

9 CONTINUED:

unless there's something in it for them.  
I've never had any use for them...but I  
admit I wished so hard for something--  
someone to believe in, to humble me,  
bring me to my knees.

9

GABRIELLE  
(squirms in discomfort)  
Bad analogy. And then what happened?

XENA  
You know.

GABRIELLE  
A happy beginning anyway.

CUT TO:

10 EXT. RIVER - DAY

10

Xena tracks to the riverside. Where to go now? A MAN  
steps from the trees on the other side. An impressive  
looking fellow. They stare at each other. He waves  
casually, it would seem, in recognition. He is familiar to  
her. She sets her jaw and follows down her side of the  
river as he walks the bank on the other side. There is a  
BOAT waiting with a PAIR OF ROWERS further along. She steps  
in and is rowed to meet him.

DINONICUS  
Long time, Xena.

XENA  
Not long enough. And you look the worse  
for it, Dinonicus. Where is she?

DINONICUS  
Right to the heart of the matter.

He holds out his hand, quietly demanding. She hands over  
her sword, chakram and other weapons without question.

DINONICUS  
Yes, it was always your keen intelligence  
that I admired--among other things.

One of the rowers makes to bind her hands.

DINONICUS  
No, that won't be necessary. She knows  
enough to behave herself--at least until  
she gets the full picture.

XENA  
Is she all right?

(CONTINUED)