

TUMANBAY

Episode 3.05 - "Accidental Hero"

by

Mike Walker

Series created and written by
John Dryden & Mike Walker

Goldhawk Productions Ltd
info@goldhawk.eu

5.1 EXT. GOVERNOR'S PALACE. RASHEEM PROVINCE - NIGHT 5.1

A small party of horsemen thunder to a HALT.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**My brother Qulan is a man of
action, he sees what must be done
and does it.**

CUT TO:

5.2 INT. PROVINCIAL PALACE - NIGHT 5.2

Heavy doors OPEN to a grand room.

QULAN STRIDES IN with his retinue of OFFICERS. FATIMA, wife of the governor of the province is there to greet him.

FATIMA

I bid welcome to General Qulan,
commander of the armies of the
empire.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**But sometimes things simply aren't
so simple.**

QULAN

Where is the governor?

FATIMA

My husband is not here at the
moment.

QULAN

Well get him.

FATIMA

I've sent a messenger. He is on a
hunting trip in the desert. Men!
They love to kill! But you would
know that, I'm sure Commander. How
was your journey?

QULAN

Fine.

FATIMA

The desert can be cold at night.

QULAN

Did you tell the messenger that the
governor should return immediately?

FATIMA

I did. What is it?

QULAN

What?

FATIMA

That has brought you to our lovely province?

QULAN

Matters of State.

FATIMA

Oh, of course. Please, come, and your men are most welcome.

The party FOLLOWS Fatima through.

5.3

INT. GOVERNOR'S PALACE. RASHEEM PROVINCE - CONTINUOUS

5.3

Marble floor, fountains, a slight echo.

FATIMA

You seem to have come with a smaller guard than befits the commander of all the armies of Tumanbay.

QULAN

Our mission is urgent. My men-

FATIMA

Indeed, indeed. I will have them attended to.

She CLAPS her hands and SERVANT arrives.

FATIMA (CONT'D)

Please take the General's escort and see to their needs.

SERVANT

As you command, Madam.

FATIMA

(to Qulan's men)

Gentlemen, please go with my people, make your requests known to them.

SERGEANT 1

Commander - with your permission?

QULAN

Go.

SERGEANT 1

Thank you. My Lady.

SERVANT
Through here, Sir.

Qulan's followers LEAVE.

FATIMA
Come, General, refreshment. Let me
take you through.

She LEADS him through the palace.

FATIMA (CONT'D)
I see you looking at our new marble
atrium - we have just completed it.
The stone came from a quarry in
Kaloom district, where the miners
are all from a tribe of little
people. They say they live their
whole lives as children.

They turn a corner and ARRIVE in another room.

FATIMA (CONT'D)
Ah, yes, my husband's collection of
statues from the ancient world - I
understand many of the finest in
Tumanbay were destroyed?

Qulan STOPS.

QULAN
Have we met before?

FATIMA
Oh yes, General, we have.

She SITS.

FATIMA (CONT'D)
Please.
(she indicates for him to
sit)
Tell me, how is our Sultan?

QULAN
There are many challenges in
Tumanbay and she is working hard to
bring peace and prosperity.

FATIMA
Hmmm.... But I am not asking about
your daughter, General, I am asking
about my son, Herod.

QULAN
You asked of the Sultan.

FATIMA

Oh, yes, how foolish of me. Does not his marriage to your daughter make them as one?

QULAN

Herod is carrying out his duties satisfactorily.

FATIMA

Well, *I* have heard he has been excluded from the council. He has no role to play in the palace.

QULAN

His role is as husband to the Sultana.

FATIMA

And yet my informants tell me he is likewise excluded from her bed and that she is closer to her woman adviser than to my son? I hope you don't mind me sharing these concerns with you, General, after all we are family now.

QULAN

Tumanbay is in crisis. The match was a political alliance and now your husband needs to deliver on it. Your house was ennobled, your taxes were set aside for five years - in return you were to provide Tumanbay with forces if necessary. I need soldiers and I need them now.

FATIMA

Are you sure I can't press you to eat something...

QULAN

(getting up)

I don't have time for this. Find me a guide and take me to wherever your husband is wasting his time.

FATIMA

Very well.

They RISE, she CLAPS her hands.

FATIMA (CONT'D)

Is the General's escort ready? Have they been...

SERVANT

Yes, Madam, as you commanded.

FATIMA

Good. This way, General.

They WALK.

FATIMA (CONT'D)

We need, you and I, to understand the new relationship.

QULAN

What new relationship, Madam?

FATIMA

Well, my son, your daughter. Of course we want to help Tumanbay, to help you, General. But things are different.

QULAN

What do you mean?

FATIMA

Do you remember the last time you came, well, not here but to my last husband's palace in the Eastern Province? He was Governor there?

QULAN

The Eastern Province?

FATIMA

Don't you remember, Lord Usman? You were in a hurry then, as well and... when Usman questioned your demands you had one of your men cut him down.

QULAN

I am sorry for your loss. Lord Usman challenged Tumanbay's authority.

FATIMA

Indeed.

QULAN

The provinces can only survive and prosper because Tumanbay protects them. If a provincial governor-

FATIMA

Becomes too powerful? They become a problem?

(beat)

(MORE)

FATIMA (CONT'D)

Before you came demanding - but now you seem to be begging.

(off Qulan's look)

No? What protection is Tumanbay offering?

QULAN

What?

FATIMA

What protection does the mighty Tumanbay offer us now, in these times?

QULAN

Let me be clear. I am here with the Sultana's express orders and they are to be obeyed.

FATIMA

Oh... I see.

They STOP.

QULAN

So?

FATIMA

Why don't you open the door?

QULAN

What's going on?

FATIMA

Just open it. Go on. You will understand... Your men's quarters. Go in...

Qulan OPENS the door.

QULAN

Sergeant?

He STEPS in and GASPS.

QULAN (CONT'D)

In the name of God what have you done!

The CREAKING of ropes.

FATIMA

I had them hanged. Shall we say in recompense for my late husband? Do you understand now, General? We may give you an army but remember, if we do, its loyalty is to us, not Tumanbay.

She turns and GOES.

5.3A **OPENING TITLES - MUSIC** 5.3A

ANNOUNCER

**Tumanbay, Series 3, Episode 5.
"Accidental Hero", by Mike Walker.**

5.3B HEAVEN'S DREAM 5.3B

Moments from Heaven's departure - becoming increasingly
echoey and dreamlike.

AKIBA

*Be careful, I don't want to lose
you again.*

HEAVEN

Look after our child.

AKIBA

Come back to us.

HEAVEN

*I promise... My sweet, sweet child.
How I will miss you...*

HARD CUT TO:

5.4 INT/EXT. HOLD/DECK. BALARAC SHIP - DAY 5.4

Wrenching as hatch is ripped OPEN. HEAVEN CRIES out as
BALARAC SAILOR accosts her.

BALARAC SAILOR

Get up. You're done sleepin'.

He GRABS her, PULLS her, chains and all, up the steps onto
the deck - DRAGS her to the side - feature waves hissing...

BALARAC SAILOR (CONT'D)

Come on, come on.

HEAVEN

No, please... please.

Balarac Sailor presents Heaven to FROG.

BALARAC SAILOR

(laughs)

Boy, take her, here she is.

FROG
(talks fast as he hustles
her)
You have to come with me.

HEAVEN
Where?

FROG
The Grand Master wants to see you.

HEAVEN
(confused, scared)
What does he want with me?

FROG
Listen, this is your only chance.
If you don't satisfy him they will
put you overboard.

HEAVEN
I am a citizen of Tumanbay. If
anything happens to me-

FROG
Quickly, he doesn't like to be kept
waiting.

He LEADS her across the deck, her chains clunking.

5.5 INT. GRAND MASTER'S CABIN. SHIP - DAY

5.5

A door OPENS. Frog LEADS Heaven in, POSITIONS her in front of
AMALRIC who is seated.

FROG
(to Heaven)
This way.
(to Amalric)
She's here, Grand Master.

Amalric SNIFFS - it's his most reliable sense.

AMALRIC
Woman, the only reason you are here
is because this boy spoke up for
you. But he is inexperienced,
easily lead. I'm not sure he can
see as clearly as I can.

FROG
But, Grand Master she-

AMALRIC
Silence.
(to Heaven)
You have a chance to save yourself.

HEAVEN
(still scared but reaching
for courage)
Wh-what should I do?

AMALRIC
It's up to you, young woman.

HEAVEN
(hesitant then stronger)
If you intend to take me, then take
me, but I am not giving myself to
anyone I do not choose for myself.

AMALRIC
Boy, you can go.

Frog LEAVES.

AMALRIC (CONT'D)
Are you prepared to die for the
sake of your virtue?

HEAVEN
(big breath)
Are you prepared to kill me for it?

AMALRIC
Virtue, from a slave merchant? How
much suffering have you caused in
your life?

She doesn't answer.

AMALRIC (CONT'D)
And yet the only way we can learn
is through suffering. When my eyes
were gouged from my head, I knew
such pain, such despair that I
wished only to die. But I did not
die. I crawled across the desert
and when I lay exhausted and the
scorpions crawled across me, I ate
them and crawled on. I survived.
And God gave me the grace and the
strength to see another way.

HEAVEN
I saw my father die and my baby
torn from my womb. Don't tell me
about pain, my Lord.

AMALRIC
Where do you come from, with your
dark, almond eyes?

HEAVEN
How can you know that?

AMALRIC

I see more clearly now than I ever did when I had my sight.

HEAVEN

I come from Cyrene. I was brought up in a civilized house. My Father allowed me to be educated. He collected ancient texts and I could read four of the old tongues by the time I was twelve.

AMALRIC

On the table, a scroll. What is it?

She PICKS it up.

HEAVEN

It's in Amoeic, it seems to be a letter from one scribe to another, "Greetings from your humble servant," - I can't decipher the name - "I entrust by messenger these... these ancient scrolls from before time."

AMALRIC

Enough, you can put it back. What is your name?

HEAVEN

Heaven of the House of Ibn Bay.

AMALRIC

Very well, Heaven of the House of Ibn Bay, you will serve me.

HEAVEN

I am a citizen of Tumanbay. What if I don't care to serve you?

AMALRIC

What if your slaves did not care to be slaves? You would have them flogged, I dare say.

Pause - there's nothing she can say about this.

AMALRIC (CONT'D)

So - you will serve me.

A KNOCK at the door.

AMALRIC (CONT'D)

Come.

BALARAC SAILOR 2
Grand Master, we are passing
through the Gates of Blood.

AMALRIC
Very good.

CUT TO:

5.6 EXT. DECK. BALARAC'S SHIP - DAY

5.6

Wind and waves and birds - creaking of lines, cracking of
canvas. Off, SHOUTS of: "Shorten sail - bring her about -
watch your heading - anchor away" etc as they dock.

AMALRIC
There on the cliff, the greatest of
our castles. It's called The Fist
of God. It has never been taken.

HEAVEN
They look red, the rocks.

AMALRIC
To remind us we serve the sacred
blood - and will not stint our own
in that service.

Ropes are THROWN across to the dock.

AMALRIC (CONT'D)
Take my hand, you may lead me
ashore.

HEAVEN
You trust me?

AMALRIC
I trust our destiny, we are both
servants of that.

They DESCEND the gangplank towards BALARAC KNIGHT and BALARAC
MESSENGER.

BALARAC KNIGHT
Welcome back, Grand Master. Forgive
my haste but there is a messenger
from Tumanbay.

AMALRIC
From Tumanbay? We have come from
Tumanbay.

BALARAC MESSENGER
Grand Master, I came as fast as I
could, riding through the badlands
to get ahead of you.

AMALRIC

Wait. Take the woman to the servants' quarters.

BALARAC KNIGHT

Come - now.

Balarac Knight TAKES Heaven away.

AMALRIC

What news?

BALARAC MESSENGER

Violence in Tumanbay, Grand Master. Rumours abound. We believe the Sultana has been overthrown.

AMALRIC

You believe?

BALARAC MESSENGER

Things are still unclear. I know only what our spies in the city have been able to tell us.

AMALRIC

And who is behind this revolt?

BALARAC MESSENGER

The man Cadali.

AMALRIC

Cadali? Hmmm... Very well. All is proceeding as God has ordained - the weak will be thrown down and the believers exalted. Keep me informed.

5.7 INT. PASSAGE/LARGE CHAMBER. TUMANBAY PALACE - NIGHT 5.7

MANEL and ALKIN are in chains. A GUARD LEADS them along a passage and into a large chamber of the dungeons. CADALI, GREGOR, and an OFFICIAL await.

GREGOR (V.O.)

To make wine grapes are crushed in an iron press until their juice is extracted and only the skins are left.

GUARD

This way... wait.

GREGOR (V.O.)

Day by day, in Tumanbay, the screw is tightened and blood flows.

GUARD

Stand here.

MANEL

Why are we here? You have no right.
You cannot do this.

OFFICIAL

Bow your head towards the committee
of justices.

MANEL

I am the Sultana. This is my
Vizier.

CADALI

Yes, yes, indeed.

ALKIN

Well what now, Cadali? A show
trial? Under the laws of Tumanbay-

CADALI

A moment, Madam, if you please.

GREGOR (V.O.)

Cadali is loving this.

CADALI

(to official)

Do we have the...?

(being handed a paper)

Thank you...

GREGOR (V.O.)

**And what am I? A helpless observer
to my niece's demise, or a
collaborator?**

CADALI

(reading)

You have been tried under the laws
of Tumanbay-

MANEL

What do you mean, "tried", Cadali?
We have said nothing, had no chance
to defend ourselves.

CADALI

The committee has examined all the
facts.

MANEL

What committee is this?
(addressing a committee
member)

(MORE)

MANEL (CONT'D)

You - yes, you, Sir, state your name and position.

CADALI

You have no authority here, Madam. Haranguing the justices will get you nowhere.

MANEL

This is treason.

(noticing Gregor)

And Gregor! Are you party to this?

GREGOR

I... I serve Tumanbay.

GREGOR (V.O.)

That sounded weak.

GREGOR

Er... I have always put Tumanbay before all else and Tumanbay needs a strong leader.

CADALI

Exactly.

GREGOR (V.O.)

Better.

Cadali APPROACHES.

CADALI

Where is he?

MANEL

Who?

CADALI

Prince Herod.

Silence.

CADALI (CONT'D)

Your husband. Or have you forgotten you have one?

MANEL

I don't know where he is.

CADALI

Hmmm...

GREGOR (V.O.)

But I do.

ALKIN

I'm intrigued, Cadali. Of what exactly is Her Majesty accused?

CADALI

The gold. You gave Tumanbay's gold reserves to the enemy.

MANEL

We had no choice.

CADALI

And you have no defence.

MANEL

It was your suggestion.

CADALI

Oh no. All I did was serve my city in time of war. You and your... your so called "vizier", here, made the decision. Your decision, your crime.

ALKIN

And what happens now?

CADALI

It's for the court to decide. But I am very afraid there is only one sentence possible given the gravity of the crime. Bring them forward.

Gregor APPROACHES Cadali in urgent hushed tones.

GREGOR

Cadali, you said they would be banished.

CADALI

Oh, I had hoped. I pleaded for clemency. But, alas, it's the law. It's bigger than all of us. Now, Gregor, why don't you bring the prisoners forward so that the court may pass sentence.

Gregor WALKS over to Manel.

GREGOR

Come forward, please.

MANEL

(hisses)
You cowardly traitor.

GREGOR (V.O.)

I think... I would have to agree.

5.8 EXT. COURTYARD. HEAVEN'S HOUSE. TUMANBAY - NIGHT

5.8

HEROD WALKS along a corridor and emerges into a courtyard.
AKIBA is there.

AKIBA

Ah, Prince Herod. I wondered when
you would join me.

HEROD

I heard a child crying. I thought
it was a dream.

AKIBA

No. We have a child. Pahmina. She
was crying earlier.

HEROD

Oh. Where is her mother?

AKIBA

Away. On business.

HEROD

But she must miss her child.

AKIBA

Yes.

HEROD

Is there any news? From the palace?

AKIBA

Nothing, I'm afraid. No one is
going in or out.

HEROD

I craved to get out when I was
there, and now all I want is-

AKIBA

You don't want to be inside, trust
me. There will be executions and
tortures and-

HEROD

My wife is inside.

AKIBA

I'm sorry. I didn't mean to-

HEROD

It's all right. The Sultana and
I... We are not close. Not at all.
(chuckles)
She hardly knows who I am.
(MORE)

HEROD (CONT'D)

I spend more time with that damn monkey than with her. He shows me more affection than she does.

AKIBA

Well, you're here, you're alive. That's something... that's a lot. It means there's still a chance to act.

HEROD

Act?

AKIBA

To do something.

HEROD

Right... Well, mostly what I do is spend my time getting drunk, gambling, losing, and... you know... My mother always said I was useless. She was right.

Akiba POURS for both. As they drink:

HEROD (CONT'D)

(not listening)

I remember when I was twelve, I wanted to do something to please my mother and I thought I'd remember some texts of our faith. I was going to recite them to her and her friends at a gathering. I worked for months, studying them, remembering every line, every word and then, when I stood there in front of her - I remember she had invited my father and friends to witness my achievement - I forgot everything. I can still see the look on her face - the disappointment and disgust. And I've been seeing that look on people's faces all my life.

AKIBA

I had a kingdom once. I was a king. We are buffeted by fate. Sometimes it seems to us that the walls of circumstance that surround us are as high and strong as the walls of Tumanbay. But they are not, we can throw them down if we want to enough. We can change things!

HEROD

Do you really believe that?

AKIBA

I do.

Pause.

HEROD

I don't.

Akiba DRINKS and sets his cup down.

AKIBA

Then we'll see. In the morning.

HEROD

Why? What's happening in the morning?

5.9 OMITTED 5.9

5.10 OMITTED 5.10

5.11 OMITTED 5.11

5.12 INT. PALACE DUNGEONS. TUMANBAY - MORNING 5.12

Gregor is MARCHING through echoey passages.

GREGOR (V.O.)

Sometimes, whatever you hope, there simply isn't any choice and you have to do the thing... the damned thing.

He hurries DOWN a short flight of steps. GUARD 3 awaits.

GREGOR

Open up.

Guard 3 OPENS the cell. Manel is inside. Gregor ENTERS.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

It's time.

Manel observes him bitterly.

MANEL

How has it come to this, Uncle?

He doesn't react.

GREGOR

(to Guard)

You. Go and get the other one.

GUARD 3

Yes, Sir.

Guard 3 UNLOCKS another cell. Alkin is inside.

GUARD 3 (CONT'D)

(to Alkin)

You - come on.

ALKIN

(standing)

It's all right. You don't need to touch me. I come willingly.

GREGOR

You seem unafraid.

ALKIN

Perhaps. Shall we go? We have said our goodbyes. I am ready.

GREGOR

As you please.

He LEADS her to where Manel and Guard 3 are.

MANEL

You have no heart, Uncle.

GREGOR

(scoffing)

No heart?

(to Guard 3)

Guard, please...

GUARD 3

Yes, Sir?

GREGOR

I'm sorry.

GUARD 3

Sir?

Gregor STABS him. Guard COLLAPSES

GREGOR

A heart's no good without a brain.
Come on, we need to hurry.

He UNLOCKS their ankle chains.

ALKIN

Where?

GREGOR

(leading the way)

The under city, there's a way close
by... passages under the palace.
We'll be safe, come.

MANEL

Maybe I was wrong about you.

GREGOR

Let's get out of here first...
Left, there, at the end of the
passage, there's a grill...

They HURRY out of the cell, moving fast.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

Wait. In the shadow, there.

A group of guards MARCH past at the end of the corridor.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

Now go - quickly.

They RUN to the end of the passage. Gregor GRABS the grill.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

It should swing...

He GRUNTS, pulls, strains... Then, out of nowhere, Cadali
APPEARS:

CADALI

It's called The Torture by Hope.

Guards SURROUND Gregor, Alkin, and Manel - "Stay where you
are - don't move" etc.

CADALI (CONT'D)

Yes, a refinement introduced by a
certain khan in the Far East. To
offer the condemned a last bright
hope of freedom only to snuff it
out at the final moment. The grill
was re-locked this morning, Gregor.
I am not a fool and you are all too
predictable. There will be three
executions today. Quite a show for
the crowd. Shall we go?

Guards GRAB them. They're MARCHED away.

MIX TO:

5.13 EXT. EXECUTION SQUARE. TUMANBAY - DAY

5.13

Gregor's perspective:

Big crowd noise RISING UNDER. Rattle of cage. Gregor, Manel and Alkin are trapped together.

GREGOR (V.O.)

Could I have acted otherwise? Is a good act good if there's no choice involved?

MANEL

How long will they keep us here?

ALKIN

As long as suits Cadali. He needs the crowd on his side, he has to give them a good show.

MANEL

I think I'm going to be sick.

GREGOR

Behind my cloak. Don't let them see your fear.

He holds it up, she is SICK.

ALKIN

One day, Gregor, you may surprise yourself with your own decency.

GREGOR

It had better be quick then.

(beat)

Listen, I want you to indulge my curiosity.

ALKIN

Go on.

GREGOR

Since nothing much matters any more, I would like to know: people believe that you were... are... Maya...

ALKIN

People or you, Gregor?

(laughs)

They say Maya was never one person, not even many people. Does that answer your question?

GREGOR

No.

ALKIN

I'm sorry to leave you unsatisfied - you will understand one day.

GREGOR

You've more faith in our future
than I have.

ALKIN

I have no doubt that I'm going to
die today, but I will live again.

GREGOR

I don't believe that. There is only
one world and that world is this.

Off, we hear Cadali ADDRESS the CHEERING crowd.

CADALI

*People of Tumanbay. Your leaders
have been consorting with
Tumanbay's enemies. They have
betrayed you, to enrich themselves.*

ALKIN

(urgent)

Gregor, this world is a flickering
candle flame. It's there, it isn't
there, then it's there again. It
can be snuffed out and then there
will come the darkness...

Cadali continues in the background:

CADALI

*Someone needs to stop them. I am
that man! Today is a new dawn, a
new day when we say: enough, we
need a strong leader, a leader who
serves the interests of Tumanbay...
I am that leader!*

Huge CHEERS.

ALKIN

But it can be relit. Remember that!
The scrolls you once had? The
Balarac have them now. There is an
answer there.

GREGOR

Where?

ALKIN

You have to wait.

GREGOR

Wait? There's no time to wait.

Alkin ignores Gregor and turns to Manel.

ALKIN

My love. Are you all right?

MANEL

Yes, I'm all right. I can face what we have to face together.

Big CHEER.

CUT TO:

5.14 EXT. EXECUTION SQUARE. IN THE CROWD - CONTINUOUS

5.14

Herod's perspective:

Crowd is all around us - Cadali still speaking, off.

CADALI

(off)

A glorious tomorrow awaits us, my friends. No more dictators, no more generals, I am your leader! I am your voice! I will take power in your name...

Akiba is PULLING Herod along.

HEROD

I don't think we should be here, this could be really, really dangerous.

AKIBA

Come on... This tree will do, the branches'll give us a good view.

HEROD

I don't want to see this!

AKIBA

Up you go...

They CLIMB up into the tree.

CADALI

(off)

Now, bring out for all to see, the traitors who, to enrich themselves, tried to sell Tumanbay to foreign powers...

HEROD

Oh, they're bringing them out. Poor Manel, poor girl...

CUT TO:

5.15 EXT. EXECUTION SQUARE. TUMANBAY - CONTINUOUS

5.15

Alkin's perspective:

Cage OPENED.

SOLDIER

Now come on!

MANEL

No!

Alkin HOLDS Manel - we go in close:

ALKIN

Farewell, my love. I will see you again.

MANEL

No, we're all going to die. I will never...

Alkin KISSES her.

CADALI

(off, to Soldier)

Bring her out.

ALKIN

Look at me. This is not the end, Manel.

CADALI

(off, to Soldier)

Bring her out!

MANEL

How can you be so calm?

ALKIN

Have courage, believe in love.

SOLDIER

Now, come on.

He PULLS Alkin away.

MANEL

No... no!

The crowd noise lessens as Alkin is BROUGHT out.

CADALI

Citizens of Tumanbay, first on the programme for today: Alkin, the hidden presence behind the throne, the agent of Maya, the corrupter of innocence.

She is DRAGGED to the gallows. We are with her.

EXECUTIONER

(quietly, to Alkin)

Head forward, don't struggle. Just look straight ahead. I will make it painless.

CADALI

Do you have anything to say?

The crowd goes QUIET.

ALKIN

I... I have travelled the world, and I have seen many countries and many men... but I have never seen such an incompetent, pathetic...

CADALI

Executioner, do you job, hang the bitch now!

EXECUTIONER

Good journey, Madam.

ALKIN

Good life to you, Sir.

The trap door OPENS. Alkin DROPS.

MANEL

(anguished cry, off)

Alkin!

CADALI

So end all enemies of Tumanbay!

The RATTLE of the gibbet. The crowd is quiet. Manel continues to CRY OUT, off, but is RESTRAINED by the Soldier.

CADALI (CONT'D)

They're not... they're not cheering enough. Why aren't they cheering?

SOLDIER

Don't know, Majesty.

CADALI

They want a show? I'll give them a show. Bring out the Sultana and Commander Gregor. Bring them both, we'll do a double.

They are BROUGHT out - crowd much quieter now.

CUT TO:

5.16 EXT. EXECUTION SQUARE. IN THE CROWD - CONTINUOUS

5.16

Herod's perspective:

Crowd quieter.

HEROD

She looks so young... it's wrong...

AKIBA

The bastard Gregor can die a thousand times for all I care... but not her.

CADALI

(off)

Manel daughter of General Qulan, you have been found guilty of giving gold to our enemies. Because of your exalted position, a position of trust and power, your crime is all the greater. You will not receive the mercy of the noose. You and your henchman Gregor, son-of-No-Man will be broken on the wheel, and your bodies thrown to the dogs.

One or two CRIES of "No," from the crowd.

AKIBA

Herod, you are the Sultan.

HEROD

What do you mean?

AKIBA

Look... look...

Herod CLIMBS higher.

CUT TO:

5.17 EXT. EXECUTION SQUARE. TUMANBAY - CONTINUOUS

5.17

Cadali's perspective:

Manel is PLUCKED out of her cage and DRAGGED across the courtyard. She and Gregor are TIED down.

There isn't any answering cheer from the crowd - there is a sort of menacing RUMBLE.

GREGOR

Manel. I'm Sorry. I got it wrong. From the beginning. I thought I could save you...

MANEL

(shouts - hoarse, scared
but defiant)

I am the Sultana, this man is the
traitor.

CADALI

Gag her.

MANEL

I call upon the people-

She is GAGGED.

CUT TO:

5.18 EXT. EXECUTION SQUARE. IN THE CROWD - CONTINUOUS

5.18

Herod's perspective:

CADALI

(off)

*Feel no pity, my friends. These
people are bad people who have
taken from you, from your families
without remorse. Let this be a
lesson to all who put themselves
above Tumanbay!*

AKIBA

Herod, are you going to let it
happen?

HEROD

What can I do?

AKIBA

You have to stand up now and speak.

HEROD

I can't, I can't, my mother... I...

He's WEEPING.

CADALI

(off)

*Watch as your self-styled Sultana,
puppet of a foreign power, the gold-
giver, receives Tumanbay's justice!*

AKIBA

(yells)

Here, here is Prince Herod... see
him, listen to his words...

HEROD

No, no, no! Shhh!

AKIBA

Here is your Sultan.
 (to Herod, giving him a
 shove)
 Speak, damn you, *speak to them.*

Individuals in the crowd REACT as Herod begins to speak.

HEROD

I... I... this... Sultana Manel is
 no traitor... What's happening
 here, this day, now...

VOICE 1

(off)
 Oy, that's the feller from the
 tavern!

HEROD

... is a lie. She has served
 Tumanbay. That man there...
 Cadali... he is the traitor.

Herod fades under as we switch briefly to Cadali's retort,
 from the platform:

HEROD (CONT'D)

(off)
 If you don't want this to happen,
 it doesn't have to happen. It's for
 the people to decide what happens.
 Tumanbay is not the fat man with
 the bald head there, it's not the
 guards, it's you... everyone one of
 you... the butchers, the bakers,
 shopkeepers, the clans... er...

CADALI

(off - defiant)
*And there is another traitor. The
 Sultana's husband... hiding in a
 tree. I urge you to knock him down.
 Knock him down and bring him to me.*

Cadali fades as we return to Herod's side.

HEROD

No, no, no... Wait... I... I...
 (to Akiba)
 I don't know what to say.

AKIBA

Don't stop now! Say anything...
 Just keep talking.

HEROD

I... I... was a King, I had a
 kingdom once.

AKIBA

What?

HEROD

(getting into his stride)
We are buffeted by fate. Sometimes
it seems to us that the walls of
circumstance that surround us are
as high and strong as the walls of
Tumanbay.

VOICE 2

Hear him, listen to him.

CHEERS and similar SHOUTS of support from the crowd under.

HEROD

But they are not... They are *not*!
We can throw them down if we want
to enough. We can change things!

Crowd begins to RALLY behind him.

HEROD (CONT'D)

(off)
Free the Sultana now! Free her...
Free her, free her, free her...

The crowd starts to CHANT with him.

CUT TO:

5.19 EXT. EXECUTION SQUARE. TUMANBAY - CONTINUOUS

5.19

Cadali's perspective:

Crowd CHANTING.

CADALI

What's he doing? They can't do
this. Executioner, why aren't you
obeying my orders?

Crowd SURGE forward. They're BELLOWING: "Free her, free her!"
as they charge.

SOLDIER

What should we do, Majesty?

SOLDIER 2

The guards can't hold them...
they're through the barriers.

SOLDIER

Majesty, where are you going?

CADALI
(retreating)
There's something I have to see
to...

He starts to RUN.

SOLDIER
Majesty? Excell- Majesty?
Excellency!

Roaring crowd up.

5.20 INT. GRAND MASTER'S ROOMS. BALARAC CASTLE - NIGHT

5.20

Heaven is READING to Amalric.

HEAVEN
(reading)
"... Then wept the weary warlord,
Then cried the very clouds,
Then gave up the snake her form,
Then passed the flesh of the lizard-
"

AMALRIC
"And lost the times of heroes
brave, and men forgot the land so
fair."
(beat)
Enough for now.

HEAVEN
But you know this. Why do you need
me to read it for you?

AMALRIC
A word must be spoken, sounded
aloud, only then will it become
real in this world. For God spoke
the creation of all things.
(beat)
And I like your voice. You read
well. Refresh yourself, there's
wine.

A pause.

AMALRIC (CONT'D)
You hesitate. Pour, bring me a cup.

Heaven POURS and give him a cup.

AMALRIC (CONT'D)
You wish to ask a question. Go on.

HEAVEN

Where are your women?

AMALRIC

Our women?

HEAVEN

Have you no wives? Why are the only women here servants?

AMALRIC

Because we are given. We have sworn to serve God and live as warrior monks. It's an amazing thing when you offer your life to a great cause and there is no greater cause than to serve the Word of God.

A silence.

AMALRIC (CONT'D)

Your silence tells me a great deal. Firstly that you think about things and secondly that what you think is that we are just another religion that wants to make the people live as we believe they should. But you are wrong, everyone has a choice. Without choice there is no freedom. Without freedom to choose, there is no good or evil.

HEAVEN

And if they make the wrong choice?

AMALRIC

Then assuredly they will suffer unspeakable abominations when the world ends!

Pause and then he LAUGHS.

5.21 INT. STABLES. BALARAC CASTLE - NIGHT

5.21

Horses - Frog is SHOVELLING manure. Heaven APPROACHES.

HEAVEN

Hello?

FROG

Over here. Shovelling horse shite.

HEAVEN

My father used to send the servants out to collect it. Good for the gardens. You were kind to me on the ship - I brought you some food.

FROG

Thank you.

He TAKES it and EATS.

HEAVEN

You're from Tumanbay too, aren't you?

FROG

Yes.

HEAVEN

Why are you here?

FROG

I want to be a soldier like the Grand Master.

Heaven gives him a look.

FROG (CONT'D)

What?

HEAVEN

I don't think you do. I think you're lying.

A silence.

HEAVEN (CONT'D)

Well, good luck, I hope you don't get killed.

She TURNS to go.

FROG

Wait. I saw you with the scrolls.

HEAVEN

You saw me?

FROG

In a dream. They were painted. Very beautiful. Lizards and snakes... They mean something for you, for me, for all of us.

HEAVEN

What are you talking about?

FROG

I see things. I saw my father die. I saw the old Sultan die. And it came to pass.

HEAVEN

So you're a prophet?

FROG

I've been called that.

HEAVEN

Well, I say you look more like a grubby boy shovelling horse shite! Good night, I hope you dream of happier times.

Frog GRABS her arm and talks in hushed tones.

FROG

The blind man, are you close to him?

HEAVEN

What of it?

FROG

He's going to kill someone... my friend... a girl...

HEAVEN

Where? Here?

FROG

No, in Tumanbay. I have to stop him. I have to save her.

HEAVEN

I don't want to hear this.

FROG

I need you to help me. Tell me where he goes, when he's alone...

HEAVEN

I just want to live, to get back to my family. To the people I love!

FROG

That's why... don't you see?

HEAVEN

See what?

FROG

Why I have to... kill him. Because I love her.

HEAVEN

No, no, I have a child, I can't risk... I can't help you... I'm sorry - I can't help you.

She RUSHES off.

5.22 OMITTED 5.22

5.23 OMITTED 5.23

5.24 INT. DINING HALL. GOVERNOR'S PALACE. RASHEEM PROVINCE - 5.24
MORNING

Footsteps in a long corridor. Qulan ENTERS a room, we go with him.

FATIMA

Well, well, good morning, General Qulan. There have been all sorts of excitements overnight.

QULAN

What are you talking about?

FATIMA

News from Tumanbay. A coup. Against your daughter.

He doesn't react. He no longer knows whether to trust anything she says. She watches him amused.

FATIMA (CONT'D)

It failed...

(beat)

Thanks to my son.

QULAN

The Sultana?

FATIMA

Oh, your daughter? Yes - is well. But I'm afraid that woman, the unnatural woman, Alkin, she was killed.

QULAN

(as if stabbed)

Ah...

FATIMA

Are you all right, General?

QULAN

Yes.

FATIMA

This is joyous news. Thanks to my son, Tumanbay has been secured. But there may be more trouble. It's time to march.

QULAN

But your husband?

FATIMA

Is still away. We must go without him. It seems the city is more exposed than ever. The Balarac will likely attack... Are you sure you're all right, General? Not ill?

QULAN

Yes, yes... I... So, the army?

FATIMA

Awaits it's general. Look, outside...

Qulan GETS UP and GOES to the window.

5.25

INT. GRAND MASTER'S ROOMS. BALARAC CASTLE - DAY

5.25

Heaven OPENS a cupboard - looks amongst manuscripts and scrolls. Amalric STARTLES her.

AMALRIC

You are looking for something?

HEAVEN

Oh! For something to read to you, Grand Master. We have finished The Land so Fair. I wanted to prepare...

AMALRIC

Hmmm, yes.

HEAVEN

You have a lot of scrolls.

AMALRIC

Our order goes back many years. These are just a few, in our library you will find more than you could ever read.

Heaven TAKES some scrolls out.

HEAVEN

These are fine. Painted. Very beautiful - lizards and snakes...

She STOPS abruptly - perhaps echo Frog's line - "*Painted. Very beautiful - lizards and snakes...*"

HEAVEN (CONT'D)

What are they?

AMALRIC

Let me feel...

She HOLDS the scrolls out for him - fingers on velum.

AMALRIC (CONT'D)

These are not for you. Put them back.

She PUTS them back.

AMALRIC (CONT'D)

Are you a spy, Heaven of the House of Ibn?

HEAVEN

No, my father used to... He collected many scrolls and... lived for his collection and in the end, he died for it. I always loved stories, legends, travellers' tails... I honour him when I honour what is written down.

AMALRIC

(strong)

You are mired in love. Possessions, family, children, all of these things stand in a man's way. Only God can-

A KNOCK at the door.

AMALRIC (CONT'D)

Come.

KNIGHT ENTERS.

KNIGHT

News from Tumanbay, Grand Master.

AMALRIC

Go on.

KNIGHT

The coup has failed.

AMALRIC

Of course it has failed. That man Cadali was no more than a useful idiot. Does he live?

KNIGHT

We've no news of him.

AMALRIC

And the Sultana?

KNIGHT

She has been restored to the throne. Your orders, Grand Master?

5.25A INT. THRONE ROOM. PALACE. TUMANBAY - DAY

5.25A

Gregor WALKS along a corridor and STOPS.

GREGOR (V.O.)

Alkin's body lies upon a table in the throne room. Manel has not left her side.

Gregor STEPS forward.

GREGOR (V.O.)

We hurt for those we love and lose. Or so I am told.

Gregor APPROACHES Manel slowly. Herod is with her.

GREGOR (V.O.)

What is strange is the manner of Alkin's death. She was so calm, she seemed to welcome it. It was as if the body was dead before she was hanged.

She becomes aware that Gregor is behind her.

MANEL

Oh... Uncle...

GREGOR

Majesty. We believe the traitor Cadali is hiding in the city. My spies-

HEROD

(approaching)

You have questioned those involved at all levels?

GREGOR

Ah, Prince Herod, I didn't realize you were here.

HEROD

Why wouldn't I be? My wife needs me by her side at this time.

GREGOR

Good.

HEROD

So why haven't you found Cadali?

GREGOR

Well, he's clever. He kept all the elements apart so none could see the whole plan but him.

MANEL

I want him alive.

GREGOR

Of course you do, Majesty, and you shall have him.

MANEL

And everyone who had anything to do with this, down to the meanest gatekeeper.

GREGOR

It shall be done, Majesty.

He GOES.

HEROD

Manel.

MANEL

Don't touch me. Please...

HEROD

I'm sorry. We'll give her the burial she deserves...

Manel doesn't respond.

HEROD (CONT'D)

In the martyrs tomb. Maybe a statue?

MANEL

She wouldn't want that. To be confined in a dark room. She wasn't a martyr, she didn't believe in...

(sobs)

She was a wise traveller. We will send her off as a traveller...

HEROD

Of course, of course... Shall I leave you alone?

MANEL

Please.

He STARTS to go and then TURNS.

HEROD

Look, I don't know much and I'm mostly pretty useless but I do know about being hurt and being alone... and maybe one day, maybe a long, long time away, but maybe I will be able to help you and hold you...

MANEL

Listen Herod, I appreciate what you did, but I'm afraid that won't be possible.

HEROD

But, I can help you... support you. I know I could never be able to advice as she did but-

MANEL

You will get your reward, don't worry.

HEROD

Reward? No, that's not what I -
(beat)
I'm your husband.

MANEL

Don't you understand? I would rather have died with her.

HEROD

Ah...

MANEL

Can you not see that I am dying inside? Yes, yes, you saved me, and I will give you a place on the council - you deserve it - but we will never be as man and wife except in name. I'm sorry. But I have a sword in my heart. I keep turning around expecting to see her there. And she is never there and will never be there again.

Silence.

HEROD

Of course.

He GOES - she is alone with the body.

MANEL

(whispering)

You taught me so many things,
Alkin, told me so much, you showed
me how to deal with men and women
and events large and small, how to
expect the unexpected and turn
disadvantage to my own ends, you
told me all that and yet you never
told me how to cope with losing
you. Why couldn't you have done
that? It would make it all so much
easier to bear. Alkin...

She WEEPS.

MUSIC swells.

5.26 OMITTED 5.26

5.27 EXT. TUMANBAY CITY - EVENING 5.27

Across the city the call to prayer echoes. Birds take off and
swarm in the sky.

MIX TO:

5.28 OMITTED 5.28

5.29 EXT. SHORELINE. TUMANBAY - EVENING 5.29

Distant sound of the call to prayer ending. Water lapping
against the shore. Gregor, Herod, and some Servants stand by
Manel, who grieves over Alkin's body.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**We gather at the shore to send the
traveller fourth on her last
journey.**

He TOUCHES Manel on the shoulder.

GREGOR

Majesty... It is time.

MANEL

Yes.

HEROD

Take the torch.

She PUTS to the torch to the pyre.

MANEL

Go. Continue your journey, my friend.

The flames rise up.

GREGOR

Let go the ropes, push her out.

Servants LAUNCH the raft. It drifts out to sea. Feature intense burning.

MANEL

Let her ashes travel the oceans for all time...

We cross fade from fire to the sound of something modern, like a helicopter.

CUT TO:

5.29A INT. STABLES. BALARAC CASTLE - NIGHT

5.29A

Heaven is SHAKING Frog. It's like the "modern sound" was in Frog's dream.

HEAVEN

Wake up, Frog, wake up!

Frog is STARTLED.

FROG

What is it?

HEAVEN

Do you truly love this girl?

FROG

Yes.

HEAVEN

They are going to take Tumanbay. We leave at dawn.

FROG

But I need to get close to him, the Grand Master. How can I?

Pause.

HEAVEN

I will help you.

MIX TO:

5.30 OMITTED.

5.30

5.31 EXT. DESERT. PROVINCES - DAY

5.31

The wind moving across the sand.

Qulan is at the front of Fatima's army. They are waiting for him.

FATIMA

Mount your horse, General. Lead my army.

Qulan MOUNTS his horse.

FATIMA (CONT'D)

Well? Give the command, Commander.

QULAN

(distracted)

My command?

FATIMA

You are the greatest commander Tumanbay has ever seen. *My* commander. Now tell them to proceed.

QULAN

(quietly)

Yes. Proceed...

FATIMA

(shouting, excited)

We are going to Tumanbay to defend the city from the Balarac!

We hear SHOUTS echoing along the line: "Forward - Forward - Forward..." suggesting a large army.

MIX TO:

5.32 EXT. SHORELINE. TUMANBAY - NIGHT

5.32

The burning ship floats across the water.

GREGOR (V.O.)

There is little wind to stir the sales of Alkin's funeral ship; the sea is flat, everything is still, as if Tumanbay is holding her breath, waiting...

MUSIC.

End of Episode 3.05.