

The Chronicles of Diana Marsson  
Chapter 14: Future's Past

By

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

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A FEW HOURS LATER (since the end of last Chapter)

(Still Day 470)

1 OBSERVATION ROOM - MOUNT OLYMPUS

ZEUS is staring out the window, thinking.

ZEUS (THOUGHT)

*You've really gone and done it now my son, haven't you? You have gone and disrupted things in a way that could have...*

*(beat)*

*I don't know how long your sentence will last, but...*

*(beat)*

*I hope that the time you serve will teach you a lesson.*

*(beat)*

*Now, I am left with a huge decision. Who shall I appoint to take over for you, son? Who is best qualified to...?*

ZEUS' thoughts are interrupted as DISCORD materializes in the room. ZEUS looks at her and addresses her by her given name.

ZEUS

Eris...

DISCORD cuts him off before he can continue.

DISCORD

It's Discord, Father.

ZEUS

I will never understand why you don't use...

DISCORD

I like it better. It is more...

ZEUS cuts her off completing his original thought.

ZEUS

Okay. *Discord*. To what do I owe the pleasure of your company?

(CONTINUED)

DISCORD approaches ZEUS. She tries to determine the best way to say what she has to say. ZEUS can tell she is thinking about something and thinks he knows what it is but decides to wait for her to ask.

DISCORD

I have never asked you for anything,  
father.

ZEUS raises his eyebrow in a "yeah, so?" gesture.

ZEUS

Why do I get the feeling that that's  
about to change, daughter?

Momentary pause. DISCORD flashes a smile.

DISCORD

As you are aware, I have been working  
alongside of Ares for a while now,  
and...

ZEUS realizes he was right. She wants Ares' job.

ZEUS

...you want to take over now, right?

DISCORD

Yes.

Momentary pause. ZEUS appears to be thinking it over.

ZEUS

You are too young, too...

DISCORD is upset.

DISCORD

Young? Daddy, I am the same age as  
Ares. We are twins, remember?

ZEUS

Of course, how could I forget. But I  
was not referring to your age, my dear.

DISCORD

Then what...

ZEUS

You are still too inexperienced to handle the job full time. As a part-time assistant, you are fine. But...

DISCORD

Daddy, I've worked with Ares. I've planned with him, schemed with him. I deserve this! I...

ZEUS

See what I mean. You are acting like a child, Discord. If you ever want to get anywhere, you'll have to grow up a little.

DISCORD

So, who are you gonna appoint? Athena?

ZEUS

I haven't made up my mind yet.

DISCORD

You always did like Athena more, Dad!

With that said, she vanishes. ZEUS just shakes his head back and forth.

ZEUS

Ares put such faith in you, Eris. It's a shame you're turning into such a disappointment.

Momentary pause. ZEUS returns to staring out the window, thinking. After a few moments, his thoughts are once more interrupted. This time by STRIFE as he materializes in the room. ZEUS turns to STRIFE. STRIFE looks at ZEUS.

STRIFE

Ah... Zeus... Sir...

Momentary pause. ZEUS just stares at him, making him more on edge.

STRIFE

Could I... could I have a word with you?

ZEUS figures that STRIFE is here for the same thing that DISCORD was, and again he wants STRIFE to ask.

ZEUS

About?

STRIFE

Now that Uncle Ares is, well, detained, I was wondering if, well, if there was the slightest possibility that I could...

Momentary pause.

ZEUS

Could what?

STRIFE

Well, you know... If I could...

ZEUS

Spit it out, Strife!

Momentary pause. STRIFE composes himself.

STRIFE

Sir, I want to be his... his... suc...

ZEUS

Successor?

STRIFE

Yes. His successor.

ZEUS laughs. STRIFE looks at him with a "what's so funny?" look.

ZEUS

That's a good one, Strife!

STRIFE

Well?

ZEUS

Strife: God of War. That's just too funny.

STRIFE

I... I...

ZEUS gives him a serious stare.

ZEUS

Don't even think about it.

ZEUS looks away from him.

ZEUS

Ares never had any real confidence in you. Why should I?

STRIFE

I... I...

ZEUS looks back at him.

ZEUS

Don't you have somewhere else you could be?

STRIFE

Yes sir. Bye, sir.

With that said, STRIFE vanishes.

ZEUS

Ares was right. That is one messed up kid. A God should be full of self-confidence. But Strife...

ZEUS starts pacing again, wondering who else will "pop" in.

ZEUS

There must be someone qualified for this job.

(beat)

Preferably someone who doesn't already have a full plate.

ZEUS returns to thinking.

JUMP TO:

(CONTINUED)

## 2 DISCORD'S ROOM

DISCORD is pacing. STRIFE materializes in the room, muttering to himself. (Note: The line is said in a mocking, imitating, tone.)

STRIFE

*"Ares never had any real confidence in you. Why should I?"*

DISCORD looks at STRIFE.

DISCORD

I guess Zeus said no to you too, eh?

STRIFE

Yes.

DISCORD

Sometimes he makes me so mad.

STRIFE

We are the best ones to take over. Why can't he see that?

DISCORD

I don't know.

STRIFE

If not us, then who?

DISCORD

Good question.

Momentary pause. DISCORD tries to think. STRIFE watches her pacing and thinking. He starts muttering to himself again.

STRIFE

No one knows Ares as well as we do. We know how he thinks, how he acts. We would be perfect.

DISCORD looks at STRIFE, an idea is starting to form in her head.

DISCORD

What did you say?



STRIFE looks at DISCORD.

STRIFE  
I said we'd be perfect.

DISCORD  
No, before that.

STRIFE thinks.

STRIFE  
Ah... No one knows Ares as well as we do.

DISCORD smiles. STRIFE looks at her.

STRIFE  
What?

DISCORD  
You're wrong on that. There are at least two other people who know Ares as well as we do. Maybe better.

STRIFE looks at her with a confused look on his face.

STRIFE  
There is, are?

DISCORD smiles a very evil smile.

DISCORD  
Yes. And one of them might be persuaded to go to Zeus and ask for the job.

STRIFE is still confused.

STRIFE  
What good would that do?

DISCORD  
If Zeus gives him the position, we would be able to keep our jobs. We might even be able to persuade him to give us more responsibility.

STRIFE

That would be good.

DISCORD

Now all we have to do is find him and convince him.

STRIFE

Find who?

DISCORD looks at STRIFE.

DISCORD

Who is Ares' favorite nephew?

STRIFE

I thought I was.

DISCORD

Who is one he always talks about? The one he praises all the time.

STRIFE thinks. DISCORD stares at him. STRIFE smiles as he realizes who she is thinking of. DISCORD smiles.

STRIFE

He would be good.

DISCORD

Yes, he would. And Ares would be so proud. He'd finally find a way to outwit Hercules.

STRIFE

Let's do it.

DISCORD and STRIFE laugh and vanish.

JUMP TO:

**2 DAYS LATER (Day 472)**

3 ROAD TO THEBES

XENA is walking along the road. ARGO is walking beside her. XENA has ARGO's rein in her hand. DIANA appears in front of them. XENA stops. So does ARGO.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

How could you do that do him?

XENA figures she is referring to ARES.

XENA

He did it to himself, Diana.

DIANA

You know that's not true. You know...

XENA

He's lucky he's not banished to a prison cell in Tartarus like his grandfather.

DIANA

Don't compare Ares to Cronus.

XENA

You don't understand how they...

DIANA

I understand better than you.

DIANA's sword appears in her hand.

XENA

Are you challenging me?

DIANA

Ares always said I was better than you. In everything. Shall we put it to the test?

XENA drops ARGO's rein. ARGO heads off to the side. XENA draws her sword.

XENA

You really have changed. There is a lot more Ares in you now. Just how long were you really with him?

DIANA

Like you care. You had your chance with him, and you walked away.

XENA

Yes. I did.

DIANA

That's the difference between you and me. I will *never* turn my back on him.

XENA gives her a look.

XENA

He is...

DIANA

Enough talking.

DIANA charges at her. They fight. The fight doesn't last long. DIANA manages to knock XENA to the ground using a classic Ares move. As XENA falls her sword goes flying. DIANA brings her sword to XENA's neck. XENA notices the look in DIANA's eyes. A look that is all too familiar.

DIANA

I win.

XENA

You won't kill me. You need me.

DIANA

For now. But once Ares is free...

XENA

That will be a long way away.

DIANA

I have eternity. I can wait.

DIANA gives XENA a look.

DIANA

Tell me. Why. Why are you helping Zeus keep him locked up? You could end this right now.

XENA looks at the sword at her neck then at DIANA.

XENA

You really do love him, don't you?

DIANA raises an eyebrow.

XENA uses DIANA's momentary distraction to her advantage. She knocks the sword out of DIANA's hand. XENA get up and goes for her sword.

DIANA recovers, zaps XENA's sword away, and teleports to her side.

DIANA

I don't expect you to understand this,  
but Ares means...

XENA

(understandingly)  
I know. I know how addictive he can  
be. How...

DIANA

Stop. If you ever cared for him, help  
me free him.

XENA

I can't.

DIANA

(raise eyebrow)  
Can't? or won't?

XENA

I promised Zeus that I...

DIANA

This is not over Xena.

DIANA vanishes.

XENA goes to her sword and picks it up. ARGO comes over. XENA looks at ARGO as she takes the rein in her hand.

XENA

She really has fallen for him. She is  
so like him now. I wonder if Herc sees  
it.

JUMP TO:

(CONTINUED)

**3 DAYS LATER (Day 475)**

4 HERCULES' PLACE - BACK YARD (MORNING)

DIANA is sitting by the pond, daydreaming, subconsciously twisting the ring that Ares gave her. CLARK materializes behind her.

CLARK

Hey, mom! You'll never guess who...

CLARK notices she isn't paying attention. He stands in front of her.

CLARK

Mom?

(beat)

Mother, are you listening?

DIANA snaps out of it.

DIANA

What?

CLARK

Where were you?

DIANA

Nowhere.

CLARK raises an eyebrow and sits beside her. He can sense something is bothering her.

CLARK

What's wrong?

DIANA

Nothing.

CLARK

Mother, I can tell something is bothering you. Tell me what it is. Maybe I can help.

DIANA

Trust me. You can't.

(CONTINUED)

CLARK

Why? What is it?

DIANA mutters the following line.

DIANA

Ares.

CLARK looks at her with a raised eyebrow.

CLARK

What was that?

DIANA rises. She has her back to CLARK and is staring off into the distance. She now has her arms crossed in front of her.

DIANA

Ares. He's... He's...

CLARK

He's what?

Momentary pause. CLARK decides to play dumb. DIANA has no idea that CLARK was at the trial, and he doesn't want her to know.

CLARK

Mother?

DIANA

He's...

CLARK rises and goes to her. He stands at her side and looks at her.

CLARK

Has he done something to...?

DIANA

No.

CLARK gives her a confused look.

CLARK

Then what?

(beat)

Mother?

DIANA turns to him and looks at him.

DIANA  
We need to talk.

CLARK  
What do you...?

DIANA motions him to sit. He does. She goes to him and sits beside him.

CONTINUE TO:

5 TIME FLIES

DIANA tells CLARK that their Ares killed the present Ares and is being punished by the gods. CLARK doesn't let on that he knows this already. As DIANA finishes telling him the story, we...

CONTINUE TO:

6 TIME RESUMES

CLARK looks at DIANA.

CLARK  
So, our Ares is imprisoned in a cave.

DIANA  
Yes.

CLARK  
That means...there is no God of War.

DIANA  
I believe Athena is filling in for him while... well, while...

CLARK  
No, mother, I mean there is no GOD of war. Athena already was... is... the goddess of war.

DIANA  
What are you saying?

(CONTINUED)



CLARK rises. He decides to voice what he has been thinking about since the trial. And also realizes that DISCORD and STRIFE are right. He needs to do this.

CLARK

Maybe I can ask grandfather if I...

DIANA looks at him, stunned.

DIANA

Don't even think about it.

CLARK looks at her.

CLARK

You don't think I can do it?

DIANA

It's not that. It's just...

CLARK

Just what?

DIANA

Your father isn't going to like it.

CLARK

Mother, he doesn't have to know.

DIANA gives him a "what?" look.

DIANA

How do you plan on hiding something like that from him? It's not like you...

DIANA pauses, trying to think of an analogy. She can't.

CLARK

Look, grandfather hasn't even said yes, yet.

DIANA

True.

CLARK

I'm going to go ask him.

DIANA

Clark, I...

CLARK vanishes.

DIANA

Great. Just great.

DIANA returns to staring off into the distance and twisting the ring on her finger. A few moments later, APHRODITE appears beside her. APHRODITE can tell DIANA is missing ARES.

APHRODITE

You miss him.

DIANA

Yes.

APHRODITE

Then go to him.

DIANA

What?

APHRODITE

Go to him.

DIANA

I can't he's...

APHRODITE

Didn't Zeus tell you?

DIANA raises an eyebrow.

DIANA

Tell me what.

APHRODITE

You can still see him. Any god can enter the cave if they want to.

DIANA

Really?

APHRODITE

Would I lie to you?

DIANA gives her a "no" look.

APHRODITE

The sealed entrance only keeps mortals out. You can materialize inside the cave whenever you want.

DIANA looks happier.

DIANA

So I can...

APHRODITE

Yes.

DIANA smiles and hugs APHRODITE.

DIANA

Thanks.

APHRODITE is about to say something, but DIANA vanishes.

JUMP TO:

7 ARES' TOMB

ARES is sparring with an illusionary opponent. DIANA materializes behind him.

DIANA (THOUGHT)

*It worked. It...*

DIANA sees ARES. She looks at him. She's missed him so much.

DIANA

(softly)

Ares.

ARES turns at the sound of her voice. His opponent vanishes.

ARES

Diana? Am I dreaming?

DIANA zaps to him and presses up against him.

DIANA

If you are, then so am I.

(CONTINUED)

ARES  
You're really here.

DIANA  
Yes.

ARES  
How I...

DIANA shuts him up with a kiss. He returns the kiss and teleports them to the wall. DIANA has her back against the wall and ARES is standing in front of her. She breaks the kiss.

DIANA  
I've missed you.

ARES  
I've missed you too.

DIANA  
I need you.

ARES  
I need you too.

DIANA  
I need to feel you inside of me. Take me Ares.

ARES kisses her again.

JUMP TO:

8 OBSERVATION ROOM - MOUNT OLYMPUS

ZEUS and ATHENA are talking. CLARK materializes. ZEUS is surprised. ATHENA wonders what CLARK wants.

ZEUS  
Clark?! What are you...?

CLARK  
I have come to ask a favor of you, grandfather.

ZEUS  
Anything, you know that.

(CONTINUED)

CLARK

It's about Ares.

ZEUS looks at CLARK.

ZEUS

What's done is done. There is no undoing it. You know that. You were at the trial, you heard...

CLARK

(raise eyebrow)

How'd you...?

ZEUS

I know all, Clark. You can't hide from me.

CLARK

Of course. But you misunderstand. I'm not here to ask you to release him.

Momentary pause. ZEUS gives him a "you're not?" look.

CLARK

I'm here to ask you to let me replace him. Let me be the next God of War.

ZEUS and ATHENA exchange a look. ZEUS looks at CLARK.

ZEUS

Now, Clark, I can't just...

CLARK

I've known Ares since I was six. I know how to handle a sword better than most. I can...

ZEUS

Clark, I...

CLARK

When I was three, Mac gave me my first sword. Of course it was only a toy sword, but it was still a sword none the less. He...

ZEUS looks at him.

ZEUS

It's not that....

CLARK

As I grew up, Mac taught me how to fight, how to handle a sword. Once I turned 18, Ares stepped in. He told me I...

ATHENA

Being a good fighter has nothing to do with being the god of war. I...

CLARK

You need a god of war. Give me a chance, grandfather. I won't let you down.

ZEUS is intrigued at what he is seeing in CLARK. The determination, the drive, he might just be the answer he was waiting for.

ZEUS

It's not up to me. The Council will have to vote.

ATHENA looks to ZEUS with a "you can't be serious" look.

ATHENA

Father, I...

CLARK

When? How soon can...

ZEUS

It so happens the Council is all here. We were going to appoint Athena as Ares' replacement, since no other qualified applicants were found. I'll inform them that you are interested. Don't go away.

ZEUS vanishes, leaving CLARK and ATHENA alone. ATHENA looks mad. CLARK smiles at her. A smile that is so Ares.

CLARK

Nice to see you again, auntie. What have you been up to?

ATHENA

Don't get your hopes up, okay! I've worked too hard for this. I won't let you take it away from me.

CLARK walks up to ATHENA. He gives her one of Ares' famous looks. ATHENA is so caught up in anger that she isn't noticing just how Ares-like CLARK is being in everything. His walk, his mannerisms, his tone of voice.

CLARK

Take it from you? You don't even have it yet?

ATHENA

Yes, I did.

CLARK

You already are the goddess of war, Athena. Isn't that enough?

ATHENA

No.

CLARK gives her another one of Ares' looks.

ATHENA

Discord wanted to be considered, so did Strife. But Zeus didn't think they had what it took to...

CLARK starts to laugh. A very Ares-like laugh.

ATHENA

What's so funny?

CLARK

Discord and Strife.

(beat)

Did they seriously think they could take over for Ares? They are perfect as assistants, but to be in charge?

CLARK starts to laugh again. ATHENA stares at him. CLARK

notices the look and stops laughing.

CLARK

What?

(beat)

Why are you looking at me like that?

ATHENA

Does your father know you are here?

(beat)

That you want to be the next Ares?

(beat)

He doesn't, does he?

(beat)

How do you think he'll react when he hears that you want to be the next Ares, hunh?

CLARK glares at her.

CLARK

If I wanted to be Ares, all I'd have to do is this.

With a mere thought, he transforms into Ares. She's stunned. As Ares, he smiles, waits a few moments, then transforms back into himself. ATHENA is in awe.

ATHENA

Molecular transformation. You've mastered it. And at such a young age. I'm impressed.

CLARK

Thank you. It was one of the many things Ares taught me.

ATHENA

I...

ZEUS materializes.

ZEUS

The Council has agreed that Clark meets the qualifications. They are ready to test you. Both of you.



ATHENA looks at ZEUS with a raised eyebrow.

ATHENA

Test us?

ZEUS

You will each be given 12 scenarios.  
You will be graded on how you resolve  
each one. The one with the highest  
score, wins.

ZEUS turns to CLARK.

ZEUS

Clark, since you are the challenger,  
you are first.

CLARK heads to ZEUS. ZEUS looks at ATHENA.

ZEUS

Athena, remain here til my return.

ATHENA bows her head in acknowledgment.

ATHENA

Yes, father.

CLARK and ZEUS vanish. ATHENA walks over to a chair and sits.

FADE IN TO:

9 TIME FLIES

CLARK is put through the 12 scenarios. Some involve fighting, some reasoning, some cunning, and some deceit. CLARK uses everything that Ares and Duncan taught him. He even uses molecular transformation to his advantage. He aces everything. The Council is very impressed with him. When the tests are completed, the Council thanks CLARK and dismisses him.

FADE BACK TO:

10 OBSERVATION ROOM

ZEUS and CLARK materialize in the room. ATHENA rises.

(CONTINUED)

ZEUS

Athena.

ATHENA heads to ZEUS. CLARK heads to where she was sitting. As they pass, she addresses him.

ATHENA

How was it?

CLARK winks at her.

CLARK

Piece of cake.

ATHENA raises an eyebrow at the statement. She reaches ZEUS, and they vanish.

FADE IN TO:

11 TIME FLIES

ATHENA is put through the same 12 scenarios. But being the goddess of wisdom first and foremost, she tries to reason her way out of each scenario first. A reaction, which in certain scenarios, costs her dearly. She fails the cunning and deceit scenarios, aces the reasoning ones, and passes 98.5% of the fighting ones. When the tests are completed, the Council thanks ATHENA and dismisses her.

FADE BACK TO:

12 OBSERVATION ROOM

ZEUS and ATHENA materialize in the room. CLARK looks at them.

ZEUS

Please, wait here.

ZEUS leaves. CLARK walks over to ATHENA who looks upset.

CLARK

So, how'd you do?

ATHENA

Okay.

CLARK looks at her with a raised eyebrow.

(CONTINUED)

CLARK

Okay? Just, okay?

Momentary pause.

ATHENA

I was so stupid. I forgot what I was competing for. I let my instincts rule me.

CLARK

That's a good thing, isn't it?

ATHENA looks at him.

ATHENA

Not when your instincts are reasoning and you're competing for war!

CLARK understands.

CLARK

Oh.

Momentary pause. ATHENA sits on a bench.

ATHENA

I don't know what I was thinking. I could never take Ares' place. He's... well, he's...

Momentary pause. CLARK finishes her sentence for her as he sits beside her.

CLARK

Ares.

ATHENA

Exactly.

Momentary silence.

ATHENA

I could never be Ares. I guess I'll just have to live with being his... I mean your... second.

CLARK

Hey, we don't know how they'll rule. I haven't won yet.

ATHENA

True. But...

Momentary pause. ATHENA looks at him.

ATHENA

...unless you were a complete failure, it's yours.

Momentary pause. CLARK is about to say something when ATHENA starts laughing. CLARK looks at her.

CLARK

What's so funny?

ATHENA stops laughing and looks at him.

ATHENA

I can't wait to see the look on my brother's face when you go home and say, "Guess what, dad? I'm the new God of War!"

ATHENA laughs again.

CLARK

That's not funny. Besides, we...

CLARK's line is cut off as HERMES appears in the room. CLARK and ATHENA get all serious and look at him.

HERMES

The Council has reached their decision.

CLARK

So soon?

HERMES nods.

HERMES

Come with me.

ATHENA and CLARK rise off the bench and go to HERMES. All three vanish.

JUMP TO:

13 INT: HERCULES' PLACE - LIVING ROOM

DIANA is pacing in the living room. HERCULES enters calling her name. She doesn't hear him come in.

HERCULES

Diana? ...Diana? ... Di...

HERCULES sees her and goes to her.

HERCULES

Diana?

DIANA still doesn't answer him. HERCULES places his hands on her shoulders and looks her in the eye.

HERCULES

What is it? What's wrong?

DIANA

It's Clark. He's...

HERCULES

He's what?

Momentary pause.

DIANA

I think he's doing something really stupid.

HERCULES

(laugh)

You mean more stupid than the time he took Hades' chariot for a joyride? Or the time he took Cerberus for a walk outside of the underworld? Or the time he made a pass at Artemis? Or the time he...

DIANA gives him a look. He gets serious.

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES

Sorry. ... So, where is he?

DIANA mutters the following line.

DIANA

Olympus.

HERCULES

Can you repeat that? It sounded like you said Olympus.

DIANA

I did.

HERCULES

Why would he go to Olympus? What...?

DIANA

He... He...

Momentary pause.

HERCULES

Diana, just say it.

DIANA

Well, he...

(beat)

I told him about Ares, and...

HERCULES thinks he understands.

HERCULES

He's gone to see if he can get the sentence over-turned.

DIANA

Well, not exactly.

HERCULES

(raise eyebrow)

Then what?

(beat)

He didn't go seeking revenge, did he?

DIANA

No. He... He went to ask Zeus if he could...

Momentary pause.

HERCULES

Could what?

HERCULES waits for DIANA to answer. She doesn't. After a few moments he continues.

HERCULES

See Ares?

DIANA nods a "no." (Note: Herc doesn't know that she and Clark can see Ares anytime they want. They don't need permission.)

HERCULES

Talk to Ares?

DIANA nods a "no."

HERCULES

Then what?

DIANA looks at him.

DIANA

Replace him.

HERCULES

Replace him?

DIANA

Yes.

HERCULES

Does he realize the...

DIANA

I don't know, probably.

(beat)

He's really close with Ares. Ares always treated him more like a son than a nephew.

DIANA looks at HERCULES.

DIANA

What... What are the rules? How will they decide if Clark will...?

HERCULES

I don't know. No god has ever died. At least not as long as I've been alive.

DIANA

Well, guess! How would you...

HERCULES

First, I'd probably see who wanted the position. Most of the gods already have their hands full, so probably one of the lesser gods would get it.

DIANA

I know Athena voiced an interest.

HERCULES

Athena? She already is the goddess of war.

DIANA

I know. That was her point. And, since...

HERCULES

You think Clark will win.

DIANA

Clark has more experience with how Ares does things than Athena does. He learned a lot from Ares. And Duncan. He's a child of the 21st century. He has knowledge of events to come. He's studied everything about this time. He knows the outcome of every recorded event. Events that haven't happened yet. Ares would spend hours retelling stories to Clark. He knows that Ares' imprisonment has changed history. He also knows that no one knows Ares, how he thinks, better than he does. What if... how will...



HERCULES hugs her. She rests her head on his shoulder.

JUMP TO:

14 INT: HALL OF OLYMPUS

ATHENA and CLARK are standing in front of The Council. ZEUS has Ares' sword on the table in front of him.

The sword belongs to the present Ares. The future Ares' sword is in the tomb with the future Ares.

ZEUS stands and picks up the sword. He goes to ATHENA and CLARK and stops in front of them. The rest of The Council raise. ZEUS holds the sword stretched out across the palms of his hands. He smiles and addresses both of them.

ZEUS

You both have shown us what you are capable of.

(beat)

We have thought long and hard about this. For this is not a situation to take lightly.

(beat)

The decision will impact on the future. All of our futures.

(beat)

After careful consideration, and examination of your scores, there was only one choice.

Momentary pause. ZEUS turns to CLARK and offers him the sword. ATHENA looks disappointed.

ZEUS

Clark, son of Hercules and Diana, I hereby appoint you God of War. From now until the time Ares is released.

CLARK takes the sword from ZEUS.

CLARK

I will not disappoint you.

ZEUS mutters to CLARK.

(CONTINUED)

ZEUS

I know.

ZEUS addresses the room.

ZEUS

This session of the Olympian Council is adjourned. We shall gather tomorrow for a festival celebrating Clark's appointment.

One by one the council members vanish, until ZEUS, ATHENA, and CLARK are the only ones left. ATHENA kisses CLARK on the cheek.

ATHENA

Congratulations, Clark. And...

(beat)

...good luck with your father.

CLARK looks at her.

CLARK

Thanks.

ATHENA vanishes. CLARK attaches the sword to his waist. (He is wearing a sword holster.) ZEUS puts his arm around him, and they walk.

ZEUS

I was very pleased with the way you handled those scenarios. You showed great instincts.

CLARK

Thanks.

Momentary pause.

ZEUS

I'm amazed that you've mastered molecular transformation at such a young age.

CLARK

It was one of the first things Ares taught me once I crossed over. He always said I was a natural.

ZEUS

We all have the ability of course, but very few of us actively use it.

CLARK stops and gives ZEUS a "yeah, right!" look. Momentary pause. They continue walking.

CLARK

Ares always says, "if you want to outsmart your enemy, you must always do the unexpected. Make them see what you want them to see. What they expect to see."

ZEUS

Sounds like Ares.

Momentary pause. ZEUS looks at CLARK.

ZEUS

As a matter of fact, there was a lot of Ares in your responses.

CLARK

I learned a lot from him.

ZEUS

There were also a few un-Ares-like responses.

CLARK

That was probably due to some other major influences in my life.

ZEUS is curious and looks at CLARK with a raised eyebrow.

ZEUS

Oh, like who?

CLARK

No one you'd know.

CLARK forgets for one moment that ZEUS has met METHOS. ZEUS understands.

ZEUS

Ah, so they were of your time.

CLARK

Yes.

ZEUS' next line is said as a statement not a question.

ZEUS

Friends of Diana's.

CLARK remembers that METHOS is alive now, and that ZEUS has met him. He must not mention METHOS' name.

CLARK

One was. The others were his friends really.

ZEUS is curious.

ZEUS

Diana didn't like them?

CLARK

I didn't say that. They were just his friends first.

ZEUS understands.

ZEUS

I see.

CLARK stops again and looks at ZEUS.

CLARK

Mac taught me that fighting wasn't always the best option. Sometimes you could talk or reason your way out of something.

ZEUS

And from your performance today, I can tell you know when to tell the difference. Not many do. That'll be an asset. I know you'll do a good job.

CLARK

Thanks. By the way, who came up with those tests?

ZEUS

Why?

CLARK

Just wondering what some of them had to do with being the God of War. I mean usually the tests have something to do with the job. But...

ZEUS

The tests are designed to judge you. See what sort of person the candidates are.

CLARK

Oh.

Momentary pause. CLARK gets all quiet. ZEUS can tell something is bothering him.

ZEUS

What is it?

CLARK

My father.

ZEUS

What about him?

CLARK looks at ZEUS.

CLARK

He won't be too thrilled about this.

(beat)

He's always thought I had a lot of Ares in me, and now this.

ZEUS

I wish I could help you there but...

(beat)

He never listens to me. He hardly even talks to me.

CLARK

How did things get so bad between you two?

Momentary pause.

ZEUS

We never had the typical father/son relationship to start with.

(beat)

As he grew up, he resented the fact that I wasn't around as much as he'd have liked to me to be.

(beat)

He did his thing. I did mine. For years we just acknowledged each other.

(beat)

Then, after he married Deianeira, things were good between us. All was fine until... well...

CLARK remembers the story all too well.

CLARK

Until Hera killed Deianeira and the kids.

ZEUS

Yes. He was furious with me. Our relationship reverted to the state it had been in before Deianeira. He's never forgiven me for that.

Momentary pause.

CLARK

I wonder how he's going to react to this.

ZEUS

You never know. He might surprise you.

Momentary pause. ZEUS and CLARK exchange a look.

ZEUS

Good luck.

With that said, ZEUS vanishes.

CLARK

Thanks. I think.

CLARK looks around for a few seconds, then vanishes.

JUMP TO:

15 INT: BEDROOM - HERCULES' PLACE

HERCULES and DIANA are almost finished a love making session.

CUT TO:

16 EXT: HERCULES' PLACE

CLARK materializes on the path to the front door.

CLARK

Well, time to face the music.

CLARK approaches the house.

CONTINUE TO:

17 FRONT DOOR

CLARK opens the door and enters the house.

CONTINUE TO:

18 INT: FRONT HALL

CLARK closes the door behind him.

CLARK

Mother? Father?

(beat x2)

Anybody home?

CLARK enters the house and starts to look for them.

CUT TO:

19 BEDROOM

HERCULES and DIANA are lying in each other's arms.

DIANA

Sounds like Clark's home.

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES looks at her and smiles.

HERCULES

A few minutes earlier and...

DIANA gives him a look.

DIANA

Herc!

HERCULES

Sorry.

DIANA (THOUGHT)

*He wouldn't be shocked if he did. He'd walked on in on me and Ares in much more interesting positions.*

DIANA looks to the door.

DIANA

I wonder how it went.

HERCULES

Only one way to find out.

DIANA smiles, and with a mere thought, vanishes. HERCULES looks to where she was.

HERCULES

I hate it when she does that.

HERCULES gets out of bed.

CUT TO:

20 MAIN ROOM

CLARK is roaming the house looking for HERCULES and DIANA.

CLARK

Mother? Father?

(beat)

I know you're here. I can...

DIANA materializes behind him. He spins at the sound of her voice.

(CONTINUED)



DIANA

Clark, please stop screaming. We heard you the first time. I...

DIANA notices the sword, Ares' sword, clasped to his hip.

DIANA

That's Ares' sword. What are you...?

DIANA realizes there is only one reason why CLARK would have the God of War's sword.

DIANA

Oh my god. You... You got it. Zeus gave it to you. I...

HERCULES enters behind CLARK. They don't notice him, yet. HERCULES leans on the wall of the entrance way.

CLARK

He didn't give it to me, mother. I had to earn it. And I did. He...

HERCULES clears his throat. CLARK turns.

CLARK

Father, I... I have some great news for you.

(beat)

You'll never guess what happened to me today.

Momentary pause. HERCULES points to the sword with his hand.

HERCULES

If that sword is what I think it is... I'd say you found a job.

CLARK raises an eyebrow in curiosity. HERCULES enters the room.

CLARK

I... I guess you could say that. I... You're not mad?

HERCULES

Not yet.

CLARK

Yet? What...

HERCULES

Let's see how you handle this job. And all the responsibility and power that goes with it. Then...

DIANA is stunned. She glares at HERCULES.

DIANA

I can't believe you're supporting this!!! How...

HERCULES looks at DIANA.

HERCULES

What choice do I have? What's done, is done. The Council obviously thinks that Clark has what it takes, so...

CLARK looks at DIANA.

CLARK

Mother, I won't forget what Mac taught me. I...

DIANA

It's not that I don't think you can handle it, Clark. It's just that...

CLARK

It's not permanent, mother. It's only until Ares is released, and...

DIANA

That could be a long time.

CLARK

And it could be tomorrow.

DIANA looks at the floor.

DIANA

It won't be tomorrow. Or anytime in the near future.

CLARK pretends he doesn't know what she is talking about. After all she never mentioned all the conditions of Ares' release to him, and she still doesn't know he was at the trial.

CLARK

What do you mean?

(beat)

I thought you said he could be freed by a mortal, I bet every warrior in Greece will be standing in line. They'll all want to be the one to free Ares.

DIANA

Well... There's one thing I didn't tell you.

CLARK

Oh?

Momentary pause.

DIANA

It can't just be any mortal. It has to be either the one who imprisoned him, or a descendant of that person.

HERCULES looks at DIANA with a raised eyebrow.

HERCULES

I thought Xena imprisoned him.

DIANA

She did.

HERCULES

So, Xena can free him?

DIANA

Yes. Either Xena, or her descendant.

CLARK doesn't know the other condition on the release and reminds DIANA that Xena has a son.

CLARK

Well, newsflash, Mom. Xena has a son, and...

HERCULES looks to CLARK with a surprised look on his face.

HERCULES  
Xena has a son?

CLARK looks at HERCULES.

CLARK  
You didn't know?

HERCULES  
No. I...

HERCULES looks to DIANA.

HERCULES  
How, um, how old is he?

DIANA  
Solan?

HERCULES nods. DIANA, being able to read his thoughts, knows what he is thinking.

DIANA  
I know what your thinking, and Solan predates your relationship with Xena.

HERCULES  
Does he predate Ares' relationship with her?

DIANA doesn't answer that question. She just looks at HERCULES and says her next line.

DIANA  
Xena told me that Solan's father was Borias.

Momentary pause. HERCULES looks at DIANA.

HERCULES  
So where is Solan now?

DIANA  
When Borias was killed, Xena asked Kaleipus to raise Solan.

HERCULES  
Kaleipus the Centaur?

DIANA  
Yes.

HERCULES  
That means that...

CLARK  
STOP!!!!

HERCULES and DIANA look at CLARK. CLARK addresses DIANA.

CLARK  
If Solan is mortal, what's stopping  
him from freeing Ares?

DIANA notices that CLARK used the word "mortal". She doesn't remember saying anything about the descendant having to be mortal. Did she? She gives CLARK a look wondering if he knows more than he claims. After a few moments she continues.

DIANA  
The second condition.

CLARK is stunned. What second condition? There was no other condition mentioned at the trial.

CLARK  
Second condition?

DIANA  
Yes. The one that saves Ares must be  
female.

HERCULES  
And Xena doesn't have a daughter.

CLARK thinks of something.

CLARK  
But she does have a brother.

DIANA looks at CLARK. CLARK thinks she doesn't know who he is referring to. And, for one moment, she had forgotten about him.

CLARK

Toris.

DIANA

Of course. I'd forgotten about him.

CLARK

And he does have a daughter, right?

DIANA

Yes. Polydora. She would be...

HERCULES isn't quite sure where they are going with this.

HERCULES

Wait. What does Tor...

CLARK looks at HERCULES.

CLARK

Last time I checked, a niece qualified as a descendant.

CLARK looks at DIANA.

CLARK

Unless there is another condition that states that she must be a *direct* descendant of Xena.

DIANA

No. As far as I know direct is not one of the conditions.

HERCULES is still a little confused.

HERCULES

What does...

DIANA

Tomorrow I'm going to see Toris.  
I'll...

CLARK  
Tomorrow? You can't.

HERCULES and DIANA look at CLARK questioningly.

DIANA  
Why?

CLARK  
Well, Olympus is having a celebration  
in my honor tomorrow and...

HERCULES  
I haven't been to Olympus since...

HERCULES is interrupted by a knock on the door.

HERCULES  
I'll get it.

HERCULES exits the room.

CONTINUE TO:

21 HALLWAY

HERCULES walks to the door.

CONTINUE TO:

22 FRONT DOOR

HERCULES opens the door. It's IOLAUS.

IOLAUS  
Guess what? ... I just heard that The  
Olympian Council has chosen the new  
God of War. Everyone is placing bets  
on who they picked. Who do you think  
it will be?

HERCULES  
I already know who it is.

IOLAUS enters. HERCULES closes the door.

CONTINUE TO:

(CONTINUED)

## 23 HALLWAY

IOLAUS stops and looks at him.

IOLAUS  
Already? How? I...  
(beat)  
Don't tell me, it's a half-god thing,  
right?  
(beat)  
So, who is it? No, let me guess.

HERCULES walks toward the main room. IOLAUS follows.

IOLAUS  
Strife, right? That little...

HERCULES  
No. It isn't Strife. The gods would  
have to be crazy, and real desperate  
to let that weasel take over.

IOLAUS  
(laugh)  
He does sort of look like a weasel,  
doesn't he?

As IOLAUS does his Strife imitation, they enter the main room.

CONTINUE TO:

## 24 MAIN ROOM

IOLAUS notices the look that CLARK is giving him and stops.

IOLAUS  
Hi Diana. Hi Clark. I was just...

IOLAUS notice CLARK's sword.

IOLAUS  
Hey, nice sword. Reminds me of  
Ares'...

IOLAUS realizes what he just said. He looks from the sword to  
HERCULES to CLARK. IOLAUS realizes that it is Ares' sword.

(CONTINUED)



IOLAUS

Wait. That is Ares' sword, isn't it?

CLARK

Yep.

IOLAUS

That means that...

CLARK sounds so Ares-like as he says the next line. He walks to IOLAUS as he says line.

CLARK

Right again. That's two for two, Iolaus.

IOLAUS

Wow. I... I can't believe it. I...

CLARK reaches IOLAUS and puts his arm around his shoulder.

CLARK

Iolaus. Relax. It's me. I'm still the same Clark.

IOLAUS

Maybe. But... you're not just Clark anymore. You're Clark, God of War!

CLARK smiles an ARES-like smile and removes his arm from IOLAUS. He is about to say something when there is another knock on the door.

HERCULES

Be right back.

HERCULES exits the room.

CONTINUE TO:

25 HALLWAY

HERCULES walks to the door.

CONTINUE TO:

(CONTINUED)

26 FRONT DOOR

HERCULES opens the door. It's HERMES. HERCULES is surprised.

HERCULES

Hermes. Since when do you, knock?

HERMES

Since the time I popped in on Aphrodite, and she was with some guy, and they were... you know...

HERCULES nods affirmatively.

HERCULES

I get the idea. Come in.

HERMES

Thanks.

HERMES enters.

CONTINUE TO:

27 HALLWAY

HERCULES and HERMES head to the main room.

CONTINUE TO:

28 MAIN ROOM

HERCULES and HERMES enter the room. HERMES looks at CLARK.

HERMES

Congratulations, Clark.

CLARK

Thanks.

HERMES notices IOLAUS.

HERMES

Iolaus, so this is where you are.

IOLAUS gives HERMES a "what" look and wonders why HERMES would be looking for him.

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES

Hermes. Why are you here? What's the message?

HERMES

I don't know if Clark mentioned it or not, but tomorrow Olympus is...

HERCULES

...throwing him a party. Yeah, he mentioned it.

IOLAUS looks excited.

IOLAUS

A party? On Olympus?

HERMES

Yes. And you are all invited.

IOLAUS raises an eyebrow. Did Hermes just say ALL?

IOLAUS

Invited? To Olympus?

HERMES

Yes.

IOLAUS

Wow. I've never been to Olympus before.

HERMES looks at IOLAUS.

HERMES

Not many mortals have.

HERMES looks at CLARK.

HERMES

The celebration begins at Midday.

Two scrolls appear in HERMES' hands. He offers one to HERCULES and one to IOLAUS. (DIANA doesn't need one because she is a goddess, and CLARK doesn't need one because he is the guest of honor.)

HERMES

Here are your invitations. Lose them,  
and you won't get in. Bye.

HERMES vanishes. IOLAUS still can't believe he's going to  
Olympus.

IOLAUS

Olympus. I'm actually...

HERCULES

Don't be too excited. It's nothing  
spectacular.

IOLAUS

Ha. Easy for you to say. I bet you've  
been there hundreds of times.

HERCULES looks at IOLAUS.

HERCULES

Not that many. In fact, I could  
probably count the number of times  
I've been there on one hand.

IOLAUS raises an eyebrow.

IOLAUS

Really? I'd have thought that...

HERCULES

Iolaus, we've known each other since  
we were teenagers. How many times have  
I been there?

IOLAUS

I don't know.

HERCULES

Well you should. I guess you're  
starting to lose your memory. Pretty  
soon...

IOLAUS

Funny, Herc.

Momentary pause.

HERCULES

Twice.

IOLAUS

What?

HERCULES

I've been to Olympus twice.

IOLAUS

Twice?

HERCULES

Yes. Twice. The last time was... well,  
it was... a long time ago.

Momentary pause. IOLAUS can tell HERCULES doesn't want to talk about it and turns to CLARK.

IOLAUS

So, Clark. How'd you get to replace Ares?

CLARK

I'm not replacing Ares. No one could ever replace him.

IOLAUS

You know what I mean. How'd you land the position?

IOLAUS adds the next line in a jokingly tone.

IOLAUS

I'm sure you didn't just march onto Olympus and say you wanted it?

CLARK

Actually... I did.

IOLAUS looks at him with a raised eyebrow.

IOLAUS

You're kidding, right?

CLARK nods a "no". IOLAUS looks to HERCULES.

IOLAUS

He is kidding, right?

HERCULES nods a "no". IOLAUS looks at DIANA. DIANA nods a no".  
IOLAUS looks back to CLARK.

IOLAUS

And Zeus just... gave it to you. Just like that?

CLARK

Not quite.

IOLAUS looks confused.

CLARK

Since I wasn't the only one who wanted it, the council tested us.

IOLAUS

Us? Who were you competing with?

CLARK

Athena.

IOLAUS

(surprise)  
Athena?

CLARK

(nod)  
Athena.

IOLAUS

I never would have chosen her. She already is the goddess of war. And besides, doesn't the God of War have to be... well... male?

CLARK

Not in this case. Ares is still the God of War. I'm just acting for him.

IOLAUS

Oh.  
(beat x2)  
So, what were the tests?

CLARK

Maybe we should sit down.

Everyone sits down, and CLARK prepares to tell the story.

CONTINUE TO:

29 TIME FLIES

CLARK retells the tale of his tests and what happened on Olympus. When CLARK is finished telling all, DIANA pulls CLARK aside for a moment, leaving IOLAUS and HERCULES alone.

CONTINUE TO:

30 TIME RESUMES

IOLAUS goes to HERCULES.

IOLAUS

Um, Herc.

HERCULES

Yes.

IOLAUS

This whole thing about Clark replacing Ares... Where do you think... I mean... Why do you think...

HERCULES

Clark and Ares were, are, close. They...

IOLAUS

How close?

Momentary pause

HERCULES

What are you saying?

IOLAUS

Don't get me wrong, but... Just what exactly is Diana's relationship with Ares?

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES gives IOLAUS a look and thinks to himself.

HERCULES (THOUGHT)

*Why does everyone keep asking me that?*

IOLAUS is waiting for an answer. HERCULES answers the following out loud.

HERCULES

They're friends.

IOLAUS

Friends. That's it? Are you sure?

HERCULES

Yes. What are you...?

IOLAUS

Let me see if I get this right.

(beat)

When she left here, two months passed for us, and 27 years passed for her?

HERCULES

I believe that's what she said.

IOLAUS

What if she lied? What if it was more than 27 years? What if...

Momentary pause. IOLAUS looks at CLARK for a moment, then back at HERCULES.

IOLAUS

What if the reason Clark wants to follow in Ares' footsteps is because Ares is his father and...?

HERCULES

No. I don't know where you got...

IOLAUS

Look at him, Herc. Really look at him.

HERCULES looks over at CLARK and DIANA.



IOLAUS

Can't you see it? He is so like Ares at times it's spooky!

HERCULES

Diana would never lie about something like that.

IOLAUS

Are you sure? ... Ask yourself this. Why did Ares make her immortal? Gods don't make mortals immortal without a reason. ... We both know how he felt about her the last time she was here. Maybe he somehow...

HERCULES looks at CLARK and DIANA, then back at IOLAUS.

HERCULES

You're wrong Iolaus.

With that said, HERCULES walks over to CLARK and DIANA. IOLAUS is momentarily frustrated and worried. Then he sees HERCULES and CLARK walk outside. DIANA comes over to IOLAUS. IOLAUS tries to clear his mind. DIANA glares at him.

DIANA

What did you say to him?

IOLAUS

Why?

DIANA

He told Clark they had to talk. Now.

IOLAUS shrugs his shoulders in an "I don't know" gesture.

IOLAUS

Maybe he just wants to have a father-son talk with him while Clark is still his son and not the God of War.

DIANA

Don't be silly. It doesn't matter what Clark does, or will do, he'll always be his son. Always.

DIANA turns to exits the room.

IOLAUS  
Diana, wait.

DIANA stops and turns back.

IOLAUS  
I... I have a question.

DIANA looks at him in curiosity.

DIANA  
O-kay.

Momentary pause.

IOLAUS  
Why did you keep your immortality from  
me?

Momentary pause. DIANA looks at IOLAUS with a confused look on  
her face.

DIANA  
What?

IOLAUS  
Why the big secret? It was just like  
last time.

DIANA  
Iolaus, what are you...?

IOLAUS  
If I hadn't have seen you using your  
powers to save that girl, I still  
wouldn't know that you and Clark...

DIANA  
It wasn't a secret. I just... I just  
never thought about it, I guess.

IOLAUS  
Never thought about it. You told Herc.

DIANA

I told Herc the day I got back. I knew that he didn't know that I'd become immortal since the last time he saw me. It was a change.

(beat)

I never knew you didn't know. I assumed he told you.

IOLAUS

Oh.

DIANA

I'm sorry, Iolaus. I just wasn't thinking. ... Besides, if you didn't know I was immortal, how did you think I spent 27 years away from here, and not aged a day?

IOLAUS

I... I don't know. I guess I thought that maybe the future had a sort of fountain of youth, or something.

DIANA

(laugh)

That's funny.

IOLAUS

You really are a goddess? You have the same powers that they do?

DIANA

Yes.

IOLAUS looks at her with a look of curiosity.

IOLAUS

What's it like?

DIANA looks at IOLAUS.

CUT TO:

31 BACKYARD

HERCULES and CLARK are sitting by the pond.

(CONTINUED)

CLARK

Okay, pop. What's the reason for this sudden man-to-man talk?

HERCULES

Why did you want to take over for Ares?

CLARK looks at him.

HERCULES

The real reason.

CLARK

Simple. When we returned we interfered in the natural progression of events. We changed history. The future. When Ares was sentenced, I realized that history was in jeopardy. It could be drastically changed. And, since I know how Ares thinks, and how history unfolds, I was the perfect choice to make sure the timeline stayed on the right course.

HERCULES doesn't completely understand what CLARK just said.

HERCULES

How old were you when you first met him?

CLARK

Who? Ares?

HERCULES nods.

CLARK

Six.

HERCULES

You're sure?

CLARK

Yeah. It was my sixth birthday party. I remember Mac was pretty upset when Ares showed up. At the time, I couldn't understand why Mac seemed to hate the guy so much.

HERCULES looks at CLARK.

HERCULES

Mac? You mean Duncan MacLeod?

CLARK

Yes.

(beat)

As I was saying... I'd never seen Mac look at anyone the way he looked at Ares. ...

(beat)

Don't get me wrong Mac's a great guy. When mother returned from here, he let her move in with him. He was like a father to me. He was always there for me.

HERCULES says his next line as a statement not a question.

HERCULES

And Diana.

CLARK

Yes. ... At first, he was just there as a friend, but a few months before my sixth birthday, things changed.

HERCULES

They became lovers?

CLARK

Yes. And as I said, Mac didn't like Ares hanging around.

HERCULES

Why?

CLARK

Not sure. Mac loved mother, he really did, and... and he knew Ares had always wanted her. I guess he was afraid that if mom and Ares spent too much time together that he'd eventually lose her to him.

HERCULES

So, Mac was jealous? Even though he really had no reason to be since Ares' interest in Diana was one sided.

CLARK

At the time. Look... why all the questions? What is it you really want to know?

HERCULES

Nothing.

CLARK raises an eyebrow in curiosity. He gives HERCULES an "Are you sure?" look.

HERCULES

So the first time you met Ares was at your sixth birthday party.

CLARK

Yes.

HERCULES

Had his name ever come up before?

CLARK

Not really. I mean, not as a real person. Mother had me studying Greek Mythology and the gods as soon as I was old enough to read. I knew who Ares was. As a matter of fact, mom introduced him to me that day as Uncle Areese. It wasn't until much later that I learned he was Ares.

HERCULES looks at CLARK with a questioning look on his face.

HERCULES

How did he react to you when you met?

CLARK remembers the day like it was yesterday.

CLARK

(smile)

He said I reminded him of his brother, that I had his eyes.

HERCULES laughs, a sort of hmp laugh.

CLARK

Years later, as he was teaching me things, he said "You really are you father's son, boy. You are so like him".

HERCULES

He said that?

CLARK

Yes.

HERCULES

He said you reminded him of me?

CLARK

Well, you are my father!

HERCULES

Funny. You always remind me of him.

CLARK

Ares?

HERCULES

Yes. You are so like him.

CLARK

Well, I guess the two of you have more in common than you think.

HERCULES

The only thing that Ares and I have in common, is our father.

CLARK

I don't think so.

HERCULES

What do you mean?

CLARK

If I remind him of you, and you of him... You must be a lot alike. I mean I can't...

CLARK stops talking as he thinks he realizes what HERCULES is asking him. He hears Ares' voice in his head.

ARES (VO)

*You really are your father's son boy.  
You are so like... him.*

CLARK realizes that Ares never actually mentioned HERCULES by name. It was always "my brother", "your father", or just plain "him". CLARK mutters the following line to himself.

CLARK

No. Could he...

He hears Ares' voice again.

ARES (VO)

*You know, you remind me a lot of... my  
brother. You have his eyes.*

HERCULES notices the odd, confused, look on CLARK's face.

HERCULES

What is it?

CLARK doesn't answer. He hears Ares' voice in his head again.

ARES (VO)

*If your father could see you now. He'd  
be so proud of you. Just like I am.  
Like I am. I am. I am. I am. I...*

HERCULES tries to get CLARK's attention.

HERCULES

Clark?

Momentary pause. CLARK looks at HERCULES.

CLARK

You think Ares is my father, don't you?  
That's what all these questions are  
about.

HERCULES

Clark, I...



CLARK

You think the only reason that Zeus gave me the job, is because Ares is my father, and therefore I should have it.

HERCULES

I never said that. Besides, if what Diana says is true, he can't be.

CLARK

If? Are you doubting her?

HERCULES

No, I...

CLARK

Nothing happened between them here. It was in the future.

HERCULES

And the Immortals of the future can't have children.

CLARK

Right. At least not Mac's Immortals.

HERCULES

So Diana would have had to have been pregnant when she returned.

CLARK

Right.

HERCULES

That means that Ares can't be your father.

CLARK

No kidding.

CLARK says the next line in a jokingly tone, and with a laugh.

CLARK

Unless they had an affair before she returned.

HERCULES stares off into space, remembering something from the past.

FADE IN TO:

32 FLASHBACK

Chapter 4: Scenes 49-50.

FADE BACK TO:

33 EXT: BACKYARD

HERCULES is still staring into space. CLARK is trying to get his attention.

CLARK

Hello.

(beat)

Pop?

HERCULES looks at him.

HERCULES

What did you say?

CLARK

I said, I was kidding.

HERCULES gives him a hard stare.

HERCULES

Were you?

CLARK gives him a confused look.

CLARK

Yes!

CLARK notices the look on HERCULES' face.

CLARK

Wait, are you saying they did? Are you saying that something happened between them before she was sent back?

(CONTINUED)

HERCULES doesn't answer. CLARK can tell from the look on his face that the answer is yes.

CLARK

You are, aren't you? You think mom and Ares had...

HERCULES

No. She wouldn't. She didn't. She said nothing happened. She...

CLARK looks confused.

CLARK

Nothing happened?

(beat)

What are you talking about?

HERCULES remembers the day Ares told Diana that Hera had found out was the first time in almost 3 years that he even seen her. So unless Diana was lying about that it was impossible.

HERCULES

(beat)

I have to go see someone. Tell your mother I'll see her tonight.

HERCULES rises. CLARK looks at him, confused. He tries to read HERCULES' thoughts but can't.

CLARK

O-kay.

HERCULES walks off. CLARK watches him leave. CLARK shakes his head back and forth.

CLARK

Either he's losing it, or there is something I don't know.

CLARK looks at the retreating HERCULES.

CLARK

I need to know.

CLARK vanishes.

CONTINUE TO:

(CONTINUED)

34 EXT: CLEARING BY THE LAKE

DIANA is sitting under a tree, daydreaming, rubbing the ring that ARES gave her.

FADE IN TO:

35 FLASHBACK

Chapter 4: Scenes 45-47.

FADE BACK TO:

36 CLEARING BY THE LAKE

DIANA is staring into space. CLARK materializes and goes to her. She is awakened from her fantasy by the sound of CLARK's voice. There is a short pause between "mother" and the rest of the line. DIANA turns to CLARK during the pause.

CLARK

Mother, is Hercules really my father?

DIANA is stunned.

DIANA

Of course he is. Where'd that come from?

CLARK

You're sure.

DIANA

Clark, of course I'm sure. There was no one else then.

CLARK sits beside her.

CLARK

Not even Ares?

DIANA

Especially not Ares.

(beat)

Not then anyway.

CLARK

Not even once?

DIANA

Not even once.

CLARK

Come on now, mom. I remember the way he looked at you when he first came back into your life. I was only six, but I wasn't blind. Those looks would drive Mac crazy.

DIANA

Ares and I were always friends. I...

CLARK

Friends?

DIANA

Yes. Friends.

Momentary pause.

CLARK

I'd've thought from the way he looked at you, and the way Mac reacted to those looks, that you'd've been more than friends at least once.

DIANA

If Ares had've had his way, we would've.

CLARK

So you're saying that...

DIANA

It was no secret how Ares felt about me. He always told me he loved me.

CLARK

But you kept turning him down.

DIANA

Yes. I was in love with Hercules, and...

CLARK

You turned down the chance to be loved  
by a god, for...

DIANA

Yes. Why is that so hard to believe?

CLARK

Because he's a god, mom! A real god!  
You'd have to be...

DIANA

Ares couldn't understand it either.  
How could I choose Herc over him? He  
kept promising me the world if I'd...

CLARK

And you told him you just wanted to be  
friends.

DIANA

Yes.

CLARK

And he agreed.

DIANA

Reluctantly. But he knew it was  
friendship or nothing.

CLARK

And as long as he kept the lines of  
communication open, there was always  
the chance that one day you'd turn to  
him.

DIANA

Yes. And there were many times that  
Ares and I spent countless hours  
together.

CLARK

As friends.

DIANA

Of course. He never crossed the line.

CLARK

Never?

DIANA

Never.

CLARK

And when he met you again, that night at Mac's...

DIANA

He told me he still loved me, and that he always would.

CLARK

And you turned him down, again. This time for Mac.

DIANA

Yes. Why are we going through this? What's made you...

CLARK

Nothing.

DIANA

Nothing? I don't think it's nothing.

DIANA remembers how this conversation started, and realizes what CLARK is asking, or trying to ask.

DIANA

You think Ares is your father.

CLARK

No. I... Well, not really, I just...

DIANA

Clark, Hercules is your father. I would never lie to you about that.

(beat)

If Ares were your father, we'd still be in Seattle. There'd have been no reason to come back here. The three of us would be home, at our house. Everything would be perfect. And Ares wouldn't be stuck in that damned cave!

Momentary pause.

CLARK  
You love him now, don't you?

DIANA  
Who?

CLARK  
Ares.  
(beat)  
After everything that's happened.  
Everything you've been through. You  
realize he was right when he said you  
were destined to be together.

DIANA  
Yeah. I guess I do. But... But Ares is  
out of the picture. At least for now.

DIANA stares back out at the lake.

CLARK  
Have you seen him?

DIANA  
(lie)  
No.

CLARK  
Why not?

CLARK looks at her. He can see the sadness in her eyes.

CLARK  
Mom, I...

DIANA  
It's my fault he's in there. He  
probably hates me. He...

CLARK  
Ares could never hate you. You know  
that. He loves you. He needs you. You  
should see him.



DIANA

Maybe one day. But not today.

CLARK vanishes.

DIANA

Oh, Ares, I'm so sorry.

(beat)

I... I...

FADE IN TO:

37 FLASHBACK

Chapter 4: Scene 51 (up to Diana's line "kiss me".)

FADE BACK TO:

38 EXT: CLEARING BY THE LAKE

DIANA wipes a tear from her eye and looks at the ring she is wearing. The ring that Ares gave her for Christmas in 2018.

DIANA

Ares, if only there were some way to...

DIANA realizes that there is a way.

DIANA

Toris.

DIANA looks at the sun. There are still a few hours before sunset.

DIANA

If I go now, I can...

She vanishes.

CUT TO:

39 INT: ARES' TOMB

ARES is studying the tomb. Trying to determine if there is some way out of there. CLARK materializes in the room. ARES turns and notices the sword on his waist. He smiles.

(CONTINUED)

ARES

Clark, I see you have the sword. Does this mean that...

CLARK

Yes. The Council has appointed me to act on your behalf while you are in here.

Momentary pause.

ARES

What can I do for the new acting God of War?

CLARK

You can answer one question.

ARES

Anything.

Momentary pause.

CLARK

Are you my father?

ARES is stunned.

ARES

What?

CLARK

I said...

ARES

No. I'm not. Hercules is your father. You know that. What made you...

CLARK glares at ARES.

CLARK

I need to know the truth. The whole truth, Ares. All of it.

(beat)

What really happened between you and mother the first time she was here?

ARES

You already know everything.

CLARK

Do I?

ARES

Yes.

CLARK

Then prove it. Let me in. Show me your life.

ARES

Clark, I...

CLARK

Are you afraid, Ares? Are you hiding something?

ARES

No. I...

CLARK

Then show me!

Momentary pause.

ARES

I suppose that since you are now the God of War, there are some things you will need to know. So...

CLARK

I want to know everything, Ares! Everything!

ARES is amazed at how much like him Clark is at this moment.

ARES

Everything, eh?

CLARK

Everything. From your first meeting with mother, til the day I met you. Don't leave anything out.

ARES  
That could take a while.

CLARK  
You're not going anywhere.

ARES  
True. ... Okay. Come.

ARES sits on the floor. CLARK sits in front of him. ARES holds his hands up in front up him, palms facing CLARK.

ARES  
Place your palms on mine.

CLARK does so.

ARES  
Now, close your eyes, and I'll show you the day I met your mother.

CLARK  
No tricks.

ARES  
I promise.

CLARK closes his eyes. ARES smiles and closes his eyes. ARES' hands glow, and transfer energy into CLARK.

FADE IN TO:

40 FLASHBACK

Chapter 4: Scenes 8-10, and 14 (up to the point where ARES leaves.) (note: Scenes told from ARES' POV.)

FADE BACK TO:

41 INT: ARES' TOMB

ARES opens his eyes. The energy transfer stops. CLARK opens his eyes.

CLARK  
Why did you stop?

(CONTINUED)

ARES

Are you sure you want to do this?

CLARK

Yes.

ARES

Okay.

CLARK closes his eyes. ARES smiles and closes his eyes. ARES' hands glow, and transfer energy into CLARK. ARES prepares to show CLARK the rest of his interactions with Diana from the first time.

JUMP TO:

42 EXT: AMPHIPOLIS

DIANA materializes in the city. She is invisible to everyone. She looks around for TORIS. A group of children are running through the city playing a game. They run right past her. DIANA spots TORIS over by a fruit vendor.

DIANA

He still looks good.

DIANA watches him buy his fruit, and head home. She disappears.

JUMP TO:

43 INT: TORIS' HOUSE

DIANA is sitting in the house, waiting for TORIS. The front door opens, and TORIS walks in. She makes herself visible only to him. TORIS can't see her yet, because of all the stuff in his hands. He closes the door and turns. He sees her and is startled. He almost drops the stuff in his hands, but he doesn't.

TORIS

Diana? What are you...?

TORIS wonders how she got into his house.

TORIS

How did you...

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

I was in the neighborhood, so I thought I'd stop by and say hi. It's been a while.

TORIS composes himself and walks to the kitchen.

TORIS

Yeah, it has.

TORIS finds himself being nervous around her. He can't explain why. He looks at her and says the next line in his head.

TORIS (THOUGHT)

*She still looks good enough to eat.  
How I'd like to... Stop it. Stop it.*

TORIS puts the stuff down and looks at her again. DIANA knows what he is thinking.

DIANA

I heard about Castalia. I'm sorry.

At the mention of his deceased wife, TORIS looks away from her, with a sad look on his face.

TORIS

Thanks.

Momentary pause. He composes himself. Then looks back at her.

TORIS

Where are my manners. Can I get you something to drink?

DIANA

Sure. Thanks.

Momentary pause. TORIS gets two mugs of "something" and goes to her. He offers her one mug. She says her line as she takes it.

DIANA

Thanks.

TORIS flashes her a smile.

TORIS

You're welcome.

DIANA smiles back at him. TORIS sits across from her. He takes a drink of his drink, and she takes a drink of hers. TORIS looks at her and says the following line in his head.

TORIS (THOUGHT)

*It's been five months since Cas was taken from me. Five lonely months.*

He watches her. Again, she knows what he is thinking, She puts the mug down, and smiles at him.

DIANA

So, where's Poly?

TORIS

Uh... Out with the other children. She'll be home for dinner.

DIANA smiles at him.

DIANA

I've got an idea. Why don't you let me cook you two a...?

TORIS

No way. You are a guest. You...

She reaches over and places a hand on his leg. She smiles at him.

DIANA

I insist. I bet it's been a while since you had a woman cook for you.

TORIS

Yeah, it has.

DIANA

Show me where everything is, and I'll prepare you a feast for a king.

TORIS rises. They head to the kitchen.

CUT TO:

(CONTINUED)

44 EXT: VILLAGE SQUARE

The children from before are still running around. They are racing.

All of a sudden, the child in the lead, a boy, crashes into someone. The other children stop. The boy looks up at the person he crashed into.

BOY #1

Sorry.

The camera pans up to the face of the person. It's ATHENA, and she is visible only to the children.

ATHENA

That's okay. You didn't hurt me.

BOY #1

I didn't?

ATHENA

No, you didn't.

ATHENA looks around at the children. She is looking for a particular child. She spots POLYDORA at the back of the group.

ATHENA

You kids want to play a really exciting game?

KIDS

Yeah.

ATHENA

Good. Come with me.

ATHENA leads the kids out of the square to a deserted area of town.

CUT TO:

45 EXT: DESERTED AREA OF TOWN

There are two "buildings" side-by-side that are approximately 10 feet apart, and 30 feet tall.

(CONTINUED)



ATHENA

The name of the game is, Fly like the Birds.

POLYDORA

Fly like the birds? People can't fly.

ATHENA

Want to bet?

BOY #2

Yeah.

ATHENA

Okay. Watch.

ATHENA goes to a tree beside the building and climbs it. She then jumps from the tree to the building.

KIDS

Wow!

GIRL #1

That's not flying.

ATHENA

I'm not finished yet.

ATHENA runs along the roof of the first building, and then jumps off, landing on the roof of the second building.

BOY #3

Now, that's flying!!!

ATHENA looks at the kids.

ATHENA

So, who's next?

The boys run to the tree. One by one they scale the tree, then jump from the tree to the building, then run across the building, jump off, and safely land on the other side. What they don't know, is that ATHENA is helping them. After all, she doesn't want to hurt these kids. At least not all of them. Slowly the girls decide to try it. They all make it.

POLYDORA is the last and looks so scared. She makes it up the tree, and onto the building. She looks at all her friends on the other side. They all tell her to "run", to see how it feels to be a bird. She is scared. ATHENA gets the feeling that POLYDORA isn't gonna do it. She sends the little girl a little self-confidence. POLYDORA runs and jumps. But, this time, without ATHENA's help, she doesn't make it. The kids watch as she misses the roof. POLYDORA falls to the ground. She hits the ground hard. The kids all hear the sound of bones breaking.

They scramble to a tree alongside the building and climb down. This tree is closer than the other. They don't have to jump onto it, they can reach it from the edge of the roof. As the kids scramble to get down, ATHENA smiles. The last child to climb down, turns back to ATHENA.

GIRL #2

Aren't you coming?

ATHENA

Of course, child. Right behind you.

The girl waits for ATHENA, then both head down the tree.

PAN TO:

46 FOCUS SHIFTS TO POLYDORA

All the kids are standing around her. Her head is bleeding. (She smashed it on a rock.) The kids are all calling out her name, trying to wake her. One of the boys starts to shake her. ATHENA and Girl #2 reach them. ATHENA pretends to be concerned. She looks at POLYDORA's dying body. She decides to send the kids home, so that she can finish her off.

ATHENA

Kids, I want you to run back to town.  
Find her parents, and...

The boy who was shaking POLYDORA, looks at ATHENA.

BOY #4

Poly's mother is dead.

ATHENA

Well then, bring her father here. Now.

(CONTINUED)

All the kids run off. All except Boy #4. ATHENA looks at him.

ATHENA

I said...

The boy looks at ATHENA.

BOY #4

I'm staying. I...

ATHENA realizes this young boy really likes POLYDORA. She also knows that she will never get him to leave.

ATHENA

Okay.

ATHENA places her hands on POLYDORA for a few moments, then looks at the boy.

ATHENA

Stay here. I'll be right back.

Boy #4 looks back at POLYDORA. He starts to cry. ATHENA makes herself invisible to all. She gets a very evil smile on her face.

ATHENA

Sorry brother. I've worked too hard for this chance. You should have stayed in the future with your precious Diana.

ATHENA vanishes.

CUT TO:

47 TORIS' HOUSE

Dinner is almost ready. TORIS is setting the table. DIANA gets the strangest feeling that something isn't right.

DIANA

When did you say Poly would be...?

Her sentence is cut off when the front door comes flying open and a group of breathless kids are standing there. She recognizes them as the group she saw earlier. She can tell from the look on their faces that something has happened.

(CONTINUED)

TORIS

Hey guys. Where's Poly and...

BOY #1

There's...

(beat)

...there's been an accident.

TORIS

What?

GIRL #1

We were playing, and... and she feel,  
and...

TORIS

Where is she?

GIRL #2

I'll take you to her.

TORIS follows GIRL #2. The rest of the children leave, but not before DIANA probes their minds to find out what happened. She sees Athena.

DIANA

Athena!

DIANA vanishes.

JUMP TO:

48 ACCIDENT SITE

DIANA appears, invisible to all. She goes over to POLYDORA and can see that she is near death. She kneels over her and places her hands on POLYDORA's body. Nothing happens.

DIANA

Why isn't this working? Why...

CELESTA appears beside her.

CELESTA

You cannot save her, Diana.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

Celesta?

CELESTA

Nothing you try to do, will save her.

DIANA

I can save her. I can.

Momentary pause. DIANA is still trying to save POLYDORA.  
CELESTA looks at her.

CELESTA

Didn't Ares tell you?

DIANA turns to her.

DIANA

(raise eyebrow)

Tell me what?

CELESTA

Any mortal killed by a god, can not be  
restored to life by another god.

DIANA

Technically Athena didn't do this.  
Poly fell.

CELESTA

Did she?

DIANA

Are you saying that Ath...?

DIANA's sentence is cut off as TORIS and the girl get there.  
TORIS goes to POLYDORA.

TORIS

Poly!!!

TORIS runs over. The boy that stayed moves away. As TORIS  
reaches POLYDORA, she dies. DIANA sees POLYDORA's spirit go  
off with CELESTA. TORIS feels for a pulse. There isn't one.  
TORIS cradles POLYDORA's head in his arms.

TORIS

No. No. NOOOOOO!!!!!!

Momentary pause. DIANA raises her eyes to the heavens.

DIANA

You'll pay for this Athena. You hear me!!!

DIANA looks at TORIS. All she wants to do is comfort him. The girl that accompanied TORIS, goes to the boy that stayed behind with POLYDORA. The girl leans over and whispers.

GIRL #2

Let's go.

The boy looks at the girl. He doesn't want to leave, but the girl makes him. Once they are gone, DIANA goes behind TORIS and makes herself visible only to him.

DIANA

I'm sorry. I...

TORIS is still cradling POLYDORA's body in his arms.

TORIS

Why? Why?

Momentary pause.

TORIS

First Cas, now Poly. Why do the gods hate me? What did I...

DIANA looks at TORIS.

DIANA

It's not you, Toris. The gods... Who knows why they do what they do?

DIANA places a hand on TORIS' shoulder.

CONTINUE TO:

49 TIME FLIES

DIANA stays with him. Once the crying spell has stopped, TORIS

(CONTINUED)

carries POLYDORA's body to the place where he buried her mother. He buries her beside his wife. Once that is done, TORIS and DIANA walk back to TORIS' house.

CONTINUE TO:

50 TIME RESUMES (TORIS' HOUSE)

TORIS and DIANA are sitting on the sofa.

TORIS

It's just not fair. Poly was only...  
She never did anything to... I...

TORIS starts crying again. DIANA puts her arm around him, comforting him. He cries on her shoulder. After a few moments he composes himself but doesn't get out of her arms.

TORIS

Thank the gods you're here. I... I'm  
just so glad I didn't have to face this  
alone. I...

DIANA

I'll always be here for you, Toris. If  
you ever need me, all you have to do  
is call my name.

TORIS holds her. She can feel his embrace tightening. She knows he wants her. She knows he's always wanted her. She knows that since his wife died, he hasn't been with anyone. She lets herself let him know that he can have her if he wants her.

DIANA

If there is anything you need, and I  
mean anything, don't hesitate to ask.

TORIS kisses her neck. She sighs at his touch. He lets his hands start to roam her body. She sighs as his cold hands touch her back.

DIANA

You want me?

TORIS still has his head in her neck.

(CONTINUED)

TORIS

Yes. Oh gods, yes.

DIANA leans back, moving his head from her shoulder, and looks him in the eye.

DIANA

How long has it been?

TORIS

Five months.

DIANA

Kiss me.

TORIS hungrily kisses her. He leans her back on the sofa. He presses his tongue into her mouth, as his hands grab her leg. He positions himself on top of her. She accepts his tongue and allows it to roam inside her mouth. His hands run up her leg. He is so hot for her. He wants her so bad. He is enjoying the feel of his tongue in her mouth and his hand running up her leg. He wants to feel himself inside of her.

TORIS is so lost in his thoughts, that he doesn't realize that she has removed all their clothes. Once she removes their clothing, she presses her body up against his. She can tell he wants her. She senses how badly he wants her. She lets her hands caress his naked back. She lets them explore the length of his back. He breaks the kiss and brings his lips to her neck. He can feel his body wanting her. He wants to take her. She grabs his buttocks in her hands and squeezes them. She brings her lips to his ear and whispers seductively.

DIANA

Take me, Toris. Make love to me. Do it. I want you.

TORIS takes her. They make love for hours. She lets him go till he collapses on her from exhaustion. Once he has passed out, she zaps him over to the bed, and tucks him in. She kisses him on the forehead, looks at him, and then vanishes.

CUT TO:

51 HERCULES' PLACE - BESIDE THE STAIRCASE

DIANA appears. CLARK is sitting on the stairs, waiting.

(CONTINUED)



CLARK  
Where have you been?

CLARK rises as he says his line. DIANA ignores the question.

DIANA  
Where's your father?

CLARK  
Do you know what time it is?

DIANA  
Clark? Where is...

CLARK  
He's sleeping.

DIANA  
Oh.

CLARK  
So, where have you been?

DIANA looks at CLARK.

DIANA  
I went to see Toris.

CLARK raises an eyebrow in surprise. He wasn't expecting her to say that.

CLARK  
How did it go?

Momentary pause. CLARK can tell something is wrong.

CLARK  
What happened?

DIANA  
Athena happened.

CLARK  
(confused)  
Athena?

DIANA  
Yes.

CLARK

What did she...?

DIANA

She killed Poly. And I couldn't save her. I couldn't...

DIANA starts crying. CLARK holds her.

PAN TO:

52 TOP OF STAIRS

CAMERA pans to the top of the stairs. HERCULES is standing there.

PAN TO:

53 CLARK AND DIANA

CAMERA pans back to CLARK and DIANA. DIANA stops crying. CLARK looks at her.

CLARK

What happened?

DIANA

Athena had the kids playing some stupid game. Poly fell and died. And I couldn't save her. I tried, but Celesta said that any mortal killed by a god could not be restored to life by another god.

CLARK

It's not your fault.

DIANA

Yes, it is. The only reason Athena killed Poly, was so that I couldn't use Poly to save Ares. If it wasn't for us, Poly would be still alive.

CLARK

Mom, you don't know that.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

Yes, I do. Sometimes I wish we never came back.

DIANA vanishes.

CLARK

Mom...

CLARK turns and sees HERCULES at the top of the stairs.

HERCULES

Let her go.

CLARK

Father, I...

HERCULES heads down the stairs.

HERCULES

She's right. The only reason Athena killed Poly was so that she couldn't free Ares.

CLARK

But that makes no sense. Why would Athena want Ares locked up?

HERCULES

Isn't it obvious?

CLARK

No. Not really.

HERCULES

With Ares locked up, she could get more power.

CLARK

But I'm acting for Ares. As long as I've got...

HERCULES

I know. And so does she. But I'm betting she figures that either you will screw up, and The Council will remove you or...

Momentary pause.

CLARK

Or what?

HERCULES

Or maybe someone will take you out.

CLARK laughs. HERCULES gives him a look. CLARK stops laughing.

CLARK

You're serious.

HERCULES

Yes.

CLARK

I'm a god! No one can take me out.

HERCULES

Don't be too sure on that.

CLARK raises an eyebrow.

HERCULES

Athena has always gotten what she wanted. She's not used to losing. She will do everything she can to take this from you.

Momentary pause.

CLARK

Well, she can try. But I already have two allies.

HERCULES raises an eyebrow in curiosity.

HERCULES

Who?

CLARK

Discord and Strife.

HERCULES

Discord and Strife?

CLARK

Yes.

HERCULES

How did that happen? When...

CLARK speaks without thinking.

CLARK

They came to me 5 days ago and offered to support me if I went to Zeus and asked...

HERCULES

5 days ago?

CLARK

Yes.

HERCULES

That was before Diana told you what...

CLARK realizes he just admitted to knowing what happened before he was supposed to.

HERCULES

You knew. You knew what happened to Ares before Diana told you?

CLARK

Yes. I've known all along. I was actually at Ares' trial.

HERCULES

You were at the trial?

CLARK

Yes. But mother doesn't know that. And I don't want her knowing.

HERCULES

Why? What...

CLARK

Because she wasn't allowed in. Zeus actually banned her.

HERCULES

Oh.

CLARK

When Discord and Strife came to me, I was already thinking about going to Zeus. Once they stated their case, I knew they were right. I had to do it.

HERCULES

So you think Discord and Strife will support you?

CLARK

They said they would. I know Ares trusted them to do the little things. Maybe I can help them achieve their true potential.

HERCULES

I wouldn't put too much faith in them. They probably have their own hidden agenda.

CLARK

I'm sure they do. But I'm hoping, if I give them more responsibility, they will stay on my side.

(beat)

I know everything that is to come. It will be easy for me to assign them tasks. They will think I trust them, that I have faith in them.

Momentary pause.

HERCULES

Just watch your back. Those two can be sneaky.

CLARK

I will.

HERCULES

It's getting late, and you have a big day tomorrow.

(CONTINUED)

CLARK

Yes, I do.

HERCULES

I'm going back to bed. I suggest you do the same. Wouldn't want to fall asleep at your own party now, would you?

CLARK

(laugh)

I just have one thing to do first.

HERCULES

Okay. Night, son.

CLARK

Night, dad.

HERCULES goes back upstairs. CLARK vanishes. HERCULES starts to say line as he turns around.

HERCULES

Oh Clark, I...

HERCULES notices CLARK is gone.

HERCULES

I hate it when he does that.

HERCULES turns back around and goes up the stairs.

CUT TO:

54 THE HALL OF WAR

CLARK is in the room, sitting in Ares' throne. His throne now. He is thinking.

CLARK (THOUGHT)

*I have to set up a plan to use Discord and Strife to my advantage. Their willingness to assist can be a good thing. I can help them become more trustworthy. I...*

(CONTINUED)

CLARK's thoughts are interrupted as DISCORD materializes beside him.

DISCORD  
The sword looks good on you.

CLARK  
Thank you.

DISCORD  
You might have to do something about that wardrobe though.

CLARK  
Oh?

DISCORD smiles at him.

DISCORD  
You need something a little more, warrior like.

CLARK smiles and changes his outfit to match one of Ares'. DISCORD smiles. She is amazed at how much he actually looks like Ares in that outfit.

DISCORD  
That's better.

DISCORD leans on the throne.

DISCORD  
I hear Olympus is throwing you a party tomorrow.

CLARK  
Yes, they are.

DISCORD whispers into CLARK's ear.

DISCORD  
How would you like a little party now?

CLARK  
What do you have in mind?



DISCORD smiles. She points her hand to an empty space in the room. A bed appears. She looks at CLARK and vanishes. She reappears on the bed.

DISCORD

Come on over and find out!

CLARK smiles an evil smile. A very Ares-like smile. He looks at DISCORD. She looks so inviting.

CLARK

(mutter)

This is gonna be a long night.

CLARK zaps himself over to the bed.

CLARK

I'm here. Now what?

DISCORD kisses him. He kisses her back. He lays her down on the bed. They make love.

JUMP TO:

**NEXT DAY (Day 476)**

55 OLYMPUS - GRAND HALL (NOON)

All of Olympus (All the Gods and Goddesses, forest and wood Nymphs, etc.) is gathered in the hall. There are tables of food and fountains of drinks. Everyone is mingling, chatting amongst themselves, waiting for the guest of honor to arrive.

The doors open. All eyes look to the door. HERCULES, DIANA, and IOLAUS enter. IOLAUS is in awe. All eyes return to what they were doing before the doors opened.

IOLAUS

Wow! This is amazing! I've never seen anything like it.

DIANA

I'm gonna see if I can find Clark.

HERCULES

Okay.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA walks off. HERCULES looks to IOLAUS. IOLAUS is still in awe. HERCULES whispers to him.

HERCULES  
Close your mouth Iolaus, you're drooling.

IOLAUS closes his mouth and looks at HERCULES.

IOLAUS  
Sorry. It's just...

CUPID comes up behind HERCULES.

CUPID  
Hercules. Iolaus. Nice to see you.

HERCULES  
You too, Cupid. How's Psyche?

CUPID  
She's fine.

A tray appears in CUPID's hand. On the tray are three drinks.

CUPID  
Care for a drink?

HERC / IOLAUS  
Thanks.

HERCULES and IOLAUS take a goblet. CUPID takes the last goblet, and the tray vanishes.

CUPID  
To Clark.

HERC / IOLAUS  
To Clark.

PAN TO:

56 AROUND THE ROOM

CAMERA PANS around the room and stops on DIANA.

CONTINUE TO:

(CONTINUED)

57 DIANA

She is looking for Clark but isn't having any luck. She doesn't see APHRODITE come up behind her.

DIANA  
Where is he? He...

APHRODITE  
Diana. Con...

APHRODITE was going to say "congratulations" but DIANA turns to APHRODITE and cuts her off.

DIANA  
Have you seen Clark?

APHRODITE  
No. Not yet. But he will probably make some grand entrance.

DIANA laughs a hmp laugh.

DIANA  
No. That's not like Clark. He's...

APHRODITE looks at her.

APHRODITE  
Diana, Clark is now the God of War! And if there is one thing I know about Ares, it was that he always liked to make a grand entrance.

DIANA  
True, but Clark is not Ares.

APHRODITE is about to say something when a big puff of green smoke appears by the main doors.

DIANA  
What the...

The smoke changes from green to blue to red. All eyes in the room are focused on the smoke. The smoke starts to swirl and move. After a few seconds, two figures come out of the smoke - CLARK and DISCORD. CLARK is wearing his Ares-like outfit

(CONTINUED)

from before. DISCORD is wearing a sexy black leather outfit and is hanging off of CLARK's arm. DIANA mutters her line.

DIANA

Clark?

APHRODITE leans over and whispers to her.

APHRODITE

Told ya.

APHRODITE leaves DIANA. DIANA is looking at CLARK. She realizes just how much he actually looks like ARES now.

PAN TO:

58 CLARK AND DISCORD

CAMERA focuses on CLARK and DISCORD as they walk through the room. They are heading for DIANA. All eyes are still on CLARK and DISCORD. There is some muttering amongst the guests but nothing that anyone can clearly make out.

PAN TO:

59 HERCULES AND IOLAUS

CAMERA focuses on HERCULES and IOLAUS.

IOLAUS

Is that Discord with Clark?

HERCULES

Looks like her.

IOLAUS

Wonder what that means?

PAN TO:

60 DIANA

CAMERA pans to DIANA as CLARK and DISCORD reach her.

CLARK

Mother.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

Clark. Are you...?

ZEUS interrupts DIANA's sentence as he motions for quiet.

PAN TO:

61 ZEUS

ZEUS

Everyone.

Momentary pause as everyone stops talking. All eyes turn to Zeus.

ZEUS

Today we appoint an acting God of War.  
I present to you all, the successful  
candidate.

ZEUS looks at CLARK.

ZEUS

Clark, son of Hercules and Diana.  
Please step forward.

DISCORD gives CLARK a kiss. CLARK heads to ZEUS. DIANA wonders what the kiss meant. ZEUS offers CLARK his hand.

ZEUS

Welcome to Olympus.

CLARK takes ZEUS' hand. There are cheers all around the room.

PAN TO:

62 BACK OF ROOM

CAMERA pans to the back of the room. ATHENA is standing there.

ATHENA

Enjoy it while you can, nephew.

ATHENA vanishes. CAMERA zooms over a bit to show STRIFE. He heard ATHENA's threat, and heads for DISCORD.

PAN TO:

(CONTINUED)

63 ZEUS

ZEUS addresses the crowd.

ZEUS

This party is to welcome Clark into our family. For those of you that don't know him to have an opportunity to get to know him.

ZEUS looks at CLARK. CLARK nods to ZEUS, and heads back to DISCORD.

PAN TO:

64 DISCORD AND DIANA

CAMERA pans to DISCORD who is still with DIANA. DIANA wonders just what DISCORD's relationship is with CLARK. She starts to ask her.

DIANA

Discord are you and...

STRIFE reaches them. DIANA nods a "hello".

DIANA

Strife.

STRIFE nods back.

STRIFE

Diana.

STRIFE gives DISCORD a look. DIANA's not sure what the look means. CLARK reaches them. STRIFE looks from CLARK to DISCORD.

STRIFE

I need to talk to both of you. Now. Alone.

CLARK can tell from the look on STRIFE's face that it is urgent. CLARK looks to DIANA.

CLARK

Excuse us, we'll be right back.

(CONTINUED)

DISCORD takes hold of CLARK's arm, and the three of them (CLARK, DISCORD, and STRIFE) walk off. HERCULES and IOLAUS come up from behind DIANA. DIANA turns and looks at HERCULES.

DIANA

Have you seen Athena? I need to...

HERCULES knows why she wants to see Athena and gives her a look.

HERCULES

No. And now is not the time to confront her.

DIANA gives HERCULES a look. How did he know she wanted to confront her?

HERCULES

I overheard you and Clark last night.

DIANA wonders just how much he actually overheard.

DIANA

So you know she killed Poly, then.

HERCULES

Yes. And I...

IOLAUS raises an eyebrow in curiosity.

IOLAUS

Poly? Toris' daughter?

DIANA

Yes.

IOLAUS

Why would Athena want to...?

DIANA

To stop her from freeing Ares.

IOLAUS is confused.

IOLAUS

How could Poly free...?

DIANA looks at IOLAUS.

DIANA

Poly was Xena's niece. She could have...

IOLAUS understands.

IOLAUS

Oh.

HERCULES looks at DIANA.

HERCULES

Don't start something with Athena. Now is not...

DIANA

You're right. This is Clark's day. I can deal with Athena later.

PAN TO:

65 STRIFE, DISCORD, AND CLARK

DISCORD

So, Athena's after you.

CLARK

It would appear so.

STRIFE

Do you have a plan to stop her?

CLARK

I'm working on one. But I'll need your help. Both of you.

STRIFE smiles. DISCORD smiles and looks at CLARK.

DISCORD

Anything, my love. Just ask.

STRIFE is taken aback by the "my love" statement. What is DISCORD up to? CLARK looks at DISCORD and smiles.

CLARK

We shall discuss Athena later.

(CONTINUED)



CLARK looks around the room.

CLARK  
I have a room full of people to talk  
to, and a party to enjoy.

DISCORD  
As you wish.

STRIFE gives DISCORD a "what's gotten into you" look. DISCORD  
doesn't notice. CLARK looks at DISCORD.

CLARK  
But before I face them... I need  
something from you.

DISCORD  
Oh, and what might that be?

CLARK kisses her. DISCORD kisses back. STRIFE is confused.

PAN TO:

66 HERCULES, DIANA, AND IOLAUS.

HERCULES and DIANA have their backs to CLARK. IOLAUS is in  
front of HERCULES and DIANA and can therefore see CLARK. IOLAUS  
notices the kiss.

IOLAUS  
Whoa. How long has...

On the word "whoa", DIANA and HERCULES turn around.

DIANA  
Discord? What's he thinking? She...

HERCULES  
Leave them alone.

DIANA  
What? Herc, you know Discord! She's...

HERCULES  
I know, and so does Clark. I'm sure he  
knows what he's doing.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA is about to say something when HEPHAESTUS comes over.

HEPHAESTUS

Hey guys.

IOLAUS

Hey Heph. How are you?

HEPHAESTUS

Fine. And you?

IOLAUS

Okay.

HEPHAESTUS

What do you think of Olympus?

IOLAUS

It's amazing.

HEPHAESTUS

Really? You think so?

IOLAUS

Of course. It's so...

HEPHAESTUS

(laugh)

Only teasing. Want me to show you around?

IOLAUS

Seriously?

HEPHAESTUS

Seriously.

IOLAUS

Lead the way, Heph.

HEPHAESTUS leads IOLAUS away.

CONTINUE TO:

67 TIME FLIES

HERCULES looks at DIANA. DIANA is looking at CLARK. CLARK and

(CONTINUED)

DISCORD are now mingling, arm in arm. STRIFE is with them. CLARK mingles with all of the guests at the party.

Everyone is having a great time.

HERCULES and DIANA start to mingle, avoiding ZEUS. ZEUS is watching everyone. ZEUS is not sure what to make of DISCORD's interest in CLARK.

The party goes on for hours.

JUMP TO:

**NEXT DAY (Day 477)**

68 THE HALL OF WAR

CLARK and DISCORD are lying in bed. DISCORD looks at CLARK.

DISCORD

So, how does it feel being the God of War?

CLARK

It's only been one day, but...

CLARK rolls onto her, pinning her to the bed.

CLARK

...so far it's been great!

DISCORD smiles. CLARK smiles.

DISCORD

Just know that I am here for you. Whatever you need. Whenever you need it.

CLARK

Really.

DISCORD

Yes.

CLARK

Well, I think I need you now.

(CONTINUED)

DISCORD

Then take me.

CLARK kisses her.

CONTINUE TO:

69 TIME FLIES

CLARK and DISCORD make love for hours.

CONTINUE TO:

70 TIME RESUMES

They are laying in bed staring at the ceiling. DISCORD turns to CLARK.

DISCORD

So, this plan of yours for Athena, is it...

CLARK

You want to discuss that now?

DISCORD

Only if you are ready to share.

CLARK

Well, the plan is still a very much a work in progress plan.

DISCORD

Tell me what you have so far.

CLARK

Okay.

CLARK vanishes from the bed, and appears over by a wall near a table, fully dressed. DISCORD vanishes from the bed and appears beside CLARK also fully dressed.

CLARK

I have an advantage that Athena doesn't.

DISCORD raises an eyebrow in curiosity.

(CONTINUED)

DISCORD

Oh? And what might that be?

CLARK

I know what is to come.

Momentary pause. DISCORD looks at him sorta confused.

CLARK

I know things that haven't happened yet.

Momentary pause. DISCORD understands.

DISCORD

Of course. You are from the future. You would...

CLARK

Exactly. And Ares has shared with me the history of things to come.

DISCORD

So, what's the plan?

CLARK makes a "TO DO" list appear on the table. DISCORD looks at the list curiously.

DISCORD

What's this?

CLARK

This is a list of everything that has to happen today.

DISCORD looks at the list more closely.

CLARK

If you, me, and Strife, work together we can make sure everything happens as it should.

DISCORD is confused. What does this have to do with Athena?

DISCORD

I don't see what this has to do with...

CLARK stands behind her and wraps his arms around her waist. He leans in over her shoulder.

CLARK

Think of it. We will get everything done. We will look good to all who doubted us. You & Strife might even get Zeus to see that you can handle the responsibly if given the chance.

DISCORD understands.

DISCORD

You are clever.

CLARK

Thank you.

DISCORD turns in his arms and looks at him.

DISCORD

Just like Ares.

CLARK gives her a look.

DISCORD

The Council choose correctly.

DISCORD kisses him. DISCORD breaks the kiss.

DISCORD

So when do we start?

CLARK smiles.

CONTINUE TO:

**DAY 477-590**

71 TIME FLIES (Day 477-590)

CLARK, DISCORD and STRIFE complete the tasks on the to do list for today. The next day, STRIFE meets CLARK and DISCORD in the Hall of War, and they go over the "to do" list for the day. Then complete the tasks. This goes on for months.

CONTINUE TO:

(CONTINUED)

**DAY 591**

72 TIME RESUMES

They return to the Hall of War after a hard day's work. CLARK, DISCORD, and STRIFE appear in the hall. STRIFE looks at them.

STRIFE

See you guys in the morning.

CLARK / DISCORD

See ya.

STRIFE leaves. CLARK looks at DISCORD.

CLARK

I have something to show you.

DISCORD looks at him with a look of curiosity. CLARK takes her hand and leads her to the table.

DISCORD

Well?

CLARK makes a box appear. The box has a digital date and time on it. DISCORD looks confused. (Note: Box is sort of safe-like. The digital display has two parts: day and time. The day is counting backwards. It started at the number of days til the meeting at Stonehenge and is counting backwards. The time is a 24-hour cycle. It goes from 0000 to 2359)

DISCORD

What is it?

CLARK

This is the keeper of events.

DISCORD looks at him with a raised eyebrow.

DISCORD

What does it do?

CLARK

Every time this counter reaches zero...

CLARK points to the "time" code.

(CONTINUED)

CLARK

Two things will happen. (1) The box will open and the next to do list will appear, and (2) This counter...

CLARK points to the "day" code.

CLARK

...will go down by one.

DISCORD

Why are you telling me this?

CLARK

If anything should happen to me...

DISCORD

Clark, nothing can happen to you, you're a god!

CLARK

If something should happen, I want you to continue what we are doing. You will need to know how this works.

DISCORD

Okay.

Momentary pause. CLARK points back to the "time" counter.

CLARK

This counter will go from 0000 to 2359. The next number after 2359 will be 0000. And it will start again.

DISCORD

And every time the counter reaches 0000 the box will open and the next to do list will appear.

CLARK

Correct.

DISCORD

Sounds easy enough.

Momentary pause. DISCORD looks at the "day" counter.

(CONTINUED)



DISCORD

You said this counter is going backwards. What will happen when it reaches zero?

CLARK

You don't need to worry about that.

DISCORD

But I...

CLARK grabs her and kisses her. He breaks the kiss.

CLARK

It's been a long day. Why don't you help me unwind?

DISCORD

What did you have in mind?

CLARK flashes her an evil smile, then vanishes. He reappears over on the bed, naked. He pats the bed inviting her to join him. She smiles and vanishes. She reappears on the bed beside him, naked. He kisses her. He rolls onto her. They make love.

FADE OUT.

