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Starz

Spartacus, God's of the Arena, continues after last week's episode filled with sex, murder and mayham. Episode 5, 'Reckoning', picks up where Titus gives his son the ultimatum to get rid of his wife.

Passion still burns in the heart of Gannicus for Melitta and they engage in the forbidden down in the wine cellar. Oenomaus shows up during the act of betrayal and thrusts his sword through the neck of Gannicus. Melitta wakes from the horrific dream.

Lucretia mourns the passing of her friend, Gaia, at the hands of Tullius and confides her feelings to Melitta and tells her that they must perform a ritual cleansing to remove Gaia from the Ludus commanded by Titus. They decide not to do it, but if asked, will say it was done.

Ashur learns that his friend can understand the words spoken by others, which means he will no longer be needed as a translator. Titus unhappy with recent events at the Ludus, tells Oenomaus to arrange a competition for all gladiators under his roof to prove their worth or be sent to the mines. While battles on the sand determine the fate of slaves, Titus tells his son he has two day to reach his decision about his position in the Ludus and dissolve his marriage or call him 'Father' no more.

Crixus continuous to rise in skill defeating his opponents easily. Meanwhile Tallius arrives at the Ludus by invitation by Titus. Batiatus and Lucretia are insulted by the event but can do nothing at the moment to stop it. "What must we do asks Batiatus." "Whatever we must to rid us of this problem," responds his wife.

Tullius offers Titus fame for the house of Batiatus and a seat in the new arena. But the price, of course, is Gannicus.

Ashur faces his friend in the competition knowing that he cannot win, not fairly anyway. At his moment of defeat, Ashur asks "Let me go out on my feat". His friend, foolishly, agrees and lowers his guard. Ashur strikes and takes out the eye of his ex-friend to the dismay of all watching as he claims victory.

Contest, almost at an end with decisions to be made with the fate of the slaves and the fate of Lucretia as well. But one can tell that Lucretia has her own plans about the outcome and summons Crixus to see her. She asks about his family line and how many children his father had. Satisfied with the answer she tells Crixus never to speak of this as they have their first sexual encounter to produce an heir to Batiatus.

Meanwhile, Titus and son discuss the future of the ludus alone and with opportunity, Batiatus picks up a shattered piece of wood off the ground. The conversation does not goes the way Titus had hoped and turns to face Batiatus and sees he is holding a wooden plank in his hands. Batiatus hands the wooden plank to his father and says, "A memento" and walks away.

A defeated Batiatus returns to the Ludus and joins Lucretia in the bath telling her that he could not do it even though he had the chance. He has also reached the decision, "We must leave this house," he tells his wife, "We have lost everything." "Not everything," she replies.

The battle for champion begins between Gannicus and Crixus. Oenomaus informs Gannicus should he loose, he will be sold to Tullius. During competition Gannicus sees Melitta and memories of his time spent with her flood his mind distracting him from his purpose. He realizes her humiliation and shame and lowers his guard intentionally allowing Crixus to gain the advantage. His own shame and guilt prove stronger than his desire for victory.

Meanwhile, Titus collapses and we all know why, don't we? Batiatus and Oenomaus go in search of medicine for his father leaving Titus in the care of Lucretia. Alone Titus tells Lucretia that maybe she is not the serpent he thought her to be. She replies, "I'm far worse." She tells him that the wine she just gave him from Tullius was a more permanent solution to the problem. He spits up blood realizing that he has been poisoned and dies.

Melitta goes to see Gannicus where she admits her real feelings for him despite all that she has said and unknowingly drinks the poisoned wine. She also suffers the same fate as Titus.

"It was the wine," Gannicus says as he carries Melitta into the Ludus. Lucretia tells him, "Do not mention that she came to see you," and dismisses him.

Then Oenomaus and Batiatus return to the Ludus and find Melitta and Titus dead.

Only one episode remains and all will be concluded next week.

In Next week's episode 6, 'The Bitter End'

Batiatus seeks vengeance for all that has befallen him and retains his gladiators and Solonius in the cause. The opening of the new arena arrives, promising a spectacle of combat and blood. USA - 2011 - TVMA

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