

"Eve"  
(written by George  
Strayton & Tom O'Neill)

**SD:** What story did they want to tell in "Eve" and what elements did you want to use?

*George:* That's interesting because we started out with something different than what it turned out to be.

**SD:** For the whole Eve arc or this particular episode?

*George:* When Bob Orci and Alex Kurtzman were the head writers, there was a totally different plan for the end of the fifth season. We kept to the basic story for this episode, but the continuation of the storyline changed for the following shows. These stories went through three stages. The first was what Tom and I envisioned under Bob and Alex. The second version was based on what Rob Tapert and R.J. Stewart said they wanted to do with the story we suggested when RJ came back to head the show. And after we wrote the script, there were further revisions by Chris Black and Chris Manheim.

**SD:** Why don't we look at the second version now?

*George:* Okay. Our original idea was that "Eve" would pick up almost immediately after the gladiatorial fight at the end of "Livia." Livia has made a deal with Ares that she will wipe out Eli's followers for him if Ares produces a siege engine she has designed. She tells Ares she needs this weapon to destroy Eli's followers. At the same time, she's been sending her troops around to battle with the Elisians to force them all to Ostia which is a real coastal city in ancient Rome. Ninety percent of the trade would go through this city before it reached Rome.

Xena realizes she has to stop Livia. She's aware she might have to kill her daughter, but she's going to do everything in her power to try and turn Livia back into Eve.

**SD:** Was this where Xena praying to Eli's god came in?

*George:* Yes. She's on the hillside saying, "I don't understand. I'm a warrior, I fight for people who can't fight for themselves. You helped me see that. Then you gave me this child and I love her with all my heart. Now you're asking me to choose between my way and my daughter's life. What do you want from me." Pause. "Are you enjoying this? I thought you were different. Maybe you're just like all the other gods. What happened to your infinite love?"

**SD:** A spark of the old Xena scepticism.

*George:* Yeah. She doesn't get an answer. Livia, meanwhile, is also playing with Ares. She doesn't care about the

Elisians, she wants to control Ostia and the Roman trade route so she can depose Augustus.

**SD:** Does Xena know this?

*George:* Xena is figuring out what Livia is up to and she's trying to convince Ares that Livia isn't on the up and up. Ares doesn't believe her initially, but in the end, when he realizes he's been duped, he leaves Livia to Xena to do with as she wishes.

**SD:** What was the end of this story?

*George:* The last act was a giant battle outside the gates of Ostia with a siege engine that shoots fireballs. In the aired version, at the end, Livia seems to be lost and confused as she wanders away from Xena.

In this earlier script, Senetus, Livia's second in command, realizes that Livia has lost it and decides he must take over command of her forces by killing her. He climbs up on top of the siege

engine to send a fireball straight at Livia. Xena sees him and battles Senetus up and down the scaffolding of the giant weapon. He climbs up to the top, knocks Xena to the bottom and aims the engine at Livia. Xena throws her chakram at the siege engine's turret and forces it to point upward just as the fireball is lit. The fireball goes straight up and then straight down destroying both Senetus and the weapon. Cool shot, but too expensive. (laughing)

**SD:** The god of Eli was still part of this story?

*George:* Xena would be left wondering what Eli's plan was in putting her in this situation. The continuation of the storyline would have Xena in a position to kill her daughter and then realizing at the last minute, she just can't do it. That part of the story did end up in the final version that aired. When we were writing the script, it most reminded me



XENA: "EVE FINALLY TOOK A GOOD LOOK INSIDE HERSELF AND SHE FOUND ME THERE. I KNOW HER RAGE. IT'S IN EVE'S BLOOD, GABRIELLE. I MADE HER WHO SHE IS. I WAS HER."

GABRIELLE: "THEN THERE'S HOPE BECAUSE YOU CHANGED."

(EVE)