

Wonder Woman

By

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Based on Characters Appearing in DC Comics

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FADE IN:

INT. DIANA'S ROOM - NIGHT

A centuries old Grecian chamber. Fire flickers across exquisitely carved marble, clay pots, and wooden toys. HYPPOLYTA, a stunning, perpetually middle aged woman sits at the side of a tiny bed beneath a window. She wears a long white gown, and a tiara sits atop her raven locks.

HYPPOLYTA

Would you like a story, my sun and stars?

In the tiny bed sits a tiny girl. YOUNG DIANA, 8, sits up against her pillow, very focused on untangling the impossible knots of a faded yellow cord.

YOUNG DIANA

Could you read me a new one? From Patriarch's world?

HYPPOLYTA

Those books aren't for you, dearest. You know that.

Diana frowns.

YOUNG DIANA

Then tell it again.

Hyppolyta GIGGLES softly.

HYPPOLYTA

You've heard that story a hundred times now.

YOUNG DIANA

You like telling it, don't you?

Hyppolyta twists her face into a mocking scowl, tickling her daughter. Diana pulls away, intent on the knots of her cord.

HYPPOLYTA

It starts like all the old stories.
A man was given a quest.

FLASHBACK

EXT. OLD THEMYSKIRA - NIGHT

An ancient ivory city, consumed in fire. Hyppolyta, in iconic red, gold, and blue battle garb, struggles in the grip of HERACLES, a muscle-bound, silent stoic in light leather armor.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

Heracles, Mighty Zeus' greatest son, came upon our city with a task set upon him: to challenge the Amazon Queen Hyppolyta.

Heracles grabs Hyppolyta's throat. She fights stubbornly as he lifts her by the neck. She tries to swing her sword down upon him, but Heracles catches it in his hand and hurls it aside.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

The Queen fought valiantly, but the man with strength of Gods proved too much for her.

EXT. OLD THEMYSKIRA - DAY

A much more flattering image of the city: daylight, peace. Polished architecture and clean living. Women roam streets together, explore markets.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

Before then, Themyskira had been a peaceful place, the skill of our warriors unmatched, the sanctity of our fortress untested. We were born by the Goddesses to bring peace and balance to Patriarch's world, our strength and prowess beyond that of any mere mortal.

Women teach young girls precise sword techniques and patterns, disciplined and stern.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

In Themyskira, man was forbidden. But where man is forbidden, man must tread.

EXT. OLD THEMYSKIRA - A LATER DAY

Hyppolyta stands atop a great gate, archers at her side. Heracles approaches on horse back. He looks up at the Queen, and bows humbly.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

Heracles came to us under guise of humility. He claimed he sought diplomacy. But in his long, arduous quest, he'd grown bitter, spiteful.

ARES, every inch of skin covered in ornate black armor, stands secretly atop one of the city's parapets, looking down as Hyppolyta opens the gate.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

Ares was watching. The God of War. Father of violence and bloodlust. He loathed our ways, with every fibre of his being.

EXT. OLD THEMYSKIRA - NIGHT

Heracles tosses a battered Hyppolyta toppling through the air and rolling through dirt.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

He corrupted Heracles. He saw the weariness, the frustration in his half-brother and filled his veins with fury and fire.

Heracles looks over the elegant girdle in his hand, and turns his back, gesturing to his many soldiers.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

We were deceived. We failed in our task as Heracles completed his. He left us to his wolves.

Hyppolyta fights to her hands and knees, but the butt of a spear knocks her on the back of the head.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

Themyskira had fallen. Ares had won.

INT. DUNGEON - NIGHT

A dreary, wet cavern. Hyppolyta and other tattered women hang from the walls, shackled with heavy chains around steel bracelets. A soldier holds a smoking bowl beneath the face of a dazed Hyppolyta. He sneers, then leaves.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

They broke our courage. Made slaves
of us. Our hopes, our ideals
shattered.

A cloaked figure emerges from faint, fiery light. ATHENA, all but invisible within the shadows. Hyppolyta lifts her weary head.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

Athena, the Goddess of Wisdom,
looked upon her daughters with a
great swell of pity.

The chains binding the Amazons to the walls disappear. The women crumple to the dirt, exhausted, free.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

She freed us from our bondage, but
left upon us a token of our
humiliation.

Hyppolyta lifts herself up, trembling. She looks down upon her arms. The silver bracelets remain.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

Our shackles. Unbreakable,
irremovable, eternal. And a curse
with them: if ever again we found
ourselves bound and subservient to
man, the Goddesses would forsake us
until we regained our freedom.

END FLASHBACK

INT. DIANA'S ROOM

Hyppolyta looks at the oversized bracelets clutched to Diana's arms. Diana merely plugs away at the knots of her cords.

HYPPOLYTA

We would never be victim to the
deceit of man again.

CONTINUE FLASHBACK

EXT. GREAT HALL

A shadowy place, where Heracles' soldiers feast loudly at a large banquet table. Amazon warriors stealthily hug walls, unnoticed, poised to pounce.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

Many of our sisters thirsted
desperately for vengeance.
Phillipus stood anxiously with a
great rage. In a flash, she could
fell countless mighty warriors.

Hyppolyta emerges next to PHILLIPUS, 40, a hardened warrior who holds her sword readily. Hyppolyta shakes her head.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

But the Queen denied her.

Phillipus sheaths her sword, begrudgingly. She signals, and the other Amazon warriors follow, disappearing back around their corners. Heracles' soldiers LAUGH ignorantly.

END FLASHBACK

INT. DIANA'S ROOM

Phillipus emerges from a door, standing guard sternly. Diana and Hyppolyta look to her. Hyppolyta nods, and Phillipus goes to leave. For the briefest instant, Phillipus softens, making a face at Diana. Diana GIGGLES, then whispers to her mother.

YOUNG DIANA

Is she really that strong?

HYPPOLYTA

Stronger. Almost as strong as
you'll be someday.

Hyppolyta pokes her daughter in the stomach.

YOUNG DIANA

I would have gone after Heracles.
Made him pay.

Phillipus turns away, grinning slightly.

HYPPOLYTA

There was no use warmongering. No
place left in Patriarch's world for
us to win back. Our city was gone.

CONTINUE FLASHBACK

EXT. TARTARUS

A huge black pit. Shadow and fire dance as Ares stands at the center of it. Five regal women in exquisite gowns surround him: ARTEMIS, ATHENA, HESTIA, APHRODITE, DEMETER.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

The Goddesses who gave us our lives
and homes rained their fury down
upon Ares for his insolence.

The women raise their hands. Arcs of light slash Ares, constricting around him, binding him. He fights and thrashes, furious, screaming, but the bonds of light tighten.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

They destroyed his physical form,
and cast his spirit into Tartarus,
locking him away for all eternity.

Wet, black fluid climbs up Ares, pulling him down into darkness.

EXT. SEA

Hyppolyta and the Amazons stand at the edge of an ocean, all their supplies and carts gathered.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

With Ares' banishment, the
Goddesses set us upon a new course.
We would cross the sea to a secret
island, safe from the world that
spoiled and slighted us.

The ocean gurgles and surges, and finally parts, leaving a rocky road for the Amazons to cross.

INT. DOOM'S DOORWAY

A huge, serpentine cave with massive stairwells. Immense cogs and locking devices surround a stony gate. Amazons stand guard.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

We would guard the gateway to Ares'
prison and make certain he would

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HYPPOLYTA(VO) (cont'd)
never have a chance to take his
vengeance upon the Earth. In return
for our devotion, we would be
granted immortality and true
autonomy. The Gods would render our
paradise island invisible,
impregnable.

EXT. THEMYSKIRA

Themyskira built anew within an incredible island paradise,
better, cleaner, and more impressive than ever. Towers and
halls reach new heights of craftsmanship and architecture.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)
We rebuilt Themyskira, stronger and
more beautiful than ever. We were
happy, and steadfast in our task.

EXT. ARMOR'S TOMB

A dark cave, with a cone of light shining down upon a stone
pedestal. Hyppolyta sets down her warrior's garb: the red,
blue and gold uniform, as well as an exquisite tiara.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)
The Queen sealed away her
champion's garb. She would never
see war come upon her people again.
She knew peace, and freedom from
tyranny.

Hyppolyta walks away from the armor. She gestures to a half
dozen Amazons, and with all their strength and the leverage
of ropes, they manage to pull a huge boulder into the exit,
sealing it.

EXT. BEACH

Hyppolyta walks barefooted through exquisite white sand
along beautiful blue ocean. Waves crash against her feet.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)
But the Queen had a loneliness that
tore at her. She longed for the
wholeness that immortality had
denied her. She longed for
motherhood. One day, she saw
something floating in towards the
shore.

(CONTINUED)

Hyppolyta looks out to the ocean. She sees vague shadows, floating in the water. As they approach, they become clearer: ship wreckage and drowned refugees.

Hyppolyta sees a YOUNG GIRL in 1940s rags, laying limply atop the sand. Hyppolyta looks over the girl, a mix of confusion and pity upon her face.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

Death had not touched our land in
two thousand years. A great swell
of pity overcame the Queen.

Hyppolyta bends down slowly, and begins covering the girl in the sand and clay of the beach.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

As she buried the girl, the Queen
muttered a silent prayer. She
wished the girl would finally know
peace. She wished the girl could
once again feel a Mother's loving
embrace.

As Hyppolyta walks away from her makeshift grave, she hears faint, infant's CRYING. Hyppolyta turns suddenly, and looks to the grave. She rushes towards the sand, and digs through it desperately.

Hyppolyta finds a beautiful, perfect newborn baby. A profound delight races across her face as she lifts the child into her arms.

HYPPOLYTA(VO)

The Goddesses answered the Queen.
They gave the girl a new life, a
new mother. And the Queen would
have a perfect daughter, blessed
with all the best the Goddesses
could offer: Demeter's strength.
Artemis' cunning. Aphrodite's
beauty. Hestia's tender heart.
Athena's thirst for knowledge. And
best of all, she would always see
the truth in the hearts of wicked
and righteous alike. She would
never repeat the failings of the
Amazons. The Queen would name her
Diana.

END FLASHBACK

INT. DIANA'S ROOM

Hyppolyta pets her daughter's hair. Diana GIGGLES, finally untangling the golden cord.

YOUNG DIANA

That's me.

HYPPOLYTA

Yes it is. The Queen would cherish her daughter always, and never allow her to know suffering. And they lived happily ever after.

Hyppolyta notices the untangled cord. It crackles, glowing gold.

HYPPOLYTA

Give that to me, Diana.

Diana obliges, indifferent to the cord. Phillipus narrows her eyes as Hyppolyta tries to remain calm.

YOUNG DIANA

I like that story, Mother. But the ending is so boring.

HYPPOLYTA

Well boring isn't the worst thing in the world. Now go to sleep, my precious.

Diana pouts, but lays down. She rolls onto her side, and listens to the ocean outside her window. Hyppolyta douses the torches, keeping nothing but a candle for herself. She moves to leave.

YOUNG DIANA

Mother?

Hyppolyta pauses.

HYPPOLYTA

Yes, my sweet?

YOUNG DIANA

What's it like? Across the sea?

Hyppolyta considers carefully. She looks down at the Golden Lasso within her hand.

(CONTINUED)

HYPPOLYTA

Messy.

Hyppolyta leaves, Phillipus following. Diana stares out at the sky, until she hears the door shut. She rolls over, and sits up, waiting, staring at the door.

INT. OUTSIDE DIANA'S ROOM

Phillipus locks the door shut. Hyppolyta descends a winding stair case by torchlight, solemn.

PHILLIPUS

You know what this means, don't you?

HYPPOLYTA

It means nothing.

PHILLIPUS

It's been tangled for centuries. She's worthy, like I said she would be. Her time will come.

Hyppolyta jams the lasso into Phillipus' arms.

HYPPOLYTA

You had no right giving that to her. Seal it away in the catacombs. I never want to see it again.

Phillipus frowns, but nods. Hyppolyta stares at her daughter's door.

HYPPOLYTA

The Princess must be protected.

INT. DIANA'S ROOM

Diana grabs an unlit torch from the wall. She climbs up to the window, and hops out.

EXT. THEMYSKIRA - NIGHT

Diana drops calmly from her tall tower through the night air, unaffected by the threat of approaching earth. Just as she seems poised to crash, her fall slows, and she lands gracefully. Diana looks all around herself. She lights her torch against another, then rushes off.

INT. DIANA'S ROOM

Hyppolyta reenters the room, candle in hand.

HYPPOLYTA

I forgot your goodnight kiss, my
dear.

Hyppolyta finds nothing but an empty room.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

A huge, seemingly never-ending library, perhaps millions of aisles. In the darkness, candles flicker from beneath a table, where Diana sits surrounded by huge piles of classic books from all corners of the world.

Diana flips through a rather large version of Peter Pan. She lingers on a beautiful illustration: Wendy and her brothers sit cuddling with their parents in a warm, cozy nursery, reading a story. Diana smiles affectionately, focusing on Mr Darling and the boys.

All by itself, a book with a large lock across its cover falls from the top of a distant bookshelf. Diana looks up, startled. The book sits idly on the floor.

Diana carefully looks around herself, then eagerly crawls towards the new book. The cover reads TYPHON in faded letters. Diana looks around herself carefully, then rips the lock off the book without trouble. She bends down, and starts reading.

YOUNG DIANA(VO)

Typhon. Largest and most fearsome
of all monsters. Declared war on
the gods for the slaughter of its
children.

DREAM SEQUENCE:

EXT. MOUNT ETNA - NIGHT

ZEUS, 50, in white robes, stands readily atop a mountain in howling wind and rain. Dark clouds obscure a great ball of orange fire. It illuminates the sky.

YOUNG DIANA(VO)

Sought to destroy everything near
and dear to their hearts. Only
mighty Zeus dared face it.

(CONTINUED)

Countless, enormous serpentine heads burst out from the clouds, SCREECHING as they jet towards Zeus.

END DREAM SEQUENCE.

INT. LIBRARY - NIGHT

Something drops to the floor in the distance. Diana YELPS, surprised. Carefully, she peers around a table leg. She sees a pot roll out from behind an aisle of books.

Diana gulps. She grabs a candle, and hops to her feet. She tiptoes towards the aisle, gathers her courage, then peeks around the corner.

Diana finds what appears to be herself, floating in the air, ghostly, a mass of serpents coiling behind her. TYPHON speaks with countless echoing voices.

TYPHON

Precious little girls make precious
little meals.

The ghostly projection opens its mouth, and dozens of snake heads shoot out towards Diana. She gasps, dropping her candle. She backpedals, bumping right into Hyppolyta. Diana quickly looks up at her very stern mother.

HYPPOLYTA

What do you think you're doing?

Diana looks back into the shadowy aisle. Nothing there.

INT. DIANA'S ROOM

An Amazon WORKER finishes sealing Diana's window with brick. Diana sits quietly in front of a table, heartbroken. Hyppolyta stands over her, disappointed.

HYPPOLYTA

Where did you learn English?

YOUNG DIANA

I taught myself...

HYPPOLYTA

And what else?

Diana doesn't answer.

(CONTINUED)

HYPPOLYTA

Those books are forbidden to you,
Diana.

YOUNG DIANA

I just wanted to read what everyone
else reads...

HYPPOLYTA

You've nothing to learn from those
books. Amazon literature for you.
Nothing else.

Phillipus watches Diana, pitying. Diana doesn't say a word,
staring at the floor as her mother and the worker leave.
Phillipus watches as Diana saunters over to her bed, turning
her face to the wall, sniffing.

YOUNG DIANA

I read from a book marked Typhon. I
saw a creature in the library. It
reached out for me.

Phillipus considers quietly.

PHILLIPUS

He's been imprisoned half way
across the world for millennia.
You've nothing to fear.

Phillipus frowns, and opens her satchel. She walks over to
Diana's bed, and offers a book. Diana glances at the cover:
Peter Pan. She whips around, sitting up and looking at
Phillipus.

PHILLIPUS

Anything you want to learn... you
need only to ask. We'll keep it
secret.

Phillipus turns away. Diana perks up.

YOUNG DIANA

I want to learn everything.

Phillipus nods.

PHILLIPUS

I suppose every childhood needs a
little trouble.

MONTAGE

(CONTINUED)

-Phillipus teaches Diana combat. Diana swings a wooden sword gleefully.

-Phillipus teaches Diana to hunt, carefully, respectfully. Diana jumps on a giant, two thousand pound eagle, and tries to wrap a lasso around its beak. It bucks, and tosses her to the dirt. Phillipus steps forward, but the eagle only licks Diana, who GIGGLES happily.

-Diana practices her writing under her Mother's watch. Hyppolyta leaves, and Diana immediately jumps out a window.

-Phillipus stands watch as Diana sits on the library floor, pouring through piles of books.

END MONTAGE

EXT. THEMYSKIRA, CLIFF

Phillipus sits on a cliff, watching the water crash into the rocks below. Behind her, Diana methodically maneuvers through a simple martial arts pattern.

PHILLIPUS
Come sit, Diana.

Diana stops her pattern and obliges, plopping down next to Phillipus, scanning the rocks curiously.

DIANA
What am I supposed to be looking at?

PHILLIPUS
Nothing in particular. I just like it here. You know long, long ago... I was a mother, too.

Diana looks up at Phillipus, surprised.

PHILLIPUS
Briefly. A little boy. But I loved him anyway. He was just as beautiful as any daughter I'd ever dreamt of.

Phillipus bows her head, and forces a smile.

PHILLIPUS
They took him from me.

Diana looks out at the sea.

(CONTINUED)

PHILLIPUS

I had a place just like this a
small ways away from old
Themyscira. No elders pulling at
me, no guards leading me. No
responsibilities, no obligations. I
could go there, and be by myself.
Dream of a life with my son... and
be free.

Diana stares out at the horizon.

DIANA

Will I be free some day?

Phillipus looks to Diana.

PHILLIPUS

I don't know.

Diana considers the horizon.

DIANA

I like it here, too.

Phillipus smiles, and pats Diana's back.

INT. CELL - MODERN WORLD

A hood is ripped off from STEVE TREVOR, 29, a scraggly,
tired looking ex-soldier in jeans and t-shirt. He squints,
blinded by a light. He finds himself cuffed tightly to a
chair in a very dark room.

ETTA(OS)

Colonel Steve Trevor. Star Pilot.
United States Intelligence officer.

STEVE

Pissed off dizzy guy. Which one of
you guys took my smokes?

A hand reaches out from the darkness and slides a cigarette
between Steve's lips. He cocks an eyebrow expectantly. The
spark of a lighter quickly follows.

STEVE

There's a boy. You guys mind
turning down that light? Last I
checked, they don't let blind guys
fly.

(CONTINUED)

The lamp in his face dims. ETTA CANDY, 40, stands next to it, wearing a suit and labcoat. Beside her stands EMMITT LASHLEY, 36, a red headed soldier in camo uniform.

ETTA

Welcome to the future.

Steve frowns, irritated.

STEVE

Etta. Emmitt. Always a pleasure.
Nice honeymoon? Got that toaster I
sent you?

EMMITT

Real thoughtful, Steve.

STEVE

Bland pleasantries aside, whatever
you guys want, forget it. I'm
through.

Etta folds her arms. Emmitt speaks up.

EMMITT

No man left behind, Steve. You've
got a chance to serve your country
here. Be all you can be and all
that.

STEVE

Really? Appealing to my honor? I
take back every nice thing I ever
said about you.

ETTA

We need the best. And it takes a
greedy bastard like you to be the
best.

STEVE

You've got a keeper there, Emmitt.
Now kindly let me crawl back to
whatever ditch you found me in.
You'll comp me a cab, if you're any
kind of decent.

EMMITT

We're at the bottom of the Atlantic
Ocean, buddy.

Steve SIGHS, dejected.

(CONTINUED)

ETTA

Don't you want to see our new plane?

Steve purses his lips, intrigued.

INT. BUNKER - LATER

Etta and Emmitt escort Steve out a hall and into a massive bunker. Three huge, identical stealth jets are the central occupation of dozens of workers, who weld, clean, and put the finishing touches on the exquisite machines. Steve WHISTLES, nodding at the plane.

STEVE

Yep. That is definitely a plane. That your work, Etta?

ETTA

Mostly. Modified some of the cloaking technology from a Wayne Tech prototype.

Steve kicks the tires on the jet's landing gear.

STEVE

What's it for?

DARNELL

Kasnia.

Steve looks up to a platform upon which sit computers and consoles. GENERAL PHILLIP DARNELL descends the stairs, a stout, clean cut man wearing his uniform proudly. Steve cringes.

STEVE

It'd have to be Darnell, wouldn't it? It'd have to be.

DARNELL

General Darnell, now. Good to see you, son. You've let yourself go.

STEVE

Well, I didn't have time to clean up before your goons abducted me. What's up in Kasnia?

DARNELL

The civil war. Don't you read?

Darnell hands Steve a folder. Steve looks it over.

(CONTINUED)

DARNELL

We've intercepted some intel saying the rebels are looking to make a move on the palace.

STEVE

Ridiculous. No way they could hold it.

Steve looks at pictures of ELI MURDOCH, 52, a gruff, wiry rebel leader in combat fatigue. Next to him is NATASHA IVAN, 48, a beautiful woman somehow not yet hardened by combat.

DARNELL

Murdoch and his wife Natasha. Leading the resistance in the south. Last week, they killed President Lancaster's wife. Thursday, Natasha was captured. Rumor has it Murdoch's got a hold of a weapon. It's been leveling outposts all week. No one knows what it is.

Steve looks over a picture. A military outpost looks devastated, hammered to pieces.

DARNELL

It's getting personal. A lot of innocent people are going to lose their lives real soon.

Steve looks up from the file.

DARNELL

What we need from you is to run this jet over their territory. See if you can pick anything up. It should blast through all radar, pulses, satellites, shield, jamming signals... shouldn't be a thing in the world that can stop you. You'll be completely invisible, free to go anywhere. All goes well, Kasnia will have Big Brother to worry about from now on.

Etta and Emmitt approach.

STEVE

What's the catch.

(CONTINUED)

ETTA

It's a new plane. It could do everything we just told you... or none of it. You could be on your own in war torn Kasnia. If you're captured, we'll deny any culpability.

Steve nods, and shuts the file.

EMMITT

Cards on the table: this is trouble, Steve.

STEVE

Yeah, I can tell. Find somebody else, guys.

Steve tosses the file into the air defiantly and heads for the exit.

ETTA

We'll pay you triple your last mission.

STEVE

Not gonna happen.

DARNELL

We won't court martial you.

Steve whips around, clapping his hands with mock enthusiasm.

STEVE

Alright. Let's go scare some rebels or whatever.

INT. INVISIBLE PLANE/BUNKER - LATER

Etta, Emmitt, and others help strap Steve into the cockpit of the sleek jet. Steve tugs at his flight-suit, exhaling, bored. He looks over the controls, then up at Etta, who pays him no attention, running a diagnostic.

STEVE

I get why you came for me. A piece of machinery like this... it really does need the best.

Etta SNEERS.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE

You know I never forgave Emmitt for taking you off the market.

Emmitt forcefully tightens Steve's straps, hurting him. Steve looks up at him.

EMMITT

She's spoken for, buddy.

ETTA

She speaks for herself just fine.

Etta pats Steve on the back.

ETTA

Actually, that line about you being the best was mostly just flattery. There are about thirty six perfectly patriotic pilots as or more qualified than you. But they have family, loved ones...

Steve curves an eyebrow at Etta.

EMMITT

It's a new plane. And they're not as expendable as you.

Etta slaps Steve playfully on the cheek, then jams his helmet down atop his head.

As Emmitt and Etta leave, Steve pulls out a small military patch from a pocket, unnoticed. It reads HELEN SANDSMARK.

INT. BUNKER

Darnell, Etta, and all the workers watch carefully as the Jet starts up, wind whipping in their faces. Suddenly, the Jet becomes practically invisible, cloaked in a reflective translucency. Etta and the workers cheer and congratulate each other, delighted.

INT. INVISIBLE PLANE

Steve pilots the jet carefully, smoothly.

ETTA(OS)

To open the gate and raise the bunker, hit A-15 and X-27.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE

Alright. Let's see what we got.

Steve flips a switch.

EXT. BUNKER

The large bunker elevates out from the ocean floor and above sea level. As the top opens up, Steve's jet begins to take off, rising slowly. The engines start warming, and the jet bursts forwards, impossibly fast.

INT. INVISIBLE PLANE

Steve LAUGHS, baffled at the speed with which sky and water race past him.

STEVE

Etta, you build one hell of a plane!

INT. CONTROL STATION

Darnell and Etta watch carefully as a team of experts work the many computers and monitors.

ETTA

You're looking good, Steve.

INT. INVISIBLE PLANE

Steve, smiling broadly, holds the plane steadily. Suddenly, a flash of color. The jet starts buzzing and beeping, lights flashing.

STEVE

Etta? What's up?

INT. CONTROL STATION

Monitors short out. The computers shut off. Darnell looks to Etta, searching for answers. She leans in towards the radio, urgently.

ETTA

Steve?

INT. INVISIBLE PLANE

The plane totally shuts off. Lights out. Steve begins flipping switches and triggers, panicking.

STEVE

Etta, what's happening?

The plane starts to topple. Steve starts pulling hard on the control stick. A huge, mountainous island suddenly appears in front of him.

STEVE

Etta! What's going on?!

INT. CONTROL STATION

Etta clutches a radio to her ear.

ETTA

Steve! What do you see?!

STEVE(OS)

An island! A huge, freaking island!
White buildings!

Etta quickly looks over a map screen on a monitor.

ETTA

Steve, there's nothing but ocean a
thousand clicks still.

STEVE

Get a new map!

INT. INVISIBLE PLANE

Steve starts feeling the pressure as the jet spins uncontrollably. He pulls hard on a latch, and ejects out of the plane.

INT. CONTROL STATION

Etta and Darnell stand quietly, listening to nothing but static.

ETTA

Steve?

Darnell keeps a stiff upper lip.

EXT. SKY, THEMYSKIRA

The Invisible plane becomes visible, nothing but a heavy projectile hurtling through the air.

INT. DOOM'S DOORWAY

Amazon soldiers stand guard at the gate in their ancient, exquisitely crafted armor. The entire cave begins to RATTLE. They look up at stalagmites quivering.

The Jet smashes through the cave's ceiling, and utterly demolishes the gate and all its cogs and locks.

INT. HYPPOLYTA'S QUARTERS

Hyppolyta, sitting contemplatively, hears a huge SHUDDER. She shoots from her throne as she hears screams and RUMBLING. She rushes to the window, and sees a mass of smoke and fire rising from the earth.

EXT. BEACH

Steve topples through the air. He pulls his rip-cord, and his parachute fires out. He sees the water's surface rapidly nearing, his parachute hardly slowing him. He shuts his eyes and holds his breath.

Steve crashes into the sea. He fights in the water, reaching for his knife. He cuts the straps of his parachute, and swims for the tropical shore.

Steve drags himself onto the sand, his clothes wet, heavy. He pulls off his helmet. An arrow zips by, plunging into the dirt a foot from his hand. Confused, he looks to a cliff.

STEVE

What the hell..?

AELLA, an Amazon scout, looks to the beach from a hill. She pulls another arrow from her quiver.

Steve rolls out of the way, and the arrow just misses his head. He lifts a pistol from his calf, and fires twice, precisely. Aella quickly lifts her arms, deflecting the bullets with her bracelets.

Steve's eyes bulge, shocked. He raises his gun skywards, peace seeking.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE

Think we got off on the wrong foot,
sweetheart.

Aella starts pulling back another arrow. Steve sprints for the trees.

INT. DOOM'S DOORWAY

Hyppolyta descends into the chaos. Amazons sort through rubble, helping the wounded. Hyppolyta spots the remains of the gate, its locks and cogs destroyed. Behind it, merely an empty room.

EGERIA, a guard, approaches Hyppolyta.

EGERIA

There was nothing there when the
gate fell.

HYPPOLYTA

No. There was. It's out.

EXT. FORREST

Steve runs clumsily through lush greenery and flora, dodging trees and shrubs. He looks around. He overhears the fleet feet of a pursuing party. He sprints, as fast as his legs will carry him.

STEVE

I'm gonna kill you, Etta.

Steve trips, and tumbles down a hill. He smashes into twigs, groaning loudly.

STEVE

I can't wait until this is a
parking lot.

Steve hears the dripping of a watery brook. He rolls to his stomach, trying to catch his breath. He reloads his gun, his back against a tree. He peers around the trunk.

By a small, crystal clear pond sits DIANA, 20, in a white gown, running her fingers through the water. An adult now, she grew up unspeakably beautiful.

A sword appears beneath Steve's chin. Steve looks up to find Phillipus staring down at him.

(CONTINUED)

PHILLIPUS

They'll be none of that here, boy.

Steve stealthily reaches for a knife in his boot. He swings it at Phillipus' throat, but she readily catches his wrist and twists his arm. She holds him in place, shoving his face into the dirt.

STEVE

Okay, I can see now that was a mistake. I apologize. I think the mature thing to do is to move past it and --

Diana turns, standing to her feet. Phillipus hurls Steve into the clearing. He looks up at Diana, who tilts her head at him, surveying him with an almost scientific curiosity.

DIANA

What is this clumsy creature?

PHILLIPUS

Fetch your mother, Diana. We've a prisoner.

INT. PRISON CELL - LATER

Steve hangs from his wrists, chained to a wall. Sun pours in from a hole in the roof. He lifts his head as he hears a heavy iron door opening. He hears an ancient dialect.

EXT. OUTSIDE PRISON CELL

Diana, Phillipus, and Hyppolyta stand in the hall.

HYPPOLYTA

Stay where you are, Diana.

Diana sneaks a peek around the corner and at Steve just before Hyppolyta closes the door. Diana looks up at Phillipus.

DIANA

It's a man, isn't it?

Phillipus folds her arms, leaning against the wall. She nods. Diana tries to get a look through a small opening in the door, stealing glances at Steve.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

What are they going to do with him?

PHILLIPUS

In all likelihood? Execute him.

Diana shoots Phillipus a concerned look.

PHILLIPUS

You don't know man, Diana.

Diana turns back to the tiny window.

DIANA

Doesn't seem right. We could learn from him. About what's become of the world.

PHILLIPUS

Let your Mother handle this.

DIANA

Please? It'd be... fun.

Phillipus pulls Diana away.

INT. PRISON CELL

Hyppolyta emerges out of the shadows and into the sunlight, looking upon Steve with total contempt.

HYPPOLYTA

You're an American, aren't you? Who are you? What brings you here?

STEVE

I wandered off the resort, didn't I?

Hyppolyta grabs hold of Steve's neck, pressing him hard into the wall.

HYPPOLYTA

Don't waste my time. How did you break our spell? It was that War bird of your's, was it not?

Steve gurgles.

STEVE

I think there's a little bit of confusion here. Well... a lot of confusion. On my end, at least.

(CONTINUED)

Hyppolyta releases Steve. He gasps, coughing.

STEVE

I am Colonel Steve Trevor of the United States Air Force. My plane was disabled during a test run. I was forced to eject. If you let me radio my base, we'll reimburse you for any damages. If that doesn't float your boat, let's talk deal. What's your pleasure? Spies? Plans? Secret recipes?

Hyppolyta pulls away from Steve, annoyed.

HYPPOLYTA

You have no idea what you've brought upon this world. Ares, the God of War, is free. Wherever it is you claim you're from... it may as well be ash.

INT. OFFICE

DR HENRIETTA CRONENBURG, 50, an older, very maternal looking doctor, sits with a black-eyed, abused young woman (JULIA, 22) in a small office. Henrietta flashes a light in Julia's eye, carefully.

JULIA

It was my fault. Really.

HENRIETTA

I doubt it.

Henrietta and Julia hear furious, hoarse SCREAMING. Julia trembles, frightened. Henrietta scowls, then steps out of the office.

INT. WAITING ROOM

A small place, with comforting colors and a big receptionist's desk. BOBBY, 29, a wiry, scruffy man in jeans and classic rock t-shirt, wrestles ineffectually with a pair of ORDERLIES. Henrietta emerges from the office.

BOBBY

JULIA! Get your ass out here!

(CONTINUED)

HENRIETTA
Get him out of here.

Henrietta follows the Orderlies as they drag Bobby out of the shelter.

EXT. WOMEN'S SHELTER

The orderlies throw Bobby down the steps. Henrietta stands at the top of the stairs, the Orderlies passing her as they reenter the shelter. She shakes her head.

HENRIETTA
Must be pretty satisfying. Finally
finding something in this world you
think you can control.

Henrietta turns back towards the shelter. Bobby CHUCKLES as he spits, pulling himself to his feet.

BOBBY/ARES
When this is all done... I'm going
to control a lot more than some
hundred pound girl, I can tell you
that.

Henrietta furrows her brow, recognizing a timbre in Bobby's voice.

BOBBY/ARES
Long time no see, Hestia.

Henrietta stops dead. Bobby stares at her with wet, black eyes.

HENRIETTA
How did you get out?

BOBBY/ARES
Those little Amazons should be the
last thing you have to worry about
now.

Bobby begins climbing the steps towards Henrietta.

HENRIETTA
What do you want?

BOBBY/ARES
All you petty hedonists, living for
nothing but sex and spite. Fat
latches, sheltered too long from
(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

BOBBY/ARES (cont'd)
 the strength and dignity forged in
 combat. Olympus should belong to
 me. This planet should be my
 kingdom.

HENRIETTA
 Not even you could challenge the
 Pantheon. Zeus will strike you
 down.

BOBBY/ARES
 I'm not the only one looking for
 another round.

Henrietta straightens as Bobby approaches her. A gnarly,
 horrific blade materializes behind his back.

HENRIETTA
 Ares... don't be a fool. You can't
 control him.

BOBBY/ARES
 Not yet. But war's gotten better,
 and so will I. Have you seen these
 bombs and guns they have?
 Beautiful. Can't wait to get a hold
 of them. But business before
 pleasure...

Bobby drives the sword into Henrietta's belly. Henrietta
 GASPS. He smiles as she dies. The Orderlies spot the action
 from inside the shelter, and rush out. Bobby raises his
 hands, mockingly innocent as Henrietta falls to the floor,
 the blade disappeared.

BOBBY/ARES
 Sorry.

An Orderly pins Bobby to the ground, and begins reaching for
 handcuffs.

INT. COUNSEL - LATER

A great circular auditorium. Amazon Senators murmur in their
 seats. Diana stands at the back of the room with Phillipus.
 Hyppolyta orates at the center.

HYPOLYTA
 Ares won't be strong enough to take
 physical form yet. He's been gone
 too long. He'll manipulate the
 (MORE)

(CONTINUED)

HYPPOLYTA (cont'd)
hateful, the weak-willed until he
regains his power. There's no doubt
it's vengeance he'll seek. Upon us,
upon the Goddesses.

A SENATOR raises her voice.

SENATOR
The Goddesses bound him before.
They can do it again.

Hyppolyta shakes her head.

HYPPOLYTA
That was ages ago. Without
followers, without tribute, they've
lost much of their power. Yet Man
still pays War tribute every day.
We need a champion.

Diana perks up, at attention. The Senators look to one
another, carefully.

HYPPOLYTA
All worlds are at risk. We have an
obligation to send an emissary to
warn mankind.

SENATOR II
We owe man nothing. We must fortify
our forces here, prepare for war.

HYPPOLYTA
Ares is our responsibility. We'll
only send one. Our best and
noblest.

Diana steps forward.

DIANA
Can I go?

All of the counsel turns and looks towards Diana. She tilts
just barely under their gazes, but quickly hardens.

HYPPOLYTA
You don't know Patriarch's world,
Diana.

DIANA
The man could escort me.

The counsel protests loudly, indignant.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

I have no bias or resentment for man. I've never met one. I know our culture well, our history. I'm... I'm the most gifted amongst us. Why shouldn't it be me?

Hyppolyta waves Diana away.

HYPPOLYTA

This is a dangerous quest, Diana. You don't know the tricks and wiles of man. You're uneducated, untrained -

DIANA

That's not true!

Hyppolyta turns back towards Diana, surprised. Diana calms.

DIANA

Phillipus has trained me. All my life.

Phillipus winces. Hyppolyta looks to her.

HYPPOLYTA

Is this true, Phillipus?

Phillipus exhales heavily.

PHILLIPUS

Yes, my Queen. She is strong. The strongest I've seen.

Hyppolyta fumes.

HYPPOLYTA

You will not go, Diana. I forbid you.

DIANA

But mother -- !

Hyppolyta raises her voice, overpowering Diana.

HYPPOLYTA

We will hold a tournament in anonymity. There shall be no favoritism. Last Amazon standing will be our champion. She'll take Hephaestus' armor. Phillipus, escort Diana to her room. She is not to leave.

Diana scowls, fuming. Phillipus grabs hold of her arm, escorting her out of the counsel. Diana tears her arm free, walking of her own volition. Phillipus' face sags, sadly.

INT. DIANA'S ROOM - LATER

Diana sits on the edge of her bed, fuming. Phillipus leans against the wall, arms folded, watching Diana very carefully. Hyppolyta storms in from the front door, escorted by a pair of GUARDS wearing Eagle-themed armor. She stands over her daughter, scolding.

HYPPOLYTA

Don't you ever show such a lack of propriety in front of the senate again.

Diana looks up at her mother.

DIANA

All my life, you've sheltered me. You don't know what I can do, what I've learned. To deny me my chance is to doom us all.

HYPPOLYTA

You are my daughter. You will know your place.

DIANA

I am an Amazon. I have rights like any other.

Hyppolyta raises her voice, sternly.

HYPPOLYTA

You are unlike any other. You are blessed beyond any of us.

DIANA

Which is why it should be me!

HYPPOLYTA

I wish only to protect you!

Diana rises to her feet.

DIANA

You say I am as strong as any of you, but everyone here looks down at me like a child. We preach equality, yet I am shunned and quarantined at every turn.

(CONTINUED)

HYPPOLYTA

For your sake. We defend you from a world that would poison you as it poisoned us. There's ugliness and villainy in Man's teachings.

DIANA

But there's goodness too! I've read every book in that library. There is conflict, war, and strife, but progress with it!

HYPPOLYTA

You are my daughter! My only daughter! I will not risk a single hair on your head, for any reason!

Hyppolyta gathers herself. She turns to Phillipus, reclaiming some dignity. Phillipus stands strong, unwavering.

HYPPOLYTA

You've betrayed me, Phillipus.

PHILLIPUS

She has a right to her potential.

Hyppolyta takes a deep, steadying breath.

HYPPOLYTA

You are relieved from your guard of Diana. Forever. Prepare for the tournament.

Phillipus stares at Hyppolyta, cold. She turns and leaves the room. Hyppolyta watches her go. Without looking at Diana:

HYPPOLYTA

You will stay here until the tournament is over.

Hyppolyta exits, avoiding Diana's burning stare. The guards remain, crossing their spears, protecting the door. Diana waits a moment, then plops down on the bed, furious. The guards look behind themselves, checking for Hyppolyta.

GUARD 1

Sometimes, a Queen speaks for herself rather than her people.

The guards uncross their spears. Diana looks up, hopefully.

(CONTINUED)

GUARD 2

This is our darkest hour. We must
meet this task with our mightiest.

Diana stands, smiling slightly.

DIANA

I will not fail.

Diana passes by the guards, sneaking away. The guards watch her go, then smile, their eyes a wet, putrid black.

EXT. COLISEUM

A big stone structure recalling Gladiators and great battles. Amazons crowd the stands, CHEERING. Hyppolyta sits in her own private quarters, observing the action on the field. Next to her, her old battle garb sits atop a pedestal. She looks at it, uncertain.

A warrior in EAGLE armor stands anxiously in the shadows of a corridor. A hand pulls her into the darkness.

In the middle of the arena, an Amazon warrior in BEAR-THEMED armor struggles with a wild, giant eagle. Two other Amazons hold it with lassos as the Bear warrior jumps onto its back, trying to wrap a lasso around its beak.

Diana stands in the shadows of a tunnel, adjusting her new eagle armor, watching the action. The eagle bucks, and hurls off the Bear warrior. She slams into the dirt right by Diana's feet. Diana takes a breath, pulls down her Eagle mask, and heads out onto the field, lasso in hand.

Diana walks steadily towards the wild eagle. It looks at Diana, furious, screeching, the two Amazons barely keeping it in place. Diana raises her hand. The eagle stares at Diana, calming slightly, but still fighting.

Diana approaches the eagle, gently placing her hand on the eagle's neck. The eagle breathes heavily, sits, and bows, tamed. Diana easily wraps the lasso around its beak. The eagle barely snarls.

The audience CHEERS. Hyppolyta observes, suspicious. Diana returns to the tunnel. A SCRIBE murmurs.

SCRIBE

If she can tame that beast, man
should be no problem.

(CONTINUED)

Phillipus, wearing Tiger armor, stares at Diana's mask. Diana exits, and the eagle once again whips into a frenzy. Phillipus pulls down her mask, then marches out onto the field.

The eagle screeches. Phillipus doesn't waste a moment, jumping into the air and slamming a fist atop the eagle's head. The eagle smashes into the dirt, unconscious. The crowd CHEERS, deafening.

LATER

Diana, in her Eagle armor, stares down an Amazon in MONKEY armor at the center of the field. A third Amazon stands between them, holding a jar. The Amazon opens it, and a Golden Ball floats out. The Amazon runs off the field.

The Ball jets sideways, and Diana deflects it with her bracelets. The Monkey warrior does the same. They volley it back and forth as it arcs, zigzags, and cuts, quickening all the time. Diana strikes it hard, and it nails the Monkey warrior, knocking her to the dirt.

Diana raises an arm to the cheering crowds. The Monkey Warrior lifts her mask, revealing a pretty face staring up at Diana furiously.

LATER

Phillipus stands over a fallen WOLF warrior. She snatches the Golden Ball out of the air.

LATER

SQUIRE

Final Battle! Winner shall be our
champion!

Diana and Phillipus emerge from individual tunnels. Not a single Amazon remains in their seat, including Hyppolyta, who leans over her railing.

Diana and Phillipus stare each other down from behind their masks, each holding a sword steadily. They slide into stable battle stances.

Phillipus charges Diana, fast, strong. Diana does her best, trying to keep up. She parries, takes over the offensive, and knocks Phillipus to the dirt with a firm kick. Phillipus quickly rolls to her feet.

(CONTINUED)

Phillipus sprints at Diana, overwhelming her with speed and strength. Diana deflects swipes with her bracelets, dodging and weaving desperately. Phillipus, however, manages to disarm her of her sword.

The Monkey Warrior watches from a tunnel. Something rattles in the shadows. The Monkey Warrior turns, looking into the darkness behind her. Carefully, she grabs her sword, and strides into the shadows.

Hyppolyta watches the action carefully. The scribe murmurs beside her, and Hyppolyta listens.

SCRIBE

Could both be Phillipus?

Diana raises her arms high to block a swing of the sword, and Phillipus drives a forearm into her gut. Diana doubles over, and Phillipus backhands her, knocking off her helmet and throwing her to the dirt.

Diana rolls in the dirt to the GASPS of the audience. Phillipus puts her blade at Diana's throat. Diana looks up at her, frightened.

Hyppolyta spots her daughter, horrified.

HYPOLYTA

It's done! The battle's over!

Phillipus pulls off her helmet, and looks down at Diana, disappointed.

HYPOLYTA

We have our champion.

Phillipus reaches for Diana's hand and pulls her up onto her feet. The Monkey Warrior emerges from a tunnel, eyes wet and black, sword in hand.

Phillipus ambivalently raises a victorious fist to CHEERS. Diana bows her head and shuts her eyes, shamed. Hyppolyta calms for a moment, but then spots the Monkey Warrior advancing.

HYPOLYTA

Look out!

Phillipus spots the Monkey Warrior driving her blade towards Diana. Phillipus throws Diana to the dirt and takes the sword in her chest.

The audience gasps. The Monkey Warrior slides out the sword, and Phillipus collapses to the dirt, dying. Warriors rush to the battlefield and tackle the Monkey Warrior, pinning her to the ground, pulling her arms behind her back. The Monkey Warrior stares at a petrified Diana, smiling proudly.

INT. THRONE ROOM, KASNIA

A huge, temple-like room, with great columns stretching to a high ceiling. The room has been militarized: tables, maps, and schematics rob it of its elegance. PRESIDENT LANCASTER, 55, a rotund man in military uniform, sits solemnly in a fragile throne, contemplating the ticking of a projector. An interview loops on a wall:

MRS LANCASTER, 50, sits at a table during a press conference.

MRS LANCASTER

We must seek peace. We must find common ground.

Around a corner, an ATTENDANT, 20, cleanly cut and uniformed, sits against a wall, dozing. Suddenly he lifts his head, his eyes black. A folder manifests itself in his hands. The attendant rushes into the room, document in hand.

ATTENDANT

Mr President! Mr President!

Lancaster looks up, exhausted.

LANCASTER

What is it?

ATTENDANT

We've got him, sir. Eli Murdoch, photographed in Candola!

Lancaster, suddenly at attention, gestures for the document. The Attendant hands it to him, eagerly.

LANCASTER

Is it recent?

ATTENDANT

Today, sir. What are the orders?

Lancaster considers the documents. He turns his back, watching the interview.

(CONTINUED)

LANCASTER
Bomb him to hell.

The Attendant nods, and walks away. Lancaster leans against the throne, shaken. A distance away, the Attendant smiles to himself, his eyes burning black.

INT. ARMOR'S TOMB

The armor again sits on its old pedestal. Hyppolyta watches from outside as the GUARDS again push the great boulder over the entrance.

INT. MEDICAL QUARTERS

Phillipus lays atop a stone table in a dark room, pale, empty, a sheet pulled up to her chest. Diana sits at another table, staring at the fallen Phillipus as EPIONE, an Amazon doctor, treats her minor scrapes. Hyppolyta stands over Phillipus, sadly.

HYPPOLYTA
We haven't buried one of our own in
over two thousand years.

Hyppolyta pulls the sheet over Phillipus' face. Diana looks up at her mother.

HYPPOLYTA
Do you see now how dire this is?

Hyppolyta rubs her face.

DIANA
I want to go after him.

Hyppolyta turns to Diana, bereaved.

HYPPOLYTA
Ares is stronger than we thought.
We must look inwards now. We summon
our priestesses. Ready our guard.

DIANA
We must go out. We must mend our
bridges with Patriarch's world.
Divided we fall.

HYPPOLYTA
Patriarch's world is violence and
deceit.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

Then let's change that! I'll avenge
Phillipus, I promise you!

Diana tears herself free from Epione.

DIANA

I'll heal on my own.

HYPPOLYTA

It's your foolishness that fell
Phillipus.

Diana winces, hurt.

HYPPOLYTA

There is no place for vengeance
among Amazons. Especially when it
concerns a God who feasts on
hatred. Themyscira will never
accept you as its champion.

Hyppolyta turns her back, heading for the exit. Diana
scowls, boiling.

DIANA

You can't stop me.

Diana jumps to her feet and bursts into the air, smashing
through the ceiling as she takes off. Hyppolyta, shocked,
whips around, addressing a GUARD.

HYPPOLYTA

Alert the guard! Get to the
prisoner!

The guard nods, off to the races.

EXT/INT. ARMOR'S TOMB - NIGHT

A brigade of Amazon guards rush along the dirt road. Diana
hides patiently behind a bush until they pass, then turns
her attention towards the armor's tomb.

The armor sits on its pedestal. The huge rock sealing the
exit begins to roll, Diana pushing it with mighty strength.

Diana rounds the boulder, approaching the pedestal. She
picks up the tiara, looking it over.

INT. PRISON CELL - LATER

Steve still hangs from his chains, moonlight shining upon him from the hole in the roof. He pulls on his chains as hard as he can, futilely, torches burning around him. He hears some rustling.

EXT. OUTSIDE PRISON CELL

A dozen guards or more ready themselves in front of the cell's door, back turned to it, spears ready. A CAPTAIN addresses them all sternly from the center of the line.

CAPTAIN

None pass!

INT. PRISON CELL

Steve listens attentively. Something blocks the moonlight bathing him. Steve looks up. Diana drops down through the hole, wearing her mother's battle garb, in all its reds, blues, and golds. Atop her head sits the tiara. She is WONDER WOMAN.

STEVE

And you are?

DIANA

I am Diana, Princess of Themyscira.
I need your help stopping a common enemy.

STEVE

The enemy of my enemy is my friend.

Diana and Steve hear shifting rock, moonlight disappearing. They look upwards, and a massive boulder seals the hole in the roof.

EXT. OUTSIDE PRISON CELL

A group of guards stand atop the rocky roof, stepping away from the massive boulder. The other guards change their position, pointing their spears at the door.

CAPTAIN

We have you cornered, Princess.
Surrender now! Leave that swine alone!

INT. PRISON CELL

STEVE

Swine? What'd I do? That you guys know about?

DIANA

I'm not your enemy. I'm your best chance at survival. You and I must escape the island, alert all who will listen. You are an American soldier, correct?

STEVE

Sort of.

Diana grabs hold of Steve's chains, easily tearing them free from the wall. Steve YELPS as he falls flat on his face.

DIANA

We must warn your superiors. We've no time to waste.

Steve pulls himself up from the dirt. He picks up a fist sized rock, and shoves Diana behind him.

STEVE

Alright. You being a Princess and all, I say we play this like a hostage situation. If they think you're in danger, maybe we can both get out.

Behind Steve's back, Diana easily picks up a rock a hundred times the size of Steve's. He turns, and blanches as he sees it. He barely steps aside as she hurls it.

EXT. OUTSIDE PRISON CELL

Diana's rock bursts out from the cell, smashing the front door to splinters, guards diving out of the way.

Diana leaps out of the cell, tearing through the Amazons with fists and kicks, demolishing guard after guard, too fast and too strong.

Hyppolyta rounds a corner, catching sight of her daughter laying waste to the guards. Just as Diana puts down the last of them, Hyppolyta approaches her, grabbing her shoulder from behind. Diana reacts blindly, sweeping her mother to the floor.

(CONTINUED)

Diana turns, still ready for battle, finding her Mother on the ground, shocked and frightened.

HYPPOLYTA

You don't know the horrors of Man's world. Leave now and you forsake us all. You will be a stranger to us. To me.

The guards hold their positions, clutching their weapons anxiously. Diana scowls, grabs hold of a baffled Steve, then takes off into the night sky. Hyppolyta stares from the ground after her daughter, heartbroken.

INT. STONE HOME, CANDOLA

Murdoch stands beneath the weak light of a lamp in a tan, stone structure. He looks over a blueprint on a table intently: the invisible jet. A sudden explosion from outside brings the walls down.

EXT. CANDOLA

Devastation and fire rain upon the many stone buildings of a small, old town. Murdoch emerges from flaming wreckage, dizzy, panicked. He looks around himself, stumbling as he tries to run. Another bomb drops in the distance, a burst of fire climbing into the sky.

When the smoke clears, Murdoch finds himself protected beneath a singed, hulking frame. Heracles lifts his head, and stands to his feet, his clothes charred but his body unaffected. Murdoch nods gratefully.

MURDOCH

We'll need weapons.

INT. BUNKER - LATER

Darnell paces a catwalk, lost in thought. Scientists go through the motions, doing tests on the jets. An immense, thunderous THUD begins to echo.

People look around the immensity of the bunker, then finally towards the retractable roof. They stare as it trembles, shaken by a mighty blow. It begins to drip water. Etta stares up at the roof. Emmitt unbuckles his gun holster.

(CONTINUED)

EMMITT

I got a feeling you should find
some cover, sweety.

Finally, the roof breaks open, and Heracles bursts through.

Heracles drops to the floor, soaking wet, a set of steel barriers sealing up the hole behind him. The soldiers train their guns on him, opening fire. They do little but irritate him, and he takes out a unit with a swipe of his fist.

Heracles devastates the Bunker's defenses, leveling soldiers with massive blows and hurled machinery, all the while making his way towards the invisible planes.

Emmitt makes a break for one of the jets, strapping himself into the cockpit. He flips some levers, and the jet warms up, getting Heracles' attention.

Darnell speeds down the catwalk. He runs into Steve.

EMMITT

Steve? How'd you get here?

STEVE

You're about to find out.

Heracles stalks towards the plane as Emmitt opens fire with the jet's artillery. Heracles buries his face in his arm, and marches through the shells, hardly affected. Emmitt's eyes bulge as Heracles reaches the nose, then climbs atop the plane, prying the hood open.

Heracles grabs hold of Emmitt, and rips him out from the jet. He hurls Emmitt aside, but Diana snatches him out of the air. They roll across the floor at a blazing speed. Diana ends up on top of a stunned Emmitt.

DIANA

Find some cover.

Heracles slides into the cockpit, the lid closing back down atop him. He works it with expertise, hitting buttons rapidly. The roof above the bunker opens up to sunlight.

Diana spots Heracles in the plane. She scowls.

DIANA

Heracles...

Soldiers set their guns upon the jet. Etta screams from behind a desk.

(CONTINUED)

ETTA

Don't even think about firing on
that thing!

The soldiers hesitate. The jet rises towards the open roof, unhindered. Diana shoots up after it as it ascends, and catches hold of the tail. A blast of its jet engine sends her hurtling back towards the floor of the bunker, dazed.

Diana quickly gathers herself, and follows up after the jet and into the sky. Heracles flicks a switch, and a missile drops from the wing, tumbling towards the inside of the bunker.

STEVE

Don't let that thing hit!

Everyone gasps and screams as the missile tumbles downwards. Diana shoots down after it, catching the back of it, inches before it hits the floor.

Soldiers immediately encircle Diana, pointing their guns at her as she drops gently to the floor. She looks around herself, confused. Steve fights through the crowds towards her, clamoring for attention.

STEVE

Hey! Come on, calm down guys.

Diana pokes the muzzle of a rifle with childish curiosity. The soldier pulls it away, and Diana withdraws, embarrassed. Emmitt pushes guns down. Darnell makes his way to the floor.

DARNELL

What the hell's going on here?

Steve exhales, heavily.

STEVE

Have I got a story for you.

Diana nods her head towards the missile she holds perfectly still.

DIANA

So what is this thing, anyway?

INT. WAR ROOM

Secretary of Defense VENESSA EDWARDS, 60, in a crisp pantsuit and every bone of her body all business, sits at the head of a long table, listening impatiently as an ADMIRAL meanders about a power-point presentation.

A PAGE enters the room.

PAGE
Madame Secretary.

Venessa waves the page over. The page quietly whispers into her ear.

VENESSA
Wait. What kind of girl?

INT. BUNKER

Emmitt stands with Diana in a clearing, showing off a lasso trick or two before trying to teach her the basics. Etta watches, mildly jealous. Diana takes to the lasso with childish enthusiasm.

EMMITT
Gotta do something to pass the time, right?

Etta pulls on Emmitt's sleeve, and stares up at him accusingly.

EMMITT
What? She reminds me of you.
Only...

Etta curls an eyebrow at him.

EMMITT
Uglier.

Etta snickers.

Steve and Darnell stand on a catwalk overlooking Diana, each of them leaning over a railing.

DARNELL
So she's a super powered Princess from an uncharted island, and she's here to keep the God of War from taking over the planet.

Steve nods, somewhat embarrassed.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE

Well, everything sounds dumb if you say it all smug like that.

DARNELL

After what just happened, I'm willing to leave procedure at the door. But that still doesn't excuse you bringing an unaffiliated here.

STEVE

I was taken captive. I had to get back. Plus... she saved us today.

DARNELL

Steve, please. Think about this from my side. How are we supposed to trust her?

STEVE

Haven't you noticed it's kind of hard not to? She's got a way about her...

Steve watches Diana perform a nice lasso trick.

STEVE

So here's the deal. We're in an arms race now, and as this bunker can attest, Kasnia's ahead. We want to stand a chance, we're going to need her help. And I think I'm entitled to a finder's fee. Think of me as her manager.

Darnell snickers.

DARNELL

What are you using all this money for, Steve? You have no family. You sure as hell aren't living the high life.

STEVE

Man's got debts.

DARNELL

Never knew you took your bar tabs so seriously.

Steve stares at Diana, smiling.

(CONTINUED)

DARNELL
She's in your head.

Steve shoots Darnell a snide look.

STEVE
What's another pretty girl?

DARNELL
That girl's more than pretty.
Nothing's more dangerous than a
beautiful woman. They'll ruin your
life without even realizing.

Darnell looks at Diana, considering.

DARNELL
I can't protect you if she
compromises anything we're doing
here.

Steve pulls away slightly, noticing Diana dropping gently atop one of the prized planes.

DARNELL
Like a billion dollar plane, for
instance.

ETTA
Hey!

Darnell whips around and spots Diana squatting atop the nose of the plane, looking into the cockpit, fascinated.

ETTA
Get down from there!

As Steve races after her, Darnell gets a call. He pulls his phone from his pocket, and lifts it to his ear, annoyed.

DARNELL
Who is this?

Steve quickly speeds down some stairs onto a platform. He hops a railing, lands on the wing of the plane, and walks towards Diana. Etta calls up from the floor.

STEVE
Chill out, Etta.

Diana briefly glances at Etta, then back to Steve, confused.

STEVE

You can't just wander wherever you like around here. It's a sensitive area.

DIANA

Is this the same craft you crashed into my island?

Steve frowns.

STEVE

Yeah. If you want to put it super bluntly.

Diana surveys the ship, delighted. Steve smiles, and bends down. He opens up the top, exposing the cockpit.

STEVE

I'll show you how it works. This is the stick. Right over here, we got the ejection lever.

Diana grins just a little bit, very attentive. Steve looks her over affectionately. She catches him. He quickly looks away, clearing his throat.

DIANA

You're staring.

STEVE

No I'm not.

Diana gestures towards Emmitt consoling Etta. He cleans her glasses on his sleeve before handing them back to her. She smiles, relaxing.

DIANA

Yes you are. Just like he stares at her. Like I'm beautiful.

Steve shakes his head, embarrassed.

STEVE

You remind me of someone.

Diana nods, thoughtfully.

DIANA

Aphrodite gave me a gift. People look at me and they see what's most beautiful to them. Emmitt looks at me... he sees his wife. It's

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

DIANA (cont'd)
extraordinary what they have. This
girl I remind you of... did you
love her?

Steve rubs his face, bashfully.

STEVE
Yeah. I did.

DIANA
What happened?

STEVE
I killed her.

Diana tilts towards him, intrigued.

STEVE
I don't talk about it. There was a
crash. I lived. She didn't. That's
all.

DIANA
No it isn't.

Steve frowns.

DIANA
I see the truth of things. One of
my gifts.

STEVE
That's not fair. Man's not a man
without his lies.

DIANA
So I'm told.

Diana and Steve smile, looking back down at the plane. Steve
looks her over again, good humour fading.

STEVE
Maybe you should think about going
home. To your mother. I'm sure
she's worried about you.

Diana takes a seat, letting her legs dangle over the side of
the plane.

DIANA

I've read a million stories about men like you. Noble, chivalrous, vigilant.

STEVE

Have you ever got the wrong read on me.

DIANA

I'm afraid you don't understand this story. It's not your fault, there aren't many like it: I am here to protect you.

EXT. DESERT CAMP

A small base of tents, with South Kasnian soldiers maneuvering through it. Suddenly, an incredible storm of sand and dirt whips up. Soldiers scatter. Tents whip.

Murdoch fumbles his way out the largest tent, searching for a cause. Very suddenly, the Invisible Jet appears in a clearing. The powerful gusts cease as it lands.

Heracles emerges from the cockpit. Murdoch smiles broadly.

INT. BUNKER

The entire staff of the bunker buzzes around, lining up in neat orderly rows. Diana observes the soldiers standing at attention. Steve sits on a crate.

DIANA

What's going on?

STEVE

The Secretary of Defense is dropping in. Everybody's putting on a show in hopes of not getting chewed out.

Diana looks again to the soldiers standing at attention. She straightens her back, trying to mimic them.

Huge bay doors open as Venessa enters into the bunker, escorted by a few of Darnell's men. Soldiers salute rigidly as Venessa passes by. Steve, not even looking, flicks his wrist near his head, half heartedly.

(CONTINUED)

Diana gets on her tiptoes, trying to get a look at the approaching Venessa. Soon as she does, Diana kneels, bowing her head humbly. Steve curls an eyebrow at her.

Venessa approaches a sullen but respectful Darnell, Etta and Emmitt standing on either side of him.

VENESSA

Got a lot to answer for here,
Darnell.

DARNELL

Good to see you too, Venessa.

Venessa observes a piece of debris on the floor. She kicks it aside.

VENESSA

Looks like you finally got a look
at that South Kasnian weapon you
were all so worried about.

Steve speaks up, sitting cross legged atop his box.

STEVE

Why go to all the trouble? One
plane's not gonna win a war.

Everyone shoots Steve a scolding glance. Venessa begins, indifferently.

VENESSA

It was armed with a nuclear
warhead.

Steve freezes. Emmitt tries to withhold his shock.

DIANA

What's a nuclear war head?

Steve shoots to his feet, stomping towards Venessa and her entourage, enraged.

STEVE

You had me fly a nuclear-armed jet
over a warzone?!

Diana steps between Steve and Venessa in a flash. She hurls him on his ass, standing guard. Steve looks up at her, humiliated.

Venessa pats Diana on the shoulder and shoves her aside.

VENESSA

Stand down.

Diana relaxes slightly. Darnell speaks to Steve, calmly.

ETTA

Your's was unarmed. It was a test,
like we said.

STEVE

How considerate.

Venessa removes her glasses.

ETTA

We leaked the information that we
had an undetectable plane. We
thought we could scare the Kasnians
into docility.

Steve SNEERS, pulling himself up.

STEVE

Now you've armed them enough to
hold an entire world hostage.

DARNELL

They don't have the launch codes.
They can't fire.

VENESSA

We can't have this. How much time
does intel say we have before they
try to overtake the palace?

Etta shrugs.

ETTA

A day. If that.

VENESSA

Gather your best men, General.
Stealth mission. Meet them at the
palace. Take down the plane,
disable the bomb.

Darnell looks to Diana.

DARNELL

You think you can handle the big
guy?

Diana can't help but flash a slight and eager smile.

(CONTINUED)

Diana takes her seat. Venessa calmly plops down on the cot across from her.

VENESSA

I assume it's Ares that brings you here?

Diana nods, surprised.

VENESSA

We can handle it. Go home.

Diana narrows her eyes.

DIANA

It was Heracles who took your ship.

Venessa sighs.

VENESSA

Yes.

DIANA

The same Heracles that tore down Themyscira. I've the right to avenge my people.

VENESSA

For someone supposedly at my service, you sure have a mouth on you.

DIANA

Goddess, this is dire. We need to draw together. Summon your sisters, protect them.

VENESSA

Let him do what he wants with them. He won't get to me.

DIANA

This is Ares. All are at risk.

VENESSA

Ares can only fan a flame, not spark it. Long as we keep Kasnia in check, we'll be fine. Go home.

Diana stands up, defiant.

DIANA

There won't be anything left of my home if you don't let me stop him.

Venessa follows Diana to her feet, tiredly.

VENESSA

Times have changed. Man is as God now, and Woman too. There's no place for brute strength and blind righteousness.

DIANA

Complacency can not be the answer!

VENESSA

Complacency no, but diplomacy yes. Centuries of conflict won't be resolved by an ignorant demigod imposing her will.

Diana balls her fists, trembling with rage. Venessa calms.

VENESSA

You haven't any clue what you are.

Venessa shakes her head, and heads for the door.

VENESSA

We gave you so much of ourselves. If Ares were to take control of you, little girl... you'd be a weapon unlike the world has ever seen.

Diana calms, watching Venessa slide her ID across a digital lock.

DIANA

What's in Kasnia? What are you keeping from me?

Venessa freezes, momentarily stunned.

VENESSA

You're staying here. We can take care of Ares.

Diana drops back into her seat, reluctantly. Venessa closes the door behind her.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

No you can't.

INT. HELICOPTER - LATER

Steve sits head bowed in a massive, black ops copter. He wears dark stealth gear, as do a dozen other SOLDIERS. Across from Steve, Emmitt shuts his eyes.

STEVE

Gotta toughen up. They all look to you, you know.

Emmitt exhales slowly, staring at a picture of Etta in his hands. Steve opens a pocket, and extracts Helen's patch, looking down at it.

STEVE

No man left behind?

Emmitt looks up at Steve, nodding.

EMMITT

No man left behind.

INT. BUNKER

Darnell, Venessa, and Etta watch as the Helicopter begins to take off, whipping wind throughout the bunker. The roof opens up, and the Helicopter escapes through it.

Darnell turns and passes Venessa, muttering bitterly:

DARNELL

Madame Secretary, it is the custom of this branch to be afforded a certain level of autonomy...

VENESSA

Look where that got us. You should have more confidence in your men.

Etta watches the two of them.

DARNELL

This is senseless. Send the girl. Spare their lives.

VENESSA

Your's is not to reason why, Soldier. There's more to this than you can understand.

(CONTINUED)

As Venessa passes by, Darnell pulls a syringe out from his coat, and drives it into her neck. Venessa quickly passes out, crumpling to the floor.

Darnell looks to a shocked Etta.

ETTA

What are you doing?!

DARNELL

I'm saving lives.

INT. PRIVATES QUARTERS - MOMENTS LATER

Diana sits hunched on her cot, quietly furious. She turns her head only slightly as the door opens and Darnell enters.

DARNELL

You got any fight in you, girl?

DIANA

What about the secretary?

DARNELL

She changed her mind.

Diana narrows her eyes at him, suspicious.

DIANA

You're lying.

Darnell folds his arms.

DARNELL

Do you care?

Diana grins.

INT. HELICOPTER - NIGHT

Steve sits calmly on the bench, eyes shut as the copter rumbles along. The pilot calls to him from the driver's seat over the WHIPPING of the blades.

PILOT

There's something approaching fast!
But I can't get a visual!

Steve opens his eyes, considering the pilot. He looks to Emmitt.

(CONTINUED)

EMMITT

Open up the hatch.

Steve stands to his feet, holding onto a girder as he heads towards the back of the plane. Carefully, he descends the hatch as it opens. He looks into the night sky, wind in his face.

Hardly a moment, and Diana jets into the copter, landing on the bottom of the hatch, mere feet from Steve. He looks at her, startled.

DIANA

Reinforcements.

Steve smiles.

EXT. SMALL FARM HOME

A humble stone home, isolated in the woods, with a small but well-tended field of crops. ARTEMIS (55) emerges from the woods, in frumpy, masculine clothing. She carries a rifle slung over her shoulder, and a pair of rabbits in her hand.

Artemis strides towards the home, walking through some stocks of corn. As she comes upon the house, she notices the wooden door, smashed to pieces. Nervously, she readies her rifle and enters.

INT. SMALL FARM HOME

Artemis tiptoes through the entrance of a very comfortable, rural sort of home. She enters the kitchen, finding DEMETER (50, heavyset and motherly) dead on the floor, next to some spilt grain.

Artemis stifles a GASP. A bearded FARMHAND (30, thin and wild) appears behind her, his eyes burning black. He surprises her, driving his gnarly blade into her back.

Artemis GURGLES. The farmhand slides out his sword, and Artemis drops to her knees, still staring at the fallen Demeter, heartbroken. She falls forward, her head landing in Demeter's lap.

FARMHAND/ARES

That's three.

INT. HELICOPTER - LATER

Diana sits calmly, patiently on a bench. The soldiers crowd the opposite end of the copter. Gently, she begins to nod off.

DREAM SEQUENCE

A horrible SCREECH wakes her. A massive, scaly tail suddenly smashes through the center of the helicopter, ripping it in half.

The helicopter's debris tumbles through the air. Diana, stuck to her seat, looks upwards: a great ball of fire burns behind the clouds, lighting the night sky, gargantuan serpents swimming in and out. At the center of it all, Diana sees the ghostly specter of Phillipus, serene, sublime.

END DREAM SEQUENCE

Diana wakes with a start, panting. She looks around the undamaged helicopter. Steve curls an eyebrow at her from the other bench.

Diana takes a deep, trembling breath, trying to calm herself. Steve gets up, and approaches her, tenderly.

STEVE

We're glad to have you part of the team.

Steve reaches into a pocket, and places the patch marked 'SANDSMARK' atop Diana's hand. Diana opens her eyes, looking down at it, surprised. Steve shyly takes a seat next to her.

STEVE

You need a shield if you're going to fly with us. Policy.

Steve watches Diana shut her eyes and take labored gasps of air.

STEVE

Her name was Helen. You'd have liked her. Everyone did. All the good things a person can be, she was. Folks like that can't help but be drawn to the saps that need them most. I guess that was me.

Diana looks up at him.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE

We were flying over Kasnia. Two planes, dropping supplies to one of our bases. I drew a tail. Couldn't shake it. She, uh...

Steve trails off, then vaguely swipes at the air with his hand.

STEVE

If she'd have thought about it for even a second, she'd have seen how dumb it was. She meant so much to so many. All I had was her. But I get it. When a person means that much to you, they become your right and wrong. There's for them... and then there's nothing. She didn't think. She just saw I was in trouble... and she had to help.

Steve CLEARS his throat, gathering himself. He looks to Diana, who still quakes in her seat.

STEVE

Never figured you for a bad flyer. Here.

Steve reaches for some straps, and goes to wrap Diana in them. She suddenly pulls away from him. Steve retreats a bit, embarrassed. He slides down the bench a little.

STEVE

Sorry.

DIANA

Wait.

Diana grabs his hand.

DIANA

It's not your fault.

Diana gestures for him to come closer. He obliges, and hesitantly, she begins, whispering:

DIANA

My race has a curse: should any man bind us, we lose our strength.

Steve looks at her, quizzically.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE
It's a seatbelt.

DIANA
It's a pretty strict curse.

Steve shakes his head.

STEVE
Why are you telling me this?

Diana steadies herself, and shrugs.

DIANA
You trust me. I trust you.

INT. THRONE ROOM

Lancaster sits on his throne, head bowed, solemn. The attendant enters, carrying a walkie-talkie.

ATTENDANT
Sir. We have a radio transmission.
From Mr Murdoch.

Lancaster looks up. He stands to his feet, gestures for the device.

LANCASTER
You're alive? Commendable. You must
be calling to arrange your
surrender.

INT. SEWERS

Murdoch stands with a dozen men (SK SOLDIERS) in a cold wet cavern, dressed in blue, guns in their arms. Heracles stands with them, leaning against a huge valve. Murdoch holds a walkie-talkie and speaks into it.

MURDOCH
Afraid not, Mr Lancaster.

INT. THRONE ROOM

Lancaster looks to a balcony, wandering towards it.

LANCASTER
President Lancaster.

(CONTINUED)

MURDOCH(OS)
Not for long.

EXT. BALCONY

Lancaster steps up to the railing of a massive, stone balcony. He looks over the compound. NK soldiers, dressed in tan, idly stand guard.

MURDOCH(OS)
Release my wife. Then surrender. No terms.

Lancaster SNEERS.

LANCASTER
Come on, then. You're living off borrowed time as is.

Suddenly, Lancaster notices something: a strange translucent blotch in the night sky. The blotch shimmers, then reveals the stolen plane.

The jet unleashes its arms on the compound, totally devastating. NK soldiers retreat back into the palace. Bombs punch holes in the gates. SK soldiers sprint in through the openings, following after the North Kasnians.

INT. SEWERS

Murdoch listens carefully to his radio. He nods, then turns it off.

MURDOCH
They're in. Move along.

Heracles nods, easily tearing the latch off the wall. Murdoch and the soldiers follow behind him.

INT. BALCONY

Lancaster begins backpedalling as the plane sets its sights on the balcony. He runs into the palace.

INT. THRONE ROOM

Lancaster and his attendants all hit the deck as the plane unloads its artillery on the palace. Machinegun fire tears the throne room to shreds, sending stone shards and debris hurtling through the air.

Lancaster, covering up, screams at the Attendant:

LANCASTER
Get that wife of his!

The Attendant rolls out of the throne room, pulling out his gun.

INT. HELICOPTER, KASNIAN AIRSPACE

Diana stands next to the pilot, watching through the front window as the helicopter approaches the scene. Steve and the other soldiers start putting on their gear.

EMMITT
First thing's first! We gotta do
something about that jet!

DIANA
Open the hatch.

The pilot obeys. The back of the helicopter opens, and Diana turns towards it.

DIANA
Don't reveal yourselves until I'm
finished.

Diana drops out of the back of the craft, tumbling through the night.

EXT. KASNIAN AIRSPACE

Diana maneuvers through the air, and rockets towards the attacking jet. The SK PILOT keeps it steady, firing upon the palace. Suddenly, Diana drops down on top of the cockpit. The pilot looks up at her, stunned.

Diana drives a fist into the top, and tears it off the plane. She calmly reaches past the pilot, and pulls on the ejection lever.

(CONTINUED)

The SK pilot bursts upwards into the night sky, and deploys his parachute. Diana leans into the cockpit, and pulls on the stick. The jet spins through the air, descending. Finally, it skids across the dirt, crashing safely.

Diana, standing atop the nose of the plane, looks to the sky.

INT. HELICOPTER

Steve looks down out through the hatch, at Diana. Emmitt emerges beside him.

EMMITT

That'll work.

Steve and the soldiers grab their things, attach cords to the girder, and zipline down out of the plane.

EXT. KASNIAN PALACE

Steve is the first to land on the dirt, and the other US soldiers follow after him. They rush towards the crashed plane.

INT. NATASHA'S CELL, KASNIAN PALACE

Natasha sits on the floor of an empty cell, quietly, strongly, unaffected by the sounds of EXPLOSIONS and GUNFIRE. A door opens, and the Attendant enters.

INT. THRONE ROOM

Lancaster looks up, the throne room relatively peaceful. He stands to his feet, and rushes for a doorway. He rounds a corner, and finds Murdoch holding a pistol in his face.

MURDOCH

How about rethinking that
surrender?

Lancaster backpedals. He spots a gun on the floor.

LANCASTER

Can't do it, Eli.

MURDOCH

You've lost. Do the honorable
thing. Face trial.

(CONTINUED)

LANCASTER

Right. A jury of my peers, I
imagine?

Murdoch holds his gun readily. Lancaster reaches for the
pistol.

MURDOCH

Don't. We've had enough bloodshed.

Lancaster grabs the pistol. Murdoch fires.

EXT. KASNIAN PALACE

Diana, Steve, and the US soldiers hide behind the fallen
plane, protected from gunfire. Emmitt works inside the
ship's open belly, tinkering carefully.

EMMITT

It's not here!

STEVE

What?!

EMMITT

No warhead! They moved it!

Emmitt slams down the latch of the belly, furious. Diana
peers around the plane and towards the palace.

DIANA

Where are Murdoch and Heracles most
likely to be found?

STEVE

Tracking down Lancaster, so the
throne room.

DIANA

Stay safe.

Diana takes off into the air, heading for the palace.

STEVE

Wait!

Steve watches Diana go. He considers carefully.

STEVE

Dammit.

Steve reluctantly makes a move around the jet. Emmitt
reaches for him, grasping his uniform.

(CONTINUED)

EMMITT

Are you crazy?!

STEVE

She doesn't know what she's doing.

EMMITT

If we don't leave now, we're going home in pine boxes! She's the only one who even stands a chance in there!

STEVE

She's one of us! No man, no woman left behind!

Emmitt, irritated, releases Steve. Steve lowers his voice.

STEVE

What if it were Etta?

Emmitt pulls back, cursing slightly as he looks around at his soldiers.

EMMITT

Let's go do something stupid.

Emmitt grabs a grenade off his belt and hurls it over the plane. A huge burst of smoke pours into the sky.

The other soldiers grab grenades off their belt, hurling them over the plane. Huge explosions detonate. The US soldiers whip around the plane, guns blazing.

INT. THRONE ROOM

Murdoch wipes down his pistol. Heracles stands behind him, quiet.

MURDOCH

Let's go get Natasha.

A chunk of the roof caves in as Diana smashes her way down into the throne room, kneeling on the floor. Murdoch straightens, shocked. Heracles turns slowly, unimpressed.

HERACLES

Think you'll have to manage on your own.

Heracles cracks his fists. Diana stands, hardening. Murdoch looks from one to the other, then scurries out of the throne room.

(CONTINUED)

HERACLES

Heard about you. Hyppolyta's girl,
right? You look like her.

Diana doesn't say a word as Heracles circles.

HERACLES

If you see her... tell her it
wasn't personal.

Diana and Heracles charge at each other. She quickly sidesteps a massive punch, and staggers him with a great hook of her own. She presses as he stumbles, catching him again and again.

INT. FOYER, KASNIAN PALACE

The SK soldiers rush into a massive entranceway, maneuvering around a fountain and up dual staircases. A huge burst of smoke and gas erupts behind them. SK soldiers cough and hack.

A shadow slides through the smoke and past the SK soldiers, unnoticed. Steve whips around a corner, far past the soldiers. He tears off his smokemask he wears before moving stealthily on.

The US soldiers burst in, and begin an expert attack.

INT. THRONE ROOM

Diana drives Heracles into a massive column, shaking the entire room. He crumples to the floor, a broken mass. Diana turns away from him, satisfied in his demolition.

A black shadow slides along the floor, unnoticed. It comes upon Heracles, and he gasps shocked new breaths, his eyes burning a deep black. He CHUCKLES.

HERACLES/ARES

You're even more wonderful than I
hoped.

Diana pauses, recognizing a strange timbre as Heracles rises to his feet, smiling.

HERACLES/ARES

It still won't be enough. War rages
on, in spite of noblest intentions.
Hell, thanks to noblest intentions.

(CONTINUED)

Diana looks to catch Heracles with a knee, but he grabs a hold of her, throwing her to the floor.

HERACLES/ARES

You don't think maybe you're biting
off more than you can chew? Rushing
in all sound and fury?

Heracles leaps, very high, and tries to stomp down on Diana. She rolls out of the way, but he forces her on the defensive, blocking his wide, furious strikes.

Heracles catches Diana again, and throws her across the room, smashing through a column. He picks up a massive piece of debris, lifting it over his head.

HERACLES/ARES

There's darkness beneath the
surface here.

Diana scowls, furious. She sweeps Heracles legs out from under him, and he falls to the floor, the piece of debris on top of him. Diana jumps, and stomps down, shattering through the debris and into his abdomen.

Heracles laughs, amused. Diana mounts him, and drops fist after fist across his face. He hurls her off, but she floats down onto her feet. Heracles rolls up to his knees, and Diana jets towards him, tackling him around the waist.

Heracles smiles, digs his heels into the ground, and flips Diana over, slamming her to the floor. She tries to get up quickly, but he kicks her in the abdomen. She stumbles, and he grabs her by the throat, lifting her into the air. She chokes, struggling futilely.

HERACLES/ARES

What's it going to take, little
girl?

The familiar Ares shadow slithers across the floor, and Diana's eyes begin to darken. She sets her jaw, looking down at Heracles with pure malice. She flips backwards, booting him beneath the chin.

Heracles stumbles backwards, surprised. Diana looks at him with black, hateful eyes.

INT. NATASHA'S CELL

Murdoch stealthily shuffles through cavernous hallways. He rounds a corner, and finds the Attendant clutching Natasha to him, gun pressed to her head, nervous. Murdoch steadies his pistol at the Attendant.

ATTENDANT
Put your gun down!

Murdoch gestures for calm.

MURDOCH
The battle's done. You have nowhere to go.

ATTENDANT
I have orders from the President.

MURDOCH
I am the President now. Stand down.

Natasha grabs a hold of the Attendant's gun, and then turns to look up at him, calmly. He stares back at her, shaken. He lets go of her, steps backwards, and drops to his knees, deeply ashamed.

ATTENDANT
I'm sorry. I'm so sorry...

NATASHA
It's all right.

Murdoch puts away his gun. Natasha turns to him.

NATASHA
Where's Heracles?

MURDOCH
A girl required his attention.

Natasha furrows her brow.

NATASHA
Wait. What kind of girl?

INT. THRONE ROOM

Steve rushes into the throne room, and slides to a stop, shocked. Heracles tries to keep up with a fierce, brutal Diana, taking countless shots, rocked, bloodied, and deliriously happy.

(CONTINUED)

HERACLES/ARES

Goodness. Aren't you just perfect!

Diana buckles him with a jumping knee, and floors him with a kick to the head. Diana gets on top of him, and grabs his throat in both her hands, strangling the life from him.

HERACLES/ARES

Go on, child. Give in. You're so much better than this ape, anyhow.

Diana chokes him unflinchingly. Heracles LAUGHS and gurgles, his eyes beginning to roll back.

NATASHA

Stop!

Diana immediately snaps from her haze, startled. She looks across the room to find Natasha and Murdoch. Steve observes the scene, on guard.

Diana quickly slides off Heracles, and kneels in front of Natasha, just as she had Venessa.

DIANA

Goddess Athena, I am at your service.

Steve begins pacing backwards.

STEVE

That can't be good...

INT. FOYER

The US soldiers and the SK soldiers engage in a reserved, tactical battle, firing sporadically from behind walls and around corners. That is until Steve comes sprinting by from behind the South Kasnian line.

STEVE

Let's get the hell out of here!

Both flanks of soldiers watch Steve run by, confused. The SK soldiers begin to disperse, panicked.

A huge chunk of column missiles out, utterly demolishing the fountain. The US soldiers try to make their escape.

Diana flies out after the column, and picks it back up.

EXT. OUTER PALACE WALLS

The US soldiers sprint across the compound, as fast as they can. Steve, near the back of the pack, screams into a wrist communicator.

STEVE

We need air support! Now!

The Helicopter emerges in the night sky. A series of rope ladders fall out from the back hatch, and the soldiers begin to climb. Emmitt gestures for Steve to follow, putting up some suppressing fire.

Diana jets towards the soldiers. Emmitt, still on the ground, fires at her. Diana deflects the shots easily, and a ricocheting bullet catches Emmitt in the leg. He stumbles to the dirt.

EMMITT

Steve!

Steve watches from the back of the copter. He can barely muster a shake of the head before closing the hatch. Emmitt turns away and clenches his eyes shut, crestfallen.

The Helicopter's guns warm. It unleashes a spray of machine gun fire, and Diana dives behind the fallen Invisible plane for cover. She digs down, and begins lifting it, still sheltering herself from fire as she readies to hurl it.

INT. HELICOPTER

PILOT

That's the last of our ammo!

The US soldiers look to Steve, who only takes a seat on a bench, solemn.

EXT. KASNIAN PALACE

As the firing ceases, Diana sets her sights on the Helicopter. She considers it, exhales, and sets down the plane. She tosses Helen's patch to the dirt, watching the Helicopter escape.

A few paces behind her, Emmitt holds his wounded leg, burying his fear. Soldiers descend on him.

INT. BUNKER - LATER

Darnell and Etta watch anxiously as the US soldiers emerge from the helicopter. Steve looks to Etta, stoicly. She quivers, devastated. Darnell scowls.

INT. VENESSA'S CELL

Venessa sits on the floor of a dank, dark room, her arms chained to the wall. She raises her head as she hears the opening of a heavy steel door. Darnell bends down, getting in Venessa's face.

DARNELL

You've got some explaining to do,
Secretary.

VENESSA

I ordered you not to send her,
didn't I?

DARNELL

What are you? Who's Murdoch's wife?

VENESSA

Release me now and maybe you'll
walk away from all this alive.

Darnell's eyes flash black, and he grabs hold of her throat.

DARNELL

What's going on here?!

Venessa GURGLES as her neck SEARS in Darnell's grip. Darnell looks down at his hand, frightened. He releases Venessa, and retreats a couple paces.

VENESSA

There are dark forces at work here,
Darnell. More powerful everyday.
You have to let me go before things
get out of hand.

Ares' familiar, gnarly blade manifests in Darnell's hand.

VENESSA

Darnell! Control yourself. Remember
where your loyalties lie.

DARNELL/ARES

Don't waste your breath.

Venessa pales as Darnell snickers.

(CONTINUED)

DARNELL/ARES

Demeter and Artemis didn't put up much of a fight, if you were wondering. Gotta say, you probably should have reconsidered your whole lone wolf act.

Venessa forces a smile, pathetic.

VENESSA

Mercy? For old time's sake?

DARNELL/ARES

Sorry, sweetheart. There's a prettier girl on the block these days.

Darnell descends upon Venessa with a swipe of the blade.

INT. THRONE ROOM

Diana rubs her sore hands, sitting on a step, shivering. A DOCTOR works over a brutalized Heracles, mending his wounds, bandaging gashes. Natasha looks over the damage, impressed.

NATASHA

I didn't think we made you this strong.

DIANA

The harder I pressed, the more I felt Ares taking hold of me. It was... rapture. Ecstasy.

Natasha pats Diana on the shoulders.

NATASHA

He is not without his charms.

Heracles casts Diana a spiteful glance as the doctor massages his shattered knuckles.

DIANA

He mentioned there was something here beneath the surface.

Natasha looks to Murdoch, who leans against the throne, listening carefully.

DIANA

I hope you'll be more forthcoming than your sister.

(CONTINUED)

NATASHA

There is a reason Kasnia has been a contested nation for all these years. Beneath this land sleeps a dark secret: Typhon.

Diana's eyes dart to Natasha.

NATASHA

You must have sensed his presence. Ares is no fool. He wants to rule, but he's not strong enough to challenge the pantheon on his own. It's more than vengeance he seeks against my sisters. That Sword of Peleus saps our strength. With it, he believes he can keep Typhon in check.

Diana nods, severely.

DIANA

Why not join Aphrodite's side?

NATASHA

She and I differed on the means to secure Typhon.

MURDOCH

So many turn a blind eye towards the suffering of our land. We've begged countless nations for aid. No one listened. No one but Natasha. We've earned our peace. Now we have the weapons to assure it.

DIANA

No you don't.

Natasha SIGHS knowingly, plopping down in the throne.

NATASHA

It's true. The Launch Codes have been more difficult than expected. Someone did good work encrypting them.

HERACLES

It's a good thing we took a prisoner, then.

Diana looks to Heracles, worried.

INT. EMMITT'S CELL - MOMENTS LATER

Emmitt sits tied to a chair in a dirty room, light trickling in from a barred window. He looks sideways as the door to his cell opens. Murdoch strolls in.

MURDOCH
Comfortable, I hope.

INT. CONTROL STATION - LATER

Etta works over a keyboard as Steve approaches her, warily.

STEVE
He'll be alright. He's too tough
for those guys. He'll get a
surrender out of them by tonight.

Etta ignores him completely. Darnell emerges at the door.

DARNELL
Steve. A word.

Steve looks up to Darnell, and follows him into the hallway.

INT. INTELLIGENCE HALLWAY - MOMENTS LATER

Steve stands with Darnell in a hallway, secretively, removed from prying eyes.

DARNELL
I need to know you're with me,
Steve.

STEVE
I'm not going to ditch you now.

DARNELL
Good. I know things have gone to
hell. These Kasnians... they're
bastards, every last one of them.
Things will get ugly.

STEVE
Things are ugly.

DARNELL
Not yet they aren't. They've taken
it to another level, Steve. I've
got to know you're ready to meet
them there with me.

(CONTINUED)

Steve scans Darnell's face, carefully.

STEVE
What are you talking about?

DARNELL
Sooner or later... you're going to stare across the battlefield and see that girl of your's. People in our position have to be able to set our feelings aside.

Steve glances towards Etta and the control station.

DARNELL
So what's it gonna take? Double the salary? Triple?

STEVE
It's us versus them. Same as ever.

Darnell nods.

DARNELL
That's my boy.

EXT. GARDEN

Within the palace walls, a splendid, manicured garden, unspoiled by debris and war-torn walls. Diana and Natasha walk along neatly trimmed hedges, KASNIAN GUARDS at every exit.

NATASHA
Don't fret. Eli will get what he needs from the American.

Diana gathers some courage.

DIANA
I had a vision of Typhon as I came upon this land.

Natasha turns to Diana.

DIANA
I read from his book when I was a child. He's haunted me ever since.

NATASHA
He focuses his fury on all children of the pantheon. Even my own aren't immune.

(CONTINUED)

Diana glances at Natasha, surprised.

PETER

Mother!

Diana and Natasha turn to find a pair of adorable children accompanied by Heracles. PETER, 8, and JENNA, 5, heirs to their mother's beauty, rush to Natasha's side. Natasha smiles, kissing Peter on the head, and pulling Jenna up into her arms.

DIANA

How can I possibly match Typhon?

NATASHA

It won't come to that. We must be brave, Diana. Like my little darlings here.

Natasha tickles Jenna beneath the chin. She GIGGLES, delighted, and begins playing with her fashion doll. Peter hugs his mother around the waist, looking up at Diana.

DIANA

This bomb... is it really worth it?

NATASHA

The Amazons have given you much. But you don't know motherhood. You don't know purpose staring up at you. Phillipus was a great warrior, a credit to your race. And she drew her strength from the mere dream of a child. You should pray to be so lucky.

Diana bows her head.

NATASHA

We must protect that which we love. Weapons like these aren't built to be used. They're leverage. Insurance. Peace is only certain when your enemies are too afraid to take it from you.

Jenna looks at Diana over Natasha's shoulder.

JENNA

Why's she so pretty, mummy?

Diana smiles, gently. Heracles approaches the four of them, and regards Diana with some contempt.

(CONTINUED)

HERACLES

The interrogation hasn't gone smoothly. The president requests your... skills.

Diana follows Heracles back the way he came. Natasha sets down Jenna, holding both her children's hands. Jenna watches Diana go. She tosses her fashion doll aside as Natasha drags her away.

INT. EMMITT'S CELL

Murdoch sits on a chair, across from Emmitt. He trembles bravely, a headpiece upon his skull attached to a large battery. The device HUMS softly.

MURDOCH

We could arrange a more favorable situation, if you'd like. So long as you're equally obliging.

Emmitt forces calm upon himself.

MURDOCH

You were here to disarm our bomb, were you not?

Emmitt stares Murdoch in the eye, silent.

MURDOCH

It stands to reason, then, that you'd know how to arm it. Isn't that right?

Murdoch leans closer to Emmitt, deadly serious.

MURDOCH

I'd rather not hurt you. We're good men, you and I. Worthy of honor, respect. But we are warriors first. Capable of unspeakable things. Let's not debase ourselves. The launch codes. Please.

Emmitt turns his head away from Murdoch, shutting his eyes tight. Murdoch SIGHS, and reaches for a knob atop the battery.

Diana enters the cell, behind Murdoch. She subdues her disgust upon finding Emmitt.

(CONTINUED)

MURDOCH

Diana. Good to see you. This boy has a streak of dishonesty in him.

Emmitt gathers himself.

EMMITT

I don't know anything.

Murdoch twists the knob, and let's it go for a few good seconds before switching it off. Emmitt cringes, and tightens his jaw.

EMMITT

Man that sucks....

MURDOCH

You know, if we don't get anything from you, we're just going to go grab someone else. That's awful inconsiderate, isn't it? Putting another person through this?

Murdoch twists the knob, power surging. Diana turns away. Murdoch shuts off the surge, then grabs a fading Emmitt by the mouth.

MURDOCH

Do you love anyone, soldier?

Emmitt looks up at Murdoch through the corner of his eye.

MURDOCH

I do. And I know I'd do anything to keep someone from hurting them.

Emmitt stares a hole through Murdoch, catching his breath. Murdoch reaches for the knob again.

DIANA

He's telling the truth.

Murdoch and Emmitt look to Diana.

DIANA

He doesn't know anything. You're wasting your time.

Murdoch squints at Diana, distrustful.

MURDOCH

You're sure?

Diana nods sternly.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

I'll go back to their base. I'll
get the codes.

Murdoch turns back to Emmitt, slapping him playfully on the
cheek.

MURDOCH

Sorry about that. Such is war.

Murdoch stands from his seat, and walks towards the door.
Murdoch pats Diana on the shoulder.

MURDOCH

You're a good one to have around.

Diana bows her head slightly as Murdoch exits. She looks up
at Emmitt, almost apologetically.

EMMITT

You're a liar.

Emmitt exhales heavily.

EMMITT

Thank you.

INT. THRONE ROOM - LATER

Diana sits at the steps beneath the throne in the darkened
room. Peter pulls on Diana's arm, breaking her from a daze.
She helps him and Jenna arrange blocks into a makeshift
structure.

Murdoch stands in front of the projection screen, gesturing
around a schematic of the US bunker. Natasha sits in the
throne, thoughtful.

MURDOCH

This is where you'll want to go.
Their central intelligence station.
If you get to their CPU, you should
be able to hack it from there.

DIANA

What's that?

MURDOCH

What's what?

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

Umm... all of it?

Heracles rolls his eyes, leaning against a pillar.

HERACLES

Sir, this is pointless. Let me go.

Murdoch lifts a device off a table, wires and cords dangling from it.

NATASHA

You can barely stand. No man ever won a war by dying for his country.

Murdoch strides towards Diana and drops the device at her feet.

MURDOCH

This will do the job. Hook it to the USB port. You run into trouble... ask one of your friends. Nicely.

Murdoch hands her an earpiece as Peter playfully knocks over his structure. Jenna whines.

INT. STORAGE BAY - LATER

ALARMS blare. A massive room, filled with artillery, crates, and vehicles. Soldiers ready themselves, taking position all over the room, steadying their rifles upon a massive, iron bay door.

INT. CONTROL STATION

Darnell stomps around the station, barking commands as scientists work feverishly to gather their possessions. Steve helps Etta with her things.

DARNELL

Man the battle stations! Second line here at the station! That's where they're heading! Rest of us, fall back!

INT. STORAGE BAY

Soldiers watch the immense bay door. An uneasy second passes, and with a great, steely GROAN, the bay door explodes from the wall.

Diana shoots forward with a piece of debris like a great big shield in front of her, hacking device at her hip, earpiece in place. The soldiers dive out of the way and fire as she shoots across the room. She comes to a narrow corridor, sealing herself in with the piece of debris. The soldiers try to get through it, incapable.

INT. CONTROL STATION

Darnell watches a monitor, irritated. Etta shakes her head.

DARNELL

She's a lot faster than the other one.

Steve frowns, pulls his gun from his hip, and heads for the exit.

STEVE

Get to the safe room.

ETTA

Steve, don't be stupid.

Darnell smiles to himself.

INT. INTELLIGENCE HALLWAY

A half dozen soldiers form a tight unit at the end of a hallway in front of the Control Room entrance. They steady their guns towards the other end of the hallway, the only other entry point.

Diana jets around the corner at an impossible speed. The soldiers fire, but she deflects the few shots they manage before she's on them. She tears them apart in close quarters, leveling them with kicks and fists. They struggle vainly to put her down.

Diana lets the last unconscious body hit the floor, and tears an ID badge off a soldier. She waves it over a switch, and the door slides open.

Steve stands behind the door, gun already pointed in Diana's face.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE
Don't try it.

INT. CONTROL STATION - CONTINUOUS

Diana leans back as Steve fires. Just barely too slow, he hits her bracelet. Diana presses towards him, attacking with wide swings. Steve dodges smoothly, backpedaling and squeezing shots off that she just barely parries.

INT. ESCAPE TUNNEL

Scientists flee down a great long cavernous route. Darnell ushers them into a safe room, holding open a steel door.

Near the back of the hall, Etta pauses, looking towards the Control Station.

INT. CONTROL STATION

Steve maneuvers slyly, and manages to shoot Diana's hacking device. Diana gets behind him, knocks the gun away, and wraps an arm around his throat. He elbows her in the stomach, and hurls himself forward, bringing her flipping with him.

Steve quickly rolls off of her, and grabs his gun. Laying on his back, Steve pulls the gun to her face, but she catches his wrist and pins it to the floor just as he fires. With her free hand, she grabs his throat and rolls on top of him.

DIANA
You shouldn't have done that,
Steve.

STEVE
Kind of my job there, angel.

DIANA
The codes, please.

STEVE
Do you know what this is going to
start? Actually?

Diana squeezes his throat, hard.

DIANA
The truth. Please.

Steve swats at her arm ineffectually.

(CONTINUED)

ETTA

Stop.

Etta stands behind her, gun pointed at her head.

ETTA

You can't be that fast.

Diana holds Steve steadily.

STEVE

Etta, I assure you, she's that fast. Get out of here before she--

All in a blink, Diana rises off Steve, snatches Etta's gun away, then presses her into the wall, forearm in her throat.

ETTA

Crap.

Diana kicks Steve across the face, knocking him out cold. She kicks him again, and he slides across the room. Diana's earpiece buzzes, and Murdoch's voice sounds.

MURDOCH(OS)

What's happening? Report.

DIANA

The device was destroyed. We may have to fall back.

INT. LAUNCH FACILITY

A great big war room where the nuclear warhead sits pointed towards a closed roof. Murdoch stands at a laptop, adjusting a headset. Natasha stands behind him.

MURDOCH

Extract the codes from the scientist.

INT. CONTROL STATION

Etta struggles in Diana's grip.

ETTA

I'd die before I talk.

Diana measures Etta.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA
She's telling the truth.

MURDOCH(OS)
Try her.

Diana's eyes dart, considering.

DIANA
Her husband. Our prisoner. He knows
the codes.

INT. LAUNCH FACILITY

Murdoch rises out of his chair.

MURDOCH
What?

DIANA(OS)
He always did. I protected him.

Murdoch signals to some soldiers, who rush out of the facility.

INT. EMMITT'S CELL - MOMENTS LATER

Soldiers kick the door open, bursting into the room. Emmitt barely acknowledges them. They put an earpiece against his head.

MURDOCH(OS)
We have your wife.

INT. LAUNCH FACILITY

Murdoch paces around the facility, speaking into his headpiece.

MURDOCH
One of two things is going to
happen here. People are going to
die, or a pair of lovers will be
reunited. What's it going to be?
Ma'am?

INT. CONTROL STATION

Etta winces beneath Diana's hold.

 ETTA(OS)
 Emmitt, I love you so much. You
 can't do this, baby.

 MURDOCH(OS)
 Sir?

INT. EMMITT'S CELL

Emmitt trembles, shutting his eyes tight.

INT. LAUNCH FACILITY

Murdoch listens, patiently. Natasha hovers behind him.

 MURDOCH
 Diana. Kill the scientist.

INT. CONTROL STATION

Diana hesitates.

INT. LAUNCH FACILITY

Natasha leans towards Murdoch's microphone.

 NATASHA
 Do it.

INT. CONTROL STATION

Conflicted, Diana raises the gun to Etta's head. Etta stares at Diana bravely.

 EMMITT(OS)
 Stop...

INT. EMMITT'S CELL

Emmitt bows his head, shaking, broken.

(CONTINUED)

EMMITT

I'll tell you everything.

INT. LAUNCH FACILITY

Murdoch listens carefully. He punches a long sequence into his computer. The missile lights up, coming to life.

Murdoch smiles, delighted.

INT. CONTROL STATION

Etta fights back tears. Steve begins a slow fade back into consciousness. He notices some cable rolled up beneath a desk.

DIANA

Release the prisoner.

Steve grabs a loop of the cable, and hurls it over Diana's neck. Steve twists the cord, tightening it. Diana looks at him, shocked.

Etta snatches a keyboard off a desk, and smashes it over Diana's head. Diana stumbles, losing grip of Etta. Steve whips his pistol upwards, clocking Diana across the chin. She hits the floor, rolling, bloodied.

Steve holds the cable around Diana with one hand, and his gun steadily at her in the other, boiling. She stares up at him, unafraid. He flips his pistol, and whips Diana across the face with the handle, knocking her out.

INT. LAUNCH FACILITY

Natasha grabs hold of a headpiece, and presses it against her ear.

NATASHA

Diana? Diana?

Murdoch shuts the laptop.

MURDOCH

We got what we need.

Natasha bows her head.

(CONTINUED)

NATASHA

We have to let the soldier go.

Murdoch grabs the laptop, then heads down some stairs.

MURDOCH

We might still need him.

Natasha frowns, watching Murdoch go.

INT. DUNGEON CELL - LATER

A dark, wet, horrible place, with old rock and concrete. A mouse passes by, tickling Diana's foot. She wakes with a start, her arms chained to the wall. She pulls on them with all her strength, again and again, futilely. Diana SCREAMS, frantic.

INT. CONTROL STATION

Steve watches Diana carefully on a monitor. Etta sits, head in her hands. Darnell paces behind them, thoughtfully.

STEVE

So what now?

Darnell squeezes his shoulder.

MURDOCH

Isn't it obvious? War.

INT. EMMITT'S CELL

Emmitt still sits in his cell, disheveled and bedraggled, a total wreck. His head hangs heavily, and he's barely able to lift it as he hears his door SCREECHING open.

Natasha enters, a pair of guards behind her.

NATASHA

The Gods are smiling on you today.

INT. THRONE ROOM

Murdoch looks around the throne room. He addresses a CAPTAIN of the guard.

(CONTINUED)

MURDOCH
Where's Natasha?

INT. ELEVATOR

A cramped box, barely enough room for Natasha and her guards. Emmitt leans against the back wall, head bowed and arms tied behind his back. Natasha stares ahead, not looking at him.

NATASHA
We'll leave you outside the palace walls. It's the best we can do. You'll have to find your own way home. Thank you. You saved many lives today.

EMMITT/ARES
Is that what you think?

Natasha and her guards turn to Emmitt. Behind his back, the gnarly knife manifests itself in his hands.

NATASHA
How did you get here?

EMMITT/ARES
You know, your strength is fading. Everyday, you're paler and weaker. But that pretty little Amazon... you girls broke the mold with her.

Natasha scowls.

VENESSA
Kill him.

The guards reach for their guns, but Emmitt quickly slices through his bonds. In a flash, he kills the guards, and grabs Natasha by the throat, pointing the knife at her.

EMMITT/ARES
How's about a kiss, sis?

INT. KASNIAN PALACE HALLWAY

An isolated hallway, cold and removed from much of the palace's lushness. Murdoch emerges with a group of guards in front of the elevator, tense.

(CONTINUED)

The elevator doors open, and only Emmitt still stands, Natasha and the guards dead on the floor. Emmitt drops his knife, puts his hands behind his head, and bends down to his knees. Murdoch's guards arm their weapons.

EMMITT
(singing faintly)
Oh say can you see, by the dawn's
early light...

Murdoch stares at his fallen wife. He sets his jaw and storms away. The guards steady their guns upon Emmitt.

EMMITT
... and the rocket's red glare, the
bombs bursting in air...

The guards fire.

INT. THRONE ROOM - LATER

Murdoch sits in a darkened throne room. Across his face dances the light of a half dozen monitors. On the screens, war tears apart Kasnia. Flame and gunfire demolish buildings and camps. Fiery geysers light up the night.

Murdoch quakes with rage. His eyes burn black.

INT. AMERICAN MISSILE SILO

Dozens of massive warheads sit, perched skywards in massive silos. The electric HUM of lights and motors whir to a stop.

INT. AMERICAN MISSILE MONITORING STATION

A REGULATOR sits in front of a computer in a lonely dark room. He reads his screen, and quickly grabs a phone, panicked.

REGULATOR
Sir, there's some unusual
fluctuation with the radiation of
our warheads.

The regulator wipes his brow, baffled.

REGULATOR
Well, sir, it's gone. There's
nothing there. They're dead.

INT. CENTER OF DEFENSE

Suits and computer technicians rush about a cramped, feverish room, a massive graphic of the United States glowing on a board. Files are handed off, men and women work the phones with desperation.

INT. CONTROL STATION

The scientists and soldiers rush around the control station, in a total panic. Darnell barks into a phone.

DARNELL

I don't know what's happening!
Explain it to me!

Steve talks with a scientist.

STEVE

Deactivated? They're gone? All of
them? Just gone?

Images of Murdoch atop his throne flash onto the monitors, taking over every screen. The scientists pull away from their keyboards. The entirety of the room freezes.

INT. CENTER OF DEFENSE

All the technicians and suits come to a stop as Murdoch's face takes over every single monitor.

MURDOCH

I imagine the lot of you are
finding yourselves on hard times.

INT. CONTROL STATION

Steve approaches a monitor. Etta looks up from her chair.

MURDOCH

The war you've ignored will soon
spill upon your land. Your security
is breached. Your arrogance,
apathy, and privilege taken from
you. Now you sit as countless
nations do: helpless beneath the
sword dangling over your head.
Crippled and infantile in the face
of an empire.

Darnell squints, listening intently.

(CONTINUED)

MURDOCH

Kasnia is a nuclear power. You are not. Empty your cities. Fill your shelters. You live as we do now. You have one day. No terms, no conditions, no negotiations. Try and stop us, and we launch immediately. The fire is coming. And that's all there is.

Every single monitor fades to static snow.

INT. CENTER OF DEFENSE

The monitors and screens all return to their previous images, the occupants of the center frozen in abject horror.

INT. CONTROL STATION

Darnell hangs up his phone, in total shock.

INT. THRONE ROOM

Murdoch sits proudly in his chair, smile tickling his cheeks as his eyes burn black.

INT. CONTROL STATION

Steve rubs his mouth, dumbstruck.

STEVE

Did he just say what I think he did?

Darnell paces, thoughtfully.

ETTA

If he hits Metropolis or Gotham, that's ten million, easy.

DARNELL

He gave us a day. We should be able to evacuate the major sectors. He's given us a chance.

STEVE

A fighting chance, right? We have to do something, try something.

(CONTINUED)

ETTA

Do what? Go where? We don't know anything.

STEVE

The North Kasnians. They have to know where the silos would be.

Darnell shakes his head.

DARNELL

If they're not wiped out by the night, it'll be a modern day miracle.

STEVE

We can't just sit here! We find somebody! Someone has to know something.

Darnell gestures for Steve to calm.

DARNELL

Someone knows everything.

EXT. KASNIAN CITY

South Kasnian soldiers rip a city to pieces, tearing people from their homes, emptying a diner, pulling people into the town square. Heracles, standing atop a tank, bellows at the top of his lungs.

HERACLES

North Kasnian sympathizers! Your time has come!

His eyes burn black.

INT. DUNGEON CELL

Diana sits in her cell, utterly seething. The cell door opens, and Steve saunters in. She regards him with total disdain, hardly budging as he enters.

STEVE

Crew treating you right?

Steve drags a chair across the room, sets it down across from her, then calmly drops into it.

(CONTINUED)

STEVE

Did you see Emmitt at all when you were in Kasnia?

Diana just looks at Steve, betraying nothing.

STEVE

If precedent holds, he was tortured. Drugged. Bad men did bad things, all because they needed information.

Diana doesn't waver.

STEVE

Thing is, there are three guys just outside that door who need you to talk. And they're a lot better at their jobs than anyone in Kasnia. I can stop them.

Steve sighs.

STEVE

We need your help. As we speak, Murdoch is exterminating half of Kasnia. Women. Children. Innocent people. We can't stop him. Unless you tell us where he's keeping our missile.

DIANA

Where do you find the gall to ask anything of me?

STEVE

You don't understand. Those codes you gave them? They're going to use them. On us.

Diana scans his face carefully.

STEVE

I'm not lying.

DIANA

You and your kind lie even while speaking truths. You're thieves and cowards, all of you.

STEVE

Don't talk like you know what's happening!

DIANA

You put me out to war against
righteous, oppressed peoples! Give
me the truth!

STEVE

There's no truth here! Nobody's
right, nobody's wrong. There's just
people dying, and us trying to stop
it!

Diana leaps forward, pulling her chains to their utmost
extension.

DIANA

I've merely turned the tables! I've
given them nothing you yourself
don't have!

STEVE

Yes you have!

Diana pauses.

STEVE

Our weapons are gone. Our nukes are
deactivated. We're defenseless. And
sure as you're born, they're
attacking. We can't stop them.
Unless you tell me where their silo
is.

Diana scans his face, recognizing truth.

DIANA

Let me go. I can stop this.

STEVE

Do you know how close you are to
being executed? Just give me
something. Tell me where the silos
are. I trust you, you trust me,
remember?

Diana stares at him intensely, but says nothing. Steve
trembles slightly, rejected. He rises slowly to his feet,
heading for the door.

INT. OUTSIDE DUNGEON CELL

Steve wanders into the hall, almost a zombie. Darnell approaches carefully.

DARNELL

We'll figure something out, Steve.

Steve glances sideways. A trio of cold looking SCIENTISTS pull on rubber gloves along with Etta. Steve notices some medical supplies sitting atop a cart. He scowls, grabs a syringe, and rushes back into the cell.

INT. DUNGEON CELL

Steve storms back into the room, to Diana's surprise. With hardly a moment wasted, he drives the syringe into her neck. She GASPS slightly.

STEVE

This is a truth serum.
Experimental, but our best. I can't
hide from you, so you don't hide
from me.

Diana's head sways, dizzily. Steve leans in close to her.

STEVE

Where is the silo.

Diana clumsily lifts her head.

INT. BUNKER - LATER

Steve climbs a ladder into the cockpit of the last of the invisible jets. Scientists work feverishly to attach a bulky device to the hull: an EMP. Darnell circles the plane, looking it over.

DARNELL

We've outfitted the plane with an
electro magnetic pulse. Should
knock out the bomb, fry all its
machinery so long as you get within
five hundred yards.

Steve hops into his seat, strapping himself in.

STEVE

No time for complaining.

Darnell tosses Steve a helmet.

(CONTINUED)

DARNELL

Go be a hero.

Steve pulls his helmet over his head, and the lid of the plane closes down on top of him. The jet starts to rise, the roof of the bunker opening. The surrounding workers flee the scene. Machinery HUMS, and the jet becomes translucent. Darnell smiles deviously as the plane takes off.

INT. DUNGEON CELL

Diana sleeps in her dungeon cell, arms pulled over her head. Darnell emerges from the shadows, all arrogance and glee. He kicks her foot.

DARNELL/ARES

You know how they say war is hell?
Never quite got it. Boredom. Now
that's insufferable.

Diana stirs, waking dizzily. Finally, her eyes flutter open. Recognition flashes.

DARNELL/ARES

Laying down on the job, are we? Or
is it the serum?

Darnell bends down nearer to Diana.

DARNELL/ARES

This is a man's world, sweetheart.
Should have stayed home. Now you're
alone. Abandoned. Betrayed. I've
won.

Diana looks up at Darnell.

DARNELL/ARES

I'd hate to see you come out of
this empty handed. I'll spare
Themyscira. Your mom, your
so-called sisters are safe. For
them, things go back to the boring
way they liked it. Because I'm
magnanimous. You just have to bow
to me.

Diana just slightly shakes her head, stubborn to the core.

DIANA

Never.

(CONTINUED)

Darnell scowls, irritated. He stands up, and begins walking away.

DARNELL/ARES

Right. Well, I'm sure Themyscira will be happy to hear it. Oh, and by the way: that boy you took a shine to... thinks he's saving the world. Soon as he pulls that trigger...

Darnell gestures 'BOOM' with his hands.

DARNELL/ARES

I almost wish you could see it.

Darnell turns his back, and walks towards the exit.

DIANA

I never submitted. I never gave myself away.

Darnell turns towards Diana, who shakes with fury.

DIANA

I will not be controlled. I will not be ignored.

Darnell smiles as Diana steadily pulls her chains.

DIANA

I am an Amazon. We will never again be swept aside.

Diana's shackles begin to crack.

DIANA

I will rise. I will stand. I. Will. FIGHT!!!

Diana SCREAMS, and with renewed strength, she breaks free from her shackles, collapsing to the ground. She rises slowly to her feet, looking up at a delighted Darnell.

DARNELL

Let's dance.

Diana jets upwards, bursting through the roof.

INT. INVISIBLE PLANE - DAY

Steve pilots the plane carefully. A light BEEPS repeatedly, and he presses a button.

STEVE
What do you got for me?

INT. CONTROL STATION

Darnell paces in front of a monitor, microphone at his lips.

DARNELL
Steve, the Princess escaped. She knows where you're heading, and she's coming up fast. She'll be on you soon.

Etta turns from her monitor and stares at Darnell, startled.

INT. INVISIBLE PLANE

Steve shakes his head, bemused.

STEVE
Correct me if I'm wrong, but aren't I invisible?

Steve notices a small blip on his radar, approaching rapidly.

DARNELL
Want to take your chances?

STEVE
Dammit.

MURDOCH(OS)
Steve... she's just a little girl too big for her britches. You have to beat her. You understand?

Steve takes a deep, steadying breath.

MURDOCH(OS)
Promise me, Steve.

STEVE
Yeah. Yeah, I got it.

Steve flips some switches.

EXT. INVISIBLE PLANE, KASNIAN AIRSPACE

The plane flies through clouds on a relatively clear day, above dunes, canyons, and sand. Diana already appears, a small distance behind, following the plane's nearly imperceptible trail of smoke.

Steve brings the jet closer to the earth, maneuvering around hills and cliffs, but Diana keeps after it.

Lights flash as Steve presses some buttons. A trio of missiles fall off from the jet, dropping behind Diana before coming alight and pursuing her.

Diana breaks off her path, the missiles following. Diana twists through the tight corners and holes of cliffs. The missiles detonate against some stalagmites behind her, and she disappears in an explosion of dust and fire.

Steve watches out the side of his plane as the explosions settle. A moment, and Diana bursts out, clutching a massive spike of rock. She spins and hurls it towards the jet. Steve pulls hard, but the rock nicks the wing, smoke flowing out.

Diana sets her sights on the fire and smoke streaming out from the plane. In the distance, Steve spots the Kasnian city, approaching fast. He pulls the plane hard, high, high into the air.

EXT. KASNIAN CITY

South Kasnian forces continue their raids. Heracles walks through the city as fire eats away at buildings. People scream as they flee from the diner.

Heracles looks to the sky, eyes black.

EXT. KASNIAN AIRSPACE

Steve ascends high into the air. Suddenly, he hears a THUD. Diana sits on the hull of the ship, and starts tearing at the protruding, bulky EMP. Steve deactivates the thrusters, and the plane topples out from under Diana.

Diana jets down after the plane as it nosedives through the clouds. Steve presses at some switches, and accordingly, the EMP comes to life, charging.

INT. CONTROL STATION

Darnell and Etta watch the action on monitors, nervously.

EXT. INVISIBLE PLANE, KASNIAN AIRSPACE

Diana catches up to the plane, the Kasnian city coming into view beneath them. She latches onto the EMP, digs her heels into the hull of the ship, and with a great heave, she tears the device free, hurtling high into the sky with it.

DARNELL

No!!!

INT. LAUNCH FACILITY

A TECHNICIAN works at a computer, punching some final keys. The warhead comes to life, and the roof above them begins to open.

EXT. INVISIBLE PLANE, KASNIAN AIRSPACE

Diana, above the clouds, hurls the EMP into the distance. Steve, still spinning towards Kasnia, spots a massive roof begin to open.

STEVE

Phil?

INT. CONTROL STATION

Darnell shoots to attention.

EXT. INVISIBLE PLANE, KASNIAN AIRSPACE

Steve flips some levers. Missiles along the ship begin to hum.

STEVE

All this money I've put together...
it goes to Helen's family upon my
death. Promise you'll pay what you
owe. No blocks, no holds...
nothing. It's not enough, but it's
something.

Diana, high above, looks beneath her. She tenses when she sees the jet still shooting down towards the earth, and takes off after it.

Diana falls desperately after the jet, but its missiles fire moments before she reaches it.

INT. MISSILE SILO

Steve's missiles crash down through the open roof, igniting the silo in a mass of flame.

The nuclear warhead heats up. It detonates.

EXT. KASNIA

A white flash blinds Diana and Steve, and they cover up futilely. A massive shock of flame tears apart the city, utterly annihilating concrete, plants, and flesh in hardly an instant.

EXT. BALCONY

Murdoch emerges onto the Palace balcony, watching a wave of fire and death consuming everything in its path. He smiles, then laughs, sublime as the flame consumes him.

INT. CONTROL STATION

Darnell smiles, GIGGLING. Etta and the rest of the crew look at him, in utter disbelief. Darnell turns towards them, a massive mushroom cloud pouring into the sky on the monitor behind him. He opens his mouth, and fire rages out.

The SCREAMS barely last a moment.

EXT. KASNIA

Eventually, the explosion settles, leaving nothing but vague shells of buildings in its wake. Wind blows dust along shadows stained in dirt. Painful stillness.

Suddenly, the earth trembles. A fissure rips through the ground, bringing down some fragile concrete walls. A massive, serpentine coil slithers beneath the rock.

BLACK

FADE IN:

INT. DIANA'S ROOM - LATER

Hyppolyta sits on her daughter's bed, looking around longingly at Diana's trinkets and mementos. She slides her fingers along a pillow. She comes across something.

Hyppolyta lifts the pillow, finding a stash of books. Hyppolyta rifles through them: *Pride & Prejudice*, *Love in the Time of Cholera*. And beneath them, a big heavy volume: *THE TRIUMPHS OF HYPPOLYTA*.

Hyppolyta grabs the book, and flips it open. Pages after pages of text are underlined and circled crudely, worn and stained. Hyppolyta smiles sadly.

The entire room quakes, dust and bits of stone spilling from the ceiling. Hyppolyta looks up from the book, startled. She rushes to her feet and out of the room.

INT. OUTSIDE DIANA'S ROOM

Hyppolyta speeds down the steps of the tower's winding staircase, then glances through a window. She leans outside, awestruck.

EXT. THEMYSKIRA

A mass of swirling fire floats behind clouds. Gargantuan, serpentine heads stab out from the sky, demolishing buildings and cliffs like they're nothing, *HISSING* and *SCREECHING* the whole while. *TYPHON*.

Amazons flee, fight, and hide, all in vain. Typhon either smashes or snatches them with his countless slithering coils, unaffected by their spears and swords.

Dragon heads rise out from the streets and into the sky. Fire flows out from behind the clouds, through their throats, and out their mouths, raining upon the city.

Very suddenly, the dragon heads pause, snapping their jaws shut. Calmly, they turn towards Hyppolyta in her tower, tongues snapping out from sealed mouths.

INT. OUTSIDE DIANA'S ROOM

Hyppolyta retreats a step away from the window, petrified.

(CONTINUED)

HERACLES/ARES(OS)
He's stunning, isn't he?

Hyppolyta looks up the stairs. In front of Diana's room stands Heracles, pale, ragged, adorned in new armor of black, dusty bone.

HERACLES/ARES
Is 'he' the word? I think he may be beyond 'he' or 'she'. Still... he's incredible. Such a perfect abomination. A beautiful atrocity.

Heracles looks down at Hyppolyta.

HERACLES/ARES
We have some terms to discuss.

Heracles turns, and strides casually into Diana's room. Hyppolyta gulps.

EXT. THEMYSKIRA - MOMENTS LATER

The dragon heads coil around the base of Diana's tower, watching, waiting.

INT. DIANA'S ROOM

Heracles sits atop Diana's bed, staring intensely at her pillow, fingers swimming through the sheets. Hyppolyta stands at the back of the room, uneasily.

HYPPOLYTA
What do you want?

Heracles ignores her. Hyppolyta hardens, nauseated as he takes a whiff of the bed.

HYPPOLYTA
Is it me you've come for?

Heracles eyes shoot open. He grins, tickled.

HERACLES/ARES
Don't flatter yourself. You're already mine. But that daughter of your's... soft. Fragrant. Just now ripening.

Heracles pulls a loose strand of hair off the pillow.

(CONTINUED)

HERACLES/ARES

And the finest instrument of
violence since... well, you know
who. It's like you made her just
for me.

The strand of hair turns to ash in his fingertips. He turns,
very serious.

HERACLES/ARES

She's still alive. If you're any
kind of mother, you know where
she's hiding. Send her my way.

Heracles rises from the bed, and corners Hyppolyta against
the wall. He severs a strap of her dress with a razor sharp
talon. She trembles, stubbornly brave.

HERACLES/ARES

She shows, you can keep Themyscira.
She turned my generous offer down,
but it's still on the table. Not
for long, though.

Heracles gently runs his nail down Hyppolyta's cheek, then
leaves the room. Hyppolyta can't move, quivering. She balls
her fists, furious.

EXT. THEMYSKIRA

A great, thunderous GROAN booms out. The dragon heads all
snap up, looking skywards, SCREECHING. They unwrap from
around the tower, and shoot back into the clouds, the
countless coils following.

A horrible HOWL, and Typhon disappears in an instant,
leaving nothing but wreckage in his wake.

INT. CAVERNS - LATER

Hyppolyta descends an ancient, rocky staircase, deeper and
deeper into darkness. Only her torch lights the way.

Hyppolyta comes upon a great, dusty chest. She strides over
to it, and hurls aside the lid. A pristine golden light
basks her face.

EXT. PHILLIPUS' CLIFF - LATER

Waves crash peacefully against a great rocky cliff. At the edge sits Diana, covered in soot and burns. She stares down at foam and water rolling through sharp rocks.

From the unspoiled woods behind Diana, Hyppolyta emerges, carefully. Diana doesn't so much as stir.

DIANA

You found me...

Hyppolyta approaches Diana.

HYPPOLYTA

This was Phillipus' place. I knew her better than anyone, you know.

Hyppolyta sits down next to Diana, who only stares out at the sea, meekly.

DIANA

She wouldn't have let this happen. She'd have fought. She'd have won.

Diana trembles.

DIANA

I'm not as strong as she was.

HYPPOLYTA

Phillipus loved you. She'd be proud.

DIANA

Of what? I've shamed my people. I've dishonored my country. I'm not fit to wear this uniform. I've failed, Mother. I've failed everyone.

Hyppolyta frowns. She parts Diana's hair, but Diana pulls her head away, a burn on her face revealed.

DIANA

He sent you for me, didn't he?

Hyppolyta retracts her hand.

HYPPOLYTA

He said if you go to him, he'll spare Themyscira.

Diana nods, solemnly.

(CONTINUED)

DIANA

I may yet be of service...

HYPPOLYTA

His arrogance will undo him. He's given you a chance. You can save the world.

DIANA

Themyscira is safe. I'd just as soon see the rest can burn.

Hyppolyta shakes her head.

HYPPOLYTA

You know, all those books you'd steal away... You weren't as good at hiding them as you thought. I'd always find them, all around the city. And I'd read everyone of them. I'd try to look at them as you did: wide eyed, innocent. And I'd find beauty. Worth cherishing.

DIANA

Then they've fooled you too.

Hyppolyta looks over the ocean.

HYPPOLYTA

I'll share something with you I haven't admitted in centuries. Heracles was not my enemy. He was my lover.

Diana tilts her head, startled.

HYPPOLYTA

He pushed me to heights I've never again seen. But when it came to him or the fate of my people... What right have we to love when entire civilizations hang in the balance? I broke his heart. But when Ares compelled him to kill me... he resisted.

Diana considers, confused.

HYPPOLYTA

Ares can be defeated. Man is not irredeemable. Not yet.

Hyppolyta turns away from Diana.

(CONTINUED)

HYPPOLYTA

You have strength like no other.
But no one can be everything to
everyone.

Hyppolyta reaches into her satchel, and removes something.
In Diana's lap, she sets the GOLDEN LASSO. Diana fingers the
cord softly, curious.

HYPPOLYTA

You used to play with it as a
child. Do you remember?

DIANA

Now is not the time for trinkets.

HYPPOLYTA

This is no trinket, daughter. This
is a tool as pure and good as the
world has ever seen. It's a
harbinger of light, truth, and
justice.

Diana rolls the golden cord around her knuckles.

HYPPOLYTA

Only the righteous may wield it. It
was nothing but a tangled mess
before it came to you. With this,
there is no deception. No black
magics. No evil.

Hyppolyta turns towards the sea, taking a deep breath.

HYPPOLYTA

I wanted so badly to keep you to
myself. To shield you from all the
ugliness of the world. But you were
such a gift... I knew I couldn't.
The world would need you. My sun
and stars.

Diana balls her fists around the lasso.

HYPPOLYTA

I don't know what this night will
ask from you. As much as I hoped
you'd never know sacrifice... there
is no one else I would choose to
stand against this. Find the Sword
of Peleus. It carries the power of
the Goddesses with it. Plunge it
into Typhon's heart.

(CONTINUED)

Diana grabs the lasso, and wraps it around herself. She takes a deep breath.

DIANA

I love you, Mother.

Diana hops off the cliff. Just before she hits the jagged rocks, she takes flight. Hyppolyta watches.

EXT. KASNIA - LATER

A massive doorway, all sharp edges and curved iron, nothing but desert and ash in every direction around it. Diana drops out of the sky, landing gently atop the sand.

Diana steps towards the door, carefully. It creaks open, only slightly. Diana steadies herself, and slides through the crack.

EXT. ARES' WORLD

Diana passes through the door and into what seems a prosperous, if odd, little town. Confounded, Diana wanders through streets, passing tents and huts. Merchants and bystanders wander like zombies. Gradually, they take note of Diana. They all point her down the road.

Diana comes into a large clearing, a sort of town square. She passes an ornate statue of ARES himself in his classic armor, holding the gnarly blade towards the sky. The pedestrians direct her to follow along towards a classic, old school diner.

INT. DINER

A busy, but comfortable place. Dozens sit quietly in booths, sipping coffee. A man cleans a counter, absently. Not a single head turns as Diana enters, but every hand floats up, pointing towards an empty booth by a window.

Diana slides into the booth. A WAITRESS, 50, approaches her, skin pale, hair coarse. The waitress whips open a notepad.

WAITRESS

Something to get your strength up?

DIANA

Don't need anything.

(CONTINUED)

WAITRESS

You will.

Diana looks up at the waitress as she strolls away. A man sinks into the seat across from Diana. Diana turns, dumbstruck to find Steve sitting across from her.

STEVE/ARES

You really should eat. I like a little meat on the bones.

Diana trembles momentarily, but quickly hardens.

DIANA

You're not real.

STEVE/ARES

Real as it gets, angel.

DIANA

Let these people go.

STEVE/ARES

Really? You think that'll work? Nah, don't think I'm gonna.

DIANA

You don't need them.

STEVE/ARES

Sure I do. I mean, killing is fantastic, don't get me wrong. But my enemies list is only yay long. Gotta leave somebody to lord over, am I right?

Steve leans in towards Diana, folding his arms atop the table.

STEVE/ARES

And every King needs a Queen.

Steve reaches out and grazes Diana's hand. She recoils, instantly. Steve SNEERS.

STEVE/ARES

Rude. And after I tried so hard to look nice for you. Come on. Living beneath your Mother's thumb your whole life... you must have wanted this. You could be Queen of a world that's spurned and slighted you. Worshipped, revered. Feared. All I

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

STEVE/ARES (cont'd)
ask is loyalty. Fidelity. Nothing a
husband isn't entitled to.

Diana looks Steve over, disgusted. She takes a calming
breath.

DIANA
I can't love you. But I'm done
hating you. I've realized
something. You don't want me for
some sort of conquest or treasure.
You want me at your side because
you fear me. You know if you don't
control me... I'm going to beat
you.

Steve listens, turning very dire. He snorts, contemptuously.

STEVE/ARES
You're going to fight me, aren't
you?

Diana balls her fists, readily.

STEVE
Good.

The wall beside them is smashed instantaneously to utter
rubble as Heracles crashes into the diner, grabbing hold of
Diana and ripping her from her seat.

EXT. ARES' WORLD

Heracles hurls Diana to the dirt in the town square. The
pedestrians slow to a stop to observe as he comes down upon
her, just barely missing her with a stomp. Steve strolls out
from the diner booth and into the square, leisurely.

Heracles swipes at Diana, better, faster, stronger. She
keeps up, dodging and sliding away from strikes before Steve
sweeps her legs out from under her. She tries to roll away,
but catches a kick in the abdomen.

Steve pulls a gun from his hip. Diana quickly twists his
wrist away from her, but takes a blow from Heracles for her
troubles. Just as Steve fires, Diana maneuvers behind
Heracles. The bullets pass through him like he's air. Diana
barely deflects them in time.

(CONTINUED)

Diana staggers Heracles with a knee, then leaps over him, leveling Steve with a harsh fist. She looks to follow through, but a corrupted Murdoch emerges from the crowd behind her and drops her with a fist. She hits the dirt, and takes a shot from Darnell, and another from Lancaster.

Heracles picks her up and hurls her through a wall.

INT. ABANDONED PALACE

The dark, devastated remains of the Kasnian palace. Diana rolls through rubble, stumbling to her feet. Heracles follows her into the building.

HERACLES/ARES

I know those Amazons talked you up a lot, but you're not as great as you think. You're strong, but I'm stronger. You're fast, but I'm faster.

Heracles grabs the back of Diana's head, lifting her off the floor.

DIANA

There's still one thing I can do that you can't.

HERACLES/ARES

What's that?

Diana looks up at Heracles.

DIANA

Fly.

Diana grabs Heracles by the leg, and with a mighty heave, she launches him into the air, impossibly high, smashing through the ceiling and deep into the sky.

Diana takes a moment to catch her breath, hands in the dirt. She looks up when she hears a veritable stampede. She stands up, and flees the scene.

Ares' minions rush into the building, Steve, Darnell, Murdoch, and Lancaster leading the pack. They flood the halls and corners, overturning tables, debris, and cases.

Steve climbs onto a walkway, scanning the floor. The golden lasso drops down over top of him, tightening. It rips him across the building.

(CONTINUED)

Diana pulls Steve across the floor of a big empty room. He SCREAMS, the golden lasso burning and searing around him as a strange sort of darkness overwhelms the room.

STEVE/ARES

Let go!

Ares' minions try to find their way towards Diana's room.

DIANA

Tell me why, Steve!

Steve rolls onto his feet. He spits violently. The vague specter of a female form flashes behind him, a haunting apparition.

STEVE/ARES

Don't waste your breath!

Diana lifts Steve up from the floor, and flings him into a wall. Another specter smiles hazily.

STEVE/ARES

Join the winning team!

Diana throws him, and he hits the floor, sliding through dust. She pulls hard on the lasso, and jerks him up onto his knees.

STEVE/ARES

Stop!

Steve pants and whimpers, head bowed. Various specters materialize around the darkness.

STEVE

Don't you see you're dead without me?!

Diana freezes. The specters around the room come into focus: HELEN, a tough, short haired girl, maybe too pleasant and slight for the military.

STEVE

I look at you... and all I see is her! She was everything. And she's gone. Because of me. I can't lose you. Not again.

Diana watches as different versions of Helen reenact Steve's memories all around the room. In one corner, she ties combat boots, smiling. In another, she spars, tight, precise. Just at Diana's side, she rolls over in bed, smiling groggily as

(CONTINUED)

she pulls a pillow over her head, unwelcome sunlight pouring over her.

Diana approaches Steve. In the back of the room, she sees the projection of two planes crashing into each other, over and over. She loosens slightly, and places a comforting hand atop Steve's head.

DIANA

She made her choice. It wasn't your fault.

STEVE

Should have been me.

DIANA

She gave her life because she loved you. We should all pass so nobly.

Steve shakes his head, lasso still searing around him. Diana hears countless FOOTSTEPS approaching. She turns to Steve, softening, loosening the lasso from around him.

DIANA

Steve. Listen to me. I need your help. Where's the sword?

STEVE

The statue. It's in the statue, sealed up...

DIANA

Can you get it out?

Steve shakes his head, dizzily. Diana considers, then shoves the lasso in his grip.

DIANA

Try. And Typhon?

Steve looks up at her, frightened.

STEVE

He'll find you.

Diana looks over her shoulder. Behind them, the minions sprint towards them.

Diana shoots to her feet, and dives out the window, landing on the ground outside. Steve rolls, and heads for some stairs.

EXT. ARES' WORLD

Diana looks around the vast emptiness of the village. She spots Jenna and Peter, standing together. They turn, and she follows after them.

Steve sprints out from the building, quick and desperate. Suddenly, Heracles crashes down in front of him. Steve quickly pulls his gun. Heracles merely tilts his head.

HERACLES/ARES

Seriously?

The gun fades to ash in Steve's hand. He chuckles hoofs it in the other direction.

INT. TYPHON'S TOMB

A holy place, corrupted. Raised marble snakes coil around pillars that extend into a dome-like ceiling. Diana enters from a dark corridor, looking around herself, confused.

PHILLIPUS

A noble effort, child.

Diana whips around, and freezes in place, flabbergasted as Phillipus emerges from the shadows.

PHILLIPUS

But you can't fight the changing of the tide. The only life left in the world is at our side. I've seen it. Can't you?

Diana looks over Phillipus, cautiously yet hopefully. Phillipus embraces her. Diana puts her head upon Phillipus' shoulder, at a loss.

EXT. ARES' WORLD

Steve rounds a corner, and slows to a stop, deeply dejected to find another army of minions standing in the square, in front of the statue, Darnell at the head.

Steve whips around, but the other battalion has closed the gap. Cornered, Steve looks all around himself. He backpedals towards the diner. He sees a long steel pole, grabs it, wraps the golden lasso around it, and swings at the approaching mob.

Steve hops up a dumpster, and climbs onto the roof of the diner. He tries to fend off the approaching masses, kicking at hands and heads.

INT. TYPHON'S TOMB

Diana shoves Phillipus away, shaken. Phillipus smiles gently, ghostly.

PHILLIPUS

Forgive Ares. He thinks all there is in life is power. But all you've ever had is power. He doesn't know what people like us truly want.

Phillipus points her hand, and a path into darkness is illuminated. Diana hesitates, but strides down it.

Diana comes upon a warm nursery, just like the picturesque Peter Pan illustration. At the center of it, Diana sees a version of herself, in an airy white dress. Phillipus emerges behind the true Diana, soothing.

PHILLIPUS

What we want is freedom. An opportunity to make choices denied us.

The specter of Diana turns suddenly, delighted to see some version of Steve approaching, Peter and Jenna in tow. They meet up happily, sitting on a couch and reading a big story book.

PHILLIPUS

Maybe this isn't what you want. But for once... wouldn't it be nice to decide for yourself?

EXT. ARES' WORLD

Steve wrestles with increasing numbers atop the diner. Lancaster boots Steve off the roof, and he falls atop a tightly packed gang of followers, all reaching and clawing at him.

INT. TYPHON'S TOMB

Diana turns away suddenly from the scene. The vision fades away, and the tomb materializes.

DIANA

It doesn't matter what I want.

Phillipus grabs a hold of her sternly.

PHILLIPUS

What about what I want, Diana?
Doesn't that matter?

Diana shrugs off Phillipus.

DIANA

We'll beat you.

PHILLIPUS

You don't see it, do you?

EXT. ARES' WORLD

Steve struggles in the dirt as the countless minions claw at him. The Golden Lasso burns at whoever touches it.

INT. TYPHON'S TOMB

Diana takes a couple strides to leave before Phillipus calls after her, sadly.

PHILLIPUS

He'll give me my boy, Diana.

Diana pauses. A moment, and she hardens, leaving. Phillipus scowls, furious. Snake heads begin to slither along the floor around her, HISSING.

EXT. ARES' WORLD

Steve wrestles to his feet, swiping at the encroaching masses. He spots Ares' statue at the center of the square. With hands clawing at him, he hurls his pole towards it.

The minions pull Steve to the dirt as he watches his makeshift javelin pierce the statue. The lasso slides down the pole and onto the statue, but the sword has disappeared.

People latch onto Steve's arms, forcing him to his knees. Emmitt stands over him, debased Sword of Peleus in hand.

(CONTINUED)

EMMITT/ARES

Nice try, buddy. But there's no coming back from where you are.

Steve winces as Emmitt lifts the sword over his head. Suddenly, the Golden Lasso snatches the blade from his grip.

Diana floats above the masses. As soon as the sword enters her grip, she wraps the lasso around it. A blinding light begins to pulse out from the blade.

EMMITT/ARES

NO!!!

Diana drops down to the dirt, Golden Lasso in one hand and the elegant, exquisite Sword of Peleus in the other. She surveys the hordes, and they all retreat a stride.

A massive explosion of dirt and rock rips out from the earth, flooring everyone. A great, horrible HOWL, and a mass of coils bursts lightening quick into the sky, coloring the clouds a fiery red.

Diana, first to her feet, readies herself, the very ground trembling. A dozen dragon heads burst out from behind the clouds, SCREECHING. She takes to the air, dodging them as they crash through earth and buildings.

Diana rises above the clouds, humbled in the true presence of Typhon: an impossibly gargantuan sphere of snakes in constant movement, wrapped tightly around a ball of flame.

Diana holds up her lasso, and jets towards the sphere. Dragon heads burst out from it, but are repelled by the lasso's golden glow. She rockets through the sphere, past the snakes and beyond the fire, catching countless cuts and burns along the way.

Diana comes upon the core, a humanoid, grotesque demon torso, everything around it growing out from its waist and hands. Diana hurtles towards the demon, wraps the lasso around its head, and pulls back the sword, poised to strike.

Suddenly, Phillipus appears behind Diana, floating.

PHILLIPUS

Wait!!!

Diana pauses, but doesn't take her eyes off the demon.

PHILLIPUS

If you kill him, you'll lose everything. We'll lose everything.

(CONTINUED)

Diana takes a deep breath, hardening.

PHILLIPUS

What about me? Don't I deserve to be happy? All these years? All this service? Have we not the right to honor our children?

Diana winces.

PHILLIPUS

And Steve. You don't think he really lived through that bomb, do you? You destroy us... you destroy him. You'll be alone. An outcast.

Diana begins to drive the sword towards the beast. Phillipus quite suddenly transforms, her hair turning to snakes. She grabs a hold of Diana and hurls her towards Typhon's swarming serpents. They snap at Diana. She can barely parry clawed swipes from a furious Phillipus.

Diana swings at Phillipus with the sword, but Phillipus hasn't lost a step. She claws at Diana, and connects with knees and fists. Diana swipes at her, but Phillipus evaporates and reappears behind Diana. Phillipus holds back the sword, and sinks an arm around Diana's neck, choking her.

PHILLIPUS

Nothing's changed. Still just a thoughtless child.

Diana elbows Phillipus in the stomach, and hurls her over her shoulder. Phillipus disappears, and Diana jets towards Typhon. Phillipus quickly teleports between Diana and Typhon, but Diana doesn't stop. She drives the sword through Phillipus and into Typhon.

Phillipus looks up at Diana, trembling.

PHILLIPUS

Quite the warrior, aren't you?

Typhon SCREECHES loudly, brilliant light blasting out from his wound. Phillipus stares at Diana as she burns away, slowly turning to ash and ember. Diana closes her eyes and turns her face, then slides the blade out.

The light shines out through Typhon and down to the city below, consuming the masses. They scream, falling to pieces, incinerated. Steve is the only one left standing.

(CONTINUED)

Diana drops down across from Steve, smiling faintly, exhausted. They approach one another, but the horrible, charred remains of Heracles rise from the dirt, a mess of bone and mangled flesh. He swipes at Diana, but she dives out of the way.

HERACLES/ARES

Why do you bother?!?!

Heracles stumbles towards Diana, a horrific mess.

HERACLES/ARES

What are you defending?! You're alone!

Heracles swipes at Steve with his massive fist. Diana just barely shoves him out of the way.

HERACLES/ARES

It's a planet of fools! Violent, vile, ugly children!

Diana hurls the lasso around Heracles. As she digs her heels into the dirt, rays of light shoot into Heracles. Diana looks into the sky, and finds the five Goddesses floating above Heracles, sternly.

HERACLES/ARES

Only I could have stopped it! Only I can be king!

Ares groans loudly, burning and searing as the sand around him swirls. He calms, staring at Diana.

HERACLES/ARES

War doesn't end. It eats and eats until everything is gone. You'll know no peace.

Diana hardens.

DIANA

Someone else might.

A great burst of light, and Ares disappears. The Goddesses look to Diana for only a moment, smiling proudly before fading away like bits or crystal dust in a breeze.

Diana turns, and spots Steve. He grins widely, and reaches for her, but his hand begins crumbling to dust. Diana's smile weakens as Steve looks upon himself, slowly fading to nothing just like the Goddesses.

(CONTINUED)

Steve stares at Diana, knowingly, solemnly. He nods, bravely.

STEVE
Glad I could help.

Steve disintegrates. Diana stands alone as the city around her withers. Eventually, nothing but the skeletal, ruined husks of Kasnia remain. Diana looks all around herself, utterly alone as the wind howls through the empty, ghostly city.

Diana shivers, turns away, and starts walking.

THE END.

Additional scene:

EXT. SANDSMARK HOME

An extremely humble bungalow sits on a tiny plot of land. A well dressed BANKER approaches, and rings a door bell. JOHN SANDSMARK, 30, a burly man in pink apron, opens the front door. Embarrassed upon seeing the banker's officiousness, John quickly removes his apron and tosses it aside.

JOHN
Can I help you?

BANKER
Are you the executor of Mrs Helen Sandsmark's estate?

JOHN
Yeah, that's me. What's this about?

The Banker hands John an envelope.

BANKER
I represent a recently deceased party wishing to remain anonymous. Mrs Sandsmark is the sole beneficiary. The sum is not insubstantial.

John, befuddled, opens the envelope and looks over a check. He stifles a gasp.

JOHN
This has to be a mistake.

(CONTINUED)

BANKER

No sir. The will's quite clear. The deceased had no next of kin. If you don't mind my asking, what's your relationship to Mrs Sandsmark?

Behind John, a tiny five year old BLOND GIRL stands up from a crude tea party at a children's play table. She's slightly tomboyish, but wears an apron that matches her father's from earlier. She cranes her neck, trying to see what's happening.

JOHN

She's my wife.