



Hour Four: "HEMORRHAGE"

Tut and Horemheb forge an uneasy truce to repel the looming Mitanni threat - which has now organized an alliance of 10,000 troops set to conquer Egypt. But Egypt's ranks have grown thin as the plague has swept through the city. In a last ditch effort to keep all of Egypt from falling to sickness, Tut has gated a section of the city to hold the sick - and then ultimately burns it to the ground. Unbeknownst to Tut, Suhad becomes trapped in the quarantine moments before it's set on fire.

TUT

"HOUR FOUR: HEMORRHAGE"

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MUSE ENTERTAINMENT

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TUT

"HOUR FOUR: HEMORRHAGE"

FADE IN

1 EXT. OUTSIDE THE PALACE GATE - DAY 1

Arrows pointed at one another. Fingers gripping daggers and swords. The slightest twitch and there will be bloodshed.

Tut's eyes shift from Herit to General Horemheb -

TUT

One enemy at a time, General. Tell your men to drop their weapons.

Horemheb does not move. Tut points at Herit -

TUT

This is a declaration! We cannot stand divided! Your men will oblige their oath to me and stand down!

(beat)

An oath you once made yourself!

This, more than anything Tut has said, sinks in with the General. He regards him carefully. Then, after another long moment, he calls back to them through the gate -

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Set down your weapons!

2 EXT. PALACE COURTYARD - DAY 2

General Yuya hesitates. He finally motions to his men to comply. One by one they lay down their daggers and bows.

3 EXT. OUTSIDE THE PALACE GATE - DAY 3

Atop the wall, Lagus watches anxiously, waiting for Tut to give the same order.

TUT

General Yuya! Step out through the gate!

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

GENERAL HOREMHEB
Tell your men to lower their weapons.

TUT
If you flinch, they die. Yuya!

4 EXT. PALACE COURTYARD - DAY

4

Yuya, unsure what to do, finally walks to the gate as it slides open.

CUT TO:

5 EXT. ROYAL TEMPLE - BALCONY - DAY

5

Ay, Amun and Suhad watch with bated breath as Yuya walks the many steps to Horemheb's side.

CUT TO:

6 EXT. OUTSIDE THE PALACE GATE - DAY

6

General Yuya exchanges a questioning look with Horemheb.

GENERAL YUYA
What is he doing?

TUT
Lagus.

Above them, Lagus lets out a short whistle.

Then - a DOZEN ARCHERS, bows cocked and ready, come out from behind Tut and circle Horemheb and Yuya.

TUT
To your knees.

Horemheb's eyes narrow.

GENERAL HOREMHEB
I will not.

Tut wields his own bow - steps to within a few feet of the General - an arrow pointed at his forehead.

TUT
You will comply.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

Horemheb and Yuya slowly drop to their knees.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

You made this mistake once before.

Tut slowly circles them...

TUT

And I will not hesitate to kill you.
Your men followed you today, but they
will not follow a dead general.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Then be done with it.

TUT

It would have been finished already
if not for your value in the field.
You, above all others, know the peril
we are in. If you care nothing for
your allegiance to me, then swear it
to the Egypt you love and I will
spare you and your men. Refuse and I
will kill you with this very blade.

Yuya spits at the ground.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

It is unwise to hand your enemy a
dagger, then offer them your back.

But Tut, to the surprise of everyone, holds out his dagger for
General Horemheb in a symbolic gesture...

TUT

Yet here it is.

Horemheb's eyes land on it -

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Am I to take you at your word?

TUT

Yes.

GENERAL YUYA

Bow to him if you want. I will not.

Yuya makes a move for his sword. Tut throws the dagger at
him, a direct hit in the throat. Yuya grabs at it, blood
spewing down his neck, trying to pull it out.

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

But his face quickly turns white as he falls to the ground - gasping for his last breath - the sand around him pooling with blood.

His men who saw it from inside the Palace gate react, reaching for their weapons -

Tut's archers on the wall pull back on their bows -

Horemheb jumps to his feet. The archers around him draw back their bows as well, about release -

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Enough!

The men all freeze where they are. Time stands still. He steps up to Tut, unafraid, eye to eye, man to man -

GENERAL HOREMHEB

For Egypt. For now.

TUT

For now.

Tut has not take his eyes off him. He then looks up at the wall and nods to Lagus.

Lagus lowers his bow. The rest of Tut's men finally do the same.

The archers around Horemheb lower their bows.

Tut gives Horemheb a short nod. Then he walks to Yuya's dead body and pulls out the dagger. Still covered in blood, he tosses it to Horemheb who catches it by the blade with one hand. He squeezes until his blood joins that of his dead General's. He then turns and walks away.

Tut does the same in the opposite direction, through the palace gate.

CUT TO:

7 INT. PALACE - TUT'S CHAMBER - DAY

7

Tut's battle uniform is being removed as he is changed into linens. Ay paces, angry.

AY

And so you released him?! To his own will?!

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

TUT

A reprieve, Grand Vizier.

AY

The man conspired against you, against his own kingdom! He was prepared to kill you again today! I know I counseled against a public execution, my Lord, but he should not have been removed from those chains!

TUT

He will pay for what he's done, it is not forgotten. But for now I need him.

Lagus escorts Suhad into the room. She goes to Tut.

SUHAD

You're uninjured?

TUT

Yes.

SUHAD

I would never have believed they are capable of such a horrible thing -

AY

They are Mitanni. It comes naturally.

Suhad bristles, but says nothing -

TUT

It's behind us. If the Mitanni had not done this, the Palace would be soaked in blood and burning flesh, and our Kingdom ripe for the taking.

AY

A high price to pay for Herit.

TUT

Where is Ankhe?

AY

She is being tended to.

(CONTINUED)

7 CONTINUED:

7

He starts to leave, but Suhad holds him back. Tut removes her hand and leaves the room.

CUT TO:

8 INT. PALACE - ANKHE'S CHAMBER - DAY

8

Tut enters. Ankhe is seated on the side of her bed, lost in her own misery. She does not look at Tut, but knows he is there. They are both quiet for a long moment.

ANKHE

How much more must I endure?

TUT

I'm sorry.

ANKHE

That will not return her to the living.

Tut sits next to her. Takes her hand.

TUT

We have suffered too much loss.

ANKHE

I am the one who has suffered the losses, brother. I am your sister, I am the Queen of Egypt. And I am your wife. Do I now have to share that role with another?

She hopes for a rebuke from him, but it does not come.

TUT

My heart belongs to Suhad, Ankhe, I cannot deny that. I shouldn't have to.

She draws him closer. Her voice is but a whisper.

ANKHE

But we cannot forget our love for each other... so that we can have an heir who carries the full blood of our father.

She pulls him into her. Tut stops her.

(CONTINUED)

TUT

This is not the time. You're distraught. You're in need of rest.

ANKHE

And I am in need of knowing that these sacrifices have not been without purpose.

He cannot bear to turn his back on her. There is, and always has been, a natural bond between them.

ANKHE

We married because it was our duty, which we still have to each other. Let us try once more for a child we were destined to have.

Tut finds himself drawn to her, but is not able to give in.

TUT

Not now.

He gets up and walks out. Ankhe's blood boils...

ANKHE

Do not prove our father right!

Tut stops. Faces her.

ANKHE

He never believed you could be a great Pharaoh. But you have proven yourself. So do not let this girl cloud your mind after all we have been through. She is Mitanni and will always be an outsider!

Tut absorbs these words -

ANKHE

Your heir cannot have her blood. You cannot disregard our forefathers. It has to be as they wished! Our blood! You preach duty and oath to General Horemheb and his men... this is your duty! This is your oath!

Tut angrily pushes her back against the wall. But Ankhe knows she has reached him, new purpose in her eyes.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

Tut does not want to face her. He spins her, roughly bending her over in front of him. She quickly rips off her linens while he does the same. All his pent up frustrations are released, driving her hard from behind. Ankhe lets out painful, yet satisfied gasps, her hands grasping and gripping for anything while he pushes harder and faster -

CUT TO:

9 INT. PALACE - CORRIDOR - DAY

9

Tut walks quickly, pensively, his face flush with remnants of perspiration. He slightly adjusts his linen.

10 INT. PALACE - ANKHE'S CHAMBER - DAY

10

Ankhe is in her bed, partially covered, but naked. Hers is a look of triumph.

CUT TO:

11 INT. PALACE - TUT'S CHAMBER - DAY

11

Suhad is waiting for him. Comes to him when he steps inside. But as she takes him in her arms... she can see it in him... she can smell it...

Tut steps away from her, but cannot avoid the truth.

TUT

An unintended moment.

SUHAD

But an inevitable one.

He does not respond.

SUHAD

Do you love her?

TUT

I will always have love for her.

SUHAD

You know what I am asking.

TUT

I cannot ignore who I am.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

SUHAD

I accept you are the Pharaoh of Egypt. But I cannot make a life here without knowing my purpose.

TUT

I am bound by obligations that were handed to me by the Gods. If I do not have an heir, I will have failed those who came before me.

SUHAD

Must the child be hers?

TUT

No.

He then senses there is more to her question.

TUT

What is it?

Suhad shifts uncomfortably.

SUHAD

You were forced to marry her. You are not in love. I would think a child born of passion would be your choice as heir to your kingdom.

TUT

Ankhe's blood is pure. She has position. A son from her womb will always be my choice to inherit the throne.

(he comes to her)

I have offered you my world and I gladly give it. But it is my world. You must be prepared that if she carries my son, she will remain my Queen.

Suhad softly nods. Tut draws her face to him. Suhad looks deep into his eyes.

SUHAD

I wish we had not been found.

She takes him into her arms and holds him.

CUT TO:

12 EXT. HOREMHEB'S ESTATE - DAY 12

FISHERMEN line the shores of the Nile River, casting nets out onto the water. OTHER SERVANTS stack dried fish onto crates.

13 INT. HOREMHEB'S ESTATE - DAY 13

General Horemheb walks with SEVERAL OF HIS COMMANDERS.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Organize the men. Rearm with additional bow and arrow. Send a messenger North, I want an update on the Mitanni position.

COMMANDER

What about those who stood by the Pharaoh?

GENERAL HOREMHEB

They will suffer the consequences when this war is over. For now, we unite the army and defeat that bastard King and his twelve sons.

COMMANDER

I am certain the Pharaoh intends the same for us.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

I will not give him the chance.

A MAIDEN brings him a beer. He takes the beer... and the maiden.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Now I'm going to get drunk. And then I'm going to get stiff. It's been too long for both.

The men bow and leave him...

CUT TO:

14 EXT. PALACE COURTYARD - DAY 14

Ay is in a discussion with a Palace Minister, who bows and leaves. Suhad approaches and walks with him...

(CONTINUED)

SUHAD

I'm sorry, Grand Vizier, but could I speak to you?

AY

Certainly.

SUHAD

I didn't want to trouble the Pharaoh with this - he has enough on his mind already - and I didn't know who else could help.

AY

Then I'm pleased you came to me.

SUHAD

I would like to send a message to my father and mother.

AY

A message?

SUHAD

To see if they would come to Thebes.

AY

Why now?

SUHAD

They have not heard from me since I left Amurra; I want them to know I'm well.

He finally looks at her, wondering if there are other reasons.

AY

The Pharaoh is unaware of this request?

SUHAD

I will tell him if they decide to come.

He sees that she will not let the issue die.

AY

Write your message and I will have it sent.

(CONTINUED)

14 CONTINUED:

14

He goes inside. Suhad feels her forehead - which is damp with perspiration.

CUT TO:

15 EXT. THEBES - PRISON - NIGHT

15

A large, stone building with TWO PATROL GUARDS standing outside the main entrance.

16 INT. THEBES PRISON - DAY

16

Nahkt makes his way past outstretched hands begging for food and water. He reaches a stone cell that is crammed from wall to wall. He sees Tawy through the small opening.

NAHKT

Tawy!

Tawy lifts her eyes and sees him. Her face is hardened from tears. She rushes to an opening, reaching her hand out to him.

TAWY

Nahkt!

NAHKT

Are you hurt?

TAWY

No. They are hardly gentle, but I am still here. I told them the charge was false. They will not listen.

NAHKT

I know. I will speak to the Grand Vizier. You will be out soon.

Tawy begins coughing.

TAWY

There is sickness here. You must hurry.

NAHKT

I will be back as soon as I can. Be strong, my love.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

She nods. Their hands part slowly as he rushes off.

CUT TO:

17 INT. PALACE - AY'S CHAMBER - DAY

17

Ay washes his face from a basin of water, having already heard Nahkt desperately explain what's happened.

NAHKT

It was the nursemaid, Sekhet. She recognized the vial from the Pharaoh's own coffer. She must have told the justice authorities.

AY

I warned you it was not for others to see, Nahkt. The illness continues to spread. Where would the demand stop if every commoner and nobleman in Thebes requested the same favor?

NAHKT

I'm sorry. I thought she could be trusted.

He approaches Ay.

NAHKT

The justice minister holds no authority over the Palace. If it was your wish -

Ay puts up his hand to quiet him. Steps the rest of the way to Nahkt and puts a gentle hand on him.

AY

I have final say in these matters, yes, but it must be done according to law. Put your mind at ease. I will see your wife safely from the prison. But you must be patient. I am occupied with other pressing matters, not the least of which was helping to quell a rebellion.

NAHKT

And I am sorry to burden you.

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

AY

It is no burden. Now... do not risk being lured into the same cell by overzealous guards. Stay here. It will ease both our minds.

NAHKT

I'm afraid I won't be of the right mind.

Then - a more vulnerable, sincere side of Ay...

AY

Tonight I only want your company. I'd rather not be alone.

It is a vulnerability that Nahkt is not used to seeing. He takes Ay into his arms.

CUT TO:

18 EXT. MEADOW - DAY

18

Tut stands in the same meadow where he once hunted with Ka. ROYAL GUARDS keep watch as he aims an arrow at a flock of pigeons. But does not fire, letting them fly away.

General Horemheb approaches through the contingent of guards.

Tut is now looking at the bow. His fingers gently move over small engravings carved into the wood.

TUT

This bow was given to me by Ka when we were children.

Tut is quiet for a moment.

TUT

Was there at least hesitation in his deceit?

GENERAL HOREMHEB

As you once said to me, no man is made of only vice or virtue. We all walk in the shadow between light and dark.

TUT

Even you, is what I said as well.

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

GENERAL HOREMHEB

(beat)

It was not Ka who hesitated.

Tut looks at him.

TUT

We both think we know how this is going to end. One of us is wrong. Until then, you still have my word. I need to know I still have yours.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

What value is the word of a man who once left you for dead?

TUT

Or one who has sworn you will suffer for it.

TUT

Then I guess we'll both have to take that chance. And for the opportunity to put the Mitanni in their grave, I'm willing to settle our differences when it's over.

Tut contemplates Horemheb's answer carefully. Then hands him the bow.

TUT

Place it next to Ka in his father's tomb.

CUT TO:

19 INT. PALACE - ROYAL COURT - DAY

19

Tut, Lagus, Ay, Horemheb and several ARMY COMMANDERS are gathered in conference.

LAGUS

At first there were only slaves. Then columns of soldiers assembling. Phoenicians. Canaanites. Others I did not recognize, men from the deserts of Edom I believe. Preparing for war. More weapons than I could count.

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Then what are they waiting for?

TUT

Herit was a test. The King knows we must respond. Which is what he wants so that he can gauge the strength of our army.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

And if we do nothing he will think we are weak and will send his entire force across the borders to take advantage.

TUT

At the moment, we are weak. Disease ravages our infantry - along with fallen men because of a rebellion.

Horemheb swallows back his retort.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

We must still fight.

TUT

Battles we would quickly lose.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Yes, but with organized retreats it will buy us time until we are at full strength. Perhaps even long enough until the rains come, which will keep them from crossing the river.

Tut thinks about it for a long moment. Then shakes his head.

TUT

I have another plan, General. Another risk I am prepared to take - one that I feel we have no choice.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

What is this plan?

TUT

(purposefully evasive)
To show our weakness.

CUT TO:

20 INT. TEMPLE - SANCTUARY - NIGHT

20

Amun is in quiet prayer. One of the mid-level priests, a thin man in his late twenties named BAUFRE, approaches.

BAUFRE

Your Greatness, the Queen seeks your audience.

Amun, surprised, stands. Ankhe approaches. Amun bows.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

My Lady. Welcome to prayer.

ANKHE

I have brought two children into this world without breath. I am now with seed - but I fear...

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

Fear what, My Queen?

ANKHE

...the seed has not taken. I seek help from the Gods, High Priest.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

We have prayed to Tawaret many times. We have made sacrifices to Bes.

ANKHE

And yet they have not answered to my satisfaction.

(pauses)

Is it not true that a future King is to be the reincarnation of a God on Earth, conceived by the Gods themselves?

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

Yes, it is true.

ANKHE

Then is there no other means for them to deliver me a child?

Amun considers her for a long moment, reading well between the lines. He then motions for Baufre and the other priests in the chamber to leave. After they are gone, just the two of them, he slowly circles her.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

The highest God of all, Amun-Ra, has chosen me as his vessel, my Queen. His providence is delivered through me in all manner.

ANKHE

Then tell me, High Priest. Will Amun-Ra give me a son?

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

It can be your destiny, my Queen, if you submit to his will.

ANKHE

And if Amun-Ra were to give me the son of Tutankhamun, would he speak of it through anyone but you?

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

The glorious Amun-Ra speaks only through me, my Queen.

His hands now gently touch the nape of her neck. Ankhe closes her eyes in a subtle gesture of submission. He unties her linen, letting it fall to the floor, exposing her breasts.

He wipes everything from the alter, glass and jars clattering to the floor, then positions himself behind her. He bends her forward, spreading her arms out across the alter, then spreads her legs. The incense around them seems to burn with more intensity as he begins to mumble a prayer.

Ankhe's eyes remain closed when he enters her from behind. She lets out a painful groan, wincing as the High Priest's movements become more and more forceful.

Ankhe begins to resist, but he holds her down, overpowering her, driving her harder. Ankhe's eyes finally open, staring straight again, submitting fully, but releasing herself from the moment. This is her destiny. This is her duty.

CUT TO:

21 EXT. THEBES - MILITARY COMPOUND - DAY

21

Horemheb rides his chariot through the training grounds, but there are only a few INFANTRY visible. Then past the BARRACKS, finally stopping outside a COMMONS BUILDING. TWO COMMANDERS pull their chariots up next to him.

22 INT. COMMONS BUILDING - DAY

22

The large hall is packed with soldiers, thick with the smoke of incense. MUSICIANS are playing loudly. Beer is being served. Despite the incense, there is a stench in the air, thick and rancid as a few of the men are entwined with THREE PROSTITUTES, their sweat dripping over each other in the heat.

Horemheb comes, in followed by his two commanders. We can see his jaw tighten. He pulls a WHORE off of one of his men and throws her back out through the door.

When the men see who it is, they begin to assemble. The Commanders pull the two remaining prostitutes away. The music stops.

GENERAL HOREMHEB
To your barracks.

The men begin shuffling out.

CUT TO:

23 INT. MITANNI PALACE - DAY

23

The King Tushratta arrives at a large banquet table filled with food and wine. His sons follow close behind, his eldest PRINCE, speaking impatiently.

PRINCE #1
They have not lifted a single dagger
in response to their "gift." They
have no ability to fight!

King Tushratta sits at the table. Servants place food and wine in front of him.

KING TUSHRATTA
The illness continues to spread,
weakening their ranks, which will
give us opportunity to take the North
without shedding unnecessary blood,
saving our entire force to take the
rest of the Nile to its end.

PRINCE #2
And how do we conquer Northern Egypt
without shedding blood?

KING TUSHRATTA
Learn from my countenance.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

A MITANNI GENERAL comes into the hall.

MITANNI GENERAL

My, Liege. They have arrived. All
of them.

His sons all look to their father curiously. The King takes
his time with a bite of meat, then gets to his feet.

KING TUSHRATTA

Come. I will show you.

24 EXT. OPEN LAND - DAY

24

The King Tushratta walks with his sons along an outcrop that
overlooks an expansive valley.

25 REVEAL BELOW -

25

a MASSIVE ARMY moving into position, THOUSANDS and THOUSANDS
of men in columns.

26 THE KING TUSHRATTA

26

cannot conceal his delight. Nor can his sons.

MITANNI GENERAL

Egypt and its boy King are about to
be wiped from history.

His sons let out a loud cheer. From below, the men respond in
kind.

CUT TO:

27 INT. PRISON - DAY

27

Nahkt looks through the tiny square window into the cell,
clutching Tawy's hand as best he can.

TAWY

Why has it taken so long? Does the
Grand Vizier turn his back on us?

NAHKT

He is the one who saved your life...
at great trouble to himself.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

27 CONTINUED:

27

NAHKT (CONT'D)

The affairs of the kingdom have overwhelmed everyone. The fever spreads. People are trying to escape the city.

TAWY

If I am not released, I will be put in the quarantine as well.

NAHKT

That's not going to happen. The Grand Vizier has assured me. I will press him again.

Tawy musters a nod, but her face is drawn and forlorn.

NAHKT

I must go.

He squeezes her hand and steps away as another shoves his way into the same position.

CUT TO:

28 EXT. THEBES - STREET - DAY

28

Nahkt leaves the prison. As he turns a corner, he comes upon a street where SEVERAL GUARDS are blocking an area of the city. Someone barter to get out, but the Guards force him back. The man begins coughing.

Nahkt then witnesses a FATHER and his TWO SONS, both sick, sitting outside a shop, miserable in their condition.

He hurries on, quick to get away from it.

CUT TO:

29 EXT. THEBES - CITY GATE - DAY

29

A CHARIOT RIDER races through the gates, past citizens coming in and out of the city.

30 INT. PALACE - ROYAL COURT - DAY

30

Tut is on his throne, Ay by his side, as a Magistrate, the same one who warned Ay of the disease before Ka and Ankhe's ceremony, addresses them -

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

Ankhe is present too - but she is distant, her mind is on other, more personal matters.

MAGISTRATE

It began in small pockets in the South. Within four months over two thousand people have succumb to it, growing exponentially each day. Thebes is the largest city in the world. Almost eighty thousand people crowd these streets. Another four months and half of them will be infected. You must close the gates and pray to Osiris for deliverance.

TUT

I fear prayer will not be enough.

He looks to Ay...

AY

A quarantine?

TUT

If this curse from the Gods passes through Thebes it will reach the North and every city in Egypt.

Ankhe, still in her own thoughts, grimaces in pain, holding her lower stomach. But she is quick to recover, making sure no one else has noticed.

Lagus hurries into the chamber -

LAGUS

My Lord.

He hands Tut a sealed papyrus.

LAGUS

From a rider, a message from our scouts in the borderlands.

Tut takes it. Reads.

AY

The Mitanni?

(CONTINUED)

30 CONTINUED:

30

TUT

The King and his allies are moving.
Our scouts have witnessed an army of
over ten thousand men.

CUT TO:

31 EXT. THEBES - MILITARY COMPOUND - DAY

31

Tut walks with General Horemheb and other MILITARY PERSONNEL.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

It is impossible to mobilize. The
armies you recalled from the North
are here now and infected as well.
We are losing men by the day and
unable to recruit more.

They reach the barracks and go inside -

32 INT. MILITARY BARRACKS - DAY

32

The beds are filled with sick men who are now weak with fever.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

The whores continue to find their way
in. Others have disobeyed direct
commands and gone to their families.
It's proving impossible to keep them
from the sick and dying.

The weight of this registers on Tut.

CUT TO:

33 INT. MILITARY COMPOUND - DAY

33

Horemheb spreads a map out over a long table that shows a
rough schematic of Thebes. Tut, Lagus and Ay listen...

GENERAL HOREMHEB

This section here, where the disease
is most rampant... it is the most
easily walled.

(CONTINUED)

33 CONTINUED:

33

TUT

Have it done. Confine all those who
are sick.

CUT TO:

34 EXT. THEBES - OUTSIDE THE QUARANTINED AREA - DAY

34

Stone and timber are put into place along the perimeter of this area of Thebes. ARMED GUARDS and ARCHERS hold their positions, keeping the infected back. But these people do not sit idle - they try to get through, knowing they will be trapped once the wall is erected.

A SICK CHILD is taken from his mother, who screams out for him. She scrambles to get him back.

MOTHER

You cannot take him! You cannot take
him from me!!

A GUARD pulls her back. Another man hits the Guard with an iron bar, giving the woman room to escape. She clutches at her child again, now being forced with him into the quarantined area.

Others are being separated, protesting, shouting insults at the Soldiers. An INFECTED MAN tries to make an escape, stumbling and coughing -

GUARD

Turn back! By order of the Pharaoh!

The man does not listen. An archer sends an arrow through his back.

Other soldiers, wearing rags over their mouths, escort a line of new people through the gate's opening.

35 EXT. THEBES - INSIDE THE QUARANTINED AREA - DAY

35

People jam the gate, attempting to push their way out, but to no avail. A NOBLEMAN in fine white linen works his way to one of the Guards.

NOBLEMAN

I am not sick! I was only here to
make trade! Here - take what I've
earned. Take it!

(CONTINUED)

35 CONTINUED:

35

He tries to hand the Guard a small pouch, but is knocked over.

The gate is now swung into place, closing them in. Shouts of protests on either side go unanswered.

Then... an eerie quiet goes over those on the inside, staring aimlessly, helpless in their situation.

CUT TO:

36 EXT. PALACE - TERRACE - DAY

36

Tut watches pensively from the terrace where he can see the walled off area. Ay is next to him. The sounds of protests and pleading citizens echo up from the streets.

AY

We must remember the countless others who will be saved by this. We find ourselves in a time of great sacrifice.

(pauses)

I am compelled to voice my concern about another matter.

TUT

You have never held back your counsel, Ay. Speak it.

AY

As difficult as it is to align myself with such a treacherous dog, I believe the General to be right about another matter. We cannot sit idle while the Mitanni move toward our border.

Tut does not respond, continuing to stare out as another piece of the wall is completed.

AY

Despite our numbers and the condition of the army, we cannot show them weakness or it is how we will always be perceived.

TUT

I know what I am doing.

(CONTINUED)

36 CONTINUED:

36

AY

Perhaps you are being influenced by a more intimate counsel.

Now Tut looks at him. A look that could cut glass.

TUT

Suhad has proven her loyalty, Ay.
Don't ever let me doubt you.

He walks on...

CUT TO:

37 INT. PALACE - BANQUET HALL - DAY

37

Tut and a bevy of Servants walks briskly into the hall where a banquet of fruits, vegetables and roast duck is spread across the long table.

Lagus is waiting. Bows -

LAGUS

Construction of the wall is completed. Every available man has been working day and night.

TUT

Has calm been restored?

LAGUS

Outside the walls, for the most part. Inside, there are some who do not think they are sick. But the healthy, the majority, are grateful something is being done.

He is about to sit down when -

- Ankhe appears from the corridor. Her face is white as a ghost. Tut and the others stand -

ANKHE

Brother -

She takes a step toward Tut and falls. They all rush to her side.

(CONTINUED)

37 CONTINUED:

37

TUT

The illness has reached us here in the Palace. Call for my Physician and procure my private medicine.

ANKHE

No. It is not the illness that makes me faint.

She looks at Tut with the smile of woman who knows she is with child.

CUT TO:

38 INT. TEMPLE - SANCTUARY - DAY

38

Flickering torches line the walls as incense is lit by several Lower Priests. Ankhe is seated in a large, stone chair. Tut kneels before Ankhe as Amun performs a blessing ritual, chanting out a prayer.

HIGH-PRIEST AMUN

*Mighty mother, daughter of the Nile,
we rejoice as you join us with the
rays of the sun. Sacred sister,
mother of magic, we honor you, Lover
of Osiris, she who is mother of the
universe itself, I open my heart to
your mysteries so that you will
protect all daughters, all sons.
Bring him into our world, Keep him
safe and give him light. Glorious
goddess, love this embodiment of you,
conceived by the Gods for the Gods.
Bless mother and son.*

39 EXT. ROYAL TEMPLE - GARDEN - DAY

39

Baufre, one of the mid-level priests we've seen before, walks to a pen containing SEVERAL LARGE BULLS. He opens the gate, ties a short rope to one of them. He pats the animal gently as he guides it back to the Temple.

BAUFRE

Come now, boy... that's it.

40 INT. ROYAL TEMPLE - SANCTUARY - DAY

40

The prayer is finished. The bull is brought forth to a stone slab built into the floor; the stone appears to be stained with blood. As the Priests begin a final ceremonial chant, Amun brings out a long, shimmering blade.

He blesses the sword. Kisses it. Then stands over Tut, who still kneels in front of Ankhe with his eyes closed. Ankhe's eyes are closed too. For a moment we aren't sure of Amun's intentions. As the CHANTS grow louder, Amun raises the saber. It looks as though he will slice Tut's head off.

Instead he drives the saber into the bull's neck. The animal hardly lets out a noise, blood streaming out, it's legs buckling. The CHANTING grows louder. Louder. Blood continues to drain until the bull finally crumbles to the floor and Tut's eyes open.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN
May your son live a thousand years.

Tut nods and steps away.

Amun's eyes shift to Ankhe who quietly looks away.

CUT TO:

41 EXT. DESERT TERRAIN - DAY

41

The MITANNI ARMY and their allies march through the sand. It is an endless trail of men, a dust cloud that rises high into the deep, blue sky, partially blocking the sun.

At the head of the column is the King Tushratta. He pauses at a hill, his sons on either side of him.

In the distance - the Egyptian city of Memphis spreads out along the banks of the Nile River.

KING TUSHRATTA
Once we hold Memphis, Upper and Lower
Egypt will be divided - and we will
have control of the river delta.

MITANNI PRINCE #1
I see no Egyptian army to defend
their city.

(CONTINUED)

41 CONTINUED:

41

KING TUSHRATTA

They will fight. Until they see they
are overwhelmed.

They march forward.

CUT TO:

42 INT. PALACE - ROYAL COURT - DAY

42

Nahkt stands in front of the MINISTER OF JUSTICE while Ay and
other ministers watch on.

NAHKT

She took nothing from the Palace,
Minister. It was a gift so that she
could live, her only desire that she
may continue to serve the great
kingdom of Egypt and its Pharaoh.

The Minister looks to Ay, who subtly nods his head.

MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Let it be known that Tawy, wife of
Nahkt, will be freed.

Nahkt lets out a deep sigh of relief. Finally, it is done.
He looks at the Vizier and lowers his head gratefully.

But then a SCRIBE whispers something into the minister's ear.
The Justice Minister frowns, then addresses Nahkt again.

MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Your wife was with illness?

NAHKT

She was, Minister. She is well now.

MINISTER OF JUSTICE

There can be no chances taken. She
will be confined to the quarantined
area -

AY

Minister. Nahkt's wife is of full
health. Too many who are not ill are
being taken from their loved ones as
it is, merely from fear and
suspicion. I would submit that such
paranoia is a disease of equal
danger.

(CONTINUED)

42 CONTINUED:

42

MINISTER OF JUSTICE

You say she is well?

AY

Yes.

MINISTER OF JUSTICE

A release warrant is thereby issued.

A written note is handed to a scribe who takes it from the room to be delivered immediately.

Nahkt finally breathes again. The Justice Minister gets up and leaves. Nahkt approaches Ay.

NAHKT

Thank you. I will forever be in your debt.

Ay lifts Nahkt's chin, his course fingers lingering over his skin.

AY

These are troubled times, Nahkt. Now that this has been resolved, I hope that I can count on your... full attention.

NAHKT

Yes, as I have promised.

Ay kisses him gently on the forehead.

AY

For now, be with your wife. Take her home.

Nahkt smiles. Nods, then hurries off.

Ay watches after him. But then his own benevolent smile fades.

CUT TO:

43 INT. THEBES PRISON - DAY

43

Hands bound in front of her with thick rope, Tawy is led down a dark corridor by TWO GUARDS. They open a massive wooden door and sunlight comes streaming in.

CUT TO:

44 EXT. STREETS OF THEBES - DAY 44

Nahkt makes his way through a crowd of people.

CUT TO:

45 EXT. THEBES PRISON - DAY 45

Tawy steps out into the bright day, squinting as she takes in a deep breath of fresh air. It feels wonderful. She looks around expectantly, waiting to be released from her bondage.

Then she realizes that something is very wrong. The other end of the rope binding her hands is being tied to the back of a chariot.

TAWY

No, Good Sirs, no! I am to be freed!
The Grand Vizier himself has decreed
it! Please, Sirs! Please! You must
send word!

The first guard climbs into the car of the chariot and takes the reins, as the second guard calls out to the few ONLOOKERS who have gathered to watch.

SECOND GUARD

For the crime of theft and violation
of the throne, you shall be put to
death.

TAWY

No! Please, no! Wait - my husband
will be here! You must speak to him!

But the Guard cracks his whip.

Nahkt comes through the crowd. He stops in his tracks as Tawy is YANKED from her feet and dragged along the rocky dirt road.

NAHKT

No! Tawy!!

He chases after her, but cannot keep up. Tawy's cries are soon silent as the chariot disappears into the distance.

CUT TO:

46 INT. PALACE - ROYAL COURT - DAY

46

Tut, Horemheb, Lagus and others are looking over a map.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

They are now within striking distance
of Memphis. If Memphis falls, we
will lose the river.

Tut steps away from them. Sits on his throne. After a long
moment of contemplation -

TUT

Spare only what men you can from the
Northern armies.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

It will not be enough, we must send
men from here!

TUT

No! Not yet, General. Only from the
North. Controlled skirmishes -

GENERAL HOREMHEB

I do not understand this strategy!

TUT

You will when I am ready to tell you!
For now, controlled skirmishes as you
suggested. Enough to buy ourselves
time before they unleash their entire
force.

Angry, General Horemheb storms off.

CUT TO:

47 INT. PALACE - AY'S CHAMBER - DAY

47

Ay comes through the door - and finds Nahkt standing there,
waiting, distraught and still in shock. Ay already knows.

AY

There are no words, my friend. The
matter will be addressed - and those
responsible will take their last
breath.

(CONTINUED)

47 CONTINUED:

47

NAHKT

How could it happen? On what
authority?

AY

On no authority. Ignorance of a man
who took matters into his own hands.
But it cannot be undone.

(brings him into a soft,
gentle embrace)

What I can do?

Nahkt begins to cry, the hurt and ache unbearable.

CUT TO:

48 INT. TEMPLE - DAY

48

Amun is kneeling before a large statue of the God Amun-Ra,
praying. The flickering torch light reflects off its eyes
giving the illusion that it is looking down, directly at him.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

Amun-Ra's seed has taken. I am
surprised you are pleased... to have
another fall in line to take the
throne.

We think he is talking to the Statue, but then we see that Ay
is off to the side, in the shadows.

AY

It is, for now, necessary.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

You will have control of him, and
therefore the Kingdom, as you once
did Tutankhamun?

AY

Yes.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

And I will once again have power over
the temples, my priests, the
authority to demand tribute to our
Gods, deserving as they are?

AY

Yes.

(CONTINUED)

48 CONTINUED:

48

HIGH PRIEST AMUN
And what will prevent the Pharaoh
from standing in our way?

AY

Me.

Another beat.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN
Then I will pray that Amun-Ra ensures
this child his proper path.

Ay nods, then disappears into the shadows.

CUT TO:

49 EXT. PALACE - ANOTHER BALCONY - DAY

49

Suhad is removing all the pillows and cushions from the floor,
tossing them against the far wall, frustrated -

ANKHE

You have still not grown accustomed to
it here?

Suhad turns. Ankhe has entered with two maidens by her side.

SUHAD

I will always prefer the hardness of
the floor.

Ankhe smiles - a softness toward Suhad we have not seen
before.

ANKHE

Still just a village girl. Said not
out of disrespect - but envy.

SUHAD

Envy?

ANKHE

I was raised in the Palace - the
course of my life set by others. You
have been free to choose.

SUHAD

I do not feel like I am free, having
to ask permission to leave, to roam
where I want.

(CONTINUED)

ANKHE

Trapped by circumstance.

Suhad studies her, still unsure of her intentions.

ANKHE

You did not expect you would have to share him. But he is Pharaoh, Suhad. Your position, as with all women, is fleeting - at the fickle whim of a man's cock.

SUHAD

And not his heart?

ANKHE

Are they not one and the same?

SUHAD

No, they are not.

ANKHE

He may love you. But that doesn't matter now. I am his Queen. Above all else I am his blood. *Egyptian* blood. And now I carry his heir. The Pharaoh can have as many wives as he wishes, as many women throughout the empire that he desires. You and I will not be his last. But there is no greater position for a woman in all the world than to hold the title of the future King's mother.

Suhad keeps her composure...

SUHAD

Then I will pray this time the Gods deliver you a child who draws breath.

Ankhe goes flush with anger. The two stare at one another, so much being said without a single word. But Ankhe knows she is the one who still holds the upper hand. She finally offers a thin smile:

ANKHE

Heed caution, Suhad. Bearing a child in this world is more hazardous for women than war is for men.

Suhad draws a quiet, inward breath. Ankhe takes a step closer to her and whispers -

(CONTINUED)

49 CONTINUED:

49

ANKHE

He does not know, does he?

Suhad is frozen. Suddenly vulnerable, she shakes her head...

A long, tense stare down. Neither blinks. Finally Ankhe turns to leave.

But then, suddenly she winces in pain. Holds her belly.

The two maidens rush back into the room to her aid...

MAIDEN

My Queen!

ANKHE

I'm fine. I need to lay down.

They help her to the bed as Suhad watches on...

CUT TO:

50 INT. PALACE - SUHAD'S CHAMBER - DAY

50

Ankhe is resting comfortably in Suhad's bed, the CHIEF PHYSICIAN tending to her. Suhad stands nearby.

Tut hurries into the room. Goes to Ankhe's beside.

TUT

What has happened?

ANKHE

The Gods conspired, but were warded off by Tawaret.

TUT

Does he live?

CHIEF PHYSICIAN

Yes, yes. This is quite normal. But she must rest.

Tut puts his hand on Ankhe's belly. Suhad watches.

Lagus comes into the room.

LAGUS

My Lord... you are needed.

CUT TO:

51 INT. PALACE - ROYAL COURT - DAY

51

Tut sits pensively on his throne. Ay, Horemheb, Lagus and the High Priest Amun stand before him.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

It's not just that the people are sick. The Gods have delivered the curse into everything around them. It is in their clothing, in the food they eat... even the very walls that confine them.

TUT

General Horemheb - can the rest of the population be safeguarded if we station more men outside the wall?

GENERAL HOREMHEB

No matter how many men guard the wall, people still find ways to defy the quarantine. New cases continue to spread outward from its perimeter. The sickness is building up like a dam inside those walls - and it will soon burst outward like a flood through the rest of Thebes.

TUT

Grand Vizier - medicine?

AY

What medicine we have works in isolated cases. But with so many, it spreads too quickly. It cannot be stopped.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

We will soon be without an army unless something is done.

Tut takes a deep breath, contemplating the reality of what he must do. Lagus nervously reacts....

LAGUS

There must be an alternative, my Lord. Can't they be taken somewhere?

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

TUT

Where? And spread the illness to nearby villages, then other cities farther North - Memphis and beyond? It has to end here.

AY

What is your decision, my Lord?

They all watch as Tut continues to deliberate in his mind.

TUT

How soon can it be done?

GENERAL HOREMHEB

It'll take a few days to round up the remaining sick.

TUT

Make preparations. Word cannot leave this chamber.

He gets up and walks away, the loneliest person in the world.

Lagus watches after him.

CUT TO:

52 INT. PALACE - WELLNESS ROOM - NIGHT

52

Ankhe soaks in a large stone tub, relaxed with her eyes closed. One of her maidens gently massages her arms and shoulders.

ANKHE

More oils.

MAIDEN

Yes, my Queen. I need to retrieve additional bottles.

ANKHE

Very well.

She leaves Ankhe alone.

A moment later, Suhad comes into the chamber. Ankhe does not know she is there. Suhad watches her. Circles the tub.

Ankhe's eyes open. They stare at each other suspiciously.

(CONTINUED)

SUHAD

I'm sorry. I wanted to be sure you
were all right.

Ankhe does not believe for a moment that Suhad is concerned
for her health.

ANKHE

Did you?

They are quiet for a beat.

SUHAD

How long have you known?

ANKHE

Nearly as long as you. Men don't see
things the way we do. They think
carrying a child is the work of the
Gods. But women know. And we can
see it in the eyes of another.

SUHAD

What will be my child's place here?

ANKHE

He will be the son who carries the
enemy's blood through him.

Suhad's face hardens. Ankhe, closes her eyes, relaxing deeper
into the tub.

Suhad starts to go. But as she passes the end of the long
tub, she stops - looks back and stares.

SUHAD

The water...

Ankhe's eyes shoot open. She sits up, startled - and then
sees for herself. Blood. The pool is soaking in blood.

ANKHE

No! No, it can't -- ! This-will-not
happen to me!!

Then she feels agonizing pain in her stomach and screams out.
Suhad, despite herself, rushes to her side. She wraps her in
the towel, helping Ankhe out of the tub, but the blood
continues to flow onto the stone floor, causing Ankhe to slip.

They both fall.

(CONTINUED)

52 CONTINUED:

52

ANKHE

Do not take this baby!! I have not
betrayed you!! He is my child!!! He
is my son! He is the future king!!

(grabs Suhad)

Get help! Go! Get someone - !!

Suhad scrambles to her feet, hurries out of the chamber -

53 INT. PALACE HALL - DAY

53

- but then stops. She listens to Ankhe crying -

ANKHE (O.S.)

Oh, please, no... no, Gods, no -- !

Suhad remains where she is. She does not attempt to get help.
Instead she closes the door and walks away slow and calm.

CUT TO:

54 INT. PALACE - ANKHE'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

54

Ankhe is now in her bed, cleaned - but still in a state of
shock. Tut is by her side while several servants tend to her
other needs, everything to make her comfortable.

The Chief Physician speaks to Tut...

CHIEF PHYSICIAN

The child is gone. She has lost much
blood. She needs rest and water.

As the servants finish and step away from Ankhe, she reaches
out her hand to Tut...

ANKHE

I'm sorry.

Tut buries his head into her arms...

TUT

I have asked the Gods over and over
why these wounds continue to
hemorrhage. They curse us.

ANKHE

They have cursed me. Not you, my
sweet brother. Not you.

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

He is confused. But the way she is looking back at him, he begins to sense she is trying to tell him something else -

CUT TO:

55 INT. PALACE - TUT'S CHAMBER - DAY

55

Tut comes into his room - to find Suhad already there. Alone. She stands with her robes partially removed. She does not yet show, but has placed her hand on her belly. It takes a moment for Tut to comprehend what this means.

SUHAD

You still have an heir, my love.

Tut moves to her, touching her stomach, kneels in front of her, placing his head to her skin.

TUT

Why have you kept this from me?

SUHAD

I did not want to disappoint you if I suffered the same fate as your Queen.

TUT

But you now inspire hope.

SUHAD

Then I will stand by your side. I will never lay with another. I will never love another.

TUT

And if the Gods turn against me? If I fall from this throne? If the great pyramids crumble around under my watch?

SUHAD

Then I will help you rebuild them, stone by stone.

(gently holds his head
against her belly)

You are Amenhotep's grandson. Our child will be his great grandson and his sons will know your name.

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

55

He holds her tight, still on his knees. Suhad watches him with stoic eyes. She has found her place.

CUT TO:

56 INT. PALACE - ANKHE'S CHAMBER - DAY

56

Ankhe is up, gazing out at the rising sun with a thousand yard stare. Ay is in the room with her.

ANKHE

He will make her his wife and elevate her to Queen.

AY

I advise prudence.

ANKHE

Do you think I will give up my position so easily?

AY

I believe the opposite. But as in any war, it is best to know your enemy's weakness.

Ankhe faces him, intrigued...

ANKHE

Don't mince words, Ay.

Off Ay, we...

CUT TO:

57 EXT. OUTSIDE THE QUARENTINE AREA - DAY

57

SOLDIERS force more of the sick through the gates.

SICK PERSON

When will we be allowed back to our homes? No has told us how long we have to stay here!

They do not answer.

ANOTHER PERSON

Where is the medicine? Why hasn't there been any given?

(CONTINUED)

- 57 CONTINUED: 57
Both are shoved inside the gate as it closes.
- 58 EXT. INSIDE THE QUARENTINED AREA - DAY 58
Crowds of people near the gates. Many of them sick. All with
hopeless expressions on their faces.
CUT TO:
- 59 INT. PALACE - TERRACE - NIGHT 59
Darkness has arrive. Tut glances up at the moon as a bird
passes over head. His gaze then falls to the torch lit city
in front of him -
Ay comes out.
AY
They are ready. You are certain?
Tut nods.
CUT TO:
- 60 EXT. THEBES - MILITARY COMPOUND - NIGHT 60
Horemheb watches as his men load tar into wheeled crates.
Large catapults are pulled from their moorings.
Lagus approaches.
LAGUS
The men are in place.
GENERAL HOREMHEB
We must move quickly to avoid
suspicion.
CUT TO:
- 61 INT. SUHAD'S CHAMBER - DAY 61
Suhad is alone. There is a knock at the door.
SUHAD
Enter.
Ankhe comes in.

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

61

ANKHE

Forgive me.

SUHAD

There is none needed.

We can see how difficult it is to come to Suhad as an equal, but she fights through it and remains cordial...

ANKHE

The Grand Vizier informed me of the letter you wrote to your parents. I have just found out they have come to Thebes.

SUHAD

They are here? Why wasn't I told?

ANKHE

The Grand Vizier did not expect they would arrive unannounced and wanted to inform the Pharaoh before he told you. There are, however, more important priorities for the Pharaoh's attention at the moment.

SUHAD

Are they here in the Palace?

ANKHE

No. As outsiders, they are being denied access. They are at a nearby Inn. With all the panic, guards are forcing people to leave the city. I fear your parents will be among them.

SUHAD

Then I must go and get them now before they are sent away.

ANKHE

It is not safe for you out there.

SUHAD

It is not safe for them either, all the more reason it can't wait! They must be allowed to come here!

Ankhe still hesitates.

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

61

ANKHE
(calls into the hall)
Sete!

SETE, a young, hansom Royal Guard comes in. Bows.

ANKHE
I will send Sete. He is the trusted
commander of my Royal Guard.

SUHAD
He will not know their faces.

Ankhe continues to consider the situation...

ANKHE
You would have to go quietly, not
dressed in those clothes or jewelry.

SUHAD
My parents would not recognize me in
these clothes or jewelry anyway.

ANKHE
Go with him. He will show you to the
Inn.

Suhad nods.

ANKHE
I am trusting you will not reveal I
have done this.

SUHAD
You have my word. Thank you.

Ankhe offers her best attempt at a gracious nod.

CUT TO:

62 EXT. THEBES - INN - NIGHT

62

The area is quiet. A few guards are stationed nearby.

Sete delivers Suhad, who looks like a commoner now, to the
entrance.

SETE
They are inside. I will wait here.

He nods to a guard who opens the door. She steps inside.

63 INT. INN - NIGHT

63

Twenty or more people, all with frightened and confused looks on their faces, turn toward the door as Suhad enters. The door closes behind her, casting them all in shadows.

SUHAD

Mother? Father?

She moves through them, trying to see their faces - all just staring at her - but her parents are not among them.

Suhad swallows back the lump in her throat. She races back to the door. It is locked.

SUHAD

Sete!!

CUT TO:

64 EXT. STREETS OF THEBES - NIGHT

64

Horemheb leads a line of archers moving quickly down the street, past curious citizens who have come to see what is happening.

CUT TO:

65 INT. INN - NIGHT

65

Suhad hurries to another door on the other side of the room. It too is locked.

MAN

The soldiers told us to wait here.
They are bringing us to where there
is medicine.

SUHAD

Medicine?

WOMAN

We are sick. They promised medicine.

SUHAD

No... no -

The door opens revealing SEVERAL GUARDS.

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

65

GUARD

Come with us.

WOMAN

Where are you taking us?

SUHAD

No... don't go!

But they follow the soldiers outside. Suhad tries to make a break for it, but is grabbed and pulled along.

66 EXT. THEBES - STREET - NIGHT

66

They are shoved forward. Suhad now sees the gate to the quarantined area -

SUHAD

No, I am not sick! I am not supposed to be here! I am from the palace!

She once again tries to run, but they force her to keep moving along with the rest of them. She reaches for the Guard, scraping for him, pulling him toward her -

SUHAD

Listen to me! I am with child - the Pharaoh's son!!! I am to be made his wife! He doesn't know I am here! You must take me back to the Palace!!

He takes in her common clothes, then shoves her away from him. Suhad falls. Scrambles to her feet and tries once again to run, but this time is struck in the head. She wobbles to her knees. Another guard picks her up and drags her along.

As they near the gate, the Guard speaks to one of several soldiers stationed there -

GUARD

Tell General Horemheb this is the last of the sick.

The Soldier nods and hurries off -

67 EXT. THEBES - INSIDE THE QUARANTINED AREA - NIGHT

67

Suhad hardly has her bearings as she and the others are shoved through. People who are already trapped try to push their way out, but the threat of bow and arrows keep them at bay.

(CONTINUED)

- 67 CONTINUED: 67
- The gate is sealed.
- 68 EXT. THEBES - OUTSIDE THE QUARANTINED AREA - NIGHT 68
- Horemheb's men take their positions. Massive wooden catapults are moved into place next to the archers.
- CUT TO:
- 69 EXT. THEBES - INSIDE THE QUARANTINED AREA - NIGHT 69
- Suhad has shaken off the blow to the head. She pulls her way past the mob, looking for a way out. There is none. Only panicked faces. She can sense now what is about to happen.
- CUT TO:
- 70 EXT. THEBES - OUTSIDE THE QUARANTINED AREAS - NIGHT 70
- General Horemheb stands amongst his army. Archers ready their bows with burning arrows. The catapults containing balls of tar are ready to be ignited.
- GENERAL HOREMHEB
- Mark!
- The archers aim. The balls of tar are ignited.
- GENERAL HOREMHEB
- Release!
- The blazing arrows fly, followed by the catapults - sending massive fire balls soaring through the air.
- CUT TO:
- 71 EXT. THEBES - INSIDE THE QUARANTINED AREA - NIGHT 71
- Suhad hears it first. A strange sound from the sky. She looks up, watching as fire rains down in all directions. The balls of tar explode into massive flames upon impact. Buildings begin to burn among screams and pleas for help.
- Suhad ducks. Runs. A mass of people come at her from the other direction, throwing her back. She turns down another street, but is stopped by a WALL OF FLAME. Panic and chaos ensue as people and buildings burn.

(CONTINUED)

71 CONTINUED:

71

Off the flames that surrounds her, we...

CUT TO:

72 INT. PALACE - ANKHE'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

72

...a smaller flame as it is set to what we assume is the letter Suhad wrote. The letter Ay was supposed to have sent. The letter that was never delivered. Ankhe now burns it.

Her eyes stare into the flame as Sete watches on behind her. The letter fully ignites, its flame growing larger and larger until it FILLS FRAME, matching -

73 EXT. THEBES - INSIDE THE QUARANTINED AREA - NIGHT

73

- the FIRE that closes in on Suhad. She too stares at the flames as she falls to her knees, choking on the smoke that now engulfs everyone.

CUT TO:

74 EXT. PALACE - ROYAL BALCONY - NIGHT

74

Tut watches the city burn from his terrace, distraught at having made this difficult decision - unaware that his beloved Suhad is amongst the fire and flames.

A moment later Ankhe steps out next to him. Her gaze remains locked on the distant flames.

As tears well up in Tut's eyes, she gently takes his hand in a gesture of support.

Her eyes, however, are dry.

FADE TO BLACK:

END OF HOUR FOUR