

The Chronicles of Diana Marsson  
Chapter 12: Home Sweet Home

By

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

1998

**ANCIENT GREECE**

1 EXT: MOUNTAINS BEHIND HERCULES' HOUSE (LATE AFTERNOON) 1

DIANA and CLARK materialize. ARES isn't with them. DIANA mutters her line in a surprising tone.

DIANA  
It worked.

Momentary pause. DIANA puts her hands in her pockets. She is checking to make sure the two items she brought with her are in there. They are. One item is THE CHRONICLE, the other we will learn about soon enough. CLARK looks around, trying to find ARES. He can't see him anywhere.

CLARK  
Mom, where's Ares?

DIANA doesn't seem the least bit concerned.

DIANA  
I don't know. Depends what he was thinking of while we were reciting The...

CLARK looks at her in shock and disbelief.

CLARK  
What? You never said...

DIANA looks at CLARK with a raised eyebrow.

DIANA  
Didn't I?

CLARK  
No you...

CLARK thinks he has figured it out.

CLARK  
You planned this, didn't you?

Momentary pause. DIANA doesn't answer. CLARK knows he's right. But why is *he* with her? He wasn't thinking anything while they were chanting. Was he?

CLARK  
Wait, why am I here? I don't think I was thinking...

(CONTINUED)

DIANA  
You're here, because I pictured you  
here with me.

CLARK  
Oh.

Momentary pause. CLARK looks around.

CLARK  
Why here? What's so special  
about...

DIANA  
Come on.

DIANA starts to head down the slope. CLARK follows.

DIANA  
There's someone I want you to meet.

CLARK raises an eyebrow in curiosity.

CLARK  
Meet?  
(beat)  
Who?

DIANA  
You'll see.

They head down.

CONTINUE TO:

2 HILLSIDE

2

After a few moments, CLARK addresses DIANA.

CLARK  
Why are we walking down this hill?  
Wouldn't it be easier if we just...

DIANA turns and gives him a look.

CLARK  
Okay. Sorry I asked. Walking's  
good.

They continue down the hillside.

JUMP TO:

3 ELSEWHERE: WARRIOR'S CAMP

3

Soldiers are sparring with each other, practicing. Two men are talking, the leader and the second in command.

LEADER

Tomorrow is the day. The day we have waited for. May Ares be on our side.

SECOND

Ares has always been on our side.

As soon as the line is spoken, ARES materializes in the middle of the camp. He looks totally confused. He wonders where DIANA and CLARK are. Why are they not here? Did something go wrong? All the soldiers stop and look at him. The leader looks surprised and happy to see him.

LEADER

Ares!

The leader addresses his men.

LEADER

Men, let this be a sign. Ares has graced us with his presence, on this the eve our greatest battle.

The men chant ARES' name.

MEN

Ares! Ares! Ares!

ARES walks among the warriors, loving the praise he is getting. For the moment all other thoughts are gone from his mind. He basks in the praise of this band of warriors.

JUMP TO:

4 HERCULES' PLACE - FRONT YARD

4

HERCULES and METHOS are standing in the yard, talking. METHOS is setting off.

METHOS

My life has changed so much since last I seen you. I'd heard about Diana, and what Hera did. I...

(beat)

I came to see if needed anything.

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES

Thank you. She's only been gone two months, yet it seems like forever. I don't know what to do. Sometimes I just...

METHOS

Time heals all wounds, Hercules. In time you will be able to go on. Just give it time.

HERCULES

Time. That's so easy to say, but...

METHOS

I know. Easier said than done.

HERCULES

Right.

METHOS

It's getting late, I ought to be going. I'll stop by next time I'm through.

HERCULES

Bye, Methos.

METHOS

Bye, my friend.

METHOS walks off. HERCULES heads back to the house. CAMERA PANS off to the side.

PAN TO:

5 SIDE OF HOUSE

5

DIANA and CLARK are approaching. DIANA spots METHOS leaving and stops. CLARK stops too.

DIANA

Methos! Thank the gods he's...

CLARK looks around with a raised eyebrow.

CLARK

Methos?

(beat)

Where?

(CONTINUED)

DIANA points. CLARK follows her finger. DIANA takes something out of her pocket. It is a small package. The package has an LCD display on it. DIANA mutters the following line to herself.

DIANA  
I hope this worked.

DIANA waves her hand over the display, and a figure appears. The figure is the number of seconds til February 25th, 2016 AD. (approx: 101,236,780,800) CLARK looks at DIANA and notices the package.

CLARK  
What's that?

DIANA  
A message. When I tell you, I want you to find Methos and give this to him. Don't tell him who you are, just tell him to keep it with him till it reaches zero.

CLARK looks at her with a raised eyebrow.

CLARK  
What?

DIANA  
Just do it.

DIANA holds it out. CLARK takes it.

CLARK  
Yes, mother.

CLARK puts it in his pocket. They continue to the house. CAMERA pans back to front of house.

PAN TO:

6 FRONT OF HOUSE

6

HERCULES puts his hand on the door, about to open it, when he hears someone approaching. He turns around and sees a woman, who looks like DIANA, with some guy, heading to the house. The guy looks familiar somehow, but he can't figure out how. HERCULES mutters the following line to himself.

HERCULES  
Diana? It can't be.

DIANA smiles and yells HERCULES' name.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

Herc!!!

CLARK is stunned.

CLARK

Herc?

DIANA runs to HERCULES.

HERCULES

It is her? But how?

HERCULES goes to her. He picks her up, and swings her around. He kisses her. CLARK reaches them, and stands, watching, waiting for them to break it up. After a few moments, they break the kiss.

DIANA

Gods, how I've missed you.

DIANA hugs HERCULES' tightly for a few moments then breaks the hug and looks at him.

DIANA

You can't begin to understand how I've longed to be in your arms, feel your touch, I...

CLARK rolls his eyes in an "oh please" look.

HERCULES

I'm dreaming, right? This can't be. You...

DIANA

You're not dreaming. I'm real.

HERCULES

But how? You...

DIANA

I will explain everything later. First, there is someone I want you to meet.

DIANA looks at CLARK. HERCULES looks at CLARK. HERCULES' is still getting an "I know him" feeling.

DIANA

Clark, this is Hercules...

Momentary pause. CLARK offers his hand. HERCULES goes to take it.

(CONTINUED)



HERCULES

27 years? But... you don't look a day older than when...

DIANA

Let's go inside. I will explain everything.

DIANA gives CLARK a "now" look. CLARK nods and vanishes. HERCULES is stunned.

HERCULES

Where'd he... How'd he...

DIANA

I will answer all your questions, inside. But first...

DIANA kisses him and pulls him real close.

JUMP TO:

7

ROADWAY

7

METHOS is walking down the road, whistling. CLARK materializes in front of him.

METHOS

Who are you?

CLARK

Doesn't matter. This does.

CLARK offers him the package. METHOS stares at it, not knowing what it is.

METHOS

What is it?

CLARK

All will be explained when the time comes. The contents of the package will be explained when those numbers...

CLARK points to the LCD display on the package. METHOS has never seen anything like it before.

CLARK

...reach zero. You must keep it with you at all times. Never let it out of your sight.

CLARK vanishes. METHOS stares at the package again.

(CONTINUED)

METHOS  
I wonder what this is?

He looks to the spot where CLARK was standing.

METHOS  
Who was that?  
(beat)  
Could he have been a...

METHOS looks back at the device. He notices the numbers are going backwards.

METHOS  
I wonder what this is counting down to?  
(beat)  
Well, whatever it is, it's a long way away.

METHOS puts the device in his bag and continues on his way.

JUMP TO:

**2 MONTHS LATER**

8 HERCULES' PLACE - BACK YARD (2 MONTHS LATER) 8

DIANA is in the yard. Someone materializes behind her. She tenses, knowing who it is, and, without turning around, addresses him.

DIANA  
Ares, I was wondering when you'd show up.

ARES, who has been approaching her since he arrived, reaches her. He slips his arms around her waist, pulling her back towards him, as he whispers into her ear.

ARES  
I've missed you.

DIANA gets out of his grasp and turns to him.

DIANA  
If you're here to ask me to take you back, the answer is no.  
(beat)  
I'm not ready.

Momentary pause. ARES is confused. He raises an eyebrow.

(CONTINUED)

ARES  
Back? What...

DIANA thinks he is playing games.

DIANA  
Don't play coy with me, Ares. I  
know you too well. I am not ready  
to re...

She was about to say "return to the future" but stops. ARES  
looks at her. He is still confused. He gets a strange  
feeling from her. Something is different.

ARES  
There's something different about  
you?

DIANA  
Different?

ARES  
Yes. I'm not quite sure what it is,  
but...

DIANA  
Nice try. Don't try to change the  
subject. I'm the same Diana I've  
been for years. If you think...

ARES  
You're upset with me. Why?

Momentary pause. DIANA looks at him.

ARES  
Is it because I didn't come by  
sooner?  
(beat)  
I would have you know, but the war  
business has been so busy lately.

Now it is DIANA's turn to be confused. She's not sure what  
ARES is trying to pull.

DIANA  
Sooner?

ARES  
I wanted to come the second I heard  
you were back. I wanted to...

DIANA

The second I was back? Ares, what sort of game are you...

DIANA stops as she realizes what is going on.

DIANA

Oh my god!

ARES

What?

DIANA

When... When was the last time you saw me?

ARES

5 months ago. The day mother sent you home.

DIANA

The day I was sent...

ARES

Yes. I'd spent all day looking for you. I couldn't let you leave forever without telling you that...  
(beat)

But I was too late. You were being dragged into the time-vortex as I arrived.

ARES can tell from the look on her face, that something is wrong.

ARES

Why? What is it? You seem... concerned?

DIANA says the next few lines more to herself than to ARES. She sort of mutters, mumbles them. ARES of course hears her, but is confused. Their lines are said almost simultaneously. He questions her statements as she moves on to the next portion of her line.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA  
 (mutter)  
 I never considered... Never  
 thought...  
 (beat)  
 When we came back, I forgot  
 that he'd be here already.  
 I...  
 (beat)  
 I've got to find him. Warn  
 him.  
 (beat)  
 I can't let the two of them  
 meet. They can't.

ARES  
 Considered what?  
 (beat)  
 Diana?  
 (beat)  
 We? ... Back? Diana, what  
 are you...  
 (beat)  
 Find who? ... Warn who?  
 (beat)  
 Diana, what are you...

DIANA turns to ARES. He has a blank, very confused, look on his face. With a mere thought, DIANA vanishes.

ARES  
 How'd she...

ARES realizes what the "feeling" he was getting from her was.

ARES  
 Of course! That's what's different  
 about her. She's been immortalized.  
 Someone immortalized her. But who?  
 I wanted to do it. It was going to  
 be my gift to her. Someday. When  
 she realized she belonged with...

ARES realizes he has just answered his own question.

ARES  
 Someday...

He hears DIANA's voice in his head.

DIANA (VO)  
 When we came back...

ARES  
 That's what she meant. I did  
 immortalize her. In the future. Our  
 future. I brought her back here.  
 I...

He hears DIANA's voice in his head again.

DIANA (VO)  
 ...he'd be here already. I...  
 (beat)  
 I've got to find him. Warn him.  
 (beat)  
 I can't let the two of them meet.  
 They can't.

ARES  
 She was talking about me. She's  
 gone to warn the future me that  
 there are two of us, but why?

ARES thinks about that for a few moments, then vanishes.

JUMP TO:

9 INT: ARES' PLACE

9

DIANA materializes. ARES is sitting in a chair. When she arrives, he rises and approaches her. She heads toward him.

ARES  
 Diana, my sweet. Nice of you to  
 drop in.

DIANA  
 We need to talk.

ARES' mood changes. He appears to be upset, angry.

ARES  
 You bet we do.

DIANA gives him a look. ARES starts to circle her.

ARES  
 Tell me, was it all a lie?

DIANA  
 Was what a lie?

ARES  
 Were you really playing me for a  
 fool all those years?

DIANA has no idea what he is talking about.

ARES  
 Did you ever really love me?

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

What's gotten into you?

ARES

I've had a lot of time to think  
since we came back.

Momentary pause. ARES is behind her, he leans over and  
whispers in her ear

ARES

I noticed how you went straight to  
my little brother. Never once  
called, or tried to find out if I  
was okay.

Momentary pause. He continues circling her.

ARES

I'm hurt, D. Really hurt. I thought  
I meant something to you. I...

DIANA

I'm sorry. I should have...

ARES

So, tell me. Has my little brother  
gotten tired of you already?

(beat)

Or are you longing for my touch?

DIANA

I'm not in the mood for games,  
Ares. We really need to talk.

ARES

You know I'm always here for you.

ARES runs his fingers through her hair.

ARES

You miss me, don't you?

(beat)

Admit it. You want to go where only  
I've taken you. You...

DIANA looks at him, real serious.

DIANA

I'm serious Ares! We've got a  
problem.

ARES can tell she is serious.

(CONTINUED)

ARES

A problem? What sort of problem?

DIANA

When we returned here, there was one thing I'd forgotten to take into consideration.

ARES

Which is?

DIANA

You.

ARES

(laugh)

Me?

DIANA

Yes. You. You are from this time. You exist in the here and now.

(beat)

So, when I brought you, the future you, here, there was already a you, the present you, here.

ARES

Are you saying that there are...

DIANA

Yes. There are currently two of you, here, now.

ARES

Well, that explains it. I was wondering why people were claiming I was places I wasn't.

DIANA

Damn it, Ares! Listen to me.

ARES doesn't understand what the big deal is.

ARES

Diana, my dear, I don't see the problem. They say two are better than one.

DIANA

No. No. Not in this case. Ares, you... you don't understand.

(CONTINUED)

ARES  
Understand what? Enlighten me. Why  
is this a...

DIANA  
Temporal Physics.

ARES  
What?

Momentary pause.

DIANA  
The basic rule of temporal physics  
states that, the same matter can  
not occupy the same space at the  
same time.

ARES looks totally confused.

ARES  
Which means, what, exactly?

DIANA  
You and he can never be in the  
exact same spot at the exact same  
time.

ARES  
O-kay. Then we won't be.

DIANA  
How can you be sure?

Momentary pause. ARES puts his hands on her shoulders.

ARES  
Diana, calm down. What's the worst  
that could happen?

DIANA  
If you should touch him...

DIANA pauses, not wanting to think of the result. ARES  
prompts her to continue.

ARES  
If I should touch him...

DIANA can't do it. She can't bring herself to say it.

ARES  
What? What would happen?  
(beat)  
Diana, what?

Momentary pause.

DIANA  
You... You...  
(beat)  
You would...

Momentary pause.

ARES  
Would what?

DIANA  
Cease to exist.

That gets his attention. That sounds real bad.

ARES  
Cease to exist?

DIANA  
Yes. Both of you.

ARES takes a deep breath.

ARES  
Then we will never meet. Simple.

DIANA  
You forget how well I know you.  
Both of you. Neither of your egos  
will let the other live. One day  
you will confront each other.

ARES  
So?

DIANA  
When you fight him... Don't touch  
him. Use your sword, your powers,  
anything. But never physically  
touch him.

ARES  
Diana, I think you are...

DIANA

Ares, please. Trust me. I know what I'm talking about.

Momentary pause. ARES wonders if he could have been wrong. DIANA is acting like she truly cares. Maybe it wasn't all an act. Maybe it was real.

ARES

Well, maybe I was wrong.

DIANA is confused.

DIANA

Wrong about what?

ARES

You.

DIANA

Me?

ARES

You really do care, don't you.  
You...

DIANA

Of course I do. Don't ever doubt it.

ARES raises a hand to the side of her face. Their eyes lock. He kisses her. After a few seconds they break the kiss and she looks at him.

DIANA

Promise me, okay? Just promise me, that when you meet...

ARES

*If* we meet.

DIANA

*When* you meet, you will take my advice?

ARES

No touching. Got it.

DIANA

Promise.

ARES  
I promise.

DIANA  
You mean it, right? You're not just  
humoring me?

ARES  
I said, I promise.

ARES looks at her.

ARES  
If you know me as well as you  
claim, then you know I don't want  
to die. Not after all...

DIANA  
Okay. I believe you.

Momentary pause. ARES looks at her. He wants her. He wants to just take her in his arms and make love to her. She notices the look in his eye. Part of her would love to stay and have him take her as only he can. But the other part wants to get out of there before it is too late.

DIANA  
I've got to get back, so... Be  
careful, okay?

ARES  
Of course.

Momentary pause.

DIANA  
Bye.

ARES  
Bye.

DIANA vanishes. ARES stares at the spot where she was for a few moments, then looks around.

ARES  
Two of me, eh?

ARES paces the room.

ARES  
Hmmm. If I remember correctly, I  
was pretty hotheaded and full of  
myself now.

(CONTINUED)

(beat)

I should easily be able to defeat myself. I'll know every move he's about to make, before he makes it.

(beat)

This will be far too easy. I'll put out the word that there is an impostor. A ruthless god, claiming to be me. A god out for revenge. I'll say he is a good impostor, because he not only looks like me, but he knows everything about me. There will be no way to tell he isn't me. I'll have my best men hunt him down.

(beat)

But I'm going to need a way for them to know that they have found the fake.

(beat)(think)

How to do it. How...

(beat)

Maybe a phrase, or a password. Something he doesn't know. Something...

DISCORD and STRIFE materialize in the room. They are surprised to see ARES here.

STRIFE

How'd you... What are you...

ARES turns and zaps STRIFE, sending him across the room. STRIFE lands and looks at ARES.

STRIFE

What was that for?

ARES looks at him with a raised eyebrow.

ARES

Do I need a reason? Your very being here is reason enough.

DISCORD can tell that something is on her brother's mind. STRIFE picks himself up and heads back to DISCORD.

DISCORD

What is it, brother? What has you so...

ARES decides to test his plan on these two.

(CONTINUED)

ARES  
There is an impostor out there.

STRIFE  
An impostor?

ARES  
Yes. An evil, manipulative god, who is claiming to be me. He even looks like me.

DISCORD  
Well that explains why we thought you were in Argos.

ARES looks at her with a raised eyebrow.

ARES  
Argos? Why would I...

STRIFE  
Who is he, Uncle? What are you planning to do to him? How can...

ARES turns to him, and sends him flying across the room again.

ARES  
I'm thinking.

DISCORD goes to ARES. She massages his shoulders. STRIFE picks himself up and brushes himself off.

DISCORD  
You're so tense, brother, dear. Relax. Let me help you take your mind off...

ARES  
Thanks sis, but...

ARES removes her hands from him.

ARES  
...no thanks. I need a plan.

DISCORD  
Can we help?

ARES  
This guy is too perfect. He knows everything about me. If you met him, you'd never know he wasn't me.

DISCORD  
That's impossible. No one is that good.

ARES  
Oh really.

ARES turns to STRIFE, who has just reached them.

ARES  
Strife! Go to him. Go see him. Then come back and explain to...

ARES looks at DISCORD.

ARES  
...Discord here, just how perfect he is.

STRIFE  
Why me, Unc? Can't...

ARES turns and glares at STRIFE.

ARES  
That wasn't a request.  
(beat)  
Do it!

STRIFE  
Yes, Uncle.

STRIFE vanishes. DISCORD returns to massaging ARES. This time he doesn't stop her.

DISCORD  
Must you be so hard on him?

ARES  
Sis, he's an accident waiting to happen.

DISCORD  
But...

ARES  
He never gets anything right.

DISCORD  
He's just a kid, brother dear. Give him time. He'll get better.

ARES  
Ha. Don't count on it.

ARES is beginning to relax under DISCORD's touch.

ARES  
Oh, that feels good.

DISCORD smiles. ARES closes his eyes.

ARES  
You do have magic fingers, sis.  
I'll give you that.

DISCORD  
Thanks.

ARES  
I've missed them.

DISCORD raises an eyebrow. She wonders what he meant by that. She continues to help her brother loosen up. After a few moments, STRIFE returns. ARES senses him arrive, and makes DISCORD stop. She looks ticked. She was enjoying herself. Really enjoying herself. STRIFE looks scared, confused.

ARES  
Well?

STRIFE  
You were right, Uncle. He knows everything about you. Everything.  
(beat)  
He even got suspicious as to why I was asking so many questions. "Why the trip down memory lane," he said.

ARES  
What did you tell him?

STRIFE  
I told him that I admired him, and only wanted to be like him, and...

ARES zaps STRIFE and sends him flying. STRIFE starts laughing. DISCORD and ARES look at him.

ARES  
What's so funny?

STRIFE

He did the same thing.

ARES raises an eyebrow at STRIFE.

ARES

What?

STRIFE

He zapped me, just like you did,  
and told me to get lost.

ARES turns to DISCORD. STRIFE rises from the ground and heads over to them.

ARES

What should I do, sis? For all  
intents and purposes he could be  
me?

STRIFE thinks of something.

STRIFE

Wait...

ARES turns to STRIFE. DISCORD looks at STRIFE. STRIFE looks at ARES, scrutinizing him.

STRIFE

How do we know that you're not the  
impostor. How...

ARES raises his arm and zaps STRIFE up against the wall. But, instead of dropping him, he holds him there. STRIFE starts to struggle, gasping for air.

ARES

If I was the impostor, you think  
I'd be standing here talking to  
you?

(beat)

I am the God of War!!!

(beat)

I have better things to do! I don't  
need to waste time talking to you.

STRIFE

I... I...

DISCORD

Ares, put him down.

ARES turns to her, and glares at her.

(CONTINUED)

ARES

Why?

Momentary pause. DISCORD looks from ARES to STRIFE.

ARES

Give me one good reason.

DISCORD looks at ARES.

DISCORD

Because I'm asking you to.

ARES

Not good enough, sis.

Momentary pause. ARES looks back at STRIFE, who is dangling in the air.

ARES

Last time I watched him  
self-destruct.

(beat)

This time I'm not gonna go easy on  
him. He has to learn, sis. He has  
to, or he will be doomed to...

DISCORD thinks of a reason that she knows ARES will have to obey.

DISCORD

Father forbids it.

At the mention of Zeus, ARES glares at her, hard.

ARES

Father? Don't you dare bring Zeus  
into this, sis. He doesn't care  
about any of us.

DISCORD

Think of what will happen if...

ARES

Ugh!!!

ARES drops STRIFE. ARES looks at DISCORD. ARES mutters the following line.

ARES

(mutter)

Sometimes it's hard to believe  
we're twins.

(CONTINUED)

DISCORD gives ARES a look, and then goes to STRIFE. ARES watches DISCORD go to STRIFE. ARES mutters the following line.

ARES  
He may be your son, sis, but you  
have to stop mothering him.

ARES returns to his throne. Momentary pause. STRIFE composes himself, and DISCORD makes sure he is okay. Once she knows he is okay, she teleports over to ARES' side.

DISCORD  
So, what's the plan, brother. How  
do we...

ARES doesn't look at her. He just says his line.

ARES  
I'm thinking. I'm thinking.

ARES goes into think mode.

JUMP TO:

**10 MONTHS LATER**

10 INT: HERCULES' PLACE - KITCHEN 10

DIANA and HERCULES are finishing lunch, when there is a knock on the door. HERCULES rises from his chair.

HERCULES  
I'll get it.

HERCULES exits the kitchen.

CONTINUE TO:

11 FRONT HALL 11

HERCULES heads to the front door.

CONTINUE TO:

12 FRONT DOOR 12

HERCULES opens the door. There is a man standing there. The man looks like a royal servant page.

MAN  
Message for Hercules.

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES  
I'm Hercules.

The man hands a piece of parchment to HERCULES. HERCULES takes it.

HERCULES  
Thanks.

The messenger smiles and runs off. HERCULES closes the door.

CONTINUE TO:

13 FRONT HALL

13

DIANA is now behind HERCULES, leaning against the wall. HERCULES unrolls the parchment.

DIANA  
Who's it from?

HERCULES  
Iphicles and Rena.

Momentary pause. HERCULES starts to read the letter.

DIANA  
Really? What does it say?

HERCULES  
It's an invitation to an anniversary festival.

DIANA  
Anniversary Festival?

HERCULES  
Yeah.

DIANA  
When?

HERCULES looks at her.

HERCULES  
10 days.

DIANA  
10 days?!?! That's not a long time.  
It's 3 days to Corinth, right?

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES

Right.

DIANA

That leaves us with just 7 days to get ready.

HERCULES

Ready? Wh...

His comment/reply is cut off as she vanishes.

HERCULES

Di... I hate it when she does that.

He is about to go back to the kitchen, when there is another knock on the door. He turns and goes back to the door.

CONTINUE TO:

14 FRONT DOOR

14

HERCULES opens the door. It's IOLAUS. IOLAUS has a bag at his feet. He is in a good mood. He is smiling from ear to ear and rubbing his hands together. When the door opens, IOLAUS walks straight in, leaving the bag on the outside of the door. HERCULES wonders what has put IOLAUS in such a mood. IOLAUS looks at HERCULES as HERCULES closes the door.

IOLAUS

So, you ready?

HERCULES looks at him with a raised eyebrow, and says line as he passes him.

HERCULES

Ready?

CONTINUE TO:

15 FRONT HALL

15

HERCULES heads to living room. IOLAUS thinks HERCULES is kidding and sorta laughs as he follows him.

IOLAUS

You're such a kidder.

HERCULES

O-kay.

CONTINUE TO:

16 LIVING ROOM

16

IOLAUS realizes that HERCULES isn't kidding.

IOLAUS  
You've forgotten. You've really  
forgotten. I don't believe this.  
We've been planning this for  
months.

HERCULES  
Planning what?

IOLAUS  
Attica.

HERCULES  
Attica?

IOLAUS gives HERCULES a look.

IOLAUS  
The festival.

HERCULES remembers.

HERCULES  
Has it been a year already?

IOLAUS  
Yes. The last time we were in  
Attica, was just after... well,  
just after... you know.

HERCULES  
Yeah. Just after Diana left.  
(beat)  
I can't believe they've been back  
for almost a year.

IOLAUS  
Remember all the fun you had last  
year, despite everything?

Momentary pause. HERCULES smiles, remembering.

HERCULES  
Yeah.

IOLAUS  
Just think of all the fun you'll  
have this year with Diana?

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES is about to say something, when DIANA walks into the room.

DIANA

Did I hear my name?

IOLAUS, still in an extremely good mood, goes to her, picks her up, and swings her around.

DIANA

Iolaus! Put me down!

IOLAUS puts her down. He is still grinning for ear to ear.

DIANA

You look like the cat that just swallowed the canary.

IOLAUS doesn't get the reference.

IOLAUS

What?

DIANA

It's a saying. It means... What has you in such a good mood?

IOLAUS

The Annual Attican Festival.

DIANA looks at him with a raised eyebrow.

DIANA

Oh?

IOLAUS

Herc and I have been planning this since... well, since last year's festival.

DIANA

When does it start?

IOLAUS

4 days.

DIANA

4 days?

IOLAUS

Yes. And it will take 3 and 1/2 to get there so we better get going.

(CONTINUED)



IOLAUS remembers he saw some guy running away from the house as he was coming up.

IOLAUS

So. Come on guys, grab your stuff.  
Let's go. There's a boat leaving at  
midday tomorrow. If we miss it,  
it's a long walk.

HERCULES

Yeah, but the travel time is  
roughly the same.

IOLAUS

Come on.

HERCULES points to the door.

HERCULES

After you.

IOLAUS

Aren't you bringing anything?

HERCULES puts his arm around DIANA.

HERCULES

I have all I need right here.

IOLAUS gives HERCULES an "okay" look. IOLAUS heads for the door. HERCULES and DIANA follow.

CONTINUE TO:

17 FRONT HALL 17

They walk to the front door.

CONTINUE TO:

18 FRONT DOOR 18

IOLAUS opens the door.

CONTINUE TO:

19 EXT: FRONT DOOR 19

IOLAUS exits, picking up his bag. HERCULES and DIANA exit.  
HERCULES closes the door.

CONTINUE TO:

20

PATH FROM HOUSE TO ROAD

20

They head down path. IOLAUS stops and turns around. HERCULES and DIANA stop.

IOLAUS  
Wait. What about Clark? Should  
we...

DIANA  
Clark is...

DIANA looks at HERCULES. HERCULES gives her an "I don't know where he is" look. DIANA looks back at IOLAUS.

DIANA  
...exploring.

IOLAUS  
Exploring?

DIANA  
Yeah.

IOLAUS  
Shouldn't we leave him a note or  
something?

DIANA  
He'll be fine.

IOLAUS  
How will he know where we are?

Momentary pause.

DIANA  
He'll find me if he needs me.

DIANA and HERCULES pass IOLAUS, who stares at them confused. He doesn't know that DIANA and CLARK are gods. He also doesn't know what happened to her when she returned to the future or that she had in fact been there for 27 years before returning here.

IOLAUS  
How?

DIANA and HERCULES keep walking. IOLAUS pauses, then heads after them.

(CONTINUED)

IOLAUS

Guys? Come on, how will he know  
where we are? How will he be able  
to find us? Guys?

IOLAUS catches up to them, and they turn off the path and  
onto the road.

CONTINUE TO:

21

TIME FLIES MONTAGE

21

**EXT: EN-ROUTE TO HARBOR** - HERCULES, DIANA, and IOLAUS walk  
to harbor.

**HARBOR TOWN** - They rent a room at the inn for the night.

**EXT: NEXT DAY** - They get up, have breakfast, and then head  
for the dock. They get in line for the boat to Attica. They  
board the boat and it sets sail for Attica.

**BOAT** - HERCULES and DIANA take a moonlight stroll on the  
deck. She points out constellations. He kisses her.

**EXT: NEXT DAY** - The boat has a 6-hour stopover in a local  
port to pick up supplies. The gang gets off the boat and  
goes into town.

**TOWN** - They eat and explore, then return to the boat.

**BOAT** - They continue on the voyage to Attica. The sun sets.  
The sun rises on the third day of their voyage. The boat  
docks in Attica at midday of the third day. They disembark.

**ROAD TO ATTICA** - They head to town.

**ATTICA** - They arrive in town. They go to one of the inns and  
book two rooms. There are posters all over town listing  
events for tomorrow. HERCULES and IOLAUS read the posters,  
while DIANA looks at the local merchants' displays.

**ROAD TO EATING ESTABLISHMENT** - They all head to a local  
eating establishment for dinner.

**EATING ESTABLISHMENT** - They enter. The tables have benches  
on both sides, no chairs. Three people can sit on each  
bench. They head for a table. HERCULES and DIANA sit on one  
side, IOLAUS sits on the other. A waitress, brings drinks  
and takes their order. They order. The food arrives. They  
start to eat.

CONTINUE TO:

They are eating. IOLAUS happens to look up toward the door as some idiot comes tumbling in. IOLAUS recognizes the man, and mutters his name.

IOLAUS

Joxer?

HERCULES looks to the guy who just fell in the door, and then at IOLAUS.

HERCULES

You know him?

IOLAUS

Well...

IOLAUS stops talking, as the door opens again and he notices the two who follow him in. XENA and GABRIELLE. HERCULES looks back at the door. So does DIANA. XENA and GABRIELLE spot them. Well actually, GABRIELLE spots them and points them out to XENA. GABRIELLE waves. IOLAUS waves back. GABRIELLE whispers something to XENA. XENA, GABRIELLE, and JOXER, head over. When they reach the table, XENA addresses DIANA.

XENA

Mind if we join you?

DIANA

Not at all.

XENA sits beside HERCULES. GABRIELLE sits beside IOLAUS, and JOXER sits beside GABRIELLE. (Note: IOLAUS is across from DIANA, GABRIELLE is across from HERCULES, and JOXER is across from XENA.) JOXER has a difficult time sitting down, and makes a lot of noise. XENA rolls her eyes, in a sort of "just sit down" way, to JOXER. Then XENA looks to DIANA.

XENA

Welcome back. Toris asked me to say hi if I saw you. He wanted to come, but...

DIANA

How is he?

XENA

Fine.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA  
And Polydora?

XENA  
She'll be four next month.

DIANA  
Four? I...

HERCULES jumps in, trying to change the subject.

HERCULES  
Who's your friend, Xena?

XENA  
His name is Joxer.

HERCULES  
Joxer?

XENA  
Yes.

XENA looks at JOXER.

XENA  
Joxer. I'd like you to meet my  
friends. This is Hercules, and...

JOXER is in awe. He can't believe he is sitting at the same  
table as the great HERCULES.

JOXER  
Hercules? Wow! Really! I'm eating  
with Hercules! Wow!

XENA gives him a look.

XENA  
Joxer.

JOXER shuts up.

XENA  
This is his girlfriend, Diana.

JOXER  
Hi.

DIANA  
Hi.

GABRIELLE

And this guy, here, is Iolaus. One of the greatest sidekicks. Herc's sidekick.

JOXER

Him I know.

GABRIELLE

Really? You two know each other?

JOXER

Well...

IOLAUS

Not really. We meet a while back. I helped him out of a jam. Nothing really.

JOXER gives IOLAUS a "what?" look.

JOXER

Nothing? Are you crazy? If it wasn't for you, I'd...

IOLAUS

Joxer...

IOLAUS gives him a hand across the neck ("cut") signal.  
JOXER shuts up. Momentary pause.

GABRIELLE

So, you guys here for the festival?

IOLAUS

Yep. You?

GABRIELLE

Of course.

(beat)

I told Xena she needed a few days off. I mean the world isn't going to go to Tartarus if she takes a few days off, right?

Momentary pause. The table is silent.

GABRIELLE

Right?

EVERYONE

Oh, sure, right.

(CONTINUED)

GABRIELLE  
So, what are the plans?

Everyone takes turns looking at each other.

CONTINUE TO:

23 TIME FLIES MONTAGE

23

They discuss their plans, hang out for a while, and then call it a night. They get up in the morning and meet for breakfast. After breakfast they start to enjoy the festival. There are magicians, clowns, mimes, dancers, etc. HERCULES and IOLAUS are two of the five judges in a MISS ATTICA pageant. DIANA, XENA, GABRIELLE and JOXER are in the audience. The contest ends, and a beautiful young girl is crowned the winner. There is a dance, GABRIELLE asks IOLAUS to dance. JOXER looks disappointed but cheers up when MISS ATTICA asks him to dance.

CONTINUE TO:

24 DANCE

24

DIANA, HERCULES, and XENA are talking, when all of a sudden there are screams and JOXER is yelling. They all turn to JOXER, who is getting up off the ground, waving his sword ever so non-threateningly, at a flying, retreating, harpy. HERCULES thinks he recognizes the Harpy and mutters her name.

HERCULES  
(beat)  
Moedyssea?

XENA runs to JOXER. JOXER looks at XENA. HERCULES, DIANA, GABRIELLE, and IOLAUS reach JOXER.

JOXER  
We've got to get her back, Xena.

XENA  
Who?

JOXER  
Miss Attica. That Harpy, stole Miss Attica.

EVERYONE exchanges glances. XENA looks at HERCULES.

XENA  
You muttered something, a name.  
Moe...

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES  
Moedyssea.

XENA  
Is that a person or a place?

HERCULES  
Neither. That's the Harpy's name.

GABRIELLE  
You know her?

HERCULES  
Our paths crossed. Once. A long  
time ago.

JOXER tries to look evil and nasty. He says the following  
line slyly.

JOXER  
So, you know her lair then?

HERCULES gives XENA an "is he for real" look. XENA gives him  
an "ignore it" look.

HERCULES  
If she hasn't moved. Yes.

IOLAUS  
Where is it?

HERCULES  
Mount Parnassus.

XENA, GABRIELLE, JOXER, IOLAUS, and DIANA all look at  
HERCULES and say the line together.

XENA/GABRIELLE/DIANA/JOXER/IOLAUS  
Mount Parnassus?

By now a crowd has gathered around them. The crowd is  
muttering amongst itself.

HERCULES  
Yes.

IOLAUS  
Well, come on Hercules, let's go.

VILLAGER #1  
Hercules, you've got to help us.

VILLAGER #2  
Please, bring my baby back to me.

VILLAGER #3  
Stop that damned Harpy!

VILLAGER #4  
Bring her back, Hercules. Bring her back.

The villagers start a "bring her back" chant.

HERCULES  
We will. Don't worry.

HERCULES looks to DIANA.

HERCULES  
I'll meet you in Corinth, okay?

XENA cocks an eyebrow, wondering what is going on in Corinth.

DIANA  
But I can help. I...

HERCULES gives her a look.

HERCULES  
No. You've got to get to Corinth.

DIANA is about to say something, protest in some way, but he stops her.

HERCULES  
At least one of us should be there when...

DIANA smiles, and gives him a look.

DIANA  
You forget I can be in Corinth in a heartbeat. All I have to do is...

HERCULES raises his finger to her lips, shushing her. She gives in. XENA raises her eyebrow again, this time wondering just what DIANA meant by "in a heartbeat."

DIANA  
Okay. But, be careful.

HERCULES smiles at her and gives her a wink.

HERCULES

Always.

He kisses her goodbye. After they break the kiss, DIANA looks at IOLAUS.

DIANA

You too.

DIANA looks at XENA, GABRIELLE, and JOXER.

DIANA

All of you.

IOLAUS, XENA, GABRIELLE, and JOXER all look at DIANA.

XENA / GABRIELLE / IOLAUS / JOXER

We will.

They head out. GABRIELLE and IOLAUS are taking point, JOXER follows a little bit back, and HERCULES and XENA pull up the rear.

VILLAGER #1

May the gods be with you.

VILLAGER #2

May the gods safely guide you and bring you back.

DIANA watches them head out.

CONTINUE TO:

25 EN-ROUTE TO ATTICAN HARBOUR

25

GABRIELLE and IOLAUS are still taking point, JOXER is still a little bit behind them, and HERCULES and XENA are still pulling up the rear.

XENA

What did she mean, she could be in Corinth in a heartbeat?

Momentary pause.

HERCULES

She's immortal.

XENA raises an eyebrow.

(CONTINUED)

XENA

You mean she's a goddess?

Momentary pause. HERCULES doesn't answer her.

XENA

How did that happen? When did...

HERCULES stops, and looks at XENA. XENA stops.

HERCULES

Ask Ares.

XENA raises an eyebrow.

XENA

Ares?

HERCULES

But make sure you find the right one or he won't know what you're talking about.

XENA is confused.

XENA

You've lost me? Right one? What are you...

HERCULES

Forget it. I hardly understand it myself.

HERCULES starts walking again. XENA watches him walk off. She tries to figure out what he meant. After a few moments she follows.

CONTINUE TO:

26

TIME FLIES MONTAGE

26

**EN-ROUTE TO ATTICAN HARBOR** - They walk the rest of the way to the harbor in silence.

**ATTICAN HARBOR** - They reach the harbor and take the next boat to Athens.

**BOAT** - This time it is a non-stop, express trip. They get to Athens in 3 days.

**ATHENS** - They disembark and walk off towards Mount Parnassus.

(CONTINUED)

EN-ROUTE TO MOUNT PARNASSUS - They have an uneventful walk from Athens to Mount Parnassus. The walk takes them 3 days.

CONTINUE TO:

27

BASE OF MOUNT PARNASSUS

27

They are stopped. HERCULES points up.

HERCULES

Her cave is about half way up the slope.

HERCULES turns to the group.

HERCULES

Any rescue tactics?

JOXER tries to act like the mighty "have no fear" warrior that he isn't.

JOXER

Sure. Go up there. Walk in. Take the girl. Leave. Simple.

IOLAUS gives him a "no, not that simple" look.

IOLAUS

Are you forgetting Moedyssea?

JOXER

Oh right.

JOXER starts to act all tough again.

JOXER

How I'd love to get my hands around her neck and...

XENA

Joxer. Get serious.

JOXER

Sorry, Xena. Sometimes my fierce power and quest for violence gets the better of me, and I...

Everyone gives him a "shut-up" look. JOXER returns to acting normal.

JOXER

I know. Shut-up, Joxer.

Momentary pause.

(CONTINUED)

GABRIELLE

What about if I go up and talk to her. Reason with her. Ask her to let the girl go.

XENA

There's no reasoning with a Harpy.

HERCULES

Actually, that's not a bad idea.

XENA and IOLAUS give him a "What?" look. GABRIELLE gives him an "It isn't?" look.

HERCULES

I say we let her go for it. What's the worst that could happen?

XENA and IOLAUS are still giving him the "are you crazy?" look.

GABRIELLE

Thank you, Hercules. I shall get right on it.

GABRIELLE turns and starts to walk to the mountain.

HERCULES

Wait.

GABRIELLE stops and turns to him.

HERCULES

Take Joxer with you. Just in case.

JOXER acts all tough, straightens his armor, and heads to GABRIELLE. JOXER and GABRIELLE head to the mountain. Once they are out of earshot, HERCULES looks to XENA and IOLAUS who are still giving him weird looks.

HERCULES

Now, here's the plan. While Moedyssea is listening to Gabrielle...

HERCULES starts to tells them the rest of the plan.

CONTINUE TO:



XENA  
What's he like?

HERCULES  
Clark? ... He's great.

Momentary pause. XENA has a question to ask, but is not quite sure how to bring the subject up.

XENA  
You, um, you mentioned Ares earlier.

HERCULES  
Yes I did.

XENA  
What did you mean?

HERCULES doesn't answer. XENA gets the feeling that there is more going on between Ares and Diana than she knows.

XENA  
What exactly is Diana's relationship with Ares?

HERCULES looks at her.

HERCULES  
Jealous?

XENA  
What?

HERCULES  
Sorry. I didn't mean that.  
(beat)  
I'm not really sure, really.  
(beat)  
There is, was, will be, something.  
Just not sure what.

Momentary pause. XENA looks up at the mountain.

XENA  
I wish they'd hurry up.

As if on cue, GABRIELLE and JOXER approach them from behind. Their sudden approach startles XENA and HERCULES.

JOXER  
Wish who'd hurry up?

(CONTINUED)

GABRIELLE

Well, that was a colossal waste of time. She wouldn't even listen to me. She...

GABRIELLE realizes that IOLAUS is missing.

GABRIELLE

Where's Iolaus?

XENA looks at her.

XENA

Taking Miss Attica home.

JOXER

What? How?

GABRIELLE understands.

GABRIELLE

We were just a diversion, right?

Momentary pause. XENA looks at HERCULES. GABRIELLE gives them both a "well?" look.

GABRIELLE

Right?

XENA

Right.

GABRIELLE

I thought so.

GABRIELLE looks at XENA.

GABRIELLE

When will you...

HERCULES interrupts what he believes will be one of GABRIELLE's "I'm not a child, Xena" speeches.

HERCULES

Can we discuss this as we get out of here?

He indicates that they should start moving.

HERCULES

Once Moedyssea discovers that...

His sentence is cut off by a screeching cry.

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES  
Too late. Run.

They run off.

JUMP TO:

**CORINTHIAN FESTIVAL - DAY 1**

30 EXT: PALACE GARDEN (AFTERNOON)

30

IPHICLES, RENA, DIANA, JASON, and ALCMENE, are sitting in the garden. ALCMENE addresses DIANA.

ALCMENE  
Did Hercules say how long he'd be?

DIANA  
No.  
(beat)  
But he said he would be here. And if I know one thing, it's that, when he puts his mind to it, he can do anything.

DIANA looks at IPHICLES.

DIANA  
He will be here. Maybe not today, or tomorrow, but he'll be here before the festival is over.

IPHICLES  
That's my brother. Always thinking about everyone else. Can't he just once say NO!

ALCMENE looks at IPHICLES.

ALCMENE  
Iphicles! That's...

IPHICLES  
Mother, Xena and Iolaus could have handled the situation themselves. He didn't have to go. He just always has to be the hero.

JASON  
Enough. Stop. The guests will be arriving shortly. I suggest we all get ready.

(CONTINUED)

JASON rises, looks to ALCMENE and offers her his hand. She takes it. She rises and they head out. DIANA looks to IPHICLES.

DIANA

He will be here. I promise.

DIANA raises and start to walk off.

PAN TO:

31 FOLLOW DIANA

31

DIANA mutters the following line under her breath, as she is walking off.

DIANA

(mutter)

So help him if I have to go and get him.

PAN TO:

32 IPHICLES AND RENA

32

IPHICLES sorta heard what DIANA said, but isn't quite sure he heard it right, because it made no sense. He raises an eyebrow wondering what she could have meant. RENA places her hand on his leg.

RENA

I'm sure she's right. Hercules will be here.

IPHICLES

Maybe. But I'm not holding my breath.

RENA

Jason is right though, we really should...

IPHICLES

Of course. Let's go.

IPHICLES rises, and takes RENA's hand. She rises and they exit they garden.

CUT TO:

33 HALLWAY 33

DIANA is heading to her room.

CONTINUE TO:

34 OUTSIDE DIANA'S ROOM 34

DIANA reaches her room. She opens the door, and enters it.

CONTINUE TO:

35 INSIDE DIANA'S ROOM 35

DIANA closes the door, and heads to the mirror. She uses her powers to help her get ready.

DIANA

Okay. Now, what to wear?

CONTINUE TO:

36 TIME FLIES MONTAGE 36

She tries on a stack of dresses till she finds the right one. Then she tries various hairstyles. It takes a while, but she finally settles on an "up-sweep". All her hair is up. After her dress and hair are done, she uses her powers to select a necklace, earrings, bracelet, and a nice necklace-like chain that she wears around her forehead. Its pendant sits on the spot on her forehead above the center of her eyes. Next she selects her make-up. Once done she smiles at herself in the mirror.

CONTINUE TO:

37 TIME RESUMES 37

DIANA is admiring herself. There is a knock on the door.

DIANA

Come in.

The door opens and a young servant girl enters and looks at her.

GIRL

You look very beautiful, my lady.

DIANA

Thank you.

(CONTINUED)



DIANA

Captain.

The Captain walks off, leaving the garden and returning to his post. DIANA walks to IPHICLES' side. RENA admires the dress.

RENA

That is a stunning dress, Diana.  
Where did you get it?

DIANA tries to think of an answer.

DIANA

Uh...

RENA

Wait, don't tell me. Let me guess.  
Um... Athens, right?

DIANA

No.

RENA

Sparta?

DIANA nods no.

RENA

Crete?

DIANA nods no.

RENA

Marathon?

DIANA nods no. RENA tries to think of another city where DIANA could have gotten such a beautiful dress. DIANA decides to just tell her she made it. After all, she did.

DIANA

I, um, made it myself.

RENA is surprised.

RENA

Really? You made it?

DIANA

Yes.

RENA  
Maybe you could make me one?

DIANA  
Sure. Just tell me what you want  
and...

IPHICLES has had enough. He looks at them.

IPHICLES  
Ladies, please. Enough talk about  
dresses.

He offers RENA his arm.

IPHICLES  
Come, my dear, we have guests to  
greet.

RENA says her line as she takes his arm.

RENA  
Of course.

RENA looks at DIANA.

RENA  
We'll talk later.

DIANA  
Okay.

IPHICLES and RENA walk off.

CONTINUE TO:

42

TIME FLIES MONTAGE

42

IPHICLES and RENA greet their guests as they arrive. DIANA mingles, meeting some of the guests. Servants are walking around with appetizers and drinks. After about two hours, dinner is ready. All the guests depart the garden and head to the hall where they are seated at their respective tables. DIANA is seated at the king's table at the front of the front of the room. There are 8 seats at the table, all on the same side, facing everyone else.

The seating plan is: (1) A guard, (2) JASON, (3) ALCMENE, (4) IPHICLES, (5) RENA, (6) DIANA, (7) Vacant (would have been Hercules') (8) The Captain of the Guard.

As everyone is eating, there are musicians playing in the background. At some point, the Captain and other guard, leave the table.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUE TO:

43 GREAT HALL 43

Everyone is finished eating. IPHICLES rises and addresses his guests.

IPHICLES

I invite you all to join us back in the garden while the room is cleared to make way for a splendid evening of dancing.

The doors open, the guests rise and proceed to the door, where servants await to lead the guests to the garden. IPHICLES, RENA, JASON, ALCMENE, and DIANA, also head out.

CONTINUE TO:

44 TIME FLIES MONTAGE 44

Everyone heads to the garden. As the sun has set, the garden is lit with torches. There are a few servants with trays of drinks and tiny deserts. After about two hours, a servant arrives and heads to IPHICLES. The servant informs him that the hall is ready, and leaves. IPHICLES informs his guests and all return to the hall. The hall has been transformed. The tables are either gone or off to the side. All the guests start dancing. DIANA stands off to the side watching. After a few hours, time resumes.

CONTINUE TO:

45 GREAT HALL 45

The main doors open. All eyes turn to the door. The music stops. A tall, handsome, well-dressed stranger is standing in the doorway. He looks around, as if looking for someone. He spots DIANA. Their eyes lock. He walks over. All eyes are on him, for no one knows who he is. Some of the guests start whispering amongst themselves. IPHICLES signals the band to continue playing. The stranger reaches DIANA. He picks up her hand, brings it to his lips, and kisses it. DIANA is speechless. The stranger looks her in the eye.

MAN

You have to be the most beautiful woman in the room, nay, in all the land.

(beat)(smile)

I have never seen beauty like yours before.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

Thank you.

MAN

May I have the honor of this dance?

DIANA

I...

She is about to say no, but changes her mind. There is something about him that is drawing her to him. Something she isn't aware of - yet.

DIANA

I'd like that.

He leads her to the dance floor.

CONTINUE TO:

46

TIME FLIES MONTAGE

46

DIANA is finding herself strangely attracted to, and intrigued with, this handsome stranger. The band plays on, and on. All eyes are on DIANA and the mysterious stranger. The stranger is an excellent dancer, and before long, they are the center of attention. The party goes all night. Guests start leaving one by one. DIANA has tuned out everything. Everything that is except for this man she is with. Before long they are the only two left in the room.

CONTINUE TO:

47

TIME RESUMES

47

One of the band members approaches them.

BAND-GUY

Excuse me.

DIANA looks at him.

BAND-GUY

We'd like to let you know, that the next piece will be the last piece for tonight. Or should I say this morning.

DIANA

Thank you.

(CONTINUED)

The guy returns to the band, and the band plays the last song. The stranger looks into her eyes and offers his hand. She smiles and takes it. They dance. The song ends and the band leaves.

DIANA

Thank you for a wonderful night.

MAN

You are most welcome.

DIANA

I can't remember when I've had such a wonderful time.

The man smiles and looks her in the eye.

MAN

I'm glad you enjoyed yourself.

DIANA finds herself staring back into his eyes.

DIANA

Well I guess it's time to turn in.

The man is confused. He does not recognize the phrase. Turn in? Turn into what?

MAN

Excuse me?

DIANA

Sleep.

MAN

Oh.

(beat)

May I, and I hope you don't find this too forward of me but, may I walk you to your room?

DIANA flashes him a smile.

DIANA

Sure.

They leave the room.

CONTINUE TO:

48 HALLWAY 48

They head to her room. Neither of them notices that the Captain of the Guard is tailing them.

CONTINUE TO:

49 OUTSIDE DIANA'S ROOM 49

They reach her room and stop outside the door.

DIANA

I really had a great time tonight.  
Thank you.

Momentary pause. They stare at each other. He slowly raises his hand to her chin.

MAN

You're welcome.

Their eyes lock. He leans in and kisses her. She returns the kiss. It is a quick kiss.

PAN TO:

50 HALLWAY 50

CAMERA pans to show the captain lurking in the hallway, observing.

PAN TO:

51 OUTSIDE DIANA'S ROOM 51

CAMERA pans back to DIANA and the stranger. After a few seconds they break the kiss. He looks at her.

MAN

Good night, Diana.

DIANA

Good night.

He turns and continues down the hall away from her room. DIANA opens her door and enters.

PAN TO:

52 HALLWAY 52

DIANA's door closes. The captain follows the stranger who is smiling to himself as he reaches his room.

CONTINUE TO:

53 INSIDE STRANGERS' ROOM 53

The mystery man enters his room. As soon as the door closes, he goes over to the bed, and lays down on it. He laughs. As he is laughing, he removes a ring from his finger, causing him to transform into his true self. It's ARES. The ring is silver and black, and has a ruby-red stone in the center. He places the ring on the bedside table.

ARES

Well, Diana. I guess there is still hope for me after all.

Momentary pause. ARES looks at the ring.

ARES

All I have to do, is get rid of my dear sweet meddling brother.

(beat)

And of course my double. The one who brought you here, the one who probably knows you more intimately than I. But that will change.

ARES smiles and looks back at the ceiling.

ARES

If all goes well, Moedyssea should keep my heroic little brother away from this celebration completely. And by then, you'll be mine. You will finally be mine.

ARES starts to laugh again.

JUMP TO:

54 INSIDE DIANA'S ROOM 54

DIANA is getting ready for bed. She is brushing her hair and sitting in front of a mirror. She can't shake the feeling she should know the stranger.

DIANA

There's something about him.

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DIANA (cont'd)  
 Something, I don't know, familiar  
 somehow. But, that can't be. Until  
 tonight I'd never seen him.  
 (beat)  
 I didn't even catch his name.  
 (beat)  
 But, the way he kissed me, he  
 reminded me of someone.  
 (beat)  
 If only he'd kissed me longer. I  
 might have been able to place him.

DIANA puts down the brush, and looks in the mirror.

JUMP TO:

**CORINTHIAN FESTIVAL - DAY 2**

55

INSIDE ARES' ROOM (MORNING)

55

ARES is preparing himself. He is looking into a mirror. He has the ring in his hand. He places it on his finger, and is transformed into the mystery man from last night.

ARES  
 Got to hand it to you, cous. This  
 is working better than I ever  
 imagined.  
 (beat)  
 She didn't see though it. I wonder  
 if...

VOICE  
 Remember, cousin. This will only  
 work on her as long as you are in  
 control of your emotions. If you  
 lose control, or get distracted,  
 even for a second, the ring will  
 lose its power and she will see you  
 for who you are.

ARES  
 Thanks for the reminder, cousin.

ARES looks back at the ring, thinking about DIANA.

CONTINUE TO:

ARES is walking down the hall, and sees DIANA enter the garden. He follows. The Captain of the Guard spots him and approaches him.

CAPTAIN  
Excuse me, sir?

ARES stops, turns, and faces the Captain.

ARES  
Yes, Captain. What can I do for you?

CAPTAIN  
You seem like a smart guy, sir, so I just thought I should warn you.

ARES raises his eyebrow in curiosity.

ARES  
Warn me? Of what?

CAPTAIN  
That woman you were with last night?

ARES can tell the captain looks concerned. He thinks he knows what the Captain is going to say, and decides to play along.

ARES  
Diana?

CAPTAIN  
Yes.

ARES  
She is a beautiful woman, isn't she?

CAPTAIN  
Yes.

ARES  
Her eyes are like two sapphires burning in the sky. Her...

CAPTAIN  
Sir, I just thought I'd tell you that, she is spoken for.

ARES pretends that this is news to him.

(CONTINUED)

ARES  
She is? By whom?  
(beat)  
I saw no man with her last night?  
Where...

CAPTAIN  
She belongs to the King's brother.  
Hercules.

Again ARES pretends this is news to him.

ARES  
Hercules, eh?

CAPTAIN  
Yes. So, if I were you, I'd forget  
about her.  
(beat)  
There are other eligible women here  
that you might want to consider.  
Because if Hercules finds you  
with...  
(beat)  
Well, let's just say... I wouldn't  
want to make the man angry.

ARES  
Thanks for the warning, but don't  
worry. I can handle Hercules.

The Captain looks stunned.

CAPTAIN  
I don't want to seem like I'm  
underestimating you, sir, but... we  
are talking about Hercules. Son of  
Zeus. Strongest of all men. He  
can...

ARES looks at the Captain. He tries to contain his emotions.

ARES  
I'm well aware of who he is, and of  
all the stories about him.  
(beat)  
But he is after all, just a man, a  
mere mortal, in spite of who his  
father is. He is not invincible.  
(beat)  
There are ways to bring him down.  
And, if bringing him down means  
that the beautiful Diana will me  
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ARES (cont'd)  
mine... Then bring him down I will.  
For he won't know what hit him.

CAPTAIN  
Sir, I beg you. Please, don't let  
him find you with her.  
(beat)  
Many men have tried to defeat  
Hercules, and many men have died.  
I'd hate to see you be one of them,  
sir.

ARES  
I appreciate your concern, Captain,  
but trust me, I can handle  
Hercules.

The Captain can't understand why this man isn't grasping the seriousness of this. Does he really think he stands a chance against Hercules?

CAPTAIN  
Sir, I...

ARES has had enough. He gives the Captain an icy stare. A stare that could freeze one's blood. The Captain is literally frozen.

ARES  
Listen to me, and listen good.

ARES advances on the Captain. The Captain tries to back up, but finds he can't move. It's as if there is some invisible force holding him still (Note: On the word "mortal", ARES' disguise flickers for just moment. The Captain notices, but can't really react because he is frozen.)

ARES  
When I see something I want, I take  
it.  
(beat)  
No one, and I mean no one,  
especially a mortal, better stand  
in my way.  
(beat)  
Diana will be mine. I've waited too  
long for this. I'm finally in a  
position to show her that she  
belongs with me. And I will show  
her. No one, not even Hercules, can  
stop me.

(CONTINUED)

With that said, ARES walks off to the garden. The Captain finds that he can move, and takes a deep breath. He watches as ARES walks off down the hall. The Captain noticed the flicker in the disguise, and is now wondering, if it was real, or just his imagination.

CAPTAIN

Did I really see him change?

(beat)

I could have sworn, that for just a second, he changed. But only gods have the ability to change their appearance like that. Only a god can...

The Captain pauses as he starts to get this eerie feeling that he was in the presence of a god. But which god?

CAPTAIN

If that man is a god, then I wonder which...

The Captain stops again as he realizes there is only one god that makes sense. He looks down the hall again, and sees the man enter the garden.

CAPTAIN

Ares.

(beat)

By the gods above, I was talking to Ares. Warning Ares, I...

(beat)

I have to tell the King that Ares is here. That Diana...

(beat)

That... Stop it. Get a grip. Just go tell the king.

The Captain walks, well runs actually, off to find Iphicles.

JUMP TO:

57

THE GARDEN

57

DIANA is sitting on the edge of the pond. She is running her fingers through the water, daydreaming. ARES spots her. He pauses for a moment, composes himself, gets grip on his emotions, and then approaches her.

ARES

May I join you.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

Sure.

ARES sits beside her, and says the following line, as if he didn't already know the answer.

ARES

What are you thinking about?

DIANA

Nothing. Everything.

ARES

Um, about last night...

(beat)

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to kiss you, it's just that... when I see something so beautiful, I want to...

DIANA

It's okay. I...

DIANA laughs. ARES gives her a look.

ARES

What?

DIANA

This might sound silly, but... in all the excitement last night, I never caught your name.

ARES looks at her with a raised eyebrow.

ARES

My name?

DIANA

Yes. Your name.

(beat)

Surely you have one.

He flashes her a smile.

ARES

Of course I have one.

Momentary pause.

DIANA

Well, what is it?

(CONTINUED)

Momentary pause. ARES looks at the ring. DIANA looks at his hand, and notices the ring he is playing with. There is something familiar about the ring, but she can't place it. ARES thinks for a moment longer, and then looks at her.

ARES

Sera.

DIANA looks at him with a raised eyebrow.

DIANA

Sera?

ARES

Yes.

DIANA

That's an unusual name. Where are you from?

ARES

Olymp...ia.

He almost said "Olympus", but stopped himself.

DIANA

Olympia? That's pretty far?

ARES

Yes. And you? Where are you from?

DIANA

Just outside of Thebes.

ARES

Really?

DIANA

Yes.

ARES pretends he doesn't know who she is yet.

ARES

I hear the King's brother lives just outside of Thebes. Do you know him?

DIANA

Hercules?

ARES nods.

DIANA  
We've... met.

ARES laughs. DIANA looks at him.

DIANA  
What?

ARES  
I ran into the Captain in the hall,  
and he told me that you were Herc's  
woman.

DIANA  
The Captain said that?

ARES  
Yes. He said you belonged to  
Hercules, and if I knew what was  
good for me, I'd stay away from  
you.

DIANA  
Belonged to Hercules?!? I don't  
belong to any man. Do you see a  
ring on this finger?

DIANA holds up her ring finger. He looks at it.

DIANA  
Well, do you?

ARES  
No.

DIANA  
I'm my own woman. Just because I  
live with Hercules, doesn't mean...

ARES starts laughing again.

DIANA  
Are you laughing at me? Do you  
think this is funny?

ARES  
No. Just the opposite. I like you.  
You've got a lot of... what's that  
word my nephew uses...

Momentary pause. ARES thinks of the word.

ARES

...Spunk?

DIANA

That would be the word.

Momentary pause. ARES looks at her.

ARES

Would you like to join me in a walk  
around this beautiful garden?

DIANA

Sure.

ARES rises and offers her his hand. She takes it and rises  
off the cement ledge of the pond. They walk off.

JUMP TO:

58

THE KING'S ROOM

58

IPHICLES is sitting, listening to his Captain.

IPHICLES

Are you sure it was Ares?

CAPTAIN

Yes, my lord, I...

IPHICLES

What makes you think that the  
stranger from last night is Ares?

CAPTAIN

I saw him, just a while ago. You  
should have heard him talk, my  
lord. He said he could take  
Hercules.

IPHICLES

You think, that just because he  
doesn't cower at the mention of my  
brother's name, that he is Ares?  
That's all you're basing this on?

CAPTAIN

I've seen warlords cower at the  
mention of the name Hercules, my  
lord. But this guy he didn't even  
bat an eye.

(CONTINUED)

IPHICLES  
That still doesn't mean...

CAPTAIN  
He also said that he always gets  
what he wants, and no mortal would  
stand in his way.

IPHICLES  
So?

CAPTAIN  
And, I could have sworn that, for a  
second, his appearance changed,  
shifted.

IPHICLES  
Shifted?

CAPTAIN  
Yes. It was only for a second,  
but... Only gods can do that, my  
lord. Only gods can appear as  
someone they are not. And I hear  
Ares does it a lot.

IPHICLES  
But why? Why would Ares be here?  
What could he want?

CAPTAIN  
I think I know.

IPHICLES looks at the Captain.

CAPTAIN  
When I told him that she belonged  
to Hercules, he didn't care.

IPHICLES  
She?

CAPTAIN  
Diana, my lord.

IPHICLES  
Diana?

CAPTAIN  
He was following her when I found  
him this morning.

(CONTINUED)

IPHICLES

What would he want with...

CAPTAIN

From the way he was looking at her last night, and from what he said this morning, I think it is obvious, my lord.

IPHICLES

Maybe.

CAPTAIN

This man has no fear, my lord. He just doesn't care.

IPHICLES

Just because he has no fear, doesn't mean he's Ares.

CAPTAIN

What about the fact that he said no mortal would... I mean...

(beat)

...wouldn't that imply he was Immortal? Maybe even a god?

(beat)

You should have seen him, my lord. I'm telling you, there is only one person he could be, and that's Ares. He has to be. No one else has the presence that he has. No one.

IPHICLES

How do you know that? Have you ever met Ares before?

CAPTAIN

Well, no, but...

IPHICLES

So you are just guessing? It's just a feeling, a suspicion, you have no proof.

CAPTAIN

My lord, I...

IPHICLES

Until we know for sure, just... just keep an eye on him, okay?

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN  
Yes, my lord.

The captain leaves. IPHICLES raises a hand to his chin and thinks.

IPHICLES  
Ares, eh? I wonder what the great  
God of War's interest in Diana is?  
(beat)  
What is it about her that would  
appeal to him?

IPHICLES thinks, ponders on that thought.

JUMP TO:

59 GREAT HALL - AFTER DINNER (LATE EVENING) 59

All are dancing. IPHICLES and RENA are at the front of the room. IPHICLES is watching DIANA dancing with "ARES". Everyone is having a great time. A slow song comes on, and DIANA and ARES dance real close.

PAN TO:

60 FOCUS ON DIANA AND ARES 60

ARES looks into her eyes, and kisses her. This time it is a long lingering kiss. A kiss she recognizes. She breaks the kiss and slaps him. The shock of her sudden change of emotion catches him completely off guard. He wasn't expecting the slap. His momentary distraction is all that is needed to break the spell. The ring, and the disguise, vanish. He is revealed for who he is.

PAN TO:

61 FOCUS ON GUESTS 61

Everyone sees him as ARES. There are gasps from some of the guests as they realize that the God of War is in their midst.

PAN TO:

62 FOCUS ON IPHICLES 62

IPHICLES rises, ready to jump in if necessary.

PAN TO:

ARES tries to compose himself.

DIANA

Ares! I should have known.

ARES

Ah, sweet Diana. But which Ares am I?

DIANA

I... I...

Momentary pause. DIANA thinks.

DIANA

Sera? That's Ares backwards. And Olympia, instead of Olympus.

ARES

Clever, wasn't it? So... Which Ares am I?

DIANA grabs him and kisses him, really kisses him. IPHICLES sits back down, confused. ARES is momentarily stunned, but that moment is all DIANA needs to tell which ARES he is. She breaks the kiss.

DIANA

The present one.

ARES looks at her wondering how she guessed that.

ARES

You could tell that, from a kiss?

DIANA

I'm right, aren't I?

ARES

Yes, but...

DIANA

You'd be surprised what you can learn from a kiss.

(beat)

For starters, my Ares would have handled that kiss differently.

ARES looks at her with a raised eyebrow.

(CONTINUED)

ARES

Your Ares?

DIANA nods.

ARES

How? How differently?

DIANA

Never mind. I can't believe you  
fooled me! I...

Momentary pause. DIANA realizes that as goddess she should  
have been able to see ARES as ARES.

DIANA

Wait. You shouldn't have been able  
to fool me. We are equals now. Your  
disguise should have fooled  
everyone but me. I should have been  
able to see you as who you are!  
I...

ARES

Normally, yes. But I didn't just  
disguise myself. I knew you'd be  
able to see through that.

ARES circles her.

ARES

So, I had to create an illusionary  
spell that you couldn't see though.  
It took a while, but with a little  
help from...

DIANA remembers the ring.

DIANA

The ring.

ARES

Yes.

DIANA

The stone, it is a bloodstone.  
Isn't it?

ARES is surprised she guessed that.

ARES

Correct. I'm surprised you guessed  
that.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

I've been around longer than you,  
remember. I know things that  
haven't happened yet.

ARES

Ah, yes. I do sometimes forget  
that.

DIANA looks at him.

DIANA

How did you get my blood? You would  
have needed it in order to...

ARES

It didn't have to have blood,  
Diana. Any DNA sample would have  
sufficed.

Momentary pause. DIANA thinks of something.

DIANA

Wait, you would have needed a  
sample of my mortal DNA. That means  
you must have gotten the sample  
before I left and kept it. When...

ARES

Don't you remember? I'm hurt. I  
thought it meant something to you.  
I know it meant a lot to me. I kept  
that night alive for a long time. I  
still have the dress you were  
wearing.

DIANA

The dress? You got the sample, from  
the dress?

ARES nods.

ARES

When you were sent back I...

DIANA

I suggest you leave before Hercules  
gets here.

DIANA turns to head off. ARES grabs her arm.

ARES  
Diana, wait?!?

ARES turns her to him, and places his hands on her shoulders.

ARES  
I'm sorry. I never meant to deceive you. I just thought that, if you could get to know me, the real me that, you might...

DIANA  
What? Fall into your arms? Tell you I love you, that I want you? Ask you to take me, make love to me?

ARES  
Well... Okay. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm...

DIANA  
Don't be sorry, Ares. I do understand. I really do.

ARES is confused.

ARES  
You do?

DIANA  
Yes I do.

ARES looks at her.

ARES  
Then let me stay, please.

Momentary pause.

ARES  
At least until Hercules gets here.

DIANA  
Well...

ARES  
I promise. As soon as he gets here, I'll vanish.

DIANA gives ARES a look.

DIANA  
Promise?

ARES  
Promise.

Momentary pause. ARES flashes her a smile.

ARES  
Would I lie to you?

DIANA  
No. You wouldn't. You never have.  
(beat)  
Okay. You win. You can stay.

ARES  
Thanks.

DIANA  
But only until Herc gets here.

ARES  
Of course.

Momentary pause. DIANA flashes him a smile.

DIANA  
Well, while you're here, you can at  
least make yourself useful.

ARES looks at her with raised eyebrows.

DIANA  
Come on, dance with me.

She offers her hand. He takes it. They head to the dance  
area. They resume dancing.

PAN TO:

64 IPHICLES AND RENA

64

CAMERA pans around the room and stops on IPHICLES and RENA.  
IPHICLES was watching the whole show. RENA just now notices  
that ARES is dancing with DIANA. IPHICLES is totally  
confused. He doesn't know what to make of ARES and DIANA.

RENA  
Who invited Ares?

(CONTINUED)

IPHICLES  
Apparently Diana did.

RENA  
Diana? Why would she invite Ares?  
Of all the...

IPHICLES  
Who knows? Maybe she's finally  
seeing the light and leaving my  
brother.

RENA looks at IPHICLES. IPHICLES talks to RENA but never  
takes his eyes off of ARES and DIANA.

RENA  
For the God of War? Iph, you can't  
be serious! Herc would...

IPHICLES  
Imagine what it must be like for  
her to be with my brother.  
(beat)  
He's barely at home. He's gone for  
days at a time, sometimes weeks.  
Always looking for...

RENA  
True, but Ares is just as bad.

IPHICLES  
What?

RENA  
He may be a god, but he would be  
the same. Always off somewhere.

IPHICLES  
But as a god he can be in two  
places at the same time.  
(beat)  
When Herc is off somewhere, he is  
gone, she can't see him till he  
comes back. She never knows if he  
is going to come back. But with  
Ares, he can be with her and off  
supervising a war at the same time.  
She'd never have to worry if he was  
coming back. He is a god. He can't  
die.

(CONTINUED)

RENA

True. But still...

IPHICLES

Look at the bright side my dear. The great God of War, is here, at our party. And, he is apparently enjoying himself. We should take this opportunity to get to know him. It might prove beneficial in the future. This can only bring good news for us.

RENA

Not if Hercules arrives and finds them together.

IPHICLES

Relax. It would appear that Diana has Ares wrapped around her finger. And, if I know her, she will have him out of here before my brother gets here. If he ever gets here.

RENA

I hope so. I'd hate to see what will happen if...

IPHICLES

Trust me. It won't happen.

IPHICLES looks at DIANA and ARES and says the next line in his head.

IPHICLES (VO)

Unless I make it happen. I wonder...

PAN TO:

65

AROUND THE ROOM

65

CAMERA pans back around the room.

CONTINUE TO:

66

TIME FLIES MONTAGE

66

Everyone is still dancing. After a few moments of scanning the room, the CAMERA tilts up, higher and higher, soon we can only see the ceiling of the room.

**CEILING** - The camera continues its journey up, and goes through the ceiling.

(CONTINUED)

SKY - the camera focuses on the sky as it changes from night to dawn to midday. At midday, the camera pans down.

OPEN AREA - the camera continues down, lower and lower. We are no longer at the palace. We are out in the open somewhere. There are trees all around. A path stretches out in front. Immediately behind the camera, the path forks. One route continues on straight to Sparta, and the branch that heads off to the northeast leads to Corinth. The journey to Corinth, along the path, takes anywhere from 1-2 days depending on who is traveling it. The camera focuses on the path in front of it. A horse drawn chariot can be seen coming into view.

CONTINUE TO:

67 OPEN AREA - PATH

67

There are two people on the chariot. The driver, PATROCLUS, and the passenger, HERCULES. The chariot stops at the fork, and HERCULES gets off.

HERCULES

Thanks for the ride, Patroclus.

PATROCLUS looks at HERCULES.

PATROCLUS

No problem. Always glad to help the son of Zeus.

HERCULES looks at PATROCLUS.

HERCULES

Good luck at the Spartan Races.

PATROCLUS

(smile)

Thank you, Hercules.

HERCULES

Bye.

PATROCLUS continues along the path to Sparta. HERCULES heads to the fork and looks down the path to Corinth.

HERCULES

Well, if all goes will, I should be in Corinth by this time tomorrow.

HERCULES heads down the path to Corinth.

JUMP TO:

The room has been converted into a dining hall. Everyone is eating. ARES is sitting beside DIANA, in Hercules' spot, at IPHICLES' table. Everyone else at the table is in the same spots as before. IPHICLES addresses ARES.

IPHICLES

You honor us with your presence.

(beat)

I am sorry we did not welcome you upon your arrival, but we had no idea who your were.

ARES

As it was meant to be.

IPHICLES

Of course.

(beat)

There are not many who can say that they have dined with the great God of War.

ARES

And lived to tell about it.

DIANA gives him a look. IPHICLES, RENA, and the CAPTAIN, look defensive. ARES laughs.

ARES

Humor. One of the only qualities of mortality that varies in everyone.

DIANA decides to laugh. ARES laughs. Everyone laughs.

IPHICLES

So, will you be staying for the main feast tomorrow night?

ARES

Only if our brother doesn't arrive.

IPHICLES

What do you mean?

ARES looks from DIANA to IPHICLES to DIANA to IPHICLES.

ARES

I promised Diana, that once he arrived, I'd leave.

(CONTINUED)

IPHICLES

Nonsense.  
(beat)  
I'm inviting you.

RENA, DIANA, and the Captain all look to IPHICLES with a "you can't be serious" look.

IPHICLES

You'll stay.

IPHICLES realizes that sounded like an order, and quickly adds to his statement.

IPHICLES

That is, if you want to.

ARES

I'd love to. There is no place I would rather be.

IPHICLES

Then it's settled.  
(beat)  
You will join us.

ARES looks at DIANA, shrugs his shoulders in a "sorry" gesture, and smiles at her. DIANA gives him a fake smile. EVERYONE at the table resumes eating. IPHICLES ponders something ARES said.

IPHICLES (VO)

Our brother.  
(beat)  
Ares referred to Herc as our brother.  
(beat)  
I'd never thought of that before.

ARES looks at IPHICLES, and rises his glass in a "cheers" gesture. IPHICLES returns the gesture. ARES can tell what IPHICLES is thinking.

IPHICLES (VO)

I can't wait to see the look on his face when he gets here and finds his precious Diana in the arms of the one guy who ticks him off the most.  
(beat)  
This will be a great moment. A great moment.

ARES smiles and thinks to himself.

(CONTINUED)

ARES (VO)  
I might just have more in common  
with Iph, then I thought.

IPHICLES looks at ARES. ARES smiles. IPHICLES smiles. DIANA wonders what she is going to do. She can not let Hercules find Ares here. Everyone returns to eating.

JUMP TO:

**CORINTHIAN FESTIVAL - DAY 4**

69 PALACE GATES - GUARD TOWER 69

The guard in the tower, sees HERCULES approaching. He yells to one of the sentries below.

GUARD  
Hercules is coming! Go tell the  
captain.

SENTRY  
Yes sir.

The sentry runs to the palace door. The guard looks back at HERCULES and mutters to himself.

GUARD  
I hope there won't be any trouble.

PAN TO:

70 FOLLOW SENTRY 70

CAMERA pans and follows the sentry into the palace.

CONTINUE TO:

71 PALACE - HALLWAY 71

The sentry is searching for the Captain. He finds him.

SENTRY  
Sir, Hercules approaches the...

CAPTAIN  
Thank you. Return to your post.

SENTRY  
Yes sir.

The sentry runs off, back the way he came.

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN

Damn!

The Captain walks off to find DIANA.

CAPTAIN

Oh boy! All Tartarus is about to break lose. If Diana knows what's good for her, she'll convince Ares to get out of here.

The captain passes the garden and spots DIANA. He takes a deep breath, and enters the garden.

CONTINUE TO:

72

GARDEN

72

The captain walks over to DIANA. DIANA is sitting by the pond, staring into the water. DIANA talks to the Captain without looking at him.

CAPTAIN

Excuse me, my lady.

DIANA

Yes.

CAPTAIN

I've just received word that Hercules is approaching. You might want to...

DIANA

Thank you, Captain.

CAPTAIN

Diana?

DIANA

I heard you.

CAPTAIN

Then, pardon me for asking, but... why are you...

DIANA

Thank you, Captain. You may leave.

CAPTAIN

But, my lady, if Ares is still here when Hercules arrives, there will be...

(CONTINUED)

DIANA looks at him.

DIANA  
I said you can leave. Leave Ares to  
me.

The captain looks at her questioningly.

DIANA  
I can handle Ares.

CAPTAIN  
Yes, my lady.

The Captain bows to her and heads out. DIANA vanishes.

CONTINUE TO:

73 FOCUS ON THE CAPTAIN

73

On his way out, he mutters to himself.

CAPTAIN  
She had better be able to handle  
Ares. I'd hate to be her if...

He turns back around and notices she is gone.

CAPTAIN  
What the... Where'd she go?

He looks around, confused.

CAPTAIN  
Diana?

He heads into the garden looking for her.

CAPTAIN  
Diana? Are you still here?

Momentary pause.

CAPTAIN  
Where did she go? It's like she  
just vanished.

The captain starts to look around.

JUMP TO:

74

OTHER SIDE OF THE PALACE

74

ARES is watching the guards training. He is sitting on a ledge, looking down. DIANA materializes beside him. Both are visible only to each other. No mortal eyes can see them.

DIANA  
Enjoying the view.

He turns to her and smiles.

ARES  
More, now that you're here.

DIANA  
Hercules is approaching.

ARES  
I know.

ARES points to his left and we see a man walking towards the palace.

DIANA  
Then why are you still here?

ARES  
I was invited, remember.

Momentary pause.

DIANA  
You claim you love me.

ARES looks at her.

ARES  
I do love you.

DIANA  
Then do this for me, please.

ARES  
Diana, what would Iphicles think if...

DIANA  
He'd understand. I'd make him understand. I can do that you know.

ARES  
True.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

You could always come back after we  
leave and...

ARES

Diana, I...

She places her hand on his leg, and looks him in the eye. He looks at her hand, and then back at her.

DIANA

Please. I don't want there to be  
any trouble. I don't want to see  
either of you...

He takes her hand in his, and brings it to his lips. He kisses it. She gasps as his lips touch her hands. He senses her feelings. He looks at her. Their eyes meet. He lets go of her hand, and brings his hand to her chin. He cups her chin in his hand.

ARES

Okay. For you.

She smiles. He smiles back. Their eyes are still locked. He gently strokes the side of her face with his hand. She relaxes into his hand. He leans in toward her. She leans in toward him. Their lips meet. They share a soft, gentle, deep, breathtakingly, passionate kiss. After a few moments, he breaks the kiss. He looks at her and smiles.

ARES

Later, Diana.

She's still trying to get her breath back. She smiles at him as he disappears.

DIANA

Yeah, later.

DIANA looks over to where HERCULES can be seen approaching. She smiles and vanishes.

JUMP TO:

75

PATH TO PALACE

75

DIANA appears behind a tree. She comes out from behind the tree and goes to HERCULES.

DIANA

I see you made it.

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES jumps at the sudden sound of DIANA's voice. He stops and turns. She goes to him. He smiles at her.

HERCULES  
I said I would.

DIANA  
Better late than never, I suppose.

DIANA smiles and kisses him. After a few moments they break the kiss and start walking towards the palace.

HERCULES  
So, have I missed anything?

DIANA  
Not really.

HERCULES gives her a look.

HERCULES  
What do you mean, not really?

DIANA  
Nothing you need to worry about.

HERCULES  
Diana... I can tell from the way you say that, that something happened.

DIANA  
Nothing out of the ordinary. Just the usual.

HERCULES  
Just the usual.

DIANA  
Yeah. You know. People arrived, we ate, we danced, Ares crashed the party, we ate some more, we...

HERCULES  
Whoa. Back up.

HERCULES stops walking.

HERCULES  
Did you say Ares?

DIANA

Yes. But he's gone now, so...

HERCULES

What did Ares want? Why would he...

DIANA

Herc, I...

HERCULES

He came to see you, didn't he?

DIANA

You're probably gonna hear all about it when we...

HERCULES

So you came to give me "your" version, right?

DIANA

There is no *my* version, there is only...

HERCULES

Wait. Which Ares was it? Not that it matters really I suppose, but...

DIANA

The present one.

HERCULES

So what did he want?

(beat)

Diana?

Momentary pause.

DIANA

I don't really know. Ares was just being... well, Ares.

HERCULES

What's that supposed to mean?

(beat)

Diana?

DIANA

Nothing. Forget it.

HERCULES

Okay. Start at the beginning.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA  
The beginning?

HERCULES  
Yes. I want to know everything that  
has happened since you got here.

DIANA is beginning to wish she hadn't mentioned anything at all. She wishes she had've stuck to her original idea and just made everyone forget that ARES was there. She thought that this would be easier, but now she's not sure. HERCULES is waiting for her to start talking. DIANA looks at him.

CONTINUE TO:

76

PALACE GATES - GUARD TOWER

76

The Captain yells up to the guard.

CAPTAIN  
Is he here yet?

GUARD  
They should be here shortly.

CAPTAIN  
They?

GUARD  
Diana is with him.

CAPTAIN  
She is? When did...

GUARD  
Not sure. One minute she wasn't  
there, next she was. It's like she  
just appeared.

The Captain talks to himself.

CAPTAIN  
Ummm... That's the second time  
she's done that. I wonder what it  
could mean.

JUMP TO:

77

PATH TO PALACE

77

DIANA has just finished telling HERCULES everything.

DIANA

And then I came here. To walk with you to...

HERCULES

That's everything.

DIANA

Yep.

HERCULES

I wonder if the kidnapping of Miss Attica was a set-up.

DIANA

What?

HERCULES

I wouldn't put it past Ares to set it up.

DIANA

Come on, Herc. Do you think Ares would really...

HERCULES

Yes. I do.

DIANA wonders if HERCULES is right.

DIANA (VO)

(think to self)

In order for Ares' plan to work, he would have had to have made sure that Herc wasn't there. And the only way to do that, would be to...

She stops her thought and looks at HERCULES.

DIANA

Can we stop taking about Ares?

HERCULES

I love too. But I get the feeling that once we get to the party, that's all anyone will be talking about.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

I could make everyone forget he was there?

HERCULES

That might not be such a bad idea.

DIANA

Of course, I can't make Iphicles forget, because he actually talked to, and interacted, Ares.

HERCULES looks at her.

DIANA

Ares could always, at a later date, make Iphicles remember. The other guests mean nothing to Ares. But Iphicles... It might not be a good idea to erase the memory of the events. Ares might just put his own spin on things later.

HERCULES

I guess your right.

DIANA

I know I'm right.

HERCULES

So how do you want to do this?

DIANA

Easy. As we walk though the gates, I will make everyone we meet forget that Ares was there. If I know the Captain, he will be waiting for us. I can tell him that you need to speak to Iphicles and ask him to go get him and you'll meet in the garden. Then I will go to the main hall and zap the room with a forget spell.

HERCULES

Will it work?

DIANA

Of course.

They reach the gates.

CONTINUE TO:

78 PALACE GATES

78

They pass through the gates. The Captain of the Guards is standing there. He looks like he is about to ask DIANA something. DIANA touches him. He forgets what he was going to say. He forgets all about ARES. So does everyone else in the area. HERCULES notices the look on the Captain's face change.

DIANA

Captain, Herc needs to speak with his brother. Could you please ask Iphicles to meet him in the garden?

CAPTAIN

Yes, my lady.

The Captain runs off. HERCULES and DIANA walk to the palace door.

CONTINUE TO:

79 TIME FLIES MONTAGE

79

HERCULES and DIANA proceed down the hallway to the doors to the main hall. DIANA kisses HERCULES and he leaves and heads to the garden. DIANA looks around to make sure no one is around and enters her "no one can see me" state. She enters the hall. She sees the Captain whispering to IPHICLES. She waits till IPHICLES and the CAPTAIN leave. Once they are gone she zaps the room. Everyone freezes for a moment, then unfreezes. When they unfreeze they have no memory of ARES ever being there. They all remember the tall mysterious stranger, but no one remembers the fact that he was ARES. DIANA exits the room. She makes sure no one is around and enters her "everyone can see me" state. She makes her way slowly to the garden. The captain is standing by the doors, waiting for IPHICLES. DIANA nods at him as she enters the garden.

CONTINUE TO:

80 GARDEN

80

DIANA walks up to HERCULES and IPHICLES.

DIANA

I heard you were finally here?

DIANA kisses HERCULES.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA  
Miss Attica okay?

HERCULES  
Last time I saw her, Iolaus was  
taking her home.

DIANA  
Good.

DIANA looks at IPHICLES.

DIANA  
By the way, Sera told me he had to  
leave.

IPHICLES wonders why DIANA is using Ares' alias. He figures  
she doesn't want HERCULES to know that ARES was here.

DIANA  
Something came up. He thanked you  
for the invitation, and said that  
next time he was through he'd stop  
in.

IPHICLES  
Really?

DIANA  
Yeah.

IPHICLES  
Pity. He seemed like a nice fellow.  
I was hoping I could get to know  
him better.

DIANA  
Maybe next time.

DIANA looks at HERCULES.

DIANA  
You must be thirsty after that long  
trip. Come, we can get something to  
drink.

DIANA and HERCULES walk off. IPHICLES mutters to himself.

IPHICLES  
I wonder what you did to make Ares  
leave? One day I will find out what  
is really going on between you and  
Ares, Diana. One day.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA and HERCULES exit. The Captain enters and goes to IPHICLES.

CAPTAIN

My lord, there is something very odd about Diana?

IPHICLES

Odd? How do you mean?

CAPTAIN

Well, earlier she seemed to have just vanished from a room, then later she seemed to have just appeared on the path way with Hercules, then...

IPHICLES

Wait, she met Hercules on the path?

CAPTAIN

Yes my lord. And, when they came though the gates, I could have sworn she tried to make me forget all that happened.

IPHICLES

Really.

CAPTAIN

Yes. There is something about her that is odd.

IPHICLES

Odd might me an understatement. If she can appear and disappear at will, maybe she is not who she pretends to be. Maybe that is what has Ares so intrigued.

CAPTAIN

What should we do, my lord?

IPHICLES

We keep an eye on her.

The Captain and IPHICLES head to the door.

CONTINUE TO:

81 HALLWAY TO THE GREAT HALL

81

DIANA and HERCULES are walking down the hall. HERCULES looks at DIANA.

HERCULES

Who's Sera?

DIANA

That was the name Ares gave himself.

DIANA looks at HERCULES.

DIANA

Sera is Ares spelt backwards.

HERCULES

Clever.

DIANA

I know.

DIANA and HERCULES proceed down the hall.

PAN TO:

82 DOWN HALL

82

CAMERA pans to show IPHICLES and the Captain following at a distance.

FADE OUT.