

45 INT. TEMPLE - NIGHT

45

XENA

(placating Circe)

I'll fix it. I promise. But you have to trust me. Tell me, is there any way down into the chamber from here?

CUT TO:

46 INT. CAVERN - NIGHT

46

Xena running through a cavern tunnel carrying a torch to light her way. When she reaches the chamber she begins trying to release the ropes holding the crystal. She manages one or two and then is blown back against a wall by a small eruptive BLAST and dazed for a moment. Lava pours up through a widening crevice in the floor of the cave. When she comes to her senses she is trapped on a narrow ledge with no way out.

CUT TO:

47 EXT. BEACH - NIGHT

47

Gabrielle still on the beach; she's fallen asleep, but something wakes her. She rises and watches in awe as a vivid, orange glow tinges the horizon and grows gradually in intensity. The volcano is spitting fire into the sky. Scilla joins her.

GABRIELLE

If she doesn't come back--I will stay here--and make you miserable for the rest of your life.

CUT TO:

48 INT. CAVERN - NIGHT

48

Dinonicus ENTERS, hair singed, clothes smoking, sees Xena, takes in the situation.

XENA

I'm surprised to see you. I underestimated you. Try and hack through any rope you can reach. That should slow it down.

He does what he can. It has the desired effect. But it's gone too far. A major eruption seems imminent.

XENA

Before you go--do me one small favor?

(CONTINUED)