



Hour Two: "DESTINY"

After being rescued from the battlefield by the beautiful half-Mitanni girl, Suhad, Tut recovers in a nearby village while he plots his return to Thebes. In the palace, Ay, General Horemheb, and High Priest Amun navigate their schemes to assume control after Tut's reported death. When Tut returns to Thebes with Suhad (now his lover) he finds his best friend, Ka, positioned for the throne and betrothed to his Queen.

TUT

"HOUR TWO: DESTINY"

Story by

Peter Paige & Bradley Bredeweg

Teleplay by

Michael Vickerman

MUSE ENTERTAINMENT

02/26/2014

TUT

"HOUR TWO: DESTINY"

FADE IN

- 1 THE GOLDEN SUN 1
Rises over the barren, desert landscape. Through the heat vapors, a figure takes shape. A RIDER on horseback, racing from the bleeding orb.
- 2 THE RIDER 2
pushes the horse faster.
- 3 THE NILE DELTA 3
Where he now speeds along the shoreline, past curious fisherman loading their boats.
- 4 RIVER INLET - FOREST 4
He turns the horse past a shallow water inlet, cutting his way through a sparse forest of palm trees.

Suddenly - a thrash of water. A CROCODILE lunges from the muddy depths and pulls the horse out from under him. The Rider is thrown. The crocodile clamps its jaws, ripping the struggling horse out to the deeper part of the inlet. It's over in a matter of seconds.

The Rider scrambles away, startled. He silently prays, backs away, then finally turns and keeps going.
- CUT TO:
- 5 EXT. THEBES - CITY STREETS - DAY 5
The city is bustling with activity: vendors trading goods, buildings and temples rising from scaffolds.

6 INT. PALACE - BANQUET HALL - DAY

6

A large feast is about to be served - Mutton. Duck. Grapes. Dates. Wine. Geese and dogs roam freely. DANCERS move to traditional music in the background for entertainment. FANBEARERS move the stilted air.

The SERVANTS line themselves up as Grand Vizier Ay comes forth. He does not yet sit, waiting. Then, from across the hall, Ankhe arrives dressed in a sweeping gown, decorated in gold and jewels.

ANKHE

Grand Vizier.

AY

My Lady.

They are polite to each other, cordial. But, there is little warmth. He bows his head, allowing her to sit first.

The servants go to work, bringing them food and drink. One of these servants is Merwi, Lagus' girlfriend. Her ears cannot help but perk as Ankhe asks the question many of them so desperately want to know...

ANKHE

Is there any news?

AY

I expect to hear word of final victory. The last report from General Horemheb boasted of success.

They are interrupted by commotion down the corridor. The Rider bursts in, disheveled, filthy and out of breath. Nahkt comes in with him.

NAHKT

Grand Vizier... a messenger from General Horemheb.

RIDER

I have ridden without rest with barely any food or water. This is to be delivered to you, Grand Vizier, and only to you, Sire, without delay.

He steps forward and hands him a sealed piece of papyrus. Ay and Ankhe exchange a discomfoting look. Ay opens it. Reads.

ANKHE

What does it say?

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

The color has drained from Ay's face. Ankhe stands.

ANKHE

What is it?

AY

Clear the room. All of you! Leave
the chamber!

Everyone, including Nahkt, quickly goes. Ay and Ankhe are alone. He swallows a lump in his throat, looks across to her.

AY

The Pharaoh is dead.

The color now drains from Ankhe's face as well.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

7

An expansive, open field where thousands of dead Egyptian and Mitanni soldiers still litter the landscape. LOCAL VILLAGERS and FOREIGN SLAVES are digging large graves. Surviving Soldiers strip their fallen comrades of their valuable clothing and weapons, then heave them into the shallow pits.

Ka slows on his chariot. He steps off, his eyes scanning the gruesome scene. He continues, inspecting each corpse carefully with a growing sense of panic.

CUT TO:

8 EXT. BASE CAMP - DAY

8

Ka walks with General Horemheb past their men who make preparations to leave. General Yuya and a few other commanders walk alongside them.

Ka is doing everything he can to keep his inflated temper in check out of consideration for the men around him.

KA

He is not among them. He has not
been found. By all the Gods - !!

GENERAL HOREMHEB

I am as troubled as you - but it is
not for us to question the Gods.
They have willed this. They guide us
all to our own fate.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

GENERAL HOREMHEB (CONT'D)

We will move forward for the greater glory of Egypt. That is our single purpose now, nothing else.

KA

His body must be found and returned with us.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

He is either dragged away by animals or already buried with the other thousands of men, there is nothing left to be done.

KA

But if he somehow -

Horemheb stops. Now he is the one attempting to keep his own temper in check.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

I have sent men in all directions. They will scour every village, they will upturn every rock. If Osiris has risen him from the dead, he will be found, Ka. Put your mind at ease.

He now places a reassuring hand on Ka's shoulder.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Word has already spread of our victory. The men thirst for celebration! You will ride by my side into Thebes and accept the glory you deserve. Then we will conquer all lands claimed by the Mitanni.

(beat)

I do not offer this as a choice.

Ka knows he doesn't have one. The General walks on. Ka watches after him as the other generals follow.

CUT TO:

9 INT. ROYAL TEMPLE - SANCTUARY - DAY

9

Incense fills the air. The quiet prayers from several LOWER PRIESTS reverberate off the stone walls. High Priest Amun and Ay walk together.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

AY

General Horemheb has made a skillful move. The Queen must marry to keep her family's dynasty intact - and she will fall openly for Ka.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

Who the General will control. He has shown his contempt for the priests - a threat to all who now hold position.

AY

A threat to all of Egypt. His ambitions will be our undoing.

They walk in silence for a beat.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

Your ambitions are no secret either.

Ay looks at him sharply.

AY

I am a servant.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

As am I. It is the Gods who control all things. But the Gods speak through me, Grand Vizier. They will give blessing to your position if I am to retain mine.

Ay offers him a cautious nod.

CUT TO:

10 INT. PALACE - ANKHE'S CHAMBER - DAY

10

Ankhe is being bathed by Herit. Her eyes are distant, swollen from tears. But, they are yet determined.

HERIT

When will the people be told?

ANKHE

They will not need to be. Men of battle speak loosely.

HERIT

What will become of you?

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

ANKHE

I am still Queen. I must marry
another. But first I will grieve the
loss of my brother, husband and King.

Ankhe is genuinely sad. She takes Herit's hand and holds it
close to her.

CUT TO:

11 EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF AMURRA - DAY

11

Much of the farmland has been scorched and trampled from the
battle. Grain bins and other small buildings are damaged.
VILLAGERS are trying to recover what they can, repairing and
clearing debris. The bodies of both soldiers and villagers
are being loaded into carts. Someone nearby weeps as they
discover a loved one who was killed.

Suhad is helping her FATHER remove rubble from a collapsed
storage silo. She is about to step into what remains of the
structure when he holds her back...

SUHAD'S FATHER

Wait.

He draws a dagger and steps inside first.

SUHAD'S FATHER

A wounded soldier can be dangerous,
no matter what side he fights.
Always keep yourself ready.

Suhad nod. But the small building is empty. Her father hands
her a large lambskin sack.

SUHAD'S FATHER

Get us water. Be cautious.

SUHAD

Yes, father.

She takes it and goes.

CUT TO:

12

12

13 EXT. RIVER - DAY

13

Suhad works her way through some weeds and to the banks of a small tributary, carrying the sack to fill with water. Dipping it into the gently flowing water, she steps back when she sees the stream flowing red with blood - then recoils further at the sight of a DEAD SOLDIER floating slowly past.

She scrambles away from it, up to a small ridge. Far in the distance she can see the dust clouds over the endless expanse as bodies are still being dragged to the graves. Chariots move back and forth, commanders shouting to their men.

Then - a rustling behind her. In one, swift movement, Suhad wields her small dagger and has it to the throat of her assailant.

Except it is not an assailant. It is Tut. He drops back to the ground. Suhad recognizes the face and the eyes that now look up at her. A raspy breath wheezes out from his lips. Suhad then sees blood seeping from his wound.

SUHAD

I will go for help.

Tut grabs her arm. It is all he can do to whisper the words.

TUT

No. I cannot be found.

SUHAD

Your enemy has been driven away.

TUT

It is not the Mitanni I fear.

She does not understand at first. But she can see in those eyes a plea for help.

Suhad stands, carefully, glancing around her. The approaching chariot rides out of sight now. She leans down and lifts him.

CUT TO:

14 EXT. OPEN LAND - DAY

14

The sun beats down with unrelenting heat. Suhad drags the now unconscious Tut over dirt and sand. She is filthy with dust, dripping with sweat, her legs and feet are cut and bruised. But she does not stop and nears the edge of a wooden area.

15 CHARIOTS 15

move across the landscape, searching. These are not Egyptian soldiers. They wear the red and black of BEDUIN MERCENARIES.

16 EXT. WOODED AREA 16

Palms stretch to the sky, the underbrush thick with vegetation. Suhad pulls with all her might, spent, Tut's heavy body against the rough terrain. She hears the trot of horses. She stops, hidden behind a clump of weeds.

The Beduin Mercenary guides his chariot nearer. He slows, looking in her direction. Suhad doesn't breathe. Tut starts to moan. She covers his mouth.

The Mercenary moves even closer. A FLOCK OF PIGEONS flutters up into the trees. He assumes that is what he heard and moves on.

CUT TO:

17 EXT. WOODS - DAY 17

There is a small shed, long abandoned, windswept sand flowing up to it.

18 INT. SHED - DAY 18

The door is kicked open. Suhad drags Tut inside, pulling him behind a stone divider where some straw covers the floor. She checks to see if he is even breathing, then strips back part of his uniform, exposing the open wound. His dagger, still attached to its sheath, is tossed aside. She then cleans the wound with water as best she can. It still bleeds.

His hand reaches up and grabs her, startling her. She quickly moves away from him, his eyes barely slits.

SUHAD

You are safe now.

He is barely able to comprehend.

SUHAD

Who is after you, who are those people?

But he does not have the strength to speak - merely shakes his head.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

SUHAD

I can't risk being here with you. If they want you dead, then they will kill me as well - and my family. I have to go. I'm sorry.

TUT

Please...

Suhad is frightened... but it is an earnest plea...

She moves over to one of the windows. Looks out. There is no sign of anyone near. She leaves quietly through the door.

CUT TO:

19 EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

19

Dotted with adobe-style huts and cobblestone pathways. Villagers move about, carrying on with their day's work. Some load crop yields, others bartering for goods at the market stands.

FIVE BEDUIN MERCENARIES ride in and dismount their chariots. They begin moving from house to house, building to building.

One of the villagers protests -

VILLAGER

What is the meaning of this?

BEDUIN MERCENARY

Official Palace business. Step aside or lose your tongue.

They push past the man and into his home.

The other Beduins continue to disrupt everything. Suhad walks into the village square and sees the commotion. A nearby MERCHANT is picking up some of his things that were strewn about. Suhad helps.

SUHAD

Who are they, Abi?

MERCHANT

Paid by the Palace. They seek an escaped Mitanni, apparently of some value. A spy, perhaps?

(CONTINUED)

19 CONTINUED:

19

Suhad watches them carefully -

CUT TO:

20 EXT. PALACE GARDEN - DAY

20

Ankhe walks alone through the endless pools of Blue Lotus flowers. Ay approaches.

AY

My Queen.

ANKHE

Tell me, Grand Vizier, how long have you coveted being Pharaoh?

He is momentarily taken aback...

AY

I have never wished it. I am a loyal servant to this Palace, nothing more.

ANKHE

You are a man of internal frustrations. Born with common blood who has all but ruled the kingdom, but is forced to remain in the shadows while sons are born. Except now there is no heir. Instead there is opportunity.

Ay stays cool and collected.

AY

This "opportunity" would secure your position as well - before others take it from us both. Regional governors, ministers, noblemen, foreign kings and diplomats have all looked to me. I am the one where they have sought counsel.

(beat)

I would not claim your heart, My Lady, I know it belongs to another. One perhaps you have been denied these many years? I would not keep you from him.

Ankhe pauses. Considers him. He takes a small breath.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

ANKHE

I have not yet buried my first
husband, Ay. Give me time to before
I decide on my next.

She walks away from him. He watches after her with eyes that
are very hard to read...

CUT TO:

21 INT. SHED - NIGHT

21

Suhad has built a small fire in a stone hearth. There is an
iron rod heating. She removes the hot tip, brings it to Tut
and cauterizes the wound, the flesh and blood sizzling until
the cut is sealed. He stirs, moans, but does not wake.

Suhad quickly wipes it clean, removing more of his clothing.
She cannot help but linger on his body and his face.

CUT TO:

22 EXT. OUTSKIRTS OF THEBES - DAY

22

A seemingly endless column of soldiers leaves a giant dust
trail. Horemheb rides in his chariot at the head of his
victorious army. Ka is just behind him, weary and sullen.

As they near the city gates, people come out to greet them,
offering water and fruit, praising their victory.

23 EXT. CITY OF THEBES - THE CITY GATES - DAY

23

As the army now moves into the city, throngs of citizens
emerge to see their victorious return, cheering them.
Horemheb receives his gifts graciously.

24 EXT. PALACE - TERRACE - DAY

24

Ankhe and Ay stand together watching. Ankhe cannot hide her
disdain at the cheering crowds -

ANKHE

They celebrate, yet their Pharaoh no
longer breathes of this world.

(CONTINUED)

24 CONTINUED:

24

AY

They are ignorant of the fact, My Queen. But it will not last. We must proceed prudently.

He notices her eyes locked on Ka at the head of the column.

25 EXT. CITY OF THEBES - STREET - DAY

25

Among those receiving the army is Merwi, her eyes searching every soldier for her beloved Lagus.

CUT TO:

26 EXT. MITANNI PALACE - DAY

26

Lagus and other PRISONERS OF WAR are chained together, carrying out the grueling work of dragging hundreds of felled trees across the dirt and sand. Lagus is exhausted, wilted from lack of nutrition.

He notices another group of slaves - darker and colored with piercings and skin tattoos. They are being directed by Guards with different uniforms than the Mitanni. He speaks quietly to OMTEP, a fellow Egyptian prisoner next to him, each word an effort -

LAGUS

Hittites. With their own masters. I saw Kadesh as well. Why are they assembled here?

MITANNI GUARD

Silence!

The Guard starts laying lashes on Lagus's back, until Omtep helps him regain his footing. Lagus shoots him a look of silent gratitude as they continue to pull the trees through a large gate -

- where HUGE FIRE PITS are waiting for more fuel. Just beyond, a seemly endless row of SMELTS. HUNDREDS OF SLAVES, their skin blistered and dripping with sweat, chop the wood, stoke the fires, pour the melted copper and pound thousands of weapons into shape.

CUT TO:

27 INT. PALACE - AUDIENCE HALL - DAY

27

Ankhe, dressed formally now, Ay and the High Priest Amun wait impatiently. They can still hear the cheers from outside.

A moment later, General Horemheb, flanked by Ka, enters the hall. They approach, then bow respectfully to the Queen.

Ka cannot take his eyes off Ankhe.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

But victory is ours, Grand Vizier.
The Mitanni have been driven back
beyond the borderlands.

AY

You speak of victory when the Pharaoh
is dead?

GENERAL HOREMHEB

I speak of Egypt. I speak of
conquest. And I speak of a kingdom
for our people so vast that the sun
is never extinguished from the sky!

He turns now to Ankhe...

GENERAL HOREMHEB

It is with regret that Osiris did not
grant divinity on Tutankhamun. But
it was the will of the Gods to lift
another from the open wound of our
fallen King.

He now looks to Ka, who shifts uncomfortably. Nervous.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

It was Ka's strategy that delivered
us from the Mitanni filth. In this
time of great sorrow, our people
should celebrate their savior.

Ankhe sits back, still eye to eye with Ka.

ANKHE

Where is the Pharaoh?

Ka starts to speak, but Horemheb steps in -

GENERAL HOREMHEB

For that I am to blame. I was unable
to remove him at the time he fell.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

GENERAL HOREMHEB (CONT'D)

When we returned to the battlefield, he had already been buried among the thousands of others who followed him to the afterlife. The slaves and men of lower rank who buried the dead did not know that their own Pharaoh was among them, they did not know what they had done.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

Then we will pray for Osiris to still greet him.

Ankhe stands.

ANKHE

We will not rely on prayer. You will return to the field of battle and bring his body to Thebes. My brother, our Pharaoh, will receive the proper ceremony he deserves.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

My Queen - as I said, the body was lost among the thousands -

ANKHE

(cuts him off)

- then you will dig them up.

With another glance at Ka, she turns and leaves the room.

CUT TO:

28 INT. PALACE - ANKHE'S CHAMBER - DAY

28

Herit is attending to Ankhe, removing her jewelry.

There is a knock at the door. Herit walks over and opens it. Ka is there. She steps aside and lets him in.

KA

Thank you, Herit.

Ankhe is waiting for him.

ANKHE

Leave us.

Herit bows and steps out, closing the door behind her.

(CONTINUED)

Ka and Ankhe look upon one another for a long moment. He wants to come to her, but there is an unspoken barrier.

ANKHE

Were you with him?

KA

No.

ANKHE

Why were you not by his side?! To protect him!

KA

He did not allow it. He fought -

ANKHE

He was not ready!

KA

You're wrong. But the General did lie. It was Tutankhamen who lead us to victory, not me. He is the savior of Egypt. The General spoke those words only to gain me favor.

ANKHE

So that we will marry.

KA

I expected you to be pleased.

ANKHE

Pleased?

KA

I didn't ask for this. Tutankhamun was my friend. He was my brother.
(steps closer to her,
taking her hand)
But this is our fate. It has always been so. The Gods have now proven it. To live as we've always dreamed. We will have an heir, a dynasty of our own... and a chance to rule as this Kingdom deserves.

ANKHE

I cannot just shed him from my heart.

He gently wipes a tear from her eye.

(CONTINUED)

28 CONTINUED:

28

KA

Neither can I. But other forces will move swiftly if I don't. You know that's true. Tutankhamen once told me fate is not what you are given, it is what you take. I will not let this fall from me. I will not lose you to another.

He takes her into his arms, but she won't let him, pulls away...

ANKHE

Bring him back, Ka. Find him. The Pharaoh is not dead until I see his body.

CUT TO:

29 EXT. NILE RIVER - DAY

29

The great river's current is calm, the lushness of green trees and colorful flowers line both shores. Dwellings and farmland pepper the banks as far as the eye can see.

There are a HUNDRED FISHING BOATS along the banks, nets being cast out, FISHERMEN drag their catches back.

30 THE SHORELINE

30

where the FISH are laid out on wooden slats, and then are layered with salt for preservation. WORKERS carry the dried fish and pack them into crates.

31 EXT. GENERAL HOREMHEB'S ESTATE - DAY

31

A large home near the river within view of the fishing "factory," surrounded by huge farming fields.

Ka arrives on his chariot. He is greeted by Horemheb. The General's mood is sour. His eyes scowl at a PRIEST who collects bags of grain from Horemheb's workers.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

The tentacles of the High Priest knows no end.

He turns to his STEWARD.

(CONTINUED)

31 CONTINUED:

31

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Assure the men, after the priest is gone, that their tribute will be repaid from my own stores.

The Steward nods, leaves them.

Horemheb leads Ka into his estate.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Accumulation of land and wealth is better served by those with the stomach for it. I prefer the smell of battle and flesh.

They disappear inside.

CUT TO:

32 INT. GENERAL HOREMHEB'S ESTATE - DAY

32

Open and spacious with a tall ceiling and large open windows that allow what little breeze there is to filter through.

Horemheb pours himself a beer and brings one to Ka.

KA

I'm not thirsty.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Drink anyway.

Ka reluctantly takes it.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

This works to our advantage.

KA

How so?

GENERAL HOREMHEB

No doubt the Grand Vizier, with the help of the High Priest, maneuver for what should be yours. This excursion will keep the wolves in their den.

KA

If your men have not found him, how will I? What then?

(CONTINUED)

32 CONTINUED:

32

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Then she will hear it from your lips,
words she will not doubt once the
effort is made.

He toasts his drink and slugs it down.

CUT TO:

33 INT. SHED - DAY

33

Tut moans, his mind in as much turmoil as his body. Suhad tries to calm him, then squeezes water into his mouth from a wet cloth.

There is a knock at the door. Suhad carefully walks over to it and listens. There a woman's voice from the outside.

WOMAN

It is me.

Suhad slides the door open. An older woman with sunbaked skin steps in.

SUHAD

He's over here.

Suhad quickly shuts the door behind her, then leads her to the other side of the shed, behind the small stone divider.

SUHAD

His body has finally cooled. He will
wake soon.

WOMAN

Men have returned looking for him.
He is a spy. Graves are being dug
up, bodies pulled from the ground.

SUHAD

He is no spy. He was among the
Egyptian Generals, one of their
leaders.

SUHAD'S MOTHER

Then we must tell them.

SUHAD

No. He can't be found.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

SUHAD'S MOTHER

Suhad - I know too well the Egyptian wrath. There will be no end to their retribution if they learn he has been hidden here. We mean nothing to them. Or do you forget your heritage?

SUHAD

No, Mother.

(beat)

But he treated me with honor when they were camped in the village. I am only doing what you and father taught me - I am repaying that favor.

Her mother considers her, then looks upon the stranger. Tut writhes in pain, suffering even as he is unconscious. She finally nods.

SUHAD'S MOTHER

He is a danger to us, I can feel it in my bones.

(but off her look)

I know of a friend who can find medicine. But the moment this man is well, you will send him from here and never speak of it again.

Suhad nods her understanding.

CUT TO:

34 EXT. BATTLEFIELD - DAY

34

DOZENS of SLAVES exhume the bodies of the dead soldiers. It is a gruesome sight. Many are badly decomposed. One by one they are pulled to the surface.

Ka is among the men, himself checking every body for any sign of the deceased King. But none of them are his friend.

CUT TO:

35 EXT. MITANNI PALACE - NIGHT

35

Lagus and Omtep lay on the ground, chained to the other captives. The glow of the fires and the sound of crackling, burning wood is not far.

Lagus looks to be sure they are not being watched - then carefully turns to Omtep and whispers -

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

LAGUS

I have heard it from yet another.
The Mitanni King has allied himself
with Megiddo, perhaps even the
Asiatics. Our Generals believe the
Mitanni are defeated. The Pharaoh
has to be told - their numbers will
overwhelm the kingdom.

OMTEP

And how can we deliver a warning
chained to a thousand others?

LAGUS

These chains are weak, they can be
broken.

OMTEP

With no means of escape if they are.
The walls that keep us in are too
high to scale.

LAGUS

Before I became a soldier, I was a
builder. These walls are constructed
poorly, there is no proper foundation
between the posts. There is soft
dirt. We can easily dig beneath.

Omtepe looks at him with even more anxiety. Lagus lays back
down, looking up at the bright stars with new purpose.

CUT TO:

36 INT. SHED - DAY

36

Rays of light seep in from cracks. Tut's eyes blink, then
open. He is confused, unfocused. When he sees Suhad by his
side, he panics, trying to get up. She holds him down.

SUHAD

Rest.

His eyes finally focus. He tries to speak, then winces in
pain, reaching for his wound. Although bandaged, there is
still blood seeping through. He finally catches his breath,
looking at his surroundings again.

TUT

I cannot be in your village.

(CONTINUED)

SUHAD

We're not in the village. We're at a place rarely travelled. You're safe.

She then wipes his face with a damp cloth.

SUHAD

And yet to be parted from this world.

TUT

Because of you.

SUHAD

I have had help from my mother.

(off his concern)

She does not speak of it. She can be trusted... as can I.

TUT

I can trust no one. I must return to Thebes.

He tries again to sit up but is still in too much pain.

SUHAD

You will leave after you've healed.

TUT

I will do as I intend -

SUHAD

You will do as I say.

She pushes him down again, causing another wince of pain. It is a fight he cannot win at the moment.

TUT

What is your name?

SUHAD

Suhad.

TUT

Suhad is not an Egyptian name.

SUHAD

It is Mitanni.

TUT

You are not Mitanni.

(CONTINUED)

SUHAD

My grandmother was raped by an Egyptian invader. She was full Mitanni. So in the eyes of the Pharaoh, I would not be considered a true Egyptian either.

TUT

You would be as long as you are loyal to him.

SUHAD

My allegiance is to my family. And to my people here. An Egyptian Pharaoh who sits on a throne far across the desert is of no more consequence to me than I am to him.

TUT

Any Pharaoh would have your tongue cut out for that.

SUHAD

Then it is a good thing he has not heard me say it.

Tut considers her for a long moment - and cannot help but ease a smile. He lays his head back, tired...

TUT

I am thirsty.

She fetches a small sack of water then helps him drink. Some of the water spills down his cheeks and neck. She gently wipes it away. The softness of her touch is not lost on him.

CUT TO:

An equally soft hand gently caresses someone else's skin. It is Nahkt, lying together with Ay. But while Nahkt gently caresses him, the Grand Viziers eyes drift aimlessly.

AY

I apologize if I show too little affection, my mind is elsewhere.

NAHKT

It is a troubled time.

They are quiet for a moment.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

NAHKT

My wife Tawy -

AY

(a hint of aggravation)

Yes?

NAHKT

She has heard the rumors that the Pharaoh did not return from battle, and that he is not at his palace in Giza. I have not spoken of it, as you demanded, but the people are growing restless for news.

Ay considers this for a long moment. He finally stands, covering his naked body with a long, white linen.

AY

Where is the Queen?

CUT TO:

38 EXT. PALACE GARDEN - DAY

38

Ay comes upon Ankhe in the lush Palace Garden tending to the abundance of beautiful Blue Water Lilies kept in large pools of water. Herit and other Ladies-In-Waiting stand nearby, but they keep their distance - more so than usual.

ANKHE

The Blue Lotus blooms early.

AY

A message from Ra himself. As the Lotus rises to the surface of the water each day to greet Ra, just as we too must greet a new day.

ANKHE

And as the petals open, it is reborn.
From death there is light.

(pauses)

I know what you want.

AY

And I know where your heart lies.
But we cannot risk so much change.
If Ka is placed in power it is the General who will rule this country.

(CONTINUED)

38 CONTINUED:

38

Ankhe pulls one of the flowers. She brings it to her nose and inhales the fragrance.

ANKHE

When I was just a girl, I wanted to believe marriage was more than just an arrangement of convenience.

AY

Survival, My Queen.

Nahkt enters the courtyard.

NAHKT

Ka returns.

Off Ankhe's reaction...

CUT TO:

39 INT. PALACE - AUDIENCE HALL - DAY

39

Ka is waiting as both Ankhe and Ay enter the great chamber. He is covered in dust and grime. Ankhe does not need to ask - she can see it on his face.

KA

The bodies were decimated. It was an impossible task, My Lady. Every village was searched. The Pharaoh's body cannot be returned.

Ankhe is standing, quite symbolically, between Ka and Ay.

Her eyes fall to Herit...

ANKHE

Bathe him. Tend to his wounds.

She walks past Ka, touching him gently on the arm, allowing her fingers to linger for a moment before continuing on.

Ka's eyes turn to the Grand Vizier. Neither man gives anything away.

AY

Still her protector.

Ka turns and leaves with Herit in tow.

CUT TO:

40 EXT. STREETS OF THEBES - DAY

40

Nahkt and his wife TAWY walk through the colorful outdoor market. It is packed with people.

TAWY

It is all anyone talks about.
Friends know of your position and
continue to ask.

NAHKT

I am sworn to silence, Tawy.

TAWY

That is answer enough. I have been
told in times past that when a new
Pharaoh of different blood rises, all
who are attached to the previous
Pharaoh are executed.

NAHKT

Loose tongues.

TAWY

Then you are safe?

NAHKT

Yes, my love, I am safe. We are
safe. The Grand Vizier is a powerful
ally.

This seems to offer Tawy some relief. She stops at a MEAT
VENDOR, pointing at a hanging pigeon.

NAHKT

Are we expected to feast on that?

TAWY

It is all we can afford, my Love.

Nahkt hands a bag of grain to the BUTCHER. He cuts the bird
loose and tosses it in her linen sack.

Tawy stumbles, then clutches her chest, unable to catch her
breath. She begins coughing.

NAHKT

Tawy?

She can barely speak the words -

TAWY

It has gotten worse...

(CONTINUED)

40 CONTINUED:

40

She collapses to the ground. The sack in her arms falls open, the pigeon tumbling into the dirt.

NAHKT

Tawy!

CUT TO:

41 INT. TEMPLE - NIGHT

41

Horemheb prays silently. He senses someone approach. Looks up. It is the High Priest Amun. Neither attempts to hide their mutual loathing.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

You have been at prayer since Ka returned with his news. You have never been a devoted visitor, General. I am pleased.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

I am here to seek clarity.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

Clarity... or forgiveness?

Horemheb fixes him with a cold stare.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

To not be able to find the Pharaoh's body must ravage you with guilt.

Amun slowly circles him.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

I too have prayed for clarity. But then you did not bear witness to the man whose blade took the Pharaoh's breath, did you?

Horemheb stands, unafraid of this man or his accusations.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Such a man, he would be a fool, High Priest. To use one's own blade against the Pharaoh would bring the wrath of Osiris and eternal darkness in the afterlife.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

Yes. Yet even with a clean blade,
such a man could still have the stain
of the Pharaoh's blood on his hands.

The two men remain locked eye to eye. The General finally
turns and leaves.

CUT TO:

42 INT. PALACE - ANKHE'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

42

Ankhe is waiting, scantily dressed in a thin linen that shows
her soft skin and accentuates her curves.

Herit escorts Ka into the room. He is now clean and shaven.
Herit offers a short bow, then leaves them alone.

The two stand facing one another. Nothing is said. Ankhe
finally goes to him, kisses him, holds him. They devour each
other, dropping onto a lion skin rug where they make
passionate love - an ecstasy Ankhe has never experienced.

CUT TO:

43 INT. PALACE - AY'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

43

Ay stands alone, looking out over the city from one of the
windows in his room.

There is a knock. Herit enters.

HERIT

The Queen.

Ankhe comes in behind her. Herit leaves the two of them
alone.

ANKHE

Do you believe that General Horemheb
will be unleashed if Ka is made
Pharaoh?

AY

There is no doubt.

She moves closer to him now. For all Ay's stoicism, he is not
immune to her beauty.

(CONTINUED)

43 CONTINUED:

43

ANKHE

And if you were Pharaoh, you would
restrain him?

AY

I have managed to this long.

ANKHE

And Ka would not?

It is so close now he can taste it...

AY

He will do the General's bidding. He
is not ready.

Ankhe looks into his eyes, close enough now that he can feel
her breath as she whispers -

ANKHE

Thank you for your honesty, Grand
Vizier. But it is a chance I will
take. I will not tell Ka you said
these things when he is made Pharaoh.

Ay's face deadens...

ANKHE

You will continue to do your duty as
our "loyal servant." Make all
arrangements.

She steps back from him. Waits for him to bow, which he
eventually does. She turns and walks out.

A moment later, Ay tips a table and throws everything from his
shelves, shattering glass and clay across the floor.

CUT TO:

44 INT. SHED - DAY

44

Tut wakes. Looks around. he is alone. He hears something
outside - someone moving -

45 EXT. SHED - DAY

45

Tut steps out cautiously, holding his dagger. Moves around
the other side of the shed. The woods is quiet. Unnaturally
quiet. He takes another careful step.

(CONTINUED)

45 CONTINUED:

45

And then sees Suhad armed with a bow and arrow, crouched low, stalking something...

A FLOCK OF PIGEONS erupts in front of her. She swiftly takes aim. Lets an arrow fly and fells one of the birds.

Tut is captivated. She senses him. Spins, quickly armed with another arrow pointed at him. Her entire body is locked, an intensity in her eyes we have never seen. She finally eases, lowering the weapon.

SUHAD

You've never seen a woman with a bow?

TUT

No.

She picks up the bird.

SUHAD

Our meals are not prepared by servants, General.

(comes to him)

A walk will do you good. Come on.

For a moment he simply watches her -

CUT TO:

46 EXT. WOODS - DAY

46

Tut moves gingerly through sparse palm trees. The sounds of birds echo throughout. The air is clean and cool.

SUHAD

You have gained considerable strength in a short time.

TUT

The Gods have imposed their will.

SUHAD

Was it the Gods who dragged you from the river, stopped your bleeding wound, kept you hidden?

TUT

You do have Mitanni blood, don't you? You mock our Gods while they are the proof I still breathe...

Tut keeps walking.

(CONTINUED)

46 CONTINUED:

46

SUHAD

I do not mock the Gods. And I'm sorry if I offended you. But I have seen how they hold power over people, how it imposes its will instead of our own. My people seek logic in the randomness of life, seek questions that have no answers so that it might release them of the responsibility. There is no greater power than our own will. That is the reason you still breathe. That is how I know you are an important man. You would not let yourself die... you would not let Osiris take you to the afterlife.

TUT

Who teaches you these thoughts? Your grandmother?

SUHAD

I am free to think for myself.

TUT

You would be wise to heed caution.

SUHAD

Something my father tells me every day.

He cannot help but smile. He has never met a woman like her.

47 EXT. VILLAGE - DAY

47

They have inadvertently walked into the outskirts of the Suhad's village. Tut stops, nervous.

SUHAD

The men who were searching have long since gone. You're not wearing the clothes of a soldier. No one will notice.

He still hesitates, but then follows her slowly into the square. It bustles with life. Markets are open. People trade goods. There is construction on a new building.

As Suhad picks through some dried fruits from a vendor, a commotion gets their attention. A PRIEST OF SOBEK, the god of water, is in a heated conversation with a local man.

(CONTINUED)

PRIEST OF SOBEK

The offering is not negotiable.
Sobek was lenient on my last visit.
His holiness will not be so again.

LOCAL MAN

There is none to offer. We had a
poor yield. There is little enough
for our own coffers.

Suhad starts toward them. Tut stops her.

TUT

Leave it be.

SUHAD

That is my father.

She slips away from him.

PRIEST OF SOBEK

You will provide me with what I ask
or I will take it all.

SUHAD

You have no right!

SUHAD'S FATHER

Suhad - no. Go home.

PRIEST OF SOBEK

You speak to the Priest of Sobek, the
God of Water, with cursed words?

(shouts to everyone)

Pay tribute to the Gods to keep them
in your favor! I am his servant and
therefore you are mine! Defy me and
drought will steal your crops and
turn your fields to dust!

SUHAD'S FATHER

Please, I will pray to Sobek. My
daughter does not know her place.

PRIEST OF SOBEK

Then I will show it to her!

He brings his fist down upon her. But before impact, Tut's
hand reaches out and grabs it.

Others gasp at such an action, stepping away. Tut and the
Priest lock eyes.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

PRIEST OF SOBEK

You dare -

TUT

Do not waste your strength on her,
Priest.

The Priest struggles to free himself, but Tut's grip is strong despite his weakened state.

Suhad's Father quickly returns with a large sack of grain.

SUHAD'S FATHER

Take it, please. It is double our
normal offering. Forgive them. Do
not set the Gods upon us.

The priest finally snaps his hand away, seething.

PRIEST OF SOBEK

Sobek will curse this village. It
will soon lay in ruin.

He snatches the sack. Walks away.

Suhad's father looks at Tut, shaking with fear.

SUHAD'S FATHER

Your intent is appreciated, but your
actions will send us to the fires of
Sehket!

Tut does not respond. His eyes linger on the Priest moving away with a band of slaves at his side.

CUT TO:

48 EXT. MITANNI PALACE - NIGHT

48

Omtép provides cover as Lagus digs furiously beneath the wall near where they sleep. The movement pulls on the chain that connects the prisoners and the NEXT IN LINE gets frustrated. He looks over, perturbed, and notices what Lagus is doing. He's terrified of the consequences if they are discovered, but Omtép's pleading eyes render him silent.

Lagus keeps digging.

Omtép then covertly uses a small sharp boulder to weaken the links of the bronze chain that holds the prisoners together.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED:

48

Lagus emerges from underneath the wall with a look of satisfaction on his face. He speaks quietly.

LAGUS

The next time there is no moon in the sky we will have our chance.

CUT TO:

49 INT. SHED - DAY

49

Suhad tends to Tut's wound, changing the linen. The cut is still tender. He tenses, gritting his teeth.

She teases...

SUHAD

Did you show this kind of tolerance on the battlefield?

TUT

The Mitanni soldiers were much gentler.

SUHAD

Would you prefer I deliver you to them?

He smiles. Shakes his head.

SUHAD

Why do your own men want you dead?

TUT

Because men are blinded by power.

(pauses)

Even men who claim themselves divine.

SUHAD

I know the ways of men. I have heard it many times in stories told to me by my father and his father before him.

TUT

Tell me one of your stories.

Suhad is embarrassed.

TUT

It will soothe my mind.

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

She thinks about it...

SUHAD

Do you know the story of Prince
Thutmose and the Sphinx?

TUT

I heard few fables as a child.

Suhad continues dressing the wound and cleaning other cuts and scrapes as she recites. Her touch is gentle and smooth -

SUHAD

Thutmose was the eldest son of the
Pharaoh Amenhotep. And, because he
was the eldest, many of his brothers
would plot against him, for they
desired to be Pharaoh. Even trusted
advisors sought to remove him from
the throne.

Tut listens carefully...

SUHAD

One day, during the great Festival of
Ra, when Ra had reached the height of
the sky, Thutmose left - he wished to
see the great Pyramids which were
built over twelve hundred years
before he was born. He marveled at
these great monuments, knowing that
nowhere else was their equaled.

Suhad has guided Tut into a sitting position now so that she
can gently wash his back with a damp cloth. Her words are as
sensual as her hands which now move softly over his shoulders,
down his waist line and back again -

SUHAD

There was a great rumble as a huge
stone head rose out of the sand. It
was a Sphinx, the sacred animal of
Harmakhet, Horus of the Rising Sun,
and a creature of great wisdom and
power. Thutmose prayed to the Sphinx
for guidance and deliverance from
those who would betray him. The
great cat spoke in a mighty voice.
"Behold, Thutmose, I am your father,
and the father of all Pharaohs of
Egypt.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

SUHAD (CONT'D)

Show me devotion this day by
conquering the lands East and West,
then teach the people of these lands
the blessing of Amun-Ra. Do this and
you shall have long life and health
all your days.

Suhad has moved around in front of Tut now, cleaning a final
cut on his forehead, their faces an inch apart.

SUHAD

Which Thutmose did. And from that
day forth, Thutmose accumulated
wealth and power and lived in
abundance having taken all the lands
under the sky.

Their lips are but a breath away from each other. Suhad's own
heart is nearly beating out of her chest.

As Tut leans in to kiss her -

- the door bursts open. Suhad starts, jumps to her feet.

It is her mother... and her father. They pretend not to
notice the position of their daughter with this strange man.
Her father is in a near panic about something else.

SUHAD'S FATHER

Beduin mercenaries. They have been
to the village before. Word of your
actions against the priest has
spread.

SUHAD'S MOTHER

Quickly. You must leave here, you
must leave us alone.

Suhad retrieves Tut's clothing and helps him to his feet. She
then waits as he retrieves his dagger.

50 EXT. SHED - DAY

50

Tut and Suhad slip outside into the sunlight. The glare
momentarily blinds them - but then reveals that in the few
seconds it took Tut and Suhad to follow, both her Father and
Mother are already being held with knives to their throats.
Before Tut can react, Suhad is yanked away from him.

Two additional BEDUIN MERCENARIES, their faces covered by red
scarves, lurch toward Tut, but he wields his dagger, giving
them pause.

(CONTINUED)

BEDUIN MERCENARY

You are the one we seek.

TUT

Leave them be and take me as you wish.

BEDUIN MERCENARY

You will be taken. And then they will be executed.

He spins his blade, bringing it down on Tut. Tut, despite not being fully recovered, blocks the attack, ducks and turns, driving his dagger into the man's back.

The others move in. Tut slashes the first across the neck, then blocks the dagger of the third man. The mercenary holding Suhad leaps into the action, but Suhad trips him, snatches his knife and drives it into his back.

Her mother screams out. Her father wrestles with his man, who is about to carve out the old man's throat. But Tut grabs the Beduin by the hair, jerking his head back and cutting his throat.

It is all over in a matter of seconds. Tut heaves for breath over his fallen prey. Suhad steps back, blood dripping from her hands. Her parents stare at Tut, terrified at this man who so easily kills.

SUHAD'S FATHER

You are a man of the Palace, that much I have worked out. Of some importance to the dead Pharaoh. That is why they want you.

TUT

Dead Pharaoh?

SUHAD'S FATHER

A man has just delivered the news. The Pharaoh died in battle - unworthy of his place among the gods. But another rises in his place, soon to be crowned. Some of our own people travel to Thebes to bear witness. They now purge the enemies of the Queen and her new King - which means you are an enemy to us.

Suhad has not taken her eyes off Tut.

(CONTINUED)

50 CONTINUED:

50

SUHAD

He is not the enemy, Father.

TUT

I must return to Thebes.

SUHAD

You cannot travel, you are still -

TUT

You will ride with me. You will tend
to my wounds.

Suhad nods absently.

Tut turns again to her family.

TUT

Keep silent about this or you will be
dead.

He looks now at the dead men around them.

TUT

We will need a shovel.

CUT TO:

51 EXT. DESERT TERRAIN - DAY

51

Tut and Suhad ride on a small chariot, racing across the
landscape, chasing the giant, blazing sun that seeps into the
horizon.

CUT TO:

52 EXT. THEBES - OUTSIDE THE PALACE - DAY

52

Dozens of workers are decorating the large courtyard beneath
the PALACE TERRACE where they will soon be presented with
their new Pharaoh. Colored cloth, spectacular flowers in
large clay pots and statues are being carved.

Citizens move past, pointing, marveling at the sight of so
much activity. Some have even begun to camp, assuring
themselves of seeing the new Pharaoh and the Queen up close.

CUT TO:

53 INT. PALACE - ROYAL COURT - DAY

53

Ay sits upon his chair receiving official business. A MAGISTRATE is brought forth who bows with respect.

MAGISTRATE

Grand Vizier, I bring news of the terrible illness that is spreading in the Southern regions. People are sick and dying with no cure.

AY

How many have been taken?

MAGISTRATE

It is hard to count - hundreds. That does not sound like many, I'm sure, in a city as large as Thebes, but my Lord, with such a population, it will spread rapidly here. The gates should be closed to all outsiders.

AY

Closed? We near the celebration of the Queen's marriage and the ascension of Pharaoh Ka.

MAGISTRATE

And I am here with a warning that it cannot wait. Many will come from affected areas. You must heed -

AY

I will take further ear when I deem it necessary.

The Magistrate realizes he cannot push the matter any further.

MAGISTRATE

Yes, My Lord.

He bows, then turns to leave.

Ay watches after him, pensive and in no mood. A moment later, Nahkt hurries into the room. He looks as though he has not slept.

NAHKT

I apologize for my absence.

AY

Your wife.

(CONTINUED)

NAHKT

Yes. She remains quite ill.

AY

We are in the throes of preparation.
I can't tolerate this, regardless of
circumstance.

(gets up)

Come along... there are
correspondences to draft.

NAHKT

If she were properly healed, I would
be less inclined to be home as
often... and I would be less
distracted... in all ways.

Ay stops - faces him.

NAHKT

She has taken medicine, what I could
afford, but it hasn't made any
difference.

Ay knows what he trying to ask.

AY

Rarer potions are difficult to
obtain... even for men of position.

Nahkt continues to fix Ay with a wanting look on his face.
Ay, smiles, steps closer to him, takes his hands in his.

AY

I will spare what I can. Wait here.

CUT TO:

Nahkt steps into this modest home and moves across to a small
bed where Tawy is being attended to by SEKHET, an older woman
with deep lines across her face. Tawy's color is gone, her
forehead damp with sweat. Her weary eyes look across to
Nahkt, reaching out her hand.

NAHKT

Is there any change?

SEKHET

Worse, I'm afraid. She has trouble
catching her breath.

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

NAHKT

Thank you for staying with her,
Sekhet.

SEKHET

I will come again in the morning.

NAHKT

Thank you.

Sekhet smiles at Tawy, then turns and goes. Nahkt gently strokes her hair, then wipes the sweat from her forehead.

TAWY

I'm scared.

NAHKT

You don't have to be anymore.

He looks back to the door to be sure Sekhet is gone. He then pulls out a GOLD VIAL from his robes.

TAWY

What is it?

NAHKT

A rare medicine.

TAWY

We cannot afford such a medicine -
how did it come to you?

NAHKT

A gift from the Grand Vizier.

He opens the vial and pours a few drops of the brown liquid onto her tongue.

CUT TO:

55 EXT. PALACE - ANKHE'S TERRACE - DAY

55

Ankhe watches the preparations going on within view of her terrace. Ka comes out to her. Gently kisses her on the nape of her neck. She smiles, caressing his arms as he puts them around her waist.

KA

It will be a celebration like no
other. The Pyramids themselves will
shake to the ground.

(CONTINUED)

Ankhe wonders...

ANKHE

Are you convinced the Gods favor us?

KA

They have proven it so. I weep for our brother, but we have mourned and because as such, Anubis has freed us to live our lives. Now it is Isis who guides us with a lasting bond.

ANKHE

Isis... wife and sister of Osiris. She is proud and deceitful, Ka. It is she who had Ra killed so her son Horus could be King of the Gods.

KA

A position he well deserved.

Ankhe turns and looks at him. Frowns.

ANKHE

I did not wish him to die.

KA

I did not say that.

ANKHE

Then do not mock Isis. She spins her deception against those whose eyes are shut. She preys upon arrogance.

He cups her head in his hands.

KA

Of which I am guilty - or I would not stand here now.

He then kisses her. She embraces his warmth.

ANKHE

I still fear we are judged.

KA

I stand by our actions... just as I will stand by your side always.

Then, behind them, a FALCON lands quietly on the ledge. Ankhe steps away from Ka, staring at it in quiet wonder.

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

55

KA

What's wrong, Ankhe?

ANKHE

Do you remember? The Falcon showed itself the day Tutankhamun and I were married.

KA

Tutankhamun speaks to us from the afterlife. He offers us his blessing.

Ankhe takes a careful step toward the bird. It seems to be staring directly at her. But then it takes flight and disappears into the sky.

Ankhe watches after it.

CUT TO:

56 EXT. RIVER INLET - DAY

56

Tut leads the horse to a small pool of water surrounded by palm trees. He ties it to a branch.

SUHAD

It will soon be dark. Do we make camp here?

TUT

Let me show you something.

He takes her hand and leads her through the trees.

Soon the ground rises past the river inlet. They climb and at last reach a short plateau -

57 EXT. SANDY PLATEAU - DAY

57

- revealing a valley below where the THREE PYRAMIDS of Giza stand golden against the sun. They are powerful and mighty, even from here. Closer, facing them, is the GREAT SPHINX.

Suhad jaw opens, wide-eyed in simple awe.

TUT

Have you ever seen them for yourself?

She shakes her head, her eyes well up with tears at their majestic beauty.

(CONTINUED)

SUHAD

Thutmose was right - nowhere else are they equaled.

Tut points to a TEMPLE just to the East, surrounded by support buildings and a small village.

TUT

I had it built so I could pray and gaze upon them.

SUHAD

You had it built? Only the -

TUT

- the Pharaoh did not die in battle.

Suhad pulls her hand away from him.

SUHAD

You... are the Pharaoh...?

TUT

I had heard the fable you told me many times. Prince Thutmose was my uncle. But the story told to you was wrong. He did not desire conquest. He sought peace and freedom for his people. It was because of this, he did not live a long life. When he died, his brother Akhenaten at last took the throne he so coveted. Akhenaten was my father.

SUHAD

The heretic Pharaoh who stripped the people of their Gods.

TUT

Gods you do not worship.

SUHAD

When Akhenaten took them away, he also took away the power and the abuse of the Priests. Under your rule they have returned.

TUT

Which I have witnessed. And which I will resolve when I retake my place as Pharaoh.

She still looks upon him with skepticism.

(CONTINUED)

SUHAD

Why didn't you tell me who you were?

TUT

Because I didn't want you looking at me the way you are now. The way all others look at me.

He steps closer to her. Reaches for her hand. She hesitates.

SUHAD

I am a commoner.

TUT

That is not what you told me.

She breaks a slight smile...

TUT

And you are far from common in my world.

He finally pulls her gently into his arms. The giant cat seems to be looking right at both of them.

SUHAD

Will we be safe at the temple?

TUT

No. I can't be sure mercenaries aren't waiting.

This gives Tut something to consider.

SUHAD

Then do not go back to Thebes. We will travel somewhere else, where no one knows who you are. There is now an army against you.

TUT

The choice is not mine. It was handed to me by my father and my grandfather Amenhotep before him. And now I return to Thebes having risen from the dead. All the armies in the world cannot stand in my way. So that I might realize Thutmose's dream of an Egypt that is strong and rich with an abundance for all it's people... regardless of what blood runs through them.

(CONTINUED)

57 CONTINUED:

57

His eyes drift out to the glittering, Golden Sphinx.

TUT

I have often prayed to Harmakhet,
Horus of the Rising Sun for this, as
Thutmose did. You are wrong about
the Gods, Suhad. They do answer.

Their eyes are locked, searching each other. Tut leans in and kisses her. She tears at his clothes. He strips her linens away, pulling her hips into him. Suhad lets out a deep moan, pulling at him, scratching, feeling every bit of him inside of her. They continue to make love, passionate and sensual. The Pyramids in the background, the Great Sphinx looking on.

CUT TO:

58 EXT. MITANNI PALACE - NIGHT

58

Past the burning fires and smelts there is only darkness. Lagus stirs. He carefully looks about him. No sign of the guards. He signals Omtep. Together, they quietly begin the difficult task of breaking the chains that bind them to the rest of the group. Omtep has weakened them considerably, but it takes all their might to release themselves. The last link of the chain breaks free.

They quickly slink to the wall and start to move the small boulder that covers the tunnel.

A GUARD comes into view. He sees them.

MITANNI GUARD

There!
(to other guards)
Over here!

Lagus and Omtep have only seconds to clear the entrance.

The Guards close in. Lagus makes the generous decision to let Omtep go first.

LAGUS

Quickly!

Omtep offers a look of thanks, then disappears into the tunnel. Lagus drops to his knees to follow, but a guard grabs him by the ankle and pulls him back.

He claws into the sandy wall, feverishly trying to prevent the guards from pulling him back to captivity - but to no avail.

(CONTINUED)

58 CONTINUED:

58

One of the Guards begins to kick at the foundation of the tunnel. The wall starts to collapse. The last thing Lagus sees as he is pulled all the way out is the tunnel caving in on Omtep - killing him.

CUT TO:

59 EXT. TEMPLE COURTYARD - DAY

59

Ay stands with the High Priest Amun who oversees dozens of Oxen that are being prepared for slaughter.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

The High Gods will be satisfied with the sacrifice of a hundred oxen.

AY

But will General Horemheb?

A rhetorical question that elicits a thin smile from Amun.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

There is no way to stop it?

AY

The winds have not shifted.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

Law dictates that the man who buries the last King will be the next.

AY

Every effort was made to find him.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

He was not meant to be returned, Grand Vizier - the General feared you would officiate the ceremony.

They walk in silence for a beat while Amun thinks...

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

Ka is beholden to the General... but even moreso to the Queen. Continue to offer her your confidence. She is your means of regaining control of this Kingdom.

Ay offers a thin smile bows...

CUT TO:

60 INT. NAHKT'S HOME - DAY

60

Tawy is still in bed, but her color has returned. Nahkt is beside her, helping her take another sip of the medicine.

TAWY

I feel the need for fresh air.

NAHKT

It is best you stay inside. There are too many people in the city, I have seen others who are sick. The gates should not have been opened.

TAWY

And have them miss the celebration? He is their Pharaoh too.

At the mention of Pharaoh, Nahkt goes quiet.

TAWY

Did I offend?

NAHKT

I hold no joy in Tutankhamun's death. And I see the reaction of these crowds and it's as if it doesn't matter.

TAWY

They did not know their Pharaoh. No one did. They are not celebrating his passing to the other world - they are celebrating a new king who will not live in the shadows.

Her words do not ease his mind.

The door opens behind them and the old woman Sekhet comes in.

NAHKT

I must go. The Grand Vizier insists I am at his side during the ceremony. He must be made ready.

He kisses his wife on the forehead. Turns to Sekhet...

NAHKT

You will stay with her until morning?

SEKHET

Until Nu'ut reaches the sky.

(CONTINUED)

60 CONTINUED:

60

Nahkt smiles. Another look back at his wife, then he is off. Sekhet comes around and sits next to Tawy. Feels her cheeks.

SEKHET

You are getting cooler. The Gods have blessed you. Others have not survived this sickness.

TAWY

I have been blessed by many.

She puts a gentle hand on Sekhet. Then Sekhet sees the gold vial next to the bed. Her smile fades into worry -

SEKHET

Tawy - where did you get this?

TAWY

My husband brought it from the Palace.

SEKHET

Medicine... from this vial?

TAWY

Yes.

SEKHET

Do you know what this is?

TAWY

It is rare, that is what Nahkt told me. It's what saved my life.

SEKHET

I once worked in the Palace when I was young. The serum in this vial is from the God Isis herself. Meant only for the Pharaoh. To be consumed by anyone else - for it to be removed from the Palace by lesser hands at all - is a crime worthy of execution.

TAWY

It was not stolen. It was a gift.

SEKHET

Who would give such a gift?

Off Tawy's troubled gaze...

CUT TO:

61 INT. PALACE - AY'S CHAMBER - DAY 61

CLOSE ON Ay - a hundred different thoughts running through his mind as Nahkt helps dress him in his finest linens.

AY

Is your wife improved?

NAHKT

Yes. With our thanks.

Ay smiles as he is robed...

AY

Then I am pleased.

CUT TO:

62 INT. PALACE - ANKHE'S CHAMBER - DAY 62

Ankhe is made ready with make-up, gold, jewelry and a royal headdress.

63 INT. PALACE - KA'S CHAMBER 63

Servants paint Eye-liner on Ka, dressing him in a gown and the ROYAL HEADDRESS made of blue and gold.

CUT TO:

64 EXT. THEBES - OUTSIDE THE CITY GATES - DAY 64

A stream of people arrive for the ceremony. Most of them are on foot. Some ride in chariots or carts. A few ride on the backs of donkeys.

CUT TO:

65 EXT. THEBES - CITY STREET - DAY 65

Horemheb stands tall and proud in his chariot with representatives from his army following in tow. They are all clean, dressed in full regalia.

The streets are filled. Behind Horemheb's men there is a parade of MINISTERS, PRIESTS, NOBLEMEN and FOREIGN DIPLOMATS. Some of them carry gifts of copper and gold. Others carry cats, a revered animal. There are Blue Lotus flowers and fruits.

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

65

The Oxen to be sacrificed are next, followed by DANCERS and MUSICIANS. Last is the LITTER with Ka and Ankhe being carried by dozens of servants.

66 INT. LITTER - DAY

66

Ka and Ankhe wave to the adoring crowd, but their faces are veiled for now, not to be fully presented until after the ceremony.

67 OUTSIDE THE PALACE

67

People are crowding now into position for a view of the terrace and the eventual presentation.

CUT TO:

68 OUTSIDE THEBES

68

A continuing stream of people, citizens from all over the country who have made this pilgrimage.

Among them, blending as commoners, are Tut and Suhad. He holds tight to her hand as he leads them through the crowd, a scarf covering the lower part of his face. He is alert, absorbing his surroundings and every eye that falls his way.

They soon pass through the gates and into the city.

CUT TO:

69 INT. PALACE - ROYAL COURT - DAY

69

The chamber is filled to capacity. Musicians play music. Dancers. Tables full of food.

Ankhe and Ka walk deliberately slow to their thrones, past all the specially invited guests who get to witness the actual wedding ceremony. Ahead of them is the High Priest Amun.

Grand Vizier Ay and General Horemheb walk in next. Nahkt, Herit and other faces we recognize are present.

Ka and Ankhe are seated. They glow in the adulation of all those in attendance. The cheers from the eager crowd outside echo in from the terrace behind them.

70 EXT. PALACE - OUTSIDE THE TERRACE - DAY 70

The people are now chanting, all eyes on the terrace, still waiting for the new Pharaoh to grace them.

CUT TO:

71 EXT. PALACE - SECRET ENTRANCE - DAY 71

The same entrance Tut used to sneak in and out of the palace on his nightly sojourns. He leads Suhad through the bushes and removes the small grate. They slip inside.

CUT TO:

72 INT. PALACE - AUDIENCE HALL - DAY 72

The High Priest Amun faces the guests. He raises his arms above him. The music changes to the beat of DRUMS that increases in tempo and volume as the High Priest begins to chant a prayer to the Amun-Ra God...

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

Hail to thee, Amun-Ra, Lord of the
thrones of the earth, the oldest
existence, ancient heaven, support of
all things, chief of the gods, lord
of truth; father of the gods, maker
of men and beasts and herbs; maker of
all things above and below -

As he continues, Tut, still with the scarf over his face, steps in among the crowd. Suhad stays back now as he works his way closer to the front.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

Deliverer of the sufferer and
oppressed, judging the poor; Lord of
wisdom, Lord of mercy; most loving,
opener of every eye, source of joy,
in whose goodness the gods rejoice!

The DRUMS fill the room, louder and louder, building to a crescendo as Amun is nearly shouting now -

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

The spirits thou hast made extol
thee, saying, welcome to thee, father
of the fathers of the gods!

Tut steps past the front row of people.

(CONTINUED)

72 CONTINUED:

72

Ankhe notices the stranger with the subtle limp.

Ay now takes notice too.

The drums are deafening, faster and faster -

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

We worship thy spirit which reigns
within us all!!!

The High Priest is at last breathless. The drums go silent.
There is not a sound in the chamber.

Only now does Amun see the stranger standing before him.

Ankhe rises to her feet.

Ka's brow furrows.

Horemheb watches carefully.

Tut removes the scarf, revealing himself.

Ankhe lets out a loud gasp, covering her mouth. Ka jumps to
his feet. Ay and Horemheb stare incredulously. Others -
Nahkt, Herit and servants recognize him and react with gasps
and whimpered screams.

Tut says nothing. He walks forward.

From behind the frightened guests, Suhad watches in
fascination.

Amun, trembling himself, bows down on one knee, mumbling a
prayer that is as much to Tut as it is to his own gods -

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

God of Gods, King of Kings, he has
risen. God of Gods, King of Kings,
he has risen -

Tut walks past him, his eyes locked on Ka. Ka swallows back a
lump in his throat, then takes a timid step toward him. He
then quickly removes the golden headdress, letting it absently
fall to the floor.

General Horemheb cannot believe what he is seeing.

No one in the chamber has yet taken a breath.

KA

(stammering for words)

My friend - you yet breathe...

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

72 CONTINUED:

72

KA (CONT'D)
my heart swells... the celebration is
yours... it is your rightful place...

Tut is to him now. Face to face without yet saying a word. He puts a hand on Ka's shoulder. His lips curl into what one might think is a smile. Ka, relieved, takes it as such and offers the same. But then Tut leans into his friend and whispers something meant only for him...

Ka's smile quickly fades.

73 FLASHBACK

73

The battlefield. That moment when Tut was abandoned. But now we see that his eyes flutter open just enough to see, just for a moment. He witnesses a pair of legs walking away from him. But in that brief moment when he sees General Horemheb leave him - he also sees someone else who was there... someone watching, looking right at him and waiting for the General... someone who also left him there to die. Ka.

74 TUT

74

Pulls back from Ka's ear, presses their foreheads together, closing his eyes in quiet despair.

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

The color has drained from Ka's face. And then, grotesquely, Ka's jaw drops open in excruciating pain. His eyes go wide.

Tut drives the dagger further upward. Blood splatters across their faces, then begins to flow from Ka's innards.

Ankhe SCREAMS. Others quickly do the same. Ay is absolutely frozen in the moment. Amun, Horemheb - all of them watch in shock as Ka crumbles. The floor turns red.

Suhad, transfixed, cannot turn away.

Tut's eyes now shift to Ankhe who runs to Ka's side, crying, screaming, trying to help him. Ka attempts to speak, but it only comes out in gurgled blood.

All other sounds disappear as Tut drops the dagger, and we hear only the sound of it clanking loudly off the stone floor, much the way it did all those years ago when his father did the same.

(CONTINUED)

74 CONTINUED:

74

He calmly walks to Ka's headdress, picks it up and carries it with him toward the terrace.

Ay is inadvertently standing in his way. Tut pauses, wilting Ay with an intensity the Grand Vizier has never seen from the young King before. Ay manages the slightest nod of approval, then steps aside.

With everyone still staring in stunned disbelief and Ankhe wailing over Ka's dead body, Tut walks toward the light of the terrace, the very same terrace he was denied the day he was made Pharaoh. But today he has been reborn.

75 EXT. PALACE TERRACE - DAY

75

All sounds return as the crowd lets out a massive roar upon seeing Tut. But then, for a moment they go quiet - confused - this is not the King they expected to see.

He raises the headdress above him -

TUT

My people of Egypt! I stand before
you as Nebkhepure Nesubity
Tutankhamun Hekaiunushema, He Who
Wears the Crown and Ruler of All
Egypt! I have returned to you!
(beat)
I-AM-YOUR-PHARAOH!

The crowd erupts. It is like nothing ever heard before. The sound shakes the very foundation of the Palace, flooding its halls and chambers like a tidal wave.

Tutankhamun continues holding the headdress to the sky.

He is their Pharaoh.

END OF HOUR TWO