

Xena: Warrior Princess - All Souls Part 2 excerpt
danielleprice.dp@gmail.com
@Elizabeth_Dani7

BLACK

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST IN FRONT OF CADEN'S FORTRESS - NIGHT

Thru the trees and heavy brush surrounding the fortress, we see the entrance with a guard posted on each side. There are two large campfires, one on each side of the small clearing in front of the fortress and soldiers sit playing cards, eating and sharpening their weapons. We can barely hear the men talking in the distance. It is quiet enough so that the sounds we hear from the woods are those of crickets, frogs and birds. Two figures pass in front of the screen, sneaking behind the bushes watching the soldiers. We hear leaves crunch softly and twigs snap below foot. The camera rises and we see several figures in the trees slowly making their way from branch to branch closer to the fortress. The camera cuts back to the two figures on the ground. When everyone is in place, one of the figures gives a hand signal and more than a dozen figures charge forward, some in the trees, some on the ground. They take the soldiers by surprise and a battle begins. The quiet serene night is now alive with sound. The sounds of battle erupt and are deafening. It is the Amazons that attack and they take down soldier after soldier either killing or knocking them unconscious.

CUT TO:

INT. DUNGEON CELL

Silence except for the sound of light, steady breathing, the rattle of chains and the dripping of water, plink, plink, plink in a monotonous tone. Xena is on her knees, with her arms pulled into the air and held by chains. The camera shows Xena with the guard behind her ready to strike with his whip. As the whip strikes her we see her body recoil from the pain, the camera cuts to show her from behind. She is staring straight ahead and as she stares, a vision starts to appear in front of her. From behind we see the soldier strike her again and again. Xena's vision

becomes clearer. She sees Gabrielle with a brilliant sunrise behind her. Gabrielle smiles at her.

CUT TO:

EXT. FOREST IN FRONT OF CADEN'S FORTRESS - NIGHT

Battle sounds pierce the silence. Four of the figures charge the fortress entrance. They take out the two guards on either side, and the camera cuts to them running inside the fortress battling their way down the corridor. We cannot see their faces. As the four figures continue battling down the hall, more soldiers enter from side rooms and join the fight. The camera cuts to the large wooden door to the dungeon at the far end of the corridor. The camera slows to half speed as the door opens and Caden along with two soldiers come out. They are surprised by the chaos. Caden is holding Xena's Chakram.

CUT TO:

INT. DUNGEON CELL

Xena stares at the vision in front of her. Behind her we see Gabrielle yelling at the soldier to stop. We hear only steady breathing, the drops of water, and the chains rattling. The lashes come in waves. The camera cuts behind her and we see lash marks and blood covering her back. Xena's body recoils in pain as the lashes come but she does not make a sound, not one. In front of her we see more images start to appear of her and Gabrielle embracing each other.

CUT TO:

INT. FORTRESS CORRIDOR

The sound is jarring as we hear swords clanking. The four figures are battling the soldiers. Again, we cannot see their faces. At the end of the corridor the two soldiers grab Caden. One of the four figures turns to see Caden at the end of the hall. In the chaos Caden drops the Chakram as the soldiers rush him up the stone steps to escape thru the secret passage. The four figures take down all the soldiers in the corridor and rush to the dungeon's entrance. The figure leading the way, grabs the Chakram before heading into the dark stairwell.

CUT TO:

INT. DUNGEON CELL

The camera cuts to Xena's face. As she becomes more entranced by her vision, she slowly begins to smile as she is able to block out the pain. Behind her we see Gabrielle fights her chains and screaming at the soldier to stop. We see the soldier whipping Xena until finally he throws down the whip and takes out a knife. From behind, we see the soldier raise the knife ready to strike. The camera cuts to Xena's face. She has her head held high, smiling wide at her vision of Gabrielle that she sees before her. We see the soldier behind her, his hand in forward motion on the path to stabbing Xena in the back. The camera zooms in on Xena so we see nothing but her face as she smiles.

CUT TO:

The opening theme with the narration from the Xena: Warrior Princess series will play. Images of both Xena and Gabrielle suiting up in armor will show along with swords clashing, the staff spinning, the Chakram ricocheting and the sais flying.

FADE TO:

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