

TUMANBAY

Episode 3.04 - "Dark Enterprises"

by

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4.1 EXT. TUMANBAY - DAY 4.1

A call to prayer can be heard over the city.

HARD CUT TO:

4.2 EXT. COVERED MARKET. TUMANBAY - DAY 4.2

It's busy. Stall-holders CALLING out, selling their wares.

HARD CUT TO:

4.3 INT. A DARKENED ROOM. TUMANBAY - DAY 4.3

CADALI ENTERS from the market. PROPHET WOMAN greets him.

PROPHET WOMAN
Come through, Effendi...

A heavy door is CLOSED, shutting out the sound of the market.

PROPHET WOMAN (CONT'D)
Down here.

She LEADS him into the darkness, where ASSISTANT waits.

CADALI
It's a little...

ASSISTANT
Good afternoon, Effendi.

CADALI
Can we have some light?

PROPHET WOMAN
No. Only in darkness can you see truth.

CADALI
If you say so.

He's not sure coming here was a good idea.

PROPHET WOMAN
Take my hand.
(leading him)
There is a chair, just here. Sit.

Cadali FEELS for the chair and SITS. The Prophet Woman WHISPERS to Assistant - it's all very disorientating. And then another door is CLOSED.

They are in a totally silent space.

CADALI

So... What happens now?

PROPHET WOMAN

You ask the Master your question.

CADALI

Where is the Master?

PROPHET WOMAN

He is here. All around us. Close your eyes and He will appear before you.

CADALI

If I close my eyes how will He-

PROPHET WOMAN

Just trust.

CADALI

All right...

Cadali CLOSES his eyes.

CADALI (CONT'D)

No. Nothing.

PROPHET WOMAN

You don't believe, and yet you have come to seek the Master's wisdom.

CADALI

I just wasn't expecting this.

PROPHET WOMAN

Ask your question. The Master is listening now.

Cadali CLEARS his throat.

CADALI

Well, as you know. I am an official of the palace. Recently appointed commander of the Palace Guard. There is the need for... some confidentiality...

PROPHET WOMAN

(getting impatient)

Yes, yes... the Master understands. Please ask your question.

Cadali hesitates.

CADALI

Are the times propitious for... new... enterprises?

Silence... Then a bell RINGS once.

CADALI (CONT'D)

What is that? What does that mean?

PROPHET WOMAN

He says these are indeed propitious times.

CADALI

I would rather hear that from the Master himself.

PROPHET WOMAN

Oh, but the Master has no tongue. He cannot speak.

(beat)

He cannot tell a lie.

CADALI

Are you sure this is-

PROPHET WOMAN

Yes, yes, the Master is well known throughout the city. Don't you know, he predicted the coming of Maya?

CADALI

(unsure of this)

Very well... There is something that is troubling me. A senior figure in the palace... appears to have left the city. I've tried to discover for what purpose, but he-

PROPHET WOMAN

You need to ask him a direct question.

CADALI

Yes... Will this interfere with my plans?

Silence... then the bell again. It RINGS twice.

PROPHET WOMAN

He says no.

CADALI

Because I fear he may return with... force.

PROPHET WOMAN

Force?

CADALI
Soldiers, an army and... upset my
enterprise.

The bell RINGS twice.

PROPHET WOMAN
He says no.

CADALI
So should I then go ahead with...
said enterprise?

Bell.

CADALI (CONT'D)
Can I rely on my subordinates - on
their loyalty?

Bell.

CADALI (CONT'D)
To carry out my orders? Regardless
of any dangers or complication that
they may experience personally or
professionally... from higher up...
from anywhere?

Bell.

CADALI (CONT'D)
Splendid, splendid...
(an after-thought)
Should I be... merciful? To those
who resist? When the time comes?

Bell, bell.

CADALI (CONT'D)
Hmmm... Yes, a leader must be
ruthless and never waiver, I see
that. I need to be strong.
(beat)
Should I act before the sickle
moons or after the sickle moons?

PROPHET WOMAN
He can't answer that question.

CADALI
Should I carry out this enterprise
before the sickle moons?

Bell, bell, bell, bell.

CADALI (CONT'D)
What does that mean?

PROPHET WOMAN

There is a gap in his knowledge. He can't see everything.

CADALI

Oh... Is there another who might know?

Bell.

CADALI (CONT'D)

Another prophet?

Bell, bell.... Bell.

CADALI (CONT'D)

No, yes. What does that mean?

PROPHET WOMAN

Not a prophet like him. Someone who knows, who sees things. Someone young, I think.

CADALI

A child?

Bell.

WHISPERING. The Prophet Woman is talking to someone.

CADALI (CONT'D)

What is it?

PROPHET WOMAN

One moment.

More WHISPERING. Then it STOPS.

PROPHET WOMAN (CONT'D)

There is a boy. He is known throughout the city because he prophesied the death of Sultan al-Ghuri just before the city was overcome by the forces of Maya.

Bell.

CADALI

Is this boy in the city?

Bell...

Beat.

Bell, bell.

CADALI (CONT'D)

Yes and no?

4.3A **OPENING TITLES - MUSIC**

4.3A

ANNOUNCER

**Tumanbay, Series 3, Episode 4.
"Dark Enterprises", by John Scott
Dryden.**

4.4 EXT. BALARAC SHIP AT SEA - DAY

4.4

The sea is rough. The wind howls across the deck. The ship creaks.

4.5 INT. HOLD. BALARAC SHIP AT SEA - DAY

4.5

A wooden door is pulled OPEN. We are close to FROG who is hiding.

BALARAC SEAMAN

(off)

So, it would seem we have an intruder. I wonder who?

We are close to Frogs' terrified BREATHS.

The BALARAC SEAMAN knows he is there and everything he says is directed at Frog.

BALARAC SEAMAN (CONT'D)

A mouse perhaps? Hmmm, no. Something bigger judging from the hole in the sac of grain... A rat...? No, something even bigger than that....

He PULLS a crate aside and is face to face with Frog. The Seaman GRABS him roughly and becomes terrifying.

BALARAC SEAMAN (CONT'D)

Ah, what do we have here? Come to steal from us, have you?

FROG

No! Let go of me.

BALARAC SEAMAN

You know what we do to stowaways? We throw them into the sea.

FROG

No. I came to join the Balarac.

BALARAC SEAMAN

To join us, have you?

FROG

I swear. I-

BALARAC SEAMAN
Come with me.

Frog is DRAGGED roughly up steps. A trap door is OPENED onto the deck where the weather is much worse.

4.6 EXT. DECK. BALARAC SHIP AT SEA - DAY

4.6

A storm is raging. The ship is swaying. Frog STUMBLES as he is marched across the deck.

BALARAC SEAMAN
Watch your step, Boy. Never been to sea before?
(shouting out)
Captain!

They go up some more steps to a covered area where the BALARAC CAPTAIN is in conversation with AMALRIC.

BALARAC SEAMAN (CONT'D)
Captain! I found this boy...

BALARAC CAPTAIN
Wait!
(to Amalric)
Grand Master, it's worse than I thought. The wind is driving us onto the shore.

AMALRIC
Then we must head out into open sea.

BALARAC CAPTAIN
It's too late. The wind is against us, there's no point fighting it. The safest course is to find a sheltered bay, or we will risk losing the gold.

AMALRIC
I see... Then send out a signal. The fleet will shelter in the first available bay.

BALARAC CAPTAIN
That's the problem Grand Master, we can't see the other ships. The storm has pushed us apart. Their captains will know what to do... but we need shelter now.

AMALRIC
Very well. Do what you must.

The Captain shouts out ORDERS.

BALARAC CAPTAIN
Murrun! Follow the shoreline. Look
for the first available bay. We're
going in to shelter. Lower the
raff!

We hear SHOUTS from Sailors, off, as the ship changes course.

BALARAC CAPTAIN (CONT'D)
(turning to the Seaman)
Yes, what is it Jonas?

BALARAC SEAMAN
This boy, Captain. I found him in
the hold, near the gold. A stow-
away.

BALARAC CAPTAIN
A thief are you?

FROG
I'm no thief. I want to serve. I
want to serve.

BALARAC CAPTAIN
What, you want to be a sailor?

FROG
No, I want to serve him.

AMALRIC
Me, Boy? You want to serve me? Why?

FROG
Because you are the Grand Master of
the Balarac, the greatest soldiers
in the world.

AMALRIC
You want to fight with us?

FROG
Who wouldn't? At the battle of
Phasalus, you held back the hordes
of-

AMALRIC
I know very well what happened at
the battle of Phasalus.

A huge CRASH.

AMALRIC (CONT'D)
What's that?

Sailors CALL to one another, off.

BALARAC CAPTAIN
I think we've hit a rock, Grand
Master.

AMALRIC
Are we taking on water?

BALARAC CAPTAIN
(shouts)
Carpenters into the hold. Into the
hold! Report. Are we taking on
water?

Shouts from off.

AMALRIC
Get the gold up on deck. Can you
drive the ship ashore?

BALARAC CAPTAIN
It'll mean breaking her back. The
ship will be finished.

AMALRIC
But can it be done? We must save
the gold.

BALARAC CAPTAIN
Yes, it can be done.

AMALRIC
Then do it.

BALARAC CAPTAIN
But.. we'll be stranded... There's
nothing beyond those rocks but
desert.

AMALRIC
Do it.

Captain GOES to implement the order.

A huge wave crashes over the deck. Frog CRIES out.

AMALRIC (CONT'D)
I have you, Boy. You're safe.
You'll not drown today.

FROG
Thank you, Sir.

AMALRIC
Well, now I've saved your life, I
suppose I'll have to do something
with you....

Another wave crashes over them.

CUT TO:

4.7 EXT. PALACE WALLS. TUMANBAY - NIGHT

4.7

Cicadas. A hot, sweaty night.

FOOTSTEPS over flagstones.

GREGOR (V.O.)

Sleep. I need to sleep. But all I can do is pace these walls... above the city I used to control. Listening to that incessant voice in my head. Alkin, Alkin... the Sultan's Vizier. She shares her bed with my niece... and she has her complete trust. And what of Cadali? He's wormed his way back into the palace, the slimy bastard. He's her ally now - she's handed him command of the Palace Guard. My Palace Guard. What is she doing? What does she want? Absolute power?

(beat)

And me? I'm just a sleepless wanderer.

We hear SOLDIERS MARCHING around. An ORDER is given.

GREGOR (V.O.)

But tonight, this night... things are different. Something's happening. I can sense it. I know these stones, I know these walls... Something's happening...

An OFFICER spots Gregor.

OFFICER

(calling)

You, up there!

Officer APPROACHES.

GREGOR

Me? You're talking to me?

OFFICER

What is your business?

(recognizing Gregor)

Oh... Apologies, Your Excellency. I have orders to clear the walls of all but the Palace Guard.

GREGOR
On whose orders?

OFFICER
I'm sorry, Excellency, but I'm not
at liberty to say.

GREGOR
Indeed. Well, do you your work.

Gregor TURNS to go.

OFFICER
It might be best if you go back to
your rooms and stay there...

GREGOR
But... I am-

OFFICER
That is my advice, Sir. For your
own safety.

He GOES.

GREGOR (V.O.)
I don't know what it is, but I do
know *who* it is... Alkin... Maya...
Whoever she is... is about to make
her move...

4.8 INT. MANEL'S BEDCHAMBER - NIGHT

4.8

ALKIN stirs in bed. MANEL is watching her sleep.

ALKIN
You were watching me?

GREGOR (V.O.)
But the danger always comes from
the direction you are least
expecting...

MANEL
I am the Sultana. I can do whatever
I please.

ALKIN
Why are you awake? Come back to
bed.

MANEL
Every time I look at you, Alkin, I
see something slightly different.
Did the colour of your eyes change?
It's impossible to say what colour
they are.

ALKIN

They have a dark pigment that reflects the light. They are whatever you wish them to be.

MANEL

Beautiful. You look so peaceful in the moonlight. And very desirable.

ALKIN

For a woman old enough to be... your mother.

MANEL

Very desirable.
(they kiss)
What strange world's were you dreaming of, Alkin?

ALKIN

I was dreaming of... a camel. In the desert. Nothing strange at all.

MANEL

Ah, I don't believe you. I never know what's going on behind your eyes, Alkin. Sometimes I think you can see right through me. But I can never see through you.

ALKIN

No.

Manel KISSES her again.

MANEL

Maybe that's what I like.

Another KISS.

Beat.

ALKIN

What is it?

MANEL

Ahhh... I was destined for a life of obedience... I was my father's property, to be hidden away, protected from the world. And I managed brake away from all that.

ALKIN

And now your decisions effect every living creature that walks the earth.

MANEL

I feel trapped by the politics. I have no freedom to act alone. Even my father... he says he doesn't want power but he's continually overriding my decisions. If I command this, he commands that. He still expects me to do his bidding... but I will not! Have I not fought like he, have I not killed, have I not led men into battle as he has? Why are you laughing?

ALKIN

You truly are your father's daughter.

MANEL

Yes. But how can I rule if he keeps interfering?

ALKIN

Well now he has left Tumanbay for the provinces-

MANEL

Against my express orders!

ALKIN

That is true. But maybe this is your chance to break free. To rule on your own terms. So that by the time he returns-

They are surprised by a KNOCK on the door.

MANEL

Go away.

Another KNOCK.

MANEL (CONT'D)

Oh, what now?

(calling out)

Slave, don't disturb us now. It's too early. Whatever it is, come back after some time...

But the KNOCKING continues.

After a moment Manel GETS UP.

MANEL (CONT'D)

Wait!

She OPENS the door to see SOLDIERS.

MANEL (CONT'D)
Oh! Where is my slave?

The Soldiers MAKE THEIR WAY straight in, led by GUARD 2.

MANEL (CONT'D)
What's going on? How dare you-

GUARD 2
You have to come with us, Majesty.

MANEL
You have entered the hareem. You are not permitted to set foot-

GUARD 2
You have to come with us now.

MANEL
What do you mean?

GUARD 2
(to Alkin)
And you, Mistress. You are under arrest.

MANEL
What? Why? This is my Vizier.

ALKIN
What for?

GUARD 2
For treason. Against the city of Tumanbay.

A moment of silence.

ALKIN
(to herself)
Cadali...

GUARD 2
(to Manel)
Where is the Prince?

MANEL
Who?

GUARD 2
Your husband. Where is Prince Herod?

MANEL
(confused)
My... My husband?

GUARD 2

Where is he?

CUT TO:

4.9 INT. BROTHEL - NIGHT

4.9

Dice roll across a table. HEROD is gambling with some DRUNKS. SELIM and MADAM are present.

HEROD

There we go... Nine!

A huge CHEER. Herod SCOOPS up a pile of gold coins. He is with Selim in one of the city's brothels. We hear LAUGHING and drunken chatter.

SELIM

You've got all the money in the world, you're a prince, and you still take everything!

HEROD

Well then... at least let me give something back...

(to the bar staff)

Wine! Bring more wine for my friends here.

There is a ROAR of delight from the crowd. Herod is a bit drunk.

HEROD (CONT'D)

You see me, a prince, and you think ah, how easy must his life be? How different is his life to mine? Well, I grant you, there are some advantages to being a prince.

MADAM

You don't have to worry about how to keep your slaves fed and watered.

The group LAUGHS.

HEROD

That is true - my slaves are taken care of. But I feel as you feel, I rise to anger as you do, I feel pride, I feel pain, doubt, fear, I delight... I even desire as you do.

Another LAUGH from around the table.

SELIM
(sarcastic)
You see, Prince Herod is just like
us.

Beat.

DRUNK 1
The people's prince. He's the
people's prince! Let's drink to
that!

They RAISE their cups and CHEER.

4.10 EXT. PALACE - NIGHT

4.10

Herod, drunk, is TRYING to get in through a back gate.

HEROD
(calling out)
Open up. Open up. Where are you?
Where is everybody?

There's total silence.

HEROD (CONT'D)
(pathetically)
Hello...?

Gregor APPEARS from the shadows.

GREGOR
My Lord?

HEROD
Ah, Gregor. My slave is... I can't
seem to open the door. I don't know
where my slave is.

GREGOR
No...
(guiding him away)
My Lord, you have to come with me.

HEROD
Come?

GREGOR
You have to come with me now. It's
important. You are in danger.

HEROD
What?! But my wife... the Sultana.

GREGOR
She's been arrested. Her Vizier
too.

HEROD

But, but...

He TRIPS over.

GREGOR

I've got you. We need to move quickly. I will explain everything when we are safe. Come...

He LEADS him along a passageway.

HEROD

Where are we going?

GREGOR

I have a friend in the town. She will keep you safe... This way. Hurry.

4.11 EXT. HEAVEN'S HOUSE - NIGHT

4.11

A KNOCK. A SLAVE OPENS the front door.

SLAVE

Yes?

GREGOR

I need to see your mistress now. Let us in.

SLAVE

The mistress is not here. She's gone away.

GREGOR

Well, who is here then?

SLAVE

The master.

GREGOR

Well I need to see him. I need to see him now.

SLAVE

It's late, come back later.

GREGOR

Now!

SLAVE

Wait.

The door CLOSES.

GREGOR
(to Herod)
You'll be safe here... I hope.

HEROD
You hope?!

The door OPENS again. AKIBA appears.

AKIBA
Gregor? What do you want?

GREGOR
Can we come in?

AKIBA
You're not welcome in this house.
You killed Ibn Bai!

GREGOR
(pushing his way in)
And I saved his daughter - and the
child she was carrying. Your child.
(to Herod)
You - get in.

Herod SLIPS IN.

AKIBA
What are you doing?

GREGOR
Where is she?

AKIBA
My wife is away.

GREGOR
Away? Where?

AKIBA
At sea. She is returning from
Smirna. The family business...

GREGOR
She is lucky then. We may not be. I
need your help. It's your child's
future.

He SHUTS the door behind him.

AKIBA
What is it?

GREGOR
There's been trouble in the palace.

AKIBA

What sort of trouble?

GREGOR

A coup. This is the Sultana's husband. He needs to hide. You have no quarrel with him. Even if you do with me.

AKIBA

Oh I do, I do.

GREGOR

Well, we will settle it one day, but not today. I need to leave Prince Herod with you.

HEROD

Don't I get a say in any of this?

GREGOR

No.

Beat.

AKIBA

Yes, leave him.

Gregor MOVES back towards the door.

AKIBA (CONT'D)

What about you? What do you intend to do?

GREGOR

Return to the palace, of course.

He GOES.

4.12 INT. THRONE ROOM. TUMANBAY - EARLY MORNING

4.12

Cadali WALKS through, agitated, barking orders. There's lots of activity. He accosts GUARDS 3 and 4.

GREGOR (V.O.)

I spent so much time watching Alkin, that I missed what was right in front of me, and then Cadali made his move...

CADALI

Secure the gates. All the gates, no one in or out.

GUARD 3

Yes, Sir.

CADALI

Where's Prince Herod? Have you found him yet?

GUARD 4

No, Sir, we traced him back to one of the gambling houses. He came back to the palace, we believe, but we haven't found him yet.

CADALI

Don't tell me where he *was*, find out where he *is*. Where he should be is in a cell in the palace. Have you checked with every single gate keeper?

GUARD 4

Yes, Sir. We are in the process of checking the-

CADALI

Well, is he in the palace or still out in the city?

GUARD 4

Er...

CADALI

Go and find out. If you value your head find out at once.

GUARD 4

Yes, Sir!

Guard 4 LEAVES as Selim ENTERS.

CADALI

Ah Selim...

SELIM

Father? You sent for me?

CADALI

Yes, come Selim. We need to talk.

He TAKES him to a private room off the Throne Room.

CADALI (CONT'D)

Weren't you with him?

SELIM

Yes, that's what I've been trying to tell you, Father. That's why I've been trying to see you. He definitely went back to the palace. He had been drinking.

CADALI

You were supposed to stay with him.

SELIM

I had to pay the inn-keeper. He wanted to go and-

CADALI

Very well. We will find him. Now my boy, there's something I want you to do for me.

SELIM

Anything, Father!

CADALI

This is your chance to prove yourself.... General Qulan is on his way to Rasheem Province. He's trying to build an army. If you take swift horses, a small party, you can catch him up.

SELIM

Yes, Father. And then what do I do when I reach him?

CADALI

He must not reach Rasheem Province... Do you understand?

SELIM

Yes... Yes, Father.

CADALI

(severely)
Are you sure?

Gregor ENTERS.

GREGOR

Cadali?

CADALI

Ah, Gregor.

GREGOR

I heard shouting. What's going on?

CADALI

Go Selim, go, go, go...

Selim GOES.

CADALI (CONT'D)

Some changes, Gregor. High time don't you think?

GREGOR (V.O.)

And now I need to win Cadali's trust to stay free...

GREGOR

Look Cadali, I think there's a problem.

CADALI

What are you talking about?

GREGOR (V.O.)

I have to offer him something of value...

GREGOR

Commander Qulan - he's left the city.

GREGOR (V.O.)

An easy offering. He probably knows that already.

CADALI

I know that.

GREGOR

To raise an army.

CADALI

Really? Oh dear, oh dear, oh dear... What shall we do?

GREGOR

Are you relying on the Balarac to defend you?

(beat)

Perhaps I could intervene on your behalf. I could ride out, talk to Qulan...

CADALI

Would you? Could you?

GREGOR

Of course.

Cadali scrutinizes Gregor then CHUCKLES.

CADALI

Guards... You can leave us.

The Guards GO.

CADALI (CONT'D)

Bring a chair over. Sit down. Tea? Mint tea... It's been a big night. Or would you prefer wine, Gregor?

GREGOR

What do you want?

CADALI

What you mean, Gregor, is, why haven't I arrested you yet?

GREGOR

Yes, well, you know me Cadali. You can rely on me... to be thoroughly... self-serving. I'm a survivor. I want to survive. And I'm not likely to do that in a cell.

CADALI

I like you Gregor. I can trust a man when I know exactly how his mind works. As former Commander of the Palace Guard, you know every lock, every passageway, every hidden doorway in this palace. What did they use to say... "Gregor is the man who can walk through walls..." Besides, you have the loyalty of the Palace Guards. You know that, I know that.

He pauses.

CADALI (CONT'D)

You and I, Gregor... we have a lot in common. We are both practical men. We like things to work. And Tumanbay wasn't working under your niece. You knew that. I knew that... Now, your brother, the great commander... he was too close to things to see it. If he wasn't he would have known that too. The ordinary citizens of the city, I think they are shocked by her relationship with that woman. It is shocking, isn't it? It's unnatural. They don't like it and they don't like her. And they want to see a man on the throne. Oh... Prince Herod, you don't happen to know where he is do you, Gregor?

GREGOR

No, I have no idea.

CADALI

Well, never mind. Look, I'm not doing this for me. I'm doing this for Tumanbay. The city that has given me everything.

(MORE)

CADALI (CONT'D)

Given us everything. And to which we owe everything. Do you see what I'm saying, Gregor?

GREGOR

Are you offering me a job?

CADALI

I'm offering your job back. Because it's been vacated. I'm going to be Sultan.

GREGOR

And what do you want in return?

CADALI

I'm offering you your life Gregor, for one small thing. I want you standing beside me, so the people can see the old regime supports these... er... adjustments...

GREGOR

And Manel, my niece?

CADALI

She will be safe as long as you are loyal. If you are not... I'll have her on the rack tortured to death. After all we are both practical men.

(beast)

Oh, and you needn't worry about your brother General Qulan. That's all been taken care of...

GREGOR

I see...

CADALI

Timing Gregor!

GREGOR

Timing?

CADALI

High stakes, power play, it's all about keeping things moving, never giving your opponent time to take stock... keeping them distracted all the time, lots of balls in the air, like a juggler at the fair...

GREGOR (V.O.)

Cadali is running this coup as if he were running some entertainment. He was always good at putting on a show.

4.13 EXT. HEAVEN'S SHIP AT SEA - DAY

4.13

It's calm. HEAVEN and BAVAND are on the deck.

BAVAND

The slaves have been fed and watered. They are definitely putting on weight. I think, if my calculations are right, by the time we approach Tumanbay they should be in prime condition. It was a good idea of yours to leave the hatches open.

(sniffs)

I'm not sure the sailors appreciate it though.

Heaven CALLS out to the Captain.

HEAVEN

Captain, why are we changing course?

CAPTAIN

Ship over there, caught on the rocks.

HEAVEN

So?

CAPTAIN

Caught in the storm I should think. Look, see the smoke. They're calling for help.

HEAVEN

Yes, but we've got a ship full of slaves.

CAPTAIN

Well they might have a ship full of fine linen, a rich cargo. It would be a shame to let that go to waste, wouldn't it?

HEAVEN

But wouldn't it belong to whoever is on the ship?

CAPTAIN

If they're still alive.

HEAVEN

Well someone *is* alive there. They've lit a fire.

CAPTAIN

Well, we'll have to see, won't we,
Mistress.

BAVAND

This trip has turned out to be more
profitable than we thought. A good
cargo would cover our costs
entirely. We'd be in profit before
we even landed.

CAPTAIN

(calling out)
Lower the sails!

4.14 EXT. HEAVEN'S SHIP AT SEA - MOMENTS LATER

4.14

The ship edges forward. A SAILOR CRIES out from the bow.

SAILOR

(off)
One fathom! Rocky bottom. Bottom is
shelving rapidly.

CAPTAIN

Ease the gibbered! Slowly...

SAILOR

(off)
Easy! One Quarter! Still
shelving...

CAPTAIN

Let go anchors...

We hears SHOUTS across the deck and ropes straining against
the side of the ship as the heavy anchors DROP down into the
sea.

It's silent, just a light breeze and water lapping against
the side of the ship

HEAVEN

It seems to be deserted.

CAPTAIN

No there's someone.

From far off a they hear a voice - Frog.

FROG

(off)
Help, help.

HEAVEN

It's a boy. There!

FROG
Can you help me?

CAPTAIN
Of course we can, Lad. What happened to you?

FROG
Got caught in the storm. Driven on the rocks.

CAPTAIN
How many of you are there?

FROG
Just me. The others drowned. They tried to get to shore. They tried to swim. All lost. There's only me left...

CAPTAIN
(to his crew)
Grappling irons. Pull us alongside.

We hear the SAILORS as they pull up close to the stricken ship.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)
Get the plank. We're coming across.

He JUMPS across onto the deck of the stricken ship. Heaven and Bavand FOLLOW.

CAPTAIN (CONT'D)
You're lucky we found you. She'll have broken up soon. Another day of this and-

FROG
Yes, I couldn't swim. I had to stay with the ship. They left me behind.

CAPTAIN
Were you in cargo?

FROG
What?

CAPTAIN
What were you carrying, Lad?

FROG
Nothing much, some grain and stuff.

CAPTAIN
Oh yes? Did it get spoilt?

FROG

Yes, all spoilt. The sea water.
There's nothing else, there's
nothing else...

BAVAND

What's this then, Boy?

They TURN to see Bavand standing over something.

CAPTAIN

Can you open the chest, Boy?

FROG

No... it's locked...

CAPTAIN

(calling)
Bedor?

SAILOR

Yes, Captain?

CAPTAIN

Come.

The Sailor STEPS forward and uses his sword to FORCE the chest open. The heavy lid creaks.

Silence.

SAILOR

Captain...

BAVAND

Well, well, well...

HEAVEN

What is it?

CAPTAIN

(to crew)
Get over here the rest of you. It's
payday. We'll need you all to get
this aboard.

BAVAND

Where did this come from? Is this
all of it?

FROG

I don't know. I don't know
anything.

Bavand DRAWS a knife.

BAVAND
(Shaking him)
Tell me or I'll cut your damn
throat.

HEAVEN
Stop it. Leave him alone. Leave him
alone right now!

CAPTAIN
Yes, yes, it doesn't matter where
it came from. What matters is where
it's going and it's going aboard
our ship.
(to crew)
Search the boat.

SAILORS
Yes, Captain!

Sailors MOVE about the deck.

BAVAND
(growing concern)
Captain, Captain... the prow. I
couldn't see it before. It's made
of... iron.

CAPTAIN
This is no merchant ship, this is-

He gasps as - thwangggg! - an arrow slices into his
oesophagus. He COLLAPSES into the beck writhing around in
agony.

BAVAND
It's a trap, it's a trap! Get back
on the ship, get back on the ship!
It's a trap!

There is chaos as the BALARAC CREW EMERGE from the hold,
their swords thrashing. They TAKE control. It goes quiet.

Footsteps. Amalric APPROACHES.

AMALRIC
(to his officers, calmly)
Go aboard. Anyone there... kill
them.

BALARAC OFFICER
Very good, Grand Master.

AMALRIC
(to Frog)
You did well, Boy.

FROG

Thank you, Sir.

AMALRIC

So, who have we got here?

BAVAND

We are just poor merchants, we saw you were in distress and came to assist. The law of the sea... to help mariners in distress. We're grain merchants heading to Tumanbay. We've delivered a cargo to Smirna and we're on our way back now.

AMALRIC

Who's this?

BAVAND

My daughter, she-

HEAVEN

Heaven. My name is Heaven. As... my father says, we are just merchants. We came to your aid.

BAVAND

But clearly you don't need any help so we will just...

He tries to STEP back towards the slave ship.

AMALRIC

(ignoring Bavand and
calling out to his
Officer)

What have they got on board?

BALARAC OFFICER

(off)

Slaves, front and rear holds.
Estimate: five hundred.

Amalric takes his time. He SIGHS.

AMALRIC

So... Slave traders.

HEAVEN

Yes, we are merchants going about our lawful business, under the protection of the Sultan of Tumanbay.

AMALRIC

Indeed.

(beat)

Slavery is an abomination.

BAVAND

Well, yes, that is an opinion, I do believe. Different cultures have different... Of course, the slaves are not mine... Her slaves. I mean she bought them. She paid for them. Her father Ibn Bai was quite well known actually - a merchant of...

He JUMPS overboard.

AMALRIC

It appears one of your fathers has abandoned you. How many do you have?

HEAVEN

He's not my father.

BALARAC SAILOR

Shall we go after him, Grand Master?

AMALRIC

No, he'll drown soon enough.

(beat)

Release the slaves onto the shore. Give them provisions and tell them they are free men and woman now. Load the gold.

BALARAC SAILOR

(calling)

Release the Slaves!

We hear ACTIVITY as the Sailors CARRY OUT Amalric's orders.

HEAVEN

What about me?

AMALRIC

We've no use for slavers. Throw her over too.

Frog STEPS forward.

FROG

She saved me.

AMALRIC

What?

FROG

From that man who was going to cut my throat. She stopped him.

AMALRIC

Very well, take her with us. Put her in the hold. Chain her. Let her see what it's like being a slave.

Heaven is DRAGGED away protesting.

4.15 EXT. DESERT - DAY

4.15

QULAN RIDES ahead of a small party. There is a shout from behind.

QULAN

Halt.

Officer COMES up beside him.

QULAN (CONT'D)

You recognize him?

OFFICER

No. Shall we take him down?

QULAN

No. Let's see what he wants.

OFFICER

Could be an ambush.

QULAN

In the desert. I don't think so.

We hear a horse APPROACHING.

SELIM

(off)

Don't shoot me. I come in peace....

OFFICER

General?

SELIM

(off)

I come with an urgent message...

QULAN

Let him approach.

OFFICER

(calling)

Come ahead!

SELIM
(out of breath)
General Qulan... Thank God... I
came as fast as I could...

The rider is Selim. He PANTS and gasps for air.

SELIM (CONT'D)
I have a message from your daughter
the Sultana. You are to return
immediately to Tumanbay.

QULAN
And why would the Sultana have me
return immediately?

SELIM
She just... She didn't give a
reason. But...
(producing something)
... here is her seal.

QULAN
I see... And where is the order?

SELIM
What?

QULAN
Where is it? Let me see it.

SELIM
But it is her direct order.

QULAN
Her direct order?

SELIM
Yes, General.

QULAN
That she gave to you... directly.

SELIM
Yes.

QULAN
How did she issue this order?

SELIM
She said, go after General Qulan.
She said it was imperative to stop
you before you get to the Governor
of Rasheed's palace. Tell him to
return immediately. She has some
urgent business for you.

QULAN

I see. And who might you be?

SELIM

Selim. Friend of the Prince Herod.

QULAN

Have we met?

SELIM

No, Commander.

QULAN

No? But I never forget a face.
Aren't you in charge of the palace
cleaners?

SELIM

Yes, but I got promoted.

QULAN

Promoted?

SELIM

I was Middle Pasha, but now I...
Commander you need to return with
me immediately.

Qulan thinks for a moment.

QULAN

You go back to Tumanbay and tell my
daughter - if indeed you have ever
set eyes on her - that Commander
Qulan will return to Tumanbay when
he has completed his task.

SELIM

No, Commander. It's her express
order-

Qulan GRABS him.

QULAN

(calm)

No? You say no to me?

We hear the Officer's horse shuffling in the sand.

SELIM

No - I mean, yes, Commander.

QULAN

Then let us proceed and continue
our journey. Give my daughter my
warmest regards.

He TURNS his horse.

SELIM

But...

QULAN

What is it?

SELIM

Water. I have run out of...

QULAN

(to officer)

Give him what he needs. Ride on.

He GOES off.

OFFICER

(thrusting a bottle at
Selim)

Here... Now go.

SELIM

(fading)

Thank you... Thank you...

4.16 OMITTED 4.16

4.17 INT. CELLS. PALACE. TUMANBAY - DAY 4.17

Cadali COMES down some stone steps. Gates are OPENED. The Guard GREETs him as he STEPS through.

CADALI

Manel, here you are. I'm so sorry that it had to come to this. And don't worry, we will try to get everything right just as soon as we can.

(beat)

Did you know, this is cell your father was in?

He SIGHS.

CADALI (CONT'D)

How times change.

(to the Guard)

Where's the other one? Bring out the other one.

GUARD

Yes, Excellency.

MANEL

What do you intend to do to us?

CADALI

I... nothing, nothing. I will do you no harm. I feel no enmity at all towards you.

MANEL

Then why are we being kept here?

CADALI

Because we must all serve Tumanbay and we must all obey it's laws.

Chains drag along the stone floor as Alkin is BROUGHT in.

ALKIN

He means he's going to put us on trial.

CADALI

Not I. The law. The sacred law of Tumanbay. If a sultan is seen as unfit to rule, then there must be a public accounting.

MANEL

And what are we to be charged with?

CADALI

Oh, you don't know? You gave the gold away?

MANEL

What? But it was you who-

CADALI

No, no, you are the Sultana. What will the people think when they learn that the Sultana gave away the treasure that the city needs to rebuild itself... And of course, there is the other matter of... Well, people will wonder why your husband was thrown aside in favour of this woman... This unnatural woman...

MANEL

My father will destroy you Cadali...

CADALI

Oh your father, yes. He will be on his way back now. Your orders. I'll be sending a little welcoming party to greet him...

He MOVES away.

CADALI (CONT'D)

Well, goodbye. See you tomorrow.
I'm doing this for Tumanbay.

ALKIN

Yes, and I have no doubt that
Tumanbay will thank you for it
appropriately.

Cadali stops and takes a good long look at Alkin.

CADALI

You're a curious woman aren't you?
A traveller. Where do you come
from, Alkin? You come here and
weasel your way in, make friends in
all the right places. It took me a
lifetime of hard, devoted service
to Tumanbay before I became Vizier
to the Sultan. I earned it. But
you... you...

ALKIN

You know Cadali, I would feel sorry
for you if you weren't so absurd.

CADALI

Well, perhaps you should reserve
your pity for yourself and your
lover.

(to Guard)

Take her back to her cell.

GUARD

Yes, Excellency.

Cadali LEAVES and MOVES along the corridor. He goes up some
stairs, through doors and EMERGES into the courtyard.

4.18 EXT. PLALCE. COURTYARD - DAY

4.18

A COURTIER APPROACHES.

COURTIER

(gesturing)

Majesty, your son Selim has
returned.

Cadali STORMS OFF in the direction of the Throne Room.

4.19 INT. PALACE. THRONE ROOM - DAY

4.19

Cadali ENTERS to see Selim slumped on the throne.

SELIM

I'm sorry, Father. He wouldn't come.

CADALI

And so why didn't you kill him?

SELIM

Kill him?

CADALI

Yes, I told you...?

SELIM

I couldn't. He was with several of his officers-

CADALI

And you were frightened for your safety.

SELIM

I wouldn't have been able to get near... They-

CADALI

I give you a chance and what do you do? You throw it back in my face. Get out.

SELIM

But please, Father, I did my best.

CADALI

Your best wasn't good enough.
(stepping closer)
You couldn't even keep an eye on the Prince. We still don't know where he is. You're pathetic.

SELIM

But Father...

CADALI

Father? No, you are nothing to me. Go away. Guards, take him away.

SELIM

But...

Two Guards COME uncertainly across the room.

GUARD

What shall we do with him, Majesty?

CADALI

I don't care. Throw him out of the palace. You have nothing to offer us here. Now go!

One of the Guards ESCORTS a PROTESTING Selim out of the room.

CADALI (CONT'D)

My son has always been such a disappointment to me, you know?

GUARD

(uncertainly)
Yes, Majesty.

CADALI

Do you have any children yourself, Officer?

GUARD

A daughter, Majesty.

CADALI

Oh lovely. Lovely. How old?

GUARD

Nine.

CADALI

I hope... I hope one day, she-

GUARD

Yes, Majesty, I'm already very proud of her.

CADALI

No, I was going to say... I hope one day, she will look back on these days, on my coronation, as time Tumanbay was saved.

(beat)

What's that smell?

GUARD

Majesty?

CADALI

(sniffing)
It's rancid. Find it.

GUARD

Majesty?

CADALI

I think it's coming from over there.

(the smell is overpowering him)

They WALK across room, into an anti-chamber.

CADALI (CONT'D)
It's getting stronger...

He OPENS a door and RECOILS at the foul smell.

CADALI (CONT'D)
What in God's name is that?

GUARD
An ape Majesty. A white ape.

CADALI
Where did it come from?

GUARD
Well... It was just chained here. I think with everything happening, Majesty, in the palace, someone forgot to feed it.

CADALI
Well where did it come from?

GUARD
It was a gift, Majesty.

CADALI
Yes?

GUARD
To the Sultana from... from er...

CADALI
Yes?

GUARD
Prince Herod.

CADALI
Herod. Well, find him. Then we'll put him in a cage and starve him too...

GUARD
Yes, Majesty.

4.20 INT. HOLD. BALARAC SHIP AT SEA - DAY

4.20

Heaven sits in side a small pen, chained to the side. A trap door OPENS. Frog APPEARS.

FROG
Mistress...

HEAVEN

Stay away from me.

FROG

It's all right. I brought you something. It's all right, I promise.

He PLACES a bowl and water jug in front of her.

FROG (CONT'D)

Eat. Go on. It's my rations. You'll need it.

Heaven TAKES the tray and tries it. She EATS.

HEAVEN

Where are we going?

FROG

To their fortress. They have many along the coast.

HEAVEN

Who are "they"?

FROG

The Balarac. Monks. Fighters.

HEAVEN

Right. Well, can you pass on a message for me... to their commander?

FROG

The Grand Master?

HEAVEN

I don't care - whoever is in charge.

FROG

I don't really-

HEAVEN

No, it's vital that you tell him. I am a citizen of Tumanbay. I'm not a slave. My family are rich. And they will pay a lot to get me back.

Beat.

HEAVEN (CONT'D)

Got that?

FROG

I don't think he will be interested in that.

HEAVEN

Then why are they keeping me
captive?

FROG

Don't know.

HEAVEN

You're not one of them are you?

Silence.

HEAVEN (CONT'D)

What are you doing here?

Pause.

FROG

I have to go.

He SCUTTLES away.

HEAVEN

What? No... Wait, wait!

But he's GONE.

The trap door SHUTS, leaving Heaven in darkness.

MUSIC.

End of Episode 3.04.