

12 CONTINUED:

12

DINONICUS

You look anxious, Xena. We're almost there. Your little friend may still be reasonably...intact. Though Crusius seemed to be developing a yen for the little goldenhair. No accounting for taste. Not my type.

XENA

She's worth a worldful of your type.

She strides ahead of him and the BRIGAND who's bringing up the rear hurries forward nervously.

BRIGAND

She should be in chains.

DINONICUS

Chill out, friend. She's not going anywhere. We have the one thing that means the most to her.

CUT TO:

13 INT. TENT - DAY

13

Xena ENTERS. Gabrielle is sitting in the shadows, downcast. When she sees Xena she stands slowly.

GABRIELLE

Part of me is so glad to see you, but I really wish you were anywhere but here.

They move toward each other tentatively and then embrace.

GABRIELLE

I'm sorry.

Xena looks her over for injuries, studies her eyes for any signs of pain, physical or otherwise.

XENA

You put up quite a fight.

GABRIELLE

Did my best. Not good enough. If I hadn't been so stubborn--

XENA

No, it wasn't you--

GABRIELLE

What were we fighting about in the first place?

(CONTINUED)