

## Xena: Warrior Princess – Subtext Virtual Season 7



Production #V704 – It's All in the Mind

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**WRITTEN BY**

TNovan

**SCREENGRABS**

Judi Mair

**PRODUCED BY**

Carol Stephens

**ARTWORK**

Lucia

**DIRECTED BY**

Denise Byrd

**TITLE GRAPHIC**

MaryD

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## TEASER

FADE IN

### EXT. CAMPSITE - MORNING

GABRIELLE wakes up to the sound of things being tossed around. She rolls over and opens her eyes to find XENA stalking around the campsite. She is moving things with more force than necessary. There is clearly a frustrated look on her face as she roams around the campsite.

GABRIELLE

Something wrong?

XENA

I can't find it.

GABRIELLE

Find what?

XENA

My whip, I know it was here last night.



Gabrielle clears her throat shyly and looks under the blankets. Reaching down she slowly pulls out Xena's WHIP.

GABRIELLE

Here it is.

Xena looks over and frowns.

XENA

How did it get...

*(beat)*

Oh yeah.

Xena reaches over and takes her whip and begins coiling it.

XENA

*(cont'd)*

Thanks.

She turns and begins packing up things and stuffing them in the packs. Gabrielle throws back the furs and gets up. She stretches her arms high above her head and yawns.

GABRIELLE

Beautiful morning.

Xena doesn't answer verbally she just grunts and keeps packing up their gear.

**GABRIELLE**

*(cont'd)*

Okay, what's wrong?

**XENA**

*(irritated)*

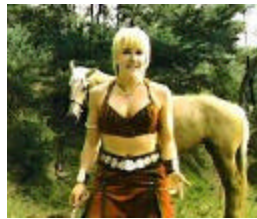
Wrong?

*(jams her shirt in a bag)*

What could be wrong?

**GABRIELLE**

It's obvious something is up.  
You're being grumpier than a  
three legged centaur.



**XENA**

There's nothing wrong.

**GABRIELLE**

Is it because of last night?

*(beat)*

Xena, I was just tired.

**XENA**

*(looks at her, slightly annoyed)*

It's not about last night.

**GABRIELLE**

Then what is it?

**XENA**

It's a warrior thing.

Gabrielle quickly gets frustrated with Xena's attitude and she starts stalking around the campsite too. She grumbles to herself while picking up their bedding.

**GABRIELLE**

Fine. Pout.

You always get so moody when  
you come back from the dead.

Xena stands up and places her hands on her hips.

**XENA**

I am not pouting!

From a short distance away the entire exchange is being watched by APHRODITE. She sighs and smiles at the two in a very motherly fashion.

**APHRODITE**

Are my girls in a snit?



She watches a moment longer as the exchange becomes more heated and Gabrielle storms toward her with water skins to be filled. Its clear Gabrielle can't see the goddess and she's still talking to herself.

**GABRIELLE**

Warriors! Do you know how much easier life would be if I could read minds?

Aphrodite perks up and smiles as her fingers twitch.

**APHRODITE**

Oh, what a totally rad idea, my little bardling. So it shall be.

Aphrodite makes a grand gesture of pushing up her sleeves and throwing a spell at Gabrielle. Gabrielle looks up for a moment sensing something as the spell settles around her, but she shakes it off, continuing to fill the water skins in the lake.

She has her hand totally submerged as the skin bubbles and fills up. Suddenly she yells and pulls her hand out, looking curiously at the finger.

**GABRIELLE**

Owww!



She shakes her hand, staring at where it has apparently just been bitten. Then she hears something and tilts her head to listen.

**VOICE 1**

I told you it wasn't a worm.

**VOICE 2**

Looked like one to me.

Gabrielle peers into the water where the voices seem to be coming from. She slowly reaches for the water skin, but continues to look into the water, feeling a little confused. She pulls back and caps the skin when she hears Xena call for her.



**XENA**

Okay, Narcissus, I'm ready to go as soon as you can tear yourself away.



Gabrielle stands up and turns toward Xena. She looks back to the pond one last time, still not quite sure what she heard.

**GABRIELLE**

Yeah, yeah, I'm coming.  
So impatient.

Aphrodite watches Gabrielle walk away before she calls out even though they can't hear her.

**APHRODITE**

You're welcome.  
Think nothing of it!

The goddess giggles at her own joke before disappearing in a flash.



**FADE OUT.**

**END OF TEASER**

## ACT ONE

FADE IN:

### EXT. ROAD - DAY

Xena and Gabrielle are riding slowly down the road. ARGO is moving slowly and all three seem like they might be half-asleep. It's obvious Gabrielle is asleep behind Xena. Her eyes are closed and her head is resting on Xena's back.

ARGO

(vo)

Ouch, ouch, ouch!



Gabrielle's eyes open slowly, as if someone is gently shaking her.

GABRIELLE

Huh?

ARGO

(vo)

Stone under my shoe.

GABRIELLE

(half asleep)

Take them off.

XENA

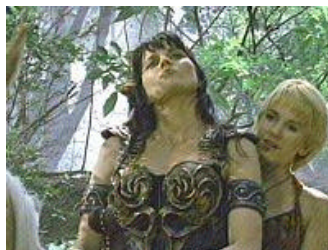
What?

GABRIELLE

Take your boots off if you've  
got a stone in one.

XENA

Go back to sleep, Gabrielle.  
You're dreaming.



**GABRIELLE**  
*(smiling happily)*  
Okay.

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. CAMPSITE - EVENING**

Gabrielle is taking Argo's saddle off when Xena comes up behind her. Standing behind her, Xena reaches for the saddle by putting her arms around Gabrielle. Gabrielle is now basically trapped between Xena and Argo.

**XENA**  
*(whispering in her ear)*  
I'm sorry about this morning.  
I didn't sleep very well.

Gabrielle smiles and pretends to decide if she's going to forgive Xena.

**GABRIELLE**  
You mean it?

**XENA**  
Absolutely. I'm sorry.

**GABRIELLE**  
Sorry enough that you'll  
fix dinner tonight?

**XENA**  
Haven't you been  
tortured enough today?

Gabrielle turns around and smiles at Xena.

**GABRIELLE**  
Not just yet.  
*(kisses Xena's chin)*  
And I'd like rabbit.

Gabrielle ducks under Xena's arm and picks up their BEDROLL and lets it unroll to the ground.

**XENA**  
If I'm cooking it...

A DAGGER sticks out of the ground at Gabrielle's feet, having just been thrown there by Xena. Gabrielle looks up from her feet to Xena's smiling face.

**XENA**  
*(cont'd)*  
You're killing it.

Gabrielle bends over and plucks the dagger out of the ground. She flips it once, catching it smoothly as she squares her shoulders, gaining a very dignified pose.

**GABRIELLE**

All right, Xena.

*(teasing)*

I will. You'd better have the fire going when I get back.



**XENA**

*(chuckling)*

Yes, Ma'am. And oh, Gabrielle?

**GABRIELLE**

Yes?

**XENA**

Make it a nice fat rabbit.

I'm really hungry.



**GABRIELLE**

Right, one fat rabbit coming up.

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. FIELD - EVENING**

Gabrielle is slowly and very quietly crawling through some tall grass. She's actually carrying the dagger in her teeth as she fans her hand slowly in front of her. She stops and smiles around the dagger. Then she reaches out quickly and plucks a RABBIT out of the grass by the scruff. She opens her mouth and simply allows the dagger to fall into her free hand.

**GABRIELLE**

Well, aren't you cute. I think I'll call you

*(beat)*

Dinner.





She readies the dagger when she hears the voice in her head.

**RABBIT**

(vo)

Please don't!



The dagger drops from Gabrielle's hand as her mouth falls open while she stares at the rabbit.

**RABBIT**

Please, don't kill me.

I have a wife

(beat)

And sixteen children

Gabrielle's eyes grow wide when she realizes she 'hears' the rabbit. She lets go of his scruff with just a hint of actually flinging him away. She watches as the rabbit scurries away. Then she starts slowly back to camp, walking backward so that she can see where she's been.

Xena sees Gabrielle walking in to camp, staring out at the meadow.

**XENA**

Gabrielle, what's wrong?



She turns and looks at Xena for a moment then scrubs her face.

**GABRIELLE**

Ah, nothing. I, umm,  
I dropped the dagger. I was going  
to get a torch and look for it.

**XENA**

Tell you what, since I've been such  
a joy today, I'll get dinner.

**GABRIELLE**  
*(slightly panicked)*  
NO!



Xena stands a little straighter as Gabrielle crosses over quickly with her hands up in a gesture of stopping Xena

**GABRIELLE**  
*(cont'd)*  
No, Xena, you can't!

**XENA**  
Sure I can.

**GABRIELLE**  
No, you can't.  
*(quickly)*  
I lost the dagger.

**XENA**  
Don't worry I'll just...  
*(makes a breaking motion with her hands)*  
snap his furry little neck.

**GABRIELLE**  
*(putting her hand to the base of her throat)*  
Ewww, do you have to be so descriptive?

**XENA**  
*(looking worried)*  
Gabrielle, what's wrong with you?

**GABRIELLE**  
Nothing, I'm fine. Listen, why don't we have jerky for dinner tonight?

**XENA**  
We're out. You had it for a late snack last night.

**GABRIELLE**  
Fruit?

**XENA**  
Rotten.

**GABRIELLE**

Cheese?

**XENA**

Moldy.

**GABRIELLE**

We can cut the mold off.

**XENA**

How? You lost the dagger.



**GABRIELLE**

We can use the chakram.

**XENA**

If I've told you once, I've told you a thousand times. My chakram is NOT to be used as a kitchen utensil.

**GABRIELLE**

NUTS!

**XENA**

There are just some things you don't mess with and a girl's chakram is one of them.

**GABRIELLE**

No, Xena!

*(turns Xena toward a tree and points up)*

Nuts. We can have nuts for dinner.

**XENA**

Nuts?

**GABRIELLE**

Sure! I love nuts. Don't you?  
They're so nutty!



**XENA**

So are you. Gabrielle, what's going on?



**GABRIELLE**

Besides we couldn't fix the rabbit anyhow. We've got no skillet.

**XENA**

Gabrielle...

**GABRIELLE**

Come on, Xena, let's just crack a few nuts and get some sleep. Then we can get up early.

**XENA**

Nuts?

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT**

Xena is stirring a spoon through what appears to be nut soup. She sighs, obviously not happy with this evening's offering. She sighs again, then puts her bowl on the ground.



**XENA**

I'm going to check Argo.

**GABRIELLE**

Check her shoes.

**XENA**

I always check her shoes.

**GABRIELLE**

She's got a rock under one.

**XENA**

*(crossing her arms)*  
She tell you this?

**GABRIELLE**

Actually, she did.

**XENA**

What was in your nuts? Did you find  
some of those funny mushrooms?



**GABRIELLE**

No! Of course not. I learned my lesson about  
those when you were pregnant with Eve.  
All I mean, is that Argo and I have really  
gotten to know each other, and I  
know when something is wrong.

**XENA**

*(doubtfully)*  
Uh huh.

**GABRIELLE**

Just check her shoes.

Xena continues to stare at Gabrielle who finally gets up and walks over to the horse giving her a  
loving rub on the nose.

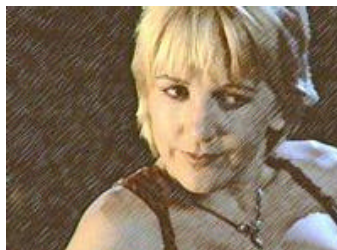
**GABRIELLE**

I'm telling the truth! We're  
best friends now, right girl?

Argo snorts and nodded her head.

**GABRIELLE**

She says 'right'.



Xena rolls her eyes and walks toward Argo, who snorts again.

**GABRIELLE**

She says if you're not gonna eat those rotten apples, throw a couple her way.

**XENA**

*(teasing)*  
Yes, boss.

**GABRIELLE**

*(to Argo)*  
It only took her twenty-six years, but I think she finally figured it out.

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. CAMPSITE - NIGHT**

Xena and Gabrielle are tucked down in their bedroll. Gabrielle is still about half-awake, staring into the fire that is still burning. Xena is behind Gabrielle, spooned with her, snoring.

**VOICE 3**

They're so ugly.

**VOICE 4**

How do they survive without tails?

**VOICE 3**

And did you get a whiff of the short one?



**VOICE 4**

Her mate must not groom her well.

With that comment Gabrielle's head comes up from the ground and she looks across the fire to two SQUIRRELS, sitting on a log, eating left over nuts. They stop chewing and look directly at Gabrielle.

**SQUIRREL 1**

She sees us. What do we do?

**GABRIELLE**

Just shut up, I'm trying to sleep over here.  
And if I smell so bad, go away.



**XENA**

*(in her sleep)*

S'okay, I'm use to it.

Gabrielle groans and pulls a blanket over her head.

**FADE OUT.**

**END OF ACT ONE**

## ACT TWO

FADE IN:

### EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Xena and Gabrielle are walking into a small village. Argo follows dutifully behind.

GABRIELLE

Xena?

XENA

Hmmm?

GABRIELLE

How do you think animals communicate?

XENA

Okay, just so this doesn't turn into one of your 'the stars are other worlds' debate, I'll tell you how, because I happen to know.

GABRIELLE

*(poking Xena, playfully)*

Oh, please, enlighten me, Socrates.



XENA

*(grabbing Gabrielle's hand and holding it)*

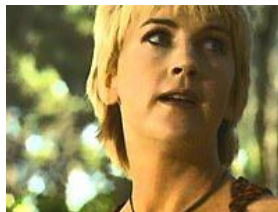
Birds chirp and display their feathers.

Dogs growl and raise their fur....

GABRIELLE

*(interrupting)*

And squirrels and fish read each other's minds.



XENA

You've been in the medicinal  
henbane, haven't you?



**GABRIELLE**

*(ala Been There, Done That)*  
No, Xena. I'm not drunk. I'm not stoned.  
I'm not hallucinating. I've had no  
contact with the Furies, but I tell you,  
I hear what animals are thinking.

**XENA**

*(raises brow in amusement)*  
Uh huh. And what are they saying, dear?



**GABRIELLE**

*(gesturing wildly)*  
The fish thought my finger was a worm  
and the squirrels thought I stank.

**XENA**

I think a night in a nice soft, warm  
bed will do you a lot of good.

**GABRIELLE**

You don't believe me, do you?

Gabrielle's getting ready to go into a rant. She picks up her pace walking quicker towards the market.

**GABRIELLE**

Sure, we can fight bad guys for each other.  
We can die for each other. Go to hell for  
each other. But you don't believe me  
when I tell you I'm hearing things!

**XENA**

*(moving quickly to catch up)*  
Now I never said that.

**GABRIELLE**

*(turning to face her)*  
No, but you implied I needed to  
rest. Like all I need is a ...



Gabrielle stops and turns to face on of the vendor, who is just opening his shop.

**GABRIELLE**

*(cont'd)*

Oh this is bad. So very, very bad.

**XENA**

What are you talking about now?

**GABRIELLE**

I can hear his thoughts!

**XENA**

Gabrielle...

**GABRIELLE**

I'm telling you the truth! He's mad because his silk from Chin didn't arrive.



**XENA**

All right, Gabrielle, we're going to finish this now.

Xena leads Argo over and taps the MERCHANT on the shoulder.

**XENA**

Excuse us, sir. But my friend and I are looking for silk from Chin. Would you happen to have any?

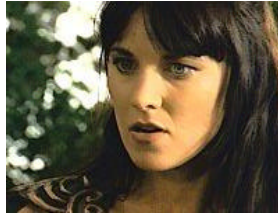
**MERCHANT**

*(throwing his hands  
up in disgust)*

Of course! The first time in three months someone wants silk and my captain hasn't brought me a shipment. He's probably sold it off somewhere and is drinking my profits. Dirty thieves... just can't trust them....

Xena backs off from the man who is now ranting and slowly looks to Gabrielle who is standing with her arms crossed, looking very pleased with herself.

**XENA**  
*(pointing at merchant)*  
You knew.



**GABRIELLE**  
I told you!  
*(taking Xena by the arm)*  
Come with me.

She leads her to ANOTHER MERCHANT and watches him for a second.

**GABRIELLE**  
He's wishing he had more business.

She gives Xena a little shove toward the second Merchant.

**GABRIELLE**  
*(cont'd)*  
Go on. Ask him!

**XENA**  
Sir, what...

**MERCHANT 2**  
Ah yes, my first customer!  
Good afternoon, what can I get you?

**XENA**  
*(shocked)*  
Uh...a skin of wine.

**MERCHANT 2**  
That'll be  
*(beat)*  
four dinars.

**GABRIELLE**  
You cheat!



She storms forward and grabs the guy by his tunic.

**GABRIELLE**

You know that wine is only two dinars.  
You're trying to cheat my friend!

Xena tries to pull Gabrielle off the startled Merchant.

**GABRIELLE**

*(cont'd)*

Admit it, you thief! You  
were cheating my friend!

**XENA**

Gabrielle! Leave him alone!

Xena finally drags the enraged Gabrielle away from the Merchant who immediately tosses Xena a WINESKIN.

**MERCHANT**

You can have it!  
Just get her out of here!  
She's insane!

**GABRIELLE**

*(growling)*

Not yet, but I'm getting there.

Xena guides her away. Unstopping the skin, she takes a little drink



**XENA**

Hey, you should go off more  
often. This is pretty good.  
*(offers the wineskin)*  
Come on, try it.  
It'll relax you.

**GABRIELLE**

I don't want to relax.  
I want to know...

Her words are stopped as she watches a WOMAN approach them . The Woman is looking at them both but REALLY looking at Xena. Gabrielle gets a truly indignant look on her face, before yelling.

**GABRIELLE**

I like it just fine, thank you!  
And she hasn't complained yet!



Now Xena grabs Gabrielle around the waist, drawing her close and putting her other hand over her mouth.

**XENA**

She doesn't need to know  
that much about us.

Gabrielle, still fuming, takes a deep breath through her nose. She nods and Xena slowly takes her hand away from Gabrielle's mouth.

**XENA**

*(cont'd)*  
You okay?

**GABRIELLE**

No. Xena, what is going on?

**XENA**

I have no idea. But we  
certainly need to find out.

**GABRIELLE**

No kidding. I'm not liking  
this new gift very much.

**XENA**

Let's get a room and some food, and  
we'll see if we can figure it out.



**GABRIELLE**

*(agreeing nervously)*  
Okay.

**CUT TO:**

## INT. TAVERN - EVENING

Xena and Gabrielle are at the bar of the local tavern, which doubles as an inn. Xena is leaning against the bar, waiting for the tavern keeper to notice her. Gabrielle has her back to the bar, leaning against it looking out at the rather scruffy patrons.

**GABRIELLE**

These guys are disgusting.

**XENA**

What?

**GABRIELLE**

You should hear what they're thinking.



Xena turns briefly to look at the group.

**XENA**

I'll pass. Thanks.

**GABRIELLE**

I wish I could.

Xena raps her knuckles on the countertop to get the INNKEEPER's attention. He wanders her way as a dirty, scruffy MAN comes to the bar and stands next to Gabrielle.

**INNKEEPER**

What can I do for you?

**XENA**

We need a room.

**INNKEEPER**

I've only got one room left.  
One bed. Five dinars.

Xena pays the man and waits for the key. She glances over to see Gabrielle's head slowly swing to face the man next to her.

**XENA**

*(under her breath)*

Uh oh.

*(quietly to Gabrielle)*

Let's go.

Xena's words don't seem to register with Gabrielle as she pushes off the bar, grabs the guy by the arm, spins him to face her, then decks him. He falls backward, crashing into a table. Then all hell breaks loose as EVERYONE in the bar starts fighting.



Xena ducks just as a STOOL is thrown at her. She rises and hits a guy who is taking a swing at her. He stumbles back into three other men who were coming at her.

Gabrielle is grabbed from behind by a big guy who wraps his beefy arm around her neck. She uses the bar for leverage and uses her feet to push backward. The man stumbles and falls, taking Gabrielle with him. She uses the momentum and gets out of his grasp, climbing to her feet. She sees Xena fighting off six men. It doesn't take her long to dispatch them.

Two SOLDIERS from the local militia come in and begin breaking up the fight. Once they have things calmed down they put their SWORDS away and take the center of the room.

**SOLDIER 1**

All right, who started this?

Everyone in the room points to Gabrielle.

**ALL**

SHE DID!

Gabrielle looks around the room to see even Xena is pointing at her. She glares at Xena, who drops her hand and tries to look innocent.

**GABRIELLE**

Thanks so much, PARTNER!

The Innkeeper points at the door.

**INNKEEPER**

Get her out of here. We don't want her kind in here.

**GABRIELLE**

My kind? My kind?  
*(she points to herself and  
moves toward the bar)*

What IS MY kind?  
I'm a bard, for cripe's sake!

Xena grabs Gabrielle and pulls her through the door.

**XENA**

I'm sure we don't want to know.  
Come on, Gabrielle.

**GABRIELLE**

*(sputtering and pulling away)*  
But...but....



**XENA**

COME ON, GABRIELLE!

**CUT TO:**

**INT. BARN - NIGHT**

Xena and Gabrielle are sitting in a pile of straw in a loft of the local stables. Xena looks annoyed as she unlaces her boots. Gabrielle hazards a glance at Xena as she sits beside her in the straw with her hands in her lap.

**GABRIELLE**

I'm sorry.

**XENA**

Uh huh. So am I. I'm sorry were sleeping  
in the stables when there was a soft  
bed in a warm room with a fireplace  
with our names on it.

**GABRIELLE**

*(sighs heavily)*

I know. I shouldn't have hit him.

**XENA**

No, you shouldn't have.  
*(looks to Gabrielle)*  
Why did you hit him?

**GABRIELLE**

*(mumbling)*

He commented on your ass.

**XENA**

*(grinning)*  
What?

**GABRIELLE**

Oh, you heard me.



**XENA**

*(laughing now)*

No, I didn't, Gabrielle. What did you say?

**GABRIELLE**

I said he made a COMMENT about  
YOUR ASS. There. Are you happy now?

**XENA**

Aww, that's sweet. You  
were defending my honor.



Gabrielle just gives Xena a dirty look.

**GABRIELLE**

I don't want to talk about it.

Xena laughs and pulls her boots off as Gabrielle pouts because she's being laughed at. Xena sees this and without warning, throws Gabrielle back on the straw. She's leaning over her with her fingers poised over Gabrielle's ribs and they're both laughing now.

**GABRIELLE**

XENA! DON'T!

**XENA**

Stop pouting or I'll trickle you.

**GABRIELLE**

You really don't want to do that.

**XENA**

Oh, yes I do!

Xena starts to tickle Gabrielle.

**GABRIELLE**

*(laughing and trying to squirm away)*

UNCLE! STOP!

**XENA**

What will you give me if I stop?

**GABRIELLE**

My sais.

**XENA**

Not interested.

**GABRIELLE**  
*(laughing harder)*  
My scrolls! XENA! STOP!

**XENA**  
You can do better than that.

**GABRIELLE**  
A kiss. I'll give you a kiss.

Xena stops and looks at Gabrielle. They're both smiling, having enjoyed their roughhousing.

**XENA**  
Pay up.

Gabrielle pulls herself out of the straw and meets Xena nose to nose. Their eyes close and their lips meet.



**DISSOLVE TO:**

### **INT. BARN - NIGHT**

Gabrielle rolls over and curls up next to Xena. They are tucked down in the straw with their blankets pulled over them.

**GABRIELLE**  
Xena?

**XENA**  
Hmm?



**GABRIELLE**  
Are you asleep?

**XENA**

*(rolling over to look at her)*  
Not anymore. What's up?

**GABRIELLE**

Why can't I hear your thoughts?

**XENA**

What?

**GABRIELLE**

Why can't I hear what you're thinking?

**XENA**

You can't?

**GABRIELLE**

No. I just realized it when I was laying here and I heard that stallion flirting with Argo. I can hear the thoughts of every living thing but you.

**XENA**

That's odd.

**GABRIELLE**

I think the whole thing is odd, Xena.

**XENA**

Of course it is, but I would have thought you would hear me.

**GABRIELLE**

*(taps on Xena's forehead)*  
It's that thick head.

**XENA**

*(captures Gabrielle's hand)*  
Be good.

**GABRIELLE**

I am being good.

**XENA**

No, you're not.

**GABRIELLE**

I'm being as good as you want me to be.

Xena laughs and pulls the blankets over their heads.

**FADE OUT.**

**END OF ACT TWO**

## ACT THREE

FADE IN:

### INT. BARN - MORNING.

Xena rolls over in the furs, reaching for Gabrielle. She lays with her eyes closed, feeling around the bed. When she realizes Gabrielle isn't there, she opens her eyes and sits up. She looks around the loft and sees her leathers where they got tossed the night before. But Gabrielle and her clothes are gone. She reaches over and grabs her leathers. She pulls them under the blanket and gets into them. Just as she's finished and about to crawl out of bed, Gabrielle's head pops up over the ladder.

GABRIELLE

Good morning.



XENA

Not bad, considering we slept in a stable.

Gabrielle puts a bundled cloth in the straw, and climbs the rest of the way up.

GABRIELLE

Hey, it was just what we needed,  
Xena. A little roll in the hay.

XENA

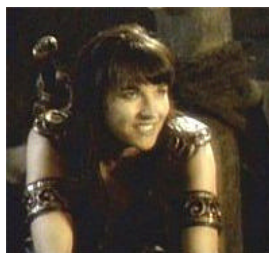
Very funny.  
*(looks to the bundle)*  
Did you bring me breakfast?

GABRIELLE

Actually, I did.  
Fresh rolls and berries.

XENA

*(opening the bundle)*  
Sounds great! Are you,  
ummm, still hearing voices?



**GABRIELLE**

Don't say it like that. I'm not crazy,  
but to answer your question,  
yes, I'm still hearing them.

**XENA**

What was the last thing you  
remember before this started?

**GABRIELLE**

It was yesterday morning.  
I was filling the water skins.  
You were being a grump.

**XENA**

Everyone has a rough morning.

**GABRIELLE**

I know. Okay, lets see. I was  
gripping about you while  
I was filling the skins.

**XENA**

Gee, thanks.

**GABRIELLE**

You were making me crazy.  
Anyhow, I remember thinking  
how much easier it would be if  
I could read your mind.



**XENA**

Maybe the lake was enchanted.  
Did you drink the water?

**GABRIELLE**

Yes, but so did you. Did  
any of the wishes YOU  
made yesterday come true?

**XENA**

*(chuckles)*  
Actually, yeah.

**GABRIELLE**

*(rolling eyes)*

Oh, give me strength.

**XENA**

You asked.



**GABRIELLE**

My mistake. Now come on, Xena. I really don't like KNOWING what other people are thinking.

It's bad enough when I can IMAGINE what they're thinking.

Xena wraps her arm around Gabrielle's shoulder and pulls her close.

**XENA**

I know. We'll get it. Compared to some of the other things we've been through this is easy.

**GABRIELLE**

Sure, you'd think that. You didn't have to hear what the guy at the market thought about my body this morning.

**XENA**

What?!

**GABRIELLE**

Let's just say I wasn't wild about where he wanted to lick honey from.



**XENA**

Ewww.

**GABRIELLE**

Yeah, ewwww.

*(taking a berry from Xena's hand)*

But seriously, I want to know what's wrong here and how we can make it stop.

**XENA**

I know, as soon as we eat,  
we'll get started on it.

**GABRIELLE**

As soon as we eat? Gee, thanks for your concern. I'm sure I can wait for you to get a bath and a clean pair of leathers too.

**XENA**

*(teasing)*

Would you? That'd be great.  
I've had this itch for a couple days.  
I think a bath would do wonders.

Gabrielle just drops her head, shaking it slowly as a smile creeps across her face.

**GABRIELLE**

Why do I put up  
with you again?

**XENA**

Because you can't  
live without me.



**FADE TO:**

**EXT. VILLAGE - DAY**

Xena and Gabrielle are walking through the village trying to puzzle out where this mysterious new gift has come from. Suddenly Gabrielle stops and pulls Xena next to the wall with her and motions for her to be quiet. Xena watches as Gabrielle closes her eyes and tilts her head as if listening to something. She remains quiet, but watches her partner intently.

**GABRIELLE**

Look around the corner, and see if there are two  
men standing in front of the tavern.

Xena slides over carefully and looks around the corner, seeing two MEN standing where Gabrielle said they would be. They appear to be in a heated argument, but trying to keep their voices low. She moves back to Gabrielle and nods.

**GABRIELLE**

They're planning on robbing  
the King's tax collector.

**XENA**

You're sure?

Gabrielle just gives Xena a supremely annoyed look.

**XENA**

*(cont'd)*

Okay, I'm sorry. Seems that this little power  
you have can be extremely useful.

**GABRIELLE**

I've got to be honest Xena, I'd rather not  
have it. I think the element of surprise  
has a place in our life. Besides,  
I DO NOT like hearing everything.



**XENA**

True. But right now we  
really should deal with this.

**GABRIELLE**

Agreed.

Xena looks out at the men again who are still in deep discussion. She looks over when she feels Gabrielle come up behind her and look over her shoulder.

**XENA**

What do they think?

**GABRIELLE**

Funny. They're meeting with  
two other men. Then they're  
going to attack after he leaves  
the village this afternoon.

**XENA**

Okay, that gives us some time.

**GABRIELLE**

Is that a plan I hear forming?



Xena looks at Gabrielle questioning that last statement.



**GABRIELLE**

No, I can't hear you. But after all this time,  
*(beat)*

*(a realization comes to her)*

I really don't need to. I only need to pay  
attention and I know what you're thinking.  
*(sighing)*

Xena, I'm sorry.

**XENA**

For what?

**GABRIELLE**

For not hearing you lately.

**XENA**

It's okay, you've had a lot to deal with.

**GABRIELLE**

No it's not, but we'll work on it.

**XENA**

Absolutely.

*(looks at the men again)*

But right now...

**GABRIELLE**

Right behind you, partner.



**CUT TO:**

**INT. MAGISTRATES OFFICE - DAY**

Xena and Gabrielle make their way into the crowded office where the VILLAGERS are lined up to pay their taxes. They move through the crowd to the front of the room, drawing closer to the TAX COLLECTOR and the two GUARDS. One of the Guards steps forward putting up a hand to stall them.

**GUARD 1**

You'll have to wait your turn.  
Get to the back of the line.

**XENA**

We're not here to pay taxes.

**GUARD 1**

And why not?

**GABRIELLE**

Because we don't live here.

**GUARD 1**

Then you don't belong here. Move along.

**GABRIELLE**

But we have....

**GUARD 1**

*(laying his hand on his sword)*  
I said move on!

**XENA**

Look, we have information that is  
going to be very important to you.

**GUARD 1**

LOOK! I told you to move on. If you  
don't, I'll place you under arrest.

Xena stiffens and Gabrielle knows that she is about to blow. Gabrielle takes her by the arms and pulls her back.



**GABRIELLE**

Easy. It's not worth it.  
We can still help them.

**XENA**

I think we should let it happen and  
teach that arrogant ass a lesson.

**GABRIELLE**

We could, but that wouldn't  
be right. Come on. Let's go  
at this from another angle.

They leave the office, standing outside and looking around the village. Gabrielle rubs her temples with her hands.

**XENA**

What's wrong?

**GABRIELLE**

I'm getting a Tartarus of a headache.  
I think it's all the noise in my head.

**XENA**

We need to get you some place quiet.

**GABRIELLE**

No, I'm okay

**XENA**

Gabrielle, don't argue with me on this one.  
We'll find a place for you to rest before  
we deal with our little friends.

**CUT TO:**

#### **INT. TEMPLE - DAY**

Xena pushes to door open to a run down temple of Aphrodite's. Gabrielle follows her inside, making a face at the condition of the place.



**GABRIELLE**

Yuck.

**XENA**

Well, it may not be in the best  
shape, but it's quiet and you won't  
hear the thoughts of anyone.

**GABRIELLE**

Only the occasional rat.

Suddenly Aphrodite pops in, her hand resting on a dusty altar. She notices immediately and quickly brushes the dirt from her hand.

**APHRODITE**

I need to think about a maid.  
*(to Xena and Gabrielle)*  
And how are my girls?

**GABRIELLE**

I have a headache.

**APHRODITE**

*(to Xena)*

Sorry about your luck.

**XENA**

SHE has a headache because suddenly she can hear everyone's thoughts.

**APHRODITE**

Not everyone, silly. Just you. That's what she wanted, so that's what I did.



**GABRIELLE**

YOU did this?

**APHRODITE**

*(bites her lower lip)*

Don't say it like it's a bad thing.

**XENA**

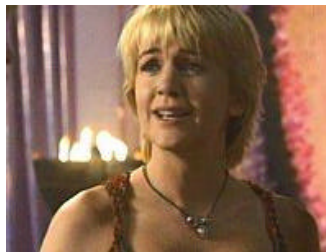
It is a bad thing. Aphrodite, Gabrielle is in real pain here.

**APHRODITE**

I was only trying to help. You two are just hopeless sometimes.

**GABRIELLE**

Take it off. Please?



**APHRODITE**

Of course, little one. You know I would never intentionally hurt you. Something must have gone wrong. I'll fix it.

**XENA**

Make sure nothing goes  
wrong with the fix.

**APHRODITE**

Right.

She takes a step back and gestures Xena away from Gabrielle. Xena looks at Gabrielle then back to the goddess and decides that a few feet away might be the best place to be after all.

**GABRIELLE**

Thanks so much.

Xena just shrugs and smiles sheepishly. Aphrodite lifts her hands up to cast the spell, then stops in mid motion.



**APHRODITE**

Ready?

**XENA and GABRIELLE**

YES!

**APHRODITE**

All right!

You guys are like, so impatient. That's  
bad for your complexion, you know.  
*(touches the skin around Xena's eyes)*  
It will give you little lines...

**XENA**

*(snarling)*

Sometime today, please.

**APHRODITE**

*(jumping back a step)*

Fine. Chill, warrior babe.

The Goddess of Love points at Gabrielle and magic dusts floats gently around the bard's head, causing her to sneeze.

**APHRODITE**

*(blows on her knuckles then buffs  
them off on her pink nightie)*

Well?

**GABRIELLE**

I don't hear anything.



*(turning to Xena)*

But since I couldn't hear your thoughts to begin with, we may have to go out and test the theory.

**XENA**

You could try with Aphrodite.

**GABRIELLE**

*(conspiratorially)*

To be honest, Xena, I'd rather not know what she thinks about.

**APHRODITE**

Now I ask you, is that nice?

*(puts her hands on her hips)*

Hmm?

**FADE OUT.**

**END OF ACT THREE**

## ACT FOUR

FADE IN:

### EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

Xena and Gabrielle with Aphrodite in tow, head back to the main square in the village. Xena leans against a wall across the square from the magistrate's office and watches. Gabrielle joins her partner in the observation while Aphrodite adjusts her breasts.

**APHRODITE**

So, what are we doing?

**XENA**

Gabrielle and I are going to stop a robbery.  
You're feeling yourself up in public.



**APHRODITE**

As if!

Xena gestures to the goddess who still has her hands on her chest. Aphrodite immediately removes her hands and shoots Xena a dirty look.

**XENA**

Gabrielle, are the voices  
in your head gone?

Gabrielle listens again, then smiles.

**GABRIELLE**

Not a word. Thank you, Aphrodite

**APHRODITE**

My pleasure. Anything else I can do to help  
while I'm playing with you mortals?

**XENA**

Don't you think you've done enough?

**APHRODITE**

Hey, if it weren't for my little  
gift, you wouldn't know what  
was going to happen today.

**GABRIELLE**

She's got a point, Xena.



**XENA**

All right, you can help. But we do this the mortal way. No powers.

**APHRODITE**

Ooo...

*(claps her hands together)*

An adventure. I can do that.

**XENA**

We'll see.

The trio watches as the Tax Collector and his Guards load up a large enclosed wagon with bags of money. Xena nudges Gabrielle and gestures to another group across the street, also watching them load the wagon.

**XENA**

*(cont'd)*

Come on, let's head them off at the pass.

Xena and Gabrielle walk over to Argo, who is standing nearby drinking from a trough. Climbing in to the saddle, Xena extends her hand to Gabrielle and pulls her up behind her. Aphrodite approaches and places her hands on her hips.

**APHRODITE**

And how am I supposed to get there?

**XENA**

Pop there.

**APHRODITE**

Oh, no, you said no powers.





**GABRIELLE**

*(chuckling)*

She's got you again, Xena.

**APHRODITE**

You can't expect me to walk in heels. Even in your warlord days you weren't that blood thirsty.

Xena sighs and drops her head. Gabrielle laughs and climbs off of Argo.

**GABRIELLE**

I'll walk.

You can ride.

**XENA**

Gabrielle....



**GABRIELLE**

No, Xena it's all right. You know I can walk it. Let her ride.

**XENA**

Oh, all right!

*(extends her hand to Aphrodite)*

Come on.

Aphrodite smiles and is pulled up behind Xena. She settles in and wraps her arms around Xena's waist, cooing and squealing with delight.

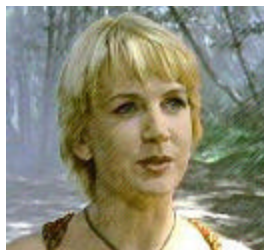
**APHRODITE**

*(to Gabrielle)*

Now I see why you like this.

**GABRIELLE**

Keep you hands to yourself.



**APHRODITE**

Please. As if I would cop a feel.

Xena yelps when Aphrodite places her hands someplace sensitive. Gabrielle draws her SAIS and glares.

**APHRODITE**

*(cont'd)*

Much.

*(whispers quickly)*

It won't happen again.

**CUT TO:**

**EXT. ROAD - DAY**

Gabrielle looks up and taps Xena on the leg, grinning she points back to Aphrodite who is sound asleep against Xena's back.

**GABRIELLE**

It's not just me.

Xena shakes her head and elbows the goddess.

**XENA**

Rise and shine.

Aphrodite wakes and stretches, smiling and well rested. She wipes a long strand of drool from her mouth.

**APHRODITE**

Ew. How totally gross and mortal-like.

*(horrified, she checks  
herself for morning breath)*

Xena stops Argo and helps her down before dismounting herself.

**APHRODITE**

I haven't slept that well in years.

*(slaps Xena on the backside)*

I gotta get me one of these.



**XENA**

*(growling)*

Watch it!

Aphrodite looks to Gabrielle and shrugs, while Gabrielle tries to hide the grin on her face by pretending to scratch her face.

**XENA**

*(whispering to Gabrielle)*  
Don't encourage her.

Gabrielle is about to respond when she hears something in the distance.

**GABRIELLE**

We've got company coming.

Xena gives Argo a little slap to the hindquarters and then turns to her companions. Looking between them, her mouth shapes an evil grin.

**XENA**

Gabrielle, you take a spot  
up there by the trees.



Xena takes Aphrodite by the shoulders and stands her right in the middle of the road.

**XENA**

You stand right here.

**APHRODITE**

Wha...

Before Aphrodite can say anything else, Xena and Gabrielle run across the other side of the road and settle behind a tree. Xena signals for Aphrodite to stay put.

Aphrodite places her hands on her hips and is about to spout off something when the half dozen men come riding toward her. She turns away from Xena and smiles innocently at the men who all stop immediately.



The LEADER of the group smiles and climbs off his horse as he leers at the scantily clad goddess. All the men dismount and circle the Goddess of Love.

**LEADER**

Well, well boys looks like it's gonna be a banner day. We're gonna get rich and have a pretty lady to share it with. If we get a good fight, it'll be perfect.

Xena steps from her spot at the side of the road, holding her CHAKRAM and wearing a grin.



**XENA**

Looks like you got a winner all the way around fellas. It's going to be good fight.  
*(beat)*  
For me.

**LEADER**

I really think you need to be on your way. You're no match for us and I don't see her  
*(points to Aphrodite)*  
being much help.

**XENA**

Just goes to show when you're wrong, you're REALLY wrong.

The Leader sighs, shakes his head and looks back at his men.

**LEADER**

Okay, boys, let's deal with this MINOR distraction before that tax wagon gets here.



**XENA**

Who are you calling minor?

All the men charge Xena, who laughs and lets them surround her. One of the GUYS starts for Aphrodite, but before he can get to her, Gabrielle jumps from her position and lands between them, delivering a blow to the Man, and knocking him backwards.

One of his friends leaves the fight with Xena, where his other friends are getting their brains scrambled by the Warrior Princess. He charges Gabrielle, who uses her SAI to yank his SWORD from his hand.

The first Man Gabrielle knocked down is scrambling to his feet. As he grabs his Sword to attack again, Aphrodite grabs a log from the side of the road and bashes him in the back of the head, knocking him unconscious. She beams with pride as he falls in a lump at her feet.

**APHRODITE**

Oooo, cool!

Aghast, she drops the log as she looks at her hand. Her eyes go round as saucers.

**APHRODITE**

*(wailing)*

I chipped a nail!

Xena, apparently tired of playing with the thugs, takes the Leader and his closest friend and slams their heads together. They slump bonelessly in her hands and she drops them, before turning on the third man and jabbing his neck.

He gasps, his eyes wide with fear as he sinks to his knees, clawing at his throat.

**XENA**

Here's the deal. You've got thirty seconds to live. Now, here's your choices, you can die. Or you can collect your pals and get out of here and leave the tax wagon alone. Your choice.



The Man pulls on her leathers gasping.

**XENA**

*(cont'd)*

What was that? I didn't quite get it?

**MAN**

Leave.

**XENA**

Good choice.

She releases the pinch, stepping out of the way to let the Man fall flat on his face, coughing and hacking as he draws one deep breath after the other. Xena grins as Gabrielle uses her foot to kick the last remaining man in the butt. Xena grabs him and keeps him from falling on top of his companion.

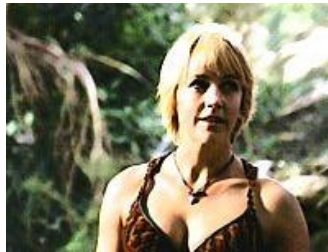
**XENA**

Get your friends and get out of here.

She lets him go as all the men gather themselves and each other and make for their horses. Gabrielle joins Xena, watching them ride away as fast as their horses will carry them.

**GABRIELLE**

Another disaster averted.



**XENA**

All in a days work.



Aphrodite approaches, wiping her hands together.

**APHRODITE**

I don't know how you two do this everyday.  
It's dirty and so... DIRTY. Besides, you  
just saved the tax collector and he  
doesn't even know it. What's the point?

**GABRIELLE**

Aphrodite, we do it because  
it's the right thing to do.

**APHRODITE**

Well if that's what floats your boat.  
I prefer something a bit more romantic.

She looks at her clothes, now dirty and in disarray.

## APHRODITE

*(cont'd)*

And nothing romantic will happen with me looking like this. Time for a trip to the beauty parlor. Later, babes.

Aphrodite pops out, leaving them standing in the middle of the road. Xena looks down the road and leads Gabrielle to the side where they stand watching as the tax wagon and the guards on horseback ride by, totally unaware of what has just happened.



Gabrielle nudges her partner.

## GABRIELLE

Now that we've done our good deed for the day, how about we see if we can find a nice room for the night?

## XENA

*(leering)*

Oooo Gabrielle, you read my mind.



FADE OUT.

## DISCLAIMER

No wild animals were harmed during the making of this motion picture, but Gabrielle's ability to eat rabbit was severely injured.