

TUMANBAY

Episode 2.07 - "Take My Hand"

by

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GREGOR (V.O.)

The desert - wanderers on the hot
sands hoping to find what? My niece
Manel and the daughter of my friend
- where have I sent them: to safety
or to death by plague?

MANEL and HEAVEN TREK to the rise of a sand dune. Wind whistles around them. Off, we can hear the sound of WORK going on: hammering, animals, shouts etc.

HEAVEN

What are they doing?

MANEL

Don't say anything -

HEAVEN

Where are the guards?

MANEL

We're just travellers.

HEAVEN

Where are the guards, Manel? Didn't
you say there'd be guards?

The FOREMAN APPROACHES.

FOREMAN

Hey, you two, what's your business
here?

MANEL

Travellers, we're travellers. We
just want to rest a while.

FOREMAN

There's no rest here, here everyone
works. Can't you see?

MANEL

What are you doing?

FOREMAN

Saving the city, some say. Clearing
the canals, making the water
flow...

MANEL

It's vast.

FORMAN

Yes. It was built hundreds of years
ago. We're just patching it up...
so the General says.

MANEL

What general?

FOREMAN

General Qulan.

MANEL

But isn't he... wasn't he... I mean
slaves and guards, weren't there...

Foreman LAUGHS.

FOREMAN

You want guards? Go ahead, look
around you, traveller. You'll see
them clear enough, all those who
didn't know which way the wind
blows.

HEAVEN

What do you mean?

FOREMAN

On the poles, the heads on the
poles, Girl. There are the guards.
The rest of us are free men again.

MANEL

And General Qulan?

FOREMAN

Is General Qulan. Now what was it
you wanted?

CUT TO:

7.2 EXT. QULAN'S CAMP - DAY

7.2

The noise of work is louder as Manel and Heaven are LED
through the camp itself.

FOREMAN

Go on, into the tent.

HEAVEN

Maybe we should wait...

FOREMAN

Too late for waiting, girl. Go.

They are PUSHED into the tent. QULAN and ALKIN are there.

MANEL

Father?

QULAN

Welcome, daughter, to my camp and my army.

MANEL

But how...? Why?

ALKIN

The "how", my dear Manel, is your father. The "why" is a stupid mistake of those in the city that chains can imprison an idea.

MANEL

You...

QULAN

Come, Manel, you were never so tongue tied as a child. I taught you to speak clearly.

MANEL

Mother, they have Mama. They took her from our hut.

QULAN

And they will pay, Manel. You saw the heads as you arrived...

HEAVEN

There were many heads.

QULAN

Does it upset you, young woman?

HEAVEN

I wish you could kill them all.

MANEL

This is Heaven. They killed her father and stole her baby.

QULAN

I like her attitude. How did you escape the city?

MANEL

Uncle Gregor, he helped us. He's part of the Resistance in the city now.

QULAN

So he says.

MANEL

So he says.

QULAN

If it's true, it's worth knowing.

MANEL

I think it's true. He wanted us to go to the mountains...

HEAVEN

We came here instead.

ALKIN

People are coming to us every day. Desert dwellers, refugees, the dispossessed. If they can work and fight, we take them in.

MANEL

And if not?

QULAN

There are always more poles for more heads.

CUT TO:

7.3 INT. ORPHANAGE - DAY

7.3

BARAKAT LIMPS along a corridor. Under, children CHANTING a lesson (as in Episode 5). He GOES through a door, through another which he UNLOCKS and SHUTS behind him. He SITS in front of his CHILD.

BARAKAT

How did you sleep, my child?

CHILD

I had dreams, Papa, I was frightened.

BARAKAT

Do not be frightened, soon all will be well. A great master has seen the soul and explored it; he will learn how to make your soul right again and then you will run and play under God's good blue skies.

CHILD

Is it really true, Papa?

BARAKAT

Every one who knows me, knows I never tell a lie. You will have to be brave, and it will sometimes be a hard and long journey...

(beat)

Listen, I will tell you a story.

(MORE)

OFFICIAL

And doubly checked, Excellency. If we can move onto the marble, which was sent to the markets of Farah for sale.

GREGOR (V.O.)

The palace. Another morning. Another meeting. Nothing's changed... except someone new in charge... and the process, the slow, certain destruction of Tumanbay will go on.

SARAH

Yes, those...

Barakat ENTERS.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Barakat, you are late. Where were you?

BARAKAT

Mistress... I was... unavoidably detained. Matters of-

SARAH

No importance.

(fade under Gregor's V.O.)

You seem to have taken too much upon yourself.

GREGOR (V.O.)

Sarah, Effendi Red's widow... Once my slave. Sent by Maya to continue the work or, perhaps, to bring about something new.

SARAH

Our watchers tell us there is insurgency in the swamps.

GREGOR (V.O.)

I can't take my eyes off her.

SARAH

What were you thinking, sending a man like Qulan out there on his own?

BARAKAT

There were guards, he is in chains.

SARAH

Mmm. There are no guards, and he is no longer in chains, it seems.

(MORE)

SARAH (CONT'D)

The Barakat I knew would not have done this. Maya is not interested in swamps or plagues.

BARAKAT

I am guided by God's-

SARAH

Be quiet. Try and be useful. We need to stamp out this rebellion.

(turning to Daniel)

Daniel, you know Qulan. Is it likely that he could prove a problem?

DANIEL

Yes. I served under him. I stayed in his house, I know his daughter, Manel. Given time he could build his 500 slaves into an army.

SARAH

Then we must not allow him that time. What troops are there in the city, Barakat?

BARAKAT

The numbers? I don't at this moment... I will obtain them at once if-

GREGOR

Twelve hundred regulars. Fifteen hundred wall guards, roughly seven hundred police. Most of the front line troops have been sent to Maya.

DANIEL

Two thousand is all I'll need to mop up these slaves. I'll take the regulars and make up the number with the wall guards.

GREGOR

Then who will guard the walls?

DANIEL

The walls will be safe, believe me.

SARAH

Then get to it please, Daniel. Finish this thing so we can complete our work here.

DANIEL

Mistress.

Daniel LEAVES.

SARAH

Now, I wish to see the Sultan.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**She asks what she already knows.
And knows very well what she wants.**

SARAH

Barakat? Where is the Sultan?

GREGOR (V.O.)

**The rest of us, even Barakat, I
suspect...**

BARAKAT

Not here.

SARAH

Where is he?

GREGOR

He appears to be lost, Mistress.

GREGOR (V.O.)

... are in the dark.

CUT TO:

7.6 INT. TENT. QULAN'S CAMP - DAY

7.6

Manel ENTERS Qulan's tent. Alkin greets her.

MANEL

Oh, I came to see my father... He
said I was to meet him this
morning.

ALKIN

And you meet me instead?

MANEL

I... did not expect...

ALKIN

Me?

MANEL

My father has a wife. My mother...

ALKIN

I am not your father's latest wife,
nor he my latest husband, Manel. I
am a traveller and I have seen and
learned many things and many ways.

Qulan EMERGES.

QULAN

Manel, good, you are on time. How are you?

MANEL

Fine.

QULAN

Oh, before we go... Doctor Alkin has something she has to do for you.

CUT TO:

7.7 INT. MEDICAL TENT - DAY

7.7

Instruments in glass jars rattle. Alkin is PREPARING to vaccinate Heaven and Manel.

ALKIN

Lift your sleeves, both of you, please. It's all right, we've all done it here. When I was in Cathay there was a plague and the doctors there had discovered that if you scratched yourself with a needle bearing a little of the infection, you would not catch the disease.

Slight CRIES from Manel and Heaven as they are inoculated.

MANEL

Is it true?

HEAVEN

Is it... magic?

ALKIN

It is what it is, the learned doctors of Cathay could tell you more - but they are not here. You will feel a little strange later today, as if you are in dream but awake. Don't worry, it is nothing. Manel, your father is waiting.

CUT TO:

7.8 EXT. QULAN'S CAMP - DAY

7.8

Qulan RIDES with Manel. WORK goes on all around them.

MANEL

They broke in and smashed everything. Pasha... Pasha took up your sword and he fought.
(MORE)

MANEL (CONT'D)

He was a boy against men, Father,
but he would not give up. Daniel
was there. He could have saved him,
he could have stopped it all but he
did nothing and Pesha died...

(strong)

... But he died as you would have
wished, Father.

QULAN

I thank you, Manel. I failed you
by not being there but I know, too,
that you have taken up that same
sword and now you live and make me
proud.

An emotional moment between them, even as the work goes on
around them.

MANEL

Gregor has helped us, Father.

QULAN

And himself.

Heaven surveys the slaves.

MANEL

Why do they work still? If they are
not slaves anymore?

QULAN

The canals, the locks need to be
mended if we are going to clear the
swamps and eradicate the disease.
Besides it is good training, it
will get them used to hard work and
small rations. It will make them
better fighters.

MANEL

Fighters? But...?

QULAN

You don't think they will leave us
alone out here? They will be
sending an army.

MANEL

But how will five, six hundred face
an army? They will crush you.

Her horse SNORTS and she almost falls - Qulan GRABS her.

QULAN

Maybe. And maybe not. You are
dizzy, yes?

MANEL

Yes, a little.

QULAN

Go and lie down in my tent. It is the "magic" Doctor Alkin gave you.

MANEL

Father, it is not my place, but Doctor Alkin...

QULAN

You are right, my daughter, it is not your place. Go, rest, be strong for what is coming.

CUT TO:

7.9 INT. PALACE. SARAH'S ROOMS - NIGHT

7.9

GUARD OPENS the door to admit Gregor. Sarah is waiting.

GUARD

(off)
Go in.

Gregor ENTERS.

GREGOR

You sent for me?

SARAH

Yes.

(pause)
My husband died, here in this room. How did he die? Do you know?

GREGOR

How? Strangulation. Who? Your husband was ill but even so I doubt Cadali had the strength or the guts to do it. And the confession was just too neat.

SARAH

So who?

GREGOR

Everything points elsewhere. The "why"? That points elsewhere too.

SARAH

Yes. For now, leave it be.

GREGOR

May I ask a question?

SARAH

Yes.

GREGOR

Why you? When you came to Tumanbay as a slave, why did I choose you, trust you above all possibilities?

SARAH

Where I come from, really come from, there is a tree that grows in the high mountain passes. Too high, you would think, for insects to find it. But it exudes a sap that certain insects can sense over vast distances, and in spring they fly up and up. They are driven mad and millions die but a few, only the most perfectly suited for their task - get through. And the tree doesn't care - all it needs is to spread its seed. You thought you were free, Gregor, but maybe you weren't. We chose you. Maya understands these things.

GREGOR

Isn't it a coincidence that the wife of Effendi Red happened to survive?

SARAH

Red had many wives.

GREGOR

And the child?

SARAH

She served Maya as do we all.

GREGOR

And what now?

SARAH

We must prepare.

GREGOR

For what?

SARAH

For Maya.

GREGOR

She's coming to Tumanbay?

SARAH

She's already here amongst us.

GREGOR

You?

SARAH

(laughs)

Of course not. Do you think she would risk coming announced to a city at war with itself? She has a purpose, as always, but first she must be anointed by the Hafiz. It is written and must be so. When the holy oil touches her, she will be transformed. Brought into direct contact with the divine. For ever changed. As the city will be.

GREGOR

The city? What do you mean?

SARAH

It will be razed. There will be nothing left. No towers reaching for the stars, no walls excluding God, no great palaces mocking God. Life will be very simple. Just the servants of God and the slaves of men.

GREGOR

And me?

SARAH

That's the Gregor I recognise. Perhaps you'll burn with the city?

GREGOR

Why are you telling me this?

SARAH

Because you have a chance to save yourself. Perhaps I owe you something.

She KISSES him.

CUT TO:

7.10 INT. CATACOMBS. REBEL'S LAIR - DAY

7.10

An echoey door clangs SHUT - Gregor DESCENDS the echoey stairs. The general sound of the undercity all around. As he WALKS...

GREGOR (V.O.)

Now I have something to act on. A ceremony, a state event, with Maya and all the top officials present.
(MORE)

GREGOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)

This is what we've been waiting for.

A hatch OPENS. REBEL GUARD greets him.

GREGOR

Peace be with you.

REBEL GUARD

Tall tree.

GREGOR

You know who I am.

REBEL GUARD

I require the response?

GREGOR

Still in leaf.

The door OPENS. Gregor ENTERS. ABUJAAN, KHALED, and MADU are present.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

Is the Council present?

ABUJAAN

Enough of us. What news do you bring, Gregor?

MADU

Something hopeful at last?

ABUJAAN

The Sultan speaks well. We have been starved of hope.

GREGOR

Then today we can begin to prepare the feast.

KHALED

What do you mean?

GREGOR

A grand ceremony in the Great Temple with every bastard in the regime present whilst Maya is anointed by the Hafiz.

ABUJAAN

All of them present?

GREGOR

Maya, Barakat, Sarah, Daniel.

MADU

Daniel, he's here?

Everyone turns. Madu APPROACHES.

ABUJAAN

Majesty... It's good to see you looking so well. How are you feeling?

MADU

Much better. Thank you. You mentioned Daniel.

GREGOR (V.O.)

Oh, God - look at his eyes.

MADU

He has come to Tumanbay?

ABUJAAN

He arrived three days ago.

MADU

Why wasn't I told?

The others DISCUSS under Gregor's V.O.:

GREGOR (V.O.)

Because your love for him will put everyone at risk. Isn't that obvious?

ABUJAAN

But how can we get close to Maya?

GREGOR

It's my job to escort the devotees of the temple to the Hafiz's palace where they will prepare. We kill the monks - seven of them - and substitute our own people.

KHALED

But won't we be searched?

GREGOR

Yes, indeed. But you will have no weapons. Nothing to be found.

ABUJAAN

Then how we will kill them?

GREGOR

The assassins will have poison under their fingernails - invisible, unscented, but deadly once it reaches the blood.

ABUJAAN

One scratch!

MADU
Kill them all?

KHALED
All, of course, Majesty.

GREGOR
Dorin will - where is he, is he here?

ABUJAAN
He is working in the hospital.

GREGOR
Are you sure you can trust him?

KHALED
As much as we can trust you.

CUT TO:

7.11 INT. CATACOMBS. ENTRANCE - DAY

7.11

Gregor is CLIMBING the stairs. Madu chases after him.

MADU
(calls quietly)
Gregor, Gregor - wait.

He CATCHES UP.

GREGOR
Yes?

GREGOR (V.O.)
He needs to ask me something.

MADU
I need to ask you something... Did you see Daniel? Are you sure it was him?

GREGOR
It was him.

MADU
You knew about us? Of course you did, you knew about everything. He was Maya's servant all the time.

GREGOR
Life is full of betrayals.

MADU
(sotto)
I want him left off the kill list, Gregor.

GREGOR
He's part of it.

MADU
It's what I want.

GREGOR
I'll see what I can do but... stay
away from him, you know you can't
trust him.

MADU
Yes, yes, I understand that. Just
see that he lives.

Madu HURRIES away - Gregor resumes CLIMBING.

**GREGOR (V.O.)
Yes, she was right, the insect
can't resist the sap of the tree of
death.**

CUT TO:

7.12	OMITTED	7.12
7.13	OMITTED	7.13
7.14	OMITTED	7.14
7.15	OMITTED	7.15
7.16	OMITTED	7.16
7.17	OMITTED	7.17
7.18	OMITTED	7.18
7.19	EXT. SWAMPS - NIGHT	7.19

We are close to a camp fire, where Alkin sits with Manel.
Alkin POURS Manel some tea. Off, WORK is continuing on the
great dam.

ALKIN
The last time we met, you were
going to kill me.

MANEL

And I didn't.

ALKIN

No. You said you were a girl
astray. You didn't tell me you were
the daughter of Tumanbay's greatest
general.

MANEL

I was no-one then. Or perhaps I was
astray. I don't know. They have my
mother, you know? In Tumanbay, they
arrested her.

ALKIN

She will be all right.

MANEL

How can you say that?

ALKIN

I know these people, these kind of
people. She is a counter in a great
game, to be played not thrown away.

MANEL

Perhaps you are one of them. I...
love my father and yet you are...

She falls silent.

ALKIN

With your father?

MANEL

Will he take you as a wife?

ALKIN

Will I take him as a husband?

Pause.

ALKIN (CONT'D)

Does that shock you, that I should
say such a thing? Drink more, you
need the liquid.

Alkin POURS.

MANEL

I don't know any more. So many
things have happened that sometimes
I think, I wish it was all as it
was and then...

Pause.

ALKIN

You don't.

MANEL

I don't. It's not so easy being free.

ALKIN

Ah, regret is part of freedom.

MANEL

Do you regret much, Doctor?

A pause.

ALKIN

I... Many years ago I was travelling at the very far edge of the civilised world, near the lands of the pale barbarians. I was living in a city there studying under a great doctor and I fell in love with a young fellow... Oh, I was hardly more than a girl myself then, and as will happen, a child was born. A daughter. And then a new khan came to rule over the city and I and my kind were not wanted. I had to escape and I left our baby with the father, for he... had a wife of his own and loved the child and I was no more than a traveller and could give her nothing.

She POURS more tea.

MANEL

What happened?

ALKIN

Many years later, shortly before I came to Tumanbay, I was again in that far country and in that city and... I wondered about my child and I went to the street and the house... and I enquired about the man I had loved... and was told he was dead. And his daughter, I said? A black haired, almond eyed child? And they told me she too had died, at the age of eighteen, of the plague.

She DRINKS.

ALKIN (CONT'D)

My daughter had lived a whole life
and I had known none of it. Not one
moment.

We sit and listen to the sounds of the camp and the work for
a while.

ALKIN (CONT'D)

Perhaps you should find your
friend, she is nobody's daughter
and may be lost and confused.

MANEL

She's not really my friend. It all
went wrong because of her. But then
I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for
her. Things are so confusing. She
lost a baby too...

CUT TO:

7.20 EXT. SWAMPS - NIGHT

7.20

We are in a different part of the camp - the work is closer.
Fires and groups of workmen. Heaven is WANDERING - the sounds
have a faintly hallucinatory quality. A WORKMAN chastises
Heaven.

WORKMAN

Watch where you're going, Girl,
we're working here. You could get
hurt, go back to the fire.

HEAVEN

I was looking...

Crash of rubble FALLING.

She WALKS away from the rubble and workers - towards a big
fire.

HEAVEN (CONT'D)

I was lost, I don't know where to
go... I was lost...

AKIBA reiterates the Workman's warning.

AKIBA

Come on, girl, you have to...

He falls silent. Pause.

AKIBA (CONT'D)

Heaven?

HEAVEN

Master, I'm... I'm lost-

AKIBA

Heaven!

HEAVEN

No, it can't... it isn't...

AKIBA

I thought... I knew... I would not give up, I knew, I hoped... I would find you if you were at the end of the Earth...

She TRIES to say his name but can only get out an inarticulate sound.

HEAVEN

A.. aa.. aaa...

She COLLAPSES in tears and as she faints we lose all sound and then slowly come back. We are close to the fire now.

AKIBA

(his voice coming closer)

The magic, it makes you feel strange... It's all right, Heaven, I am here. My hand, hold it.

HEAVEN

Hold it. Don't let me go. I.. I...

A SOB.

HEAVEN (CONT'D)

I lost our baby, they took our baby and gave... him to another family. Our child is lost to us, Akiba... lost in the stars.

AKIBA

No, we will find him. I swear it as I found you, so we will find... Is he a boy? Are you sure?

HEAVEN

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

AKIBA

Shhh... Together.

(beat)

Together.

CUT TO:

7.20A EXT. COVERED MARKET / ROOMS - NIGHT

7.20A

Quiet. FOOTSTEPS move quietly amongst the silent stalls. A door OPENS, Daniel GOES through, SHUTS the door and CLIMBS the stairs. He KNOCKS quietly on a door. It OPENS. Madu greets him.

MADU

You got my message?

DANIEL

I did.

Pause.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Are you going to let me in, then, Madu?

He GOES IN - door CLOSED. A long pause.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Everyone is looking for You. Since you vanished from the palace. You can't imagine.

MADU

Maybe I can.

DANIEL

It was blow. To the regime, to Maya. Her sultan vanished.

MADU

I was just a puppet.

DANIEL

You were *their* puppet. They didn't like it. But I always knew you were a fighter, Madu.

MADU

Did you?

DANIEL

You know that.

MADU

All I know is what happened at the end, when the city fell.

DANIEL

I acted in the only way I could, to save your life. They made you the sultan, didn't they?

MADU

You know what that was worth?
Nothing. I signed decrees, I put my
seal on... terrible things... awful
things that were done in my name.
And you just disappeared, Daniel.

DANIEL

Do you have any idea of how it was
for me? I was a soldier too, I had
orders and you don't disobey Maya.

Pause.

DANIEL (CONT'D)

Don't you understand? I've been in
hell, Madu, ever since I was away.
I was worried almost to death about
you, about what was happening and I
could say, ask, nothing that would
show how much I care.

MADU

We could have escaped together,
before all that. We could have gone
to the mountains.

DANIEL

Madu, Madu, you know that could
never have happened. They would
have found us. It was a dream, we
would have been...

He falls silent.

MADU

I missed you, Daniel, so much.

DANIEL

I missed you too, Madu, my darling
man, so much...

They embrace and KISS.

MADU

Oh Gods, Daniel, my beautiful
Daniel, don't ever leave me again.

DANIEL

Never, never, I swear it, my sweet,
never...

They FALL onto the bed.

7.20B INT. ORPHANAGE - DAY

7.20B

Gregor WALKING along corridor.

GREGOR (V.O.)
Night and silence...

He STOPS.

GREGOR
Sshhh...

GREGOR (V.O.)
**In the shadows... a child looking
at me.**

GREGOR
Go back to bed.

GREGOR (V.O.)
**Maybe she's asleep even as she
turns and walks away. No shortage
here... orphans aplenty.**

A door CLOSES and Gregor WALKS on - pauses - and ENTERS a room. The sound of muscle being CUT - bones SNAPPED. DORIN sees him.

DORIN
What are you doing here, Gregor?

GREGOR
I could ask you the same question.

DORIN
I am physician to the orphanage,
why would I not be here?

GREGOR
At this time of night - or is it
morning by now? I was at the
Institute, at your home. No one
seems to know where you are.

DORIN
I'm busy.

GREGOR
What are you doing, Dorin, you and
Barakat? Are you betraying us?

DORIN
Why would I betray my friends?

GREGOR
Why indeed?

DORIN
(strong and emotional)
I want nothing more than the total
destruction of these animals, this
filth that has infected our city.
(MORE)

DORIN (CONT'D)

(beat)

I want it to stop. I want an end to it.

GREGOR

What are you doing to this child?

Pause.

DORIN

The child is dead, it was nothing I did.

GREGOR

Then why - what...

DORIN

It's Barakat. He believes that if we can find the soul and mend it, then we can mend the child.

GREGOR

Mend what child?

DORIN

Mend *his* child.

GREGOR (V.O.)**I was right.**

CUT TO:

7.20C INT. ROOM - MORNING

7.20C

As Madu AWAKES, Daniel is DRESSING.

MADU

You're up already?

DANIEL

There's work, I'm no longer a free man. I have an army on the march.

MADU

What do you mean?

DANIEL

Oh, there are some ragtag rebels out at the swamps. Sarah is sending me to shut them down, that's all.

MADU

Rebels? Swamps?

Daniel CROSSES to the bed.

DANIEL
It's nothing.

He KISSES Madu.

MADU
When can I see you again?

DANIEL
Ahh, I don't know. It depends.

MADU
Depends on what?

Daniel GOES to the door, OPENS it.

DANIEL
(calling to soldiers)
All right, you can come in now.

SOLDIERS ENTER the room.

MADU
(cried out)
Daniel?

SOLDIER
Your Majesty, you need to come with
us.

Madu keeps protesting as the soldiers GRAB him. He STRUGGLES.

DANIEL
Take him to the palace. Don't Let
him out of your sight, he'll tell
you all you need. He knows where
the rats are hiding and what they
want to do.

MADU
(fading as dragged away)
Daniel... for God's sake, Daniel
come back! Let me go, I am the
Sultan... Daniel! etc.

CUT TO:

7.20D EXT. COVERED MARKET - DAY

7.20D

Daniel EMERGES from the house. A Soldier waits for him.

SOLDIER
Your horse, Commander.

Daniel MOUNTS his horse.

DANIEL
Good. And the army?

SOLDIER
They set off at first light, Sir.

DANIEL
Thank you.

He SPURS away.

MIX TO:

7.20E EXT. ARMY ON THE MARCH - DAY

7.20E

Daniel RIDES past the MARCHING men to the head of the column.
He confers with his second in command (2IC).

2IC
Commander, we were wondering where
you were.

DANIEL
(approaching)
As you see. And the troops?

2IC
In good order, Sir. Ready for the
fight.

DANIEL
Good. We need to finish this and
get back to the main task.

2IC
Exactly, Sir.

DANIEL
When do you estimate our arrival?

2IC
Tomorrow, the seventh hour, I would
say, Sir. They'll know we're coming
from the dust.

DANIEL
And like the dust they will be
scattered. Carry on.

Fade up troops as they MARCH.

CUT TO:

7.20F INT. PALACE. COUNCIL CHAMBER - DAY

7.20F

Madu is LED into the Council Chamber by a Guard. Sarah is sitting on the throne.

SARAH

Majesty, welcome back. I had hoped to meet you when I arrived but... it seemed you were gone away.

MADU

I have nothing to say to you.

She GETS OFF the throne and WALKS to the window.

SARAH

Come... Look...

Madu GOES to the window - the sound of the city.

SARAH (CONT'D)

They want to know their sultan is safe and looking over them, the people. An Empire without a sultan is an Empire in danger of anarchy. When you disappeared, Maya was concerned. I was sent to find you, to make sure you were safe. We feared you had fallen into the rebels' hands.

A long pause as Sarah leaves the window and GOES BACK to the throne.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Where did you go?

MADU

I... I just wandered. That's all. I needed to be alone.

SARAH

Ah.

(beat)

Who gave you shelter? Who... fed you?

MADU

Alone, I was alone.

SARAH

Of course. I know how hard you struggled. Remember, I knew your mother too. Shajar was a powerful woman, she demanded so much of you. Is it any wonder that sometimes you were bowed under the load, that sometimes you stumbled on the way?

MADU

You knew my mother - yes, and you killed her.

SARAH

She was very beautiful as she died, Madu. I strangled her in the bath, with her own gold chain. How often did you dream of doing that, of choking the life out of that beautiful, cruel mother of yours?

MADU

Stop it.

SARAH

Are you angry with me or are you jealous?

MADU

Why don't you just kill me now? I'm the last of the old regime, then it'll be finished and done with.

SARAH

The rebels. Where are they?

MADU

I can't...

Pause.

SARAH

Take my hand... Here...

Madu begins to WEEP.

SARAH (CONT'D)

You have suffered grievously. You have been betrayed, and used. But all of those things can be forgotten. Let everything go.

MADU

(through his tears)
I can't...

SARAH

Save yourself, Madu... in Maya. Live... in Maya. Here, come close, let not a whisper escape... in my ear, come close... close...

Madu WHISPERS but we don't hear what - then with a cry he BREAKS FREE and RUNS to the window.

MADU

I can't, I can't do this any more.

SARAH
Madu, stop. Wait.

MADU
For what?

He JUMPS up on the window ledge.

MADU (CONT'D)
For my city to worship their
sultan?
(bellows)
Here, my people, see your sultan...
the mighty Madu...

SARAH
Guards, stop him, *stop him!*

MADU
(bellowing under her)
... See him fly to heaven!

He JUMPS as the guards RUSH.

SARAH
(to Guard)
You have failed.

GUARD
Highness, I... He was...

SARAH
Can you see the body?

The guard CLIMBS onto the window ledge.

GUARD
Yes... It is broken, Highness.

SARAH
Then leave it for the dogs. What is
your name?

GUARD
Sayeed.

SARAH
Do you want to have children one
day? A family?

GUARD
Highness, I do.

SARAH
Jump.

GUARD
Highness?

SARAH

You heard. You jump. Your failures are no use to Maya.

GUARD

But... Mistress Sarah...

SARAH

Do you dare to disobey me?

GUARD

No... No...

WEEPING he eases himself out of the window, then JUMPS with a CRY. He lands with a deep thud.

CUT TO:

7.21 OMITTED 7.21

7.22 INT. SWAMPS - DAY 7.22

It is morning. No workings yet. People are MAKING breakfast. Beside the ashes of the big fire Akiba ROUSES Heaven.

AKIBA

Wake up. Wake up.

HEAVEN

It... it's real. I thought, last night, it was all a dream.

AKIBA

Here, eat, drink. You need to get your strength up now.

She SITS UP and TAKES food.

HEAVEN

Are we going back to the city?

AKIBA

Not yet. First we have to do something. We have to get through today. You will need to go to the hills there, beyond the canal, with the women and children...

MIX TO:

7.22A OMITTED 7.22A

7.22B OMITTED 7.22B

7.23 EXT. SWAMPS - DAY

7.23

The camp is more alive now - people on the move, getting ready. We can hear SHOUTS:

SHOUTS

(off - from all directions)

Form up. Find your divisions. Find your markers. Get your equipment. Form up, there... Move it, move it...

Close to, Manel ARRIVES at Qulan's tent. Alkin EMERGES.

MANEL

Is he here?

ALKIN

He's on the workings with his people. He was there early, waiting.

MANEL

They'll come?

ALKIN

Our look-out tells us they're on the way. You'll see the dust soon. You should go to the rear.

MANEL

Are you going?

ALKIN

I wouldn't miss the chance of seeing a battle like this.

MANEL

Is there a sword in there I can use?

ALKIN

Can you use a sword?

MANEL

Yes.

ALKIN

I'll fetch it. Then you should go to your father. I think he'd like to have you beside him today.

MIX TO:

7.24 EXT. WORKINGS - DAY

7.24

General ACTIVITY off as the workers are lined up in their divisions. Qulan, Sergeant, Akiba are watching the horizon. Manel ARRIVES.

MANEL

Good day, Father.

QULAN

As long as we acquit ourselves with honour it will be so.

We become aware of the distant beat of the drum accompanying the army from Tumanbay.

MANEL

There, I see them.

SERGEANT

Been there for a while - been watching their dust.

MANEL

There's a lot of them... they seem to cover the horizon.

AKIBA

More to kill.

MANEL

How many?

SERGEANT

Enough for our swords.

MANEL

Surely too many!

QULAN

Hush, daughter. We can all see them.

SERGEANT

Is that a white flag?

QULAN

Yes. God knows what they think we have to talk about.

SERGEANT

Hoist a reply!

Shouts ECHO down the line.

QULAN

Let them come.

SERGEANT

(calls)

Hoist the reply, come ahead.

From off the sound of a horse APPROACHING.

AKIBA

Do they think we'll surrender?

SERGEANT

Can't be that stupid.

AKIBA

Maybe for the women and children?

SERGEANT

Doesn't sound like Maya to me.

QULAN

We'll see.

MANEL

It's him, Father. Daniel.

QULAN

That at least makes sense. He knows his business, that one.

(calls)

Let him through...

(Echoes down the line)

The workers open a path through as Daniel ARRIVES and comes to a halt, DISMOUNTS and STEPS FORWARD.

DANIEL

General.

QULAN

Daniel.

DANIEL

Maya is not vindictive. She will accept your total surrender, your return to slavery. Anyone who lays down his arms and comes with me now... will live.

QULAN

I'm afraid you have wasted your time, Daniel. There will be no surrender.

Manel's horse MOVES forward.

MANEL

Hello Daniel...

DANIEL

Hello Manel. I didn't expect to see you here.

MANEL

I dare say you didn't.

DANIEL

General, is it your right to condemn all these to death? You're asking half of them to fight with shovel and mattocks. You have a handful, I have an army. Its absurd, General Qulan. It's over.

QULAN

Indeed it is, you can go now.

DANIEL

You'll all die.

QULAN

Then we'll be dead.

DANIEL

And your daughter?

(to Manel)

Manel... I don't want to see you-

MANEL

What? Harmed? Hurt... again?

DANIEL

You don't have to die, come with me now.

(holding out his hand)

All you have to do is take my hand... Take it now... and you will be safe.

MANEL

I trusted you when you said we had a future together. When you said you loved me. My father opened his home to you, my mother offered you hospitality. And you betrayed us. My brother was killed by your people and you just looked on.

DANIEL

I did what I had to do to save your life. We are all under orders, Manel. As your father says, we are soldiers... but you are not.

MANEL

Yes I am.

A silence.

DANIEL

General, you know that your wife,
Hodah, is our prisoner. If you
don't surrender, then they will
execute her...

QULAN

So be it.

DANIEL

Very well.

He RIDES away.

CUT TO:

7.25 EXT. TUMANBAY ARMY - DAY

7.25

We are with Daniel as he RIDES back. 2IC greets him.

2IC

Sir?

DANIEL

Prepare to advance.

2IC

They turned the offer down?

DANIEL

Obviously.

2IC

There are women and children
amongst them. They may not all be
rebels. Some may still be loyal.

DANIEL

Kill them all, Commander. Let God
decide who to save. The army will
advance.

2IC

Through the valley?

DANIEL

There's no other way to get to
them.

2IC

(bellows)
The army will advance!

The CALL IS TAKEN UP - trumpets sound and them mass drums beat out the rhythm of the advance - LOUD.

CUT TO:

7.26 EXT. SWAMPS - DAY

7.26

We can hear Daniel's army - the drums not so loud but getting CLOSER. Sergeant bellows an order, from Qulan's side. Alkin and Manel are with them.

SERGEANT

(calls)

Hold steady, all, hold steady.

The call is ECHOED.

QULAN

Ready, Sergeant?

SERGEANT

Ready, Sir. On your command.

QULAN

Doctor Alkin?

ALKIN

Not yet, wait. They must be closer, closer. At the mark we made, Qulan.

She STEPS BACK.

MANEL

(sotto)

I thought you were going to the back?

ALKIN

(sotto)

I never could resist a battle, and besides, the idea was mine in the first place.

MANEL

(sotto)

What idea?

SERGEANT

They're getting bloody close, Sir.

QULAN

Wait, hold them...

The drums closer, louder. Hold the pause.

ALKIN
 (to Qulan)
 Now - now!

QULAN
 Hold them...
 (beat)
 Now, Sergeant.

SERGEANT
 (bellows)
 Release the wedges...

The order ECHOES down the chain of command.

Feature: wedges being knocked free, CREAKING as wheels are turned and sluice gates open - water drips, trickles, flows and then GUSHES...

QULAN
 They thought it would be five hundred against two thousand. Instead, it's two thousand against a sea.

The CRASH of water.

CUT TO:

7.27 EXT. TUMANBAY ARMY - DAY

7.27

2IC, Daniel, and his army are marching towards what they think will be the battlefield.

2IC
 Where are they, what's happening?
 Are they running...?

DANIEL
 What's that? What have they done?

The crash and splash of WATER APPROACHING.

SHOUTS
 The sea... Water... It's a bloody river... Run... God help us... The sea... etc.

DANIEL
 (bellows)
 Remove your armour! Get out of the way!

Water CRASHES all around him - men are DROWNING in their thousands.

CUT TO:

7.28 EXT. SWAMPS - DAY

7.28

LAPPING WATER then a lone SWIMMER reaches the bank - GASPING. It is Daniel. He tries to pull himself out, FALLS back - TRIES again. Manel watches, dispassionately.

MANEL

I thought somehow that you would survive, Daniel. Of them all, that it would be you.

DANIEL

Help me, Manel.

MANEL

Yes, of course. Take my hand...

Daniel STRUGGLES to reach it.

DANIEL

I loved you, you have to believe me.

MANEL

Of course I do. I looked into your eyes. I could see the truth.

DANIEL

(weaker)
Help me.

Water up.

MANEL

I want to help you, Daniel. Look into my eyes, you can see the truth. All you have to do is take my hand...

DANIEL

(barely coherent as he splutters)
I can't - I can't! Help me...

Water up. Daniel DROWNS.

MANEL

Goodbye, Daniel.

MUSIC.

End of Episode 2.07.