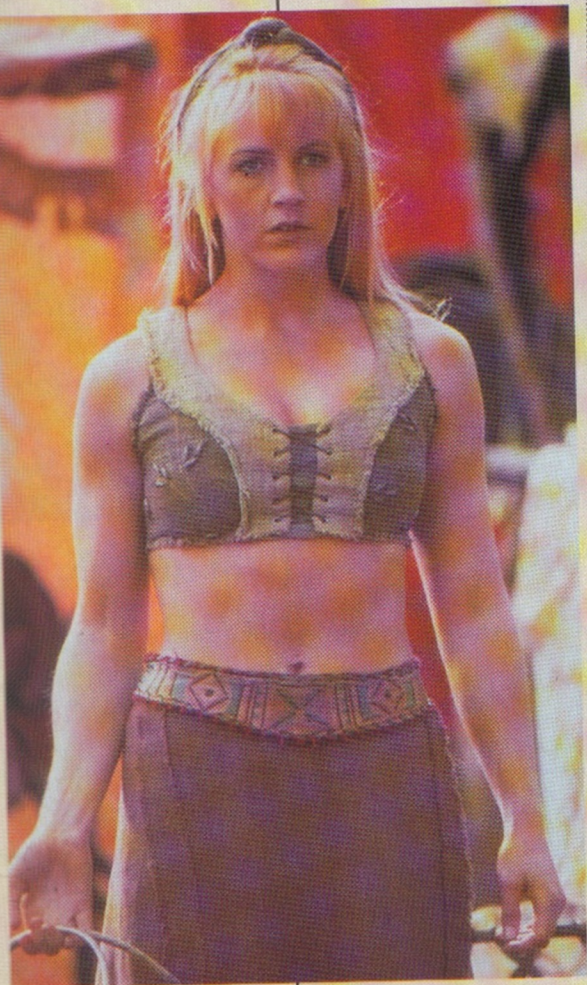


Below: Gabrielle despairs of her father's lack of understanding.

Right and bottom: Livia robs Virgil of the best father a man could have...



Typhon loved all of his offspring, and was distressed to hear of their deaths – but equally distressed to hear how naughty they had been while he was away. To get Echidna and her brood to be evil, Hera had to remove Typhon's benevolent influence by imprisoning him for a hundred years. Once Typhon returns home, Echidna loses her monster side, while their new monstrous offspring, Obie, is so sweet that even his kidnapper finds him impossible to resist.

Typhon's kindly nature is indispensable to the peace and well-being of his family. He may not be the brightest father, but he is clearly one of the best.

Joxer

The klutzy warrior wannabe, who has never been much good at anything, is better than anyone at being a father.

From the moment he settles down with Meg and starts a family, Joxer seems to be any kid's ideal dad. He stays at home working in the family tavern; he's always ready to play; and he has plenty of great adventure stories to tell. Joxer's relationship with his grown son Virgil shows that he has passed on his own high ideals of heroism and courage, as well as the more important values of kindness, humility and compassion. And it's obvious that he's very proud of his son, who is far smarter and more talented than him in every way.

Joxer falls short of perfection in only one area: he lies to his children about his own achievements, making himself the hero of all the stories he tells rather than Xena and Gabrielle. Yet this doesn't matter to Virgil. Joxer has given him so much love and affirmation all his life that the son is not the least bit disappointed to learn that his father was not the great warrior he claimed to be. Virgil knows that Joxer is a great father, and that makes



him hero enough.

After Joxer's death, Virgil remembers him the way any father would want to be remembered: "My entire life, I never saw my father be cruel to a man, woman, child nor beast. He brought joy to everyone who knew him." ■

Zeus' so-called love for Hercules is probably an extension of his own ego – protecting the son because he sees him as part of himself.

