



Left: A thick coating of eyeliner turns the normally angelic Wilkinson (below) into the least popular woman in ancient Rome, Livia.

Following on from her three-episode arc at the end of the fifth season, Wilkinson was approached to return for the show's sixth and final season, an opportunity the actress had no intention of turning down. But she reveals that despite Eve's importance to the *Xena* story arc, she doesn't know from one day to the next how many more episodes she'll appear in. "They only booked me for three episodes of the sixth season," she recalls, "but the week I got back, they booked me for another one, and so on... I don't know if this is how it always is, but I don't think they know where they want the story to go this year, and it's a case of whether or not I fit in later in the season."

So does Wilkinson have any idea what's in store for Eve and her companions? "I don't know what they're doing with me and I don't know what they're doing with the show," she says bluntly. "We get hints about storylines that they're interested in doing, but on the whole, absolutely not. I'm always excited when I get the script, and also nervous figuring out what they're going to do. It'll be exciting this year."

Is there anything in particular that Wilkinson would like to see happen to her character? "There's always more stuff to do with her," she muses. "I know the ending I would like to have: I would like her to get to a comfortable medium. She's gone from one extreme to the other, and I'd rather she ended up comfortable in her own skin, just sort of following in her mum's footsteps."

"So I'd like her to be a little bit more like Lucy's character, who accepts her path and redemption, but who still fights for good and doesn't shy away from it. She's a little bit more timid than I'd like her to be. Basically, I'd like a resolution – whether they kill her, whether she rides off into the sunset; regardless of what she does – as opposed to letting her storyline just fade and not be acknowledged. I

just want to know what happens to her, no matter what that is."

It's no secret that fans of *Xena* would like to see a spin-off series following Eve's adventures. Is that something the actress would be interested in taking part in? "I would be totally interested," she enthuses. "Of course! But it would absolutely, one hundred per cent depend on what they did with her," she adds firmly. "The producers are great at giving power to female characters, and as long as that happened, I would be completely excited at that. I'm incredibly in love with the idea."



Photo by Ruth Thomas

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