

The Chronicles of Diana Marsson
Chapter 3: The Return

By

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A "Hercules: TLJ" / "Highlander: The Series" Crossover

1998

HERCULES and DIANA are walking.

DIANA
How did this happen?
(beat x3)
I thought only you were supposed to
return!

HERCULES
We must have done something wrong.

DIANA
I don't think so. We followed all
the steps.

They walk on. After a few moments DIANA stops and looks
around.

DIANA
This isn't so bad, actually.

HERCULES stops and looks at her.

DIANA
I've always wanted to see Ancient
Greece.

Momentary pause. DIANA is still looking at the whole area.

DIANA
I've read so much about it, I feel
like I know it.
(beat)
The Gods... The Heroes...

Momentary pause. They start walking again.

DIANA
Maybe I'll meet some of them!
(beat x2)
Or some of the mythical creatures
I've read about!

HERCULES
Like?

DIANA
Like...
(beat)
Centaur. I always wanted to meet a
Centaur. They've always seemed
so...

(CONTINUED)

(beat)
I don't know, unreal.
(beat)
I mean... they were a breed of
half-man, half-horse. Fathered by
Ixion.

HERCULES stops.

HERCULES
I know what they are.
(look at her)
You want to meet one?

DIANA's eyes light up like a Christmas tree.

DIANA
Yes.
(beat)
Maybe I can finally get an answer
to a question that has always
bothered me.

HERCULES
Oh, and what might...

DIANA
I always wanted to know why there
never seemed to be any mention of
female centaurs in mythology. I
mean... did they, do they, exist?
(beat)
Have you ever seen a female
centaur?

HERCULES
(raise eyebrow)
Come to think of it, no.

Momentary pause. HERCULES thinks.

HERCULES
But I'm sure they're around. I
mean, centaurs have to come from
somewhere, right?

The following line is said in a half-jokingly tone.

HERCULES
They can't just reproduce
themselves.

DIANA

I don't know about that.

(beat)

After all, this is Ancient Greece
we're talking about.

(beat)

If Echidna, a half-woman,
half-serpent, can be the mother of
a lion, a three-headed dog, a
giant, and a hydra...

DIANA pauses, letting her statement sink in. DIANA starts to walk again. She walks past HERCULES who is thinking about what she said. He follows her. It doesn't take long before they are walking side-by-side. After a few moments, he turns to her.

HERCULES

So, was that a yes?

DIANA

Was what a yes?

HERCULES

To meeting a centaur.

DIANA

Yes, it was a yes. You know any?

HERCULES

A few.

DIANA remembers HERCULES telling her about Cheiron.

DIANA

Of course you do. You told me your
teacher at the academy was a
centaur. Cheiron. Right?

HERCULES

Right.

DIANA

So, you'll introduce me to one?

HERCULES

On one condition.

DIANA

Name it.

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES
You have to stop referring to
this...

HERCULES indicates their surroundings.

HERCULES
...as *Ancient* Greece. It's just
Greece.

DIANA
Right.
(beat)
So when can I meet one?

HERCULES
We should be passing Deric's place
on the way.

DIANA
Deric?

DIANA stops walking.

DIANA
What sort of name is Deric?

HERCULES stops and turns to her.

HERCULES
What's wrong with Deric?

DIANA
Nothing. But... for a centaur?

HERCULES
What sort of name should a centaur
have?

DIANA
(think)
I don't know.

HERCULES gives her a look and continues. She watches him
walk off. She mutters the following line more to herself
than to him.

DIANA
Maybe something a little more,
Greek.

DIANA follows HERCULES. She catches up to him and looks at
him.

DIANA

You said "on the way"?

HERCULES

Yes. He lives halfway between Athens and Piraeus. And Athens is behind us.

DIANA

Piraeus? Never heard of it. Why are we going to...

HERCULES

To catch a boat.

DIANA

A boat? Why? Where are we going?

HERCULES

Corinth.

DIANA

Corinth? What's in Corinth?

Pause. HERCULES doesn't answer her.

DIANA

Herc?

HERCULES still doesn't answer her.

DIANA

Hercules?

HERCULES still doesn't answer her.

DIANA

What's in Corinth?

HERCULES still doesn't answer her. He just keeps on walking.

JUMP TO:

2

EXT: DERIC'S PLACE

2

DERIC is painting. He is positioned in such a way behind the easel, that anyone approaching wouldn't know he was a centaur, unless of course they knew he was a centaur. HERCULES and DIANA approach. DERIC looks up, and sees them coming. HERCULES waves to him. DERIC waves back. DERIC puts down his paintbrush, he comes out from behind the easel. When DIANA notices he is a centaur, even though she knew she was meeting one, she is shocked. Her mind is telling her that he can't be real. DERIC trots over.

(CONTINUED)

DERIC

Hercules! It's been a while, my friend. What brings you to my humble abode?

HERCULES

I'd like you to meet a friend of mine. Deric, this is Diana. Diana, Deric.

DERIC offers DIANA his hand. She takes it. They shake hands. They let go. DIANA stares at DERIC. DERIC wonders what the stare is for. DERIC addresses HERCULES.

DERIC

Is she all right?

DIANA

I'm fine. It's just that... that...

DERIC

You look like you've never seen a centaur before?

DIANA

I haven't.

BEAT

I've seen pictures and read stories. But... I've never seen a real...

HERCULES decides to change the subject before DIANA says something she might regret.

HERCULES

Where are Lyla and Kefor?

DERIC

In the house. Come, I'll take you to them.

DERIC turns and heads to the house. HERCULES and DIANA follow. HERCULES whispers to DIANA.

HERCULES

Watch what you say.

DIANA's system has just about gotten use to the fact that DERIC is real and not an illusion, when KEFOR comes trotting out of the house.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA
(mutter)
Oh my god! An infant centaur! I...

HERCULES hears her comment, but DERIC doesn't.

KEFOR
Daddy!

KEFOR hugs DERIC.

DERIC
Where's mommy, Kefor?

KEFOR points to the house.

KEFOR
Kitchen.

They continue to the house. KEFOR goes to HERCULES and DIANA. He trots alongside of them, all the way to the house.

KEFOR
Hi, Herc!

HERCULES
Hi, Kefor. Are you being a good boy?

KEFOR nods a "yes", and then points at DIANA.

KEFOR
Who's she?

HERCULES
This is my friend Diana.

KEFOR
Hi, Diana.

DIANA
Hi, Kefor.

They reach the house. DERIC opens the door.

CONTINUE TO:

3 INT: HOUSE 3

HERCULES, DIANA, and KEFOR enter the house. HERCULES enters first, followed by DIANA, followed by KEFOR. DERIC enters and closes the door behind him. KEFOR trots off to another part of the house.

CONTINUE TO:

4 INT: KITCHEN 4

LYLA is setting the table. DERIC enters the kitchen.

DERIC
Lyla, we have visitors.

LYLA
Who?

HERCULES and DIANA enter. LYLA turns around. She is happy to see HERCULES.

LYLA
Hercules?!?

HERCULES
Hi.

LYLA runs to him and hugs him. DIANA is shocked when she sees LYLA. She's not sure what she was expecting, but LYLA has her thinking.

HERCULES
Lyla, this is Diana. Diana, Lyla.
Deric's wife.

DIANA
You're Kefor's mom?

DIANA is stunned. She wonders (1) how a human female could give birth to a baby that is half-horse, (2) how a human female could carry, inside of her, for 9 months, something that is half-horse, and (3) how LYLA could have gotten pregnant in the first place.

LYLA
Yes.

DIANA
Wow.

LYLA looks to HERCULES.

(CONTINUED)

LYLA

I was just getting lunch ready. You and your lady friend are welcome to join us.

(beat)

We have a lot to catch up on.

HERCULES looks to DIANA. He can tell her mind is racing with questions. Then he gets an idea.

HERCULES

Sure, thanks.

LYLA

I'm so sorry I missed the wedding.

DIANA looks at LYLA. Did she say "wedding?" Who got married?

LYLA

I really wanted to go but...

HERCULES

Don't worry about it.

DIANA

Wedding?

HERCULES, and everyone else goes on talking, ignoring DIANA.

LYLA

Deric told me all about it, and how Hera nearly killed you.

DIANA

Wedding?

HERCULES

We were very lucky. But, everything worked out.

DIANA

Excuse Me!!!

Everyone stares at DIANA.

DIANA

What wedding are we talking about?

HERCULES

My mother's.

DIANA
(raise eyebrow)
Your mother's? She got married? To
who?

LYLA
I thought all of Greece knew by
now! Where have you been?

HERCULES jumps in before DIANA can say anything.

HERCULES
Jason. She married Jason.

DIANA
Jason? Jason who?

HERCULES
Jason, Jason.

DIANA gives him a look that says she has no idea who he
means.

DERIC
Thee Jason.

DIANA looks at DERIC.

DERIC
The one that lead the Argonauts.

DIANA looks to HERCULES.

DIANA
Your mother married Jason of the
Argonauts?

HERCULES
Yeah.

DIANA
The same Jason you went to the
academy with?

HERCULES
Yes.

DIANA
Isn't he, like, only four years
older than you?

HERCULES

I...

DIANA

Forget it. I...

DIANA thinks of something.

DIANA

Wait...

(beat)

I thought Jason married Medea.

HERCULES

He did. She...

(beat)

...she died.

DIANA

That's right.

(beat)

Upon learning that Jason was going to divorce her for Glauce, she decided to punish him by not only killing Glauce, but also killing her own children by Jason, and then killing herself. But...

(beat)

...it never said anything about Jason remarrying. There is no mention in anything I've ever read about Jason marrying Alcmene. It wasn't in any of the stories, or legends, and something like this, would have...

LYLA

It only happened a short while ago. Of course you wouldn't have read anything about it.

DIANA mutters the following line more to herself than to anyone else.

DIANA

I thought I'd read everything on mythology. But obviously a few stories were never told. I wonder what else got lost over the millenia?

HERCULES heard most of what DIANA said. He gives her a "shut-up" look. LYLA heard pieces of it too.

(CONTINUED)

LYLA
Mythology? Millenia? What...

DIANA wonders if she can take her foot out of mouth. She didn't mean for that sentence to be heard.

DIANA
Uh, I...

LYLA notices DIANA's outfit.

LYLA
That's an interesting outfit you're wearing. Where did you get it?

For the first time since arriving in Greece, HERCULES and DIANA realize that DIANA is dressed in 20th Century clothing. Futuristic clothing. Now, more than ever, HERCULES realizes that he will have to act on that idea he got a while ago.

HERCULES
It's a long story.

DIANA gives HERCULES a "you're not planning on telling them the truth, are you?" look. HERCULES looks to LYLA and DERIC.

HERCULES
And if you want to hear it, you must promise never to tell anyone what I tell you.

DIANA
Herc, I don't think you should...

HERCULES looks at DIANA.

HERCULES
Diana, I know what I'm doing.

DIANA
O-kay.

HERCULES
Besides, Deric is going to provide you with an answer to "where are you from" for the next person who asks.

DIANA and DERIC say their lines simultaneously.

	DERIC		DIANA
I am?		He is?	

HERCULES looks to DERIC.

HERCULES

You are.

Momentary pause. DERIC and DIANA exchange a look, then all eyes turn to HERCULES.

HERCULES

First, I'll tell you where she is from. Then we'll work out the where she is going to be from.

DIANA

We will?

HERCULES

Yes. We will.

DIANA

But...

HERCULES just stares at her.

DERIC

I take it this is going to be a really long story.

HERCULES

Not too long.

LYLA

Shall we sit down?

HERCULES, DIANA, and LYLA, sit at the table. DERIC stands at the head of the table - arms crossed.

HERCULES

It all started in Cyzicus...

JUMP TO:

5

LATER

5

HERCULES has finished telling DERIC and LYLA the story.

DERIC

Diana is from the future? Is that what you're saying?

HERCULES

Yeah.

(CONTINUED)

LYLA

So what's the future like, Herc.

HERCULES

Now that... I can't tell you.

DERIC

How can we help?

(beat)

You were saying something about...

HERCULES

People are bound to ask where she's from, or where she grew up.

DERIC

So you want us to help you come up with an answer.

HERCULES

Not really.

(beat)

I want you to be the answer.

DERIC

What?

DIANA

Yeah, what?

(beat)

We never discussed a cover story. I...

HERCULES

(look at Diana)

Ever since we got back, I've been trying to think of one, and...

Momentary pause. HERCULES looks to DERIC.

HERCULES

Deric seems as good a choice as any.

DIANA

Oh, and what has the great Hercules come up with?

HERCULES glares at her, then addresses them all.

HERCULES

Diana was abandoned as an infant. Left in the woods. Deric was

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES (cont'd)
passing by and heard crying. He went to investigate and found Diana. He decided to bring Diana back to his place and try to locate her family. He couldn't find them. He decided to raise her himself. When she turned 16, she left Deric. She set out to find out who she really was.

Momentary pause.

DIANA
Sounds possible.
(beat)
Do I ever learn who my real parents were?

HERCULES gives her a "what?" look.

HERCULES
No. How...

DIANA
I guess I can live with that story. What about you, Deric?

DERIC
I guess so.

HERCULES
Good.

HERCULES decides to change the subject. He looks to DERIC.

HERCULES
Was that a painting you were working on when we arrived?

DERIC
Yes. Would you like to see it?

HERCULES
I'd love too.

DERIC and HERCULES exit the room. DIANA looks to LYLA.

DIANA
Is there anything I can help you with?

(CONTINUED)

LYLA

What?

DIANA

Lunch. Do you need any...

LYLA

Sure. You can help me finish setting the table.

DIANA and LYLA start to put the stuff on the table. DIANA wonders if she should ask LYLA all the questions that had flooded her mind earlier. LYLA wonders if she ask DIANA some questions about the future.

CONTINUE TO:

6 TIME FLIES MONTAGE

6

INT: KITCHEN -- They have lunch, and talk some more. (Note: KEFOR joins the table for lunch, then trots off.)

EXT: DERIC'S PLACE -- DERIC and LYLA see HERCULES and DIANA to the door. They say their goodbyes. HERCULES and DIANA leave. They continue on their way to Piraeus.

EXT: ROAD TO TOWN -- They have an uneventful journey from Deric's to town.

Ext: TOWN -- HERCULES and DIANA stop at a local dress merchant to get DIANA a dress. One from this century. They look around for a while, and then continue on their way.

Ext: ROAD TO PIRAEUS -- They continue on their way.

CONTINUE TO:

7 TIME RESUMES (EXT: OPEN AREA - EARLY EVENING)

7

HERCULES and DIANA are walking along a path. A band of thugs appear and their leader addresses HERCULES.

LEADER

Hera says, "Welcome back!"

HERCULES

Of course she does.

The leader turns to address his men.

LEADER

Kill him!!!!

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES
Here we go again.

The thugs charge HERCULES.

HERCULES
It's nice to know things haven't
changed.

A fight breaks out. DIANA uses what little she knows of hand-to-hand combat (ie: Kung-Fu) to help out. HERCULES is surprised that she knows how to fight so well. Between them both, they take care of the band of thugs. HERCULES goes to DIANA. DIANA is dusting herself off.

DIANA
Man, she really does hate you,
doesn't she?

HERCULES
You could say that.

HERCULES stares at her.

DIANA
What?

HERCULES
Where did you learn to fight like
that?
(beat)
The only person I've ever seen use
moves like that is Iolaus!

DIANA
There's that name again.
(beat)
Iolaus.
(beat)
Will I get to meet him?

HERCULES, thinking she is avoiding the question, gives her a look.

HERCULES
Diana, can you just answer the
question?

DIANA
A friend of mine taught me.
(beat)
Years ago. Or should I say years
from now?

(CONTINUED)

(beat)
I'm surprised I remembered!

They start walking again.

HERCULES
Well, if you can do that much
damage without a weapon, I'd hate
to see what you could do with one.

DIANA raises an eyebrow and looks at HERCULES.

DIANA
Weapons?

HERCULES
Yeah. You know, like a sword, club,
bow & arrow...

DIANA
I've never handled a weapon.

HERCULES
Never?

DIANA
Well, I've pretended.
(beat)
You know, play swords and all. But,
real weapons? No. Never.

HERCULES
I could have someone teach you, if
you want?

DIANA
That depends on who you have in
mind.

HERCULES flashes her a smile.

HERCULES
Well, my sister is pretty good with
a bow and arrow.

DIANA raises an eyebrow and looks at HERCULES.

DIANA
Sister?

HERCULES
And, so is...

DIANA realizes who HERCULES is referring to.

DIANA

Wait...

DIANA grabs HERCULES arm and they stop walking.

DIANA

You mean Artemis, don't you?

HERCULES

Of course. Who else?

DIANA

Ha. Yeah, sure.

DIANA's next line is both sarcastic and serious. (She says it sarcastically, but she is kinda serious.)

DIANA

And, uh, while we're at it, Ares can teach me to use a sword.

HERCULES

Ares?

DIANA

He is the God of War, isn't he?

(beat)

Who better to teach me...

HERCULES

Ares can't be trusted!

HERCULES gives her a look. DIANA realizes he really doesn't like Ares. She decides to play it cool. She walks up to him and wraps her arms around his neck.

DIANA

Why, Hercules, do I detect a hint of jealousy in your voice?

HERCULES raises an eyebrow.

HERCULES

Jealous? Me? Of Ares?

DIANA

Or, is it that you don't trust me?

HERCULES is confused. He looks at her. She looks at him. After a few moments, he kisses her. Deeply and passionately. He breaks the kiss.

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES
I'll think about it.

HERCULES walks on. DIANA follows.

CONTINUE TO:

8 TIME FLIES 8

They continue on to Piraeus.

CONTINUE TO:

9 EXT: PIRAEUS (9:00PM) 9

They walk into town. They see a boat getting ready to set sail. They run to catch it. HERCULES addresses the captain.

HERCULES
Excuse me?

The captain looks at him.

HERCULES
Could you tell me where this boat
is headed?

The captain notices DIANA, and smiles at her.

CAPTAIN
Corinth.

HERCULES
Really? When do you plan on
arriving?

CAPTAIN
If Poseidon smiles on me, we should
be arriving in port by mid-day.

HERCULES
Mid-day? That's great.

The captain looks at DIANA again, and then back at HERCULES.

CAPTAIN
You two, uh, need a ride?

HERCULES
If you don't mind.

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN
No problem step aboard.

HERCULES
Thanks.

HERCULES and DIANA get aboard. The captain offers his hand.

CAPTAIN
Name's Acmadeus.

HERCULES offers his hand.

HERCULES
Hercules.

ACMADEUS
Hercules?

HERCULES
Yes. And this is Diana.

ACMADEUS gives DIANA a mock salute, then looks back at HERCULES.

ACMADEUS
Follow me. I'll show you where you
can sleep.

ACMADEUS walks off. HERCULES and DIANA follow him.

CUT TO:

NEXT DAY

10

EXT: PALACE GATES - CORINTH (EARLY EVENING)

10

HERCULES and DIANA approach the palace as the sun is setting. They enter the gates. HERCULES is ahead of DIANA. DIANA sees HERCULES approach one of the guards and ask him something. She reaches them in time to hear the guard's reply.

GUARD
They are in the garden.

HERCULES
Thanks.

They enter the palace grounds.

11 EXT: PALACE GROUNDS 11

HERCULES heads to the garden. DIANA follows.

DIANA
You know the king of Corinth?

HERCULES
You could say that.

Pause. DIANA thinks to herself.

DIANA (VO)
So, this is the home of the King of Corinth. Nice. Who was the king at this point? Come on Diana, you should know this? Why isn't it coming to me? And why exactly are we here?

DIANA looks to HERCULES. Her line is said as they enter the garden.

DIANA
Herc, why are we here?

CONTINUE TO:

12 EXT: GARDEN 12

ALCMENE, JASON, IPHICLES, RENA, and IOLAUS, are sitting around. ALCMENE looks up at the sound of DIANA's voice. She sees HERCULES and is filled with joy.

ALCMENE
Hercules!!!

Everyone looks up. ALCMENE runs to HERCULES and gives him a big hug. DIANA is wondering who these people are.

ALCMENE
Iolaus told us that Hera...

HERCULES
Mother, please. I'm okay.

DIANA
Mother?

The rest of her line is said in her head as she looks at the rest of the people in the garden.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA (VO)

If she's his mother... that means
that one of those guys must be
Jason? I wonder which one it is?

JASON, IPHICLES, and IOLAUS head over. ALCMENE lets HERCULES go.

IOLAUS

What happened, Herc? How'd you get
back? Hera said...

HERCULES looks to IOLAUS, and answers all three of his questions.

HERCULES

I don't know. I don't know. And, I
really don't care what Hera said.

IPHICLES

So, who is your lady friend,
brother?

DIANA looks at HERCULES and raises an eyebrow in surprise.

DIANA

Brother?

DIANA looks back at IPHICLES. IPHICLES takes DIANA's hand and kisses it. As HERCULES is saying line, DIANA notices the crown.

HERCULES

Sorry. Diana, this is my brother
Iphicles. King of Corinth.

DIANA smiles at IPHICLES. IPHICLES nods a hello.

DIANA

I didn't know your brother was the
King of Corinth! How'd that happen?

IPHICLES

That is a story better saved for
later.

HERCULES

This is his wife, Rena.

DIANA and RENA shake hands and nod a "hello".

HERCULES
This is my mother, Alcmene.

DIANA and ALCMENE shake hands.

DIANA
Nice to meet you. You must be very
proud of your son.

ALCMENE smiles. DIANA looks to HERCULES.

DIANA
He's so...

HERCULES cuts her off.

HERCULES
This is Iolaus. My best friend.

DIANA and IOLAUS shake hands.

DIANA
So, you're the Iolaus I've heard so
much about!

IOLAUS
You've heard of me?

DIANA
Yes. I have. You sound surprised?

IOLAUS
A little. Yeah. No one ever seems
to know me. I guess that's to be
expected when you hang around with
people like Herc though. Right?

IOLAUS laughs. DIANA thinks to herself again.

DIANA (VO)
Okay, that's Iphicles, and that's
Iolaus. That means that he, is
Jason. He looks a lot more than 4
years older than Herc. I wonder...

DIANA gives HERCULES a look. HERCULES turns to JASON.

HERCULES
And this, is Jason. My friend and
new stepfather.

DIANA and JASON shake hands.

DIANA
I just heard of your wedding.
Congratulations.

JASON
Thank you.

DIANA
I would love to talk to you later
about some of your adventures. If
you don't mind.

JASON
I'd love too.

Short pause. HERCULES looks back to DIANA.

HERCULES
Everyone, this is Diana. Without
her help I wouldn't be here.

IOLAUS whispers to HERCULES.

IOLAUS
So, you've been with her all this
time? I don't blame you for staying
away as long as you did.

DIANA wonders what IOLAUS is saying.

IOLAUS
I only have one question? Why'd you
come back at all? She looks like...

HERCULES nudges him in the side. IOLAUS mutters an "ow".
HERCULES then looks at him.

HERCULES
I know this is going to sound like
a stupid question, but... Just how
long have I been gone?

IOLAUS stares at HERCULES.

HERCULES
Iolau, just answer the question.
Please?

IOLAUS
Two months.

HERCULES

Two months?

HERCULES and DIANA exchange a look. He only spent 2 weeks in the future, yet 2 months passed here.

IOLAUS

Yeah. Two months.

(beat)

Are you sure all right, Herc?

HERCULES

I'm fine. It's just that it hasn't felt like two months since...

IOLAUS

Maybe you were having so much fun, that time just flew by.

DIANA

Well, that's what they say, isn't it?

(beat)

"Time flies when your having fun!"

IOLAUS looks to DIANA.

IOLAUS

They? Who are they?

DIANA

They. The ones that make up all those sayings.

IOLAUS raises an eyebrow. He's not sure he understands, but decides to shrug it off.

IOLAUS

Oh.

ALCMENE looks to HERCULES.

ALCMENE

So, son. Can you stay a while? Or are you just passing through on your way to save some...

HERCULES laughs.

HERCULES

We can stay for a while, mother.

HERCULES, looks to the garden entrance, and jokingly adds the following.

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES

Unless someone comes charging in
right now and demands that I...

ALCMENE laughs, knowing that HERCULES is kidding.

ALCMENE

You're such a kidder. I don't know
where you get it from.

A servant enters and addresses IPHICLES.

SERVANT

Dinner is served, my lord.

IPHICLES

We'll be right there. Please set
two extra plates. My brother and
his lady friend will be joining us.

SERVANT

Yes, my lord.

The servant leaves. HERCULES looks to IPHICLES.

HERCULES

So, how do you like being King of
Corinth?

IPHICLES

It has its moments, little brother.

DIANA is taken aback by what IPHICLES just said. She looks
at him with a raised eyebrow.

DIANA

Little brother?

(beat)

I thought you two were twins?

Now it's IPHICLES turn to be surprised. (Everyone else has a
surprised look as well.)

IPHICLES

Where'd you hear that?

DIANA's not sure how to answer that. She notices the look
that HERCULES is giving her.

DIANA

I... I...

(CONTINUED)

IPHICLES

I was 6 when he was born. And...

JASON decides to cut this conversation off.

JASON

Well, shall we go eat?

(beat)

I don't know about you guys, but
I'm starving.

HERCULES agrees with him, knowing that DIANA might eventually put her foot in her mouth again.

HERCULES

So am I.

ALCMENE looks at HERCULES.

ALCMENE

And during dinner, you can tell us
what you've been up to during the
last two months.

They all head out of the garden toward the dining room.

CONTINUE TO:

13 EN-ROUTE TO PRIVATE DINING ROOM 13

Everyone heads to the dining room.

CONTINUE TO:

14 PRIVATE DINING ROOM 14

They enter the room, and everyone takes a seat at the dining table. The table has 4 chairs on the north side (empty, HERCULES, DIANA, IOLAUS), 4 chairs on the south side (empty, JASON, ALCMENE, empty), 1 chair on the east side (IPHICLES) and 1 chair on the west side (RENA).

DIANA

This looks good.

They start to eat. After a few moments, DIANA looks to IPHICLES.

DIANA

Tell me, how did you manage to
become King of Corinth?

(CONTINUED)

IPHICLES

That is an interesting story.

(beat)

It all started when Jason here...

IPHICLES looks to JASON.

IPHICLES

...decided he wanted to marry
mother.

JASON and ALCMENE look at each other lovingly. DIANA raises
an eyebrow in confusion. IPHICLES looks back to DIANA.

DIANA

I don't...

IPHICLES

It seems, that there was a law that
stated that the ruling king could
not marry a commoner and continue
to rule. He must marry someone of
royal blood or lose his crown.

DIANA is still a little confused.

DIANA

So how did...

IPHICLES

The same rule also stated that if
Jason married before the next full
moon, which was in three days, he
could name his successor.

DIANA

And he picked you.

IPHICLES

Actually I was his second choice.

DIANA

Second?

IPHICLES

Yes. His first choice turned him
down.

IPHICLES looks to HERCULES.

IPHICLES

Right, little brother?

DIANA looks at HERCULES.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

You? Jason wanted you to take over for him?

HERCULES

Yes. I told him that I was honored, but that I could help more people, doing what I do, than I ever could as a king.

DIANA

So, since Herc declined, your next choice was Iphicles?

JASON

Yes. And, as you can see, he accepted.

DIANA

What if he didn't? Did you...

JASON

Not really.

ALCMENE looks to DIANA.

ALCMENE

So, Diana, tell us...

(beat)

How did you help bring my son back to us?

DIANA

That's a long story.

DIANA looks at HERCULES.

DIANA

Where do I start?

DIANA and HERCULES figure out how to tell that story.

JUMP TO:

NEXT DAY

15

TIME FLIES

15

EXT: MORNING -- HERCULES, DIANA, and IOLAUS, leave the palace. They say their goodbyes to IPHICLES, RENA, JASON, and ALCMENE, and then set off towards HERCULES' place.

EXT: EN-ROUTE TO HERCULES' PLACE -- They walk along the path towards HERCULES' place.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUE TO:

16 EXT: FIELD

16

While en-route home, they get a surprise visit from ZEUS. ZEUS is sitting under a nearby tree waiting for them. IOLAUS spots him first as they are approaching. IOLAUS addresses HERCULES.

IOLAUS

Ah, Herc...

HERCULES turns to IOLAUS. IOLAUS says line while pointing to ZEUS.

IOLAUS

Isn't that your father up there?

HERCULES looks to where IOLAUS is pointing. Yep. It's ZEUS.

HERCULES

What does he want?

DIANA looks to where IOLAUS is pointing.

DIANA

Father?

(beat)

That's Zeus?!?

(beat)

I always pictured him, I don't know, different. Then again, the Gods can change their appearance at will, and...

HERCULES gives DIANA a "stop talking before you say something you shouldn't" look.

DIANA

Sorry.

They approach the tree.

ZEUS

I'm glad you made it back, son.

HERCULES

Are you?

ZEUS is about to say something, but DIANA interrupts. She is shocked at the way HERCULES is addressing ZEUS. Not only is he the king of the Gods, but he is also his father.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

Herc! This is your father! Can't you...

HERCULES

Diana, not now, okay?

DIANA

But for all you know, he could have been the one who told Nem...

HERCULES gives her a look.

HERCULES

Stay out of this.

DIANA raises her hands in an "I surrender" gesture. IOLAUS raises an eyebrow in confusion.

DIANA

Okay, okay. I'll stay quiet.

HERCULES

Thank you.

HERCULES looks at ZEUS.

HERCULES

So, what do you want?

ZEUS

I just want to welcome you home, son. I missed you.

HERCULES

You missed me?

ZEUS

Yes. Is that so hard to believe?

HERCULES

Well I didn't miss you.

HERCULES walks off. DIANA and IOLAUS watch HERCULES walk off, then look to ZEUS. ZEUS has this look of genuine concern on his face. IOLAUS addresses ZEUS.

IOLAUS

He doesn't mean it. He's just...

ZEUS

Will he ever forgive me? Can he ever...

(CONTINUED)

IOLAUS

In time, maybe.

IOLAUS goes after HERCULES. DIANA can't believe what is happening. She watches IOLAUS run after HERCULES, then addresses ZEUS.

DIANA

I can't believe he talks to you like that. You're Zeus. He should...

ZEUS is intrigued with DIANA. He wonders who she is, and where she came from.

ZEUS

I don't think I've met you before?!?

DIANA

I'm Diana. Hercules, um...
(beat)
...landed on my doorstep when...

ZEUS

Ah. Yes. When I heard what Hera did, I was so upset with her. But what was done was done. There was no undoing it.

DIANA

Maybe if he knew that... Look, I'll talk to him, okay. Maybe we can...

ZEUS places a hand on her shoulder and lets her know it's all right.

ZEUS

You better get going, or you'll lose them.

DIANA looks to HERCULES and IOLAUS.

DIANA

Right.

DIANA notices that IOLAUS has caught up to HERCULES, and they appear to be discussing something. DIANA says next line as she is turning back to ZEUS.

DIANA

I think we...

ZEUS is gone.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

Zeus?

(beat)

Zeus?

(beat)

Great going, Diana. The first God
you meet and you let him just
disappear.

(beat)

I wonder if they're all like that?
I wonder...

Momentary pause. DIANA turns back around, and notices that
HERCULES and IOLAUS are now waiting for her.

DIANA

Oh well, tomorrow's another day.

DIANA runs to catch up to HERCULES and IOLAUS.

CUT TO:

3 DAYS LATER

17

EXT: HERCULES' PLACE - FRONT YARD

17

HERCULES, DIANA, and IOLAUS are in the front yard. XENA,
GABRIELLE, and TORIS approach. XENA is walking her horse
ARGO, and TORIS is walking his horse. GABRIELLE is just
walking, carrying her Amazon stick. HERCULES sees them
approaching and turns to DIANA and IOLAUS.

HERCULES

Excuse me. I'll be right back.

HERCULES goes to the approaching group. IOLAUS notices XENA,
and doesn't like it.

IOLAUS

Uh-Oh.

DIANA

What?

(beat)

Who is she?

(beat)

Do you know her?

IOLAUS sees GABRIELLE.

IOLAUS

Stay here. I'll be right back.

IOLAUS heads down to them.

(CONTINUED)

PAN TO:

18 FOCUS ON XENA, GABRIELLE, TORIS, AND ARGO 18

HERCULES reaches XENA, who is in the lead. XENA drops ARGO's reins.

XENA
Welcome back, Herc.

XENA kisses him. HERCULES doesn't seem to mind. IOLAUS walks to GABRIELLE.

IOLAUS
Hi.

GABRIELLE
Hi.

IOLAUS
It's, umm, been a while.

GABRIELLE
Yes. It has.

GABRIELLE and IOLAUS stare at each other for a moment, then fall into a deep kiss.

PAN TO:

19 FOCUS ON DIANA 19

DIANA walks over. She is wondering why HERCULES isn't breaking the kiss. She is getting madder and madder as she gets closer, and he doesn't seem to be letting go. DIANA mutters the following line to herself.

DIANA
(mutter)
That does it!

DIANA approaches XENA and HERCULES. She intends to deck XENA.

CONTINUE TO:

20 XENA AND HERCULES 20

DIANA reaches them. As her fist is flying towards XENA, XENA manages to catch her arm and throw her into a haystack. All without batting an eye. And more importantly, without breaking the kiss. TORIS sees DIANA land, and runs to her. GABRIELLE and IOLAUS break their kiss as DIANA lands.

PAN TO:

21 IOLAUS 21

IOLAUS notices TORIS as he reaches DIANA.

IOLAUS

Uh-Oh.

22 FOCUS ON DIANA 22

TORIS reaches DIANA and looks at her. He has "concerned" written all over his face.

TORIS

Are you all right?

DIANA

I'll live.

(beat)

But I'm gonna kill him!

TORIS

Here, let me help you up.

TORIS offers her his hand. DIANA looks at HERCULES, who is still kissing XENA.

DIANA

Well, turn around is fair play.

TORIS

Pardon?

DIANA

Nothing.

DIANA takes TORIS' hand, but instead of letting him help her up, she pulls him down and kisses him.

PAN TO:

23 FOCUS ON XENA, HERCULES, GABRIELLE, IOLAUS, AND ARGO 23

IOLAUS sees DIANA and TORIS kissing and tries to get HERCULES' attention.

IOLAUS

Herc...

(beat)

Uhh, Herc...

PAN TO:

24 FOCUS ON DIANA

24

By now, TORIS has recovered from the initial shock and is thoroughly enjoying the kiss. In fact, one could say he seems to be really getting into it. DIANA thinks to herself.

DIANA (VO)

Maybe this wasn't such a good idea.
This guy seems to be enjoying this
too much. I assumed he was with
her...

(beat)

Then again, Herc did, does, seem to
be enjoying kissing whatever her
name is. And, this guy, whoever he
is, is kinda cute. And not a bad
kisser either.

DIANA continues kissing TORIS.

PAN TO:

25 FOCUS ON XENA, HERCULES, GABRIELLE, IOLAUS, AND ARGO

25

IOLAUS is still trying to get HERCULES' attention.

IOLAUS

Uhh, Herc...

(beat x2)

Xena...

(beat x2)

Guys...

(beat x2)

Hello!

HERCULES breaks the kiss and turns to IOLAUS.

HERCULES

What is it, Iolaus?

IOLAUS points to the haystack. HERCULES follows IOLAUS' finger and sees TORIS and DIANA. Now it's his turn to steam. HERCULES looks at XENA.

HERCULES

Excuse me.

HERCULES marches over. XENA, GABRIELLE, and IOLAUS watch HERCULES walk over. HERCULES grabs TORIS by the collar, yanks him off of DIANA, and throws him over his shoulder. TORIS lands on the other side of the yard - also in a haystack. XENA, GABRIELLE, and IOLAUS watch TORIS go flying.

PAN TO:

26 FOCUS ON DIANA AND HERCULES

26

HERCULES

What do you think you're doing?

DIANA

I could ask you the same question?

DIANA gets up and brushes herself off. HERCULES realizes she is right. And when DIANA looks up at him, ready to give him the third degree, he grabs her, pulls her close, and kisses her.

PAN TO:

27 FOCUS ON XENA, GABRIELLE, IOLAUS, AND ARGO

27

XENA gets a "confused" look on her face. She looks from HERCULES and DIANA to IOLAUS.

XENA

Did I miss something?

(beat)

Who is she?

IOLAUS

I don't know who that guy who just went flying was, but she...

IOLAUS points to DIANA.

IOLAUS

...is Herc's girlfriend.

XENA

Girlfriend?

IOLAUS

Yeah.

XENA

Since when did...

IOLAUS

They met about 2 months ago. Her name is Diana.

GABRIELLE

I think we should go see if Toris is okay.

GABRIELLE walks off. XENA and IOLAUS follow. ARGO stays put.

(CONTINUED)

IOLAUS
Toris? Who is he anyway?

XENA
My brother.

IOLAUS
Your brother? I thought you said
your brothers were dead?

XENA
My younger brother, Lyceus, is
dead. Toris is my older brother.

IOLAUS
Didn't you say you had three
brothers?

XENA doesn't answer. They continue walking to TORIS.

PAN TO:

28 TORIS

28

They reach TORIS. He is brushing himself off.

TORIS
Xena, who are these people? I
thought they were your friends?

XENA
They are.
(beat)
This, is Iolaus. And uh, the one
who threw you, is Hercules.

TORIS looks at XENA with his eyebrow arched in surprise.

TORIS
Hercules?

XENA
Yeah.

TORIS looks over at HERCULES, who is still in a deep kiss
with DIANA. He is awestruck, totally amazed.

TORIS
I was thrown by Hercules!?!

Momentary pause. TORIS thinks of something, and looks at
XENA with a look of curiosity.

(CONTINUED)

TORIS
Why?

XENA
Apparently for kissing his
girlfriend?

TORIS
Girlfriend?

Okay, now he's confused, really confused.

TORIS
She's his girlfriend?

IOLAUS nods a "yes".

TORIS
But he was kissing you? And...

IOLAUS
I think Diana was trying to make
that point.
(beat)
If Herc could kiss Xena, then uh,
then she could kiss you.

TORIS
So she was using me?

IOLAUS
Looks like it.

TORIS
(mutter)
Not that I mind.

XENA
Come on, I have to apologize to
Diana.

XENA, GABRIELLE, IOLAUS, and TORIS, walk over to HERCULES
and DIANA. GABRIELLE and IOLAUS have their arms around each
other.

PAN TO:

29

HERCULES AND DIANA

29

HERCULES and DIANA are still "making-up" as they approach. XENA clears her throat. They break the kiss. HERCULES and DIANA look at them.

XENA

I'm sorry, Diana. I didn't realize that Herc was now spoken for.

(beat)

I'm Xena.

XENA offers her hand in friendship. DIANA is about to take it, then stops.

DIANA

Wait, you're not gonna throw me again, are you?

XENA

No.

(beat)

Friends?

DIANA takes her hand.

DIANA

Friends.

TORIS addresses HERCULES.

TORIS

I'm sorry, too. I didn't realize that...

HERCULES

Don't be. Diana was just getting back at me.

TORIS looks at DIANA.

TORIS

I don't think we've been properly introduced.

TORIS offers his hand.

TORIS

I'm Toris.

DIANA smiles and takes his hand.

(CONTINUED)

TORIS
Xena's brother.

HERCULES
Brother?

DIANA addresses TORIS.

DIANA
I'm Diana.
(beat)
I'm sorry about what happened...

DIANA points over her shoulder to the haystack.

DIANA
I...

TORIS
Don't worry about it.

TORIS flashes DIANA a smile.

TORIS
Anytime you want to do it again
though, let me know.

TORIS winks at DIANA. HERCULES clears his throat. TORIS looks at HERCULES, and puts his arms up in an "I surrender" gesture.

TORIS
I'm kidding. I'm kidding.

HERCULES puts his arm around DIANA possessively. TORIS gives DIANA another look. One that says "no, I'm not". HERCULES misses it. DIANA doesn't. TORIS looks back at HERCULES.

TORIS
So, you're Hercules?

Pause. HERCULES nods.

TORIS
Xena's told me a lot about you.

HERCULES gives XENA a look.

HERCULES
Oh she has, has she?

XENA just smiles.

(CONTINUED)

TORIS

Yeah.

(beat)

But, uh...

(beat x2)

There is one thing she hasn't told me.

HERCULES

Oh? And what might that be?

TORIS

How you met!?!

HERCULES, XENA, and IOLAUS exchange a look.

GABRIELLE

I've been asking her that same question ever since we freed Prometheus. She won't give me an answer either.

DIANA

Wait a second... Prometheus?

DIANA looks at HERCULES.

DIANA

I thought you freed Prometheus from the rock on Mount Caucasus?

HERCULES

I did.

DIANA is confused.

DIANA

But she just said that...

HERCULES

The gods recaptured him.

DIANA

Recaptured him?

(beat)

So the first time you freed him by yourself.

HERCULES

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA
And the second time...

GABRIELLE
Xena and Hercules teamed up to
rescue him.

DIANA
I'd love to hear that story!
(beat)
But first...

DIANA looks at HERCULES.

DIANA
I too am curious. How did you and
Xena meet, Herc?

HERCULES, XENA, and IOLAUS exchange that same look again.

DIANA
There's that look again. It must be
some story. Why don't you tell us
over lunch?

HERCULES, XENA, and IOLAUS all look at each other, then nod.

HERCULES
Okay.

DIANA
Great. Let's go inside.

They all head for the house.

JUMP TO:

A FEW HOURS LATER

30

INT: KITCHEN

30

They are all sitting around the table, eating lunch. XENA, HERCULES, and IOLAUS, have just finished telling TORIS, GABRIELLE, and DIANA about the first time XENA and HERCULES met. [See the first season episode of HTLJ entitled "THE WARRIOR PRINCESS"]

DIANA
Let me get this straight...

Pause. DIANA tries to make sense of the story.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA
The first time you two...

DIANA points to HERCULES and XENA.

DIANA
...met, you wanted to kill him. And you were using Iolaus to help you do it?

XENA nods. GABRIELLE looks to IOLAUS.

GABRIELLE
Now I understand what you meant when you asked me to tell Xena that there were no hard feelings.

TORIS thinks there is more to the story.

TORIS
There has to be more to this story. From the way it ended, I don't see how you two could be so... close.

DIANA looks at TORIS.

DIANA
You took the words right out of my mouth.

XENA
Oh, there's more to the story all right. A lot more.

XENA and HERCULES look at each other.

CUT TO:

31 PREVIOUS EPISODES 31

Recap the events covered in the first season HTLJ episodes entitled "THE GAUNTLET" and "THE UNCHAINED HEART".

CUT TO:

32 TIME RESUMES (A FEW HOURS LATER) 32

DIANA
So Herc turned your life around.

XENA
Yes. He made me see that helping people, instead of fighting them, was the better way.

(CONTINUED)

TORIS

And you parted ways after that?
Never to see him again?

Momentary pause.

XENA

Our paths crossed a few times. But
we never worked together after
that.

GABRIELLE

Until Prometheus.

XENA

Right. Until Prometheus.

DIANA

You never said why Prometheus was
recaptured?

HERCULES

We don't know why.

DIANA

The Gods must have had a reason.

IOLAUS

If they did, they never shared it
with us.

DIANA turns to HERCULES.

DIANA

How did you and Xena rescue him?

GABRIELLE

Let me tell this story.

GABRIELLE prepares to tell a story.

CUT TO:

33

PREVIOUS EPISODE - XENA: PROMETHEUS

33

GABRIELLE and HERCULES, and sometimes XENA and IOLAUS,
retell the events of the first season XENA episode entitled
"PROMETHEUS".

CUT TO:

34 TIME RESUMES (A FEW HOURS LATER)

34

DIANA

So, Xena and Hercules saved
mankind. And neither had to strike
the fatal blow.

HERCULES and XENA nod in agreement.

JUMP TO:

2 DAYS LATER

35 HERCULES' PLACE - FRONT PORCH

35

HERCULES comes home to find DIANA writing. DIANA doesn't
notice him approach. He comes up behind her, looks over her
shoulder and says line.

HERCULES

What are you doing?

DIANA

I'm writing a book. I thought that
while I'm here, I should write the
way it really is. The way things
really happened.

(beat)

So much is unknown and mysterious
about this time where I come from.

HERCULES

So, what are you writing?

DIANA

Well, I'm starting at the
beginning. With the story of Chaos
and Uranus and Gaea, and going till
now.

HERCULES

Need any help?

DIANA

Sure.

Momentary pause. HERCULES sits down beside her.

DIANA

And, uh, when I finish this one...

Momentary pause. DIANA looks at HERCULES.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA
I'm going to write your story!

HERCULES
Salmoneous tried that once. He...

DIANA
(raise eyebrow)
Salmoneous?

HERCULES changes the subject by asking her for the pages she has written so far.

HERCULES
Let me read what you've written so far.

HERCULES takes the pages and starts to read.

CONTINUE TO:

36 TIME FLIES 36

HERCULES reads the pages DIANA has written.

CONTINUE TO:

37 TIME RESUMES 37

HERCULES is reading the last page as a man approaches the house. DIANA watches the man walk over to them. He is trying to look like a hesitant, nervous, village man, but DIANA suspects there is more to this man than that. The man stops in front of the table and clears his throat. HERCULES looks up. DIANA gets a strange vibe from the man. She can't explain it, but she's not sure she likes it.

MAN
Excuse me, but are you Hercules,
son of Zeus?

HERCULES senses something is out of place with this man, but he can't put his finger on it.

HERCULES
Maybe. Why?

MAN
I have to talk to him. It's
important.
(beat)
If you are not him... do you know
where I can find him? I was told he
had a place around here, and...

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES decides to admit who he is. If for no other reason that to find out just what this man wants.

HERCULES

Yes.

The man gets a confused look on his face.

MAN

Yes you know where I can find him?
Or yes you are him?

HERCULES

I'm Hercules.
(beat)
How can I help you?

MAN

My name is Methos, and I have some
news that must be...

Pause. After a few moments, HERCULES prompts METHOS to continue.

HERCULES

...that must be, what?

HERCULES looks at METHOS.

HERCULES

Please, continue. I can't help you
if...

METHOS looks to DIANA.

METHOS

This is a matter of utmost
importance. And, it is highly
confidential. I'd rather it stayed
between you and me.

HERCULES

Methos, is it?

METHOS nods.

HERCULES

This is Diana. Anything you have to
say to me, you can say in front of
her. We have no secrets from each
other. If...

METHOS doesn't like this. DIANA cannot be allowed to hear what he has to say. It has nothing to do with her. He probably shouldn't even be telling HERCULES, but he needs his help.

METHOS

You don't understand. This is...

DIANA can tell that METHOS will not tell HERCULES anything as long as she is around. She also knows that HERCULES can handle this guy if need be.

DIANA

It's okay Herc. I promised Iolaus I'd stop over. So... I guess I'll see what he wanted.

DIANA rises and HERCULES kisses her.

HERCULES

Are you sure? I mean...

DIANA

I'm sure. See you later.

HERCULES

Say hi to Iolaus for me.

DIANA

Will do.

DIANA smiles at HERCULES. She then looks to METHOS and nods a farewell. METHOS nods back. DIANA walks off. METHOS watches her go with a semi-evil look in his eye.

PAN TO:

38

DIANA

38

As she walks off, she thinks to herself.

DIANA (VO)

I hope I'm not making a mistake. There is something about that guy that's just not... I don't know... right.

PAN TO:

39

FOCUS ON HERCULES AND METHOS

39

METHOS looks back at HERCULES.

METHOS

You're a lucky guy. She seems like a nice girl. A very nice girl.

HERCULES

Thank-you. Please, sit down.

METHOS

Thanks.

Momentary pause as METHOS sits.

HERCULES

Now, please tell me what you came to tell me.

METHOS

Actually, the one I need to talk to is your father.

HERCULES

My father?

METHOS

Yes.

HERCULES

What do you want with Zeus?

METHOS

I have something I need to discuss with him.

HERCULES

Like what?

(beat)

If you want to see Zeus, why are you here? What...

Momentary pause. HERCULES thinks he understands.

HERCULES

You want me to help you get to him.

METHOS

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES

I don't know.

METHOS

Please Hercules. This is really important.

HERCULES

So, why don't you tell me why you have to see him?

METHOS

Well... It's kinda complicated.

HERCULES

Try me.

Momentary pause. METHOS thinks of how to say what he has to say, without really saying anything at all.

METHOS

Your father might hold the keys to unlocking the secrets of my past.

HERCULES

Secrets, like what?

METHOS

Like... Who I am? And, where I come from?

HERCULES

How could he help answer those questions? Surely you know wh...

METHOS

It's a long story. Too long to get into. If you help me get to him, and he helps me, I will tell you everything.

Momentary pause. HERCULES is thinking. METHOS hopes he won't have to work too hard to get HERCULES to say yes.

METHOS

So, will you help me?

As HERCULES considers METHOS' request, we...

FADE OUT.