



### Hour Three: "LOYALTY"

While juggling the growing threat of a plague within the city walls and the increasing desperation of his barren Queen over the arrival of Suhad, Tut faces a rebellion in the military following the imprisonment of General Horemheb who betrayed him in battle. As Tut struggles to hold Thebes together following Horemheb's escape, he must avoid a coup and rally his remaining troops against Horemheb's assault on the palace.

TUT

"HOUR THREE: LOYALTY"

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TUT

"HOUR THREE: LOYALTY"

OVER BLACK:

Screams. Horrified gasps. Voices shouting. Every sound in the moments that followed Ka's death. Then -

FADE IN:

1 INT. PALACE - AUDIENCE HALL - DAY 1

Silence. The chamber is empty. Torches flicker off the glistening pool of Ka's blood that stains the otherwise ornate floor.

CUT TO:

2 INT. PALACE - ANKHE'S CHAMBER - DAY 2

Ankhe, still in shock, trembles, tears and blood smeared on her face and hands as Herit desperately tries to wipe her clean. Herit's own hands are shaking.

HERIT

Please... let me to remove your clothes...

Ankhe is numb. Herit does the best she can.

CUT TO:

3 INT. PALACE - TUT'S CHAMBER - DAY 3

Tut is being fitted into clean linens and jewelry. Blood is wiped from his face - as his eyes stare pensive and grim at Grand Vizier Ay who stands uneasily nearby.

Water is brought to Tut. He drinks long from it, still parched from his journey through the desert. He wipes his mouth with the back of his hand, the excess water spilling down his neck. His eyes do not blink, they do not move from the Grand Vizier.

Finally, after the long, excruciating silence...

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

TUT

I cannot remember a day in my life  
that you have not known every secret  
in the kingdom.

AY

You give me too much credit, My Lord -

TUT

I give you none!

The ferocity in his voice causes Ay to shudder.

TUT

General Horemheb's deceit is not a  
revelation. But if I could not trust  
my friend, how can I trust anyone who  
serves me?

AY

Do not count them as those who served  
you. They served only their  
ambitions. Ka was obviously taken  
with the promise of power and his  
own... *desire* - which was no secret  
to anyone.

TUT

One you were all too ready to see  
consummated.

AY

It was the Queen's decision, my Lord.  
(hesitates)  
But I first proposed a union between  
myself and her - to keep Ka and  
Horemheb from seizing power. She  
would not be deterred. In fact, she  
was determined to move quickly.

Tut stares long and hard at him. His servants are finished  
cleansing and dressing him. He steps closer to Ay, face to  
face.

TUT

Then tell me, Grand Vizier, who can I  
trust?

Ay stares pointedly at him and offers the most honest answer  
he can...

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

AY

No one.

And on Tut's face, a sad reaction knowing this to be true.

Then, behind them, Ankhe bursts into the room, cleaned and removed from Ka's blood.

ANKHE

Out! All of you!

The servants hesitate, but Tut nods his approval. One by one they shuffle out.

ANKHE

And you!!

Ay exchanges a glance with Tut, bows his head respectfully, and leaves, closing the door behind him.

Ankhe, her face a mixture of rage and despair, closes in on Tut. It isn't clear what her intentions are... until she finally swings her hand to slap him across the face. Tut catches it before the blow is delivered. She tries with her other hand. He restrains her, but her anger and bitterness bursts through, struggling, crying out through tears, trying desperately to hit him, to hurt him.

TUT

Ankhe! Enough!

Tut is finally able to subdue her. She drops to the floor, sucking back tears, weak and miserable, glaring at him in aching pain.

ANKHE

He could not have done what you say!  
He could not possibly have done it!

TUT

He stood with the General as I lay  
bleeding. He walked away and left me  
there to die!

Ankhe cannot fathom this, the words trembling from her mouth...

ANKHE

You were badly wounded... you weren't  
of sound mind...

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

TUT

I was of *sight!*

But even for Tut, the enormity of what has transpired begins to settle in. His own voice trembles now with equal pain...

TUT

He was my brother. As much as any man who would share my blood. He left me to rot... and then to claim what was mine...

ANKHE

Then he was used! A pawn!

TUT

No. I saw it in him, Ankhe. I saw the look in his eyes.

(beat)

Perhaps it was you who was the pawn. Or did you both conspire against me?

Those swollen eyes of hers stare back at him -

ANKHE

Is that what you see?

Tut considers her. Then shakes his head. They are both quiet for a long moment.

ANKHE

Ka stood more noble than any man I knew.

Tut steps to a window, looking out over the Palace and the city beyond.

TUT

Set, too, was noble. But he coveted the throne of his brother Osiris. He coveted Osiris' wife. And so he plotted and killed him.

(beat)

Even Osiris, who was king of the living, who, in the after world, holds more power than all the Gods, not even he could expose his back to his own brother. Neither will I again.

(CONTINUED)

3 CONTINUED:

3

He leaves her there. Ankhe's face is still void of color, still unable to grasp the reality of what has happened.

CUT TO:

4 INT. PALACE - DUNGEON CELL - DAY

4

General Horemheb sits in the dingy, desolate cell, his legs and arms chained. His face and beard are damp with sweat, stained with blood and dust. Footsteps are heard outside the door. The wooden crossbar is pulled away. The door opens.

Tut enters. Horemheb remains stoic and unrepentant. Tut waits until the guards have stepped out, staring long and hard at Horemheb.

TUT

It's a strange comfort that with you,  
I at least know the truth.

Horemheb offers him a slight nod. A respectful acknowledgement that there is no denying what he did.

TUT

Were you so afraid of Osiris' wrath  
that you lacked the courage to finish  
it yourself?

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Yes. All men fear the Gods.

(beat)

When I kill a man, I look him in the  
eye. Given the chance again, I will  
make sure yours are open.

Tut watches him carefully.

TUT

The Gods will not give you that  
opportunity.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

We are gods too, Tutankhamun. We  
choose life and death as easily as  
them. As you choose for me.

TUT

You're going to die, General.

He turns and walks out. Then stops, looks back.

(CONTINUED)

4 CONTINUED:

4

TUT

Was I such a threat to you?

Horemheb responds very matter-of-fact -

GENERAL HOREMHEB

You were in the way.

Tut steps back to him. Looks into him, almost through him. The General's hardened expression softens for just a moment.

TUT

Was my arrow in the way when it saved your life? Or your blade when it saved mine? No man is all vice, General Horemheb. Even you.

He leaves. Horemheb watches after him.

CUT TO:

5 INT. PALACE - EMBALMING ROOM - DAY

5

Ka's grey, lifeless body lays naked on a stone slab. TWO EMBALMERS with a large linen cloth begin to cover the corpse.

ANKHE (O.S.)

Why hasn't he been made ready for entombment?

The men look over and are startled to find Queen Ankhe crouched in the corner, her eyes bloodshot from crying. They lower their heads out of respect.

EMBALMER

Instruction from the Grand Vizier; the body is to be entombed without ceremony. It is the Pharaoh's wish.

They bow and leave.

Ankhe approaches Ka. Up until now we have always seen Ankhe steadfast and proper in her position as Queen. But now there is a guttural pain so deep and so raw that all her proprieties are stripped away.

The anger seethes from her lips -

(CONTINUED)



5 CONTINUED:

5

ANKHE

You're going to rot for eternity!  
You've betrayed us both! THIS WAS  
NOT THE WAY!!

The tears stream out as her nails dig into his dry, dead skin -  
but there is no blood left to spill.

Then the look in her eyes changes as they shift away from Ka's  
face...

CUT TO:

6 INT. PALACE ROOM - DAY

6

Suhad paces this small, windowless chamber. Two Guards stand  
at attention near the door. She hears it unlocked from  
outside. Waits with anticipation for whom she assumes will be  
Tut when it swings open.

SUHAD

Why have I been -

But it is not Tut. It is Ankhe. Her pain and anguish still  
lingers. But she is focused solely on Suhad now. Suhad is  
not sure how to react, even intimidated by her presence.

ANKHE

Who are you?

SUHAD

My name is Suhad.

ANKHE

(more direct)

Who are you? Why did you travel to  
Thebes with the Pharaoh?

SUHAD

I am his guest...

ANKHE

And I am the Queen of Egypt. You  
will address me in the proper manner.

SUHAD

I apologize... my Queen.

Ankhe studies her carefully...

(CONTINUED)

6 CONTINUED:

6

ANKHE

Where did he find you?

Suhad isn't sure quite how to answer...

SUHAD

I... I found him. I brought him back to health.

ANKHE

And brought him back to me.

Suhad knows those words have a much deeper meaning.

SUHAD

I don't think the Pharaoh meant for me to be locked in this room.

After a long, quiet moment...

ANKHE

You're right. This is not where he intended you to be.

She turns and leaves. The door closes behind her. Suhad tries to open it, but it's locked. A few seconds later, it opens again. A guard steps in. Gestures she follow.

CUT TO:

7 EXT. PALACE - CORRIDOR - DAY

7

Suhad is escorted through the hall until they reach a large, open room.

8 INT. PALACE - HAREM CHAMBER - DAY

8

Scantily dressed WOMEN are seated about on lush pillows. Torches reflect off pools of water. Incense lingers in the air. Their eyes all turn to Suhad.

Suhad has never seen such a place. She takes a step back, turns to the Guard...

SUHAD

Take me to the Pharaoh.

The Guard ignores her as he moves back to the door.

(CONTINUED)

8 CONTINUED:

8

SUHAD

Wait!

She tries to leave, but they step out and lock the door.

Suhad faces the women once again, who look upon her with great suspicion. One of them approaches.

HAREM GIRL

Take you to the Pharaoh?

(smirks)

Did you think you were special when he picked you? We all did.

The woman lets out a short laugh - forcing Suhad farther into the chamber.

HAREM GIRL

You have not been elevated to the Pharaoh's harem. We are for the pleasure of ministers and dignitaries.

The room now reveals MEN having pleasure with additional girls on couches and large pillows. Some are in pools being bathed.

HAREM GIRL

Please them and you may have a chance at pleasing the King.

Suhad resists. The woman tries to hold her firm, but Suhad twists the woman's arm around, pushing her away. Others in the room react. Then they quietly laugh...

HAREM GIRL

Feisty one. They'll like that.

She gestures to a brute of a man who leaves his woman and comes toward Suhad...

Off Suhad's growing alarm, we...

CUT TO:

9 EXT. PALACE BALCONY - DAY

9

Ankhe walks with Ay -

AY

She is part Mitanni, from the village of Amurru.

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

ANKHE

What are his intentions?

AY

He is Pharaoh. He can elevate her to status of wife is he desires - which I believe he does.

Then, with a certain smugness, recalling her dig to him not so long ago...

AY

He is, after all, of royal blood. Male blood... which will always be chosen in the eyes of Amun-Ra over a woman to sit on the throne.

This stings, but Ankhe quickly turns it back on Ay...

ANKHE

If she is the one to bear him a child, there will be another heir to keep you in your place.

Ay is not so easily ruffled...

AY

And remove you from position. A motherless Queen eventually becomes insignificant in they eyes of any Pharaoh - even a brother.

ANKHE

But as his sister, his blood - pure Egyptian blood - my child will always be his choice for the throne.

AY

And yet the Gods continue to deny you.

ANKHE

I have prayed to Tawaret day and night.

Ay is quiet for a moment -

AY

There cannot be a Mitanni heir.

(beat)

Pharaoh is God among men. He is conceived by the Gods themselves.

(MORE)

(CONTINUED)

9 CONTINUED:

9

AY (CONT'D)

Take seed. Then seek prayer. You must have a son.

ANKHE

But if the Pharaoh cannot -

AY

A son.

His eyes penetrate hers with unspoken words. Her own eyes narrow.

ANKHE

Is that another proposal, Ay?

AY

A mere consideration.

Now it's her own eyes that penetrate his -

ANKHE

I am obligated to the King. But you are used to that by now, aren't you - offering yourself to someone who you can never truly have as your own.

It is a reference to Nahkt and it has struck a nerve. Ay glares at her, then turns and walks away.

CUT TO:

10 INT. PALACE - HAREM CHAMBER - DAY

10

Suhad is being forced upon by the Brute. She resists, but he pulls a dagger. Suhad finally relents. The man cuts away a piece of her clothing. He touches her breasts. Reaches down between her legs. Suhad remains stoic, but winces as his fingers roam.

The door flies open. It is Tut with two Elite Guards at his side. The others are shocked to see him, scrambling to their feet. No one moreso than the Brute who is abusing Suhad. Tut grabs him by the hair, twists his neck and sends him flying into the stone wall where he crumbles.

Suhad barely has time to react.

TUT

Did he hurt you?

(CONTINUED)

10 CONTINUED:

10

She merely shakes her head, still unsettled.

CUT TO:

11 INT. PALACE - SUHAD'S CHAMBER - DAY

11

A huge spacious room with an abundance of fruits and other food. A wine chalice. Water. Fan bearers. A bed. Seating cushions and lush pillows.

Tut leads Suhad into the room.

TUT

I did not send you there, it was a mistake.

SUHAD

No... it was no mistake.

As the Guards step out and leave them in private, he comes to her and tries to kiss her.

TUT

I'm sorry.

She pulls away.

SUHAD

I am just another of your women?

TUT

You know I don't feel that way.

SUHAD

How am I supposed to know how you feel? One minute you're a soldier, then a general - then Pharaoh. What else?

Tut tries to ease the tension - smiles -

TUT

That's it.

SUHAD

I'm serious. I don't even know why I've been brought here.

TUT

Because I intend to make you a wife.

(CONTINUED)

11 CONTINUED:

11

SUHAD

You have a wife - a Queen.

TUT

Who does not have my heart.

This softens Suhad just a little.

SUHAD

And I have no say it?

TUT

As you said, I am Pharaoh of Egypt.

She can't help but smile now. He brings her in closer. This time she doesn't resist.

TUT

I know this will not be easy for you here. But you have healed more than just this wound. You are here because I want you by my side.

SUHAD

Even though I am part Mitanni?

TUT

You are also Egyptian.

SUHAD

That is not how others will see me.  
It is not how the Queen sees me.

(beat)

Out there, we were neither. It was just us. It can never be that again.

TUT

No, it can't.

He takes her head gently into his hands.

TUT

I am bound to my life here. To my people, my customs, my duty... and the Queen. I offer this world to you, but I cannot force you to take it.

She continues to look at him, conflicted as to what she wants.

CUT TO:

12 INT. ROYAL TEMPLE - SANCTUARY - DAY 12

FOUR MID-LEVEL PRIESTS dress the High Priest Amun in white, red, blue and green linens where he stands at a large ALTER. They complete their work with perfume, make-up and jewels. After they have stepped away, Amun begins a slow chant as the priests bow on their knees.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN  
*"Awake in Peace, Great God. Awake in  
 Peace, Great God. Awake in Peace,  
 Great God."*

Amun continues in a meditative state, his eyes rolled back, as the four Priests light incense and burn it in a ritual around him, humming another chant to their Gods.

CUT TO:

13 EXT. ROYAL TEMPLE - DAY 13

Tut is carried in a SMALL LITTER by SERVANTS, escorted by an entourage of ROYAL GUARDS. They reach the entrance to the temple, setting the litter down. Both Tut and Ay step out and make their way inside the temple.

14 INT. ROYAL TEMPLE - SANCTUARY - DAY 14

Amun is there to greet Tut, bowing his head respectfully, then down on one knee. There are now a DOZEN MID-LEVEL PRIESTS who do the same.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN  
 Our great Pharaoh, the Gods greet you  
 for prayer.

Tut indicates he rise.

TUT  
 From this day forward, prayer and  
 sacrifice will honor our Gods  
 sufficiently throughout the kingdom.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN  
 I am not sure I understand your  
 meaning, My Lord.

(CONTINUED)



14 CONTINUED:

14

TUT

My people will no longer be forced to  
pay tribute. They will do so at  
their own choosing.

HIGH-PRIEST AMUN

But... it is law.

TUT

My word is law, High Priest.

We can see how this burns Amun -

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

As you desire.

Another look to Ay, then he signals his priests. Tut steps  
now to the alter where he kneels, closing his eyes in prayer.

CUT TO:

15 EXT. MITANNI PALACE GROUNDS - NIGHT

15

Huge torches light the grounds where Lagus and the rest of the  
SLAVES hack away at more trees that have been dragged in for  
the hundreds of smelts.

The effort is even more grueling for Lagus because of the  
chains strapped to both his arms and his legs. From a  
distance, visible from the bright moonlight, he watches a LONG  
COLUMN OF TROOPS marching into a compound.

LAGUS

They are from Kadesh.

Another SLAVE, with an eye gouged out who is chained next to  
him, looks over -

SLAVE

They have been assembling for days.

LAGUS

The Mitanni allies continue to grow -  
twice the number of men than our  
Pharaoh's.

SLAVE

He is no longer our Pharaoh. We are  
no longer Egyptians. We are slaves.  
Soon to die as slaves.

(CONTINUED)

15 CONTINUED:

15

But Lagus has not taken his eyes off those troops.

CUT TO:

16 INT. MITANNI PALACE - NIGHT

16

The Mitanni ruler, KING TUSHRATTA, a large man bedecked in gold jewelry, but also wearing several daggers and knives, is seated on a large dais. Forming a semi-circle around him are a dozen smaller, yet no-less ornate, thrones, each one occupied by one of his TWELVE SONS. They all look of similar age, give or take a few years, all very similar in appearance. A MITANNI GENERAL addresses them.

MITANNI GENERAL

My King, our opportunity is now.  
Never in my life have I seen the  
Egyptians so impotent.

MITANNI PRINCE #1

I agree, Father. Your deception has  
worked, they think we are defeated.  
They bask in their victory, ill-  
prepared.

MITANNI PRINCE #2

They bask in chaos. They have not  
even yet entombed their dead Pharaoh.

King Tushratta puts his hand in the air to silence them.

KING TUSHRATTA

Rumors which turn out to be false.  
Tutankhamun has returned.

The King gets up from his chair. He pours his own wine.  
Drinks from it as all eyes watch him.

KING TUSHRATTA

I have been given twelve great sons,  
from half as many wives. All eager  
for battle and victory - so that we  
may be the first since Teshub created  
the Great Storm that carved our world  
to occupy the mighty Egyptian Empire -  
land that has become more fruitful  
with age.

He indicates his aged wine and swallows the last of it.

(CONTINUED)

16 CONTINUED:

16

KING TUSHRATTA

And you shall savor all of it, my sons. We will sail our ships, feed our children and grow our wine along the banks of the Great River!

His sons and other military personnel in the room cheer.

KING TUSHRATTA

(waits for them to  
quiet)

I have forged alliances that will ensure us victory. I have conquered slaves who now build us the weapons needed for such a war. We are soon to march - and take for ourselves what was once unthinkable!

The men in the room cheer once again.

CUT TO:

17 EXT. MITANNI PALACE GROUNDS - NIGHT

17

Lagus watches through the palace gate as another column of SOLDIERS has massed outside the Palace. He looks around him at the massive walls, walls that make it impossible to escape. Suddenly he grimaces in pain as a whip is cracked across his back.

MITANNI GUARD

Keep your eyes in front of you!

The one-eyed slave next to Lagus speaks just above a whisper.

SLAVE

Why do they drive us to the point of death? What advantage does it give them, only to add another body to the pits.

LAGUS

The pits?

SLAVE

I have delivered the fallen there myself. Rotting flesh for the animals to scrap.

LAGUS

Where are these pits?

(CONTINUED)

17 CONTINUED:

17

SLAVE

Near the forest, beyond these walls,  
so that the smell does not reach the  
Palace.

(beat)

Do you believe a man will be  
delivered to the after world from  
such a place?

LAGUS

At the moment I care little about the  
Gods. They seem to care even less  
whether our flesh rots in a tomb  
dedicated to them, or a hole in the  
ground where the vultures feast.

SLAVE

We are soon to have the latter.  
Another day and there will be no more  
breath in either of us.

LAGUS

I don't have another day to spare.

Lagus gathers the slack in his chains. He then wraps it  
around his neck and pulls from either end, choking himself.

SLAVE

What are you doing?

He tries to stop him, but Lagus kicks the man's knee out from  
him. The Guards see what he is doing and begins to laugh at  
this desperate attempt at suicide.

Lagus's face is purple, gasping, but he is still able to pull  
hard on the chains, a kind of instinctual reflex. Then, to  
the shock of the others near him, he collapses dead.

CUT TO:

18 EXT. MILITARY COMPOUND - DAY

18

Tut and Ay walk with General Yuya past an assembled army  
group. Others train in the background.

TUT

How many have succumb to it?

(CONTINUED)

18 CONTINUED:

18

GENERAL YUYA

As of now, several dozen. When we returned, many were given leave to their families. These men are healthier than most, more resistant. But this illness, it is unlike anything before.

They walk into a large building -

19 INT. MEDICAL WARD - DAY

19

- where we see rows of MILITARY SOLDIERS on mats. Some are coughing, in cold sweats, the color drained from their faces.

Ay keeps Tut back.

AY

This disease cares little for uniform, position or wealth.

GENERAL YUYA

The Gods have at least blessed us in other ways. The Mitanni are still reeling from our victory. There will be sufficient time to heal.

They walk back outside -

20 EXT. MILITARY COMPOUND - DAY

20

Tut and Ay go to their waiting chariots...

TUT

Keep the men in barracks. Any who show symptoms are to be quarantined.

GENERAL YUYA

Yes, my Lord.

TUT

General Yuya.

(beat)

Your commander has been arrested and is to be executed. Ka was your friend and battle mate. But you ask nothing, say nothing.

(CONTINUED)

20 CONTINUED:

20

## GENERAL YUYA

Death comes easily in this world, My Lord. It is not for me to question. I will always live and take command from my Pharaoh.

He gives it a beat, bows and moves on.

## AY

There are others in uniform who do not share his sentiment, which could spread more rapidly than this disease when the General is executed. The man must die, my Lord. But a public display may fan unnecessary flames.

## TUT

Every Egyptian will know he conspired to put Ka on the throne so that they will think twice before attempting the same. Whatever flames are fanned will be extinguished with his last breath.

CUT TO:

21 INT. PIT - DAY

21

Two wide, dead eyes stare into nothing, mouth agape, insects crawling in and out, rats nibbling on flesh. The body sits atop a pile of decaying corpses. Lagus' dead body is among them. But then his eyes blink. His mouth catches breath. He turns slowly. Focuses. His weak hands reach for his throat where the scars are fresh. He finally pulls himself up, reeling at the sight of all the dead slaves. The smell finally catches up with him - his stomach wrenches, vomiting.

Summoning his strength, he stands, stretching for the edge of the pit, but cannot reach it.

Then VOICES. He ducks down. A MITANNI GUARD approaches. Then TWO SLAVES. Lagus lays down among the bodies and pretends to be dead.

The Slaves throws another body into the pit - who lands on top of Lagus, his head twisted awkwardly looking right at him - but with only one eye. It is the same man who was chained next to Lagus. Lagus flinches just a little.

The Guard looks. Waits. Then steps out of view.

(CONTINUED)

21 CONTINUED:

21

Lagus waits as long as he can, then lifts the body off him. He piles it on top of another body, then another, stacking them. Climbs, his fingers just able to secure the edge. He pulls, scratching and clawing until he -

22 EXT. FIELD - NIGHT

22

- at last drags himself out onto the dirt and sand, first looking to be sure there are no Guards nearby.

Fires from the distant Palace are visible, but no sign of anyone. Working to catch his breath, he gets to his feet and staggers toward the nearby woods.

Chariots! Lagus turns and sees TWO GUARDS racing toward him. He tries to run, but his feet will not carry him. Within seconds the chariots are on him. The Guards are almost bemused.

## CHARIOT GUARD

Risen from the dead, have you?

He pulls back his whip and cracks it out at Lagus. But Lagus, in a desperate act of survival, snatches it with his hand, ignoring the pain as his skin is ripped open. He yanks hard, pulling the guard down, then lands on him, snapping his neck.

The other guard reels his chariot around, lifting a spear and charges Lagus. Lagus backpedals, tries to run. The chariot bears down on him. The Guard cocks his spear.

Lagus stops, ducks and lifts a stray piece of timber, jamming it into the chariot's wheels. The cart smashes to pieces, tossing the Guard into the air.

Lagus hurries to him. Takes the spear and thrusts it through his back. He looks around for any others. But the field is now quiet. He moves quickly to the horse. Unties it, then climbs up and rides it bareback into the woods.

CUT TO:

23 INT. PALACE - TUT'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

23

Tut is stripped of his clothes, a gingerly process as his wound is still tender. He winces... looks down and gently touches it.

ANKHE (O.S.)

It has been well dressed.

(CONTINUED)

23 CONTINUED:

23

He looks up. Ankhe has entered his chamber.

ANKHE

For a village girl.

TUT

She knows more about our world than many here. The people beyond these walls are more than mere peasants.

Tut is helped into a large, square tub made of stone. Servants pour oils into it and massage them over his body.

ANKHE

What is her purpose?

Tut does not answer - which is all the answer Ankhe needs. She turns to leave.

TUT

Ankhe.

She stops.

TUT

I know it was you who sent her to the harem chamber. Leave her alone.

Ankhe waits for a moment, then continues out.

CUT TO:

24 INT. PALACE - TERRACE - NIGHT

24

Ay has a fixed, pensive stare out at the Palace grounds where an army unit is training. Nahkt is with him.

NAHKT

He will no longer take your counsel?

AY

His mind is set.

NAHKT

But if half the army is still devoted to General Horemheb, executing him -

(CONTINUED)



24 CONTINUED:

24

AY

(cuts him off)

- Loyalty to the Pharaoh is every Egyptian's duty and oath. They will adhere or suffer the same fate.

NAHKT

I know these men, I have friends among the ranks. They do not believe the General is guilty of conspiring against the Pharaoh. They saw them fight side by side. They believe Ka constructed his own path. His lust for the Queen was no secret.

Ay looks sharply at him. Nahkt steps back.

NAHKT

I'm sorry. I speak above my station.

Ay eases. Puts a calm hand on Nahkt's cheek.

AY

You are my counsel, Nahkt. My sanctuary from the many storms that batter me. Counsel of which I value greatly. Never cease to speak your mind.

(drawing him in)

Will you be spending this night?

Nahkt's face is troubled.

NAHKT

Forgive me. My wife -

AY

- is still not well.

NAHKT

But much improved thanks to the medicine you provided. I have not forgotten my promise. I will be in a better state when she is fully healed.

AY

As will I.

He leans in and kisses him.

CUT TO:

25 EXT. NAHKT'S HOUSE - DAY 25

Nahkt opens the door to his house and steps inside.

26 INT. NAHKT'S HOUSE - DAY 26

He brings a bag of dates to a small table.

NAHKT

Tawy? Sekhet?

He walks to an open bedroom. Tawy is in a small bed, looking better, but still sick.

TAWY

Hello, my love.

He goes to her side. Feels her forehead for warmth.

NAHKT

You are no longer warm. The medicine is working. Where is Sekhet?

TAWY

She won't serve us.

NAHKT

Why? What's happened?

TAWY

She recognized the vial - said it belongs to the Pharaoh, meant only for his body.

NAHKT

But it was a gift from the Grand Vizier.

TAWY

She claims it doesn't matter. She said if it were found amongst our things, I would be imprisoned... or worse.

Nahkt walks to a small cabinet and retrieves the golden vial.

NAHKT

It has saved your life. And until you are fully healed, it will stay with us.

(CONTINUED)

26 CONTINUED:

26

Tawy starts to protest. He stops her -

NAHKT

It is a gift - it will not cause us  
trouble.

He gently lifts her head and gives her more of it.

CUT TO:

27 INT. PALACE - KITCHEN - NIGHT

27

There is bustling of cooks and servants preparing food and taking trays in and out of the large kitchen. Raw meat is tossed about. Stone hearths kick off smoke and heat.

One tray in particular is set with an assortment of meats, then handed to a Servant.

SERVANT

The man is to be executed tomorrow.  
Why is the traitor afforded better  
rations than us?

KITCHEN FOREMAN

The Pharaoh's wish. You'll do as  
you're commanded.

Merwi intercepts -

MERWI

I will take it.

She grabs the tray and starts down the hall.

28 INT. PALACE - DUNGEON - NIGHT

28

Merwi reaches the bottom of the long, winding stairs to the dungeon level. Several Guards stand at attention. One of them inspects the tray, then allows her to pass.

29 INT. PALACE - DUNGEON CELL - NIGHT

29

The door slides open. Horemheb, still chained to the wall, gets to his feet. Merwi enters with two Guards flanked on either side of her. She sets the tray down on the floor, then slides it across to him. But Merwi has another purpose here -

(CONTINUED)

29 CONTINUED:

29

MERWI

I'm supposed to marry one of your men, but he didn't return from the recent battle. His name -

GUARD

Keep quiet!

The Guard grabs her by the arm, pulling her out.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

What is his name, good lady?

MERWI

Lagus.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

I knew Lagus. He did not return with us because he didn't survive.

Merwi's face drops, her eyes welling up with tears as the Guards pull her through the door.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

He was a brave man. And loyal to your Pharaoh. Take heart in that.

As the door is about to be closed -

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Wait.

Merwi yanks herself free, holding the door long enough for the General to speak.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

There are no windows to know the time. They will not tell me. How much longer do I have?

MERWI

The moon is mid-sky.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Mere hours.

Merwi is pulled back and the door is slammed shut.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Hours...

CUT TO:

30 EXT. DESERT LANDSCAPE - DAY 30

Lagus is slumped over the horse. His skin is scabbed from the unrelenting sun, his lips chapped and swollen. Then - he slides off the horse, landing unconscious in the sand. A moment later the horse collapses as well.

CUT TO:

31 EXT. PALACE - COURTYARD - DAY 31

An execution spike, stained with dried blood, is being secured below a wooden platform by Royal Guards. A LARGE CROWD waits with anticipation.

32 INT. PALACE - CORRIDOR - DAY 32

Tut walks with Ay. The sound of the crowd emanates within the Palace walls. Two Servants fit Tut with a royal headdress and golden vest.

33 EXT. PALACE - COURTYARD - DAY 33

The doors to the Palace swing open. Tut is escorted out by a dozen Royal Guards. The crowd cheers his arrival.

He walks to the same dais where his father once sat when another traitor was executed many years ago. Ay finds his own seat next to him. Tut looks around at the crowd, then whispers to Ay...

TUT

Sparse for such an event.

AY

The General is still considered a hero among many, My Lord.

Tut turns to one of the Royal Guards -

TUT

Bring him!

Four ROYAL GUARDS stand at attention outside a large door that leads into the place from the courtyard.

34 INT. PALACE - DUNGEON CELL - DAY 34

Horemheb is standing - ready to face what is coming as the door swings open. His TWO GUARDS unlock his chains from the wall and take him from the room.

35 INT. PALACE - DUNGEON - DAY 35

His hands still bound, he is escorted down the long, dingy corridor, past other GUARDS who remain.

36 EXT. PALACE - COURTYARD - DAY 36

The crowd is CHANTING NOW. The Guards wait outside the door. Tut and Ay watch in anticipation.

37 INT. PALACE - TERRACE - DAY 37

Ankhe watches from a balcony.

CUT TO:

38 INT. PALACE - CORRIDOR - DAY 38

Another dark, long corridor - at the end of which is the door that leads to the courtyard... and his death. The expression on the General's face has not wavered.

39 EXT. PALACE - COURTYARD - DAY 39

The chanting is louder - the crowd growing impatient, beginning to call out and heckle for the execution to begin.

40 INT. PALACE - CORRIDOR - DAY 40

Horemheb and the two Guards stop at the door and wait.

41 EXT. PALACE - COURTYARD - DAY 41

Finally the doors open. The crowd cheers.

Tut leans forward. But then -

- the crowd goes silent. Behind the door - there is no one.

42 INT. PALACE - CORRIDOR - DAY 42

The door in front of General Horemheb swings all the way open -

43 EXT. PALACE - OPEN AREA - DAY 43

- to reveal a smaller courtyard and General Yuya. He lifts a dagger and cuts the ropes that bind Horemheb's wrists. The Two Guards close the door behind them and shed the colors of the Royal Guard.

GENERAL YUYA

Quickly.

They move swiftly to another building across the way.

CUT TO:

44 EXT. PALACE - COURTYARD - DAY 44

Tut takes several steps toward the empty doorway. His jaw clenches...

TUT

Find General Yuya! Seal the gates!

CUT TO:

45 INT. PALACE - OUTBUILDING - DAY 45

Yuya leads Horemheb and the conspirators to a small, outer gate where a GUARD is posted. He sees them coming, confused by the sight of these men...

GENERAL YUYA

Guard - do you know who this man is?

GUARD

Yes... he is to be executed -

Yuya uses the distraction to drive a dagger into the young man's stomach, dropping him to the stone floor.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Not today.

He steals the keys and opens the gate. They all slip out.

CUT TO:

46 EXT. WOODEN AREA - DAY

46

General Yuya hurries Horemheb along through towering palm trees. They reach a clearing where SEVERAL MORE SOLDIERS are waiting with chariots and horses. Horemheb pauses for a moment to take in the sight... then grabs the reigns of his chariot, steps onto it -

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Ride!

CUT TO:

47 INT. PALACE - LONG HALL - DAY

47

Tut moves quickly with Ay and his Royal Guards.

TUT

Send couriers to the outlands and  
give warning to the border troops.

AY

There is still time to cut off his  
escape.

TUT

Escape is not his intent.

CUT TO:

48 EXT. THEBES - MILITARY COMPOUND - DAY

48

Tut's carriage, pulled by horses that kick up a cloud of dust, races past the entry way into the compound. Nearby citizens and merchants watch on curiously. The carriage is followed by Royal Guards in individual chariots.

They all come to a stop outside the large barracks. Tut and Ay climb out. Tut's eyes scan the compound... which is quiet and empty of any soldiers. He hurries into the barracks building.

49 INT. BARRACKS - DAY

49

Row after row of beds and weapon racks. Empty.

Tut is crestfallen.

CUT TO:



50 EXT. FLATLANDS - DAY

50

Horemheb and Yuya slow their chariots to a stop as they approach an encampment. Horemheb's eyes cannot hide his delight. General Yuya proudly revels in the moment.

There in front of them, waiting for their General's return, are at least a THOUSAND SOLDIERS.

GENERAL YUYA

I promised you your army. With it I  
promise the throne itself.

The men raise their weapons in the air and let out a wild  
CHEER.

CUT TO:

51 INT. PALACE - ROYAL COURT - NIGHT

51

Merwi comes out from a side corridor with a stone pitcher of wine. WE FOLLOW HER to Tut, seated on his throne, and fills his glass. Ankhe is next to him, along with a contingent of Guards that surround the room. But unlike so many times before when there has been music and dancing to entertain and offer ambiance, the room is quiet and cold.

As Merwi disappears back into the kitchen, Ay approaches.

AY

The outer compound is also abandoned.

TUT

How many remain?

AY

Perhaps two hundred men, some of whom are ripe with sickness. But they are loyal to you, my Lord - proven by the fact that they did not join the desertion.

TUT

It is not a desertion. It is a rebellion. Two hundred against a thousand. He will organize his men and he will march on Thebes.

AY

We have a standing army in every city. Recall them here.

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

TUT

Word has already been sent. The General knows that. He will make his move before they can reach us.

A SERVANT comes in through the entryway and bows before Tut.

SERVANT

My Lord - a rider has emerged from the desert. The man barely breathes, but has demanded an audience.

TUT

*Demands* an audience?

SERVANT

He says he is a loyal soldier in your army.

TUT

A rare find -

SERVANT

He says his name is Lagus.

Tut reacts -

TUT

Bring him here.

The Servant goes back - and quickly returns with Lagus.

He makes his way slowly toward Tut and the others. His face is scraped and scared, chapped from the relenting sun, his lips parched, his clothing torn. But he does not stammer, walking with pride.

Tut steps down from the throne to greet him.

TUT

You have traveled far enough. It is good to see you, my friend.

LAGUS

And you, My Lord. There is much to tell you.

TUT

It can wait until you've recovered.

(CONTINUED)

51 CONTINUED:

51

LAGUS

No, it cannot. The Mitanni have not retreated, my Lord. It was a trick to make us think they were defeated. The King lays in wait, forming alliances with other nations, forging enough weapons for ten thousand men.

TUT

You've witnessed this?

LAGUS

I was their prisoner. I managed to escape. I beat the desert with the help of a merchant. We didn't stop until we reached the gates of Thebes.

Merwi comes out with more wine. When she sees him, she drops the jug, shattering it against the floor.

Lagus takes a step toward her, but falls to the floor. Merwi rushing to his aid, taking him into her arms.

MERWI

Lagus! Please, help him!!

Servants rush to his side -

TUT

Bring him to my physician.

CUT TO:

52 EXT. ENCAMPMENT - NIGHT

52

A few makeshift tents. Men gathered around fires, assembling weapons and equipment.

53 INT. HOREMHEB'S TENT - NIGHT

53

Horemheb, Yuya and other OFFICERS are gathered around a map. Yuya points to an area south of Thebes.

GENERAL YUYA

Here we'll have protection from the hills until we are ready to march. There are still others who will join you, General.

(CONTINUED)

53 CONTINUED:

53

GENERAL HOREMHEB

And others who will remain loyal to  
the Pharaoh. From Memphis and  
Herakleopolis.

GENERAL YUYA

Too far away to be of any concern if  
we move quickly.

There is hesitation on Horemheb's part. Uncomfortable.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

What of the Mitanni?

GENERAL YUYA

There is nothing. The borderlands  
are quiet.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Send a spy to Memphis. We must be  
sure the Mitanni have not taken  
advantage. Word of what we've done  
will have already reached them.

GENERAL YUYA

General, if we waste any time -

GENERAL HOREMHEB

- when an army marches forward, it  
must also know what is at its back.

He can see the frustration on Yuya's face and tries to ease  
his concern.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Move our camp as you suggested.  
Organize our men. Tell them we are  
soon to march on Thebes and claim the  
city as our own.

Yuya grins - pleased - and steps out.

CUT TO:

54 INT. PALACE - TUT'S CHAMBER - NIGHT

54

Tut comes into his chamber followed by a dozen servants.  
Suhad is waiting for him. He pauses at the sight of her.

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

SUHAD

Are you in danger?

TUT

We are all in danger.

He reaches out his hand. She takes it and sits with him.

TUT

I fear there will never be a time  
when my grandchildren will know  
peace.

SUHAD

Not as long as men settle every  
dispute with blades and arrows.

TUT

A sharp blade is best defended with a  
sharper one.

SUHAD

Do not mock me, Tutankhamun. I have  
not yet decided whether I will be  
your wife.

Tut manages a smile.

SUHAD

Is there no way to stop him?

TUT

He is intent on removing me from  
power. And now the Mitanni maneuver  
in the North. We cannot stand  
against them if we are divided.

SUHAD

You told me at the pyramids you  
desire peace and prosperity for your  
people - that you would be remembered  
as a great Pharaoh. Greatness cannot  
be seen only in their eyes - but in  
the eyes of your enemies as well.

TUT

The enemy measures greatness in  
strength. Right now they see only  
weakness.

(CONTINUED)

54 CONTINUED:

54

SUHAD

Aren't there other ways to show strength? If you want peace, then offer it.

TUT

From an enemy who won't take it?

SUHAD

Then offer the Mitanni something else. Bridge your differences and turn them into an ally. That, my Pharaoh, would be a measure of great strength.

Tut's mind is suddenly churning...

CUT TO:

55 INT. PALACE - ROYAL COURT - DAY

55

Ankhe is sitting in her throne, alone with Tut in the great chamber. He paces...

ANKHE

Herit?

TUT

I cannot fight a war against such a force while half my army makes preparations to march against me. This could avoid annihilation.

ANKHE

You seek an alliance with the Mitanni?

TUT

King Tushratta has many unwed sons. She would become a powerful Queen. An ally.

She stands. Approaches Tut.

ANKHE

What inspired this idea?

Tut avoids a direct answer.

(CONTINUED)

55 CONTINUED:

55

TUT

I know it is made with great  
sacrifice to you. She is your  
friend.

ANKHE

We have always sacrificed what we  
hold dear, brother. Our own, deepest  
desires are the only privileges we  
were denied at birth, aren't they?

She kisses him. It is only a simple kiss at first, but she  
lets it linger gently for a moment, something that surprises  
Tut.

ANKHE

Do not forget that through it all we  
are the only ones who truly know  
that... and that above all else, we  
only have each other.

She offers a sincere, comforting smile, then walks away.

CUT TO:

56 INT. PALACE - ANKHE'S CHAMBER - DAY

56

Herit is seated, a somber look on her face. Ankhe circles  
her.

ANKHE

Don't think my heart isn't heavy.  
It was not my choice. But if  
successful, as shared blood, you and  
I will forever be united. Our  
children will hold dear to that  
kindred bond - and as their mothers,  
we will have great power.

HERIT

Then the decision is made.

ANKHE

The overture has already been sent to  
the King Tushratta.

Herit rises. Ankhe takes her hands, both holding back tears.

HERIT

I will miss you.

(CONTINUED)

56 CONTINUED:

56

ANKHE

When this business of men is settled,  
we will be together again.

This, at least, brings a smile of comfort to Herit's face.

CUT TO:

57 EXT. PALACE BALCONY - DAY

57

Ankhe watches as Herit, riding in a carriage, astride more  
than FIFTY SERVANTS, moves off toward the city gates.

58 INT. CARRIAGE - DAY

58

Herit glances back. She forces a smile, then stares ahead,  
her mind entrenched in thoughts of this new endeavor.

59 EXT. PALACE BALCONY - DAY

59

Ankhe's eyes are stoic as she watches her go. Ay steps out  
onto the balcony with her.

AY

The Mitanni are skilled at making you  
believe their word - only for it to  
be proven false.

ANKHE

A lesson Tutankhamun has yet to  
learn.

He knows what she is referring to...

ANKHE

Not only does she have his heart, she  
has his ear.

AY

And his trust. I worry she counsels  
him to the benefit of the enemy.

ANKHE

What can be done?

AY

All enemies are vulnerable when given  
false trust. Perhaps you should  
avail yourself to such an advantage.

(CONTINUED)



59 CONTINUED:

59

They stare long and hard at one another until Ay finally leaves her to her own thoughts.

CUT TO:

60 INT. PALACE - MEDICAL WARD - DAY

60

Lagus is awake, but still not fully recovered. Merwi is by his side, gently cleaning one of his many wounds. Tut enters. Merwi quickly stands, bows. Lagus attempts the same.

TUT

Stay as you are. Both of you.

MERWI

My Lord.

She goes back to Lagus.

TUT

I'm pleased to see you've recovered.

LAGUS

As am I to see Thebes again.

His eyes fall to Merwi, who blushes.

TUT

When you are well enough, I'll have you at my side. There are few I can trust.

LAGUS

I'm honored, My Lord.

Tut grasps his hand in a show of gratitude, then walks out.

CUT TO:

61 EXT. PALACE GARDEN - DAY

61

Suhad is walking through colorful flowers, observing some nearby servants constructing new planters. Her eyes take in other parts of the Palace grounds. Ministers and Noblemen walk in conference with each other. A group of dogs chase each other. Some children play tag.

Then she notices two large statues - one of Tut and another of Ankhe - carved from stone.

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

61

ANKHE (O.S.)

I don't think it looks at all like  
Tutankhamun.

Suhad turns. Ankhe, surrounded as always by several maidens,  
is there. Suhad is unsettled by her presence.

ANKHE

But mine is a striking resemblance,  
don't you think?

SUHAD

I don't have an eye for these things.

ANKHE

No... I wouldn't expect you could  
appreciate our culture here coming  
from such a small village.

SUHAD

It was enough just to put food on the  
table... my Queen.

Ankhe reaches out and takes Suhad's hand -

ANKHE

I noticed the calluses on your hands.  
Do the women work?

SUHAD

(gently pulls her hand  
away)

Something I take great pride in.

ANKHE

The same pride as your Mitanni  
heritage?

SUHAD

As well as my Egyptian.

Ankhe laughs quietly.

ANKHE

The two are not equal. We are  
Egyptians here. The greatest kingdom  
the world has ever known. Looked  
upon with envy for our technology,  
our great temples, our...

(to the statues)

...art. More than anything, our  
happiness. I hope you will find it.

(CONTINUED)

61 CONTINUED:

61

She starts to leave.

SUHAD

Even if I become the Pharaoh's wife?

Ankhe turns back. Gives her a pointed look.

ANKHE

Second wife.

With daggers in her eyes, she walks away.

CUT TO:

62 EXT. ENCAMPMENT - DAY

62

Horemheb walks with General Yuya through the camp as their men train and assemble in the background.

GENERAL YUYA

The Pharaoh's bribe of King Tushratta proves he is too weak to fight.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

It proves he is wise, General Yuya. They have assembled allies. Their army is now twice its size.

GENERAL YUYA

And ours divided in two.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

But the Boy King has given us an advantage. His overture allows us to turn our full force on Thebes. Once Tutankhamun has fallen and I have united the Egyptian Army, I will invade the Mitanni and their allies and take what is ours.

Horemheb continues to deliberate this in his mind for a moment. Then...

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Prepare the men.

Yuya nods - then quickly leaves to deliver the order.

CUT TO:

63 INT. PALACE - ROYAL COURT - DAY

63

Tut is with Ay and his ministers. A SCOUT, whose skin is caked with dust from a recent ride, stands before them.

TUT

How far?

SCOUT

Four days, maybe five. They have been hiding South along the breaks of the river.

TUT

A thousand men don't hide. They wait.

(pauses)

And my armies from the North?

The scout hesitates.

TUT

Speak!

SCOUT

There are reports that many have abandoned our cause to join the General. Those who remain loyal are more than a weeks ride.

AY

Then we are outnumbered.

Tut looks at him...

TUT

But not yet outmaneuvered.

CUT TO:

64 EXT. FLATLANDS - DAY

64

The landscape stretches out before them. Horemheb stands tall in his chariot, leading two columns of men a thousand deep.

CUT TO:

65 EXT. PALACE GROUNDS - DAY

65

Tut walks with Lagus and Ay -

(CONTINUED)

65 CONTINUED:

65

TUT

Horemheb will spread his troops - his numbers are too great and ours too few to make a stand along the perimeter of the city. But we must delay them. Then we will make our move here. He must think we are in retreat.

AY

I still am not clear on this strategy, My Lord.

TUT

(look at Lagus)

Are you?

LAGUS

Very clear.

He offers Tut a slight bow, then leaves. Ay is still concerned.

AY

If your intent it to draw him here to the Palace, you will be trapped. The General will know that and take advantage.

TUT

Which is what I'm counting on.  
 (walks off to join some  
 waiting Archers)  
 See to the others as I have  
 instructed.

CUT TO:

66 EXT. THEBES - STREET - DAY

66

An ARMY COMMANDER is shouting to all the people going about their business.

ARMY COMMANDER

Clear the streets! By decree of the Pharaoh, all are to be in their homes! Clear the streets!

Vendors begin closing shops. People hurry to find shelter.

CUT TO:

67 EXT. THEBES - GATES - DAY 67

The gates are closed. Timbers are secured over latches.

68 EXT. THEBES - ATOP THE CITY GATE - DAY 68

Archers move into position, spreading out along the entire length of the wall. But their numbers are thin.

CUT TO:

69 EXT. THEBES - STREET - DAY 69

Lagus leads Merwi past the Palace walls into the street where people continue to scurry.

MERWI

You are not fully healed.

LAGUS

I am healed enough and I am needed.  
Go to our home. Lock yourself in.  
If we fall, the General will not harm  
the people of this city.

Merwi draws him into an embrace. Will not let him go.

MERWI

I cannot bear to lose you again.

LAGUS

You won't. I promise. I kept my  
last promise, didn't I?

She manages a smile. He kisses her, then hurries off.

CUT TO:

70 EXT. STREETS OF THEBES - DAY 70

Nahkt hurries through a crowd of people. He has to leap out of the way while crossing a street as a nobleman nearly runs him over in a chariot.

71 EXT. NAHKT'S HOUSE - DAY

71

Nahkt is about to open the door to his small abode, when he notices it is already ajar. He swings it the rest of the way open.

NAHKT

Tawy?

72 INT. NAHKT'S HOUSE - DAY

72

He takes a careful step inside.

NAHKT

Tawy, why is the door open?

There is no answer. Into the main room - and he sees everything has been strewn about. Tables and cabinets have been turned over. He hurries to the bedroom.

NAHKT

Tawy!

The bedroom is empty. Panicked now, he turns and is startled by Sekhet, the old nursemaid who was caring for Tawy.

NAHKT

Where is she?

SEKHET

They took her.

NAHKT

Who?!

SEKHET

Palace Guards. She should never have possessed the Pharaoh's medicine. I warned her. She is to be executed!

Nahkt shoves the old woman against the wall, his hands squeezing the air from her throat.

NAHKT

You betrayed us!

SEKHET

(choking)

They knew of it! As well they should have! I warned her!

(CONTINUED)

72 CONTINUED:

72

Nahkt lets her go and hurries out the door. Sekhet drops to the floor, gasping for breath.

CUT TO:

73 INT. PALACE - TUT'S CHAMBER - DAY

73

Tut is being fitted with his chest plate and battle leather. Suhad is in the room with him.

SUHAD

If a fight cannot be avoided, then let me help. You have seen my skill with a bow.

TUT

Against game that did not shoot arrows back. You and the Queen will go with Ay. The Temple will be safe from any attack.

Ankhe enters the room.

ANKHE

We must go now. As our Pharaoh has demanded.

Ankhe approaches Tut.

ANKHE

You stand now for our grandfather's father and his father before him.

She kisses him. Suhad, frustrated by this, walks out.

CUT TO:

74 EXT. STREETS OF THEBES - DAY

74

The streets are quiet. A few stray dogs roam.

75 EXT. THEBES - ATOP THE CITY GATE - DAY

75

Tut climbs up from a small stairs in the center of the wall to an outlook above the city gates. Lagus is there.

LAGUS

Nothing yet, my Lord.

(CONTINUED)



75 CONTINUED:

75

The archers are lined up along the wall on either side of them. Both men are fixed on the open land beyond - a dry, desert landscape with a sprinkling of twisted palms. There is not a sound.

CUT TO:

76 EXT. TEMPLE - DAY

76

Ay leads Ankhe and Suhad and a contingent of Royal Guards to the entrance where they are greeted by the High Priest Amun.

HIGH PRIEST AMUN

You will have sanctuary here.

He bows respectfully, then leads them inside.

77 EXT. TEMPLE BALCONY - DAY

77

They all step out into the sunlight where they have a view of the Palace and the CITY GATE beyond.

CUT TO:

78 EXT. THEBES - ABOVE THE CITY GATE - DAY

78

Each moment under the relenting sun seems like an eternity.

LAGUS

To escape the Mitanni, I walked with Osiris to the after world. It was a risk that could have gone either way - a lot like the one you take now.

Tut is quiet for a beat.

TUT

I have seen Osiris too. I have walked with him. From death there is always new life.

Tut senses something. He looks down at his hand. Clenches his fist, then opens it again.

LAGUS

What is it, my Lord?

TUT

They are here.

(CONTINUED)

78 CONTINUED:

78

Lagus looks. He sees nothing. But then he feels it too. A slight vibration now at their feet. Then, on the horizon, a dust cloud begins to emerge.

A TOWER WATCHMAN points -

TOWER WATCHMAN  
Mark! Two columns! East!

Then ANOTHER WATCHMAN from a far corner post.

SECOND WATCHMAN  
Mark! One column! South!

ANOTHER WATCHMAN hardly audible from across the city.

THIRD WATCHMAN  
Mark! Two columns! West!

TUT  
He will split them again. Keep your positions!

79 EXT. DESERT LANDSCAPE - DAY

79

Horemheb leads TWO COLUMNS of soldiers on his chariot, the men marching at a steady pace across the dry, hard land, dust and dirt kicked up around them. He raises his spear into the air -

GENERAL HOREMHEB  
Divert!

A large portion of his men break from the others, forming yet another column that re-directs itself to a different section of the city walls.

80 EXTREME WIDE FROM ABOVE - THE CITY OF THEBES

80

Now EIGHT DIFFERENT COLUMNS of SOLDIERS and CHARIOTS circle the city - like ants attacking a scorpion.

81 EXT. THEBES - ATOP THE CITY GATE - DAY

81

Tut and Lagus watch intensely as Horemheb's column grows nearer. Another shout from one of the watchmen...

WATCHMAN  
Three columns South!

(CONTINUED)

81 CONTINUED:

81

Tut glances down the line at the archers to his left. He can see that they are nervous at the sheer number of men approaching. He turns to Lagus.

TUT

You know your part.

Lagus nods. He quickly moves down the wall in the other direction. Tut stays where he is.

TUT

Hold tight, men. Wait.

82 EXT. DESERT LANDSCAPE - DAY

82

The huge CITY GATE looms now in front of Horemheb. He raises a clenched fist into the air -

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Halt!

They come to a stop.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Archers, position!

A line of men spread out, drawing their arrows back.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Release!

A FLURRY OF ARROWS rises up through the bright, blue sky.

83 EXT. THEBES - ATOP THE CITY GATE - DAY

83

It is like a giant flock of birds arching their way -

TUT

Shield!

The men drop to one knee and cover themselves with small shields. Arrows slice down around them, dropping a handful of men.

TUT

Hold!

84 EXT. DESERT LANDSCAPE - DAY 84

Horemheb continues the march, closing in on the gate.

85 EXT. THEBES - ATOP THE CITY GATE 85

Tut watches their approach. He waits. Then...

TUT

Mark! Release!

His own archers let off a round.

WE FOLLOW THE ARROWS through the air as they land throughout Horemheb's ranks, dropping fifty men.

But they continue forward, reaching the wall and quickly begin to spread out.

Tut's men rearm and fire. ARROWS and SPEARS sail through the air. Several more of Tut's men are hit, crumbling to their knees and falling off the wall.

Horemheb steps off his chariot.

Tut watches him. For a moment their eyes meet before Tut breaks away, taking up a new position.

CUT TO:

86 EXT. TEMPLE BALCONY - DAY 86

Ay watches, just able to see Tut's men on the wall and the distant sound of battle. Ankhe paces nervously. Suhad stands alone.

ANKHE

You are certain he will not attack this temple?

AY

It is the Palace the General wants. And the Pharaoh.

Suhad looks up at him. Then turns her worried look back to the battle.

CUT TO:

87 EXT. THEBES - ANOTHER PART OF THE WALL - DAY 87

Where Lagus paces down his line of his men as a COLUMN OF SOLDIERS close in and begin to lift wooden ladders.

LAGUS

Fire!

Stones rain down on the attackers from sling shots. Spears slice through flesh. But the damage is minimal. Eight ladders are quickly propped up against the wall - strategically just short of the edge so that the defenders cannot push them off.

88 EXT. OUTSIDE THE CITY GATE - DAY 88

Horemheb's men are ramming the gate with a LARGE TIMBER.

89 EXT. THEBES - ATOP THE CITY GATE - DAY 89

Ladders have been positioned up and down the wall here as well. Tut yells out to his men -

TUT

Reposition!

They quickly retreat down stairways and off the wall.

90 EXT. THEBES - ANOTHER PART OF THE WALL - DAY 90

Lagus gives the same order -

LAGUS

Retreat! Off the wall!

He waits for the last man before following them down. Behind them, the first of the attackers have scaled the wall.

CUT TO:

91 EXT. PALACE GATE - DAY 91

Tut is now back at the Palace, standing outside the gate, ready as his men file into the Palace grounds.

92 EXT. THEBES - ATOP THE CITY GATE - DAY 92

Horemheb's men climb up from their ladders only to see that the defenses have been abandoned.

93 EXT. THEBES - CITY GATE - DAY 93

A final crash from the timber and the gate is smashed open. The rest of Horemheb's men funnel in.

Several people, despite the warnings, have ventured out to see Horemheb and his army taking the city. Horemheb rides through on his chariot. General Yuya rides up next to him from a different direction.

GENERAL YUYA

They have retreated into the Palace  
like cowering dogs.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Then we will finish it there.

94 EXT. THEBES - STREET - DAY 94

Horemheb's men make their way quickly through the streets. Vending carts and crates are knocked over in their wake.

A stray dog is nearly run over.

CUT TO:

95 EXT. TEMPLE BALCONY - DAY 95

Ankhe, Suhad, Ay and Amun watch as Horemheb's army now comes into view - hundreds of men streaming in from several different streets, riding past the temple in a cloud of dust.

ANKHE

He has made it too easy for them.

SUHAD

You give up on the Pharaoh too soon.

Ankhe considers her response...

ANKHE

Far from it.

(CONTINUED)

95 CONTINUED: 95

Suhad feels the weight of her stare and looks away.

CUT TO:

96 EXT. OUTSIDE THE PALACE GATE - DAY 96

Tut waits as Lagus arrives. He is the last.

LAGUS

They are coming this way.

Tut pulls him through the gate.

97 EXT. PALACE - COURTYARD - DAY 97

Tut turns to his men as the gate is closed behind them.

TUT

Take your positions!

98 EXT. OUTSIDE THE PALACE GATE - DAY 98

Horemheb and Yuya arrive. The battering ram is positioned. They begin to bash their way through. Excess pieces are quickly pulled away, knocking the gate to the ground. Horemheb raises his spear -

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Take them!

99 EXT. PALACE - COURTYARD - DAY 99

The army funnels through the gate, their daggers and spears drawn, ready for bloodshed.

But the large, open courtyard is empty. Their battle cries go silent, all of them looking in every direction, taken aback.

Horemheb and Yuya emerge through the chaos as more and more men continue to filter in. Horemheb manages a thin smile at this small reversal of fortune - *the Pharaoh proves himself yet again.*

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Keep a hundred men at the gate. If he chooses to trap himself within the corridors of his own Palace, so be it. We will fight room to room.

100 INT. PALACE - ROYAL COURT - DAY 100

Horemheb leads a battalion of men into the room. It too is empty. Of everyone. Eerily quiet. His eyes fall to the throne - which seems so large and cold at the moment.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Search every room - every antechamber. They have not vanished into thin air.

101 INT. PALACE - CORRIDOR - DAY 101

Dozens of soldiers march down the long hallways, stopping at every room along the way.

CUT TO:

102 INT. PALACE - DUNGEON - DAY 102

Tut leads his men through the corridors of the dimly lit dungeon. They can hear the shouts of Horemheb's men in the Palace above.

They finally cram together. Lagus and Tut share a look as if to ask each other *will this work?*

103 INT. PALACE - TUT'S CHAMBER - DAY 103

Horemheb bursts into Tut's room with fifty men behind him. They fan out, but it too is devoid of a single soul.

Now Horemheb is frustrated. And for the first time we begin to see a crack in his confidence. But then -

GENERAL HOREMHEB

The dungeons! They are hiding in the dungeons!

104 INT. PALACE - DUNGEON - DAY 104

Horemheb's men crisscross through the halls. A few prisoners remain in their cells, but no one else.

Tut, Lagus and his men are gone.

Horemheb and Yuya meet at an intersection.

(CONTINUED)



104 CONTINUED:

104

GENERAL YUYA

Did Horus himself dig them out?!

That is when General Horemheb's eyes fall on a small exit into a small tunnel - that has been caved in.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

He didn't have to. Out! Get out of the Palace! Get back out through the gate beyond the walls!

105 EXT. PALACE - COURTYARD - DAY

105

The hundreds of men file out from the various buildings and corridors into the open air of the courtyard. Horemheb stops in his tracks. The soldiers who were left to guard the gate, are huddled together - unarmed.

The General's gaze turns upward - where along the walls and on every rooftop, Tut's men have surrounded them with burning arrows.

Horemheb's army takes aim with their own arrows.

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Wait!

(noticing now a liquid silt throughout the courtyard)

He has laced it with tar.

General Yuya takes a step back. He can smell it too.

GENERAL YUYA

How did they get past us?

GENERAL HOREMHEB

They didn't, you fool. The Pharaoh has been sneaking out through a secret tunnel since he was a child.

106 FROM THE PALACE WALL

106

Tut looks down at him, standing next to Lagus, flanked by his archers who are armed and ready.

TUT

I will see the Palace and all inside it destroyed before I cede it to you!

(CONTINUED)

GENERAL HOREMHEB

Release your arrows then! They cannot burn us all! My men will climb these walls. You are still outnumbered!

TUT

Agreed! But you have my word, General Horemheb... you will be the first to fall!

(gives it a beat)

Your move.

It's everything Horemheb can do not to give the command.

Tut continues to walk the wall, shouting down at him.

TUT

The great pyramids were built by our ancestors! Stone by stone, each supporting the other. Remove one and they crumble! These men are now the stones of history! Is this what is to become of them? Are we to cut our own veins, let the blood of Egypt flow into the Nile for the Mitanni to drink?

GENERAL HOREMHEB

One enemy at a time... *my Lord!*

TUT

Precisely.

There is no turning back -

But then... the light sound of DRUMS in the distance. Both Tut and Lagus take a careful look. From their vantage point, Tut can see a small retinue approaching.

Horemheb hears the drumming now too, but from where he is positioned, he cannot see anything.

Tut can now make out what looks like Herit standing atop a litter being carried by people. The DRUMMERS lead the way, playing a soft cadence, a tradition in announcing such an arrival.

LAGUS

Herit? Why would she return?

Tut watches carefully.

107 EXT. TEMPLE BALCONY - DAY 107

Ankhe, Ay, Suhad and Amun watch from their perch.

108 EXT. PALACE COURTYARD - DAY 108

Atop the wall, Tut calls to his men.

TUT  
General! Just you....

Lagus looks at him. Tut leans in, whispers...

TUT  
Be prepared to launch the arrows on  
your own command.

Lagus nods. Tut climbs down the wall.

109 EXT. OUTSIDE THE PALACE GATE - DAY 109

Tut watches as the gate is opened and General Horemheb walks through. He stops short of Tut. It is, for the moment, a détente as they watch the retinue arrive. The sound of the drums slows and gets softer and softer.

The DRUMMERS finally stop and step aside. Silence as Herit comes into full view - tall and erect above the litter. Tall and erect because she has been impaled through a stake, her eyes bulging awkwardly with the spear protruding out from her mouth.

110 EXT. TEMPLE BALCONY - DAY 110

Ankhe sees it. She covers her mouth, letting out a short gasp, then turns and hurries inside the temple. The others stare in shock.

111 EXT. OUTSIDE THE PALACE GATE - DAY 111

Tut cannot take his eyes off the gruesome face of his murdered cousin.

SLAM TO BLACK:

END OF HOUR THREE