

The Chronicles of Diana Marsson
Final Chapter: Threads of Time

By

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

1998

SATURDAY DECEMBER 21st 2999

1 DIANA'S PLACE- LIVING ROOM (4:00PM) 1

DIANA is sitting on the sofa. There is a knock on the door.
DIANA goes to it.

CONTINUE TO:

2 DOOR 2

DIANA opens the door. It's METHOS. He has his hands behind
his back. She is surprised to see him.

DIANA
Methos? I...

METHOS
Can I come in?

She raises an eyebrow, sensing something from him, and lets
him in. She says her line in a curious tone.

DIANA
Sure.

He enters without revealing what is behind his back. She
closes the door.

CONTINUE TO:

3 AREA JUST INSIDE THE DOOR 3

METHOS
Nice place.

DIANA is curious. She says her line in a skeptical tone.

DIANA
Thanks.

METHOS looks at her.

METHOS
Are we alone?

DIANA
Ares and Clark are out if that's
what you mean.

METHOS
Good. Good.

Momentary pause. DIANA looks at him, tries to probe him.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA
Methos, why are you here? We
haven't seen each other since...

METHOS
I have something for you.

Now she is really curious.

DIANA
Oh?

He removes his hands from behind his back, and offers her a sword. Not just any sword. It's Duncan's sword. He's holding it stretched out across his palms.

DIANA
That's Mac's swo...

She stops as she realizes what this means. If METHOS has Duncan's sword, then Duncan must be dead.

DIANA
No, he... He can't be. He...

METHOS gives her a look.

METHOS
Take it, Diana. You...

DIANA
No. Mac wouldn't want me to have
it.
(beat)
It should go to Conner. After all
he is fam...

METHOS
Connor is dead.

DIANA gives him a very unbelievably look. She can't believe that Connor is really dead.

DIANA
What? When?

METHOS
Last year.

Momentary pause.

DIANA

Then...

(beat)

Give it to Richie. Richie was
always like a son to Mac. He...

METHOS shakes his head.

METHOS

Richie is dead too.

Momentary pause.

DIANA

Amanda. She was always a thorn in
his side, but she...

METHOS shakes his head again.

METHOS

...is also dead.

Momentary pause. She is starting to get a bad feeling. She
gives him a look.

DIANA

If everyone is dead, just how many
players are left in *The Game*?

METHOS

Two.

(beat)

Look, Diana, please just take the
sword.

DIANA takes the sword and then realizes what METHOS said.

DIANA

Two?

METHOS

Yeah. Two.

DIANA

Who's the other...

He looks at his watch.

METHOS

Will you look at the time?

(beat)

I really should get going. I...

DIANA
Methos, wait.
(beat)
Can you... can you take this guy?

Momentary pause.

METHOS
I have too. If he wins...

DIANA
Let me help you.

Momentary pause.

METHOS
You can't interfere, Diana. It's a rule.

DIANA
That's not what I meant.
(beat)
I happen to know an excellent swordsman who can help you brush up on your skills.
(beat)
He could teach you moves you've never seen. He...

METHOS
You're referring to Ares, aren't you?

DIANA
Of course.

Momentary pause.

METHOS
I don't know Diana. I...

DIANA
You just said you had to win. Let's make sure you do.

Momentary pause.

METHOS
I'll think about it.

DIANA
Okay.
(beat)
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DIANA (cont'd)
Remember if you need anything let
me know.

Momentary pause.

METHOS
Well, um, I, um...

DIANA
What is it?

Momentary pause.

METHOS
There is one thing.

DIANA
Name it.

Momentary pause. METHOS considers if he should ask her what
he wants to ask her.

METHOS
If I lose....

DIANA
You won't.

METHOS
If I lose, the world will be thrown
into an era of darkness. Only you
can fix it.

Momentary pause.

DIANA
You know we'd do everything within
our powers to make sure...

METHOS
That's not what I meant. You guys
wouldn't be able to defeat him.

DIANA
Then what...

METHOS
Go back.

DIANA looks at him with a raised eyebrow.

DIANA

Back?

METHOS

In time.

(beat)

You said you've figured out how to do it. I'm...

DIANA

I've already messed with time enough. I...

METHOS

D, you can't let this guy win.

DIANA

I...

(beat)

If you let Ares help you, then I'll go back. If you lose. Which you won't.

METHOS

Thanks.

Momentary pause.

DIANA

So, will you let Ares help you?

METHOS

Do I have a choice?

DIANA

(smile)

No. I guess you don't.

METHOS

I'll call tomorrow to set it up.

DIANA

You won't be sorry.

METHOS gives her a look.

METHOS

See ya.

DIANA

Bye.

(CONTINUED)

METHOS lets himself out. DIANA places the sword the counter, and stares at it. Her reflection can be seen in the blade. CAMERA zooms in on the blade and...

FADE IN TO:

4 FLASHBACK MONTAGE 4

#1 - Chapter 6, Scenes 3-7 and 8 (up to Tessa's line "Diana, this is Duncan MacLeod. Duncan, Diana"), Scenes 10-15 and 16 (up to Duncan's line "oh."), Scene 21 (up to Duncan's line "After you tell me your story, I have one to tell you")

#2 - Chapter 8, Scenes 67-69.

#3 - HIGHLIGHTS OF THEIR FIRST 13 YEARS TOGETHER

#4 - Chapter 15, Scene 52 and 53.

#5 - HIGHLIGHTS OF THEIR NEXT 27 YEARS TOGETHER

#6 - THEIR LAST NIGHT TOGETHER

FADE BACK TO:

5 LIVING ROOM 5

We can hear the sound of metal striking metal outside. It's a sword fight. It takes a few moments for DIANA to hear it, but, when she does, she runs to the window.

CONTINUE TO:

6 WINDOW 6

She reaches the window and looks out. CAMERA is behind her, looking out the window. She looks out just as the fight is ending. She sees METHOS lose his head. The Game is over. The good guys lost. The Quickening that follows is unlike any that anyone has ever seen before. She watches the whole thing. The Quickening ends, and she turns away from the window with tears in her eyes.

DIANA

It wasn't supposed to be like this.
It...

She sees Ares' sword hanging in its place on the wall. She takes a deep breath, and tries to compose herself.

DIANA

I wonder if it is still there.

She goes over to it.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUE TO:

7 WALL WHERE SWORD IS

7

She reaches the wall. She takes the sword down, and unscrews the knob from the top of the handle. She tilts the sword and an object falls out. The object is a pendant. But not just any pendant. It is a pendant of hind's blood. She looks at it for a few minutes, debating. She places the pendant on the table, and then screws the knob back onto the handle of the sword. She places the sword back on the wall. She opens a drawer in the table and removes a dagger. It is one of Ares' daggers. One of the ones that was removed from Professor Smythe's skeleton. She picks up the pendant, and vanishes.

CONTINUE TO:

8 BEDROOM

8

She materializes in the bedroom. She looks at the candle that is on the bedside table, and it lights itself. She places the dagger and the pendant on the bedside table, and opens the drawer. She sits on the edge of the bed. She removes a piece of paper and zaps a note. She then zaps THE CHRONICLE into her hands. She goes to the last page she has written on, and zaps in an update from that moment to now. She then places THE CHRONICLE under the bed. She picks up the pendant and the dagger. She takes a deep breath, and opens the lid on the pendant. She pours the blood onto the dagger. She puts the lid back on the pendant and places it on the bed. She takes another deep breath, and then slashes her wrist with the tainted dagger. The second the hind's blood enters her, she feels a sharp pain. She drops the dagger, and it lands on the floor by the bed. She feels sick, and lies down. As she lies down, she knocks the pendant onto the floor. It lands on the dagger and breaks. She lies on the bed, dying. As she breathes her last breath, she is lying in an almost sleeping beauty like way. She dies.

JUMP TO:

9 LIVING ROOM (8:00PM)

9

ARES and CLARK materialize. They are laughing. ARES notices that the house seems eerily quiet, and stops laughing. CLARK goes to the kitchen to get a drink. ARES can't shake the feeling that something is wrong.

ARES

Diana?

(beat)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

ARES (cont'd)

D?

Momentary pause. He notices Duncan's sword and mutters the next line.

ARES

MacLeod.

(beat)

I wonder what...

He notices a glow coming from the bedroom, and heads to it. As he approaches, he smells the blood. He transports himself to the bedroom.

CUT TO:

10 BEDROOM

10

He materializes in the room and sees her lifeless body on the bed.

ARES

Diana?

He zaps to her side, touches her face, and realizes she is dead.

ARES

No.

(beat)

No. It can't be.

(scream)

NOOOOOO!!!!!!

As he screams the last "no", he cradles her body.

CUT TO:

11 LIVING ROOM

11

CLARK is heading to the sofa with his drink, when he hears ARES' scream. He first looks in the direction of the scream, then transports to the bedroom.

CUT TO:

12 BEDROOM

12

CLARK materializes in the room, without his drink, and sees ARES cradling DIANA's head in his lap.

CLARK
What...

ARES
She's dead.

CLARK
Dead?

CLARK approaches the bed.

CLARK
What do you mean dead?

ARES doesn't answer, he just cradles DIANA's head.

CLARK
Ares?
(beat)
Damn it!!!
(beat)
Nothing can kill her. She's...

CLARK notices something on the floor and stops talking.

ARES
There is one thing that...

CLARK is staring at the item on the floor and not listening to ARES. He leans over to pick it up and says line as he does.

CLARK
What's this?

It's the broken pendant. ARES looks to see what CLARK is referring to. As soon as ARES sees it, he realizes what it is. He zaps it out of CLARK's hands so fast that CLARK doesn't know what to think. The pendant appears in ARES' hand, sealed in a bag, as CLARK says line.

CLARK
Hey! What'd you do that for?

ARES looks at it. CLARK notices how ARES is looking at it, like he recognizes it. CLARK wonders why it is sealed in a bag.

(CONTINUED)

CLARK
What is it? And why is it...

ARES has a stunned, confused, almost shocked look on his face.

ARES
Where did she get this?
(beat)
I...

ARES vanishes. CLARK is about to wonder where he went, when he looks out the bedroom door and sees ARES reappear in the living room. He watches.

PAN TO:

13 LIVING ROOM 13

ARES goes to his sword. He takes it down, and unscrews the knob on the handle. He tilts the sword. Nothing comes out.

ARES
Damn!

He starts to put it back together. CAMERA pans to the bedroom.

PAN TO:

14 BEDROOM 14

CLARK is watching, wondering what ARES is looking for. CAMERA pans back to the living room.

PAN TO:

15 LIVING ROOM 15

CAMERA is positioned so that CLARK can still be seen in the background. ARES hangs the sword back on the wall.

ARES
How'd she even know it was there.
(beat)
How...

CLARK (VO)
Ares!

ARES turns to CLARK as CLARK reaches the edge of the bed.

PAN TO:

16

BEDROOM

16

CLARK

What are you looking for? What...

CLARK steps on something.

CLARK

Ow!

CLARK falls to his knees.

PAN TO:

17

LIVING ROOM

17

ARES

Clark?

Momentary pause. ARES can't see CLARK.

ARES

Clark?

ARES transports to the bedroom.

CUT TO:

18

BEDROOM

18

ARES materializes in the room. CLARK is lying on the floor. ARES gets on the bed.

ARES

Clark?

CLARK says line while gasping for breath.

CLARK

Ares I...
(beat)
I think I...
(beat)
...stepped on a...
(beat)
...piece of broke...
(beat)
...broken glass. I...

CLARK dies.

ARES

Clark!

ARES wants to go to him, but he pauses. He zaps the area around the bead, removing all the broken pieces of the pendant, and the dagger. When the area is clean, ARES goes to CLARK.

ARES

No.

He looks at CLARK.

ARES

Not you too.

(beat)

I can't lose both of you.

(beat)

You're all I have.

Momentary pause. He goes over to DIANA.

ARES

Why did I have to keep that stupid pendant in the house?

(beat)

I never thought you'd find it. I never knew you knew it existed.

(beat)

I'm sorry. I...

He sits on the edge of the bed and strokes her hair.

ARES

But why?

(beat)

Why, Diana?

(beat)

Why'd you do it?

(beat)

I thought we...

He notices the note on the bedside table. He picks it up and reads it.

NOTE

Oh what a tangled web we weave,
when with the fabric of Time we do
intercede.

If you compare Time to a book, the
future's the sequel, the past can
be read with a look.

(CONTINUED)

When playing in Time, one thing you must recall, change the past - you could change it all.

One tiny event many seem to be innocent, but with time it may have been significant.

For one event leads into another, Change one thing the result would alter...

...the sequence of events leading to your present, so that when you return, it you may resent.

The first incursion was part of Hera's call. To get rid of Herc's meddling once and for all.

The second seemed at time a good bet. To let Herc see Clark, the son he'd not yet met.

And now my dear, I've come to conclude. That you were right when you said, with Time we must once more intrude.

For things are not going as they should. You can fix it, my love, I know you could.

If you return to the day He entered my sight. Stop him, send him back, everything will be right.

And when you succeed, you'll have what you wanted. You and I'll be together, forever, unhaunted.

By the ghosts of this future's past. We'll have eternity, we'll have a blast.

ARES puts the note down.

ARES

Time. Of course. I can do this. I can.

He looks at DIANA.

(CONTINUED)

ARES

I'll send my dear brother back
before you can meet him.

(beat)

Then I'll win your heart and we can
start over.

He goes to place the note back on the table, but it slides off, and onto the floor. He picks it up and notices a book under the bed. He picks up the book.

ARES

What's this?

He opens it. It's THE CHRONICLE. The story of Diana's life from the day Hercules entered it, til today. The first page is an introduction. The book is divided into sections. Section 1 is headed 1996. Section 2: Ancient Greece. Section 3: 1997-2024. Section 4: Ancient Greece II. Section 5: 2016-2023. Section 6: 2023-2999. The last entry was written a few hours ago.

ARES

I could probably use this.

He zaps the book - shrinking it so that it will fit in his pocket.

ARES

There is one thing to I have to do,
before I attempt to go back.

He looks at DIANA and CLARK and the three of them vanish from the room.

JUMP TO:

19

ATOP MOUNT OLYMPUS

19

They materialize. DIANA and CLARK are in glass coffins. ARES waves his hand and a doorway appears. He looks at CLARK.

ARES

Good-bye, nephew. If all goes as
planned you will never exist. I
just want you to know, that you
were always like a son to me.

ARES zaps the coffin, and it floats across and enters the doorway. ARES looks at DIANA.

(CONTINUED)

ARES

I know you felt you had no choice.
I just hopes this works. We've
never actually tried to use the
power before. We've always had
help.

(beat)

If this works, I'll be seeing you
soon. If not... I love you.

ARES kisses the casket, then zaps it, and sends it through
the doorway. He waves his hand, the doorway closes and
vanishes. He stares at the spot where the doorway was for a
few moments. Then looks up to the sky.

ARES

I hope this works.

(beat)

Well, here goes nothing.

ARES takes a deep breath, and vanishes.

JUMP TO:

SATURDAY JUNE 1st 1996

20

USED CAR LOT (NOON)

20

ARES materializes in a used car lot at the corner of
Kingston Rd & Rockwood. ARES tries to "hone" in on DIANA. He
can't find her. The time jump must have shortened out some
of his powers. Some guy, who is walking around the lot,
isn't watching where he is going, and walks right into ARES.
ARES looks at him. The man looks at ARES.

MAN

Ah... Sorry. I...

ARES

What day is it?

The man raises an eyebrow in curiosity.

MAN

Saturday.

ARES

Saturday.

(beat)

What's the date?

The man raises an eyebrow in curiosity again.

(CONTINUED)

MAN
June 1st.

ARES
The *exact* date.

The man stares at ARES.

ARES
The year? What year is it?

MAN
The last time I checked, 1996. Are
you okay?

Momentary pause.

ARES
It worked.

MAN
What worked?

ARES mutters line to himself.

ARES
He should be arriving today. I hope
I'm not too late. I...

ARES looks back at the man.

ARES
What time is it?

The man looks at his watch.

MAN
A little after 12.

ARES
Not much time.

MAN
For what?

ARES
Is Phyllis Avenue around here?

MAN
Just follow Rockwood to the end. It
turns into Phyllis.

ARES turns to exit the car lot.

ARES

Thanks.

ARES walks off. The man just shakes his head back and forth.

MAN

Strange guy.

PAN TO:

21 ARES

21

He looks around to make sure no one is looking.

ARES

Hope this works.

He vanishes.

JUMP TO:

22 TOP OF ROCKWOOD

22

He materializes at the top of Rockwood. He checks to see which way the numbers are going on Phyllis, and then vanishes again.

JUMP TO:

23 END OF PHYLLIS

23

Phyllis is a dead-end street. At the end of the street, there is a sort of cul-du-sac. There is a circle with trees and grass in the middle of the road. Cars coming down the street, go around the circle to go back up. ARES materializes in the circle.

ARES

Okay.

(beat)

Step 1 is to get Diana out of the house...

He stares at the house.

ARES

...so that when Hercules gets here,
I can send him back.

Momentary pause. A cell-phone appears in his hands. He enters Diana's number.

CUT TO:

24 DIANA'S PLACE - KITCHEN

24

DIANA is getting ready to go lounge by the pool. She has everything on the table. The phone rings. She answers it.

DIANA

Hello.

ARES (VO)

Diana Marsson?

DIANA

Yes.

ARES (VO)

This is Detective Pierson from Homicide. We...

She raises an eyebrow in curiosity.

DIANA

Homicide?

ARES (VO)

We have a body at the Coroner's office that we'd like you to...

DIANA

Body? Who... Who is it?

ARES (VO)

We were hoping you could tell us.

DIANA

What makes you think...

ARES (VO)

We found your name and number on his person when...

DIANA

Oh. Um... I'm on my way.

ARES (VO)

Thank-you.

She hangs up the phone.

DIANA

I wonder who it could be?

JUMP TO:

25 CIRCLE 25

ARES watches as DIANA exits the house, gets in her car, and drives off.

ARES
That was easy.

ARES vanishes.

JUMP TO:

26 DIANA'S BACKYARD 26

ARES materializes.

ARES
Now for the fun part.

ARES looks around the yard.

CONTINUE TO:

27 TIME FLIES MONTAGE 27

ARES paces and paces for about 45 minutes.

CONTINUE TO:

28 TIME RESUMES 28

He is starting to get impatient.

ARES
Come on. Come on. Where are you?
Where...

The vortex appears.

ARES
Ah, there you are.

He raises his arm, his hand in a fist. He points his fist at the vortex, and opens his hand. He sends an energy burst into the vortex. He stays zapping as he speaks.

ARES
Not this time little brother. You will not interfere this time.
(beat)
Sorry to ruin your plans, Mother. But I have a more important agenda. Diana means too much to me. I won't lose her again.

(CONTINUED)

(beat)
 Go back, dear brother.
 (beat)
 Back. Back to where you came
 from!!!

He keeps zapping the vortex til it closes. Once closed, he drops his arm and takes a deep breath.

ARES
 Step 2 completed. Now...
 (beat)
 How do I handle things with Diana?
 (beat)
 I have to be careful. I can't go
 too fast. Just getting her accept
 that I am Ares will be hard enough.
 But...

He takes THE CHRONICLE out of his pocket, and zaps it back to full size.

ARES
 This will help.

ARES vanishes.

JUMP TO:

29 DIANA'S PLACE - BEDROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

29

DIANA is asleep in bed. ARES materializes in the room. He stares at the sleeping DIANA for a few moments, then vanishes. The bedroom door is ajar. A few seconds after he vanishes, an eerie glow can be seen emanating from outside her room. He calls to her. His voice is soft, sexy, and seductive.

ARES (VO)
 Diana...
 (beat)
 Diana.

She tosses in her sleep.

ARES (VO)
 Wake up...
 (beat)
 Diana...
 (beat)
 Diana...
 (beat)
 Come to me.

(CONTINUED)

She wakes up and looks around.

ARES (VO)
Diana...

Momentary pause.

DIANA
Who's there? Who...

ARES (VO)
Diana...

She notices the glow from outside the door.

DIANA
What the...

ARES (VO)
Diana...
(beat)
Come to me...

She gets out of bed. She is wearing a long nightshirt. She heads to the door.

CONTINUE TO:

30

OTHER SIDE OF THE DOOR

30

ARES has transformed the layout of the house. It now appears as one big room. A room full of candles (the glow), and flowers. He is at the far end of the room. The floor around him is covered in rose petals. To his left is a fireplace. To his right is a table. On the table, is a bottle of champagne, and two glasses. As DIANA exits the bedroom, he has romantic music start playing out of nowhere. (It's a God thing.)

DIANA
What...

ARES
Diana, my sweet.

He fills the glasses.

ARES
You're up.

She looks at him.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

Who are you?

ARES

The one you've been waiting for.

DIANA

The one I've been...

He outstretches his hand, inviting her to come to him.

ARES

Come to me.

She heads to him. As she gets closer to him, her nightshirt is replaced with a soft sexy outfit. She is amazed, surprised, and startled. ARES gives her a once over look, and smiles at her new look.

ARES

That's better.

She reaches him.

DIANA

Who are you? How'd you...

He offers her a glass.

ARES

Here, drink this.

DIANA

I don't...

He gives her a godly stare. She drinks it. As she drinks it, he circles her. He runs his fingers across her bare neck and shoulders. She sighs at his touch. He stops behind her, and puts his arms around her waist. He pulls her back against him. He starts kissing her neck, as his hands roam up her body. She sighs and drops the glass, falling even more into his arms. The glass hits the ground, but doesn't break. As his hands continue up her body, her outfit disappears. His hands reach her breasts. He cups one in each hand, and starts fondling them. She gasps. She stretches her arms over her head and around his neck. She turns her head trying to kiss him. He brings his lips to hers. She turns in his arms, and hungrily kisses him. She melts completely into his embrace. She pulls him close. He gently takes her to the floor. On the way down, his outfit disappears. He lays her down on the floor, and positions himself on top of her.

CONTINUE TO:

31 TIME FLIES MONTAGE

31

His hands explore her body. He fondles her body, working her up. He realizes he has never made love to the mortal DIANA before. At least not in reality. He has fantasized about it though. He knows he must take things slow. Once her mortal body is ready for him, he takes her. He is amazed at how easily she accepts him, and at how much stamina her mortal body has. He rides her till she is worn out. This seduction routine continues for six nights. Each night is a different fantasy. Each night she wants him more and more. Each night they make love longer and longer. TIME RESUMES on the sixth night. They are in her bedroom, and have just completed a love making session.

CONTINUE TO:

THURSDAY JUNE 6th, 1996

32 TIME RESUMES

32

They are basking in the afterglow. Her head is resting on his chest. His hands are running through her hair.

DIANA

I never knew it could be this way.
No man has ever made me feel the
way that you do.

ARES

And no woman has ever made me feel
the way that you do.

DIANA

I never believed I'd meet anyone
like you.

ARES

There's a lot about me you don't
know.

DIANA

Yeah, like your name.

She rolls onto him, and looks at him.

DIANA

Why won't you tell me your name?

He looks at her. He plays with a strand of dangling hair.

(CONTINUED)

ARES

You wouldn't believe me.

DIANA

What do mean?

ARES

It's not a very common name. In fact, in the history of the world, I am the only one to ever have it. And I've had it for a long time.

DIANA

Sounds ominous.

Momentary pause.

ARES

Diana, please. I love you. Isn't that enough for now.

DIANA

I really want to know your name. Why won't you tell me?

ARES

When the time is right I will tell you. When you are ready to...

DIANA

I'm ready.

Momentary pause. ARES looks at her. Maybe she was. Maybe the time is right.

ARES

It's Ares.

DIANA says line with a laugh in her voice.

DIANA

Ares! As in the God of War! Come on be serious.

ARES

I am serious.

DIANA

Who would name their son...

ARES

I am Ares. The only Ares. The one and only.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA looks at him.

DIANA
Thee Ares. Son of Zeus.

ARES
Yes.

DIANA
I...

ARES
You don't believe me? Ask yourself
this. How did I change the setting
of the room. How did I...

DIANA
I... I don't know. I...

He rolls over, pinning her to the bed.

ARES
I am Ares. And I can do anything
you want me to. I can give you
anything. All you have to do is
ask.

DIANA
If you really are Ares, God of War,
why me? What could I...

ARES
I love you. We are destined for
each other. Say you love me. Say
you believe me.

DIANA
I love you.

He kisses her. She kisses him back, and pulls him close to
her. They make love.

JUMP TO:

FRIDAY JUNE 7TH 1996

33

KITCHEN (MORNING)

33

DIANA is eating breakfast. ARES materializes in front of her
holding THE CHRONICLE. She is startled, as he appears out of
nowhere.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

You? I...
(beat)
Am I dreaming?

ARES

No. I'm real.

She stares at him, as she realizes that the last six nights have not been dreams.

DIANA

You mean I haven't been just dreaming the last six nights. You really...

ARES

Yes.

DIANA

And you are really Ares?

ARES

Yes.

Momentary pause. She tries to grasp the reality of the situation.

DIANA

I don't believe this. I...

ARES

All will be explained once you've read the book.

DIANA

Book? What...

ARES

It's the Chronicle of your life. You wrote it. I mean... you would have written it.

She looks at him with raised eyebrows.

DIANA

Would have?

Momentary pause. He nods a "yes".

ARES

Here.

He offers her the book.

(CONTINUED)

ARES

Read it. Please.

She takes the book, opens it, and starts reading.

DIANA

My name is Diana Marsson. The story you're about to read within the pages of this book, is true. All of it. I know parts may be hard to believe, but trust me, this is a true story. It began in 1996, and ended in 2999.

DIANA looks at ARES.

DIANA

2999?

(beat)

That's 1003 years from now. What...

ARES gives her a look.

ARES

Keep reading.

Momentary pause. She gives him a look.

ARES

All will be explained.

She turns the page. SECTION 1: 1996. As she reads, ARES sits at the table.

DIANA

The date was June 1st. It was around 1:00pm when it happened. I was out the back, lounging by the pool. I was reading a new mythology book that I'd just received, when all of a sudden a vortex of some sort appeared in the sky over the pool. A few seconds later, a man came out of it, and landed in my pool. As soon as he hit the water, the vortex vanished. I looked at the stranger who was about to change the course of my life. Change it forever.

CONTINUE TO:

34 TIME FLIES MONTAGE 34

DIANA reads the book.

CONTINUE TO:

35 TIME RESUMES 35

DIANA is on the last page.

DIANA

*And now, I've come to the end. With
The Game over, and evil
triumphing... I'm doing the only
thing I can. The only thing I know
how to do to make everything right.
If you, and you know who you are,
are reading this, then my dear Ares
has done what I've asked him too.
He always said he'd do anything for
me, and, if he's there with you, I
guess he really meant it. Don't be
a fool. Underneath that tough,
macho, God of War exterior, is a
really great guy. I just wish more
people could see that side of him.*

DIANA looks at ARES.

DIANA

Wow. That's some story.

ARES

It's not a story. It really
happened. All of it.

DIANA

Happened?

ARES

Yes. In another time. An alternate
time.

DIANA

But you came back. You...

DIANA realizes something.

DIANA

It was you who called me that day,
wasn't it? You wanted me to get
away from the house.

(CONTINUED)

ARES

Yes.

DIANA

You sent Hercules back?

ARES

Yes. And I love you. I...

DIANA

You mean you love her.

ARES

She is you.

DIANA

She...

She realizes something.

DIANA

She's dead. Her last entry "*I'm doing the only thing I can*". She killed herself.

ARES

Yes.

DIANA

How? I mean... if you made her a goddess then... how did she die?

ARES

That's a long story.

(beat)

Diana, listen to me. I love you.
Let me show you how much.

He rises from the table and waves his hand. Two items appear on the table. A jewelery box, and a chalice. He picks up the box and hands it to her.

ARES

Open it.

She takes the box and opens it. It's a ring. But not just any ring. It's the ring he gave his Diana for Christmas in 2018.

DIANA

This... this is the ring you gave her in 2018.

(CONTINUED)

ARES

Yes. And now I'm giving it to you.

(beat)

Say you'll be mine. I want to show
you all the wonders of the world.

I...

DIANA

Ares, I...

ARES

Diana, I love you. I've always
loved you. I want to be with you
forever.

DIANA

Forever?

He picks up the chalice and opens it. It is full of
Ambrosia.

DIANA

Is that what I think it is?

ARES

Yes.

DIANA

Ambrosia. You... You're offering me
immortality?

ARES

Not just immortality. Godhood. One
bite of this and...

DIANA

I don't know what to say?

He takes a piece of Ambrosia in his hand, and brings it to
her lips.

ARES

Say yes, Diana. Say yes.

She looks at him. She thinks of the book. Thinks of all the
things that the Diana in the book did. She smiles.

ARES

Yes, Ares. Yes.

He smiles as he slips the Ambrosia into her mouth. She is
transformed. He takes the newly transformed DIANA in his
arms and kisses her. She melts into his arms. He pulls her
close. They make love, right there on the kitchen table.

(CONTINUED)

CONTINUE TO:

36 TIME FLIES MONTAGE 36

Time flies as ARES makes love to the immortal DIANA. Over the course of the next year, they travel the world. He takes her to places no mortal has ever been. Time resumes as they return to her place.

CONTINUE TO:

SATURDAY JUNE 14th 1997

37 DIANA'S PLACE - LIVING ROOM (AFTERNOON) 37

They materialize in the living room. He is being playful. She squirms out of his embrace.

DIANA

Wait. I... have to check my phone messages.

ARES

Why?

DIANA

Ares, please. One minute won't kill you.

ARES

Oh okay.

(smile)

I'll meet you in the bedroom.

He vanishes. She picks up the phone and dials her answering machine. She enters her password.

PHONE (VO)

You have 500 new messages.

DIANA

500? I...

PHONE (VO)

Message one...

CONTINUE TO:

38 TIME FLIES 38

DIANA goes through her messages. She deletes the ones that no longer apply, were only hang-ups, and not important. There are at least 10 messages from Duncan. After listening to all the messages, she calls Duncan. Time resumes after she dials his number.

CONTINUE TO:

39 TIME RESUMES 39

She gets his machine.

DIANA

Great.

She waits for the beep.

DIANA

Mac! It's Diana. Sorry I took so long to get back to you, but I've been... Out of town. Call me when you get this message. Bye.

She hangs up and then vanishes.

JUMP TO:

40 BEDROOM 40

She materializes in the bedroom. ARES has the place all romantic. Candles, silk sheets on the bed, roses scattered around the room. He zaps over to her, and kisses her neck. He says line while he is kissing her neck.

ARES

So, any important phone calls.

DIANA

Not really sure. It seems Mac's been trying...

He was being sarcastic when he said line, but once she says hers, he stops what he is doing, and gets serious.

ARES

Mac? As in Duncan MacLeod?

DIANA

Yes why?

He suddenly remembers that in his timeline, Duncan was tricked into killing Aphrodite on February 23rd.

(CONTINUED)

ARES

Ugh. I completely forgot about that. I...

DIANA

Forgot about what?

ARES

In my timeline, Aphrodite tricked MacLeod into killing her on February 23rd, and...

DIANA

February? That was 4 months ago!

ARES

He was trying to in touch with you for your opinion.

DIANA

I remember reading that. I also remember something about Aphrodite leaving Mac a warehouse.

ARES

Right.

She thinks of something.

DIANA

Ares, just one question. Aren't there two of you here now?

ARES

I guess so.

DIANA

If I remember the story correctly, in 2003 you find MacLeod and almost fight him for killing Aphrodite.

ARES

Right. But you stopped us, you...

DIANA

I won't be there this time. And that Ares will never have met me.

ARES

What are you getting at?

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

I think that one of the reasons she wanted you to go back, was to save Mac.

Momentary pause. He gives her a look.

DIANA

According to the book, it was the game ending, with evil triumphing, that lead her to kill herself.

ARES

So you're saying we should...

DIANA

Do you know where the other you is right now?

ARES

I could guess.

DIANA

Good. Because I have a plan. But...

She wraps her arms around him and looks at him seductively.

DIANA

I can tell you all about it after.

ARES

After?

She smiles and kisses him. He kisses her back. They transport to the bed. They materialize on the bed naked.

JUMP TO:

SUNDAY JUNE 15th 1997

41

DUNCAN'S LOFT

41

DUNCAN gets home and notices his answering machine light is flashing. He goes over to it, and listens to the messages. There is only one. It is from Diana.

DIANA (VO)

Mac! It's Diana. Sorry I took so long to get back to you, but I've been... Out of town. Call me when you get this message. Bye.

(CONTINUED)

DUNCAN
She's back.

He picks up the phone and dials her number.

DIANA (VO)
Hello?

DUNCAN
D. It's Mac.

DIANA (VO)
Hi Mac.

DUNCAN
I've been trying to get in touch
with you for months.

DIANA (VO)
I know.

DUNCAN
I just inherited a whole warehouse
full of stuff, and I thought
that...

DIANA (VO)
I can be there tomorrow. And...

DUNCAN
Tomorrow's no good. I have to go
out of town.

DIANA (VO)
Oh.

DUNCAN
I'll be back on the 21st, though.
Can you be here then?

DIANA (VO)
I'll be there.

DUNCAN
I'll meet you at the airport.

DIANA (VO)
Thanks. See ya, Mac.

DUNCAN
See ya, D.

He hangs up the phone.

CUT TO:

42 DIANA'S PLACE - LIVING ROOM

42

DIANA and ARES are sitting on the sofa. She is hanging up the phone. She looks at ARES.

DIANA
Seems like Mac got that warehouse.

ARES
Just like last time.

DIANA
He wants to see me.

ARES
When?

DIANA
The same as last time. The 21st.
Some things never change.
(beat)
So, have you located your double yet?

ARES
No.

DIANA
No? I thought you told me you knew where...

ARES
I've looked everywhere. I can't find him. And I'm not sure what it means.

She moves closer to him.

JUMP TO:

SATURDAY JUNE 21st 1997

43 AIRPORT - SEATTLE

43

DUNCAN is waiting for DIANA's plane to land. He is leaning up against a wall, flipping through a magazine. He hears the loudspeaker announce the arrival of her plane. He watches the passengers from her flight come through the gate. She comes through the gate. She is behind a lot of people. Only her head is showing. She sees him before he sees her.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

Duncan!!!

He turns to her and waves. She heads to him. She reaches him, and hugs him - tightly. He hugs her back.

DIANA

It's nice to see you again. It's been a while.

She lets go of him and looks at him.

DIANA

I'm so glad you called, Mac. Ever since I got back from...

DUNCAN

Back? From where? Where exactly have you been for the last...

DIANA

Ah, Greece.

DUNCAN

Greece?

DIANA

Yeah.

DUNCAN

Why do I get the feeling there is more to the story?

Momentary pause. She flashes him a smile.

DIANA

You know me so well, Mac.

DUNCAN

So I'm right?

DIANA

Yes. You are right.

DUNCAN

So, who is he? Do I know him?

DIANA

Mac!

(beat)

Can we go?

They head out of the airport.

JUMP TO:

44 LOFT - LIVING ROOM

44

DIANA and DUNCAN are sitting on the sofa. He is handing her a glass of juice. She takes a sip. He has just finished telling her about Aphrodite. She pretends this is all news to her. And, also tries not to let on that Aphrodite left part of the story out.

DIANA

So the gods are the ancestors of
your Immortals?

DUNCAN

Yeah.

DIANA

And they lost all their powers when
The Game began.

DUNCAN

Yeah.

DIANA gets ahead of herself and says something that she shouldn't know.

DIANA

And the only God left now is Ares.
I wonder where he...

DUNCAN looks at her with a raised eyebrow.

DUNCAN

Ares? Where would you...

DIANA realizes she might have just stuck her foot in her mouth. Had he mentioned Ares yet? She can't remember.

DIANA

You said that...

DUNCAN

No I didn't. I...

DIANA

Wait...

(beat)

Are you saying it's not Ares?
That's impossible. You...

DUNCAN gives her a concerned look.

(CONTINUED)

DUNCAN

Diana, what are you talking about?
Do you know some...

DIANA realizes she has jumped ahead of the story. She tries to step back.

DIANA

Did Aphrodite mention who the remaining god was?

DUNCAN

What makes you think there is one?

DIANA

What?

DUNCAN

Aphrodite said she was the last.

DIANA

Are you sure?

DUNCAN

Positive.

DIANA mutters her line. DUNCAN can't make out what she says.

DIANA

(mutter)

I wonder what happened?

DUNCAN

What was that?

DIANA

Nothing. Did she mention how she joined *The Game*?

DUNCAN

No. But I know now. I have her memories.

DIANA

Well, how did she?

DUNCAN

There was some sort of downfall of the Olympian Gods. All but two were killed. Wiped out.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA
Killed? How?

DUNCAN
The images are kinda blurry. So,
let me see if I can get this right.

FADE IN TO:

45 FLASHBACK 45

XENA EPISODE: "MOTHERHOOD"

The events of this episode and the DOWNFALL OF THE GODS is
replayed.

FADE BACK TO:

46 LOFT - LIVING ROOM 46

DIANA looks stunned.

DIANA
Wow. So Xena killed them all.

DUNCAN
All but Aphrodite and Ares.

DIANA
And Ares gave up his immortality to
save Gabrielle and Eve.

DUNCAN
Yeah.

DIANA
Ares must have really loved Xena to
sacrifice his immortality to save
her friend and her daughter.

DUNCAN
I guess so.
(beat x3)
At some point he did get it back
though.

DIANA
Really how?

DUNCAN
Again, the images aren't really
clear. But it looks like things
were getting out of control. With
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DUNCAN (cont'd)
no God of War, mortals were
fighting all the time, and...

FADE IN TO:

47 FLASHBACK: 47

XENA EPISODE: "YOU ARE THERE"

The events of this episode are retold.

CONTINUE TO:

48 LOFT - LIVING ROOM 48

DIANA is absorbing all that DUNCAN has told her.

DIANA
So Xena went to Odin and gave Ares
and Aphrodite back their godhoods.

DUNCAN
I guess Xena loved Ares after all.

DIANA
Looks like it.

DUNCAN
So, what's...

DIANA
What ever happened to Ares?

DUNCAN wonders why all the questions. She seems very interested in the past. Maybe too interested. He is about to say something, when she continues.

DIANA
If Aphrodite was the last, what
happened...

DUNCAN
Not sure.

DIANA
Wait, this still doesn't, explain
"how" Aphrodite entered The Game.
If all the Olympians were dead,
how...

(CONTINUED)

DUNCAN

Odin.

DIANA

What?

DUNCAN

Like I said, I can't see the whole picture, only pieces. But I do see Aphrodite at Valhalla with Odin.

DIANA

Valhalla? Of course. She ate from the apple as well. She was part of their family.

DUNCAN

And so was Ares.

DIANA

And with the Olympians gone, she went to her new family.

DUNCAN

And when they started the game, she entered with them.

DIANA

Still doesn't explain what happened to Ares though.

DUNCAN

We might never know.

Momentary pause. DIANA remembers the sword.

DIANA

So, where is that sword?

DUNCAN

Sword?

DIANA

The one Aphrodite gave you.

DUNCAN

Oh.

Momentary pause.

DIANA

Can I see it?

(CONTINUED)

DUNCAN
It's not here.

DIANA
Where is it?

DUNCAN
I found its case in the warehouse,
and put it back.

DIANA
Speaking of which...
(beat)
Have you seen it? Can I see it?

Momentary pause. DUNCAN says line with a laugh in his voice.

DUNCAN
Yes, I've seen it. That's why I
called you. I want to show you the
place.

DIANA
I can't wait. When do we go?

DUNCAN
How about tomorrow?

DIANA
Fine. I can't wait to see that
sword.

DUNCAN
Just remember what it is.

DIANA
I don't follow.

DUNCAN
I'd be careful, and make sure that
if you pick it up, that...
(beat)
Well, that no one else touches it
while you are.

DIANA
Right. It's the *Sword of Obedience*.

Momentary pause. DIANA rises.

DIANA
Guess I'll see you tomorrow.

DUNCAN
Where are you going?

DIANA
I have a hotel room I have to check into.

DUNCAN
Hotel? I... I was hoping you would stay here.

DIANA
I can't.

DUNCAN
Why not?

DIANA's not quite sure how to answer to him.

DIANA
I'll see you tomorrow.

DUNCAN
Okay. Let me walk you out.

DUNCAN and DIANA head for the elevator.

JUMP TO:

49

HOTEL ROOM

49

ARES is pacing the room waiting. DIANA materializes.

ARES
Well?

DIANA
Good news, and bad news.

ARES
Uh oh.

DIANA
The good news is I know why you haven't been able to locate yourself.

ARES
Which is?

DIANA
That's the bad news.

He looks at her confused. How can that be bad news?

(CONTINUED)

ARES

What?

DIANA

According to Mac, Aphrodite was the last remaining Olympian.

ARES

Really?

DIANA

Yes really.

(beat)

Something has changed. Somehow...

ARES

This could actually be good news.

DIANA

Explain.

ARES

If she was the last, that means that there is no temporal anomaly.

DIANA smiles.

DIANA

That is good news.

ARES looks at her.

ARES

So did Mac happen to mention what happened to...

DIANA

You? No. He didn't.

ARES

I wonder what did happen?

DIANA

I only know the part of the story, that Duncan was able to piece together from Aphrodite's memories.

ARES

Which is?

DIANA

For some reason, Xena...

(CONTINUED)

The mention of Xena's name makes ARES do a double take. He raises an eyebrow in curiosity.

ARES

Xena?

DIANA notices the tone in his voice, and the look in his eye.

DIANA

Yes. Xena.

ARES can tell she knows something. He will have to handle this gently.

ARES

Okay.

(beat)

Please continue.

DIANA

For some reason, this Xena killed all the Olympian gods.

ARES

What? Why? How?

DIANA

Don't know. All I know, is that she only spared two. Aphrodite, and you.

DIANA waits to see his reaction. She can tell he is intrigued.

ARES

Aphrodite and Me? Why?

DIANA

Something to do with the world not being able to survive without the Gods of love and war

ARES

Ah.

(beat)

So if Xena spared me, where am I?

DIANA

Don't know.

ARES

Am I dead? A casualty of The Game?

DIANA

From what I've gathered, you never entered the game.

ARES

I didn't?

DIANA

No. When Odin and the Norse gods entered the game, Aphrodite was the only one with them. You weren't there.

ARES

Odin? Why would...

DIANA

Well, when you and Aphrodite lost your godhoods...

ARES

Lost? How did we...

DIANA gives him an look and continues.

DIANA

...Xena stole one of Odin's apples to restore your godhoods.

ARES

She did?

DIANA

Yeah, she did.

(beat)

So, I only know a little about this Xena. But I gather she meant a lot to you. Tell me about her.

ARES

You want to hear about Xena, now?

DIANA

Unless you have something to hide.

ARES

I have nothing to hide. But it is a fairly long story. Did you want me to tell you, or show you?

DIANA raises an eyebrow.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA
Show me? How...

ARES motions to the sofa.

ARES
Let's sit.

They sit. ARES puts his hands out in front of him, palms up.

ARES
Place your hands on mine.

She does so.

ARES
Ready.

DIANA
I guess so.

ARES
Now remember, what you will see,
are my memories of Xena. His might
have been different in places.
Close your eyes.

She closes her eyes. He closes his. We drift into ARES' mind
and DIANA starts to see the events of his memories.

JUMP TO:

SUNDAY JUNE 29nd 1997

50

INT: DOJO (AFTERNOON)

50

DUNCAN is alone. He has just finished a workout. DIANA
enters.

DIANA
Mac?

He turns to face her.

DUNCAN
D, I wasn't expecting you. I...

DIANA
I, um...
(beat)
I just stopped by to say good-bye.

(CONTINUED)

DUNCAN
Good-bye?

DIANA
Yeah.
(beat)
See ya around, Highlander.

She turns to leave. He runs to her.

DUNCAN
Diana, wait.

He grabs her arm.

DUNCAN
Don't go.

DIANA
What?

DUNCAN
I... I want you to stay.

DIANA
Why?

He looks at her and kisses her. She breaks the kiss.

DIANA
I... I'm sorry, Mac. But... You're
too late.

DUNCAN
What do you mean?

She looks to her ring. He follows her look.

DUNCAN
Oh.

DIANA
In another time, or place, maybe we
could have...

ARES enters the DOJO and calls her.

ARES
Diana.

She turns and looks at ARES. DUNCAN looks at ARES.

DUNCAN
That's him, isn't it?

DIANA
Yeah.

He looks at ARES again. He gets a strange sense of recognition, a feeling like he knows him, but he can't place how or from where. He knows that man is familiar, but also knows he has never seen him before. He can't explain the feeling he is getting from, and about, him. ARES gives DUNCAN one of his looks. DIANA looks back at DUNCAN. DUNCAN looks at DIANA. Momentary pause.

DUNCAN
Goodbye, Diana.

DIANA
Goodbye, Mac.

DIANA walks over to ARES. When she reaches him, he puts his arm around her and they walk out. ARES turns and gives DUNCAN another one of his looks. DUNCAN watches them exit.

THE END! (OR IS IT?)

AUTHOR'S NOTE

1. Since Ares stopped Herc from entering 1996, all the events portrayed in *Hercules: The Legendary Journeys*, *Xena: Warrior Princess* are as televised. In the case of *Highlander*, once Mac was rejected by Diana, he returned to Paris and the series picked up and continued as televised.
2. After I finished writing this, the character of DAHAK was introduced into the Hercules/Xena universe and the character of AHRIMAN was introduced into the Highlander universe. They seemed to have a lot in common, and I asked myself "Could Dahak and Ahriman be the same entity?" According to HTLJ, Dahak tried to take over the world when the Titans ruled, and failed. Then, 1000 years later, he tried again and was defeated by Hercules. According to Highlander, Ahriman tries once every 1000 years to take over the world. So, since the 1000 years was common to both, maybe they were the same. I did some research and discovered that, according to legends, Ahriman is a servant of Dahak's. Ummm, makes ya wonder.
3. I had to rewrite the ending after the "Downfall of the Gods" aired on Xena. I originally had Aphrodite tell Mac that Hephaestus was the only god left, and then had Mac and Hephaestus face off. Mac of course won. That scene had to be removed and others reworked to include the downfall story. Since Ares and Aphrodite were the only two gods we know were not killed, I had Aphrodite be the only one left.
4. Actor Kevin Smith, who portrayed Ares, died on February 15th, 2002.
5. Producer William "Bill" Panzer (Highlander) died on March 17th, 2007

I hope you enjoyed my saga of the adventures of DIANA MARSSON. Is this really the end? You never know. There are still some unanswered questions.