

EXT. ATHENS - BASE OF BRONZE STATUE OF ATHENA - MORNING

The sun's golden light illuminates the colossal statue of ATHENA towering over the landscape as the Athenian streets come to life. At the base of the statue lies CALLISTA, a disheveled shepherd, snoring with the grace of an ox.

Her head rests on the hilt of a gleaming, godlike SWORD.

Suddenly, ALINA, a scrappy 10-year-old orphan, sneaks up and pokes Callista's face repeatedly with a stick.

ALINA
(whispering loudly)
Hey, lady! Wake up! You're on
sacred ground, and I'm pretty sure
the gods charge rent.

Callista stirs, opens one eye, and groans.

CALLISTA
Tell Zeus I'm three drachmas short
this month.

Alina giggles and pokes Callista again.

ALINA
Come on! Up, up! You're a terrible
thief if you're sleeping through
the morning rush. I could've swiped
that shiny sword right out from
under you.

CALLISTA
I'm not a thief, and what... sword?

Callista sits up groggily, rubs her eyes, and stares at the magnificent sword beside her.

ALINA
Is that... Did you steal from the
gods?! You're gonna be in so much
trouble. You gotta teach me how you
did it!

Callista blinks at the sword then motions to her sad attire. Tattered. Covered in dirt. Smelling like sheep.

CALLISTA
My sheep seem to think I'm a
shepherd and yesterday I lost a tug
of war with one of them. So, no, I
didn't "steal from the gods."

ALINA

Sounds like your sheep don't even believe you're a shepherd.

Callista picks up the sword and inspects its brilliance. Light as a feather and radiating into her bones. Its energy born of an angry sun and the steel of a thousand anvils.

CALLISTA

Someone must have left it for me.

ALINA

Sure, sure. Ares probably saw a sleepy shepherd and thought, "awww, she could use a sword pillow." Totally makes sense.

Callista looks around at the towering statue of Athena and the bustling city of Athens.

CALLISTA

Wait, this is Athens? How did I get here-- oh, gods. I must be dead. Is this Hades?

ALINA

Uh, no. Athens. Hades probably has less sun. More shadows. Some death.
(beat)
We must conceal the sword somehow. It's drawing shifty eyes. Can't have a thief stealing what you rightfully stole.

CALLISTA

Conceal it? It's taller than you.
(beat)
And I didn't steal it! Someone gave it to me. While I was sleeping.

ALINA

(winks)
I know, I know. But other people might not believe you. If we can't hide it, we must mask it somehow. Like, we don't call it a sword, it's a... uhhh...

CALLISTA

It's a sword. Even a blind person can see it's a sword.

Suddenly, ADONIS, the epitome of charm and heroism, approaches. He spots Callista, notices the sword, and raises an eyebrow.

ADONIS

Well, well, a shepherd with a blade
fit for a god. Didn't expect that
curiosity on my morning patrol.

Alina grins, stepping in front of Callista like her self-appointed spokesperson, and points to her.

ALINA

She is but a lost and weary
traveler in search of adventure.
The sword was bestowed upon her by
almighty Zeus himself. Probably.

(beat)

I'm her apprentice, Alina: Keeper
of Swords. That's what she calls
me.

Alina reaches for the sword but Callista spins to keep it from her grasp.

CALLISTA

Whoa, whoa, little Miss Grabby.
(beat, to Adonis)
Look, you seem very charming...

ALINA

He is. Very.

CALLISTA

...but I didn't ask for any of
this! One minute, I'm herding sheep
on Mykonos, the next I wake up next
to this... Olympian kebab skewer.

ALINA

Oh, that's good.

ADONIS

This "Olympian kebab skewer" looks
to be forged by Hephaestus himself.
Are you sure you didn't stumble
upon it atop Mount Olympus?

CALLISTA

Mount what now? Never heard of it.

ADONIS

But you just called it an Olympian--
Never mind.

(MORE)

ADONIS (CONT'D)

(beat)

The owner of that masterpiece will want it back. And they won't play nice.

ALINA

Ooooo, maybe she's chosen. Or cursed. Or chosen and cursed. Classic combo.

CALLISTA

I'm neither! I'm just lost, confused, and too sober for this.

Adonis stands, offering his hand to Callista with a smirk.

ADONIS

Name's Adonis, and I'm charged with protecting Athenians and their guests. Whatever the truth is to this mystery, I think it's best you stick close. Things in Athens can get weird. And trust me, when a sword like that shows up...

ALINA

Kebab Skewer.

ADONIS

...it's usually the beginning of a very interesting day.

CALLISTA

Perfect. Because my last "interesting day" involved a goat eating my only pair of sandals.

They start walking away from the statue together. Alina skips ahead, Callista rolls her eyes, and Adonis chuckles.

ALINA

This adventure is gonna be legendary. I can feel it.

CALLISTA

Or my curse will spread to you two. But sure, legendary sounds fun.

The camera pulls back, showing the towering statue of Athena casting a long shadow over the chaotic trio as they march into the busy streets of Athens, with Callista carrying a shining blade that attracts chaos.