

The Chronicles of Diana Marsson  
Chapter 12: Home Sweet Home

By

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

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**ANCIENT GREECE (Day 1)**

1 EXT: MEADOW NEAR LAKE (LATE AFTERNOON)

DIANA and CLARK materialize. ARES isn't with them. DIANA looks around to get her bearings and then mutters her line in a surprising tone. DIANA is wearing her gauntlets and her sword is holstered in its scabbard on her waist.

DIANA  
It worked.

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

CLARK  
Mom, where's Ares?

DIANA doesn't seem the least bit concerned.

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

CLARK looks at her in shock and disbelief.

CLARK  
What? You never said...

DIANA looks at CLARK with a raised eyebrow.

DIANA  
Didn't I?

CLARK  
No you didn't. He could be anywhere!  
He...

CLARK thinks he has figured it out.

CLARK  
You planned this, didn't you?

(CONTINUED)

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

CLARK

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

DIANA

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

DIANA starts walking. Once her back is to CLARK, she looks at the ring ARES gave her and moves it to the index finger on her other hand. CLARK looks at her and follows.

JUMP TO:

2 INT: ARES' PLACE

CAMERA is focused on the wall where Ares had mounted Diana's Sword and gauntlets when she was sent back to the future. The sword starts shaking. After a few moments the sword and gauntlets disappear in a flash of light.

JUMP TO:

3 EXT: PATH TO THEBES

DIANA and CLARK are walking along the path. DIANA is looking around remembering everything that happened last time she was here. CLARK is wondering why they are walking. He is about to say something when there is a flash of light and three items appear in front of them. They both recognise the items. Diana's sword and gauntlets. DIANA is momentarily surprised, then remembers what Poseidon had said.

POSEIDON (VO)

*The sword is bonded to you.*

DIANA

These must be the ones I left behind.

DIANA goes to, and picks up, her gauntlets.

CLARK

How did they get here?

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

Poseidon once told me the sword was bonded to me and that I could never get rid of it as it would always find me.

CLARK

What are you going to do with...

DIANA looks at the gauntlets and shrinks them. Then places them in her pocket. She then picks up the sword and shrinks it. It now looks like a dagger or throwing knife. She throws it up and catches it, then places it inside the left gauntlet that she is wearing. CLARK is watching her. DIANA takes a look around.

CLARK

Where are we going?

DIANA looks at him.

DIANA

There's someone I want you to meet.

CLARK

(raise eyebrow)

Who?

DIANA

You'll see.

DIANA starts walking again and CLARK follows.

CLARK

How much further is it? Do you even know where we are?

DIANA

I know exactly where we are. And we are almost there. Just over the hill.

CONTINUE TO:

4 TIME FLIES

They walk on for a few more minutes then stop at the top of the hill.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA looks down at the house at the bottom of the hill. They head down the hill.

CONTINUE TO:

5 TIME RESUMES - EXT: HILLSIDE BEHIND HERCULES' HOUSE

CLARK is behind DIANA. He is curious as to where she is taking him.

CLARK

Why all the walking? Wouldn't it be easier if we just...?

DIANA turns and gives him a look.

CLARK

Okay. Sorry I asked. Walking's good.

They continue down the hillside.

JUMP TO:

6 EXT: ELSEWHERE - WARRIOR'S CAMP

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

LEADER

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

SECOND

Ares has always been on our side.

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

The leader looks surprised and happy to see him and kneels in front of ARES.

LEADER

Ares!

The leader, still kneeling, addresses his men.

(CONTINUED)

LEADER

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

The men all kneel and chant ARES' name.

MEN

Ares! Ares! Ares!

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

JUMP TO:

7 EXT: HERCULES' PLACE - FRONT YARD

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

METHOS

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

(beat)

I came to see if you needed anything.

HERCULES

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

METHOS

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

HERCULES

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

METHOS

I know. Easier said than done.

HERCULES

Right.

(CONTINUED)

METHOS

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

HERCULES

Safe travels, Methos.

METHOS

Bye, my friend.

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

PAN TO:

8 EXT: SIDE OF HOUSE

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

DIANA

Methos! Thank the gods he's...

CLARK looks around with a raised eyebrow.

CLARK

Methos? ... Where?

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

DIANA

I hope this worked.

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

CLARK looks at DIANA and notices the package.

CLARK

What's that?

DIANA

A message.

(CONTINUED)



CLARK gives DIANA a confused look.

DIANA

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

CLARK looks at her with a raised eyebrow.

CLARK

What?

DIANA

Just do it.

DIANA holds it out. As CLARK is taking it from her, he notices the ring Ares gave her is now on her other hand. He wonders why she moved it.

CLARK

Yes, mother.

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

PAN TO:

9 EXT: FRONT OF HOUSE

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

HERCULES

Diana? It can't be.

DIANA smiles and yells HERCULES' name.

DIANA

Herc!!!

CLARK

(shock/surprise)

Herc?

(CONTINUED)

CLARK wonders if this is the reason she moved her ring. And if so, what was she up to.

DIANA runs to HERCULES.

HERCULES

It is her? But how?

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

DIANA

Gods, how I've missed you.

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

DIANA

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

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

HERCULES

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

DIANA

You're not dreaming. I'm real.

HERCULES

But how? You...

DIANA

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

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

DIANA

Clark, this is Hercules...

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

DIANA

...your father. Herc, this is Clark,  
your son.

Both HERCULES and CLARK get a look on their faces and say their lines simultaneously.

HERCULES

My son?

CLARK

My father.

Momentary pause. HERCULES is confused. He looks from CLARK. to DIANA.

HERCULES

You've only been gone two months,  
Diana.

DIANA raises an eyebrow. 2 months?

HERCULES

He looks about...

DIANA

When Hera sent me home, she didn't know  
I was pregnant. I didn't know I was  
pregnant. ... For years I tried to find  
a way back.

CLARK gives DIANA a look. What is she doing? He doesn't remember her trying find a way back. Had she secretly been trying for years and never said anything?

HERCULES

Years?

DIANA

Nothing worked. I'd given up.

HERCULES is about to say something, but DIANA speaks before he can.

DIANA

Then, a few days ago, I found the  
answer. I found a way.

HERCULES looks at her with a raised eyebrow.

HERCULES  
Just how long have you been gone?

DIANA  
27 years.

HERCULES is stunned.

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

DIANA  
Let's go inside and I'll explain.

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

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

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

DIANA kisses him and pulls him real close.

JUMP TO:

10 EXT: ROAD/PATH

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

METHOS  
Who are you?

CLARK  
Doesn't matter. This does.

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

METHOS  
What is it?

(CONTINUED)

CLARK

All will be explained when the time comes.

(beat)

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

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

CLARK

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

CLARK vanishes. METHOS stares at the package again.

METHOS

I wonder what this is.

He looks to the spot where CLARK was standing.

METHOS

and who was that?

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

METHOS

What is it counting down to?

(beat)

Whatever it is, it's a long way away.

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

JUMP TO:

**1 WEEK LATER (Day 8)**

11 INT: ARES' PLACE

DISCORD and STRIFE are staring at the wall. They are looking at the empty mounts where Diana's sword and gauntlets were.

STRIFE

He's going to be so mad.

(CONTINUED)

DISCORD

Where are they?

STRIFE

They couldn't have just vanished.

DISCORD

Who could have taken them? They are bonded to her. If anyone tried to take them out of here, they would just return on their own.

STRIFE

What are we going to tell him?

ARES materializes behind them. They don't notice.

DISCORD

Let me handle him. I...

ARES

Handle who, sis?

STRIFE turns and looks at ARES. DISCORD turns and looks at ARES. As they turn the empty mounts are visible. ARES notices. He goes to the wall.

ARES

(curious)

They're gone!

DISCORD and STRIFE are about to say something when ARES smiles. They both raise an eyebrow.

ARES

She has returned.

DISCORD/STRIFE

What?

ARES

She is back. That explains the dre...

ARES stops talking. He can't let them know he is still having dreams about her. He gives them both a look.

ARES

I need to see her. The deal with Morpheus no longer exists.

ARES laughs and heads to his throne. FOCUS stays on DISCORD and STRIFE. STRIFE looks at DISCORD with a raised eyebrow.

STRIFE

(quietly)  
What deal with Morpheus?

DISCORD knows all too well. But she just shrugs her shoulders in an "I don't know" motion.

DISCORD

(quietly)  
If she truly is back, then maybe he will finally mellow out.

In the background ARES reaches the throne and sits. He rubs his chin thinking.

STRIFE

(nod)  
If anyone can bring a smile to his face, it's her.

DISCORD

Things just haven't been the same around here since she left.

DISCORD continues to stare at her brother. Wondering what he will do.

JUMP TO:

**1 WEEK LATER (Day 15)**

12 EXT: CLEARING BY LAKE

DIANA and CLARK are standing beside each other, looking out over the lake.

DIANA

What do think of Ancient Greece so far?

(CONTINUED)

CLARK

Interesting. Wonder why we haven't seen any of the gods yet.

DIANA

They're around. I...

APHRODITE and CUPID materialize behind them. APHRODITE talks as she walks to DIANA.

APHRODITE

Diana, welcome back.

DIANA and CLARK turn. CLARK is momentarily taken aback at the sight of CUPID's wings. APHRODITE hugs DIANA as CUPID speaks.

CUPID

Yes. Welcome back. Sorry it's taken us so long to visit.

DIANA smiles at CUPID. CLARK is staring with an arched eyebrow.

DIANA

Thanks guys. This is my son, Clark. Clark, this is Aphrodite and her son Cupid.

They acknowledge each other. APHRODITE gives Clark a "once over" look. She has to admit he is not what she was expecting. CUPID knows his mom wants to talk to DIANA alone, so he goes to CLARK.

CUPID

Why don't we let these two catch up?

CLARK

(raise eyebrow)  
Catch up?

CUPID puts an arm across CLARK's shoulder, and they walk over to a nearby tree. APHRODITE watches them walk off.

APHRODITE

Is he really Herc's son?

DIANA

Yes.



APHRODITE is not convinced. There is something about CLARK that seems off. APHRODITE looks back at DIANA.

APHRODITE  
You staying this time?

DIANA  
Not sure yet. It depends.

APHRODITE  
So how do like being a goddess?

DIANA  
(smile)  
I love it.

APHRODITE notices DIANA's ring.

APHRODITE  
A gift from Ares, correct?

DIANA looks at ring.

DIANA  
Yes. How did you know?

APHRODITE  
That is a very special ring. Don't ever lose it.

DIANA wonders if there is a story behind this ring. Maybe it means more than she knows.

DIANA  
I won't.

APHRODITE  
He really loves you.

DIANA  
I know.

APHRODITE  
He was a wreck when Hera sent you back.

DIANA starts playing with the ring.

APHRODITE detects something in DIANA. Something that was there before but is much stronger now.

PAN TO:

13 EXT: OVER BY TREE

CLARK and CUPID are leaning on the tree staring out at the lake.

CUPID

So, cous. How...

CLARK

Cous?

CUPID

Your father is my uncle. That makes you my little cousin.

CLARK

Never had so many relatives before. Ares has always been the only...

CUPID

Well now you have a lot of cousins, and aunts, and uncles.

(beat)

Want to meet some?

CLARK

Seriously?

CUPID

Apollo is having a party tonight. You should come. I'll introduce you.

CLARK

Thanks.

CUPID looks over at APHRODITE and DIANA.

CUPID

Can't believe 27 years passed for her. Ares must have turned her pretty early. She still looks exactly the same.

(CONTINUED)

CUPID notices CLARK looks lost in thought.

CUPID

I know that look. It is the look of someone with a question. What...

CLARK

I thought your name was Eros.

CUPID raises an eyebrow. He hasn't heard that name in a long time.

CLARK

All the legends and stories I've read state your Greek name was Eros. It was the Romans that called you Cupid.

CUPID

No one has called me Eros in... well... in a long time. Which is fine because I never really liked the name anyway. Much prefer Cupid. Just like Eris prefers Discord.

CLARK

Eris. Twin sister of Ares.

CUPID

She should be at the party tonight. So you might get to meet her. But be careful. She is quite the handful.

CLARK

Where is this party tonight?

CUPID

I'll stop by and pick you up.

CLARK

Thanks.

CUPID

Everyone will be so glad to finally meet you. Your name has been on a lot of lips since you arrived.

CLARK  
(surprise)  
Really?

CUPID  
Yes.

CUPID and CLARK look over at APHRODITE and DIANA.

CUT TO:

**1 WEEK LATER (DAY 22)**

14 EXT: CLEARING BY LAKE

DIANA is staring out at the lake. Someone materializes behind her. She knows who it is and addresses him without turning around.

DIANA  
Ares.

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

ARES  
Sorry I took so long. I've missed you.

DIANA gets out of his grasp and turns to him. She thinks he is here to ask her to bring him back to their future.

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

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

ARES  
Back?

DIANA thinks he is playing games.

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

(CONTINUED)

She was about to say "return to the future" but stops. There is something different about him. She can't quite put her finger on it. Something just seems off. ARES notices the gauntlets and sword.

ARES

I see they found you.

DIANA

What? I...

ARES looks at her. He gets a strange feeling from her. Something is different.

ARES

There's something different about you.

DIANA

Different?

ARES

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

DIANA

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

ARES

You're upset with me. Why?

Momentary pause. DIANA looks at him.

ARES

Is it because I didn't come by sooner?

(beat)

When I returned from Pyrrha to find your sword and gauntlets gone, I...

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

ARES

I wanted to come the second I heard you were back. The deal I had with...

DIANA

The second I was back?

(beat)

Ares, what sort of game are you...

DIANA stops as she realizes what is going on. This is not her ARES. This is the ARES she knew before she left.

DIANA (THOUGHT)

*Oh no. No. No. No. No. No. This is not happening. There can't be two of them. There...*

ARES

D, Are you okay?

DIANA

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

ARES

The day mother sent you home.

DIANA

The day...

ARES

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

(beat)

When I found you, Zeus was there. He gave me a "leave" look. I didn't want to, but I did. Then I came back later only.... I was too late. You were being dragged into the time-vortex as I arrived.

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

ARES

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

DIANA looks at ARES.

DIANA

(sadly)  
I'm sorry.

ARES

(confused)  
For what?

DIANA vanishes. ARES is stunned.

ARES

How'd she...

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

ARES

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

ARES realizes he has just answered his own question.

ARES

Maybe I did. In the future. Our future.

His head is buzzing with questions. He needs answers. He needs to see the one person who might be able to help. He thinks for a few more moments then vanishes.

JUMP TO:

15 INT: ARES' PLACE

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

ARES

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

DIANA

We need to talk.

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

(CONTINUED)

ARES

You bet we do.

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

ARES

Tell me, was it all a lie?

DIANA

(confused)

Was what a lie?

ARES

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

DIANA has no idea what he is talking about.

ARES

Did you ever really love me?

DIANA

What's gotten into you?

ARES

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

Momentary pause. ARES is behind her. He leans over her shoulder  
and whispers in her ear.

ARES

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

Momentary pause. He continues circling her.

ARES

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

DIANA

(apologetically)

I'm sorry. I should have...



ARES

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

(beat)

Or are you longing for my touch?

DIANA

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

ARES

You know I'm always here for you.

ARES runs his fingers through her hair.

ARES

You miss me, don't you?

(beat)

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

DIANA looks at him, real serious.

DIANA

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

ARES can tell she is serious.

ARES

A problem? What sort of problem?

DIANA

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

ARES

Which was?

DIANA

You.

ARES

(laugh)

Me?

DIANA

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

(beat)

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

ARES

Are you saying that there are...?

DIANA

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

ARES

I was wondering why people were claiming I was in places I wasn't.

DIANA

Damn it, Ares! Listen to me.

ARES doesn't understand what the big deal is.

ARES

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

DIANA

Not in this case. You... you don't understand.

ARES

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

DIANA

Temporal Physics.

ARES

What?

DIANA

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

ARES looks totally confused.

ARES  
Which means, what, exactly?

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

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

DIANA  
How can you be sure?

ARES puts his hands on her shoulders.

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

DIANA  
If you should touch him...

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

ARES  
If I should touch him...

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

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

Momentary pause.

DIANA  
You... You... You would...

Momentary pause.

ARES  
Would what?

DIANA

Cease to exist.

That gets his attention. That sounds really bad.

ARES

Cease to exist?

DIANA

Yes. Both of you.

ARES takes a deep breath.

ARES

Then we will never meet. Simple.

DIANA

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

ARES

So?

DIANA

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

ARES

Diana, I think you are...

DIANA

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

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

ARES

Well, maybe I was wrong.

DIANA

(confused)

Wrong about what?

ARES

You.

DIANA

Me?

ARES

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

DIANA

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

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

DIANA

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

ARES

*If* we meet.

DIANA

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

ARES

No touching. Got it.

DIANA

Promise.

ARES

I promise.

DIANA

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

ARES

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

DIANA

Okay. I believe you.

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

DIANA

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

ARES

Of course.

Momentary pause. They share a look, then DIANA vanishes. ARES stares at the spot where she was for a few moments, then looks around. He starts pacing,

ARES

Two of me, eh? Hmmm. If I remember correctly, I was pretty hotheaded and full of myself now.

(beat)

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

(beat)

This'll be far too easy. I'll put out the word that there's an impostor.

(beat)

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

(beat)

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

(think)

How to do it. How...

(beat)

Maybe a phrase, or a password. Something he doesn't know. Something from the future. Some...

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

STRIFE

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

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

STRIFE

What was that for?

ARES looks at him with a raised eyebrow.

ARES

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

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

DISCORD

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

ARES decides to test his plan on these two.

ARES

There is an impostor out there.

STRIFE

An impostor?

ARES

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

DISCORD

Well that explains why we thought you were in Naxos.

ARES looks at her with a raised eyebrow.

ARES

Naxos? Why would I...

STRIFE

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

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

ARES

I'm thinking.

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

DISCORD

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

ARES

Thanks sis, but...

ARES removes her hands from him.

ARES

...no thanks. I need a plan.

DISCORD

Can we help?

ARES

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

DISCORD

That's impossible. No one is that good.

ARES

Oh really.

ARES turns to STRIFE, who has just reached them.

ARES

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

ARES looks at DISCORD.



ARES

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

STRIFE

Why me, Unc? Can't...

ARES turns and glares at STRIFE.

ARES

That wasn't a request.

(beat)

Do it!

STRIFE

Yes, Uncle.

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

DISCORD

Must you be so hard on him?

ARES

Sis, he's an accident waiting to happen.

DISCORD

But...

ARES

He never gets anything right.

DISCORD

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

ARES

Ha. Don't count on it.

ARES is beginning to relax under DISCORD's touch.

ARES

Oh, that feels good.

DISCORD smiles. ARES closes his eyes.

ARES

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

DISCORD

Thanks.

ARES

I've missed them.

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

ARES

Well?

STRIFE

You were right, Uncle. He knows everything about you. Everything.

(beat)

He even got suspicious as to why I was asking so many questions. "Why the trip down memory lane," he said.

ARES

What did you tell him?

STRIFE

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

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

ARES

What's so funny?

STRIFE

He did the same thing.

ARES raises an eyebrow at STRIFE.

ARES

What?

STRIFE

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

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

ARES

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

STRIFE thinks of something.

STRIFE

Wait...

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

STRIFE

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

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

ARES

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

(beat)

I am the God of War!!!

(beat)

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

STRIFE

I... I...

DISCORD

Ares, put him down.

ARES turns to her, and glares at her.

ARES

Why?

Momentary pause. DISCORD looks from ARES to STRIFE.

ARES  
Give me one good reason.

DISCORD looks at ARES.

DISCORD  
Because I'm asking you to.

ARES  
Not good enough, sis.

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

ARES  
Last time I watched him self-destruct.  
(beat)  
This time I'm not gonna go easy on him.  
He has to learn, sis. He has to, or he  
will be doomed to...

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

DISCORD  
Father forbids it.

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

ARES  
Father? Don't you dare bring Zeus into  
this, sis. He doesn't care about any  
of us. We are just pawns to him.

DISCORD  
Think of what will happen if...

ARES  
Ugh!!!

ARES drops STRIFE and looks at DISCORD.

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

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

ARES

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

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

DISCORD

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

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

ARES

I'm thinking. I'm thinking.

ARES goes into think mode. DISCORD thinks of something and whispers softly in ARES' ear.

DISCORD

Have you warned Diana yet?

ARES

(raise eyebrow)  
Diana?

DISCORD

If he is pretending to be you, he may try to claim Diana as his. He would know how you feel.

ARES hadn't thought about that. Was that what prompted Diana to stop by earlier. Had the present Ares paid her a visit?

DISCORD

And since your deal with Morpheus is no longer in effect...

ARES raises an eyebrow and stares at her. How did she know about that? No one except Aphrodite knew.

ARES

How do you know...

DISCORD

(smile)

So it's true. You did make a deal with  
our dear cousin.

ARES gives her a glare then returns to thinking. She looks at  
him, wondering what he is thinking.

DISCORD

Are you going to warn her?

ARES answers without looking at her.

ARES

Diana can take care of herself.

DISCORD

You sure about that?

ARES

She will know he is not me. He will  
not be able to fool her.

DISCORD gets the feeling that ARES is hiding something.

JUMP TO:

16 INT: TARTARUS PRISON CELL

ARES materializes outside a cell and walks over to the door.  
He looks into the cell. The man inside the cell looks up and  
walks over to the door. It's CRONUS, god of time.

CRONUS

To what do I owe the pleasure of this  
visit, grandson? Surely you didn't  
come all this way for no reason.

ARES

No games, Cronus. I need your insight.

CRONUS

Hmm. Does your father know you are  
here?

ARES

No.

(CONTINUED)

CRONUS  
What is your question?

ARES  
It is about Diana.

CRONUS looks to ARES with a raised eyebrow.

CRONUS  
What about her?

ARES gives him a look. He's still wondering if this is a good idea. Can he trust Cronus?

JUMP TO:

**2 MONTHS LATER (Day 90)**

17 INT: HERCULES' PLACE - KITCHEN

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

HERCULES  
I'll get it.

HERCULES exits the kitchen.

CONTINUE TO:

18 INT: FRONT HALL

HERCULES heads to the front door.

CONTINUE TO:

19 INT: FRONT DOOR

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

MAN  
Message for Hercules.

HERCULES  
I'm Hercules.

(CONTINUED)

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

HERCULES

Thanks.

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

CONTINUE TO:

20 INT: FRONT HALL

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

DIANA

Who's it from?

HERCULES

Iphicles and Rena.

Momentary pause. HERCULES starts to read the letter.

DIANA

Really? What does it say?

HERCULES

It's an invitation to an anniversary festival.

DIANA

Anniversary Festival?

HERCULES

Yeah.

DIANA

When?

HERCULES looks at her.

HERCULES

10 days.

DIANA

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

(CONTINUED)



HERCULES

Right.

DIANA

That leaves us with just 7 days to get ready.

HERCULES

Ready? Wh...

His comment/reply is cut off as she vanishes.

HERCULES

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

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

CONTINUE TO:

21 INT: FRONT DOOR

HERCULES opens the door. It's IOLAUS.

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

IOLAUS

So, you ready?

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

HERCULES

Ready?

CONTINUE TO:

22 INT: FRONT HALL

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

(CONTINUED)

IOLAUS  
You're such a kidder.

HERCULES  
O-kay.

CONTINUE TO:

23 INT: LIVING ROOM

IOLAUS realizes that HERCULES isn't kidding.

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

HERCULES  
Planning what?

IOLAUS  
Marathon.

HERCULES  
Marathon?

IOLAUS gives HERCULES a look.

IOLAUS  
The Seasonal festival.

HERCULES remembers.

HERCULES  
Is it that time already?

IOLAUS  
Yes. The last one was just after...  
well, just after... you know.

HERCULES  
Yeah. Just after Diana left.

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

(CONTINUED)

Momentary pause. HERCULES smiles, remembering.

HERCULES

Yeah.

IOLAUS

Just think of all the fun you'll have  
this time with Diana.

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

DIANA

Did I hear my name?

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

DIANA

Iolaus! Put me down!

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

DIANA

You look like the cat that just  
swallowed the canary.

IOLAUS doesn't get the reference.

IOLAUS

What?

DIANA

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

IOLAUS

The Seasonal Festival in Marathon.

DIANA looks at him with a raised eyebrow.

DIANA

Oh?

IOLAUS

Herc and I have been planning this  
since... well since the last festival.

DIANA  
When does it start?

IOLAUS  
4 days.

DIANA  
4 days?

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

DIANA  
3 and 1/2?

DIANA looks at HERCULES. She says her next line in a  
questioningly tone.

DIANA  
Can we do both?

HERCULES and IOLAUS say their lines simultaneously.

HERCULES  
Sure.

IOLAUS  
Both?

DIANA addresses HERCULES.

DIANA  
It'll be cutting it close, won't it?

HERCULES  
Not really.

HERCULES does a quick mental calculation.

HERCULES  
3 and 1/2 days travel, 2 and 1/2 days  
there, that's 6 days. Then 3 days to  
Corinth. We still have a day to spare.

DIANA  
Gee, a whole day.

IOLAUS wonders what's going on in Corinth in 10 days.

IOLAUS  
Corinth? What's going on in Corinth?

HERCULES  
Iphicles is having an Anniversary  
Festival. It starts in 10 days.

IOLAUS  
Oh.

HERCULES  
We just got the invitation a few  
minutes ago.

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

IOLAUS  
So grab your stuff. Let's go.  
(beat)  
There's a boat leaving at midday  
tomorrow. If we miss it, it's a long  
walk.

HERCULES  
The travel time is roughly the same.

IOLAUS  
Come on.

HERCULES points to the door.

HERCULES  
After you.

IOLAUS  
Aren't you bringing anything?

HERCULES puts his arm around DIANA.

HERCULES  
I have all I need right here.

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

CONTINUE TO:

(CONTINUED)

24 INT: FRONT HALL

They walk to the front door.

CONTINUE TO:

25 INT: FRONT DOOR

IOLAUS opens the door and exits.

CONTINUE TO:

26 EXT: FRONT DOOR

IOLAUS picks up his bag. HERCULES and DIANA exit. HERCULES closes the door.

CONTINUE TO:

27 EXT: PATH FROM HOUSE TO ROAD

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

IOLAUS

Wait. What about Clark? Should we...

DIANA

Clark is...

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

DIANA

...exploring.

IOLAUS

Exploring?

DIANA

Yeah.

IOLAUS

Shouldn't we leave him a note or something?

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

He'll be fine.

IOLAUS

How will he know where we are?

DIANA

He'll find me if he needs me.

DIANA and HERCULES pass IOLAUS, who stares at them confused. He doesn't know that DIANA and CLARK are gods.

IOLAUS

How?

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

IOLAUS

Guys? Come on, how will he know where we are?

(beat)

How will he be able to find us? Guys?

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

CONTINUE TO:

28 TIME FLIES MONTAGE (Day 90-92)

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

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

EXT: NEXT DAY (Day 91) - They get up, have breakfast, then head for the dock. They get in line for the boat, board the boat, and it sets sail for Marathon.

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

EXT: NEXT DAY (Day 92) - The boat has a 6-hour stopover in a local port to pick up supplies. The gang gets off the boat and goes into town.

(CONTINUED)

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

BOAT - They continue on to Marathon. The sun sets and then rises. The boat docks in Piraeus at midday of the third day. They disembark.

ROAD TO MARATHON - They head to town.

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

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

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

CONTINUE TO:

29 TIME RESUMES: EATING ESTABLISHMENT - EVENING (Day 92)

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

IOLAUS

Joxer?

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

HERCULES

You know him?

IOLAUS

Well...

IOLAUS stops talking as the door opens again, and he notices the two who follow him in. XENA and GABRIELLE. HERCULES looks back at the door. So does DIANA.

(CONTINUED)



XENA and GABRIELLE spot them. Well actually, GABRIELLE spots them and points them out to XENA. GABRIELLE waves. IOLAUS waves back. GABRIELLE whispers something to XENA. XENA, GABRIELLE, and JOXER, head over. XENA, GABRIELLE, and JOXER approach the table.

XENA

Mind if we join you.

DIANA

Not at all.

They sit. (Table layout -- Side 1: Diana, Hercules, Xena. Side 2: Iolaus, Gabrielle, Joxer.) JOXER has a difficult time sitting down and makes a lot of noise. XENA rolls her eyes, in a sort of "just sit down" way, to JOXER.

XENA looks to DIANA and notices her ring. She wonders if she should say something.

XENA

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

DIANA

How is he?

XENA

Fine.

DIANA

And Polydora?

XENA

She'll be four next month.

DIANA

Four? I...

HERCULES jumps in, trying to change the subject.

HERCULES

Who's your friend, Xena?

XENA

His name is Joxer.

HERCULES

Joxer?

XENA

Yes.

XENA looks at JOXER.

XENA

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

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

JOXER

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

XENA gives him a look.

XENA

Joxer.

JOXER shuts up.

XENA

This is his girlfriend, Diana.

JOXER and DIANA nod a "hi" to each other.

GABRIELLE

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

JOXER

Him I know.

GABRIELLE

Really? You two know each other?

IOLAUS

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

JOXER gives IOLAUS a "what?" look.

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

IOLAUS  
Joxer...

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

GABRIELLE  
You guys here for the festival?

IOLAUS  
Yep. You?

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

The table is silent.

GABRIELLE  
Right?

EVERYONE  
Oh, sure, right.

GABRIELLE  
What are the plans?

Everyone takes turns looking at each other.

CONTINUE TO:

30 TIME FLIES MONTAGE (Day 92-93)

They discuss their plans, hang out for a while, and then call  
it a night.

Next Day (Day 93)

They get up in the morning and meet for breakfast.

(CONTINUED)

After breakfast they start to enjoy the festival. There are magicians, clowns, mimes, dancers, etc. HERCULES and IOLAUS are two of the five judges in a MISS ATTICA pageant. DIANA, XENA, GABRIELLE and JOXER are in the audience. The contest ends, and a beautiful young girl is crowned the winner. There is a dance, GABRIELLE asks IOLAUS to dance. JOXER looks disappointed but cheers up when MISS ATTICA asks him to dance.

CONTINUE TO:

31 EXT: DANCE - AFTERNOON

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

HERCULES

Moedyssea?

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

JOXER

We've got to get her back, Xena.

XENA

Who?

JOXER

Miss Attica. That Harpy stole Miss Attica.

EVERYONE exchanges glances. XENA looks at HERCULES.

XENA

You muttered something, a name. Moe...

HERCULES

Moedyssea.

XENA

Is that a person or a place?

HERCULES

Neither. That's the Harpy's name.

(CONTINUED)

GABRIELLE

You know her?

HERCULES

Our paths crossed. Once. A long time ago.

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

JOXER

So, you know her lair then?

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

HERCULES

If she hasn't moved. Yes.

IOLAUS

Where is it?

HERCULES

Mount Parnassus.

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

XENA/GABRIELLE/DIANA/JOXER/IOLAUS

Mount Parnassus?

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

HERCULES

Yes.

IOLAUS

Well, come on Hercules, let's go.

VILLAGER #1

Hercules, you've got to help us.

VILLAGER #2

Please, bring my baby back to me.

VILLAGER #3

Stop that damned Harpy!

VILLAGER #4

Bring her back, Hercules. Bring her back.

The villagers start a "bring her back" chant.

HERCULES

We will. Don't worry.

HERCULES looks to DIANA.

HERCULES

I'll meet you in Corinth, okay?

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

DIANA

But I can help. I...

HERCULES gives her a look.

HERCULES

No. You've got to get to Corinth.

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

HERCULES

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

DIANA smiles and gives him a look.

DIANA

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

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

DIANA

Okay. But be careful.

HERCULES  
(smile and wink)  
Always.

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

DIANA  
You too.

DIANA looks at XENA, GABRIELLE, and JOXER.

DIANA  
All of you.

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

XENA/GABRIELLE/IOLAUS/JOXER  
We will.

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

VILLAGER #1  
May the gods be with you.

VILLAGER #2  
May the gods safely guide you and bring you back.

DIANA watches them head out.

CONTINUE TO:

32 EXT: EN-ROUTE TO HARBOUR

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

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

Momentary pause.

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES

She's immortal.

XENA raises an eyebrow.

XENA

You mean she's a goddess?

Momentary pause. HERCULES doesn't answer her.

XENA

How did that happen? When did...?

HERCULES stops and looks at XENA. XENA stops.

HERCULES

Ask Ares.

XENA

(raise eyebrow)

Ares?

HERCULES

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

XENA

(confused)

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

HERCULES

Forget it. I hardly understand it  
myself.

HERCULES starts walking again. XENA watches him walk off. She tries to figure out what he meant. After a few moments she follows. She wonders if she should mention Diana's ring. If Ares was the one that gave it to her, that means there they are closer then Herc might realize.

CONTINUE TO:

33 TIME FLIES MONTAGE

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

(CONTINUED)



HARBOR - They reach the harbor and take the next boat to Chalcris.

BOAT - The trip takes 3 days. As they are nearing the port, Hercules asks the captain if he can drop them off on the west bank before the boat pulls into port. The Captain agrees.

WEST BANK (Day 96) - They disembark and walk off towards Mount Parnassus.

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

CONTINUE TO:

**DAY 99**

34 EXT: BASE OF MOUNT PARNASSUS

They've stopped. HERCULES points up.

HERCULES

Her cave is about half-way up the slope.

HERCULES turns to the group.

HERCULES

Any rescue tactics?

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

JOXER

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

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

IOLAUS

Are you forgetting Moedyssea?

JOXER

Oh right.

JOXER starts to act all tough again.

(CONTINUED)

JOXER

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

XENA

Joxer. Get serious.

JOXER

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

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

JOXER

I know. Shut up, Joxer.

GABRIELLE

(beat)

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

XENA

There's no reasoning with a Harpy.

HERCULES

Actually, that's not a bad idea.

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

HERCULES

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

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

GABRIELLE

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

GABRIELLE turns and starts to walk to the mountain.

HERCULES

Wait.

GABRIELLE stops and turns to him.

HERCULES

Take Joxer with you. Just in case.

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

HERCULES

Now, here's the plan...

HERCULES starts to tell them the rest of the plan.

CONTINUE TO:

35 TIME FLIES MONTAGE

HERCULES, IOLAUS, and XENA, sneak into the cave via the back entrance. While GABRIELLE is taking to Moedyssea, HERCULES, IOLAUS, and XENA, rescue MISS ATTICA, exit cave and quietly return to the base of the mountain.

CONTINUE TO:

36 EXT: BASE OF MOUNTAIN

HERCULES, IOLAUS, MISS ATTICA, and XENA, reach the bottom.

HERCULES

Iolaus, you better take Miss Attica here, back home. Get a move on. Gabrielle can really talk a person to death, but Moedyssea won't listen to her much longer.

IOLAUS

Right.

IOLAUS turns to MISS ATTICA.

IOLAUS

Come on.

MISS ATTICA goes to HERCULES and kisses him on the cheek.

(CONTINUED)

MISS ATTICA

Thank you.

MISS ATTICA goes to IOLAUS, and they leave. XENA looks to HERCULES.

XENA

And you, don't you have to be in Corinth?

HERCULES

Yes. But a few more minutes won't matter.

Silence. A very awkward, uneasy, silence.

XENA

I hear Diana came back with a grown son. Your son.

HERCULES

Yes, she did.

XENA

What's he like?

HERCULES

Clark? ... He's great.

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

XENA

You, um, you mentioned Ares earlier.

HERCULES

Yes, I did.

XENA

What did you mean?

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

XENA

What exactly is Diana's relationship with Ares?

HERCULES looks at her.

HERCULES  
Jealous?

XENA  
(raise eyebrow)  
What?

HERCULES  
Sorry. I didn't mean that.

HERCULES turns away from her, staring off into space.

HERCULES  
I'm not sure, really. There is, was,  
will be, something. Just not sure  
what.

XENA  
How long was she gone?

HERCULES  
(raise eyebrow)  
27 years. Why?

XENA wonders if she should really ask what she wants.

XENA  
If Ares and Diana will have a  
connection in the future, are you sure  
Clark is...

HERCULES  
Why would she lie about that? Why would  
she come back if...?

XENA  
Think about it. Clark is a god. Ares  
made Diana a goddess, maybe...

HERCULES  
Maybe what?

XENA  
Maybe Ares is...

HERCULES

His father?

XENA

He could be. You just said she was gone  
a long time.

HERCULES is about to say something but stops. GABRIELLE and JOXER approach them from behind. Their sudden approach startles XENA and HERCULES.

GABRIELLE

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

GABRIELLE notices the looks on their face and wonders what conversation she interrupted. They both look so serious. She is about to say something when she notices that IOLAUS is missing. Could their look have something to do with IOLAUS?

GABRIELLE

Where's Iolaus?

XENA looks at her.

XENA

Taking Miss Attica home.

JOXER

What? How?

GABRIELLE breathes a sigh of relief and then realises something.

GABRIELLE

We were just a diversion, right?

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

GABRIELLE

Right?

XENA

Right.

GABRIELLE

I thought so.

GABRIELLE looks at XENA.

GABRIELLE

When will you...?

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

HERCULES

Can we discuss this as we get out of here.

He indicates that they should start moving.

HERCULES

Once Moedyssea discovers that...

His sentence is cut off by a screeching cry.

HERCULES

Too late. Run.

They run off.

JUMP TO:

**CORINTHIAN FESTIVAL - DAY 1 (Day 100)**

37 EXT: PALACE GARDEN - AFTERNOON

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

ALCMENE

(concern)

Did Hercules say how long he'd be?

DIANA nods negatively. She notices the look on ALCMENE's face.

DIANA

But he said he would be here. And if I know one thing, it's that, when he puts his mind to it, he can do anything.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA looks at IPHICLES.

DIANA

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

IPHICLES

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

ALCMENE looks at IPHICLES.

ALCMENE

Iphicles! That's...

IPHICLES

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

JASON

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

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

DIANA

He will be here. I promise.

DIANA raises and start to walk off.

PAN TO:

38 EXT: FOLLOW DIANA

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

DIANA

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

PAN TO:

(CONTINUED)



39 EXT: IPHICLES AND RENA

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

RENA

He will be here.

IPHICLES

Maybe. But I'm not holding my breath.

RENA

Jason is right, we really should...

IPHICLES

Of course. Let's go.

He takes her hand. They rise and exit they garden.

CUT TO:

40 INT: HALLWAY

DIANA is heading to her room.

CONTINUE TO:

41 INT: OUTSIDE DIANA'S ROOM

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

CONTINUE TO:

42 INT: INSIDE DIANA'S ROOM

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

DIANA

Okay. Now, what to wear?

CONTINUE TO:

(CONTINUED)

## 43 TIME FLIES MONTAGE

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

CONTINUE TO:

## 44 TIME RESUMES

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

DIANA

Come in.

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

GIRL

You look very beautiful, my lady.

DIANA

Thank you.

GIRL

The king requests your presence.

DIANA

Lead the way.

DIANA follows the girl out of the room.

CONTINUE TO:

## 45 INT: OUTSIDE DIANA'S ROOM

The girl stops in the doorway, letting DIANA exit. Once DIANA has left the room, she closes the door behind her.

CONTINUE TO:

(CONTINUED)

46 INT: HALLWAY

The girl leads DIANA to the garden.

CONTINUE TO:

47 INT: HALLWAY - ENTRANCE TO GARDEN

They reach the garden. DIANA looks at the girl.

DIANA

Thank you.

The girl nods, then leaves. DIANA enters.

CONTINUE TO:

48 EXT: GARDEN

There are a few guests already assembled. DIANA passes them, nodding hello. She heads to IPHICLES, who is with RENA and some guests. As DIANA is approaching, the Captain of the Guards is whispering something to IPHICLES. The Captain is bowing goodbye as she reaches IPHICLES.

CAPTAIN

My lord.

He passes DIANA and nods to her.

CAPTAIN

Diana.

DIANA nods at him.

DIANA

Captain.

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

RENA

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

DIANA tries to think of an answer.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

Uh...

RENA

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

DIANA

No.

RENA

Sparta?

DIANA nods no.

RENA

Crete?

DIANA nods no.

RENA

Marathon?

DIANA nods no. RENA tries to think of another city where DIANA could have gotten such a beautiful dress.

DIANA decides to just tell her she made it. Which isn't really a lie, is it.

DIANA

I, um, made it myself.

RENA

(surprise)  
Really? You made it?

DIANA

Yes.

RENA

Maybe you could make me one?

DIANA

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

IPHICLES has had enough. He looks at them.

IPHICLES

Ladies, please. Enough talk about dresses.

He offers RENA his arm.

IPHICLES

Come, my dear, we have guests to greet.

RENA says her line as she takes his arm.

RENA

Of course.

RENA looks at DIANA.

RENA

We'll talk later.

DIANA

Okay.

IPHICLES and RENA walk off.

CONTINUE TO:

49 TIME FLIES MONTAGE

IPHICLES and RENA greet their guests as they arrive. DIANA mingles, meeting some of the guests. Servants are walking around with appetizers and drinks. After about two hours, dinner is ready. All the guests depart the garden.

They head to the hall where they are seated at their respective tables. DIANA is seated at the king's table at the front of the room. There are 8 seats at the table, all on the same side, facing everyone else.

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

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

CONTINUE TO:

(CONTINUED)

50 INT: GREAT HALL

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

IPHICLES

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

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

CONTINUE TO:

51 TIME FLIES MONTAGE

Everyone heads to the garden. As the sun has set, the garden is lit with torches. There are a few servants with trays of drinks and tiny deserts. After about two hours, a servant arrives and heads to IPHICLES. The servant informs him that the hall is ready, and leaves. IPHICLES informs his guests and all return to the hall.

The hall has been transformed. The tables are either gone or off to the side. All the guests start dancing. DIANA stands off to the side watching. After a few hours, time resumes.

CONTINUE TO:

52 INT: GREAT HALL

The main doors open. All eyes turn to the door. The music stops.

A tall, handsome, well-dressed stranger is standing in the doorway. He looks around, as if looking for someone. He spots DIANA. Their eyes lock. He walks over. All eyes are on him, for no one knows who he is. Some of the guests start whispering amongst themselves.

IPHICLES signals the band to continue playing. The stranger reaches DIANA. He picks up her hand, brings it to his lips, and kisses it. DIANA is speechless. The stranger looks her in the eye.

(CONTINUED)

MAN

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

(beat)(smile)

I have never seen beauty like yours  
before.

DIANA

Thank you.

MAN

May I have the honor of this dance?

DIANA

I...

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

DIANA

I'd like that.

He leads her to the dance floor.

CONTINUE TO:

53 TIME FLIES MONTAGE

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

CONTINUE TO:

54 TIME RESUMES

One of the band members approaches them.

BAND-GUY

Excuse me.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA looks at him.

BAND-GUY

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

DIANA

Thank you.

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

DIANA

Thank you for a wonderful night.

MAN

You are most welcome.

DIANA

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

The man smiles and looks her in the eye.

MAN

I'm glad you enjoyed yourself.

DIANA finds herself staring back into his eyes.

DIANA

Well I guess it's time to turn in.

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

DIANA

Sleep.

MAN

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



DIANA

(smile)

Sure.

They leave the room.

CONTINUE TO:

55 INT: HALLWAY

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

CONTINUE TO:

56 INT: OUTSIDE DIANA'S ROOM

They reach her room and stop outside the door.

DIANA

I really had a great time tonight.  
Thank you.

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

MAN

You're welcome.

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

PAN TO:

57 INT: HALLWAY

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

PAN TO:

58 INT: OUTSIDE DIANA'S ROOM

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

(CONTINUED)

MAN

Good night, Diana.

DIANA

Good night.

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

PAN TO:

59 INT: HALLWAY

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

CONTINUE TO:

60 INT: INSIDE STRANGERS' ROOM

The mystery man enters his room. As soon as the door closes, he goes over to the bed, and lays down on it. He laughs.

As he is laughing, he removes a ring from his finger, causing him to transform into his true self. It's ARES.

The ring is silver and black and has a ruby-red stone in the center. He places the ring on the bedside table.

ARES

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

Momentary pause. ARES looks at the ring.

ARES

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

(beat)

And the one who brought you here, the one who probably knows you more intimately than I. But that will change.

ARES smiles and looks back at the ceiling.

(CONTINUED)

ARES

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

ARES starts to laugh again.

JUMP TO:

61 INT: INSIDE DIANA'S ROOM

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

DIANA

There's something about him. Something, I don't know, familiar somehow. But that can't be. Until tonight I'd never seen him. ... I didn't even catch his name.

(beat)

The way he kissed me, he reminded me of someone. If only he'd kissed me longer. I might have been able to place him.

DIANA puts down the brush and looks in the mirror.

JUMP TO:

**CORINTHIAN FESTIVAL - DAY 2 (Day 101)**

62 INT: INSIDE ARES' ROOM - MORNING

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

ARES

Got to hand it to you, cous. This is working better than I ever imagined.

(beat)

She didn't see though it. I wonder if...

(CONTINUED)

HECATE (VO)

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

ARES

Thanks for the reminder, cousin.

ARES looks back at the ring, thinking about DIANA.

CONTINUE TO:

63 INT: HALLWAY LEADING TO THE GARDEN - AFTERNOON

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

CAPTAIN

Excuse me, sir?

ARES stops, turns, and faces the Captain.

ARES

Yes, Captain. What can I do for you?

CAPTAIN

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

ARES

(raise eyebrow)

Warn me? Of what?

CAPTAIN

That woman you were with last night?

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

ARES

Diana?

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN

Yes.

ARES

She is a beautiful woman, isn't she?

CAPTAIN

Yes.

ARES

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

CAPTAIN

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

ARES pretends that this is news to him.

ARES

She is? By whom? I saw no man with her  
last night. Where...

CAPTAIN

She belongs to the King's brother.  
Hercules.

Again ARES pretends this is news to him.

ARES

Hercules, eh?

CAPTAIN

Yes. So, if I were you, I'd forget  
about her.

(beat)

There are other eligible women here  
that you might want to consider.  
Because if Hercules finds you with...

(beat)

Well, let's just say... I wouldn't  
want to make the man angry.

ARES

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

The Captain looks stunned.

CAPTAIN

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

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

ARES

I'm well aware of who he is, and of all the stories about him. But he is after all, just a man, a mere mortal, in spite of who his father is. He is not invincible. There are ways to bring him down. And, if bringing him down means that the beautiful Diana will be mine... Then bring him down I will. For he won't know what hit him.

CAPTAIN

Sir, I beg you. Please, don't let him find you with her.

(beat)

Many men have tried to defeat Hercules, and many men have died. I'd hate to see you be one of them, sir.

ARES

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

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

CAPTAIN

Sir, I...

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

ARES

Listen to me and listen good.

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

ARES

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

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

CAPTAIN

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

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

CAPTAIN

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

The Captain stops again as he realizes there is only one god that makes sense. He recalls the rumors that were going around a few months ago. ARES' voice echoes in his head.

ARES (THOUGHT)

*Diana will be mine. I've waited too long for this. ... she belongs with me. ... No one, not even Hercules, can stop fate. ... Diana will be mine. ... she belongs. ... fate.*

He looks down the hall again, and sees the man enter the garden.

CAPTAIN

Ares.

(beat)

By the gods above, I was talking to Ares. Warning Ares, I... I have to tell the King that Ares is here. That Diana...

(beat)

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

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

JUMP TO:

64 EXT: THE GARDEN

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

ARES

May I join you.

DIANA

Sure.

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

ARES

What are you thinking about?

DIANA

Nothing. Everything.

ARES

Um, about last night...

DIANA looks at him.

(CONTINUED)



ARES

(beat)

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

DIANA

It's okay. I...

DIANA laughs. ARES gives her a look.

ARES

What?

DIANA

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

ARES looks at her with a raised eyebrow.

ARES

My name?

DIANA

Yes. Your name.

(beat)

Surely you have one.

He flashes her a smile.

ARES

Of course I have one.

Momentary pause.

DIANA

Well, what is it?

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

ARES

Sera.

DIANA looks at him with a raised eyebrow.

DIANA  
Sera?

ARES  
Yes.

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

ARES  
Olymp...ia.

He almost said "Olympus" but stopped himself.

DIANA  
Olympia? That's pretty far.

ARES  
Yes. And you? Where are you from?

DIANA  
Just outside of Thebes.

ARES  
Really?

DIANA  
Yes.

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

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

DIANA  
Hercules?

ARES nods.

DIANA  
We've... met.

ARES laughs. DIANA looks at him.

DIANA

What?

ARES

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

DIANA

The Captain said that?

ARES

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

DIANA

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

DIANA holds up her ring finger. He looks at it. (Note: The  
ring the future Ares gave her is still on her other hand like  
it has been since she returned.)

DIANA

Well, do you?

ARES

No.

DIANA

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

ARES starts laughing again.

DIANA

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

ARES

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

Momentary pause. ARES thinks of the word.

ARES

...Spunk?

DIANA

That would be the word.

Momentary pause. ARES looks at her.

ARES

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

DIANA

Sure.

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

JUMP TO:

65 INT: THE KING'S ROOM

IPHICLES is sitting, listening to his Captain.

IPHICLES

Are you sure it was Ares?

CAPTAIN

Yes, my lord, I...

IPHICLES

(raise eyebrow)

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

CAPTAIN

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

IPHICLES

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

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN

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

IPHICLES

That still doesn't mean...

CAPTAIN

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

IPHICLES

So?

CAPTAIN

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

IPHICLES

Shifted?

CAPTAIN

Yes.

(beat)

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

IPHICLES

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

CAPTAIN

I think I know.

IPHICLES looks at the Captain.

CAPTAIN

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

IPHICLES

She?

CAPTAIN

Diana, my lord.

IPHICLES

Diana?

CAPTAIN

He was following her when I found him this morning.

IPHICLES

What would he want with...

CAPTAIN

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

IPHICLES

Maybe.

CAPTAIN

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

IPHICLES

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

CAPTAIN

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

(beat)

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

(beat)

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

IPHICLES

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

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN

Well, no, but...

IPHICLES

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

CAPTAIN

What about all the rumors and stories?

IPHICLES raises an eyebrow.

IPHICLES

Rumors?

CAPTAIN

About Ares and Diana. Surely you heard them.

IPHICLES

Yes. I heard them. But they were just rumors. You didn't honestly believe them, did you?

CAPTAIN

At the time. No. But now, after seeing them together. There is obviously something there. At least for Ares. My lord, I...

IPHICLES

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

CAPTAIN

Yes, my lord.

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

IPHICLES

Ares, eh? I wonder what the great God of War's interest in Diana is.

(beat)

What is it about her that would appeal to him?

IPHICLES thinks, ponders on that thought.

JUMP TO:

66 INT: GREAT HALL - AFTER DINNER - LATE EVENING

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

PAN TO:

67 INT: FOCUS ON DIANA AND ARES

ARES looks into her eyes and kisses her. This time it is a long lingering kiss. A kiss she recognizes. She breaks the kiss and slaps him.

The shock of her sudden change of emotion catches him completely off guard. He wasn't expecting the slap. His momentary distraction is all that is needed to break the spell. The ring, and the disguise, vanish. He is revealed for who he is.

PAN TO:

68 INT: FOCUS ON GUESTS

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

PAN TO:

69 INT: FOCUS ON IPHICLES

IPHICLES rises, ready to jump in if necessary.

PAN TO:

70 INT: FOCUS ON DIANA AND ARES

ARES tries to compose himself.

DIANA  
Ares! I should have known.

(CONTINUED)



ARES

Ah, sweet Diana. But which Ares am I?

DIANA

I... I...

Momentary pause. DIANA thinks.

DIANA

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

ARES

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

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

DIANA

The present one.

ARES looks at her wondering how she guessed that.

ARES

You could tell that, from a kiss?

DIANA

I'm right, aren't I?

ARES

Yes, but...

DIANA

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

(beat)

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

ARES looks at her with a raised eyebrow.

ARES

Your Ares?

DIANA nods.

ARES  
How? How differently?

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

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

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

ARES  
Normally, yes. But I didn't just disguise myself. I knew you'd be able to see through that.  
(circle her)  
I had to create an illusionary spell that you couldn't see though. It took a while, but with a little help from...

DIANA remembers the ring.

DIANA  
The ring.

ARES  
Yes.

DIANA  
The stone, it's a bloodstone. Isn't it?

ARES  
Correct. I'm surprised you guessed that.

DIANA  
I'm from the future, remember. I know things that haven't happened yet.

ARES

Ah, yes. I do sometimes forget that.

DIANA

There's only one place you could have gotten a bloodstone from. You went to Hecate, didn't you?

ARES

You are clever.

DIANA

How did you convince her to make you a ring? How...

ARES

What I offered my cousin is of no concern. It worked. That's all that matters.

DIANA

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

ARES

As it turned out, it didn't have to be blood. Any DNA sample would have sufficed.

DIANA

She would have needed a sample of my mortal DNA.

(beat)

That means you must have gotten the sample before I left and kept it. When...

ARES

Don't you remember?

(beat)

I'm hurt. I thought it meant something to you. I know it meant a lot to me.

(beat)

I kept that night alive for a long time. I still have the dress you were wearing.

DIANA

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

ARES nods affirmingly.

ARES

When you were sent back I...

DIANA

I suggest you leave before Hercules gets here.

DIANA turns to head off. ARES grabs her arm.

ARES

Diana, wait?!?

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

ARES

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

DIANA

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

ARES

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

DIANA

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

ARES

(confused)  
You do?

DIANA

Yes, I do.

ARES looks at her.

ARES

Then let me stay, please.

(beat)

At least until Hercules gets here.

DIANA

Well...

ARES

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

DIANA gives ARES a look.

DIANA

Promise?

ARES

Promise.

Momentary pause. ARES flashes her a smile.

ARES

Would I lie to you?

DIANA

No. You wouldn't. You never have.

(beat)

Okay. You win. You can stay.

ARES

Thanks.

DIANA

But only until Herc gets here.

ARES

Of course.

Momentary pause. DIANA flashes him a smile.

DIANA

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

ARES looks at her with raised eyebrows.

DIANA

Come on, dance with me.

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

PAN TO:

71 INT: IPHICLES AND RENA

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

RENA

Who invited Ares?

IPHICLES

Apparently, Diana did.

RENA

Diana? Why would she invite Ares? Of all the Gods why...

IPHICLES

Maybe she's finally seeing the light and leaving my brother.

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

RENA (THOUGHT)

(thought)

*Herc never said where Diana had gone, or why she left. Just that she was gone and never coming back. Maybe she was with Ares for those months she was gone. They do seem awfully close.*

RENA looks back at IPHICLES.

RENA

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

(CONTINUED)

IPHICLES

Imagine what it must be like for her to be with my brother.

(beat)

He's barely at home. He's gone for days at a time, sometimes weeks. Always looking for...

RENA

True, but Ares is just as bad.

IPHICLES

What?

RENA

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

IPHICLES

But as a god he can be in two places at the same time.

(beat)

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

RENA

True. But still...

IPHICLES

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

RENA

Not if Hercules arrives and finds them together.

IPHICLES

Relax.

(beat)

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

(beat)

If he ever gets here.

RENA

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

IPHICLES

Trust me. It won't happen.

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

IPHICLES (THOUGHT)

*Unless I make it happen. I wonder...*

RENA watches DIANA and ARES. She notices how close they seem.

RENA (THOUGHT)

*Diana, I hope you know what you're doing. Flirting with the God of War is asking for trouble. He is hot though. I bet he'd be a great lover.*

PAN TO:

72 INT: AROUND THE ROOM

CAMERA pans back around the room.

CONTINUE TO:

73 TIME FLIES MONTAGE

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

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

(CONTINUED)



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

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

CONTINUE TO:

74 EXT: OPEN AREA - PATH

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

HERCULES

Thanks for the ride, Patroclus.

PATROCLUS looks at HERCULES.

PATROCLUS

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

HERCULES looks at PATROCLUS.

HERCULES

Good luck at the Spartan Races.

PATROCLUS

(smile)  
Thank you, Hercules.

HERCULES

Bye.

PATROCLUS continues along the path to Sparta.

HERCULES heads to the fork on the path that leads to Corinth.

JUMP TO:

(CONTINUED)

75 INT: GREAT HALL - EVENING

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

*The seating plan is: (1) A guard, (2) JASON, (3) ALCMENE, (4) IPHICLES, (5) RENA, (6) DIANA, (7) ARES (8) The Captain of the Guard.*

***IPHICLES is the only one at the table who talks with ARES. (This will be important later.)***

IPHICLES

You honor us with your presence. I am sorry we did not welcome you upon your arrival, but we had no idea who you were.

ARES

As it was meant to be.

IPHICLES

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

ARES

And lived to tell about it.

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

ARES

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

DIANA decides to laugh. ARES laughs. Everyone laughs.

IPHICLES

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

ARES

Only if our brother doesn't arrive.

(CONTINUED)

IPHICLES

What do you mean?

ARES looks from DIANA to IPHICLES to DIANA to IPHICLES.

ARES

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

IPHICLES

Nonsense. ... I'm inviting you.

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

IPHICLES

You'll stay.

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

IPHICLES

That is, if you want to.

ARES

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

IPHICLES

Then it's settled. You will join us.

ARES looks at DIANA, shrugs his shoulders in a "sorry" gesture, and smiles at her. DIANA gives him a fake smile.

EVERYONE at the table resumes eating. IPHICLES ponders something ARES said.

IPHICLES (THOUGHT)

*Our brother.*

*(beat)*

*Ares referred to Herc as our brother.*

*(beat)*

*I'd never thought of that before.*

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

(CONTINUED)

IPHICLES (THOUGHT)

*I can't wait to see the look on his face when he gets here and finds his precious Diana in the arms of the one guy who ticks him off the most.*

*(beat)*

*This will be a great moment. A great moment.*

ARES smiles and thinks to himself.

ARES (THOUGHT)

*I might just have more in common with Iph, then I thought.*

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

IPHICLES (THOUGHT)

*I just wonder which side Diana will be on. Her and Ares looked might cozy out there on the dance floor.*

JUMP TO:

**CORINTHIAN FESTIVAL - DAY 4 (Day 103)**

76 EXT: PALACE GATES - GUARD TOWER

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

GUARD

Hercules is coming! Go tell the captain.

SENTRY

Yes sir.

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

GUARD

I hope there won't be any trouble.

PAN TO:

(CONTINUED)

77 EXT: FOLLOW SENTRY

CAMERA pans and follows the sentry into the palace.

CONTINUE TO:

78 INT: PALACE - HALLWAY

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

SENTRY

Sir, Hercules approaches the...

CAPTAIN

Thank you. Return to your post.

SENTRY

Yes sir.

The sentry runs off, back the way he came.

CAPTAIN

Damn!

The Captain walks off to find DIANA.

CAPTAIN

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

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

CONTINUE TO:

79 EXT: GARDEN

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

CAPTAIN

Excuse me, my lady.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

Yes.

CAPTAIN

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

DIANA

Thank you, Captain.

CAPTAIN

Diana?

DIANA

I heard you.

CAPTAIN

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

DIANA

Thank you, Captain. You may leave.

CAPTAIN

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

DIANA

I said you can leave. Leave Ares to me.

The captain looks at her questioningly.

DIANA

I can handle Ares.

CAPTAIN

Yes, my lady.

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

CONTINUE TO:

80 EXT: FOCUS ON THE CAPTAIN

On his way out, he mutters to himself.

(CONTINUED)

CAPTAIN

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

He turns back around and notices she is gone.

CAPTAIN

What the... Where'd she go?

He looks around, confused.

CAPTAIN

Diana?

He heads into the garden looking for her.

CAPTAIN

Diana? Are you still here?

Momentary pause.

CAPTAIN

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

The captain starts to look around.

JUMP TO:

81 EXT: OTHER SIDE OF THE PALACE

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

DIANA

Enjoying the view.

He turns to her and smiles.

ARES

More so now that you're here.

DIANA

Hercules is approaching.

(CONTINUED)

ARES

I know.

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

DIANA

Then why are you still here?

ARES

I was invited, remember.

DIANA

(beat)

You claim you love me.

ARES

I do love you.

DIANA

Then do this for me, please.

ARES

Diana, what would Iphicles think if...

DIANA

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

ARES

True.

DIANA

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

ARES

Diana, I...

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

DIANA

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



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

ARES

Okay. For you.

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

ARES

Later, D.

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

DIANA

Later.

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

JUMP TO:

82 EXT: PATH TO PALACE

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

DIANA

I see you made it.

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

HERCULES

I said I would.

DIANA

Better late than never, I suppose.

(CONTINUED)

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

HERCULES

So, have I missed anything?

DIANA

Not really.

HERCULES gives her a look.

HERCULES

What do you mean, not really?

DIANA

Nothing you need to worry about.

HERCULES

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

DIANA

Nothing out of the ordinary. Just the usual.

HERCULES

Just the usual.

DIANA

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

HERCULES

Whoa. Back up.

HERCULES stops walking.

HERCULES

Did you say Ares?

DIANA

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

HERCULES

What did Ares want? Why would he...

DIANA

Herc, I...

HERCULES

He came to see you, didn't he?

DIANA

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

HERCULES

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

DIANA

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

HERCULES

Which Ares was it? Not that it matters, but...

DIANA

The present one.

HERCULES

So what did he want?

DIANA

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

HERCULES

What's that supposed to mean?

DIANA

Nothing. Forget it.

HERCULES

Okay. Start at the beginning.

DIANA

The beginning?

HERCULES

Yes. I want to know everything that's happened since you got here.

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

HERCULES is waiting for her to start talking. DIANA looks at him.

CONTINUE TO:

83 EXT: PALACE GATES - GUARD TOWER

The Captain yells up to the guard.

CAPTAIN

Is he here yet?

GUARD

They should be here shortly.

CAPTAIN

They?

GUARD

Diana is with him.

CAPTAIN

She is? When did...?

GUARD

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

CAPTAIN (THOUGHT)

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

JUMP TO:

84 EXT: PATH TO PALACE

DIANA has just finished telling HERCULES everything.

DIANA

Then I came here. To walk with you to the...

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES  
(raise eyebrow)  
That's everything.

DIANA  
Yep.

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

DIANA  
What?

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

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

HERCULES  
Yes. I do.

DIANA wonders if HERCULES is right.

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

She stops her thought and looks at HERCULES.

DIANA  
Can we stop taking about Ares?

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

DIANA  
I could make everyone forget he was there.

HERCULES

That might not be such a bad idea.

DIANA

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

HERCULES looks at her.

DIANA

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

HERCULES

So how do you want to do this?

DIANA

Easy. As we walk through the gates, I will make everyone we meet forget that Ares was there.

(beat)

If I know the Captain, he will be waiting for us. I can tell him that you need to speak to Iphicles and ask him to go get him and you'll meet in the garden. Then I will go to the main hall and zap the room with a forget spell.

HERCULES

Will it work?

DIANA

Of course.

They reach the gates.

CONTINUE TO:

(CONTINUED)

## 85 EXT: PALACE GATES

They pass through the gates. The Captain of the Guards is standing there. He looks like he is about to ask DIANA something. DIANA touches him. He momentarily forgets what he was about to say. Everyone else in the area is hit with the forget spell and all shake their heads as if coming out of a trance. DIANA smiles at HERCULES and then address the CAPTAIN who is giving her a strange look. She doesn't notice.

DIANA

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

CAPTAIN

Yes, my lady.

HERCULES raises an eyebrow. The Captain runs off.

HERCULES

My lady? When...

DIANA

Not sure. He started calling me that  
shortly after I arrived. It's kinda  
grown on me.

HERCULES and DIANA walk to the palace door.

CONTINUE TO:

## 86 TIME FLIES MONTAGE

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

(CONTINUED)

is standing by the doors, waiting for IPHICLES. DIANA nods at him as she enters the garden.

CONTINUE TO:

87 EXT: GARDEN

DIANA walks up to HERCULES and IPHICLES.

DIANA

I heard you were finally here.

(kiss Hercules)

Is Miss Attica okay?

HERCULES

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

DIANA

Good.

DIANA looks at IPHICLES.

DIANA

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

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

DIANA

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

IPHICLES

Really?

DIANA

Yeah.

IPHICLES

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

(CONTINUED)



DIANA

Maybe next time.

DIANA looks at HERCULES.

DIANA

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

DIANA and HERCULES walk off. IPHICLES mutters to himself.

IPHICLES

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

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

CAPTAIN

My lord, there is something very odd about Diana?

IPHICLES

Odd? How do you mean?

CAPTAIN

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

IPHICLES

She met Hercules on the path?

CAPTAIN

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

IPHICLES

Really.

CAPTAIN

Yes. There is something about her that is odd.

IPHICLES

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

CAPTAIN

What should we do, my lord?

IPHICLES

We keep an eye on her.

The Captain and IPHICLES head to the door.

IPHICLES (THOUGHT)

*I wonder where she really went when she left. Was she with Ares? Had she been secretly plotting with him the whole time? Was she only using Herc? Was Clark really Herc's son? And if so, how could he be so old when she was only gone a few months? So many things don't make sense.*

CONTINUE TO:

88 INT: HALLWAY TO THE GREAT HALL

DIANA and HERCULES are walking down the hall.

HERCULES

Who's Sera?

DIANA

That was the name Ares gave himself.

DIANA looks at HERCULES.

DIANA

Sera is Ares spelt backwards.

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES

Clever.

DIANA

I know.

DIANA and HERCULES proceed down the hall.

PAN TO:

89 INT: DOWN HALL

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

FADE OUT.

