

SD: By the way, did Rome have female leaders like Livia in charge of their armies back then?

Chris: To the best of my knowledge, no, they didn't. I do have a book about the position of women in Roman society and I don't think any of them fought. There were some who wielded political power behind the scenes.

SD: Xena doesn't seem to have much luck with her children. She and Gabrielle wind up losing 25 years out of their lives to save Xena's daughter and Eve ends up becoming the scourge of Rome.

Chris: Yeah, she turns out to be Xena. To me, that is so cool because it's history repeating itself. As hard as you try, if it's gonna repeat, it just does. You do what you can to change things and it still happens.

SD: And who just happened to be looking around for a replacement for Xena in his life - Ares!

Chris (laughs): Yeah! Although, in his heart, he could never replace Xena. That speech he gives to Xena at the party is true. He mourned her for years and still harbors hopes they could be together. That's the real Ares. He's not kidding around and we come to see that when he gives up his immortality in "Motherhood" to save Eve and Gabrielle.

SD: How did everyone wind up in Italy? Ares buried Xena and Gabrielle near Mt. Etna and Joxer and Meg live within a day's travel of Rome.

Chris: Ares could spirit them away to anyplace he wanted. So it was easy for him to transport Xena and Gabrielle's bodies to Mt

Etna. And that place was special to him for some reason we're not privy to. It was where he could seal them away and for us, freezing them would preserve their bodies. Now, why was Joxer there? Beats me. (laughs) I don't know why he and Meg didn't settle in Greece. You could say that when Octavius/Augustus took baby Eve with him to Rome for safe-keeping, Joxer might have wanted to stay close to her. To keep an eye on her for Xena. But, then again, he didn't live in Rome, but nearby. Virgil did live there, however.

SD: Someone brought up the idea that Ares might have thought of hiding Xena and Gabrielle's bodies in Italy to keep the Greek gods from discovering them.

Chris: That's a good idea. But Ares really did believe they were dead so the Greek gods wouldn't have any interest in their remains. All they wanted was for Eve to be dead. We did decide not to deal with the fact that the Romans would

Chris: Oh gosh no! I think we've seen that. They're arrogant. You'd think with Xena they'd double and triple check their facts, but they didn't. I'm guessing they believed if Ares went to the trouble of taking the bodies away and entombing them that there was no doubt they were dead.

SD: And Ares was holding their dead bodies. Why would he check with the fates.

Chris: Yeah. He kissed Xena goodbye. The gods saw Ares' distress. When he tells Xena, "I mourned for you, I mourned for 25 years," the gods would have to believe that wasn't an act. And 25 years passed with no sign of Xena. The gods had to figure they were free and clear.

SD: Was it ever discussed that Hudson Leick, Callisto, might play Eve?

Chris: I believe it did come up, but I think everyone thought there was too much baggage with the Callisto character. No one could look at her and forget she was Callisto. It would be too much to ask of the casual viewer to say, "Oh, yeah, this person who looks exactly like Callisto is now Eve." I know it was mentioned because for a nano-second people thought that would be cool. But immediately we decided it wouldn't work.

SD: Having written for the Xena character for five years, do you think she could have killed Eve if she couldn't change her?

Chris: No, I don't think she could do

that. And I think you learn that in "Eve" at the end of the fight between them when Xena has her chakram raised to deliver the final blow and realizes she can't.

SD: And yet Gabrielle killed Hope, her daughter by Dahak, the Evil One.

Chris: You have to understand that Gabrielle came to believe her daughter was pure evil. She knew her father was Dahak/Satan. Xena and Gabrielle knew Eve was not from a Dahak type of god even though she is a godly child. I be-

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"IF YOU WERE MORTAL, I'D CUT OUT YOUR HEART."
- XENA TO ARES ("LIVIA")