Champions; Protectors of Greece

Episode 2
Far From Home Pt. 2

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CITY OF THEBES - DAY

A ball bounces high into the air as kids GROAN.

YOUNG LEANDRA O.S.

No come back!

A group of CHILDREN, including YOUNG LEANDRA, a 3 year old girl with short dirty blonde hair and soft amber eyes, gather below the side of a building. On the second floor window sill sits the ball.

KID 1

Good job Leandra!

KID 2

Typical.

YOUNG LEANDRA

What's that mean?!

The other children disperse leaving Young Leandra standing alone.

CHILDREN

That ball's gone. // Guess that's the game. // My mom is making lunch anyway. // Can I come?!

YOUNG LEANDRA

No wait! I can get it!

Young Leandra looks back at the ball annoyed. She grasps the wall and struggles to climb up. Just before making it to the window sill, she loses her grip and falls. She lets out a SCREAM, but is caught by HERCULES, a tall muscular man, with short wavy light brown hair.

HERCULES

Careful now. Don't wanna get hurt do you?

Young Leandra tries to cover up her embarrassment as she squirms in his arms.

YOUNG LEANDRA

It takes more than that to hurt me. Now let me go! My ball's stuck!

Hercules lets out an amused LAUGH. Young Leandra looks on confused.

HERCULES

Well then, allow me to assist.

Hercules hoists Young Leandra onto his shoulders.

HERCULES (CONT'D)

Hold on!

Hercules begins to scale the wall. Young Leandra marvels in awe. He continues until Leandra gets to the window sill, where she grabs the ball. A huge grin crosses her face.

YOUNG LEANDRA

Victory!

Hercules climbs back down and places Young Leandra safely on the ground.

YOUNG LEANDRA (CONT'D)

You're so strong!

AEGEUS O.S

Leandra!

AEGEUS, a man in his late 20's, with an athletic frame and light brown hair, runs up to Young Leandra.

AEGEUS

I heard you from across the square, are you okay!?

Young Leandra proudly presents her ball while donning a huge grin.

YOUNG LEANDRA

Not a scratch! And we saved my ball.

Aegeus shakes his head in relief, a smile on his face.

AEGEUS

You'll be the death of me one of these days.

Aegeus turns to Hercules.

AEGEUS (CONT'D)

My apologies for her troub-

Aegeus stops in place. His face turns red from embarrassment at the sight of Hercules.

AEGEUS (CONT'D)

H-Hercules!?

Aegeus forces Young Leandra to bow with him.

AEGEUS (CONT'D)

Thank you truly for helping my daughter.

YOUNG LEANDRA

Ow! Why'd you do that?

Hercules grins in amusement as Young Leandra struggles to stand upright.

HERCULES

It's really alright.

Hercules kneels down in front of Young Leandra.

HERCULES (CONT'D)

So your name's Leandra huh?

Young Leandra, still being forced to bow, puts her head up to him. They lock eyes.

YOUNG LEANDRA

Y-yeah.

HERCULES

I'm Hercules, but my friends call me Herc.

YOUNG LEANDRA

Oh. Ummm nice to meet you.

HERCULES

Promise me you won't cause your dad too much trouble now, okay?

YOUNG LEANDRA

Sure.

HERCULES

Good.

Hercules stands back up, as Aegeus and Young Leandra stand upright again.

HERCULES (CONT'D)

After all, it's the strong that should be helping others.

Hercules flashes Young Leandra a sly grin.

HERCULES (CONT'D)

Right?

Young Leandra's eyes light up in awe. She puts on a wide smile.

YOUNG LEANDRA

Right Herc!

GEORGE (V.O.)

Leandra. Leandra!

FLASH FADE TO:

DELPHI MARKET - DAY

Leandra's head shoots up at attention and turns to George who stands next to her.

GEORGE

That is your name right?

LEANDRA

Ye-yeah.

Fisherman CALLS OUT to customers from their stand in the market. George, Leandra and Cham convene behind it.

Cham sits atop a crate cradling his head in thought.

LEANDRA (CONT'D)

I caught him tailing me, like some sorta spy. When I confronted him he acted dumb, said you could vouch for him.

GEORGE

(laughing)

A spy? Him? No way.

LEANDRA

How can I be sure?

Fisherman turns back to Leandra.

FISHERMAN

If we were spies, no way we'd choose to handle fish all day.

GEORGE

Hey! Those fish feed your family.

Fisherman returns to his work.

FISHERMAN

Yeah, yeah.

GEORGE

Truth is, my kiddos found him washed up the other day. His memory's been a blank since.

LEANDRA

Okay, let's say for a second you're telling the truth...

Leandra turns to Cham.

LEANDRA (CONT'D)

...how do you know my name?

CHAM

I have no idea. I just needed help and when I looked at you-... it just popped into my head.

GEORGE

Wonder if you two could've known each other before today?

Cham's demeanor slowly turns nervous and fidgety.

LEANDRA

No. That's not possible.

GEORGE

Why so certain? Can't be too much older then him, maybe neighboring villages?

LEANDRA

I'm telling you there's no way.

Cham becomes more and more on edge, his eyes begin to dart around the market.

CHAM

Something's wrong.

Leandra and George break out of their conversation and turn to see Cham on edge.

LEANDRA

What is?

CHAM

I'm not sure, something just doesn't feel right.

SHOUTING is suddenly heard in the distance. A murmur grows amongst the people in the market. The group watches as a panic sets in amongst the civilians.

Leandra walks out from behind the stand and grabs a MAN who runs past.

LEANDRA

What's going on?

MAN 2

Spartans!

T.EANDRA

What!?

MAN 2

A group of them came into town. Picked a fight with the temple quards!

Leandra lets go of the man, grabs her staff and quickly runs off towards the Temple of Apollo.

Cham hops off his crate as she runs off. He looks to George.

GEORGE

Go.

Cham chases after Leandra.

EXT. TEMPLE OF APOLLO - DAY

Cham arrives at the base of the temple stairs.

Above him, the outnumbered temple guards clash with the SPARTAN SOLDIERS. They stand in a phalanx formation between the Spartans and the temple. He then spots Leandra, running up towards them.

CHAM

Leandra wait!

Leandra stops and turns to see Cham. She runs down to him.

LEANDRA

What are you doing here?!

CHAM

How important is it?

LEANDRA

Is what?

CHAM

You seeing The Oracle, is it more important to get to her or fight?

Leandra pauses for a moment.

LEANDRA

Protecting The Oracle is the most important thing.

CHAM

Then let's try something else.

Cham points to the buildings along the mountainside.

Leandra and Cham begin climbing up and around the fighting, using the rooftops as a path. Leandra uses her physical prowess and assists Cham with her staff as he follows. They continue until they've made their way to the side of the temple.

Cham and Leandra run around front, stopping suddenly at the doorway as if confronted with an invisible wall. They look to each other, then back at the door before calmly walking in.

TNT. TEMPLE OF APOLLO

Cham and Leandra look around the dark room, illuminated only by a small fire in the center which THE ORACLE OF DELPHI, an small elderly woman, dressed in breathy linens and a grin on her face, sits behind.

ORACLE OF DELPHI Welcome my children. I've been expecting you.

Leandra bows to The Oracle. Cham notices and quickly bows.

LEANDRA

Great Oracle, we are sorry to disturb you.

ORACLE OF DELPHI

(chuckling)

Do you speak of this intrusion or the commotion you caused outside earlier?

Leandra and Cham quickly stand upright, looking at her.

LEANDRA

How did you-

ORACLE OF DELPHI Hunny, I'm the Oracle, knowing whats happening in Greece is my job...

Leandra and Cham stare at her in awe.

ORACLE OF DELPHI (CONT'D)

... Also the captain of my guard reported it earlier.

The Oracle LAUGHS at her own joke. Cham snickers as Leandra stands flustered.

LEANDRA

Pardon me, but you're in danger here. Please let us escort you to safety.

ORACLE OF DELPHI Thank you, but I'll be staying.

CHAM

With all respect, those soldiers are coming for you.

ORACLE OF DELPHI

My place is here, where I can help people. If I run, they shall merely chase. Who knows what they would do to this temple, the city, in my absence. More importantly there's you two.

CHAM

Us?

ORACLE OF DELPHI

Why have you come to see me?

Leandra looks to Cham who gives her a confirming nod. She takes a step forward towards The Oracle.

LEANDRA

My life... I want to know how to best live it. I have a destiny to fulfill. But so far my life's been nothing but chaos because of my destiny. Both for myself and those around me.

Leandra then grabs Chams and pulls him forward.

LEANDRA (CONT'D)

But I ask that you speak with him first.

Cham looks at her confused as The Oracle gestures for Cham to sit in front of the fire.

CHAM

Leandra... are you sure?

Suddenly, the fighting from outside can be heard as a loud COMMOTION. Leandra looks towards it, before turning back to Cham and The Oracle.

LEANDRA

Yeah, I'm pretty sure I just found my answer.

The Oracle smiles and nods to Leandra. Leandra storms out of the temple.

EXT. TEMPLE OF APOLLO - DAY

The phalanx of temple guards has grown smaller, as they back themselves against the temple.

SPARTAN COMMANDER

Charge!

The Spartan soldiers rush towards the temple guards.

DELPHI CAPTAIN

Hold!

The temple guards tighten their formation, preparing for impact.

Leandra runs out of the temple and leaps over the phalanx from behind, landing in front of the Spartan soldiers with a thunderous impact that sends two soldiers flying back. Everyone stands in shock as she poises herself to fight.

INT. TEMPLE OF APOLLO

Cham sits across from The Oracle, who looks deeply into Cham's eyes.

ORACLE OF DELPHI

I see... A chaménos.

CHAM

Chaménos?

ORACLE OF DELPHI

A lost one, those who wander the world.

CHAM

But how did I end up like this? I must be somebody, right?

ORACLE OF DELPHI
The mind and soul are a complex
thing. Whatever is blocking your
memories could be a powerful
protection or a dangerous curse. I
can help, but I need you to let go.

CHAM

Of what?

The Oracle closes her eyes, EXHALES, and sits still.

ORACLE OF DELPHI
Your fear, your anxiety, push it
away child. Be open to this
beautiful new world you find
yourself in.

Cham takes a DEEP BREATH, then closes his eyes.

ORACLE OF DELPHI O.S. Lower your walls of apprehension. Let your senses reach out and touch the world around you.

Cham's breathing begins to slow down, his body becomes more relaxed. Suddenly we see flashes of Leandra fighting out front.

ORACLE OF DELPHI O.S. (CONT'D) Let your senses grasp whats around you, so you may see the unseen.

Over top of Cham fades up a hazy image of:

EXT. TEMPLE OF APOLLO - DAY - CHAM'S VISION

A Spartan soldier lunges at Leandra with a spear. She spin dodges it, but the spear pierces her robe, tearing it off to reveal a shining white toga and silver armor underneath. A faint glow of sunlight enwraps Leandra as she counterattacks.

FADES OUT.

INT. TEMPLE OF APOLLO

Cham suddenly opens his eyes. He tries to catch his breath. The Oracle sits there with a sly grin on her face.

ORACLE OF DELPHI
The world doesn't have to be scary
just because you're starting over.
In fact, it is as children first
seeing the world that we learn to
appreciate its splendor.

CHAM

I think I get it.

ORACLE OF DELPHI
For those with our powers, the
world has so many experiences to
offer, so much to learn from.

CHAM

Our powers?

ORACLE OF DELPHI

(chuckling)

It isn't every day you meet another telepath.

EXT. TEMPLE OF APOLLO - DAY

Leandra blocks and parries the blows from Spartan Commander's sword. Though his attacks come with brute force and experienced swordsmanship, Leandra moves with an air of calm and focus.

SPARTAN COMMANDER

Who are you?

Leandra smirks. She does a front spin with her staff to disarm the Spartan Commander and then strikes him. The Spartan Commander goes sailing down the steps of the temple. Leandra slams her staff down. It hits the ground like a THUNDERING hammer striking an anvil. The sound garners the attention of the other combatants.

LEANDRA

I'm only going to say this once, so listen up! I am Leandra, Champion of Zeus, and this temple is under MY protection.

INT. TEMPLE OF APOLLO

Cham and The Oracle stare deep into each other's eyes.

ORACLE OF DELPHI With our powers, we can connect to

others and this world on a deeper level.

Cham looks down to his tunic.

CHAM

Like my tunic? Ever since I've woken up, something about it has felt special.

The Oracle shakes her head dismissively, but with a kind smile.

ORACLE OF DELPHI
Objects have no heart or mind to connect to. But hold onto that

feeling, it must mean your past is not out of reach.

CHAM

Okay.

ORACLE OF DELPHI

The more you grow, the more you'll be able to expand your mind and powers. For instance, you can forge deep mental connections with others, but only once you're able to dive into a person's subconscious.

Cham grips his heart.

CHAM

Can you do that?

ORACLE OF DELPHI

Close your eyes.

Cham takes a seat and closes his eyes.

ORACLE OF DELPHI (CONT'D) When you feel my mind touch yours, just relax and reach back to it.

The Oracle closes her eyes.

FADE TO:

THE VOID

We see a world of pitch black. Small blue wisps dance in darkness like fireflies.

The Oracle's ASTRAL PROJECTION, a blue apparition of the Oracle, appears. She walks around the void, studying it and the blue wisps. The blue wisps suddenly scatter and fade into the darkness, as The Oracle is sent crumbling to her knees by some great force being exerted on her body.

TEMPLE OF APOLLO

The fire between the two flares up, the wood CRACKING violently as if being struck by lightning. The Oracle snaps out of her trance in a cold sweat. Cham runs over to her aid.

CHAM

Are you okay?

The Oracle stares deeply into the fire as it begins to die back down.

ORACLE OF DELPHI

Whatever happened to you, whatever grips your mind, even I cannot undo.

CHAM

What does that mean?! What happened to me?!

ORACLE OF DELPHI

Do not fret my child, our time is

She directs him to the fire where we see images of Leandra fighting outside.

ORACLE OF DELPHI (CONT'D) None of this was by chance. You and Leandra coming here, meeting each other, it's fate. A great journey awaits the both of you. The sacred flame depicts it.

The fire shows Cham and Leandra traveling the Greek countryside, camping, fighting.

ORACLE OF DELPHI (CONT'D) This world is at a crossroads. It needs help. It needs heroes.

CHAM

Then let us help you!

ORACLE OF DELPHI
My job is to look after Delphi,
your's is to look after Leandra.

CHAM

But how can I help others, if I can't even help myself?

ORACLE OF DELPHI
There was a wise man who once said,
"Sometimes the best way to solve
your own problems, is to help
someone else."

Cham looks back at the images in the fire.

EXT. TEMPLE OF APOLLO - DAY

The temple guards group into formation around Leandra as they drive the Spartan soldiers down the stairs.

Some of the Spartans form their own phalanx, as others try to pick up their wounded. Leandra breaks their phalanx with a kick that sends the center soldier flying down to the base of the temple stairs.

The Spartans retreat, dispersing into the city streets. Some of the temple guards chase them down.

DELPHI CAPTAIN

Let them go! Help the wounded and check on The Oracle!

CHAM O.S.

Leandra!

Leandra, now partway down the stairs, looks up to see Cham run towards her from the Temple of Apollo.

CHAM

The Oracle wants us to leave.

LEANDRA

What did you do?

CHAM

Nothing!

Delphi Captain approaches Leandra.

DELPHI CAPTAIN

I share the Oracle's concern.

Delphi Captain bows to Leandra who is taken aback.

DELPHI CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

I apologize for our confrontation earlier, but she is right. Your pressence here will only escalate matters.

LEANDRA O.S.

Seriously? I made a whole declaration about protecting this place and everything.

An EAGLE SHRIEK rings out. Grear startles Cham and Delphi Captain as he swoops down, perching on Leandra's shoulder and CHIRPING as Leandra listens.

CHAM

Ummmm...

LEANDRA

Okay, keep watch.

Grear takes off as Leandra turns back to Cham and Delphi Captain.

LEANDRA (CONT'D)

A larger Spartan force landed on the shores outside Delphi and are converging here.

DELPHI CAPTAIN

Then you should go.

LEANDRA

But you can't fight them off on your own!

DELPHI CAPTAIN

Not every victory is about winning fights.

The Delphi Captain tenderly rests his hand on Leandra's shoulder.

DELPHI CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

Its good to know you're alive and kicking, Champion of Zeus.

Delphi Captain runs off towards the other temple guards.

DELPHI CAPTAIN (CONT'D)

Listen up!

Leandra looks up at the temple, then down to the city below.

CHAM

Leandra.

LEANDRA

... I know.

STREETS OF DELPHI - DAY

Cham and Leandra run through the streets of Delphi. A panic has set in amongst the civilians. People as sequestering indoors, locking down buildings, or running in a panic.

LEANDRA

So what'd she say?

CHAM

Uh, a lot of things.

LEANDRA

Anything specific?

CHAM

Well for starters, she thinks fate brought us together.

LEANDRA

(under hear breath)

Well fate can be a cruel mistress.

DELPHI MARKET - DAY

People swarm through the market, as the vendors hastily pack their stands.

George and Fisherman load the last two crates of their stand as Cham runs up. George see's Cham and hugs him, a relieved smile on his face.

GEORGE

Thank the Gods you're alright!

FISHERMAN

No time for sap, lets go!

Cham looks to George.

CHAM

I-I can't go.

George looks perplexed, then notices Leandra standing off behind Cham.

FISHERMAN

You got a death wish kid?! The Spartans will be here soon!

GEORGE

I thought something like this could happen.

George reaches into the cart and pulls out a packed bag. He hands it off to Cham.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

It's not much, but hopefully it'll help.

Cham's eyes start to well up. He hugs George again.

CHAM

Thank you.

GEORGE

Whatever happens, I hope it'll help ya find your place in this world.

George looks back to Leandra, an intense look on his face.

GEORGE (CONT'D)

Keep him safe.

Leandra nods assuredly. Cham and Leandra run off, disappearing into the crowd.

HILL TOP - EVENING

As the sun begins to set, Cham and Leandra reach the peak of the hill. They turn to look down on the city of Delphi.

The streets have become either deserted or flooded in the red of Spartan soldiers. Cham looks on in shock. Leandra notices and steps between Cham and Delphi.

LEANDRA

You made the right call. If we stayed, it'd be much worse.

CHAM

Yeah...

Leandra grabs him and starts walking down the other side of the hill.

LEANDRA

So to summarize, the almighty oracle didn't know where you're from or how you lost your memory, BUT said I'm stuck with you?

Cham, embarrassed, breaks eye contact.

CHAM

That about sums it up.

LEANDRA

Got a name at least?

Cham stops, scratching his head.

CHAM

She... she called me a Chaménos?

Leandra pouts, thinking to herself.

LEANDRA

Alright... Cham then!

She extends her hand out to shake.

LEANDRA (CONT'D)

Never did get to introduce myself. I'm Leandra, Champion of Zeus.

Cham smiles and shakes her hand.

CHAM

Cham, alleged telepath. Nice to meet you.

LEANDRA

(chuckling)

Nice to meet you Cham.

Grear suddenly lands on Leandra's arm as they shake, SHRIEKING as he does. Cham falls backwards startled. Leandra starts LAUGHING hysterically.

LEANDRA (CONT'D)

(laughing)

And this is Grear.

CHAM

Your pet?

LEANDRA

Eh. More of a sidekick.

Grear hops down next to Cham and lets out another SHRIEK. Leandra helps Cham up. Grear takes off.

LEANDRA (CONT'D)

He says there's a small village not to far.

Leandra walks off as Cham dusts himself off before catching up. $\,$

CHAM

So you understand him?

LEANDRA

Yup.

Grear lets out a SCHREECH from above.

LEANDRA (CONT'D)

Says he likes you.

CHAM

Really?

LEANDRA

(beat)

Nope.