

Blood made him a king.
Destiny made him a legend.

TUT



Hour One: "CHOICE"

After the assassination of his father, Tut is forced to marry his sister and is crowned Pharaoh of Egypt - but his chief advisor, Prime Minister Ay, keeps him hidden from public view. When he grows into a formidable and resourceful young man, Tut seizes his destiny by leading his army into a battle against the feared nearby Mitanni. Betrayed by those closest to him, he is left presumed-dead on the battlefield - and must plot his next move.

TUT

"HOUR ONE: CHOICE"

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MUSE ENTERTAINMENT

2/26/2014

TUT

"HOUR ONE: CHOICE"

SUPER - OVER BLACK:

1332 B.C.

Egypt, the most powerful nation in the world, is gripped in turmoil.

Surrounded on every border by dangerous enemies aligning to seize control of the Nile River, Pharaoh Akhenaten desperately holds the Kingdom together.

Beset by internal religious strife and threats from beyond, Egypt has never been so vulnerable.

In the capital city of Thebes, no one is safe.

Still over black, we hear the incessant roar of a crowd. Cheering, shouts of obscenity -

FADE IN:

1 EXT. PALACE GROUNDS - COURTYARD - DAY

1

A massive HORDE OF PEOPLE have packed an expansive, open square within the walls of the magnificent Palace. Many are standing on makeshift seating or on each other's shoulders for a better view. There is no shade from the unrelenting sun. It is hot, dry, dusty and brown. Some are dressed in fine white linens - the upper noblemen of Egyptian society - others in brown linens or more ragged clothes - the middle and lower class. All are one as they jeer a man being dragged to the center of the square by Palace Guards. His name is PARENEFFER. He has already suffered cuts and bruises but is now tied to a stake, his hands stretched above his head.

2 INT. PALACE - NARROW CORRIDOR - DAY

2

A DOZEN ROYAL GUARDS are escorting someone through the hall, shielding him from view. It is a boy, moving slowly with a slight limp. A gate is opened in front of them, exposing sunlight and the sounds of the crowd...

3 EXT. PALACE GROUNDS - COURTYARD - DAY

3

AKHENATEN, the Pharaoh of Egypt, is seated on a large, decorative dais, pleased to have the sun shine down upon him, in full view of the adoring crowd - and the prisoner Pareneffer. Adorned with a majestic headdress, jewelry and makeup, he turns as the escorted boy is brought to him.

The child is guided to a viewing chair that has been fitted with screens so that his face is cast in shadow. Only now is he exposed - but only to the Pharaoh, not the crowd. This is TUT, age 9. He has a small scar above his lip - the only reminder of a harelip from birth - and eyes that are filled with the energy and purpose of youth.

Tut looks out at the prisoner - exhilarated by the zeal of the crowd, yet nervous about what is to happen next. He looks up at his father, who offers a short nod to the Prince.

Tut's eyes then shift to a tall, angular man on the other side of Akhenaten - someone of obvious importance - his name is GRAND VIZIER AY.

AY

General.

GENERAL HOREMHEB, a grizzled warrior with battle scars across most of his body, approaches Pareneffer.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Reveal who paid for your treachery
against our great Pharaoh Akhenaten.
Hold your tongue and your soul, like
your flesh, will rot for eternity.

Pareneffer does not answer.

4 INT. PALACE HALLWAY - DAY

4

KA, a few years older than Tut at 13 (and almost a man with his chiseled features) leads the stunningly beautiful ANKHE, 12, by the hand down the corridor.

ANKHE

Ka, wait...

KA

Come on...

They reach a balcony where the roar of the crowd rises up from the courtyard. Before stepping out, he stops her and steals a quick kiss.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

She blushes. He then leads her out, both crouching just above the ledge to see the happenings below.

ANKHE

Is my brother there?

KA

Yes. Hidden from view. As always.

5 EXT. PALACE GROUNDS - COURTYARD - DAY

5

Tut watches curiously as a WOMAN and a BOY (who is a few years older than Tut) are brought out, arms tied and mouths gagged. Each is tied to a separate chariot. The horses are unsettled by the crowd.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

You hold their fate.

Pareneffer watches the woman and boy. Both are terrified, suppressing tears. But Pareneffer turns his gaze back to Akhenaten defiantly. The crowd waits with bated breath.

Finally Akhenaten offers a slight nod. Ay relays the same to Horemheb. The General walks over to one of the chariots and whips the horse. The woman is lurched forward and is dragged over the rough ground. The people react - enticed - with cheering and shouts of hatred.

Ankhe and Ka stare in quiet awe as the chariot rounds the perimeter of the courtyard through the jeering crowd, scrubbing the woman over rocks and bricks.

Akhenaten keeps a careful eye on Tut's horrified reaction as the chariot returns to where it started. The woman has lost most of her skin, mangled and bleeding to death before their eyes. Pareneffer still does not speak. Grand Vizier Ay nods to Horemheb. He is about to snap his whip at the boy's chariot when Akhenaten stands.

AKHENATEN

Wait!

The crowd goes silent. Akhenaten steps from the dais. He walks over to the young, petrified kid and lifts his chin, forcing eye contact. Then, to the surprise of everyone, he wipes a dusty tear from the boy's cheek.

AKHENATEN

Mercy.

The crowd cheers their approval as the boy is untied. Akhenaten then turns to Pareneffer.

(CONTINUED)

5 CONTINUED:

5

AKHENATEN

Speak now Pareneffer and I will show
you the same.

PARENEFFER

The Gods of our fathers - Horus,
Osiris and Amun-Ra shine upon us!
They can never be taken! I worship
Seth now as always! I will worship
Isis to my death! I will worship
them all to your death!

Akhenaten quickly reaches him, flashing a small dagger,
cutting Pareneffer's stomach so deeply - and with such
aggression - that the man's innards spill out. Tut flinches
but cannot turn his eyes away.

CUT TO:

6 INT. PALACE - ROYAL COURT - DAY

6

The lavish royal court of the Palace. Tables of food and
wine line the walls. Various MINISTERS and SOLDIERS,
including Ay and Horemheb, attend the Pharaoh, who is still
fuming. SEVERAL FANBEARERS move the hot Egyptian air.

AKHENATEN

He was my most trusted servant! Is
there no one in all my kingdom who
has not been corrupted?

AY

You are greatly loved, my Great King.
But the Egyptian Empire stands on a
precipice. There is still unrest
since you established Aten as the one
true God.

Akhenaten becomes even more heated.

AKHENATEN

I am their god! I am the embodiment
of Aten! I shine the light of the
sun on our people! I give them
bounty of food and water from the
Great River! I give them life!

AY

And we are all beholden. But there
are still many who resent being
forced to disregard the traditions of
their forefathers. It has caused
chaos among the common man who now
believe their faith has no purpose.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

GENERAL HOREMHEB

The Mitanni covet the Great River
above all others... and they now look
to take advantage of our weakness.

AKHENATEN

Weakness? No foreign army has
breached our river in a thousand
years. We do not stand on a
precipice, we stand at the height of
greatness. It is the glorious Lord
of the Sun Aten who has blessed this
kingdom, as he will continue to bless
all my people.

Horemheb and Ay exchange a weary look.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

My Lord -

AKHENATEN

I will not reverse this course. The
people will come to Aten.

AY

Keep in mind, my Lord, the people of
Egypt seek an explanation for their
every challenge. There was a God for
every aspect of their life. But now,
in times of hardship there is only
Aten to blame.

(then, carefully)

There is only you.

Everyone watches with held breath, anxious -

AKHENATEN

Such is my burden. Such will be the
burden of all Pharaohs that follow
me.

(considers this)

Bring me Tutankhamun.

CUT TO:

7 INT. PALACE - AKHENATEN'S CHAMBER - DAY

7

Two large doors slowly swing open, revealing Tut. He steps
into the Pharaoh's chamber as the doors close behind him.
Lush and massive, but there is something else that makes Tut
pause. The room is empty of anyone else. The Pharaoh
himself waits, but there are no ministers, no servants. It
is an unusual sight to see the Pharaoh alone.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

Tut bows his head respectfully.

AKHENATEN

Come closer, my son.

Tut steps closer, looking at his father now anxiously.

AKHENATEN

The decrees I made were necessary.
The Priests, and their Gods, grew too
powerful, amassing their own riches.
It is the Pharaoh who is to be
worshipped and honored above all
others. Do you understand?

TUT

I think so, my Lord.

AKHENATEN

I have done this at great cost. And
now my enemies have scaled these
walls. They have breached my inner
most circle. I must take steps that
the royal line is preserved or all
that I have built, all that I have
sacrificed, will crumble like stone
against the great desert winds.

(pauses)

You will be married. You will wed
your sister Ankhe immediately.

Tut simply stares at him, uncomfortable.

AKHENATEN

You have always known this day would
come. The bloodline will be pure.

Tut does not break eye contact with the Pharaoh. Finally,
after a long moment of consideration, he nods...

TUT

Yes, my Lord.

Akhenaten now studies him, circling.

AKHENATEN

So frail as a child, cursed with a
leg that would not keep you upright.
I feared you would not live but a few
years. But you have come far.

Akhenaten now lifts the boy's chin to see into his eyes, much
the way he did to Pareneffer's son. Tut stares back
confidently.

(CONTINUED)

AKHENATEN

But are you ready to lead your people
when called?

TUT

I am.

AKHENATEN

Yet you flinch at death, at duty.
What is required to be their Pharaoh.

TUT

No, My Lord... I only -

AKHENATEN

Only what?!

Tut feels the full weight of his father's presence. He
stammers, but still holds to his thoughts -

TUT

Pareneffer deserved to die, but his
wife didn't do anything -

AKHENATEN

There is no innocent! There is no
guilty! There is no death, no life!
There is only what serves the
Pharaoh's purpose! The people must
heed your will! This is the
sacrifice the people make for their
King. It is the burden you endure as
their King!

(to the shadows)

Grand Vizier!

From the back shadows of the chamber, Grand Vizier Ay steps
in dragging Pareneffer's son. He is gagged, his hands bound
behind his back. The boy is frightened, laboring for breath
through whimpered cries. Ay hands Akhenaten a sharp blade.

AKHENATEN

All of Pareneffer's blood must be
spilled for his treachery. You will
wield the knife yourself.

(forces it into Tut's hand)

Cut him. Spill his blood.

Tut just stares at the boy whose muffled cries become almost
an echo...

AKHENATEN

You wish to be Pharaoh?!

(CONTINUED)

TUT

Yes.

AKHENATEN

You wish to be a God among men?! To ensure the blood of this dynasty becomes immortal through history!

TUT

Yes, Father!

AKHENATEN

Then do this!!

Tut stands before the boy, but the knife in his hand trembles...

AKHENATEN

Enemies lurk in every shadow! They smell your weakness, your hesitation, and that is when they strike! SHOW ME YOU ARE READY!!

Tut takes a step toward his prey... but he cannot do it. Akhenaten slaps Tut across the side of his head.

AKHENATEN

In the name of Aten and the Kingdom! You are incapable! You are weak!

Akhenaten hits him again.

AKHENATEN

Do this!

Tut does not break, his jaw clenched. Another step closer to the boy. But he lets the knife fall from his hand. He turns and looks defiantly into his father's eyes.

TUT

No.

Akhenaten, in his rage, picks up the knife himself and stabs the boy. Tut flinches. Ay does not. There is absolute silence. The only sound is that of Pareneffer's son now falling to the floor, blood streaming out beneath him.

AKHENATEN

This is what it means to be Pharaoh. This is how it will always be.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED: (4)

7

He drops the knife. It CLANGS loudly off the stone floor. Akhenaten walks away. Ay remains, watching Tut carefully. Tut has not taken his eyes off the dead boy.

CUT TO:

8 INT. PALACE DUNGEON - DAY

8

Tut runs through the dark underground halls as best he can with his slight limp. He reaches an empty antechamber and removes a grate, disappearing into a narrow tunnel.

9 EXT. PALACE - DAY

9

He climbs up from a hidden door into the open air and continues running.

10 EXT. MEADOW - DAY

10

Tut finally stops in a small meadow and breathes in the fresh air. It's all he can do not to vomit.

He then hears the soft, innocent sound of a girl's laughter. Tut makes his way through some trees. Pauses.

Ankhe and Ka are together in a small clearing. Ka teases her, and she laughs again. He then kisses her. Ankhe, although a bit shy, reciprocates in kind. Finally, they simply stand there with their foreheads touching, eye to eye, very much in love.

Ka senses they are being watched. They both turn, still holding hands - their affection for each other no secret.

ANKHE

You are worse than the Grand Vizier himself. There is never a moment for us alone.

She is slightly annoyed at her brother but not upset. She does not see the troubled look on his face. Neither does Ka. He picks up a fashioned bow carved from soft wood and delicately painted. He brings it to Tut -

KA

I finished it this morning. From a tree that fell near my father's tomb. If it carries his spirit, you will soon surpass me in skill.

Tut is still almost in a trance...

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

TUT

Thank you...

KA

Let's find some game and I will teach
you my considerable skill!

With a playful grin, he goes back to Ankhe and pulls her off
with him. But Tut does not follow.

ANKHE

Tutankhamun - come on!

Only now do they realize something is wrong.

ANKHE

What is it?

TUT

We are to marry.

This sits for a moment, both realizing the weight of what he
said.

TUT

He has decided it is to happen now.

Ankhe and Ka exchange a despairing look, knowing from this
moment on it will never be the same again. Tears well up in
her eyes as her hand slips away from Ka's.

Ankhe, wiping tears, runs back to the Palace.

Tut and Ka stare at one another. Ka wants to say something,
but he knows it will change nothing. He finally turns and
walks away in the opposite direction as Ankhe, leaving Tut
standing alone.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. STREETS OF THEBES - NIGHT

11

THOUSANDS OF CITIZENS dance and play music. The city has
become its own beast, throbbing with celebration.

12 INT. PALACE - ROYAL COURT - NIGHT

12

The cheering of the crowd transforms into the rhythmic
stomping of feet. DOZENS OF DANCERS perform as an entire
roasted oxen is brought out to feed the guests. There are
mutton, pigs, hyena, as well as all manner of game birds,
surrounded by delectable fruit and glazed root vegetables.
The amount of food could feed a village.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED:

12

The HIGH PRIEST OF ATEN, bedecked with a giant gold disk that represents the sun, stands in front of Akhenaten on his throne. Tut and Ankhe - each elaborately dressed in a massive costume and headdress - sit to either side in smaller thrones. Their faces are almost entirely obscured, but it is still possible to see their discomfort.

Ka watches on, distraught. He and Ankhe lock eyes for a brief moment. Grand Vizier Ay takes note.

Tut notices a FALCON that has found its way in through one of the large, open pillars. Ankhe sees it too, watching it fly past and momentarily land between them. It is a quiet, wonderful moment amongst the madness.

ANKHE

It is the God Horus. It offers protection to all Pharaohs.

TUT

One of the many Gods father frowns upon.

Just as quickly it takes flight again and disappears. Ankhe and Tut share a look between them, a moment of bonding - a symbol perhaps that all will be well.

Akhenaten rises from his throne.

The musicians stop. Everyone immediately falls silent. It is rare to hear the Pharaoh speak.

AKHENATEN

On this day, the great God Aten has seen fit to unite these souls. As the North meets South unifying the great kingdom of Egypt, so too are they. May Aten bless them, now conjoined for all eternity!

A Servant hands Akhenaten a goblet of wine. The Pharaoh then pulls in a long drink. The crowd roars their approval.

The music restarts and the celebrants burst into rapturous applause once again, but something is wrong with Akhenaten. The color begins to drain from his face. He coughs up a mouthful of wine, spitting it out like blood.

The goblet falls as he drops to his knees. Ay and Horemheb move immediately to his side. He is gasping for breath.

Now Tut notices. One by one, so does everybody else.

(CONTINUED)

12 CONTINUED: (2)

12

The music stops. Akhenaten turns his gaze to Tut - attempting to say something, but the words are stuck in his throat, which is now swelling shut. In his eyes, a determined expression - a last message of expectation.

He then collapses. Dead.

There are gasps and screams from the crowd. The full realization of what has happened lands on Tut's wide-eyed, nine year-old face when suddenly he and Ankhe are snatched from behind by soldiers. Fearing they are about to be assassinated as well, Tut and Ankhe struggle to free themselves, but are dragged away into the chaos.

Ka sees it happen and springs to his feet. Fearing for their lives as well, he fights the fleeing crowd in an attempt to go after them.

13 INT. PALACE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

13

Screams of panic echo throughout as Tut and Ankhe are carried to a stairs leading down into the bowels of the Palace. They fight, still trying to get away from their captors.

Ka races in behind -

KA

Release them!

But they are down another corridor.

14 INT. PALACE - LOWER CHAMBER - NIGHT

14

Tut and Ankhe are pushed into a small, featureless room, lit only by a single torch that barely lights the shadows.

Ka catches up, attacking with a dagger. He pulls one of the men away from Tut, almost freeing him. But the captors are much older, bigger and stronger. They hit Ka hard, knocking him to the floor inside the cell, more bemused than anything. The door is slammed shut behind them and locked.

Ankhe goes to Ka's side, his lip cut and bleeding. He gets back to his feet.

ANKHE

Are they going to kill us?

KA

I don't know.

(looks over at Tut)

Are you okay?

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

Tut, nods, then simply stares at the two of them in stunned silence as SHOUTS and BELLOWS continue from above.

15 EXT. PALACE GROUNDS - NIGHT

15

The Servant who gave Akhenaten the wine is chased by guards past stunned onlookers. He is finally tackled, struggling as the Guards yank him back to his feet. General Horemheb grabs the man by the jaw.

HOREMHEB

Which of our enemies paid you for
this treachery?! Speak!

But the man says nothing. Horemheb forces his mouth open in an attempt to make him talk - only to see the cauterized remains of his tongue that had been cut out long ago so that he could never reveal his master.

The General then rips a medallion from around the man's neck, inscribed on the back with the insignia of the God Seth.

HOREMHEB

You will have your chance to worship
Seth.

They drag him away.

16 INT. PALACE - LOWER CHAMBER - DAY

16

Ka stands near the door, listening as the sound of Guards approach. Ankhe and Tut are behind him, terrified.

KA

Tutankhamun... they are coming.

17 INT. PALACE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

17

Ay leads several armed Guards down the hall with purpose.

18 INT. PALACE - LOWER CHAMBER - DAY

18

Ka steps protectively in front of Tut and Ankhe, wielding the small dagger as the door bursts open. Ay stands at the door with the Elite Guards. There is no telling his intent, staring down at the three of them in a grave manner. Then -

AY

You are loyal, Ka. Always their
protector.

(to Tut)

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

AY (CONT'D)

As am I. I had to be sure the halls
were safe.

ANKHE

The Pharaoh?

Ay shakes his head. He then bows to Tut.

AY

My Lord, I am here to counsel and
serve your kingdom.

Ankhe looks at Tut, for the first time realizing herself what
this means. She too bows her head respectfully. Then, Ka
and the Guards all do the same. Tut isn't sure how to react.

CUT TO:

19 EXT. PALACE GROUNDS - DAY

19

A MASS OF PEOPLE have gathered, waiting to see the new
Pharaoh. The emotions are mixed - there's a certain pall
over the death of Akhenaten, yet anticipation and excitement
at finally seeing their new King.

20 INT. PALACE - ROYAL COURT - DAY

20

Grand Vizier Ay and a handful of MINISTERS and SERVANTS watch
as Tut is fitted with the iconic BLUE AND GOLD HEADDRESS.

Ankhe, next to him, is being outfitted in an extraordinary
display of jewels and garments.

General Horemheb and a line of soldiers in detailed uniforms,
including Ka, are there as well. Ka watches Ankhe
impassively.

Ay steps forward -

AY

My Lord... a request for audience
from the exiled priest, Amun, who
returns in peace and reconciliation.

There is now a great stir in the room as a robed man makes
his way forward.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

Ruler of all Egypt, Manifestation of
all that is Holy, I greet you.

(to Ay)

Grand Vizier Ay.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

His eyes pass to General Horemheb, but his greeting is forced.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN
General Horemheb.

The General does not offer the customary bow of the head.

Amun turns now to Tut.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN
Pharaoh. The crowds cheer outside these walls in anticipation of your ascension - for at last they see hope and the dignity of once again worshipping the gods of their own choosing. There is now the opportunity to unite the people of Egypt. Undo the damage of Akhenaten's rule. Give them their freedom, and they will give their lives for you.
(a pause, for effect)
Give us back the old gods.

He bows down on one knee.

Tut is about to speak, but Ay lifts a hand, quieting him. The point is clear - he will speak on behalf of the young Pharaoh on such matters.

AY

The High Priest speaks wisely. Our enemies watch. They see a young, untested Pharaoh on the throne. We must end this internal strife and unite as one.

GENERAL HOREMHEB
The High Priest speaks for his own benefit. He was banished by Akhenaten for abusing his power.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN
Abusing my power, General Horemheb? I stood charged only with offering the people of this great kingdom faith in Amun-Ra and his disciples.

GENERAL HOREMHEB
And lined the pockets of every priest.

(CONTINUED)

AY

Enough! The decision rests with the Pharaoh.

But Ay says this only to satisfy protocol. Before Tut has the chance to respond, Ay raises his staff.

AY

Let it be known - Horus will take once again to the sky, and Osiris is risen from the underworld!

The High Priest cannot hide his delight. He passes a glance at General Horemheb who is not quite so pleased.

AY

It is time.

He gently moves Ankhe forward. As Tut steps up next to her, Ay puts a gentle hand on his shoulder, keeping him back.

AY

Let your people cast their vision upon the Queen on this day, My Lord.

Ka observes this, concerned.

TUT

Why do I not stand before them?

AY

Their Pharaoh must be divine and a reflection of the Gods.

Tut absently touches his small scar.

AY

This very Palace, and the power it represents, will be your embodiment. This will be their vision of your perfection. And with the flawless beauty of the Queen as the light of your new Kingdom - you will have their allegiance for all eternity.

Tut shares a look with Ankhe... then nods his approval. She offers her own reassuring smile and allows Ay to guide her. As she walks past Ka, they exchange a quiet, melancholy glance - the love in their eyes not yet extinguished. Ka does not offer a hint of reassurance. He is bitter at having lost her. Tut takes note of this exchange before Ka turns and walks away.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED: (3)

20

Ankhe swallows a breath, then continues out onto the terrace. The CHEERING CROWD escalates to madness, bellowing their adoration for the young queen.

Tut watches from where he stands. He subconsciously takes a step back away from the light, then, farther yet into the shadows until he is completely cast in darkness.

FADE TO BLACK:

21 EXT. WOODS - DAY

21

The tip of an arrow. The sounds of BIRDS, INSECTS.

SUPER: EIGHT YEARS LATER

RACK FOCUS - 17 YEAR-OLD TUT armed with a bow. His face has grown into striking features. There are the same glistening, dark eyes, but he has a hunger, an intensity, heretofore unseen.

He releases an arrow, killing a PIGEON that falls mid-flight. Ka, now 21, with defined muscles and a determined intensity of his own, rises from behind some shrubbery.

KA

Magnificent shot, My Lord. Your marksmanship has surpassed even my own - a compliment I do not render lightly.

He offers Tut a slight head bow. He walks forward to collect the bird.

TUT

We are alone, Ka. Dispense of the formalities. If I have to remind you again, I will have your head.

KA

The Grand Vizier will have it himself if he ever learns of these excursions.

TUT

He won't have any say in it.

KA

Doesn't he have a final say in everything?

Tut pauses as he puts the bird into a pouch - this has struck a nerve.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

TUT

Ay has been a trusted and loyal
advisor - as he was to my father.

Ka retrieves two long, curved swords called a KHOPESH. He
tosses one to Tut as they circle one another.

KA

But to what purpose? He has
counseled you into obscurity. The
people long for a Pharaoh who leads
from outside the shadows.

Ka whirls the khopesh sword down at Tut who stumbled back,
blocks it. Ka lets up, allowing him to set position for his
own attack. The look in Tut's eyes has shifted into a cold
stare. Ka realizes he may have gone too far. Pauses.

KA

I apologize. I speak too candidly.

But the scrutiny in Tut's eyes diminishes as he comes at Ka
again. Tut is good, but Ka is still of better skill.

TUT

I have always counted on you to speak
your mind.

Ka is a bit hesitant... but finally lets his thoughts known
as they continue to spar.

KA

Your father ruled for himself, not
for his people. His reign was marred
with chaos and turmoil that yet
lingers.

Another clash of steel -

TUT

And you don't think I want to heal
those wounds?

KA

I have yet to see you do anything!
You once spoke to me of the
prosperity under your grandfather's
rule. Is that now still your
purpose? Or is this your fate - a
subject under the Grand Vizier's
rule, who is not even allowed beyond
the Palace walls?

Tut stops. Considers him. Bothered at the truth. Then eyes
Ka carefully as they position themselves again.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED: (2)

21

TUT

What is your fate, Ka?

KA

That is for the Gods to decide.

TUT

Not General Horemheb?

Ka is quiet.

TUT

You are the jewel in his eye. You rise through his ranks.

KA

I have been given opportunity... and seek only what I am told.

Tut offers a thin smile, then draws his sword back.

TUT

Fate is not what you are given. It is what you take.

He comes at Ka again. Ka defends.

TUT

I will not see my grandfather's blood chiseled from history because of my father's mistakes. Or my own.

He steps back, catching his breath.

TUT

So do not think I sit idle.

Ka comes at him again - but this time with no inhibition, slicing the sword at him. Tut does his best to defend, but it is clear that when Ka makes a full effort, he is superior.

Tut falls on his back. Each time he tries to raise his own sword in defense, Ka is quicker, each time, drawing the blade near until at last it is against Tut's throat.

KA

Except that you still have much to learn of this world.

He pulls the blade back. Tut catches his breath, watching him carefully, unsettled.

CUT TO:

22 INT. PALACE - AUDIENCE HALL - DAY

22

A large, open chamber with light seeping in from all corners. The room is filled with an ensemble of MINISTERS, SERVANTS and DIGNITARIES. DANCERS move gently to MUSICIANS' music. The guests bow as the Queen enters. At twenty now, Ankhe has grown into a woman of stunning beauty. Dressed in royal garb, jewelry and makeup, she sits and faces her people.

Commoners who have been given the privilege to visit present her with gifts - flowers, fruits and furs. Ankhe paints a smile, but does not speak directly to any of them.

Then a MOTHER brings forth a small newborn baby. She bows down on one knee.

MOTHER

My lady, I have come for a blessing
of my child. I have traveled days in
hopes that he may simply gaze upon
your beauty.

Ankhe's smile fades as she now stares at the newborn - an emptiness in her eyes. The Mother becomes nervous, as do the others in the chamber.

MOTHER

If I have offended, I am sorry -

ANKHE

Bring him to me.

The Mother isn't sure she heard right. HERIT, Ankhe's lady-in-waiting, a young woman of her own radiance, nods to the woman to oblige. The mother steps forward.

Ankhe stands. She reaches and takes the baby. This causes a stir of delight from the other guests. It's an unusual sight to see the Queen interact with a commoner. There is a wave of relief that she was not offended by the request.

The Mother glows with pride. Ankhe gently holds the infant son, rocking him gently. She then leans in and kisses him on the forehead, whispering into his ear - words no one but the baby will ever know.

She hands the child back. The mother can hardly speak, breathless in gratitude...

MOTHER

Thank you, my Lady.

ANKHE

Love him above all else.

(CONTINUED)

22 CONTINUED:

22

As the mother turns and leaves -

HERIT

You have bestowed such an honor. The gods will surely favor him.

But Herit sees the troubled, sad look on the Queen's face and realizes her mistake.

HERIT

I am so sorry, my Queen.

Ankhe feigns a smile, then walks out of the room.

CUT TO:

23 INT. PALACE - ANKHE'S PRIVATE VAULT - NIGHT

23

An amulet in her hands, Ankhe kneels in a small, dark vault in front of TWO TINY SARCOPHAGI. She finishes her prayer, then tenderly kisses each small coffin.

24 INT. PALACE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

24

A PALACE GUARD waits in the corridor with a torch to light the way. As Ankhe walks with him, she is startled by Ka who has been watching. Ankhe turns to her Guard.

ANKHE

Leave us.

The Guard eyes Ka, then continues down the hall. Ka waits until he is gone...

KA

I cannot bear it any longer.

ANKHE

Do you think it will somehow change now when it hasn't in eight years?

KA

By your command it can.

ANKHE

What I want doesn't matter. I am the Pharaoh's wife. We could never be together the day I married Tutankhamun.

KA

He has other women.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

ANKHE

And you don't?

KA

My heart belongs to only one.

Ankhe softens. We can see her internal struggle, her misery.

ANKHE

I too dream of what might have been.
 But those dreams have no purpose
 anymore. He is your best friend. He
 is my brother and husband. And he is
our King.

Ka lets out a smirk. Ankhe offers a concerned look.

ANKHE

You mock him?

KA

I do not mock my King. But others
 do. They wonder out loud whether he
 exists at all.

ANKHE

Then you will assure them he does.

She starts away, but Ka stops her.

KA

I will not wait for the next life to
 be with you.

Tears well up in her eyes. She gently removes his hand and continues away.

CUT TO:

25 EXT. CITY OF THEBES - NIGHT

25

Under a full moon, the expansive city is sprinkled with
 torches, the streets bustling with activity now that the hot
 sun has gone down.

26 EXT. CITY STREET - NIGHT

26

Alive with VENDORS and MERCHANTS peddling their goods.
 NOBLEMEN ride past in chariots. MASONS are working on a new
 building.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

A man dressed in the clothes of a commoner walks among them. We notice he has a slight limp. His face is partially covered by a scarf - no one aware that he is their Pharaoh.

Tut pauses at a Vendor selling fruit. He picks up some grapes that are wilted and brown - a stark comparison to vibrant colors offered at the Pharaoh's banquet table.

VENDOR

Best of the lot. Better price than anyone else.

He put it back and continues, taking in sights he has only seen from the balcony of his Palace. A group of CHILDREN are playing a game of Senet. Some others play a game of tag.

He starts to cross the street when a CHARIOT comes barreling down on him. A PASSERBY pulls him back at the last second.

PASSERBY

Not from the city, are you?

Tut shakes his head absently, not wanting to engage with anyone. He turns down another street.

27 EXT. THEBES - DARK STREET - NIGHT

27

This one is farther yet from the Palace. It is dark. Dwellings of neglect. Piles of waste. Starving dogs bark, searching for scraps beside people who also scavenge. He takes in the sights of the wretched and poor.

Then, from an alley, he hears a commotion. The sound of a woman's muffled cry -

28 EXT. THEBES - ALLEY - NIGHT

28

Tut steps into the alley. A lone torch reveals A UNSEEMLY MAN assaulting a decrepit woman, trying to have his way with her.

The man stops. Looks at Tut -

UNSEEMLY MAN

Go on about your business.

His grip tightens on the woman. She winces in pain, pleading with her eyes for Tut to help. But Tut isn't sure what to do. He looks back to the street for a Guard or Patrol, but there is none. His eyes fall once again to the man who defiantly squeezes his grip harder on the woman.

Tut pulls a dagger from its sheath.

(CONTINUED)

TUT

You go on about yours.

The man is surprised - letting go of the woman, who quickly runs to Tut's side, suppressing tears.

TUT

Are you hurt?

She shakes her head. Tut and the man continue their stand off. We can practically hear Tut's heart beating. This is no training ground with his friend. This is the real world.

And then, with Tut's eyes on the man - the woman pulls her own dagger and swings. Tut jumps back, but it nicks him the arm. He is momentarily dazed. She quickly steals his pouch.

The man charges - shoves Tut against the wall. Tries to stab him, but Tut spins out of the way, wielding his blade.

UNSEEMLY MAN

A fighter, eh?

He jabs. Tut jumps back. Another parry.

WOMAN

He carries nothing else!

UNSEEMLY MAN

They all carry something!

Now Tut is backed into the corner. The woman slashes. Tut dodges, knocks the dagger from her hand. The man comes at him again, knocking him hard against the wall. Just as the dagger is about to strike -

LAGUS

Hey there!

Their heads turn. THREE SOLDIERS stand at the end of the ally, armed with bow and long daggers. Their leader - LAGUS - rushes to the scene.

The two assailants want no part of it now. They take off running, knocking Tut further to the ground in the process, disappearing into the dark.

Tut starts to get up, but winces. A hand reaches down. Helps him. Lagus looks him over.

LAGUS

Common trickery... the woman. You are not the only one who's fallen for it.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED: (2)

28

LAGUS (CONT'D)
(looks him over)
What is your business here?

TUT
(considers his answer)
I am from Koptos. Seeking work.

LAGUS
Well, keep in the light at these
hours. Our patrols are thin.

He moves off with his men. Tut looks down at his wound. A minor cut. He stays where he is for the moment, then smiles inwardly. Welcome to the real world.

CUT TO:

29 INT. PALACE - TUT'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

29

Tut and Ankhe are having sex. Both are stimulated, but not fully engaged, a lack of passion even as Tut reaches climax.

They each get up from the bed, cleaning themselves. Ankhe sees the cut on his arm.

ANKHE
Where did you get that? I will speak
to Ka. If he is going to train you,
he must be more careful or Ay will
have his skin. And yours.

There is hardly a reaction from Tut.

ANKHE
What's wrong?

Tut looks over at her -

ANKHE
I know when your mind is distant,
brother.

Tut manages a smile -

TUT
I cannot pretend to hide my thoughts
from you, can I?

ANKHE
Nor mine from you. Tell me.

TUT
We are in danger.

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

ANKHE

There are always enemies to the throne. We've survived.

TUT

I mean within our own borders.

She looks at him.

TUT

Ankhe, we do not have a rightful heir. I am the last of the male blood. This gives others reason to claim their right to the throne. I have no doubt they maneuver even now.

ANKHE

I pray every morning at temple to Tawaret for fertility.

Tut nods, trying to formulate the right words.

TUT

Perhaps Tawaret has withheld a healthy child because your mind is with someone else.

ANKHE

You think we have been defied twice because the Gods punish me?

TUT

I cannot control your heart.

Tut steps closer to her. Takes her hands in his, calm.

TUT

But we must have a child if we are to survive, sister. And we have both sacrificed too much not to.

He kisses her on the forehead, then walks to another room.

CUT TO:

30 INT. PALACE - ROYAL COURT - NIGHT

30

The open chamber is filled with naked women, wine and the lustful wants of the privileged. MUSIC fuels their movement. Women please their partners while they themselves are being aroused. Men trade off with one another, regardless of whether it's male or female. More wine is poured by Servants. Fruit abounds on tables. Slabs of meat.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

Boiled waterfowl hang from poles that the participants randomly take bites from.

General Horemheb, his weathered face lined with battle scars, is half naked, seated at a large table, tearing mutton off the bone, revelling in a WOMAN who strokes him while he eats.

Tut is seated casually on large cushioned pillows, sipping wine as he watches. Grand Vizier Ay, seated near him, is enjoying the visual delights, feasting on grapes.

More wine is poured into his cup by his Chief Steward, a young man named NAHKT.

NAHKT

The High Priest would like a word.

AY

Here?

The High Priest Amun steps forth...

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

If I may. I do not mean to disrupt your... pleasure.

Ay considers him. Nods.

AY

Go on.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

Villages in the Eastern Nomes have failed to pay proper tribute. With the Pharaoh's permission, I will see that such payments are now obligatory, as they are in the cities.

Tut is listening to this as Ay considers it and responds...

AY

Make it so.

Amun nods and is about to step away when Tut speaks up -

TUT

I have seen the reports that the East continues to suffer from an extreme drought. Even here in the capital some of the crops seem hardly edible. Isn't that why they are not able to contribute as much?

Some in the room go quiet, surprised to hear the Pharaoh speak - no one more so than Ay.

(CONTINUED)

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

Tribute is the one true way a man shows his devotion to the Gods, my Lord. It is their failure to pay that has caused the drought.

There is an awkward silence. Ay finally nods.

AY

Your request is granted.

Amun bows to Tut - a shared look with Ay - and walks away.

We can see this frustrates Tut, but he doesn't push the matter. Ay nods to Nahkt who hurries off.

Tut stands, his eyes now on Horemheb.

TUT

General Horemheb.

Horemheb slugs down the rest of his beer. He belches, then pulls the woman off him. This elicits some laughter. The General turns perfunctorily to Tut.

TUT

Your commander stated weeks ago that the Mitanni continue to maneuver near Amarna. Why has no action been taken against this threat?

Ay raises an eyebrow. Horemheb licks his lips, playing to all the others...

HOREMHEB

Threat? The Mitanni will be vanquished from the map as easily as I vanquish a trough of beer!

Others in the room cheer. Horemheb gets to his feet and walks over to Tut, slightly drunk.

HOREMHEB

The Mitanni play games, attempting to draw me into battle before I am ready. There is no threat to Amarna. You will be advised, as always.

He bows, one lacking of respect, then turns back to his meal.

Once again, Tut bites his tongue. He wants to assert himself. But not just yet.

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED: (3)

30

TUT

Carry on, Grand Vizier. I am not to be disturbed until morning.

He turns and walks out.

CUT TO:

31 EXT. STREETS OF THEBES - NIGHT

31

Tut walks among the people once again - but with new energy and purpose. He is alive - it radiates from his eyes. Those eyes land on a loud BEER HALL down the street.

CUT TO:

32 INT. BEER HALL - DAY

32

Musicians play in the corner, but the loud conversations from the patrons mostly drowns it out. Beer flow from pitchers served by scantily clad women. There are WOMEN DANCERS too. Smoke hangs in the air as men and women inhale a tobacco-like substance from a tubular device.

Tut steps through the crowd, again unnoticed, working his way to a serving table where his goblet is filled. He sips, his eyes watching, moving from conversation to conversation.

Suddenly a hand lands on Tut's shoulder. Tut spins. It is the young soldier Lagus who came to his aid.

LAGUS

A man with no work, yet still manages to purchase beer raises suspicions.

TUT

Only of being thirsty.

LAGUS

There are rumors of Mitanni spies frequenting beer halls. Listening and watching.

TUT

I assure you I am no Mitanni.

Lagus and his men regard him for a beat.

LAGUS

We have a report of a small encampment who move toward Thebes. An hours ride. Our General has instructed us to find men.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

LAGUS (CONT'D)

Our normal ranks can't be spared at this time.

One of the other soldiers grips the handle of his sword. Tut doesn't have a choice. He is escorted out. As they move toward the door, Lagus notices the slight limp...

TUT

It will not be a burden.

CUT TO:

33 EXT. BARREN LANDSCAPE - NIGHT

33

Chariots move across the landscape.

34 EXT. MITANNI ENCAMPMENT - NIGHT

34

THREE Mitanni men are around a small fire, cooking a recent kill. Additional horses are tied up close to the camp.

35 NEARBY TREES

35

Tut, Lagus and his men observe from a distance.

LAGUS

Five were counted. I suspect more.

(to his men)

Move into a perimeter around the camp. Wait for my signal.

(to Tut)

You do not wear the look of a soldier. It will give you time to approach and draw them out.

TUT

Draw them out?

LAGUS

Then we will move in from opposite directions.

Tut considers him for a moment. The other men watch for his reaction. He nods and goes.

SOLDIER #1

He falls easily to your words.

LAGUS

This only works if he stays alive long enough to give us position.

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

They too move off silently.

36 EXT. MITANNI ENCAMPMENT - NIGHT

36

One of the Mitanni pulls a burnt rodent from the fire and takes a bite from the harden meat. He passes the skewer to the man next to him. Another comes from the shadows and joins them, speaking in their own tongue. They talk in mumbles, laughing at a joke.

One of them belches loudly, reaching for the skewer and lifts it to his crusted, broken teeth. Then he stops. Leaps to his feet. The others react.

Tut has emerged from the shadows.

TUT

I have lost my way. Can you spare some meat?

They are not sure how to react. One of them draws a long dagger.

MITANNI

We haven't enough for us as it is.

TUT

There are only five of you. Or are there more?

The men are quiet. Then one of the Mitanni grips a dagger and throws it. Tut just barely ducks out of the way.

The others leap for their weapons. Tut slides his bow, hidden behind his back, and lets an arrow fly, impaling one of the men through the chest.

A SECOND ARROW drops yet another.

37 LAGUS

37

Watches from where he is hiding and reacts -

38 THE CAMPSITE

38

The Mitanni scramble for cover.

Tut ducks behind some boulders, his heart pounding through his chest. Then he takes a deep breath. Calms himself. Readies himself. This is it...

(CONTINUED)

...he leaps out to fight. But the encampment is empty. The Mitanni are gone! For half a second, Tut stands there wondering how this can be.

Then - a SHADOW above him. A SPEAR comes flying out of the sky. Tut rolls. It skins him. Two Mitanni now charge. Tut raises his bow again. Sends an arrow through the first one's gut. Takes the other man's knees out with a swift kick. Breaks his skull with a rock.

A third Mitanni knocks him over - bringing his blade down on Tut's throat. It is the same move Ka had used on him during their training. But this time it is real. And this time Tut maneuvers himself skillfully, bringing his own blade up and into the man's gut. The Mitanni staggers back onto the fire, lighting up the camp.

THREE MORE MITANNI come at him. But now Lagus and his men come running in and engage. Tut and Lagus fight side by side. Tut drops the last man. He catches his breath, assessing the damage.

But then a LONE SURVIVOR comes out of the dark at Tut's back. Just before the fatal blow is delivered, Lagus slices the enemy with his curved blade.

Tut takes a step back - startled. Too close. He looks now at Lagus and nods a thank you. Then, looking at the bodies:

TUT

I count eight.

Lagus walks over to one of the fallen.

LAGUS

Mitanni. Armed not only with weapons but Egyptian clothes. They were to fall into the populace of our city as we suspected.

(to his men)

Bury them. Burn everything else and secure the horses.

(then; under his breath)

The Mitanni have become fearless.
Curse the Pharaoh.

Tut looks at him. Lagus is suddenly uneasy...

LAGUS

I shouldn't have said such a thing, I am a loyal servant.

TUT

You don't need to hold your tongue with me.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED: (2)

38

Lagus hesitates.

LAGUS

The Mitanni grow bolder because they know the Pharaoh is weak. The "Boy King" he is called. A cripple we are told, a face so scarred that children weep in his presence. But it will not be long.

Tut waits for him to continue.

LAGUS

I've said too much to a man I don't know.

Tut indicates the dead Mitanni men...

TUT

I'm no stranger now, am I?

LAGUS

I've heard rumors that our King will not be on the throne much longer. Maybe it's for the better. The priests continue to gain more power, grains and fruits are more scarce than ever before.

TUT

Even for soldiers like yourself?

LAGUS

We will always have privilege - just as the commoners and peasants will always suffer when their Pharaoh cares little for their welfare.

This is difficult for Tut to hear -

TUT

Do you know who maneuvers against him?

LAGUS

I'm not privy to any details, nor do I want to be. Nor am I a part of it. But it is easy to guess. Who else would have the strength behind him to make that kind of a move?

Tut watches after Lagus as he goes to help the others with the bodies.

CUT TO:

39 EXT. EGYPTIAN LANDSCAPE - DAY 39

Golden light shows its first glimpse over distant hills.
Even at dawn heat vapors shimmer over the land.

40 EXT. STREETS OF THEBES - DAY 40

Butchers put gaunt looking meat out on racks. Merchants set up shops. A BEGGAR is almost run over by a NOBLEMAN racing past in a chariot. Some other men relax, playing a board game called Senet. The board has a grid of thirty squares, arranged in rows, with pawns moved around by the players.

CUT TO:

41 INT. PALACE - AY'S CHAMBERS - DAY 41

Ay and Nahkt, Ay's chief steward, are in the final throes of sex. It is sensual and caring. When at last finished, they lie in each other's arms.

NAHKT

The sun is well into the sky. I must
tend to my wife.

AY

She is still not recovered?

Nahkt gets up and dresses -

NAHKT

I have never seen her so ill. She
had traveled South to Edfu where I
now hear it has spread to many
people... some even dying.

AY

Yes... our Magistrate there is
keeping a close eye on it. I hope it
is not so serious for your wife.

NAHKT

We continue to pray. I know it is a
burden for you, my time with her.
But I am married - and I do love her.

AY

As long as there is still room in
your heart for me.

Nahkt kisses him.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

NAHKT

Always.

Ay gets up to dress now as well. Nahkt can see that he is troubled.

NAHKT

Your mind is still heavy.

AY

Of many things.

NAHKT

It is the Pharaoh.

Ay turns, surprised...

NAHKT

It is your wisdom that led us from the darkness of Akhenaten's rule. I worry what will become of Egypt if he no longer takes your counsel.

Ay walks back to him, placing a gentle hand on his cheek, adoration beaming from his eyes...

AY

So do I, Nahkt. Rest assured that I will never let this great Kingdom suffer like that again.

(he then smiles)

Your services are required at court. You've proven once again that you're the only one I trust.

NAHKT

I will return in sufficient time.

Now Ay puts his arms around him from behind, kissing him softly on the neck.

AY

And your services this evening?

NAHKT

Of course.

They both smile as Nahkt walks out. Ay watches after him - and there is something in his eyes that suggests Nahkt's leaving for his wife is, indeed, a burden.

CUT TO:

42 INT. PALACE - AUDIENCE HALL - DAY

42

General Horemheb discusses something with Ay privately.

Tut, sitting upon his throne, watches them carefully as the two pace together, their whispers intended to be concealed.

There are a handful of other GENERALS and RANKING SOLDIERS. Ka is among them. He slips Tut a gaze. Tut looks over at him. Ka can feel his displeasure. Tut then signals a servant who brings him a cup of wine.

TUT

What is it you speak of so delicately
that it is not for my ears?

Ay makes a glance in his direction.

AY

The delicacy of war and politics. I
intend no secret or offense, my Lord.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

The burden is ours to bear so that
you are free you from it.

TUT

You will address your Pharaoh
properly, General Horemheb.

Horemheb stops. Everyone goes quiet.

TUT

And your thousand troops moving to
the village of El Hiba will not move
or engage without my permission. Nor
the remainder of your five thousand
men who wait outside Memphis.

Now it is Horemheb who is caught unexpected, wondering how Tut could possibly know this. Ay continues his own gaze, with the same question in his eyes.

HOREMHEB

I am sorry you have been misinformed,
my King. I would like to know who
has deceived you.

Tut stares at Horemheb for a long beat.

TUT

You, General.

Horemheb, unsettled, now looks to Ay.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

Tut stands up.

TUT

Tell me, is it a burden, to wage war with the Mitanni? Or your greatest desire? It's no secret you covet the opportunity to conquer their lands, and the lands beyond that. If it were up to you, you will seek an endless war where the Egyptian empire stretched from horizon to horizon.

The two men look over at him. So do the others in the room.

AY

My Lord... if I may, the General has yet to finalized any plans to deal with the Mitanni.

TUT

The General does not have the authority to make war as he pleases.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

The Grand Vizier agrees that we must -

TUT

Neither does the Grand Vizier.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

With all due respect, we are already -

TUT

- at war. Amarna is not peaceful. The Mitanni have already encroached into the outskirts of both El Hiba and Memphis. They have infiltrated our ranks near the borderlands. They rape our women and take our children. And now they send their spies to the gates of Thebes. The Kingdom itself is on the verge of being overrun.

Ay and Horemheb can't believe this.

Tut steps closer. Ka watches carefully.

TUT

Why was this not dealt with sooner?

GENERAL HOREMHEB

The Mitanni are crafty.

TUT

No, General. They are not.

(CONTINUED)

Horemheb knows what the Boy King is suggesting. We can see his blood beginning to boil. He starts to speak, but Tut cuts him off once again -

TUT

Now we have panic. There is unrest throughout the Kingdom. Our people have been made fearful and desperate, praying to Horus for deliverance from the barbarians. But they do not need Horus, do they, General Horemheb?

Horemheb's face turns another shade red. Ka and the military men have grown uncomfortable. Ay seems to be enjoying this.

TUT

They need a savior. They crave a hero. And they will worship the man who can lead them to victory... who will then have cause to march to the ends of the Earth.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

I seek no worship. I serve only the greater good of Egypt.

TUT

No, General, you serve me.

The room is silent. Ka looks from the General to Tut and back again. Neither man has blinked.

TUT

You have positioned your men well. The time to attack is now. But we will expel the Mitanni from the borderlands, nothing more. A protracted war could very well draw other nations to their cause.

(beat)

Continue with your preparations. Please... do not let me interrupt.

The two remain eyeball to eyeball. The General finally bows his head slightly, then turns and walks out with his Generals in tow. Ka hesitates, looking again at Tut, but then quickly follows.

CUT TO:

43 EXT. PALACE BALCONY - NIGHT

43

Ay and Tut walk alone together against a golden moon that lights the sky. Torches and the sounds of normal evening banter emanate from the Palace grounds.

AY

The General is a man of battle, he has no tolerance for politics. He has no desires for the throne.

TUT

His desire is to conquer the civilized world. Putting himself on the throne will ensure him that opportunity.

AY

He cannot easily be removed. The army's first allegiance is to him. You are but a name to them, a cypher. You must be prudent and find ways to earn their trust.

TUT

As I intend to do.

It takes a moment, but then Ay realizes what he means.

AY

I will not allow it.

TUT

The General has made sure he is indispensable. Without him, Egypt is lost. Yet, if he defeats the Mitanni, he will be worshiped as a god, then make his move. There is no choice in the matter.

AY

You are not ready to lead these men into battle.

TUT

A Pharaoh who does not lead his men is at the mercy of his Generals. A Pharaoh who risks his own blood, who inspires by his very presence, cannot be separated from his people.

AY

If there is truth to these rumors, the battlefield would be the ideal place to strike.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

TUT

A risk I will take. I will no longer
live in the shadow of my Kingdom.

CUT TO:

44 INT. PALACE - TUT'S CHAMBER - DAY

44

Tut and Ka stand on opposite sides of a large table that has
been colored and drawn to look like a map. Small figures
carved from stone represent infantry and chariot forces.

Tut moves several of the figures into position.

KA

You cannot let the opponent
anticipate your maneuver.

TUT

If I don't show proper force they
will attack from all sides.

KA

You have not listened! Remember the
great battle Thutmose fought against
the Nubians. He allowed them to
perceive his weakness. By doing so,
he drew them into a trap. Then it
was he who attacked from all sides,
even with lesser numbers!

TUT

You are impatient with me, Ka. What
else is on your mind.

Ka hesitates, resenting the figures.

KA

You might just as well have accused
General Horemheb of treason. This is
how you earn the Army's trust?

TUT

No. On the battlefield... with you
by my side.

KA

You steal his glory.

TUT

I claim what is rightfully mine.

Tut sets his forces opposite Ka's

(CONTINUED)

44 CONTINUED:

44

TUT

Do you claim what is mine as well?

Ka stares hard at him; his entire posture shifts. Tut has now surrounded Ka's forces with his own.

TUT

Free her from your heart, so the Gods
will give me a proper heir that
lives.

Ka continues to glare at him. He then looks down at the board where Tut has placed his men.

TUT

You are defeated.

Ka scatters them from the table.

KA

You no longer have need of lessons.

He walks away. Tut watches after him.

CUT TO:

45 INT. PALACE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

45

SEVERAL KITCHEN WORKERS scurry about fixing meals, a never ending chore, like bees in a hive. They are overheated, exhausted. One of them, a beautiful young woman named MERWI, glances toward a hall - where she sees someone spying.

She wipes her hands down and sneaks away.

46 INT. PALACE - HALLWAY - DAY

46

Merwi finds the person farther back in the shadows...

MERWI

I'll get into trouble --

He doesn't let her finish, pulling her into his arms, now revealing it is Lagus. He kisses her.

MERWI

You do not have permission to be in
the Palace. You will get us both in
trouble.

LAGUS

I have recently shone brightly in the
eyes of General Yuya.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

LAGUS (CONT'D)

He is General Horemheb's most trusted advisor. I have been given my chance at glory.

MERWI

You go to war?

He begins to devour her. She does not resist, equally aggressive. Their clothes are soon stripped, making love against the wall. It is over in a matter of minutes, both sliding down to the floor, still in each other's arms.

MERWI

You do not answer.

LAGUS

I join the advance tomorrow.

MERWI

War means only death.

LAGUS

I will not die, Merwi. I promise you that. I will prove myself and gain position... and return to marry you.

She kisses him, then once again begins to devour him.

CUT TO:

47 INT. PALACE - KA'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

47

Modest in size, prized possessions hanging from the walls and displayed on shelves. Ka stands in the middle of the room, sharpening a dagger on a stone. Ankhe appears in the doorway. Ka is taken by surprise. Pleased.

She crosses to him, looks him in the eyes, the chemistry between them palpable. She kisses him - deeply, passionately.

ANKHE

I could not have you leave without tasting your lips once again.

Ka holds her tight, embracing every bit of her. A tear runs down her cheek.

ANKHE

Return to me.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

He nods. Ankhe steps away, letting her fingers linger on his skin for as long as she can possibly bear, then walks out.

CUT TO:

48 INT. PALACE - CORRIDOR - NIGHT

48

Ankhe slices through the maze of hallways with her servant. She hears a voice from the shadows.

AY (O.S.)

Is something amiss, my Lady?

She stops and turns to see Ay.

AY

Use discretion, My Queen.

ANKHE

And you.

Ay is surprised to hear this implied attack from her.

ANKHE

He sees more than you know.

AY

Yes, he does.

She glares at him, then walks away.

CUT TO:

49 EXT. PALACE - NIGHT

49

A WIDE SHOT of the Palace, quiet in the dead of night.

50 INT. PALACE UNDERGROUND - NIGHT

50

Torches offer flickering light across the walls of this massive, long chamber. On either side are an amazing display of colorful paintings that depict battle scenes in honor of Tut's ancestry.

Tut walks alone, gazing upon them, absorbing their history and meaning, even allowing his fingers to linger over the images of past Kings.

He walks around a corner and is surprised to see General Horemheb doing the same from the opposite end of the hall.

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

The two regard each other for a quiet beat - two men who do not trust each other.

TUT

Do you frequent these halls before battle, General?

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Before and after.

TUT

My grandfather Amenhotep III was crowned as a child like myself. His rule was peaceful. Prosperous. He wasn't a great warrior, yet most of these battles are dedicated to him. Is that how we define greatness? The number of dead left in our wake?

GENERAL HOREMHEB

No - my Lord - it is measured by the number who are allowed to live peacefully and prosper because of it.

He offers a slight bow.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Tomorrow.

He leaves the hall. Tut considers the General's answer as his eyes turn once again to the great battles of the past - real or perceived.

CUT TO:

51 EXT. PALACE GROUNDS - DAY

51

Day breaks over the golden palace.

52 EXT. STREETS OF THEBES - DAY

52

THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS march through the streets of the city making their way to the main gates. Tut, dressed in a gold and jewels, rides at the head of the column in his chariot, flanked by General Horemheb on one side and Ka on the other.

Tut takes in the spectacular sight as CITIZENS throw lotus flowers at the Pharaoh, cheering him, enthralled to be seeing their King among the people and leading the army to war.

53 EXT. PALACE TERRACE - DAY

53

Ankhe and Ay watch as the procession rolls through the center of the city.

AY

May Horus guide them to victory.

ANKHE

And return them safely.

Ay gives it another beat, then turns and goes into the Palace. Ankhe remains - watching after Tut and Ka from a distance.

CUT TO:

54 EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

54

The army has taken over this small village in Amurru. Various GENERALS surround a long table set up in the town square, where LOCAL PEASANTS serve them food and drink. Dogs roam freely, fighting for table scraps.

One mutt gets particularly aggressive and pulls a piece of meat right off of GENERAL YUYA's plate. The General grabs the dog by the scruff of the neck and slits its throat. He tosses it to the ground, then yells at one of the LOCALS.

GENERAL YUYA

Cook it for the men.

General Horemheb and Ka share a laugh as they chew off another piece of meat. The uncomfortable man picks up the bloody carcass and carries it off.

55 INT. TUT'S TENT - DAY

55

A large tent with certain luxuries that go with being Pharaoh. But Tut is being dressed by a servant into a standard military uniform, making him look like any ordinary soldier. He is then brought a golden breast plate.

TUT

No... I will be a soldier. Pharaohs often boast of their rank above all others. I prefer not to be such an easy target.

He starts out of the tent. TWO ELITE GUARDS start to follow, but Tut puts up a hand, commanding them to stay.

56 EXT. VILLAGE STREET - DAY

56

Tut walks past some villagers going about their daily routine. There are merchants and craftsmen at work. But many more have had to put their lives on hold to prepare food for the army.

A cart filled with BARRELS OF BEER accidentally tips, the barrels rolling out. Some ladies attempt to square them up. One of the ladies, a young, beautiful girl named SUHAD, calls over to Tut impatiently.

SUHAD

You - soldier - a hand?

Tut is slightly bemused. He walks over and helps her right the barrels, watching her - and taken by her beauty. When Suhad's eyes meet his, there is a brief, similar reaction, but then quickly dismissed -

SUHAD

Go on then, find your table. You'll be served your beer and food, we're doing the best we can.

She hurries off, joining the others who are loading pitchers of beer for the tables.

Tut looks down at his uniform, cannot help but smile - he has certainly not been mistaken for royalty - then continues on.

CUT TO:

57 EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

57

Tut approaches the tables. It takes a moment for the other men to recognize him and stand. Even Horemheb begrudgingly shows him the respect.

TUT

As long as I am wearing a uniform, I do not want you to stand on ceremony.

The men sit back down and resume eating.

KA

One more at the table!

Several LOCALS scurry in, carrying plates of torn meat, grains and beer. One of them is Suhad. She sets the cups down on the table and pours. Tut looks up at her soft face. They lock eyes for a brief moment. She remembers him - and to her dismay, now realizes the importance of where he sits.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

57

SUHAD

I did not know you were a General.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

He's no General, he is -

Tut stops him. Then, to Suhad...

TUT

Pour. Please.

She fills their cups. General Yuya, spits out the beer and grabs her by the arm.

GENERAL YUYA

Wine only! Fetch some wine!

Suhad is not used to such treatment and in a defiant attempt to yank her arm away, she spills a substantial amount of beer into the General's lap. He pushes back from the table and leaps to his feet to strike her. Tut grabs him by the arm.

TUT

An accident, General Yuya. I'm sure we'll see worse than soiled robes on the battlefield.

This gets a chuckle from the others, including Horemheb.

SUHAD

I'm sorry. I will fetch you wine.

Yuya nods begrudgingly. As Suhad turns to go, she looks at Tut gratefully.

SUHAD

Thank you... General.

Yuya sits down as Suhad slinks away. Tut's eyes have not left her once. Ka has noticed.

CUT TO:

58 INT. HOREMHEB'S TENT - NIGHT

58

Tut watches from the sidelines as Horemheb reviews battle plans over a large papyrus map with his SENIOR GENERALS, including Ka.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

The Mitanni are less than ten thousand strong. We'll come at them from the North.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

GENERAL HOREMHEB (CONT'D)

The hills will serve to cloak us
until we are already upon them.

GENERAL YUYA

The chariots can pull through these
canyons, to mark the second wave.

The flap opens and a commander steps through bringing another
map to the General. Tut looks across at him.

It is Lagus. Tut in unfazed but watches him carefully.

GENERAL YUYA

Thank you, Lagus.

(to Tut)

My Lord, this man deserves your
praise. He is the one who eliminated
the Mitanni spies who nearly breached
the city gates of Thebes.

Tut steps into view. Lagus freezes.

TUT

High praise indeed.

Lagus cannot find his tongue. Yuya scuffs him across the
back of the head.

LAGUS

Thank you... my Lord?

The slight inflection of a question causes the others in the
room to look. Tut and Lagus' eyes remain locked. Lagus
finally bows respectfully and leaves.

Ka watches after him curiously. Tut now steps up to the map
and examines it.

TUT

Would it not be an advantage to
attack from the East?

No one replies.

TUT

We can draw the Mitanni to the river,
then the chariots can sweep South and
flank them from the opposite
direction.

A long pause. The Generals wait to see how Horemheb will
respond to such a suggestion.

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL HOREMHEB

My Lord. This river is their source, their lifeblood - they know it better than their own mothers. It would be unwise.

TUT

It would be unexpected. They are prepared for an attack from the hills, that has always been your tactic to hide your numbers.

KA

And to limit our exposure. Horses are of short supply, we have only a few hundred chariots. Not enough to secure the open space near the river.

A beat. Tut considers this, then gets an idea.

TUT

Not with only a single bowman in each chariot, no.

Tut has their attention as they seem to know where he is going with this. Horemheb still does not want to hear it.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

The men have already been schooled in our attack.

Tut does not back down, holding Horemheb's gaze, daring him to openly defy him.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

But if it is the Pharaoh's wish, then we will adjust.

With a satisfied nod, Tut turns and exits the tent.

GENERAL YUYA

You capitulate easily, General.

Horemheb recovers with a derisive laugh.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

The most our King will know of war is the smell of my horse's ass.

The others laugh with him. Ka does not.

CUT TO:

59 EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

59

A group of soldiers are sharpening blades and preparing quivers of arrows under the light of several torches. One of them is Lagus. He jumps to his feet when he sees Tut approach. The others all do the same.

TUT

A word alone.

Lagus nods, gesturing to the others who quickly leave. Lagus can hardly make eye contact, terrified.

LAGUS

I will say nothing, My Lord. I do not need to be silenced. Please.

TUT

Tell me something. Is this face so hideous that it would make children weep from seeing it?

Lagus begins to tremble. But, Tut forms the slightest of smiles. Lagus finally breathes.

TUT

You held your tongue and for that I am grateful. I will have you by my side tomorrow.

LAGUS

Thank you, My Lord.

Tut turns and walks away. Lagus still cannot believe it.

60 EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

60

Tut is returning to his tent when he spots Suhad approaching, carrying a small basket. She does not see him, and quietly lays the basket by the entrance, then heads back from where she came. Tut carefully nears the basket and picks it up. Inside is a bowl of delicious berries. Tut cannot help but smile as he looks for her in the darkness. But she is already gone.

CUT TO:

61 EXT. MILITARY ENCAMPMENT - DAY

61

Tut surveys the organized chaos as the troops ready themselves to depart for battle. He notices that a SMALL RETINUE of CHARIOTS are heading off toward the hills. He furrows his brow and immediately looks for Horemheb.

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

61

He finally locates the General, holding conference over a map with Ka and his Second-in-Command.

TUT

You defy my orders?

GENERAL HOREMHEB

The situation has changed. We are moments from setting out. We wait only for reports from our sentries.

TUT

But you still attack from the hills?

The General knows he is caught. Impatient.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

This is not the day to test your skills in warfare. Every second we waste is another life lost!

TUT

Then waste no more.

(beat)

You will obey me, General, or I will relieve you of your command.

Horemheb cannot dispute this. All eyes are on him.

TUT

Send our men via the river. Myself and Ka will flank with the chariots and bowmen. We will have our victory.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

(to General Yuyu)

Turn your men toward the River.

They quickly disperse to implement their orders. Tut gives General Horemheb a last look, then climbs his chariot and rides. Ka lingers for a moment, glancing back at the General. Horemheb gives him a begrudging nod of approval. Ka loads up and follows after Tut.

CUT TO:

62 EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

62

Hundreds of bloodied Egyptian soldiers clash with their Mitanni enemies on the sand of the massive field. Warriors shout out BATTLE CRIES amongst the chaotic and violent assault.

(CONTINUED)

62 CONTINUED:

62

Limbs are lost, throats sliced, heads chopped off. Men bleed to death as they crumble to the ground, their perfect golden skin marred with blood and sand.

63 EXT. SAND DUNE - DAY

63

Tut and Ka watch from atop the dune in the distance, the bulk of their massive army in-line behind them - a battalion of CHARIOTS followed by row after row of ARCHERS. Even from here, the bloodshed is atrocious and it appears that the Mitanni Army is gaining control.

KA

You risk everything, my friend.

Tut

Do you have doubts?

KA

Yes.

(off his look)

You said you prefer I speak my mind.

Lagus races toward them.

LAGUS

General Horemheb has drawn the enemy to the river as you commanded, My Lord.

TUT

Thank you, Lagus. Join the ranks here.

Lagus falls in line with the men who await the order from their Pharaoh. Tut's breathing is tense, tight, and shallow. This is his moment. This is what it has all been building toward. He raises his head proudly, and, with a simple lifting of his sword, the army receives their command.

The ground rumbles beneath his feet as the chariots sweep past him and Ka, charging forth in a monstrous STAMPEDE.

64 EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

64

The chariots drive quickly into the already rampageous battle like a massive flood, trampling dozens of Mitanni soldiers, shredding their flesh and bone.

The Mitanni manage to recover for a brief moment and attack the numerous charioteers. But then the surprise - THERE ARE MORE EGYPTIAN ARCHERS HIDDEN WITHIN THE CARS OF THE CHARIOTS WHO SUDDENLY RISE UP AND RELEASE THEIR SWORDS AND ARROWS.

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED:

64

The Mitanni are instantly outnumbered.

Horemheb watches from the field, and to his amazement the plan is working. Tut's regiment engages from the South.

The Mitanni are beginning to panic, cut off on all sides with no possible way to escape.

Behind the assault, Tut turns to his forgathered archers.

TUT

Formation!

The hundreds of men organize into one giant block, then draw back their bows.

TUT

Release!

They let their ARROWS FLY.

The TORRENT OF ARROWS arcs through the sky and rain down upon the crusade. Most find their way deep into Mitanni flesh. Some, unfortunately, land in the bodies of the Egyptians themselves.

Horemheb grabs a dead soldier and shields himself from the deadly missiles as several arrows puncture the carcass. He leaps to his feet, slicing off the arm of a charging Mitanni.

A small portion of the Mitanni Army sweeps in behind Tut and Ka, forcing them both into battle. Standing side by side, they are both swift with their curved blade.

Lagus drives a Mitanni back, takes a gash in the arm but keeps on fighting.

Back in the madness, Horemheb rides through a formation of Mitanni on his chariot, CRUSHING several of them beneath his wooden wheels.

Tut slices into enemy after enemy until finally, a BURLY MITANNI SOLDIER approaches. The clash of metal sends SPARKS into the air, until Tut's sword is knocked from his hands. He draws his bow and arrow and - even at this close range - lets one loose. It burrows deep into the chest of his challenger, who falls to the already blood-soaked earth.

Tut glances across at Ka - who has just dispensed of another Mitanni. They share a look that only fellow warriors know.

But then -

- a DAGGER WHIPS PAST TUT - he loads his bow and whips around to find his presumed enemy -

(CONTINUED)

64 CONTINUED: (2)

64

- but it is Horemheb. He stands across the sand with an outstretched arm. They are both frozen in time for what seems like an eternity - until Tut unleashes an arrow.

THE BOLT PIERCES THE MUGGY AIR and slices through a corner of Horemheb's ear! It clears him -

- and strikes an ATTACKING MITANNI SOLDIER in the eye.

If not for that arrow, the soldier would have surely killed Horemheb. Tut looks behind him where he sees the General's dagger buried up to the hilt in a MITANNI WARRIOR'S chest.

These men have just saved each other's lives. They lock eyes... and each offer a simple nod of gratitude - and respect.

The moment is not lost on Ka, who witnessed it all.

CUT TO:

65 EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

65

The village square is alive with MUSIC, beer, food and celebrating soldiers. They are drunk and behave as such - snatching VILLAGE WOMEN into their clutches at will. Some village men protest, try to stop them, but are pushed aside.

There is a certain resignation of the faces of these locals. It's what is expected.

66 INT. HOREMHEB'S TENT - NIGHT

66

A SERVANT pours three chalices of wine and delivers them to Tut, Ka and General Horemheb.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

The entire line fell right into it!
When your men came out from the
chariots, those bastards thought they
were seeing ghosts!
(lets out a hearty,
drunken laugh)
They were! Their own!

TUT

They are in our grasp.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

We need to still be cautious. The
Mitanni are like locusts. Just when
you think you have them, there is
another swarm over the horizon.

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED:

66

Tut laughs. There is an ease, a respect, in their rapport not seen before.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

But yes, victory is ours.

(pauses)

Yours. It was a clever strategy. As is your skill with the sword.

Tut looks across at Ka and cannot help but smile to himself.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

I had no reason to believe. Pharaohs are usually trained by academics. Worthless in the real world. Where did you learn such tactics?

A moment.

TUT

A friend.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

A wise and prescient friend.

Tut nods in agreement as he and Ka both share a quiet laugh. Horemheb puts his arm around Ka, pulling him into a bear hug.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

And Ka - you shine as brightly as any general I have.

KA

Thank you, General.

The General refills Tut's chalice.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Now I ask you to rethink our objective. They are on the run. Weakened and demoralized. Our casualties were few. Let's march to their capital - and eliminate the Mitanni Empire from history.

TUT

At what cost, General? Victory within the Mitanni borders would take years. Tens of thousands of lives lost on the sand. And difficult to hold against an unwanting population.

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Difficult, but not impossible. In the end, there would be lasting peace. That is worth any cost.

TUT

When has there ever been lasting peace in this world? There is always another enemy. Always more land to conquer.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Then let it be conquered!! Empires are measured by the treasures taken and the number who bow to their king! Let us grasp the sand at their feet so that the world will bow at ours.

TUT

The more sand you grasp, the more grains slip through your fingers. War may be necessary to achieve peace, I understand that. But my empire will excel at avoiding it, not provoking it.

Horemheb eyes Ka, frustrated. But he drinks anyway.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Then I see your mind won't be changed. Let's at least celebrate victory here.

The flap opens as the rest of the Generals arrive with women from the village in tow. They are already drunk.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

(to Tut)

You shall have the honor of first choice.

Tut surveys the women, none of whom wish to be used as whores.

TUT

I offer that privilege to Ka. Take one. Please.

But, Ka is indifferent. Tut knows why.

TUT

I insist.

(CONTINUED)

66 CONTINUED: (3)

66

Horemheb and the others howl with laughter. Another girl is brought in: Suhad. She does not make eye contact with any of them, frightened at what is about to become of her.

KA

Then I will choose her.

Touché. Tut admires his friend's mettle. As Ka goes to retrieve Suhad, Tut intercepts, much to the delight of their comrades. He offers Ka a sardonic smile.

TUT

Choose another.

He takes Suhad by the arm and leads her outside.

CUT TO:

67 INT. TUT'S TENT - NIGHT

67

Tut closes the flap. Turns to Suhad who stands waiting.

SUHAD

If you are to have me, it will not be with my consent.

TUT

You speak boldly for a commoner.

SUHAD

Our village elder insisted we comply with the Generals, that it is the Pharaoh's wish. But I do not think it's right.

He circles her, taking in her beauty. He shows her a necklace made of smooth, grey stones that hangs loosely around his neck.

TUT

This was left in the gift you put at my tent. I wore it into battle today. Did you make it?

SUHAD

Yes. They are carved from stone taken at the Great Pyramids by my grandfather's grandfather, blessed by the Pharaoh Khufu himself a thousand years ago. Those who wear these stones are offered a safe return from battle.

(CONTINUED)

67 CONTINUED:

67

TUT

You also know much for a commoner.

SUHAD

I do not consider myself so common.

Tut reacts with a gracious smile. He fingers the necklace.

TUT

I will continue to wear it.

He looks into her eyes - emerald green and radiant - then takes her hand. He runs his fingers over her smooth skin, then up her arm - where Suhad cannot hide her goose bumps. His touch now moves across her cheek, then her lips. She cannot hide the fact that she is blushing either. Her eyes lock into his - much the way they did when the two first met.

TUT

You may go.

She is surprised... and perhaps even having second thoughts.

SUHAD

Our Village Elder will -

TUT

- will not know of it.

She hesitates, then lifts the flap, bows her head and leaves. Tut watches after her, intrigued.

68 EXT. VILLAGE - NIGHT

68

Outside the tent, Suhad pauses, looking back at Tut's tent with intrigue of her own.

CUT TO:

69 EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

69

Colossal clouds of dust rise up over the horizon against an endless golden vista.

70 EXT. CLIFF - DAY

70

Horemheb, Tut and Ka stand near the edge, surveying the combat. The battle is hard fought and is once again turning their way. But then... Tut spots another DUST CLOUD.

TUT

There...!

(CONTINUED)

70 CONTINUED:

70

A SENTRY races up the hill, shouting.

SENTRY

My Lord! A regiment is attempting a surprise attack from the South!

TUT

How large?

SENTRY

Small, easily run off!

GENERAL HOREMHEB

(enraged)

How did our scouts miss this earlier?

KA

Bought off.

TUT

Small or not, they must be thrown back or it could turn the battle against us.

Tut looks back at several dozen men who await a mission - one of whom is Lagus - then back to the encroaching dust cloud.

TUT

I will intercept them.

KA

I'll join you.

Horemheb steps in -

GENERAL HOREMHEB

No. Stay and oversee the principal assault. We will clear the field.

Ka is uneasy but nods to his General. Tut mounts his chariot and turns to Horemheb.

TUT

Let's congratulate the Mitanni on their *surprise*.

Horemheb grins. The men CHEER as they set off, thundering down the hill toward their destiny.

71 EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

71

The open, dry desert gives way to trees and a river inlet. The Mitanni proceed quickly but are taken by surprise when Tut and Horemheb burst forth. Swords clash, blood spills.

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED:

71

Some of the men use MACE HAMMERS, crushing Mitanni legs, knees and arms. Others slip through with SLING SHOTS, flinging deadly stones through the air.

Then, without warning, ANOTHER WAVE of Mitanni appear from behind a cliff's edge. Tut turns to the very Sentry that gave them word just moments earlier.

TUT

(shouting)

A small regiment!?

The Sentry struggles to suppress a slight grin.

SENTRY

Mitanni will never be silenced,
Pharaoh, son of Akhenaten, heretic
King!!

Lagus moves in to kill the man, who quickly slices his own throat - not giving them the satisfaction. The traitor dies with the same gratified grin on his face.

Tut looks across at Horemheb as they are now circled and outnumbered. The General seems to relish it. They take up their arms and attack.

Soldier after soldier falls to defeat in pools of their own blood. Tut thrusts his dagger into a man's stomach and yanks it back in time to swipe another rushing Mitanni soldier across the throat.

72 INT. RAVINE - DAY

72

Lagus has been split from the group, fighting off two Mitanni warriors. He downs them both, but finds himself wounded again and on the ground. When he looks up, a spear is at his throat. The Mitanni kicks Lagus' weapon away, then forces him to his feet, dragging him back from battle.

73 EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

73

Horemheb steers his chariot into another Mitanni, slashing him open with his blade.

Tut feels a strike against his mid-section but is immune to the pain. He annihilates his final enemy with one last blow to the head. There are no more.

He turns. Across the battlefield Horemheb remains on his chariot. They both watch in silence as the last few Mitanni scurry away, unwilling to face them. They are alone, the last men standing.

(CONTINUED)

73 CONTINUED:

73

But then Tut notices that the stone necklace from Suhad has fallen away. He searches for it, only to see blood dripping down onto his hands. Now it pains him - and he notices for the first time that he has been stabbed in the stomach.

Tut is bleeding profusely. He looks about him at all the carnage, all the sacrifice - and then he too collapses to the ground - just another body in a sea of death.

CUT TO:

74 EXT. BATTLEFIELD - MAIN FRONT - DAY

74

Ka wipes blood from his face as his army now pushes toward victory. General Yuya rides up next to him -

GENERAL YUYA

What of the Pharaoh and the General?

Ka does not immediately respond, looking behind him at all the death and carnage. He turns his chariot in the other direction.

CUT TO:

75 EXT. DESERT TERRAIN - DAY

75

The surviving Mitanni retreat, battered and wounded... but not without several Egyptian prisoners they have bound inside small carts. One of those prisoners is Lagus, one eye swollen shut from a wound, dried blood caked across his face.

CUT TO:

76 EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

76

Dead soldiers litter the expanse. TIGHT on the wheels of a chariot as it comes to a stop. The rider gets out, but we do not yet see his face, only his military sandals as he walks through the endless maze of bodies. General Horemheb ignores the MOANS and CRIES of the men. He doesn't care about the dying. He cares about Tut.

He finally reaches him. Tut's eyes are closed. It's hard to tell if he's breathing. Horemheb crouches next to him, puts his hand just above Tut's mouth. Then... to Horemheb's amazement, Tut's hand moves ever so slightly, his fingers grasping at the ground.

He is alive.

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76 CONTINUED:

76

Horemheb looks down at Tut's blood soaked clothing as red continues to seep out from his innards. He gazes long and hard at the young King. He looks up at vultures already circling, then around him at the vastness of bodies. His eyes once again level on the Pharaoh. There is, indeed, respect in the General's eyes.

But after a moment of contemplation, Horemheb quietly gets up and walks away, leaving Tut there - to die.

END OF HOUR ONE