

# **TUMANBAY**

Episode 3.02 - "Two Moons"

by

Mike Walker

Series created and written by  
John Dryden & Mike Walker

Goldhawk Productions Ltd  
info@goldhawk.eu

Fires are burning. A wind whistles. A wounded PRISONER begs BALARAC SERGEANT 1 for water.

PRISONER  
Water, please, water...

BALARAC SERGEANT 1  
No water for you, my friend, you've  
a longer journey ahead of you and  
God's judgement at the end of it.  
Come with me.

He GRABS the man and DRAGS him through the devastation then comes to a HALT before AMALRIC.

BALARAC SERGEANT 1 (CONT'D)  
The castle is secured, Grand  
Master.

The Prisoner is MOANING.

AMALRIC  
What is this?

BALARAC SERGEANT 1  
One left alive, as you ordered,  
Grand Master.

AMALRIC  
Out of all, just one. How error  
spreads, how our task grows.

PRISONER  
My Lord, mercy, have mercy, I was  
taken, they made me fight, I had no  
choice. They would have killed me  
if I had not.

AMALRIC  
Then you had a choice, my friend.

The Prisoner WEEPS.

PRISONER  
I was afraid.

AMALRIC  
(compassionate)  
Oh, do not fear death, it is but a  
moment in a journey between here  
and there. However the road that  
leads to that quick moment, that is  
something different.

PRISONER  
My Lord...

AMALRIC

It is necessary that the people of  
this country learn what it means to  
go against the Balarac.

(beat)

Cut off his hands.

BALARAC SERGEANT 1

Grand Master.

AMALRIC

And his nose and ears, put out  
eyes, brand him with our sigil so  
that all shall know.

The Prisoner is HUSTLED away - we hear his SCREAMS and cries  
under the following:

AMALRIC (CONT'D)

Very good. Call the brothers. I  
will address them.

BALARAC SERGEANT 1

At your command.

(bellows)

Brothers, to the Master!

The Balarac knights GATHER together. The wind is loud.

AMALRIC

Brothers, the devil comes in many  
disguises. Some of you will feel a  
certain satisfaction, perhaps even  
pride at the battle you have won  
this day. Perhaps you wish to  
celebrate? I warn you: be cautious  
of these feelings. Purge them from  
your souls. If you cannot, expose  
your flesh to the cold winds until  
the ice stings your pride.

A soldier is passing, HERDING a group of women and children  
who are WEEPING and crying out.

AMALRIC (CONT'D)

What is this, who are these people?  
I was told there were no prisoners.  
Sergeant?

BALARAC SERGEANT 1

Villagers, Grand Master.

AMALRIC

So?

BALARAC SERGEANT 1

They were caught up in the battle,  
Sir.

(MORE)

BALARAC SERGEANT 1 (CONT'D)

They say they are believers, I was going to send them on their way.

Amalric CLUMPS across to them like an engine of destruction. He accosts MARTHA.

AMALRIC

You, Woman, what is your name?

MARTHA

Martha, my Lord.

AMALRIC

And these people?

MARTHA

Women and children of our tribe. We were taken and made slaves.

AMALRIC

Slavery is an abomination. You are a believer?

MARTHA

All of us, my Lord.

AMALRIC

Can you then recite the Balarac creed. Or do you only wish to save your skins?

A pause which extends until it is almost unbearable, then, hesitantly, Martha begins to SPEAK in a strange language, gaining fluency as she goes on.

AMALRIC (CONT'D)

Good, very good.

BALARAC SERGEANT 1

Shall I release them, Grand Master?

AMALRIC

Of course and see they have what provisions they need. And shelter, ensure that is done.

MARTHA

Thank you, thank you, my Lord.

AMALRIC

Go in peace, Martha, you have seen our wrath, now know our mercy.

They are MOVED on.

SOLDIER  
(arriving with Prisoner)  
Your orders carried out, Grand  
Master.

The Prisoner is MOANING.

AMALRIC  
Martha, wait.

MARTHA  
My Lord.

AMALRIC  
Take this one, show him to the  
people hereabouts, show him in the  
market places, in the temples, show  
him to all, tell them what happened  
here today. Here is gold to pay  
your way - Sergeant?

Balarac Sergeant HANDS over some gold.

AMALRIC (CONT'D)  
(to Martha)  
Do not fail me, for I will know and  
my arm is long and my vengeance is  
sure - and terrible. Now go.

They GO, the Sergeant SHOVING the Prisoner along.

AMALRIC (CONT'D)  
(loud again)  
Take note, all of you. We fight  
under the banner of Grace; we  
divide the saved from the lost and  
the saved will be lifted up in the  
fullness of days but for the lost,  
we are implacable. We are the fist  
of God and that fist is now raised  
in it's glove of iron to punish the  
city of unbelievers, the city of  
Tumanbay.

The knights CHEER.

2.1A **OPENING TITLES - MUSIC**

2.1A

**ANNOUNCER**  
**Tumanbay, Series 3, Episode 2. "Two**  
**Moons", by Mike Walker.**

2.2 INT. BATHS. PALACE. TUMANBAY - DAY

2.2

The echoed slap of WASHING. CADALI is taking his time and  
enjoying GREGOR'S discomfort enormously.

GREGOR (V.O.)

The last time I saw Cadali he was a floating, bloated corpse in the palace baths. He'd had enough, cut his own throat, bled to death like the pig he was. But it seems I was fooled.

GURGLES and splutters of pleasure from Cadali as he washes.

CADALI

To be honest, I'm surprised it took you so long to find me.

GREGOR

Who seeks a dead man?

GREGOR (V.O.)

Cadali was smarter than I gave him credit for and he's back, wallowing like an all too lively pig in shite.

CADALI

You're losing your touch, my friend. The old Gregor would have worked it all out long ago, when I supposedly "died." I was even worried it was all too obvious.

He CHUCKLES.

CADALI (CONT'D)

Oh, I planned it, of course I did, with the help of my son, Selim.

GREGOR

Son?

CADALI

Oh Gregor, Gregor, you pride yourself in knowing everything that goes on inside the palace and yet you never even knew I had a son.

He chuckles, then LAUGHS uproariously. A door OPENS, footsteps as SELIM APPROACHES.

CADALI (CONT'D)

Selim, come, come in and meet Tumanbay's spy-master in chief.

(chuckles again)

Oh, but you've met already, yes?

GREGOR

This is your son?

CADALI

Indeed, indeed. Selim is in charge of the cleaners. Well, you didn't think the palace cleaned itself, did you, Gregor? All that blood you leave in your wake? What are you now, my boy?

SELIM

Middle Pasha, in charge of the residencies and public areas.

CADALI

Good, good. They see everything, the cleaners, and nothing sees them. Run along now, Selim.

SELIM

Yes, papa.

Selim LEAVES.

CADALI

I had to get away Gregor...

GREGOR

But the body?

CADALI

Who cleans away the bodies? The cleaners clean away the bodies. Do you have any idea how many there are in a city like Tumanbay?

A pause as he SOAPS.

CADALI (CONT'D)

But of course you do - you were responsible for a good number yourself as a zealous servant of Maya.

Pause.

CADALI (CONT'D)

Nothing to say? Well, it was easy to find one that was like mine enough to pass - once a certain amount of putrefaction had taken place and then add a little swelling from the water. The Baths had closed for the festival, there was enough time for that to happen.

GREGOR

I have to hand it to you, Cadali, it was... done well.

CADALI

I know what it must cost you to say that, Gregor, and I appreciate it. And of course, I knew that when I needed to, as it were, bestow the miracle of resurrection upon myself, I could rely on you to follow the trail of crumbs Selim left for you.

GREGOR

Yes, I can see all of this but what I would like to know is: why. Why here, why now?

CADALI

Because of my loyalty to Tumanbay.

Gregor LAUGHS.

GREGOR

You're loyal to nothing and nobody other than yourself.

CADALI

Perhaps I might surprise you, perhaps I do actually have a certain affection for this city after all.

(beat)

I have some important news.

GREGOR

What?

CADALI

Oh, not for you, my friend, not for you. For the Sultana herself.

(standing up)

Oh, pass me the towel, will you?

GREGOR

The Sultana is a little busy this morning, getting married.

CADALI

Married? Good. But believe me, my news is a great deal more important than her wedding.

GREGOR

Then tell me and I will pass it on.

Cadali LAUGHS.

CADALI

Gregor, Gregor... Still the same old Gregor.



**GREGOR (V.O.)**

**He wants one thing, to worm his way  
back into favour. Well, not with my  
help - not in my city!**

2.2A INT. GREGOR'S ROOMS - DAY

2.2A

A door OPENS. Gregor LEADS Cadali in.

GREGOR

I hope you will be comfortable  
here..

CADALI

Hmmm... I suppose it will do for  
the time being.

**GREGOR (V.O.)**

**I've put the slimy bastard in one  
of the rooms in the high tower.**

CADALI

And when can I see-

GREGOR

You will see the Sultana when I say  
so. Wait here and I will return.

He GOES out through the door.

CADALI

And send for some food - sugar  
plums would be most appreciated.

Gregor SHUTS the door and TURNS the key.

**GREGOR (V.O.)**

**With any luck he'll fall out of the  
window.**

2.3 EXT. HARBOUR. TUMANBAY - DAY

2.3

Busy with crowds, carts and cranes, various shouts: *"Give way, give way..." "Load coming through." "Mind your backs." "Grimshelm boarding now, boarding now... all aboard that's going aboard..."* etc.

AKIBA and HEAVEN are there with their MAID and baby, watching.

The baby starts CRYING.

HEAVEN

(to Maid)

Give her to me, give her to me,  
Miriam.

(MORE)

HEAVEN (CONT'D)

(to baby)

Shhh, my sweet, sweet Pahmina, I'll be back before you know it, I promise, and then I will build you a castle.

AKIBA

I never trusted castles.

HEAVEN

Well, you're not a one-year-old...

(to baby)

Is he, sweetheart?

(to Akiba)

And I trust him.

AKIBA

You trust Bavand? I thought you said he was the most untrustworthy person you'd ever met!

HEAVEN

No, no, that man is entirely trustworthy - we know he'll do all he can to cheat us but we are ahead of him.

AKIBA

I don't understand business. You trust a man you can't trust because you know you can't trust him? That makes no sense.

HEAVEN

It makes business sense, Akiba. And it give us the chance to- Ah...

BAVAND EMERGES from the crowd.

BAVAND

Chance you say? All is chance, my friends, but in this world the prize goes to he who has the courage to grasp it... Or her, of course. I think they're ready to cast off, Mistress Heaven... Shall we board...?

HEAVEN

Yes. Why don't you go ahead... I'll just...

BAVAND

Of course, Bavand understands... Leaving a child is never... I have a daughter of my own.

HEAVEN  
(to Akiba)  
You will manage?

AKIBA  
Of course. Don't worry about us.

HEAVEN  
I'm not worried about you.  
(to baby)  
My sweet, sweet child. How I will miss you.

She HUGS the baby.

HEAVEN (CONT'D)  
Miriam... Please, make sure she has her milk every morning and when she wakes in the night...

We LOSE them and close on Akiba and Bavand.

BAVAND  
Don't worry about her, good Sir. Bavand will make sure no ill befalls your lovely lady.

AKIBA  
Hmm.

BAVAND  
And we shall all come out of this with a fine profit... Trust me!

AKIBA  
Know this, Bavand, trust or not, if any harm comes to Heaven I will hunt you to the very ends of the earth, do you understand?

BAVAND  
(laughs uncomfortably)  
All will be well. Bavand will see to it. Just... make sure you rent the slave pens, we'll need them when we return. Pharos is the man to see about that though best you don't mention my name when you negotiate.

Heaven JOINS them.

HEAVEN  
Did he say about the pens and-

AKIBA

It's all in hand. I'll start making contacts, looking at the market as soon as you are gone and we'll be waiting for your return. Be careful, I don't want to lose you again.

They embrace. Feature the boarding cries: *"All aboard, last call, board now..."*

HEAVEN

Look after our child.

AKIBA

Come back to us.

HEAVEN

I promise.

BAVAND

Come on, come on... you don't want to miss the boat and have to swim for it!

Fade up port.

MIX TO

2.4

EXT. BOAT DECK. LEAVING HARBOUR - DAY

2.4

Leaving the harbour. Waves and seabirds. Heaven and Bavand stand on deck.

BAVAND

It's quite a sight, the harbour of Tumanbay. See there, the chains rising out of the water? They are lifted at night to close off the harbour - no one leaves or enters.

HEAVEN

My father arrived in Tumanbay by ship and he wrote to us about it. My mother and I. One of the wonders of the world, he said. It doesn't look so big from here, though.

BAVAND

Ah, one's perspective changes as one get older. Oh... erm... I meant to say before... there were a few extra charges... I'm sure you won't mind er...?

HEAVEN

Charges?

BAVAND

For the cabin, the flowers - I thought you would like flowers. And water delivered when you want it. And your meals, so you don't have to... er... eat with the other passengers.

HEAVEN

I might like to eat with them.

BAVAND

Oh, no, a rough lot. These little merchant ships are not for fine ladies like... er... if I may say... But I'm sure your ship at Smirna will be much more comfortable. How big is it?

HEAVEN

Big enough for five hundred slaves.

BAVAND

Ahh, to have such a ship, a real jewel...

He CHUCKLES. Not very convincing.

BAVAND (CONT'D)

So if you... er... have...?

HEAVEN

Yes?

BAVAND

To pay for the extras...?

HEAVEN

How much.

BAVAND

(mumbling to himself)  
Five for... er... the boy...  
(to Heaven)  
Always look after the cabin boy, ha ha ha... and... er... Comes to... one hundred and twelve.

HEAVEN

One hundred and twelve?

BAVAND

Penari... Mistress, yes. If you would be so kind.

Heaven SIGHS and COUNTS out coins from her purse.

BAVAND (CONT'D)

You see, for a woman, they always put the cost up... It's just the way of things. If you had allowed Bavand - as he did suggest - to handle this end of the trading... you might have saved yourself some, er...

HEAVEN

Take them.

She HANDS him the coins.

BAVAND

Good, that's done. Bavand will... uh... leave you to get settled in, then.

He WALKS away - fade up sea-wash.

2.5 OMITTED 2.5

2.6 INT. TUMANBAY CITY WALLS - DAY 2.6

Wind whistles around us - birds fly close. MATILLA is watching as FROG and SPIDER land. The wind is rising under.

MATILLA

Oh, wow!

FROG

Did you see that? A double flip with a back turn.

SPIDER

Yeah, I did that when I was like ten.

MATILLA

I thought it was amazing.

SPIDER

What do you know?

MATILLA

(giving as good as she gets)

What do you mean?

SPIDER

You don't know what's good, what's smart, or what's stupid.

FROG

Leave her alone, Spider, she hasn't done anything wrong.

SPIDER

Yeah, she hasn't done *anything*.

MATILLA

So show me, let me fly with you, Frog. Let me learn.

FROG

You really want to fly with me?

MATILLA

Yes, yes I do.

SPIDER

Is no one listening? She's never flown-

FROG

It'll be all right, I know it. You can trust me, Matilla.

MATILLA

I do.

FROG

The wind is getting stronger. If we can get above the palace walls we might see the wedding procession.

MATILLA

The Sultana's?

SPIDER

You're taking too many risks, Frog.

FROG

You're not taking enough any more, Spider. Maybe you're getting too old for this.

SPIDER

(stung)

I can still out fly you any time. Come on, up to the top of the ledge... we'll go from there.

He STANDS and starts to CLIMB - the others FOLLOW. Bits of masonry fall away. They reach a platform. A FLYER sees them.

FLYER

(shouts from off)

Oi, Skyrats, clear out, that's South Side Territory.

SPIDER  
(shouts back)  
You don't own the walls!

FLYER  
We own that ledge. Look at the  
sigils, dummy!

SPIDER  
(to Frog and Matilla)  
He's right. We should move.  
(to Flyer)  
No trouble, right?

FLYER  
Right.

They CLIMB on.

MATILLA  
What was that?

SPIDER  
The South Siders.

FROG  
It doesn't matter, we can launch  
from up here. It's better, it's  
higher. Better for free-flyers. Are  
you ready?

MATILLA  
What do I do?

FROG  
Stand close, I'll put my belt  
around you too... here and here...

They BELT UP - the wind is rising.

SPIDER  
Ready?

FROG  
Ready?

MATILLA  
Ready!

They LAUNCH as she CRIES out with wonder.

2.7 INT. PALACE. TUMANBAY - DAY

2.7

A corridor, MANEL and QULAN WALK together.

QULAN  
So, you are to be married.



MANEL

So it seems, Father.

QULAN

You've come a long way, Manel. I always thought your brother would be the one who... Well, things rarely work out how one expects in this world. Your mother should have been here but fate decided otherwise.

MANEL

Sometimes I wonder what she would have thought of it all.

QULAN

These things we can never know. As for me, I am proud of you; you will take Tumanbay into a new age. Ah...

ALKIN joins them.

ALKIN

Majesty, General Qulan... The Hafiz has arrived and...

(beat)

QULAN

(concerned)

And...?

ALKIN

He is sober.

QULAN

This is truly a momentous day.

ALKIN

More or less.

QULAN

More... or less?

ALKIN

Uhhh... He will be able to carry out his duties. The physician will see to it.

QULAN

Good.

ALKIN

Majesty... You look every inch the Sultana of Tumanbay.

MANEL

More like a joint of meat done up  
for the feast.

WOMEN APPROACH.

ALKIN

Your women are here they will want  
to...

MANEL

Garnish the joint for table?

ALKIN

(sotto)

You are our Sultana. You are very  
beautiful and quite brilliant  
enough to know that what must be,  
must be.

(to Women)

The Sultana will come with you now.  
We shall follow.

Manel GOES with the women.

QULAN

She is not happy.

ALKIN

Are women ever truly happy at such  
times? Disposed of, delivered up  
for what?

QULAN

For what we serve.

ALKIN

And did General Qulan never wish to  
serve at the highest level?

QULAN

I am a commander of Tumanbay's  
armies.

ALKIN

Yes... and could have been Sultan  
of the greatest city in the world?  
To sit on the Onyx throne - can you  
tell me you would not do a better  
job than many who have sat there?

QULAN

Possibly I would, maybe I would  
not. A good general needs  
confidence but also clear sight; he  
needs to know what is possible with  
the resources he has to hand.

(MORE)

QULAN (CONT'D)

Yes, I have seen Sultans and thought them contemptible but sometimes the contemptible is the greater part of statecraft. I could never be that.

ALKIN

What do you want, then?

QULAN

To serve Tumanbay. I'm a simple man.

ALKIN

And being the greatest general in this world is enough for you?

They both LAUGH.

QULAN

You, Alkin, you have always been a wanderer. You travel and do as you please. Will Tumanbay be your home now?

ALKIN

I have had children, I have had lovers and I have had husbands. I have seen deserts and I have seen whole cities engulfed by the sands as if they were never there. In this world nothing is permanent, especially not the human heart.

QULAN

I have no idea what that means. So, are you staying?

ALKIN

For now, yes. I'm curious; I want to see what happens.

QULAN

For your histories? For the book you will write about Tumanbay? Does she know?

ALKIN

What?

QULAN

Manel. About us. That you still come to me?

ALKIN

Well, she's your daughter.

QULAN

And your lover.

ALKIN

At least it will make for an entertaining chapter if I ever get around to writing it.

QULAN

Long after I'm dead, I hope.

Pause.

ALKIN

Do you fear it?

QULAN

I'm a soldier. I've walked with Death most of my life, and sent him a good few customers in my time. You could say our meeting has been long deferred. It will be interesting to finally face the old bastard.

2.8

EXT. THE GREAT SQUARE. TUMANBAY PALCE - DAY

2.8

Clash of cymbals, music - there is a big crowd oohing and aaahing. The HAFIZ and his ASSISTANT are performing a ceremony.

HAFIZ

According to the old rite, and in obedience to the auguries of our... or our...

(losing his thought)

ASSISTANT

(whisper)

Beliefs...

HAFIZ

(with renewed energy)

Beliefs... Handed down from the first times to our times and enshrined for all future times... And now...

He's not sure.

ASSISTANT

(whisper)

The bride... needs to be...

HAFIZ

Ah... Let the bride be brought fourth...

Big ahhhh.

HAFIZ (CONT'D)  
 (to assistant)  
 Where is she? I can't see her...

ASSISTANT  
 She's coming from the other side  
 your Holiness...

HAFIZ  
 Ah... yes...  
 (to crowd)  
 Let us lower our eyes before the  
 Majesty of God and the mystery of  
 marriage...

Hafiz and Assistant's speech dips under:

GREGOR (V.O.)  
**God, I hate these occasions. A  
 drunk Hafiz who makes no sense at  
 all. The petty officials and  
 courtiers competing for attention,  
 and the Great Square full of  
 people: who the hell are they? Any  
 one could be an assassin... or all  
 of them. Maya should at least have  
 taught us that.**

HAFIZ  
 ...Let the veil of modesty be  
 lifted that husband and wife may  
 look upon each other and be  
 pleased, as they meet in the sight  
 of God.  
 (to the couple)  
 Majesty... Prince Herod... You  
 may... er... remove... good.

We are close on the Royal Couple - sotto.

HEROD  
 You look terrible!

MANEL  
 What?

HEROD  
 I can see you're not enjoying this  
 one bit.

MANEL  
 I don't want to be here, I don't  
 want to be married - nothing  
 against you, Herod but...

HEROD

To be honest, I don't much want to be here myself.

MANEL

Better get on with it, I suppose.

HEROD

Like taking medicine.

We pull back as:

HAFIZ

Let all abase themselves before the power, let all think on the inevitable end of all our vanities in this world and the rewards of the next when our very bones are dust...

Hafiz's speech dips under Gregor again:

**GREGOR (V.O.)**

**And there's Qulan, standing like he's got a broomstick up his arse. Wonder what he's thinking? And Alkin, the Sultana's vizier... damn her, always there, always a presence. What does she want? What does she-**

Two PALACE GUARDS interrupt.

PALACE GUARD 1

Excellency...

GREGOR

What is it, Sergeant?

PALACE GUARD 2

Skyrats.

GREGOR

Dammit - get rid of them.

PALACE GUARD 2

Um, Excellency... they're flying.

GREGOR

You've got bows, shoot them down, get rid of them.

HAFIZ

...Now let the glorious noise be sounded out, to drive from this place all unworthy Djinns and demons so joy may reign in the sacred persons of our glorious Sultan and Sultana.

Crash of music.

Off, we can hear the Sergeant SHOUTING at the Skyrats.

PALACE GUARD 2

You lot, clear off... this area is forbidden, clear off, you hear, or we'll shoot you down.

**GREGOR (V.O.)**

**If Skyrats can get in, Maya's rats can get in.**

HAFIZ

(off)

Let the procession begin, let the people see their new Prince and his Sultana...

More music - the procession SETS OFF past Gregor.

The procession PASSES.

ALKIN

All well, Gregor?

GREGOR

What do you think, Vizier? Are you satisfied?

ALKIN

I think everything is proceeding as the Prince wishes. Excuse me.

She GOES.

**GREGOR (V.O.)**

**The Sultana's wishes or Maya's?**

2.9

EXT. CITY WALLS. TUMANBAY - DAY

2.9

The wedding procession is far below. Matilla, Frog, and Spider watch on.

MATILLA

I saw the Sultana. And him, what's his name, Prince Herod.

FROG  
I don't think he's a real prince.

They LAND.

MATILLA  
Can we go again?

FROG  
They shot arrows at us.

SPIDER  
Yeah but they missed. Anyway,  
place'll be empty soon, everyone's  
following the procession. There's  
probably free stuff there.

MATILLA  
Do you always have to go down?

FROG  
Sometimes the wind will lift you -  
you have to be able to read it.

SPIDER  
So, let's go... Watch the master.

He JUMPS.

SPIDER (CONT'D)  
Skyyyyyyrats foreveeeerrr.

The others LAUGH.

MATILLA  
Go on then, Frog.

FROG  
The wind is getting up. Are you  
sure you want to?

MATILLA  
I've never been more sure.

FROG  
All right, hold on...

They JUMP and we go with them - wind around us as we whoosh -  
spider comes swooping in and away:

MATILLA  
It's wonderfullllll!

SPIDER  
(shouts)  
Watch this, it's called the Blade,  
Frog can't even do this yet....



Big blast of wind.

FROG  
Spider, no! The wall!

SPIDER  
I am the maaa-

He HITS the wall, CRIES out - kite falling.

MATILLA  
Spider!

Wind all around, canvas cracks and flutters as frog rides their kite down and down and they LAND with a thud. She starts to RUN but Frog GRABS her.

FROG  
No, we can't go there.

MATILLA  
He might be hurt, he needs help.

FROG  
He went down on the wrong side,  
he's in the palace and he's dead.

MATILLA  
You don't know that, he might be...  
We have to try.

FROG  
No. He's dead.

MATILLA  
But...

FROG  
He's dead.

Pause. Matilla is silenced by Frog's weird certainty. Then:

MATILLA  
You better take him to me now or...

FROG  
Or what?

MATILLA  
Or...

She tears up.

FROG  
Come on. You make me do things I  
wouldn't do myself.

2.10 EXT. PALACE WALLS - DAY

2.10

Frog and Matilla are CREEPING along to top of the walls.

FROG

Be careful - there's no rail or wall up here.

MATILLA

Where are we going?

FROG

We're going somewhere we can get down low to where... to where...

MATILLA

You saw this, didn't you? Last night, in your dream. When he asked you about it, you lied. Why didn't you tell him the truth?

He STOPS.

FROG

Don't you see? It's not a gift, it's a curse...

MATILLA

But you could have tried?

FROG

I can't change *anything!*

He MOVES off.

FROG (CONT'D)

Down here, be careful.

They DESCEND rickety stairs.

FROG (CONT'D)

The masons left these steps, no one really knows about them except me and...

He falls silent. They HURRY down then STOP.

FROG (CONT'D)

There, he's there...

MATILLA

I can't see him.

FROG

By the sacking... He's...

Off the sound of SOLDIERS below.

MATILLA

Oh Gods. He's all... He's...  
broken.

Off - the soldiers:

SOLDIER

(off)

You - over here. Bring the sack  
with you. His flying days are over.

SOLDIER 2

Only a kid. Used to think I'd like  
to do that.

SOLDIER

Do "that" end up like *this*. Get him  
in the sack.

They get to WORK.

MATILLA

Are you crying, Frog?

FROG

Skyrats don't cry.

MATILLA

(weeping)

He didn't like me, did he?

FROG

He thought you'd split us up, me  
and him.

MATILLA

It's my fault.

FROG

It's nobody's fault. It's what  
happens to Skyrats, it's what he  
would have wanted... it's fate,  
what goes up...

(beat)

... has to come down.

2.10A INT. GREGOR'S ROOMS - DAY

2.10A

A key UNLOCKS a door. Gregor OPENS it.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**It smells in here. Of treachery and  
ambition.**

GREGOR

Cadali?

CADALI  
 (murmuring, half in a  
 dream)  
 No! No! We agreed, the gold, the  
 gold - Let go of me.

GREGOR  
 Cada-

Gregor GOES over to the couch and SHAKES him.

GREGOR (CONT'D)  
 Wake up you-

CADALI  
 (waking up)  
 Huh? Where... Gregor?

GREGOR  
 It's time, Cadali.

2.11 INT. THRONE ROOM. PALACE - DAY

2.11

Cadali APPROACHES the Throne Room. Doors OPEN to admit him.

The sound of COURTIERS inside. Manel, Alkin, Gregor and Qulan  
 are present. Silence falls as:

CADALI  
 Majesty! May I first of all  
 congratulate you on the happy news  
 of your marriage... And where is  
 the lucky man?

MANEL  
 My husband is ill-disposed. The  
 heat.

CADALI  
 Ah yes, yes. Well, I do look  
 forward to meeting him.  
 (beat)  
 And I throw myself down before your  
 glory... I want nothing more than  
 to serve my Sultana.

MANEL  
 I see.

QULAN  
 Where have you come from?

CADALI  
 Ah, General Qulan. I greet you too.

QULAN  
 Where have you come from, Cadali?

CADALI  
(to Manel)  
May I...

She nods. He GETS UP.

CADALI (CONT'D)  
My back is... not what it used to  
be.

GREGOR  
(hissed)  
Get on with it, Cadali.

CADALI  
Majesty, I have a message.

MANEL  
A message? From whom?

CADALI  
The Balarac... to the court of  
Tumanbay. I and many refugees who  
refused to collaborate and serve  
the tyranny of Maya, found shelter  
and protection behind their walls.

QULAN  
(dry)  
Your steadfast opposition to the  
"tyranny of Maya" is well known and  
celebrated, Cadali.

MANEL  
Thank you, General Qulan. Carry on,  
please.

CADALI  
Majesty, the Balarac want to be  
friends with Tumanbay and its  
glorious Sultana. They have asked  
me to... uh... help facilitate an  
Embassy. Yes, here in our city, an-

MANEL  
An Embassy?

CADALI  
And... to talk about an alliance  
between our powers.

QULAN  
"Our powers", Cadali?

CADALI  
I have experience of their ways, of  
their aims and of their methods.  
(MORE)

CADALI (CONT'D)

I have lived with them, I know the way their diplomacy works.

MANEL

Vizier?

CADALI

Uh yes?

MANEL

Not you. Alkin is my Vizier.

CADALI

Of course. Forgive me, Majesty...

ALKIN

I know a little of the Balarac. They came as Crusaders from beyond the Middle Sea and have built a string of castles along the coast.

CADALI

And could be powerful allies.

GREGOR

What do they want in return for their... friendship, I wonder?

CADALI

Ah, Gregor. It's so good you're still here? Ah, but then I believe you were the only official who was "in his post" during the entirety of Maya's tyranny. Continuity is so important.

GREGOR

My loyalty was always to Tumanbay, as the Sultana knows.

CADALI

Yes, yes, yes, I have no doubt of it. And yet... if we had all "served" Maya thus, Tumanbay would be dust in the desert by now. Indeed, if I may say so, this news could have been set before Her Majesty some time ago if His Excellency, Gregor, had not chosen to keep it from her.

GREGOR

(caught - he protests)  
That is-

MANEL

True or false, Gregor?

GREGOR

I... felt... On Cadali's record, I judged-

MANEL

It is not for you to judge the value of these things, Gregor.

(to Cadali)

I am pleased to see you Cadali.

CADALI

Thank you, Majesty.

MANEL

We have all had to do whatever we had to, to survive. But I don't doubt your loyalty to Tumanbay.

CADALI

Always. Not even for a moment has my loyalty wavered.

**GREGOR (V.O.)**

**He's overplaying his hand.**

ALKIN

The tyranny has left the Empire weak and exposed, Majesty.

**GREGOR (V.O.)**

**And Alkin. Why is she siding with Cadali?**

ALKIN

Tumanbay needs allies.

MANEL

Go on.

ALKIN

Let them come and let us see what kind of alliance they want.

MANEL

General?

QULAN

Your vizier, with all respect, is wrong. Have nothing to do with them.

ALKIN

The Balarac are fierce and single minded but if they give their word, they will keep it. They are believers in a wrathful god and they obey his command never to lie.

(MORE)

ALKIN (CONT'D)

They are potentially a great ally for us.

QULAN

Their wrathful god allows them to lie in his cause, which they see as greater than any other. Any agreement with them would be a lie.

ALKIN

I think we are old enough and shrewd enough to know when we are being lied to, General Qulan.

MANEL

Very well. Cadali, you may extend our invitation to the Balarac.

QULAN

I must register-

MANEL

Your objection is noted, General.

CADALI

It shall be done. A-aaand perhaps... Gregor could be seconded to me to help with preparations? We will need to order the guard to light flares on the headlands to signal their ships in.

QULAN

Ships? How many?

CADALI

Oh, ah, I don't know. A few.

ALKIN

How close exactly are they, Cadali?

CADALI

Exactly? I do not know. Their ships are swift, if the wind is favourable, then soon. Two days, three, perhaps? They are not men to waste time.

MANEL

Who is their leader?

CADALI

They call him the Grand Master Amalric.

MANEL

We will make the Grand Master most welcome...



2.12 EXT. SHIP AT SEA - DAY

2.12

Seawash and birds - the crack of the sail. Heaven DESCENDS a ladder and WALKS across the deck towards Bavand.

BAVAND  
Ships, Mistress.

HEAVEN  
I'm sorry?

BAVAND  
On the horizon, look.

HEAVEN  
They're moving fast. Pirates?

BAVAND  
No. That would be the Balarac. They have a string of fortresses along the coast.

HEAVEN  
How do you know?

BAVAND  
See the bows? Lizard shape. That's solid metal.

HEAVEN  
Should we be concerned?

BAVAND  
Only if we got in their way - they'd run us down. Cut us clean in half. But they're not interested in us.

HEAVEN  
Good.

The Balarac ships FLY past, causing the boat to SHAKE.

BAVAND  
Impressive, aren't they? Like iron on water.

HEAVEN  
Yes.

BAVAND  
I imagine your father's ship is big, like those - for the cargo.

HEAVEN  
Bigger, I would say.

BAVAND

Good, good. You sent word ahead to have them prepare the ship for voyage?

HEAVEN

Of course.

BAVAND

We'll need a crew, with the proper experience... well, I can find the right people when we get there as long as you have all the promissory notes and the money?

HEAVEN

Yes, of course.

BAVAND

Good, good, good. Ahhh, and it might be better if you let me handle the money and the notes... it's dangerous in Smirna, not like Tumanbay. There's no law out there.  
(chuckles like a jolly uncle)

Or here. A ship at sea, a girl alone, sailors...

HEAVEN

That won't be necessary.

BAVAND

They'll take advantage of you for sure. Uh... I think it would be for the best... if you let me... handle that aspect of the business.

HEAVEN

I don't understand?

BAVAND

Well that's the thing of it, isn't it? You. Don't. Understand. And I Do.

The three BROTHERS ARRIVE.

BAVAND (CONT'D)

Ah, I haven't introduced you to my associates. The brothers Grachus...

Muttering: *"Hello Mistress."*

BAVAND (CONT'D)

Sontag...

*Grunts.*

BAVAND (CONT'D)  
And al-Birrah.

*Grunts.*

BAVAND (CONT'D)  
So if I escort you to your cabin  
and you hand over the money and the  
notes...

HEAVEN  
And what would my role be?

BAVAND  
I'm afraid you've been rather  
foolish. Easy to believe back in  
the city that all things are equal  
but out here, at sea, far from  
shore... out here nothing changes.

HEAVEN  
(calm)  
Ah, I see what you are getting at,  
Bavand.

BAVAND  
(thrown)  
You do? Good... Uhm...

HEAVEN  
And I must say, I am disappointed.

The CAPTAIN approaches with his MEN, DRAWING their swords.

CAPTAIN  
(approaching)  
Nobody move. If you move, you will  
die.

HEAVEN  
You know the Captain, I suppose?

BAVAND  
I uh, we have uh...

HEAVEN  
Captain Raghan and his first mate  
and the rest of the crew. Yes,  
disappointed that you might think I  
would come aboard without any  
forethought or protection. Captain  
Raghan has worked for my father for  
many years, he's an old friend.  
Anyway, I'm glad we've got that  
sorted out because we both know  
where we stand. Now, if you were  
me, Bavand, what would you do?

BAVAND

(desperate)

You need me. I have the slaves in Smirna, without me, you'll never get them.

HEAVEN

True. However, that doesn't apply to your associates. Captain, how far is the land from here?

CAPTAIN

Three leagues.

HEAVEN

Well, they might make it. I'm so sorry, my friends. Bavand, perhaps you would be so kind to ask the Captain to... er...

BAVAND

Mistress?

HEAVEN

Do I need to give the order myself?

BAVAND

Captain, please... er... put them over... overboard...

HEAVEN

Just a precaution. I'm sure you all understand.

Furious BELLOWS of: *"Bastard - you'll pay for this - we'll have your head - you're a dead man"* etc as they are flung over.

HEAVEN (CONT'D)

Let's hope they can swim - or perhaps not, for your future welfare, Bavand.

BAVAND

Yes, perhaps not, perhaps not... I'm er... so sorry for that... misunderstanding...

2.13 INT. MENAGERIE. PALACE. TUMANBAY - DAY

2.13

Herod is FEEDING the White Ape through the bars of its cage - the White Ape HOOTS sadly.

HEROD

There you go my friend... See, you're in a cage, but I'm in a cage too. I mean look at me... I'm pathetic.

A door OPENS. Selim APPROACHES.

SELIM

Your Highness, can I get you anything?

HEROD

(standing up)  
Who are you?

SELIM

Selim, at your service. Middle Pasha. Is there anything I can get you, Your Highness?

HEROD

I dunno. A wife? No, there's nothing I need.

SELIM

Congratulations, Majesty - on your marriage.

HEROD

Hmm.

SALIM

Well, if you need anything, please call. I'm just outside and nothing would be too much trouble.

He GOES.

HEROD

There is something.

SELIM

Majesty?

HEROD

I don't suppose you can tell me where one goes to have fun around here.

SELIM

Fun? What sort of fun?

HEROD

I don't know. Fun. Do you know any gambling houses?

SELIM

My Lord, gambling is strictly forbidden in Tumanbay.

Pause.

SELIM (CONT'D)

Of course I do. As it happens...  
(he steps closer)  
I know a few places...

2.14 OMITTED 2.14

2.15 OMITTED 2.15

2.16 EXT/INT. MATILLA'S HOUSE. TUMANBAY - EVENING 2.16

Frog and Matilla are on the rooftops.

MATILLA

This is where I live.

She CROUCHES down and gently PRIZES OPEN a window.

MATILLA (CONT'D)

This is how I get in and out and no one knows I've even left the room.

She CLIMBS into the room. Frog hesitates.

MATILLA (CONT'D)

It's all right. Only servants are here.

Frog CLIMBS in.

FROG

What about your parents?

MATILLA

My mother's dead a long time. My father... He's away at sea. He's a merchant.

FROG

(looking around)  
It's a nice place.

MATILLA

You think so?

FROG

Yeah.

MATILLA  
My father did well out of that lot.

FROG  
What lot?

MATILLA  
The occupation. Maya. You know.

A KNOCK at the door.

MATILLA (CONT'D)  
Hide behind the curtain.

Matilla GOES to the door and OPENS it ajar. NURSE is there.

NURSE  
Is everything...?

MATILLA  
Fine.

NURSE  
I heard noises.

MATILLA  
I'm fine.

NURSE  
Do you need anything, Mistress?

MATILLA  
No...  
(about to closer the door)  
Actually, yes. Bread, olives. Some  
tea. I'll eat here tonight.

NURSE  
As you wish.

MATILLA  
How's Imma?

NURSE  
He's been missing you so much.

MATILLA  
I'll come in a little while.

NURSE  
But it's late. He is sleeping.

MATILLA  
Ah... then I'll come in the  
morning.

She CLOSES the door.

FROG

Who's Imma?

MATILLA

My little brother. He's ill.

(changing the subject)

If you'd told Spider what you saw, couldn't it have changed things? I mean, he might not have gone up there... and...

FROG

It doesn't work like that. I've tried to warn people before but... I couldn't save my father. Or the Sultan... none of them...

MATILLA

But you could have stopped Spider flying.

FROG

No, I couldn't.

MATILLA

Did he have a family?

FROG

He lived on the street with me and the others. We were his family. That's how it is for the Skyrats.

MATILLA

Does that mean we're family now.

FROG

It depends. Do you want it to mean that?

MATILLA

Well, you're staying here tonight aren't you?

2.17 EXT. BALARAC SHIP - NIGHT

2.17

The Balarac ship is ploughing through the waves. Creaks and the crack of canvas. Amalric stands on the deck like a statue. Balarac Sergeant 1 is reporting in.

BALARAC SERGEANT 1

Grand Master, the fires have been lit on the headland.

AMALRIC

Well then, let us proceed.



BALARAC SERGEANT 1  
It might be a trap.

AMALRIC  
Are you questioning my orders  
Sergeant?

BALARAC SERGEANT 1  
Never, Grand Master.

AMALRIC  
Then tell the Captain to set a  
course for Tumanbay. How long does  
he estimate?

BALARAC SERGEANT 1  
Dawn tomorrow, if the wind holds  
fair.

AMALRIC  
The wind will hold fair, Sergeant.  
Our mission is blessed - our  
steersman is the hand of God, our  
prow is the wrath of God...

BALARAC SERGEANT 1  
(a ritual response)  
And our mercy?

AMALRIC  
Is the cleansing fire of God.  
Gather the brothers for prayers, we  
shall celebrate our Holy charge.

BALARAC SERGEANT 1  
(calling)  
Brothers, call the men to prayer.

The call is echoed, off.

Pause with sea and ship.

It merges into something else - something modern sounding  
like a helicopter flying across the horizon. It's a dream.

CUT TO:

2.18 INT. MATILLA'S ROOM - NIGHT

2.18

Frog WAKES up with a start GASPING for breath. He breathes,  
gets off the couch and GOES over to the window.

Matilla WAKES.

MATILLA  
What's wrong?

FROG

Nothing, I just woke up.

She gets up and JOINS him at the window - OPENS it. Wind under.

MATILLA

You were dreaming?

He doesn't answer.

MATILLA (CONT'D)

They're beautiful moons. Have you ever flown in the moonlight?

FROG

Yes. It's more dangerous but it's the best.

He TURNS to her.

FROG (CONT'D)

Why don't you ask?

MATILLA

Because I know what my future is. My father will arrange for me to marry some fat old money lender. What could you tell me that's worse than that?

FROG

I see you... I see you in-

MATILLA

Shhh... Don't. I don't want to know. I just want to be here tonight, under the moons, me and you. That's all I want.

She HUGS him.

MATILLA (CONT'D)

I can see fires near the harbour. They must have lit the flares.

FROG

Something is coming. Something terrible is coming to Tumanbay.

MUSIC.

**End of Episode 3.02.**