

TUMANBAY

Episode 2.08 - "We Are Three"

by

John Dryden

Series created and written by
John Dryden & Mike Walker

Goldhawk Productions Ltd
info@goldhawk.eu

8.1 EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

8.1

Snow. Wind. FOOTSTEPS through the SNOW. Three boys. The eldest, YOUNG QULAN, leads the way, followed by YOUNG GREGOR. At the back, the youngest, VASI, is struggling to keep up.

VASI
Gregor? Gregor?

Young Gregor keeps WALKING.

VASI (CONT'D)
Qulan!

QULAN GOES BACK to the boy.

YOUNG QULAN
It's all right Vasi. Put your arm
around my shoulder.

Young Qulan HELPS Vasi along.

8.2 EXT. MOUNTAINS - NIGHT

8.2

Young Qulan and Young Gregor sit beside a small a campfire, sheltered from the storm by rocks. Vasi is asleep.

YOUNG QULAN
I told you we could do it.

YOUNG GREGOR
His leg is going to get worse. Have
you seen it?

Young Qulan says nothing.

YOUNG GREGOR (CONT'D)
Even if we get down the valley with
him and reach Vileppi, what then?
They're looking for strong boys who
can fight to take to Tumanbay.
What's going to happen to Vasi
then?

YOUNG QULAN
So what do you want to do, Gregor?
Huh?

Vasi WAKES from a nightmare and CRIES OUT.

YOUNG QULAN (CONT'D)
What is it, Vasi?

VASI
I can keep watch now.

YOUNG QULAN

Don't worry. You need the rest.

VASI

I had a dream... I dreamt that I had no hands or legs.

YOUNG QULAN

Your foot is going to be fine.

VASI

Yes... Yes... And then I will be able to help more. I can carry things, I can keep watch, I can-

YOUNG QULAN

(doubtful)

Of course, of course you can, Vasi...

YOUNG GREGOR

Look tomorrow, if it's hard, I'll carry you.

He HOLDS his hand out.

YOUNG GREGOR (CONT'D)

Brothers?

The others HOLD out their hands.

ALL

Brothers!

8.3 EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

8.3

Young Gregor and Vasi STUMBLE along a rocky path. After a moment they STOP.

VASI

Why have we stopped?

YOUNG GREGOR

He's got too far ahead. We can't keep up...

VASI

But why have we stopped?

YOUNG GREGOR

I've got to put you down for a moment...

There is a bit of a STRUGGLE.

VASI

What are you doing? Gregor?

GREGOR

I'm sorry...

VASI

No. Listen. We are three... Three is better than two, Gregor. I can help you both.

YOUNG GREGOR

But you can't, friend, and you know you can't.

VASI

Two will die together, but with three! Always someone awake, watching...

Young Gregor starts to PUSH Vasi to the edge of the cliff.

VASI (CONT'D)

What are you doing? Qulan! Qulan!

YOUNG GREGOR

He's not going to come.

Young Gregor PUSHES him off.

VASI

Please, please... No!

Vasi TUMBLES down.

8.4 EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

8.4

Young Gregor RUNS through the snow.

YOUNG GREGOR

Qulan, Qulan...

Young Gregor CATCHES UP with Young Qulan.

YOUNG GREGOR (CONT'D)

Something has happened... something terrible has...

(catching his breath)

I'm sorry, I'm sorry. He just... I couldn't save him... I'm sorry.

Gregor begins to WEEP.

QULAN

It's all right. It's all right.

8.5 **OPENING CREDITS - MUSIC**

8.5

ANNOUNCER

**Tumanbay, Series 2, Episode 8. "We
Are Three", by John Dryden.**

8.6 INT. HAFIZ'S PALACE - DAY

8.6

CHANTING. ABUJAAN, KHALED and group of REBELS are practicing their drill for the big ceremony.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**The Hafiz's palace... This is the
day, these are the preparations.
Finally, the rebels have their
chance...**

ABUJAAN

Hoods up. Heads down. Walk slow,
you're priests not runners... Hands
clasped... Keep that pace steady.
You've done this every day for ten
years. Look like it's second
nature. Do not look up. Eyes on the
man in front.

GREGOR ARRIVES. Abujaan continues, under Gregor's conversation with Khaled.

ABUJAAN (CONT'D)

(off)

Keep the chant going. Make it sound
like you know it backwards...

GREGOR

Where's the Hafiz?

KHALED

In his rooms. Preparing for the
ceremony. We made sure he has a
bottle...

GREGOR

Good.

Abujaan APPROACHES.

ABUJAAN

Ah, Excellency...

The chanting STOPS and Gregor inspects the Rebel Priests.

GREGOR

Are they ready?

ABUJAAN

They will be ready.

KHALED

And we are happy to sacrifice our lives for the freedom of our people.

GREGOR

Hmm... Good, good.

(to the rebel priests)

Look, in the chaos, there is a chance - perhaps a good chance - that some of you will get away. But you know - and I know - some of us may not survive.

KHALED

We understand.

Gregor seems a bit EDGY, constantly looking about.

GREGOR

The doctor's not here...?

ABUJAAN

No. He sent word that he was delayed at the Institute.

KHALED

But he has already given me the, er...

(producing a small jar)

Do I have your permission to proceed, Excellency?

GREGOR

Go ahead.

Khaled OPENS the jar.

ABUJAAN

Line up, all of you.

The Rebels Priests LINE UP.

KHALED

Left hands only.

He MOVES down the line painting on the poison.

KHALED (CONT'D)

Just the first two fingers... Do not suck them. Do not scratch yourself. Don't even touch those fingers.

GREGOR

How fast does it work?

ABUJAAN

Doctor Dorin and I tested it on a dog. About a dozen heartbeats.

KHALED

But, when the time comes, you have to scratch hard - you need to break the skin.

ABUJAAN

Right, does everyone know the ceremony?

REBEL 1

Yes, Abujaan.

ABUJAAN

Let me see you. You - take the ring off.

REBEL 2

But it's my wedding ring-

ABUJAAN

I don't care. We need you to be precise. If they see something wrong...

(to Gregor)

Excellency, would you like to...?

GREGOR

What?

He seems distracted.

ABUJAAN

... Say a few words?

8.7

EXT. DESERT - DAY

8.7

The army of slaves are on the MARCH with QULAN at the head. MANEL and his SERGEANT ride beside him.

QULAN

I saw you by the water's edge last night, Manel. Was someone with you?

MANEL

Just another soldier, Father. One of theirs - he drowned. Don't worry. None of them got away.

AKIBA APPROACHES on horseback.

AKIBA

You were right, General. The city is just beyond the rise.

QULAN

Sergeant...

SERGEANT

General?

QULAN

Call the men to rest. We set up camp here.

SERGEANT

Of course, General.

(call out)

Halt...

We hear the call ECHO down the line.

QULAN

Make sure they are fed and watered.

SERGEANT

Yes, General.

QULAN

And Sergeant... no fires - we don't want alert them in the city.

Qulan GETS OFF his horse.

MANEL

Father, what can you do with five hundred men? They've been marching all day. They're tired. The walls are high, the gates are thick.

QULAN

You got out of the city, you know the way back in.

MANEL

But these are smugglers' routes. If they saw an army approaching... If they thought there was trouble... Well, they would just close up the tunnels further along. Our way would be blocked.

QULAN

It's all right, Manel. I have a plan.

He STRIDES over to where a table is being set up.

QULAN (CONT'D)

Sergeant, come.

The Sergeant RUNS over.

QULAN (CONT'D)

I have an important task for you.

SERGEANT

You mean a dangerous task, General?

QULAN

Aren't they all?

SERGEANT

It's what we signed up for,
General.

QULAN

You are a good soldier, Sergeant. A
credit to Tumanbay.

SERGEANT

It's my privilege to serve
Tumanbay, General. Give me my
orders.

QULAN

Alkin, explain...

ALKIN OPENS up a map.

ALKIN

I have been studying the original
city plans. The River Gate - it
goes over the water here. It was
originally designed to let the
boats bring in stone from the
quarries.

QULAN

Manel, how many can you take back
in with you - without arousing
suspicion?

MANEL

Three... maybe four.

QULAN

Sergeant, you go with her. I need
another volunteer. Who will
accompany my daughter into the
city?

Akiba STEPS FORWARD.

AKIBA

I will go.

QULAN

Thank you Akiba.

AKIBA

What is our task?

QULAN

To open the gates from within.

MANEL

But... they will be guarded.

QULAN

Alkin...

ALKIN

The river gates haven't been used since the time of the Mad Sultan. Nobody knows about them. They've been forgotten.

AKIBA

Then how do you know about them?

ALKIN

I've read the books.

QULAN

Find them. Wait there for the signal.

AKIBA

The signal?

QULAN

Manel, you need to find Gregor. Tell him we are waiting. Tell him to begin whatever they are planning. We will march when we see smoke rising from the Hafiz's tower. That will be the signal to open the river gates. Does everyone understand?

8.8 EXT. DESERT - DAY

8.8

Manel, Akiba and Sergeant are RIDING. HEAVEN is riding behind them, trying to catch up.

MANEL

We'll keep following the line of the wadi - it'll get us closer without the wall-guards seeing.

HEAVEN

(from a distance)
Akiba! Akiba, wait!

Horses APPROACH.

HEAVEN (CONT'D)

(approaching)

I'm coming with you.

MANEL

You can't. It's dangerous. We may not even make it into the city.

HEAVEN

I've found my husband and I'm not going to loose him again. Tell her, Akiba. I'm coming. I'm coming and I'm going to find our child.

AKIBA

She's coming.

He PULLS her up onto his horse.

MANEL

Suit yourself. Just keep your head down.

They RIDE ON.

MANEL (CONT'D)

(to Heaven)

So this is the father? Your king.

(impressed)

He looks like a king.

AKIBA

A king without a kingdom.

SERGEANT

Maybe you'll end up sultan of Tumanbay.

They all LAUGH.

AKIBA

I don't want to be a sultan.

MANEL

That's what you say now.

AKIBA

And you... What do *you* want young woman?

MANEL

I'm just obeying my fathers orders.

AKIBA

Yes, but what do you really want?

MANEL

Maya's soldiers spiked my brother
to a wall without care. He was just
a boy. So, you ask me what I
want...

8.9 INT. HAFIZ'S PALACE - DAY

8.9

Gregor addresses Abujaan, Khaled, and the other Rebels. He
seems somewhat distracted.

GREGOR

You have three targets, Sarah,
Barakat... and Maya.

REBEL

How will we know it's Maya?

GREGOR

How?

REBEL

No one has seen her.

GREGOR

You will know her because Maya will
be the one anointed by the Hafiz.

ABUJAAN

That is why you need to wait until
I give you the signal. If there is
any hint that things are not as
they should be she may not even
reveal herself.

KHALED

What about the other priests?

ABUJAAN

They will be taken care of as they
arrive here. Don't worry. Khaled,
keep your priests hidden. We don't
want blood on your white tunics.
You must be serene.

GREGOR

There is just one more thing... My
advice to you all.

KHALED

Yes?

GREGOR

When they come to arrest you, use
the poison, scratch yourselves. Do
it quickly. Be strong.

(MORE)

GREGOR (CONT'D)

It will be less painful than what they will do to you.

KHALED

But if we succeed... then...?

They all seem a bit confused by Gregor. He WALKS towards the front door.

ABUJAAN

Where are you going, Excellency?

GREGOR

Wait. Just... wait...

He OPENS the door and looks out.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

You can come in now.

SOLDIERS COME IN, led by their CAPTAIN.

ABUJAAN

What... Who are all these-

GREGOR

Arrest them. Arrest them all. You have caught them in the very act of treason.

There's CHAOS as the Rebels are ROUNDED UP.

ABUJAAN

What have you done Gregor? You've betrayed us. You have betrayed Tumanbay.

Gregor leans forward and WHISPERS in his ear.

GREGOR

Sometimes you have to gnaw off the foot so the body can survive... You were already compromised the moment you let the Sultan escape.

(to the guard)

This is their leader, Abujaan. Book-keeper in the palace scriptorium. Arrest him.

(Abujaan)

Take the poison quickly.

ABUJAAN

What?

GREGOR

Take it now. Trust me. It will be better for you than-

A soldier GRABS Abujaan and PUSHES him back.

GREGOR (CONT'D)
 (to Officer)
 Be careful, Captain. Don't let them
 near your men. They have poison...

There is chaos as some Rebels FLEE and others try to ATTACK.

CAPTAIN
 Surround them!

KHALED
 Use the poison!

CAPTAIN
 Don't approach, do *not* approach...
 Lock arrows... On my orders, fire
 into them... Hold, hold... Fire!

A whoosh of ARROWS are FIRED at the Rebels.

Gregor STRIDES out into the courtyard, leaving them to it.

GREGOR (V.O.)
Is this enough?

8.10 EXT. HAFIZ'S PALACE - DAY

8.10

Gregor MOVES across the courtyard.

GREGOR (V.O.)
**I'm still alive... The thing is to
 make sure I stay alive...**

He CLIMBS into a carriage.

GREGOR
 (to driver)
 To the orphanage. Quickly...

DRIVER
 Excellency.
 (whipping his horse)
 Ya!

8.11 INT. ORPHANAGE - DAY

8.11

FOOTSTEPS down a long corridor - Gregor's. On either side we
 hear the sound of children - not happy sounds, but unsettling
 sounds of disturbed children.

A door OPENS. ASSISTANT sees Gregor.

ASSISTANT
 Who are you? You shouldn't be here.

Gregor stops and TURNS.

GREGOR
Don't you know who I am?

ASSISTANT
You came here before. When the
Director was murdered, you came to
investigate. But-

GREGOR
Then you should know I'm from the
palace. I work for the Inquisitor.

ASSISTANT
Yes, but this section. His order
are-

GREGOR
Yes?

ASSISTANT
That no-one is to enter without...

GREGOR
His authority?

ASSISTANT
Yes. His personal authority. No-
one.

Gregor DRAWS his SWORD.

GREGOR
This is his authority. He wishes my
visit to be kept a private matter.

ASSISTANT
Have you come to kill the child?
Please, I beg you-

GREGOR
I suggest you go back to your room.
You have seen nothing, no one has
been here. Do you understand?

ASSISTANT
Yes.

The Assistant nods and BACKS AWAY.

Gregor CONTINUES along the corridor and OPENS a door,
revealing Barakat's CHILD.

CHILD
Papa?

GREGOR

Don't be scared. I am a friend. I'm here to help...

8.12 EXT/INT. TUMANBAY CITY WALLS - DAY

8.12

Manel LEADS Akiba, Heaven and the Sergeant through the walls. She's leading the way because she knows it. There's a gate door. She KNOCKS. A SMUGGLER opens it.

MANEL

(sotto)

The Iblis sent us.

SMUGGLER

(sotto)

Come in, come in.

He CLOSES the door behind them.

SMUGGLER (CONT'D)

Who are you?

MANEL

We came out with the Iblis.

HEAVEN

We need to return through the walls.

SMUGGLER

Most people are trying to get out. Especially now.

AKIBA

Why now?

SMUGGLER

You don't know? The anointment of Maya in the grand temple.

AKIBA

Maya is here in the city?

SMUGGLER

She is. My advice friends, is take your wives and go back. There is nothing for you here-

MANEL

We have no choice. And I am no man's wife.

(thrusting some coins at him)

Here's the fee. Now take us through...

SMUGGLER

But this isn't enough. That's the old fee. Things are more difficult now. More risks... Didn't you see the bodies hanging from the gates? You need to pay more.

MANEL

Here...

She HANDS him some more coins.

SMUGGLER

The gate-keeper needs his cut too.

SERGEANT

(drawing his sword)

How about this cut?

AKIBA

It's all right... put your sword away.

(to Smuggler)

My apologies, my friend here, he is a little anxious. We need to pass through urgently - a family situation...

SMUGGLER

Of course, Yes. No, I didn't mean anything. Sorry...

Sergeant RESHEATHS his sword.

SMUGGLER (CONT'D)

I'm just doing my job. Trying to provide for my family. Come...

He LEADS them through a tunnel.

SMUGGLER (CONT'D)

Go to the end and then-

MANEL

I know. I've been before.

(to the others)

Come...

She LEADS Heaven and Akiba along the tunnel.

MANEL (CONT'D)

It will go dark. Just keep feeling your way along the walls - this side. We will pass light on the other side. Stay with me on the dark side and keep moving...

They DISAPPEAR down the tunnel.

8.13 INT. CATACOMBS - DAY 8.13

Sometime later. Akiba, Heaven, Manel, and the Sergeant, have reached the end of the tunnel.

AKIBA
Where are we?

MANEL
The catacombs beneath the city.

HEAVEN
Yes, this is the way the Iblis took us. It's just up here.

AKIBA
Careful. There may be soldiers.

MANEL
Up here...

They GO UP some stone stairs. Manel is FEELING for something in the darkness.

AKIBA
What is it?

MANEL
A bell rope. It's here somewhere.
Ah-

She PULLS on a rope. A BELL rings somewhere distant.

SERGEANT
What do we do now?

MANEL
We have to wait. Someone will come eventually.

They SIT in the darkness.

8.14 OMITTED 8.14

8.15 INT. PALACE - DAY 8.15

Gregor is being LED along a corridor by a GUARD. They come to a STOP.

GUARD
(to Gregor)
Wait here.

The Guard ENTERS the Throne Room.

GUARD (CONT'D)
(off - to Sarah)
Mistress, he's here.

SARAH
(off)
Good.

The Guard RETURNS to the corridor.

GUARD
You may enter.

Gregor ENTERS to see Guards and Court Officials there. SARAH is seated on the throne.

SARAH
Ah, Gregor...

Gregor KNEELS.

GREGOR
Mistress, I'm pleased to report that all the suspects have been rounded up.

SARAH
All of them? Are you sure?

GREGOR
It was more serious than we thought - they were planning an attempt on Maya's life. During the ceremony itself.

SARAH
During the ceremony?

GREGOR
Priests with poison under their fingernails. They planned to sneak them in.

SARAH
Well done, Gregor. That's good. Rise. How many were there?

GREGOR
At least twelve. They will be taken down to the cells. I will oversee their interrogation personally.

Sarah starts LAUGHING. Other courtiers JOIN IN.

GREGOR (CONT'D)
(uncomfortable -
something's wrong)
What is it?

SARAH

Do you know what happened to our young sultan? He threw himself out of the window, just there. Right in front of us.

GREGOR

Well, yes... I know.

SARAH

But you don't know what he told me before he did it.

GREGOR

Yes?

SARAH

Tell me, why did it take Daniel to find the Sultan? That's supposed to be your job.

GREGOR

The Sultan made contact with Daniel himself. He betrayed himself...

Sarah doesn't respond. Gregor senses this is not going well for him.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

I know who the real traitor is. Who killed your husband, Lord Red, who will kill you...

SARAH

Hmm. Well then Gregor, you better go and arrest him...

GREGOR

But... but don't you want to know who-

SARAH

You know what you're doing Gregor. Go...

GREGOR

Right. Mistress...

He bows and LEAVES....

GREGOR (V.O.)

She trusts me. I don't trust myself, but Sarah trusts me. That means...

A Guard COMES out of the Throne Room and RUNS after Gregor.

GUARD
Excellency. Wait...

GREGOR
Yes, what is it?

GUARD
The Mistress wanted me to ask you
to-

He GRABS Gregor. Other Guards JOIN IN.

GUARD (CONT'D)
Don't struggle. It's better if you
don't struggle...

Something is PUT over Gregor's mouth.

GUARD (CONT'D)
That's better. There.

Gregor begins to go drowsy and then COLLAPSES.

Silence turns to ECHOES of the children from the past - Young Qulan, Young Gregor and Vasi.

VASI
*I had a dream... I dreamt that I
had no hands or legs.*

8.16 INT. MEDICAL ACADEMY - EVENING

8.16

Gregor STIRS. DORIN is gently SLAPPING his face.

DORIN
That's right. You're all right now.
Just... try opening your eyes...
(off Gregor)
Good. Gooooood...

Gregor TRIES to move but finds that he is constrained. He's in a torture chair.

DORIN (CONT'D)
(turning to Barakat)
He's waking up now, Inquisitor.

BARAKAT leans in to Gregor's vision.

BARAKAT
Somehow we always knew it would end
like this didn't we? Doctor... the
first, if you would...

DORIN
I'm sorry, Gregor...

He gets his clippers out and CUTS off Gregor's finger. Gregor SCREAMS.

BARAKAT
Cauterise it.

We hear a metal clank as Dorin takes a large poker out of the fire and APPLIES it Gregor's wound. Flesh sizzles and melts.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)
Of course, Gregor, you've done a lot of this yourself, so I don't need to explain the process...

Gregor tries to speak but he is GAGGED.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)
No, no, don't try to speak. Please. There's nothing you can say. We just want to hurt you. Perhaps you harbour some hope in your heart - that someone might rescue you. Sarah, perhaps? Perhaps she still thinks of you as her man.
(beat)
Let me dispel that hope. She has no further use for you. It was her who said, "arrest him, kill him..." In fact, she thinks you're already dead... Nobody knows you're here, Gregor. Dorin, why don't you...?

Dorin selects another instrument. Gregor STRUGGLES in his chair.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)
I'm sure he will want to persuade me of his loyalty, how he despises the rebels, that it was he who discovered the plot, that he is a believer... Perhaps you want to remind me how you demonstrated your loyalty by killing a heretic with your own hands. Is that right, Gregor? You want to tell me you swore an oath to Maya, that you're a believer... so many things you want to tell me.

Gregor desperately TRIES to speak.

He LEANS in and is now very close to Gregor.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)
Shhh, shhh... I dreamed... I dreamed I had no hands or legs.

He waits for Gregor to respond, but Gregor doesn't get it.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

I was injured. I was slowing you down. My foot had been caught in a bear trap...

(beat)

You know who I am, don't you?

(beat)

The snows were coming... Do you remember? You offered to carry me, and that's what you did...

8.17 EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

8.17

Flashback to the boys in the mountains - slightly different to the opening scenes. It plays out through Barakat's perspective.

Young Gregor CARRIES Vasi on his back.

BARAKAT (V.O.)

You waited until Qulan was far enough ahead and...

Young Gregor's footsteps STOP.

VASI

Why have we stopped?

GREGOR

I'm sorry...

VASI

No. Listen. We are three... Three is better than two, Gregor. I can help you both.

YOUNG GREGOR

But you can't, friend... and you know you can't.

Young Gregor starts to PUSH Vasi to the edge of the cliff.

VASI

What are you doing? Qulan! Qulan!

YOUNG GREGOR

He's not going to come.

Young Gregor PUSHES him off.

VASI

Please, please... No!

Vasi TUMBLES down.

8.18 EXT. MOUNTAINS - DAY

8.18

Young Gregor RUNS through the snow.

YOUNG GREGOR

Qulan...

BARAKAT (V.O.)

And this is the part that I've always wondered about.

YOUNG GREGOR

Qulan...

BARAKAT (V.O.)

Did Qulan know?

Young Gregor CATCHES UP with Young Qulan.

YOUNG GREGOR

Something has happened...

8.19 INT. MEDICAL ACADEMY - EVENING

8.19

We are back in the torture chair.

BARAKAT

Did he?

Gregor SHAKES his head.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

No? Or did he just close his mind, knowing that you would handle it? Isn't that how you have both lived ever since? What a successful partnership. I've read about you both over the years. Your fame has travelled far and wide - the ruthless administrator and the great commander of the greatest army. Well, look at you now...

(whispers)

I dreamt I had no hands or feet.

(beat)

Doctor...

Dorin selects some implements from the table. He APPROACHES Gregor and leans in.

DORIN

(quietly)

I'm sorry Gregor.

Gregor really STRUGGLES.

BARAKAT

But... I am a just man. I believe everyone deserves a chance to acknowledge their wrong-doings before they depart this world... Would you like to do that, Gregor?

Gregor would.

BARAKAT (CONT'D)

Hmmm... Very well. Doctor, why don't you remove... Yes.

Dorin REMOVES the gag. Gregor SPLUTTERS and COUGHS, desperately trying to get air into his lungs.

GREGOR

I have... something... something you want... Something you need...

BARAKAT

You have nothing I-

GREGOR

You have a child! You have a son!

Silence.

BARAKAT

What do you know of my-

GREGOR

You keep him locked up. You want to cure him, but you-

BARAKAT

Doctor-

GREGOR

No, hear me out. Have you seen him? Have you seen... your son... this morning?

BARAKAT

What?

GREGOR

Have you seen him? Is he safe? Is he in good hands?

BARAKAT

(to Dorin)

Wait.

(to Gregor)

What have you done, Gregor?

GREGOR

Is he safe? I think... you need to check...

Barakat GOES to the door.

BARAKAT

Wait.

He GOES out. The door closes, then LOCKS. Gregor takes a deep BREATH and looks at Dorin.

GREGOR

Why are you doing this, Dorin?

DORIN

You betrayed everyone - I heard.

GREGOR

No, Madu had already done that. They were already condemned. We needed to cut away the dead wood.

DORIN

What do you mean?

GREGOR

Nobody knows about you, Dorin. You're the last one. What's the time? Is the sun still up?

DORIN

No. It's dark.

GREGOR

Has the ceremony started?

DORIN

I don't think so.

GREGOR

We can still do something... But it's in your hands, Dorin...

8.20 INT. ORPHANAGE - EVENING

8.20

Barakat CRASHES through a door - startling the Assistant.

BARAKAT

My son, where is my son?

ASSISTANT

But, Inquisitor, your assistant...

BARAKAT

The doctor? He came?

ASSISTANT

No - the policeman, from the palace...

Bells start RINGING across the city. Preachers CALL.

BARAKAT

What's that?

ASSISTANT

That's the ceremony. The assumption of Maya at the grand temple, shouldn't you be there, Holiness?

Barakat LAUNCHES himself at the Assistant and starts THROTTLING him.

BARAKAT

Where did he take my child?

8.21 EXT. MEDICAL ACADEMY. ROOFTOP - EVENING

8.21

Gregor PULLS Dorin up onto the roof. The BELLS are really loud now.

DORIN

We used to come up here when I was a student...

GREGOR

(moving off)

Come, there's still time. If you know the route we can still get there before-

(noticing Dorin has stopped)

What's wrong?

DORIN

We used to look up at the stars.

GREGOR

What are you talking about?

DORIN

That was when everything was before me. I was going to be the great scientist. The most celebrated... Well, that's all gone now.

He starts to WALK away.

GREGOR

Where are you going?

DORIN

I've got you this far.

GREGOR

We don't have time for-

DORIN

No. We don't have time. I'm sorry Gregor. I can't do it anymore. I can't...

He DISAPPEARS through a door.

After a moment Gregor CONTINUES, scampering along, jumping from roof to roof.

GREGOR (V.O.)

The ceremony has begun. Below the crowds are gathered, hoping for a glimpse of Maya...

Pause.

GREGOR (V.O.)

And then I see her. Riding a white stallion, leading the procession, a red tunic shrouding her. She exists... She's close to the grand temple now...

He SLIPS. Cries out and TUMBLES onto a ledge. He catches his breath.

BARAKAT

Gregor!

He turns to see Barakat LEAPING over the rooftops towards him.

GREGOR (V.O.)

Barakat. He's faster than he looks capable of.

BARAKAT

Take my hand.

GREGOR

No.

BARAKAT

Where is my child?

GREGOR

If I fall, you will never find your child. Step back.

BARAKAT

I want to help you.

GREGOR

Step back.

Barakat STEPS BACK. Gregor CLIMBS up, gets his footing.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

Now go back inside. Shut the door.
Leave me and your boy will be
returned to you.

BARAKAT

Why should I believe you?

GREGOR

Street of the weavers, third house
along. The child is there. He has
water, he has bread. It won't take
you long. The child is there. Go
now... or...

BARAKAT

Or?

GREGOR

It's just you and me up here...

BARAKAT

Why should I believe you...?

GREGOR

Because you know me... Vasi. You
know what I am. I'm selfish, I'm a
liar, I've done terrible things.
Look into my eyes. I'm already dead
inside. I died that day I pushed
you off the... Look into my eyes.
Do you see the boy who ignored your
pleas for help? Not a day has
passed when I haven't found him in
some dream, looking through me... I
did it to save myself. I would push
you off the roof right now to save
myself. But...

GREGOR (V.O.)

**He believes me. I can see in his
eyes, he believes me. He trusts me
again. And I can see that at last I
am telling the truth...**

GREGOR

Go and find your son.

Silence. Then we hear Barakat WALKING away, leaving Gregor
alone. The bells stop ringing. Silence... Then cheering.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**It's over. It's all over. The one
occasion when I had a chance to
kill Maya. I missed it. It's
over... Or maybe not...**

8.22 EXT. STREETS - EVENING

8.22

A sort of craziness. Gregor PUSHES through the crowds

GREGOR (V.O.)

The holy books say that when the world is about to end, people will not be gripped by fear, but by a kind of delirium. I've seen it before: in the eyes of those about to face their death.

As he moves, CITIZENS REACH OUT to him.

CITIZEN

Turn away from sin, my friend. Turn away from doubt!

8.23 INT. DORIN'S HOUSE - EVENING

8.23

Dorin ENTERS. AMANTHI waits for him.

AMANTHI

What happened?

DORIN

Pack. We need to leave quickly.

AMANTHI

What?

DORIN

There is nothing for us here now.

AMANTHI

But, the Inquisitor. The great work. Did you do what was asked of you?

DORIN

I got away. Pack. Quickly. They're going to come after us.

AMANTHI

Come after us? You idiot! You've ruined everything, haven't you? Why couldn't you just do what they said? You could be grand vizier by now if you hadn't been such a soft-hearted fool. You were perfectly positioned. Head of the academy. You had status. Barakat liked you-

DORIN

I was a traitor to Tumanbay!

AMANTHI

All you had to do was go along with him. You could be running the whole place by now if only-

DORIN

(exploding)

Shut up! Shut up! Shut up!

She is silent, shocked by his anger.

DORIN (CONT'D)

Don't you see? There is nothing left to run...

There's a KNOCK on the door. They freeze.

DORIN (CONT'D)

I didn't think they would come after me so quickly.

More KNOCKING.

AMANTHI

Go and see.

Dorin CREEPS towards the window.

AMANTHI (CONT'D)

Can you see anyone?

DORIN

(relieved)

It's that girl again.

AMANTHI

What girl?

DORIN

Wait.

He GOES over to the door and OPENS it. Manel is there.

DORIN (CONT'D)

What are you doing here?

MANEL

Where is Gregor? I need to find my uncle.

DORIN

Why are you asking me?

MANEL

Because you are at the centre of everything, aren't you?

AMANTHI

Leave us alone. There is nothing here for-

MANEL

I have a message. From my father, General Qulan. The rebels and any who are prepared to fight, need to start... This is your moment... Whatever you're doing, you need to start it now and my father's army will come.

Dorin looks at her incredulously. Then he begins to LAUGH.

MANEL (CONT'D)

What is it?

DORIN

There are no rebels. Everyone is dead.

MANEL

My uncle? Where is my uncle?

DORIN

Gregor is a man alone. There's nothing to do. It's all over.

Dorin WALKS away LAUGHING.

8.24 EXT/INT. DESERT/TENT - NIGHT

8.24

Qulan and Alkin are waiting. An OFFICER APPROACHES.

OFFICER

(approaching)

Commander, Commander.

(entering)

Come... The watchman has seen smoke.

QULAN

(to another Officer)

Prepare the men. I think the time has come.

He RUNS up a sand bank to get a view of the city. The WATCHMAN is there.

WATCHMAN

It's hard to see in the darkness, but...

OFFICER

Is that the signal?

QULAN

No, that's the city burning down.
We have to go - now.

He ARRIVES back at his tent and gets himself ready for battle. Alkin APPROACHES.

QULAN (CONT'D)

They're burning down the city. We advance or we lose everything.

ALKIN

How will you get into the city?

QULAN

I'm trusting my Sergeant will open the gates. If he can't we'll have to knock them down. What's the alternative? To run away?

ALKIN

Well... that is a good alternative. And you would be a good travelling companion.

He STOPS what he's doing and looks at her.

QULAN

I'm not the travelling type. I came here. I was made here. Tumanbay is my city. I will die for it.

ALKIN

And I... would expect nothing less from you, General. I'll write your story.

QULAN

What?

ALKIN

When I write the history of Tumanbay.

QULAN

So you are leaving?

ALKIN

I'm not a fighter, General.

The Officer LIFTS the flap of the tent.

OFFICER

General. What are your orders?

QULAN

Tell the men to advance.

We hear the order RIPPLE down the line.

Qulan and Alkin LEAVE the tent. An Officer BRINGS Qulan's horse. Off, SOLDIERS are getting ready.

OFFICER
Your horse, General.

Qulan MOUNTS his horse.

QULAN
(to Alkin)
Don't you want to know the end of
the story?

ALKIN
Well, I'll hear the end of the
story. There will be many tales...

QULAN
There will, there will. Goodbye my
friend.

ALKIN
If you live you might make a good
sultan. I will make sure I come and
visit Tumanbay again. Perhaps I
will see you.

OFFICER
General, what are your orders?

QULAN
We take the city!

SOLDIERS
We take the city!

The sound of horses and foot-soldiers thundering across the
desert.

8.25 EXT. PALACE - NIGHT

8.25

Gregor MAKES HIS WAY through the palace gates.

GREGOR (V.O.)
The fires are burning all around...
The celebration on the street has
turned to horror...

People are SCREAMING and running. Gregor passes a group of
soldiers.

GREGOR (V.O.)
The guards at the palace gates
hardly notice me pass by...
(MORE)

GREGOR (V.O.) (CONT'D)
What does it matter? The end is coming...

8.26 INT. PALACE. CORRIDOR - NIGHT

8.26

Gregor MAKES HIS WAY along the corridor to the Throne Room.

GREGOR (V.O.)
But where is everyone?

He ENTERS the Throne Room.

GREGOR (V.O.)
And then I see her, seated on the throne, her red cloak draped around her. And I...

He DRAWS his sword and PULLS away her cloak. He GASPS.

Sarah GREETs him from the shadows.

SARAH
Hello Gregor.

GREGOR
Where is she?

SARAH
Maya?
(beat)
Word has reached her from the swamps. My brother Daniel has been blessed with martyrdom. His armies have been destroyed. It is God's will. Tumanbay is without defence.

Gregor APPROACHES.

GREGOR
Where is Maya?

SARAH
Maya and her followers... they just disappear back into the walls. You don't see them again. They might be your neighbour, they might be your friend... You will never know who the believers are until the time for them to come out again presents itself.

GREGOR
You're still here.

SARAH
I stayed here for you, Gregor.

She KISSES him.

SARAH (CONT'D)

Tumanbay is finished. Maya has taken everything she requires from it. Now it's time for me to go... Will you come with me? The horses are ready. We can ride out into the desert and watch the city burn...

(beat)

What is it?

(beat)

Ah, you have come to kill me.

(beat)

Go ahead. I welcome it. Life is a sweet lie, death the bitter truth. Only God is real...

(beat)

Do you want to kill me?

GREGOR

The first day I saw you in the palace... The Head Eunuch brought me down to the slave pens to see you. He said you had wailing for your baby ever since you'd arrived - she had been taken from you. We watched you through the bars. You didn't know we were there. You were crying... and those tears... they were real, weren't they?

She doesn't answer.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

I need to believe they were real, that something in this world of illusion... was real. Tell me they were real... that something was real.

She STROKES his face.

SARAH

Oh Gregor, Gregor. What has happened to the great schemer, who cared for nothing and no-one? You are a rat in a maze. You don't know which way to turn-

GREGOR

Tell me they were real!

SARAH

I can only tell you this-

She GASPS.

GREGOR

Sarah? Sarah...?

She COLLAPSES into his arms. He looks up to see Manel holding a knife.

GREGOR (CONT'D)

Manel?

MANEL

That is for my brother.

GREGOR

What have you done?

MANEL

I've killed the beast. Now we can be free. Now we can all be free...

Sarah COLLAPSES onto the floor, desperately trying to suck in air. Gregor falls to his knees and CRADLES her. Her breath gradually FADES away.

GREGOR (V.O.)

And so Sarah embraces the bitter truth, leaving me behind to wallow in the sweet lies. I loved her, and I wanted to kill her, and...

Manel APPROACHES him.

MANEL

Uncle, come... snap out of it. It's over.

GREGOR (V.O.)

But it's not.

MANEL

We need to organise, we need act quickly to solidify our position.

GREGOR

(dazed)

Position? What?

MANEL

My father is here with his men. It's over. They've entered the city. Everything's falling apart.

GREGOR

But, Maya?

MANEL

What?

GREGOR

She was here. There was a ceremony.
Her anointment.

MANEL

If she's in the city. We'll find
her.

GREGOR

But she's everywhere.

MANEL

What?

GREGOR

Like the mist, like the sunlight.

MANEL

Look, Uncle, you need to get a grip
of yourself... It's over.

GREGOR

What should I do?

GREGOR (V.O.)

**Week one. But winning was not quite
how I imagined it would be... I
had survived, yes... perhaps. At
least in body, at least to live
another day...**

8.27 EXT. TUMANBAY. A WEALTHY STREET - DAY

8.27

Birds tweeting. Heaven and Akiba APPROACH a house.

GREGOR (V.O.)

... Another day...

HEAVEN

It's nice... Expensive.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**It's Heaven, daughter of my old
friend Ibn Bai...**

HEAVEN

Are you sure this is the right
house?

AKIBA

The blue door, yes. That's what
Gregor said.

GREGOR (V.O.)

**I had been able to help them...
with information.**

HEAVEN

I wonder what they're like.

They OPEN a gate and go through.

Suddenly, from around the corner they hear two children SHOUTING.

AKIBA

Quick. Hide.

He PULLS Heaven back into the bushes. From here they watch two young children LAUGHING and PLAYING.

A door opens a man CALLS the children in. He tells them it's time to eat. They must wash their hands. They laugh and joke as they come in. The door SHUTS. Heaven MOVES forward.

AKIBA (CONT'D)

What are you doing?

HEAVEN

(going to the window)

I want to see.

Akiba JOINS her. They look through.

AKIBA

No... They're too old...

He STEPS away.

AKIBA (CONT'D)

I'm sorry, Heaven. We won't give up and we will find our daughter.

From inside a baby starts CRYING. Akiba GOES back to the window.

AKIBA (CONT'D)

Is that her?

HEAVEN

I think so... Look, she has your nose.

AKIBA

She seems happy.

HEAVEN

I never thought...
(trying to reign in her emotions)

I never thought... she would be given to a family who...

But she can't complete her sentence. She takes a moment to pull herself together.

HEAVEN (CONT'D)

I'm glad. But... Come. We need
to...

She WALKS towards the front door, then stops and TURNS to
Akiba.

HEAVEN (CONT'D)

Are you ready?

She KNOCKS on the door.

MUSIC.

End of Episode 2.08.