



**SD :** Right. Others just accepted the fact that Hope was a demon child.

**Chris :** Interesting. Hope would always be her father's daughter. She was a moral and couldn't be re-

deemed. Because of the way Xena got pregnant with her child, she knows it comes from a more positive power than Dahak was. Why would all this have been visited upon her by a force for good if there wasn't good to be had out of Eve. And you just couldn't say that about Dahak.

**SD :** As for Hope and Gabrielle, why would such a bad thing happen to such a good person?

**Chris :** That's what he needed to get into the world - the purest vessel possible. And that is Gabrielle. It also gave Renee some great moments in "Maternal Instincts." When she realized Hope had lied to her and when she knew she would have to kill her daughter -- Renee was wonderful. Such powerful emotions played across her face.

**(NOTE: The Archangel Michael's goodness is seemingly in doubt in future episodes. We'll have to wait and see how this turns out.)**

**SD :** So Joxer married Meg. How did you decide what their relationship would be?

**Chris :** I have to tell you, she's a little bitchy. (laughs) I thought their marriage would be a little hap-

pier, goofier. But I think Ted and Lucy had a lot of fun playing them that way. A change of pace. Let me tell you about a scene I wrote that was deleted after the first draft. Once Meg realizes this is the real Xena and Gabrielle who have showed up on their tavern doorstep, she is concerned that maybe Joxer will leave her now that his first love, Gabrielle, is back. But she lets it go and puts her trust in the fact that Joxer loves her.

**SD :** A logical fear. I would have liked to see that. I always had a soft spot for Meg.

**Chris :** His first love who hasn't changed a bit and here's Meg, older, heavier.

**SD :** Speaking of older -- no one said a word about the fact that these two women obviously hadn't aged a day.

**Chris :** I think we saw Joxer was shocked and then we cut to a scene of the three of them at a table talking which would be where they told him the story of what had happened to them. Virgil absolutely didn't bat an eye! (laughs)

**SD :** I guess this is something you just couldn't take the time to show.

**Chris :** And you'd have to explain it every time they ran into someone from their past. Xena's first meeting with Augustus might have been the perfect time to do it. He would have been astounded. Here he was so old and they were still so young.

**SD :** Joxer made an interesting shrine to Xena and Gabrielle out of his tavern. (laughs)

**Chris (laughs):** Planet Xena - it was meant to be a cross between a theme restaurant and a shrine. I thought it was fun.

**SD (laughs):** I could have given them the names of about 12,000 Xena fans who would have offered to decorate it for free.

lieve Xena never gave up on Eve and, at the end, she turned her daughter's fate over to the Archangel Michael. I believe Gabrielle had to give up thinking that her daughter could be changed.

**SD :** I saw Hope as purely demon spawn with nothing human in her at all.

**Chris :** Even though Gabrielle gave birth to her?

**SD :** Yeah.

**Chris :** You might have a case believing that of Hope because she became full grown in a matter of days. All she was was a vessel for Dahak to come into the world. Livia grew as a normal human baby and child. I think you have to say there was more humanity in Livia than in Hope if there was any at all in Hope.

**SD :** I remember R.J. Stewart saying the idea for the episode where Hope was born, "Gabrielle's Hope," was to do their version of *Rosemary's Baby*. It was never meant to be Gabrielle's child. And I think it was a surprise that some fans looked upon this child as really being Gabrielle's daughter.

**Chris :** They took Hope to heart.

**SD :** Right. And Renee played the scene where she poisoned Hope as if this was her real child.

**Chris :** She did.

**SD :** That's why some people find it so frustrating that, for them, the show never dealt with the fact that Gabrielle had to kill her own child. Others took Xena's song, "Forgive Me," in "The Bitter Suite," as the resolution between Xena and Gabrielle over the deaths of both their children.

**(NOTE: This interview was conducted before the airing of "The Abyss" during which there was a scene in which a delirious Gabrielle talks to Xena as if she was talking to Hope. I'll cover this in a future interview.)**

**Chris :** They never forgave the show for having Gabrielle kill her daughter?

