

Conan the Adventurer

"Dregs-Amon the Great"

(Script)

(Episode 28)

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SUNBOW PRODUCTIONS

CONAN THE ADVENTURER

#28: "Dregs-Amon the Great"

CAST LIST: SPEAKING PARTS ONLY

CONAN

JEZMINE

ZULA

NEEDLE

WRATH-AMON

DREGS

SET

WINDFANG

SKULKUR

QUEENIE - Dregs' Naga girlfriend

CHEF (Serpentman who is supposed to cook Needle)

GUBLUK - A Djinn who eats ghosts (a Jack Palance voice).

SERPENTMAN - One line

CROWD (Citizens of Khemi) -- Cheers, walla, etc.

CONAN THE ADVENTURER
#28: "Dregs-Amon the Great"
(1st Draft: 3/5/93)

ACT ONE

FADE IN

INT. SET'S PYRAMID - WRATH-AMON & GOLDEN STATUE

WRATH-AMON thrusts forward the Black Ring. As its WHIRLING ENERGIES come forth...

ANOTHER ANGLE

And encircle the statue of Set, the vortex opens over the statue - and the statue's eyes come alive with green fire!

WRATH-AMON
O Mighty Set, I call upon your
power...

CLOSE ON WRATH-AMON

Suddenly, Wrath-Amon falters, steadying himself with his other hand against a column.

WRATH-AMON (CONT)
(Moaning breath)

DREGS scurries INTO SCENE, unctuous with fake concern.

DREGS
Master, are you all right? Shall I
recharge the Ring for you?

WRATH-AMON

snatches his hand away and glares at Dregs.

WRATH-AMON
Get away from me, worm! No hand
touches the Black Ring but mine!

THE GOLDEN STATUE

writhes as it comes fully to life.

SET
Then hold it forth, that I may fill
it with my essence of Darkness!

WIDE

The GREEN ENERGY FIRES out of Set's eyes and into Wrath-

Amon's Ring -- as Dregs FLEES behind a column!

DREGS

(Scared yelp)

CLOSE ON WRATH-AMON

Although the glow from the Ring lights Wrath-Amon's face, he looks sick, as if he's going to pass out.

WRATH-AMON

Lord Set, what is wrong? The Ring is strong, yet I grow weak.

CLOSE ON SET

Green eyes blazing.

SET

The Ring can only postpone, but never prevent, what must be. You must follow your true nature...

DRAMATIC CLOSE UP - WRATH-AMON

Shocked by these words.

SET (VO)(CONT)

OR DIE!

WIPE TO:

ANGLE - SKY OVER RED DESERT OF KOTH - AFTERNOON

Wrath-Amon pilots the Sky Chariot, Dregs by his side.

DREGS

(still shocked)

Die?! Did he say you're going to DIE?

EXT. RED DESERT - CAVERN

The Sky Chariot lands just outside a large cavern in a red sandstone bluff. Wrath-Amon strides into the darkness, carrying an unlit torch. Dregs follows.

WRATH-AMON

My ancestors always came here, when it was time to cast off their old skin and be reborn with the new.

INT. CAVERN

Wrath-Amon uses energy from the Ring to IGNITE the torch.

WRATH-AMON (CONT)

I had thought my new form would spare
me this trial, but it is not to be.

As Wrath-Amon raises the flaming torch high, STARTLED BATS
burst out from the cavern's interior!

DREGS

freaks, covering his face, as they go THUNDERING PAST!

DREGS
(Startled yelps)

WIPE TO:

DEEP INTERIOR OF CAVERN

Wrath-Amon places the torch in a crevice in the cavern
wall, as Dregs cowers nearby.

WRATH-AMON
But it will be a time of danger...

He removes his cape, headdress, and harness, growing
weaker by the moment.

WRATH-AMON (CONT)
For I must remove the Black Ring for
this process to take place.

CLOSE ON WRATH-AMON

We see that his eyes are clouding over, as he sinks to the
ground. He pulls off the Ring with the talons of his
other hand... and transforms into REPTILE FORM.

WRATH-AMON (CONT)
And while I'm unconscious, Dregs, you
must protect the Ring with your life.

DREG'S EYES

widen.

DREGS
You'll be completely unconscious?

WIDEN ANGLE as Wrath-Amon's ringless hand grabs Dregs and
PULLS HIM up to his angry face!

WRATH-AMON
If you wish to live, you wriggling
worm, you won't try to find out!

But now Wrath-Amon's grasp on Dreg's releases...

CLOSE ON THE OTHER HAND - HOLDING RING

As does his grasp on the Ring, which drops to the ground.

WIDER

As Wrath-Amon reverts to his GILA MONSTER form (see #17).
He collapses, unconscious, eyes clouded over.

DREGS

glares at him (now that it's safe). He makes a face and
"paces" up and down, angrily swishing his tail.

DREGS

(mimicing)

"If you wish to live, you wriggling
worm..."

(comic anger)

Ha! You expect me to stay in this
bat-infested cave while you get your
beauty rest...

ANGLE - WRATH-AMON

The molting process has begin, as his scaly skin is
already getting blotchy and coming loose from his body.

DREGS ((CONT))(VO)

Although you certainly do need it...

DREGS

WHACKS a small rock with his angrily twitching tail...

DREGS (CONT)

But I'm not gonna take it any longer!

ANGLE - WRATH-AMON

And the rock BONKS Wrath-Amon right in the head!

ANGLE - DREGS

He sees this, and he's horrified!

ANGLE - WRATH-AMON

But Wrath-Amon doesn't stir! Dregs slithers cautiously
INTO SCENE and bends down.

DREGS (CONT)
(softly)
Wrath-Amon?
(a beat - SHOUTING)
WRATH-AMON?!!!!!!

Dregs now straightens up, amazed!

DREGS (CONT)
He really is unconscious!

His eyes, then his head slowly turn to look down at...

THE RING

Hold a beat, then Dreg's hand reaches INTO FRAME. It hovers above the Ring... and then he SNATCHES IT!

EXT. CAVERN

Dregs now comes RACING OUT of the cavern, then stops, BREATHLESS, just beyond. But when nothing happens, he slips the Ring on his finger...

DREGS (CONT)
Well, that's that! No big deal!

And while nothing happens, at first -- suddenly the POWER OF THE RING courses through Dregs like LIGHTNING! It lifts him off the ground, straightens him out, pops his eyeballs, and wreathes him in green fire!

DREGS (CONT)
(Startled yell)

CLOSE ON DREGS

And even when the green fire dies down, Dregs retains a (comic) aura of POWER!

DREGS (CONT)
It actually worked! Wrath-Amon's an ugly lizard...

ANGLE - SKY CHARIOT

Dregs hops into the Sky Chariot. He raises the Ring and LIGHTNING CRACKLES OUT, like reins! The Wind Wraiths rear and plunge, then take off, whirling the chariot skyward!

DREGS (CONT)
AND I'M THE LORD OF THE BLACK RING!
(to Wind Wraiths)
To Stygia, my chargers! Faster!

As the Chariot RACES SKYWARD, Dregs nearly falls out, and he has to grab hold to stay onboard!

WIPE TO:

EXT. KHEMI - SLOPES OF PYRAMID - SUNSET

The Sky Chariot has landed on the slopes of the pyramid (either on a landing part way up, slantwise across the steps, or at the top -- whatever works best).

Dregs clambers up to perch on its railing, addressing the crowd gathered below.

DREGS (CONT)

Serpentfolk of Stygia! Welcome your new leader!

ANGLE - SERPENTMEN AND WOMEN

They look at Dregs as if he's crazy, WINDFANG among them.

SERPENTMAN

What are you raving about? Wrath-Amon is our leader!

DRAMATIC ANGLE - DREGS

He shakes his head contemptuously...

DREGS (CONT)

That scaly has-been is yesterday's news!

And rises to his full height on the chariot railing.

DREGS (CONT)

Whereas I, DREGS-AMON THE GREAT...

Unfortunately for his dignity, he loses his balance and bounces and tumbles all the way down (CAMERA FOLLOWING)...

DREGS (CONT)

(Surprised yelps)

ANOTHER ANGLE

To come to a bumping halt at Windfang's feet! Dregs looks at him, smiling engagingly.

DREGS (CONT)

I'm going to capture Conan's star-metal sword, and you, Windfang, are going to help me!

WINDFANG

glares down at him, considering.

WINDFANG

If, and only if, you use "your" Black Ring to restore me to human form.

DREGS

scrambles back to upright position and sneers.

DREGS

Are you out of your mind, Four-Arms?
No way!

WINDFANG

is offended. He turns his back and stomps away.

WINDFANG

Then you have your answer as well!

ANGLE - DREGS

But Dregs is outraged! He SLAMS his tail on the ground (like Wrath-Amon stamping his foot)...

DREGS

(enraged)

No one turns his back on Dregs-Amon!

And a huge fissure radiates out! PAN WITH IT as it opens up under Windfang!

DREGS (VO)(CONT)

And now you'll feel my wrath!

ANOTHER ANGLE

Unfortunately, the fissure spreads backwards as well, under Dregs! And while he falls right in...

DREGS (CONT)

(Startled yelp)

Windfang merely flaps his wings to rise back above the ground and flies away.

WINDFANG

Amateur.

CUT TO:

INT. CRYPT AREA - FEATURING CEILING

The fissure has opened all the way to the ceiling of the crypt area below. And Dregs comes TUMBLING DOWN...

DREGS

Whoaaa!!!!

ANGLE - SKULKUR'S COFFIN

To SLAM, face first, onto Skulkur's coffin!

DREGS (VO) (CONT)

(pressed against coffin)

Now that's an idea!

PULL BACK as Dregs sits up and points the Ring at the top of the coffin. The Ring flares with a GREEN GLOW...

DREGS (CONT)

I'll get Skulkur to help capture the star-metal!

ANOTHER ANGLE

But as the lid lifts up and SKULKUR gets out, Dregs slides OS to hit the floor with a THUD!

SKULKUR

SKULKUR CRUSH.

CUT TO:

INT. WRATH-AMON'S CHAMBER

Skulkur and Dregs are in the Chamber, before a lit brazier on a tripod. Dregs has a handful of purple lotus petals. He heaves them into the glowing charcoal...

DREGS

Okay. I've seen Wrath-Amon do this a thousand times! First you throw the purple lotus petals into the fire...

And BILLOWING PURPLE SMOKE FILLS THE SCREEN!

DREGS (VO)(CONT)

(coughing)

And the smoke shows you whatever you want to see!

CLOSE ON SKULKUR AND DREGS AMID BILLOWING SMOKE

Dregs looks miserable, eyes watering, coughing. Skulkur points into the smoke.

SKULKUR

LOOK.

THEIR POV - VISION IN SMOKE

We see a vision of CONAN, JEZMINE, ZULA, and NEEDLE dining at a wayfarers inn in Shem (the Babylonian-type country bordering Stygia). Conan, in particular, is wolfing down ribs... as Needle pecks his way through a pomegranate. There should be a distinctive "coat of arms" on the wall behind them, so Dregs can ID the place.

DREGS (VO)

(coughing)

Conan and his friends! And that inn is the Gilgamesh Arms, in Shem!

ANGLE - DREGS AND SKULKUR

Dregs starts to get up, but Skulkur puts his bony hand out, to stop him.

SKULKUR

WAIT.

THEIR POV - THE VISION IN THE SMOKE

It now changes, PANNING from the exterior of the inn to a huge garbage pit, some distance away. A cart laden with refuse, including lots of bones from the back of the inn's kitchen, tips its load over the edge.

SKULKUR (VO)(CONT)

SKULKUR SEE...

ANOTHER ANGLE

The bones cascade down onto a towering mound of garbage and many different bones and partial skeletons within.

SKULKUR (VO)(CONT)

BONES!

WIPE TO:

EXT. NIGHT SKY - FEATURING SKY CHARIOT - PANNING

Dregs is once more at the "lightning reins" of the Sky Chariot, with Skulkur by his side.

DREGS

Okay, so our deal is, if you help me get the star-metal weapons, then...

CLOSE ON SKULKUR

SKULKUR
(satisfied growl)
SKULKUR GET BONES!

WIPE TO:

INT. GILGAMESH ARMS - 2ND STORY BEDROOMS - NIGHT

Conan and Zula (both dressed) are sleeping in this room. Conan's shield is propped against a wall, the Phoenix insignia visible. Their weapons are propped up next to it.

There is a room adjoining, with the door slightly ajar. PUSH IN on this door and...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. ADJOINING BEDROOM - NIGHT

This is where Jezmine sleeps. Also fully clothed, her arm wearing the shuriken bracer is outside the blanket.

EXT. SKY OVER GILGAMESH ARMS - NIGHT

The Sky Chariot comes in low. PAN WITH IT as it lands next to the nearby garbage pit. Skulkur and Dregs get out and look into the pit.

CLOSE ON DREGS AND SKULKUR

Dregs cocks his head at Skulkur...

DREGS
Well? I'm waiting...

Who raises his hands in a magical gesture.

SKULKUR
BONES... ARISE!

ANGLE - GARBAGE PIT

Suddenly, a number of bones reformulate into the skeletons of RATS and human-sized APES! And... as the apes come together, they grab old, junky weapons which have been discarded -- rusty swords, broken daggers, et cetera.

SKULKUR (VO)(CONT)
ARISE AND ATTACK!

ANGLE - DREGS

He's really thrilled!

DREGS

This is great! This is wonderful!

HIS POV

The skeletal rats are now swarming over the edge of the pit, followed by the apes...

REVERSE ANGLE

And now, they're swarming over Dregs (having knocked him over) on their rapid way to the Gilgamesh Arms!

DREGS (CONT)

(freaked out)

THIS IS DISGUSTING!

ANGLE - WALL OUTSIDE BEDROOMS

The rats and apes climb the walls and enter the windows!

INT. CONAN AND ZULA'S ROOM

The apes clamber in, brandishing their rusty weapons. Some head for the beds, while others go for the star-metal weapons against the wall...

INT. JEZMINE'S ROOM

As the skeletal rats are already swarming onto Jezmine's bed! As three rats tug at the shurikens on her bracer, others scurry onward, right up to her face! And, as they glare at her, Jezmine's eyes open.

JEZMINE'S POV - ECU SKELETAL RATS

Looking directly into the empty eye sockets of the skeletal rats...

JEZMINE (ECU)

lets out a blood-curdling scream!

JEZMINE

(Horrorified scream)

FADE OUT
END ACT ONE

ACT TWO

FADE IN

INT. GILGAMESH ARMS - JEZMINE'S ROOM - NIGHT

Jezmine sits bolt upright in bed...

JEZMINE
(shocked yell)
Get off of me, you creatures!!!

ANGLE - EDGE OF BED

As three of the skeletal rats scurry off the edge of the bed, carrying her shurikens in their bony jaws!

JEZMINE

rips off the blanket, sending the rest of the rats flying!

INT. CONAN AND ZULA'S ROOM - FEATURING STAR-METAL WEAPONS

Meanwhile, in Conan and Zula's room, one skeletal ape grabs Conan's sword and another grabs Zula's boomerang...

As Needle pops out from the shield, REACTING!

NEEDLE
Frwwk! Wake up, lazy barbarian!
Monkey bones are stealing star-metal!

EXT. GILGAMESH ARMS - JEZMINE'S WINDOW

The three rats, each carrying a shuriken in its jaws, scurry out the window and down the wall. PAN to Conan's window, as the apes carrying Conan's sword and Zula's boomerang make their escape as well!

INT. CONAN AND ZULA'S ROOM

Conan, now awake, rolls off his bed and underneath, just as a scimitar-wielding ape leaps onto the bed, cutting the pillow to ribbons...

CONAN
Crom!

UNDER THE BED

As Conan shoves the bed up and over...

CONAN (CONT)
So much for peaceful dreams.

WIDE - ROOM

Hurling the ape back, and smashing another couple of apes as well! Bones go flying...

As Conan now leaps for the window.

CONAN (CONT)

Follow me!

EXT. WINDOWS

Conan and Zula leap out their window (Needle flying after them) as Jezmine leaps from hers.

ANGLE - GROUND

All three land on their feet, look up, and REACT.

CONAN

I'd say Skulkur's had a busy night.

JEZMINE

Yes but, if you hadn't gnawed so many bones for dinner...

THEIR POV

Two SKELETAL BULLS paw the ground and CHARGE!

JEZMINE (VO)(CONT)

He wouldn't have had so much to work with!

NEEDLE

meanwhile, is flying after the ape with the boomerang. He swoops low, tripping the ape with his body!

NEEDLE

Needle get star metal!
(squawking upon impact)

The ape goes down in a jumble of bones (falling on Needle) and the boomerang falls free!

ZULA

sees this and holds up his hand.

ZULA

Return!

THE BOOMERANG

takes flight and whirls back to Zula's hand, CAMERA FOLLOWING ACTION. ANGLE WIDENS immediately as Zula throws it out again.

ANGLE - LEAD STAMPEDING BULL

The star-metal weapon STRIKES one skeletal bull, shattering it!

ANGLE - JUMBLE OF APE BONES

Meanwhile, Needle has gotten trapped inside the fallen-apart ape's ribcage, and he can't get out!

NEEDLE
(frustrated squawk)
Needle trapped!

Suddenly Skulkur reaches down and picks up the ribcage as if it were a bird cage -- and Needle really panics!

NEEDLE (CONT)
Big Dumb Barbarian, HELPPPP!!!

CLOSE ON DREGS

He's just gathered up the shuriken-bearing rats in his arms, but he's even more excited about Needle's capture...

DREGS
Skulkur got the bird?!!!

ANGLE - CONAN

As Conan meets the remaining bull's charge by grabbing the creature's horns, vaulting over him and landing on the bull's back. Conan then wrenches the bulls' horns around, sending him stampeding after both Skulkur and the ape!

CONAN
Needle, I'm coming!

CLOSE ON DREGS - PANNING

Cradling the rats and shurikens, he slithers rapidly towards the Sky Chariot, joined by Skulkur carrying Needle.

DREGS
Hurry, Skulkur! We've got to get our treasures home to Stygia... so I can
cook the bird!

FARTHER BACK

Conan has nearly caught up with the fleeing ape, as he bellows after Dregs.

CONAN
Dregs, you worm, where is your
cowardly master?

ANGLE - SKY CHARIOT

Dregs, on board, smirks triumphantly and FIRES a bolt from the Black Ring!

DREGS
I AM THE MASTER!

ANGLE - CONAN ON BULL (CAMERA FOLLOWING ACTION)

Conan leaps off, as the BOLT shatters the skeletal bull...

But he comes up running and catches the sword-bearing ape! Ripping the sword out of its paw...

ANOTHER ANGLE

He dispatches the skeletal ape with a single swipe...

CONAN
Crom! If I can get the Black Ring
from that worm...

And continues running for the Sky Chariot.

CONAN (CONT)
I can free my parents from the Spell
of Living Stone!

ANGLE - DREGS, SKULKUR & NEEDLE

The LIGHTNING REINS CRACKLE out from Dregs' Black Ring and the Wind Chariot takes off, too high for Conan to pursue!

DREGS
Never, Barbarian! The Black Ring,
Jezmine's star-metal, AND the bird
are mine!

ANGLE - CONAN

Shouting up at Needle, he's already running for his horse.

CONAN

Take courage, Needle! There's no
where Dregs can take you that we
can't follow...

FAST WIPE TO:

ANGLE - CONAN, ZULA & JEZMINE ON HORSEBACK

Now all our heroes are mounted and galloping INTO CAMERA!

CONAN (CONT)

Even were it into the jaws of Set!

WIPE TO:

EXT. KHEMI - BASE OF SET'S PYRAMID - MORNING

The Sky Chariot lands amid a crowd.

DREGS

Serpentfolk of Stygia! I, Dregs-
Amon, have returned victorious...

CLOSE ON DREGS

Dregs hops up on the side railing of the Chariot, as
Skulkur holds up the shurikens and "ribcage" on display!

DREGS

With Star-Metal and a Baby Phoenix!

ANGLE - CROWD

And this time, everyone CHEERS!

CROWD

HAIL DREGS-AMON! HAIL DREGS-AMON!

DREGS

is in seventh heaven, as Serpentmen and women rush forward
to kiss his outstretched Black Ring!

DREGS

Thank you, my slaves! Thank you!

CLOSE ON NEEDLE IN CAGE

He makes a disgusted face.

NEEDLE

Hissy faces kiss evil Ring? Yeech!

WIDEN ANGLE as Dregs grabs the "ribcage" from Skulkur and

hands it to a MESSENGER.

DREGS

Take this to the palace chef.
Broiled in pomegranate sauce, I
think.

Needle glares at Dregs and Dregs sticks his tongue out at
him, as the messenger takes the ribcage away.

NEEDLE

Needle hope Sneaky Worm choke!

DREGS

(Raspberry sound)

ANGLE - DREAMY-EYED FEMALE NAGA (QUEENIE)

QUEENIE, a female Naga, looks up at Dregs, enraptured.

QUEENIE

Oh, Dregs-Amon! You're so... in
command!

ANGLE FEATURING DREGS

And he's instantly stricken!

DREGS

Really? Say, how would you like to
be my queen?

QUEENIE'S EYES FLUTTER

and she faints!

QUEENIE

(Little gasp)

WIPE TO:

EXT. STREETS OF KHEMI - DAY

Dregs and Queenie, in the Sky Chariot, are making a
triumphant procession through Khemi, waving to the crowd!
A cheering chorus of "Dregs-Amon" is heard throughout.
Note: They're in a low-lying area, close to the River
Styx -- a high earthen levee protecting this part of the
city from the water.

CROWD

DREGS-AMON! DREGS-AMON! DREGS-AMON!

ANGLE - DREGS AND QUEENIE

Queenie points to a statue of Wrath-Amon along the road (the levee is just beyond).

QUEENIE

Look, Dregsie-poo! There's another statue of that nasty has-been, Wrath-Amon!

DREGS

Not for long!

Dregs aims his Ring and FIRES --

ANGLE - STATUE OF WRATH-AMON

And the blast of energy SHATTERS the statue's head! Unfortunately, the blast continues on to blow a huge hole in the levee, as well, and the river now CASCADES THROUGH!

CLOSE ON DREGS

He's aghast...

DREGS (CONT)

Oops!

ANGLE - STREET

As the resulting FLOOD washes everyone away!

CROWD/DREGS/QUEENIE

(Wild yells)

WIPE TO:

EXT. WRATH-AMON'S PALACE - LATER (DAY)

The street in front of the palace is still awash, in the aftermath of the flood. PUSH IN and...

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PALACE KITCHEN

A big place with stone walls covered with hanging pots, a huge stone oven with a chimney leading out into the upper reaches of the ceiling, a "multi-burner" stove, etc.

The CHEF, a fat serpentman, has Needle's "ribcage cage" hanging from a hook. He peers at Needle...

CHEF

So, you're the new master's dinner!

CLOSER - NEEDLE AND CHEF

The Chef wedges his hand inside the ribcage, trying to pull Needle out. Instead, Needle BITES his hand!

NEEDLE

Needle not anyone's dinner!

CHEF

(Anguished yelp)

ANGLE - OVEN

The Chef slings the entire "cage" with Needle still in it, into the oven... then slams the door!

CHEF (CONT)

In that case, you can cook inside
your cage!

ANGLE - WITHIN THE OVEN

Needle regards the intense flames rising from the grille beneath him, so hot that the ribcage bones are charring...

NEEDLE

Mmmm! Stupid hissy face not realize
Needle like flames!

(beat)

But Needle have job to do!

All it now takes is a strong push from his talons and Needle breaks several charred ribs and squeezes out.

EXT. OVEN

PAN up to the top of the chimney. Needle peeks out.

NEEDLE (CONT)

Sneaky Worm have Star Girl's
shurikens... and only Needle can got!

But just as he's ready to fly off, he SNIFFS something, and he gets a dreamy expression on his face!

NEEDLE (CONT)

(sniffing)

Pomegranate sauce?!!

HIS POV - BIG BUBBLING POT ON STOVE

It's about fifty gallons of red, bubbling pomegranate sauce (with whole pomegranates bobbing at the surface).

WIDEN ANGLE as Needle half-glides, half-dives down into it, disappearing under the surface with a slight SPLASH!

NEEDLE (CONT)

Needle go be hero later.

ANGLE - CHEF

Opening the oven...

CHEF

That bird should be scalded by now!

HIS POV - INT. OVEN

All he sees are the charred, broken bones of the ribcage.

CHEF (VO)(CONT)

OH NO! It was so hot, it must have vaporized him!

ANGLE - CHEF

He now searches frantically behind a cupboard...

CHEF (CONT)

What'll I do? If I can't serve him his bird, the new master will flay me alive!

To emerge, holding a huge, dead RAT by its tail!

CHEF (CONT)

But maybe if I add some chicken wings to this lovely specimen...

He drops the rat into the cauldron of pomegranate sauce.

CHEF (CONT)

Though I'd better marinate it first!

CLOSE ON CAULDRON

CHEF (VO) (CONT)

(fading away)

Now where were those chicken wings?

Needle SPUTTERS to the surface and flies away!

NEEDLE

(sputtering)

Yuck! Needle not like pomegranate
sauce any more! Needle go be hero
instead!

DISSOLVE TO:

INT. PALACE DINING ROOM

Dregs and Queenie are "sitting" at the ornate dining
table. Jezmine's three shurikens are on display in a
holder, like a centerpiece. Queenie gestures towards
them, careful not to touch.

QUEENIE

Set will be so proud of you when you
give him the star-metal shurikens!

DREGS

It's the least I could do for the
Ultimate Lord of all Evil!

THE CHEF

now enters with a covered platter. He sets it down in
front of Dregs and lifts off the cover.

CHEF

Master, I give you...

CLOSER - PLATTER

It's clearly a roasted rat with stuck-on chicken wings...

CHEF (VO)

Phoenix under glass!

ANGLE FEATURING DREGS

But Dregs and Queenie are both fooled and delighted!
Raising their forks and knives, they dig in...

DREGS

Yippee!!! You cooked the bird!

But just as Dregs' fork and knife reach the "bird" -- he
stops cold, hearing:

NEEDLE (VO)

(muffled)

FRWWKKKK!!!

Dregs and Queenie stare at each other, horrified. Then,
more cautiously, Dregs pokes the "bird" with his fork.

UP ANGLE - CHANDELIER

Needle is hiding up in the elaborate "snake-motif" chandelier, his wing over his beak to stifle his laughter.

NEEDLE (CONT)
Needle not like being poked!
(muffled laughter)

ANGLE - DREGS AND QUEENIE

Now they're really horrified.

QUEENIE
(scared)
You don't think it's...

DREGS
Nasty bird's... GHOST?

ANGLE - NEEDLE

He now flaps his wings in front of the candles of the chandelier, casting a huge shadow...

ANGLE - TABLE

So huge, shadowy wings seem to be FLYING across the table!

Queenie and Dregs LEAP out of their chairs, terrified, and dash out of the room!

QUEENIE/DREGS
(Horrified shrieks)

ANGLE - NEEDLE

He nearly falls out of the chandelier, rolling with laughter! And now he swoops down...

NEEDLE
(laughing)
Time for Needle to grab Star Girls' weapons!

ANGLE - TABLE

As a big reptilian CAT jumps on the table and begins eating the "bird"! And when Needle lands on the table, the cat HISSES, driving him away from the food and shurikens!

NEEDLE
(Scared squawk)

ANGLE - DOORWAY

Meanwhile, Dregs, carrying a HUGE MAGICAL BOOK, dashes back in! He SLAMS the book down on the table (and on Needle, whom he never sees), scaring the "cat" away!

DREGS

Okay, Ghost Bird! Dregs-Amon not afraid of you!

CLOSE ON BOOK

It's covered with runes, and on this page, a picture of a hideous demon.

DREGS (CONT)

Wrath-Amon has lots of magic books --

DREGS

points the Black Ring at the page -- and as the GREEN FIRE comes out of the Ring...

DREGS (CONT)

But this one holds the spirit of Gubluk the Ghost Eater --

ANGLE - PAGE OF BOOK

It ACTIVATES THE PICTURE on the page! WIDEN ANGLE as the now three dimensional creature rises up and expands into a horrible DJINN, with pointed teeth and sharp claws!

DREGS (CONT)(VO)

Who likes nothing better than to eat nasty ghosts!

CLOSE ON NEEDLE

He's crouched under the huge open book, terrified...

DRAMATIC ANGLE - GUBLUK

As Gubluk bares his teeth to CAMERA!

GUBLUK

(horrific whisper)

I...hunger...for...spiritual...
nourishment!

FADE OUT
END ACT TWO

ACT THREE

FADE IN

INT. PALACE DINING HALL (CONTINUOUS FROM ACT TWO)

Gubluk GLARES around the room, fixating on...

GUBLUK

Gubluk hungry for GHOST!

DREGS!

DREGS

Not me! I'm not a ghost! It's the
bird!

ANGLE - GUBLUK

Gubluk glares down at the platter.

GUBLUK

Gubluk see no ghost bird -- but
Gubluk hungry. Gubluk not care!

He now dives down INTO the roast rat -- becoming smaller
as he disappears inside of it. A beat later, the roast
rat, chicken wings and all, disappears with a POOF.

ANGLE - DREGS

He SLAMS the book shut with relief, picks up the star
metal shurikens, puts them in a draw-string pouch...

DREGS

Whew! I hope that's the last of
Ghost Bird AND Gubluk!

And joins Queenie, who is still cowering in the doorway.

DREGS (CONT)

Don't worry, my Queen! Dregs-Amon
the Great is triumphant once again!

The CAMERA, however, TILTS BACK to the cover of the book,
to reveal that it now features a newly added PHOENIX
INSIGNIA on the front! Needle sticks his head out.

NEEDLE

(sotto)

But Needle get Star Girl's weapons
yet!

WIPE TO:

EXT. COUNTRYSIDE - THUNDERING WATERFALL - DAY

CONAN (VO)

Once we're across that waterfall...

CLOSE ON CONAN, JEZMINE, AND ZULA

They're surveying the waterfall from a nearby bluff.

CONAN (CONT)

We'll be in Stygia.

WIPE TO:

INT. WATERFALL CAVERN - SHORTLY THEREAFTER

Conan, Zula, and Jezmine, leading their horses, are now treading the precarious rocky path INSIDE the face of the waterfall, to avoid being seen.

JEZMINE

I just hope we can get to Needle
before something terrible happens!

WIPE TO:

INT. WRATH-AMON'S PALACE - TREASURE ROOM

Queenie is now draped with a King's ransom of jewels, looking ridiculous. She's trying to open an ancient, rune-inscribed box, but it won't budge.

QUEENIE

Dregsie-pooh, what's in this one?
More jewels?

Dregs rushes INTO SCENE, grabbing the box away from her!

DREGS

No! Wrath-Amon said I must never
touch this one!

QUEENIE

Wrath-Amon said? Are you still
scared of that washed-up has-been?

DREGS

Dregs-Amon fears nothing! Watch!
I'll prove it!

Dregs puts down the box and BLASTS it with the Ring!

CLOSE ON BOX

As the green energy surrounds it, the box RUMBLES...

DREGS (VO)(CONT)

By the power of Set, I command this
box to OPEN!

Then dead silence. A beat later, the lid opens and a
"cute" little creature (a GREMLIN-TOAD) sticks its head
out! SFX: RIBBIT!

QUEENIE

holds her arms out and the creature hops right up!

QUEENIE

Oh look, it's adorable! Come to
Queenie!

She hugs it, then reacts in DISGUST, hurling it away!

QUEENIE (CONT)

Yuck! It's sticky and slimy and it
smells bad! Dregsie, GET RID OF IT!

THE GREMLIN-TOAD

lands somewhere, and sticks its tongue out at Dregs --
giving him a RASPBERRY!

DREGS

responds badly, SLAMMING the box down onto the creature,
which SPLATS the Gremlin-Toad into five globules of goo --

WIDER

Which instantly form into five fully-grown new Gremlin-
Toads! Yeeeck! And now, ALL FIVE give Dregs RASPBERRIES!

QUEENIE (VO)

Dregsie! No! Do something!

DREGS

uses the Black Ring to BLAST them ...

ANGLE - GREMLIN-TOADS

But they SPLIT to form MORE Gremlin-Toads, until the room
is filled with them! (SFX: THUNDEROUS RIBBITING)

CLOSER - CENTER OF ROOM

Dregs, with Queenie clinging to him, is trying to KEEP
FIRING, but the Ring is "empty" (SFX: CLINK-CLICK-CLICK)

QUEENIE
(panicked sobbing)

DREGS (CONT)
The Ring has no power left! We've
gotta summon Set to recharge it!

Dregs snatches the shuriken pouch off a table, then jerks
open a trap door in the floor. They dive through it...

DREGS (CONT)
This way!

As do a bunch of Gremlin-Toads, before it SLAMS shut!

DISSOLVE TO:
INT. CHAMBER OF SET

Dregs and Queenie now stand before the golden statue.

DREGS
Er, Lord Set, your almightiness, I've
got a little favor to ask...

ANGLE - STATUE

The vortex forms, and the other-dimensional ENERGY ZAPS
the golden statue, turning its eyes into GREEN FIRE.

SET
Who dares summon the LORD OF ALL
EVIL?
(incredulous)
Is that Dregs wearing the Black Ring?

ANGLE - DREGS

Dregs gives him a scared little wave.

DREGS
(nervously lying)
Yeah, hi, your Lordship, sir. Y'see,
when Wrath-Amon realized he was a
complete and total failure...

ANGLE - DOORWAY

It's the way Dregs and Queenie entered. Now, unnoticed by
them, the Gremlin-Toads start hopping in.

DREGS (VO)(CONT)
He decided that I should take over...
everything... yeah, that's it... so
when he locked himself in a cave...

ANGLE - DREGS

Building up steam, he now holds forth the Ring.

DREGS (CONT)
He gave me the Black Ring... on my
finger... but it's empty...

ANGLE - SET

SET
I WILL RECHARGE IT -- THE MINUTE YOUR
FORKED TONGUE STOPS BURBLING!

ON DREGS

He opens up the pouch holding the three shurikens...

DREGS
Don't you wanna see the star-metal I
got for your pyramid disk?

SET (VO)
Just take it to the pyramid at Sushen
and shut up!

Dregs turns to Queenie, grinning.

DREGS
You see? I've got him eating out of
the palm of my hand!

He turns back...

ANGLE - SET

And Set's EYES BLAZE WITH GREEN ENERGY! WIDEN ANGLE as
the twin energy beams ZAP both Dregs and the Black Ring!

DREGS (CONT)
(Yelling as he's ZAPPED)

ANOTHER ANGLE - STATUE

However, the Gremlin-Toads are now hopping onto the
statue's head and from there, into the vortex! (SFX:
RIBBITS) We then hear multiple OS SPLATS, then MANY MORE
RIBBITS!

SET
Dregs! What are these revolting
creatures? Ugh! THEY'RE DISGUSTING!

CLOSE ON DREGS

He's still dazed -- but Queenie grabs him O.S.

QUEENIE

Dregies-poo, I think we should be
going...

WIPE TO:

INT. PALACE BEDCHAMBER - NIGHT

Queenie and Dregs are now preparing for bed. Both wear nightshirts and stocking caps -- and Dregs holds a candlestick which provides the only light. They're getting into adjacent "sleeping baskets"...

QUEENIE (CONT)

(soothing)

Don't worry, Dregsie-poo! Tomorrow
we'll take the star-metal...

ANGLE FEATURING WINDOW

As a shadowy figure moves in front of the window.

QUEENIE (VO)(CONT)

To that other pyramid.....

ANGLE - SLEEPING BASKETS

Queenie pats Dregs on the back, then BLOWS out the candle.

QUEENIE (CONT)

And by then, Set will have forgotten
all about the Gremlin-Toads.

The room is in darkness. Hold a beat, then:

DREGS/QUEENIE

(snoring).

CLOSE ON NEEDLE

He's tiptoeing in from the window.

NEEDLE

(sotto)

Needle not know where to find star
metal, so brave Needle steal Black
Ring instead!

ANGLE - DREGS' SLEEPING BASKET

Needle flutters up to perch on the edge of the basket. He

now reaches in with the claws of one foot...

INT. BASKET

And, by the dim moonlight we see he's got a good grip on the Black Ring! He starts to ease it off Dregs' finger, just as Dregs wakes up and sees him!

DREGS
(horrified shriek)
AAAAIIIEEE!!! IT'S THE GHOST BIRD!!!

WIDE - SLEEPING CHAMBER

Needle SHRIEKS as well, and his searchlight eyes blast on!

NEEDLE
FRWWWKKKKKK!!!!

Queenie, now pops up out of her basket as well...

QUEENIE
SHOOT HIM WITH THE RING!!!

And Dregs lets off a BLAST, sending Needle flying OS!

NEEDLE
FRWEEEEKKKK!!!!

Silence and darkness once more, until:

DREGS (VO)
Queenie?

QUEENIE (VO)
Yes, Dregsie-poo.

DREGS (VO)
All I wanna do is rule the world. Is
that such a big thing?

WIPE TO:

MAIN STREET OF KHEMI - NEXT MORNING

The procession is leaving town. Dregs and Queenie in the Chariot wave to CHEERING CROWDS, followed by Warriors, Pennant Bearers, and Marching Bands! The spectacle also includes flooded streets, Gremlin-Toads hopping everywhere, and lots of headless statues of Wrath-Amon!

CROWD
(cheering)
HAIL DREGS-AMON! HAIL DREGS-AMON!

CLOSER - DREGS AND QUEENIE IN CHARIOT

Waving to the crowd.

DREGS

They like me! They really like me!

ANGLE - UNDERSIDE OF CHARIOT

Needle is clinging to the underside of the chariot... and everytime it rolls over a puddle, the water SPLASHES him!

NEEDLE

(irritably)

No they don't! Hissy Faces kissing up because Sneaky Worm has Ring!

ANGLE - DREGS AND QUEENIE

They just look at each other, Dregs turning pale.

DREGS

The Ghost Bird's back to haunt me!

WIPE TO:

EXT. STYGIAN COUNTRYSIDE - DAY

Zula is kneeling on the ground, drawing the sign of Jhebbal Sag. Conan and Jezmine are nearby.

ZULA

By the sign of Jhebbal Sag, animal brothers, hear my call!

The power enters Zula's hands and he directs it skyward.

ANGLE - SKY

A circling hawk CRIES, then swoops towards them.

CLOSE ON HAWK

PUSH IN CLOSE on its far-seeing eye.

CLOSE ON ZULA'S EYES

ZULA

Conan, Jozmine, I'm getting a thought impression from the hawk!

FAST DISSOLVE TO:

HAWK'S-EYE VIEW OF PROCESSION

Dregs' procession moves across the countryside, towards

the pyramid. Shushen's skyline is recognizable in the BG.

ZULA (VO)(CONT)
I see Dregs, heading for the Pyramid
north of Shushen...

Suddenly, Needle flies up INTO CAMERA, gesturing wildly,
trying to get the hawk to take a look at all of this!

ZULA (VO)(CONT)
And Needle!

DISSOLVE BACK TO:

ANGLE FEATURING ZULA

Excited, he swings up on his horse...

ZULA (CONT)
I saw Needle there as well!

And all three comrades GALLOP southward at full speed!

CONAN
We must hurry!

WIPE TO:

EXT. PYRAMID AT SHUSHEN - DAY

The procession has arrived.

ANGLE FEATURING OPEN FORGE

The forge is near the base of the pyramid. A SERPENTMAN
SMITH holds the shurikens in tongs, as Dregs "supervises".

DREGS
Be careful with that star-metal! Set
likes it melted down just right!

QUEENIE

slithers up to Dregs, fanning herself against the heat!

QUEENIE
Oooh, it's so hot! Could use your
Ring-thingie to whip up a breeze?

DREGS
I don't see why not!

Dregs raises the Ring over his head -- AND LETS LOOSE WITH
A BLAST OF SKYWARD STREAKING GREEN ENERGY!

PAN UP WITH IT, as there's an answering LIGHTNING FLASH in

ANGLE - NEEDLE

He flaps up in the sky, in triumph!

NEEDLE

Needle save the day, yipee!

CONAN

is now galloping after Dregs.

CONAN

Dregs! I want that Ring!

DREGS

REACTS with even more fear! He FIRES a blast at Conan, then slithers up the side of the pyramid fast as he can!

DREGS

No!

CONAN

blocks the BLAST with his shield, leaps off Thunder, and charges after him!

ANGLE - TOP OF PYRAMID

Dregs has reached the top, still FIRING wildly at Conan!

DREGS

SKY CHARIOT! GET OVER HERE!!!

ANGLE - BASE OF PYRAMID

Queenie is jumping up and down, waving wildly!

QUEENIE

Dregie-pooh! What about me?!!

ANGLE - DREGS

As the Sky Chariot flies over Dregs, he coils into a spring and "leaps", grabbing one axle with his hand!

DREGS

Later, Queenie! Bye-bye!

CONAN

reaches the top, and now he leaps!

DREGS

FIRES the Ring, but it poops out in mid-blast...

However, the Chariot, continuing to rise, lifts him above Conan's desperation grab! Realizing he's safe, Dregs (hanging on by one hand) starts laughing his head off!

DREGS
(scornful laughter)
Nya-nya! You missed me!!!

WIDER

However, one last LIGHTNING BOLT from the storm ZAPS DOWN and FRIES Dreges so badly, we can see his skeleton under his skin (as the Sky Chariot continues to carry him away)!

DREGS
YIIIII!!!!

CLOSE ON CONAN

Back on the ground, Conan grins broadly as dusts himself off and watches the "light show" -- as Needle flaps in to land on his shoulder.

NEEDLE
Big Dumb Barbarian miss, but storm
god didn't! Frwwk!

WIPE TO:

EXT. KOTHIAN DESERT - LATER

PAN from the charred wreckage of the Sky Chariot (it crash-landed) to the entrance to Wrath-Amon's cavern.

DREGS (VO)
(breathless)
Wrath-Amon?

INT. CAVERN

Dregs, looking terrible, holds an unlit torch. When he lights it with an anemic "peep" from the depleted Ring, he's nearly knocked over by the OTRUSHING BATS -- but he's been through so much lately, he barely notices it!

DREGS (CONT)
Wrath-Amon, are you awake yet?

DEPTHS OF CAVERN

Wrath-Amon is just rousing himself, breaking away the old,

dead skin. We see his new, shiny green skin... as he yawns, stretches, then puts his costume back on.

WRATH-AMON

(yawning)

Dregs, is that you? I feel marvellous!

But when he looks for the Ring, he freaks!

WRATH-AMON (CONT)

(suddenly enraged)

DREGS?!! WHERE IS THE BLACK RING?!!

DREGS

staggers INTO SCENE, breathless. He holds out the Ring.

DREGS

I was... just keeping it... safe... sire.

Wrath-Amon snatches it away and puts it on his finger...

WRATH-AMON

I certainly hope so.

But, due to its low energy, Wrath-Amon doesn't transform!

WRATH-AMON

(with deceptive sweetness)

Hmmm. You have't been using my Ring, have you, Dregs?

CLOSE ON DREGS

He shrugs sheepishly and...

DREGS

Well, maybe just a little...

WRATH-AMON

goes totally berserk! He charges after Dregs, who now has to flee for his life, as we...

WRATH-AMON

JUST A LITTLE? My Ring has no power whatsoever, and you say JUST A LITTLE?!!! Dregs, your spine is mine!!!

FADE OUT
THE END