

XENA

WARRIOR PRINCESS

A Day in The Life

BY
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Season 2
Episode #16

Prod. #V0223

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"A Day In The Life"

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XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"A Day In The Life"

CAST LIST

XENA
GABRIELLE

LARGO
HOWER
MINYA
ZAGREUS

(min-YA)
(ZAR-gree-us)

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XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"A Day In The Life"

SET LIST

INTERIORS:

BARN

EXTERIORS:

CAMPSITE
CROSSROADS
ANOTHER CROSSROADS
ROAD
CREEK BANK
FIELD #1
FIELD #2
VILLAGE STREET
COUNTRY ROAD
CAMPFIRE

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XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"A Day In The Life"

CHRONOLOGY

DAY 1
NIGHT 1

SCENES # 1 - 22
SCENE #23

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"A Day In The Life"

TEASER

FADE IN:

BLACK SCREEN - GRAPHIC READS "WAKING UP"

1 EXT. CAMPSITE - DAY

1

Xena and Gabrielle lie asleep at the campfire. We hear the faintest SOUND OF A TWIG BREAKING. Then shadows fall over Xena and Gabrielle. Two feet appear next to Xena's head. Suddenly, Xena reaches out, grabs a frying pan and holds it over her head just in time to block the downward movement of a sword headed for her skull. All hell breaks loose.

DIFFERENT ANGLE

TEN WARRIORS have surrounded Xena and Gabrielle. Xena leaps up and starts battering the warriors with the frying pan. Gabrielle remains asleep. Xena grabs a cup of water and tosses it onto Gabrielle's face and then continues her frying pan defense. Gabrielle sits up, sees what's happening, grabs her staff and jumps to her feet.

THE FIGHT

Xena pummels seven of the warriors with the frying pan as Gabrielle holds off three others. Xena knocks the last of her opponents out and then turns to see Gabrielle in trouble with her three assailants. Xena throws the frying pan like a chakram. It caroms off the heads of the remaining three warriors. They fall to the ground as the frying pan comes to a rest at Gabrielle's feet.

ON XENA

as she notices one of the warriors, LARGO, trying to drag himself to his feet. Xena runs over and puts the pinch on him.

XENA

Where do you think you're going?

Gabrielle strolls over, holding the frying pan which has a huge dent in it.

GABRIELLE

This was our only frying pan. Why do you do that? You have weapons, don't you?

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

XENA
I like to be creative in a fight.
It gets my juices going.

GABRIELLE
Can we cook with your juices?

LARGO
Could you two talk about this some
other time?

XENA
Oh, yeah. I cut off the --

LARGO
Flow of blood to my brain. I've heard
all about it. What do you want to
know?

XENA
Who sent you?

LARGO
Zagreus. He wants to loot a little
village not far from here that had a
big harvest this year.

XENA
What village?

LARGO
Piedmon. Zagreus heard you were in the
area and sent us to stop you before you
got in his way.

XENA
(to Gabrielle)
Well, I guess we're headed to Piedmon.

She walks toward Argo without taking the pinch off Largo.

LARGO
Hey!

XENA
Oh, yeah. Sorry. I haven't totally
woke up yet.

She takes off the pinch and then gives Largo a short
straight right to his chin to render him unconscious.

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN - GRAPHIC READS "FINDING YOUR WAY"

2 EXT. CROSSROADS - DAY

2

Xena, Gabrielle and Argo stand at a crossroads. They look lost.

GABRIELLE
Which way?

XENA
I don't know. I've never been there.

GABRIELLE
You should have asked for instructions when you had the pinch on the guy.

XENA
Well, you were there. You could have asked.

GABRIELLE
Oh, come on, like you would have wanted me to butt in on one of your pinch interrogations.

XENA
Why not? You ask good questions.

GABRIELLE
You think so, really? Thanks.
(spots somebody)
Let's try it. Here comes a guy now.
Put the pinch on him and I'll question him.

XENA
Why don't we just try asking him the regular way first?

GABRIELLE
Right.

ON HOWER

He lumbers toward Xena and Gabrielle. He's as big as a horse and as gentle as a lamb. Think Hoss Cartwright.

GABRIELLE
Excuse me, Sir. Could you tell --

HOWER
(to Xena)
You Xena?

XENA
Yep.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED:

2

HOWER
My village is in great danger. Will
you help us?

GABRIELLE
Ironically, we were on the way to your
village. Piedmon, right?

HOWER
I'm from Laurel.

GABRIELLE
(to Xena)
Zagreus must be threatening that one,
too.

HOWER
No, not Zagreus. A giant wanted us to
pay him protection money. We didn't
have enough. So he says he's going to
come this afternoon and flatten our
town.

GABRIELLE
Oh. Two villages in dire straights.
I hate when that happens. Well, we'll
just have to methodically examine the
need of each village and determine
where we can do the most good.

*

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN - GRAPHIC READS "MAKING A DECISION"

3 EXT. CROSSROADS - DAY

3

Gabrielle stands with a scroll in her hands, busy making
notations on it.

GABRIELLE
All right. I've made a list of pros
and cons. Which village is in greater
danger... which one has the most to
lose... giant vs. warlord and so on.
I'm sure with a careful consideration
of the facts we can make the right
decision.

Xena steps into frame, tosses a coin in the air and slaps it
against her forearm. She examines the coin.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

XENA
Heads. We take on the giant.

GABRIELLE
Of course, that's another way.

Hower leads them along the road to Laurel.

GABRIELLE
Tell me, Hower. Do you have a store in
your village that sells frying pans?

XENA
You know, I really don't want to hear
about this all day.

GABRIELLE
Fine. I'll drop it. I suppose raw
meat can't kill you.

And so we begin this very special episode of "Xena: Warrior
Princess."

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

BLACK SCREEN - GRAPHIC READS "TRAVELLING"

4 EXT. ROAD - DAY

4

Xena and Gabrielle walk along, Argo trailing behind. Hower is a few strides ahead of them, leading the way. Xena and Gabrielle are playing Twenty Questions. Throughout this scene, Hower throws looks back at Xena. He's obviously fascinated with her.

GABRIELLE
Are you male or female?

XENA
Male.

GABRIELLE
Are you living or dead?

XENA
I'm very dead.

GABRIELLE
Were you killed by a certain Warrior Princess?

XENA
Yep.

GABRIELLE
Well, that narrows it down... a little... Hummm... Atyminius?

XENA
Nope.

Suddenly, Gabrielle swings her staff at Xena's face. Xena catches it with her hand, a centimeter in front of her nose.

GABRIELLE
I almost got you that time.

XENA
No, you didn't.

GABRIELLE
What are you talking about? I was that close.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

XENA

You were that close because I let you
be that close.

GABRIELLE

We'll see.

Hower is practically walking backwards by now, he's so
interested in everything that's going on between Xena and
Gabrielle. Xena notices.

XENA

So, Hower, how big is this giant?

HOWER

I don't know. He's never been to our
village before. He just sends threats
through a messenger.

GABRIELLE

Then how do you know there really is a
giant?

HOWER

We've heard he's already destroyed a
village in the next valley.

XENA

So he's never been to your village.
We may be able to use that to buy some
time.

Xena's stomach ROARS like a lion. Gabrielle throws her a
look.

XENA

No breakfast. Hower, is there a creek
with fish close by?

HOWER

Yeah. Just over that ridge.

XENA

Well, let's take a detour and eat.

They start walking toward the ridge.

GABRIELLE

Fish. Umm. Sounds great.

(beat)

A frying pan sure would come in handy
right now.

XENA

Get off it, Gabrielle.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED: 2

4

They walk on a few more strides, then:

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN - GRAPHIC READS "FOOD"

5 EXT. CREEK BANK - DAY

5

Xena squats on the bank, sprinkling bread crumbs on the surface of the water. She then stares into the water. She's looking for fish. Gabrielle stands on the shore, holding a basket. Hower stands watching this all with great interest.

GABRIELLE
(still playing Twenty
Questions)
Are you a warlord or royalty?

XENA
Warlord.

HOWER
Doesn't she need a fishing pole?

GABRIELLE
Much too conventional for her.
(to Xena)
Are you Dagnon?

XENA
Nope.

Xena suddenly shoots her arm below the surface and pulls out a wiggling fish which she tosses to Gabrielle. Gabrielle catches it with the basket as Hower is very impressed.

XENA
(peering down into the
water)
What do you like, Hower? Perch or
trout?

HOWER
Trout.

Xena nods, shoots her arm under the surface again and comes up with another fish which she tosses to Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE
I'll take salmon.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

XENA
Wrong season, wrong part of the
country, wrong kind of creek, wrong --

GABRIELLE
All right! How about eel?

XENA
(sigh)
Eel...

She looks into the water, muttering something
unintelligible under her breath, then notices something on
the far bank.

XENA
(to Gabrielle)
See that? Horse tracks. Lots of 'em.
Zagreus' army must have forded this
creek here recently. It won't be long
before they strike at Piedmon.

GABRIELLE
What a shame that little village has to
be looted.

XENA
I'm not going to let that happen,
Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE
How can you stop it? You can't be two
places at once.

XENA
I don't have to be.

Her arm shoots under the surface again and comes up with
another squirming fish. She looks at it.

XENA
(to Gabrielle)
Here's a nice pike.

GABRIELLE
I'm really in the mood for eel.

Xena gives her a look, then tosses the fish back into the
creek and continues to look.

ON GABRIELLE AND HOWER

Hower sits down next to Gabrielle.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: 2

5

HOWER

Let me ask you something, Gabrielle.
Does Xena ever think about settling
down and getting married?

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: 3

5

Gabrielle gives him a look that suggests this happens a lot - guys falling in love with Xena.

GABRIELLE

Not really. She likes what she --

XENA (O.C.)

Heads up.

A SLIMY EEL splats against the side of Gabrielle's head, then wraps around her neck. Gabrielle pulls it off, tosses it in the basket and throws a look at Xena. Then she continues to talk to Hower.

*
*
*

GABRIELLE

She likes what she's doing now. I don't think settling down is for her.

HOWER

Maybe she just hasn't met the right guy.

GABRIELLE

Anything's possible, I suppose. Hower, I noticed a lot of fallen branches around. Would you mind collecting some wood? We'll need to cook these...
(toward Xena)
...somehow.

Hower exits as Xena walks over and plops down next to Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE

(nods toward Hower)

Another one's fallen for you.

XENA

Not again. Why does that happen all the time?

GABRIELLE

It's the blue eyes... And the leather. Some guys just love leather.

XENA

Maybe a wardrobe change is in order.

GABRIELLE

You could wear chain mail.

XENA

Yeah, but I think that would just attract a kinkier group.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED: 3

5

GABRIELLE
You're probably right.

XENA
How about if I stopped bathing and wore
a smelly wolfskin? That'd turn them
off.

GABRIELLE
That's true. Of course, you'd also be
travelling by yourself.

Xena and Gabrielle exchange CHUCKLES. Xena glances up and
sees:

HOWER

standing over her, holding a bunch of branches in one arm,
and a bouquet of flowers in the other. He holds out the
flowers to Xena.

HOWER
Flowers for a flower.

Xena takes the flowers. She's as indifferent as good
manners will allow.

XENA
Thanks, Hower.

She moves away.

HOWER
Did you see that?

GABRIELLE
What?

HOWER
She took the flowers. She likes me.

GABRIELLE
Oh, boy.

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN - GRAPHIC READS "UTENSILS"

6 EXT. CREEK BANK - DAY

6

Xena is tending to Argo's saddle. Hower walks up and stares
at her. We HEAR THE SOUND OF SOMETHING BEING CUT.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

Xena notices Hower staring at her, throws him a little smile and then looks the other way. What she sees causes her eyes to widen in horror.

XENA
Gabrielle, what are you doing?

ON GABRIELLE

She's busy cutting the heads and tails off the fish and eels with the chakram. Xena rushes up and takes the chakram away from her.

*
*

XENA
That's just great. It's gonna smell like fish for days.

GABRIELLE
Well, what was I supposed to use? You threw our only good cutting knife at a warlord last week. It's probably still sticking out of his leg.

Hower approaches.

HOWER
I'll wash it off for you, Xena.

XENA
That's all right. Hower, how far are we away from your village?

HOWER
It's about two more hours, due north.

XENA
Good. We can find it without you. There is something you can do for me.

HOWER
Anything.

XENA
I want you to deliver a message to the warlord, Zagreus.

A LONG PAUSE as Hower and Gabrielle await a ball-busting threat.

XENA
Tell him not to worry about anything. I won't get in his way if he doesn't get in mine.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED: 2

6

HOWER
(disappointed)
That's it?

XENA
Yep.

Xena walks away. Hower throws a look at Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE
I don't get it either but I've learned
she works in mysterious ways.

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN - GRAPHIC READS "A CALL FROM NATURE"

7 EXT. FIELD #1 - DAY

7

Gabrielle and Argo stand in a field. Xena is nowhere in sight. Gabrielle paces and recites a story she's writing in her head. We SEE A CLUMP OF BUSHES IN THE BACKGROUND.

GABRIELLE
"...the Bacchae gripped their victims
like a python... pythons?" No.
"...the Bacchae fell on their prey like
hungry wolves..." Yeah, that's it.

She reaches into Argo's saddlebag and pulls out a scroll. As she unrolls it, we see XENA IN THE BACKGROUND COMING OUT OF THE BUSHES. She adjusts her outfit as she does so. Gabrielle holds up the scroll and looks at the end of it. It's ragged. A piece has obviously been torn off. She turns to Xena, her face wearing a look of horror.

GABRIELLE
You used my scroll?

XENA
There aren't any good leaves in this
area.

(examines the speechless
indignation on Gabrielle's
face)
Hey, I tore off a piece that didn't
have any writing on it.

Gabrielle is about to muster a response when Xena tilts her head and listens. Suddenly, she drops down to the ground and presses her head against the soil. She listens for a moment and then jumps to her feet.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

XENA
The giant. He's coming.

GABRIELLE
Hower said he wasn't due till this
afternoon.

WE HEAR THE SOUND OF GIANT FOOTSTEPS IN THE DISTANCE.

XENA
Well, he's early.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

BLACK SCREEN - GRAPHIC READS "GIVING DIRECTIONS"

8 EXT. ANOTHER CROSSROADS - DAY

8

CLOSE ON A MAKESHIFT DIRECTIONAL SIGN

Gabrielle is finishing up writing some Greek lettering on it.

WIDER TO SHOW

Gabrielle and Xena standing at the crossroads. Gabrielle admires her handiwork.

GABRIELLE

I hope I spelt Laurel, right.

XENA

Who cares. Giants can't spell.

She picks up the sign which is bound to a pole. She then shoves the pole into the dirt and carefully adjusts the way it's pointing.

GABRIELLE

How do you know the giant will even come this way? I haven't heard him in a few minutes. He may have taken another route.

XENA

There's a Giant Burial Ground not far from here. I'm figuring he'll want to pass by that on his way.

We hear the SOUND OF GIANT FOOTSTEPS once again in the distance.

XENA

Let's go.

They hurry off in the opposite direction from the way the sign is pointing.

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN - GRAPHIC READS "ARRIVING AT A NEW TOWN"

9 EXT. VILLAGE STREET - DAY

9

Xena and Gabrielle enter the little village of Laurel. The street is deserted.

GABRIELLE
(getting frustrated with
Twenty Questions)
Light or dark hair?

XENA
Dark.

GABRIELLE
Fat?

XENA
Nope. Buff.

GABRIELLE
(eureka)
Toxeus.

XENA
Nope.

Gabrielle throws up her hands in despair.

XENA
(looking around)
That's interesting.

GABRIELLE
There's something interesting about
this place? It looks like every other
village we've ever been in. You'd
think just once somebody'd do something
different. You know, like have birch
trees lining the road or maybe --

XENA
Gabrielle! I mean that there's nobody
here.

GABRIELLE
Oh! Right.

They move along, carefully examining the deserted street.
Suddenly, a door swings open and A STOUT WOMAN, AGE 25,
MINYA, comes out into the street carrying a large sack of
oats. She carries it on one shoulder and it's blocking her
view of Xena and Gabrielle. She walks toward a barn.

XENA
Hey!

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

Minya turns and sizes up Xena. Then a big grin grows on her face and she tosses the sack of oats aside like it was a feather. MINYA HAS THE PERSONALITY OF ROSIE O'DONNELL AND THE MIND-SET OF A REAL FAN.

MINYA
You're Xena, aren't ya?

XENA
Yep.

MINYA
All right! I finally get to meet the Warrior Princess herself. I've heard about all your adventures. How you liberated Prometheus and unchained Death and nailed that Callisto bitch.

XENA
Listen, I'm here to --

MINYA
You are the main thing, the real deal, the number one attraction.
(to Gabrielle)
You must be Lariel.

Gabrielle is about to correct her but Minya barrels forward.

MINYA
What's it like to travel with the hottest warrior in the butt-kicking bizz? Does she sleep in the --

XENA
Hey! We're here on a mission.

MINYA
And I stayed around to help. Everybody else fled to the hills except me and my boyfriend Hower. You probably already met him. Where is he?

XENA
He's doing me a favor. He told us about your problem.

MINYA
I want you to know I'm ready to do anything you need. I'm strong as a bull and I can read. That's a pretty rare combination in these parts. What's your plan, your strategy? How you gonna whip this overgrown flea bag?

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED: 2

9

XENA
I don't know, yet. I got to think it out.

MINYA
Fine. What can I do to help you concentrate?

As Xena considers this question, we:

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN - GRAPHIC READS "GETTING CLEAN"

10 INT. BARN - DAY

10

Xena and Gabrielle sit in a big wooden bathtub. Gabrielle is rubbing Xena's back with a sponge.

GABRIELLE
Xerxes.

XENA
Nope.

GABRIELLE
Mezentius.

XENA
Nope.

GABRIELLE
(at wits end)
Who could it be? Don't tell me.

Minya enters with a bucket of steaming hot water and pours it into the tub.

MINYA
Is it too hot?

XENA
Nah. It's just right.

MINYA
I'll get some more.

She hurries out.

GABRIELLE
What are we going to do about this giant?

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

XENA
I don't know. It hasn't hit me yet.

GABRIELLE
Well, I guess we should get Minya to round up some mirrors.

XENA
Mirrors?

GABRIELLE
In case he's wearing a helmet. You know, like with Goliath, so you can reflect the sun onto him, get him to take the helmet off and expose the Giant Soft Spot.

XENA
Ah, I did that already.

GABRIELLE
Yeah, and it worked. You don't have to be original every time you fight, you know.

XENA
I suppose so.
(takes the sponge)
Now I'll do your back.

They change positions and Xena begins rubbing Gabrielle's back with the sponge. Minya enters again with the bucket and pours more water in. She then hurries out to get more.

XENA
(calling after her)
That's enough, Minya.

Minya is already gone.

GABRIELLE
She's in that "I'll do anything for the Warrior Princess" haze.

XENA
She's a nice kid.

GABRIELLE
Her boyfriend is in love with you. I guess I'll have to straighten that out.

XENA
Why you?

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: 2

10

GABRIELLE
I usually do the sensitive chats.

XENA
Well, that doesn't mean I can't.

GABRIELLE
Why do you have to be so competitive
about everything?

Minya returns with the water and pours it into the tub.

XENA
That's enough, really Minya, thank you.

MINYA
Sure. You got your plan yet?

XENA
Well --

GABRIELLE
We need you to collect all the mirrors
in town.

MINYA
(to Xena)
Is that what you want me to do, Xena?
Mirrors are part of the plan?

XENA
Yeah. For now.

Minya rushes off to go mirror hunting. Xena notices
Gabrielle staring at her.

XENA
What?

GABRIELLE
You said, "For now."

XENA
So?

GABRIELLE
You're not gonna do that again, are
you?

XENA
What?

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED: 3

10

GABRIELLE

You know what. We set up a perfectly good plan and then you change it all at the last minute.

XENA

Hey, you got to stay flexible. It's part of the job.

(beat)

Are you sitting on the soap?

GABRIELLE

(looking down)

I was wondering what that was.

*
*
*
*
*

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN - GRAPHIC READS "LOVE IS A MANY SPLENDORED THING"

11 EXT. VILLAGE STREET - DAY

11

Hower lumbers into the village. He spots:

MINYA

hauling a huge mirror across the street toward the barn. She sees Hower's reflection in the mirror and turns toward him.

MINYA

Hello, Hower. Xena's here. Isn't she incredible? So strong, so confident, so brave, so --

HOWER

(transfixed by something)

Beautiful.

He's staring at Xena who just walked out of the barn, drying her hair. Hower's infatuation is written all over his face.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

MINYA
(instantly jealous)
Well, she's all right... if you like
that type.

HOWER
Xena. I delivered the message to
Zagreus. He --

XENA
Wanted to know what I was up to and
ordered his men to hold off the attack
on Piedmon till he could figure it out.
And he wouldn't agree to my offer.

HOWER
That's right. How'd you know that?

XENA
I used to ride with Zagreus. He's got
nerves of mush and he wouldn't trust
his own mother. Of course, I've met
his mother...

(she shakes her head as she
remembers Ma Zagreus)
Hower, I want you to go back and tell
him it's fine with me if he wants to
sack Piedmon but he better not come
anywhere close to Laurel.

HOWER
All right, Xena, anything you want.

MINYA
Hey, Hower, is a "Hi, Minya" too much
to ask?

HOWER
(without taking his eyes off
Xena)
Hi. I'm going now, Xena.

MINYA
Bye, Hower.

Hower ignores Minya.

XENA
Say good-bye to Minya, Hower.

HOWER
(obediently; still not
taking his eyes off Xena)
Bye. I'll get right on it, Xena.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED: 2

11

He backs up a few feet, then turns and runs out of town.
Minya stares after him in disbelief.

MINYA

He's running. I've never seen him run
for anything but a meal.

She throws a scowl at Xena.

MINYA

But he runs for you, doesn't he?

Xena gives Minya an uncomfortable little smile and walks
back toward the barn as Gabrielle comes out holding
something behind her back.

ON XENA AND GABRIELLE

as they pass.

XENA

When Hower comes back, one of us has
got to talk with him.

Xena continues to walk into the barn as Gabrielle walks up
to Minya. She pulls a sturdy frying pan from behind her
back.

GABRIELLE

Is this your frying pan, Minya?

MINYA

(gruff)

Yeah.

GABRIELLE

You want to trade for it?

Minya thinks about this for a moment.

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN - GRAPHIC READS "PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT"

12 INT. BARN - DAY

12

Xena is standing in the middle of the barn. There's a post
on either side of her, about ten feet apart. A bucket sits
on the top of each post. Xena takes a deep breath and then
leaps in the air with a WAR CRY. With a twisting, turning
move she kicks one bucket off while slapping the other one
off with her hand.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

ON XENA

as she twists toward the ground. We see Gabrielle has snuck behind her with her staff and is about to strike. Xena shoots out a foot and knocks the staff away, just before she lands on her feet. There's a PAUSE as Gabrielle does a slow burn of frustration. Then:

GABRIELLE

Sinteres.

*

XENA

Nope.

GABRIELLE

Was it some guy you fought before I even met you?

XENA

Nope.

GABRIELLE

(a defeated woman)

All right. Tell me. Who was it?

XENA

Theodorus.

Gabrielle does a slow burn.

GABRIELLE

Theodorus! Callisto killed Theodorus!

XENA

Yeah, but she was in my body at the time.

Gabrielle looks like she's ready to explode when we HEAR THE SOUND OF WHIP CRACKING AND THEN A CRY OF PAIN. Xena and Gabrielle run out into the:

13 EXT. VILLAGE STREET - DAY

13

Minya stands in the middle of the street, holding Xena's whip and rubbing a big red welt on her arm.

MINYA

The rotten thing came back and bit me.

XENA

You gotta be careful. What are you doing with my whip anyway?

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

MINYA

It isn't your whip anymore. I traded
my best frying pan for it, fair and
square.

Xena looks at Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE

Xena, we need to cook our food. I'm
still waiting for the fish we had for
lunch to stop trying to swim up stream.

XENA

This isn't about cooking, is it?

GABRIELLE

I don't know what you're talking about.

XENA

I messed with your scrolls so you
traded my whip for a frying pan.

(to Minya)

I want it back.

MINYA

No. It's mine. It belongs to me. You
don't get that concept real well, do
you? The whip is mine, the frying pan
is yours, Hower is mine.

(points toward Gabrielle)

She's yours.

Xena tosses a look at Gabrielle. Gabrielle shrugs as if to
say maybe this has gone a little too far.

XENA

I'm gonna check on the Giant. Move all
the mirrors to the north end of town.

She mounts Argo. Minya gives the whip a mini crack.

MINYA

You're not the only tough broad around
here, you know.

Xena SIGHS and gallops off.

MINYA

Warrior Princess, my...

(to Gabrielle)

Hey, I got such a pot I'll trade you
for that round thing on her belt.

As Gabrielle eyes the Frankenstein she's helped create, we:

CUT TO:

14 EXT. COUNTRY ROAD - DAY

14

Xena rides along looking for the signs of a giant. Hower rounds a bend in the road and waves to her.

HOWER

Hey, Xena.

XENA

Hey, Hower.

HOWER

Zagreus --

XENA

Is moving in this direction.

HOWER

You're right. How do you know all this? You're a genius.

XENA

No. I just know that scum always floats to the surface. He wants to see what I'm up to in Laurel. He figures there must be a profit in it.

HOWER

I get it. But why do you want him to come this way? Then we'll have to fight the Giant and Zagreus' army.

XENA

Not if we time things right.

She sees something that makes her eyes squint in concern. She dismounts Argo.

HOWER

What is it?

Xena moves toward something.

DIFFERENT ANGLE

as Xena walks up to the largest damn footprint you're ever gonna see.

HOWER

Wow. And I thought I had big feet.

Xena measures the footprint with strides.

XENA

Four strides. It's got to be Gareth.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

Who's Gareth? HOWER

 XENA
The biggest Giant ever to walk the
earth.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

BLACK SCREEN - GRAPHIC READS "STORY TELLING"

15 INT. BARN - DAY

15

Minya sits reading a scroll she holds in her hand. Gabrielle watches her with the nervousness of a writer awaiting a verdict on her work. Minya looks up and stares at Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE

What do you think?

*

MINYA

It's pretty good. Do you have one where Xena steals somebody's boyfriend or do you always leave that part out?

*

GABRIELLE

Minya, Xena would never steal anybody's boyfriend. She's got more integrity in that way than anybody I've ever met. She'll send the right message to Hower, I guarantee it.

Hower enters.

HOWER

Minya. I want to be real honest with you. I think I'm in love with Xena.

MINYA

(to Gabrielle)

She sent him a message all right.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

Xena enters.

GABRIELLE

Xena, we need to talk about Hower
and --

XENA

(no nonsense)

The Giant is Gareth. We've got to move
quick. The mirror plan won't work.

HOWER

(to Minya)

Gareth is --

MINYA

(deadpan)

The biggest Giant to ever walk the
earth. Xena's old buddy Goliath wanted
to get revenge on Gareth for killing
his family but then Xena and Goliath
ended up on different sides in the
Israelite-Philistine feud and Goliath
got wasted.

(off Gareth's look)

I read it in one of her scrolls.

GABRIELLE

Does Gareth wear a helmet?

XENA

Yep. With a heavy nose guard.

GABRIELLE

Well, why won't the mirrors --

XENA

There're some heavy rain clouds moving
in from the west. There won't be any
sunshine to reflect.

GABRIELLE

Well, what are we going to do?

Xena thinks for a moment. In the distance we hear THE SOUND
OF THUNDER.

XENA

Zeus killed giants with lightning
bolts.

GABRIELLE

How're we gonna get lightning bolts?

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED: 2

15

We close in on Xena as she ponders this dilemma.

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN - GRAPHIC READS "TRIAL AND ERROR"

16 EXT. FIELD #2 - DAY

16

CLOSE ON XENA'S HANDS

as she ties a metal belt buckle to a string.

WIDER TO SHOW

Xena holding what appears to be the world's first kite.

XENA

There.

She holds it up for Gabrielle to see. Hower and Minya stand watching.

GABRIELLE

What is it?

XENA

I don't have a name for it but if we can get it up in the air, I think we can use it to nail Gareth.

GABRIELLE

Get it up in the air?

XENA

Yeah. Fly it. Let the wind carry it.

Xena holds it up and then tosses it in the air. It crashes to the ground.

ON MINYA AND HOWER

MINYA

I think your precious has got a screw lose.

HOWER

She knows what's she's doing. She'll pull this off, I know she will.

MINYA

There's nothing she can do wrong in your scroll, is there?

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

She shakes her head in disgust and stomps off.

ON GABRIELLE AND XENA

Gabrielle looks at Xena trying to get the kite airborne.

GABRIELLE

You know, Xena, I hate to doubt you
after all we've been through but this
looks like a long shot to me.

XENA

Well, what's your plan?

GABRIELLE

Don't get defensive. I'm just saying I
don't share your vision here.

XENA

You didn't share my vision a few
other times.

GABRIELLE

Fine. And you were right about those
things. But eventually you're gonna be
wrong, call it the law of averages, and
I'd just as soon it not be when the
biggest Giant to ever walk the earth is
headed this way.

XENA

Maybe if I ran with it?

She starts running with it. She looks a little ridiculous.

ON GABRIELLE

GABRIELLE

(to herself)

Have faith, Gabrielle. Faith.

And as the kite crashes down on Gabrielle's head, we:

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN - GRAPHIC READS "STRAIGHTENING THINGS OUT"

17 EXT. FIELD #2 - DAY

17

ON THE KITE

It's flying.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

ON GABRIELLE AND XENA

Gabrielle holds the string and grins up at the kite.

GABRIELLE

We did it, we did it, we did it. When Gareth gets here we'll have a... piece of parchment floating in the air with a belt buckle hanging on it. Xena, what exactly is this supposed to do?

XENA

Bring the power of Zeus to earth.

(looks around)

See how long you can keep it up there. I'm gonna go see if I can talk some sense into Hower.

GABRIELLE

Are you sure you don't want me to --

XENA

I can handle it, Gabrielle.

CUT TO:

18 INT. BARN - DAY

18

Hower is brushing Argo. Xena enters.

HOWER

Xena. I'm brushing down Argo for you. I think she likes me.

XENA

Hower, Minya's a good woman, she loves you, you're lucky to have her and you've got a snowball's chance in Tartarus with me. You got all that?

HOWER

I think you're denying your feelings, Xena. I can be patient. You'll come around.

Xena stares at Hower, then walks thoughtfully out of the barn and into:

19 EXT. VILLAGE STREET - DAY

19

Xena steps out into the street. Suddenly, Gabrielle appears in the hayloft above, lets out a little WAR CRY and leaps down towards Xena.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

Xena simply sidesteps Gabrielle who lands face down on the ground with a resounding THUD.

GABRIELLE
I would have had you if I hadn't done
the war cry.

XENA
Sure you would have. It's your turn
with Hower.

GABRIELLE
(pulling herself to her
feet)
Right. Your flying parchment is stuck
in a tree.

She limps into the barn:

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN - GRAPHIC READS "JUST PLAIN GIRL TALK"

20 EXT. VILLAGE STREET - DAY

20

Xena stands in the middle of the street, working on her kite and talking to Minya. Gabrielle comes out of the barn and walks toward Minya and Xena. Minya suddenly turns and strides away from Xena.

ON GABRIELLE AND XENA

as Gabrielle approaches.

GABRIELLE
What'd you say to her?

XENA
I just gave her a little advice on
handling men. I don't know if she
really listened. She doesn't trust me,
you know. How'd it go with Hower?

GABRIELLE
Not well. Maybe you could kick him
around a little bit.

XENA
He might like it.

GABRIELLE
That's true.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

Xena looks at her kite which she's folding down.

XENA

If this works I'll repay an old friend
a debt.

GABRIELLE

Goliath.

XENA

I've always regretted I couldn't find
some other way to solve that problem
with the Israelites without him having
to die. Now at least I'll even the
score for him. The Giant who killed
his family is walking toward the wrong
village.

GABRIELLE

Well, the dead can hear our thoughts so
I'm sure he knows you care about him.

LONG PAUSE as they stand looking reflective. We feel for a
moment like we're about to cut away, when:

GABRIELLE

That thing about the dead hearing our
thoughts. Do they hear all our
thoughts? I mean, there are things I
wouldn't want Perdicas to hear. You
know what I mean?

XENA

I never thought about it just that
way... but it is kinda scary, isn't it?

GABRIELLE

Yeah.

Xena and Gabrielle stand thinking about all the different
fantasies their dead loved ones may have heard. They both
wear concerned looks. They're distracted by a huge BOOMING
SOUND coming from the distance. Hower comes running out of
the barn.

HOWER

What's that?

XENA

It sounds like Zagreus ran into a
certain Giant. Gareth could never
resist stomping an army.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: 2

20

HOWER

Brilliant. That was your plan all
along. To bring Zagreus into Gareth's
path. Do all your plans work this
well?

CLOSE ON XENA

as she glances at her kite and then looks out in the
direction the CRASHING SOUNDS are coming from.

XENA

Let's hope so. Cause when he's done
with Zagreus he's headed here.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

BLACK SCREEN - GRAPHIC READS "WAITING FOR GARETH"

21 EXT. VILLAGE STREET - DAY

21

Xena sits on a rock in the street, idly tossing her chakram in a series of small caroms back to her hand. It's like tossing cards into a hat but she's doing it with the chakram. She flips it a few feet, it bounces off a rock, a horse trough, a post and then back to her hand. The entire round trip is only about 15 feet. Gabrielle is pacing nervously, doing breathing exercises to help her relax and working out with her staff. Hower sits watching Xena's every move.

GABRIELLE

What's taking him so long?

XENA

Cut him some slack. He just stomped an entire army. He's probably resting.

GABRIELLE

Where's Minya?

XENA

I hope she's taking some advice I gave her.

ZAGREUS (O.C.)

XENA!

Xena looks around to see:

ZAGREUS

at the other end of the street. He's a big, mean-looking warlord who, at the moment, is covered with mud, has no helmet and is holding a broken sword. Xena stands to face him.

XENA

Hi, Zagreus. Having a bad day?

ZAGREUS

(building in intensity to final hysteria)

You set me up, Xena. That Giant destroyed my entire army. It isn't fair. I'm just trying to make a living. All us warlords are.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

ZAGREUS (cont'd)

A little looting, a little mayhem. You used to do it, Xena. But you changed. And you've ruined everything for all of us. With your chakram and your whip and your sword and your fists and your little tricks. You make fools of us all. But I'm here to end it, Xena. End it ALL!!! One of us ain't leaving this place alive, Xena. COME ON! LET'S HAVE AT IT!

MINYA (O.C.)

Hey, tough guy.

Zagreus turns to see:

MINYA

clad from head to toe in leather. She looks like the ultimate in bruising dominatrix fashion (of the homemade variety, of course).

MINYA

You here to talk or fight?

ON ZAGREUS

ZAGREUS

(close to insanity)

Another one!

He lets out a SCREAM and charges Minya. Minya meets him with a vicious straight right to the jaw and Zagreus is down for the count. Hower approaches Minya with a startled expression on his face.

HOWER

Minya, that was amazing. I had no idea you --

MINYA

Look so good in leather?

HOWER

Right.

Minya throws a conspiratorial wink at Xena. Suddenly THE SOUND OF GIANT FOOTSTEPS can be heard in the distance. Xena listens carefully.

XENA

Just as I thought. He's moving south. He wants to go by the Giants' Burial Ground first to pay his respects.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: 2

21

XENA (cont'd)
Giants are a superstitious lot.
(to Gabrielle)
I'm gonna go out to meet him.
(holds up her kite)
If this doesn't work, or the bad
weather doesn't hold, you need to get
Hower and Minya to safety. Don't let
them die in a lost cause.

Gabrielle nods.

GABRIELLE
Xena. I'm sorry I traded your whip for
the frying pan.

XENA
Ah, I shouldn't have used your scrolls.
We're even. Well, it's time.

She raises her fingers to her lips and WHISTLES for Argo.
They wait for a few tense seconds and then Xena WHISTLES
again. Still no Argo.

XENA
Oh, boy. I hope she isn't out there
with that stallion again...

And as she goes off to look for Argo, we:

CUT TO:

22 EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

22

Xena rides up on Argo, dismounts, grabs her kite and walks
into the woods.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Xena walks up to a tree, climbs it, perches on a branch and
waits. Soon she HEARS THE SOUND OF GIANT FOOTSTEPS.

ON GIANT FEET

approaching.

XENA'S POV - GARETH

as he emerges from behind some trees. Wow! Is he ever big!

DIFFERENT ANGLE

He walks by Xena's tree.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

XENA

Gareth. We meet again.

GARETH

Xena!

XENA

Come a little closer so I can see you better.

Gareth leans forward and grins.

XENA

Well, I didn't think it was possible but you're even uglier than you were before.

GARETH

I should have killed you ten years ago.

XENA

Well, it's never too late.

Gareth lets out an ENRAGED ROAR and swings his fist at Xena.

ON XENA

She leaps off the tree onto Gareth's back. She ties the kite string onto Gareth's rope belt, then dismounts the Giant with a back flip. She lands on the ground, gives Gareth's toe a good stomp and then runs on. A furious Gareth gives chase.

THE CHASE

Gareth, towing the kite behind him, chases Xena through the forest.

GARETH

I'm gonna crush you like an insect.

XENA

In your dreams.

The chase continues into:

THE GIANT BURIAL GROUND

Gareth chases Xena through the Giant bones. Gareth picks up a shin bone to use as a club.

XENA

You should have more respect for the dead. You'll be joining them sooner than you think.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED: 2

22

ON THE CLOUDS

Lightning and thunder.

ON XENA AND GARETH

as Gareth lifts the bone up to smite Xena. There's a flash of lightning.

XENA
Goliath says, "Hello."

The lightning strikes the kite and Gareth is roasted. He drops dead at Xena's feet.

CUT TO:

BLACK SCREEN - GRAPHIC READS "GOING TO BED"

23 EXT. CAMPFIRE - NIGHT

23

Xena and Gabrielle lie wrapped in their blankets, staring up at the sky. There's a LONG PAUSE.

XENA
(pointing up to the sky)
That bunch looks like a dipper.

GABRIELLE
A dipper?

XENA
Yeah, you know, like a cup that you'd use to take water out of a bucket.

GABRIELLE
It looks more like a bear to me.

XENA
A bear. Where do you get a bear?

GABRIELLE
See the tail and the body...

Suddenly, Gabrielle swings her staff at Xena and bops her right on top of her head. Gabrielle leaps up in horror.

GABRIELLE
Oh, Xena. I'm so sorry. Are you alright?

Xena looks up at Gabrielle.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

XENA

I'll live.

GABRIELLE

I never thought I'd ever really hit you. I'm so sorry.

XENA

It's alright, Gabrielle. Why don't we just try to get some sleep now?

Gabrielle gives Xena a little kiss on her head where her staff hit her and then crawls into the blankets. They both lie quietly for a few moments, then:

GABRIELLE

Did you just let me hit you?

XENA

No. You nailed me fair and square.

Gabrielle nods and nestles into her blanket. ANOTHER PAUSE.

GABRIELLE

You did, didn't you? You let me hit you because you feel sorry for me.

XENA

Gabrielle, let's try to get some sleep.

GABRIELLE

Alright.

LONG PAUSE.

GABRIELLE

I know you let me.

As Xena gives out a WEARY SIGH, we:

FADE OUT.

THE END