

GABRIELLE  
(looks to Scilla)

What?

SCILLA

Another lifetime ago. It doesn't concern you. Don't ask her. You really don't want to know. Comfort your friend. I'll leave you. I need to go and make a few final arrangements.

GABRIELLE

Xena?

XENA

It's a con. She always knows how to disarm me.

GABRIELLE

She sounds sincere.

XENA

Don't let yourself be seduced. She can be very charming. It's insidious.

GABRIELLE

At least I've had a positive effect on your vocabulary.

XENA

On much more than that.

GABRIELLE

Find out exactly what she wants--and if it's doable--I'll stay here. I'll be all right.

22 INT. PALACE - DAY

CUT TO:

22

Xena and Scilla have been arguing.

SCILLA

I'd think you'd be flattered--I concede you're the only one who could pull this off. Besides me, of course. In my prime, that is. Gabrielle doesn't think I'm irredeemable. Do you?

GABRIELLE

No one is.

SCILLA

You see. Why don't you trust her instincts?

(CONTINUED)