

## Xena: Warrior Princess - Subtext Virtual Season 7



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## TEASER

FADE IN:

### ANNOUNCER

Last week on Xena....

### GABRIELLE

You just... left me.  
And I need to come to terms with that. But how  
can I when you keep popping back into my  
life as if nothing's wrong? Well there is  
something wrong! You're dead!  
You're dead and you're not coming back!  
I need to accept that, and I need to deal with it.  
Alone.

She turns her head away, looking off into the far distance for a long moment.

### GABRIELLE

*(Cont'd)*

I stood by and let you make your choice, Xena.  
Now I need you to stand by and let me make mine.  
*(beat)*  
Let me go. Let me grieve. Please.

Xena stands immobile, shock written plainly on her face. It's clear she wants to say something, anything, but the pain of what she's hearing has stilled her tongue.



### GABRIELLE

*(Cont'd)*

Goodbye, Xena. I love you.

Xena stands and watches as Gabrielle urges Argo into a fast gallop. A single tear traces its way down her cheek.

### XENA

*(whispering)*

Goodbye, Gabrielle.

CUT TO:

Zenobia stares into space for a long space of seconds, apparently lost in thought. Then she turns and eyes Gabrielle frankly again, a slight smile gracing her features.

**ZENOBIA**

I suppose there are worse fates than  
having Xena's finest student  
at one's side during a war.

**GABRIELLE**

*(softly, in pain)*  
Far worse, trust me.



**ZENOBIA**

*(Cont'd)*  
*(opening arms)*  
Welcome, Gabrielle, and thank you.  
Egypt accepts your offer.

**CUT TO:**

**LUCIFER**

I'm busy, I said! Now get out of  
here before you join her!

**XENA**

*(VO)*  
Aww, c'mon "Lucy". Is that any way  
to treat an old... friend?



Hearing the voice, Lucifer spins, enraged. Xena is standing between two demon, looking listless and gaunt. Her eyes are soulless, dead, devoid of any emotion. Snarling her name, he flies across the room and grabs her around the neck, squeezing her throat with all of his strength.

**CUT TO:**

He grabs a sword from his friend's scabbard, and tosses it to Xena. He then draws his own sword, twirling it in vicious, rapid arcs, grinning broadly as he does so.

**DEMON 4**

Any last words?

## XENA

See you in Hell.

Xena launches into her attack, swinging her sword with stunning speed. The demon blocks her first strike, and their weapons clash, sparks trailing down both blades to land on the hot stone floor. Xena disengages and resumes her attack, reining down blow after blow down on him. The large demon stumbles backward, but manages to keep up his defenses, though it's clear from the start that he's hopelessly outclassed.



Still, he fights gamely, even managing to swing a few blows until he is disarmed by a vicious strike.

The entire group watches as his sword tumbles through the air, only to disappear as it hits the portal.

Roaring, the demon comes at Xena, claws extended, and stops when Xena's sword enters into his chest. His eyes bulge as he looks down at his chest, then into Xena's shining eyes.

## DEMON 4

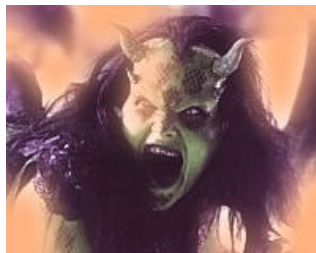
*(dying breath)*

Un... natural.

As the demon slumps, Xena removes her sword. There is a pause, and then the rent in his chest opens, and a dark, putrescent light emanates from the gaping wound. It flows out quickly, covering Xena's sword, her arm, and finally her entire body.

Her body goes rigid, her head falls back, and her mouth opens wide in a soundless scream.

The light disappears, and in its place stands DEMON XENA. Her skin has turned the color of an elephant's hide; her eyes a glittering, glowing, eerie silver. Demon wings sprout from her back, and her hands and feet have become clawed talons.



She laughs at the looks of stunned disbelief on the faces of the demons surrounding her, and before any one of them can make a move, she turns and vaults toward the portal, disappearing as soon as she hits it.

**CUT TO:**

**YAVIN**

My Queen. Gabrielle. There has been an attack on the south wall!

Gabrielle whirls on Yavin, jumps to her feet, and grabs him by the front of his armor.

**GABRIELLE**

An attack? When? Why didn't anyone come for me?



**YAVIN**

There wasn't time! It... it happened so fast! We never saw it coming!  
*(beat)*  
The fortifications you had us put up, the defenses around the city, all of them, gone.  
*(shaking head)*  
It was as if  
*(beat)*  
Never mind.

Gabrielle feels a tendril of something she can't define skitter down her spine. The hairs on the back of her neck stand up, and she feels her heart-rate accelerate as a chill sweat breaks out over her skin. She grabs Yavin's armor tighter, almost shaking him.

**GABRIELLE**

No. You tell me.  
It was as if what?

**YAVIN**

Nothing. Nothing, I assure you. Just the overworked imaginations of tired soldiers, that's all.

**GABRIELLE**

*(gritting her teeth)*  
Tell me.

**YAVIN**

Some of... some of my men say that they saw some sort of... demon leading the forces against us.  
*(ruefully laughing)*  
I told you it was....

**GABRIELLE**

*(over Yavin)*

By the gods.

Releasing Yavin, Gabrielle darts out of the hospice at a dead run, leaving the others behind to stare after her.

**CUT TO:**

Gabrielle turns back to face the darkness in the direction she knows Brakus' camp lies. Her mind is a whirling torrent of indecision, but her tongue gives voice to the only truth she knows.

**GABRIELLE**

*(whispering)*

I can feel you.



**FADE OUT.**

**ANNOUNCER**

And now, on Xena....

**END OF TEASER**

## ACT ONE

FADE IN:

### ZENOBIA'S QUARTERS - NIGHT

It's very late at night, and Gabrielle, Zenobia, and Yavin are sitting at a table, bone tired. They are wearing identical, weary smiles. The party has gone on long into the night, and they can still hear the cheers, and endless retellings of the battle just fought by those still awake and aware.



#### ZENOBIA

*(listening, smiling)*

That is a sound I have not  
heard in many months.

*(beat)*

And I have you to thank  
for it, Gabrielle.

#### GABRIELLE

*(blushing slightly)*

It was a team effort. I'm just honored  
that I was able to be a part of it.

Yavin sits quietly staring into his cup. Zenobia notices her commander's unusual silence.

#### ZENOBIA

Yavin, you seem troubled.

#### YAVIN

*(looking to Gabrielle)*

We must tell her.

Gabrielle nods her agreement and Yavin takes a deep breath before beginning.

#### YAVIN

My Queen, tonight at the battle's end,  
there was a... demon.

*(beat)*

It came from the sky.  
It was unlike anything I have ever seen.

#### ZENOBIA

A demon?

**YAVIN**

Yes, my Queen. I saw it with my own eyes.  
It... it went straight for Gabrielle.

**ZENOBIA**

*(to Gabrielle)*  
Is this true?

**GABRIELLE**

*(nodding)*  
Yes.

**ZENOBIA**

But... how did you fight it off?  
*(beat)*  
I know you are a very skilled fighter,  
Gabrielle, but against a demon?

**GABRIELLE**

*(biting lip)*  
It's...  
*(turning her back to Zenobia)*  
my tattoo. It has some sort of  
protection against evil forces.  
It saved me once, but...

The three lapse into silence for a long moment, each lost to their thoughts. Zenobia looks troubled, and tries, several times, to say something, only to fall silent once again. Gabrielle notices, and looks up, her expression compassionate.

**GABRIELLE**

What is it?

Zenobia hesitates.

**GABRIELLE**

It's all right. Whatever  
it is, it's ok to ask.

**ZENOBIA**

*(almost relieved)*  
The other night, when you ran to the wall,  
I said that you were hiding something  
from me. I could sense your fear.  
*(beat)*  
Does this attack tonight have  
something to do with that fear?

**GABRIELLE**

Yes. It does.

**ZENOBIA**

*(nodding, satisfied)*  
And... can you explain it more now?



**GABRIELLE**

I can try.



Shifting on her chair, she leans forward to place both elbows on the table, her head hanging low between her shoulders. She looks suddenly weary, but still resolute.

**GABRIELLE**

*(Cont'd)*

Have either of you ever heard of  
a being called the One God?

**ZENOBIA**

The God of the Elijians?

**GABRIELLE**

Yes.

**ZENOBIA**

Yes. When I was a young girl, a group of Elijians came to the city, asking for an audience with the Pharaoh. When they were refused, they began to speak to the common people in the streets, telling them that they must give up their worship of our many gods and turn to the one true god.

*(beat)*

They were enslaved for their heresy, if my memory serves.

*(beat)*

Does this "One God" have something to  
do with the demon that attacked you?

**GABRIELLE**

In a manner of speaking. You see, this god has a counterpart who rules over the souls of those he's judged unworthy of paradise. And that counterpart is a demon, named Lucifer. And it's Lucifer who I believe is sending these demons here.

**ZENOBIA**

But why would...

*(brightening)*

Ah, perhaps I do understand. Since the word of this One God did not sway us from our beliefs in our own gods, neither the God, nor his counterpart have dominion over our souls. And that makes them angry.

**GABRIELLE**

Sounds like as good a reason as any.

**ZENOBIA**

*(Cont'd)*

And this Lucifer sent his demons after you because you are rallying the people behind you, and are therefore the biggest threat to him.

**GABRIELLE**

That's what I'm guessing, yes.



**ZENOBIA**

*(to Yavin)*

You remain quiet.

**YAVIN**

All this talk of gods and demons is beyond a simple soldier such as myself.

*(beat)*

Point me toward the enemy, and I will destroy him, no matter who, or what, he is.

**ZENOBIA**

*(smiling)*

Perhaps such pointing is best left for the morning, after we have all had a chance to rest.

Taking their cue, Gabrielle and Yavin stand and bid their goodnights to each other and the Queen, then leave to get some much-needed sleep.

**CUT TO:**

### **INT. LUCIFER'S CHAMBERS**

LUCIFER is standing over a table looking through several fragile scrolls that are bound together to form a large book. He flips the pages with an irritated hand as Xena waits, not very patiently a short distance away.

**XENA**

Ya know, Lucy, it concerns me that you're having to figure this mortality stuff out by reading a book.



Lucifer casts an irritated glance over his shoulder.

**LUCIFER**

In case you didn't notice the sign, Xena, this is Hell.  
We break things here. We don't fix them.

*(beat)*

Creating life is 'His' job, not mine.

**XENA**

*(stepping closer)*

Ya might wanna try looking under "R" for "Resurrection"

**LUCIFER**

*(growling)*

Xena throws up her hands.

**XENA**

Just trying to help.

**LUCIFER**

Why don't you just go torture  
something until I'm done?

**XENA**

*(grinning)*

I'd much rather torture you.

Instead of responding, Lucifer turns back to his studies, continuing to flip through the pages of the book.

**LUCIFER**

Finally! Now we're getting somewh- Now where  
in the... well here... am I gonna get a rib?

**XENA**

A rib? What do you need a rib for?

**LUCIFER**

*(pointing to the text)*

It says so right here. "Woman is  
created from the rib of man."

**XENA**

*(doubtfully)*

You sure you got the updated version of that thing?



Lucifer turns his head and growls in Xena's face, baring his teeth. Xena smiles and backs off.

**XENA**

Touchy, touchy.

**LUCIFER**

All right, let's forget this rib business for the moment. What else do I need?

*(beat)*

Ah yes. Well, that seems easy enough.  
Mm. Hm. Yes, I can see where that would work. Ah, of course, the final ingredient.  
Perfect.

**XENA**

Great! Zap away and let's get this damn thing over with already.  
My wings are getting stiff.

**LUCIFER**

*(still reading)*

I can't do it here.

**XENA**

Why not?

**LUCIFER**

It won't take.

**XENA**

*(irritatedly)*

Whaddya mean, it won't take?  
How can it not take?

**LUCIFER**

Say it with me, Xena. You're in HELL.  
Land of the dead. Place of no return.  
End of the line. Mortals can't exist here.  
*(beat, to self)*

Though I wish they could. There are a few mortals I'd give my horns to have down here with me.

**XENA**

News flash, Lucy. This place isn't that much different from Tartarus and I made a trip or two down there without the corpse requirement.

**LUCIFER**

Yes, but 'He' closed that loophole.

*(beat)*

Damn him.

**XENA**  
*(gritting teeth)*  
Great. What now?

**LUCIFER**  
I'm thinking. I'm thinking!

**XENA**  
Don't you need a working brain for that?



**LUCIFER**  
SILENCE!!!

The chamber shakes with the might of Lucifer's enraged shout, and the dust from his previous destruction settles over them both. Satisfied that he has cowed his nemesis, he spins back to the book, completely missing Xena's deadly glare. Her claws lengthen as her fists clench, but she forces down her rage, content, for the moment, to bide her time.

**LUCIFER**  
*(cont'd)*  
Now, where was I? Ah, yes. I need to send you somewhere where all these conditions prevail, yet close enough for you to be able to use your mortal form to get to that blasted city before the war is over.  
*(beat, as he thinking)*  
Oh, yes. Perfect. Perfect!

As Lucifer laughs, Xena's eyes narrow.

**XENA**  
Where?

**LUCIFER**  
*(evilly grinning)*  
I'm afraid I can't tell you that, my pet. It would spoil the surprise, you see.

**XENA**  
Lucifer....

**LUCIFER**  
Sorry, Xena. That's just not the way things are done around here.  
*(beat)*  
Hope you like the dark.

Laughing loudly, Lucifer holds out his hand, and Xena is immediately immobilized. As she struggles fruitlessly to break free of his hold, he levitates her into the air, and then forward into and through his PRIVATE PORTAL into the MORTAL WORLD.



**LUCIFER**

*(Cont'd)*

Unpleasant journeys, Xena.

**CUT TO:**

### **INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNELS - DAY**

Gabrielle is carrying a crate deep into a tunnel. She stops and looks where two men are working on a support beam. She reaches up and runs her finger over a cut that's been made in the center of the beam.

**GABRIELLE**

That cut is perfect. Now make sure to brace it and then run the trigger rope about six paces before this beam. If anyone tries to get past it, by the time they get to this position, the ceiling will be collapsing on them and they won't know what hit them.

The men nod and go back to working as Gabrielle picks up her box and continues further into the tunnel. Stops again and removes a FLASK of Greek Fire and hands it to the woman working at the next trap.

**GABRIELLE**

Now it's going to be very important to soak these rags all the way around the opening, so when the trigger is tripped, the torch will fall down and light the fire.

**WOMAN**

*(pouring oil)*  
Like this?

**GABRIELLE**

Yes, just like that. Make sure you get it all the way around.

Once again, she retrieves the box and turns. At her third stop, she watches men pull a large beam with multiple spikes protruding all around it.

**GABRIELLE**

Good job.  
That would stop a charging Minotaur.



She hands the box to a man who carries it further back, while she examines everything being done around her. She turns her head slightly when a shadow is cast over her. She sees Zenobia move next to her.

**ZENOBIA**

Are things prepared to your satisfaction?

**GABRIELLE**

They're getting there.  
(beat)  
Gods, I hope it doesn't come to this.

**ZENOBIA**

None of us do.  
Come, let me show you something.

Gabrielle follows Zenobia into a large chamber with several other tunnels leading off of it. The Queen points to several people who are painting symbols on the walls.

**GABRIELLE**

What's this?



**ZENOBIA**

The people are taking a cue from you.  
These are our sacred symbols. They  
hope they will protect us the way that  
you were protected.

**GABRIELLE**

(smiling)  
That's a very good idea. Let's hope  
those are enough and we don't have to  
rely on my more drastic measures.

ZENOBIA

Gabrielle, our enemy has changed.  
You are only doing what is best.

GABRIELLE

Doesn't mean I have to like it.

ZENOBIA

Perhaps not. But it might be better if  
for now, you act as if you did?

Gabrielle rounds on Zenobia, hands on her hips.

GABRIELLE

What do you mean by that?

Zenobia throws up her hands.

ZENOBIA

Only that these people take their cues from  
you, Gabrielle. If you are upset, or hesitant  
in your course of action, no matter the  
reasons, they will pick up on that.

*(beat)*

But of course, as a warrior, you  
already know this.

GABRIELLE

Zenobia, in here...

*(touching her chest)*

I'm a bard. A simple teller of stories.  
I fight because I have to, but that doesn't  
mean that I have to enjoy my work.

ZENOBIA

Then why fight? Why put yourself through  
so much pain and grief?

GABRIELLE

*(softly, but passionately)*

Because of something I learned in  
my travels across this world.

My travels with Xena.

*(beat)*

Sometimes the world needs warriors as  
much as it needs peacemakers. Because  
sometimes, peace is something that must  
be fought for, no matter the cost.

ZENOBIA

Even if the cost is your soul?



**GABRIELLE**  
(*nodding*)  
Yes. Even then.



(*beat*)  
Now, if you'll excuse me, I have  
some traps to finish laying out.

Gabrielle turns and continues down the darkened corridor, leaving Zenobia to watch her retreat, a troubled frown upon her face.

**FADE OUT.**

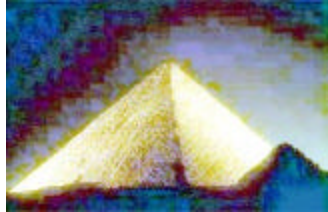
**END OF ACT ONE**

## ACT TWO

FADE IN:

### INT. EGYPTIAN PYRAMID - NIGHT

Deep within the base of a looted EGYPTIAN PYRAMID, a brilliant white light shines for an instant. Then it is gone, leaving the tomb in perfect, stale darkness once again.



A moment later, a gasp for breath is heard, followed shortly thereafter by a soft moan. The sounds which follow do so in rapid succession: an almost silent scuffle of feet which are definitely not human; a low, rumbling growl; a loud, sharp squeak which abruptly cuts off, and a soft thud.

**XENA**

*(from the darkness)*

I. Hate. Rats.

Xena sits up and fights off a wave of dizziness as she gets used to being in a living, breathing body again.

**XENA**

*(Cont'd)*

This rising from the dead stuff  
is getting really old.

Still, she can't help but grin at the feeling of life coursing through her veins once again. It's something that even the powers of a demon can't equal, and she's well pleased. She stretches, taking satisfaction in the stretch of strong muscles and the quiet pop of joints slipping back into place.

**XENA**

Well, Lucy, ya kept your word. Now let's  
see what I can do about keeping mine.

As she gingerly begins to stand, she hazards a guess that she's in a crypt of some sort. The fetid air, the sharp, bitter scent of musty spices, and the feeling of death all around her. This suspicion is confirmed as her feet hit the floor and encounter what can only be bits of broken, moldering bones.

Grimacing at the pain in her tender soles, she makes her way toward one wall on blind instinct, sensing its presence a foot before she encounters it with one outstretched hand. Careful exploration with the tips of her fingers soon yields pay dirt in the form of a flint and tinder, which she takes and immediately strikes together.

**XENA**

Time to shed a little light on the subject.

The small spark is enough for her to see a torch slightly to her left, and the next strike of flint and tinder sets it alight, illuminating a very large, very ornate, and very plundered tomb.



A tomb she currently shares with one mummy, several piles of disjointed human bones. There is an entire army of fat rats, whose beady, glowing eyes stare out at her from the shadows where the torch's light can't reach.

Baring her teeth, she growls at them, snickering when they squeak and skitter deeper into the shadows.

Looking down, finally, at her quite naked body, her smile broadens as she sees that it is very definitely her own, down to the last scar. The one she's spent decades perfecting as her ultimate tool of destruction.

The smile becomes a dark laugh that fills the still tomb, causing the rats to shrink further back in fear.

**XENA**

Gotta hand it to ya, Lucy. For a rotten, conniving little bastard, ya did all right.

She looks briefly around for some sort of clothing, but only the mummy's wrappings have survived the desecration, and she quickly decides against it. A weapon is next on her list, and this she finds without too much difficulty.

The surviving arm and finger bones of what once was an interior door guard lie near the sealed entrance to the tomb. In that hand is clasped the broken shaft of what was likely a SPEAR in better times.

Even without the tip, however, it's a suitable weapon, especially in the hands of one such as the Warrior Princess. Xena pulls it from the hand with little difficulty, giving it an experimental twirl and nodding her pleasure.

**XENA**

Sorry, buddy. I think I need this a little more than you do right now.

Spear shaft in hand, she makes her way back across the tomb and pulls the torch from its elaborate wall bracket. The flame sputters slightly. She lifts her head and sniffs the air, smiling at the freshness she detects.

**XENA**

*(hungrily grinning)*

Ready or not... here I come.

**CUT TO:**

## EXT. EGYPTIAN PYRAMID - NIGHT

Near the south wall of the tomb, three EGYPTIAN MEN stand armed with TORCHES, crude SPADES, PICKS, and SACKS.

**MAN #1**

This one ain't been touched.

**MAN #2**

*(sarcastically)*

No kiddin', dummy.

What gave ya your first clue?

**MAN #1**

*(offendedly)*

Hey!

**MAN #3**

Cut it out, both of you. Let's just get in there, get the loot, and get back to Brakus' camp before he misses us.

**MAN #1**

Ya think this'll make up for not tellin' him about blondie?

**MAN #2**

If it don't, we'll give him your ass on a platter. Maybe that'll make him happy.

**MAN #3**

*(scowling)*

I said cut it out! Let's just get this over with and back to camp. Doin' this in the middle of the night gives me the creeps.

The three men start forward again, rounding the corner of the pyramid to where they know a second, smaller entrance is hidden. Laying their tools aside, they move closer to the tomb itself, only to freeze in their tracks as the sealed door starts moving... from the inside.

Three jaws drop, followed by three torches. As the door opens completely, a naked Xena strolls casually into the warm night air.

**XENA**

*(grinning)*

Hello, boys.

Nice night for a resurrection, isn't it?

Her voice spurs them into action, and the three take off as if Lucifer's demons are at their heels.

Xena's eyebrow raises.

**XENA**

First time that's ever happened.

Snorting softly, she utters her battle cry, and jumps, easily flipping to land in front of them, grinning darkly.

**XENA**

Was it something I said?

The men freeze, turn, and start running in the opposite direction, slipping and sliding in the soft sand beneath their feet.

Before they can get too far, Xena catches up and grabs two of them from behind, and tosses them into the third. The three fall into a jumbled heap.

Striding to the human pile, she stares down at them, hands on her hips and a smile on her face. It isn't a pleasant smile by any means. More like one a shark would wear when contemplating dinner.

The first man quickly scrambles to his knees and begins bowing fervently.

**MAN #3**

Oh Mighty Isis, please have mercy on me.

**XENA**

*(mouthing)*

Isis?

The other two men copy their leader and press their faces into the sand.

**MAN #1**

Please, Goddess, don't hurt us! We wasn't gonna rob your tomb! Honest!  
We was just gonna... oof!

MAN #1 finds himself eating sand, courtesy of his partner in crime.

**MAN #2**

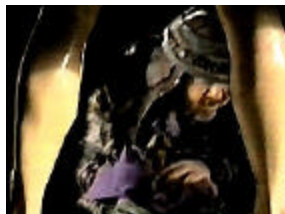
*(laughing weakly)*

He... he didn't mean that, your Holiness.

We were just...

*(beat, thinking)*

takin' a walk, right, boss?



**MAN #3**

Yeah! That's right! Just takin' a walk we were.  
Beautiful night, like you said, my Goddess.

Keeping silent, Xena towers over them, assessing. Finally, she points.

**XENA**  
You. Stand up.

All three jump to their feet. Xena pushes the two rejects back down to their knees, then assesses the one she has chosen.

**XENA**  
(nodding)  
You'll do. Take em off.

**MAN #3**  
Say again?

**XENA**  
You heard me. Strip.

After a moment, a light dawns and, leering, the man strips off his clothes in a blur of motion. He straightens and stands proudly before her.

Xena gives him a brief head to toe glance, then rolls her eyes.

**XENA**  
Back down on the ground.

**MAN #3**  
Yes, my Goddess!

He drops to his knees, and reaches for her, only to fall to his face as she easily sidesteps him and grabs his clothes. Within moments, she's dressed in his black pants, boots, coarse shirt, and black vest and feeling rather pleased with herself.

**XENA**  
So... you guys were thinking about  
looting my tomb, were ya?



**MAN #1**  
Yes!

**MAN #2**  
No!

**XENA**  
(shaking head)  
Stand up.

**MAN #2**

Please, Isis! Have mercy on me!

**XENA**

Stand. Up.

The three men obey her command, shaking in terror.

Xena gives them a piercing glare, secretly enjoys their predicament.

**XENA**

*(Cont'd)*

I really should just fry you into tiny little pieces  
and be done with it, ya know. But I find you  
amusing, in a degrading, despicable sorta  
way, so here's what I'm gonna do.

*(gesturing them closer)*

First you're gonna close this door back up,  
and then cover it with sand so that nobody,  
and I do mean nobody, knows it exists.

Got me?

The three nod emphatically.

**XENA**

*(Cont'd)*

Good. Then you're gonna walk twenty paces  
to the west. Twenty paces exactly, and you're  
gonna start digging. And you're gonna keep  
digging until I come back and tell you to stop.

Understand?

Man #2 nods as man #1 raises a hand.

**XENA**

*(scowling)*

What?

**MAN #1**

Um... why do you want us to dig there, Goddess?

**XENA**

*(smiling darkly)*

Because I told you to.

**MAN #2**

Works for me.

**MAN #1**

But....

Xena steps forward, pressing the sharp edge of the broken spear against his neck.

**XENA**

Would you rather die a slow and painful death?  
I can arrange that, if you prefer.

**MAN #1**

Digging sounds good, Goddess.  
Digging sounds real good.

**XENA**

Thought it might.  
*(beat)*  
Now get going, before I change my mind and  
zap you out of existence just for the fun of it.

The men jump as if goosed, and begin to run for their tools. Before the naked man can get more than two steps away, Xena grabs him by the shoulder and spins him around.

**XENA**

Not you. You're coming with me.

**MAN #3**

Wh--where are we going, Goddess?

**XENA**

The city. And you're just the man to  
accompany me there.

**MAN #3**

But... but I'm naked!

Xena gives him another head to toe glance.

**XENA**

Relax, buddy. Nobody's gonna notice.  
*(Cont'd, off his offended look)*  
MOVE!



Nakedness forgotten, the man begins to run back toward the city as Xena saunters along behind him.

**CUT TO:**



## EXT. CAPITOL CITY - NIGHT

Gabrielle is restless, unable to sleep. She walks out into the night and takes a deep breath of the cool evening air, watching idly as people wander through the square. Some are coming off watch; others are going on duty. She knows she should go and make sure everything is as quiet as it seems, but at the moment all she can bring herself to do is walk slowly through the compound.

She smiles at the areas that have now been cleaned up and organized. It's apparent that the people are slowly regaining both their will to live and their will to fight. She gives an unamused snort as she considers that.

**GABRIELLE**

*(to self)*

Now all I have to do is teach myself what  
I've helped teach them.

Standing atop the city wall, Yavin watches her, and frowns as he sees Gabrielle stop abruptly. She puts a hand to her head to rub her brow, then drop it to touch her chest for a brief instant. She shakes off whatever stilled her, and turns in his direction.

He smiles and waves her closer, pleased when she joins him on top of the wall.

**YAVIN**

Are you all right?

**GABRIELLE**

*(slightly distracted)*

Yes, it's...

*(beat)*

It's nothing.

*(brightening)*

Can't sleep either?

**YAVIN**

Actually, I think I'm getting used to it.

A volley of arrows fly at them, but land short and stick in the ground outside the wall.

**GABRIELLE**

Looks like our opponent  
has insomnia too.

**YAVIN**

So it would seem.

**GABRIELLE**

So, why are you not sleeping?

**YAVIN**

I'm keeping watch for demons.

**GABRIELLE**

*(chuckling)*

I'm sorry, Yavin. Trust me when I tell you that if they were coming, you wouldn't have time to look for them or time to fight them. I've done it. It's nearly impossible.

**YAVIN**

But you have been successful?

**GABRIELLE**

I guess you could call it that.

I'm still standing.

*(beat)*

At what cost, I'm not sure yet.



A YOUNG MAN runs up the stairs and shoves a FLASK into Gabrielle's hand as he catches his breath.

**MAN**

*(panting)*

Gabrielle, the healer asked me to bring this to you. Our water, it's....

She takes the stopper out of the skin and sniffs.

**GABRIELLE**

Stagnant.

**MAN**

Yes, our water stores have gone bad.

**GABRIELLE**

Great, this was the last thing we needed.

*(to Yavin)*

Is there a fresh water source close by?

**YAVIN**

Brakus' men have cut off our natural sources, but there are irrigation ditches from the Nile that we can use. But it is a dangerous journey, especially at night.

**GABRIELLE**

The wounded and the sick have to have fresh water. We can boil this for washing bandages, but we can't drink it.

*(to young man)*

Get my horse, saddle her and get me a packhorse loaded with as many skins as possible. I'll go for the water.

**YAVIN**

Gabrielle, you can't, it's suicide.

**GABRIELLE**

*(jokingly)*

Oh, ye of little faith.

**YAVIN**

I'll accompany you.  
We'll take two extra horses.

**GABRIELLE**

Yavin....



He puts his hands up to quiet her protest.

**YAVIN**

I've lived in this area all of my life, Gabrielle. You've been here for a few days. Tell me you can find our irrigation canals faster with me than without me, and I'll stay here. If not, then please, just let's go together and get this done as quickly as we can.

**GABRIELLE**

*(nodding)*

All right.

I know when not to argue.

**YAVIN**

Good. I'm glad that's settled.

A PAGE comes forward with the requested horses, and the two mount up and head quietly out of the city.

**CUT TO:**

## INT. CAPITOL CITY - TUNNEL

Xena stands against a wall of one of the tunnels as two guards pass by an entrance just behind her. She's made it into the city easily, blending in when she's needed to, sticking to the shadows when she hasn't. Her erstwhile guide is sleeping off a right cross somewhere nearby where he'll be close to hand should she require any more of his services.

As she allows the guards to pass by unmolested, she takes a careful look around her. The tunnel she's chosen is one relatively unfrequented, which is perfect for her needs. Once the two men are out of hearing range, she moves forward again, sharp eyes assessing every shadowed nook and cranny for unexpected surprises.



Stopping, she catches glimpse of a carefully concealed trip wire running across the floor. She kneels down and runs her finger over the small rope and smiles. Then she stands up and uses her foot to pull on the rope. Both hands shoot up and catch two arrows that would have hit her directly in the chest had she not been prepared for their rather sudden appearance. Bringing the arrows up, she examines them, sniffing to detect any poison, then smiles darkly as she breaks them in half and drops them casually to the ground.

**XENA**

Not bad. Not bad at all, Gabrielle.  
It seems I've taught you well.

Continuing down the tunnel, she stops again as a large rat starts to cross in front of her. The rat pauses and looks up at her, whiskers twitching.

**XENA**

Don't even think about it.

The rat turns quickly and runs the opposite direction.

**XENA**

Smart rat.  
Now let's see what other  
presents Gabrielle left.

She stops at another trap and examines it carefully, her eyes tracking to the spiked beam at the top of the tunnel.

**XENA**

That'd leave a mark.  
Well done.

Careful not to trigger the trap, she moves on until she comes to a spot in the floor, and looks down at it carefully. Kneeling, she pulls up the hidden cover to reveal pit. The bottom is covered with shards of metal. A brow raises and she shakes her head.

**XENA**

Might not kill you...

*(beat)*

But you'd sure wish you were dead.

Taking a step back she moves and jumps over the pit, leaving the trap intact. Then she stops immediate, almost skidding to a halt as she realizes something. She sniffs and looks slightly ahead. She moves in and has a look at the firetrap that has been set.

**XENA**

Very clever, Gabrielle.

I'm impressed.

Continuing forward, she walks until she comes to a larger intersection, from which she can hear the sounds of voices rising and falling in a random cacophony. Several steps from the intersection, she stops and blends easily into the shadows, resting back against one chilled wall.

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. DESERT - NIGHT**

Gabrielle and Yavin are riding out into the desert night, having rather easily evaded the opposing army's guards. Yavin is slightly in lead, packhorses in tow, and Gabrielle brings up the rear, comfortably astride Argo.

As she rides, she tilts her head back slightly and looks up into the vast night sky, gazing up at the immense perfusion of stars as they rest in the velvet blackness. Argo knickers and Gabrielle pats her neck, comforted by the familiar sound.

As she continues to look at the sky, she remembers the first time she ever spent the evening stargazing with Xena.



**XENA**

*(pointing at the stars)*

*That bunch up there looks like a big dipper.*

**GABRIELLE**

*A dipper?*

**XENA**

*Yeah, you know, like one of those cups that you draw water out of a bucket?*

**GABRIELLE**

*It looks like a bear to me.*

**XENA**  
*A bear?*

**GABRIELLE**  
*Yeah.*

**XENA**  
*Where do you get a bear?*

**GABRIELLE**  
*Look there's the body, look see the little ears....*

Coming back to the present, Gabrielle winces and hides a grin as she remembers hitting Xena on the nose with her staff. A small, if somewhat rueful, chuckle escapes, which brings Yavin back around to her side.

**GABRIELLE**  
*(off Yavin's concerned look)*  
Just remembering.

**YAVIN**  
Happy memories, by the sound of things.

**GABRIELLE**  
Yes, very happy ones.

**YAVIN**  
You have a very beautiful smile.

**GABRIELLE**  
*(looks vaguely uncomfortable)*  
I....  
*(beat)*  
Thanks.

**YAVIN**  
*(smiling)*  
My pleasure. The water should be just ahead.

**CUT TO:**

## **INT. EGYPTIAN TUNNELS - NIGHT**

AMUN, the Queen's advisor, passes by the intersection where Xena is hiding. Reaching out from the shadows, she grabs him by the back of the shirt and pulls him into the tunnel's entrance with no one else being the wiser. Her arm slides easily around his neck and her hand clamps firmly against his mouth. Bending her head just slightly, she whispers into the advisor's ear.

**XENA**  
This isn't gonna be a long conversation,  
so you just nod yes or no, got it?

**AMUN**  
*(nodding)*

**XENA**

Good. You look like a guy with some connections, am I right?

**AMUN**

*(nodding)*

**XENA**

Thought so. You're just the type.

*(beat)*

Now, I want you to tell me where the little blonde warrior, Gabrielle, beds down for the night.

Amun struggles against her grip, but Xena holds him easily, increasing the pressure around his throat until he stills once again.

**XENA**

*(Cont'd)*

Try that again and you'll be looking at the world from a completely different angle.

*(beat)*

Now, do you know where she sleeps?  
Yes or no?

Amun hesitates, but when the pressure increases again, he finally nods.

**XENA**

Good. Now I'm willing to bet that you know your way around these tunnels pretty good. So here's what you're gonna do for me. Listen close, 'cause I don't like to have to repeat myself.

*(beat, to make sure he's listening)*

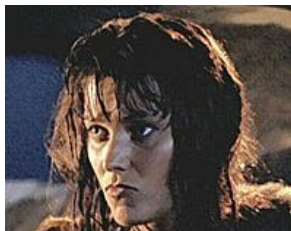
You and I are gonna take a casual walk to Gabrielle's rooms. And we're gonna get there by way of tunnels that nobody uses. I don't want any unexpected guests crashing our little party, understand?

**AMUN**

*(nodding)*

**XENA**

I knew I could count on you. Let's move.



**CUT TO:**

## EXT. CANAL - NIGHT

Gabrielle and Yavin are finishing with their task of drawing water from the canal. Gabrielle seems distracted, a pensive frown on her face. Every so often she pauses in her duties and stares off in the direction of the city.

**YAVIN**

That's the last of them. This canal won't be good to us much longer. The drought has caused the water levels to run very low.

As he ties the waterskin on the packhorse, he looks over to Gabrielle and realizes she hasn't heard a word he's said.

**YAVIN**

*(Cont'd)*

Is something bothering you, Gabrielle?  
You've been acting strangely since before we left the city.

**GABRIELLE**

*(honestly)*

I don't know, Yavin. I keep getting this strange feeling. I don't know what it is, or why I'm having it.

*(beat)*

I guess maybe I just realized that it probably wasn't the smartest of ideas to have the two top military leaders wandering off on a water rescue mission while the city is under siege.

**YAVIN**

Do you think anyone else could have gotten away from the city without being noticed?

**GABRIELLE**

*(considering)*

You may have a point. Still....

**YAVIN**

Well, we're done here, so the best thing for it is to head back as quickly as possible, right?

**GABRIELLE**

You're right. Let's go.

**CUT TO:**

## EXT. CAPITAL CITY - NIGHT

Yavin and Gabrielle return and gratefully hand off their horses and the fresh water. Gabrielle stretches and takes a deep cleansing breath.



**GABRIELLE**

That was...  
(beat)  
tiring.

**YAVIN**

Maybe now you'll be able to sleep.

**GABRIELLE**

(rubbing her neck)  
I just might at that.  
I suggest you do the same.

**YAVIN**

I will, Gabrielle.  
Good night.

**GABRIELLE**

Good night, Yavin. Rest well.

Gabrielle turns on her heel and starts to walk away when a guard stops her. Yavin sees this and knows it can't be good so he runs to join her.

**GUARD**

(quietly)  
Gabrielle, one of the sentries has discovered  
that one of the traps in the secondary tunnel  
out of the city has been tripped.

**GABRIELLE**

Only one?



**GUARD**

Yes. The first one.

**GABRIELLE**

Was anyone hurt?

**GUARD**

No.

**GABRIELLE**

Let's go. Show us.

**CUT TO:**

## INT. UNDERGROUND TUNNELS - NIGHT

Gabrielle examines the triggered trap, paying special attention to the broken and casually discarded arrows. She looks over to where Yavin is standing.

**GABRIELLE**

What do you think?

**YAVIN**

Could have been an accident.

Gabrielle hands the pieces of the destroyed arrows to Yavin.

**GABRIELLE**

Accidents don't snap arrows.  
This was done on purpose.

**YAVIN**

Perhaps there is a spy in our ranks?

Gabrielle hands the arrows off and scrubs her face.

**GABRIELLE**

I hope it's that simple.

The pair hear a scuffle behind them, and when they turn, Zenobia strides up to them, clearly displeased.

**ZENOBIA**

I just heard. What happened?

**GABRIELLE**

We don't know yet. If it wasn't an accident,  
and I don't think it was, whoever or  
whatever did this is long gone.

**ZENOBIA**

Perhaps it would not have happened it all  
if you two were where you were supposed  
to be instead of heading out of this  
city on some pointless quest.

**GABRIELLE**

*(standing slowly)*  
Now wait just a....

**YAVIN**

*(over Gabrielle)*  
My Queen, we needed the water.

**ZENOBIA**

You could have sent someone else. Do you realize what could have happened if you had been captured by the enemy?

*(beat)*

Leaders just don't sacrifice themselves needlessly, Gabrielle.

**GABRIELLE**

*(growing cold)*

You're right, Zenobia. Sometimes that just happens whether we want it to or not.

**ZENOBIA**

Did you ever stop to think what would have happened if you had been attacked and killed out there?

**GABRIELLE**

Yes. I would have collected the other half of my soul and finally gotten some sleep.



**GABRIELLE**

*(Cont'd)*

*(to Yavin)*

Double the guards around the perimeter.  
Wake me if I'm needed.

Gabrielle stalks off, leaving Yavin and Zenobia to stare after her, shocked looks on their faces.

**CUT TO:**

### **INT. GABRIELLE'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT**

Willing her anger to subside, Gabrielle climbs into her straw filled bed and rolls over, facing the wall. Her thoughts, emotions, and body are all on a hair trigger.

**GABRIELLE**

*(whispering)*

Xena?

*(beat)*

I know I sent you away, but by all the gods in all the world, what I wouldn't give to have you here with me right now. Sometimes it's almost as if you're so close I can feel you. But....

*(sighing)*

Goodnight, Xena. I love you.

With that soft entreaty, she closes her eyes and forces her tense muscles to relax, and drops off into a troubled sleep without ever realizing she's done so.

A moment later, a large shadow looms over Gabrielle, covering her body with a darkened blanket in the flickering torchlight. Piercing blue eyes, gone almost indigo in the shadowed room, stare out from the darkness. Waiting.



**FADE OUT.**

**END OF ACT TWO**

## ACT THREE

FADE IN:

### INT. GABRIELLE'S CHAMBERS - NIGHT

Gabrielle sleeps fitfully, tossing and turning several times. She pulls the thin blanket over one shoulder and settles once again, facing toward the shadow looming over her.

As Gabrielle settles into deeper sleep, Xena steps silently away from the wall. The shadow thrown by her body becomes larger as she approaches Gabrielle's bed and kneels down, never taking her eyes from Gabrielle's face.

A not-quite steady hand reaches out, as if to touch the tousled hair glowing in the torch's light.

**XENA**

*(whispering)*

I love you too, Gabrielle

Gabrielle's eyes snap open, and Xena flinches back as Gabrielle's arm comes up from under the blanket, holding one of her sais, lethal point outward. Still, Gabrielle manages to open up a small scratch on Xena's upper arm in the first split second between full sleep, and full awareness.

Xena steps back into the shadows as Gabrielle jumps out of bed, weapon at the ready. She's immediately takes a defensive pose holding the sai up and placing a hand in front of her. She looks carefully at the darkened corner and slowly lowers her hand as her mind makes the realization of what she's just done, and to whom.

**GABRIELLE**

Xena?



A queer buzzing sounds in her ears, and she realizes that it's the blood rushing from her head. She sways for a moment, then steadies, still staring into the shadows. She blinks rapidly, as if to convince herself that what she's seeing is there, and not a figment of her imagination. Or a dream.

**GABRIELLE**

*(Cont'd)*

Xena?

Xena starts to step from the shadows, but something holds her back. Her eyes are concerned, but wary.

**GABRIELLE**

Please, Xena. Please... gods...  
say something. Anything.

**XENA**  
(whispering)  
Gabrielle.



Gabrielle falters slightly at the sound of her name spoken by her soulmate. Then she straightens, still rooted in place by uncertainty.

**GABRIELLE**  
Am I dreaming?

**XENA**  
(softly)  
No. You're not dreaming.

Gabrielle gasps and covers her mouth with her hand as tears spring to her eyes.

**GABRIELLE**  
But how? Why?

Xena takes a small step into the light. Her face is somber, but her eyes shine with love.

**XENA**  
Because you asked.  
(beat)  
And because I love you.

Seeing Gabrielle still frozen, she takes another step and holds out a hand.

**XENA**  
(softly)  
It's okay.

**GABRIELLE**  
I... can't....

She stops speaking abruptly as her eyes focus on a small tear in the cloth of the shirt Xena's wearing. Her lips move but no sound, save for a rasping intake of breath, emerges.

**XENA**  
(concernedly)  
Gabrielle?

Still silent, Gabrielle closes the distance between them, and reaches up to the tear in the cloth. She draws her fingers slowly away and brings them up to the light, rubbing them with her thumb. As if in a trance, she brings them slowly to her mouth and tastes them.

She looks up then, her eyes shining with a mixture of emotions impossible to name.

**GABRIELLE**

Xena?

**XENA**

*(whispering)*

Yes?

**GABRIELLE**

Ghosts don't bleed.... Do they?

Xena's eyes close for a moment, and when they reopen, they are filled with unshed tears.

**XENA**

No. They don't.

Xena doesn't have time to brace herself fully before her arms are full of Gabrielle. She takes a step back and braces them both against the solid support of the wall and enfolds her soulmate into an embrace filled with warmth and devotion. Laying her cheek on Gabrielle's hair, she closes her eyes tightly as she feels the younger woman's sobs shudder through her.



Gabrielle presses herself as tightly against Xena as she can, not minding the unfamiliar clothing, nor the scent that clothing still bears. Her ear is pressed against Xena's chest, and over her own sobs, she can hear a sound she thought she never again would. The beating of Xena's heart, strong and steady in her ear, proves above all else that the woman she holds to so fiercely is indeed alive.

After a long, emotional moment, Gabrielle pulls away slightly and tilts her head, blindly searching as her hand moves up into Xena's hair. Their lips meet as fiercely as their bodies' embrace, reaffirming a connection that exists beyond death, and life.



Breaths slightly ragged, they break apart. Gabrielle takes a half step back, while Xena remains against the wall, watching.

Lifting her hands, Gabrielle uses just the tips of her fingers to touch Xena's face, as if to memorize her eyebrows, her cheeks, the shape of her lips. Her fingers trail along Xena's neck, down the center of her chest, and come to rest at her waist.



**GABRIELLE**

*(whispering)*

I can't believe you're here. Alive.

**XENA**

*(hoarsely)*

Gabrielle, there are things  
I need to tell you. I....

**GABRIELLE**

No, Xena. No. Not now.

**XENA**

We have to talk. The situation....

Gabrielle covers Xena's lips with her fingers, stilling them.

**GABRIELLE**

....will have to wait.

Xena's expression softens in understanding. Gabrielle traces Xena's lips, then turns her knuckles so she can feel Xena's breath against them. A heartbreakingly tremulous smile appears on Gabrielle's face.

**GABRIELLE**

*(Cont'd)*

My soul just walked out of the shadows.  
Life needs to back off and let me savor it.

Xena puts her arms around Gabrielle. She can feel Gabrielle shivering. Gabrielle leans her head and presses her ear to Xena's chest to listen to her heartbeat. Xena closes her eyes and strokes Gabrielle's hair.

**XENA**

In that case, we might as well get comfortable.

Gabrielle nods, then lifts her head up and they walk to the pallet, curling up on it together as Xena pulls the blankets around them.

**FADE TO:**



## INT. GABRIELLE'S CHAMBERS - MORNING

Gabrielle is lying on the bed, her head propped up on one hand, watching with pleasure as Xena pulls on her familiar leathers and armor.

Xena looks at her partner as she slips the strap on her shoulder. She gives her a questioning smile

**XENA**

What?

**GABRIELLE**

It's nice to know dreams do come true.



**XENA**

*(smiling)*

Occasionally they do.

*(beat)*

I'm glad you kept my leathers.

**GABRIELLE**

I wanted more than a jar of ashes.

I needed more than that.

Xena can see that Gabrielle is about to break down. She joins her, taking a seat on the bed and rubbing her arm in a comforting manner.

**XENA**

I understand.

And I know we have a lot to deal with.

**GABRIELLE**

Oh yes, Xena, this is going to  
require a LONG talk.

**XENA**

Lots of them I'm sure.

**GABRIELLE**

A few.

But right now....

**XENA**

*(smiling)*

Right now we have a job to do?

**GABRIELLE**

Yeah.  
That reminds me!

Xena smiles when Gabrielle jumps out of bed and moves to her belongings. From the bag she pulls the jar and places it on the table. Xena shivers a bit but continues to watch Gabrielle. She removes something and hold it close to her chest, taking a deep breath and turning the hold the CHAKRAM out for Xena.

**GABRIELLE**

I believe this belongs to you.

Xena looks at the weapon, in Gabrielle's hand, hesitating for just a moment before stepping forward. She looks to Gabrielle, who smiles and offers the weapon once again. Xena wipes her hands nervously on her leathers, then slowly grasps it, audibly sighing when her hand doesn't pass through it.

Gabrielle laughs, tears coming to her eyes as Xena takes the chakram and places it on her hip where it properly belongs.



**XENA**

I have to say that feels good.

**GABRIELLE**

It looks good too.

Gabrielle rushes forward and puts her arms around Xena's neck. Xena returns the embrace.

**GABRIELLE**

Thank you.

**XENA**

For?

**GABRIELLE**

Coming home.



Both look up as they hear the sound of running footsteps headed in their direction. Zenobia and two of her GUARDS rush in.

**ZENOBIA**

Gabrielle! Amun is missing! I fear he was....

Her words cut off abruptly as she sees her top military commander in the embrace of a tall, heavily armed warrior.

**ZENOBIA**

Gabrielle? What's going on here?!

**GABRIELLE**

*(sheepishly)*

I can explain.

**ZENOBIA**

*(over Gabrielle)*

Guards!

**GABRIELLE**

WAIT!

The guards freeze in their tracks at Gabrielle's shouted order. They look to their Queen in confusion.

**GABRIELLE**

*(Cont'd)*

Zenobia, please. There's no danger.  
This is... kind of hard to explain, actually.

Zenobia narrows her eyes.

**GABRIELLE**

*(Cont'd)*

Zenobia, this is Xena.  
Xena, meet Queen Zenobia.



Zenobia's jaw drops and she stares at the two in patent disbelief.

**ZENOBIA**

You said she was dead!

**XENA**

*(dryly)*

I got better.

**ZENOBIA**

This is... impossible.

**GABRIELLE**

I'll grant that it seems that way, yes.  
I'm still trying to get used to it myself, but  
believe me when I tell you, Zenobia, that  
this isn't the first time we've been  
around this particular block.

**ZENOBIA**

Explain yourself.

**GABRIELLE**

*(wincing)*

Like I said, it's kind of hard to explain, but  
dying, and coming back, isn't something  
we're altogether unfamiliar with.

**ZENOBIA**

*(disbelievingly)*

Are you seriously trying to tell me that  
this has happened to you before?

**GABRIELLE**

More than once.

Zenobia looks as if she wants to argue the point further, but the absolute sincerity in Gabrielle's eyes convinces her of the truth more than any words ever could. She shakes her head over the absurdity of it, but can do nothing but believe.

**ZENOBIA**

Fine. Assuming that you are telling the truth,  
how exactly did you come to be here, Xena?

**XENA**

I came here because Gabrielle was here.  
As for how I was restored to life, I used  
my powers of persuasion to my  
advantage. I went to Lucifer and  
convinced him to resurrect me.

**ZENOBIA**

*(to Gabrielle)*

This is the same Lucifer you told me of?  
The one who is behind the attacks on this city?

**GABRIELLE**

*(softly, her suspicion confirmed)*  
Yes.

**ZENOBIA**

GUARDS!

**GABRIELLE**

Wait! Please, let her finish.

Zenobia eyes them both then nods, with reluctance.

**XENA**

He didn't care too much for the way your people were kicking the tar out of his troops. He sent me up here to lend a hand.



**ZENOBIA**

And so you were using your 'powers of persuasion' to turn Gabrielle against us?

**GABRIELLE**

Zenobia! That's not fair.

**ZENOBIA**

Isn't it? I walk in here to find you in the arms of the woman you have been mourning since before you set foot inside my city. A woman who freely admits that she was resurrected at the behest of the enemy we are currently fighting against. What would you have me think, Gabrielle?

**GABRIELLE**

That I'm telling you the truth.  
Zenobia, I've never lied to you.

**ZENOBIA**

*(softly)*

Love makes us sometimes do things we otherwise wouldn't, Gabrielle.

**XENA**

I'd lie to you in a heartbeat, but she never would.

**ZENOBIA**  
*(considering)*  
Perhaps not, but....

The Queen signals the guards who take up a position on either side of Xena and Gabrielle.

**GABRIELLE**  
*(looking at the guards)*  
You're joking, right? You do realize that  
if Xena were really here to sabotage us  
she would have done it by now?  
She snuck into the city.  
*(looking to Xena)*  
Tripped my arrow trap.

Xena looks toward the ceiling trying to look innocent.

**GABRIELLE**  
Captured Amun....  
*(realizing what she just said)*  
Xena?

**XENA**  
Yes?

**GABRIELLE**  
Where is Amun?

**XENA**  
*(sheepishly)*  
I had to stash him.  
He's fine. Just sleeping.

Zenobia rubs her forehead, then looks back to them.

**ZENOBIA**  
I should have you both put in chains.  
*(sighing)*  
But, I fear that if Xena is in allegiance  
with the demon Lucifer, his troops would  
only crush us. And I'm wise enough to  
know that if she's not, then we have a much  
better chance of defeating him with her help

**XENA**  
That's why I'm here. I want to help you.

**ZENOBIA**  
Then I don't believe I have much choice.  
However, I'm most certainly not comfortable  
with this change of events. If I see one  
thing, just one thing that makes me believe  
you are not being true to your word, I will not  
hesitate to do whatever is necessary to stop you.

**XENA**

Understandable.  
I would expect no less.

Zenobia looks to Gabrielle, frustration at her situation clearly written on her face.

**ZENOBIA**

I'm trusting you, Gabrielle.  
Don't make me regret that.

**GABRIELLE**

We won't. I promise.

Zenobia nods and turns to leave the room, taking her guards with her. Once she is gone Gabrielle rounds on Xena, hands on her hips.

**GABRIELLE**

Now, you want to tell me the real truth  
about your little deal with Lucifer?

**XENA**

That pretty much was the real truth.  
I just left out one little detail.

**GABRIELLE**

Yes?

**XENA**

I was supposed to kill you, go back to Hell,  
become his second in command and trap  
your soul before you went to heaven so I  
could have you by my side forever.

**GABRIELLE**

Oh, is that all?

**XENA**

Pretty much, yes.

**GABRIELLE**

Well, you can't capture what you  
already own, now can you?

**XENA**

*(shocked)*  
Still?

**GABRIELLE**

Always.

Gabrielle grins at having rendered her partner speechless.

**GABRIELLE**

*(Cont'd)*

C'mon. Let's go show 'em how the Warrior Princess and her Battling Bard win wars and influence people.



Blithely turning her back on Xena, she leaves the room, while Xena stares after her, smiling wryly and shaking her head.

**CUT TO:**

**INT. LUCIFER'S CHAMBERS**

Lucifer sits on his newly restored throne, staring into his private portal. The image wavers constantly between crystal clarity and fuzzy static. Growling, he gives the side of the portal a good healthy rap, and the image steadies for a brief moment, before going fuzzy and distorted again.

**LUCIFER**

I am not amused.

Standing at the door, two GUARDS shrink back in fear. They've spent the better part of a small eternity picking up the pieces of the last two demons to guard the room, and they're none too anxious to be next in line.

**LUCIFER**

*(Cont'd)*

Beezel!

The left hand guard gulps.

**BEEZEL**

Yes, Sire?



**LUCIFER**

Get over here.

**BEEZEL**

Yes, Sire.

A funeral dirge plays as Beezel slowly walks across the floor, head hanging down.



**LUCIFER**

Stand next to the portal.

**BEEZEL**

Yes, Sire.

**LUCIFER**

Now hold both arms up, like this.

**BEEZEL**

Like this, Sire?

**LUCIFER**

No, you fool! Are you blind as well as stupid?

Like this!

*(demonstrating)*

Ah, perfect. Now hold it right like that.

**BEEZEL**

Hold what, Sire?

**LUCIFER**

*(growling)*

Don't. Move. An. Inch.

**BEEZEL**

Yes, Sire.

The portal's reception immediately clears, and Lucifer leans forward, anticipation evident in his posture. As the image zooms in, his eyes narrow, and his face begins to take on the color of the flaming pits surrounding him.



**LUCIFER**

DAMN HER!!!

**BEEZEL**

Damn who, Sire?

**LUCIFER**

Oh Xena, Xena, Xena. Did you really think painting those torrid religious symbols on the tunnel doors would be enough to keep me away from you?

*(beat)*

If you even think of double-crossing me, the seven levels of my domain will seem a paradise compared to what I'll relish doing to you for all eternity. Beezel!

**BEEZEL**

Yes, Sire?

**LUCIFER**

Call up my soldiers. I may have  
a little job for them soon.

**BEEZEL**

*(gratefully)*

Yes, Sire.

**FADE OUT.**

**END OF ACT THREE**

## ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

### EXT. EGYPTIAN CAPITAL - EARLY EVENING

As the sun begins to set, the final preparations for the defense of the city are taking place. Soldiers and civilians alike work hard, and are covered with the dirt and sweat of their exertions.

Xena is standing just behind a deep pit trap that's been dug just inside the city gates, shovel in hand.



**XENA**

You there. Bring me the rest of those stakes.  
I wanna be done with this before dark.

The MAN in question looks over to Gabrielle, who gives him a smile and a nod. Sticks in hand, he then walks over to Xena, a touch fearfully.

Xena, too, looks to Gabrielle, rolls her eyes, and accepts the stakes from the man.

**XENA**

Thanks.

The man nods, and scurries back to his post.

Gabrielle stands near the wall, covering her mouth to smother a grin, and shakes her head as she watches her partner implant the stakes in the pit. It's taken most of the day, and a great deal of patience, but the villagers are finally beginning to treat Xena as something other than an impossibility to be avoided at all costs.



Gabrielle looks around, satisfied at the work they've managed to accomplish in so short a time. The final battle looms ahead; she can feel it in her bones. But for the first time, she has a measure of that which she's managed to give others... hope.

The last stake set and properly positioned, Xena jumps up from the pit. Gabrielle watches as a group of impossibly young, thin, fleet-footed men and women crowd around her. Their faces filled with more awe than trepidation.

Gabrielle smiles with fond pride as the group nods and scurries away, to be replaced almost immediately by an even larger group armed with longbows and quivers of deadly arrows. She watches as her partner gestures to several spots along the wall and pantomimes her battle plan.

The interchange lasts only moments, and when this group leaves, heading for their posts, Xena turns. She spots her partner, and waves her down from the wall.

**GABRIELLE**

Looks good.

**XENA**

As it's gonna get, yes.

The pair turns to face Yavin, who's joined them, his face grimy and running with sweat.

**XENA**

Everything ready?

**YAVIN**

Yes.

**XENA**

Good. Your men are all in position?

**YAVIN**

*(nodding, after looking to Gabrielle)*

Yes. Everything is as you have ordered it.

Archers, swordsmen, scouts. All ready.

*(to Gabrielle)*

We will stand and fight, to the last man.

**GABRIELLE**

Let's hope it doesn't come to that.

*(to Xena)*

Guess we're ready then, huh?



**XENA**

*(nodding, turns to Yavin)*

Good luck.

**YAVIN**  
And to you.

From the shadows Xena sees Zenobia standing, looking out at them, an unreadable expression on her face.

**XENA**  
*(softly, to Gabrielle)*  
I'll meet you at the tunnel's entrance.

Gabrielle notices Zenobia, and nods.

**GABRIELLE**  
I won't be long.

Xena returns the nod, then walks away, in the direction of the tunnels out of the city.

Once Xena is gone, Zenobia steps from the shadows and meets Gabrielle halfway. Both stop and assess one another. To Gabrielle, the Queen looks weary and somehow smaller than she's ever looked before.

**ZENOBIA**  
Is everything ready?

**GABRIELLE**  
It is.

**ZENOBIA**  
Good.  
*(beat)*  
I don't trust her, Gabrielle. She's leading you out to Brakus' men. How do you know she won't just turn you over to them and lead them all over the wall? She knows those tunnels and those traps better than we do.

**GABRIELLE**  
She won't.

**ZENOBIA**  
But how do you know?

**GABRIELLE**  
Because I know.

**ZENOBIA**  
She could hurt you. Kill you.

**GABRIELLE**  
She won't.

**ZENOBIA**  
But....

**GABRIELLE**

Zenobia, I'm not asking you to trust Xena.  
I'm asking you to trust me. Xena is my soulmate.  
And I know, in here...  
(touching her chest)  
that she is worthy of my trust. And my love.



Zenobia sighs, still not convinced. She watches as Gabrielle turns her head toward the tunnels, then back.

**GABRIELLE**

(Cont'd)

I need to go. Trust me, Zenobia. I'll be  
back here before the night is over.  
And your city will be free.  
(beat)  
Goodbye, Zenobia. I'll see you soon.

Zenobia watches as Gabrielle trots away.

**ZENOBIA**

(whispering)

Goodbye, Gabrielle. May the gods  
watch over you and keep you safe.

**CUT TO:**

**INT. TUNNEL - NIGHT**

Xena and Gabrielle are watching as their troops prepare for the fight. Xena adjusts her bracer, staring out into the darkness, as Gabrielle looks on. There's a sense of anticipation running through her soulmate, and Gabrielle can feel it. It is almost like being in the middle of a storm when lightning is about to strike.

Memories of the last battle they fought assails Gabrielle, and her own feeling is akin to dread. Images of Xena's corpse run through her mind, and she grits her teeth against the nausea those images invoke.

Finally, she reaches out and touches Xena on the arm. The warmth of her partner's living flesh calms her inner storm somewhat, but doesn't dampen it fully.

Xena turns with the touch, and her eyes go from intense to concerned quickly.

**XENA**

Are you all right?

**GABRIELLE**

I keep remembering Japa.

**XENA**

*(kindly)*

This isn't Japa.

**GABRIELLE**

I know that. And I can tell myself that a million times, Xena, but my soul doesn't want to listen. All I can see is....

*(swallowing hard)*

...gods. I can't lose you again, Xena. I can't.

Xena grasps Gabrielle's trembling hands and clasps them tightly in her own.

**XENA**

You won't lose me, Gabrielle. I promise.

**GABRIELLE**

No. Don't make promises you can't keep, Xena.

**XENA**

*(grasping Gabrielle's shoulders)*

Gabrielle, I didn't stand Hell on its ear and cheat Lucifer out of the prize of his immortal life just to end up back where I started again.

*(beat)*

I'll be all right. We both will.

I promise. All right?

After a moment, Gabrielle nods, reluctantly.

Xena gives her partner a little tug and pulls her into a hug. Leaning in, she presses a warm kiss to her partner's lips. They hold that way for a beat, then pull slowly away.

**XENA**

*(grinning)*

For luck.

**GABRIELLE**

*(smiling)*

I'll take all the luck I can get.

*(beat)*

See you soon.

**XENA**

Count on it.

**CUT TO:**

## EXT. DESERT - NIGHT

Xena lead her contingent of men to the left of Brakus' camp. Gabrielle splits off and takes her troops to the right. Xena lays at the top of a dune, watching the enemy camp and watching Gabrielle disappear on the other flank.

Closing her eyes she waits for a moment, giving Gabrielle time to get into place. When she opens her eyes, she sees Brakus and his men are preparing to move out. Pulling her sword, she gestures to her men to be ready. Watching until the troops are formed and moving out, Xena gives the signal to charge. As the move over the hill toward the back of the troops, Gabrielle and her group come down from the other side.

The fight starts at the rear, taking the men at the front a moment to realize what has happened. By the time they turn around the fight has become so fierce that they are being forced toward the city walls.



Xena smiles and gives her sword a twirl. It's clear that she's enjoying being in action again. She engages two men, dropping them both before either one can get in even a remotely reasonable blow. She takes a moment to second to enjoy the fight.

**XENA**

Oh yeah! Feels good.



Gabrielle throws a punch, dropping one man in front of her. Turning, she kicks another, sending him crashing to the ground. Regaining her footing, she looks for more attackers, but sees that the troops she and Xena command are doing a fine job of pushing them closer to the city.

Running toward the moving battle she hears Xena's battle cry and takes the briefest of moments to enjoy the sound.

A half dozen men surround Xena. Turning in small circles she manages to keep an eye on all of them. She pauses briefly then ducks, sending one of the men behind her flying over her head when he attacks. As he rises, a knee to his chin puts him back on the ground. A kick drops another man, then a back handed left fist square in the face takes down a second man attempting a further assault from the rear. A sword thrust to the right, cuts down the fourth man and the last two opt to retreat.



Glancing over, Xena sees Gabrielle using her sais to disarm then take down two opponents. Then her focus returns to the city walls where the forces inside are starting to put on a defense as Brakus' men try to breach the walls.

Enemy troops that have managed to climb the wall are knocked from their positions by well-placed defenses of large beams rolled over the edge to knock them off and crush them when they hit the ground. Large rocks, covered with Greek Fire and set ablaze are also dropped from higher positions.

Xena is obviously pleased as the gates are opened and the bulk of the forces storm through. She watches as a few stragglers cut away heading for Gabrielle's position. Confident in her partner's abilities, Xena continues, with her troops to force the enemy through the gate.

Gabrielle listens as the sounds of battle intensify, she can see Xena moving closer to the gate, herding Brakus and his men as they had planned. She pauses for a moment to wipe sweat and dirt from her eyes before cutting right to engage the few men that are trying to find another way into the city. A few of her men follow her and the rest join Xena at the city gates.



Xena watches as her plan comes together and the lead forces of the enemy fall victim to the pit trap set just inside the gate. Archers fire into the group dropping several more soldiers. Xena and her troops close in from the rear, as Yavin and his ground troops attack from the front, trapping the remaining men.

Gabrielle and her few soldiers engage the men who had cut away. It's not long before they are stopped and Gabrielle takes her men to go and join her partner. She stops and listens, slowly turning around she sees a half dozen demons landing just behind her. She turns to her men and gives one last command.

**GABRIELLE**  
GET INSIDE!

The men look and see the demons advancing. Three of them run for the gates, while two charge next to her.

**GABRIELLE**  
You can't fight them.  
Get out of here!

The men look to her but see the truth in her words as large swords magically appear in the demons' hands. Gabrielle takes several deep breaths, grips her sais in each hand and prepares to fight.

**GABRIELLE**  
GO!  
You have to warn Xena!

The men run toward the gate, but one of the demons takes flight and picks one of the men up in his talons. Gabrielle turns and throws her sais, cutting through the demon's wings, which causes him to fall to the ground. She watches while the soldier picks himself up and continues his run. She picks up a sword from near the body of a downed man and returns her attention to the remaining demons.

Xena is taking down man after man with strokes of the blade, hard, bone crushing punches and kicks. She notices with some pleasure that Yavin and his troops are doing a tremendous job of not letting anyone get dangerously further into the city or near the tunnels.

She stops in her fight and takes notice of a feeling coursing through her soul. She looks for her partner and not seeing her, charges back toward the gate and the grounds outside the city.

**XENA**  
GABRIELLE!

Gabrielle stumbles, then regains her footing and runs as quickly as she can for one of the outside entrances of the tunnels. Her back is on fire, her tattoo having destroyed one of the attacking demons. Panting and gasping, she slides in the sand, leading the demons away from the city, into the desert.

Outside the gates, Xena charges as she sees a dark wing disappear around the corner of the walls. Running as fast as she can, Xena follows, seeing that Gabrielle has led them to a mined tunnel. She runs and drops down into the opening, landing solidly on her feet. She looks both ways for attack, but hears the sound of the demons laughing as they pursue Gabrielle.

She follows and finds one of the demons impaled in the beam trap. He is struggling and fighting, trying to get free. Xena stops and raises her sword.

**XENA**  
See you in Hell!



Without hesitation she runs the demon through, releasing her sword immediately as his energy dissipates through the blade and disappears into the ceiling of the tunnel. Reclaiming her blade she continues down the tunnel in time to see Gabrielle dodge the firetrap and lead the demons directly into it. The torches drop and both are immediately engulfed in flames.

Howling, both of them turn and run wildly trying to fight the flames, serving only to fan them and make the fire burn wilder and hotter. Xena protects her eyes with her hand as she watches and tries to get past them. As she does she hears a rumbling and can feel the ground shaking. Collapse of the tunnel is imminent. Xena knows she can't get through the fire.

**XENA**  
GABRIELLE!

As the tunnel collapse starts moving toward her, she turns and runs for the exit. Seeing it just ahead of her, and hearing the cave in behind her, she leaps and pulls herself out of the hole and rolls away as the ground under the tunnel starts to sink in on itself.

Coughing out sand, she picks up her blade and runs back for the city, not taking the time to go through the gate, but jumping for the top of the wall. Grabbing it she pulls herself up and over the top. Drawing her sword she jumps down into the courtyard, fighting her way through the men, to get to the tunnel entrances.

Focused on getting to the tunnel, she is still aware that the battle is slowly coming to an end, but her course never waivers. While Yavin and his troops finish off Brakus and his men, she enters the tunnels. Following the dust and the smoke she finds the tunnel that Gabrielle had entered from the other end. This end is still intact and seems to be holding solid.

Moving into the tunnel, she blocks her mouth and nose with her hand as she looks for her partner.

**XENA**  
GABRIELLE!

From further down the tunnel, she can hear her partner calling to her. Moving deeper into the darkened passage she finds it partially collapsed. There is a small opening at the side of the tunnel being held in place by a beam laying at a diagonal slant across the maw. Xena drops to her knees and looks through the opening, and finds a gasping, panting Gabrielle looking back, coughing and laughing through the dust and smoke.

**XENA**  
Gabrielle, are you okay?

**GABRIELLE**  
*(coughing)*  
Just a little scorched.

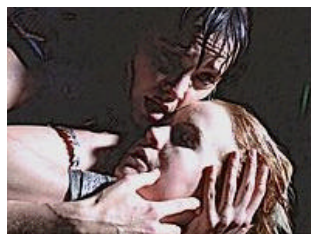
**XENA**  
Hang on. Let me get you out of there.

**GABRIELLE**  
I'm not going anywhere.

Xena carefully clears away the rock, making the opening large enough to pull her partner through.

**XENA**  
*(extending her hand)*  
Easy now, it's a little unstable.

Gabrielle takes Xena's hand and is pulled through the opening, coming to rest right in Xena's arms. The relief for both of them is obvious as they catch their breath while holding onto each other.



**XENA**

You're sure you're all right?

**GABRIELLE**

*(nodding)*

Uh huh.

We did it.

**XENA**

Yes, we did.

Yavin and his men are finishing up now.

**GABRIELLE**

Good. Let's go. I need some air.

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. EGYPTIAN CAPITOL - NIGHT**

As Xena and Gabrielle walk back into the fresh night air, Xena's senses immediately begin to prickle, and she straightens unconsciously.

**GABRIELLE**

What is it?

**XENA**

We've got company. C'mon.



Both women break into a run. The central square soon comes into view, and Gabrielle notices immediately what had set off Xena's protective instincts.

Lucifer is standing just inside of the wall, flanked by two hulking demons. In the arms of one of the demons is Zenobia, who is fruitlessly struggling to break his grip. Yavin lies on the ground some feet away, bleeding and unconscious, but alive. The rest of the Egyptians, citizens and soldiers alike, cower in fear of this new, dark menace.

Lucifer notices Xena's approach, and he turns to face her, his eyes red and glowing with the power of his rage.

**LUCIFER**

Just the bitch I wanted to see.

**XENA**

Let Zenobia go, Lucifer. It's me you want.

**LUCIFER**

I'm afraid it doesn't work that way, Xena. Just add greed to the list of my more charming qualities.

He looks to Gabrielle and bares his teeth, then looks back to Xena.



**LUCIFER**

*(Cont'd)*

We had a deal, Xena.

**XENA**

*(darkly grinning)*

I lied.

**LUCIFER**

There's hope for you yet. Come back with me Xena and we'll overlook this little... deceit.

**XENA**

Not a chance in Hell.

**LUCIFER**

No you don't.

Your soul is MINE, Xena!

**XENA**

You can't have what I don't own.

Lucifer looks to Gabrielle again, who returns his look with a smirk.



**LUCIFER**

Oh, I can fix that.

*(gesturing at Gabrielle)*

Get her!

The two demons toss Zenobia away and start for Gabrielle. She straightens and looks them directly in the eye. They stop when a glow starts emanating from her back. They look to each other then take a step backward, shaking their heads.

**LUCIFER**  
I SAID GET HER!

Xena stands relaxed, and smiles at the demons.

**XENA**  
If you don't wanna go the way of your buddies,  
fellas, I'd suggest you just ignore your boss.

**LUCIFER**  
*(to demons)*  
She's one mortal woman! Get her!!!

Xena's smile broadens.

**XENA**  
Who said I was talking about Gabrielle?



Before Lucifer or the demons can react, several archers appear on the wall with flaming arrows doused in Greek fire. At a brief nod from Xena, they all fire at once into the bodies of the two hulking demons.

Howling in agony, the demons burn to ash in seconds. Lucifer raises his head and roars in anger. Then he levels his malevolent gaze on Xena. He takes a step forward, and Gabrielle's tattoo begins to glow in earnest. Growling, he steps back.

**LUCIFER**  
Do you think you can hide behind  
your girlfriend forever, Xena?

**XENA**  
*(shrugging)*  
Don't see why not.

Gabrielle grins, surprised, but doesn't turn around to see her partner's expression.

**XENA**  
*(Cont'd)*  
I played you like a lyre, Lucifer. Again.  
And you lost. Again.  
*(beat)*  
As an angel, you were pitiful.  
As a demon, you're pathetic.

**LUCIFER**

I own you, Xena.  
I own you, and I will have you!

**XENA**

No, you don't, and no, you won't.

*(beat)*

You see, your biggest mistake was making me mortal, Lucifer. The moment you did that, you lost the game. You were so sure that the powers being a demon gave me bound me to you. But you were wrong. I have something here far more powerful than anything you could ever have offered me.

Gabrielle turns then, and grasps Xena's outstretched hand. The smile on her face is enormous, and breathtaking.

**XENA**

*(Cont'd)*

You have no direct power in the mortal world, Lucifer. You cannot make a mortal do anything they don't want to do. The only thing you can do is tempt them. And there is nothing in your kingdom or any other that could ever tempt me from what I have in this life.

*(beat)*

You've lost. Go back to Hell where you belong and leave the living alone.



Lucifer looks around as the people are now getting to their feet finding new courage and power from Xena and Gabrielle standing together against him. They start moving forward slowly, but steadily.

Zenobia steps forward and holds up a large golden ankh in front of her.

**ZENOBIA**

This is the symbol of life. The power of my people.  
In the name of the Goddess Isis, Giver of Life,  
I command you to be gone from here.

Lucifer snarls and stares at her before glaring at Xena.

**LUCIFER**

This isn't over Xena. I will be back for you.  
You will come to me eventually.



Everyone puts up their hands to protect their eyes from the brilliant flash of light that makes night into day when Lucifer disappears.

Gabrielle moves forward and hugs Zenobia then pulls back and puts her hand on the ankh.

**GABRIELLE**

How did you know that would work?



**ZENOBIA**

*(sighing in relief)*  
I didn't.  
I bluffed.

Xena chuckles and puts her arm around Gabrielle's shoulder as she watches everyone gather themselves. Yavin has been roused back to consciousness by several of his fellows, and now stands more or less steadily on his feet, holding a bloody bandage to his head.

**XENA**

*(to Zenobia)*

Remind me never to play cards with you.

Zenobia smiles at Xena and wraps Gabrielle's fingers around the Ankh.

**ZENOBIA**

We can never repay you for what  
you've done. Please take this.

**GABRIELLE**

We can't....

**ZENOBIA**

Yes, you can. You must.  
Keep it as a reminder of the  
life you have been given.



**GABRIELLE**

*(looking to Xena, smiling)*

I have the best reminder possible.

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. CAPITAL CITY - DAY**

Xena sits atop Argo, waiting as Gabrielle says good-bye to Zenobia and Yavin. Reaching over, she gives the horse a fond pat on the neck.

**XENA**

Miss me, girl?



Argo snorts and nods her head, causing Gabrielle to smile as she pulls out of a good-bye hug with Zenobia.

**GABRIELLE**

*(looking between Zenobia and Yavin)*

Take care of each other.

**ZENOBIA**

You do the same.

**GABRIELLE**

*(smiling)*

Oh we will.

Gabrielle turns and joins Xena, who offers her a hand. When Gabrielle accepts it, she is pulled up on Argo, but not behind as normal. Xena settles her partner in front of her, wrapping her arms around her.



**XENA**  
You wanna steer?

**GABRIELLE**  
No.  
*(beat)*  
I want to enjoy. You drive.

Xena turns Argo and heads her toward the gate, which is pulled open by a group of grateful, smiling Egyptians.

**XENA**  
Where to?

**GABRIELLE**  
Home.

**XENA**  
Greece?

She sinks back into Xena and closes her eyes in pure pleasure.

**GABRIELLE**  
Not necessarily.

Xena wraps her arms tighter around Gabrielle as they ride out of the city and onto a new adventure.

**FADE OUT.**

**DISCLAIMER**  
Bezel's skills as a television antenna were not  
harmful during the production of this motion picture.