

The Chronicles of Diana Marsson
Chapter 3: The Return

By

Debbie Roche

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

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DAY 1 (CONT)

1 EXT: MEADOW

HERCULES and DIANA are walking.

DIANA

How did this happen? I thought only you were supposed to return.

HERCULES

We must have done something wrong.

DIANA

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

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

DIANA

This isn't so bad actually.

HERCULES stops and looks at her.

DIANA

I've always wanted to see Ancient Greece

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

DIANA

I've read so much about it. I feel like I know it.

(beat)

The Gods... The Heroes...

Momentary pause. They start walking again.

DIANA

Maybe I'll meet some of them!

DIANA gets a thoughtful look.

DIANA

Or some of the mythical creatures I've read about!

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES

Like?

DIANA

Like...

(beat)

Centaurs. I always wanted to meet a Centaur. They've always seemed so...

(beat)

I don't know, unreal.

(beat)

A breed of half-man, half-horse. Fathered by Ixion.

HERCULES stops and looks at her.

HERCULES

I know what they are.

DIANA

Right. Sorry.

HERCULES

You want to meet one?

DIANA's eyes light up like a Christmas tree.

DIANA

Yes.

(beat)

Maybe I can finally get an answer to a question that has always bothered me.

HERCULES

Oh, and what might...

DIANA

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

HERCULES

(raise eyebrow)

Come to think of it, no.

Momentary pause. HERCULES thinks.

HERCULES

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

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

HERCULES

They can't just reproduce themselves.

DIANA

I don't know about that.

(beat)

This is, after all, Ancient Greece
we're talking about.

(beat)

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

DIANA pauses, letting her statement sink in. DIANA starts to walk again.

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

HERCULES

So, was that a yes?

DIANA

Was what a yes?

HERCULES

To meeting a centaur.

DIANA

Yes, it was a yes. You know any?

HERCULES

A few.

DIANA remembers HERCULES telling her about Cheiron.

DIANA

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

HERCULES

Right.

DIANA

You'll really introduce me to one?

HERCULES

On one condition.

DIANA

Name it.

HERCULES

You have to stop referring to this

HERCULES indicates their surroundings.

HERCULES

as Ancient Greece. It's just Greece.

DIANA

Right.

(beat)

So, when can I meet one?

HERCULES

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

DIANA

Deric?

DIANA stops walking.

DIANA

What sort of name is Deric?

HERCULES stops and turns to her.

HERCULES

What's wrong with Deric?

DIANA

Nothing. But... for a centaur?

HERCULES

What sort of name should a centaur have?

DIANA

(think)

I don't know.

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

DIANA

Maybe something a little more, Greek.

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

DIANA

You said, "on the way".

HERCULES

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

DIANA

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

HERCULES

To catch a boat.

DIANA

A boat? Why? Where are we going?

HERCULES

Corinth.

DIANA

Corinth? What's in Corinth?

Pause. HERCULES doesn't answer her.

DIANA

Herc?

HERCULES still doesn't answer her.

DIANA

Hercules?

HERCULES still doesn't answer her.

DIANA

What's in Corinth?

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

JUMP TO:

2 EXT: DERIC'S PLACE

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

DERIC

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

HERCULES

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

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

DERIC

Is she all right?

DIANA

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

(CONTINUED)

DERIC

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

DIANA

I haven't.

(beat)

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

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

HERCULES

Where are Lyla and Kefor?

DERIC

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

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

HERCULES

Watch what you say.

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

DIANA

(mutter)

Oh my god! An infant centaur! I...

HERCULES hears her comment, but DERIC doesn't.

KEFOR

Daddy!

KEFOR hugs DERIC.

DERIC

Where's mommy, Kefor?

KEFOR points to the house.

KEFOR

Kitchen.

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

KEFOR

Hi, Herc!

HERCULES

Hi, Kefor. You being a good boy?

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

KEFOR

Who's she?

HERCULES

This is my friend Diana.

KEFOR

Hi, Diana.

DIANA

Hi, Kefor.

They reach the house. DERIC opens the door.

CONTINUE TO:

3 INT: HOUSE

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

CONTINUE TO:

4 INT: KITCHEN

LYLA is setting the table. DERIC enters the kitchen.

DERIC

Lyla, we have visitors.

(CONTINUED)

LYLA

Who?

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

LYLA

Hercules?!?

HERCULES

Hi.

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

HERCULES

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

DIANA

You're Kefor's mom?

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

LYLA

Yes.

DIANA

Wow.

LYLA looks to HERCULES.

LYLA

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

LYLA flashes a smile.

LYLA

(beat)

We have a lot to catch up on.

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

HERCULES

Sure, thanks.

LYLA

I'm so sorry I missed the wedding.

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

LYLA

I really wanted to go but...

HERCULES

Don't worry about it.

DIANA

Wedding?

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

LYLA

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

DIANA

Wedding?

HERCULES

We were very lucky. But everything worked out.

DIANA

Excuse Me!!!

Everyone stares at DIANA.

DIANA

What wedding are we talking about?

HERCULES

My mother's.

DIANA

(raise eyebrow)
Your mother got married? To who?

LYLA

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

HERCULES jumps in before DIANA can say anything.

HERCULES

Jason. She married Jason.

DIANA

Jason? Jason who?

HERCULES

Jason, Jason.

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

DERIC

Thee Jason.

DIANA looks at DERIC.

DERIC

The one that lead the Argonauts.

DIANA looks to HERCULES.

DIANA

Your mother married Jason of the
Argonauts?

HERCULES nods affirmatively.

DIANA

The same Jason you went to the academy
with.

HERCULES nods affirmatively.

DIANA

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

HERCULES

I...

DIANA

Forget it. I...

DIANA thinks of something.

DIANA

Wait...

(beat)

I thought Jason married Medea.

HERCULES

He did. She...

(beat)

...she died.

DIANA

That's right.

DIANA sorta mumbles the next bit. It is audible but not clearly.

DIANA

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

(beat)

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

LYLA

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

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

DIANA

I thought I'd read everything on mythology. But obviously a few stories were never told.

DERIC and LYLA are giving DIANA a strange look.

DIANA

I wonder what else got lost over the millennia.

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

LYLA

Mythology? Millenia? What...

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

DIANA

Uh, I...

LYLA notices DIANA's outfit.

LYLA

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

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

HERCULES

It's a long story.

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

HERCULES

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

DIANA

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

HERCULES looks at DIANA.

HERCULES

Diana, I know what I'm doing.

DIANA

O-kay.

HERCULES

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

DIANA and DERIC say their lines simultaneously.

DERIC

I am?

DIANA

He is?

HERCULES looks to DERIC.

HERCULES

You are.

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

HERCULES

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

DIANA

We will?

HERCULES

Yes. We will.

DIANA

But...

HERCULES just stares at her.

DERIC

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

HERCULES

Not too long.

LYLA

Shall we sit down?

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

HERCULES

It all started in Cyzicus...

JUMP TO:

5 LATER

HERCULES has finished telling DERIC and LYLA the story.

DERIC

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

HERCULES

Yeah.

LYLA

So, what's the future like, Herc.

HERCULES

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

DERIC

How can we help?

(beat)

You were saying something about...

HERCULES

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

DERIC

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

HERCULES

Not really.

(beat)

I want you to be the answer.

DERIC

What?

DIANA

Yeah, what?

(beat)

We never discussed a cover story. I...

HERCULES look at DIANA.

HERCULES

I'm not sure how long you've going to be here, and ever since we got back, I've been trying to think of a back story.

Momentary pause. HERCULES looks to DERIC.

HERCULES

Deric seems as good a choice as any.

DIANA

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

HERCULES glares at her, then addresses them all.

HERCULES

Diana was abandoned as an infant. Left in the woods. Deric was passing by and heard crying. He went to investigate and found Diana. He decided to bring Diana back to his place and try to locate her family. He couldn't find them. He decided to raise her himself. When she turned 16, she left Deric. She set out to find out who she really was.

Momentary pause.

DIANA

Sounds possible.

(beat)

Do I ever learn who my parents are, were?

HERCULES gives her a "what do you think?" look.

HERCULES

No. How...

DIANA

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

DERIC

I guess so.

HERCULES

Good.

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

HERCULES

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

DERIC

Yes. Would you like to see it?

HERCULES

I'd love too.

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

DIANA

Anything I can help you with?

LYLA

What?

DIANA

Lunch. Do you need any...

LYLA

Sure. You can help me finish setting
the table.

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

CONTINUE TO:

(CONTINUED)

6 TIME FLIES MONTAGE

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

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

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

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

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

CONTINUE TO:

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

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

LEADER

Hera says, "Welcome back!"

HERCULES

Of course she does.

The leader turns to address his men.

LEADER

Kill him!!!!

HERCULES

Here we go again.

The thugs charge HERCULES.

HERCULES

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

A fight breaks out. DIANA uses what little she knows of hand-to-hand combat (ie: Kung-Fu) to help out. HERCULES is surprised

(CONTINUED)

that she knows how to fight so well. Between them they take care of the band of thugs. HERCULES goes to DIANA. DIANA is dusting herself off.

DIANA

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

HERCULES

You could say that.

HERCULES stares at her.

DIANA

What?

HERCULES

Where'd you learn to fight like that?

(beat)

The only person I've ever seen use moves like that is Iolaus!

DIANA

There's that name again.

(beat)

Iolaus.

(beat)

Will I get to meet him?

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

HERCULES

Can you just answer the question?

DIANA

A friend of mine taught me. Years ago.
Or should I say years from now. I'm surprised I remembered!

They start walking again.

HERCULES

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

DIANA raises an eyebrow and looks at HERCULES.

DIANA
Weapons?

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

DIANA
Never handled a weapon.

HERCULES
Never?

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

HERCULES
I could have someone teach you if you
want?

DIANA
That depends on who you have in mind.

HERCULES flashes her a smile.

HERCULES
My sister is pretty good with a bow
and arrow.

DIANA raises an eyebrow and looks at HERCULES.

DIANA
Sister?

HERCULES
So is...

DIANA realizes who HERCULES is referring to.

DIANA
Wait...

DIANA grabs HERCULES arm and they stop walking.

DIANA
You meant Artemis, didn't you?

HERCULES
Who else?

DIANA
Ha. Yeah, sure.

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

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

HERCULES
Ares?

DIANA
He is the God of War, isn't he?
(beat)
Who better to teach me...

HERCULES
Ares can't be trusted!

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

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

HERCULES
(raise eyebrow)
Jealous? Me? Of Ares?

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

HERCULES is confused. He looks at her. She looks at him.

After a few moments, he kisses her. Deeply and passionately. He breaks the kiss.

HERCULES

I'll think about it.

HERCULES walks on. DIANA follows.

CONTINUE TO:

8 TIME FLIES

They continue on to Piraeus.

CONTINUE TO:

9 EXT: PIRAEUS (9:00PM)

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

HERCULES

Excuse me?

The captain looks at him.

HERCULES

Could you tell me where this boat is headed?

The captain notices DIANA, and smiles at her.

CAPTAIN

Corinth.

HERCULES

Really? When do you plan on arriving?

CAPTAIN

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

HERCULES

Mid-day? That's great.

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

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN

You two, uh, need a ride?

HERCULES

If you don't mind.

CAPTAIN

No problem step aboard.

HERCULES

Thanks.

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

CAPTAIN

Name's Acmadeus.

HERCULES offers his hand.

HERCULES

Hercules.

ACMADEUS

(raise eyebrow)

Hercules?

HERCULES

(nod)

And this is Diana.

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

ACMADEUS

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

ACMADEUS walks off. HERCULES and DIANA follow him.

CUT TO:

NEXT DAY (DAY 2)

10 EXT: PALACE GATES - CORINTH (EARLY EVENING)

HERCULES and DIANA approach the palace as the sun is setting. They enter the gates. HERCULES is ahead of DIANA. DIANA sees

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES approach one of the guards and ask him something. She reaches them in time to hear the guard's reply.

GUARD

They're in the garden.

HERCULES

Thanks.

They enter the palace grounds.

CONTINUE TO:

11 EXT: PALACE GROUNDS

HERCULES heads to the garden. DIANA follows.

DIANA

You know the king of Corinth?

HERCULES

You could say that.

Pause. DIANA thinks to herself.

DIANA (THOUGHT)

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

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

DIANA

Herc, why are we here?

CONTINUE TO:

12 EXT: GARDEN

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

(CONTINUED)

ALCMENE

Hercules!!!

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

ALCMENE

Iolaus told us that Hera...

HERCULES

Mother, please. I'm okay.

DIANA

Mother?

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

DIANA (THOUGHT)

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

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

IOLAUS

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

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

HERCULES

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

IPHICLES

Who is your lady friend, brother?

DIANA looks at HERCULES and raises an eyebrow in surprise.

DIANA

Brother?

DIANA looks back at IPHICLES. IPHICLES takes DIANA's hand and kisses it.

(CONTINUED)

As HERCULES is saying line, DIANA notices the crown.

HERCULES

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

DIANA smiles at IPHICLES. IPHICLES nods a hello.

DIANA

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

IPHICLES

That is a story better saved for later.

HERCULES

This is his wife, Rena.

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

HERCULES

This is my mother, Alcmene.

DIANA and ALCMENE shake hands.

DIANA

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

ALCMENE smiles. DIANA looks to HERCULES.

DIANA

He's so...

HERCULES cuts her off.

HERCULES

This is Iolaus. My best friend.

DIANA and IOLAUS shake hands.

DIANA

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

IOLAUS is startled and surprised.

IOLAUS

You've heard of me?

DIANA

Yes. I have. You sound surprised?

IOLAUS

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

IOLAUS laughs. DIANA thinks to herself again.

DIANA (THOUGHT)

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

DIANA gives HERCULES a look. HERCULES turns to JASON.

HERCULES

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

DIANA and JASON shake hands.

DIANA

I just heard of your wedding. Congratulations.

JASON

Thank you.

DIANA

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

JASON

I'd love too.

Short pause. HERCULES looks back to DIANA.

HERCULES

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

IOLAUS whispers to HERCULES.

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

DIANA wonders what IOLAUS is saying.

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

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

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

IOLAUS stares at HERCULES.

HERCULES
Just answer the question. Please?

IOLAUS
Two months.

HERCULES
Two *months*?

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

IOLAUS
Yeah. Two months.
(beat)
Are you sure all right, Herc?

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

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

DIANA

Well, that's what they say, isn't it?
Time flies when your having fun!

IOLAUS looks to DIANA.

IOLAUS

They? Who are they?

DIANA

They. The ones that make up all those sayings.

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

IOLAUS

Oh.

ALCMENE looks to HERCULES.

ALCMENE

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

HERCULES laughs.

HERCULES

We can stay for a while, mother.

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

HERCULES

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

ALCMENE laughs knowing that HERCULES is kidding.

ALCMENE

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

A servant enters and addresses IPHICLES.

SERVANT

Dinner is served, my lord.

IPHICLES

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

SERVANT

Yes, my lord.

The servant leaves. HERCULES looks to IPHICLES.

HERCULES

How do you like being King?

IPHICLES

It has its moments, little brother.

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

DIANA

Little brother?

(beat)

Thought you two were twins?

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

IPHICLES

Where'd you hear that?

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

DIANA

I... I...

IPHICLES

I was 6 when he was born.

DIANA stares at IPHICLES.

DIANA (THOUGHT)

6? That can't be right. Every story said they were twins. Every...

DIANA looks at JASON.

DIANA (THOUGHT)

Wait. If Iphicles is 6 years older than Herc, that means he is 2 years older than Jason. But why does Jason look so much older than them? What could have happened to Jason to....

HERCULES recognizes the look on DIANA's face. It's the look she gets when something isn't making sense to her. She notices him staring at her and is about to say something when JASON speaks breaking the silence.

JASON

Well, shall we go eat?

(beat)

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

HERCULES agrees with him. He knows that at any moment DIANA's curiosity might get the better of her and she'll put her foot in her mouth again.

HERCULES

So am I.

ALCMENE looks at HERCULES.

ALCMENE

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

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

CONTINUE TO:

13 HALL TO PRIVATE DINING ROOM

Everyone heads to the dining room.

CONTINUE TO:

14 PRIVATE DINING ROOM

They enter the room. Everyone takes a seat at the table.

(CONTINUED)

The table has 4 chairs on the north side (empty, HERCULES, DIANA, IOLAUS), 4 chairs on the south side (empty, JASON, ALCMENE, empty), 1 chair on the east side (IPHICLES) and 1 chair on the west side (RENA).

DIANA

This looks good.

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

DIANA

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

IPHICLES

That is an interesting story.

(beat)

It all started when Jason here

IPHICLES looks to JASON.

IPHICLES

decided he wanted to marry mother.

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

DIANA

I don't...

IPHICLES

There was a law that stated that the ruling king could not marry a commoner and continue to rule.

(beat)

He must marry someone of royal blood or lose his crown.

DIANA is still a little confused.

DIANA

(raise eyebrow)

So how did...

IPHICLES

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

DIANA

And he picked you.

IPHICLES

I was his second choice.

DIANA

Second?

IPHICLES

Yes. His first choice turned him down.

IPHICLES looks to HERCULES.

IPHICLES

Right, little brother?

DIANA looks at HERCULES.

DIANA

You? Jason wanted you to take over for him.

HERCULES

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

DIANA looks at JASON.

DIANA

Since Herc declined, your next choice was Iphicles?

JASON nods affirmatively.

JASON

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

DIANA

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

JASON

Not really.

ALCMENE looks to DIANA.

ALCMENE

So, Diana...

(beat)

How did you help bring my son back to us?

DIANA

That's a long story.

DIANA looks at HERCULES.

DIANA

Where do I start?

DIANA and HERCULES figure out how to tell that story.

JUMP TO:

NEXT DAY (DAY 3)

15 TIME FLIES

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

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

CONTINUE TO:

16 EXT: FIELD

HERCULES, DIANA, and IOLAUS are walking through a field. A short distance in front of them is a tree. There is a man sitting under the tree. He appears to be waiting for someone.

IOLAUS spots the man and recognizes him. IOLAUS addresses HERCULES.

(CONTINUED)

IOLAUS

Ah, Herc...

HERCULES turns to IOLAUS. IOLAUS says line while pointing to the man.

IOLAUS

Isn't that your father up there?

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

HERCULES

What does he want?

DIANA looks to where IOLAUS is pointing.

DIANA

Father?

(beat)

That's Zeus?!

(beat)

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

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

DIANA

Sorry.

They approach the tree.

ZEUS

I'm glad you made it back, son.

HERCULES

Are you?

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

DIANA

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

HERCULES

Diana, not now, okay?

DIANA

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

HERCULES gives her a look.

HERCULES

Stay out of this.

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

DIANA

Okay, okay. I'll stay quiet.

HERCULES

Thank you.

HERCULES looks at ZEUS.

HERCULES

What do you want?

ZEUS

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

HERCULES

(raise eyebrow)
You missed me?

ZEUS

Yes. Is that so hard to believe?

HERCULES

Well I didn't miss you.

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

IOLAUS

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

ZEUS

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

IOLAUS

In time, maybe.

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

DIANA

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

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

ZEUS

I don't think I've met you before.

DIANA

I'm Diana. Hercules, um...

(beat)

...landed on my doorstep when...

ZEUS

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

DIANA

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

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

ZEUS

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

DIANA looks to HERCULES and IOLAUS.

DIANA

Right.

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

DIANA

I think we...

ZEUS is gone.

DIANA

Zeus?

(beat)

Zeus?

(beat)

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

(beat)

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

Momentary pause. DIANA turns back around, and notices that HERCULES and IOLAUS have now stopped. They are looking at her, waiting for her to join them.

DIANA

Oh well, tomorrow's another day.

DIANA runs to catch up to HERCULES and IOLAUS.

CUT TO:

3 DAYS LATER (DAY 6)

17 EXT: HERCULES'S PLACE - FRONT YARD

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

HERCULES

Excuse me. I'll be right back.

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

(CONTINUED)

IOLAUS

Uh-Oh.

DIANA

What? Who is she?

(beat)

Do you know her?

IOLAUS sees GABRIELLE.

IOLAUS

Stay here. I'll be right back.

IOLAUS heads down to them. DIANA stays put.

PAN TO:

18 FOCUS ON XENA, GABRIELLE, TORIS, AND ARGO

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

XENA

Welcome back, Herc.

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

IOLAUS / GABRIELLE

Hi.

IOLAUS

It's, umm, been a while.

GABRIELLE

Yes. It has.

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

PAN TO:

19 FOCUS ON DIANA

DIANA walks over. She is wondering why HERCULES isn't breaking the kiss. She is getting madder and madder as she gets closer,

(CONTINUED)

and he doesn't seem to be letting go. DIANA mutters the following line to herself.

DIANA
(mutter)
That does it!

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

CONTINUE TO:

20 XENA AND HERCULES

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

PAN TO:

21 IOLAUS

IOLAUS notices TORIS as he reaches DIANA.

IOLAUS
Uh-Oh.

PAN TO:

22 FOCUS ON DIANA

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

TORIS
Are you all right?

DIANA
I'll live. ... But I'm gonna kill him!

TORIS
Here, let me help you up.

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

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

Well, turn around is fair play.

TORIS

Pardon?

DIANA

Nothing.

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

PAN TO:

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

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

IOLAUS

Herc...

(beat)

Uhh, Herc...

PAN TO:

24 FOCUS ON DIANA

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

DIANA (THOUGHT)

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

(beat)

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

DIANA continues kissing TORIS.

PAN TO:

(CONTINUED)

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

IOLAUS is still trying to get HERCULES' attention.

IOLAUS

Uhh, Herc...

(beat x2)

Xena?

(beat x2)

Guys?

(beat x2)

Hello.

HERCULES breaks the kiss and turns to IOLAUS.

HERCULES

What is it, Iolaus?

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

HERCULES

Excuse me.

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

PAN TO:

26 FOCUS ON DIANA AND HERCULES

HERCULES

What do you think you're doing?

DIANA

I could ask you the same question?

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

PAN TO:

(CONTINUED)

27 FOCUS ON XENA, GABRIELLE, IOLAUS, AND ARGO

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

XENA
Did I miss something?
(beat)
Who is she?

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

IOLAUS points to DIANA.

IOLAUS
...is Herc's girlfriend.

XENA
Girlfriend?

IOLAUS
Yeah.

XENA
Since when did...

IOLAUS
About 2 months. Her name is Diana.

GABRIELLE
I think we should go see if Toris is
okay.

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

IOLAUS
(raise eyebrow)
Toris? Who is he anyway?

XENA
My brother.

IOLAUS
Your brother? Thought you said your
brothers were dead?

XENA

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

IOLAUS

Didn't you say you had three brothers?

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

PAN TO:

28 TORIS

They reach TORIS. He is brushing himself off.

TORIS

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

XENA

They are.

(beat)

This is Iolaus. And uh, the one who
threw you, is Hercules.

TORIS looks at XENA with his eyebrow arched in surprise.

TORIS

(surprise)

Hercules?

XENA

Yeah.

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

TORIS

I was thrown by Hercules!?!

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

TORIS

(raise eyebrow)

Why?

(CONTINUED)

XENA
Apparently for kissing his girlfriend.

TORIS
Girlfriend?

Okay, now he's confused, really confused.

TORIS
She's his girlfriend?

IOLAUS nods a "yes".

TORIS
But he was kissing you? And...

IOLAUS
I think Diana was trying to make that point.

(beat)
If Herc could kiss Xena, then uh, then she could kiss you.

TORIS
So she was using me?

IOLAUS
Looks like it.

TORIS
(mutter)
Not that I mind.

XENA
Come on, I have to apologize to Diana.

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

PAN TO:

29 HERCULES AND DIANA

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

(CONTINUED)

XENA

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

(beat)

I'm Xena.

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

DIANA

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

XENA

No.

(beat)

Friends?

DIANA takes her hand.

DIANA

Friends.

TORIS addresses HERCULES.

TORIS

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

HERCULES

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

TORIS looks at DIANA.

TORIS

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

TORIS offers his hand.

TORIS

I'm Toris.

DIANA smiles and takes his hand.

TORIS

Xena's brother.

HERCULES

Brother?

DIANA addresses TORIS.

DIANA

I'm Diana.

(beat)

I'm sorry about what happened...

DIANA points over her shoulder to the haystack.

DIANA

I...

TORIS

Don't worry about it.

TORIS flashes DIANA a smile.

TORIS

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

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

TORIS

I'm kidding. I'm kidding.

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

TORIS

So, you're Hercules?

Pause. HERCULES nods.

TORIS

Xena's told me a lot about you.

HERCULES gives XENA a look.

HERCULES

Oh she has, has she?

XENA just smiles.

TORIS

Yeah.

(beat)

But, uh...

(beat x2)

There is one thing she hasn't told me.

HERCULES

Oh? And what might that be?

TORIS

How you met!?!?

HERCULES, XENA, and IOLAUS exchange a look.

GABRIELLE

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

DIANA

Wait a second... Prometheus?

DIANA looks at HERCULES.

DIANA

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

HERCULES

I did.

DIANA

(confused)

But she just said that...

HERCULES

The gods recaptured him.

DIANA

Recaptured him?

(beat)

So the first time you freed him by yourself.

HERCULES

Yes.

DIANA

And the second time...

GABRIELLE

Xena and Hercules teamed up to rescue him.

DIANA

I'd love to hear that story!

(beat)

But first...

DIANA looks at HERCULES.

DIANA

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

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

DIANA

There's that look again.

(beat)

It must be some story. Why don't you tell us over lunch?

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

HERCULES

Okay.

DIANA

Great. Let's go inside.

They all head for the house.

JUMP TO:

A FEW HOURS LATER

30 INT: KITCHEN

They are all sitting around the table, eating lunch. XENA, HERCULES, and IOLAUS, have just finished telling TORIS,

(CONTINUED)

GABRIELLE, and DIANA about the first time XENA and HERCULES met. [See the first season episode of HTLJ entitled "THE WARRIOR PRINCESS"]

DIANA

Let me get this straight...

Pause. DIANA tries to make sense of the story.

DIANA

The first time you two...

DIANA points to HERCULES and XENA.

DIANA

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

XENA nods. GABRIELLE looks to IOLAUS.

GABRIELLE

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

TORIS thinks there is more to the story.

TORIS

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

DIANA looks at TORIS.

DIANA

You took the words right out of my mouth.

XENA

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

XENA and HERCULES look at each other.

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

31 TIME FLIES

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

CUT TO:

32 TIME RESUMES (A FEW HOURS LATER)

DIANA

So Herc turned your life around.

XENA

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

TORIS

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

XENA

(beat)

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

GABRIELLE

Until Prometheus.

XENA

Right. Until Prometheus.

DIANA

(curiously)

You never said why Prometheus was recaptured?

HERCULES

We never found out why.

DIANA

The Gods must have had a reason.

IOLAUS

If they did, they never shared it.

DIANA turns to HERCULES.

DIANA

How did you and Xena rescue him?

GABRIELLE

Let me tell this story.

GABRIELLE prepares to tell a story.

CUT TO:

33 TIME FLIES

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

CUT TO:

34 TIME RESUMES (A FEW HOURS LATER)

DIANA

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

HERCULES and XENA nod in agreement.

JUMP TO:

2 DAYS LATER (DAY 8)

35 HERCULES' PLACE - FRONT PORCH

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

HERCULES

What are you doing?

DIANA

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

(beat)

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

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES

So, what are you writing?

DIANA

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

HERCULES

Need any help?

DIANA

Sure.

Momentary pause. HERCULES sits down beside her.

DIANA

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

Momentary pause. DIANA looks at HERCULES.

DIANA

I'm going to write your story!

HERCULES

Salmoneous tried that once. He...

DIANA

(raise eyebrow)
Salmoneous?

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

HERCULES

Let me read what you've written so far.

HERCULES takes the pages and starts to read.

CONTINUE TO:

36 TIME FLIES

HERCULES reads the pages DIANA has written.

CONTINUE TO:

(CONTINUED)

37 TIME RESUMES

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

MAN

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

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

HERCULES

Maybe. Why?

MAN

I have to talk to him. It's important.
(beat)

If you are not him, do you know where
I can find him? I was told he had a
place around here, and...

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

HERCULES

Yes.

The man gets a confused look on his face.

MAN

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

HERCULES

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

MAN

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

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

HERCULES
That must be, what?

HERCULES looks at METHOS.

HERCULES
Please continue. I can't help if...

METHOS looks to DIANA.

METHOS
No offense, but this is a matter of
utmost importance. And it is
(beat)
highly confidential.

METHOS looks back at HERCULES.

METHOS
I'd rather it stayed between you and
me.

HERCULES
Methos, is it?

METHOS nods.

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

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

METHOS
You don't understand. This is...

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

DIANA

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

DIANA rises and HERCULES kisses her.

HERCULES

Are you sure? I mean...

DIANA

I'm sure. See you later.

HERCULES

Say hi to Iolaus for me.

DIANA

Will do.

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

PAN TO:

38 DIANA

As she walks off, she thinks to herself.

DIANA (THOUGHT)

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

PAN TO:

39 FOCUS ON HERCULES AND METHOS

METHOS looks back at HERCULES.

METHOS

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

HERCULES

Thank-you. Please, sit down.

(CONTINUED)

METHOS

Thanks.

Momentary pause as METHOS sits.

HERCULES

Now, tell me what you came to tell me.

METHOS

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

HERCULES

My father?

METHOS

Yes.

HERCULES

What do you want with Zeus?

METHOS

I have something I need to discuss with him.

HERCULES

Like what?

METHOS doesn't say anything.

HERCULES

(beat)

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

Momentary pause. HERCULES thinks he understands.

HERCULES

You want me to help you get to him.

METHOS

Yes.

HERCULES

I don't know.

METHOS

Please. This is really important.

HERCULES

Why don't you tell me why you have to see him, and I'll determine if it's...

METHOS

Well... It's kinda complicated.

HERCULES

Try me.

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

METHOS

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

HERCULES

Secrets, like what?

METHOS

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

HERCULES

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

METHOS

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

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

METHOS

So, will you help me?

As HERCULES considers METHOS' request, we...

FADE OUT.

(CONTINUED)