

XENA

No.

Her eyes tear, she speaks over the sudden lump in her throat.

XENA

I have no children.

SCILLA

Thank the gods for that. I can't imagine you as a mother.

Gabrielle has returned unseen and is standing just outside the room, hears this last exchange.

XENA

You always know just how to wound me.

SCILLA

(looks genuinely sad)

You'd think we'd have learned to stop hurting each other by now. But you are the reason I'm trapped here, turning to stone. And you know it. Think of all the bad blood you created. The power you had over peoples' lives.

XENA

I think of nothing else.

SCILLA

It will always come back to haunt you. You can never escape your fate.

XENA

Maybe not. But you can mold it to your own design. You of all people should know about designs.

SCILLA

You always gave me too much credit for that--when you were the queen and mistress of deadly designs. At least that's what I'm hoping for--in this matter.

XENA

Gabrielle is not to know.

Gabrielle ENTERS and hands the maps to Scilla.

GABRIELLE

I hope that's all...and everything you need to know.

(CONTINUED)