

TUMANBAY

Episode 1.08 - "The Purge"

by

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Footsteps. FROG LEADS GREGOR out through the dark passages.

FROG
This way.

GREGOR
(confused)
But surely it's...?

FROG
No. This way...

GREGOR (V.O.)
I'm lost and dependent on a child.
I don't like it. I don't like it
one bit....

FROG
See?

GREGOR
Yes, yes.

His pace strengthens as he strides towards the light. He starts to SCRAMBLE up through filth and rubbish.

GREGOR (V.O.)
... But I am alive, and there's
light...

Gregor CLIMBS out of the ground.

GREGOR (V.O.)
... And I'm back in the world
above, a world I know and
understand...

A horse GALLOPS towards him. He DUCKS down.

FROG
(calling from below)
Help me up.

Gregor leans down and takes Frog's hand and HOISTS him up onto the street.

FROG (CONT'D)
Do you know where we are?

GREGOR
The main market.

FROG
It's very quiet.

GREGOR
It's early.

FROG
So how do we get to the palace?

GREGOR
What?

FROG
I got you out of the caves. Now *you*
lead *me*. Take me to see the
Sultan...

They SET OFF.

8.3 **OPENING TITLES - MUSIC** 8.3

ANNOUNCER
Tumanbay, Episode 8. "The Purge",
by John Dryden.

8.4 OMITTED 8.4

8.5 INT. TUMANBAY. QULAN'S HOUSE - DAY 8.5

DANIEL and MANEL are stealing a moment of privacy, before
Qulan joins them for breakfast.

MUSIC swells.

MANEL
And when will the battle commence?

DANIEL
When your father wishes it to. And
only then.

MANEL
But it will be soon, won't it? You
will go away and... and...

DANIEL
Your father is a great general,
perhaps the greatest Tumanbay has
ever known. You have nothing to
fear.

MANEL
My fear is not for him, it is for
you.

She EMBRACES him.

DANIEL

No, not here, Manel. Not in your parents' house.

MANEL

I don't care. I would do anything for you.

He PUSHES her away.

DANIEL

Your father...

They PART as QULAN ENTERS.

QULAN

Good morning.

MANEL

Good morning, Father.

QULAN

I hope you are comfortable here, Daniel?

DANIEL

I am, General. I'm grateful for your hospitality.

Qulan SITS and starts EATING. A SERVANT APPROACHES.

QULAN

Sit, eat.

SERVANT

Coffee, general?

QULAN

Mmm. Where is your brother, Manel?

MANEL

I haven't seen him this morning, Father.

QULAN

Is he using his time wisely to better himself?

MANEL

Yes, Father. I'm sure...

QULAN

(to Servant)

You! Go to his room and wake him up. Give him a good beating if necessary.

SERVANT

Yes, General.

QULAN

Why was I cursed with a son with no
desire or interest in anything?

He EATS. The uncomfortable silence is interrupted by
HAMMERING at the door.

MANEL

(getting up)
I will go and-

QULAN

Stay. Let the servants do their
job. I will not have my daughter
opening the door to strangers.

Silence. After a moment the Servant RETURNS.

SERVANT

General, there are soldiers from
the Palace Guard outside. They are
asking for you.

QULAN

Yes? What do they want here?

Two OFFICERS STRIDE IN. HODAH FOLLOWS them, concerned.

OFFICER

General Qulan you are to come with
us.

QULAN

Why?

OFFICER

Are you to come peacefully or shall
I call my men in?

Daniel DRAWS his sword.

DANIEL

General. What is your command?

QULAN

Stand down.

Daniel RE-SHEATHES his sword.

QULAN (CONT'D)

(calmly)

Am I to understand you are
arresting me? By whose authority?

OFFICER
The Sultan's.

QULAN
I will finish my breakfast.

OFFICER 2 DRAWS his sword.

OFFICER 2
You will come with us now.

QULAN
I see. It is like that.

DANIEL
General, what shall I do?

QULAN
Do nothing. Serve the Sultan
loyally, as I do.
(sotto)
And Daniel... Look after them.

DANIEL
With my life, General.

He TURNS to his daughter.

QULAN
Manel, go fetch your mother.

HODAH
(coming in)
I am here, husband.

QULAN
It seems... I may have to leave
you.
(quietly to Hodah)
Remember what I told you, Hodah? If
this day ever came, you know what
to do.

QULAN (CONT'D)
It's important that you remain calm
whatever happens. You know where to
go?

She nods.

QULAN (CONT'D)
Take the others. Be kind to them.
But know, Hodah, that you are my
first and most treasured wife.

Hodah starts WEEPING. Qulan COMFORTS her.

The SON ENTERS.

SON

Father, what's happening?

QULAN

Ah, Pesha, you join us at last. I hope you had a restful night.

SON

Who are these men? Why are they here?

Qulan APPROACHES his Son.

QULAN

I... I had wanted more time to prepare you for this world, but... Well, I may have seemed a harsh father, but you will understand why one day.

OFFICER

General, we need to go.

QULAN

Yes... Daniel. Do what you can. Take care of them.

DANIEL

You can be sure of that, General.

QULAN

(to the Officers)
Come.

Qulan LEADS the Officers out. The door slams SHUT.

Hodah COLLAPSES into a hysterical heap. Manel and the Son try to COMFORT her.

DANIEL

I will find out what I can.

MANEL

Yes!

DANIEL

Wait here.

He LEAVES.

Manel FOLLOWS him.

MANEL

Daniel... be careful.

DANIEL

Don't worry. I'm sure there's been some misunderstanding.

(MORE)

DANIEL (CONT'D)

There's something going on in the palace. But just to be safe-

She interrupts him with a KISS.

MANEL

Go.

He GOES.

8.6 EXT. TUMANBAY. STREET - DAY 8.6

Horse and carriages. A busy market street.

8.7 INT. TUMANBAY. MADU'S ROOM. DOORWAY - DAY 8.7

Off we here a SERGEANT DRILLING some soldiers.

A KNOCKING on the door. MADU UNBOLTS it carefully and PEERS out. He sees Daniel, stern faced.

MADU

(cautious)

Daniel? What's happening?

DANIEL

The Sultan has had the General arrested.

MADU

I know that. Is there anyone with you?

DANIEL

What? No, of course not.

MADU

Come.

He swings the door OPEN. Daniel COMES IN. Madu bolts it then turns to Daniel and HUGS him tearfully. They KISS passionately.

MADU (CONT'D)

I tried to get a message to you. We are in danger. It's all gone insane here. My uncle suspects everyone.

DANIEL

But General Qulan? He's loyal.

MADU

Is he?

DANIEL

Yes! The most loyal soldier in the Empire. Loyal to the Sultan, loyal to Tumanbay.

MADU

They say he's been plotting to march the army on Tumanbay.

DANIEL

Who says that?

MADU

My uncle's vizier, Cadali.

DANIEL

I know the General. I've spent time in his home. I know his family. If he had any such plans... I don't believe this can be true.

MADU

The Sultan is seeing traitors everywhere. They say he's started to wear armour in bed!

Daniel MOVES towards the window, looks out. Soldiers continue doing DRILLS under this:

DANIEL

There are soldiers down there...

MADU

It's a purge. Anyone he thinks is a threat is being arrested. I think he may come after me.

DANIEL

No.

MADU

How do you know?

DANIEL

Have any officers of the Palace Guard come here?

MADU

Not yet.

DANIEL

Then they won't. They would have come here first.

He sees the fear in Madu's face.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Don't be scared. You're safe here.

He GOES to the door.

MADU

What are you doing?

DANIEL

I have to get a message to
Commander Wolf.

8.8

INT. TUMANBAY. HOUSE OF PLEASURE. ROOM - DAY

8.8

WOLF is with SHAMSI, the prostitute. They are in bed.

WOLF

I don't like sharing you with other
men.

SHAMSI

No more than you like sharing your
horse with other men?

He starts GETTING DRESSED.

WOLF

It is not the same at all.

SHAMSI

Prove it to me.

WOLF

I will... But first-

SHAMSI

But first you have to get back to
your horses?

WOLF

Maya is a dangerous enemy who needs
to be taught a lesson.

SHAMSI

Then go and teach her a lesson.

WOLF

You don't understand, the Sultan is
afraid. He wants to negotiate
peace. He won't let us go back to
the army, so General Qulan has
ordered the army to come back to
Tumanbay. They've been marching for
five days. We need to prepare.

SHAMSI

So you disobeyed the Sultan's
orders?

WOLF

He's not my Sultan. And anyway someone has to act or Maya will just walk in through the city gates.

SHAMSI

And when you come face to face with this "Queen Maya", what do you intend to do to her?

WOLF

Kill her.

SHAMSI

She is beautiful you know.

WOLF

You've met her?

Shamsi GIGGLES.

SHAMSI

Of course not. I've heard of her beauty.

WOLF

How do I know you are not one of her spies?

SHAMSI

Commander Wolf, I am just a whore.

WOLF

A whore who beguiles men, renders them impotent so she can steal their secrets.

SHAMSI

Wolf, you are beginning to scare me-

WOLF

You are a spy. Why don't you admit it now?

SHAMSI

What? No. Why... why are you talking to me like this...?

She stares at him, frightened now.

SHAMSI (CONT'D)

Are you...(serious)?

After a moment he bursts out LAUGHING.

WOLF
(picking her up playfully)
Oh, Shamsi! Shamsi, Shamsi...

SHAMSI
Put me down. I hate you. I hate
everything about you. Let me go.
Let me go!

They hear SHOUTS in the corridor outside. After a moment the door to their room BURSTS OPEN. Two Officers of the Palace Guard and several soldiers are there.

OFFICER
Commander Wolf?

Wolf PUTS Shamsi down and composes himself.

WOLF
What do you want?

OFFICER 2
You are to come with us.

WOLF
Why?

The Guards BURST IN.

OFFICER
Seize him.

Wolf is GRABBED by several Soldiers.

SHAMSI
What...? Wolf?

WOLF
Shamsi, step back. Now!

SHAMSI
But who are they?

WOLF
Palace Guard.

With breathtaking speed, he DRAWS his sword.

WOLF (CONT'D)
No one *arrests* me.

CLASHING of steel.

SHAMSI
No, Wolf, no!

The guards BACK AWAY. There is a stand-off.

WOLF

Leave her!

(beat)

I go of my own free will to talk to
the Sultan... Shamsi, wait for me.

He STRIDES AWAY, the Palace Guards in PURSUIT.

8.9 INT. TUMANBAY. PALACE. CORRIDOR - DAY

8.9

Gregor LEADS Frog along a palace corridor to his quarters.

GREGOR

This way...

(opening a door)

Through here.

They CONTINUE along another corridor.

GUARD

You! Stop...

Gregor STOPS and turns to see a Guard APPROACHING.

GUARD (CONT'D)

How did you two get in here? This
is-

(recognizing Gregor)

Oh, sorry Your Excellency. We've
been ordered to stop-

GREGOR

Ordered by who?

GUARD

The Sultan. He's taken personal
command over the Palace Guard...

GREGOR

I see... Well, you'd better carry
on with your duties, soldier...

He CONTINUES along the corridor.

GREGOR (V.O.)**So where does that leave me? How
long have I been away...?**

8.10 INT. TUMANBAY. PALACE. GREGOR'S ROOMS - DAY

8.10

Gregor USHERS Frog in.

GREGOR

You can wait in here.

FROG

But where is the Sultan? I have to see-

GREGOR

I know. But no one can just "see" the Sultan. I have to arrange things. You have to wait.

Frog GOES over to Gregor's desk.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

And don't touch anything.
(guiding him)
Just sit down. And wait.

FROG

I'm hungry.

GREGOR

I'll send for something. Just wait.

He GOES out.

8.11 INT. TUMANBAY. PALACE. CORRIDOR - DAY

8.11

Gregor WALKS along a corridor. CADALI appears.

CADALI

Ah Gregor, everyone has been looking for you. Where have you been?

GREGOR

I don't think I need explain myself to you Cadali. I need to see the Sultan.

CADALI

You need to keep out of his way. At least for now.

GREGOR

What do you mean?

CADALI

He has uncovered a plot.

GREGOR

What? Who?

CADALI

General Qulan and his man, Wolf, have ordered the army to march on Tumanbay.

GREGOR

I don't believe it.

CADALI

You wouldn't. Family blood... But I'd stay in your rooms for now until we get to the bottom of it all.

GREGOR

I have a boy.

CADALI

Really? How interesting. I have many.

GREGOR

No. This child is special, he has dreams, he can...

CADALI

Are you all right, Gregor? You seem a bit dazed.

GREGOR

The boy needs to see the Sultan.

CADALI

You need to go to your rooms and wait to be summoned. The Sultan and I will turn our attentions to you in due course and you will have an opportunity to defend yourself.

GREGOR

Defend myself? Against what?

CADALI

You are, after all, the General's brother. We must leave no stone unturned...

Cadali WALKS off.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**So, loyalty is the question...
Maybe the answer is sitting in my
room, waiting for bread and
olives...**

8.12 EXT. TUMANBAY. SLAVE MARKET - DAY

8.12

IBN WALKS through the slave market.

He passes stall holders. A trader and BUYER are haggling over slaves off.

BUYER

What are they, agricultural? What are you asking for them...?

The SLAVE TRADER from Episode 1 SEES Ibn.

SLAVE TRADER

(approaching)

Ibn Bai, Ibn Bai, is that you?

IBN

Ah. Hello.

SLAVE TRADER

We haven't seen you here for a while, eh?

IBN

No, I suppose not.

SLAVE TRADER

Are you looking for something? I've got a new lot in from-

IBN

No. I... I don't require any slaves...

SLAVE TRADER

No, I suppose not. No one's buying at the moment. Waiting to see how things turn out.

IBN

What things?

SLAVE TRADER

You know.

IBN

Oh, that.

SLAVE TRADER

They say Maya will be destroyed once our armies march out, but while we wait for that to happen the markets have gone stone, cold, dead.

IBN

I suppose so. I'm sorry.

SLAVE TRADER

And I've got to keep on feeding them. No one else is going to. Some of the traders here, they've had to cut their loses.

IBN

You mean...?

SLAVE TRADER

Yes...

(makes a throat cutting
gesture)

What else can they do...? But not
me. Not yet. Hey, how did those
blue-eyed ones turn out? Did you
manage to tame the boy?

IBN

Well, I sold him. I got a good
price.

SLAVE TRADER

Yes? And the girl? With the babe in
arms? Did it go to the dogs? A
slave with a baby, no one wants-

IBN

Enough! I don't want to hear
your...

(calming down)

I'm sorry.

SLAVE TRADER

Ibn Bai, what is it? You seem...
Tell me. Tell me, my friend, what
troubles you?

(to Slave)

Coffee! Get coffee.

IBN

No it's... I don't want to trouble
you.

SLAVE TRADER

(to Ibn)

No, it's no trouble. Sit, sit. Tell
me...

IBN

I lost my wife and child - the
plague. They were coming to join me
here in Tumanbay. And the ship I
sent them on... Well, it was to be
their final resting place.

SLAVE TRADER

Ibn Bai, no! No...

IBN

It became a ship of the dead. So
many lives, so many dreams...

Slave Trader CLICKS his tongue in sympathy.

IBN (CONT'D)

She was to get married, Heaven, my daughter. I had found a suitor... And... But that part of my life is a closed chapter now. It was not to be...

The Slave ARRIVES carrying the coffee.

SLAVE TRADER

Ah, coffee.
(to Slave)
Put it here.

The Slave POURS.

SLAVE TRADER (CONT'D)

Go.

Slave LEAVES.

IBN

I took care of the child for a while.

SLAVE TRADER

The slave-girl's child?

IBN

Yes, I thought I'd found new hope, but... ah, she was taken away from me too. Life...

SLAVE TRADER

Life. Yes, that's it.

IBN

It raises you up only to throw you down again.

SLAVE TRADER

It does, it does.

IBN

So...
(sighs)

SLAVE TRADER

On your own again.

IBN

Perhaps that's my fate.

SLAVE TRADER

It was meant to be. There is a purpose to everything that happens, Ibn Bai, of that I am certain.

IBN

I suppose.

SLAVE TRADER

Ay yai... Maybe we are all alone in the end.

IBN

So it would seem.

He STANDS UP.

IBN (CONT'D)

Well, thank you for the coffee. I hope business picks up for you.

SLAVE TRADER

It is in God's hands... Are you sure you don't want to look at my stock?

IBN

Next time...

IBN LEAVES.

SLAVE TRADER

(calling)

All right. It was good to see you.

Ibn SHUFFLES off slowly through the market. Someone TOUCHES his shoulder. It is HEAVEN.

HEAVEN

Excuse me, Sir.

He TURNS and sees a young woman in front of him. Behind her are SLAVE and BOY.

IBN

Yes, can I help you?

Silence. He stares at her.

IBN (CONT'D)

What is it, Girl? Is something troubling you?

HEAVEN

Father, don't you recognize me?

Ibn starts to SHAKE and tremble.

IBN

No, no, this can't be... You're dead.

HEAVEN

No. Look at me. Look into my eyes.
Touch me. Touch my face...

He reaches out and FEELS her face.

IBN

It is. It's you. It's you...

He starts WEEPING and COLLAPSES to the ground.

HEAVEN

(to Slave)
Help him, please...

SLAVE

(stepping forward)
Sir, Sir... Are you all right?

IBN

She's dead. My daughter died in the
ship with her mother. All burnt.
All burnt.

HEAVEN

No father, it's me. Look at me,
it's me.

SLAVE

This your daughter, Sir. Heaven,
this is Heaven...

HEAVEN

It's me. I've been looking for
you...

Through his tears he starts to LAUGH. They both LAUGH.

BOY

Is that really her father? We found
him?

SLAVE

Yes, boy, we did.

8.13 INT/EXT. TUMANBAY. IBN'S HOUSE - DAY

8.13

Ibn LEADS Heaven and the Slave into the house. The Boy is
with them too.

HEAVEN

... and we knew you would be at the
slave market sooner or later. So we
waited. And there you were.

IBN

Come, come...

He TAKES them through to the courtyard.

IBN (CONT'D)

This is your home.

(Calling out)

Sabira! Sabira! Make some coffee.

(To Save)

Please, make yourselves comfortable. You are my guests.

SLAVE

Thank you, Sir.

BOY

This is a real house!

IBN

This is your home, Heaven. I spent months getting it ready, for you and your mother's arrival.

HEAVEN

It is everything she ever wanted.

IBN

Yes... I have been cursing the day we decided to leave our country and come here. Your mother was reluctant. I insisted. But she didn't want to-

HEAVEN

- Don't father. Not now. There's no point blaming yourself.

IBN

No. No... How was she? On the voyage?

HEAVEN

She was excited to be joining you.

IBN

Really? She wasn't cursing me?

HEAVEN

No. Never.

IBN

I planted this tree in her memory. Both of you. It was your mother's favourite.

The Boy CLIMBS up onto the well.

IBN (CONT'D)

Hey, no. Please. Don't let him climb on the well.

(MORE)

IBN (CONT'D)
(calling to Boy)
You'll fall.

SLAVE
Get down from there, Boy.

IBN
It's a long way down.

Boy JUMPS down.

IBN (CONT'D)
Who is this child? Where does he
come from?

BOY
I'm from the desert lands.

HEAVEN
Father he's a good boy. He helped
us. We wouldn't be here without
him.

IBN
Well then, he's welcome. You are
both welcome. My house is your
house.

SLAVE
Thank you, Sir. I am in your debt.

IBN
No. You protected my daughter, you
brought her back to me. I am in
your debt. I am *forever* in *your*
debt.

HEAVEN
What of you, Father? What have you
done?

IBN
Me? I have become a nursemaid.

HEAVEN
(laughing)
What?

IBN
I took care of a baby. For someone
at the palace.

HEAVEN
But how did you-

IBN
It's... all in the past now.

HEAVEN

What is it father?

IBN

I thought I'd lost everything, but you are here.

Sabira RETURNS and SERVES Heaven coffee.

He notices Slave and the Boy watching.

IBN (CONT'D)

(pulling himself together)

Ah... But you must be hungry.

(to Servant)

Tell the cook to prepare something.

The Servant SCUTTLES off.

IBN (CONT'D)

Look, the boy is yawning. Come, I'll take you in and tell you a story.

BOY

What story?

IBN

Oh, I have many stories in my library. Would you like to know of the giant furry ants who carry gold dust in their hair?

BOY

That's impossible.

IBN

Oh no, it's written in the histories. I'll show you...

He LEADS Boy into the house leaving Heaven and Slave.

SLAVE

Nice place - When you said your father was rich, I didn't believe you.

HEAVEN

Does it matter? Does it change anything?

SLAVE

He does business at the palace?

HEAVEN

What?

SLAVE
He mentioned the palace.

HEAVEN
Did he?

SLAVE
Good business, the slave business.

8.14 INT. TUMANBAY. CORRIDOR - DAY

8.14

Qulan is in CHAINS being MARCHED along a corridor.

OFFICER
Wait.

A door OPENS and CLOSES.

QULAN
You consider yourself part of the
Palace Guard?

GUARD 2
Sir?

QULAN
Adjust your collar. You look a
mess.

GUARD 2
Er... Yes, general.

OFFICER
Bring him in.

The Guard starts to PULL Qulan forward.

QULAN
I will walk unaided.

Large wooden doors OPEN.

He GOES into the throne room.

8.15 INT. TUMANBAY. PALACE. THRONE ROOM - DAY

8.15

Qulan ENTERS.

CADALI
Stand there.

QULAN
Here?

CADALI
There.

QULAN

Here?

CADALI

I think you are making light of the situation you find yourself in, General Qulan.

QULAN

And what situation would that be, Cadali? What am I accused of?

CADALI

(to Guard)

Put him there, where the Sultan can see him.

GUARD

I'm sorry, General. I need to just...

The Guard GUIDES Qulan to the spot.

CADALI

Now make him kneel.

QULAN

I will kneel in front of His Majesty of my own free will. My loyalty is and always has been to him.

He KNEELS.

QULAN (CONT'D)

Your Majesty.

AL-GHURI

I counted on your loyalty above all.

QULAN

We are running out of time. Tumanbay is under threat and Maya-

AL-GHURI

And yet, you are the one who betrayed me. And I gave you the power to do so.

QULAN

Your Majesty, with respect, I don't know what you are talking about.

AL-GHURI

Do you take me for a fool? You sent for the army, you ordered them back. They are marching on Tumanbay as we speak. To depose me?

QULAN

No, of course not. They are marching to *defend* Tumanbay!

CADALI

You are a traitor General Qulan! I always suspected it but-

AL-GHURI

Does Maya even exist? Is it all a plot, General?

QULAN

Maya is moving towards Tumanbay. She is winning one province after another. She has already taken Emerald province. That is why you haven't heard from the governor there. Whole regiments have gone over to her side. She has hardly had to fight a battle...

CADALI

Your Majesty, if I may advise, it is better not to listen to the lies of-

QULAN

(furious)

You are being protected from the truth by...

(gesturing towards Cadali)

... these sycophants.

CADALI

Oh yes, General. Defend by attacking. We know very-

QULAN

(urgently)

Maya's forces are light. They travel fast. Our forces move slowly. We needed to mobilize them or face destruction.

The doors CRASH open. There is a COMMOTION as Wolf STRIDES IN FOLLOWED by two Guards.

WOLF

(pushing two other Guards out of his way)

Get out of the way.

QULAN

Outside the world has been changing and very fast. I have not betrayed you. I have been trying to save you, to save us all.

WOLF

General Qulan is speaking the truth. My cavalry has reported these things. Your Majesty, you are a fat fool...

(draws his sword)

... and soon you will be a dead fat fool if you do not listen-

Other guards rush to RESTRAIN him.

CADALI

Put your sword away! No one uncovers their sword in the presence of the Sultan.

AL-GHURI

Take him down. Take them both down.

WOLF

(struggling)

Nobody tells me to put my sword away.

QULAN

No Wolf, throw down your sword.

WOLF

What?

QULAN

Throw it down. It's over. We've done our best. We can do no more.

Wolf THROWS down his sword.

WOLF

I was wrong. Tumanbay is not worth fighting for.

Guards SURROUND them and they are MARCHED away.

AL-GHURI

Is it true what they are saying?

CADALI

Majesty?

AL-GHURI

Have you been concealing the truth from me?

CADALI

Of course not, Your Majesty. I was the one against giving Qulan these great powers from the beginning. And now he's turned them against you.

AL-GHURI

We need to prepare our defences. Who's second in command?

CADALI

That would be-

AL-GHURI

Get them. Prepare the Imperial Guard. I need loyalty. I need loyal people.

CADALI

Your Majesty can rest easy. The walls of Tumanbay have stood a thousand years and will stand a thousand years more.

AL-GHURI

I know Tumanbay will survive. That's not my concern.

CADALI

No, Your Majesty, of course.

AL-GHURI

(making his way out)
Report back to me when you have something to report.

CADALI

There is one more thing, Your Majesty.

AL-GHURI

What?

CADALI

His Excellency, Gregor...

AL-GHURI

Yes?

CADALI

He's back.

AL-GHURI

Back from where? Where has he been?

CADALI

Well he's certainly not been at his post in the palace. He may even be part of his brother's treachery... I think he needs to explain himself...

AL-GHURI

Bring him to me.

8.16 INT. TUMANBAY. PALACE. STABLES - DAY

8.16

Daniel ENTERS and sees Madu with a Stable Boy, tending a horse. Throughout this passage their speech is clipped as they tumble over each other's words.

DANIEL

What are you doing down here? I've been looking for you.

MADU

Ah, Daniel-

DANIEL

I told you to stay in your room. It's not safe. Who's this?

MADU

This fellow is my friend, Ahmed. He works here in the stables. And... he can get us fresh horses.

DANIEL

Fresh... What are you talking-

MADU

Remember? What we spoke about?

DANIEL

Madu...

MADU

My mother's place in the mountains. She knew she could escape there, anytime. But she never had the chance. We do.

DANIEL

Madu...

MADU

Let's do it now.

DANIEL

(hesitating)
We need to-

MADU

-just go. Disappear. Escape all this fear, all this plotting. We can go tonight.

DANIEL

No. We need to keep a clear head. Not panic or we could end up-

MADU

It makes perfect sense. While there's such confusion in the palace surely -

DANIEL

No.

MADU

But no one will know. We go under cover of night.

DANIEL

No.

This shuts Madu up.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

You are drawing attention to yourself. The Sultan is looking for reasons to arrest people. Anything you do -

MADU

I don't think-

DANIEL

You can't do anything here without being seen. Not now. Especially not now.

MADU

(his pride wounded)

You don't *want* to go, do you? You *never* wanted to. You lied to keep me hap-

DANIEL

No, I didn't. I *will* go with you. I swear I'll go with you. But you have to remember something Madu. You are the son of a sultan and the nephew of a sultan and your mother was the wife to both. You have a role to play in all this.

MADU

A role?

DANIEL

Maybe this is your moment.

MADU

What?

DANIEL

Everything is falling apart in the palace. General Qulan is in jail. The Sultan's going mad. The army is without leadership. And Maya's forces are closing in-

MADU

Exactly, that's why we should be-

DANIEL

This is your moment.

(beat)

You've learnt so much with me in the army. I've seen a boy become a man, a man with strength and vision and power.

(beat)

A man I love.

MADU

I couldn't do it. I couldn't do it... alone.

DANIEL

Do you love me?

MADU

I love you.

DANIEL

Do you trust me?

MADU

I trust you.

DANIEL

All right. Good. Then let's go back to your rooms...

(beat)

Your... er... friend, here, the stable boy...

MADU

Yes, Ahmed, we've been just been discussing horses-

Daniel DRAWS his sword...

DANIEL

I'm sorry, Ahmed.

... and THRUSTS it into Ahmed's stomach.

MADU
(shocked)
What are you...? Why...?

Daniel DRAGS the boy's body across the stone floor.

DANIEL
We need to hide him. Under the
straw.

MADU
Why did you have to kill him?

DANIEL
He was dead anyway, from the moment
you came down here and asked for
fresh horses. Come, we need to go
back up. You need to be seen.

MADU
But we can't just leave-

DANIEL
Look I've been a lot of things in
my life. Many of them I'm not proud
of. I've used people. I'm really
just a mercenary, for hire. But
I've found something I believe in.

MADU
What?

DANIEL
You.

He GOES. Madu FOLLOWS.

8.17 INT. TUMANBAY. PALACE. GREGOR'S ROOM - DAY

8.17

Gregor SITS by the window watching soldiers MARCHING below
while the Frog EATS.

GREGOR (V.O.)
When will this child stop eating?!

FROG
I want more.

Gregor BRINGS over more food.

GREGOR
Eat.

FROG

I'm bored of waiting. I want my
mama.

GREGOR

Be patient.

Gregor GOES back to the window.

FROG

That woman, the slave, who you came
to see in the city underground...
Why is she important to you?

GREGOR

You should know. You seem to know
everything else.

FROG

She has something you want. I know
that.

GREGOR

Well then. That's all you need to
know. I'm beginning to see how you
operate.

FROG

What?

GREGOR

You ask questions and pick up
information here and there and you
reflect it back. It's clever, and
you're good.

FROG

So you don't believe me?

Gregor LAUGHS.

GREGOR

I'm no fool.

FROG

Then why did you agree to bring me
here?

GREGOR (V.O.)

**Why indeed...? If I was of my right
mind I would throw him out of the
window. But...**

FROG

This Queen, Maya. The Sultan does
not need to fear her.

GREGOR

What?

FROG

He shouldn't concern himself with what might happen. It is already decided.

GREGOR

You mean everything is decided and whatever anyone does will make no difference to what happens to them?

FROG

Of course. Isn't it obvious?

GREGOR

Maybe to you.

FROG

Yes, maybe just to me. I have seen the future.

GREGOR

If you have seen the future what am I going to do next?

There is BANGING on the door.

FROG

You are going to answer the door.

8.18 INT. TUMANBAY. CAVES UNDERGROUND - DAY

8.18

The fiery chasm throws up smoke. SARAH looks down into it as she rocks her baby.

SARAH

Do the fires burn forever?

FROG'S MOTHER

Well, as far as anyone knows... They have always been there. Who knows, one day they may rise up and consume the whole city above... He hasn't told me when or if.

SARAH

Sorry? Who?

FROG'S MOTHER

The Frog. My little boy. He knows everything that's going to happen. He dreams it and his dreams are true. At first we thought they were just dreams. But he dreamt of his father's death.

(MORE)

FROG'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

It was a long time before he told me that. And when we came down here, I thought we would die, but because of his dreams the people here thought of him as something special. He knew you were coming that night, and he dreamt you would have something very valuable with you.

Sarah's baby CRIES. Sarah COMFORTS it.

SARAH

Yes, I would do anything for her.

FROG'S MOTHER

I don't mean the child. You came with something else didn't you?

Sarah says nothing.

FROG'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

You have to make up you mind, Sarah, if you trust us or not.

SARAH

It's hard to trust anyone. Once you've been a slave...

FROG'S MOTHER

That's why it's worth so much. You came to us. We looked after you. You have to trust us... You have to believe in our way.

SARAH

Yes, we all need something to believe in... But how do we know if what we believe is true or false?

FROG'S MOTHER

(pulling her back from the chasm)

Step back.

A big flare comes up from below.

FROG'S MOTHER (CONT'D)

It does that sometimes. You and your child would have been consumed like dry straw.

(beat)

You have to trust...

8.19 INT. TUMANBAY. PALACE. THRONE ROOM - DAY

8.19

Doors OPEN.

GREGOR
(to the Frog)
Wait here. I'll come and get you
when the Sultan's-

FROG
No. I'm going in with you.

GREGOR
Suit yourself.

Gregor and Frog ENTER the throne room. AL-GHURI and Cadali are waiting.

CADALI
Ah, Gregor, come, come... Stand
there where His Majesty can see
you.

Gregor WALKS to the centre of the room.

CADALI (CONT'D)
(to al-Ghuri)
Majesty, may I begin?

AL-GHURI
Mmm.

CADALI
Gregor, you are responsible for the
Palace Guard, for the Sultan's
safety and you just vanished. Once
again you have failed in your duty.
Explain yourself.

GREGOR
Your Majesty, you have invested in
me the responsibility to keep the
palace safe. That is what I have
been doing, working behind the
scenes, not sitting in comfort
drinking mint tea and filling my
belly in the palace.

CADALI
I have been beside my sultan whilst
you have been-

GREGOR
Locating the reliquary.

GREGOR (V.O.)
There are few things that bring me
more pleasure than trumping Cadali
in front of the Sultan.

AL-GHURI
So you have the scrolls?

Beat.

GREGOR (V.O.)

Unfortunately I have nothing to trump him with.

GREGOR

No. I do not have them... but I know where they are.

CADALI

What do you mean?

FROG

The scrolls are not important. They don't matter.

This silences everyone for a moment.

CADALI

Who is the child?

GREGOR

This is a boy who has been making prophesies. His reputation has spread far and wide and-

CADALI

Oh Gregor, Gregor what has happened to you? You think by bringing to His Majesty a circus performer he will-

AL-GHURI

Wait! Bring the child forward. What's your name?

FROG

They call me the Frog.

AL-GHURI

And what do you want, Frog?

FROG

To tell you about the dreams you have been having.

AL-GHURI

My dreams? What do you know about them?

FROG

You dream of victory and yet when you wake you fear assassination.

Al-Ghuri GASPS. He GETS UP up from his throne and WALKS over to Frog. He KNEELS down in front of him, looks into his face.

AL-GHURI

Tell me more about my dreams.

FROG

You are riding next to your commander, a general, at the head of a great victory parade.

AL-GHURI

Where are we?

FROG

Tumanbay. You are here in Tumanbay.

AL-GHURI

Hmmm. I have had such a dream.

FROG

But, in truth, your general will not be there beside you. *She* will be.

AL-GHURI

She? You mean Maya?

FROG

Yes. Maya.

AL-GHURI

And I will be at the head of the armies?

FROG

Yes, and all the people of Tumanbay will watch in silent awe.

AL-GHURI

And this is the future?

FROG

There will be a sign just before.

AL-GHURI

A sign?

FROG

Birds will gather in the midday heat.

AL-GHURI

Birds?

FROG

And then you will know what I foresee is soon to pass.

AL-GHURI

Give me a sign now.

FROG

What sign would you like?

AL-GHURI

Something. Anything. Some magic so that I know what you say is true.

FROG

Any sign I give, you will find some explanation for. That is the nature of the world of men.

AL-GHURI

Just do something.

The Frog does a little DANCE.

AL-GHURI (CONT'D)

(impatient)

But what sort of sign is that?

CADALI

You see, Majesty, he is a trickster. He knows nothing.

AL-GHURI

Take the boy away. Give him a good beating.

A Guard APPROACHES and GRABS Frog. Gregor INTERVENES.

GREGOR

No! Leave him.

(diplomatically)

I will see to it myself.

He TAKES Frog by the arm, but Frog RESISTS.

FROG

There was something beside you on the pillow.

AL-GHURI

(astonished)

What?

CADALI

You are wasting His Majesty's precious time. Take him away!

AL-GHURI

Shut up, Cadali!

FROG

A few nights ago. A dagger, unsheathed, with emeralds, the pattern of a horse on it.

Al-Ghuri GASPS.

FROG (CONT'D)

You had your servant killed so that
no one would know about it.

Al-Ghuri BACKS AWAY.

FROG (CONT'D)

You fear everyone around you. You
find it hard to sleep. You don't
know who to trust.

AL-GHURI

Who put it there?

FROG

I see the colour red.

AL-GHURI

Effendi Red - the envoy?

FROG

Night is black. Blood is red.

AL-GHURI

And tell me, the commander... The
general who rode beside me. In my
dream. Will he betray me?

FROG

What do you think?

AL-GHURI

He is in a dungeon right now. How
will he have a chance to betray me?

FROG

Then you have answered your own
question.

AL-GHURI

But... But is he loyal? Is he loyal
to me?

FROG

He is loyal. He will die for you.
He will die for Tumanbay.

Al-Ghuri TURNS to Cadali and his assembled entourage.

AL-GHURI

Release General Qulan.

CADALI

But Your Majesty, I would advise
against-

AL-GHURI
Release him now!

CADALI
Yes, yes, of course.
(to one of his officers)
You heard the Sultan. What are you
waiting for?

OFFICER
Yes, Your Excellency.

Several Officers GO hastily out of the room.

AL-GHURI
And bring me Maya's envoy. I'm
ready to see him now...

Frog TURNS to Gregor.

FROG
I want to go home now.

GREGOR
Yes, come with me.

They TURN to leave.

AL-GHURI
And keep the boy here in the
palace. I will need him later.

FROG
But you promised.

GREGOR
The Sultan has spoken. Come, you
can rest in my rooms.

He LEADS Frog away.

8.20 INT. TUMANBAY. PALACE. DUNGEONS - DAY

8.20

Cell doors OPEN. Qulan, who has been sitting in darkness for
some time, blinks, dazed.

QULAN
What's going on?

GUARD
You are free to go, General Qulan.
The Sultan commands you to resume
your duties.

QULAN
Good.

He GETS UP and moves towards the door.

GUARD

General...

QULAN

Yes? What?

GUARD

(handing him a sword)

Your sword, General.

QULAN

Thank you.

Further along the corridor another door OPENS. Wolf COMES OUT.

WOLF

A fine way to treat your allies.

(approaching Qulan)

So, what's happening?

QULAN

It's over, we can do our jobs again. If you want to. You have been treated badly and I wouldn't blame you if you and your cavalry left us and returned to your homes in the mountains. And I wouldn't stop you.

WOLF

Well there is a nice woman here who I would be sorry to lose. I think I'll stay.

QULAN

Then we have work to do.

They LEAVE.

8.21 INT. TUMANBAY. PALACE. CORRIDOR - DAY

8.21

The ENVOY STRIDES confidently along a corridor towards the throne room.

ENVOY

I presume it has been found then.

GREGOR

The reliquary?

ENVOY

What else.

GREGOR

His Majesty would like to be the first to share the news with you. Please...

GREGOR (V.O.)

Should I have stayed closer to the envoy as ordered? Perhaps I should have allied myself with him more firmly. That might have been a mistake, I fear...

8.22 INT. TUMANBAY. PALACE. THRONE ROOM - DAY

8.22

Doors OPEN. The Envoy is LED into the throne room.

GREGOR

Your Majesty, Lord Red...

GREGOR (V.O.)

Or not...

ENVOY

I hope you are sleeping well these days, Majesty.

AL-GHURI

I am, despite your help.

ENVOY

My help?

AL-GHURI

The knife on the pillow beside me - that morning.

ENVOY

Perhaps my queen's doing. If she wanted to kill you she would have done it. But she didn't. I hope that brings you some peace of mind. She's not your enemy. She is your friend. You made the right decision in holding the army back. She just wants the scrolls and if you give them to her, she will leave you alone. So, have you got them?

AL-GHURI

You know what...

(turning to the Guards)

Put him in chains.

ENVOY

What? You can't do this. I am Maya's envoy.

AL-GHURI

You are the representative of a
dead governor's wife who shortly
will meet the end she deserves.
Arrest him! I know the future. I
have nothing to fear. I'm ready for
battle and I will march at the head
of my armies and destroy your whore-
bitch queen.

MUSIC.

End of Episode 1.08.