

ACT III

FADE IN:

21 INT. PALACE - DAY

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GABRIELLE

(always compassionate)

How do you know?

SCILLA

We're all dying. Slowly. And painfully. Especially if our hearts have been broken. An...enchantment...or a curse. If I attempt to leave this island I'll age a year in a single day. As it is I'm only dying by degree. I'm roughly Xena's age, but I know I appear older now. You'll notice I don't allow mirrors. My bones ache, my eyes grow dim, other symptoms and an occasional bout of fever I've seen before--always fatal.

XENA

And if you can be released from this... punishment...what will you do?

SCILLA

Why--mend my evil ways, of course.

(she laughs)

Don't I deserve a second chance? Don't you think so, Gabrielle? Where would Xena be without that opportunity?

XENA

Say that was anywhere near being an actual possibility--why should I believe you?

SCILLA

I've had time, ironically, while running out of time, to do a lot of thinking. I've grown up. We both have. And I found out something...

XENA

Oh?

SCILLA

You weren't responsible for...what happened. I was.

Xena turns away, it's as if she's been gut punched, the wind goes out of her sails, her shoulders sag, she shocks Gabrielle by breaking into tears.

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