

17 CONTINUED:

17

Xena stares warily at the proffered bounty.

GABRIELLE

You don't think they'd bring us all this way just to poison us now? Drink some more.

Xena sniffs the water and drinks cautiously, but with obvious thirst in spite of her fears.

GABRIELLE

I never thought water could taste so delicious. And that bowl of ripe fruit is calling my name.

Gabrielle moves toward the table, but Xena grabs her arm. They sit and stare at the food for a long moment.

GABRIELLE

Look, I know what it feels like to be poisoned. It's not an experience I want to repeat. But I'm hungry. I know I'm incorrigible that way. I'm not going to sit here staring at this much food and listening to my stomach make pitiful noises.

She pulls away from Xena and bites into a juicy peach. Sighing, she relaxes and sits down.

GABRIELLE

So, now you can wait and see if I make it.

She tosses Xena an apple.

XENA

It would be just like that harpy to fatten us for the slaughter.

She bites into the apple.

CUT TO:

18 INT. PALACE - NIGHT

18

Xena and Gabrielle sitting by the fire.

GABRIELLE

So what's the story?

XENA

That's your job.

Gabrielle gently stares her down.

(CONTINUED)