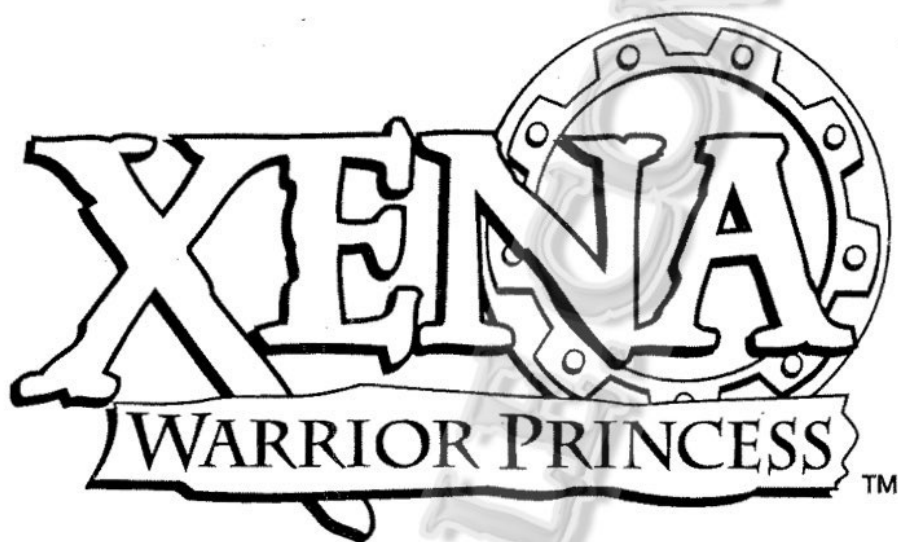




"FINS, FEMMES & GEMS"

Story by

**Rob Tapert, Adam Armus &
Nora Kay Foster**

Teleplay by

Adam Armus & Nora Kay Foster

**SEASON 3
EPISODE #18**

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Fins, Femmes & Gems"

Story by
Rob Tapert

&

Adam Armus & Nora Kay Foster

Teleplay by
Adam Armus & Nora Kay Foster

Directed by
Josh Becker

Revised Page: 10

Executive Producers

Sam Raimi, Rob Tapert & R.J. Stewart

SHOOTING DRAFT

Jan. 16, 1998
Rev. Jan. 21, 1998 - Pink
Rev. Jan. 24, 1998 - Blue
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Prod. #V0418

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

("Fish Shticks")

"FINS, FEMMES, & GEMS"

CAST LIST

XENA
GABRIELLE

JOXER
APHRODITE
MAECENUS (MY-ken-us)
THUG #1
YOUNG XENA **
YOUNG LYCEUS **

Referred to in Dialog:

SAULARUS (sol-AH-rus)

** non-speaking

Prod. #V0418 - 1/24/98 - Blue

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Fish Shticks"

SET LIST

INTERIORS:

APHRODITE'S TEMPLE

EXTERIORS:

FIELD #1
FIELD #2

LAKE
LAKE/SURFACE
LAKESIDE
HILL NOT FAR FROM LAKE
WOODS NEAR LAKE
WOODS
WOODS - UP IN THE TREES
RAGING RIVER

BOX CANYON
ROAD

*

*

*

Prod. #V0418 - 1/24/98 - Blue

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Fish Shticks"

CHRONOLOGY

DAY 1
NIGHT 1

SCENES # 1 - 37
SCENES #39 - 40

*

XENA: WARRIOR PRINCESS

"Fins, Femmes & Gems"

*

TEASER

FADE IN:

1 INT. APHRODITE'S TEMPLE - DAY

1

APHRODITE APPEARS and peruses an OFFERINGS TABLE filled with all sorts of GIFTS, FOOD, JEWELRY, etc. She goes down the line, pointing at various objects...

APHRODITE

Need it, got it, hate it...

(re: JEWELRY)

...can always hock it.

Suddenly, she stops at a PILE OF FISH, her face SOURS as she picks one up by the tail.

APHRODITE

Grotie! Why do these mortal types give me fish?! I HATE fish!

She tosses it aside. Just then, a scar-faced warlord-type, MAECENUS, rushes in followed by TWO THUGS. They carry CROSSBOWS.

MAECENUS

Aphrodite!

(then)

It is my honor to be able to...

APHRODITE

(dismissive)

Yada, yada, yada... Did you get it or not?

Maecenus nods, then reaches into a POUCH and pulls out a HUGE, GLITTERING DIAMOND. Aphrodite's eyes light up.

APHRODITE

Nice one. Too bad I can't keep it.

MAECENUS

What?! Then why did I just...?

APHRODITE

Duh. It's a star from the night sky. Now that it's mine, I want to show it off. After all, diamonds are a goddess's best friend.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED:

1

APHRODITE (cont'd)

And this special little gem is destined to be the centerpiece of my constellation.

(then; handing it back)

Now, take it to my temple in Parnassus. Pronto. My man there is gonna shoot it into the sky for me.

MAECENUS

I'll put it up there for you right now, most beautiful of goddesses.

(pulls an arrow out of his quiver)

Tie your gem on my arrow, so that my shaft can bring you satisfaction.

APHRODITE

(to the Thugs)

I do believe your smelly, sweaty leader is flirting with the goddess of love.

She reaches out and snaps the arrow with her fingers. The front of the arrow dangles limply, held to the other half by only a few splinters.

APHRODITE

You don't have enough thrust. The priest in Parnassus has better equipment. Besides, he knows the perfect time to shoot. It has to do with some astrological stuff that gives me a headache. Now take it to Parnassus.

MAECENUS

Yes, my goddess. There's just one small problem.

APHRODITE

Yeah, yeah. Xena and her pesky little friends are right behind you. Don't sweat it. I've got you covered.

She waves her hand and a PERFUME BOTTLE APPEARS in it.

APHRODITE

I call it... Obsession. One whiff and whatever you're thinking at the moment becomes an overwhelming obsession... Cool, huh?

Just then, there is a NOISE from outside the temple.

(CONTINUED)

1 CONTINUED: 2

1

APHRODITE

Go! That star must be in Parnassus by nightfall.

As Maecenus and his Thugs exit, Aphrodite DISAPPEARS:

CUT TO:

2 INT. APHRODITE'S TEMPLE - DAY - A MOMENT LATER

2

XENA rushes in, followed by GABRIELLE and JOXER. They take a look around.

GABRIELLE

(to Xena)

How could Aphrodite steal the North Star?

XENA

She stole the Mystic Diamond from the Temple of The Heavens. Unless we get its power back by nightfall, the North Star will go out and the world will be in for some major turmoil.

JOXER

You mean, things that go bump in the night REALLY WILL go bump in the night?

XENA

All travellers on land and sea look to the North Star as a guide. The Mystic Diamond's powers will keep it shining.

GABRIELLE

No sign of Maecenus.

XENA

Let's look around, see if they stowed it someplace.

As they SPLIT UP and look around the temple, Aphrodite APPEARS (to us, not to them) with her Obsession bottle. She GIGGLES.

ON JOXER

He admires a FRIEZE on the wall. It depicts the story of ATTIS, the APE-MAN.

JOXER

Hey! What's this?

Gabrielle crosses over.

(CONTINUED)

2 CONTINUED: 2

2

GABRIELLE

(heat)
Oh, my...!

ON XENA

looking at the blank wall behind the mirror.

XENA

Nothing here.

Xena sets the mirror on the ground. Gabrielle's gaze follows it, her eyes focused on her own reflection. Xena doesn't pay attention. She moves on.

XENA

They probably moved on to Parnassus. The priest there is an expert astrologer. Who knows what idiotic thing she wants him to do with it?

APHRODITE

Nice. I'm giving you a double dose, Warrior Gal.

Xena looks over the OFFERINGS left for Aphrodite, then stops when she reaches the FISH. She holds one up.

XENA

Walleye!

APHRODITE

Big mistake. You'll never get the smell off your hands.

Aphrodite blows the Obsession on Xena, FREEZING HER as she stares at the fish. Xena smiles. Aphrodite GIGGLES, then DISAPPEARS.

XENA

I've got it! I know what to do! The North Star is on the verge of extinction. The fate of the world is in our hands. We've got no choice, Gabrielle. We're going fishing!

FADE OUT.

END OF TEASER

ACT ONE

FADE IN:

3 EXT. FIELD #1 - DAY - ON THE BLUE SKY

3

From below looking up, a flying parchment (kite) floats in the air.

GABRIELLE'S VOICE

It's beautiful... absolutely beautiful...

ON XENA AND GABRIELLE

They lie together in a field. Xena is holding the kite string in her hand and concentrating on the movement of the kite. Gabrielle is staring up.

GABRIELLE

Don't you think it's beautiful? The way it dips and curves?

XENA

It's not supposed to dip and curve. The parchment has to stay still up there.

GABRIELLE

Parchment? No, not that. The cloud behind it. Doesn't it look just like my nose? See? It kinda' dips down, then has a cute little curve to the side...

XENA

Yeah, yeah. Okay, that clip should release when you tug that line. Go ahead! Grab it!

ON GABRIELLE

The line dangles right in front of her. She SIGHS, wearily, then reaches up to grab it. It dances up, out of her reach.

GABRIELLE

Very funny! Fortunately I have a great sense of humor.

XENA

Gabrielle!!

GABRIELLE

If you think that I'm going to waste my time jumping for a flying parchment...

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

XENA

It's not a waste of time, I want to test... Oh, I see. Sorry. I didn't mean to make you uncomfortable.

GABRIELLE

Uncomfortable? What are you talking about?

XENA

You know. About... your... height.

GABRIELLE

My height is perfect!

XENA

Okay. If you say so. Don't worry about the clip.

GABRIELLE

You want me to catch your stupid clip? Watch me, girl! I'll show you height!

She gets up and jumps for the line, again and again.

ON JOXER

He stands not far away, looking up at a tree.

ON GABRIELLE

She is still jumping after the line.

GABRIELLE

Got it! Hah! Singing a different tune, aren't you?

With that, she yanks the line.

GABRIELLE

Now what?

The kite dive-bombs INTO FRAME, whacking Gabrielle squarely on the head. She goes down hard.

After a beat, Xena walks into frame, picks up the kite, examines it, and shakes her head. Gabrielle stands, angrily inspecting her hair.

XENA

(to herself)

Hmmm. Needs adjustments. I'll make 'em at the lake.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: 2

3

GABRIELLE
Hey... is that Joxer?

ON JOXER

He's now squatting on the branch of the tree, picking things off the tree bark and eating them.

ON XENA AND GABRIELLE

GABRIELLE
What's he putting in his mouth? It looks disgusting. He's been acting very strange. I'm not sure we should be seen in public with him.

XENA
(working on her kite)
He's acting strange because something happened to him back in the temple. Aphrodite must have put some kind of spell on him. He's obsessed now with that silly story of the ape-man. You got the obsession thing, too, you know.

GABRIELLE
Excuse me? And just what do you think I'm obsessed with?

XENA
You. Your opinion of yourself has been flying higher than my parchment.

GABRIELLE
(in total denial)
That's ridiculous! My opinion of myself has not changed one iota since...

Xena holds up her sword. Gabrielle peers into the blade's reflection of her...

GABRIELLE
Oh, so cute!

Xena smiles and puts the sword away. Gabrielle shakes it off.

GABRIELLE
If we're supposed to be obsessed, what about you? What's your obsession?

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED: 3

3

XENA
That's the good news. The spell didn't
affect me. I can still take care of
business. Let's move. Every delay
is one less moment I have to fish.

She starts walking off.

XENA
(yelling over her shoulder
as she goes)
Come on, Joxer. And bring some of
whatever you're eating. It may make
good bait.

CUT TO:

3A EXT. ROAD - DAY

3A

Xena in the lead, Gabrielle following her up, Joxer trotting
along behind. Gabrielle is looking through her bag of
scrolls.

GABRIELLE
I still don't see why we couldn't have
brought Argo. Look... I'm getting
callouses.
(quickly looking)
Perfect callouses...

XENA
I let Argo roam free for a while.
I need to concentrate totally on the
mission at hand.

GABRIELLE
The Mystic Diamond?

XENA
The fish. And, yeah, the diamond.

Gabrielle takes out one of her scrolls and looks it over.
She shakes her head.

GABRIELLE
No... no, this has got to change.
Xena... I'm thinking of rewriting some
of the scrolls.

XENA
Whatever.

(CONTINUED)

3A CONTINUED:

3A

GABRIELLE

I'm thinking they need more strength of character... more verve... more of a point of view... more of me. As they are... they just don't sing to me.

(hey!)

Now there's a thought! Maybe my stories shouldn't be told... they should be sung!

In a grand gesture, Gabrielle leans her head back and belts out:

GABRIELLE

(singing)

"Now listen to my story

'bout Gabrielle.

A cute little gal that's looking really swell.

Pretty hair -

such a lovely lass.

Nice round breasts

and a firm young --"

A hand comes in and covers Gabrielle's mouth.

The owner of the hand is Xena. She pulls back as Gabrielle looks questioningly at her.

XENA

Don't do that.

GABRIELLE

Too loud? Are you afraid we'll get there and the fish will be gone?

XENA

I'm afraid the fish will be armed.

She moves off.

CUT TO:

4 EXT. LAKE - DAY

4

Xena comes out of the woods to a pristine lake.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

XENA
Just like I remembered. Amazing.

Xena bends over to pick up a rock to skip. Gabrielle looks around, impressed.

GABRIELLE
It really is. It's wonderful. It's...
flawless... perfect...
(definitive)
I feel at home here.

Xena stares at the lake. Gabrielle brushes her hair, Joxer stares at Gabrielle.

XENA
(to herself)
This is the ultimate fantasy...

GABRIELLE
(to herself)
I am the ultimate fantasy...

JOXER
(to who knows)
Ugh ah eegha oot...

Xena heads toward the water.

DISSOLVE TO:

5
THRU 6 OMITTED

5
THRU 6

7 EXT. HILL NOT FAR FROM THE LAKE - DAY

7

Xena stands alongside a GIANT BOULDER. She wedges a LARGE BRANCH under it for leverage. Gabrielle, as usual, is brushing her hair.

GABRIELLE
One hundred and three... One hundred
and four... Xena, what are you doing?

XENA
I'm gonna redirect that stream down
there a bit.

GABRIELLE
One hundred and eight... Why?

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

XENA

Remember the Mystic Diamond? Aphrodite thinks that what's happened to you and Joxer is going make me forget about it. But I'm gonna get it back and... while I'm doing that... there's nothing wrong with getting a little fishing in.

She pushes the boulder into place.

XENA

This is about right. Want to give me a hand here?

GABRIELLE

And ruin a perfect set of nails? No thank you. What does that boulder have to do with...

XENA

This boulder, in that stream, will redirect the flow of water into the Byas river, which will then be impossible to ford, forcing Aphrodite's henchmen to detour around the lake.

Xena jumps on the branch, sending the boulder down the hill. She watches it go down. We hear a SPLASH.

XENA

There. Now, it's time for fun.

Off Xena's excited expression:

DISSOLVE TO:

8 EXT. LAKE - DAY

8

Xena stands by the lake, pulling off her breastplate. Gabrielle looks on.

XENA

Come on, Gabrielle. It's time to get wet.

ON JOXER

He stands on shore watching Xena strip down. He begins running back and forth, scraping his knuckles as he goes, JABBERING like an ape. Suddenly, he does a backwards flip like Cheetah in the Weissmuller movies.

ON XENA AND GABRIELLE

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

Xena peels down to NOTHING, then heads off to the lake. Gabrielle watches until the EXCITED NOISE of Joxer gets her attention. She turns to look at him.

He's making gestures, pointing to Xena, then to Gabrielle, indicating she should take off her clothes.

GABRIELLE

Oh, you'd like that, wouldn't you?
Sorry, Joxer... I take off my clothes,
and it would kill you. Beauty can do
that...

(realizing)

Wait a minute... did I just say that?
Is Xena right? Am I obsessed with
myself?

(then)

Well, why wouldn't I be? I'm
wonderful.

Gabrielle looks back at Joxer, then does a quick peel of the strap of her blouse to him. He SCREAMS and does his backflip. Gabrielle smiles as if she just proved her point.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Xena dives into the lake, then surfaces, calling:

XENA

Come on, Gabrielle! There's something
I want to show you!

GABRIELLE

Show me from here. This little minx is
staying on dry land.

(then)

Xena? Where are you?

Suddenly, Xena pops up from the water, waving a FISH, its mouth clamped down on the end of her HAND!

GABRIELLE

(alarmed)

Xena! You have a fish wrapped around
your hand.

XENA

I know! I almost forgot how great this
is! C'mon, Gabrielle. Give it a try.
It's easy!

Xena flicks the fish off her hand, tossing it to shore.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: 2

8

XENA

You just reach down under a rock,
wiggle your fingers so they look
like food, then WHAM!

GABRIELLE

You punch them in the face? Why would
I want to do something like that?

XENA

Because it's fun.

GABRIELLE

Ramming my fist down some innocent
fish's throat is not my idea of fun.

XENA

Don't knock it 'til you tried it.

Xena dives under again. After a BEAT, Xena pops up, now
with a fish on EACH HAND.

XENA

Twins!

She tosses them ashore, then heads out of the water.

XENA

Give it a shot. I'm going to get a
fire started for lunch.

Xena heads off. Gabrielle looks after her.

GABRIELLE

She wants me to fish with my fists?
I can barely say it much less do
it. And it's so below me. Like
everything else she asks me to do.

She turns back toward the water.

GABRIELLE

She doesn't appreciate me for the
incredible work of art I...

She is staring in the water... her reflection stares back.

GABRIELLE

(melting)

I... I...

She drops to her knees and stares at her image. Taking a
moment, she reaches out to touch it; then, as if realizing
it would destroy the image, she pulls back.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED: 3

8

Then, very carefully, she gets on her hands and knees, leans over the water... puckers up for a kiss... and lowers her lips toward the water...

CUT TO:

9 OMITTED

9

10 EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY

10

Joxer is picking something out of his hair and eating it. Xena arrives (now wearing her undergarment) and presents him with a few small FISH.

XENA

Here. Make yourself useful and cook these up.

Joxer takes the fish and speaks to them.

JOXER

I Attis, King of Jungle. You my subjects. I help you escape.

He darts a look at Xena, who is looking for firewood. He rushes to the edge of the lake. GABRIELLE IS NOWHERE IN SIGHT. Joxer squats and puts the fishes back into the water. They swim away.

JOXER

Go, tell your people of King Attis.

Xena appears at his side. She's got murder in her eyes as she jerks him to his feet.

XENA

Listen, Monkey Man, you ever do that again, and you'll have my fist down your throat. Gabrielle and I didn't come here to --

(realizing)

Gabrielle?

CUT TO:

11 EXT. LAKE/SURFACE - DAY

11

Gabrielle is floating, face down, in the water.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN:

12 EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY

12

Xena and Joxer stand on the shore, looking at the water.

XENA

Gabrielle!

She dives into the water.

JOXER

(to the water)

Fish. Save Princess.

13 EXT. LAKE/SURFACE - DAY

13

Xena grabs Gabrielle and drags her to the shore.

ON JOXER

as he nervously gallops back and forth, making ape noises.

XENA

(to Joxer)

Stay out of my way, Monkey Man.

ON THE SHORE

Xena carries Gabrielle to dry land. Joxer approaches them. Xena checks Gabrielle's breathing, then leans over to give MOUTH-TO-MOUTH RESUSCITATION. As their lips almost touch... Gabrielle TURNS HER HEAD.

GABRIELLE

Not the lips! They chap so easily!

Gabrielle opens her eyes and sits up. Xena is pissed.

XENA

Just what were you doing?

GABRIELLE

I was just... just...

(worried)

I was trying to kiss my image in the water... By the gods, Xena... I couldn't resist it. I couldn't resist. I leaned over to try and touch my lips to... me.

XENA

And fell in.

(CONTINUED)

13 CONTINUED:

13

GABRIELLE

It was like... my reflection embraced me. I sank into it. I was surrounded by... me. And then... when you pulled me out and I looked up at you... I finally realized... Xena, there can only be one person for me in my life.

Xena is about to refute the honor when:

GABRIELLE

Me.

A beat of her staring at Xena as if she just related the most obvious fact in the world. Suddenly, Xena heads off. Gabrielle stares after her, then turns to Joxer.

GABRIELLE

I let her save me. What else does she want?

CUT TO:

14 EXT. WOODS - DAY

14

Gabrielle walks up and starts looking through her bag.

GABRIELLE

Where is my brush? Ah!

She finds the brush and begins working her hair again. Joxer, meanwhile, trots up, leans against a tree and stares at her. A BEAT, then he starts scratching his back against the tree.

IN JOXER'S POV:

Almost as seen through a Vaseline lens, Gabrielle is dressed like Maureen O'Sullivan in the Johnny Weissmuller movies. Brushing her flaxen hair in the sunlight. Slowly, she turns toward Joxer.

GABRIELLE

Attis? Attis, my love?

BACK TO REALITY

Gabrielle is looking at him.

GABRIELLE

Joxer? Can you even hear me in there?

She crosses to sit next to him.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

GABRIELLE

Okay, here's the problem. You've been enchanted by Aphrodite. That's obvious and I think you know it... Stop that.

He's picking fleas from her hair and eating them.

GABRIELLE

Xena thinks I've been enchanted, but I haven't. I'm more worried about her. I mean, have you ever seen her more focused on fishing? Stop it.

She slaps his hands away and he stares at her.

JOXER

(ape sound)

Urgh?

GABRIELLE

Are you understanding anything that I'm saying?

IN JOXER'S POV:

Gabrielle, once again looking just like Tarzan's Jane, gazes with sparkles in her eyes. What he hears is:

GABRIELLE

I love you... I love you... I love you... I love you... I love you...

BACK TO REALITY

Joxer smiles at Gabrielle and makes a small GRUNTING SOUND.

GABRIELLE

Good. Now, the question is, what are we going to do about it? How are we going to get her back on track?

She looks at Joxer.

IN JOXER'S POV:

GABRIELLE

Take me... Take me... Take me...
Take me... Take me... Take me...

BACK TO REALITY

Gabrielle stands and heads off toward Xena. Joxer watches her go. We can practically hear his heartbeat quicken. As he GRUNTS, SNORTS and POSES like a GORILLA, beating his chest in pre-mating excitement:

CUT TO:

15 EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY

15

Xena stares intently out at the lake.

DISSOLVE TO:

16 EXT. LAKE (XENA'S MEMORY) - DAY

16

Two young people, 12-ish, play around our lake. One of them is a DARK-HAIRED GIRL (XENA). The other is a BLOND-HEADED BOY (LYCEUS). They've got their fishing lines in the lake and are also playing in the water, splashing each other. They're having a great time. Suddenly:

A HUGE FISH

leaps out of the water with a hook in its mouth.

ON YOUNG XENA AND YOUNG LYCEUS

Xena points at the fish and opens her mouth to yell something at Lyceus.

ADULT XENA'S VOICE

Look, Lyceus. It's Saularus.

SMASH CUT TO:

17 EXT. LAKE - DAY

17

Xena is wading in the exact part of the lake that she and the Young Lyceus were playing in. She's pointing out to the lake, just as the Young Xena was. She comes out of her memory, realizes she's been talking to a shade and walks reflectively back toward the shore. Gabrielle approaches, still brushing that darned hair!

GABRIELLE

Xena. I've got to speak to you.

As Gabrielle's hand extends a lock of hair for brushing, Xena suddenly reaches out and CUTS HER HAIR with a dagger. In apoplectic shock, Gabrielle stares at the clump of strawberry blonde hair in Xena's hand.

GABRIELLE

Gah...! Dah...! Eh...! You cut my hair! My beautiful, beautiful...!

XENA

It's perfect.

GABRIELLE

Of course it's perfect! It's MY HAIR!!!

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

Gabrielle quickly examines where it was cut and tries brushing other hair over the spot to cover it.

XENA

And it's just the right color for this.

Xena pulls something from her belt and shows it to Gabrielle. It's a FISH HOOK. Xena holds the hair up against the hook as if demonstrating.

GABRIELLE

A bent nail?? You cut my hair to make a dress for a bent nail??

XENA

It's not a bent nail, it's a hook. I just disguise it with your hair, attach it to my flying parchment, and I've got him!

GABRIELLE

Him?! Who's him? And what does he want with my hair?

XENA

Saularus!

GABRIELLE

Who's Saularus?!

XENA

The fish Lyceus and I discovered when we were kids. He's wily, Gabrielle... cunning, smart, a real opponent. Every time Lyceus and I would catch him, he'd find a way to escape. That is, until now...

GABRIELLE

Fine. Except for one thing...

XENA

(at a loss)

What?

GABRIELLE

You're not sacrificing my hair for A FISH!

As Gabrielle GRABS HER HAIR back:

CUT TO:

18 OMITTED

18

19 EXT. WOODS NEAR LAKE - DAY - CLOSE ON GABRIELLE'S HAND

19

clutching her clump of hair. WIDEN to see her, looking at it, mournfully.

Then, seeing how Xena is looking at her, she hands it over. Xena gratefully takes the hair, then sits and begins skillfully tying a "fly-fishing lure." She hasn't lost any of her enthusiasm.

XENA

Thanks. It's amazing how close in color it is to Lyceus's hair. Saularus is sure to go for it.

Xena picks up her kite and attaches a line.

XENA

We've gotta make him think he's all alone. A regular fishing pole is a dead giveaway. We have to reduce the line drag. That's why when we attack, we do it from the air.

GABRIELLE

Look, why don't we just find some local villagers. Let them be taken in by my radiance, I snap my fingers and they bring us any fish we want.

XENA

(menacing)

No one touches Saularus but me.

Just then, in the B.G., a naked Joxer swings past them on a VINE. Gabrielle turns, but she's a beat too late. She pauses, then:

GABRIELLE

Did you ever get the feeling that you're forgetting about something really important?

XENA

The diamond thing.

GABRIELLE

The diamond!

XENA

You see that obsession you got keeps you from remembering about important things.

GABRIELLE

(patronizing)

Ah. My obsession.

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

XENA
That's right. You can't see the forest
for the trees. We've only got a
limited time to get the Mystic Diamond
back. Remember that.

GABRIELLE
Does that mean we have to go track
these guys down?

XENA
Before we catch Saularus? Are you out
of your mind?

CUT TO:

20 EXT. RAGING RIVER - DAY

20

Maecenus and his Two Thugs stand by the river.

MAECENUS
(to Thug #1)
See if we can cross it.

Thug #1 takes one look at the rushing river, then...

THUG #1
YOU see if we can cross it.

Maecenus looks at Thug #2 who just shakes his head.

MAECENUS
All right. We'll have to make a detour
up around the lake.

As they head off UPRIVER:

CUT TO:

21 EXT. LAKE - DAY

21

Gabrielle stands on top of a BOULDER in the lake. She's
holding Xena's kite.

XENA
Okay! Let it go!

Gabrielle tosses the kite in the air, and it takes off.
As it lifts into the air, once again the second line dangles
in front of Gabrielle.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

XENA

Okay, Gabrielle. The clip should work this time. Give it a pull!

Gabrielle grabs the line and pulls. The clip releases and the kite flies free, but the momentum of her pull causes Gabrielle to slip on the boulder. She teeters, then tumbles off into the lake. But all Xena notices is her kite.

XENA

(excited)

It worked! It really worked!

GABRIELLE

What worked? Getting me wet and dirty?
Has that been the point of all this?
Okay, now I understand...

Gabrielle walks herself out of the water, wringing her hair. Xena looks at Gabrielle, puzzled.

GABRIELLE

Fishing... Saularus... it's all beginning to make sense to me.

XENA

What is?

GABRIELLE

You're jealous! Of me!

XENA

That's ridiculous.

GABRIELLE

All this time, I've let it go. And it hasn't been easy, let me tell you. I have tried being humble, Xena, but you push me to far.

Xena only stares at her in amazement.

GABRIELLE

I haven't seen this diamond, have I?
Oh, you say that it was stolen. But I just took your word for it. And you bring me here... where there's no one else to appreciate my beauty. No one else, no competition for you. And Saularus? Oh, please!

Gabrielle goes to sit on a stump, wringing out her hair.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: 2

21

XENA

I brought you here because I thought we could get in a good day's fishing together.

GABRIELLE

No! There is no such thing as a good day's fishing. In fact, any day without fish is good!

XENA

Amazing... Sitting there like that, it's amazing how much you remind me of... Lyceus. He even used to argue with me about fishing. Said he hated it, but I could tell. He had the same fire for it that you and I...

GABRIELLE

Unless your brother was an Adonis, he and I are nothing alike!

Gabrielle stands in frustration, picking up her bag.

GABRIELLE

Isn't there anyone who appreciates how special and wonderful I am?

Just then, we hear a lusty JUNGLE CALL, followed by:

JOXER (O.C.)

Attis appreciate, my love!

Gabrielle looks up to SEE the naked Joxer headed right for her, swinging on his vine. He lands next to her.

GABRIELLE

(shocked)

Jo-- Jox...

JOXER

Don't speak. Attis take you as bride.

Joxer lifts Gabrielle into his arms, grabs his vine and swings off with her. Xena, watches them fly away... then shrugs and goes back to her kite.

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN:

22 EXT. WOODS - UP IN THE TREES - DAY

22

With a MIGHTY JUNGLE CRY, Joxer the naked Jungle Man, sails from vine to vine with the terrified Gabrielle nestled in his arms. He lands nimbly on a branch high in the air. He clings to Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE

Joxer! Have you totally lost your mind?! Let go of me! Now!

Gabrielle stops as she finally takes a full gander at the naked Joxer. She hesitates for a BEAT. Joxer smiles, realizing that she's looking at him. He beats his chest.

JOXER

Princess Gia like Attis?

GABRIELLE

(trying to ignore his nether region)

Attis is... quite a surprise.

(then; shaking herself)

We've got to find you some clothes.

Gabrielle reaches in her bag for something... anything. As she does, Joxer moves closer and...

JOXER

Attis make you happy. You see.

He LICKS her cheek. She pushes him off.

GABRIELLE

Ugh.

Joxer sees a pretty, frilly thing in Gabrielle's bag and pulls it out. It's Mycenean lingerie. Gabrielle snatches it away from Joxer.

GABRIELLE

No. I bought that when Xena was shopping for her kite material. A garment of this quality needs to adorn a perfect body. It would be a crime for anyone to wear it but me.

Joxer stands and stretches. Gabrielle takes one more look at his manhood, turns away and extends the lingerie.

GABRIELLE

Fine! Just put it on. Quick.

CUT TO:

23 EXT. LAKE - DAY

23

Xena picks up her kite and looks around for:

XENA
(calling out)
Gabrielle?

No answer. Xena shakes her head...

XENA
(yelling)
Monkey Man, bring her back?

No answer.

XENA
You're both beginning to irritate me
with these obsession of yours. I GOT
SOME FISHING TO DO!!!!

She ties her line to a tree, and stomps into the woods.

CUT TO:

24 EXT. WOODS - DAY

24

Joxer, now wearing the lingerie, drags the protesting Gabrielle through the woods.

GABRIELLE
Joxer! Joxer!!

His primitive mind spots an ANT HILL. He stops beside it, pulling Gabrielle down with him.

JOXER
Bride want food?

He takes a long stick and puts it into the hill. He pulls it out, now COVERED WITH ANTS, and offers it to Gabrielle.

GABRIELLE
No thanks. I had a late breakfast.

JOXER
Then now sex.

XENA (O.C.)
Gabrielle? Where are you?

Joxer furrows his brow. He clasps his hand over Gabrielle's mouth, but not before she can call out:

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

GABRIELLE

She's come for me. I knew she would.
She really can't stand to be without me
even for a few moments. Not that I
blame her.

Joxer responds to Xena's voice.

JOXER

(to Gabrielle)

You no worry. Attis protect.

With that, Joxer grabs Gabrielle and takes off:

CUT TO:

25 EXT. WOODS - UP IN THE TREES - DAY

25

Joxer swings Gabrielle through the trees on his vine.

GABRIELLE

(yelling at him)

Joxxx-eeeeer!

CLOSER - FAVORING JOXER

as he hangs on to Gabrielle.

He lights on a limb, pausing briefly. Then, he lets out a
LOUD MONKEY YELL. It echoes in the forest. Joxer smiles.
But then, after a BEAT, he hears a response: XENA'S WAR CRY
echoes through the forest. Joxer is taken aback.

JOXER

Ugh?!

Feeling threatened, Joxer immediately takes off with
Gabrielle, swinging on his vine, when something sudden
and fast SWINGS towards them. Whatever it is, it takes
Gabrielle. After it passes, Joxer looks over to his empty
arm. He turns around to look for Gabrielle...

JOXER

Where she go?!

He turns back, just in time to see:

JOXER'S POV:

A large tree is directly in his path.

RESUME JOXER

He slams, crotch first, right into the tree trunk.

(CONTINUED)

25 CONTINUED:

25

JOXER

Oooh. That not feel so good.

He slides down the tree, breaking off branches as he goes, finally landing in a heap on the ground.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Xena, with Gabrielle in her arms, lands on the forest floor.

GABRIELLE

Thank you, Xena. You saved me. The world will long remember you for rescuing a beauty unrivaled in --

Xena drops Gabrielle like a sack of potatoes.

XENA

Come on, we've got a fish to catch.

CUT TO:

26 EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY

26

Gabrielle is squishing berries and rubs the red juice onto her lips ever so daintily. She's reddening her lips. WIDEN TO Xena, now tending her fishing line, finally noticing her.

XENA

What are you doing?

GABRIELLE

There's nothing wrong with highlighting perfection with berry juice.

XENA

Maybe not, but those aren't berries. It's bait. Looks good on you, though.

She reaches out and jerks the little basket away from Gabrielle. Gabrielle reacts, rubbing her lips as quickly as possible.

XENA

Hey, Gabrielle, remember that diamond that we were looking for earlier?

GABRIELLE

Diamond? Was that today?

XENA

Yes. I've never seen it, but I hear it's perfect... Just like you.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

Gabrielle perks up.

GABRIELLE

Well, I'm glad you can finally admit that, Xena. It must have been difficult. I'm aware of the envy I inspire.

XENA

Right. Anyway, that's why Aphrodite wanted it. I realize that now.

GABRIELLE

What do you mean?

XENA

Well, she thinks of herself as the perfect female, immortal or otherwise, and she obviously thought the perfect diamond was something she should wear.

GABRIELLE

She thinks she's the perfect female?

XENA

Well, you know how deluded the gods can be.

GABRIELLE

Oh, yes. 'Tis sad but true.

XENA

Anyway, she'll be wearing that diamond soon as a kind of a badge announcing her as the most beautiful creature in the universe.

Gabrielle leaps to her feet.

GABRIELLE

Let's go, Xena.

XENA

Where?

GABRIELLE

We've got to get that diamond. If it's perfection, I should possess it.

XENA

Sorry, Gabrielle, I'm about to get a bite, I feel it. But Maecenus should be passing by this lake soon with it. You might want to --

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED: 2

26

She has to say no more as Gabrielle dashes off into the woods on a mission.

DISSOLVE TO:

27 EXT. WOODS - DAY

27

Maecenus and his Thugs make their way along a path. Maecenus holds the pouch that contains the diamond.

ANOTHER ANGLE

In a tree, Gabrielle, poised for a strike, spots Maecenus and the Thugs. She smiles.

RESUME SCENE

As Maecenus and his Thugs continue on, just then... we hear Gabrielle's version of the WAR CRY!

28 EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY

28

Xena is busy fishing. She hears GABRIELLE'S WAR CRY.

XENA

Go, Gabby.

29 EXT. WOODS - DAY

29

Maecenus and the Thugs are looking around for Xena. Suddenly, Gabrielle drops from the tree, FIGHTING STAFF in hand. She gets the drop on Maecenus, swatting the pouch out of his hand and HIGH IN THE AIR. Gabrielle catches the pouch on the run, and takes off.

MAECENUS

(shouting at his men)

After her!

Maecenus and his Thugs take off after Gabrielle and...

THE CHASE IS ON

Gabrielle uses her fighting stick to catapult past BOULDERS and FALLEN LOGS. Maecenus and his men chase after her.

CUT TO:

30 EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY

30

Xena continues fishing, her eyes intent on the water.
She starts calling out over her shoulder.

XENA

Hey, Monkey Man. What's his name?
Attila, Attis, whatever, come here
if you want the princess.

A moment later Joxer flies out of the trees, lands next to
Xena and hands her his leafy crown.

XENA

What?

JOXER

Attis not King of Jungle. If anyone
King, it you.

XENA

Uh-huh. Thanks, but I don't want your
crown. Listen, Attis, you want the
princess?

JOXER

Attis need mate with princess very
much.

XENA

All right, I'll tell you what you need
to do...

DISSOLVE TO:

31 EXT. WOODS - DAY

31

Gabrielle, still holding the pouch, rushes through the
woods. Not far behind, Maecenus and his Thugs, now ARMED
WITH SWORDS, are gaining on her.

ANOTHER ANGLE

Gabrielle makes her way through a GROVE OF TREES only to
find herself in:

31A EXT. BOX CANYON - DAY

31A

She turns around to escape, but she's too late. Maecenus
and his Thugs arrive on the scene and close in on her.
She turns to face them, exuding confidence.

(CONTINUED)

31A CONTINUED:

31A

GABRIELLE

Hold up, boys. You think I'm not used to men chasing me? It's the same old story. My beauty can be a curse in that department. Besides, I know that even people of your ilk can appreciate perfection, right?

MAECENUS

Right. Kill her.

Off this, we:

FADE OUT.

END OF ACT THREE

ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

32 EXT. BOX CANYON - DAY (CONTINUOUS)

32

As before, Gabrielle is still trapped.

MAECENUS

You're trapped. Now, give us the diamond and we'll make sure your loved ones can identify the body.

GABRIELLE

This body? Are you mad? Have you no appreciation of absolute, inviolate beauty?

Maecenus and his Thugs exchange glances. Then:

MAECENUS

Guess not.

Maecenus nods to his Thugs who RUSH AT GABRIELLE. As she lets out a BLOODCURDLING SCREAM:

CUT TO:

33 EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY

33

Xena fishes. Just then, Gabrielle's SCREAM echoes in the distance. Xena looks off for a moment, then shakes her head and continues fishing. As she WHISTLES peacefully, we:

CUT TO:

34 EXT. BOX CANYON - DAY

34

Maecenus and his Thugs are about to grab Gabrielle.

JOXER

swings in on a vine, grabs Gabrielle, and swings away with her!

Maecenus and his Thugs stand there for a moment, stunned, their mouths agape. Maecenus snaps himself out of it.

MAECENUS

(to his Thugs)

After them!

The Thugs drop their swords and take out CROSSBOWS. They rush out after Joxer and Gabrielle:

CUT TO:

35 EXT. WOODS - UP IN THE TREES - DAY

35

Joxer swings off with Gabrielle in his arms. They land on a tree limb.

GABRIELLE

(stunned)

Joxer! You saved me...

She gives him a peck on the cheek. Joxer blushes, then grabs Gabrielle for a big hug.

JOXER

Attis knew you'd come around.

Gabrielle struggles to get free, when an ARROW flies in and sticks in the tree between them.

JOXER

(pointing to the arrow)

Funny bird.

Just then, a second, then a third arrow flies in. Joxer and Gabrielle look down to spot Maecenus and his Thugs.

GABRIELLE

(to Joxer)

Let's get out of here!

Joxer hesitates.

JOXER

Attis not afraid of funny bird.

Attis King of Jungle.

A fourth arrow flies in, landing just below Joxer's crotch.

JOXER

(voice too high)

Attis now afraid.

With that, Joxer grabs Gabrielle and swings off:

CUT TO:

36 EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY

36

Xena continues to fish. She smiles to herself for a moment, then:

XENA

(counting)

Five, four, three, two...

ANOTHER ANGLE

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

Nearby, Joxer SWINGS IN with Gabrielle. Maecenus and his Thugs are right behind them!

Gabrielle calls:

Xena! GABRIELLE

Xena starts to tie up her fishing line when --

SHE GETS A BITE!

And this is no nibble.

This is it... XENA

Xena looks to the lake where she sees:

A TREMENDOUS FISH jump out of the water, caught on the line. Xena smiles, realizing:

Saularus! XENA

Xena turns her full attention back to the fish. Meanwhile... Maecenus and his Thugs cut off Gabrielle and Joxer from Xena. They draw their swords and move in for the kill.

No games this time. Now, you die! MAECENUS

Xena! GABRIELLE
(calling to Xena)

ON XENA

She struggles with Saularus on the line.

Gabrielle! I've got Saularus! XENA
I finally got him!

ON GABRIELLE

as Maecenus moves even closer.

Xena! We're gonna die! GABRIELLE

ON XENA

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: 2

36

She looks over at Gabrielle, then back at Saularus, then back at Gabrielle...

XENA
(calling)
Gabrielle! Toss me the diamond!

ON GABRIELLE

GABRIELLE
(dodging a bad guy)
No. It's mine by right of --

Just before Maecenus can kill her, she shows that discretion is also the better part of perfection and tosses the pouch high in the air.

ON THE POUCH

Maecenus and his Thugs WATCH IT FLY... until Xena catches it with her free hand.

XENA
(calling)
Come and get it, boys!

Maecenus turns to his Thugs:

MAECENUS
Get her!

Maecenus and his Thugs attack. Xena never lets go of her fishing line as she struggles with Saularus...

THE FIGHT IS ON

Using one free hand, and two feet, Xena fends off Maecenus and his Thugs. Meanwhile, Saularus tugs at the line, moving Xena back and forth across the shore... making the fight that much more difficult.

ON GABRIELLE AND JOXER

still pinned to the tree. Gabrielle watches, helpless. She calls to Xena:

GABRIELLE
Drop the fishing line, Xena... Forget about Saularus!

ON XENA

She continues to struggle with the fish and with the Thugs.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: 3

36

XENA

Are you crazy? Never! Not after all
this time...!

Finally, a determined Xena YANKS the line, pulling the
mighty fish, reeling it to shore...

With Saularus on the ropes, Xena uses the slack in the line
to her advantage.

She TIES THE LINE AROUND MAECENUS, then FLIPS HIGH in the
air, smacking each of the Thugs on the way down. They're
out cold. Saularus yanks at the line, pulling Maecenus into
a tree, knocking him out cold as well.

Xena lands and grabs her fishing line. Unfortunately...
the line has gone slack. Xena looks out to the lake,
realizing...

XENA

He's gone.

Xena reels her line in, then crosses to Gabrielle and Joxer
and releases them. Gabrielle reads her disappointment.

GABRIELLE

He got away, huh?

XENA

Yeah. But it worked! Did you see it,
Gabrielle? It all worked beautifully!
Except...

GABRIELLE

He still got away.

(then)

Give me my diamond.

Xena takes the diamond out of the pouch and turns it over in
her hand.

XENA

It is beautiful.

GABRIELLE

You were right to think that only I
should wear it.

Xena darts a look out at the lake and then reexamines the
diamond.

GABRIELLE

Are you going to give it to me or not?

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED: 4

36

Xena holds it out of Gabrielle's reach as she continues to study the lake.

XENA
I've got an idea.

DISSOLVE TO:

37 EXT. LAKESIDE - DAY - LATER

37

Xena has bent down two trees on the shore line and tied them off.

She ties the diamond onto a fishing line and suspends the fishing line from a branch overhanging the lake. She looks out at the lake, draws her sword and waits for something.

GABRIELLE
What are you doing?

XENA
I'm sending the North Star back to The Heavens before nightfall. I'm hoping the powers of the Mystic Diamond will guide it home.

Gabrielle steps between Xena and the diamond.

GABRIELLE
But it's mine.

XENA
Just think, when people look up at the sky at night and see the perfect star, they'll think of you. This will be a symbol of your beauty for all time to come.

GABRIELLE
It's so sad that everyone can't see the real thing. But I suppose a symbol is the best we can do. Fire away.

Gabrielle watches as Xena continues to stare out at the lake.

GABRIELLE
What are you waiting for?

XENA
Gabrielle, there's no reason why I can't get in one last bit of fishing before we do this.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

Gabrielle realizes what's going on.

GABRIELLE
You're using my diamond as bait?

Xena's eyes glow with a manic obsession.

XENA
It's just crazy enough to work.

Saularus leaps out of the water and swallows the diamond,
just as:

XENA
cuts the rope.

SAULARUS AND THE DIAMOND
are sent zooming up into the sky where it flashes into
magical light...

ON XENA AND GABRIELLE
They look at the fish disappear into the heavens.

GABRIELLE
I think you just put a fish in
The Heavens.

XENA
I dedicate that fish to Lyceus.

Suddenly, Xena staggers as if hit on the head. She shakes
her head as if waking up and looks around. She gains her
bearings and then smiles.

GABRIELLE
Are you alright, Xena?

XENA
I was obsessed with fishing, wasn't I?

GABRIELLE
I haven't really been paying much
attention to your petty activities.
I have more important things to occupy
me.

She lounges by the lake and studies her face in the water.
Xena sits next to her.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: 2

37

XENA

Gabrielle, I realized what it was that was driving me and when I said it, the obsession was gone. It wasn't really fishing. It was all that was left unresolved with my brother. I felt I still owed him something and when I acknowledged that, I was out from under the spell.

GABRIELLE

I love the way my eyes glow when the sun hits them.

XENA

Gabrielle, there's something that's bothering you that you have to get in touch with.

GABRIELLE

You're right about that.

She reaches out to touch her reflection but her fingers send ripples through her reflected face.

GABRIELLE

But everytime I try, that happens.

XENA

(grabbing Gabrielle's hands)
No. Think. What is it about yourself that's bothering you?

GABRIELLE

The sun is so harsh on my skin.

XENA

No, think.

She grabs Gabrielle's face in her hands.

XENA

There's something about yourself you're not satisfied with.

GABRIELLE

You mean other than the fact that no one gives me credit for anything and everyone thinks I'm nothing but a silly sidekick.

Gabrielle pulls back suddenly as if hit on the head. She shakes her head as things become clear to her.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED: 3

37

GABRIELLE
Oh!!! I got a headache.

XENA
There. See? You're back to normal now, Gabrielle. And I promise, I'm gonna make sure you get more credit for the things you do from now on.

GABRIELLE
So it was insight that released us from the spell.

XENA
That's all it takes.

DISSOLVE TO:

38 OMITTED

38*

39 EXT. FIELD #2 - ON THE SKY - NIGHT

39

The moon is high, stars twinkle, establishing night. Just then, a SHOOTING STAR lights high in the sky, and we HIGHLIGHT a CONSTELLATION that looks like SAULARUS!

CUT TO:

40 EXT. FIELD #2 - NIGHT

40

Xena and Gabrielle lie on the ground, looking at the stars.

GABRIELLE
It does definitely look like a fish. Which one's the North Star?

XENA
That big one there.

GABRIELLE
Huh. It's pretty. Thanks for figuring out that insight thing. Who knows how long we would have been under that spell if it wasn't for you.

XENA
I couldn't have done it without you, Gabrielle. Any good I'm able to do in this world is because I do it with you.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

XENA (cont'd)
Everyday you make an important
contribution to what we're doing and
I'm gonna make sure everybody knows
that from now on.

GABRIELLE
You don't have to do that. But it's
nice to be reminded that you feel that
way.

Xena returns the smile and then they both look up at the sky
again. After a moment, Joxer skitters into frame, running
past, dragging his knuckles.

JOXER
Hoo, hoo, hoo, hoo!

GABRIELLE
(pause)
You still have to take care of Joxer.

XENA
Tomorrow.

And they continue staring at the stars, as we:

FADE OUT.

THE END