

The Chronicles of Diana Marsson
Chapter 2: The Way Home

By

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

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1 BASEMENT (NOON)

There are two tables in the basement. Table #1 has Herc's gauntlets linked with Diana's bracelet positioned over Nemesis's pendant. HERCULES and DIANA are sitting at table #2.

PAN TO:

2 TABLE #2

DIANA has in front of her a pad of paper and a pen. HERCULES has Nemesis's note in front of him. He is wearing his own clothes, the ones he arrived in.

DIANA

Okay. We have 3 pieces of metal forged by Hephaestus linked over the pendant. What's next?

HERCULES reads the note again.

HERCULES

Recite the 13 Olympians, stating their name, parentage, relationship to Zeus, and godly domain.

DIANA

13? Thought there were only 12?

HERCULES

Let's see. There's...

As HERCULES rhymes off their names, DIANA writes them down under the heading OLYMPIANS.

HERCULES

Zeus, Poseidon, Hades, Demeter,
Hestia, Apollo, Artemis, Ares, Athena,
Hephaestus, Aphrodite, ...

DIANA

Don't forget Hera.

HERCULES gives her a look.

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES

Of course. How could I forget her. She put me here in the first place.

DIANA adds Hera's name to the list and counts.

DIANA

1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12
(beat)

We have 12. Who are we forgetting?

Momentary pause.

HERCULES

I'm thinking.

DIANA gives him a look.

DIANA

Thinking?

While HERCULES is *thinking*, DIANA gets up from the table and goes over to one of the bookcases.

PAN TO:

3 BOOKCASES

She is looking for a book. HERCULES looks over at her. DIANA continues scanning the shelves as he talks.

HERCULES

What are you looking for?

DIANA

The dictionary.

HERCULES

The what?

DIANA

The Dictionary of Classical Mythology.
(beat)

It lists every known event and person associated with...

DIANA finds the book.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

Ah. There it is.

HERCULES looks over DIANA's list. DIANA takes the book off the shelf. As she is looking up the entry for "OLYMPIANS", she heads back to the table.

PAN TO:

4 TABLE #2

She is flipping through the book.

DIANA

Olympians... Olympians... Olympia...
Found it.

The entry for OLYMPIANS is on page 182 of ***The Dictionary of Classical Mythology***. DIANA reaches the table but doesn't sit. She reads the entry.

DIANA

*Olympians, The Twelve Great (Some
accounts list thirteen).*

DIANA looks up from the book, and at HERCULES.

DIANA

Looks like there are 13 after all.

HERCULES

You read 'em, I'll check the list to
see which one we are missing.

DIANA

Okay.

DIANA looks back at the book and continues reading the entry. HERCULES checks the name off the list as DIANA says it.

DIANA

*Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Demeter, Apollo,
Artemis, Hephaestus, Athena, Ares,
Aphrodite, Hermes, Hestia. [Hades]*

HERCULES

Hermes?

DIANA

That's what is says.

HERCULES

Let me see that!

HERCULES rises and goes to her.

DIANA

Why?

HERCULES grabs the book from her and reads over the entry again. DIANA looks at him. Once he has read the OLYMPIAN entry, he decides to look up his name. DIANA gets a concerned look when he starts flipping through the book.

DIANA

What are you looking for?

HERCULES ignores her and continues looking for his name. He finds it on page 123. He reads the entry muttering it to himself.

HERCULES

Hercules. See HERACLES.

HERCULES looks at DIANA with a raised eyebrow.

HERCULES

Heracles?

DIANA

Yes. It means "the glory of Hera". Some legends say Heracles, H-E-R-A-C-L-E-S, was the Greek spelling and Hercules, H-E-R-C-U-L-E-S was the Roman spelling. I guess they were wrong.

HERCULES

The glory of Hera? That'll be the day.

HERCULES returns to the book and looks up "HERACLES". He finds it on page 122. He starts to read the entry.

HERCULES

Son of Zeus and Alcmene.

He looks at DIANA.

HERCULES

So far it is right.

He looks back at the book and continues.

HERCULES

*Renowned for feats of strength,
particularly the Twelve Labors. One of
the seven great destroyers of monsters
and the mightiest and most famous of
the Greek heroes.*

DIANA, realizing that he might accidentally read something that he shouldn't, tries to get the book back.

DIANA

Herc. Stop! Give me back the book.

HERCULES evades her, by moving away. She follows.

CONTINUE TO:

5 AWAY FROM TABLE

He holds the book high up, out of her reach. This continues throughout his reading of the entry. He continues reading the entry, substituting HERCULES for HERACLES every time the name appears.

HERCULES

*At the time of his birth Hera, jealous
of Alcmene, sent two large serpents to
destroy Hercules, but the fearless
infant seized one in each hand and
squeezed them to death.*

DIANA

Herc!

HERCULES remembers that incident.

HERCULES

I remember that.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

Don't read anymore.

HERCULES

Why not?

DIANA reaches for the book again. He moves it out of her grasp. He continues reading the entry.

HERCULES

He had many teachers: Chiron taught him many of the polite arts; Castor, how to fight; Eurytus, how to shoot a bow; Autolycus, how to drive a chariot; Linus, how to play the lyre; Eumolpus, how to sing.

DIANA

Herc!

HERCULES looks at DIANA.

HERCULES

Who made up this stuff?

DIANA

What?

HERCULES

First, Cheiron's name isn't spelt right. It was C-h-e-i-r-o-n, not C-h-i-r-o-n. Second, I knew two Cheirons. One was a Satyr, and one was a Centaur. Cheiron the Satyr was a friend. Cheiron the Centaur was our teacher at The Academy. He...

DIANA

The Academy?

HERCULES looks at DIANA.

HERCULES

When I was a teenager, my mother sent me to Cheiron's Academy. That's where I met Jason.

(MORE)

HERCULES (CONT)

(beat x2)

My mentor was the wise centaur
Ceridian.

(beat)

The only Castor I knew was my 1/2
brother.

(beat)

I've never met Eurytus. I learned to
shoot at the academy.

(beat)

The only Autolycus I know is a thief.

(beat)

I've never played the lyre in my life.
And I don't sing.

(beat)

I don't know where they got this...

DIANA

Herc. This book was written 3000 years
after all that stuff happened. I'm
sure some of the facts have been
exaggerated.

He gives her a look, then returns to the book. He continues
reading the entry.

HERCULES

*The Olympians completely armed him for
his Twelve Labors: from Athena he
received a coat of arms and a helmet;
from Hermes, a sword; from Neptune, a
horse;*

HERCULES looks at DIANA with a raised eyebrow.

HERCULES

Neptune? Who's...

DIANA

Neptune's the Roman name for Poseidon.

HERCULES

Oh.

He returns to the book and continues reading the entry.

HERCULES

...from Zeus, a shield; from Apollo, a bow and arrows; from Hephaestus, a golden cuirass, and brazen buskins, with a celebrated club of bronze.

HERCULES looks at DIANA with a raised eyebrow.

HERCULES

They can't be serious! The only thing the Gods ever give me, is a hard time.

(beat)

Ares is always causing trouble. Ever since I was a kid, he's been out to get me. In fact, he'd probably have killed me by now if it wasn't for the protection order.

DIANA looks at him with a raised eyebrow.

DIANA

Protection order?

HERCULES

Yeah.

(beat x2)

Zeus declared that I'm under his protection. No god shall kill me. If they do, they face an eternity in Tartarus.

DIANA

Oh.

HERCULES

And as for the rest of them, well...

DIANA

Herc, you...

HERCULES looks back at the book.

HERCULES

*The Twelve Labors of Hercules were:
(1) Killing the Nemean Lion, which he strangled (2) Killing the Lernean*

(MORE)

HERCULES (CONT)

*Hydra (3) Capturing the Cerynean stag
(4) Capturing the Erymanthian boar (5)
Cleaning the stables of AUGEAS, q.v.*

HERCULES looks to DIANA.

HERCULES

q.v?

DIANA

It stands for Quick View.

HERCULES raises an eyebrow in confusion.

DIANA

It means that there is an entry in the
book for that word.

HERCULES understands.

HERCULES

Oh.

HERCULES looks back at the book and continues reading. If q.v
appears again, he ignores it and doesn't say it.

HERCULES

*(6) Killing the man-eating Stympthalian
birds (7) Capturing the man-eating
mares of DIOMEDES (8) Capturing the
Cretan bull (9) Procuring the girdle
of Hippolyta, queen of the Amazons
(10) Fetching the cattle of Geryon
(11) Obtaining three golden apples
from the Garden of the Hesperides (12)
Bringing Cerberus to earth from the
lower world, called the most dangerous
of the labors.*

HERCULES raises an eyebrow in confusion and looks at DIANA.

HERCULES

Why are those twelve singled out?

DIANA shrugs her shoulders in an "I don't know" gesture.

DIANA

I don't know. Maybe...

HERCULES

I didn't kill the Hydra by myself. Iolaus helped. And what's this about Cerberus?

(beat)

I never brought him out of the underworld.

(beat)

There was a time he was running loose in the underworld, and I caught him for Hades, but I never brought him out of the underworld. Never. I don't think he's ever...

DIANA

Herc? Please give me back the book.

HERCULES looks back at the book and continues reading.

HERCULES

For the so called thirteenth labor of Hercules see THESPIUS.

HERCULES starts looking for Thespius.

HERCULES

Oh, this should be good. I've never done anything for Thespius.

DIANA

Herc. Please. Can you forget the book?

HERCULES ignores her and continues flipping through the book.

HERCULES

L... M... N... O... P... Q... R...
S... T...

HERCULES scans through the T's, looking for Thespius. He finds the entry on page 268.

HERCULES

A famous king of Thespia in Boeotia
(MORE)

HERCULES (CONT)

who desired that his fifty daughters should have children by Hercules. Hercules enjoyed the company of forty-nine of those daughters in one night. One refused and was doomed to lifelong virginity and forced to serve as a priestess in a temple of Hercules. Fifty-one sons were born to the forty-nine daughters. There were two sets of twins. Forty of the fifty-one sons colonized the Island of Sardinia. This one-night accomplishment is called by the Greeks, to this day, the thirteenth and most arduous of the labors of Hercules.

HERCULES looks to DIANA.

HERCULES

That never happened!

(beat)

Sure, his daughters chase me. And they are...

(beat)

But that...

DIANA uses HERCULES' moment of shock to her advantage. She grabs the book.

DIANA

Yet.

HERCULES

What?

DIANA

It hasn't happened yet!

HERCULES looks to DIANA.

DIANA

Some stuff in this book might not have happened to you, or your friends, yet. You're not dead. Your life isn't over. Some of this stuff is still in your future.

HERCULES

Maybe.

(beat)

But, come on now, do you really think
I could do that?

HERCULES points to the book.

HERCULES

49 women. In one night. I...

DIANA smiles at him.

DIANA

You are 1/2 God, aren't you?

HERCULES

Yeah, but still, I...

DIANA

Are you saying the mighty Hercules
couldn't handle...

HERCULES

I... What was that about a temple? I
don't have a temple. I...

DIANA

We are getting way off topic here. Can
we get back to the task at hand? Or do
you not want to go home after all?

Momentary pause.

HERCULES

Okay.

DIANA

Good.

CONTINUE TO:

6 TABLE #2

They return to the table. DIANA brings the book with her. She
sits at the table and adds Hermes' name to their list. HERCULES

(CONTINUED)

sits at the table as well. DIANA looks to him after she finishes writing.

DIANA

What was the rest of the message?

HERCULES

Uh...

HERCULES looks for the note. He finds it, then goes to the section they are at.

HERCULES

Recite the 13 Olympians, stating their name, parentage, relationship to Zeus, and godly domain.

DIANA adds three more headings to her piece of paper. The headings now read "OLYMPIANS", "PARENTAGE", "RELATIONSHIP TO ZEUS", and "GODLY DOMAIN". The Olympian heading has the names under it.

DIANA

Okay. First is PARENTAGE. Let's see how many we know. And how many we will need to look up.

HERCULES

Well... Zeus, Poseidon, Hades, Demeter, Hestia, and Hera, are siblings.

DIANA

And Zeus was the son of Cronus and Rhea. Therefore, they are either sons or daughters of Cronus and Rhea.

HERCULES nods in agreement.

HERCULES

Right.

DIANA writes "Son of Cronus & Rhea" beside "Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades". She writes "Daughter of Cronus & Rhea" beside "Demeter, Hestia, and Hera".

DIANA

That leaves... Apollo, Artemis, Ares,
Hephaestus, Aphrodite, and Hermes.

Momentary pause.

DIANA

Apollo & Artemis were twins, right?

HERCULES

Right.

DIANA

And their father was Zeus.

HERCULES

Right.

DIANA

Their mother was a Titaness named...

DIANA tries to think of the name but can't. After a few moments,
HERCULES supplies the name.

HERCULES

Leto

DIANA

Right. Leto.

DIANA writes "Son of Zeus & Leto" beside "Apollo", and
"Daughter of Zeus & Leto" beside "Artemis".

DIANA

I know that Ares and Hephaestus were
also sons of Zeus. Their mother
was...

HERCULES mumbles the following line.

HERCULES

Hera.

DIANA, not hearing what he said, looks at him.

DIANA

What?

HERCULES speaks up.

HERCULES

I said Hera. Their mother was Hera.

DIANA

Right.

DIANA writes "Son of Zeus & Hera" beside "Ares". She starts to write "Son of Zeus & Hera" beside "Hephaestus" when HERCULES stops her. (She only gets the "Son of..." written.)

HERCULES

Actually, Zeus isn't Heph's father.

DIANA

He wasn't?

HERCULES

No.

DIANA

Then who was?

HERCULES

Not sure.

(beat)

I don't think he had one.

DIANA gives him a look.

DIANA

That's impossible. Everyone has a father!

(beat)

I don't think Hera got herself pregnant!

HERCULES

She is a Goddess. With them, the impossible is usually possible.

(beat)

If he does have a father, no one knows who it is.

DIANA is not too sure on this but decides to agree with him for now. After all, he knew these people. They were his "family". He should know these things.

DIANA

O-kay.

DIANA finishes writing beside "Hephaestus". She adds the "Hera" to the "Son of" line. She looks at the next empty name on the list.

DIANA

Aphrodite.

(beat)

Everyone knows that she was born from the foam of the sea when a drop of Uranus' blood fell into it.

HERCULES looks at her with raised eyebrows.

HERCULES

What?

(beat)

You're wrong on that one, Diana.

DIANA

Wrong? What do you mean wrong?

HERCULES

She's my sister.

DIANA

Your sister?

HERCULES

1/2 sister. She is the daughter of Zeus & Dione.

DIANA looks at HERCULES with a raised eyebrow. She is confused. HERCULES wonders why she is staring at him, and not writing "Daughter of Zeus & Dione" beside Aphrodite's name.

HERCULES

Why aren't you writing it down?

DIANA picks up the dictionary and looks up "Aphrodite".

HERCULES

You don't believe me? I think I know my own sister! Sometimes I wish I wasn't related to all...

DIANA finds the entry on page 25.

DIANA

Aphrodite: The goddess of love, one of the twelve Olympians. Some legends say she was brought forth from ocean foam near Cyprus or Cythera; others says she was the daughter of Zeus and Dione.

DIANA stops reading and closes the book.

HERCULES

See. I told you.

DIANA looks at him.

DIANA

We were both right.

(beat)

But, since you know her personally, I'll take your word for it.

HERCULES

Thank you.

DIANA writes "Daughter of Zeus & Dione" beside "Aphrodite". She thinks of something and opens the book again.

DIANA

While I have the dictionary...

DIANA looks up "Hephaestus".

HERCULES

What are you look...

DIANA

Hang on.

She finds the entry on page 121.

DIANA

*Hephaestus: Son of Zeus & Hera
according to Homer.*

HERCULES

Who's Homer?

DIANA

Homer was one of the famous Ancient
Greek poets.

HERCULES

A bard?

DIANA nods a "yes".

DIANA

He told of the epic adventures of the
heroes.

HERCULES

Well, he's wrong.

DIANA

(raise eyebrow)
Wrong?

HERCULES

When I first met Heph, he claimed Zeus
was his father. But later, he said that
if Zeus had've been his father, maybe
his life would have been different. He
contradicted himself more than once.

DIANA

So, if Heph contradicted himself, how
do you know that Homer was wrong. Maybe
somewhere...

HERCULES

(look at her)
Can we move on?

DIANA

Sure. But...
(beat)
Should I change the parentage on Heph?

HERCULES

Leave it for now. Make a note beside it if you want. We can come back to it later. I'm sure...

HERCULES looks around the room.

HERCULES

...that somewhere in here we can find the answer. If everything says Zeus and Hera, we'll use Zeus and Hera. But if we find anything to support Hera only...

DIANA gives in.

DIANA

Okay. We'll come back to Heph.

HERCULES

Thank you.
(beat x2)
Who's next?

DIANA looks at the list.

DIANA

Athena.

HERCULES

Daughter of Zeus and...

HERCULES draws a blank. DIANA writes "Daughter of Zeus &" beside "Athena". Momentary pause as DIANA waits for HERCULES to continue. After a few moments, she looks at him.

DIANA

...and who?

HERCULES

I'm thinking.

While HERCULES thinks, DIANA picks up the dictionary again and looks up "Athena". She finds her on page 36. DIANA skims the entry.

DIANA

...born out of the head of Zeus.

HERCULES

That's it?

DIANA

In this book.

(beat)

Hang on.

DIANA rises from the table and goes back to the bookcase.

PAN TO:

7 BOOKCASES

She searches for a book.

DIANA

I know I've read something, somewhere
that says a little more than that.

DIANA looks for the book entitled **GREEK MYTHS & LEGENDS**. She finds it, takes it down, and flips through the book, stopping on page 50. Page 50 is entitled *WHO'S WHO in the GREEK MYTHS*. She looks for Athena.

DIANA

*Daughter of Zeus; born from his head
after he swallowed Titaness Metis, in
the form of a fly... see pages 14 &
15.*

DIANA turns to page 14 and skims the entry.

DIANA

*Zeus fell in love with Metis. ... She
was expecting a baby when Zeus heard a
prophecy that any child Metis had
would be greater than its father. Zeus
could not permit this so...*

HERCULES rolls his eyess.

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES

Of course not. Also kinda of ironic. His father, Cronus, was given a prophecy that he would be overthrown by his child, and he was. So...

DIANA gives him a look and he stops talking. She continues reading.

DIANA

...he turned Metis into a fly and swallowed her. This is how Zeus gained his wisdom.

HERCULES

I always wondered how he...

DIANA turns to him and gives him a "that's not a nice thing to say" look.

DIANA

Herc!

HERCULES raises his hands in an "okay, sorry" gesture. DIANA returns to the book and continues to read the entry.

DIANA

Later Zeus was walking by Lake Triton in Libya when he developed a terrible headache. He ordered Hephaestus to crack open his skull, which he did as he knew he could not harm an Immortal. From the split appeared a female figure in full armour. Zeus introduced her as his daughter Athena.

DIANA closes the book, puts it back on the shelf, and returns to the table.

DIANA

Guess the answer's Zeus and Metis.

DIANA writes "Metis" on the paper after the "Zeus &". She looks back at the list and notices there is only one left.

DIANA

And, last but not least... Hermes.

HERCULES

Zeus & Maia.

DIANA

My-ya?

HERCULES

Daughter of Atlas and Pleione.

DIANA

Oh that Maia.

DIANA writes "Son of Zeus & Maia" beside "Hermes". Momentary pause as DIANA looks over the list to make sure every name has an entry in the "PARENTAGE" column. They all do. DIANA looks at the next column, "RELATIONSHIP TO ZEUS."

DIANA

Next. Relationship to Zeus.

HERCULES

Poseidon and Hades are his brothers.

DIANA writes "Brother of Zeus" beside "Poseidon" and Hades.

HERCULES

Demeter and Hestia are his sisters.

DIANA writes "Sister of Zeus" beside "Demeter" and "Hestia".

DIANA

Hera was both sister and wife of Zeus.

DIANA writes "Sister & Wife of Zeus" beside "Hera". DIANA looks at the list and realizes something.

DIANA

Actually...

DIANA looks at HERCULES.

DIANA

...wasn't Demeter also married to Zeus? That would make her sister & ex-wife, wouldn't it?

HERCULES

I guess.

DIANA raises an eyebrow.

DIANA

You guess?

(beat)

There's no guessing. Do I change it to sister & ex-wife? Or leave it as sister only?

HERCULES thinks.

DIANA

Well?

Momentary pause.

HERCULES

Okay. Change it to sister & ex-wife.

DIANA changes the entry. DIANA looks at the rest of the list, and notices that Zeus is the father of most, if not all, of the remaining Gods.

DIANA

Didn't Nemesis say something about... if Zeus is their father, then we don't need to answer the relationship part?

HERCULES looks back at the note.

HERCULES

...only use relationship to Zeus if Zeus is not their father....

DIANA places a "n/a" in the columns for all the remaining names.

DIANA

Which brings us to our last category. Godly Domain. Don't help me.

HERCULES

Okay.

DIANA looks back at the piece of paper and reads the first name on the list.

DIANA

Zeus. King of all the Gods and men.

HERCULES nods a "yes" and adds the following.

HERCULES

...and Ruler of Heaven and Earth.

DIANA writes "King of all the Gods and men, Ruler of Heaven and Earth" beside "Zeus". For the rest of the list, DIANA speaks, HERCULES nods approvingly, and she writes what she says beside the entry. If HERCULES adds anything to her answer, she adds what he says.

DIANA

Poseidon, God of the sea; Hades, God of the underworld; Demeter, Goddess of Agriculture; Hestia, Goddess of...

She tries to recall what Hestia was the Goddess of. After a few moments HERCULES supplies the answer.

HERCULES

...the hearth.

DIANA

Why can I never remember that?

Momentary pause. DIANA moves on to the next name.

DIANA

Apollo, the Sun.

HERCULES

...and the arts.

DIANA

Artemis, the Moon.

HERCULES

...and the hunt.

DIANA

Ares, War; Hephaestus, Fire;
Aphrodite, Love; Athena, wisdom and
war; Hera, Queen of the Gods and of
Heaven, Goddess of women and
childbirth; Hermes, Messenger to the
gods.

DIANA puts her pen down. The chart is completed. She looks to
HERCULES.

DIANA

Now for the hard part.

HERCULES

Which is?

DIANA

Hephaestus.

HERCULES

(nod)

Where do we start?

DIANA

Good question.

DIANA and HERCULES look towards the shelves of information.
They rise from the table and head over to them.

CONTINUE TO:

8 TIME FLIES MONTAGE

They search through all the reference books that DIANA has.
Every single entry they find for Hephaestus states he was the
son of Zeus & Hera.

CONTINUE TO:

9 TIME RESUMES

They are about to give up, when HERCULES picks up a book
entitled, ***Gods and Myths of Ancient Greece: The Archaeology
and Mythology of Ancient Peoples.***

(CONTINUED)

Using the "Table of Contents", HERCULES opens the book to "Chapter Four: The Gods of Olympus." (page 114). Then flips through the chapter searching for Hephaestus. He finds him on page 61.

Just above the entry for Hephaestus is the entry for Ares. HERCULES starts to read it, and laughs. DIANA stops searching and looks at him.

DIANA

What?

HERCULES

Listen to this.

HERCULES reads from the book.

HERCULES

(beat)

Ares. The god of war is perhaps the least developed of the whole Pantheon, probably because Athena was a much more skillful fighter and he was, in a sense, unnecessary.

HERCULES laughs again.

HERCULES

Unnecessary. It actually says that.

(beat)

Ares would be livid if he knew that he was seen as unnecessary.

DIANA

That's just one opinion.

HERCULES looks back at the book.

HERCULES

There's more.

(beat)

Although a god, Ares was actually wounded on a number of occasions, by Hercules and by Diomedes.

HERCULES looks up from the book.

HERCULES

It's true. Ares and I have had our fair share of knockdown, drag'em out, fights. But to be fair, we each give as good as we get. Nothing serious though. A few scratches, bruises, you know. Although mine do take longer to heal than his.

DIANA gives him a look.

DIANA

Didn't you say something earlier about a protection order?

HERCULES

What does...

DIANA

Maybe Ares was going easy on you.

(beat)

I mean he could only go so far, right?

DIANA looks at him. He looks back. Pause. HERCULES goes back to the book. DIANA goes back to what she was doing. HERCULES starts laughing again. He can't believe how this book is portraying Ares. DIANA stops and looks at him.

DIANA

Now what?

HERCULES

This just keeps getting better.

DIANA

Are you still on Ares?

HERCULES

He is shown as crudely violent...

DIANA

That would be a yes.

HERCULES

*...and not popular with the other gods.
Apart from Aphrodite.*

HERCULES looks up from the book.

HERCULES
Aphrodite?

DIANA gives him a look.

DIANA
We don't have time for this. You
should...

He returns to the book.

HERCULES
*He had some affairs with mortal
women...*

HERCULES looks up from the book.

HERCULES
Some? That's an understatement. He...

DIANA gives him that same look again. He returns to the book.

HERCULES
*...but most of his children were
unpleasant and violent.*

HERCULES stops laughing as he reads the next sentence.

HERCULES
*He is usually shown dressed in armour
and helmet, and carrying a shield,
spear, and sword.*

HERCULES looks up from the book.

HERCULES
Ares never wears a helmet or armour.
He's a God! Why would he?
(beat)
And I don't think I've ever seen him
carrying anything other than his
sword.

DIANA
You finished?

HERCULES looks back at the book.

HERCULES

One paragraph. The great Ares only gets one paragraph in this book.

(beat)

And not a very flattering paragraph either.

(beat)

I'd love to show this to him. The expression on his face would be...

HERCULES looks up from the book when DIANA starts talking.

DIANA

Enough. Leave Ares alone.

HERCULES gives her a look, then realizes she is right.

HERCULES

Sorry. You're right.

HERCULES looks back at the book. He finds something and offers book to her.

HERCULES

Here.

DIANA

(roll eyes)

What now?

HERCULES

See for yourself.

DIANA says line as she approaches HERCULES.

DIANA

This better be...

HERCULES

The next entry is Hephaestus. I think you should read it.

DIANA reaches HERCULES, takes the book, and reads entry.

DIANA

*Hephaestus was the son of Hera only,
according to Hesiod, but of Hera & Zeus
according to Homer.*

HERCULES

Wasn't only Heph that contradicted
himself. The bards did too.

DIANA

Looks like it.

HERCULES

But why did every other book take...

DIANA

Homer's writings tend to be taken as
gospel whereas...

HERCULES

Tend to be taken as what?

DIANA

Gospel.

DIANA realizes that he is a man from BC and wouldn't understand
the term.

DIANA

Sorry. Truth.

(beat)

When it come to educating people about
the ancient world, the credit is
largely given to Homer's works.

HERCULES

I see.

DIANA looks at HERCULES and referring to Heph's parentage,
says the following line.

DIANA

I guess you win.

HERCULES is confused.

HERCULES

Win?

DIANA

Yep.

DIANA heads back to the table. HERCULES follows.

CONTINUE TO:

10 TABLE #2

As she removes the "*" from beside Heph's name, she realizes something. HERCULES is sitting in the chair across from her, as she starts her line.

DIANA

If we use "Son of Hera" only, we need to put something under relationship to Zeus. What should we use?

HERCULES

We could use stepson, couldn't we?

DIANA nods affirmingly. She removes the "n/a" from the "Relationship" column and enters "Stepson of Zeus". Then she just stares at the list. She gets this far off look in her eyes. HERCULES looks at her.

HERCULES

What's wrong?

DIANA

Now that we have everything Nemesis asked for... I guess you'll be leaving.

HERCULES understands.

HERCULES

Yeah. It looks like it.

DIANA rips the chart off the pad of paper, and hands it across the table to him.

DIANA

Here.

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES takes it from her.

HERCULES
Thanks for everything.

DIANA
You're welcome.

DIANA rises from the table and walks over to his side. She looks at him.

DIANA
Goodbye, Hercules.

HERCULES rises from the table and gives her a hug.

HERCULES
Bye.

HERCULES breaks the hug after a few moments and looks at her. He gives her a short kiss, then breaks the kiss.

He goes over to the table where the objects are linked. DIANA watches him walk over.

PAN TO:

11 TABLE #1

He sits at that table, turns to her, and says his line.

HERCULES
Here goes nothing.

HERCULES looks back at the table. He touches his gauntlets.

The chart is on the table in front of him. He looks at it and starts to recite the information on it.

As he recites the info, DIANA slowly makes her way over to the table.

HERCULES
Zeus, Son of Cronus & Rhea. King of
all Gods & men. Ruler of Heaven &
Earth; Poseidon, Son of Cronus & Rhea.
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES (CONT)

Brother of Zeus. God of the Sea; Hades, Son of Cronus & Rhea. Brother of Zeus. God of the Underworld; Demeter, Daughter of Cronus & Rhea. Sister & Ex-wife of Zeus. Goddess of Agriculture; Hestia, Daughter of Cronus & Rhea. Sister of Zeus. Goddess of the hearth; Apollo, Son of Zeus & Leto. God of the sun and the arts; Artemis, Daughter of Zeus & Leto. Goddess of the moon & the hunt; Ares, Son of Zeus & Hera. God of War; Hephaestus, Son of Hera. Stepson of Zeus. God of Fire; Aphrodite, Daughter of Zeus & Dione. Goddess of Love; Athena, Daughter of Zeus & Metis. Goddess of Wisdom & War; Hera, Daughter of Cronus & Rhea. Sister & Wife of Zeus. Queen of Gods & of Heaven. Goddess of women & childbirth; Hermes, Son of Zeus & Maia. Messenger to the Gods.

Nothing happens. HERCULES looks at DIANA who is now on the other side of the table in front of him.

DIANA

Maybe it's supposed to be said more like a prayer. A chant. Try this.

(beat)

Hail Zeus. Son of Cronus & Rhea. King of all Gods & Men. Ruler of Heaven & Earth. Hail Poseidon... And so on.

HERCULES

That means I'd have to "hail" Hera. I don't...

DIANA looks at him with raised eyebrows.

DIANA

Herc, she sent you here, didn't she?

(beat)

Maybe the only way you can get back, is if...

HERCULES

Okay. Okay.

HERCULES takes a deep breath, and then tries again.

HERCULES

Hail Zeus, Son of Cronus & Rhea. King of all Gods & men. Ruler of Heaven & Earth.

Hail Poseidon, Son of Cronus & Rhea. Brother of Zeus. God of the Sea.

Hail Hades, Son of Cronus & Rhea. Brother of Zeus. God of the Underworld.

Hail Demeter, Daughter of Cronus & Rhea. Sister & Ex-wife of Zeus. Goddess of Agriculture.

Hail Hestia, Daughter of Cronus & Rhea. Sister of Zeus. Goddess of the hearth.

Hail Apollo, Son of Zeus & Leto. God of the sun and the arts.

Hail Artemis, Daughter of Zeus & Leto. Goddess of the moon & the hunt.

Hail Ares, Son of Zeus & Hera. God of War.

Hail Hephaestus, Son of Hera. Stepson of Zeus. God of Fire.

Hail Aphrodite, Daughter of Zeus & Dione. Goddess of Love.

Hail Athena, Daughter of Zeus & Metis. Goddess of Wisdom & War.

Hail Hera, Daughter of Cronus & Rhea. Sister & Wife of Zeus. Queen of Gods & of Heaven. Goddess of women & childbirth.

Hail Hermes, Son of Zeus & Maia. Messenger to the Gods.

Again, nothing happens.

HERCULES

Now what?

DIANA says her line as she comes around the table.

DIANA

I don't get it. What did we do wrong?

DIANA stands behind HERCULES.

HERCULES

Obviously, we've forgotten something.

DIANA

You sure you read the note correctly?

HERCULES

Yes.

Momentary pause as DIANA thinks. She looks at the list.

DIANA

Maybe we have to recite them in a certain order.

HERCULES

Order? You've got to be kidding! Do you know how many possible combinations of these 13 names there are?

DIANA

There can't be that many.

HERCULES

Not that many? There must be hundreds, maybe thousands!

DIANA

No way.

HERCULES

Want to bet?

DIANA

Okay. I'll prove it.

DIANA goes over to the computer. HERCULES follows her.

PAN TO:

(CONTINUED)

12 COMPUTER

She turns the computer on and types *MATH* at the DOS prompt. The computer loads up a math program. She selects "Formulas" from the main menu, and then "Combinations" from the sub-menu. The screen changes and displays the following message, "How many numbers / items in your list?". She enters 13. The screen displays the following message "Calculating..." After a few moments the following message appears on the screen. "Number of possible combinations, 6,227,020,800. (13x12x11x10x9x8x7x6x5x4x3x2x1). Do you wish to continue (Y/N?)"

DIANA

6 billion, 227 million, 20 thousand,
and 8 hundred?

(beat)

You've got to be kidding!

HERCULES

I told you.

(beat)

We'll be here forever trying to figure
out the right order.

DIANA

There's got to be a way to eliminate
possibilities.

(beat)

There must be some logic to the order.

HERCULES

Logic? We're talking about the gods!
They don't care about logic. Pretty
sure...

DIANA ignores him and stares at the list.

DIANA

The first six have to be Zeus and his
siblings in some sort of order, right?

HERCULES

I guess.

DIANA

Then the remaining seven are the kids.

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES

Kids?

DIANA

You know what I mean.

HERCULES

That's still a lot of combinations!

DIANA looks back at the computer. She types "Y". The screen goes back to the "How many numbers / items in your list?" screen. This time she enters 6. The screen displays the following message "Calculating..." After a few moments the following message appears on the screen. "Number of possible combinations, 720. (6x5x4x3x2x1). Do you wish to continue (Y/N?)"

HERCULES

At least it's not 6 billion.

DIANA answers the computer's question. She types "Y". The screen goes back to the "How many numbers / items in your list?" screen. This time DIANA enters 7. The screen displays the following message "Calculating..." After a few moments the following message appears on the screen. "Number of possible combinations, 5040. (7x6x5x4x3x2x1). Do you wish to continue (Y/N?)". This time she types "n", and the computer returns to the "Formula" menu. DIANA selects the "Return to Main Menu" option. The computer does so. DIANA selects the "Exit Program" option. The computer does so. Once the computer returns to the DOS prompt, she turns it off.

DIANA

720 combinations for the first 6, and
5040 combinations for the remaining.

HERCULES

Somehow, I don't think it should be
this complicated.

DIANA

You're right.
New approach then.

DIANA heads to the table. HERCULES follows.

PAN TO:

(CONTINUED)

13 TABLE #2

DIANA

Let's look at it as a logic puzzle.

HERCULES

A logic puzzle? I just said the gods and logic don't...

DIANA

Herc, trust me.

DIANA sits at the table. So does HERCULES. DIANA rips a page off a pad of paper, picks up her pen, and writes the following 6 names on the piece of paper. "Zeus, Poseidon, Hades, Demeter, Hestia, Hera". (All names are on the same line. In a row). Then, underneath that line, she places the numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6. (All on separate lines.) HERCULES is watching her, wondering what she is doing.

DIANA

Okay.

(beat)

Now logically speaking, since Zeus was "King of the Gods", he should be first, correct?

HERCULES thinks he understands.

HERCULES

I see where you're going now.

DIANA looks at him and smiles.

DIANA

Good.

DIANA writes "Zeus" beside number 1 and crosses his name off the row list.

DIANA

2 would be Hera since she was the "queen".

DIANA writes "Hera" beside number 2 and crosses her name off the row list.

DIANA

Number 3.

(beat)

Umm, that's a hard one.

(beat)

6 is definitely Hestia.

HERCULES

What makes you say that?

DIANA

Not much is mentioned about her. Of the 6, she is the one that most people know little or nothing about.

DIANA writes "Hestia" beside number 6 and crosses her name off the row list.

HERCULES

That leaves Demeter, Poseidon, and Hades.

DIANA

What order should they go in?

Momentary pause as they both think.

DIANA

Any ideas?

HERCULES

I'm thinking.

DIANA

Logic. Logic. Logic.

Momentary pause as both think.

DIANA

Hades is the underworld. When people think of him, they think of death. So...

(beat)

Let's put him at 5.

DIANA writes "Hades" beside number 5 and crosses his name off the row list.

DIANA

That leaves Demeter and Poseidon.

DIANA looks at the list, thinking. She notices a pattern. Numbers 1 and 5 are male, and numbers 2 and 6 are female. Following that pattern, number 3 would be male, and number 4 would be female. So, 3 must be "Poseidon" and 4 must be "Demeter".

DIANA

Got it. 3 is Poseidon, and 4 is Demeter.

DIANA writes "Poseidon" beside number 3 and "Demeter" beside number 4, then crosses both their names off the row list.

HERCULES

What makes you...

DIANA

The pattern.

HERCULES

Pattern?

DIANA

Look...

DIANA points to the list.

DIANA

1 and 5 are male. 2 and 6 are female.

HERCULES

Assuming they're right to begin with.

DIANA gives him a look. He raises his hands in an "okay, surrender" motion. DIANA continues.

DIANA

That means 3 must be male and 4 must be female.

HERCULES

Now that we have the first 6, we have the next 7 to sort through. And there were 5040 combinations.

DIANA

But now we know there is pattern.

(beat)

Male, female, male, female...

(beat)

We can cut that number down
drastically. Let's see who's left.

DIANA picks up the original list and writes the names of the remaining Olympians - "Apollo, Artemis, Ares, Hephaestus, Aphrodite, Athena, Hermes" - in a single row under the list of six.

DIANA

Okay. Let's split them up.

DIANA goes to the next line and breaks the list into two sets. Male and Female. On the "male" list she places "Apollo, Ares, Hephaestus and Hermes". On the "female" list she places "Artemis, Aphrodite and Athena". Then she writes the numbers 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, and 13 each on their own line.

DIANA

Using the above pattern, male,
female... We need to place these in
their logical order.

HERCULES opens his mouth to say something. DIANA shushes him with a look.

DIANA

Don't say it.

DIANA looks back at the names.

DIANA

6 was Hestia which means 7 must be
male.

(beat)

Either Apollo, Ares, Hephaestus, or
Hermes.

Momentary pause DIANA looks at HERCULES.

DIANA

Which will it be? What is the logical
order for those 4?

HERCULES

Hephaestus would be third, and Hermes would be fourth.

DIANA

Okay.

DIANA writes "Hermes" beside number 13 and "Hephaestus" beside number 11, then crosses their names off the list. DIANA looks at list.

DIANA

That leaves Apollo and Ares.

Momentary pause. HERCULES is quiet.

DIANA

I think Ares should be first and then Apollo.

DIANA looks up from list at HERCULES and notices the look on his face.

DIANA

I mean... War God vs. Sun God?

(beat)

Come on. No contest. War would win hands down.

(beat)

Besides, I believe Ares had more of a following anyway. Don't you agree?

Momentary pause. HERCULES seems to be pondering that thought. As much as he despises Ares, she is right.

DIANA

Hercules?

(beat)

Herc?

HERCULES

Right. Ares then Apollo.

DIANA writes "Ares" beside number 7 and "Apollo" beside number 9, then crosses their names off the list. DIANA looks at list.

DIANA

Now for Artemis, Aphrodite, and Athena.

HERCULES

That's easy. Aphrodite, Artemis, then Athena.

DIANA looks at HERCULES.

DIANA

I was going to say Athena, Artemis, Aphrodite.

HERCULES

Why?

DIANA

Look at the males. 7 and 9 are Ares or War and Apollo or Sun. Athena is also War and Artemis is the Moon so they should be 8 and 10. That leaves Aphrodite at 12.

HERCULES

Or it could be War and Love, followed by Sun and Moon. Remember we are dealing with the gods. I know them. Trust me. I'm right on this.

DIANA

Okay. Okay.

DIANA writes "Aphrodite" beside number 8, "Artemis" beside number 10, and "Athena" beside number 12, then crosses their names off the list. DIANA looks at list.

DIANA

Now all we have to do, is rewrite the chart.

DIANA rewrites the chart placing the names in the order they just settled on. HERCULES watches her rewrite it. Once done, she hands the new chart to HERCULES.

DIANA

Give it another try.

HERCULES takes the chart and goes back to the other table.

PAN TO:

14 TABLE #1

He sits at the table and touches his gauntlets. He looks to DIANA. The chart is in front of him as he reads it.

HERCULES

Here goes nothing.

HERCULES takes a deep breath, then recites the names.

HERCULES

Hail Zeus, Son of Cronus & Rhea. King of all Gods & men. Ruler of Heaven & Earth.

Hail Hera, Daughter of Cronus & Rhea. Sister & Wife of Zeus. Queen of Gods & of Heaven. Goddess of women & childbirth.

Hail Poseidon, Son of Cronus & Rhea. Brother of Zeus. God of the Sea.

Hail Demeter, Daughter of Cronus & Rhea. Sister & Ex-wife of Zeus. Goddess of Agriculture.

Hail Hades, Son of Cronus & Rhea. Brother of Zeus. God of the Underworld.

Hail Hestia, Daughter of Cronus & Rhea. Sister of Zeus. Goddess of the hearth.

Hail Ares, Son of Zeus & Hera. God of War.

Hail Aphrodite, Daughter of Zeus & Dione. Goddess of Love.

Hail Apollo, Son of Zeus & Leto. God of the sun and the arts.

Hail Artemis, Daughter of Zeus & Leto. Goddess of the moon & the hunt.

Hail Hephaestus, Son of Hera. Stepson of Zeus. God of Fire.

Hail Athena, Daughter of Zeus & Metis. Goddess of Wisdom & War.

Hail Hermes, Son of Zeus & Maia. Messenger to the Gods.

(CONTINUED)

Again, nothing happens HERCULES is getting frustrated. Why isn't this working? DIANA goes to him.

HERCULES

Ugh.

(beat)

Don't tell me. We have to change the order again, right? I thought...

DIANA starts to massage his shoulders. He likes it.

DIANA

No.

(beat)

We have the right order.

Momentary pause. HERCULES is relaxing under her touch. He leans back in the chair.

DIANA

Think, Diana. Think.

Momentary pause HERCULES closes his eyes.

DIANA

The answer is probably staring us right in the face again.

HERCULES

Last time the answer was your bracelet.

Momentary pause. DIANA stares at the bracelet. She stops massaging his shoulders. He opens his eyes and notices her looking at the bracelet. He looks at it.

DIANA

You don't think it could be the answer again, do you?

HERCULES

I don't think so.

DIANA looks at the bracelet, and something in the inside corner catches her eye.

DIANA

Then again...
(beat)
...maybe it is.

HERCULES

What?

DIANA reaches for the bracelet, stretching her arm over his shoulder. She picks up the bracelet and looks more closely at what she saw. It looks like another symbol. The same symbol is in both the right, and left, inside corner. DIANA points to the middle symbol.

DIANA

Herc, if this symbol

DIANA points to Heph's symbol.

DIANA

belongs to Hephaestus who do these

DIANA points to the corner symbols.

DIANA

belong to?

HERCULES leans forward in his chair to get a look.

HERCULES

They look the same. But... I believe
the symbol is not one but two.

DIANA

Two?

HERCULES

Yeah. They appear to be intertwined.

DIANA

(raise eyebrow)
Intertwined? Can you tell who the
symbols belonged to?

HERCULES

They look like...

Momentary pause HERCULES tries to decipher the two symbols.

HERCULES
Ares and Aphrodite.

DIANA
Ares and Aphrodite? Are you sure?

HERCULES
Yeah. I'm sure.

DIANA
Why would...

DIANA remembers part of the myth of Aphrodite. That part that stated that she and Ares were lovers even though she was married to Hephaestus. DIANA says next line more to herself then to HERCULES.

DIANA
Could that be the answer?

HERCULES
What?

DIANA
Ares and Aphrodite were lovers, yet she was married to Hephaestus, and...

HERCULES
Whoa. What?
(beat)
Aphrodite isn't married to Heph. And she certainly isn't sleeping with Ares!

DIANA ignores HERCULES' statement.

DIANA
Maybe this was forged as a love cuff.
(beat)
You said the symbols were intertwined, like lovers, right?

HERCULES
I guess you could see it that way. But I told you, Ares...

DIANA
Maybe the bracelet is useless,
unless...

DIANA pauses.

HERCULES
Unless what?

HERCULES waits for DIANA to continue. She doesn't. After a few moments he prompts her.

HERCULES
Diana?

DIANA
Unless the receiver and giver are
lovers.

HERCULES
Oh.

DIANA is still behind HERCULES. She looks at him. She places her hands back on his shoulders and starts to massage them again.

HERCULES
What are you doing?

DIANA leans over and kisses his neck.

HERCULES
Diana?

DIANA
How badly do you want to get home?

HERCULES
You don't have to do this?

DIANA
I want to.
(beat)
And so do you.

DIANA looks at him.

DIANA

We've been stepping around this since you got here.

DIANA goes to his side and takes his hand in hers. He gets up from the table.

CONTINUE TO:

15 STAIRWAY

She leads him up the stairs.

CONTINUE TO:

16 UPSTAIRS

They reach the top of the stairs and go through the kitchen to the hallway.

CONTINUE TO:

17 HALLWAY

They walk down the hall and stop at the bedroom door. She opens the door. He stops.

HERCULES

Diana, I...

DIANA looks at him.

DIANA

You could stay here till hell freezes over if you want to try all 6 billion combinations or you can trust me and...

HERCULES

Diana, this isn't right. I...

DIANA wraps her arms around his neck.

DIANA

Has anyone ever told you that you talk too much?

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES raises an eyebrow.

HERCULES

What?

DIANA kisses him. He gives in. He wraps his arms around her and picks her up.

CONTINUE TO:

18 BEDROOM

He carries her across the room and lays her on the bed. He breaks the kiss and looks at her.

HERCULES

Are you sure you want to do this?

DIANA smiles at him and looks deep into his eyes.

DIANA

Since the moment you stepped out of my pool.

She slides her arms down his chest, and then under his shirt. She removes his shirt and pulls him close.

DIANA

Now, just shut-up and kiss me.

HERCULES kisses her. They make love.

CUT TO:

TUESDAY JUNE 11th 1996

19 BEDROOM (10:00AM)

DIANA wakes up. HERCULES is gone.

DIANA

No, he wouldn't.

DIANA gets out of bed, throws on her long nightshirt, and then exits the room, running.

CONTINUE TO:

(CONTINUED)

20 HALLWAY

She runs down the hall to the kitchen.

CONTINUE TO:

21 KITCHEN

She runs through the kitchen to the stairs.

CONTINUE TO:

22 STAIRS

She stops at the top of the stairs. She can hear a female voice downstairs.

DIANA

Who is he talking to?

DIANA slowly heads down the stairs.

CONTINUE TO:

23 BASEMENT - TABLE #1

HERCULES is sitting at table #1. There is, what appears to be, a hologram of NEMESIS delivering a message. DIANA gets to the bottom of the stairs as the message is finishing. DIANA can't understand what the voice is saying, as Nemesis is speaking in the language of the Gods. HERCULES can understand her though. Here is the translation of the end of Nemesis' message. HERCULES is writing down what NEMESIS is saying.

NEMESIS

*...Ares and Hermes are side by side.
Artemis passes them on her way to
Apollo who is behind Aphrodite who is
trailing behind Ares and Hermes. Zeus
surrounds them.*

The hologram disappears. DIANA goes to HERCULES. The sound of her voice startles him.

DIANA

Were you really planning on leaving
without saying goodbye?

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES turns to her. He can see she is upset. He rises from the table and goes to her.

HERCULES

I thought it would be better. But...

DIANA

But what?

HERCULES kisses her. After about 7 seconds, he breaks the kiss. DIANA remembers the hologram.

DIANA

Who was that?

HERCULES

Nemesis.

DIANA

Nemesis? Really?

(beat)

What did she have to say?

HERCULES

She said that I have to wait until Ares and Hermes are side by side. Artemis passes them on her way to Apollo who is behind Aphrodite who is trailing behind Ares and Hermes. Zeus surrounds them.

DIANA

Which means?

HERCULES

I have no idea.

DIANA

But... once all that happens, you just recite...

HERCULES

We recite it.

DIANA

(look at him)

We?

HERCULES

Apparently, there are a different set of instructions for each third piece.

DIANA

You mean...

HERCULES

Since we used a love cuff...

DIANA

(smile)

Told you it was a love cuff.

HERCULES

(smile)

Since we used a love cuff, we must recite the passage.

DIANA

So we say it together, then.

HERCULES

(look at her)

No. We alternate names.

DIANA

Oh.

(beat)

Now all we have to do is figure out what Nemesis' new message means.

HERCULES

Why is nothing ever easy with them? Why must it always be so cryptic.

PAN TO:

24 TABLE #2

DIANA goes to the table and picks up a pen and a piece of paper.

DIANA

What was the message again?

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES repeats the message. DIANA writes it on the piece of paper. She places each sentence on its own line.

HERCULES

Ares and Hermes are side by side.
Artemis passes them on her way to
Apollo who is behind Aphrodite who is
trailing behind Ares and Hermes. Zeus
surrounds them.

DIANA

(look at paragraph)
Obviously, it is a code of some sort.

HERCULES

Obviously.

DIANA

(look at Hercules)
And you have no idea what it means?

HERCULES

None. I was hoping you'd know.

DIANA reads it, thinking.

DIANA

Ares, Hermes, Artemis, Apollo,
Aphrodite, Zeus.
(beat x2)
What do they all have in common?

HERCULES

They're all Olympians.

DIANA shakes her head "no".

DIANA

We had to know that to get this
message.
(beat)
It's something else.

DIANA highlights the Gods names in the paragraph. HERCULES starts guessing.

HERCULES

Zeus is the father of the other five.

DIANA shakes her head "no".

DIANA

That's not it either.

HERCULES

Apollo & Artemis are the sun & moon.
Aphrodite & Ares are love & war. Her...

DIANA

Wait. I think I've...

DIANA writes down what she says under the passage.

DIANA

Apollo=Sun. Artemis=Moon. Ares=Mars.
Aphrodite=Venus. Hermes=Mercury.
Zeus=Jupiter.

(beat)

That's it.

HERCULES looks to DIANA, partially confused.

HERCULES

Apollo and Artemis I understand.
But...

(beat)

Mars, Venus, Mercury, and Jupiter?

DIANA

The gods of Ancient Rome were much the
same as your gods. The only difference
were their names.

(beat)

Ares became Mars, Aphrodite became
Venus, Hermes became Mercury, and Zeus
became Jupiter.

HERCULES

So, what do the Roman gods have to do
with getting me home?

DIANA

Mars, Venus, Mercury, and Jupiter are not only the names of Roman gods ... They also happen to be names of five of the nine planets in our solar system.

HERCULES

Planets? Solar System?

DIANA

A solar system consists of a group of planets. A planet is a...

Momentary pause. DIANA tries to think of how to describe what a planet is.

DIANA

...a... well, Earth is a planet.

(beat)

Our solar system has 9 planets.

(beat)

Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto.

HERCULES

Okay. I still don't see what...

DIANA

I think Nemesis' message is referring to the position of the planets.

HERCULES

How can you tell where a planet is, in relationship to another planet?

DIANA

I have a computer program that should help with that.

(beat)

Come.

DIANA and HERCULES go to the computer.

CONTINUE TO:

(CONTINUED)

25 COMPUTER

DIANA turns it on. She types "SKYGLOBE" at the DOS prompt. The computer activates the SKYGLOBE program. A star map appears on the screen. DIANA has the settings set to display all the constellations and their names, all Messier and NGC objects, all planets, the sun, the moon, the horizon line, the ecliptic line, and the RA-Dec grid lines. The setting is for current date and time, Toronto, North.

HERCULES

What is that?

DIANA

It's a map of all the stars in the sky.

(beat)

Using this we can see where stars will be in the future, where they were in the past, and where they are now.

HERCULES

So, what are we looking for?

DIANA

We are looking for the next time that Mars and Mercury are side by side.

(beat)

Once we find that, we have to make sure that the moon is passing them, and that Venus and the sun are behind them.

HERCULES

What about Zeus, I mean Jupiter?

DIANA

It should be close by.

DIANA advances the map in hours. She stops at June 13th, 1996, 8:00pm.

DIANA

There.

DIANA zooms in as close as she can on "Taurus". "Taurus" takes up the whole screen, displaying the information they are looking for. DIANA explains the map to HERCULES. She points to the objects as she says them.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

See.

(beat)

The moon is passing Mercury, which is beside Mars.

(beat)

And on its way to the sun, which is behind Venus.

(beat)

And the sun and Venus, are trailing behind Mercury and Mars.

HERCULES

So where is Jupiter?

DIANA

Good question.

DIANA looks at the screen. She can't see Jupiter anywhere. She is about to continue searching, thinking that they might have the wrong place, when she notices that all the planets are within the constellation "*Taurus*".

DIANA

Zeus surrounds them! Of course.

HERCULES is confused.

HERCULES

What?

DIANA

All the planets are within the constellation of Taurus.

(beat)

Therefore, you could say that Taurus surrounds them, right?

HERCULES isn't quite sure he knows what she is talking about, and hesitantly agrees.

HERCULES

O-kay.

DIANA

Taurus is supposed to be the Cretan Bull of Mythology.

HERCULES still looks confused.

DIANA

The one that Zeus transformed himself
into to romance Europa.

HERCULES still doesn't see the connection.

DIANA

Zeus is Taurus. And since Taurus
surrounds the planets, Zeus surrounds
the gods.

HERCULES looks at her, looking for an explanation.

HERCULES

So, what does all this mean?

DIANA

It means...

DIANA looks at the top left corner of the screen, to check the
date and time of this alignment.

DIANA

We try again at 8pm on the 13th.

HERCULES

Which is?

DIANA looks back at HERCULES.

DIANA

In 2 days.

DIANA and HERCULES share a look.

JUMP TO:

THURSDAY JUNE 13th 1996

26 BASEMENT - TABLE #1 (8:00PM)

HERCULES and DIANA are sitting at the table. Their hands are
touching the linked gauntlets and bracelet, which are being
held over Nemesis' pendant.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

You ready?

HERCULES

As I'll ever be.

DIANA

It was great meeting you.

Momentary pause. HERCULES smiles at her.

HERCULES

Same here. It's nice to know that the world does have a future.

HERCULES leans over the table and kisses her.

DIANA

Well... Let's get started.

They each have a copy of the list in front of them.

HERCULES

Hail Zeus, Son of Cronus & Rhea. King of all Gods & men. Ruler of Heaven & Earth.

DIANA

Hail Hera, Daughter of Cronus & Rhea. Sister & Wife of Zeus. Queen of Gods & of Heaven. Goddess of women & childbirth.

The gems on the gauntlets start to glow, brighter and brighter after each name is said. DIANA and HERCULES don't notice.

HERCULES

Hail Poseidon, Son of Cronus & Rhea. Brother of Zeus. God of the sea.

DIANA

Hail Demeter, Daughter of Cronus & Rhea. Sister & Ex-wife of Zeus. Goddess of Agriculture.

HERCULES

Hail Hades, Son of Cronus & Rhea. Brother of Zeus. God of the Underworld.

DIANA

Hail Hestia, Daughter of Cronus & Rhea.
Sister of Zeus. Goddess of the hearth.

HERCULES

Hail Ares, Son of Zeus & Hera. God of
War.

DIANA

Hail Aphrodite, Daughter of Zeus &
Dione. Goddess of Love.

HERCULES

Hail Apollo, Son of Zeus & Leto. God
of the sun and the arts.

DIANA

Hail Artemis, Daughter of Zeus & Leto.
Goddess of the moon & the hunt.

HERCULES

Hail Hephaestus, Son of Hera. Stepson
of Zeus. God of Fire.

DIANA

Hail Athena, Daughter of Zeus & Metis.
Goddess of Wisdom & War.

HERCULES

Hail Hermes, Son of Zeus & Maia.
Messenger to the Gods.

As soon as the last word is spoken, there is a flash of light
and both HERCULES and DIANA vanish.

Nemesis's pendant is still on the table, but the bracelet and
gauntlets are gone.

CUT TO:

DAY 1

27 ANCIENT GREECE

HERCULES and DIANA appear in a meadow. They look at their arms
and notice that DIANA's wearing her bracelet, and HERCULES is
wearing his gauntlets. They both turn and look at each other.

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES / DIANA

Uh-oh!

They look at their surroundings. Each for a different reason. He's trying to figure out where they are, and she is just admiring the view. After a few moments, HERCULES gets his bearings straight and heads off in a southwesterly direction.

DIANA

Hey, wait up.

DIANA follows him.

FADE OUT.