

Gabrielle looks up sharply in question as well.

XENA

Usually, I do. She just met you. She always gives the benefit of the doubt. Give her time. She doesn't know you like I do.

SCILLA

No one does.

Xena clenches her jaw.

SCILLA

Xena, you chose a charming companion. We'll have fun together, won't we? You can bring me up to date on all the latest heroic tales--there may even be something new to you in my library. Gabrielle, would you be a darling and get the roll of maps from the table in my room?

Gabrielle EXITS.

SCILLA

Truly charming.

XENA

How can you expect me to leave her in your...care?

SCILLA

(cold as ice)

You have no choice.

XENA

I knew you hadn't changed. Older, yes. But no wiser, no different from when I left you.

SCILLA

I don't know. I might surprise you. Given half a chance. Do this for me. Please.

Xena's eyes widen at the word.

SCILLA

Don't look so shocked. Yes, I can say it. I can ask you nicely. I wasn't so bad, was I? Not all the time. There were good times too. Do you remember when we raced before the wind at Gal-

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