONIAN LAKE - DAY

10

Gabrielle sits by the lakeside looking out hopefully, studying every ripple in the water for a sign of Xena's return.

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

ON TRAVELLERS

THREE MEN make their way along the beach. They're dressed in festive colors and appear to be in a cheerful mood. They pull a wagon loaded with gifts -- fruit, bottles of wine, colorful pottery. As they pass Gabrielle, she gives them a wave.

FIRST TRAVELLER

You going to the festival?

GABRIELLE

(gestures toward the lake)

No, I'm waiting for a friend.

FIRST TRAVELLER

Is she coming from the other side of the lake?

Pause.

GABRIELLE

Sort of.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. TARTARUS - NIGHT

11

Xena and Marcus appear in Tartarus.

XENA

I need to talk to Hades.

MARCUS

Reaching him won't be easy. Atyminius has guards around Hades' palace.

XENA

Well, we've fought guards before.

MARCUS

Not like these.

CUT TO:

12 EXT. HADES' PALACE - COURTYARD - DAY

12

Xena and Marcus enter the courtyard. They start walking toward the palace, weapons drawn. Suddenly:

TWO HARPIES

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

descend like Stukas toward them. They are fierce, filthy, winged monsters, with the faces of women and deadly hooked tails. HARPIE #1 lashes Xena with her tail. Xena reels back but stays on her feet. The Harpie lashes at her again, but this time Xena leaps over the tail and heads for:

A TORCH

that is mounted on a wall.

XENA

grabs the torch as Harpie #1 closes in. Xena pulls out the flask, and takes a swig.

A FLAME - HARPIE'S POV

It bursts out of Xena's mouth as she does her fire-breathing bit.

ON HARPIE #1

She's incapacitated for the moment as she deals with a face full of fire.

ON MARCUS

He's lashed by the tail of Harpie #2. It catches his shirt and he's lifted up in the air.

ON XENA

She rushes toward Marcus and pulls him down, his shirt coming off on the Harpie's tail. Xena and Marcus make a run for the palace.

ON BOTH HARPIES

They pursue our heroes.

13 INT. HADES' PALACE - DAY

13

Xena and Marcus open the door and enter. Xena looks back to see:

XENA'S POV - THE TWO HARPIES

flying right at her.

XENA

slams the door shut. There are two loud thumps, then silence.

CUT TO:

14 INT. HADES' QUARTERS - DAY

14

Xena and Marcus enter the quarters. Xena looks around and spots:

HADES

sitting at a table, looking drained and depressed. He's staring at his crown that sits on the table in front of him. Xena approaches.

XENA

Hades.

HADES

Xena. What are you doing here?

XENA

I could ask you the same thing. Why aren't you trying to get the Helmet back from Atyminius?

HADES

Without the Helmet of Invisibility I'm almost powerless.

XENA

You have to do something. Atyminius plans to go up to the land of the living and start his killing spree again. That will mean he'll be sending more innocents to Tartarus.

HADES

What did you say?

XENA

He'll be sending more --

HADES

No. I mean the part about him going up to the land of the living.

XENA

That's his plan. He may be there now for all I know.

HADES

(a glimmer of hope)
He may have made a key mistake.

XENA

What do you mean?

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

HADES

Normally if one of the dead goes into the land of the living, they're only a shade, a ghost, unable to do anything but scare little children. They certainly couldn't kill anybody. But wearing the Helmet will bring him back to life, make him mortal again.

XENA

I'm sure that's what he wants. He likes his mortality and the suffering it can cause.

HADES

But once he's mortal, he can be killed again. And when he dies the Helmet won't return with him to the Other Side.

XENA

Let Marcus and me go up to the world of the living. We'll get him.

HADES

You're not dead. You're free to go at anytime. But your friend will only be a ghost. Not much help against Atyminius.

XENA

Make Marcus mortal again. Give him his life back.

HADES

You don't know what you're asking.

XENA

I'm telling you I can't do it without him. Has the great god Hades become so powerless he can't do something as small as this to save his kingdom?

Hades eyes Xena for a long moment and then nods.

HADES

Alright. But the most I can manage is forty-eight hours. Then he'll die again. You can leave through this passage here.

(gesturing toward a door)

You can avoid the Harpies that way.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED: 2

14

XENA

Do you have a way of knowing where
Atyminius would have gone?

HADES

Well, if he wants to enter the world as
a living mortal, he'll have to travel
like a mortal. I'm sure he left the
same way you came in.

CUT TO:

15 EXT. ALCYONIAN LAKE - DAY

15

Gabrielle is busy piling kindling up for a campfire.

ON THE LAKE

The water ripples and parts as if an unseen being is
emerging from the waters.

ON GABRIELLE

She continues to work on her campfire. She hears the
rippling. She stands up and looks anxiously out at the
waters.

GABRIELLE

Xena! Is that you?

She sees nothing.

ON THE SHORE

Footprints appear in the sand as the invisible Atyminius
moves closer to Gabrielle.

ON GABRIELLE

She continues to examine the lake.

ATYMINIUS' VOICE

Hello, little one.

Gabrielle spins around and sees nothing.

GABRIELLE

Who's there?

An eerie silence. She stands with her back to the lake,
looking in the direction where the voice came from. Then
suddenly:

ATYMINIUS

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

appears in front of her. He's holding a long curved knife which he idly spins between his fingers.

ATYMINIUS

You aren't about to be married, are you?

Gabrielle is scared into speechlessness for a moment.

ATYMINIUS

No. That would be too much good luck. But you'll do for starters.

GABRIELLE

Who are you? Where did you come from?

ATYMINIUS

Oh, the fear in those beautiful eyes. How I've missed that. That's why I had to appear in flesh and blood in front of you. The anticipation is the best part.

He moves toward her with serious intent. She dives past him and comes up rolling with her staff in her hands.

ATYMINIUS

A struggle. What a nice bonus.

He lunges at her with his knife. She blocks the blow with her staff. Atyminius charges toward her, but Gabrielle skillfully continues to parry the blows. At one point Gabrielle is able to lunge forward and sink the staff into Atyminius' solar plexus. He gasps and Gabrielle makes a run for it. It takes only a moment for Atyminius to recuperate and he strides after her, his long slender legs effortlessly covering the ground between him and Gabrielle. He's able to pass Gabrielle and leap in front of her, blocking her path. She puts on the brakes and tries to reverse field but her feet go out from under her and she lands on her bottom, staring up at:

ATYMINIUS

who has raised his dagger and is ready for the kill.

CUT TO:

16 EXT. ALCYONIAN LAKE - DAY

16

CLOSE ON THE SURF as Xena's feet march out of the water.

WIDER

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

to include Xena and Marcus coming on shore. Xena spots the pile of kindling and looks concerned.

MARCUS
(pointing down the beach)
Look.

XENA'S POV - ATYMINIUS

He stands over a fallen Gabrielle down the beach.

ON XENA

She runs toward Atyminius.

No!
XENA

ATYMINIUS

turns toward Xena. His face, hands and the knife are covered with blood. He grins at:

XENA

whose eyes grow wide with horror as she looks at this blood-covered madman standing over her fallen friend.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

17 EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY

17

Xena roars with rage, draws her sword and charges Atyminius. He parries her first blow with his dagger but the force of the blow knocks him to the ground. He desperately tries to put the Helmet on. As he does so, Xena raises her sword for the finishing blow.

ON ATYMINIUS

He succeeds in putting the Helmet on and disappears, as:

XENA

brings the sword down. Nothing. He's managed to roll out of the way and now he's invisible. Xena leaps back and we hear the SOUND of the knife WHIZZING through the air. Xena jerks her head slightly and a piece of her hair falls off. She looks down and sees:

FOOTPRINTS

in the sand. They're dancing around Xena. Suddenly:

A KNIFE

appears out of midair above the footprints and sails toward Xena.

ON XENA

She narrowly eludes the knife and strikes toward the footsteps. Marcus comes up from the other side.

XENA

Marcus, the footprints.

Marcus strikes in the direction of the footsteps as Xena strikes from the other side.

ATYMINIUS' VOICE

(in pain)

Ah!

ON BLOOD

oozing out of midair for a moment before it disappears.

THE FOOTPRINTS

start running off along the shore toward the woods.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

ON MARCUS

He gives chase.

ON XENA

She rushes towards Gabrielle and kneels down beside her. .
She gently turns over the body, holding her breath in
anticipation of what she's about to see.

ON GABRIELLE

She shakes her head and sits up.

GABRIELLE

Xena. Where is that maniac?

XENA

We drove him off. Are you alright?

GABRIELLE

I'm fine. Did you see that nosebleed I
gave him with my staff? There was
blood everywhere. Then he kicked me in
the head and the next thing I saw was
you, which was a very pleasant sight.
Are you alright? You look like you've
seen a ghost.

Marcus approaches.

MARCUS

I lost him. He took to the trees.

XENA

Gabrielle, this is Marcus.

GABRIELLE

Oh, hi. I've heard so much about you.
I'm so sorry I didn't meet you before
you were -- killed!
(horrified)
You're dead.

XENA

He's alive again for a while. We'll
explain as we move. We need to go
after Atyminius. Remember, he could be
anywhere.

CUT TO:

18 EXT. FOREST - DAY

18

Xena, Gabrielle and Marcus move through the forest carefully, wondering if an invisible maniac awaits them at any point. Xena is studying the ground as Marcus and Gabrielle listen carefully for any sound of movement. A rustling sound coming from the treetops causes all three of them to spin around and stare up at:

A BIRD

as it sits on a branch, fluttering its wings. Everything else is still.

ON XENA

She moves on a few steps until she spots something.

XENA

Here it is.

CLOSE ON FOOTPRINTS

and a few drops of blood.

ON XENA

XENA

This must be where he came down from the trees.

(looking ahead)

It looks like they lead out of the forest. He's got a good head start on us.

GABRIELLE

Maybe his wound will slow him down.

XENA

No. The bleeding has already lightened to a few drops.

MARCUS

(moving ahead)

Up here there's no blood. It must be a minor wound.

XENA

Let's keep going, try to close the gap as much as possible before nightfall. We won't be able to follow his trail in the dark. If we don't find him by sundown we'll have to make camp.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

GABRIELLE

Camp? Who's going to get any sleep
with that monster roaming around out
there?

MARCUS

I wouldn't worry about it. He's trying
to put as much space between him and us
as possible. He already knows the
punishment we can hand out. I don't
think he wants any more of us.

XENA

Besides, he won't attack us at night.
It puts him on the same footing as us.
He can't see anything in the dark
either. The advantage of being
invisible comes with daylight.

GABRIELLE

Just the same, I don't plan to close my
eyes all night.

CUT TO:

19 EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT

19

CLOSE ON GABRIELLE

who lies in a deep sleep, complete with snores.

WIDER

to include Xena. Xena is putting a blanket on Gabrielle.

MARCUS

sits on a hillock, carefully examining his surroundings.
Xena joins him.

XENA

She had a rough day.

MARCUS

You better get some sleep yourself.

XENA

What about you?

MARCUS

Nah. I want to be wide awake for every
moment of life I have left to me.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

MARCUS (cont'd)

You don't realize the kind of things
the living take for granted until you
don't have them any more. Like the
evening air. It settles on you like a
cool blanket. And the sky.

(looking up)

There's nothing like it on the Other
Side.

(picking up some dirt)

Just feeling the earth is a pleasure.

(lets the dirt run through
his fingers)

You know what I missed most?

(beat)

You.

(turns to her)

There's one thing I've been wanting to
say to you.

(beat)

My death wasn't your fault. Things had
to play out the way they did.

XENA

But sometimes I think if I'd said
things a little different, you'd have
come around before it was too late.

MARCUS

No. It was a miracle you got to me at
all. I was convinced I could never
change. But your words finally found
their way to my heart. You did
everything right. Don't be so hard on
yourself.

(beat)

And don't give up on love.

XENA

You heard those thoughts, too?

He nods.

XENA

It's just that I found out how much you
meant to me one moment and then you
were gone the next. It hurt too much,
I guess. I started wondering if it was
ever worth it to care that much.

MARCUS

It is. One thing I've learned. Love's
the strongest power in the universe.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED: 2

19

MARCUS (cont'd)
It's stronger than evil, it's even
stronger than death. My feelings about
you were all that kept me going down
there in Tartarus. It was like I was
carrying my own Elysian Fields around
inside me.

Xena studies him for a long moment. Then:

XENA
There's something I've been wanting to
say to you, too.

MARCUS
What?

XENA
I love you, Marcus.

They kiss. Warm and affectionate at first, then building
into a heated embrace. Soon they're making passionate love
like two people who have an opportunity to fulfill a dream
they once thought was lost.

CUT TO:

20 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

20

Xena, Marcus and Gabrielle move along the road, following
Atyminius' tracks. Xena spots something disturbing in the
road ahead.

XENA'S POV - THE ROAD

Lying on the road are the Three Travellers we saw earlier
passing the lake.

FIRST TRAVELLER
(dazed)
Help us, please.

ON XENA, MARCUS AND GABRIELLE

as they run up to the fallen Travellers. Xena stoops down
next to the First Traveller as Marcus and Gabrielle attend
to the others.

XENA
What happened?

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

FIRST TRAVELLER
I don't know. Something attacked us.
It came from nowhere. Some invisible
power.

XENA
(examining his head wound)
You'll be alright. Where were you
going?

FIRST TRAVELLER
The festival in Pylos.

XENA
(suspicious)
What kind of festival?

FIRST TRAVELLER
A wedding.

Marcus and Xena exchange looks.

XENA
(to Marcus)
Well, we know where Atyminius is
headed.
(to the First Traveller)
When is the marriage to take place?

FIRST TRAVELLER
Tomorrow. Tonight is the ceremonial
bathing.

Xena examines the condition of the other Travellers.

XENA
You and your friends should rest here.
We'll send help when we reach Pylos.

She approaches Marcus and Gabrielle.

XENA
(softly, so the Travellers
don't hear)
We better move fast. The bride is in
danger.

CUT TO:

21 EXT. VILLAGE STREET - DAY

21

The village of Pylos is bustling with activity as the
wedding festival is about to begin.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

A FRUIT VENDOR

is setting out his produce on a stand. Then the stand inexplicably tips over. The Vendor stares at the mess for a confused moment before he suddenly does a header into the fruit as an unseen force rubs his face in a split melon. The Vendor is whining in fear.

ATYMINIUS' VOICE

What's the matter? Don't you stand by your product?

A JUGGLER

does his act by the side of the street. He wears make-up and is a bit of a clown. He's like a Mycenaean mime. He's got four balls going when suddenly one of the balls freezes in the air. The Juggler stares at it for a moment in shock. He reaches for it and it moves slightly out of his grasp. Mystified, he leans toward it. An unseen foot kicks him in the face.

ATYMINIUS' VOICE

I hate jugglers.

TWO YOUNG LOVERS

They sit in a love seat swing attached to two trees. They're cuddling romantically and swinging gently. Suddenly, the swing tips back radically and the young couple is dumped unceremoniously onto the ground.

ATYMINIUS' VOICE

Be sure to invite me to your wedding.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. VILLAGE STREET - DAY

22

Xena, Marcus and Gabrielle hurry through the streets. They pass the Fruit Vendor who is trying to salvage his stock.

XENA

Where is the bride's home?

The Vendor waves his hand toward:

XENA'S POV - A HOUSE ON A HILL

ON XENA AND COMPANY

They hurry toward the house. They pass the Juggler who sits holding the ball that froze in the air. He's studying it as if it will tell him some deep secret about life.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

They pass the young couple who are sitting on the grass by the swing, nursing their aches and pains.

23 EXT. BRIDE'S HOME - MAIN ROOM - DAY

23

Xena approaches it and knocks on the door. . A moment later the door opens and A MAN IN HIS FORTIES appears.

XENA

Are you the father of the bride?

BRIDE'S FATHER

Yes.

XENA

I need to talk to you. Your daughter is in great danger.

As the Bride's Father considers this, we:

CUT TO:

24 INT. BRIDE'S HOME - MAIN ROOM - DAY

24

Xena, Marcus and Gabrielle stand around as the Bride's Father paces in anguished thought.

BRIDE'S FATHER

I thought Atyminius was killed years ago.

XENA

I heard that, too. But believe me, he's here in Pylos now. For your daughter's sake you must help us.

The Bride's Father thinks for a moment, then nods.

BRIDE'S FATHER

Alright. I'll cooperate. What do you need?

XENA

Atyminius frequently struck at the ceremonial bathing of the bride. I want you to let me take her place in the ceremony. The traditional veil will keep my identity concealed until the last moment. Hopefully he'll strike by then. Once he does, Marcus and I'll handle him.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

BRIDE'S FATHER

And my daughter?

XENA

She'll stay here in her quarters. No one will suspect the bride is home in bed on the night of her bathing.

BRIDE (O.C.)

What are you saying?

Everyone turns to see the shocked BRIDE, a beautiful young woman, standing in the doorway.

BRIDE'S FATHER

Dear, I have some terrible news for you.

25 EXT. BRIDE'S HOME - DAY

25

We HEAR THE BRIDE WAIL in fear and disappointment. Suddenly, the front door opens, stays open for a moment and then closes as an unseen being leaves the house.

ATYMINIUS' VOICE

(softly to himself)

Nice plan, Xena.

As we HEAR HIM CHUCKLE, we:

CUT TO:

26 EXT. FOREST - NIGHT

26

A procession of lovely young maidens make their way through the forest. In the midst of them is the veiled "bride." They pass a large tree. We HOLD ON THE TREE AS:

MARCUS

appears from behind it and follows the procession, looking alert and ready for action.

27 EXT. POND - NIGHT

27

The procession reaches the pond and the "bride" wades into the water and begins to slowly unveil.

INTERCUT WITH:

28 INT. BRIDE'S HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT 28
BRIDE'S POV - LOOKING UP AT GABRIELLE
Gabrielle tucks the bride into bed.

GABRIELLE
It's best if you just try to get some
rest.

She smiles at the bride and exits into:

29 INT. BRIDE'S HOME - MAIN ROOM - NIGHT 29
Gabrielle closes the door and sits down outside the room.

30 INT. BRIDE'S HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT 30
The bride lies in her bed, bundled up under the blankets.
ON THE WINDOW

It begins to open. When it's open, the curtains move as an
invisible being enters the room.

INTERCUT WITH:

31 EXT. POND - NIGHT 31
The "bride" is bathing her legs now. She's still veiled.

32 INT. BRIDE'S HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT 32
The bride lies still in her bed under the covers. Suddenly,
Atyminius appears over her, his dagger poised for the kill.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

33 INT. BRIDE'S HOME - BEDROOM - NIGHT

33

Atyminius jerks the blanket off the sleeping bride, only to receive a vicious kick to his jaw from:

XENA

who leaps out of bed, sword in hand and continues the attack.

XENA

I knew you'd hear everything.

She's about to finish him off when he manages to get the Helmet on. He disappears. Now, with no sand to trace his footsteps, she has to swing the sword around wildly as she backs up against a wall. She stands against the wall, listening carefully for the slightest sound. She hears a creek in the floorboards and ducks.

ON THE WALL

A hole is punched in the wall where the knife has penetrated.

XENA

hacks at that area but she comes up with nothing. She leaps over the bed.

ON THE BED

An invisible knife blow misses Xena and rips the bed open.

ON XENA

She grabs a blanket and throws it in the general direction of the bed.

THE BLANKET

as it settles on Atyminius' body. Xena now knows where he is. She doesn't hesitate to run her sword through the blanket.

ATYMINIUS' VOICE

Ahhh!

XENA

Enjoy paradise for a little while longer.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

There's a thump as the blanket falls to the ground. Xena reaches down, feels for the Helmet and jerks it off.

ON ATYMINIUS' BODY

as it becomes visible.

ON XENA

She holds the Helmet. The door opens and Gabrielle sticks her head in.

XENA

Gabrielle, you stay here. Marcus and I have something we've got to do.

CUT TO:

34 EXT. ALCYONIAN LAKE - DAY

34

Xena and Marcus stand on the shore. Marcus holds the Helmet. Xena's finishing up putting her swimming attire back on. She's about to enter the water when she notices Marcus is not following.

XENA

What's the matter?

MARCUS

This Helmet kept Atyminius mortal. He could still appear in the flesh but wearing this from time to time was keeping him alive.

XENA

What's your point?

MARCUS

If it worked for him, it could work for me.

XENA

Marcus, do you realize what you're saying?

MARCUS

Yeah. We could live out our lives together. Without the Helmet of Invisibility, the Wicked have no power over Hades. He'll be able to put things back the way they were. What about it, Xena?

(CONTINUED)

34 CONTINUED:

34

XENA
(very emotional, tempted
herself)
That's not an easy question. I don't
want to lose you again, but --

MARCUS
We could travel together for a few
years. Think of all the good we could
do. Then, when we've had our fill of
adventure, we could settle down. Start
a family, maybe.

Xena paces for a troubled moment and then turns to him.

XENA
I don't know what to say. Is that what
you want?

Long pause. He eyes her tortured expression for a moment
and then lets a sad little smile cross his lips.

MARCUS
It's what I want. But that's the
problem, isn't it?

XENA
What do you mean?

MARCUS
You taught me that life... and death...
aren't about what I want. It's about
what's right. What if Hades can't do
it without the Helmet? It's too big a
chance to take.

XENA
(leaning into him)
I guess I'm too good a teacher.

MARCUS
(embracing her)
No. You're the perfect teacher.

XENA
I can't stand the idea of you spending
Eternity in Tartarus. It's so unfair.
You're a good soul.

MARCUS
It's the way it has to be.

As they kiss, we:

CUT TO:

35 EXT. THE RIVER STYX - NIGHT

35

Chiron stands on his boat. Suddenly, Marcus and Xena are standing on the shore.

CHIRON
(recognizing Xena)
You dead this time?

XENA
Nope. Neither is he.

Chiron eyes Marcus.

CHIRON
What are you talking about? He's been dead for awhile.

XENA
Well, he's not dead now.

CHIRON
(grabs his head in dismay)
I can't believe this. There are no rules anymore. Alright, I'm drawing the line right here. Somebody has to drag some order out of this chaos. Dead or not, I'm not taking you anywhere unless you each give me a coin. There will be no exceptions, no bargaining, no compromise --

He freezes as Xena holds up the Helmet of Invisibility.

CHIRON
Well, what are you waiting for? Get aboard.

CUT TO:

36 EXT. COURTYARD - DAY

36

Xena and Marcus walk toward the palace. The Harpies are nowhere to be seen.

REVERSE ANGLE

The Harpies are swooping in behind them. They don't see them.

HARPIE #1

grabs Marcus with her claw and lifts him up.

ON XENA

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

She drives Harpie #2 back with her sword, grabs her chakram and lets it fly.

HARPIE #1

The claw that is holding Marcus is cut off by the chakram. Marcus falls against the outside of the courtyard wall. He grabs the top of the wall and hangs on. He looks down.

MARCUS' POV

A bottomless abyss gapes beneath him.

ON XENA

She leaps on the wall and reaches for Marcus but she sees Harpie #2 swooping in for the kill. She grabs a chain that lies conveniently on the wall and as the Harpie comes in for a tail whip, she hooks the chain around her tail. The Harpie circles above, fastened to the chain.

HARPIE #1

swoops back, minus a claw.

XENA

grabs the torch off the wall and spikes it into the Harpie's tail.

HARPIE #1

tries desperately to get the torch out of her tail. Not looking where she's flying, she collides with Harpie #2. They erupt into a fireball.

ON XENA AND MARCUS

as she helps Marcus up onto the wall just as the Harpies' fireball passes behind them.

CUT TO:

37 INT. HADES' QUARTERS - NIGHT

37

Hades sits looking more depressed than before. Suddenly, the door opens and Xena enters.

HADES

Did you get the Helmet?

XENA

Yep.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

HADES
Where is it?

XENA
I hid it:

HADES
Why?

XENA
If you want it, you'll have to put
Marcus among the good. If I don't tell
you what I did with it, you may never
find it.

HADES
I can't do that. It's impossible.

XENA
Don't give me that. You're a god.

HADES
Every man and woman is judged only once
when they die. Not even I can change
that.

XENA
When they die?
(thinks for a moment)
Then all I'm asking is that you give
Marcus a hearing when he dies.
(off Hades' confused look)
You gave him his life back for forty-
eight hours, remember? He'll die again
soon. He deserves another judgement.

Hades hesitates.

XENA
Have a good time looking for that
Helmet.

She starts to exit.

HADES
No, wait. Alright, I give you my word
that I'll judge him again. Keep in
mind that all his past bad deeds will
still weigh heavily against him.

XENA
I want to argue in his behalf.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: 2

37

HADES

That really won't be necessary. I know everything Marcus has done.

XENA

I don't just want to talk about what he's done. I want to talk about what's in his heart.

HADES

Alright. You can speak for him. Now where's the Helmet?

XENA

Marcus.

Marcus suddenly appears holding the Helmet. He's been there wearing it the entire time. Hades takes the Helmet. Marcus turns to Xena.

MARCUS

Xena. Let's get it over with.

Xena stares into his eyes and understands what he means. She pulls a dagger, steps toward him and kisses him gently. They exchange loving looks and then Xena plunges the knife into his heart. As he sinks to the floor, Xena lets out a cry of anguish. She turns to Hades.

XENA

(full of emotion)

He could have kept the Helmet and lived out his life. You know that. You see everything. He was tempted but in the end he did the right thing.

Hades looks unconvinced.

XENA

Look into his heart. He told me once that when he was in Tartarus he learned to carry the Elysian Fields inside him. Let him bring that kind of love to paradise where it belongs.

ON HADES

as he considers these last words.

CUT TO:

38 EXT. ELYSIAN FIELDS - DAY

38

Xena sits awaiting something. She looks tense and worried.
A hand reaches out and touches her hair. She looks up.
It's Marcus. They embrace. She's overcome with emotion.

HADES (O.C.)

You must go now, Xena.

They look up to see Hades standing over them.

HADES

Marcus is in the Elysian Fields
forever. Now say "good-bye."

ON XENA AND MARCUS

as they stare into each other's eyes. They kiss.

MARCUS

Keep thinking of me.

ON HADES

He waves his hand and Xena is gone.

ON MARCUS

as he stands alone in the Elysian Fields, grasping the air
that once held Xena.

CUT TO:

39 EXT. ALCYONIAN LAKE - DAY

39

Gabrielle sits on the shore staring out at the water.

ON XENA

as she bursts up from underneath the water.

ON GABRIELLE

as she waits on shore for Xena to walk out of the surf.
Xena flops down on the sand, emotionally drained. Gabrielle
stoops down next to her and studies her face carefully.
Xena looks into Gabrielle's eyes.

XENA

(can't hold back the tears)
He's in the Elysian Fields.

Gabrielle embraces Xena.

GABRIELLE

You'll be together again one day.

(CONTINUED)

39 CONTINUED:

39

XENA
We'll never be apart.
(taps her chest)
He'll live in here forever.

FADE OUT.

THE END